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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF  
SAM BAHADUR

WORLD 8

HEAVY FIGHTING ACROSS GAZA  
HALTS AID DELIVERY

MONEY 10

‘AIRLINE INDUSTRY TO RECORD  
\$25.7 BILLION NET PROFIT IN 2024’

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY DECEMBER 7, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹2



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# Amit Shah dares Pakistan on PoK

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah thundered categorically in Parliament on Wednesday, declaring, “PoK is ours.” His statement was met with a huge round of applause from the members in the Lok Sabha. While justifying the reservation of seats from the PoK region in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, the Home Minister blamed India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for two major blunders — declaring a ceasefire without winning the entire Kashmir and taking the issue to the United Nations. These, he argued, have resulted in the sufferings of the people of Jammu and Kashmir over seven decades. Replying to a debate in the Lok Sabha on the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, Shah said if Nehru had taken the right steps, a large chunk of territory would not have been ceded and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir would have been part of India. “I support the word that was used here — Nehruvian blunder. Because of the blunder that was committed during the time of Nehru, Kashmir had to suffer. With responsibility, I want to say the two big blunders that

happened during the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru, happened due to his decisions, because of which Kashmir had to suffer for years,” Shah said. “Kashmir had to suffer due to Nehruvian blunders. One was that when our Army was winning and as soon as Punjab area was reached, ceasefire was declared and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir was born. If the ceasefire would have been (declared) three days later, PoK would have been part of India,” the Home Minister said. The ceasefire made without winning the entire Kashmir was one “blunder” and the other was taking the issue to the UN. There was an uproar by the Opposition benches over the remarks on Nehru and they staged a walkout but returned later. After their walkout, BJD leader Bhartruhari Mahtab said the Home Minister should also talk about the “Himalayan blunder”, a reference to Nehru’s actions leading up to the war with China in 1962. Shah quipped that his talking about two blunders had upset the Opposition benches and if he had used the phrase “Himalayan blunder”, they would have resigned. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the remarks made were not an insult to anyone and

## Says Kashmir is ours



Parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Wednesday

PTI

were only made to put things in context. In his remarks, Shah also alleged that the Kashmir matter was taken to the UN in

a hurry. “If at all it had to be taken to the UN, it should have been sent under Article 51 rather than Article 35 of the UN Charter,” he said,

asserting that he of course believes that the issue should not have been taken to the UN in the first place. Shah also quoted Nehru as

saying later that the ceasefire was a “mistake”. Shah said it was not Nehru’s mistake but a blunder. “So much land of this country was lost, it was a

historic blunder,” the home minister added. “Those holidaying in England will not notice any change in Jammu and Kashmir,” he said, in sarcastic way, hitting former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, who was raising questions frequently. Shah said when terrorism started in Kashmir, people were targeted and they had to flee. “I have seen many leaders who shed crocodile tears and consoled well with words. But Modi is the only leader who has worked to wipe out their tears,” he said. He said about 46,631 families and 1,57,967 people were displaced in their own country and were displaced in such a way that they were uprooted from their own homeland and this Bill is going to give them rights and representation. He said after the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, there will be 43 Assembly seats in Jammu region — up from present 37 — and in Kashmir Valley it will be 47 from 46. Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, two members from the Kashmiri migrant community and one representing the displaced persons from the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) will be nominated to the legislative assembly. As many as 24 seats will be

kept for the residents of PoK. Talking about the abrogation of Article 370, Shah said it had nothing to do with going back on promise as it was a temporary article and had to go. “You did not have the courage, PM Narendra Modi showed courage and did away with it,” he said, referring to the Opposition benches. Shah pointed out that the two Bills on Jammu and Kashmir seek to nominate two Kashmiri Migrant community members, including a woman, to the assembly. One seat in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be set aside for people displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the Home Minister said. More than 45,000 people have lost their lives due to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir so far, he said. Shah said the Government’s focus is on ending the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. “I believe the Modi Government will return to power in 2024 and by 2026, I hope there will be no terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir,” he said. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill were passed by the Lok Sabha after Shah’s reply.

## BRIEFS

**KHALISTANI THREATENS TO ATTACK PARLIAMENT**  
**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police are on alert after the US-based Khalistani supporter Gurbatwant Singh Pannu released a video message threatening to “shake the very foundation of Parliament” on December 13 — the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament. The threat came in the backdrop of American prosecutors last month linking an Indian official to a man charged with conspiring to assassinate Pannu. Last week, the US federal prosecutors charged Nikhil Gupta, 52, of working with an Indian government employee in the conspiracy to kill Pannu.

**PORTALS BLOCKED FOR OFFERING FAKE JOBS**  
**New Delhi:** The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday said more than 100 websites that were being operated from overseas and involved in organised illegal investments and part-time job frauds have been blocked. These frauds typically involve targeted digital advertisements using keywords like “ghar baithe job” (Do jobs sitting at home) and “ghar baithe kamai kaise karen” (how to earn while sitting at home) in multiple languages.

**PAKISTAN WOMAN ARRIVES IN INDIA TO MARRY**  
**Chandigarh:** Karachi resident Javeria Khanum crossed over into the Indian side from Attari in Amritsar district where she was welcomed by her fiancé Sameer Khan and some members of his family to the beats of ‘dhol’. Khanum has been granted a 45-day visa after two previous visa rejections and the Covid pandemic stalled their plans for around five years. The couple, in a brief interaction with reporters at Attari, said the marriage will be solemnised in January. P5

## Victorious BJP MPs head back home to their States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Amidst the parley at the highest level of the party regarding the naming of Chief Ministers for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Singh Patel resigned from the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The BJP has decided that all 12 of its MPs recently elected to State Assemblies will resign from Parliament to join the new Governments in the Hindi heartland. Three BJP MPs contested in the Telangana Assembly, where the Congress catapulted to power; thus, they continue to hold their Lok Sabha membership. With this the BJP’s tally in the Lok Sabha has come down to 292 and in the Rajya Sabha one down with 93 members. Sources in the Government said all three Union Ministers will also be quitting the Modi Government as a procedural formality. The move has given rise to the view that the party leadership may bring in new faces at the helm in all the three States. With the Lok Sabha elections less than five months away, the party is likely to send a larger message about its social agenda with its chief ministerial choices.



Sources also did not rule out the possibility of having Deputy Chief Ministers in the States to balance social equations and enhance administrative effectiveness. The BJP swept to power in the three Hindi-speaking States, dismissing the challenge from the Congress in all of them as it raced to a two-thirds majority in Madhya Pradesh and comfortable majority the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the polls where Narendra Modi and his guarantees powered its campaign.

BJP president JP Nadda accompanied 10 of them as they tendered their resignations from Parliament. Two others, Union Minister Renuka Singh and Mahant Balaknath, will also be quitting, party leaders said. Other MPs who quit are Rakesh Singh, Uday Pratap Singh and Riti Pathak from Madhya Pradesh; Kirodi Lal Meena, Diya Kumari and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore from Rajasthan and Gomati Sai and Arun Sao from Chhattisgarh. All except Meena are Lok Sabha members. Meena is a Rajya Sabha member. Patel said the 10 MPs took Modi’s blessings before tendering their resignations. The BJP Parliamentary Party will hold its first meeting during Parliament’s Winter Session on Thursday and is likely to felicitate Modi for leading the party to massive wins in three Assembly polls. The BJP Parliamentary Party, which includes all its Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members, generally meets every week during the session. In the meetings, its leaders, including Modi, speak on different issues germane to the agenda in Parliament and also to its organisational and political campaigns.

## Distasteful remarks by DMK MP in the House

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

A huge political row has erupted following the ‘Gaumutra Remarks’ by DMK Lok Sabha MP DNV Senthil Kumar’s followed by some Opposition leaders on the North-South divide remarks with the Centre taking exception to the comments by accusing the Congress of hatching a conspiracy to insult Indian culture and identity, instead of analysing the reasons for its defeat in the elections. The BJP asked if DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has asked party leaders, who had spoken against Sanatan Dharma, to also apologise after MP DNV Senthil Kumar expressed regret in Lok Sabha for referring to Hindi heartland States in a derogatory manner in the House. Others political parties from the Opposition were yet to react on the statement though the Congress has distanced

itself and said they do not buy such irresponsible comments by their southern India alliance partner. “The Congress believes in Sanatan Dharma and Gau Mata, we don’t agree with DMK’s statements,” said Congress general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Rajiv Shukla. Union Minister Anurag Thakur questioned the silence of former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on the issue and wondered whether the remarks on the North-South divide, reference to North India as ‘gaumutra States’ and criticism of Sanatan Dharma had their sanction. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi is spreading the message of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ but the Opposition has started using foul language and blaming the EVMs and regionalism for their loss in the Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh,” the Union Minister said at a Press conference.



## Jaipur burns

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Markets were closed in Jaipur and some other Rajasthan districts and protesters blocked roads and stopped trains on Wednesday after a bandh call by the Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena over the killing of its chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi. Governor Kalraj Mishra spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the phone and summoned the State Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, police chief and Jaipur Police Commissioner to review the law and order situation in the State. The police set up a special investigation team (SIT) to probe into the killing of the Rajput leader who was shot dead by two men at his house here on Tuesday. They also killed an “accomplice” who had accompanied them to the house. On Facebook, gangster Rohit Godara — said to be linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang — has claimed responsibility and said Gogamedi was killed for “backing” his enemies. The police have identified the two alleged killers as Rohit Rathore from Jaipur and Nitin Fauji from Haryana’s Mahendragarh, and announced a cash reward of ₹ 5 lakh for information leading to their arrest. Markets remained closed in Jaipur, Kota, Bundi, Ajmer, Sawai Madhopur, Chittorgarh, Jhalawar, Baran and some other districts while a mass rally was taken out in Udaipur and a demonstration was held at the collectorate circle amid heavy deployment of police.

## Gujarat’s Garba finds a global audience

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Garba, an all encompassing iconic dance of Gujarat performed for nine days during the Navratri festival, has now earned a place on the global cultural map. It has been included in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage during the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for

the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which began in Kasane, Botswana on Tuesday. In August 2022, India had nominated garba for inclusion in the UN cultural heritage’s list. Soon after the announcement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to the social media X expressing his happiness. “Garba is a celebration of life, unity and our deep-rooted traditions. Its inscription on the Intangible Heritage List showcases to the world the beauty of Indian culture. This honour inspires us to preserve and promote our heritage for future generations.



Congrats for this global acknowledgment,” he posted. Incidentally, the inclusion of the iconic garba of Gujarat in the prestigious list comes a few days after the Prime Minister released a music video titled ‘garbo’, based on a garba song penned by him. “The 190-second song was penned years ago,” Modi wrote

on his X timeline about the video. “Garba of Gujarat is the 15th ICH element from India to join this list. This inscription underscores garba’s pivotal role as a unifying force that fosters social and gender inclusivity. “Garba as a dance form is entrenched deeply in ritualistic and devotional roots, involving people from all

walks of life and it continues to thrive as a vibrant living tradition bringing communities together,” an official release from the Gujarat Government said. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel called it as a ‘proud moment’. Patel wrote on social media X, “Garba’s inclusion in the Unesco Intangible Cultural Heritage list is truly a proud moment for Gujarat and India. It is an honour given by the world to the ancient culture of India.” Union Minister of

Culture G Kishan Reddy also shared a post on the same, saying the listing is a testimony to the “tireless efforts of this government under the leadership of Modi to showcase our rich culture, traditions and heritage to the world”. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of External Affairs, too took to the social media to express her happiness calling it ‘a proud moment for Bharat as Gujarat’s vibrant Garba is now inscribed as the 15th recognised element in UNESCO’s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity.





# Punjab Governor reserves 3 controversial bills for President’s consideration

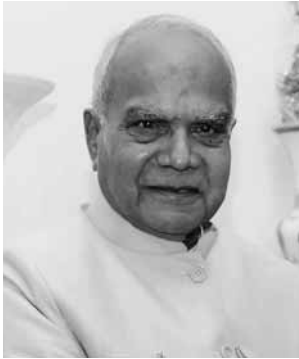
MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The political tussle between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Government is set to escalate further as the Governor has reserved three contentious bills for the consideration of the President Droupadi Murmu. The bills, passed during the June 19-20 session, have been at the center of a constitutional dispute between the Governor and the State Government, reflecting the power dynamics and constitutional challenges within the State.

Purohit, on Wednesday, conveyed his decision nearly a month after the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling that the Governors cannot indefinitely withhold approval of bills passed by the state legislative assembly.

The Apex Court’s verdict, delivered on November 10, emphasized that the Governors should not obstruct the legislative process and must promptly decide on pending bills. At the same time, the Court declared the June 19-20 “special” session, during which the contentious bills were passed, as constitutionally valid, setting the stage for the current developments.

“The Governor, Punjab has reserved the following three bills for the consideration of the



Bills reserved for Prez’s approval

- ❖ The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- ❖ The Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- ❖ The Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023

President of India as per Article 200 of the Constitution of India,” read the communique by Punjab Raj Bhawan.

The bills that have now been reserved for the President’s consideration include: The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023; The Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023; and The Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023 aims to ensure the free-to-air telecast of gurbani from the Golden Temple and prevent its commercialization. The proposed



Article 200 says, “When a Bill has been passed by the legislative assembly of a state or, in the case of a state having a legislative council, has been passed by both Houses of the legislature of the state, it shall be presented to the governor and the governor shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President.”

amendments to the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, have sparked debates with the Chief Minister describing it to be aimed at breaking a “particular family’s” (referring to the Badal family) undue control over the right to telecast the sacred gurbani.

Another contentious Bills is The Punjab University Laws (Amendment) Bill-2023 seeks to remove the Governor as the

Chancellor of 11 state-run universities, transferring these powers to the Chief Minister. AAP government’s push for this amendment stems from a standoff with the Governor over the appointment procedure for vice-chancellors of key educational institutions.

The Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill 2023, designed to establish an independent mechanism for selecting and appointing the director-general of police. It aims to change the Supreme Court-mandated procedure for selecting state police chiefs, challenging the established norms, and adding fuel to the ongoing political friction.

The Governor had, the previous week, given his assent to ‘The Punjab Affiliated Colleges (Security of Service) Amendment Bill, 2023’, aimed at streamlining the functioning of the Punjab Educational Tribunal for government-aided private colleges. Other than that, ‘The Punjab State Vigilance Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2022’ is awaiting the Governor’s nod.

Governor Purohit, exercising his constitutional authority, has reserved these bills for the consideration of the President of India under Article 200 of the Constitution. This provision allows the Governor to present bills passed by the legislative assembly to the President, with the option to either assent, withhold assent,

or reserve the bill for the President’s consideration.

The exchange of letters between Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Governor Purohit has added a layer of political drama to the constitutional conflict. On November 24, Chief Minister Mann wrote a demi-official letter urging the Governor to grant immediate assent to the pending bills, emphasizing the “constitutional obligation” and the spirit of democracy as elucidated in the Supreme Court’s order.

The Governor responded promptly, stating that the bills were under his “active consideration”, and that decisions in accordance with the law would be taken expeditiously.

The ongoing disagreement between the AAP Government and the Governor Purohit underscores the constitutional challenges and power dynamics within the State. The clash highlights the delicate balance of power and responsibilities outlined in the Constitution, emphasizing the need for a harmonious relationship between the elected government and the constitutional head.

With the reserved bills now awaiting the consideration of the President, Punjab finds itself at a crucial juncture. The President’s decision will determine the fate of these contentious bills and could set precedents for the interplay between constitutional authorities in the state.

## Flying Squad in Urban Local Bodies to take action against irregularities: Hry CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said that the State Government has decided to establish a Flying Squad in urban local bodies on the lines of CM Flying Squad to take strict action against such contractors who make irregularities in weighing solid waste.

Presiding over a review meeting regarding solid waste management in Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, and Municipal committees with Transport Minister Moolchand Sharma, Urban Local Bodies Minister Dr Kamal Gupta and Minister of State for Labour Anup Dhanak and the officers, Khattar directed the officials to install weighing machines at the entry and exit points of vehicles transporting garbage, ensuring contractors are paid based on the actual weight.

He also said that any bio-products derived from waste should also be marketed. In major cities like Gurugram, Faridabad, and Ambala, the Chief Minister recommended employing drone technology to monitor garbage disposal projects. This would help determine the precise amount of waste reaching the dumping point.

While addressing the strengthening and expansion of the sewerage system alongside waste management, the Chief Minister instructed officials to lay new sewerage lines in cities with outdated systems. This



step aims to facilitate the smooth drainage of urban water.

The Urban Local Body Flying Squad will comprise officers and employees, including police DSPs, Inspectors, and Sub-Inspectors. Similar to the CM Flying Squad, which conducts raids in response to corruption complaints or concerns about irregularities in various departments, the Urban Local Body Flying Squad will also conduct raids. These raids will focus on solid waste plants, door-to-door garbage collection, and inspections of vehicles at entry points for waste evacuation. This initiative aims to address and curb potential irregularities in waste management processes.

Contractors now have the opportunity to directly engage with the high-powered Procurement Committee and Work Allocation Committee for negotiations. This approach has not only introduced transparency to the procurement

process but has also resulted in the government achieving savings of up to 30 percent compared to the rates initially proposed in the tender.

### Nod to construction of a new 3.8 km long road along India’s first elevated Railway track in Rohtak

To bolster connectivity and infrastructural development, Khattar gave administrative sanction of Rs.21.27 crore for the construction of a new road alongside the elevated railway track in Rohtak District which was built at the cost of Rs. 315 crore. This project, spanning a substantial 3790 mt length & 5.5 mt width will be completed in 9 months and would provide seamless connectivity for the residents of Rohtak.

A spokesperson informed that the new road, commencing from Chinyot Colony and extending to Sector-6 will benefit over 50,000 residents. It will seamlessly connect various colonies, including Gandhi Camp, Jhang Colony, Mansarovar Colony, Subhash Nagar, Kishanpura, Model Town, Laxmi Nagar, Kabir Colony, Vishal Nagar, Sector-5, and Sector-6. The 3.8 km long elevated tracks in Rohtak was India’s first and was built at the cost of Rs. 315 crore by the Ministry of Railways out of which Rs. 225 crore was contributed from State share.

# Punjab Govt all set to roll-out Farishtey scheme

## Get Rs 2k reward for taking road accident victim to hospital

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government is all set to roll out the much ambitious ‘Farishtey’ scheme under which free treatment will be provided to all road accident victims, irrespective to their domicile, within the first 48 hours of the mishap.

“Our government will treat all the road accident victims as one and ensure free treatment at nearby hospitals including private hospitals,” said the state Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh on Wednesday.

Dr Balbir, chairing a high-level meeting to review the ongoing development projects of Health and Medical Education Department along with the state Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, said that anyone taking the road accident victim to the hospital for treatment will be honoured and rewarded with Rs 2,000.

“There will be no questioning by the police or hospital authorities from the per-

son, who brought the road accident victim to the hospital, until and unless he himself wants to become an eye witness,” he added.

At the same time, Cheema maintained that he has strict directions from the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to deal all the files related to the Health Department on top priority as the Punjab Government can’t compromise with the health of the people.

The Ministers also reviewed a slew of ongoing development projects pertaining to the Health Department, including the revamping of three government hospitals — MCH Dhuri Hospital, CHC Kauhrian, and Cheema Hospital — to transform them into state-of-the-art health facilities, Integrated Public Health Labs, Critical Care Blocks, etc.

Soon, all the District Hospitals, Subdivision Hospitals and Community Health Centres will have X-ray and Ultrasound facilities, he said, adding that 40 hospitals including 19 district hospitals, six subdivision hospitals, and 15 Community Health Centres (CHCs) are being upgraded with ultra-modern facilities and equipment with the cost of Rs 550 crores so

that people can avail world-class healthcare facilities at government hospitals.

Dr Balbir said that the Punjab Government is also coming up with a new concept to set up ‘Patient Facilitation Centre’ at Government Health Facilities to help and guide people coming for treatment. One such centre is being established at Rajindra Hospital Patiala on a pilot basis, he added.

“The supply of free medicines is being ensured and there is no shortage of medicines at any at any government health facility. Apart from this, the government is planning to establish generic medicine pharmacies — Amrut and Jan Aushadhi Kendras — at all the government health facilities to provide lifesaving medicines and surgical products at subsidized rates to the people,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Medical Education and Research Minister also asked the concerned officers to expedite the work of all the five New Medical Colleges being established in the state. He also took stock of the state-of-the-art diagnostic and management facility being established at the Punjab Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (PILBS) in Mohali.

## Day after Milk Plant Manager's arrest, VB recovers cash, gold, luxury watches from his residence

PNS ■ MOHALI

In a dramatic turn of events, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) has made a significant recovery of cash, gold ornaments, and costly watches from the residence of Manoj Kumar Srivastva, the procurement manager of Verka milk plant in Mohali.

Srivastva was apprehended on Tuesday while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000, leading to a subsequent search of his property.

Upon raiding Srivastva’s house, VB officials discovered a staggering Rs seven lakh in cash, eight gold rings, a gold ‘Kara,’ various ornaments, and

an impressive collection of 14 costly watches.

Notably, one of the watches, valued at Rs 45,000, had been given to the accused by the complainant, who purchased it from a Chandigarh market.

VB has taken swift action, securing a two-day police remand of Srivastva from the Mohali court for further investigation. The Bureau has also initiated the freezing of the accused’s locker in a local bank and has sought detailed information on all his accounts from other banks.

The arrest of Srivastva stems from a complaint filed by Sukhbir Singh, a manager over-

seeing milk collection tankers affiliated with a private firm working with the Milk Plant. Singh alleged that Srivastva demanded an additional Rs 50,000 in exchange for allocating prime routes to the tankers responsible for collecting milk from various locations. According to Singh, the accused had already accepted Rs 50,000 in connection with this demand.

The VB’s Flying Squad unit in Mohali meticulously investigated the allegations, leading to a well-executed trap resulting in Srivastva’s arrest while accepting the bribe. The operation unfolded in the presence of two official witnesses.

## Govt to give guarantee on loan under Self-Employment Startup Scheme: Himachal CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday urged banks to provide loans at concessional interest rates to the beneficiaries of the government’s Rajiv Gandhi Self-Employment Startup Scheme.

Sukhu assured the banks that the government will give a guarantee on the loan for the purchase of e-taxis under the first phase of the scheme. Presiding over a meeting with representatives from public sector, co-operative and private banks, he said the state government has initiated the first

phase of the Rs 680-crore Rajiv Gandhi Self-Employment Startup Scheme and asked the banks to provide loans to the youth at concessional rates.

Under the first phase, 50 percent subsidy is being provided on the purchase of e-taxi to get these vehicles attached to government offices to provide self-employment to people. The chief minister also asked all the banks to send the interest rates to the state government within the stipulated time. The state government will issue 500 e-taxi permits in the first phase and its number will be increased based on demand, Sukhu added.

## Pb Cabinet sub-committee engages with reps of farmers and employee organizations

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Cabinet Sub-Committee — comprising Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, and Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian — engaged with the representatives of farmers and employee organizations, protesting against the state government over several issues, to delve into the intricacies of issues raised by these groups and strategize a comprehensive plan for their resolution.

The sub-committee first held a meeting with key farmer organizations, including Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political), Bharatiya Kisan Union Ekta, Sidhupur, and the Sanyukt Ganna Sangarsh Morcha, to discuss issues including compensation for crop damage, land acquisition for highways, sugarcane pricing, among others.

As the state government adopted a responsive attitude towards the farmers’ demands, several crucial decisions were

made to address the burning issues affecting the farming community. The government agreed to cancel the red entries against farmers for burning stubble.

Addressing the contentious issue of meter installations, the Sub-Committee affirmed that only electronic meters would be employed, putting an end to the concerns raised by farmers about the reliability and accuracy of chip meters. The government also assured jobs to the families of those farmers who died during the year-long farmers’ agitation in Delhi against the Centre’s farm laws (now repealed).

The Government’s commitment to resolve the ongoing issues extends beyond mere assurances. It was decided that a comprehensive strategy would be implemented to address crop damage compensation. The Cabinet Sub-Committee committed to expedite a decision during the state executive committee meeting, illustrating a proactive approach to mitigating losses faced by farmers due to various factors, including stubble burning.

## 61ST RASING DAY OF CHANDIGARH HOME GUARDS CELEBRATED



**Chandigarh:** The Home Guards organization celebrated its 61st Raising Day at the Parade Grounds under the guidance of Ketan Bansal, Assistant Commandant General Home Guards, UT Palak Goel, District Commandant. Praveer Ranjan, Director General of Police-cum- Commandant General Home Guard, was the Chief Guest of the event.

## PUNJAB GOVT SCHOOLS’ 8 GIRL STUDENTS TO GO ON EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO JAPAN

**Chandigarh:** Eight girl students of government schools in Punjab will embark to Japan for a seven-day educational trip. The School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said that these students have been chosen for Japan Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science, also known as the Sakura Exchange Program in Science. “The selected students will be in Japan from December 10 to 16, 2023,” he added.

## PUNJAB VB NABS PATWARI FOR TAKING RS 5K BRIBE

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) on Wednesday nabbed a revenue Patwari Harjit Singh, posted at revenue halqa Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur district, red-handed for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000. Spokesperson said that the case has been registered against the said revenue official on the complaint of Mandip Singh, a resident Malakpur village, in Dera Baba Nanak tehsil. The complainant alleged that the said patwari has already taken Rs 5,000 as a bribe in lieu of mutation of his land, now the accused has demanded Rs 5,000 more in the name of Tehsildar for getting approval of the said mutation — the conversation of which has been recorded.

## WILL ENSURE AFFORDABLE SAND GRAVEL, STOP ILLEGAL MINING: JAURMAJRA

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Government on Wednesday assured to ensure the availability of affordable sand and gravel for the people of the state, along with initiating steps to stop illegal mining activities and ensure proper disposal of paddy stubble to promote a pollution-free state. The assurance to this effect was given by the Mining and Geology Minister Chetan Singh Jauramajra while chairing meetings with crusher owners, mining contractors, and brick kiln owners of the State. During the meetings, the Minister reiterated the Government’s commitment to make the state pollution-free and maintain transparency and ethical practices in the mining sector. For the same, the Minister urged brick-kiln and crusher owners and mining contractors to fully support the government in this pro-people initiative. The Minister, highlighting the significant issue of paddy stubble in the state, urged the brick-kiln owners to incorporate a minimum of 20 percent stubble usage in their kilns as part of initiatives aimed at making the state pollution-free. He also announced an upcoming meeting involving stakeholder departments such as Punjab Pollution Control Board, Environment Department, and brick-kiln owners to initiate actions in this direction.

## HIMACHAL COMMITTEE LED BY REVENUE MINISTER TO COORDINATE ARRANGEMENTS ON ONE-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

**Shimla:** A committee led by Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi and MLAs Sudhir Sharma, Sanjay Rattan and Kewal Singh Pathania will coordinate with district administration in making all the arrangements for celebrating the completion of one year of the present State Government at Police Ground Dharamsala in Kangra district on December 11. He said that this State-level function would be on the theme of ‘Vyavastha Parivartan Ka Ek Saal’ in which Senior Central Congress leaders will also participate.





Government of Haryana

International

# Gita

Mahotsav

2023



A Great Confluence of Spirituality, Art & Culture

7<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Kurukshetra, Haryana

यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठस्तत्तदेवेतरो जनः ।  
स यत्प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते ॥

भगवद्गीता 3.21

॥ Programmes ॥

S.No.	Programme	Date	Events Venue
1	Crafts Mela	07 - 24 December	Brahma Sarovar
2	Gita Maha Aarti	07 - 24 December	Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
3	Cultural Programme at 48 kos Pilgrimages	07 - 24 December	48 kos Kurukshetra
4	Bhajan Sandhya	07 - 24 December	Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
5	Regional Cuisines	07 - 24 December	Brahma Sarovar
6	International Gita Seminar	17 - 19 December	Kurukshetra University
7	Gita Book Fair	17 - 24 December	Brahma Sarovar
8	Gita Yajna And Gita Paath	17 - 24 December	Birthplace of Geeta – Jyotisar
9	Educational Competitions	17 - 24 December	Birthplace of Geeta – Jyotisar
10	Haryana Pavilion	17 - 24 December	Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
11	Partner State Assam Pavilion	17 - 24 December	Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
12	Grand Cultural Programmes	17 - 24 December	Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
13	Exhibitions	17 - 24 December	Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
14	Sant Sammelan	22 December	Purushottampura Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
15	Global Gita Chanting	23 December	Theme Park , Kurukshetra
16	48 kos Tirth Sammelan	23 December	48 kos Tirth
17	Deepotsav	23 December	Sannihit Sarovar and Brahma Sarovar



“ सभी देशवासियों को गीता जयंती की अनंत शुभकामनाएं। श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता सदियों से मानवता का मार्गदर्शन करती आई है। अध्यात्म और जीवन-दर्शन से जुड़ा यह महान ग्रंथ हर युग में पथ प्रदर्शक बना रहेगा। ”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Surinder Kumar** S/o Subhash Chand, House 415, Vikas Nagar Mauli Jagran Chandigarh inform that my son Deepak Kumar out of my control. I disown them from my moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody deal with them at their own Risk.

**I, Shakuntia Devi** W/o Late Sukhbir Singh Chauhan # 5319 maloya Colony Chandigarh declare that my son Ravinder Singh Chauhan & his wife Manisha Chauhan out of my control so I disown them from my all moveable/immoveable property anybody deal with them at their own risk.

**We, Surjit Singh** S/o Rajbir Singh and Anita Rani W/o Surjit Singh R/o Village Phusgarh, Tehsil & Distt. Karnal, declare that my daughter Himani fights with me and our family we evict our daughter from our movable and immovable property. The one who deals with them in future will be responsible himself.

**I, Gurpreet Kaur** w/o Prabhjit Singh r/o 644/ 11, Tibri Road, Dashmesh Nagar, Gurdaspur (Pb) declare that in my Passport No.L5591109, name of my husband has been misspelled as Prabhjeet Singh. His correct name is Prabhjit Singh. Concerned note.

**I, Manjit Kaur** W/O Joginder Singh Resident of Village Dalpat Tarf Narot PO. Narot Jaimal Singh Tehsil & District Pathankot (PB) Declare that My Correct & Actual Name is Manjit Kaur. Manjeet Kaur and Manjit Kaur Both Names are Pertains to One, Single and Same Person. i.e. Myself. Vide affidavit Dated 06.12.2023 Before Notary Public, Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Jatvinder Singh** S/O Joginder Singh Resident of Village Dalpat Tarf Narot PO. Narot Jaimal Singh Tehsil & District Pathankot (PB) Declare that My Correct & Actual Name is Jatvinder Singh. Jatvinder Singh and Jatvinder Singh Both Names are Pertains to One, Single and Same Person. i.e. Myself. Vide affidavit Dated 06.12.2023 Before Notary Public, Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Ramesh Lal** S/o Sh. Shadi Lal R/o H. No 131, ward No. 03, Prakash Nagar, Tehsil Camp. Panipat. My Son Vinder and the wife Renu both are out of control. I disown my son & his wife from all my moveable & immovable properties. anybody deals with them deals at own risk and responsibilities.

**We, Pradeep Kumar** Sharma S/o Shashi Bhushan Sharma and Laxmi Sharma W/o Pradeep Kumar Sharma, R/o 23P, Sector-25, Panchkula, that in HSPV record our name mentioned as Pardeep Sharma S/o S.B. Sharma, and Laxmi Sharma W/o Pardeep Sharma, whereas our actual name are Pradeep Kumar Sharma S/o Shashi Bhushan Sharma, and Laxmi Sharma W/o Pradeep Kumar Sharma.

**I, Roop Chand** Gautam S/o Late Sh. Puran Chand Gautam R/o #2118 Sector- 15 Panchkula, Haryana, declare that my Daughters Neetu and Nidhi both are out of my control, So I disown them from my movebale-immovebale Properties. Anybody dealing them at his/ her own risk.

**I, Seema Madan** daughter of late Shri C P Madan resident of house number 2349, Sector 35C Chandigarh declares that my minor daughter named Jiyya Kaushik now onwards will have single parent. Her father Satish Kaushik's name to be deleted from all legal records and as well as her educational records. She will now be known as Jiyya Kaushik daughter of Seema Madan.

**I, Sarjit Kaur** W/O No-3345875, Rank- Sep, Name-Late Labh Singh, Disttance Of - Vill-PanjoLa,Po- Mainpur, Tehsil-Rupnagar, District- Rupnagar, State- Punjab-140108, Declare That I Change My Name (Surjit Kaur To Sarjit Kaur) Change My Date Of Birth 01-01-1941 To 01-01-1953 Due To Erroneously Recorded In My Husband Army Record.

**We, Ramesh Kumar** S/o Dhani Ram & Sushila Devi w/o Ramesh Kumar H.no.10/26, Braham Nagar, Old Rohtak Road, Sonipat declare that our son Tarun Kumar and his wife Monika both are out of our control. So we disown them from my all movable/immovable property. Any body deals with them at own risk.

**I, Lakhbir Kaur** W/o Sarwan Singh R/o Village Bhullar, Tehsil Ajnala Distt. Amritsar, Punjab declare that Lakhbir Kaur and Gurwinder Kaur both name are mine. Lakhbir Kaur and Gurwinder Kaur is one and the same person.

**I, Army Number 15342514** K HAV (L) R/O Village Dhano, Tehsil & Distt. Malerkotla (Punjab) declared that in my Service Record Book my father Darshan Singh Chahal's Date of Birth is wrongly entered as 01/05/1956 but in his actual record the correct Date of Birth is 01/02/1955.

**I, Army Number 15342514** K HAV (L) R/O Village Dhano, Tehsil & Distt. Malerkotla (Punjab) declared that in my Service Record Book my mother Charanjit Kaur's Date of Birth is wrongly entered as 20/04/1958 but in her actual record the correct Date of Birth is 11/03/1961.

**I, Bijender** S/o Sh. Partap R/o Village Hassangarh, Teh. Sampla Distt. Rohtak declare that my son Naveen and his wife Manisha are out of my control. So I disown him from my all moveable/immoveable properties. Any body dealing with him at their own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their any legal and illegal acts.

**I, Achyutananda Rout** Father of No. 15626124W Nk Satyaswarup Rout resident of Vill & PO-Chandapur Distt Dhenkanal State Odisha PIN-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. All Please Note.

**I, Gurdeep Kaur** Chohan W/o Jasvir Singh Chohan R/O Village Feroze Rolia, P.O. Jalalpur, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab declare that my Passport No. is P4231119, in which my husband's name is erroneously written as Jasbir Singh whereas his correct name is Jasvir Singh Chohan be amended in my Passport.

**I, Rajo Devi** w/o Sh Hawa Singh is permanent inhabitant of ward No.14, Fency Colony, Tehsil Pehowa, Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana 136128. In my childhood my nick Name was Lajwanti Devi. My actual Name is Rajo Devi which is indorsed in my all personal document like my family ID, Adhar Card, Pan Card, Pasport etc. As my original and permanent name is Rajo Devi in future I will be known and called by my actual name of Rajo Devi

**I, Shakti Singh** S/o Ramdiya R/o Majra Rodan, Tehsil Nilokheddi, District Karnal my brother Kamaldeep, being out of my hearing, I break the relationship with him and in the future, he himself will be responsible for the unethical actions and transactions done by him.

**I, Santosh Kumari** W/o Ramdiya R/o Majra Rodan teh Nilokheddi Distt.Karnal My son Kamaldeep is out of my control I, disown them from all My moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at their Own Risk.

**I, Fuman Singh** S/o Pritam Singh Vill Jhinwerheri Tehsil Pehowa, Kurukshetra My Son Gurdeep Singh and his wife Balwinder Kaur is out of my control. I, disown them from all My moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at Own risk.

**I Jagdish Singh** W/O Late Jarnail Singh Landran Sas Nagar Declare That My Son Parvinder Singh And His Wife Manpreet Kaur Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Both Of Them From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

**I, Jagvir Singh** S/o Gurmial Singh R/o Village Badnipur Tehsil Amloh (Fatehgarh Sahib) declare that my son Gurwinder Singh and his wife Parmeet Kaur are out of my control. They do not look after me and my wife. I disown my son Gurwinder Singh and his wife Parmeet Kaur from my moveable and immovable property. I and my any family member will not be responsible for their acts and conducts.

**I, Army No. JC-510590A** Sub Avtar Singh in unit 8 Sikh Li S/o Rattan Singh Resident of Village Takhipur Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Pb. In my army record my son Sahilpreet Singh DOB entered wrongly 25-09-2006. But his correct DOB 16-09-2006 so amended his correct DOB in my army record.

**I, Gurmeet Singh** S/o Jaswant Singh R/o Vill: Bajheri (SAS Nagar, Mohali) declare that in my Passport No. K9012656 my wife name wrongly entered Sarabjeet Kaur. But my wife correct name is Sarabjit Kaur so amended my wife name from Sarabjeet Kaur to Sarabjit Kaur in my Passport.

**I Anupam Khullar** W/o Kuldeep Khullar, R/o 24 Sunder Avenue, Kanjali Road, Kapurthala declare that my son Karan Khullar and daughter in law Neha Anand ( Living abroad) are out of my control. Due to their activities and misbehave,It has become impossible for me to keep relation with them.From now I shall not be responsible for any dispute between my son and daughter in law and any other dispute.

**I Gurwinder Kaur** w/o Amarjit Singh 88/2 Kulla Road ward no. 2 Patti Dist. Tamrtaran. Changed my Husband name to Amarjeet Singh. and changed my Name Gurwinder Kaur to Gurwinder in Given Name And Kaur in Surname.

It is for general information that I, Parveen W/o Dalip Kumar, R/o Budhi Nagar, Sujampur, Sujampur (Rural), Pathankot, Punjab-145023, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Smt. Parveen Devi in my minor Daughter Kamana aged 15 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine is Parveen, which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Khokhariya** Madhabhai Lalabhai is Legally Father of No 8037640Y LNK (GD) Khokhariya Jitendra Kumar Madhabhai R/o Vill: Trepan Chhapara, P.O: Adhera, Teh: Bhiloda Dist: Arvalli (Gujrat), Pin-383250 I Have Changed My Name From Khokhariya Madha Bhai to Khokhariya Madhabhai Lalabhai Hence, The Affidavit Sworn Before Notary N.P. Barot. Vide Affidavit No IE 0020062355, Dated 23-11-23

**I. No. JC-405859W** Rank- Sub., Name Vinod Kumar Yadav son of Ram Awadh Ram resident of Village Bhatsar, P.O. Khewali, Tehsil Raja Talab, District Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, presently residing at 4 Guards(1st Rajput), C/o 56 APO, Jalandhar Cantt, Punjab, India, have changed my mother's name from Subhawati to Subhawti.

**I. Ningthoujam** Pushparani Devi Is Legally Wedded Wife Of Army No Jc-663101a Rank Sub/Mt Name Ningthoujam Ingchoa Singh Presently Residing At Khurai, Thoidingjam, Leikai, Imphal, East, Manipur, Pin 795010, Declared Vide Affidavit No In-PB64559894263454v That My Correct Name Is Ningthoujam Pupsa Rani Devi As Per My Aadhar And Pan Cards Instead Of Ningthoujam Pushparani Devi. Please Correct It.

**I, Shiv Kant** resident of Village- Pohjiyan, Post- Lalgani, Tehsil- Hajipur, District- Vaishali, State- Bihar, Pin- 844121, have changed my Son name from Sidharth Kumar to Siddharth Kumar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB62420619166728V dated 28 Nov 2023 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Babita Yadav** spouse of Mr Rajesh Yadav resident of Village- Palma, Post- Chalkusha, Tehsil- Barhi, District- Hazaribagh, State- Jharkhand, Pin- 825109, have changed my name from Babita Yadav to Babita Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB62818480851809V dated 30 Nov 2023 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Rakesh Adhikari** resident of Village- Raghabpur, Post- Raghabpur, Tehsil & District- Purulia State- West Bengal, Pin- 723149, have changed my Father name from Rahit Adhikari to Rohit Adhikary Vide affidavit No.IN-PB61736203359822V dated 02 May 2023 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Santoshi** spouse of Mr Surju Ram resident of Village- Chinauri, Post- Chinauri, Tehsil- Charama, District- Kanker, State- Chhattisgarh, Pin- 494336, have changed my name from Santoshi to Santoshi Nishad Vide affidavit No.IN-PB61796203359822V dated 24 Nov 2023 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Surju Ram** resident of Village- Chinauri, Post- Chinauri, Tehsil- Charama, District- Kanker, State- Chhattisgarh, Pin- 494336, have changed my Son name from Pritk Nishad to Pratik Nishad Vide affidavit No.IN-PB62420411095569V dated 28 Nov 2023 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Shambhu Singh** Yadav Father of No.13627566P L/Hav Deerendra Singh Yadav resident of Village- Devkathiya, Post- Belwa (Rasulpur) Tehsil- Sadar, District- Ghazipur, State- UP, Pin- 233305, have changed my name from Shambhu Singh Yadav to Shambhu Yadav vide affidavit No.IN-PB64741341031353V dated 06 Dec 2023 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Mamata Devi** Mother of No.13627566P L/Hav Deerendra Singh Yadav resident of Village- Devkathiya, Post- Belwa (Rasulpur) Tehsil- Sadar, District- Ghazipur, State- UP, Pin- 233305, have changed my name from Mamata Devi to Mamta Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB64748935719427V dated 06 Dec 2023 before notary public Pathankot

**I Jagdish kaur** W/O late Jarnail singh R/o landra SAS Nagar mohali declare that my son Parvinder singh and his wife manpreet kaur is out of my control so that i disown both of them from my movable and immovable properties. Any body deals with them at their own risk.

**I, Subhash Chandra** S/o Raghbir Singh R/o H.No. 491/4 Raj Nagar Apollo Road, Jind Teh. and Distt. Jind (Hr.) declare that my son Nitin and his wife are out of my control. So, I disown both of them from my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk, I am and my family members are not responsible.

ਮੈਂ ਗੁਰਮੇਜ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਟਾਪੋਲਾ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਡੇਰਾ ਬਾਬਾ ਨਾਨਕ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਅਪਣੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਹਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਉਸ ਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਸਿਰਨਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ, ਦੂਜੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਸੰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਲੜਕੀ ਸਿਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਵੇਚਦਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਉਹ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

CHANGE OF NAME

**I, JC-274033K** Ex Sub (Hony Sub Maj) Baldev Singh R/o Vill. Aulia Umarpur PO Umarpur Tehsil Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my mother from Anchal to Anchlo Devi and her date of birth from 28-12-1947 to 01-01-1946.

**I, Renu Julka** W/o Ashutosh Kataly R/o H.No. B-14/316, Street No. 06, Parhlad Nagar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Renu Julka to Renu Kataly. Concerned note.

**I, Bipen Kumar** S/o Sh. Bhumi Dutt R/o 461 B/81, Chandigarh changed my name from Bipen Kumar to Bipen Kumar Misra as per my other documents.

**I, Ajaib Singh** s/o Joginder Singh, R/o 83, Rasulpur (138), Yamuna Nagar, Haryana declare that in my daughter Diksha Rani passport my name has been wrongly written as Ajib Singh. But my actual and correct name is Ajaib Singh.

**I Ishani** W/O Himanshu Kumar R/O H.N. 135, Shiv Chowk, Fatehabad, Tehsil Fatehabad, District Fatehabad, (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Ishani To Ishani Rani.

**I, Manish** S/O Sushil Kumar Residing At Hno-Dg-37, Gali-01, Adarsh Colony, Palwal, Haryana-121102 Have Changed My Name To Manish Singh.

I hitherto known as Rita Rani W/o Mahavir Singh R/o Village Rattuwalla (167), PO Sadhaura, Tehsil Bilaspur, District Yamuna Nagar -133204 (Haryana), India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Seema.

**I, Vishvesh Madan** S/o late Surinder Pal Singh Madan R/o 3-C, Professor Colony, Yamuna Nagar declare that in my Matric Certificate my father's name written as Surinder Madan, which is wrong. My father's correct name is Surinder Pal Singh Madan, as per my Aadhar Card.

**I, Jyoti Sharma** w/o Ankur Devgan R/o 229, Kansapur Road, Shivpuri A, Yamuna Nagar declares Jyoti and Jyoti Sharma both are my name, one and the same lady.

**I, Dharam Pal** S/o Hari Lal R/o H.No. 306, VPO Behlana, Chandigarh have changed my name from Dharam Pal S/o Hari Lal to Dharmpal Paswan S/o Harilal Paswan and my DOB from 15/03/1984 to 13/06/1991

**I, Hardey Singh** son of JC-172952L Sub Maj (Hony Capt) (Late) Gian Chand R/o Village Loh Garh, PO & Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Hardey Singh to Hardev Singh. My correct date of birth is 25.12.1992. Concerned note.

**I Nirmala Devi** Spouse of 13965074-Y Hav Jagmahender, VPO Sangatpura have changed My name from Nirmala Dhanda to Nirmala Devi.

**I, Sunil S/o** Rattan Singh, R/o Khalila Majra Nain, Tehsil Israna, Distt. Panipat declares that I have changed my minor son's name from Mitanshu to Mitanshu Kandhol, for all future purposes.

**I Seema Garg** Allies Seema Rani W/o Jitender Kumar Garg H.No.384/2 Dev Nagar Near param Hans Kutia, Panipat declare that Seema Garg Allies Seema Rani both are name is same lady. Seema Garg know me in future.

**I Jitender Kumar** Garg allies Jitender Kumar, Jitender Garg S/o Babu Ram R/o H. No. 384/2 Dev Nagar Near param Hans Kutia, Panipat declare that Jitender Kumar, Jitender Garg allies Jitender Kumar Garg are name is same person. Jitender Kumar Garg know me in future.

**I, Nidhanshu** S/o Rajesh Kumar R/o H.No.1009, Sector 35-B, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Nidhanshu Sharma.

**I, Rajesh Sharya** S/o Sitaram Sharma R/o H. No. 1009, Sector 35-B, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar.

**I, Kuldeep Raj** S/o Sh. Banwari Lal R/O Village Ram Nagaria, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Kuldeep Raj to Kuldeep Singh, in future my name is to be called as Kuldeep Singh.

**I, Sumanyu** s/o Sh. Rajiv Kumar r/o H.No D-3, New Sunny Enclave orchid tower sector 125, kharar. Mohali have. Changed my name to Sumanyu Aggarwal.

**I, Rigzin Chondol** D/o Stanzin Zangbo (JC-588524 EX Sub) Village GIA, Block Kharu City, Distt Leh (J&K) have changed my name from Rigzin Chondol to Rigzin Chorol. Objection if any may convey to concerned authority within 7 days.

**I Vir Pal Singh** s/o Hira Singh #325, Housing Board Colony, Baldev Nagar, Ambala City, Haryana declared that Vir Pal Singh alias Vir Pal Singh Rana is same or one person. But my correct name is Vir Pal Singh. Please Note.

**I, Sangeeta** w/o HAV Balbir Singh R/O Kithana, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan PIN-333028 have changed my name from Sangeeta Devi to Sangeeta due to wrong name entered in Army Service record of my husband. Vide affidavit NO. JD00033436775 Dated 05.12.2023 Before Notary Public, Gurdaspur (PB).

**I Sunita Deshwal**, wife of late Shri. Jaswant Singh No. 192798-B, Rank Pensioner ART-III/III/MECH-1/11/III Corp. Indian Navy Resident H.No. 1383/21, Street No. 6-L, Prem Nagar, Hafed Road, Rohtak. And Now lives in house no. 249-A Shanti Nagar, Latif Garden, Panipat. I declare that my name should be changed from Sunita Deshwal to Sunita Devi for all future purposes.

**I Jagwati Devi** w/o Dheer Singh r/o village Bhoopheri khatoli muzzafar ngr up present address hira pur nagar panipat declare jagwati and Rajbala both are my name and all concerned noted.

**I, Darshan Lal** S/O Kali Ram # 427, Sector 21, Panchkula have changed my name Darshan Lal to Darshan Lal Singla. concerned note.

**I, Rishi** S/o Raj Kumar R/o House No. old 213 New 307, Parhlad Nagar Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Rishi to Rishi Kaushal. Concerned note.

**I, Chainchal Singh** No. 1513678 Late Spr Mohinder Singh R/o VPO Sikri Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Chain Singh to Chainchal Singh and my date of birth from 12-10-1970 to 10-01-1974.

**I, Abhishek** S/O Sh. Chander Pal Singh R/O Flat No.09 Second Floor, Street No. E-1, Dif The Valley Near Pinjore Panchkula Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Abhishek To Abhishek Singh

**I, Deepa** W/O Sh. Abhishek Singh R/O Flat No.09 Second Floor, Street No. E-1, Dif The Valley Near Pinjore, Panchkula Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Deepa To Deepa Singh

**I, Abhishek** S/O Sh. Chander Pal Singh R/O Flat No.09 Second Floor, Street No. E-1, Dif The Valley Near Pinjore, Panchkula Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Deepa To Deepa Singh

**I, Chhant Bahadur** S/O Sh. Om Bahadur R/O 764, Mugulpura, Teh- Gohana, Sonipat Have Changed My Name Chhant Bahadur To Chhanta Bahadur For All Future Purposes.

**I Chander Kala** D/O Gyan Dutt Sharma R/O Post Office Halog Dhami, Dhalot (28) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (171103) Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Chander Kala To Kajal.

**I Tersem Raj** Bhadwal S/O Sukhdev Raj Village Mukari Tehsil Anandpur Sahib Distt Rupnagar Have Changed My Name Tersem Raj Bhadwal Totersem Raj

**I Jaspal Singh** Kahlon S/O Sh Gurdev Singh R/O Vill. Nakora Tehsil Rania Distt, Sirsa, Haryana Have Changed My Name From Jaspal Singh Kahlon To Jaspal Singh. Concerned Please Note.

**I Anil S/O** Purshtom Lal Chadha, R/O 304 Rampura Colony, Yamunanagar . That I Have Change My Name From Anil To Anil Chadha.

**I Parmjeet Kaur** Mother Of Late Davinder Singh Resident Of Village - Nawazira, Post - Zira, Tehsil - Zira, District Ferozpur, State Punjab, Pin-142047 Have Changed My Name From Parmjeet Kaur To Paramjit Kaur Vide Affidavit/Self Declaration Dated 5.12.2023.

**I Shaminder Kaur** Saggu Alias Surinder Kaur Saggu W/O Maninder Singh Saggu R/O Jhatra Road, New Colony, Zira, Distt Ferozepur (142047) (Pb) India Changed My From Shaminder Kaur Alias Surinder Kaur Saggu To Shaminder Kaur Saggu.

**I Rajinder Kumar** S/O Des Raj Simmer R/O Near Gulati Chakki, Biring, Po Jalandhar Cantt, Distt Jalandhar- Have Changed My Name Rajinder Kumar Simmer To Rajinder Kumar

**I Jaspreet Kaur** Dhillon W/O Sukhwinder Singh Dhillon R/O Kotha Theh Wale, Moga Road, Kotkapura, Distt Faridkot Changed My Name From Jaspreet Kaur To Jaspreet Kaur Dhillon

**I Sukhwinder Singh** Dhillon S/O Jaswant Singh R/O Kotha Theh Wale, Moga Road, Kotkapura, Distt Faridkot Changed My Name From Sukhwinder Singh To Sukhwinder Singh Dhillon

**I, Surender Duhau** S/O Sh.Surajmal R/O # 2303 Urban Estate Jind Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Surender Duhau To Surender.

**I, Parveen Duhau** W/O Sh.Surender R/O # 2303 Urban Estate Jind Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Parveen Duhau To Parveen.

**I, Aryaveer Singh** Duhau S/O Sh.Surender R/O # 2303, Urban Estate, Jind Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Aryaveer Singh Duhau To Aryaveer Singh.

**I, Davinder Singh** S/O Mohinder Singh R/O Hno 827 Dashmesh Nagar Near Jaura Phatak Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Dawinder Singh To Davinder Singh

**I, Sunita** D/O Attar Singh Arora R/O H.No.C2109, Ranjit Avenue Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sunita To Sunita Arora

**I, Subhash Amrohi** S/O Bhim Sain R/O H.No.489, Gali No.35, O/S Bhagtan Wala, Fateh Singh Colony Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Subhash Amrohi To Subhash Chander Amrohi

**I, Chamkaur Singh** S/O Piara Singh R/O Village Chhattwind Tehsil And District Amritsar Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Jaideep Singh To Jaideep Singh Randhawa

**I Nirmal Singh** S/O Sukhwinder Singh R/O Vpo Kaleke Tehsil Baba Bakala Amritsar 143111,Punjab, India Declare That Nirmal Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

**I Jatinder Singh** S/O Natha Singh R/O Vpo Dhardeo Tehsil Baba Bakala Amritsar 143205 Punjab, India Declare That Jatinder Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

**I Ritu Gaind** Alias Neetu Bala W/O Ram Murti R/O E-4/276 Dharampura Chheharta Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Ritu Gaind

**I Kundan Singh** Son Of Udham Singh R/O 1,2, Holy City Garden Township Gumtala Mahal Bye Pass Road Amritsar Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Kundan Singh Randhawa.

**I, Diksha Verma** W/O Vishal Verma R/O H.No.F-7/136, 63-B, Rani Ka Bagh Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Diksha Verma To Diksha

**I Rekha Aggarwal** W/O Pawan Kumar Aggarwal Resident Of 45-A Block, New Amritsar, Amritsar. I Have Changed My Name From Rekha Aggarwal To Rekha.

**I Pawan Kumar** Aggarwal S/O Panna Lal Resident Of45-A Block, New Amritsar, Amritsar. I Have Changed My Name From Pawan Kumar Aggarwal To Pawan Kumar.

**I, Malkeet Singh** S/O Gurmarg Singh R/O Paris Avenue Sun Sahib Road, Chheharta Amritsar Have Declare That Malkeet Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

I Hitherto Known As Jasbir Kaur Wife Of Kabal Singh Residing At H.No.97, Vill. Mehsampur Kalan, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt.Amritsar-143114, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Harjinder Kaur.

**I, Harabhajan Singh** S/O Harbans Singh R/O Village Baba Budha Colony Adda Chabhal Tehsil And District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Harabhajan Singh To Harbhajan Singh

**I Yadupati Sharma** S/O Roop Lal Resident Of 112, Bank Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar. I Have Changed My Name From Yadupati To Yadupati Sharma.

**I, Bachiter Singh** S/O Jagtar Singh R/O Vpo Akarpura Tehsil Batala District Amritsar Have Declare That Bachiter Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

**I Surjeet Singh** Son Of Gian Chand R/O Hino 52 Master Mehanga Singh Colony Biring, Jalandhar, Punjab Declare That Gyan Chand And Gian Chand Is One And Same Person I.E. My Father. He Known With Both Names.

**I, Kirti Sharma** W/o Anand R/o 162, Kohla (14), Distt. Sonipat have changed my name to Kirti for all future purposes.

**I, Lakhbir Kaur** W/o Sarwan Singh R/o Village Bhullar, Tehsil Ajnala Distt. Amritsar, Punjab declare that Lakhbir Kaur and Gurwinder Kaur both name are mine. Lakhbir Kaur and Gurwinder Kaur is one and the same person.

**I Neeta Shrivastava** W/o Mukesh Kumar Shrivastava R/o H.No- 76 Luxmi Nagar Ambala City have changed my name from Neeta to Neeta Shrivastava.

**I Mukesh Kumar** Shrivastava S/o Mahanand Lal Shrivastava R/o H.No- 76 Luxmi Nagar Ambala City have changed my name from Swapnil to Swapnil Shrivastava.

**I Swapnil Shrivastava** S/o Mukesh Kumar Shrivastava R/o H.No- 76 Luxmi Nagar Ambala City have changed my name from Swapnil to Swapnil Shrivastava.

**I Rajiv Kumar** Gupta S/o Brij Mohan R/o H.No- 2297 Purana Bazar Ismailabad Distt Kurukshetra Have changed my name to Rajiv Kumar

**I Rajesh** W/o Shiv Charan R/o H.No 11 Village Kherki Jattan Tehsil Naraingarh Distt Ambala have changed my name from Rajesh Kumari to Rajesh.

**I Meena Dhussa** W/o Puran Chand R/o Village Magharpura, Karasan Distt Ambala have changed my name from Meena Rani to Meena Dhussa.

**I Jaswinder Singh** Battu S/o S. Sohan Singh R/O Near Maan Dairy, Village Singhawala Ambala City Have changed my name to Jaswinder Singh.

**I Sagar** S/o Sh. Suresh Kumar R/O H.No. 62, Near Peeri Baba, Jawahar Nagar, Jagadhir Workshop, Yamuna Nagar I have change my name from Sagar to Sagar Sharma All concerned note.

**I, Manjit Singh** S/o Sh. Bishan Singh R/o House No. 51 P, Sector-4, Urban Estate Kurukshetra has changed my minor son name from Parbhpal Singh Parhar to Prabhpal Singh for all future purposes.

**I, Pritkamal Kaur</**









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PAPER WITH PASSION

## INDIA hits roadblock

With certain satraps demanding their pound of flesh, Congress forced to be on the defensive

The Congress seems to be spiralling down the goodwill and credibility meter. After the drubbing it received in three recent Assembly elections, its partners in the INDIA bloc are also not extending it the courtesy it has grown accustomed to. After burning most bridges with its co-parties on account of its preoccupation with the State elections, where it miserably failed to score a point, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had convened a meeting of the INDIA bloc on December 6, but key alliance partners cocked a snook at the abrupt invite and expressed unavailability to attend, forcing Congress to reschedule the gathering. The absence of prominent figures, including TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, SP's Akhilesh Yadav and DMK's MK Stalin underlined the growing discontent within the alliance. Mamata cited commitments, Nitish is reportedly down with viral fever, and Stalin is engaged in relief efforts after cyclone Michaung. The unexpected nature of these absences left the Congress in an awkward position. The lack of communication and coordination reflected poorly on the Congress's ability to manage the alliance. To address the discontent, the Congress scaled down the meeting to include only floor leaders, rescheduling the heads of parties' meeting to the third week of December. This move aims to accommodate the busy schedules of alliance leaders and foster better participation, which should have been the priority right from the start. However, the rescheduling indicates the need for Congress to reassess its approach to alliance management and communication.



These are difficult times for the Congress. The decimation of the party must have had a demoralising effect on the INDIA alliance as well, which was keenly watching the elections and hoping for a turnaround in the northern region. The development also indicates that though Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra created good impact, it failed to translate into votes. The fissures in the alliance were actually visible even before the elections. Several bloc parties, including the TMC, AAP, SP and JD(U), expressed frustration with the Congress for stalling alliance activities, such as seat-sharing talks, citing Assembly polls. The delay raises concerns about the cohesion and effectiveness of the alliance, with some members believing that the political momentum gained after previous meetings has been lost. The Congress must address the issues of perceived dissension, EVM tampering controversy in Assembly elections and work towards restoring the alliance's stability, effectiveness and cohesion for the political battle ahead. The rescheduled meeting presents an opportunity for the Congress to regroup, re-establish communication with alliance partners and chart a course that strengthens the unity and purpose of the coalition. It will also be the litmus test of the INDIA bloc's ability to survive together.

### PICTALK



Eminent dancer Dona Ganguly's troupe performs on 29th Kolkata International Film Festival, in Kolkata

PTI

## Insurtech is the next big thing after FinTech

By merging insurance with technology, this burgeoning sector promises to revitalise the traditional insurance sector

In the past decade, FinTech's revolutionary impact has been marked by the integration of cutting-edge technologies across various sectors. Thriving on innovation, these FinTech companies have disrupted traditional processes, raising billions in the process. Even with a funding slowdown, the sector managed to secure \$1.3 billion in H1 2023. Building on this momentum, Insurtech emerges as India's new digital frontier. Merging insurance with technology, this burgeoning sector promises to revitalise the traditional insurance. Its innovative solutions aim to enhance customer experiences, streamline operations, and increase insurance accessibility. Currently valued at US\$ 20,667.5 million, Insurtech is projected to surge to an estimated 210,664.3 million by 2033, growing at a CAGR of over 26%. This remarkable growth trajectory positions Insurtech not just as a trend, but as a transformative force in India's digital economy.

**Insurtech and its scope**  
Insurtech (made of two words: Insurance and



Technology) refers to the use of technological innovations designed to squeeze out savings and efficiency from the current insurance industry model. It is not just limited to digitising the existing insurance framework; rather, it's a reimagining of insurance operations using cutting-edge technologies like AI, blockchain, and IoT to create more personalised, automated, and customer-centric services. Insurtech in India represents a transformative force within the traditionally manual and paperwork-heavy insurance sector. Leveraging technological innovations, Indian Insurtech start-ups are streamlining policy management, claims processing, and risk assessment. This simplification makes insurance more accessible and user-friendly. There is still a large proportion of the population uninsured, for instance around 40 crore individuals

do not have access to any health insurance. This significant presence of an uninsured population, coupled with growing digital adoption, positions Insurtech for substantial growth. **Success of the Fintech**  
The success of fintech companies and the rapid adoption of the services offered by these enterprises have laid the groundwork for the emergence and growth of Insurtech. The current trajectory of Insurtech which promises high growth rates and is also characterised by disruptive innovation and swift market penetration, is quite similar to how the Fintech sector has evolved in the past decade. **Investors are for Insurtech**  
Even though the comparison of numbers with the fintech sector would not be fair, it is critical to mention that Insurtech enterprises have raised more than \$2.6 billion in the past five years. With exciting forecasts, it is rather a surety that VCs and investors would be more than happy to pour more money into a sector that has a forecasted CAGR of more than 25%. Here are some of the

most critical reasons, besides the growth trends, that have enhanced investors' interest in the sector: **Filling gaps in insurance**  
Traditional insurance models are often hindered by inefficiencies like lengthy claim processes and limited customer interaction. Insurtech addresses these gaps through technological solutions that streamline operations and enhance customer engagement. This ability to solve longstanding problems in insurance makes Insurtech a particularly attractive investment for those looking to fund ventures that combine innovation with practical, market-driven solutions. **Data-Driven Insights**  
The fundamental appeal of the sector is based on data analytics and AI. These technologies enable more accurate risk assessment, personalised policy offerings, and predictive analytics to anticipate future trends and customer needs. For VCs and investors, the efficiency and customer-centric nature of these data-driven solutions presents a compelling investment case. (The writer is the founder, of Alwrite; views are personal)



ADITYA DADIA

## The significance of Sam Bahadur

The biopic on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw depicts him as a fearless man of honour and integrity but skips the scruffy treatment he got in his twilight years

Undoubtedly, many parents will be writing about Sam Bahadur, the biopic on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. It not only shines a light on the life and times of a genuine military hero but also on what it means to be an officer and a gentleman. Whatever one's views about the movie or its shortcomings, of which there are a few, it is undeniable that the director, Meghna Gulzar, has brilliantly caught the very essence of the Field Marshal, both as a human being and a military leader nonpareil. For that, she and the cast certainly deserve ample praise and accolades.

For unknown reasons, the biopic has skirted the issue of the horrendous treatment meted out to the Field Marshal in his twilight years by our political establishment and the bureaucracy. That is rather unfortunate. For instance, though appointed Field Marshal in January 1973, he only received the arrears of his pay and allowances in 2007, a full thirty-four years later, and that too because of the personal intervention of President Abdul Kalam. Interestingly, in 1972, when Mrs Gandhi first proposed to promote him to the rank of Field Marshal, she also wanted him appointed Chief of Defence Staff. A proposal vigorously opposed by bureaucrats not unexpectedly, but also by the other two Services as well. Unfortunately, we are still paying a very high price for the short-sightedness of our military hierarchy to this day. On his demise in June 2008, while the Government did honour him with a State Funeral, neither the President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Pratibha Patil, nor Prime Minister Manmohan Singh nor his defence minister AK Antony, could spare time to attend. Instead, the Government was represented at the funeral of India's greatest military icon since Independence, by the Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Pallam Raju. What it says about our politicians needs no elaboration! Indeed, one would not be surprised if the unflattering depiction of politicians and bureaucrats in the movie was deliberate and not



miscasting as many suggest. The unkindest cut of all though, was the absence from the funeral of the Naval and Air Force Chiefs, Admiral Suresh Mehta and Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major. As per newspaper reports, this was supposedly because of the short notice and their inability to organise appropriate transportation. In fairness to them, they were represented, but if the reasons for their absence were true, it was certainly a grievous error of judgement on their part and reflected very poorly on them. Coincidentally, the Army Chief, General Deepak Kapoor, was also absent, but on an official visit to Russia, and was represented as per protocol, by the Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Naidu. The significance of their absence was not lost on the serving and veteran community, as it clearly reflected the direction the military was heading, where displaying fealty to political masters overrode the necessity to live up to the traditions and ethos of the military. A trend, that has only taken deeper roots over time, as increasing politicisation within the military has started taking its toll. Today, interference in purely military mat-



MANY AMONGST OUR TOP MILITARY HIERARCHY ARE COMPROMISED AS THEY OWE THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS MORE TO POLITICAL MUNIFICENCE, THAN THEIR OWN PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES

ters by politicians and bureaucrats, who have neither military experience nor domain knowledge, and will never be held accountable is clearly visible. The unviable Agnipath Scheme that is causing grave damage to our military ethos and capability is just one example. That there has been no opposition from within the military to all of this can be attributed to the sad fact that many amongst our top military hierarchy are compromised as they owe their present positions more to the political munificence, than their own professional abilities. Moreover, reputations, standing and self-respect were greatly damaged by the unwillingness of the Service Chiefs to speak up when military veterans and families were illegally and mercilessly beaten up by the Delhi Police as they sat in peaceful protest at the Jantar Mantar against the Government's failure to grant OROP, a promise that incidentally it has yet to honour in full. Indeed, those unwilling to defend their own will never garner any respect. Ironically, the situation our military is in presently has created a fundamental problem for the political leadership,

though it appears they may have failed to comprehend this as yet. One aspect that stands out in the movie is the fact that the Field Marshal endeared himself to Mrs Gandhi not by submitting to her every whim or a flagrant display of personal loyalty, but by giving her straightforward professional advice, regardless of consequences. Thus, despite all her inherent fears regarding the Field Marshal's likely motives or ambitions, she came to place implicit trust in his professional judgement and abilities. The results were there for all to see. Unfortunately, Prime Minister Modi does not have that luxury, which probably explains our weak-kneed response to Chinese provocations. As Napoleon so aptly put it, "If you build an army of 100 lions and their leader is a dog, in any fight, the lions will die like a dog. But if you build an army of 100 dogs and their leader is a lion, all dogs will fight as a lion".

(The writer is a military veteran and a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with the Peninsula Foundation, Chennai. Views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### IMRAN KHAN CRIES OVER HIS DOINGS

Sir — On the face of it, predicaments for cricketer-turned-politician and former Pak Prime Minister Imran Khan are turning from bad to worse with each day passing and seeming far from over given that Mr Khan has been on the tenterhooks since he put in his papers as Prime Minister following a no-confidence motion passed against him in the National Assembly with 174 votes on April 10 in 2022. Mr Khan and his close aide and ex-foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi are already behind bars in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, a special court judge on Monday ruled that Mr Khan and Mr Qureshi would be again indicted in the cypher case on December 12 for allegedly leaking state secrets in violation of the country's laws. Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain heard the case in the Rawalpindi prison where the duo is incarcerated.

To remind you, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) filed the chargesheet against the PTI leaders duo on September 30 under sections 5 and 9 of the Official Secrets Acts which entails a death sentence or up to 14 years in jail in case of conviction. Given that the Army in Pakistan has largely been in the driver's seat since the creation of the country in 1948, Pakistanis have taken the army rule in their country in their stride.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

#### COP28 CONTINUES TILL NEXT WEEK

Sir — The COP28 global climate conference will continue for another week. That means its formal completion will be announced on the 12th of December. But this meeting held in Dubai, in many cases, seems to be entangled in a web of controversies even before it has started. First, there was controversy over the name of its chairman, Sultan al-Jaber, who is himself the head of an oil company. Secondly, that document became public, which also includes the draft which states that the UAE is going to use this platform to increase the sales of its oil. Second, con-

### Opposition parties must introspect



It is indeed a pity that opposition parties are still not sensitised on the need to exhibit unity among themselves to bring about the much-

needed change in the political course of the country. People seem to have acted in desperation and kept the non-BJP parties at a distance. Telangana stands apart as the leader of the Congress party in the state and could successfully take all the factions with him. In Rajasthan, at least, Congress has only two major factions whereas in Telangana the party has too many leaders and each leader leads a faction. But they all acted under a single command in exposing the misrule of BRS and emerged successful. But, at least, now the party should act with more sense of responsibility and spirit of nationalism as advised by the Prime Minister, though his utterance was more sarcastic. A bigger task is before them and let us hope better counsel will prevail in their mind.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

sensus was not seen on an agreement that pledged to triple installed renewable energy capacity by 2030. Only 118 out of 200 countries signed it. China, the world's second-largest country in terms of emissions, and India, the third-largest, did not sign. This historic decision was discussed at that time only. India, as G20 chairmanship, had also given its consent to this drafting. No one can understand India's sudden rejection of it. Anyway, all the COP series meetings are also held, and so far, we have seen only a boom in tourism. No concrete achievement from this is visible in any part of the earth. The temperature is increasing exponentially. Forests are being reduced to ashes by wildfires. With the expansion of the sea coast, cities and towns are coming under submergence. The world is becoming plagued by floods, storms and extreme heat. The countries of the world are still looking at every agreement from the perspective of their profit and loss.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### COUGH SYRUP IS SWEET POISON

Sir — As per a report more than 40 companies manufacturing cough syrups in the

country have failed quality tests, a Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) report said, citing lab tests conducted in different states in the aftermath of reports potentially linking India-made cough syrups to 141 child fatalities globally. As per the CDSCO report, of the 1,105 samples tested, 59 were declared "not of standard quality". The report was released by CDSCO in November under a list of drugs, medical devices and cosmetics declared as "not of standard quality", "spurious", "adulterated", or "misbranded". The move came after several deaths were reported among children globally after consuming India-made cough syrups. Concerns surrounding these cough syrups were raised after the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that about 70 children in Gambia had died from acute kidney injury potentially linked to cough and cold syrups produced by Indian manufacturer Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd. With this, the image and credibility of India have fallen in the world.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai


Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

DISCIPLINE YOUR SENSES

Our senses would always seek their objects but we must keep them on a leash



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We have six senses, which are actively looking for gratification by contact with their objects. For example, our tongues look for tasty foods except when we are full. There is nothing wrong with it if these pleasures are within ‘dharma’/ ‘maryada’ (within allowable limits). God has allowed it, as stated by Lord Krishna in verse # 7.11 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, in which He stated, “I am passion in beings, according to religious principles.” He emphasised this point further in verse # 6.17, when He counselled, “One whose eating and recreation are appropriate; of one who strives appropriately in activities; of one who sleeps and stays awake, as required; his sufferings are less. Because sufferings there will be in this material world, described by the Lord as a place of miseries.” (8.15) But despite such warnings, we are forever ready to transgress allowable limits hoping to escape punishment. What happens will be clear as we go through the activities of these six active senses. Beginning with our tongue, all of us are guilty of indiscretions sometimes or other. Picture yourself invited to a very rich buffet dinner. You survey what is on offer, which will be a lot unless you are on a restricted diet. What should I eat? People load their plates as if they are starving. This explains our control over our senses. Shouldn’t we consider what is best for us to eat? Is it on offer? Then, why think so much? Just eat enough because more food will be available in a few hours for breakfast.



Let us go to our eyes next. It used to be okay till multiple channels came and now smartphones. There is so much to see, especially now one can watch with no one watching. Unfortunately, we are being watched all the time because ‘karmaphalas’ are being made by our acts. Wise people restrict themselves to what is useful and at worst, what is harmless like a sports programme.

The pleasure of speaking occupies a very high place in modern man’s desires. Everyone is an expert on everything with Google playing its role. Doctors get frustrated when patients begin telling them what they should know. One doesn’t want to consider that if one was so wise why should he or she be in so much trouble?

The fourth sense, which is also very active is our ears. What do we want to hear most? Our appreciation, which is how good we are compared to everyone around us. Again, like question begs an answer: why aren’t we satisfied with our lives then?

Our skin occupies an important position in how we think. We place comfort in all considerations. Air conditioners, heaters, etc are all fine, but how about a little sweating it out with walks, yoga exercises, etc? What does a modern person value the most? Muscles of course to show off. People spend hours in gyms to build what is not needed which gives them trouble as they age.

I have saved the next sense for the last, which gives us the maximum trouble. Yes, you have guessed it right. The sex pleasure is considered the topmost pleasure of all by almost everyone. Our thinking is normally defined by it. Lord Krishna has warned us about it in verse # 18.39, when He cautioned about ‘pramad’.

The conclusion is obvious. We have senses and they would always seek contact with their objects. This is normal, but what is not normal is not restricting oneself to what is allowable. God would not have made such a system if it was not workable. It is very much so; only we have to be highly disciplined in thinking and acting, and we can live a satisfactory life.

*(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)*

# Is India losing sheen for investors?



AS MITTAL

## The slowdown in foreign direct investment in India is a cause for concern, as multinational corporations are finding other competitors more attractive

India’s GDP grew by 7.6% in the second quarter (July-September) of the year, a positive sign of economic growth. However, the steepest declines in foreign direct investment (FDI) are a matter of concern, especially considering India’s recent emergence as a promising investment destination and a viable alternative to China. This decline is particularly worrying as it is happening despite positive projections of India’s growth by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and The World Bank.

According to the latest report by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), FDI inflows have slowed down drastically. The decline in FDI inflows has been steep, and the situation has only worsened, with a further decline of -24% in April-September 2023. The current FDI inflows stand at \$20.48 billion, down from \$26.91 billion over the same period last year. Even the overall FDI inflows in 2022-23 witnessed a 16% decline, standing at \$71.3 billion from \$84.8 billion in 2021-22.

The steepest declines in FDI have been in crucial sectors such as computer software and hardware, automobile, infrastructure construction activities, and metallurgical industries. For instance, inflows in computer software and hardware fell from \$14.4 billion in 2021-22 to \$9.3 billion in 2022-23, in the automobile industry from \$6.9 billion to \$1.9 billion, in infrastructure construction activities from \$3.2 billion to \$1.7 billion, and in metallurgical industries from \$2.2 billion to \$219 million.

The slowdown in foreign direct investment (FDI) in India is a cause for concern, as multinational corporations (MNCs) are finding Vietnam, Indonesia, and other competitors more attractive. This is a clear indication that the “China plus one” strategy of MNCs is not working for India. During January-September of this year, FDI in Vietnam increased by approximately 8% compared to the same period last year, reaching about \$18 billion. In the case of Indonesia, FDI flows stood at around \$10 billion during January-September of this year, similar to the levels seen last year.

The factors that influence capital flows into countries include the global and domestic macroeconomic environment, the domestic policy and regulatory environment, and political stability. Since India is expected to benefit greatly from the “China plus one” strategy, policymakers must pay closer attention to these FDI trends.

It is well known that FDI flows are more likely to gravitate towards countries with broader and deeper trade agreements. Lower tariffs and other benefits negotiated through free trade agreements (FTAs) incentivise foreign investment. Therefore, the decline in FDI flows to India may reflect this. A deeper assessment of the country’s prospects is needed to address this issue.

India is genuinely the alternative to China for companies looking to diversify if it is the “one” in China plus one strategy if the Government’s PLI scheme is a powerful enough incentive to draw in investments, and if the solid foundations of India’s growth forecasts are taken into account, then MNC investor should be long on India. Any concerns regarding an uncertain business environment, an uneven playing field, or the fear of arbitrary



changes to the rules of the game must not deter investors from investing in India.

More states should be in the ambit of FDI: The scope of FDI must be expanded to more Indian states. FDI has been concentrated in only a few states due to their location and favourable business environment. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat have together attracted a staggering 69% of the FDI inflows into the country, with Maharashtra being the top recipient. However, it is disappointing to note that Punjab ranks a lowly 12th in attracting FDI, with a cumulative investment of a meagre Rs. 7693 crore in the past four years, which is a paltry 0.49% of the total inflows of Rs. 15.08 lakh crore from October 2019 to September 2023.

In contrast, the neighbouring state of Haryana has been more successful, ranking sixth with FDI equity inflows of Rs. 67,502 crore, accounting for a substantial 4.17% of the total inflows during the same period. Punjab’s successive governments have been striving to attract investments, particularly from foreign investors, but they have been facing major hurdles such as location disadvantage, poor connectivity, and frequent protests.

The existing industry in Punjab has also been complaining about disruptions in their operations and movements due to the aforementioned issues. Haryana is way ahead in this regard with a significant advantage due to its proximity to Delhi NCR and superior connectivity.

It is high time that Punjab takes firm steps to improve its position in attracting FDI, as its highest ranking was only ninth in 2020-21, when it attracted FDI equity investment of Rs. 4,719.45 crore, primarily in food processing, auto components, engineering goods, and textiles. The declining trend in FDI inflows to Punjab since then is a cause for concern. Therefore, the state must create a more conducive environment for businesses and investors, and promote its potential in various sectors, to attract more FDI and boost its economy.

Disadvantage: Despite signing and negotiating bilateral free trade agreements, India has failed to secure a trade agreement with the European Union or become part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries including China, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea for free trade agreements. The trade agreement between the 10 member states of ASEAN and their free trade agreement partners - Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and Korea - has deepened economic integration between these countries, which are at the heart of manufacturing supply chains.

As a result, India’s exclusion from such agreements and the supply chains that run through these regions puts it at a significant disadvantage in this manufacturing ecosystem. The Way Forward: Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) have a far greater potential to facilitate the growth of the Indian economy than Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI). However, India needs to take swift and assertive action to speed up structural reforms, root out corruption, and reduce red tape in bureaucracy to strengthen its position as the most attractive investment destination for FDI. India has adopted a negative list approach in its FDI policy, which outlines only those sectors and activities where foreign investment is regulated. Sectors not mentioned in the document are open to obtaining 100% FDI under the automatic method.


The liberal and attractive policy regime for investors, combined with a favourable business climate and reduced regulatory framework, have resulted in higher FDI inflows. But this alone is not enough. India needs to complement this with a sound trade policy that boosts exports, encourages inclusive development, and incentivises R&D to make our manufacturing ecosystem globally competitive, thereby fetching FDI at a large scale.

*(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are strictly personal)*

# Artificial Intelligence is transforming the steel industry

## A step-by-step approach is the best to implement artificial intelligence. Scores of AI models are available for use in the steel units which can be tried without much hassle

Technology is ever-evolving. While it becomes difficult to keep pace with rapid technological advancements in all expanses of life, it is equally difficult to discount them because these are highly value-accretive. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one such technology. The manufacturing sector, in general, and the steel sector, in particular, are integrating AI into their daily operations to improve productivity, health and safety, reduce operational costs and reap countless other operational and functional benefits. Survival will be at stake for those who will not. In a developing nation or the Global South, cheaper availability of steel is a prequel to ensure sustainable development. Since raw materials for



ALOK SAHAY

making steel are unlikely to be economical in the foreseeable future, adaptation of modern disruptive technologies and processes is the only way out. Estimates suggest that the proper adaptation of AI in the entire value chain of steelmaking can save between \$60 and \$100 per tonne. Apart from this, a key takeaway from the recently concluded ISA Steel InfraBuild Summit in Lucknow was that the use of AI in architecture will enable engineers and architects to design, plan, and build steel structures more efficiently, resulting in proper economics and savings in infrastructure and real estate.

In the steel sector, AI can be adopted from R&D and innovation to procurement, manufacturing and back-office

process digitalisation to supply-chain inventory, marketing, and whatnot. All these can lead to a 60% growth in EBDITA in three years. Greenhouse gas emissions can also be reduced by 5-10%. Maintenance is, as always, a difficult task. Each manufacturing unit has its maintenance plan tailored to its particularities. Proper implementation and use of AI can help predict the exact timing of maintenance, thereby reducing shutdown time, cutting maintenance costs, and enhancing the lifespan of the machinery. The Indian steel industry has been the early adopter of AI. Adaptation of AI has the highest impact on steel manufacturing in the entire value chain. In the coke oven plant, sinter plant, blast furnaces,

continuous caster and rolling, among others, the implementation of AI has multiple benefits ranging from 1-2% yield improvement to a 50-80% reduction in quality losses. Energy consumption also improved by roughly 10%. Autonomous or semi-autonomous data or content examination also makes predictions and recommendations easier. Integration of sales and production data improves revenue management and customer satisfaction.

With precise data, AI’s ability to predict market data and price fluctuations helps manufacturers adjust production, manage inventories, and respond swiftly to changing market conditions. Enhancing safety is also another essential aspect. No wonder steel manufacturers worldwide are embracing AI to ensure faster delivery of business requirements. This is the age of intelligent manufacturing. Far from having a steel-producing smart factory, intelligent manufacturing encompasses all of it – sourcing raw materials to production to marketing products through an integrated intelligent supply chain.

Steel consumption mirrors the health of an economy. Aspiring to be in the league of a developed nation, India has miles to go to catch up with the global steel consumption average. The building, construction and infrastructure sector consumes nearly 70% of all steel in India. The growth of the steel sector will largely depend on the demand emanating

from the infrastructure sector. While AI adaptation will benefit the steel sector, implementing AI in the infrastructure sector will help assess the sector’s specific needs - such as identifying cost-effective high-strength steel structure-based designs and offering tailor-made products.

Adaptation, both in the steel and the infrastructure sector, is a challenging task. A mindset of experimentation and a determination to bring about positive changes are required. With AI, the ultimate goal is to implement an automated and unsupervised process linked with software and processes to improve performance over time. However, there is no substitute for human capital, and once integrated with AI, it will do wonders if used for the benefit of mankind and planet Earth. The apprehension that AI will displace jobs is unfounded. However, the dynamics of the job will change, requiring manpower with digital skills. It also warrants upskilling existing employees. A step-by-step approach is the best to implement AI. Building on the following line from the learnings of the first will yield the best results. Scores of AI models are in use in different steel manufacturing units in the country. The use of transformative technology will only go up in the days ahead. We need to be ready to adapt to the changes and implement it.

*(The writer is the Secretary General of, the Indian Steel Association (ISA), views are personal)*



# Heavy fighting across Gaza halts aid delivery

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli forces battled Hamas militants across Gaza on Wednesday after expanding their ground offensive to its second-largest city, further shrinking the area where Palestinians can seek safety and halting the distribution of vital aid across most of the territory. The assault on the south threatens further mass displacement within the besieged coastal enclave, where the U.N. says some 1.87 million people — over 80 per cent of the population — have already fled their homes. North, including large parts of Gaza City, has been completely destroyed, and Palestinians fear the rest of Gaza could suffer a similar fate as Israel tries to dismantle Hamas, which has deep roots in the territory it has ruled for 16 years.

Israel says it can no longer accept a Hamas military presence in Gaza after the October 7 attack that triggered the war, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will maintain open-ended security control over the territory, something opposed by the United States and much of the international community. The Israeli military said Tuesday that its troops were “in the heart” of the southern city of Khan Younis after what it described as “the most intense day” of fighting since the start of the ground operation five weeks ago, with heavy battles in the north as well.

## PUSHED TO THE EDGE

For the past three days, aid distribution — mainly just supplies of flour and water — has been possible only in and around Rafah, on the southern border with Egypt, because of fighting and road closures by Israeli forces, the U.N.’s humanitarian aid office said.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders said fuel and medical supplies have reached “critically low levels” at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah, north of Khan Younis. Up to 200 wounded people have been brought in every day since December 1, when a weeklong truce expired, it said. “Without electricity, ventilators would



Relatives of Israeli hostages Eli and Yossi Sharabi, Tsachi Idan and Idan Shitvi attend a ceremony and a prayer for their liberation at the synagogue in Lisbon, Tuesday. The families are in Lisbon to ask for the help of the Portuguese government in securing the hostages release. *AP/PTI*

cease to function, blood donations would have to stop, the sterilization of surgical instruments would be impossible,” said Marie-Aure Perreaut Reval, the aid group’s emergency coordinator in Gaza. She said they are also running low on surgical supplies and external fixators for broken bones.

Gaza has been without electricity since the first week of the war, and Israel has severely limited fuel imports, forcing several hospitals to shut down because they cannot operate emergency generators. Thousands of people have fled to the Rafah since Israel resumed its offensive after the cease-fire, including many from the north who have been displaced multiple times.

Hamza Abu Mustafa, a teacher who lives near a school-turned-shelter and is hosting three families himself, said “the situation is extremely dire.”

“You find displaced people in the streets, in schools, in mosques, in hospitals ... everywhere.”

A Palestinian woman who identified herself as Umm Ahmed said the harsh conditions and limited access to toilets are especially difficult for women who are pregnant or menstruating. “For women and girls, the suffering is double,”

she said. “It’s more humiliation.” Palestinian women have recently taken to social media to request menstrual pads, which are increasingly hard to find. “I apologize for raising such a matter,” one user wrote on X, adding that there were 15 girls staying in her house. “What are we supposed to do?”

## HUNDREDS KILLED SINCE CEASE-FIRE

The war has killed more than 16,200 people in Gaza — 70 per cent of them women and children — and wounded more than 42,000, according to the territory’s Health Ministry, which released new figures late Tuesday. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths, but its overall tally tracks with a figure released by the Israeli military this week.

The ministry says hundreds more have been killed since the cease-fire ended Friday, and many still are trapped under rubble.

The military accuses Hamas of using civilians as human shields when the militants operate in residential areas. But Israel has not given detailed accounts of individual strikes, some of which have leveled entire city blocks. Military Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi

said militants keep weapons in homes and other buildings so fighters in civilian clothes can use them to fire on troops.

“Striking them requires significant use of fire, both to target the enemy but also to, of course, protect our forces,” he said Tuesday. Israel says it must remove Hamas from power to prevent a repeat of the October 7 attack, when Hamas and other militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took captive some 240 men, women and children after bursting through Israel’s vaunted defenses. More than 100 hostages were released during last week’s cease-fire, along with 240 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. But an estimated 138 hostages remain in Gaza, mostly soldiers and civilian men, and accounts of widespread rape and other atrocities committed during the rampage have deepened Israel’s outrage and further galvanized support for the war.

## NO END IN SIGHT

Hamas’ continuing ability to fight in the north, where Israel entered with overwhelming force weeks ago, signals that eradicating the group without causing further mass casualties and displacement — as Israel’s top ally, the US has requested — could prove elusive.

# Hamas raping Israeli hostages appalling: Biden

AP ■ BOSTON

President Joe Biden has forcefully denounced the reported rape and sexual violence against Israeli girls and women by Hamas militants following the October 7 attack on Israel, calling on the world to condemn such conduct “without equivocation” and “without exception.”

Speaking at a campaign fundraiser in Boston on Tuesday, Biden noted that in recent weeks, female survivors and witnesses to the attacks have shared “horrific accounts of unimaginable cruelty.”

“Reports of women raped — repeatedly raped — and their bodies being mutilated while still alive — of women corpses being desecrated, Hamas terrorists inflicting as much pain and suffering on women and girls as possible and then murdering them,” Biden said. “It is appalling.”

Israel has said it is investigating several cases of sexual assault and rape from the Hamas attack on Israel. Witnesses and medical experts have said that Hamas militants committed a series of rapes and other attacks before killing the victims in the October 7 attack, though the extent of the sexual violence remains unknown.

Experts have been piecing together evidence in recent weeks in a case that is complicated because there are no known victims to testify and limited forensic evidence.

Biden’s comments come as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government has sought to put greater focus on the sexual violence it says Hamas committed during the October 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people on Israeli soil and led to another 240 being taken hostage. Some recently released hostages have shared testimonies of sexual violence and abuse during their time in

Gaza.

Hamas has denied that militants committed sexual assaults. Netanyahu railed against the lack of international response during a press conference on Tuesday evening.

“I say to the women’s rights organizations, to the human rights organisations, you’ve heard of the rape of Israeli women, horrible atrocities, sexual mutilation — where the hell are you,” asked Netanyahu.

Israel hosted a special event at the United Nations on Monday where former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, and former Meta chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg were among those who criticised what they called a global failure to support women who were raped, sexually assaulted and in some cases killed.

The comments from Biden came one day after White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called the militants’ alleged assaults on women “reprehensible.”

Jean-Pierre, who underscored that she was speaking on behalf of the president, was responding to a question about comments made by Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a California Democrat, during a CNN interview in which she responded to a question about rape by Palestinian militants by saying, “I think we have to be balanced about bringing in the outrages against Palestinians, 15,000 Palestinians have been killed.”

Jayapal later issued a statement clarifying that she “unequivocally” condemns “Hamas’ use of rape and sexual violence as an act of war.” As a senator, Biden was the author of the Violence Against Women Act, which was signed into law in 1994. He referenced his work on the issue as a lawmaker as he spoke out against the allegations of sexual violence by Hamas.

# US President: If Trump wasn’t running I’m not sure I’d be running

AP ■ BOSTON

President Joe Biden told campaign donors Tuesday that he wasn’t sure he’d be running for reelection if Donald Trump wasn’t also in the race, warning that democracy is “more at risk in 2024” and that the former president and his allies are out to “destroy” democratic institutions. The president was using a trio of fundraisers to caution against what might happen should his predecessor again claim control of the White House, noting that Trump has described himself as his supporters’ “retribution” and has vowed to root out “vermin” in the country.

“We’ve got to get it done, not because of me. ... If Trump wasn’t running I’m not sure I’d be running. We cannot let him win,” Biden said, hitting the last words slowly for emphasis.

Biden’s forceful rhetoric came as Trump, the current GOP front-runner, who tried to overturn the 2020 election he lost and is facing criminal charges connected to those efforts, attempted over the weekend to turn the tables by calling Biden the “destroyer of American democracy.”

Trump on Tuesday was asked by Fox News Channel’s Sean Hannity to promise he “would never abuse power as retribution against anybody.”

“Except for day one,” Trump responded. “I want to close the border and I want to drill, drill, drill.”

“After that I’m not a dictator,” Trump added.

Biden, who said he is not alone in sounding the alarm over Trump, noted that Trump is the “only losing candidate” in US history to not accept the results.

Biden also said that on Jan. 6, 2021, as Trump supporters violently stormed the US Capitol in a failed attempt to stop the certification of the election results, Trump sat in his dining room just off the Oval Office, “watching them threaten his own vice president.”

# Trump declines to rule out abusing power to seek retribution if he returns to WH

New York (AP): Former President Donald Trump declined to rule out abusing power if he returns to the White House after Fox News Channel host Sean Hannity asked him Tuesday to respond to growing Democratic criticism of his rhetoric.

The GOP presidential front-runner has talked about targeting his rivals — referring to them as “vermin” — and vowed to seek retribution if he wins a second term for what he argues are politically motivated prosecutions against him. As Trump has dominated the Republican presidential primary, President Joe Biden has stepped up his own warnings, contending Trump is “determined to destroy American democracy.”

“Under no circumstances, you are promising America tonight, you would never abuse power as retribution against anybody?” Hannity asked Trump in the interview taped in Davenport, Iowa.

“Except for day one,” Trump responded. “I want to close the border and I want to drill, drill, drill.” Trump then repeated his assertion. “I love this guy,” he said of the Fox News host. “He says, You’re not going to be a dictator, are you?” I said: ‘No, no, no, other than day one. We’re closing the border and we’re drilling, drilling, drilling. After that, I’m not a dictator.’” Earlier in the interview, Hannity had asked Trump if he “in any way” had “any plans whatsoever, if reelected president, to abuse power, to break the law to use the government to go after people.”

# Ex-UK PM Johnson says ‘sorry’ for COVID pain & loss



PTI ■ LONDON

Britain’s former prime minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday said he is “deeply sorry” for the pain and the loss caused by COVID-19 as he gave his evidence to the ongoing official public inquiry into the government’s handling of the pandemic which hit the country in early 2020.

Johnson, who was in charge as the prime minister of the day, admitted he should have “twigged” the widespread health impact of coronavirus but insisted he had to take “very, very difficult decisions” as the crisis was fast unfolding. Inquiry chair Baroness Heather Hallett, who has been hearing evidence in London since June, had to get a protester removed from the room as they held up a poster reading: “The dead can’t hear your apologies.”

“I am deeply sorry for the pain and the loss and the suffering of those victims and their families,” said Johnson, after swearing on the ‘Bible’ for his evidence.

The former PM was reminded by barrister Hugo Keith of the more than 230,000

COVID-linked deaths in the country as a “shocking figure and a terrible loss of life”. Johnson acknowledged that was the “core of the tragedy” and that “inevitably...we may have made mistakes”.

“The tragedy is that we were operating on a fallacious, inductive logic about previous reasonable worst case scenarios, and this one and this was the one where I am afraid the worst predictions turned out to be correct,” he told the inquiry.

“I think we were doing the best we could at the time, given what we knew, given the information we had at the time, I think we were doing our level best. Were there things that we should have done differently? Unquestionably,” he said.

He revealed that the government “underestimated the scale and pace of the challenge”, thinking the peak of the virus would come in May or June 2020. Johnson also said he took responsibility for the speed of the government’s response to the pandemic, the lockdown decisions and their timelines.

His evidence is expected to last for two days and follows the evidence of his Cabinet colleagues from the time, former health secretary Matt Hancock and levelling up secretary Michael Gove. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who was chancellor of the exchequer at the time, is expected to give his evidence in the coming weeks.

# Top US , Chinese diplomats agree to build on recent progress in ties

Beijing (AP): The top US and Chinese diplomats agreed on Wednesday to keep building on recent progress in bilateral ties and work together to keep the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza from spreading. Both Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken referred in a telephone call to last month’s closely watched meeting between the two countries’ leaders in San Francisco following years of frigid ties.

“The important task for both sides at present is to continue the positive impact of the San Francisco meeting, implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state, and consolidate the momentum of stabilising Sino-US relations,” Wang said, according to China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Blinken also emphasised that the two sides should build on progress at the summit, according to the US State Department. President Joe Biden and President Xi Jinping agreed at their meeting to keep channels of communication open and resume military-to-military talks. Yet, major political differences between the countries remain far from resolved.

Wang and Blinken also discussed the Israel-Hamas war, where China has been trying to play a role in negotiations, and agreed to maintain communications on the situation. Last Wednesday, China presented a four-point peace plan to the United Nations on ending the conflict, although the plan lacked detail. Blinken also raised recent attacks on shipping vessels in the Red Sea by Yemen’s Houthis rebels, an escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Mideast linked to the Gaza war, and said it was important to keep the conflict from spreading.

Wang said any solution to the crisis in Gaza requires a two-state arrangement that reflects the will of the Palestinian people.

# COP28 secures USD 83 bn in climate pledges

PTI ■ DUBAI

The first week of the COP28 global climate talks concluded with a significant milestone with the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund, pledges of over USD 83 billion and the draft text for Global Stocktake mentioning phasing out of all fossil fuels for the first time in years.

However, even as over USD 83 billion was mobilised in pledges questions persist about the voluntary nature of these commitments and the actual fulfilment by the participating nations.

Amidst the discussions, the issue of fossil fuels emerged as a focal point, with a new draft text of the Global Stocktake proposing options for the phase-out of unabated coal and an orderly and just transition away from fossil fuels which might be a contentious point for India. India has repeatedly stressed that



phasing out or phasing down coal language is something that it can’t support.

India even skipped signing the pledge to commit to tripling the global renewable energy capacity by 2030 over this.

Over the reduction of greenhouse gases, India also refrained from signing the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health.

The Global Stocktake, released on Tuesday, represented the first periodic review

of global efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. India, representing the BASIC bloc, played a prominent role in advocating for accountability.

The nation emphasised the necessity for the Global Stocktake to consider the failures of developed nations.

Delegates from the BASIC grouping, comprising Brazil, South Africa, India, and China, voiced concerns about the fragmented multilateralism of

developed nations during preliminary negotiations, sources said.

Despite initial challenges in substantive negotiations, the first week of COP28 witnessed a flurry of pledges.

An analysis by independent science-based assessment Climate Tracker revealed historic declarations on food systems transformation, health, renewable energy, and efficiency, along with initiatives to decarbonise heavy-emitting industries.

Key pledges and declarations included a groundbreaking agreement to operationalise and capitalise funding for Loss and Damage, with an impressive USD 726 million already pledged.

Additionally, efforts were made to replenish the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with USD 3.5 billion, bringing the total to USD 12.8 billion.

Contributions of USD 133.6 million to the Adaptation

Fund, USD 129.3 million to the Least Developed Countries Fund, and USD 31 million to the Special Climate Change Fund were also announced.

The UAE further committed USD 200 million to help vulnerable countries through Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and USD 150 million to fund water security solutions.

International financial institutions joined the effort, with the World Bank announcing an annual increase of USD 9 billion for 2024 and 2025 to finance climate-related projects. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) collectively pledged over USD 22.6 billion toward climate action.

As COP28 transitions into its second week, anticipation builds for increased progress in substantive negotiations, with the hope that the momentum generated by substantial financial pledges will translate into meaningful actions to address the global climate crisis.

# Bodies of 6 crew lost in Osprey crash recovered

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Air Force Special Operations Command said on Tuesday it has recovered the remains of six of the eight service members who were lost when their Osprey crashed off the coast of Japan last week, adding it is now focused on recovering the two bodies still missing and the aircraft debris. The CV-22B Osprey crashed on November 29 during a training mission. Ospreys have had a number of crashes, including in Japan, where they are used at US and Japanese military bases, and the latest has rekindled safety concerns.

Three bodies were recovered from the sunken wreckage, and a total of six of the eight crew members’ remains that had been located have now been recovered, the Air Force said. The search continues for the remains of the two crew members still unaccounted for, it added. “The depth of sorrow is immeasurable,” Lt. Gen. Tony Bauernfeind, who heads Air Force Special Operations Command, said in a statement announcing the names of the crew. “The honorable service of these eight airmen to this great nation will

never be forgotten, as they are now among the giants who shape our history.”

President Joe Biden said he and first lady Jill Biden were heartbroken by the loss. “We owe them everything,” Biden said in a statement. “Jill and I are praying for the families and friends who lost a loved one in this terrible accident.”

## LOST CREW MEMBERS WERE:

US Air Force Maj. Jeffrey T. Hoernemann, 32, of Andover, Minnesota, was a CV-22 instructor pilot and officer in charge of training, assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan. US Air Force Maj. Eric V. Spendlove, 36, of St. George, Utah, was a residency trained flight surgeon and medical operations flight commander assigned to the 1st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan.

US Air Force Maj. Luke A. Unrath, 34, of Riverside, California, was a CV-22 pilot and flight commander assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations

Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

US Air Force Capt. Terrell K. Brayman, 32, of Pittsford, New York, was a CV-22 pilot and flight commander assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

US Air Force Tech. Sgt. Zachary E. Lavoy, 33, of Oviedo, Florida, was a medical operations flight chief assigned to the 1st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan.

US Air Force Staff Sgt. Jake M. Turnage, 25, of Kennesaw, Georgia, was a flight engineer assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

US Air Force Senior Airman Brian K. Johnson, 32, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, was a flight engineer assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan. US Air Force Staff Sgt. Jacob “Jake” M. Galliher, 24, was a native of Pittsfield, Mass. His remains were the first to be found. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida sent a message

to Biden, offering his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who were lost and to the American people and his thanks for their dedication away from home for the peace and stability of Japan and the region.

The US-made Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter but can rotate its propellers forward and cruise much faster, like an airplane, during flight. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Japan has suspended all flights of its own fleet of 14 Ospreys. Japanese officials say they have asked the US military to resume Osprey flights only after ensuring their safety. The Pentagon said no such formal request has been made and that the US military is continuing to fly 24 MV-22s, the Marine version of Ospreys, deployed on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa.

In Tokyo, Defence Ministry Press Secretary Akira Mogi said Tuesday that deployment of Ospreys is key to a defence buildup in southwestern Japan due to current regional security concerns but acknowledged the need to address the residents’ safety worries rekindled by the crash.



# Putin visits Saudi & UAE as Ukraine war grinds on

AP ■ DUBAI

Russian President Vladimir Putin began a trip on Wednesday to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, hoping to shore up support in the Mideast from two major oil producers allied to the US as his war on Ukraine grinds on. Putin landed in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms now hosting the United Nations' COP28 climate talks. It marked his first trip to the region from before the coronavirus pandemic and the war — and as he faces an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court over the war in Ukraine.

Neither Saudi Arabia nor the UAE has signed the ICC founding treaty, meaning they don't face any obligation to detain Putin over the warrant accusing him of being personally responsible for the abductions of children from Ukraine during his war on the country. Putin skipped a summit in South Africa over concerns he could be arrested on arrival there.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE's foreign minister, met a smiling Putin after he bounded down the stairs of his presidential plane. As he arrived at Abu Dhabi's Qasr al-Watan palace to meet Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the country's ruler, the UAE's military acrobatics team flew in formation with red, white and blue smoke trailing them in the colours of the Russian flag.

Soldiers on horseback and with camels lined his arrival route, Russian and Emirati flags also hanging from light-poles.

The pageantry in the Emirates, which relies on America as its major security partner, highlights the UAE's expansive business ties to Russia that have exploded in the time since grinding Western sanctions have targeted Moscow.

Ukrainians on hand for the event expressed outrage over Putin being in the country at



United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, right, greets Russian President Vladimir Putin upon his arrival at an international airport in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday.

AP/PTI

the same time they described him as committing environmental crimes in their country.

"It is extremely upsetting to see how the world treats war criminals, because that's what he is, in my opinion," said Marharyta Bohdanova, a worker at the Ukrainian pavilion at the United Nations COP28 climate summit in Dubai, wiping away tears. "Seeing how people let people like him in the big events, ... treating him like a dear guest, is just so hypocritical in my opinion."

Officials at Russia's pavilion at the talks declined to speak to The Associated Press.

Putin last visited the UAE in 2019, receiving a warm welcome from Sheikh Mohammed, then the crown prince of Abu Dhabi. In the time since, however, the world has greatly changed.

The Russian president isolated himself during the coronavirus pandemic. He launched an invasion targeting Ukraine in February 2022, a grinding war that continues on today and has been a topic for Ukrainian diplomats at the COP28 talks.

Meanwhile, the Israel-Hamas war remains a major

concern for the Mideast, particularly the UAE, which reached a diplomatic recognition with Israel in 2020. Recent attacks by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels also threatens commercial shipping in the Red Sea as Iran's nuclear program continues its rapid advances since the collapse of the 2016 nuclear deal.

Putin is scheduled to meet with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday for what Ushakov has described as "a rather lengthy conversation." The two countries have been discussing ways to get around the Western sanctions targeting them.

Putin will travel onto Saudi Arabia and meet with powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the one-day trip, Ushakov said. Those discussions likely will focus on Moscow's other major concern in the Middle East — oil.

Russia is part of OPEC+, which is a group of cartel members and other nations that have managed production to try and boost crude oil prices. Last week, the group expanded some output cuts into next year and brought up and-coming oil supplier Brazil

into the fold. Benchmark Brent crude traded Wednesday around USD 77 a barrel, down from nearly USD 100 in September, over concerns about a weakening economy worldwide.

The visit comes after COP28 saw a parade of Western leaders including US Vice President Kamala Harris, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and others backing Ukraine speak at the summit. So did Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko, long a Putin ally.

A readout on Putin's trip from the state-run Tass news agency published early Wednesday offered no suggestion Putin might come to the COP28 site, instead quoting Russian presidential aide Yury Ushakov saying he'd land and have a "meeting at the palace" and one-on-one talks with Sheikh Mohammed. Still, some reports suggest Putin could make an appearance at the climate talks.

The UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change's spokesperson Alexander Saier said at a press conference that he is "not aware that Mr. Putin will come to the conference, but I would also need to check the host country with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs." He declined to immediately answer whether UN police would be obligated to make an arrest.

The Emirati organisation committee for COP28 referred questions to the UAE's Foreign Ministry, which did not immediately respond. The UAE repeatedly feted the now-deposed Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir in the past despite an ICC warrant seeking his arrest over charges of genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

I'm talking about his crimes and this person is literally right now here, somewhere near me," said Alina Abramenko, another worker at the Ukrainian pavilion that highlights the environmental damage wrought by the war. "You know, it's really strange."

# Court rejects Imran's plea to withdraw appeal against disqualification

## TOSHAKHANA CORRUPTION CASE

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani high court on Wednesday rejected former premier Imran Khan's plea to withdraw his appeal against his disqualification in the Toshakhana corruption case, on a day when the election watchdog announced to conduct an in-prison hearing of a contempt case against him.

Khan, 71, has been in jail since August 5, when he was arrested after a conviction in the Toshakhana case. He was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on October 21 in the case for failing to disclose the proceeds from the sale of gifts he got from the Toshakhana (state repository).

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party leader approached the Islamabad High Court Chief (IHC)

against the electoral body's decision, contending that he had purchased the assets legally; hence, there was no reason for him not to mention the gifts in his assets statement.

However, on January 18, the PTI filed a fresh plea in the IHC to withdraw the petition, saying the cricketer-turned-politician wanted the Lahore High Court (LHC) to hear the matter. A separate petition had been filed in the LHC against Khan's disqualification. A division bench of the IHC comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict, which was reserved on September 13, rejecting Khan's request to withdraw his petition against disqualification in the case.

In a written order, the IHC said the top election body had partially addressed arguments in the case and sought

more time.

"In the interest of justice, an opportunity is allowed to the respondent to address arguments. On the next date of hearing, if the arguments are not addressed by the respondent, the matter shall be decided on the basis of available record," it stated and adjourned the hearing till December 11.

Separately, the top election body decided to conduct the contempt case proceedings against the former premier on December 13 at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, where he is currently incarcerated.

The decision was made after the Interior Ministry refused to produce Khan before the commission during the last hearing due to security concerns. Khan survived an assassination attempt in November 2022. The ministry also urged for an in-prison trial, and the ECP, after hearing arguments, reserved its decision on the issue on November 30.

## ECP to hold contempt case proceedings against ex-Pak PM

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's election commission on Wednesday decided that contempt case proceedings against former prime minister Imran Khan and his party colleague Fawad Chaudhry will take place on December 13 at the high-security Adiala jail.

Khan, the 71-year-old founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, and Chaudhry are both currently incarcerated in multiple cases at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi.

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

The decision to hold the trial inside the jail from December 13 comes a day after the ECP reserved its verdict on a petition that was filed to remove Khan as the head of his PTI party due to his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case.

On Wednesday, the Dawn newspaper said, "The ECP issued its verdict in light of the Interior Ministry's denial to produce the former premier before the Commission during the last hearing, citing security concerns." Subsequently, on November 30, the ECP reserved a verdict and suggested the possibility of holding Khan's trial in the Adiala jail. Last year, the ECP had initiated contempt proceedings against the PTI chief, former party leader Asad Umar, and Chaudhry, the former information minister, for allegedly using "intemperate" language against the chief election commissioner, the Dawn said. *PTI*

# Malala calls for making 'gender apartheid' crime against humanity

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Likening the restrictions imposed by the Taliban on women in Afghanistan to the treatment of Black people under apartheid in South Africa, Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai has urged the international community to make "gender apartheid" a crime against humanity.

Yousafzai, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 when she was 17 for her fight for girls' education in Pakistan, was the speaker at the 21st edition of the annual Nelson Mandela Lecture here on Tuesday. At the event, international thought leaders share their views each year on the death anniversary of the global icon who became South Africa's first democratically-elected president after serving 27 years as a political prisoner under the white minority apartheid government.

"The theme for this year is 'Leading for a just future'," said the chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Foundation Board, Prof Njabulo Ndebele.

In her address, Yousafzai, now 26, said that the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was enforcing "gender apartheid" by denying girls and women the right to education and work. In the same way that whites in South Africa believed that it was in the natural order of things to separate Blacks, in Afghanistan, the Taliban say that oppressing girls and women is a matter of religion, she said. "So let me say this as plainly as possible — that is only an excuse but it is also not true," Yousafzai, who miraculously survived an assassination attempt by the Pakistani Taliban in October 2012, said.

Many Muslim scholars, including those from Afghanistan, have made clear that Islam does not condone denying girls and women the right to education and to work, she said.

"If we as the world accept the Taliban's (80+) edicts on girls and women, we are sending a message everywhere that they are less human. That their rights are up for debate. That we are willing to look away," she said. Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel laureate, said apartheid was more than just a description.

"It is a legal concept. South Africans fought for racial apartheid to be recognised and criminalised at the international level. In the process, they drew more of the world's attention to the horrors of apartheid. By defining systemic oppression in legal terms, they named it and made it easier to enlist allies against it," she said.

But gender apartheid has not been explicitly codified yet, so Yousafzai called on every government in every country to make gender apartheid a crime against humanity.

"We have an opportunity to do that right now. The UN is currently drafting and debating a new Crimes Against Humanity treaty. This is the moment for world leaders to stand with Afghan girls and women. Adding and adapting language on gender apartheid to the treaty will codify it under international law," Yousafzai said, adding that South Africa could play an important role in the process.

"This legal approach might seem disconnected from everyday life and human suffering, but the international law is not an obstruction — it is a practical tool," she said. She said this would hold the Taliban to account and render anyone who helps them legally complicit. "As we saw with South Africa, it can spur and strengthen collective action. Codification will stop gender apartheid from happening elsewhere. Human rights activists have a big role to play in building public pressure (to achieve this)," Yousafzai said.

## Amrita Sher-Gil's Lahore residence to turn into museum

**Lahore (PTI):** Hungary plans to turn Hungarian-Indian painter Amrita Sher-Gil's Ganga Ram Mansions on The Mall here into a museum, a top diplomat of the country said as several art lovers and intellectuals gathered for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and an exhibition to pay homage to the celebrated artist.

In connection with her 82nd death anniversary on Tuesday, the Hungarian embassy in collaboration with the Punjab University College of Art and Design held a ceremony to install a commemorative plaque at her residence here in the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province and an exhibition to pay homage to her.

The recreated works by 13 university artists were on display at the exhibition. They recreated the artworks of Amrita Sher-Gil with the amalgamation of their ideas to pay homage to the distinguished artist.

# Iran sends capsule capable of carrying animals into orbit

**Tehran (AP):** Iran said on Wednesday it sent a capsule into orbit capable of carrying animals as it prepares for human missions in coming years. A report by the official IRNA news agency quoted Telecommunications Minister Isa Zarepour as saying the capsule was launched 130 kilometres into orbit. Zarepour said the launch of the 500-kilogram (1,000-pound) capsule is aimed at sending Iranian astronauts to space in coming years. He did not say if any animals were in the capsule.

He told state TV that Iran plans to send astronauts into space by 2029 after further tests involving animals. State TV showed footage of a rocket named Salman carrying the capsule. Iran occasionally announces successful launch-

es of satellites and other space crafts. In September, Iran said it sent a data-collecting satellite into space. In 2013, Iran said it sent a monkey into space and returned it successfully.

Reports said the country's Defense Ministry built and launched the Salman rocket while the capsule was built by the Iranian civil space agency. Media reports did not say where the launch took place. Iran usually makes launches from Imam Khomeini Space Centre in northern Semnan province. It says its satellite program is for scientific research and other civilian applications. The US and other Western countries have long been suspicious of the program because the same technology can be used to develop long-range missiles.



This photo released by the Iranian Defense Ministry on Wednesday claims to show a rocket with a capsule carrying animals is launched from an undisclosed location into orbit, Iran. Iran said Wednesday it sent a capsule into orbit carrying animals as it prepares for human missions in coming years.

AP/PTI

# Taliban's abusive education policies harm boys as well as girls in Af

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The Taliban's "abusive" educational policies are harming boys as well as girls in Afghanistan, according to a Human Rights Watch report published Wednesday. The Taliban have been globally condemned for banning girls and women from secondary school and university, but the rights group says there has been less attention to the deep harm inflicted on boys' education.

The departure of qualified teachers including women, regressive curriculum changes and the increase in corporal punishment have led to greater fear of going to school and falling attendance.

Because the Taliban have dismissed all female teachers from boys' schools, many boys are taught by unqualified people or sit in classrooms with no teachers at all.

Boys and parents told the rights group about a spike in the use of corporal punishment, including officials beating boys before the whole school for haircut or clothing infractions or for having a mobile phone. The group interviewed 22 boys along with five parents in Kabul, Balkh, Herat, Bamiyan and other communities in eight provinces. The Taliban have eliminated subjects like art, sports, English and civic education.

"The Taliban are causing irreversible damage to the Afghan education system for boys as well as girls," said Sahar Fetrat, who wrote the report. "By harming the whole school system in the country, they risk creating a lost generation deprived of a quality education."

Students told Human Rights Watch that there are

hours during the school day when there are no lessons because there is a lack of replacement teachers. So they said they do nothing.

Taliban government spokesmen were not available for comment on the report. The Taliban are prioritizing Islamic knowledge over basic literacy and numeracy with their shift toward madrassas, or religious schools.

The Taliban have barred women from most areas of public life and work and stopped girls from going to school beyond the sixth grade as part of harsh measures they imposed after taking power in 2021. According to the UN children's agency, more than 1 million girls are affected by the ban, though it estimates 5 million were out of school before the Taliban takeover due to a lack of facilities and other reasons.

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# Markets scale fresh lifetime highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty rallied for the seventh straight session to hit fresh lifetime highs on Wednesday, driven by gains in index majors Reliance Industries, ITC and L&T amid persistent foreign fund inflows. Besides, receding crude oil prices in international markets also boosted sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 357.59 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at a new record of 69,653.73. The barometer rose to 69,744.62 during intra-day. The broader index Nifty also climbed 82.60 points, or 0.40 per cent, to hit its fresh peak of 20,937.70. "Post-state elections, market optimism thrives, confirming policy continuity and meeting investor expectations. A robust FII reversal is fuelled by receding inflation and dropping yields in US and Indian

markets. The allure of Indian market gains post-China credit rating downgrade and decline in oil prices was followed by ease in geopolitical tensions," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. As many as 20 shares of the BSE benchmark index closed the session with gains, while 30 stocks in the Nifty ended in positive territory. Among major Sensex movers, Wipro closed with the maximum gain of 3.85 per cent, followed by ITC -- 2.51 per cent higher. L&T and TCS gained 2.31 per cent and 2.13 per cent, respectively. Tata Motors, Nestle India, Infosys and Bajaj Finance were other gainers. On the other hand, NTPC, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement and ICICI Bank ended the session with a loss of up to 1.58 per cent. In the broader market, the BSE large-cap index rose 0.61 per cent, the mid-cap gauge gained 0.19 per cent, and smallcap advanced by 0.18 per cent.



"A strong rebound in IT, driven by reduced US recession risks and in anticipation of robust summer demand, fuels the momentum in the power sector," Nair said. However, he cautioned that short-term profit booking may occur due to domestic premium valuation concerns.

"Further, lingering El Nino risks, a drop in reservoir levels, and reduced sowing may hold RBI to profound upgrade H2 FY24 growth and reduce future inflation estimates." Among sectoral indices, utilities surged 3 per cent, followed by power (2.41 per cent). While oil & gas jumped 1.96 per cent, the IT index

investors was attributed to declining US bond yields, while the domestic players were betting big on favourable macroeconomic data and expectations of longer political stability in the country. Besides, investors are also 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 added. Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth Rs 5,223.51 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, in Asian markets, Hang Seng and Nikkei 225 finished with gains of 0.90 per cent and 2.04 per cent, respectively, while China's Shanghai Composite lost 0.11 per cent. European markets were broadly higher, led by France's CAC 40, rising 1.08 per cent. London's FTSE 100 gained 0.29 per cent, and Germany's

DAX was 0.7 per cent higher. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Tuesday, with the S&P 500 registering a marginal loss of 0.06 per cent. On Wednesday, global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.31 per cent lower to USD 76.96 a barrel. "The bearish formation around the crucial resistance of 21,000 (Nifty) amplifies the bearish sentiment. The support lies at 20,850, below which the market may witness a healthy correction in the short term. On the other hand, a move above 21,000 might trigger a resumption of the bullish trend," Rupak De, Senior Technical analyst at LKP Securities, said. On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 431.02 points, or 0.63 per cent, to close at a record high of 69,296.14. Nifty also climbed 168.50 points, or 0.81 per cent to hit its lifetime peak of 20,855.30.

## RBI MPC meet begins amid expectations of status quo on interest rate

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI's high-powered rate setting panel on Wednesday began its 3-day brainstorming on the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectation of continued pause on the short-term key lending rate as GDP growth is gaining momentum, and inflation manageable. RBI left the benchmark policy rate (repo) unchanged in its past four bi-monthly monetary policies. It had last increased the repo rate in February to 6.5 per cent, thus ending the interest rate hike cycle which began in May 2022 in the aftermath of Russia-Ukraine war and subsequent disruptions in the global supply chain resulting in high inflation in the country. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das would unveil the decision of the six-member MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) on December 8.

On expectations from the MPC, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA said with the GDP data for the second quarter of 2023-24 appreciably higher than the MPC's last forecast, and continuing concerns on various aspects of food inflation, "we expect the MPC to pause in its December 2023 review, amidst a fairly hawkish tone of the policy document". According to Deutsche Bank Research, RBI will likely increase 2023-24 GDP forecast to 6.8 per cent year-on-year, from 6.5 per cent earlier, while holding the CPI forecast unchanged at 5.4 per cent. "RBI will likely keep repo rate and stance unchanged, persist with tight liquidity and ensure that short-term rates remain around 6.85-6.90 per cent, resulting in an 'effective rate hike'," it said. India retained the tag of the world's fastest-growing major



economy, with its GDP expanding by a faster-than-expected rate of 7.6 per cent in the September quarter on booster shots from government spending and manufacturing. Director of Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) Sanjay Bhutani, said the central bank's recent MPC meetings have kept the policy rate unchanged, aligning with mar-

ket expectations. "We anticipate a similar outcome for this upcoming meeting. However, with inflation on a downward trend, an easing of interest rates could be on the cards, potentially occurring as early as February-March 2024," he said, and added this would be a positive development for all sectors, particularly capital and research-intensive industries like

the medical technology sector. The government has mandated the central government to ensure that the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stays at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. Retail inflation eased to a four-month low of 4.87 per cent in October, mainly due to cooling prices of food items. The Reserve Bank's MPC, in its October meeting, projected CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, a moderation from 6.7 per cent in 2022-23. H S Bhatia, Managing Director of Kelwon Electronics and Appliances, manufacturing partner for Daewoo India, said RBI's monetary policy decisions will have a significant impact on the consumer durable industry. "The industry is hoping that RBI will keep interest rates stable or even reduce them slightly in the upcoming review so that con-

sumers get enough purchasing power," he said. Parijat Agrawal, Head - Fixed Income, Union Asset Management Company said the US 10-year bond has corrected meaningfully from the peak in line with the incoming data and the central bank narrative, and concerns around oil prices too have reduced. "Although MPC will emphasise on bringing inflation to the 4 per cent target, we expect MPC to remain on pause on rates and stance," Agrawal said. The MPC comprises three external members and three officials of RBI. The external members on the panel are Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, and Jayanth R Varma. Besides Governor Das, the other RBI officials in MPC are Rajiv Ranjan (Executive Director) and Michael Debabrata Patra (Deputy Governor).



## 1,14,902 entities as startups recognised

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has recognised 1,14,902 entities as startups as on October 31, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. These eligible firms are allowed to seek fiscal incentives under the Startup India Action Plan, which was launched in January 2016, and that includes income tax exemption for three years. Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said the action plan includes 19 items spanning across areas such as simplification and handholding, funding support and incentives and industry-academia partnership and incubation. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) "has recognised 1,14,902 entities as startups as on 31st October 2023," he said. Replying to a separate question, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said subdued demand in major export destinations such as the US, Hong Kong, the Middle East and China and availability of raw materials at competitive rates were some of the challenges faced by the gems and jewellery export industry. Export of gem and jewellery during 2022-23 was at USD 38.11 billion, a decline of 2.95 per cent compared to the previous year's export of USD 39.27 billion, she informed. The sector constituted 8.45 per cent in the total merchandise exports during 2022-23 and the industry employs around 5 mil-

lion skilled and semi-skilled workforce. In another reply, she said that to ensure goods imported are not of substandard quality, the customs authority follows a risk-based framework to intelligently prevent entry of non-compliant goods at the borders. "A task force has also been constituted in CBIC (Central Board Of Indirect Taxes and Customs) for enforcing national standards," Patel said. She added that as far as imported goods such as TVs and tyre, are concerned, the trade data indicates that there are several categories of import of such products where there has been considerable reduction in imports. Citing certain examples, she provided data that showed imports of different size of TV sets, liquid crystal display television set, and different kinds of tyres declined during April-October this fiscal. Imports of television sets of screen size exceeding 54 cm but not exceeding 68 cm dipped to USD 0.02 million during April-October this fiscal from USD 0.25 million in 2021-22. Similarly, imports of radial tyres used in buses/lorries declined to USD 1.01 million during the seven-month period of this fiscal as against USD 16.92 million in 2021-22. "The Department of Commerce has been regularly monitoring and sensitizing line ministries and other stakeholders from time to time and at various levels on the issue of imports," she said.



## About 33,000 notices sent by CBIC officers for discrepancies in GST returns filed in FY18, FY19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Central tax officers have sent around 33,000 GST notices to businesses for discrepancies in returns filed and short payment of taxes in 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years, a CBIC official said on Wednesday. The National Co-ordination Committee of the State and Central GST officers, chaired by the Revenue Secretary, is likely to be held by the end of this month or early January, which among other things would also sensitise tax officers regarding issuance of notices, the official said. Speaking at the Assocham National Conference on GST, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Member-GST Shashank Priya said the notices sent for 2017-18 and 2018-19 were a "small percentage" of the total returns filed for the two fiscal years. He said the bunching up of demand notices was also on account of extension in the deadline given to taxpayers for filing annual returns for the two years. Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out on July 1, 2017. The last date for filing annual returns for 2017-18 fiscal was extended till February 7, 2020, while for 2018-19 it was till December 2020. Under the GST law, every registered person is liable to file annual return for every financial year on or before December 31 of the next financial year. Accordingly, the last date of filing annual return for 2022-23 fiscal is December 31, 2023. "At the request of the taxpayers the time for return filing was postponed. So returns also were filed at a late juncture and officers have come under a lot of pressure (to scrutinise the returns). So this has led to this unfortunate situation. One hopes that as we progress for-

ward this situation gets addressed and we will not have all the proposed notices pending at the same time. For 2017-18, it has happened like that and we will see how best to deal with it," Priya said. The Central GST officers have sent around 30,000-33,000 notices to GST registered businesses for short-payment of taxes, he said. "In our interaction with the field formations, we will try to sensitise them that they should put their officers on alert, they should do a critical scrutiny of details, documents, facts given by the registrants before coming to a conclusion and passing an order. I'm sure, we will take up this issue in the National Co-ordination Committee meeting so that all tax administrations are sensitised," Priya said. These disputes, he said, if are resolved out at the level of adjudicating authority, instead of approaching the GST appellate tribunal, would be a relief both for the tax administration as well as taxpayers. "We are working on automated scrutiny module that would give certainty on how scrutiny is to be done and what kind of issues will be looked into return scrutiny," Priya said. Further, the officer said the GST appellate tribunal would be put in place in the next 4-5 months and efforts are also being made to identify infrastructure, following which selection process of members will start. With regard to curbing fake registration under GST, Priya said in many tax administration, about 25-28 per cent of the businesses registered were found to be fake. "We are looking at how we further tighten the registration. We are also looking at how we make it less and less open for changing the GSTR-3B (monthly GST payment form)," he said.

## 'Airline industry to record \$25.7 billion net profit in 2024'

PTI ■ GENEVA

The airline industry is projected to register a net profit of USD 25.7 billion in 2024 as more normal growth is expected in both passenger and cargo segments, global grouping IATA said on Wednesday. For 2023, the net profit is estimated at USD 23.3 billion, significantly higher than the USD 9.8 billion projected by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in June this year. IATA has more than 300 airlines as members. The airline industry's operating profit is expected to touch USD 49.3 billion in 2024 from USD 40.7 billion this year. In 2024, the total revenue is estimated to grow 7.6 per cent to USD 964 billion compared to 2023. "Some 4.7 billion people are expected to travel in 2024, a his-



toric high that exceeds the pre-pandemic level of 4.5 billion recorded in 2019," IATA said. Industry passenger load factor is nearing its 2019 level, which is supporting the financial recovery of the airlines, IATA Director Policy and Economics Andrew Matters said. "The airline industry net profit is expected to reach USD 25.7 billion in 2024 (2.7 per cent net profit margin). That will be a slight improvement over 2023, which is expected to show a

USD 23.3 billion net profit (2.6 per cent net profit margin)," IATA said, while releasing its review of 2023 and outlook for 2024 here. The cargo volume is expected to be higher at 61 million tonnes next year compared to 58 million tonnes in 2023. "From 2024, the outlook indicates that we can expect more normal growth patterns for both passenger and cargo... While the recovery is impressive, a net profit margin of 2.7 per cent is

far below what investors in almost any other industry would accept," IATA Director General Willie Walsh said. According to him, the airlines will always compete ferociously for their customers but they remain far too burdened by onerous regulation, fragmentation, high infrastructure costs and a supply chain populated with oligopolies. About the Asia Pacific market, IATA said while some of the region's main domestic markets -- China, Australia and India -- recovered quickly from the pandemic, international travel to/from the region was subdued as China only eliminated the last of its international travel restrictions in mid-2023. The Asia Pacific region is expected to report a net loss of USD 0.1 billion in 2023 and have a net profit of USD 1.1 billion in 2024.

## Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 83.32 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 5 paise to close at 83.32 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, helped by a bullish trend in domestic equities and sustained foreign fund inflows. Forex traders said elevated American currency in the overseas markets and dollar buying by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) capped sharp gains for the local unit. The rupee consolidated in a narrow range as investors remained on the sidelines ahead of the RBI's monetary policy decision later this week. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.35 against the greenback. The rupee oscillated between an intra-day low of 83.37 and a high of 83.29 against the greenback and finally settled at 83.32 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 5 paise from its previous close, even as domestic benchmark indices touched new lifetime peaks. On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 83.37 against the dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on positive tone in the US Dollar and fresh foreign inflows. A weak tone in crude oil prices and positive domestic markets may also support the rupee. "However, the RBI intervention



## Adani Group to invest \$75 billion to scale up AGEL RE portfolio to 45 GW: Gautam Adani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Group has plans to invest USD 75 billion on energy transition initiatives by 2030, its chairman Gautam Adani said on Wednesday. The investments will boost the group's vision to have 45 gigawatt of renewable energy capacity by 2030, Adani said in a statement. "We are committed to largescale renewables, developing an

indigenous fully integrated manufacturing ecosystem and green hydrogen solutions. At the Adani portfolio level, a total investment of USD 75 billion by 2030 on our energy transition initiatives will further our vision to have 45 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030 and strengthen the pivotal role played by AGEL in India's glide path to decarbonization," the group chairman said. The investments will be execut-

ed through Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL). AGEL has emerged as the second-largest global solar PV developer in the US-based Mercom Capital Group's latest annual global report. "The company's outstanding performance and contribution to the renewable energy landscape have earned it the prestigious second rank among the world's foremost solar PV developers," the statement said.



## India coal import drops 5 per cent in Apr-Sep period to 125.21 MT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Country's coal import has registered a drop of five per cent at 125.21 million tonnes (MT) in the April-September period of the ongoing financial year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, coal and power minister Pralhad Joshi said that, had the production through auction, commercial coal auction not started, then as per compound annual growth rate (CAGR) there would have been a need to import 150 million tonnes (MT) of coal, but the country has actually imported only 125.21 MT of coal during the April-September period of 2023-24. "In the current year 2023-24, coal import up to the month of September 2023, was 125.21 MT, which is a decline of 5 per cent over the corresponding period last year," the minister said.

## PNB Housing Finance achieves ₹1,000 crore loan book under Roshni segment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PNB Housing Finance on Wednesday said its affordable housing segment Roshni has achieved a Rs 1,000 crore loan book in less than a year of its launch. This achievement represents the company's steadfast focus on financial inclusion by offering low ticket-size loans of Rs 5-35 lakh for home buying, plot purchases, construction and renovation, it added. Roshni Home Loans offers loans to individuals, focusing

on the salaried class and self-employed, along with new-to-credit applicants. It provides a customer-centric approach, characterised by tailored financial products, innovative technology and seamless experiences, to meet the unique needs of individuals seeking affordable housing finance solutions. "There is a strong demand for affordable housing in the country, owing to the rapid rate of urbanisation, growing younger population, increasing per capita income and higher demand

of housing units beyond the metro cities. We are aligned with the government's mission of housing for all and are committed to fulfilling the homeownership dreams of individuals from all walks of life," said Girish Kousgi, MD and CEO, PNB Housing Finance. PNB Housing Finance recently inaugurated its 100th Roshni branch, also its first-ever all-women branch, cementing its position as a leader in the affordable housing category, the lender said in a release.



# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Arikela** Lakshmikantha spouse of No 15321959H Hav A Janardhana Reddy Unit of 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO resident at 1-2082 Village Kotapalli Post Office Pileru Distt. Annamayya (Andhra Pradesh) Pin-517214 have change my name in all documents from Lakshmi Kanta to Arikela Lakshmikantha. Vide Affidavit Dated 05 December 2023 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Rajan Singh** s/o Avtar Singh r/o Vill. Rahmanpur, Po. Mehargarwal, Distt. Hoshiarpur-146024 have changed my minor daughter name from Kashbi to Kashbi Thakur.

**I, Gurmeet Singh** s/o Kartar Singh r/o H.No.2 Aman Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my Spelling name from Gurmeet Singh to Gurnit Singh.

**I, Charanjit** s/o Sucha Ram r/o Vill. Garhi Mahan Singh Po. Apra, Teh. Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144416, Punjab have changed my name from Charanjit to Charanjit Chouhan.

**I, Diksha Sharma** w/o Rajiv Kumar r/o Bhanoki Road, New Dhian Singh Nagar, Po.Satnampura, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala declare that Diksha Sharma and Diksha both are my names & one and the same person.

**I, Harjinder Kumar** S/o Gian Chand R/o Lallian Khurd, Lambra, Distt Jalandhar-144026 have changed my name from Harjinder Kumar to Harjinder Kumar Jassal.

**I, Phoolan Davi** W/o Gobind Das R/O Vill. Dala, Teh. Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Phoolan Davi to Phoolan Devi.

**I, Lakshay S/o** Pawan Kumar R/O H.No. 75C/10, Preet Nagar, Ladowali Road, Jalandhar have changed my name from Lakshay to Lakshay Chopra.

**I, Saurav Masih** S/o Rajesh Kumar R/O H.No.1338, Kanyawali Garha, Jalandhar have changed my name from Saurav Masih to Saurav Masih Sidhu.

**I, Baljit Kaur** W/o Gurmukh Singh R/O VPO, Palahi, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt.Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Baljit Kaur To Baljeet Kaur.

**I, Sukhvir Kaur** D/o Rashpal Singh R/O Village Raghwai, Po. Manhota, Manhota, Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 144213. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Jasvir Kaur.

**I, Pardip Kumar** S/o Sada Ram R/O Chonta, Bajrur, Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar, Punjab- 140119, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Pardip Singh.

**I, Aastha** D/o Sudhir Kumar R/O VPO. Hiran Wali, Fazilka, Firozpur, Punjab- 152121. Declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Sudhir Jhinjha in my 10th Class Certificate and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of my father is Sudhir Kumar, which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Dolly** W/o Anil Sharma R/O H.No. 1 A, M. C. Colony, Hisar, Haryana- 125001. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sheetal.

**I, Vinay Kumar** Singh S/o Ranveer Singh R/O G-5, 3rd Floor, Sector- 49, South City-II, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Vinay Rathore.

**I, Anita** W/o Yubraj Singh R/O Vill. Zahidpur Awana, Po. Dagan, Hazipur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144221. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Anita Devi.

**I, Salamti** w/o Wilson Masih r/o Dinpur PO Dhariwal Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Salamti to Salamati. Concerned note.

**I, Parivesh Gupta** (Aadhar - 799271538378) S/o Bhupendra Pratibaddh, R/o #78, Dashmesh Enclave, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, have changed my name from Parivesh to Parivesh Gupta. Concerned Note.

**I, Parihad Singh** S/o Ashok Kumar R/O Mohalla Tahlil Adda, VPO. Dholbaha, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name as Singh be amended in my Passport. All concerned please note.

**I, Priya** D/o Gian Chand, Patti Baharli Basti, V.P.O. Dosanjh Kalan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, I Have Changed my name from Priya to Priya Kaur. All Concerned Please Note.

**I, Dimple Chopra** W/O Rakesh Kumar Chopra R/O Village Kantian Post Office Bhikhowal Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Dimple To Dimple Chopra.

**I, Roop Rani** W/O Manmohan Lal R/O Vpo. Pandori Bawa Dass District Hoshiarpur Punjab Roop Rani And Roop Rani Bedi One And The Same Person.

**I, Gurpreet Singh** S/O Balkar Singh R/O Village Bundala Patti Gopi Ki District Amritsar 143413 Punjab Changed My Name From Gurpreet Singh To Gurpreet As Given Name, Singh As Surname.

**I, Jagpreet Singh** S/O Pal Singh R/O 41, Village Saidpur P.O. Bhattike Amritsar 143116, Punjab India Changed My Name From Jagpreet Singh To Jagpreet As Given Name, Singh As Surname.

**I, Riya Chauhan** W/O Anul Chauhan R/O House No.37, Pink Avenue Majitha Road Amritsar 143001 Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Riya Verma To Riya Chauhan.

**I, Parmjit Singh** S/O Buta Singh R/O Vpo. Moranwali, Distt. Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Parmanjit Singh.

**I, Rubina John** W/O Christopher Prem R/O 1299/A St.No.-7 W.No.-1 Zira Road New Sodhi Nagar Moga Have Changed My Name To Rubina Christopher.

**I,Aniket** S/O Raj Kumar Arora R/O Vishavkarma Nagar Moga Have Changed My Name To Aniket Arora.

**I, Raj Kumar** S/O Barkat Ram R/O Vishavkarma Nagar Moga Have Changed My Name To Raj Kumar Arora.

**I, Pooja** W/O Raj Kumar Arora R/O Vishavkarma Nagar Moga Have Changed My Name To Pooja Arora.

**I, Ankush Kumar** S/o Naresh Kumar R/O House No 304, Purana Bazar, Ismailabad, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Given Name Ankush Surname Kumar; Please all Note

**I, Aman** S/o Satnarayan Vill Mangna, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Aman Kumar.

**I, Hemmat Singh** S/o Sher Singh Vill Ramgarh Alias Rohar, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Himmat Singh

**I, Santosh** W/o Himmat Singh Vill Ramgarh Alias Rohar, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Santosh Devi.

**I, Satnam Singh** S/o Hari Chand Vill Kanthala, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Satnam Kumar.

**I, Sandeep Kumar** S/o Sarup Lal R/O Guru Har Rai Nagar W.No. 2 Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name to Sandip Kumar.

**I, Ranjeet Kaur** W/o Saroop Singh R/o Vill: Marrypur (Kapurthala) have changed my name from Ranjeet to Ranjit Kaur.

**I, Harjinder Kour** W/o Mohinder Singh R/o Vill: Mand Po. Dakoha Teh-Batala (Gurdaspur) Pb, have changed my name from Harjinder Kour to Harjinder Kaur.

**I, Lakhbir Singh** S/o Gurnam Singh R/O Jhanda Kalan Teh. Sardulgarh (Mansa) changed my name Lakhvir Singh.

**I, Ravinder Kaur** W/o Sarbjit Singh Gill R/o Basti Didar Singh Behak Gujran (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Ravinder Kaur Gill.

**I, Norang Singh** S/O Nahar Singh R/O Village Kalsian, Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Narang Singh.

**I, Rimple** W/O Neerav Verma R/O H.No-710, Mohalla Ram Gali, Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Rimple Verma.

**I, Manju** W/o Rajesh Kumar R/O H.no B-2/535 Street Dr. Ratan Singh Kalyan Homeopathic Wali Khalsapur Road Tehsil & District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Manju to Manju Sharma.

**I, Jasvinder Singh** S/o Balkaur Singh R/o Vill Mehrajwala Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my name to Jaswinder Singh.

**I, Parminder Singh** Chawla S/o Veer Singh R/O Sector-125 Kharar SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my name as Parminder Singh.

**I, Ajaypal Singh** S/o Amarjeet Singh 88/2 Kulla Road ward no. 2 Patti Distt. Tarntaran Punjab 143416. Changed my name Ajaypal Singh to Ajaypal in Given Name And Singh in Surname.

**I, Amarjit Singh** S/o Balbir Singh 88/2 Kulla Road Patti, Teh. Patti Distt. Tarntaran. Changed my Name Amarjit Singh to Amarjeet in Given Name And Singh in Surname.

**I, Bindhu** W/o Amit Jindal R/o Kissan Enclave, #42, Near Khalsa Petrol Pump, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Bindu Jindal.

**I, Ashok Kumar** Jindal S/o Ram Partap R/O H.No.153, Greta Kalash Nagar, W.No.21, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Ashok Jindal.

**I, Kuljeet Singh** W/o Gurjeet Singh R/o Village Dhakraba, Po. Wazidpur (Patiala) have changed my name to Kuldeet Kaur.

**I, Preetpal Singh** S/o Nachtar Singh S/o Chanan Singh R/o Village Boothgarh, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Pritpal Singh.

**I, Mehak Ghai** W/o Harpreet Singh R/o H.No.267, Narotam Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Mehakpreet Kaur.

**I, Malkit Singh** S/o Bachan Singh R/o Village Salana Jiwan Singh Wala, Tehsil Amloh (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Malkit Singh Panag.

**I, Rashpal Kaur** W/o Malkit Singh R/O Vpo Mari Tanda Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed my name to Rashpal Kaur Panag.

**Malkiat Singh** S/o Mukhtiar Singh R/O Malke Road, Sibian, District Faridkot (Punjab) have changed my name to Malket Singh.

**I, Avneet Kaur** D/o Charanjit Singh Sangha, R/o VPO Hari Ke Kalan (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name to Avneet Kaur Sangha.

**I, Jagtar Singh** Brar S/O Malkeet Singh R/O Village Wara Daraka District Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Jagtar Singh.

**I, Preetinder Singh** alias Preet Inder S/O Nirmal Singh R/O Basti Nazimadin Wali Ferozepur City I Have Changed My Name to Preetinder Singh.

**I, Parvinder Kaur** W/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Vill-Mohkam Khan Wala District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Parvinder Kaur.

**I, Rupinder Kaur** W/o Amarjot Singh Gharu R/O 1528 Kotpapura Road Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my name to Rupinder Kaur Gharu.

**I, Paramjit Kaur** W/o Baldev Singh R/o Village Jang District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Parmjit Kaur.

**I, Hema Soni** D/o Ashok Soni and W/o Paritosh Seth R/o House No-507-A, Surya Enclave, Jalandhar, Punjab-144009, have changed my name to Hema Seth.

**I, Kamlesh Kathuria** W/o Tilak Raj R/o House No - HJ 365, B.R.S Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab - 141012, have changed my name to Kamlesh Arora.

**I, Paritam Kaur** W/o Dalip Singh R/O 2370/12, Mohalla Jalotian, Raikot, PO: Raikot, Distt.: Ludhiana, Punjab-141109, have changed my name to Pritam Kaur.

**I, Manjit Kaur** W/o Surjit Singh R/O House No-160, Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Near Powercom Office, Model Town, Ludhiana, Punjab-141002, have changed my name to Balbir Kaur.

**I, Mandeep** S/o Chaman Lal R/O H.No.764, W.No.15, Mukam Mohalla, Kartarpur (Rural) Po. Kartarpur Distt Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Mandeep to Mandeep Pal.

**I, Rupinder Kaur** W/o Navjot Singh Mann R/O Vpo. Gureh (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Rupinder Kaur to Rupinder Kaur Dhatt.

**I, Jagdip Kaur** W/O Baljeet Singh R/O Hardo Bathwala. Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur. Punjab. Have Changed My Name From Jagdip Kaur To Jagdeep Kaur.

**I No. 4570575-N**, Ex, Nk, Maninder Pal Singh S/O Sh Bhupinder Singh R/O Vpo Mari Tanda Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed My Father Name From Bhupender Singh To Bhupinder Singh And Date Of Birth Is 10-09-1953 To 04-05-1954.

**I No. 4570575-N**, Ex, Nk, Maninder Pal Singh S/O Sh Bhupinder Singh R/O Vpo Mari Tanda Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed My Son Name From Indrapreet Singh To Inderpreet Singh And Date Of Birth Is 02-02-2007 To 02-08-2006.

**I Smt Rupinder Kaur** W/O No. 4570575-N, Ex, Nk, Maninder Pal Singh R/O Vpo Mari Tanda Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed My Name From Rupinderjit Kaur To Rupinder Kaur And Date Of Birth 06-01-1985 To 04-03-1983.

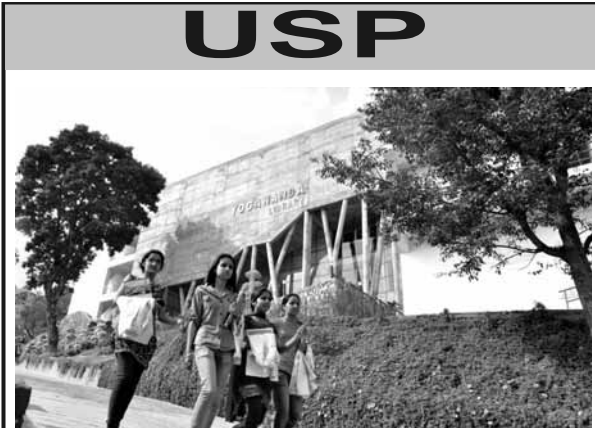
**I, No 7779060F** Ex Hav Sushil Kumar Resident Of Ram Sharnam Colony L-6, Near Shiv Shakti Mandir, Pathankot, Po, Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Have Changed The Name Of My Son From Harman Shivgutra To Harman Shivgotra Vide Affidavit No In-Pb64642866259585v Dated 06-12-2023 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Savita Kumari** W/O Sanjay Kumar R/O Lalit Khera Tehsil Julana Distt. Jind Have Changed My Name From Savita Kumari To Savita.

**I, Sunita Devi** W/O Frangee Ram R/O Flat-84, E-Block, Orbit Apartments, Zirakpur, Declare That In My Passport My Husband Name Written Wrong As Frangee Ram Singla But His Correct Name Frangee Ram.

**I, Kanwaljit Singh** Bhatti S/O Santokh Singh R/O House No. 100, Gillo Valley, Ward No. 16, Rupnagar, Tehsil & District Rupnagar, I Have Change My Name As Kanwaljit Singh Bhatti In Place Of Kanwal Jit Singh. Concerned Pls Note .

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I Parveen S/o. Sh. Sant Ram R/O H.No. 162, First Floor , Sector 20 - A, Chandigarh inform that the original Sale deed no - 3788 dated - 11-08-2008 and Original Sale Deed no, 5553 dated 27-10-2009 which is lost in Chandigarh 20 market. Anyone found it please inform me about the following address.



## Shoolini University tops north in QS Sustainability rankings

**Solan:** Himachal Pradesh based Shoolini University, which has been ranked among the top private universities on research parameters by various ranking institutions, has now emerged as the leading private university in the QS World Universities Sustainability Rankings 2024.

The rankings reflect the commitment of institutions for a more sustainable existence and evaluate their social and environmental impact as centres of education and research. While Shoolini University has attained the top position among all private universities in the northern region, it has been placed at Number four rank across the country in the category. Globally the university has been placed at rank 579 among all public and private universities.

The only private universities ahead of Shoolini University in the category are BITS, Pilani, VIT and Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Shoolini University has also been ranked 400 globally for Environmental Impact and at 415th rank for Governance. In the category of Knowledge Exchange it has been placed at 280th rank worldwide and at 112th for Environment Sustainability.

Chancellor Prof PK Khosla said the rankings have proved right the university founders' vision to focus on research and sustainability. He said these would remain priority areas of the university and added that the university was bound to further improve its rankings in the years to come.

Pro Chancellor Mr Vishal Anand said “the university located in the lap of Himalayas has always strived to work for environmental protection and sustainability. It is a matter of great pride that our efforts are being recognised at the international level”. Vice Chancellor Prof Atul Khosla said that the high ranking for the university “demonstrates our commitment to sustainability and protection of environment. The rankings shall propel us to strive for even better efforts and performance in the years to come”.

Surprisingly, there is no Indian university in the first top 200 ranks. The University of Delhi has been featured as the most sustainable Indian University in the QS World University Rankings (position 220). After Delhi University, IIT Bombay has featured at 303 globally followed by IIT Madras at 344, IIT Kharagpur at 349, IIT Roorkee at 387 and IIT Delhi at 426. Among the private universities, Vellore Institute of Technology (449), BITS Pilani at 517, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (576), Shoolini University (579) and SRM Institute (629) figures among toppers.

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UCO BANK

BRANCH OFFICE : KUFRI

VEHICLE FOR SALE		Reserve Price	Detail of Branch Manager
Name of the Borrower	Details of Vehicles	EMD	
Ishan Gupta	Ford Freestyle, Model 2018, Registration No. HP 63E 3366, Engine No. 04198, Chassis No. MAJGXMTKGJM04198.	Rs. 3,50,000/-	Branch Manager Ishani Sharma M. : 70183-42808, E-Mail : kufri@ucobank.co.in

**TERMS & CONDITIONS :-** The above mentioned vehicles seized by UCO bank are under sale on “As is where is and As is what is basis”. The Public auction held on **27.12.2023 from 01.00 PM to 05.00 PM** at respective Branch. For further details contact concerned officer mentioned above. The successful bidder shall have to deposit the full amount of the sale price (After adjusting EMD already deposited) within the 24 hours from the sale confirmation by the concerned officer. In case of default in balance payment by the successful bidder, the amount already deposited by the successful bidder shall be liable to be forfeited and Vehicle shall be put to re-auction. The above Reserve Price is excluding GST. The GST as per applicable rate will be payable by the buyer.

**Date: 06.12.2023** **Place : Kufri** **Branch Manager**



**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, NURPUR FOREST DIVISION, NURPUR HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT**  
**E-mail: dfonurpur@gmail.com in PH. FAX: 01893-220490.**  
**E-mail: head-fordivnur-hp@hp.gov.in**

**e- Tender Notice**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
**Tender Reference No: 01/2023-24**

1. **The Divisional Forest Officer, Nurpur, Forest Division, Distt.- Kangra (HP)** on behalf of Governor of HP invites online bids on item rate, in e-tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/ Firms.

Sr. No	Name of work.	Approximately Quantity (Nos.)	Specification	Earnest Money.	Cost of Tender	Place of Delivery. (F.O.R.)
1	<b>Supply of Eucalyptus Fence Posts including freight to site</b>	11000 Nos	Length =180 cm. Mid Dia =8-10 cm. with fashioned top 15 cm and coal tarring of lower end 45 cm	68000/-	500/-	Range Office Nurpur - 6500 No. Range Office Indora - 1000 No. Range Office Javali - 2000 No. Range office Rey - 1500 No.

2. **Availability of bid document and mode of submission:** The Bid Document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <http://hptenders.gov.in> Bidder would be required to register in the website, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder required to have digital signature certificate from one of the authorized certifying Authorities.

3. **Key Dates:-**


S. No.	Activity	Date and Time
1	Date of online publication	05.12.2023 04:00 PM
2	Document download start date	07.12.2023 10:00 AM
3	Document download end date	16.12.2023 11:00 AM
4	Bid submission start	07.12.2023 10:00 PM
5	Bid submission end date	18.12.2023 10:30AM
6	Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender document	18.12.2023 01:00PM
7	Date of Technical Bid Opening Evaluation of Technical bid followed by opening of Financial Bid.	18.12.2023 01.30PM

4. **Tender Details:-**  
The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (two) covers:-  
i) Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of "Eligibility document/Eligible information".  
ii) Cover-2 shall contain "BOQ/ Financial Bid" where contractors will quote his offer for each item.  
5. Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information" (Scanned copies to be uploaded).  
i) The earnest money only in the shape of small saving instruments, or fixed deposit, duly pledged in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Nurpur.  
ii) The cost of tender form only in the shape of demand draft only in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Nurpur.  
iii) The contractor shall be an authorized dealer/supplier/Distributor. A certificate to this effect.  
iv) Latest Income Tax certificate thereof.  
v) work done certificate of Competent Authority.  
vi) Copy of GST/ PAN No.  
6. Cover-2 shall contain BOQ and tender Document where contractor will quote his offer for each item.  
7. The tenders of the contractors/firms who fails to fulfill the eligibility information (as per Cover-I) will be summarily rejected.  
8 **Submission of original document:-** The bidders are required to submit:-  
i) Original demand draft towards the cost of bid document.  
ii) Original bid security /EMD in the favour of DFO, Nurpur and other technical document as mentioned at point no. 5, in the O/D Divisional Forest Officer, Nurpur Forest Division Nurpur Distt.- Kangra (HP) as specific in key dates as mentioned at point no 3, failing which the bids will be declared non - responsive.  
9. Bid opening Details: The bids shall be opened 18.12.2023 in the O/D Divisional Forest Officer, Nurpur Forest Division Nurpur Distt.- Kangra (HP) by the authorized officer. In their own interest the tenders are advised to remain present along with original documents at the time of opening tenders.  
10. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of bid as specified, the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue and no separate notice will be given in this regard.  
11. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 45 days after the dead line for bid submission.  
12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Office inviting tenders, shall not be held liable for any delays to the system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the employers shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.  
13. The competent authority on behalf of Governor of HP reserved the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.  
14. Registration of HP Sales tax/ GST is essential: Other details can be seen in Bid document.  
15. All duties, taxes and other levies payable by the contractor under the contract shall be included in the total price.

**DMU-cum-DFO**  
**Nurpur Forest Division,**  
**Nurpur Distt Kangra HP.**

**RO NO. 4249/2023-2024 Dt. 06-12-2023**

# Classified Advertisement



# The Pioneer



## COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE ADS

**CONTACT: 9417419351**

**HOUSING BOARD HARYANA**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for the information of General Public that Sh. Sunil Dutt S/o Sh. Surajmal Singh R/O VPO Garnauti, Rohtak, has applied for transfer of his flat/House No.751 FF, Housing Board Colony, Sec. 28, Rohtak, in favour of Sh. Sonu S/o Sh. Baljit Singh R/O H.No.1872, Sect. 2.3, Rohtak. Any person regarding transfer of this flat has any objection/he/she should file objection with documentary proof in writing, in person, to this office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received from any person within stipulated period, the Permission for transfer of flat will be granted in favour of Sh. Sonu S/o Sh. Baljit Singh R/O H.No. 1872, Sect. 2.3, Rohtak. On the basis of documents submitted as per policy of the Board, No claim/objection after that shall be entertained in this regard.  
Estate Manager, Housing Board Haryana, Rohtak.

**नगर निगम रोहताक**  
**सार्वजनिक सूचना**  
सर्व सहायक को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहताक को कर लागू के सम्बन्धित के दिक्कत में नई प्रोसीजर अर्द्धीकृत न. 11558A/JS धरुनी पोस्ट 28/02/2024 न. 180C/11/1442 की न/यात DLF Colony श्री/श्रीमती NA (In Bill) (Jaipal in old Record), Dulichand के नाम से रजि. है. अन नगर निगम के रोहताक में रजि अर्द्धीकृत न. में प्रवासी द्वारा अन श्री/श्रीमती Rishi Dev S/o Jaipal के द्वारा वकील/वाकिल के अलावा अ अपने नाम वकील कवचन कराते है. यदि किसी भी अनसहायक को डब्बे नाम वकील के बारे में कोई भी जानकारी है तो 30 दिन के अन्दर अन नगर निगम कवचन में अपने अनपति रजि करावते, अनवा पोस्ट 28/02 में सबेरे नाम वकील कर दी जायेगी। दिक्कत हिए अन नगर निगम, रोहताक कोई अनसहायक नहीं लेते।  
क्रमांक: MCR/27/02/2684 दिनांक: 05/12/2023  
क्रोपे कर साबान अधिकारी, नगर निगम रोहताक।

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to put the General Public on notice that Surman Mittal w/o Har Om and Hari Om s/o Kewal Karishan r/o Jagron tehsil Jagron distt Ludhiana are owner of Property measuring 71.75 sq yard 1st floor situated in the area of Lalpur Ra Road Jagron and bounded by East - Har Om Etc, West - Iqbal Singh, North - Har Om, South- Rastia, and owner of Shop measuring 62.21 sq Yard bounded by East- Bhardwaj, West- Iqbal Singh, North- Jagdish Kumar, South - Rastia situated in the area of Lalpur Ra Road Aggar Village Jagron Distt Ludhiana. They have Previous sale deed wasika no 357 dated 6-5-1992 with Regard to Property no MJC/1405 measuring 71.75 sq yard situated in the red nile area of Lalpur Ra Road Jagron and bounded by East - Har Om Etc, West- Iqbal Singh, North - Har Om, South- Rastia That applicants lost previous sale deed wasika no 357 dated 6-5-1992 and they have got lodged DDR no 20369/2022 with PS City Jagron . Now Surman Mittal w/o Hari Om and Hari Om s/o Kewal Karishan r/o Jagron tehsil Jagron distt Ludhiana have approached my client HDFC Bank Ltd Branch, Moga with a request to extent Loan against the mortgage of the above property. Anybody having objection in respect of the said property or regarding creation of mortgage with my client, may raise their objections within 14 Days from the date of this publication, to the below mentioned address. Dinesh Kumar Garg Advocate, Distt court Moga, Chamber No 156 6284531792 9888376077

**HOUSING BOARD HARYANA**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
(With the consent of Higher Authorities, notified for the information of General public and all concerned that the ownership of House No. 326-MG, Old Housing Board Colony, Rohtak, is stand in the name of Sh. Gourav Jain as per sale deed executed and registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Rohtak vide document Regn. No. 17529 dated 03.02.2020). Now, it has been reported by Smt. Asha Jain W/o Sh. Naresh Jain & Smt. Varsha Jain W/o Late. Sh. Gourav Jain that Late. Sh. Gourav Jain has been expired on dated 22.06.2021. Smt. Asha Jain W/o Sh. Naresh Jain & Smt. Varsha Jain W/o Late. Sh. Gourav Jain have submitted documents for the transfer of ownership of said house in their favors on the basis of intestate death of Late. Sh. Gourav Jain. If any person regarding this transfer of ownership of house in favour of Smt. Asha Jain W/o Sh. Naresh Jain & Smt. Varsha Jain W/o Late. Sh. Gourav Jain has any objection/claim/he/she should file objection/claim in writing in person to this office within 30 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which this House will be transferred accordingly. No further claim whatsoever shall be entertained later on.  
Estate Manager, Housing Board Haryana, Rohtak.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Vikas S/o Jai Singh R/o Village Kasumbi Tehsil and Dist. Sirsa is owner of A Plot area measuring 215.1 sq. yards i.e. 7 marla 2 sarsa; situated at area of Grewal Basti, Sirsa vide Sale deed no. 5634 dated 12.10.2023 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar Sirsa. I have lost previous Original sale deed no. 7678 dated 13.11.2019 and Original Sale deed no. 4791 dated 16.06.2011 and also Original last page of sale deed no. 569 dated 26.04.2013 some-where which is related to this Plot. If found please contact no. 9671941666 and if this deeds found mortgaged any bank I am fully responsible for this.

**HOUSING BOARD HARYANA**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Vikas S/o Jai Singh R/o Village Kasumbi Tehsil and Dist. Sirsa is owner of A Plot area measuring 215.1 sq. yards i.e. 7 marla 2 sarsa; situated at area of Grewal Basti, Sirsa vide Sale deed no. 5634 dated 12.10.2023 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar Sirsa. I have lost previous Original sale deed no. 7678 dated 13.11.2019 and Original Sale deed no. 4791 dated 16.06.2011 and also Original last page of sale deed no. 569 dated 26.04.2013 some-where which is related to this Plot. If found please contact no. 9671941666 and if this deeds found mortgaged any bank I am fully responsible for this.

**FOR SALE**

- The Industrial property being No B-23/1862 Measuring 434.75 Sq. Yds. situated at Industrial Area A, Dholewal Tehsil and District Ludhiana and
- Shop Nos. 61 & 62, (LGF), 71 (LGF), 72 (LGF), 7



ICC RANKINGS

# Ravi becomes world number 1 T20I bowler



PTI ■ DUBAI

Young Indian leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi on Wednesday rose to the top spot in the ICC T20I bowling chart on the back of his recent performance against Australia.

The 23-year-old was India's go-to bowler in the just-concluded series against Australia, taking nine wickets from five games. Bishnoi, who is on 699 rating points, has jumped five places to displace Afghanistan spinner

Rashid Khan (692) from the top slot. Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and England's Adil Rashid, who both have 679 points, are in joint third. Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana (677) completes the top

five. Bishnoi is the only Indian bowler in the top 10 in the shortest format even as Axar Patel climbed nine spots to be 18th. Meanwhile, the swashbuckling Suryakumar Yadav, who captained India during their 4-1 T20I series win against Australia,

held on to the top spot among batters, while opener Ruturaj Gaikwad dropped a place to be seventh. Hardik Pandya retained the third spot in the all-rounders' list, despite missing the series against Australia due to injury.



## Mushfiquur becomes first Bangladesh batter to be out for obstructing field

PTI ■ MIRPUR (BANGLADESH)

Former captain Mushfiquur Rahman on Wednesday became the first Bangladesh batter to be given out for 'obstructing the field' in a bizarre dismissal on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand here.

The 36-year-old Rahim defended a rising delivery from New Zealand quick Kyle Jamieson in the fourth ball of the 41st over and then extended his right hand to apparently keep the ball away after it bounced up wide outside off stump.

The Black Caps were quick to appeal and the on-field umpires referred the matter to the TV umpire Ahsan Raza who gave Rahim out.

According to Law 37.1.2, "The striker is out obstructing the field if, except in the circumstances of 37.2, in the act of

receiving a ball delivered by the bowler, he/she wilfully strikes the ball with a hand not holding the bat. This will apply whether it is the first strike or a second or subsequent strike. The act of receiving the ball shall extend both to playing at the ball and to striking the ball more than once in defence of his/her wicket."

Earlier such dismissals were classified as "handled the ball" but a change in the laws in 2017 brought them under "obstructing the field" category. Former England captain Michael Vaughan was the last batter to be given out 'handling the ball' against India in 2001.

Rahim was Bangladesh's top-scorer with his 35 off 83 balls as the hosts were bundled out for 172 inside 67 overs. Bangladesh won the first Test in Sylhet by 150 runs.

## ACC U-19 ASIA CUP

### India opens campaign against Afghanistan

#### Faces Pakistan on Sunday

PTI ■ DUBAI

India will face Afghanistan in the opening match of the ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament here on Friday.

Pakistan will play Nepal in the other match of the opening day. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will face each other on Sunday. Eight teams will compete for the top prize in the 50-over event which is being hosted by the Emirates Cricket Board.

The teams have been divided into two groups of four each. India, Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan are placed in Group A.

Bangladesh, Japan, Sri Lanka and hosts UAE feature in Pool B. The top two teams from each of the two groups will progress to the semi-finals which will be played on December 15.

The tournament final will be played at the Dubai International Stadium on December 17. All group matches and semi-finals will be played at the ICC Academy Ovals 1 and 2. All tournament matches will begin at 9:30 am local time.

# Will play IPL until I cannot walk anymore: Maxwell

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Star Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has vowed to play in the world's biggest cricket league, the IPL "until he can't walk anymore". The 35-year-old, who played a massive role in Australia's ODI World Cup-winning campaign in India recently, will once again don the colours of Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL next year.

"The IPL will probably be the last tournament I ever play, as I will play the IPL until I can't walk anymore," Maxwell was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press (AAP) at the Melbourne Airport on Wednesday.

"I was talking about how good the IPL has been to me throughout my career, the people I've



met, the coaches I have played under, the international players that you get to rub shoulders with, how beneficial to my whole career that tournament has been.

"You're rubbing shoulders with AB (de Villiers) and Virat (Kohli) for two months, talking to them while watching other games. It's just the greatest learn-

ing experience that any player could ask for," he said. Maxwell feels Australian cricketers should play in the IPL for experience ahead of the T20 World Cup in the United States and the West Indies in June.

"Hopefully, a lot of our Australian players can get over to the IPL and get to work in slightly similar conditions to the

## Bangladesh takes control of 2nd test



### After New Zealand reduced to 55-5 on eventful 1st day

AP ■ MIRPUR (BANGLADESH)

Bangladesh took full control of the final test against New Zealand after 15 wickets fell on an eventful day one Wednesday as the hosts pursue a first ever test series win against the Kiwis. The home side was all out for 172 but hit back strongly to reduce New Zealand to 55-5 in 12.4 overs before bad light forced stumps.

Both teams' batters struggled on a wicket where most of the balls kept low and the bounce was uneven. The New Zealand bowling attack maintained a tight line and length to create pressure by conceding just eight runs in the first seven overs after Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto opted to bat first.

Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (3-31) and offspinner Glenn Phillips (3-65) shared six wickets to wreak havoc on the Bangladesh batting lineup. Ajaz Patel, another left-arm spinner, claimed 2-54 while skipper Tim Southee took one wicket without conceding a single run in 5.2 overs.

Mushfiquur Rahim made a team-high 35 before becoming the first Bangladeshi batter to be dismissed for handling the ball. While defending a delivery from fast bowler Kyle Jamieson, the

team's most experienced batter used his right hand to push the ball away even though it wasn't close to the off-stump. After New Zealand appealed for the out, the third umpire checked and then gave him out for obstructing the field. Bangladesh's first boundary came in the eighth over when Zakir Hasan drove Patel through cover for four. The pressure eventually got the better of Zakir (8) when he played a rash shot against Santner and chipped it straight to mid-on. In the next over, Patel dismissed Mahmudul Hasan (14) after he was beaten by the drift to give a catch at short-leg.

Momintul Haque (5) was the next to go when he was caught behind off Patel's bowling. But the biggest blow for Bangladesh followed in the next over when captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (9), who hit a century in the previous test, attempted a reverse sweep against Santner.

The on-field Umpires turned down the appeal but New Zealand reviewed it successfully to leave Bangladesh 47-4. Mushfiquur and Shahadat Hossain, playing his only second test, shared a 57-run partnership which eventually kept Bangladesh ahead on a tricky wicket.

The dismissal of Mushfiquur triggered another collapse, which began with Shahadat (31) being caught down the leg-side off the bowling of Phillips. The onus was on Mehidy Hasan to lead a fightback with the lower order but Santer came back to dismiss him as New Zealand bowled Bangladesh out shortly after tea.

However, Mehidy led Bangladesh's bowling attack with 3-17 and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, who took 10 wickets in the first test, took 2-29. Tom Latham and Devon Conway started cautiously but Mehidy broke through with a delivery that Conway thought would turn. Instead it went straight to crash the stump as Conway was out for 11. Taijul then dealt a double blow by dismissing Latham and Henry Nicholls.

New Zealand fell into deep trouble when Kane Williamson, the centurion of the previous test, ended up getting an inside edge towards short while defending a quicker delivery of Mehidy. Just a ball later, Mehidy fired another quicker one that kept extremely low to trap Tom Blundell leg-before for a duck. Daryl Mitchell (12) and Glenn Phillips (5) were batting when play came to an end because of bad light.

## Du Plessis hints at return to international cricket

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Former South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis has hinted at a comeback to international cricket ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup, saying that he has been in discussion with the Proteas' white-ball coach Rob Walter for the past couple of years. Du Plessis last featured in a T20I three years ago in 2020. While his last match for South Africa was a Test against Pakistan in

February 2021. "I believe that I can return to international cricket," du Plessis told the broadcaster of Abu Dhabi T10 league. "We have been speaking about this for the last couple of years. It's just figuring out the balance of the T20 World Cup next year. It's certainly something we have spoken about with the new coach," he added. Despite not featuring for South Africa, du Plessis has been doing well in the domestic circuit as well as in T20 leagues across the world.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jacques Kallis, one of the last multi-skilled legends, says quality all-rounders have become a scarcity in modern-day cricket, especially in Test cricket, because of "too much cricket across formats". While Sir Garfield Sobers (8032 runs and 235 wickets) is considered greatest of 'em all' across generations, Kallis (25,000-plus runs and nearly 600 wickets in three formats) is inarguably one of the legendary all-rounders the modern era has seen.

In the 1980s, there were four great all-rounders in Imran Khan, Richard Hadlee, Ian Botham and Kapil Dev while the new millennium saw emergence of Kallis and Andrew Flintoff. But with advent of T20 cricket and mushrooming leagues across the globe with new rules have actually discouraged development of multi-skilled cricketers.

"It is a tough question to answer, all-rounders don't come around every day. There aren't many throughout the history. Lot of things, amount of cricket that is played certainly plays a role," Kallis told PTI during an exclusive interview. The former Proteas captain is in India to play the Legends League Cricket. While he didn't name Indian

# Too much cricket is affecting development of all-rounders: Kallis



Premier League but the former KKR coach isn't a great fan of 'Impact Player' rule where a team can change one player during its batting or bowling innings as per need. "A few T20 competitions have substitutes (IPL) and I am not a big fan of that as it takes away the all-rounder out of your team. The teams that do not have good all-rounders are now playing with 12 men. I am not a huge fan of that. "There are lot of little things that add up on to why there aren't too many all-rounders at the moment, as it is surprising as they add so much value to the

game. But it's a whole lot of little things coming together," Kallis said. **CENTURION WILL BE TOUGH FOR INDIA:** The Indian team would be embarking on a tough away tour of South Africa, the only major Test playing nation where it hasn't won a single Test series in 31 years. The focus will be on the two Test matches, which is a part of World Test Championship (WTC) cycle even as ODIs and T20s are part of the full tour. The stars from both sides (Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Kagiso Rabada) will

only be playing the traditional format during the series. "This is a good Indian team but South Africa is tough to beat in South Africa. Centurion will probably suit South Africa and Newlands will probably suit India. It will be a good series and it will come down to one or two sessions that one team might play better than the other. It would be a closely-fought contest," said Kallis. **TRANSITIONS ARE TOUGH, GET YOUNGSTERS READY:** The Indian team's average age is in mid-30s. Skipper Rohit is 36 and main batter Virat Kohli is 35.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are 37 and 35 respectively while Mohammed Shami 33.

There would be a transition sooner or later in another couple of years and Kallis feels that if talented youngsters are groomed by keeping them with senior team, the handing of baton becomes easier. "Older players obviously have got the knowledge and you would combine that with younger players. That's the job of coaches and selectors to make sure so that even if younger players might not be playing, they are in that environment where they can learn from the older players," said Kallis, who scored 45 Test hundreds in his illustrious 18-year career in which he played 166 Tests.

It is imperative that youngsters are travelling to unfamiliar territories and soaking in all knowledge available watching those who have been there and done that. "(They should) travel to these parts of the world that they are probably not used to and learn from sitting on the side, try to pick up as much knowledge as

possible and play those warm-up games where big players are resting. Picking up knowledge helps a lot and transition when a few players are retiring, it becomes little bit easier," he elaborated.

Having started his career in mid-90s just when players like Kepler Wessels, Peter Kirsten, Andrew Hudson had all retired or were on verge of retirement, Kallis felt that back in the day, Proteas had a good system of changeover in place.

"Certainly, when I started, South Africa were very good at transitioning younger players into good international players and that obviously needs to be done when senior players retire."

**A BIT OF LUCK ON BIG DAYS:** A part of the South African side that had to bear the label of 'chokers' for not winning big-ticket events, Kallis understands the pain of the current Indian team that has now lost nine semi-finals or finals at marquee ICC competitions. "You need a little bit of luck in these tournaments to go your way. You could end up being at the wrong end of the toss or bad end of the conditions, you need little bit of luck as players certainly don't go out there to lose. "From that point of view, you can get beaten by a better team on the day and you have got to put your hand up and accept it. Try to learn from those things," he said.

**Regional Office Ludhiana, P&E Department, 3rd Floor, Sandhu Towers-II, Gurdwara Nagar, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana - 141001. Ph.: 0161-5127214, E-mail: pe.ludhiana@bankofbaroda.com**

**TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF BANK VEHICLE**

Vehicle No.	Make & Model	Reserve Price	Reserve Price
PB 91 F 8871	Maruti Swift Dzire VXi, 2019	Rs. 3,50,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-

Sealed tenders are invited for sale of Bank Vehicles having good running condition, parked at Regional Office, Ludhiana. Vehicle can be inspected during working day from 07.12.2023 to 26.12.2023 between 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Tenders for Vehicle accompanied by Demand Draft for Rs. 10,000/- favoring "REGIONAL OFFICE LUDHIANA" payable at Ludhiana as EMD should reach our office on or before 27.12.2023 upto 5:00 P.M. Tenders without EMD will be rejected. The successful H1 Tenderer (Highest Bidder) will have to deposit the total amount within 07 Days positively. Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the offers received without assigning any person. For more details visit our website: [www.bankofbaroda.in/tenders](http://www.bankofbaroda.in/tenders)

**MANAGER - P & E Dept.**

**Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli**

e-Advertised Tender Notice No 87/ET/2023-24 Dated: 02.12.2023

SN/Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date
01/12231173	Bogie Frame Assembly for 120 KN AIR Spring Type LHB Fiat Bogie.	1798 Nos	05/01/2024
02/12231267	Bogie Frame Assembly for 120 KN AIR Spring Type LHB Fiat Bogie.	148 Nos	26/12/2023
03/1231389A	Hex Head Screw M8x25 Stainless Steel	965807 Nos	29/12/2023

**Corrigendum**

85/ET/2023-24 Dated 23.11.2023	Tender No. 03231575	Due date may be read as 15/12/2023 instead of 30/11/2023
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**Website Address: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & [www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in)**  
**Dy. Chief Materials Manager/ Shell**

**CORRIGENDUM No. 08 Dated- 04.12.2023**

**Corrigendum**

01/12231173	Tender No. 12231166	Due date may be read as 14/12/2023 instead of 04/12/2023
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**Website Address: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & [www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in)**  
**Dy. Chief Materials Manager/ Shell**

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397/23	Team Leader (Interview at Jaipur, Rajasthan)	01
398/23	Senior Manager (Civil) (Interview at Guwahati, Assam)	01
399/23	Senior Manager (Civil) (Interview at Guwahati, Assam)	01
400/23	Assistant Manager (Civil) (Interview at Guwahati, Assam)	01

For details regarding the Position, pay scale, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website [www.rites.com](http://www.rites.com) under Career Section.