

**OPINION 6**  
BJP JUGGERNAUT ROLLS  
IN HINDI HEARTLAND**WORLD 8**  
HUNTER BIDEN INDICTED ON  
NINE TAX CHARGES**MONEY 10**  
SEBI CONSIDERING TO CREATE  
NEW ASSET CLASS

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## RBI predicts faster growth for Indian economy

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India on Friday expected left its key lending rates unchanged for the fifth consecutive time and predicted faster growth in the world's fastest-growing major economy amid an uncertain outlook on inflation ahead of elections.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee, consisting of three RBI and an equal number of external members, voted unanimously to keep the benchmark repurchase rate at 6.5 per cent. The central bank raised its forecast for economic growth to 7 per cent from 6.5 per cent, maintaining India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. **PTI**

## IT raids Congress MP premises in Odisha, Jharkhand

**Bhubaneswar/Ranchi:** With the Income Tax department recovering a total of over ₹220 crore in cash during raids in places linked to an Odisha-based distillery group till Friday afternoon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the money looted from the public will have to be returned.

Modi was apparently referring to political leaders in Odisha and Jharkhand who have links with the liquor firm. **PTI**

## BJP selects its observers to appoint Chief Ministers

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Amid a prolonged deliberation over the appointments of new heads for the States won by the BJP last week, the party appointed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda as central party observers for the election of legislature party leaders in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, respectively. The legislature party leaders will become Chief Ministers of the three States and the meetings to elect them may take place over the weekend. There is a view within the party that its leadership may usher in fresh faces at the helm of these States.

Singh will be joined by the party's vice president Saroj Pandey and its general secretary Vinod Tawde as central observers for Rajasthan amid an intense buzz within the BJP that the leadership will bring in a new leader, ignoring the claim of two-time former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje. Sources said Raje has been making efforts to get

onto the hot seat and in this regard she called on Party chief JP Nadda.

The choice of Singh, one of the senior most BJP leaders and a Rajput leader, is likely to help build a consensus around the leadership's chief ministerial choice among MLAs, a number of whom are seen as supporting Raje. Khattar will be joined by the party's OBC Morcha head K Laxman and its secretary Asha Lakra for the Madhya Pradesh legislature party meeting, while Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and BJP general secretary Dushwant Kumar Gautam will be central observers for Chhattisgarh along with Munda.

In Madhya Pradesh where the BJP scored its biggest victory among the three States with a two-thirds majority, current Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's stake has gone up with the win but there is a view that the party leadership is looking at a leadership change after his 18-year uninterrupted stint in power except for 15 months after the 2018 Assembly polls.

# Heritage left unattended, history threatened

**ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India's invaluable treasures, the monuments of national importance, stand as cultural gems shielded by vigilant guards to prevent any harm or encroachment. Keeping this in mind, currently as many as 248 monuments/museums of national importance under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have security guards, as per the Government data. However, a significant number of them i.e. 94 per cent are left unattended, lacking security personnel. There are a total 3,693 Centrally protected monuments (CPMs) across the States.

Expressing its dismay over the low percentage of CPMs that have security guards and the insufficient number of personnel to meet the requirements, a Department-related Parliamentary Panel on Transport, Tourism and Culture has asked the Government to ensure adequate funds so as to ensure safety of these heritage structures as well as safety of tourists visiting these spots. In its report tabled in Parliament on Friday, the panel noted that security guards are posted at only 248 CPMs/sites/museums i.e. less than about 6.7 per cent of the total number of CPMs. "Also, out of the total

requirement of 7,000 personnel for protection of monuments, the Government could provide only 2,578 security personnel at 248 locations due to budgetary constraints," said the panel led by Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy. Taking the stringent view that budgetary constraints should not be an excuse for not providing security guards to protect our rich cultural heritage, the panel reminded the authorities that, "it is the duty of the Government of the day to protect our cultural heritage sites." The Committee, therefore, recommends that a budget may be provided by the

Government to appoint 7,000 personnel for protection of the monuments or as per the study conducted by IIT, Delhi.

The Committee also suggested the Union Culture Ministry overseeing the ASI to conduct an urgent thorough assessment of the security requirements and budgetary allocation required for the same and "a strong case may be made to the Ministry of Finance requesting allocation of additional funds for this purpose so as to ensure a basic state of protection for all the monuments across the country to preserve them for generations to come."

# Mahua Moitra Expelled from Lok Sabha, Exposed

**DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI**

T Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra was expelled on Friday from the Lok Sabha after the House adopted the report of its Ethics Committee that held her guilty of accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman to further his interest.

After a heated debate over the panel report during which Moitra was not allowed to speak, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved a motion to expel the TMC member for "unethical conduct", which was adopted by a voice vote and the House was adjourned immediately.

The Ethics Committee report found Moitra guilty of 'unethical conduct' and contempt of the House for sharing her Lok Sabha credentials, including the user ID and password of the Lok Sabha Member's portal, with unauthorised persons. This had an irrepressible impact on national security.

Moitra received backing of her party as well members of the INDIA Bloc of Opposition parties on the action without giving her a chance to defend herself in Parliament.



TMC leader Mahua Moitra addresses the media with Congress MP Sonia Gandhi and other Opposition leaders after being expelled by the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Friday **PTI**

TMC supremo West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee denounced the expulsion of her MP from the Lok Sabha and termed the move as a 'betrayal' of India's parliamentary democracy. Mamata expressed her disappointment as Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not intervene in the matter. The motion moved by Joshi

said Moitra's "conduct has further been found to be unbefitting as a Member of Parliament for accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman to further his interest which is a serious misdemeanour and highly deplorable conduct" on her part. Joshi urged the House to accept the recommendation and finding of the committee

and "resolve that continuance of Moitra as member of Lok Sabha is untenable and she may be expelled from the membership of the Lok Sabha". Ethics Committee chairman Vinod Kumar Sonkar tabled the first report of the Committee on the complaint filed by BJP member Nishikant Dubey against Moitra.

## Putin hails PM Modi as a force to reckon with



**AGENCIES ■ MOSCOW**

Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, highlighting the progressive development of relations between India and Russia under Modi's guarantee. Putin also said he was "surprised" by Modi's tough stance on defending the national security interests of India.

While addressing the "Russia Calling!" Forum, Putin said Modi cannot be intimidated by any pressure from unfriendly countries, reported TASS news agency. "I want to say that relations between Russia and India are developing progressively

along all trajectories, and the main guarantor of this is the policy pursued by Prime Minister Modi," the Russian leader said at the event. Speaking on international pressure, Putin said he "cannot imagine that Modi could be frightened, intimidated or forced to take any actions, steps, decisions that would be at variance with the national interests of India and the Indian people".

"I just look at what is happening from the outside, and sometimes, frankly speaking, I am even surprised at his tough stance on defending the national interests of the Indian state," Putin further noted in his praise of Modi at the investment forum. The Russian President also asserted the importance of increasing settlements in national currencies between Russia and India, emphasising that Russia stands for a "truly democratic model" of global economic development, reported Sputnik.

## Modi may launch Mission 2024 from Kashi

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch Mission 2024 from his parliamentary constituency, Kashi, following the Bharatiya Janata Party's resounding victories in the recent State elections of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh.

"This marks a significant moment as the Prime Minister has chosen Kashi for the kickoff of his Lok Sabha election campaign in 2024. Modi is scheduled to engage in various programmes during his 43rd visit to the city on December 17 and 18," Vijay Bahadur Pathak, a senior BJP leader said.

Kashi has been important centre for the BJP as any election campaign from this city is bound to affect the whole of eastern Uttar Pradesh which has 28 Lok Sabha constituencies.

During this two-day visit, the Prime Minister is slated to present projects amounting to ₹1,000 crore to the public. Among the projects, the inauguration of the Svaravada Mahamandir, recognised as the country's largest meditation center, is anticipated. Additionally, Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for several projects, including the Phulwaria Four Lane, Amul Plant, and Sarnath Beautification.

Having been elected as the Member of Parliament from Varanasi in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Modi has cultivated a strong bond with Kashi, making a total of 43 visits over the past nine years of his tenure as the Prime Minister. The upcoming visit on December 17-18 is particularly



significant following the BJP's remarkable success in the Assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has communicated the primary details of the visit to the district administration and BJP leaders. The visit will be centered around various development projects in Varanasi. Dilip Patel, the BJP Kashi area president, stated, "The PM will arrive at Babatpur airport by special plane on the afternoon of December 17." On the first day of his visit, the PM is scheduled to visit Chhota Cutting Memorial School grounds, where an exhibition based on 'Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra' for the urban area will be showcased. Later, he will interact with the beneficiary class. In the evening, Modi will attend the Kashi Tamil Sangamam program at Namo Ghat, meeting South Indian guests and participating in the Ganga Aarti. The PM will conclude the day by resting at the BLW Guest House.



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# Classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Gurdial Singh** S/o Gurbachan Singh R/o Village Gajwalia Colony, PO Kotla Guljran, Tehsil Majitha, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab declare that my father was known by two names Bachan Singh and Gurbachan Singh. Bachan Singh and Gurbachan Singh is one and the same person.

**I, Suresh** S/o Banarasi R/o Village Manoharpur, Teh. & Distt. Jind declare that my daughter Priyanka is out of my control. So I disown him from my all moveable/immovable 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, Pushpa Rani** W/o Late Sh. Mehar Chand R/o H.No. 328/11, Street No. 4, Adarsh Nagar, Sonipat had evicted my son Sandep Kumar & his wife Manju Bala. But now, both of them are under my control, Therefore, I cancel their eviction. In future, they both have full rights in my movable-immovable property.

**I Pardeep Singh** son of Chur Ram Village Gochar Post Office Kahanpur Khushi Tehsil Anandpur Sahib District Rupnagar declare that in all my documents my father's name is Chur Ram but in the passport it is wrongly written as Chur Singh and it is corrected as Chuhar Ram.

**I, Anita,** wife of late Birjapal, resident of House No. 5A, Bir Ghaggar Panchkula, Haryana, declare that my son Ajay is out of my control, So I disown him from my moveable- immovebale Properties. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

**I, No. 888006239** Ex HC Shree Om S/o Shri Ram Kanwar R/o Bhaiyapur Lahdot (65) Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my wife name Babita Devi and her DOB 28.12.1971 are wrongly mentioned in my service record. But my wife correct & actual name is Babita and my wife correct DOB is 12.09.1975.

**I, Nareesh Kumar** S/o Hari Chand R/o H.No.387, Samay Pur Road, Near Raju Photo Studio, Rajiv Colony, Sector 56A, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana Now at Residing Kot Rani, Phagwara, District Kapurthala inform that My aunt Mindo W/O Hans Raj has passed away. She was known as both Mindo and Mindho, the same woman with both names. All concerned Note.

**I, Sukhwinder Kaur** and legal spouse and dependent of No. 4487956W Rank NK Bohar Singh S/o Reshem Singh R/O Vpo. Budh Singh Wala Teh-Bagha Purana (Moga) Pb, declare that in my husband army record Part-2 Order my DOB wrongly entered is 12-10-1987. But my correct DOB is 21-12-1985. So amended my DOB from 12-10-1987 to 21-12-1985 in my husband army record Part-2 Order.

**I, Veeramasu** Sowjanya Latha, spouse of No. 14658377H NK Bellam Bhupal Residing of Vill & Post-Kristamsetty Palli, Teh-Giddalur Distt-Prakasam (AP) Pin Code-523357 have changed my name from Veeramasu Sowjanya Latha to Bellam Sowjanya Latha vide affidavit dated 08-11-2023 before Sat Pal Notary Pathankot (PB)

**I, Army No- 14927616k** Rank-Hav, Name-Upendra Kishan Address - At-Kello Po-Bad gogua, Tel- Bonai garh, Ps-Bonaigarh Distt-sundergarh, State Odisha, Pin- 770038 declare that I have changed my Daughter name from Deepti Priya Kishan to Deepty Priya Kishan and also change my Daughter Date of birth from 24/01/2014 to 20/09/2013.Vide Affidavit Dated-08-12-23 before Executive Magistrate Chandigarh.

**I, Soma Debbarma** is legally wedded Spouse of Army No-14840776N, Rank-NK/MT Name - Rajesh Debbarma Address Vill-Kawa ban, Post - Durga Nagar, Distt-West (Tripura) Tehsil - Sibnagar -799035 declare that I have changed my name from Soma Debbarma to Suma Debbarma. That my DOB is 12/04/1985. Vide Affidavit No-JD 0032426606, Dated-08-12-23

It is for general information that I Kewal Krishan S/O Kishan Chand R/O Village- Barian, P.O- Nupur Bedi, Distt-Ropar, Punjab - 140117, declare that name of my has been wrongly written in Passport L9067053 as Kewal Krishan in given name column but my actual name should be Kewal as given name and Krishan should be in surname, which may be amended accordingly.

**I Rulda Ram** no. 14444583Y S/o Mangat Ram R/o Village Rasulpur, Sub Tehsil Sadhaura, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my name from Rulda to Rulda Ram in my army records.

**I, Basanti Devi** Mother Of No.4195730f Chm Madhan Singh Resident Of Village- Kshetrapal, Post- Gagrigol, Tehsil- Garur, District- Bageshwar, State-Uttarakhand, Pin-263611, Have Changed My Name From Basanti Devi To Bishna Devi Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb65210275537626v Dated 07 Dec 2023 Before Notary Public Pathankot.

**I, Rekha** Spouse Of No.2798338x Hav Hajare Anil Sadashiv Resident Of Village-Agran Dhulgaon, Post- Agran Dhulgaon, Tehsil- Kavthe Mahankal, District-Sangli, State-Maharashtra Pin- 416411, Have Changed My Name From Rekha To Rekha Anil Hajare Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb65213975603835v Dated 07 Dec 2023 Before Notary Public Pathankot

**I, No.4197484a** Hav Aamod Kumar Singh Resident Of Village-Piperpu, Post- Piperpur, Tehsil-Amethi, District- Amethi, State-Up, Pin- 228259, Have Changed My Daughter Name From Disha To Disha Singh Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb65211584699503v Dated 07 Dec 2023 Before Notary Public Pathankot

**I, No.4197484a** Hav Aamod Kumar Singh Resident Of Village-Piperpu, Post- Piperpur, Tehsil-Amethi, District- Amethi, State-Up, Pin- 228259, Have Changed My Daughter Name From Diya To Diya Singh Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb65212369934512v Dated 07 Dec 2023 Before Notary Public Pathankot

**I Raghubir Singh** Puri S/O Ram Lal R/O Village Kakira, Tehsil Bhattiyat, Distt Chambha, (Hp), Declare That My Elder Son Sunny Puri & His Wife Anjali Rana Are Out Of My Control. I Disown Them From All My Moveable/Immovable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Them Will Do At His/Her Own Risk/Responsibility.

**I Lal Singh** R/O Bachan Singh R/O # 402, Aol Complex, Sector 48-A, Chandigarh Hereby Disown My Son Inderjit Singh And His Wife Priya From My All Moveable / Immovable Properties. They Are Out Of My Control . If Anybody Deal With Them Will Do So At Own Cost And Responsibility. . I And My Other Family Members Will Not Be Responsible For Their Any Deeds.

**I, Karnail Singh** S/o Sh. Pala Singh R/O 17, Street-1, MITC Colony, Sirsa declare that my son Jasvinder Singh, daughter in law Gagandeep Kaur and grand daughters Mehreen Singh & Ireen Singh r/o Canada are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/ Immoveable properties. I & my family have no social, financial, legally- illegal relation with them.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I Neelam Rani** W/o Vinod Kumar R/O Village - Goli, (32), Distt Karnal, Haryana 132046 have changed my name to Neelam.

**I, Dimple Rani** W/o Sh. Anil Kumar Goyal R/o H. No. 3089, Sector 22-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Dimple Rani to Dimple Goyal.

**I, Sudeep Singh** Kapoor s/o Gurmeet Singh Kapoor r/o #343-A, Budha Khera, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Sudeep Singh to Sudeep Singh Kapoor. In future I should be known as Sudeep Singh Kapoor.

**I, Gurmeet Singh** Kapoor s/o Kartar Singh Kapoor r/o #343-A, Budha Khera, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Gurmit Singh Kapoor to Gurmeet Singh Kapoor. In future I should be known as Gurmeet Singh Kapoor.

**I, Ishwar Chand** S/o Sundu Ram r/o Village Sunderpur, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Ishwar Chand Saini to Ishwar Chand.

**I Rajesh Kumar** Gupta Residence of #1087 B-2, Vishavkarma Colony Pinjore Tehsil Kalka, District Panchkula now I have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar Gupta to Rajesh Gupta.

**I Jaskaran Singh** alias Shiv Karan Singh S/o Jatinder Pal Singh R/o House No. 134, Mouli Jagran, Chandigarh, Vide Aadhar No. 681731174085. declare that Jaskaran Singh and Shiv Karan Singh is one and same person.

**I, Inderjeet Kaur** W/o Sukhpreet Singh R/O #2355, Sector-17, Huda, Jagadhri, Tehsil-Jagadhri, Distt. Yamunanagar (Haryana) declare that Inderjeet Kaur & Inderjeet Kaur Gill both are the name of one and same person.

**I, Neeraj Kumar** S/o Jai Mohan Bhandari R/O Gali No. 11, Ram Nagar Colony, Islamabad, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Neeraj Kumar to Neeraj Bhandari.

**I, Susamma** mother of Shaiju PJ r/o 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS) Chandimandir Cantt, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Susamma to Susamma Joseph vide Affidavit dated 08 Dec 2023 before Col APS Chahal (Retd.), Advocate, Regd No.11451, Panchkula, Haryana.

**I, Pattammal C** mother of Ilayaraja V r/o 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS) Chandimandir Cantt, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Pattammal C to C Pattammal and date of birth from 01 JUL 1962 to 16 MAY 1958 vide Affidavit dated 08 Dec 2023 before Pawan Kumar Garg, Advocate, Regd No.17787, Panchkula, Haryana.

**I, Garish Sapra** S/O Sh. Joginder Lal Sapra R/O H.No. 1626, Sector 18-D, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Garish Sapra To Garish Kumar Sapra. That Saurav Sapra Is My Real And Natural Son. Kindly Note.

**I Ramesh Chander** s/o Chatet Singh r/o h.no 181/76 Sanjay colony sugar mill panipat declare Ramesh Kumar and Ramesh Chander both are my name and in future my name is Ramesh Chander.

**I, Khushi** D/o Sh. Rajesh Gupta R/o 744/23 DLF Colony Rohtak declare that I have changed my name from Khushi to Khushi Gupta. In future I will be called by the name of Khushi Gupta for all purposes

**I, Anmol S/o** Sh. Subhash Chander R/O 253A Subhash Nagar Rohtak declare That I have changed my name from Anmol to Anmol Arora. In future I will be called by the name of Anmol Arora for all purposes.

**I, Simarjit Singh** S/O Gurdeep Singh r/o Village Dholowal , Po Argowal , Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab 144207 have changed my name to Singh Simarjit. All please note.

**I, Suman** W/o Amit Nayyar R/o H.No 546, Street No. 3, Roop Nagar Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have declare that I Suman Alias Suman Nayyar is one and the same person. Concerned note.

**I, Gurmit Kaur** W/O Ram Asra R/o Near Railway Station Village Nali Abadi, Pandori Rukman, Piplanwala Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Gurmeet Kaur. Concerned Note.

**I, Pushpa Devi** W/o Tarsem Lal R/o Vill. Buhawa, Teh. Shahabad (M.), P.O. Lakhmari, Distt. Kurukshetra delcare that I have changed my name from Pushpa Devi to Pushpa Rani. for all future purposes.

**I, Bala Rani** W/o Raja Ram R/o Vill. Buhawa, Teh. Shahabad (M.), P.O. Lakhmari, Distt. Kurukshetra declare that I have changed my name from Bala Devi to Bala Rani. for all future purposes.

**I, Manisha Verma** W/o Munish Kumar Verma, R/o H.No. 32/8, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra delcare that I have changed my name from Manisha to Manisha Verma. for all future purposes.

**I, Rajesh Bhanot** S/o Devi Dass Bhanot R/o H.No. 309-A, Panchkula Heights, Peer Muchalla, Zirakpur, Punjab have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar Bhanot to Rajesh Bhanot.

**I, Prapthi** D/o Deepa Nambiar resident of H.No. 5956, MHC Manimajra UT Chandigarh do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Prapthi to Prapthi Nambiar.

**I, Deepa Nair** D/o K M S Nambiar R/o H. No. 5956, MHC Manimajra UT, Chandigarh, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name Deepa Nair to Deepa Nambiar.

**I, Roopa Masih** s/o Narjan Masih R/o Village Mahal Mangal Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) India have changed my daughter name from Daizy to Daizy Chiday. Concerned note.

**I, Shallu** W/o Rakesh Kumar R/o VPO Tarsikka, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Shallu to Shallu Sharma.

**I, Sumeet Kumar** Dahiya S/o No. 14253665-X Ex Nk (TS) Raj Singh R/o Village Nakloti, Tehsil Kharkhoda, Distt. Sonipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Sumeet Kumar Dahiya to Sumit Kumar Dahiya vide affidavit dated 7.12.2023 at District Court Sonipat (Haryana)

**I, Nishu Rani** w/o Sandeep Kumar r/o #55/1, Gopi Vihar, Shahabad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Nishu Rani to Nisha Rani. Concerned Please note.

That I Rajwant Kaur d/o Jagir Singh resident of V.P.O Dostpur Tehsil Kalanaur District Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name Rajwant Kaur to Narinder Kaur. All relatives may note please.

**Ashish** s/o Suresh r/o Telikhera teh. Safidon distt. Jind have declare that my name Changed from Ashish To Ashish Ashish in future all purposes.

**I, Vishali Ohri** W/o Naveen Kumar R/o H.No. B-1/25, Gali No.01, Shakti Nagar, Dhoobi Ghat Road, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Vishali Ohri to Vishali. Concerned note.

**I Subash chander** S/O Hazari Lal resident of B-82 Sec34 Suncity District Rohtak, Haryana declare That Subash chander son of Hazari Lal and Sabha Chand son of Hazari Lal one and same person.

**I, Raj Kumar** S/o Mewa Ram R/o Village Magho Majri, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Raj Kumar to Raj Kumar Dalal. In future, I will be known by the name of Raj Kumar Dalal. All concerned please note.

**I, Ram Kumar** s/o Late Tej Ram r/o Block-H, Flat no. 216, Aura Avenue, Khanpur, Kharar have changed my name from Ram Kumar to Ram Kumar Sharma.

**I, Birso Kumari** D/o Jhaliya Asur # 161, Sector - 27A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Birso.

**I, Rajan** S/o Banarsi Dass # 2266, Sector 52, Chandigarh have Changed my name to Rajan Singh.

**I, Asha Rani** W/o Kartik Kataria R/O H. No. 1668, Sector 14 P, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Asha Rani to Ashu Kataria for all future purpose.

**I Manish Kumar** Singla S/O Ramesh Singla R/O H.No. 36 Vikas Vihar, Ambala City I Have changed My Name Manish Singla

**I Ramesh Kumar** Singla S/O Madho Ram R/O Hno. 36 Vikas Vihar, Ambala City I Have changed My Name Ramesh Singla.

**I Harbax Singh** S/O Nihal Singh R/O Hno. Srs/B14/567, Bank Colony Distt Sirsa I Have changed My Name Harbaksh Singh.

**I Baby** W/O Krishan Lal R/O Near Khaira Preetam Singh Wali Gali, Matheri Shekhan Tehsil Ambala Have Changed My Name From Baby Gambhir To Baby.

**I Shashi Ellabadi** W/o Rajinder Kumar Ellawadi R/o house no. 1993, Sector 13-17, HUDA Panipat I affidavit that my name is recorded as Shashi Ellabadi and Shashi Ellawadi in my documents. But my actual name is Shashi Ellawadi for all future purposes.

**I, Piyanthu** S/o Sh. Gopal Krishan Sethi R/O H.No. 463/13, Multani Chowk, Hisar declare that in my 10th DMC documents, my father's name is wrongly written as Gopal Kishan Sethi, but his correct name is Gopal Krishan Sethi for all purposes.

**I, Rajiv Bidani** S/o Radha Krishan Bidani R/O 604, T1A JBB Grand, Sec-35 Karnal, Haryana have changed my name from Rajeev Bidani to Rajiv Bidani for all future purposes.

**I, Aman Singla** S/o Harbans Lal R/O 224/17 Shiva Gali Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my minor daughter's name from Vanika to Varishti.

**I, Abhishek** S/o Satish Kumar R/O Nanheri Tehsil Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Abhishek Thakur.

**I, Baljit Kaur** W/O Tirlak Singh R/o Chander Kalan Tehsil Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Baljeet Kaur.

**I, Neetu Bala** W/o Gobind Lal R/o Krishna Colony Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Neetu Rani.

**I, Navpreet Singh** S/o Gurjant Singh R/o H. H. No. 133-134, Gali No 6, Gurnam Nagar, Near Paras Karyana Store, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar Declare That Correct Name Of My Father Is Gurjant Singh Instead Of Gurjodh Singh Uraf Gurjant Singh.

**I, Preeti Gumber** w/o Nitin Chhabra r/o #319-P, Sector-1, HUDA, Shahabad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Preeti Gumber to Preeti. Concerned Please note.

**Army No. 6472047-A** Havildar Dharambir Singh resident of Budha Kheda Lather Tehsil Juliana District Jind My son's name in my army service record is Deepak Singh. My son's correct name is Deepak, he should be known by this name in future.

**I, Hitherto** Known As Pranav Veer Siag Son Of Rajiv Siag Residing At Vpo Jhumian Wali, District Fazilka-152122 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Pranav Veer Siag.

**I, Hitherto** Known As Amarjeet Kaur Sood Wife Of Jagtar Singh Residing At 586-D, Ranjit Avenue, D-Block, Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Amarjeet Jagtar Singh.

**I, Hitherto** Known As Ajit Kumar Son Of Ram Lal Residing At H.No.311, Tungpal, Abadi Jawahar Nagar District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Amarjeet Jagtar Singh.

**I Hitherto** Known As Pooja Mehta Wife Of Dinesh Vaid Residing At H.No.1488, Gali No.7, Jagdambay Colony, Majitha Road, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Pooja Vaid.

**I, Hitherto** Known As Kritika Daughter Of Gurnam Masih Residing At Ward No.12, Ashiana Colony, Near Canal Rest House, Dharival, Gurdaspur-143519 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kritika Gill.

**I Prabjot Kaur** W/O Kawaljeet Singh R/O Vill.Sachandar Airport Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Prabjot Kaur To Given Name Prabhjot Surname Kaur.

**I, Hardeep Kaur** W/O Kewal Singh R/O Village Nathoke,Teh Khadoor Sahib,Tarn Taran. Have Changed My Name From Jagdish Kaur To Hardeep Kaur.

**I, Sakshi** W/O Tarvinder Sehgal R/O 15 Gulmohar Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sakshi To Sakshi Sehgal

**I Harman Singh** S/O Lakhbeer Singh R/O Village Tahli Sahib Po Babawal Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Singh Is My Surname And Harman Is My Given Name

**I, Jc 246945m** Ris Kameswar Das S/O Biswanath Das R/O 44 Armd Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name To Kameshwar Das Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb65593803169386v Dt.08.12.2023 Before Notary Public Amritsar

**I, Jc 246945m** Ris Kameshwar Das S/O Biswanath Das R/O 44 Armd Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Father's Name From Biswanath Das To Bishwanath Das Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb6559562530417v Dt.08.12.2023 Before Notary Public Amritsar

**I, Jc 246945m** Ris Kameshwar Das S/O Biswanath Das R/O 44 Armd Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Mother's Name From Sumitra To Sumitra Das Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb65594519834914v Dt.08.12.2023 Before Notary Public Amritsar

**I, Rohit Kumar** Arora S/O Parmod Arora R/O 738, D-R Enclave Ajnala Road, Village Hair Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Shally Vansh To Rohit Kumar Arora To Rohit Arora

**I, Santosh Khanna** Alias Santosh Johri S/O Sat Pal Johri R/O Flat No.806, 6th Floor Wind Cross Apartments, M C Road, Ambala Road, Mohali Have Changed My Name To Santosh Johri

**I, Gurmeet Kaur** W/O Surjit Singh R/O Preet Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurmeet Kaur To Gurmit Kaur

**I, Shiva Khanna** W/O Vishal Mehra R/O 12, Race Course Road, Radha Nikunj, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Shiva Khanna To Shiva Mehra After Marriage

**I Ram Murti** S/O Madan Lal R/O E-4/276 Dharampura Chheharta Amritsar Have Declare That Murti Is My Surname And Ram Is My Given Name.

**I, Kashish** D/o Amit Sharma R/o 354/D, Azad Nagar, Sirhind Road, Patiala have changed my name to Kashish Sharma.

**I, Manjit Kaur** Sethi W/o Harvinder Paul Singh R/o H.No.124, Guru Ram Dass Nagar, Bindra Colony, Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Public School, Tripari Road, Patiala have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

**I Jasvir Singh** S/O Surjit Singh, Vill Khanpur Po Purkhali District Rupnagar, Punjab-140108 Have Changed My Name To Jasbir Singh.

**I Sunita** Wife Of Narayan Jeet Singh Resident #71, Mojewal, District Nangal Tehsil Nangal District Rupnagar Has Changed My Name From Sunita To Sunita Kumari.

**I Rajinder Kumar** S/O Lachman Dass R/O House No. 16, New Govind Vihar, Baltana, Zirakpur Sas Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name From Rajinder Kumar To Rajinder Sharma

**I (Jatinder)** S/O (Balbir Singh ) R/O (H.No. 195 1st Floor Dashmeh Enclave Dhakoli Zirakpur 140603), Have Changed My Name To (Jatinder Singh).

**I Narayanjeet Singh** S/O Chanan Singh Resident Ward No.18 Mojewal, Naya Nangal Tehsil Nangal District Rupnagar Has Changed My Name From Narainjit Singh To Narayanjeet Singh

**I, Rochelle** C D'silva W/O Kartik Moudgil R/O H.No- 18, Sector- 12-A, Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Rochelle C D' Silva To Rochelle Cecelia D'Silva.

**I Seema Baby** D/O Pardeep Khan R/O Ward No.3 Mohalla Katika Wala Banur Sub Tehsil Banur Dist Sas Nagar (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Seema Baby D/O Pardeep Kamar.

**I Kanwaljeet** Wife Of Sh. Gurcharan Singh, Resident Of House No. 668, Multani, Dera Bassi, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt. Sas Nagar Have Changed My Name From Kanwaljeet To Kanwaljeet Kaur.

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

**I Ranjeet Kaur** W/O Gurtej Singh R/O House No-2616, Sector-70, Mohali, Tehsil & District S.A.S Nagar, Have Change My Name From Ranjeet Kaur To Ranjit Kaur

**I Sunny Chauhan** S/O Sh. Ramesh Kumar R/O House No- 29, Bar Majra, Mohali, Tehsil & District S.A.S Nagar Have Changed My Name From Sunny To Sunny Chauhan.

**I, Smt Prabjot Kaur** W/O No. Jc342606k Ex Nb Sub Mandeep Singh Kahlon S/O Ram Singh Resident Of Village-Dalla, Po-Qadian, Tehsil-Batala, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab That I Declare Changed My Name From Prabjot Kaur To Prabjot Kaur And Date Of Birth From 27/11/1991 To 31/12/1994 In My Husband Army Record.

**I, Sushila Gajanan** Malame Mother Of Malame Vijaykumar Gajanan R/O Vill- Nagaj, Po-Nagaj, Teh- Kavathe Mahankal, Distt- Sangli, State- Maharashtra, Pin Code-416403. My Son Is Army Soidler His Record Of Service My Name Sushila Is Wrongly Entered. But My Correct Name Sushila Gajanan Malame As Per My Civil Documents. So Adds My Correct Name My Son Army Service Record. Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb64114023313913vdated 04-12-2023.

**I, Shally Vansh** S/O Sukhpal, Masih R/O Vpo- Fateh Nangal, Gurdaspur-143519, Punjab. Have Changed My Name From Shally Vansh To Shally Vansh Masih.

**I, Satwinder Singh** S/O Late Sh Mohinder Singh Presently Residing At Village - Budhanagar, Post Office Malikpur, Tehsil And Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Pin - 145025, Declare That My Son Name Has Been Changed From Anubhab Ravish (Previous Name) To Anubhav Ravish (New Name) Vide Affidavit Dated 08/12/2023 Before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Smt Parmajit Kaur** W/O No 3366826p Ex Hav Late Jagir Singh Resident Of Village & Post Office Naushera Nalbandan, Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Premjit Kaur To Parmajit Kaur Vide Affidavit No In-Pb65568587555387v Dated 08 Dec 2023 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Shami Deva** D/o Deepa Verma R/O VPO. Sangatpur, Tehsil Phagwara, Rawalpindi, Distt. Kapurthala-144401, Punjab have changed my name from Shami Deva to Shamy Deva Ji.

**I, Harjeet Kaur** W/o Jaspal Singh R/O VPO. Chachari, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt.Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Harjeet Kaur to Harjit Kaur.

**I, Richa Juneja** W/o Chetan Jain R/O H.No. 636-A, Surya Enclave, Jalandhar- 144009, Punjab have changed my name from Richa Juneja to Richa Jain, After Marriage.

**I, Deepak** S/o Vijay Kumar R/O H.No. B-1/849, Ram Nagar, Jalandhar-144008, Punjab have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Kumar (Same person).

**I, Deepak** S/o Prem Singh R/o Vill. Chak Kalan, Teh. Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar-144042, Punjab have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Singh (Same person).

**I, Chanchal** W/o Prem Kumar R/o Vikas Nagar, Islamabad, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Chanchal Aneja.

**I, Sarvjeet Kaur** W/o Gurnam Singh Vill.Murtzapur, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Saravjeet Kaur.

**I, Karmjeet Kaur** W/o Tarsam Singh Vill.Harigarh Bhorakh, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Minor Son Name Prabhjot Singh to Given Name Prabhjot Surname Singh.

**I, Kirpal Singh** S/O Karnail Singh R/o Theh Malbora, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Kirpal Marok.

**I Gurdip Kaur** W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Village And Post Office Jallowal Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Gurdeep Kaur To Gurdip Kaur.

**I Kanta Rani** W/O Kuldip Singh R/O Vpo. Padrana Tehsil Garhshankar District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kanta Thakur.

**I Sandeep Rana** S/O Ramesh Singh R/O Village Harwan, P.O Nainwan,Tehsil Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name To Rana Sandeep.

**I Charanjit Kaur** W/O Surinder Singh R/O Village Gambhowal Post Office Khudda Tehsil Dasuya District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kaur Charanjit.

**I Navdeep**



# CM Mann appeals people for joining hands with govt to eliminate social maladies

PNS ■ FARIDKOT

In a resounding call to action, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday passionately implored the people of the state to join hands in catapulting Punjab to the forefront of the nation by eliminating prevailing social maladies. This fervent appeal came while speaking at Baba Farid University of Health Sciences following the inauguration of the newly constructed Mother and Child Care Hospital and the appointment of 250 Nursing Officers.

Mann's address underscored the intrinsic entrepreneurial spirit of Punjabis and their global achievements, attributing these successes to their unmatched hard work and resilience. He urged Punjabis to channel this spirit into a collective effort to eradicate societal issues, emphasizing the government's dedication to leveraging these qualities for the state's progress and envisioning a 'Rangla Punjab'.

The Chief Minister also drew parallels between the teachings of Baba Farid and their relevance in today's materialistic society. He emphasized the enduring inspiration derived from Baba Farid's life and philosophy, urging present and future generations to serve humanity with utmost zeal and dedication.



The recently inaugurated Mother and Child Care Hospital was hailed by Mann as a vital component in the state's healthcare infrastructure, serving as a catalyst for delivering quality healthcare to pregnant women and newborns. Congratulating the newly-appointed Nursing Officers, Mann called upon them to embrace their role as integral parts of the government, serving the people with missionary zeal.

Critiquing the "callousness" of previous regimes, Mann highlighted the stark contrast with the AAP Government's commitment to transparency, exemplified by providing over 38,000 jobs within a year, solely based on merit. In a bid to motivate aspiring youth, he assured them of forthcoming opportunities while encouraging current recruits to continually strive for improvement.

## Rs 55.80-cr Projects Dedicated To Faridkot

In a significant boost to the holistic development of Faridkot, Mann dedicated projects worth approximately Rs 55.80 crore. Addressing the district's longstanding sewerage problem, he inaugurated a state-of-the-art Sewerage Treatment Plant with a capacity of 14 MLD (million liters per day) along with a new Master Pumping Station (MPS). These crucial infrastructure developments, costing Rs 25.71 crore, promise to alleviate the concerns of the local populace.

Simultaneously, Mann inaugurated a project aimed at augmenting the water supply scheme in Faridkot city. This initiative, designed to ensure a regular supply of potable drinking water to the residents.

Laying the foundation stone for Block III (Treasury Block) in the District

Administrative Complex (DAC), Mann announced an allocation of Rs 9.71 crore for the project. The new block will house offices of 21 departments, significantly easing administrative processes for the people of Jaiton and Kotakpura assembly segments.

In an exciting revelation, Mann declared that projects worth Rs 144.35 crore are slated for commencement in Faridkot in the coming days. These encompass special repairs to link roads (Rs 8.99 crore), the construction of a Sports School in Jand Sahib (Rs 3.82 crore), the construction of a Primary Health Center (PHC) in Jand Sahib (Rs 4.30 crore), and the construction of a bypass from Faridkot to the Amritsar-Bathinda National Highway (Rs 62.29 crore). These initiatives promise to further invigorate the comprehensive development of Faridkot district, he added.

## Three WTPs among nine projects worth Rs 92 crores get nod under AMRUT 2.0

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a crucial development aimed at achieving 100 percent water supply coverage in Punjab, the State Level Technical Committee has reviewed detailed project reports (DPRs) for three Water Treatment Plants and six Water Supply distribution networks, collectively valued at Rs 92 crores under the AMRUT 2.0 initiative.

Chaired by the state Local Government Secretary Ajoy Sharma, the committee approved three water treatment plants, totaling approximately Rs 60 crores. Notable among these are the seven MLD (million liters per day) plant in Jandiala Guru, costing Rs 16.52 crores and benefiting 34,080 residents; the four MLD plant in Rayya, valued at Rs 14.81 crores, catering to 17,986 people; and the four MLD plant in Bhai Rupa, with an investment of Rs 16.88 crores, serving 22,008 individuals.

Furthermore, the committee endorsed a Water Supply distribution network investment of around Rs 32 crores for six towns, including Patti, Bhikhiwind, Rayya, Bhai Rupa, and Ahmedgarh, as highlighted by Secretary Ajoy Sharma.

The unanimous approval of these DPRs signifies a pivotal step towards initiating construction, with tenders expected to be released shortly.

## Governor inaugurates 36th Chrysanthemum Show

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh is hosting the three-day Chrysanthemum Show at the Terraced Garden in Sector 33 with Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit formally inaugurating the annual event on Friday.

City Mayor Anup Gupta, Adviser to Administrator, Nitin Yadav, Parveer Ranjan, DGP, and Municipal Commissioner Anindita Mitra, amongst others, were present at the inaugural function.

Purohit appreciated the beauty of the flowers at The Zero Waste 36th Chrysanthemum Show 2023. Taking a moment to capture the essence of the event, he, along with Mayor Anup Gupta, and Adviser to Administrator, Nitin Yadav posed in front of the "Rakhna Sambhal Chandigarh" floral topiary.

This event, now in its second consecutive year, has been transformed into a zero-waste initiative by the civic body. Alongside showcasing various stalls with different initiatives and projects of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, the event promotes sustainability and environmental consciousness. During his visit, Purohit toured all the stalls, including the Swachh Bharat Mission stall, which raised awareness about waste segregation at the source. Other stalls showcased horticulture waste composting, home composting, safai mitra, construction and demolition waste management, and a unique and eco-friendly initiative called PRARAMBH, a



one-stop store for sustainable products run by a self-help group supported by the civic body.

After the park tour, he paid respects at the Martyr's Pillar in the Terraced Garden by laying flowers.

As part of the event, Purohit also unveiled an artistically designed brochure on the show. The gardeners (Malis) - the heroes behind the enchanting beauty of our city parks - were also honored by the Chief Guest for their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts. He praised the officials of the Municipal Corporation for organizing such a splendid show and encouraged citizens to maintain the beauty of the city's gardens and urged them to have a small garden either on their terrace or balcony.

Waste materials like tires, chains, iron sheets, and plastic have been ingeniously transformed into structures here. From tunnels to see-saws, spring riders to crawling obstacles, and benches made of construction and demolition waste,

this park uses innovation in a big way. Children can also enjoy a game of snakes and ladders "Swachhata Ki Saamp Sidhi" made from recycled materials.

Additionally, the Viksit Bharat Yatra camp is also a part of the show, offering citizens the opportunity to inquire about prominent government schemes and enroll in them. A van has been deployed at the Terraced Garden for the next three days to raise awareness among citizens about the various government schemes.

For visitors, MC Chandigarh has made arrangements for public amenities, including a special lost and found counter, a medical counter, water facilities, and clean and hygienic Public Conveniences.

To provide food items at reasonable rates inside the festival ground, the MCC has arranged 'Zero Waste Rasoi', where plastic items have been banned and promoted biodegradable and recyclable products.

## Punjab unveils ambitious Green Hydrogen Policy to transform agri-residue into energy assets

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a groundbreaking move towards establishing Punjab as a pioneer in green and clean energy production, its New and Renewable Energy Sources Minister Aman Arora on Friday announced that the 'Punjab Green Hydrogen Policy', crafted by the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), aims to convert agricultural residues from liabilities into valuable green energy assets.

Arora, presiding over an open-house session on the Draft Green Hydrogen Policy at CII, shared the state's vision to become a Green Hydrogen or Ammonia producer with a targeted production capacity of 100 kilotons per annum by 2030. The policy envisions innovative manufacturing capacities, including biomass gasification, steam methane reforming, electrolysis of wastewater, and hydrogen fuel blending, he added.

"This initiative will pave a way to explore the technologies for producing green hydrogen from biomass as the Punjab Government has been making concerted efforts to make the state no.1 in production of clean and green energy," he said.

### Turning Biomass into Green Hydrogen

With a focus on producing green hydrogen from biomass, Punjab eyes a zero-carbon future by utilizing the 20 million tons of paddy straw generated annually in the state. Highlighting the state's commitment to clean and green energy production, Arora said: "Punjab has been mainly focusing on the production of green hydrogen from biomass, which is an attractive option for the transition to a zero-carbon future as 20 million tons of paddy straw is being generated annually in the State." PEDA chairman HS Hanspal emphasized that the draft policy signifies Punjab's commitment to a sustainable future, moving beyond mere goals to actively contribute to the state's prosperity and energy security.

### Incentives and Initiatives Under the Policy

PEDA CEO Dr Amarpal Singh outlined the incentives planned under the Green Hydrogen Policy, reinforcing Punjab's dedication to lead the country in green fuel initiatives. "Punjab is committed to be leaders in the country to contribute towards green fuel for the future which will not

only bring prosperity but will also ensure the energy security of the country," he said. PEDA Director MP Singh shared strategic initiatives focused on utilizing paddy straw for energy production, meeting the state's requirements.

### Acclaimed Experts Applaud PEDA's Initiatives

Experts including Prof Dr S Dasappa from IISC, Bangalore; and Dr G Sridhar from Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; commended PEDA's efforts in promoting green and clean energy. Dr Dasappa presented an innovative technology for hydrogen production from biomass, while Rohit Kumar from PEDA highlighted key aspects of the Draft Green Hydrogen Policy.

Representatives from leading industries, including NLT, HMEI, HPCL, GAIL, Indian Oil, NFL, Vardhman, Sportking, Nahar Group, and industrial associations, consultancy firms, academic institutes, and energy auditors or managers actively participated in the informative session. The collective effort aims to position Punjab at the forefront of sustainable and renewable energy production in the country.

## Ex-Pb CM Badal's statue installed alongside Chaudhary Devi Lal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The first statue of the late former Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal has been installed alongside former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal, the first of its kind in the country. The unveiling of this statue took place on Friday in the village of Kiliyanwali, near the Haryana-Punjab border.

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, Member of Parliament Harsimrat Kaur, Haryana Labor and Employment Minister Anoop Dhanak, JJP national president Ajay Singh Chautala, former Punjab Deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal, former Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, Digvijay Singh Chautala, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, among others were present on the occasion.



Dushyant Chautala said that the statue of Jananayak Chaudhary Devi Lal, along with Sardar Prakash Singh Badal, symbolizes the brotherhood between Haryana and Punjab. After Chaudhary Devi Lal's demise, Prakash Singh Badal had erected a statue of

Chaudhary Devi Lal in the village of Kiliyanwali. Following the passing of Badal, the statue has now been established. Manpreet Singh Badal praised Dushyant Chautala for their efforts in establishing the statue alongside Chaudhary Devi Lal's sculpture.

## Thousands gather at Lambi to pay tributes to Badal on his 97th birth anniversary

PNS ■ LAMBI

The Lambi constituency on Friday resonated with

heartfelt tributes and activities as thousands of people gathered to commemorate the 97th birth anniversary of the late five-time Chief Minister and Akali patriarch Parkash Singh Badal. The occasion, observed as Sadbhavana Divas, witnessed a harmonious blend of spiritual, philanthropic, and memorial events, reflecting the revered leader's multifaceted legacy.

The day commenced with a soul-stirring Kirtan Samagam, where devotees immersed themselves in devotional hymns, setting a serene tone for the commemoration. Concurrently, a blood donation camp exemplifying the spirit of service to humanity was inaugurated at the Civil Hospital, Badal. The initiative, part of the Sadbhavana Divas observance, aimed to contribute to the larger cause of social welfare.

A poignant highlight of the day was the unveiling of a life-size statue of senior Badal, symbolizing his enduring presence in the hearts of the people. The statue, crafted by the Chautala family, was inaugurated by Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal. Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Punjab's former finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal, Jannayak Janata Dal (JJP) president Ajay Chautala, and Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala.

This symbolic gesture united the late leader with his lifelong friend Lok Nayak Ch Devi Lal, epitomizing a bond that transcends generations. Addressing the gathering, Sukhbir Badal shared

his emotions, expressing that the former Chief Minister loved the people of Punjab more than his own family. Describing Badal as an "ever-green tree" providing succor to the entire community, Sukhbir highlighted his father's qualities — a nationalist, a secular leader, a democrat, humble, punctual, and committed to the welfare of the people.

He pledged to carry forward the legacy, dedicating his life to serving the people with the same zeal and sincerity.

SAD president also acknowledged the Chautala family for their role in reuniting two families, emphasizing the deep-rooted friendship between the Badals and the Chautalas. Alongside the statue inauguration, Sukhbir and Harsimrat led the initiation of a blood donation camp at Civil Hospital, Badal, aligning with the larger Sadbhavana Divas initiative across the State.

The commemorative events extended to the Mata Jaswant Kaur Memorial School in Badal village, where the SAD president and Bathinda MP presided over the Founders Day celebrations. Later in the day, Sukhbir Badal participated in the Founders Day function of the Malwa School in Gidderbaha, reinforcing the commitment to education and community welfare.

As the day unfolded with prayers, acts of kindness, and celebrations, it encapsulated the essence of Sadbhavana Divas — a day dedicated to fostering goodwill, unity, and the enduring legacy of a leader who dedicated his life to the service of the people.

## BRIEFS

### PB SEC ANNOUNCES BYE-ELECTION OF MANSA'S BHAMME KALAN VILLAGE ON DEC 24

Chandigarh: Punjab's State Election Commission on Friday issued election schedule and notification vide which the bye election to the post of Sarpanch (woman) of Bhamme Kalan village in Mansa district, has been announced. The desirous candidates can file their nominations up to December 13, 2023, in the office of the Returning Officer and the poll will be held on December 24, 2023 (Sunday), and the result will be declared on the same day. All voters entered in the electoral roll are eligible to participate in the election. The Model Code of Conduct within the revenue jurisdiction of said Gram Panchayat has come into force with immediate effect.

### PUNJAB BJP TO HOLD DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CONG TODAY

Chandigarh: The Income Tax raids on Congress' Rajya Sabha member Dheeraj Sahu have revealed the true face and character of the grand old party as well as of India Alliance; and the discovery of "huge cache of black money" is just a tip of the iceberg, said PUNjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar on Friday. He said that the saffron party would be holding demonstrations against the Congress in the entire state on Saturday, and the district presidents have been instructed to hold massive protests against this blatant corruption.

### DR DOGRA HONOURED DURING VRSI-2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chandigarh: Formerly the head of Ophthalmology Department at PGIMER, Chandigarh, and Chandigarh's renowned retina specialist Dr Mangat Ram Dogra, has been honoured with the prestigious Dr Badrinath Oration at the 32nd conference of Vitro-retinal Society of India (VRSI) 2023, at Thiruvananthapuram. He is currently working as the Director of Retina Services at Grewal Eye Institute. The distinguished award recognizes Dr Dogra's lifelong dedication to combating Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) — a disease of the retina in premature babies and if not diagnosed and treated in times it leads to irreversible blindness.

### PUNJAB'S 14 HEIS UNDER UMBRELLA OF BSM FORMULATE 'RESEARCH FOR RESURGENT PUNJAB'

Ropar/Bathinda: In a path-breaking initiative, in a meeting held in IIT Ropar under the umbrella of Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal (BSM) have united to pioneer the 'Research for Resurgent Punjab' (RRP) — aimed at developing an all-encompassing solutions addressing critical challenges faced by Punjab. Led by eminent figures in academia and education, including IKGPTU-Kapurthala's former VC Prof Rajneesh Arora, Central University of Punjab's vice chancellor Prof Raghavendra P Tiwari, IIT-Ropar director Prof Rajiv Ahuja, among others, the RRP pledges a holistic approach to research and development.

### HAU AND INDIAN OIL CORPORATION TO ASSIST FARMERS IN ESTABLISHING BEEKEEPING

Chandigarh: In collaboration with Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar, the Haryana government has aimed to generate interest among landless, unemployed, and illiterate rural men and women towards beekeeping. It has also aimed to establish small beekeeping units as a form of self-employment, receiving both financial and technical assistance, said a spokesperson. He said that an MOU has been signed between the University and Indian Oil Corporation Limited in the presence of the Vice Chancellor of CCSHAU and the Executive Director of Northern Regional Pipeline on behalf of IOCL. The spokesperson highlighted that Haryana is one of the leading states in honey production among states and represents the entire country in beekeeping areas. He emphasised how landless, unemployed, and illiterate farmers in the state can strengthen their economic situation by adopting beekeeping as a means of employment.

### ON VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA, OVER 51,000 PEOPLE JOIN PROGRAMS

Chandigarh: On the eighth day of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, programs were organized at 120 locations in Haryana, attracting participation from more than 51 thousand people, a government spokesperson said on Friday. Over 15 thousand people availed of health check-ups at health camps, with 11,389 individuals undergoing TB screening. During the Yatra, 331 people utilized the Ayushman Card Camp, while 334 sought information at the PM Swanidhi Camp. Furthermore, 216 individuals attended the Aadhar Card Camp, and 99 farmers gained insights into natural farming, he added.

# A Literary Giant's Bold Stand for a Drug-Free Punjab

## Khushwant Singh's People's Walk Against Drugs

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In the quiet corridors of literature, where words weave tales of distant lands and poignant human experiences, sometimes a voice emerges, not just to narrate stories but to challenge the harsh realities that unfold in our midst. This time, that voice belongs to Khushwant Singh, the renowned author whose literary legacy is as vast as the fertile fields of Punjab he calls home. What began as an ordinary day for Singh turned into a call to action, sparked by a heart-wrenching video that laid bare the devastating impact of drug abuse on the youth of Punjab.

The video, a stark visual testimony to the insidious grip of addiction, portrayed the tragic loss of two young lives to drug overdose. For Khushwant Singh, a literary luminary known for his writings, this was not just a moment of sorrow; it was a decisive moment of reckoning. He could no longer remain a passive spectator to the agony unfolding in his

beloved state. Thus was born the 'People's Walk Against Drugs' — a transformative initiative set to carve a path toward a drug-free Punjab.

Scheduled to commence on December 10 from New Chandigarh, the journey would cover a formidable 90 kilometers, culminating in Khatkar Kalan, Nawanshahr district, on December 15. The significance of this destination is not lost on anyone familiar with the pages of history; it's the hometown of the valiant freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. The choice speaks volumes about Singh's mission — this is not just a walk; it's a march echoing the spirit of those who fought for a free, unshackled India.

Khushwant Singh, in his own words, expressed that the sight of young lives succumbing to the clutches of drug addiction had become "unbearable". The 'People's Walk Against Drugs' is more than a symbolic gesture. It's a resolute call to action. It transcends the confines of literature, demanding collective courage, and a community-driven commitment to eradicate the menace of drug abuse.

Ensuring the safety of participants along the significant journey has been a paramount concern for Singh. Seeking

support from various District Administrations, he underscored the gravity of the cause. The walk aimed to be inclusive, inviting people from all walks of life — intellectuals, writers, veterans, artists, professionals, and the general public — to stand united against the menace of drug abuse.

The 'People's Walk Against Drugs' is not just a physical journey; it's a narrative-building exercise for Khushwant Singh. Covering approximately 15 kilometers daily, the walk is a metaphor for breaking free from the chains of addiction, symbolizing a step towards a drug-free Punjab. Singh placed emphasis on personal accomplishment over dependency, stressing the pivotal role of parents in curbing addiction.

Amidst the rhythmic footsteps on this transformative journey, Singh plans to engage with people through pit stops, delivering a vital message — drugs are not cool, but sports are. He advocates for proactive parenting, urging parents to closely monitor their children between 13 and 18, observe their company, and remain vigilant for any behavioural changes.

This non-political initiative by Khushwant Singh aims to

ignite a grassroots movement, fostering conversations that highlight the collective responsibility of society and families in addressing the urgent issue of drug abuse. The 'People's Walk Against Drugs' has garnered support from various notable figures, including former Miss India Navneet Dhillon, poet Bubbu Tir, Kathak dancer Nandita Puri, actor Dan Dhanoa, and serving and retired bureaucrats and police officers.

The walk will commence with a simple ardaas and distribution of parasol to the participants, marking a significant stride towards a drug-free future for Punjab.

In a world where the power of the written word often stands alone, Khushwant Singh's 'People's Walk Against Drugs' is a testament to the fact that literature, when fueled by passion and purpose, can transcend its traditional boundaries, stepping into the realm of real-world impact.

It is a powerful narrative unfolding on the roads of Punjab, where each step echoes a commitment to reclaiming the youth from the clutches of addiction, and where the voice that once resonated in the pages of books now reverberates through the streets, urging change, one step at a time.



**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ROTHTAK**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is informed that in the property tax records of the tax branch of Municipal Corporation, Rohtak. New ID No. HAGR242, old property ID No. 2274C9701777 Ward No Address Vijay Nagar, Jhajar Road, is registered in the name of Mr. Anil Kumar Singh. But after S.O. issued from now this ID is the records of Municipal Corporation. Applicant whose name is Mr. Shanti Devi, Madan Mohan, Manmohan, Brjmoohan, Mamta want to change their names on the basis of willinheritance, if any one has an objection in changing their names then within 30 days issued register his objection in the Municipal Corporation office, otherwise the above name will be changed in property tax. For which Municipal Corporation, Rohtak will not be responsible.

Sd/- Regional Taxation Officer,  
Municipal Corporation, Rohtak

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Original previous Sale Deed No. 1672 dated 17.11.2008 of the property Vacant Plot 1K-00M, Situated at Nihal Singh Wala and owned by Rajni Bala D/o Sadhu Ram Son of Kali Ram, Resident/s of Nihal Singh Wala, Moga in missing. Anyone having any objection regarding the mortgage of this property with Punjab & Sind Bank, Branch Nihal Singh Wala, may respond or raise Objection within 15 days to Branch Manager, Nihal Singh Wala, Moga, Mobile No. 7527007675.

**Branch Manager**  
**Punjab & Sind Bank**  
**Nihal Singh Wala**

**क सूचना**  **BSNL**  
Connecting India

और अपील नियम - 2006 के नियम  
31 दिनांक 26.05.2023 के माध्यम  
आर एम एस नंबर 200904656)  
नात्मक कार्रवाई शुरू की गई थी।  
आरोपों की जांच के लिए  
न्युक्त किया गया है। जांच कार्यवाही  
हरा जेटीओ को उनके अंतिम ज्ञात  
ए थे। लोकित आरोपित अधिकारी न  
हायक के माध्यम से जांच में शामिल  
के संचार के सामान्य तरीके से उनके  
ह संचार। इस सार्वजनिक सूचना के  
टीओ को इस नोटिस के प्रकाशन के  
रने के लिए हस्ताक्षरकर्ता के समक्ष  
ससर दिया गया है, अन्यथा जांच  
त की जाएगी। (दीपक खन्ना)  
डीई फतेहबाद, जांच अधिकारी

[illegible]

**NOTICE**  
Office: ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132,  
Sector- 9C, Madhya Marg,  
New Delhi-110017

For sale of movable assets under  
lien (Eng) and Daanik Uttam Hindu  
hereinafter referred to as 'the said  
authorized Auto Loan Account no.  
**PANKAJ BHUDIRAJA** (Applicant),  
I mention that inadvertently and  
deposit is mistakenly mentioned as  
as **January 09, 2024** from 11/01/2024  
the Earnest money deposit DD/offer  
as, **January 08, 2024** before 05:00  
read the Earnest Money Deposit as  
**January 16, 2024** from 11:00 AM to  
the Earnest money deposit DD/offer  
for making payment, as **January**

Notice for sale of movable assets  
same.  
caused to you in this regard.

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**NOTICE**  
**Notice:** ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132, Sector-93, Madhya Marg, New Delhi - 160017  
 for sale of movable assets under  
 (Eng) and Azad Soch (Punjab)  
 referred to as 'the said Notice')  
 Auto Loan Account no.  
**GURWINDER SINGH** (Applicant),  
 with ICICI Bank Ltd. We wish to  
 tionally the Earnest Money Deposit  
 0000, auction date as **January 09,**  
 earnest money deposit DD/offer Tender,  
**January 08, 2024 before 05:00 PM.**  
 the Earnest Money Deposit as  
**January 16, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 02:00**  
 earnest money deposit DD/offer Tender,  
 making payment, as **January 15, 2024**  
 and Notice for sale of movable assets  
 name.  
 caused to you in this regard.  
**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**Sd/ach/2023/R/006**

**Interview**

for Research Fellow (Ayurveda) on  
forative Clinical Research Project of  
treatment tolerability, medication  
formulations in the management of  
2023 at 11.00 am at Shri dhanwantry  
46-B, Chandigarh UT. The required  
der:

	<b>Maximum age</b>	<b>Monthly remuneration</b>
use who have aving	Not exceeding 35 years ason 01/01/2024	Rs. 35000/- + permissible HRA per month

funded by the Ministry of AYUSH,  
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is available on College website-

**Principal**  
**Ayurvedic college & Hospital**  
**Sector 46-B, Chandigarh UT**

<b>PROGRAMME</b>		
<b>Managing Committee of The Ward No. 6 Society Ltd. Gohana to be held on 07-01-2024</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
12.12.2023 to 14.12.2023	9 AM to 5 PM	1. In the Regd. Office of Society & Village Falling in the area of operation of the Society. 2. ARCS Office Gohana
15.12.2023	10 AM to 2 PM	ARCS Office Gohana
18.12.2023	--do--	--do--
20.12.2023	--do--	--do--
20.12.2023	4 PM	--do--
22.12.2023	10 AM to 2 PM	--do--
22.12.2023	4 PM	--do--
22.12.2023	4:30 PM	--do--
07.01.2024	8 AM to 4 PM	Premises of Govt. Senior Secondary School Gohana City (Voter List Sr. No. 01 to 8463)

Two seats are reserved for women.  
 All voters are directed to bring with them

**Returning Officer -cum- Assistant Registrar,  
 Cooperative Societies, Gohana.**

Managing Committee of The Buria Multi purpose Primary Agriculture		
Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamunanagar. Election to be held on 11.02.2024.		
Particulars	Date & Time	Place
Voters as required Rule 3.5	27.12.2023 to 03.01.2024 09 am to 5 pm	1. Office of Assistant Registrar, Coop. Societies Yamuna Nagar 2. Regd. Office of the Society
On the list of voters Rule (4) of Rule 3.5	04.01.2024/ 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	Office of Assistant Registrar, Coop. Societies Yamuna Nagar
Papers	29-01-2024 /10:00 am to 2:00 pm	-do-
Papers.	31-01-2024 /10:00 am to 1:30 pm	-do-
Nominated Papers	31-01-2024 / 2:30 pm	-do-
On Papers	02-02-2024 /10:00 am to 2:00 pm	-do-
For the candidates and Returning Candidates.	02-02-2024 / 03:00 pm To the completion of work	-do-
(Sd/- Secretary)	11-02-2024 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM	In the premises of Govt. Sr. Sec. School Buria

All voters to bring their Society pass Book/ other Photo I.D. at the time of  
 Non-Agri Member will be elected out of 10 elected members, in which  
 member will be reserved and 01 BC category member will be reserved if  
 Society voter list.

**Sd/- Jitender Kaushik, Returning Officer**  
**Cum Assistant Registrar Coop. Societies, Yamuna Nagar.**

Managing Committee of The Harnaul Multi purpose Primary Agriculture Harnaul, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamunanagar. Election to be held on 13.02.2024.			
Categories		Date & Time	Place
Voters as required Rule 3.5		28.12.2023 to 03.01.2024 09 am to 5 pm	1. Office of Assistant Registrar, Coop. Societies Yamuna Nagar 2. Regd. Office of the Society
In the list of voters Rule (4) of Rule 3.5		04.01.2024/ 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	Office of Assistant Registrar, Coop. Societies Yamuna Nagar
Papers		29-01-2024 /10:00 am to 2:00 pm	-do-
Papers.		31-01-2024 /10:00 am to 1:30 pm	-do-
Nominated Papers		31-01-2024 / 2:30 pm	-do-
Election Papers		01-02-2024 /10:00 am to 2:00 pm	-do-
To the candidates and Returning Candidates.		01-02-2024 / 03:00 pm To the completion of work	-do-
At the (Necessary)	13-02-2024 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM	<b>In the premises of Harnaul M - pacs</b>	

Voters to bring their Society pass Book/ other Photo I.D. at the time of polling  
 01 Member will be elected out of 10 elected members, in which 02 ladies, 01  
 reserved and 01 BC category member will be reserved if 10% of BC member

**Sd/- Jitender Kaushik, Returning Officer**  
**Cum Assistant Registrar Coop. Societies, Yamuna Nagar.**

# **LEGAL POSSESSION NOTICE** **Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Sector Bagh, Delhi- 110005 Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction and Credit Improvement and Service Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand intimation below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. In pursuance of the above, the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property which will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited. | Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch | |---|--|----------------| | Property ID 390C48U457 Comprising in Khewat No. 235 Khasra No. 16/4 (4-9) Rakba 4 Kanal 9 Gaj 5 of 178 Part Situated at Mouja Jagadhuli Tehsil Yamunanagar District Yamunanagar Inside M.C. Limits Haryana/amber 06, 2023 | July 12, 2023<br>Rs. 13,02,522/- | Yamunanagar | Therefore, the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the lender will exercise its powers under the provisions of the said Act and the rules thereunder on or after the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per and in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and the rules thereunder. **Authorized Officer** **ICICI Bank Limited**

# VSTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD

**& 204, 2nd Floor, "A" Wing, Navbharat Estate, Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West),  
Mumbai 400015, Maharashtra. CIN No.: U65922MH2005PLC272501**

## Sale Notice

Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security (SARFAESI) Act, 2002  
(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002  
eral and in Particular to the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below Described  
th the Secured Creditor, The Physical Possession of Which has been taken by the Authorised officer of  
d Secured Creditor, will be sold "AS IS WHAT IS", "AS IS WHERE IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"

NOTICE DATE , NO	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY / IES	RESERVE PRICE / EMD	DATE / TIME OF AUCTION
PRIYANKA YADAV  Sep-21 & * Interest Cost etc. 4	Property no 212/417 saral Khawaza old lad dora abadi faridabad Haryana 121003	Rs. 5184000/- Rs. 518400/-	09-Jan-24 10.00 am- 5.00 pm

**THE SALE :** 1. Separate Offers should be given in accompanied by a Demand draft/ Banker's Corporation Limited payable at Mumbai for an amount mentioned herein above being earnest money price/ no interest shall be rejected out rightly. No interest shall be paid on EMD. 2. EMD, Copy of viz. copy of voter ID, PAN Card, Driving License, Passport etc. to the undersigned by 5.00 pm on or in respect the aforesaid property between 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm, on **04-Jan-24**. 4. The undersigned not assigning any reason whatsoever either to accept or reject any offer or adjourn or postpone the aforesaid property or properties shall be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS AND WHATSOEVER IS BASIS", obligations or charge or lien of whatever nature of any statutory authority, agency, local bodies and other authorities. 6. The sale shall be confirmed in favour of purchaser who offer the highest price of Auction at his full discharge depending on the circumstance, may allow or permit/ se- bidding / deposit 25% of the purchase price immediately on declaring him as highest bidder and balance 75% 15th day from the date of auction. Failure in making payment for any reason whatever shall result in purchaser successful bidder shall have to bear charges, fees payable for conveyance, stamp duty and fees applicable as per law. 9. the interested parties, for further details or terms and condition may limited, For **Haryana - Contact Person:** Mission Singh. **Contact Number:** 8178744922 **Phone No:** F.NO-301/10165 MEZZANINE GURUDWARA ROAD WEST EXTN AREA KAROL BAGH. **For sale notice under the SARFAESI Act 2002.** The borrower/guarantors are here by notified to Pay the interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold with interest and cost.

**Authorised officer  
Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd**

and No. 18M, a Telugu Mal, Wala, having the with branch respond days Singh No.

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**Regd. Office:** ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra- 390007

**Corporate Office:** ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051

D. SCO 143 A, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Global Emporium Industrial Area Phase 1,

following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest to them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Asset of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to them thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated being informed by way of this public notice.

<b>the Borrower/ or Guarantor/ (Account Number) address</b>	<b>Description of Secured Asset to be Enforced</b>	<b>Date of Notice Sent/ standing as on Date of Notice</b>	<b>NPA Date</b>
Man Kumar/ Bachan Lal/ S/o Pr 32 Multani Mohalla/ Ohri 04	Swift/ VXI/ PB06AZ3251	11-Oct-23 2.06,311/-	11-May- 2023
Amjeet Kaur/ W/o Amandeep Jikko Sarai, Talwandi Rama 3521	SWIFT DZIRE/ VDI/ PB06AP8097	05-Oct-23 Rs. 7,95,877,89/-	09-Sep- 2021
Sh Kumar/ S/o Rana Partap/ In Di Gali/ Amritsar- 143515	SONET/ HTX 6SAT 1.5 DL PB06BC4134	05-Oct-23 Rs. 11,67,210/-	09-Jul- 2023
Ram Fashioners/ Flat No.607/ y/ Ludhiana/ Punjab- 141001	CRETA/ 1.6 SX CRDI AUTO/ PB10HC7020	05-Oct-23 Rs. 11,34,888/-	25-Jun- 2023
Pal Singh/ So Dalbir Singh/ Amritsar- 143001	FORTUNER/ FD- 2WD A-T/ PB02EK3986	25-Oct-23 Rs 6,62,582,86/-	08-Aug- 2023
Man Dass/ Rakesh Kumar/ Al Road Amritsar- 143001	AMAZE/ AMAZE/ PB02DR1716	25-Oct-23 Rs, 3,46,504/-	13-Mar- 2023
Man Kumar Sol/ 119-120 New Jawahar Nagar Amritsar/	NEW CRETA/ S PLUS DCT/ PB02EM4695	25-Oct-23 Rs. 15,47,335/-	29-Jul- 2023

their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) as per the provisions of tion of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

**Sd/- Authorised Officer  
For ICICI Bank Ltd.,**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Before Sh. Shambhu V. HCS, Joint Commissioner, Registrar of Companies, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.**

**Subject:** Transfer of ownership of 2/3rd share out of 50% share of Booth No.47, Motor Market & Commercial Complex Manimajra, U.T., Chandigarh on the basis of intestate death 26.09.2023.




It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record in this office, 50% share in the property known as Booth No.47, Motor Market & Commercial Complex Manimajra in the name of Sh. Vinod Kumar Bhalha S/o Late Sh. V. Bhalha.

It has been reported by Smt. Kiran Bhalha and Sh. Hitesh Bhalha that Sh. Vinod Kumar Bhalha S/o Late Sh. V. Bhalha died on 26.09.2023.

Now Smt. Kiran Bhalha and Sh. Hitesh Bhalha have applied for transfer of ownership rights in the extent of 2/3rd share out of 50% share in the property known as Motor Market & Commercial Complex, Manimajra, U.T., Chandigarh hereby late Sh. Vinod Kumar Bhalha S/o Late Sh. V. Bhalha in their favour on the basis of intestate death.

Therefore, any objection, under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, may be filed on or before 26.10.2023.

Shamhu, HCS, Joint Commissioner  
Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh

Sharma R/o House No. 22/26 Asha  
Apartment, Chandra Nagar,  
Smt. Jyotsna Sharma W/o. Smt. Sunita  
R/o H. No. 22/29 Asha Apartments Sect  
4/8-C Chandigarh, has entered into  
Agreement for purchase of Freehold  
Dwelling Unit/Flat no Flat No. 1059 (Fin  
Floor), Category 'A' in The Popular  
City Centre Building, Plot No. 1059  
Sector 48-B Chandigarh, presently  
held by Smt. Aisha Prabhakar W/o Mar  
Prabhakar R/o House No. 901 Sect  
Panchkula. Now they have applied for  
issuance of N.O.C. (No Objection  
Certificate) from the Government of  
Haryana in favour of the said Deed  
in their favour. In case anybody has  
any objection in respect of issue of N.O.C.  
Permission for sale and execution of Sa  
Deed, he/she may submit the objection  
if any in writing along with supporting  
documents to the undersigned within 3  
months from the date of publication of  
the notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Original previous Sale Deed No 942 dated 24.07.2008 of this property Vacant Plot 6K-03M, Situated at Nihal Singh Wala and owned by Nasib Kaur W/ Sarwan Singh Son of Chana Singh, Resident/s of Nihal Singh Wala, Moga in missing. Anyone having any objection regarding the mortgage of this property with Punjab & Sind Bank, Branch Nihal Singh Wala, may respond or raise Objection within 15 day to Branch Manager, Nihal Singh Wala, Moga, Mobile No 7527007675.

**Branch Manager**  
**Punjab & Sind Bank**  
**Nihal Singh Wala**

**ESTATE OFFICE, UT., CHANDIGARH**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**BEFORE SH. SANJAY GARG, HCS ASST.**  
**ESTATE OFFICER, UT., CHANDIGARH**

**Subject : Transfer of Ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL SITE NO. 170, SECTOR 36-A Chandigarh (R/P 1986) to the extent of 20.00% share on the basis of Intestate Death of Late SH. PREMJEET SINGH**

It is notified for the information of general public and concerned that as per record of this office **SH. PREMJEET SINGH is the owner/lessee of RESIDENTIAL SITE NO. 170 SECTOR 36-A Chandigarh** to the extent 20.00% Share.

It has been informed by **SANJOYA DHALIWAL THROUGH HIS NATURAL GUARDIAN AND HER MOTHER RAJAKAN KAUR DHALLIWAL, GURMEEET Kaur DHALLIWAL, RAJAKAN KAUR DHALLIWAL, RUPNAGI Kaur DHALLIWAL, NITESH Kaur DHALLIWAL** all residing at 01/07/2023 and also she/his/there's have also submitted the following documents of the deceased owner/lessee:

Sr. No.	Name of Legal Heir	Relation with deceased
1.	GURMEET KAUR DHALIWAL	MOTHER
2.	RAJKARAN KAUR DHALIWAL	WIFE
3.	SANJOYA DHALIWAL	DAUGHTER

NOW SANJOYA DHALIWAL THROUGH HER NATURE GUARDIAN AND MOTHER RAJKARAN KAUR DHALIWAL GURMEET KAUR DHALIWAL, RAJKARAN KAUR DHALIWAL/have applied for the Transfer of Ownership in respect of **RESIDENTIAL Site No. 170, Sector 36, Chandigarh**, to the extent of **20.00%** Share held by U.T. PRASANT SINGH in their favour, on the basis of intestate's bequest. If anybody has any information about any living heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above, he/she is hereby notified to intimate to the Estate Officer, U.T. Chandigarh, immediately.

*"If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with Affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/Notary/in the office of the undersigned with 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary/ies and further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage."*

**Sanyam Garg, HCS, Assistant Estate Officer,  
U.T. Chandigarh**



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# Modi for more weddings in India

PTI ■ DEHRADUN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India needs a movement like ‘Wed in India’ on the lines of ‘Made in India’ and asked affluent industrialists to hold at least one destination wedding in their families each year in Uttarakhand saying it will help the hill state emerge as a wedding destination.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit at the FRI here, he said it has become fashionable among millionaire and billionaire business families to go abroad for destination weddings.

Modi had given a similar call during his last Mann Ki Baat programme to affluent business families to hold destination weddings in the country instead of going abroad.

“There is an old saying that marriages are made in heaven. But then why are young couples going abroad for their



wedding instead of coming to the land of gods (Devbhoomi). My prescription to the young and rich couples is that there should be a movement like ‘Wed in India’ on the lines of ‘Made in India,’ he said.

“Wed in India,” Modi said, adding if the practice of hold-

ing destination weddings in Uttarakhand begins and continues for five years it will emerge as an international wedding destination.

“If rich business families start holding their family marriages in Uttarakhand once a year for the next five years and even if

5,000 marriages start taking place here in a year, a suitable infrastructure will grow and it will emerge as a major wedding destination,” he said.

“India has great power. If you decide collectively and make a beginning, anything can happen,” he said.

# Protests held in parts of Maharashtra against Priyank over Savarkar remarks

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The BJP and its youth wing on Friday held protests in parts of Maharashtra, including Mumbai and Nagpur, to condemn Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge’s remarks against Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar.

Kharge, a Congress leader, on Thursday said it would be appropriate to remove the portrait of Savarkar from the chamber of the Karnataka assembly, and if allowed, he would remove it.

“Who gave the title Veer to Veer Savarkar? There is no clarity on it. If they (BJP) know, let them tell. Whether Savarkar was taking pension from the British or not? Did he write an apology letter (to the British) five to six times or not? Did his family write the apology letter or not,” he asked.

Condemning his remarks, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)



legislators in Maharashtra staged a protest outside the Vidhan Bhavan, the state legislature complex in Nagpur, where the winter session of the legislature is currently underway.

Several BJP MLAs gathered on the steps of the legislature complex, raised slogans condemning the Karnataka minister’s comment and demand-

ed responses from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on the issue.

In Mumbai, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the BJP’s youth wing, held a demonstration against Kharge at Dadar in central Mumbai. In neighbouring Thane, a protest was held outside the collector office.

In Nashik, the BJYM activists took out a symbolic funeral procession in the Red Cross signal area to denounce Kharge’s remarks against Savarkar. “Everyone knows Congress’ hatred towards Savarkar.

Uddhav Thackeray and Sanjay Raut should clear their stand about the Congress which consistently makes controversial statements against Savarkar. Hindutva as per their convenience and double standards about Congress, which hates Savarkar, is the real face of Thackeray’s lust for power,” BJYM’s Nashik city unit president Sagor Shelar said during the protest.

The BJYM activists warned the Congress leaders to stop making objectionable statements against Savarkar and said those supporting such people should be alert or else they will have to face their wrath.

# IREF nominated to export 20 tonnes rice to earthquake hit Nepal



PIONEER NEWS ■ SERVICE NEW DELHI

Dr Prem Garg, president of Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF) has welcomed Government’s decision of one-time exemption allowing the export of 20 tonnes of non-basmati rice to Nepal which is currently grappling with the aftermath of a devastating earthquake.

This exemption is not just a gesture of support but a testament to the humanitarian val-

ues we uphold as a nation and as an organization. The timely aid will play a crucial role in providing relief to those affected by this natural calamity.

IREF is committed to ensuring the prompt and efficient delivery of this essential aid. This initiative will undoubtedly strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Nepal.

In a letter DGFT the federation has said We are grateful for the trust placed in our Federation and for the opportunity to serve in this noble cause.

# Mizoram Government will give top priority anti-corruption measures: CM

PTI ■ AIZAWL

Newly sworn-in Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Friday said the state government will give top priority to farmers and anti-corruption measures.

Addressing a press conference soon after the swearing-in ceremony here, the 73-year-old leader announced 12 priority programmes of his government to be implemented in the next 100 days.

“Our Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) government will buy four local products from farmers such as ginger, turmeric, chilli and broomsticks by fixing minimum prices. Farmers will have the choice to sell their products on their own or to the government. This is our topmost priority,” he said.

The former IPS officer-turned-politician said his government will also accord priority to anti-corruption measures and will invite the CBI to probe graft cases in the state.

“The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be given general consent to probe corruption cases in the state.



The government will also assess whether the state’s Lokayukta needs to be strengthened and upgraded,” he said.

He urged his cabinet colleagues, MLAs and their relatives, party workers, NGOs and people in general to support the government to make the state corruption-free.

Among the 12 priorities, Lalduhoma said his government will form a monitoring committee to keep tabs on all development projects across the state.

The committee will have a representative each from recognised political parties, NGOs, Mizoram Kohran Hruaitute Committee (conglomerate of major churches) and Mizoram

by them will be cut down by 50 per cent.

The usual practice of buying new cars for MLAs with public money will be stopped and ministers will use the cars of their predecessors, he said.

Urging government officials to implement austerity measures, he said they should not enjoy facilities beyond those entitled to them.

The committee will also check disinvestment in various sectors and detailed reports of functioning and non-functioning of government assets should be submitted before January-end, he said.

Lalduhoma said his government will dissolve the 14 boards set up by Zoramthanga-led Mizo National Front (MNF) government to implement its flagship programme, Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP), and the subsidiary recruitment board ‘Mizoram Subordinate Service Selection Board’.

Work orders issued to contractors during the previous government will not be cancelled if the projects have already started, he said.

People’s Forum (MPF), a church-sponsored poll watchdog, he said.

Lalduhoma said his government’s annual budget will be oriented to ZPM policies.

“All departments will be instructed to prepare the budget in line with the ZPM policy,” he said, adding that all ministers will monitor their departments.

The chief minister also said the government will set up a resources mobilisation committee, which will deal with austerity measures, disinvestment and power supply.

Lalduhoma said he and the ministers will take a lead in implementing austerity measures and all facilities enjoyed

# Tiranga my identity, Hindustan my country: Kashmiri rappers set internet on fire with rap song

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Two rappers from Kashmir have taken the musical route to highlight the “transformation” of the valley following the abrogation of Article 370 that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The video of the rap song “Badalta Kashmir” has become a hit on social media, garnering over two million views.

The over three-minute-long song is by the rappers Raasiq Sheikh (MC Raa) and Humaira (8MR). It was released on Youtube on December 3.

Those who have shared the song include Corps Commander of the Srinagar-based 15 or Chinara Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai.

“Good to see this... The young here are remarkably talented and music has always resonated in Kashmir... Power to the youth,” Ghai said in a post on X.

The track highlights the positive transformation in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. The song also talks about religious inclu-



siveness and freedom of girls to wear the clothes they like. It also references tourist seasons, the Amarnath yatra, Srinagar Smart City and Digital revolution.

The youngsters sing about how people in the valley were proud to be Indian. “Tiranga is in my heart, it is my identity, Hindustan is my country,” the lyrics read. The idea of the song, Sheikh said, came after observing the changed situation and development in the valley.

“Every hip-hop artist observes things minutely. I saw the transformation in Kashmir like smart-city, G20, and other developments, and that was my inspiration. I wanted to vent my feelings,” Sheikh, a resident of south Kashmir’s Shopian, told PTI.

# Expelled JD(S) Karnataka president to conduct party’s national convention

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Expelled JD(S) Karnataka Estate president C M Ibrahim is gearing up for a major showdown against JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda and his family by organising party’s national convention in Bengaluru on December 11.

In his capacity as the ‘state president’, the 75-year-old leader has convened a national level meeting in Bengaluru. He claimed that the party members and leaders from across the country will participate.

“We are organising a national level meeting where we will provide accommodation. State presidents from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala leaders, Rajasthan and all over the country are coming here,” the former Civil Aviation Minister told reporters here.



According to Ibrahim, the agenda is ‘Stand for Secularism’. Ibrahim who was expelled for rebelling against the party leadership for forging an alliance with the BJP for the Lok Sabha election, said, “I am an elected man. They can’t remove me. My father has not appointed me as a president. I have been

elected by the voters of the Janata Dal (Secular) leaders.” The convention is aimed at aligning the party with the INDIA bloc instead of BJP led NDA. He also said he is in touch with like-minded people such as Akhilesh Yadav, Nitish Kumar, RJD leaders, K Chandrashekar Rao of BRS,

M K Stalin and Pinarayi Vijayan.

Noting that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi is contemplating contesting in the Lok Sabha election from Karnataka, he welcomed the decision. He added that ‘his party’ will back him.

“Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi had contested from Karnataka and now her grandson will be contesting from here. We will welcome him here. Let him choose whichever constituency he wants. We will support him,” Ibrahim said.

The expelled JD(S) leader alleged that the BJP won in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh due to EVM hacking. Ibrahim demanded that the Election Commission of India conduct elections using ballot papers.

# Madhubani private varsity looks to check flight of students from Bihar

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

Amidst the mushrooming private universities across the country and footfall of students from across the States including Bihar increasing every academic session, a state of the art university in the heart of Mithila region in Bihar now aims to ‘contain’ the students within the educationally rich State.

Over the years students of Bihar have been ‘migrating’ to other states for higher and technical education causing loss to Bihar exchequer and also denting the progress of land of Nalanda, Takshashila and Vikramshila as the students who turn professionals seldom do get back to their parent State.

Understanding the importance of technical education renowned personality of Mithila region Dr. Sandeep

Jha established the Bihar’s first state-of-the-art private university in Madhubani district of Bihar in the years 2017.

Although, there are many private universities in other states of India where students from Bihar are obtaining degrees in technical education; yet in a state like Bihar, the need for this was being felt for a long time,” said Jha, who is founder Chairman of the Sandeep University.

Within five years of its inception the graduates of this university are now on the rolls of MNCs at India and abroad.

Well known companies like TCS, Amazon, Cognizant, Asian Paints, Godrej and others organises campus placement drives and offers constructive opportunity to job aspirants every year.

He said country aims to establish its own identity in the

world by becoming a centre of innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development in near future.

“To achieve this goal, the most important requirement is to create a large pool of professionals through technical education who can meet the huge need of skilled quality professionals in various sectors of the Indian economy, including manufacturing and infrastructure,” added Jha.

He mentioned that the university is approved by UGC and AICTE as well bringing a larger academic interest within the state.

Establishing this university in the heart of Mithila has a fantastic impact on the educational landscape by creating an atmosphere for innovative teaching techniques, a curriculum to nurture bright minds of Bihar. State of the art facilities and updated labora-

tories contribute to the all round development of students promising highly qualified professionals. By nurturing the talents and aspirations of young students, the university plays important role in empowering local population of the state.

By introducing latest technologies and methods of teaching, the university is trying its best to connect students with professionals for job opportunities. As per the latest brochure placement ratio of the university is remarkable with cent percent assistance in Management and Engineering courses in recent years.

“Young minds and their parents often consider placement facility as one of the crucial aspects in the selection of the academic institutions and this aspect gives us edge over other universities.

# Himanta stresses on region-specific urban planning policies

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday stressed on the need to formulate region-specific policies for urban planning, especially for the Northeast due to its peculiar topography and geographical constraints.

Delivering the inaugural address at the ‘North East States Conclave on Urban Planning’ here, he highlighted the importance his government has put on urbanisation, particularly in Guwahati.

Sarma called upon policymakers to take into consid-

eration the peculiar topography and geographical constraints of the Northeastern states while formulating urban planning and development policies.

He emphasised the need to depart from the often-practiced “one size fits all” philosophy while formulating policies as what is workable in one region may not provide fruitful results in another.

He expressed hope that while formulating national policies, policymakers would consider drawing “regional and sub-regional policies” too.



The chief minister said Guwahati has the potential to transform itself into the ‘Gateway to South-East Asia’, and necessary works and planning in this regard have

been undertaken at a massive scale for the last couple of years.

He said urban planning in Guwahati required crossing numerous barriers as there is

very little scope for expansion of the city’s geographical expanse owing to natural barriers such as rivers, hills, reserve forests and water bodies.

Sarma also referred to the state government’s tie-up with Singaporean consultancy firm Surbana Jurong for the development of the city.

Delegates from the Northeastern states, chairman of the High-Level Committee of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry Keshav Verma and Urban Planning expert PSN Rao were among those present at the programme, an official statement said.

# HC reserves judgment in Gyanvapi mosque case

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court reserved its judgment on Friday in a petition challenging the maintainability of a suit seeking “restoration” of a temple at the site of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi.

Justice Rohit Ranjan Agrawal reserved the judgment after hearing the counsel for the parties.

The future date in the case would be decided by the court.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee of Varanasi as well as the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board have challenged the maintainability of the original suit

filed in the matter in 1991 in the Varanasi district court.

The suit seeks restoration of an ancient temple at the site where the Gyanvapi mosque currently stands. It has been claimed in the suit that the mosque was a part of the temple.

By an order dated August 28, the then Chief Justice Pratikant Diwakar had transferred the case from Justice Prakash Padia to himself, saying the “single judge continued with the hearing of these cases for more than two years, even though he had no jurisdiction in the matter as per the roster.”

He had further said the decision to withdraw the case

from the single-judge bench to the chief justice’s court was taken on the administrative side in the interest of judicial propriety, judicial discipline and transparency in the listing of cases.

Justice Diwakar retired on November 22 and after his retirement, the case was listed before Justice Agrawal.

The counsel for the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, S F A Naqvi, said the petition also challenges a Varanasi court direction to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Gyanvapi mosque. The order was passed on April 8, 2021.







FIRST COLUMN

OVERCOME MENTAL APARTHEID

We must lead a disciplined life and adopt spirituality to tap the law of attraction



RAVI VALLURI

The human mind is cannonaded with innumerable thoughts. It is estimated that around sixty thousand thoughts arise in our mind, on any given day. When the human mind is not at rest or lacks peace, this acts as an obstruction in the pursuit of spiritual growth.

**The Banana Swing bowler**  
Accuracy and rigour were the forte of the master swing bowler John Kenneth Lever. This ubiquitous workhorse for Essex had the uncanny ability to prodigiously bring the ball into the right-handed batsman (universally termed the Banana Swing) with quotidian ability.

**The infamous Vaseline incident**  
However, in 1976, this consummate fast bowler was charged with applying Vaseline on the red cherry to produce English-like conditions at the arid Feroze Shah Kotla grounds in Delhi. It was perhaps the first recorded incident of ball doctoring. The then Indian captain Bishan Singh Bedi vehemently opposed this blatantly unethical method deployed but Lever was acquitted of the charges. One can safely argue that had bowlers from subcontinental countries resorted to such unethical tactics against teams like England, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand (SENA teams) it is quite likely that deservedly rasping punishment would have been meted out. This is a crystal-clear case of mental apartheid.



**Monetary figures from international economics**  
It will be noteworthy to peruse the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures of two Asian giants, India and China as calculated by Professor Angus Maddison, Emeritus Professor at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. The figures are quite revivifying and inspiring. India's share of world GDP was slightly more than a quarter of the total in the year 1000 AD, and just a little less than a quarter between the years 1500 AD and 1700 AD.

**Reclaiming a piece of the pie:** It is indeed revealing that the Oriental world, in particular, India and China had acquired a significant world share of wealth and economy. Thus, several European trading companies, following the doctrine of Gold, Glory, and God – adopted overt and covert methods to target these gargantuan economies. Over time they successfully subjugated and enslaved these economies. Meanwhile, India's share of world GDP dropped to an insignificant 3.65%. How did things come to such a state? The vastly superior Indian culture reached a plateau.

**Yogic power and spirituality: our salvation:** However, many Indians themselves condemn and denigrate it, no matter how much the people disparage it, yet it is the Yogic power (Shakti), techniques of meditation and our spirituality which has again catapulted India to the status of prima donna and helped the country scale exalted heights. The contribution of Maharishi Patanjali, our Vedic literature, the splendorous epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana, various philosophical schools and the contribution of Jainism, Buddhism and subsequently of Islam and Sikhism had all made India the hub and cradle of mental invigoration and wondrous contribution. It is indeed the very same mental invigoration that led to the discovery of the concept of zero or even the existence of galaxies in the universe. We were then not victims of mental apartheid.

**Way out:** Today the world has become a yoga mat. Indians must strive beyond Hatha Yoga repose faith from within and work on certain cardinal principles that have stood the test of time. These are to lead a regulated life and endorse the belief that life is something sacred and precious, acquire spiritual wealth and understand the universal law of attraction. It is only then that we can unshackle mental apartheid.

*(The writer is CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd and is a faculty at Art of Living. Views are personal)*

# Inclusivity for visually impaired is still a dream

## Visually impaired experts need to be involved at every stage of decision making on inclusion and accessibility!

The recent news that Fssai has asked food operators to have QR codes on their products, is certainly very encouraging and reassuring, for making this disabling world, somewhat enabling, for people with total blindness and low vision! However, I have a few very pertinent reservations and questions about independent shopping for the visually impaired here: Does every blind or low-vision person own a smartphone, and are they all trained and able to use this gadget properly to be able to avail of this facility? Are there alternatives there for those blind or low-vision persons who are not technology savvy? How will the information,



PREETI MONGA

that every food product label has a QR Code printed on it, and the blind and low-vision persons can access the same independently, while shopping; reach all end users? How can a totally blind or a low vision person, in the first place, be able to locate and reach the store where the food products with printed QR Codes are available? How will the visually impaired person, thereafter, find and then reach independently, the shelves or areas, where these food products with QR Codes printed, are placed in the store or shop? Will these shelves have any indications for the visually impaired to pick up the food product on their own, without obstruction or accidentally dropping other products

that may be lying around the same area? My request is that we need to think more comprehensively, so all kinds of visually impaired persons are able to shop independently. For, these visually impaired persons include the entire spectrum in our population, ranging from children right people who have lost their sight due to age-related issues and have very little support. I would also like to state here; that inclusion is slowly being thought about, all it needs is to include the end-users at all stages from planning to execution of any such initiatives for them; so we come up with effective, simple and comprehensive solutions to make our environment inclusive! Awareness

needs to be created and please do not exclude the end users at any stage of how the existing environment can be made inclusive for all! The solution lies in acknowledging a simple fact; "this world was and is made by sighted people for sighted people, and the blind and low-vision people were completely left out"! And, believe me, we are still left out! A little bit here and there is done, that too, hardly scratches the surface of the disabling environment that we are still forced to live in! It starts with our families, and the mainstream society and goes up to enabling full participation for the visually impaired, we continue to be called as special people with special needs!

We talk about the needs of the disabled as special, because, everything was, is and is being designed for only those who have all parts of the body working perfectly! We are still not provided the same services or facilities in anything; including education, employment or should I say, everything that a non-disabled person enjoys! We are supposed to sit and wait on the margins and wait for things to come to us, that is, if at all someone around feels that that particular thing, knowledge or activity, according to them, is something that could be important for the disabled person/child there! If we are not given the opportunity to learn and to participate in life equally, then how are we ever expected to



UTTAM GUPTA

# SC should declare poll freebies a corrupt practice

When a candidate uses his money to bribe the voter, it is treated as corrupt practice, but when his party bribes voters using 'public money' it is not treated the same way



THE PARTIES PROMISING THESE FREEBIES DO NOT EVEN MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FUNDING REQUIRED AND FORGET TO MAKE EFFORTS TO GARNER RESOURCES. FINALLY, NO PARTY EVER WHISPERS ABOUT EXITING FROM THE SCHEME

give to the MLAs for carrying out development work; courtesy the poll guarantees'. In MP, at the current rate of Rs 1250 per month to 12.5 million beneficiaries, the Ladli Behna Yojana costs the state exchequer about Rs 18,750 crore per annum. This will go up to Rs 45,000 crore per annum as the quantum of assistance eventually goes up to Rs 3,000 per month. Meanwhile, the promised hike in MSP to farmers in MP and Chhattisgarh will dent their budgets. For instance, MP will have to spend Rs 5000 crore more on its purchase of paddy. Unlike any well-intentioned scheme that could have a sun-set, a poll-induced guarantee once given, is more likely to stay eternally and over time, the quantum of assistance will only increase. Besides, it will have repercussions at the all-India level. For instance, in view of the impending Lok Sabha elections next year, there could be pressure on Modi to give a similar hike in MSP as promised by MP and Chhattisgarh. That will upset the Centre's budget drastically. Since 2021-22, the tax revenue of both the Centre and states have been increasing at a rapid pace and this is helping them rein in their FD levels. If the taxpayers realise that their contributions are being used to indiscriminately give poll-bound freebies to all and sundry, it may even trigger non-compliance amongst them. The giveaways covering a wide spectrum of items besides large-

scale cash transfers also become a breeding ground for corruption. This is evident from the inclusion of millions of ineligible or fake persons in the list of beneficiaries. For instance, during scrutiny of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), 24 million ineligible farmers were found to have received income transfers in 2021-22 under the Scheme. The biggest damage freebies inflict is to change the mindset of people in a way that makes them complacent towards work. When, people get access to most of their basic needs free of charge that too 'perpetually', they won't be inclined to make efforts. Whichever way one looks at it, freebies are a recipe for economic disaster. The only way to avoid it is to prohibit parties from promising doles. The question is: who will do it? In an order in S Subramaniam Balaji vs the Government of Tamil Nadu & Ors in July 2013, the Supreme Court (SC) observed that the distribution of freebies of any kind influences all people. "It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree." Yet, it held:- "the promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as 'corrupt practice' under the Representation of People Act (RPA), or any other prevailing law and, hence, distribution of freebies can't be stopped when the ruling party uses public funds for this purpose through the passage of Appropriation Acts in the

state Assembly". After nearly nine years, of hearing a PIL seeking directions against 'freebies' on January 25, 2022, the SC observed "This is no doubt a serious issue, budget for freebies is going above the regular Budget. This disturbs the level playing field". Yet, on August 3, 2022, it threw the ball in the court of political parties asking them to enact a law on curbing freebies. When the latter are deeply rooted in this practice, why would they enact a law to curb it? A big deterrent is none other than the SC order of July 2013 which says "... it can't be construed as corrupt practice..." Within the meaning of section 123(1)(A) of the RPA, 1951, the expression 'bribery' has been defined to mean any gift, offer or promise by a candidate or his agent or by any other person with the consent of a candidate or his election agent of any gratification with the object of inducing an elector as a reward to his candidature. The irony is when a candidate uses his own pocket money to bribe the voter, it is treated as corrupt practice, but when the party on whose symbol he is seeking election bribes voters using 'public money', the top court doesn't treat it that way. Currently, a three-judge bench, headed by CJI is hearing a plea to take a re-look. Will it alter its stance?

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



# Israel's war against Hamas enters 3<sup>rd</sup> month Palestinians crowd into ever-shrinking Gaza areas

AP ■ RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

Desperate Palestinians fleeing Israel's expanding ground offensive crowded into an ever-shrinking area of the Gaza Strip as the Israel-Hamas war entered its third month on Friday. The United Nations warned that its aid operation is "in tatters" because no place in the besieged enclave is safe. Israel's military assault on Gaza, a tiny, densely populated territory, has led to widespread civilian casualties and mass displacements, triggering international alarm. The Israeli army said Friday that over the past day the military had struck about 450 targets in the Gaza Strip by air, sea and ground, signalling the continued intensity of its campaign. Palestinian TV stations reported airstrikes on various parts of the territory. "Airstrikes and

random artillery shelling have continued intensely since last night until this morning," said Hassan Al Najjar, a journalist speaking by phone from northern Gaza. Earlier this week, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres used a rarely exercised power to warn the Security Council of an impending "humanitarian catastrophe", and Arab and predominantly Muslim nations have called for a vote on Friday on a Council resolution to demand an immediate cease-fire. The United States, Israel's closest ally, appears likely to block any UN effort to halt the fighting, which was triggered by the deadly October 7 attack by Hamas militants on southern Israel. Still, US concern over the devastation is growing. US officials told Israel

ahead of the expansion of its ground offensive to southern Gaza several days ago that it must limit civilian deaths and displacement, saying too many Palestinians were killed when it obliterated much of Gaza City and surrounding areas in the north. On Thursday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a call with Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer that casualties are still too high, a senior State Department official said. Blinken told Dermer that Israel must also do more to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private diplomatic discussion. Israel insists it must crush the military capabilities of Hamas, which rules Gaza, and remove it from power following the group's October 7

attack. In the first stage of the war, Israel's air and ground campaign focused on the northern half of Gaza, leading hundreds of thousands of residents to flee south. Intense battles continued in parts of the north in recent days, while troops there have rounded up hundreds of Palestinian men. In photos and video published on Thursday, dozens of men are seen sitting in rows on a street in northern Gaza, stripped down to their underwear with their heads bowed as they are being guarded by Israeli troops. The images were the first showing such detentions in the war. Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said troops have detained and interrogated hundreds of people in Gaza suspected of militant links. UN monitors said troops reportedly detained

men and boys from the age of 15 in a school-turned-shelter in the town of Beit Lahiya, in the north. During the war, there has also been a dramatic surge in deadly military raids and an increase on restrictions on Palestinian residents in the occupied West Bank. Israeli forces stormed into a refugee camp in the West Bank on Friday to arrest suspected Palestinian militants, unleashing fighting with local gunmen in which six Palestinians were killed, health officials said. The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment on the operation. Over the past week, Israeli forces expanded their ground offensive into southern Gaza, with a focus on Khan Younis, the territory's second largest city. On Friday, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said Israel's air force

attacked a home facing the society's office in the city of Khan Younis in southern Gaza. It did not give details about casualties. Medhat Abbas, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, reported a strike in the city of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, saying it killed and wounded a number of people but gave no exact numbers. The military says it makes every effort to spare civilians and accuses Hamas of using them as human shields as the militants fight in dense residential areas. With the entire Gaza Strip under military assault, tens of thousands of people displaced by the fighting have packed into the border city of Rafah, in the far south of the Gaza Strip, and Muwasi, a nearby patch of barren coastline that Israel has declared a safe zone.

## '94 media workers killed this year, mostly in Gaza'

AP ■ BRUSSELS

A leading organisation representing journalists worldwide expressed deep concern on Friday at the number of media professionals killed around the globe doing their jobs in 2023, with Israel's war with Hamas claiming more journalists than any conflict in over 30 years. In its annual count of media worker deaths, the International Federation of Journalists said 94 journalists had been killed so far this year and almost 400 others had been imprisoned. The figure for deaths is up from 67 in the same period of 2022 — including 12 killed in Ukraine — and double the total of 47 recorded for the whole of 2021.

The group called for better protection for media workers and for their attackers to be held to account. "The imperative for a new global standard for the protection of journalists and effective international enforcement has never been greater," said IFJ President Dominique Pradalié. The group said 68 journalists had been killed covering the Israeli-Hamas war since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7 — more than one a day and accounting for 72 per cent of all media deaths worldwide this year. It said the overwhelming

majority of them were Palestinian journalists in the Gaza Strip, where Israeli forces continue their offensive. "The war in Gaza has been more deadly for journalists than any single conflict since the IFJ began recording journalists killed in the line of duty in 1990," the group said, adding that deaths have come at "a scale and pace of loss of media professionals' lives without precedent". Ukraine also "remains a dangerous country for journalists" almost two years since Russia's invasion, the organisation said. It said three reporters or media workers had been killed in that war so far this year. The organisation also deplored media deaths in Afghanistan, the Philippines, India, China and Bangladesh. It expressed concern that crimes against media workers are going unpunished and urged governments "to shed full light on these murders and to put in place measures to ensure the safety of journalists". It noted a drop in the number of journalists killed in North and South America, from 29 last year to seven so far in 2023. The group said the three Mexicans, one Paraguayan, one Guatemalan, one Colombian and one American were slain while investigating armed groups or the embezzlement of public funds.

## Rocket attack targets US Embassy in Baghdad

**Baghdad (AP):** A rocket attack on the sprawling US Embassy in Baghdad caused minor damage but no casualties Friday morning, US and Iraqi officials said. The attack is the first on the embassy located in the heavily fortified Green Zone of Iraq's capital to be confirmed since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war. The Green Zone houses Iraqi government buildings and embassies on the west bank of the Tigris River. Iran-backed militias in Iraq have claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks that targeted bases housing US troops in Iraq and Syria since Israel declared war on Hamas two months ago. The US military says 78 attacks have been carried out against US facilities over the past weeks, of which 37 were in Iraq and 41 in Syria. An Iraqi security official said 14 Katyusha rockets were fired on Friday, of which some struck near one of the US Embassy's gates while others fell in the river. The official said the rocket attack caused material damage but no casualties.

A US military official said a multi-rocket attack was launched at American and coalition forces in the vicinity of the embassy complex and the Union III base, which houses offices of the US-led coalition. The official added that no casualties and no damage to infrastructure were reported. An embassy spokesperson said the US Embassy was attacked by two salvos of rockets at approximately 4:15 a.m. (0215 GMT). "Assessments are ongoing, but there are no reported casualties on the embassy compound," the official said, adding that no specific group had claimed responsibility for firing the rockets as of Friday morning but early indications pointed to Iran-aligned militias. "We again call on the government of Iraq, as we have done on many occasions, to do all in its power to protect diplomatic and Coalition partner personnel and facilities," the official said.

## UK says it has paid Rwanda \$300 mn for a blocked asylum deal

AP ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was under pressure on Friday to explain why Britain has paid Rwanda 240 million pounds (USD 300 million) as part of a blocked asylum plan, without a single person being sent to the East African country. The total is almost twice the 140 million pounds that Britain previously said it had handed to the Rwandan government under a deal struck in April 2022. Under the agreement, migrants who reach Britain across the English Channel would be sent to Rwanda, where their asylum claims would be processed and, if successful, they would stay. The plan was challenged in UK courts, and no flights to Rwanda have taken off. Last month, Britain's Supreme Court ruled the policy was illegal because Rwanda isn't a safe country for refugees. Despite

the ruling and the mounting cost, Sunak has pledged to press on with the plan. The Home Office said it had paid a further 100 million pounds to Rwanda in the 2023-24 financial year and expects to hand over 50 million pounds more in the coming 12 months. Junior Immigration Minister Tom Pursglove defended the cost, saying the money would ensure "all of the right infrastructure to support the partnership is in place". "Part of that money is helpful in making sure that we can respond to the issues properly that the Supreme Court raised," he said. The opposition Liberal Democrats said it was "an unforgivable waste of taxpayers' money". The Rwanda plan is central to the UK government's self-imposed goal to stop unauthorised asylum-seekers from trying to reach England from

France in small boats. More than 29,000 people have done so this year, compared to 46,000 in 2022. Since the Supreme Court ruling, Britain and Rwanda have signed a treaty pledging to strengthen protections for migrants. Sunak's government argues that the treaty allows it to pass a law declaring Rwanda a safe destination. The law, if approved by Parliament, would allow the government to "disapply" sections of UK human rights law when it comes to Rwanda-related asylum claims and make it harder to challenge the deportations in court. The bill, which has its first vote scheduled in the House of Commons on Tuesday, has roiled the governing Conservative Party, which is trailing the Labour opposition in opinion polls, with an election due in the next year. It faces opposition from centrist

Conservative lawmakers who worry about Britain breaching its human rights obligations. Former Conservative Solicitor-General Edward Garnier said the bill was "trying to define things when there is no evidence, or no safe evidence, for that being the case". He told the BBC that changing the law to declare Rwanda a safe haven is "rather like a bill which says that Parliament has decided that all dogs are cats". But the bigger danger for Sunak comes from Conservatives on the party's authoritarian right wing that views curbing immigration as essential to the government's pledge to "take back control" now that Britain has left the European Union. They think the bill is too mild and want the UK to leave the European Convention on Human Rights. Almost every European country, apart from Russia and Belarus, is bound by the con-

vention and its court. Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick piled pressure on the prime minister when he quit the government this week, saying the bill did not go far enough. Sunak insists the bill goes as far as the government can without scuttling the deal because Rwanda will pull out of the agreement if the UK breaks international law. The party differences erupted on social media after the party posted an attack ad aimed at Labour, using an image of a BBC presenter caught making a rude gesture to camera this week. While some Tory lawmakers retweeted the middle-finger image approvingly on X, formerly known as Twitter, others called it crass. "Amazed this has not — despite requests — been taken down, it is beneath us," Conservative legislator Alicia Kearns posted.



Lebanese journalists hold a portrait of Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah, right on the poster at front, who was killed by Israeli shelling, and slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during a protest in front of the United Nations headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023. **File photo**

## Hunter Biden indicted on nine tax charges

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Hunter Biden was indicted on nine tax charges in California on Thursday as a special counsel investigation into the business dealings of President Joe Biden's son intensifies against the backdrop of the looming 2024 election. The new charges — three felonies and six misdemeanours — are in addition to federal firearms charges in Delaware alleging Hunter Biden broke laws against drug users having guns in 2018. They come after the implosion of a plea deal over the summer that would have spared him jail time, putting the case on track to a possible trial as his father campaigns for reelection. Hunter Biden "spent millions of dollars on an extravagant lifestyle rather than paying his tax bills", special counsel David Weiss said in a statement. The charges are centred on at least USD 1.4 million in taxes Hunter Biden owed dur-



ing between 2016 and 2019, a period where he has acknowledged struggling with addiction. The back taxes have since been paid. If convicted, Hunter Biden, 53, could a maximum of 17 years in prison. The special counsel probe remains open, Weiss said. In a fiery response, defense attorney Abbe Lowell accused Weiss of "bowing to Republican pressure" in the case. "Based on the facts and the law, if Hunter's last name

was anything other than Biden, the charges in Delaware, and now California, would not have been brought," Lowell said in a statement. The White House declined to comment on Thursday's indictment, referring questions to the Justice Department or Hunter Biden's personal representatives. The charging documents filed in California, where he lives, details spending on everything from drugs and strippers to luxury hotels and exotic cars, "in short, everything but his taxes", prosecutor Leo Wise wrote. The indictment comes as congressional Republicans pursue an impeachment inquiry into President Biden, claiming he was engaged in an influence-peddling scheme with his son. The House is expected to vote next week on formally authorising the inquiry. No evidence has emerged so far to prove that Joe Biden, in his current or previous

office, abused his role or accepted bribes, though questions have arisen about the ethics surrounding the Biden family's international business. The separate, long-running criminal investigation into Hunter Biden had been expected to wind down with a plea deal where he would have gotten two years' probation after pleading guilty to misdemeanor tax charges and avoided prosecution on the gun charge if he stayed out of trouble. The agreement was pilloried as a "sweetheart deal" by Republicans, including former President Donald Trump. He is facing his own criminal cases, including charges that he plotted to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, gave credit for the new charges on Thursday to two IRS investigators who testified before Congress that the Justice

Department had mishandled and "slow walked" the investigation into the president's son. Justice officials have denied those allegations. The two IRS employees, Gary Shapley and Joseph Ziegler, said the indictment was "a complete vindication of our thorough investigation". The new charges against Hunter Biden include filing a false return and tax evasion felonies, as well as misdemeanor failure to file and failure to pay. The defence signalled that it plans to fight the new charges, likely at least in part relying on immunity provisions from the original plea deal. Defence attorneys have argued those remain in force since that part of the agreement was signed by a prosecutor before the deal was scrapped. Prosecutors have disagreed, pointing out the documents weren't signed by a judge and are invalid. Lowell said he's also planning to push for dis-

missal of the gun charges next week, calling them "unprecedented and unconstitutional". The three federal gun charges filed in Delaware allege Hunter Biden had lied about his drug use to buy a gun that he kept for 11 days in 2018. Federal law bans gun possession by "habitual drug users", though the measure is seldom seen as a stand-alone charge and has been called into question by a federal appeals court. Hunter Biden's longstanding struggle with substance abuse worsened after the death of his brother Beau Biden in 2015, according to court documents and his memoir "Beautiful Things", which ends with him getting clean in 2019. His gross income nevertheless totalled some USD 7 million between 2016 and 2020, prosecutors said, pointing to his roles on the board of the Ukrainian energy company Burisma and a Chinese private equity fund as well as his position at a law firm.

## Judge rules against Prince Harry in early stage of libel case against Daily Mail publisher

**London (AP):** Prince Harry lost a preliminary round on Friday in his libel case against the publisher of the Daily Mail tabloid over an article that said he tried to hide his efforts to retain publicly funded protection in the UK after giving up his status as a working member of the royal family. A London judge said the Duke of Sussex failed to knock out Associated Newspaper Ltd's defence that its article reflected an honest opinion. A hearing is scheduled Tuesday to discuss the consequences of the ruling. Justice Matthew Nicklin said in that ruling that "it is not fanciful that the Defendant will be successful, at trial". He scheduled a hearing on Tuesday in the High Court to discuss the consequences of the ruling. The ruling comes just a day after another judge concluded three days of arguments — mostly behind closed doors — over whether the government unfairly stripped Harry of his security detail after he and his family moved to the US in 2020. Harry, 39, the younger son of King Charles III, is challenging the government's decision to provide security to him on a case-by-case basis when he visits Britain. Harry has said hostility toward him and his wife on social media and relentless news media hounding threatens their safety. The Mail on Sunday and Mail Online published an article in February 2022 about the issue headlined: "How Prince Harry tried to keep his legal fight with the government over police bodyguards a secret ... then — just minutes after the story broke — his PR machine tried to put a positive spin on the dispute." Harry claims the article was "fundamentally inaccurate" and the newspaper libelled him when it suggested he lied in his initial public statements about his case challenging the government.

## Greece may be able to benefit from Turkish power plant

**Ankara (AP):** Türkiye is considering allowing neighbouring Greece to benefit from a nuclear power plant it plans to build near its Black Sea coast, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying on Friday. Erdogan made the comments on his return from a visit to Athens on Thursday, where longtime regional rivals Greece and Türkiye took significant steps toward mending their troubled ties. "We strive to develop and expand cooperation with Greece not only in the field of energy but also in all areas, including nuclear energy," Erdogan told a group of journalists on his flight back. "For example, we can provide Greece the opportunity (to benefit) from energy from our nuclear power plant to be built in Sinop (Province)." His comments were reported by state-run Anadolu

and other media on Friday. During Erdogan's visit on Thursday, Greece and Türkiye signed more than a dozen cooperation deals on trade, energy and education and announced a roadmap for future high-level consultations aimed at avoiding crises. Erdogan travelled to Greece promising to pursue a "win-win" approach that could lay the foundation for broader cooperation. "I believe that my visit, which took place in a very positive atmosphere, will open a new page in Türkiye-Greece relations," Erdogan said. Longstanding disputes have led Athens and Ankara to the brink of war three times in the past 50 years. The latest flare-up occurred in 2020, when Greek and Turkish navy ships shadowed each other in the eastern Mediterranean over a dispute

## French teens await verdict over their alleged roles in killing of teacher

AP ■ PARIS

A French juvenile court is handing down a verdict on Friday for six teenagers accused of involvement in the killing of teacher Samuel Paty, who was beheaded by an Islamic extremist after he showed caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad to his class for a debate on freedom of expression. Paty, a history and geography teacher, was killed on October 16, 2020, near his school in a Paris suburb by an 18-year-old of Chechen origin who had become radicalised. The attacker, Abdoulakh Anzorov, was then shot dead by police. Paty's name was disclosed on social media after a class debate on free expression during which he showed prophet caricatures published by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. The publication

had triggered a deadly extremist massacre in the Charlie Hebdo newsroom in 2015. All those on trial were students at Paty's school. If convicted, they face up to two-and-a-half years in prison. Five of the defendants, who were 14 or 15 at the time of the attack, are accused of staking Paty out until he left school that day and identifying him for the attacker in exchange for promises of 300-350 euros (USD 350-400). Investigators found that the attacker wanted to target Paty but didn't have the means to identify him. The five are facing charges of criminal conspiracy with the aim of preparing aggravated violence. The sixth defendant, who was 13 at the time, is accused of wrongly claiming that Paty had asked Muslim students to raise their hands and leave the classroom before he showed

the class the prophet cartoons. She was not in the classroom that day, and later told investigators she had lied. She is facing a charge of making false allegations. Her father shared the lie in an online video that called for mobilisation against the teacher. He and a radical Islamic activist who helped disseminate virulent messages against Paty are among eight adults who will face a separate trial for adults suspected of involvement in the killing, expected late next year. In sometimes tearful testimony, the teenagers on trial said they had no idea the teacher would be killed, according to French media reports. The trial has been held behind closed doors, and the media are not allowed to disclose the defendants' identities according to French law regarding minors.

## 'Increasing Covid-19 cases put strain on S'pore hospitals'

**Singapore (PTI):** Covid-19 infections and hospitalisations are increasing and putting a strain on hospitals in Singapore, the Ministry of Health warned on Friday. Though the health ministry has raised the alert, it has also reassured people that the numbers are not as high as during the pandemic and that the circulating variants are not known to cause more severe illness. In the week ended on December 2, as many as 32,035 people were diagnosed with COVID-19 — the highest number of infections recorded this year, according to a report by The Straits Times newspaper. The previous high was 28,410 infections a week in March, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said. The latest number is almost

10,000 more than the 22,094 diagnosed the previous week. The number of weekly infections has been hovering around 15,000 infections over the past two to three months. The number of people being hospitalised and needing intensive care treatment has also gone up, it said. An MOH statement on December 8 said the average daily COVID-19 hospitalisations rose to 225 from 136 the week before, and the average daily intensive care unit (ICU) cases increased to four compared with one case in the previous week. It said: "This has added workload to our hospitals, which are already busy." Nine people severely ill with Covid-19 were admitted to a hospital in ICU in the week of November 26 to December 2, up from four the previous week.



# Putin aims to extend his rule of over 2 decades

AP ■ MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin on Friday moved to prolong his repressive and unyielding grip on Russia for at least another six years, announcing his candidacy in the presidential election next March that he is all but certain to win.

Putin still commands wide support after nearly a quarter-century in power, despite starting an immensely costly war in Ukraine that has taken thousands of his countrymen's lives, provoked repeated attacks inside Russia — including one on the Kremlin itself — and corroded its aura of invincibility. A short-lived rebellion in June by mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin raised widespread speculation that Putin could be losing his grip, but he emerged with no permanent scars. Prigozhin's death in a mysterious plane crash two months later reinforced the view that Putin was in absolute control.

Putin announced his decision to run in the March 17 presidential election after a Kremlin award ceremony, when war veterans and others pleaded with him to seek reelection in what Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described as "spontaneous" remarks. "I won't hide it from you — I had various thoughts about it over time, but now, you're right, it's necessary to make a decision," Putin said in a video released by the Kremlin after the event. "I will run for president of the Russian Federation."

Tatiana Stanovaya of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Centre noted that the announcement was made in a low-key way instead of a live televised speech, probably reflecting the Kremlin's spin effort to emphasize Putin's modesty and his perceived focus on doing his job as opposed to loud campaigning. "It's not about prosperity, it's about survival," Stanovaya observed. "The stakes have been raised to the maximum."

About 80 per cent of the populace approves of Putin's performance, according to the independent pollster Levada



Centre. That support might come from the heart or it might reflect submission to a leader whose crackdown on any opposition has made even relatively mild criticism perilous. Whether due to real or coerced support, Putin is expected to face only token opposition on the ballot.

Putin, 71, has twice used his leverage to amend the constitution so he could theoretically stay in power until he's in his mid-80s. He is already the longest-serving Kremlin leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, who died in 1953.

In 2008, he stepped aside to become prime minister due to term limits but continued calling the shots while his close associate Dmitry Medvedev served as a placeholder president. Presidential terms were then extended to six years from four, while another package of amendments he pushed through three years ago reset the count for two consecutive terms to begin in 2024.

"He is afraid to give up power," Dmitry Oreshkin, a political analyst and professor at Free University of Riga, Latvia, told The Associated Press this year. At the time of the amendments that allowed him two more terms, Putin's concern about losing power may have been elevated: Levada polling showed his approval rating significantly lower, hovering around 60 per cent.

In the view of some analysts, that dip in popularity could have been a main driver of the war that Putin launched in Ukraine in February 2022.

"This conflict with Ukraine was necessary as a glue. He needed to consolidate his power," said commentator Abbas Gallyamov, a former

Putin speechwriter now living in Israel. Brookings Institution scholar Fiona Hill, a former US National Security Council expert on Russian affairs, agreed that Putin thought "a lovely small, victorious war" would consolidate support for his reelection.

"Ukraine would capitulate," she told AP earlier this year. "He'd install a new president in Ukraine. He would declare himself the president of a new union of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia over the course of the time leading up to the 2024 election. He'd be the supreme leader."

The war didn't turn out that way. It devolved into a grueling slog in which neither side makes significant headway, posing severe challenges to the rising prosperity integral to Putin's popularity and Russians' propensity to set aside concerns about corrupt politics and shrinking tolerance of dissent.

For the first time, voting in the presidential election will take place over three days from March 15 to 17, 2024, including in four regions of Ukraine partially and illegally annexed by Russia. The election commission argued that the practice of multi-day voting, used in other elections since the COVID-19 pandemic, is more convenient for voters.

Putin's rule has spanned five US presidencies, from Bill Clinton to Joe Biden. He became acting president on New Year's Eve in 1999, when Boris Yeltsin unexpectedly resigned. He was elected to his first term in March 2000.

Although Putin has long abandoned the macho photo shoots of bear hunting and scuba diving that once amused and impressed the world, he shows little sign of slowing down. Photos from 2022 of him with a bloated face and a hunched posture led to speculation he was seriously ill, but he seems little changed in recent public appearances.

"He's a wartime president, is mobilizing the population behind him," Hill said. "And that will be the message around the 2024 election, depending on where things are in the battlefield."

## Pak EC issues notice to PTI on plea against intra-party polls

**Islamabad (PTI):** Pakistan's election commission on Friday issued a notice to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on a petition challenging its recent organisational polls, which were termed as "rigged and fraudulent".

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), held its election on December 2 following a ruling by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for fresh intra-party polls to elect its chairman and other key officer-bearers to retain the cricket bat as its election symbol. The same day, the party announced that it had elected Imran Khan's nominee, Barrister Gohar Khan, as the party Chairman.

Gohar, 45, was hand-picked by the 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician after consultation with his loyalist lawyers who frequently meet him in jail where he has been kept since being arrested on August 5 after conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case. Khan himself avoided filing the nomination due to conviction and disqualification.

However, one of its founding members, Akbar S Babar, who developed differences with the party years ago, filed a petition with the ECP, terming the exercise as "rigged and fraudulent" with a plea for fresh organisational elections. At least 13 other PTI members joined Babar in challenging the election. The members in the petition maintained that no schedule was given before the elections and the voter lists were also not released. "There was no activity in the PTI central secretariat related to elections," the plea said.

Separately, the country's mainstream parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), also questioned the legitimacy of the intra-party elections. A five-member ECP panel, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, conducted the hearing on the petition. Babar's counsel implored the commission to declare the PTI's polls null and void and to mandate a fresh conduct of the elections.

# Chinese military surveillance balloon seen in Taiwan Strait

AP ■ TAIPEI

Taiwan's Defence Ministry says a Chinese military surveillance balloon was spotted in the Taiwan Strait, as well as a large-scale movement of military aircraft and ships. The ministry said the balloon passed southwest of the northern port city of Keelung on Thursday night, then continued east before disappearing, possibly into the Pacific Ocean.

However, there seemed to some uncertainty about whether the balloon was operated directly by the People's Liberation Army, the military branch of China's ruling Communist Party. The ministry referred to it both as a "PLA surveillance balloon" and as "1 PRC's balloon", using the acronym for the People's Republic of China, China's official name.

A Defence Ministry spokesperson said they had no additional information.

China has long blurred the lines between military and civilian functions, including in the South China Sea, where it operates a huge maritime militia — ostensibly civilian fishing boats that act under government orders to assert Beijing's territorial claims.

Taiwan has threatened to shoot down such balloons, but the ministry did not say what, if any, action was taken. It said the balloon was monitored flying at an altitude of approximately 6,400 metres (21,000 feet). It also said 26 Chinese military aircraft were detected, along with 10 Chinese navy ships, in the 24 hours before 6 am on Friday.

Of the aircraft, 15 had crossed the median line that is an unofficial divider between the sides, but which Beijing refuses to recognise. Some also entered Taiwan's self-declared air defense identification zone outside the island's airspace, which encompasses the 160



kilometer (100 mile) - wide Taiwan Strait. Taiwan's military monitored the situation with combat aircraft, navy vessels and land-based missile systems, the ministry said. The incident came just over month before Taiwan is to hold elections for president and the legislature and raises questions about possible Chinese efforts to influence the vote.

Such incursions occur regularly as a means of advertis-

ing China's threat to use force to annex the self-governing island republic it considers its own territory, wear down Taiwan's military capabilities, and impact morale among the armed forces and the public, who remain largely ambivalent to China's actions.

The Chinese missions have also prompted Taiwan to up its purchases of aircraft from the United States, its chief ally, and revitalize its own defence industry, including producing submarines. Beijing strongly protests all contacts between the island and the US, but its aggressive diplomacy has helped build strong bipartisan support for Taipei on Capitol Hill. US President Joe Biden vowed sharper rules to track, monitor and potentially shoot down unknown aerial objects after three weeks of high-stakes drama sparked by the discovery of a suspected Chinese spy balloon transiting much of the country early in the year.

# Japan's leader grilled in parliament over widening fundraising scandal, link to Unification Church

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and several key Cabinet ministers were grilled by opposition lawmakers in parliament on Friday over a widening fundraising scandal and an alleged connection to the Unification Church which threaten to further drag down the government's sagging popularity.

Support ratings for Kishida's government have fallen below 30 per cent because of public dissatisfaction over its slow response to rising prices and lagging salaries, and the scandal could weaken his grip on power within the governing Liberal Democratic Party. Still, the long-ruling party remains the voter favourite in media polls because of the fragmented and weak opposition.

Dozens of governing party lawmakers, including Cabinet members, are accused of failing

to fully report money they received from fundraising. Kishida has acknowledged that authorities are investigating the scandal following a criminal complaint.

The party's largest and most powerful faction, linked to late former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is suspected of failing to report more than 100 million yen (USD 690,000) in funds in a possible violation of campaign and election laws, according to media reports. The money is alleged to have gone into unmonitored slush funds. Kishida has instructed party members to temporarily halt fundraising parties. "It's a first step," he said on Friday. "We will thoroughly grasp the problems and the cause and will take steps to regain public trust."

Kishida also said he will step down as head of his own party faction while serving as prime minister to show his

determination to tackle the problems. Kishida was bombarded with questions from senior opposition lawmakers about the scandals during Friday's parliamentary hearing.

He separately faces allegations related to a 2019 meeting with former US House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who visited him with top officials from the Unification Church, a South Korea-based religious group that the government is seeking to dissolve over abusive recruiting and fundraising tactics that surfaced during an investigation of Abe's assassination last year. The investigation also led to revelations of years of cozy ties between the governing party and the Unification Church.

Kishida said he was asked to meet with Gingrich as a former foreign minister and that he did not remember the other guests. Photographs in Japanese media show him exchanging

business cards with Unification Church officials.

"I don't see any problem with that," Kishida said. "If there were church-related people in the group, that does not mean I had ties with the Unification Church."

Yukio Edano, a lawmaker for the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, accused Kishida of lax oversight and of attempting to distance himself from the fundraising scandal by withdrawing from leadership of his faction.

Media reports say Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno allegedly diverted more than 10 million yen (USD 69,000) over the past five years from money he raised from party events to a slush fund.

Matsuno was a top official in the Abe faction from 2019 to 2021 and is the first key minister implicated in the scandal by name.

## ADB approves US \$200 mn loan to debt-stricken SL

**Colombo (AP):** The Asian Development Bank said on Friday that it has approved USD 200-million concessional loan to debt-stricken Sri Lanka to help stabilise the country's finance sector following an unprecedented economic crisis that engulfed the Indian Ocean island nation last year.

The bank's announcement comes as Sri Lanka is awaiting International Monetary Fund approval for the second installment of a USD 2.9-billion bailout package to rescue the country from bankruptcy.

The ADB said its Financial Sector Stability and Reforms Program for Sri Lanka includes two subprogrammes of USD 200 million each that would help strengthen the stability and governance of the country's banking sector, and deepen sustainable and inclusive finance, particularly for women-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

"The programme's overarching development objective

is fully aligned with the country's strategy of maintaining finance sector stability, while ensuring that banks are well-positioned for eventual recovery," Takafumi Kadono, ADB's director for Sri Lanka, said in a statement.

He added that the "expected development outcome is a stable financial system providing access to affordable finance for businesses in various sectors of the economy".

Sri Lanka plunged into an economic crisis in 2022, creating severe shortages and drawing strident protests that led to the ouster of then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. It declared bankruptcy in April 2022 with more than USD 83 billion in debt — more than half of it to foreign creditors.

The IMF agreed in March to a USD 2.9-billion bailout package, releasing the first payment shortly thereafter. However, the IMF delayed the second tranche, citing inadequate oversight and debt restructuring.

# S Korea's defence chief vows strikes on North if provoked

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's defence minister on Friday vowed massive retaliatory missile strikes on "the heart and head" of North Korea in the event of provocation, as the rivals escalate their rhetoric over their respective spy satellite launches in recent days. The South Korean warning — unusually fiery rhetoric by Seoul directed at Pyongyang — came as the top security advisers from South Korea, the US and Japan gathered in Seoul for talks to discuss North Korea's evolving nuclear threats and other issues.

During a visit to the army's missile strategic command, South Korean Defence Minister Shin Wonsik ordered command officers to maintain a readiness to fire precision-guided and powerful missiles at any time, according to his ministry. Shin said the main role of the command is "lethally striking the heart and head of the enemy, though the types

of its provocations can vary," a ministry statement said.

Animosities between the two Koreas deepened after North Korea launched its first military reconnaissance satellite into space on Nov. 21 in violation of U.N. bans. South Korea, the U.S. and Japan strongly condemned the launch, viewing it as an attempt by the North to improve its missile technology as well as establish a space-surveillance system. South Korea announced plans to resume front-line aerial surveillance in response. North Korea quickly retaliated by restoring border guard posts, according to Seoul officials. Both steps would breach a 2018 inter-Korean deal on easing front-line military tensions.

Last week, when South Korea also launched its first military spy satellite from California's Vandenberg Space Force Base, North Korea slammed the US for alleged double standards and warned

of a possible grave danger to global peace. In a statement Friday, Jo Chol Su, a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official, said the North would make all available efforts to protect its national interests in the face of threats by hostile forces. The national security advisers from South Korea, the U.S. and Japan are to hold their first trilateral meeting in six months in Seoul on Saturday.

Ahead of the three-way meeting, South Korean national security adviser Cho Taeyong and his Japanese counterpart, Takeo Akiba, met bilaterally on Friday and reaffirmed a need to strengthen their cooperation with the U.S. to cope with provocations by North Korea. Cho and U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan also met and affirmed that Seoul and Washington remain open to diplomacy with North Korea, according to South Korea's presidential office.

## Taiwan prez candidates to hold televised debate as race heats up

**Taipei (AP):** The three candidates running in next month's Taiwanese presidential election will hold a televised debate on December 30 as the race heats up under pressure from China. The outcome of the January 13 election could have a major effect on relations between China and the United States, which is bound by its own laws to provide Taiwan with the weapons it needs to defend itself and to regard threats to the self-governing island as a matter of "grave concern."

Differences over Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, are a major flashpoint in US-China relations. The debate will feature current Vice President William Lai of the Democratic Progressive Party; Hou Yu-ih, a local government leader representing the main opposition Nationalist Party, or KMT; and former

Taipei mayor Ko Wen-je, of the smaller Taiwan People's Party. Lai, whose party favours the status quo of de facto independence, is favoured to win the election, ensuring that tensions with China will likely remain high. The KMT, which formerly ruled in China before being driven to Taiwan amid the Communist takeover of the mainland in 1949, formally backs political unification between the sides, a prospect most Taiwanese reject. Ko, who briefly flirted with an alliance with the KMT, has advocated restarting talks with China. "The whole world wants to know whether the people of Taiwan will continue to move forward on the path of democracy in this major election, or whether they will choose to rely on China, follow a pro-China path, and lock Taiwan into China again," Lai said in a recent speech.

## Dutch police arrest Syrian accused of sexual violence

**The Hague (AP):** A Syrian refugee was arrested on Friday in the Netherlands on suspicion of crimes against humanity including sexual violence while he was allegedly head of an interrogation team in a militia aligned to the government of President Bashar Assad.

The arrest of the 55-year-old man marks the first time Dutch authorities have charged a suspect with sexual violence as a crime against humanity, the National Public Prosecution Service said in a statement. He is the latest suspect charged in the Netherlands with crimes committed during Syria's grinding civil war. Under universal jurisdiction, the Netherlands can prosecute certain crimes even if they were committed abroad.

The Netherlands and Canada have also taken Syria to the United Nations' top court, accusing Assad's administration of a years-long campaign of "institutionalised" torture

# Post-summit news conferences highlight divide between China, EU

AP ■ BEIJING

From trade to human rights, the leaders of China and the European Union differed on a wide range of issues at a summit this week in the Chinese capital. China, which sees Europe as an important export market, raised concerns about trade protectionism and "de-risking", the EU initiative to reduce its reliance on any one country — such as China — for vital raw materials and products.

The EU, which sees imports from China as a potential threat to companies and jobs, pressured China on its large trade surplus with Europe and its de facto support for Russia in the war in Ukraine. Separate post-summit news conferences on Thursday evening highlighted the divergent positions. Wang Lutong, the director general for European affairs, spoke to journalists at China's Foreign Ministry. Then EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU Council President Charles Michel held a joint

news conference at the European Union office in Beijing.

**TRADE IMBALANCE**  
**VON DER LEYEN:** "If you just look at the last two years, the trade deficit has doubled. This is a matter of great concern for a lot of Europeans. Such imbalances are just unsustainable. The root causes are well known, and we discussed them. They range from a lack of market access for European companies to the Chinese market to preferential treatment of domestic Chinese companies and overcapacities in the Chinese production."

**WANG:** "Sometimes the EU relates the imbalance of trade between us to overcapacity and subsidies. But we don't think there is overcapacity in such areas like green energy and clean energy. ... China could be very useful to the green transition not only of the EU but also the whole world. So if you want us to support the EU in green transition, do not be protectionist. You make the choice between being pro-



tectionist and encouraging China to participate in your goal in order to achieve that green transition."

**TRADE SUBSIDIES**  
**WANG:** "The Chinese side has expressed concerns to the EU side on its de-risking and restrictive economic and trade policies, including the anti-subsidy investigation against Chinese electric vehicles as well as its

5G policies. The Chinese side has urged the EU to ensure openness of its trade and investment market, provide an equitable and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises and be prudent in using trade remedies."  
**VON DER LEYEN:** "Politically, European leaders will not be able to tolerate that our industrial base is undermined by unfair competition. We like competition. It makes us better; it lowers prices; it is good for the consumers. But competition needs to be fair. ... Europe does not want to decouple from China. ... What we want is de-risking. De-risking is about managing the risks we see, addressing excessive dependencies through diversification of our supply chains ... and thus increasing our resilience. And this is not exclusive to China."

**UKRAINE**  
**VON DER LEYEN:** "Russia's war of aggression is a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter,

and it is a serious threat to European security. And this is why we recalled the need for China to use all its influence on Russia to stop this war of aggression and to engage in Ukraine's peace formula. We also reiterated (to China) to refrain from supplying lethal equipment to Russia and to prevent any attempts by Russia to undermine the impact of sanctions."  
**WANG:** "Sometimes European politicians said to us that China needs to speak to Russia, you need to speak to President Putin about withdrawing their soldiers. This is a very independent sovereign nation. President Putin is making his decision based on his own national interest and security. So that's why we are also urging Europeans to speak to Russians about it. We think ... it's important that Europeans and Russians talk about the possible security architecture in Europe and it's also important that Russians and Americans talk about the possible strategic stability."

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# Stock markets hit new peaks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty rebounded to close at their new lifetime highs on Friday after the Reserve Bank raised the growth forecast for the current fiscal and kept policy rates unchanged, triggering heavy buying in banking and other rate-sensitive stocks. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 303.91 points, or 0.44 per cent, to hit its new peak of 69,825.60. The index touched the highest intra-day level of 69,893.80. The broader index Nifty also climbed 68.25 points or 0.33 per cent to reach a fresh record high of 20,969.40. Among major Sensex movers, HCL Tech logged the biggest gain of 2.69 per cent, followed by JSW Steel (2.44 per cent) and Infosys (1.67 per cent). Other gainers included HDFC Bank, Titan, Axis Bank and



ICICI Bank. In contrast, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards. “The RBI took a balanced approach by raising the economic growth forecast and also expressing concern on food inflation, which may have

an elevated trajectory in the short term. A drop in rabi sowing and dipping reservoir levels provides a perception that foodgrain prices can rise. The impact was visible on FMCG stocks, which underperformed today,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Foreign institutional investors sold shares worth Rs 1,564.03 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI on Friday decided to keep the benchmark repurchase (repo) rate at 6.5 per cent. The central bank raised its forecast for economic growth to 7 per cent from 6.5 per cent, maintaining India’s position as the world’s fastest-growing major economy, after a stronger-than-expected 7.6 per cent growth in the July-



September quarter. Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite gained 0.11 per cent, while the Nikkei 225 and Hang Seng fell by 1.68 per cent and 0.15 per cent, respectively. European markets were trading higher with France’s CAC 40 gaining by 0.91 per cent and London’s FTSE 100 rising by 0.55 per cent. Germany’s DAX was trading 0.39 per cent higher. The US markets ended with significant gains in overnight trade on Thursday, with the Nasdaq rallying more than 1 per cent. Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.62 per cent higher to USD 75.25 a barrel. On Thursday, the 30-share index fell 132.04 points, or 0.19 per cent, to close at 69,521.69. Nifty declined 36.55 points, or 0.17 per cent, to settle at 20,901.15.



## Crossborder remittances using e rupee to halve cost of such payments to 3 per cent: Ajay

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or e-rupee can help halve the cost of cross-border remittances to 2-3 per cent, an official said on Friday. Economic Affairs Secretary in the Finance Ministry Ajay Seth said CBDC can be used for trade, remittances, or any other cross-border payment. “At the moment, cross-border payment is not a very efficient system, it takes time. At the same time, there is cost factor,” Seth said. Giving data, he said remittances to India is around USD 100 billion annually and compared to the global level of 8-9 per cent, the cost in India is low at 5 per cent of each transaction value. “So, for cross-border pay-

ments, CBDC can be very effective to bring down cost further to the range of 2-3 per cent,” the Secretary said at the Ficci Annual Convention here. The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The RBI began the pilot wholesale CBDC project on November 1, 2022, while the pilot on retail version was launched on December 1, 2022. The e-rupee is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It is being issued in the same denominations as the paper currency and coins. It is being distributed through financial intermediaries, i.e., the banks. Users are able to transact with e-rupee through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks.

## India urea production rises to 284.95 L tonne in 2022-23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India’s urea production has increased to 284.95 lakh tonnes last fiscal from 225.08 lakh tonnes in 2014-15, the government informed Lok Sabha on Friday. In written replies, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba said the central government ensures adequate availability of urea to meet the requirements of states/Union Territories. To increase the availability of urea through indigenous sources, the Centre announced New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2012 to facilitate fresh investment in the urea sector and to make India self-sufficient in the sector. “A total of 6 new urea units have been set up under NIP - 2012, which together have added 76.2 lakh tonnes per annum in the existing indigenous urea production capacity of the country. “In addition, Government of India also introduced the New Urea Policy (NUP)-2015 on 25th May, 2015 with one of the objectives of maximising indigenous urea production. As a result, the indigenous production of the country increased from 225.08 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 284.95 lakh tonne in 2022-23,” Khuba said. The minister also said that the gap between demand (requirement) and production of fertilizers is met through imports. Under the Urea Subsidy Scheme (USS), urea is provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified



Maximum Retail Price (MRP). Besides, under the Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy, a fix amount of subsidy is notified on annual/semi-annual basis, which ensures availability of P&K fertilizers at reasonable prices to farmers. Urea is imported on government account. However, all P&K (phosphatic and potassic) fertilizers (DAP, MOP and NPK) are covered under Open General License (OGL) under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme and they are imported by the fertilizer companies on commercially viable terms. According to the data, imports of urea fell to 75.8 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 from 91.36 lakh tonnes in the previous year. Imports of Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) rose to 65.83 lakh tonnes from 54.62 lakh tonnes, while the inward shipments of MOP fell to 18.66 lakh tonnes from 24.6 lakh tonnes. NPK imports increased to 27.5 lakh tonnes from 11.7 lakh tonnes.

## IIFL Securities stock settles 5 per cent higher

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of IIFL Securities settled 5 per cent higher on Friday after the SAT set aside Sebi’s order prohibiting the company from onboarding new clients for two years. The stock of the brokerage firm rallied 5.13 per cent to settle at Rs 124.05 apiece on the BSE. On the NSE, scrip of IIFL Securities jumped 4.20 per cent to close at Rs 122.85 per piece. During the day, shares of brokerage firm IIFL Securities touched a 52-week high of Rs 134.40 each on BSE and NSE. On the volume front, 1.02 crore shares were traded on the NSE, while 8.10 lakh shares exchanged hands on the BSE, during the day.

At the close of the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex bounced 303.91 points or 0.44 per cent higher to settle at 69,825.60, while NSE Nifty rose 68.25 points to close at 20,969.40. On Thursday, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) set aside the market regulator Sebi’s order prohibiting IIFL Securities from onboarding new clients for two years, and slashed the fine levied on the brokerage house to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 1 crore. The order came after IIFL Securities, earlier known as India Infoline Ltd., filed an appeal against the order passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in June. The capital markets regulator, in June, prohibited IIFL Securities



from taking up new clients for two years for alleged mis-utilisation of client funds.

Setting aside Sebi’s order, SAT Presiding Officer Justice Tarun Agarwala and technical member Meera Swarup said, “There has been no misuse of client funds and by wrongly considering the non-funded portion of the bank guarantee as per the 2016 circular, an attempt has been made out to show that there was a misuse of client funds which, in our opinion, is patently erroneous.” Further, it said that there was no failure on the part of the appellant (IIFL Securities) to segregate the money of the client. It is not that these monies have been misused for their purposes, and so no penalty under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA) could be imposed.

# India has 3 years window to attract companies moving out of China: NITI Aayog

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has a two-to-three-year window to capitalise on the global strategy of de-risking from China and the government needs to be very alert to come up with a set of policies that make the shift of businesses to India attractive and easier, NITI Aayog CEO Subrahmanyam said on Friday. Addressing CII Global Economic Policy Forum 2023, Subrahmanyam further said India is in a sweet spot due to the outcome of geopolitics and the fact that the country has a young working-age population. “So I think, in the next 15 to 20

years time span, India has an opportunity in manufacturing. But the opportunity and the window for India is at best two to three years, because supply chains are unwinding, they’re becoming shorter, and they’re looking for new geographies. “This is going to be a two-three year phenomenon, and then supply chains will get frozen,” he said. Subrahmanyam pointed out that it is not just non-Chinese companies but even Chinese companies which want to move out of China because of labour shortages. “They are having a shortage of demand because there is a population shift in terms of the age,



a shortage of labour supply, the rising cost of labour and the stressed capital markets,” he said. Noting that the capital market system is under stress in China, Subrahmanyam also

said it is a very clear signal to big MNCs from their capitals that de-risk from Beijing. “So even if global trade does not grow in total, there could be a shift in trade from one geogra-

phy to the other. So that is something which India can capitalize in the short run,” he emphasised. The NITI Aayog CEO opined that to attract businesses from China, India will have to compete with Vietnam, Indonesia, Turkey, Mexico and Bangladesh. “So I think... We need to be very alert to come up with a set of policies, a set of programs to make doing business and shifting business to India attractive,” he said. Subrahmanyam also pointed out India’s customs rule does not allow import of used goods when companies shift the factory as they move pre-owned

stuff. “So you need to allow that to happen as there are half-a-dozen other countries who are going to be competing with you to get the shift out of China,” he said. On the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), Subrahmanyam said Indian companies need to adapt fast to the carbon tax if the major markets are moving in that direction. “The fights will be fought by the government at the international level. But at the bottom level, for survival’s sake, I think companies will need to adjust and the government would have to come up with policies to facilitate that,” he added.

## Nayara to start polypropylene plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nayara Energy, India’s second-largest private oil firm, on Friday said it will start operations of a new polypropylene plant in the first half of next year, marking its entry into the lucrative petrochemical sector. In the last financial year (April 2022 to March 2023), India’s consumption of polypropylene stood at 6.4 million tonnes, of which around 1.6 million tonnes or around 25 per cent was imported. With wide applications in segments like packaging, automotive applications, consumer durables and lifestyle products, the demand for polypropylene (PP) is projected to rise. “Nayara is well on track for its entry into the petrochemicals sector with its upcoming 4,50,000 tonnes per annum polypropylene plant expected to be commercially operational during H1 2024 - when Nayara expects the demand to accelerate and margins to kick in,” the firm said. As India’s GDP grows, the demand for polypropylene is expected to grow to around 7.5 million tonnes in the next two years, creating sufficient room for new and upcoming domestic capacities. Nayara said it will be the first polypropylene (PP) producer in the country using the latest



phthalate-free catalyst for the entire PP production. Phthalate-free grades will provide cleaner PP for pharma, health and hygiene applications. “Our customers are also expected to achieve higher throughput, quality consistency and smooth processing with our PP grades produced using advanced catalyst and technology platform,” it said. “We will be packaging our products in pilferage-contamination proof HDSS bags. Our customers will also have the advantage of our all-India sales distribution network and strong technical support. We believe it will be the best product in India for food applications.” Presently, refinery-based PP economics are lower due to strong fuel cracks and lower PP prices (which have fallen significantly in the last 18 months). This is the cyclical nature of the business and the long-term

prospects of the industry remain bright. Importantly, integrated refineries with Petchem portfolios are expected to achieve margin resilience through business cycles as compared to stand-alone refiners. “At the same time, we are actively considering increasing investment in the India growth story, especially in the petchem sector,” Nayara said. With its strategically located refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat, which is the largest petrochemical consumption region in the country, the company is positioned to make a strong entry into this high growth segment. Nayara operates a 20 million tonnes a year oil refinery at Vadinar and also has more than 6,500 petrol pumps in the country. It delivers about 8 per cent of India’s refining output.

## Sebi considering to create new asset class

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi is looking to create a new asset class -- which lies between mutual funds and portfolio management services (PMS) -- and the new product can cater to high-risk investors, its chief Madhabi Puri Buch said on Friday. The Sebi chief said that there is a spectrum of asset classes for investors. Of these, “mutual funds are the highly retail investors, then you have in between a PMS and then you have AIF (alternative investment fund) for private equity”. “We feel there is room for an additional asset class somewhere between mutual funds and PMS... Sebi is looking into a whole new asset class,” Buch told reporters here at the sidelines of a CII event. In October, mutual funds industry body AMFI clarified that the idea of introducing a new asset class, which lies between mutual funds and PMS, was at a “very nascent stage”. According to the industry body, there was a deliberation within the industry for an instrument that caters to investors who are looking for an intermediate investment product between mutual funds and PMS. When asked about the total expense ratio (TER), she said that a lot of back-testing is happening and co-creation is happening. In May, Sebi floated a consultation paper and proposed a uniform total expense ratio across mutual fund schemes in a bid to bring in transparency in the costs charged to unitholders. TER is a percentage of a scheme’s corpus that a mutual fund house charges towards expenses, including administrative and management.

## GDP growth of 7 per cent in FY24: RBI DG Michael Patra



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Patra on Friday termed the revised 7 per cent growth expectation of the RBI as a “conservative estimate”. Speaking to reporters after the announcement of the bi-monthly policy review, Patra said the real GDP growth in the first half of the fiscal year has beat all estimates, including the RBI’s. Patra said if one were to add the RBI’s estimates for the second half, the GDP growth for FY24 will come at 6.9 per cent. But, the high frequency data for October and November points to robust economic activity. “So at the current time, 7 (per cent) is like a conservative estimate,” the Deputy Governor in-charge of the important monetary policy department said. Earlier in the day, the Reserve

Bank sharply revised up its GDP estimate for FY24 to 7 per cent from the earlier expectation of 6.5 per cent. Many watchers were expecting the RBI to do the revision, but the 0.50 per cent push was not expected by any analyst. On growth, Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the demand for two-wheelers is high as seen in over 20 per cent growth during the festive season and also added that fast moving consumer goods companies are also reporting a turnaround in rural demand. He added that private capex is also showing signs of revival, particularly in sectors like petroleum, steel cement and chemicals, and pointed out that capacity utilization has reached a threshold at 74 per cent. “It has reached a point where we can expect private investment also to start picking,” he said. “Many companies in the manufacturing sector are using their own internal reserves and surpluses to invest. They’re not approaching the bank or they’re not resorting to any other kind of borrowing or raising funds. They’re using their own internal reserves and surplus for investment,” Das said. Das also said that there is growing international confidence in India’s economy, and he has seen the same in interactions with governors of other central banks, other regulators and foreign investors.



## CCI conducting market study on artificial intelligence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fair trade watchdog CCI is conducting a market study to assess the impact of artificial intelligence on the competition landscape, the regulator’s chief Ravneet Kaur said on Friday. In recent times, there has been an increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) applications in several sectors. “We are doing a market study on artificial intelligence... In that study (we will) try to understand the dynamics better. We can differentiate what kind of AI that we would like to support and which one is stifling competition,” Kaur said at an event organized by industry chamber FICCI here. This can provide valuable insights into the competitive landscape. The CCI has the mandate to curb unfair business practices in the marketplace across sectors and also promote fair competition. Since its inception, the CCI has cleared 1,000 combinations, mergers & acquisitions cases, Kaur said. The CCI has played a key role in regulating and ensuring a competitive market in the country.



## Junior Women Hockey World Cup

# India beat Korea 3-1 in classification match

PTI ■ SANTIAGO (CHILE)

India came from behind to outwit Korea 3-1 in the 9th-12th place classification match of the Junior women's hockey World Cup here. Ropni Kumari (23rd minute), Mumtaz Khan (44th) and Annu (46th) scored for India, while Jiyeun Choi (19th) was the goal-getter for Korea on Thursday. In the opening quarter, Korea dominated possession and secured the first penalty corner, but they could not utilise the chance. India, opting for counter-attacks, kept Korea's defence busy but couldn't convert their promising entries to the opposition circle, resulting to a goal-less deadlock after the first 1quarter. The second quarter mirrored



the intensity of the first, with India and Korea persisting in their attacking plays. Choi broke the deadlock with a precise penalty corner strike, but India swiftly responded through Ropni, who equalized from another penalty corner. Korea, desperate to regain the lead, ramped up their aggression. Despite their fervent efforts, India's solid defence thwarted Korea's advances and counter-attacked skillfully, keeping the pressure on their opponent's defensive line. However, no more goals were scored in the second quarter as both teams entered the half-time break with the score levelled at 1-1. In the third quarter, India dominated the proceedings by keeping possession and troubling Korea's defence rigorously. The

strategy paid dividends as Mumtaz brilliantly slotted the ball home from a penalty corner to give her team the lead. The penultimate quarter ended 2-1 in favour of India. India intensified their attacks and extended their lead early in the fourth and final quarter of the game as Annu netted a superb field goal, securing a two-goal advantage for her team. India continued to unsettle Korea's defence, maintaining their momentum and denying any chance of a comeback. The victory means that India, who had earlier bowed out of the title contention after finishing third in Pool C, will stand a chance to finish ninth in the tournament when they take on either Chile or USA in their last match on Saturday.



## Suárez wins the golden ball

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Uruguayan striker Luis Suárez, a former teammate of Lionel Messi at Barcelona, won the golden ball as the player of the season in the Brazilian league. The 37-year-old Suarez, who played with Messi in Spain after several seasons at Liverpool and Ajax, scored 17 goals for Brazilian league runner-up Gremio. The season ended Wednesday with Palmeiras defending its title. Suárez scored two goals on the final day of the season in a 3-2 victory over Fluminense at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. The Brazilian league's top scorer was Atletico Mineiro forward Paulinho with 20 goals. Suárez said many times he feared he could not finish the season in Brazil because of intense knee pain and the hassle of long flights, but a selection of journalists voted for him to win the golden ball award.

Suárez played 53 matches for Gremio and scored 26 goals in three competitions this season. "I am almost 37 years old, this is the year I played the most times in my career. It was also the year I was most often distant from my family. This award belongs to them," a tearful Suárez said Thursday after receiving the trophy from former national team teammate Diego Lugano. When asked about his future, however, Suárez did not respond. But he said he will remember not only Gremio fans, but also those of other clubs who respected him as an opponent. "It is hard to see rival fans here applaud you when you play, and that did happen to me in some places," Suárez said. "This is all about the player's mind, it doesn't matter how old they are. It could be Endrick at age 17, Hulk, Suárez ... The mindset and the commitment have to be there for you to play and do what you like.

## Soccer fans take legal action

### To stop French authorities from banning away supporters at games

AP ■ PARIS

An umbrella organisation for soccer fan groups has taken legal action aimed at stopping French authorities from banning away supporters attending some games this weekend. The National Supporters' Association said Friday it has referred the matter to France's highest administrative court as it seeks to challenge bans targeting four matches, including two in the top-tier of the French league. The bans ordered by the French government and local authorities followed the death of a supporter in Nantes last weekend. Sports minister Amelie Oudea-Castera said this week that preventing supporters from traveling to rival clubs could help restore calm following a series of incidents this season. "These appeals are in no way intended to minimize the seriousness of last Saturday's tragedy," the group said. "No one can doubt the immense sadness in the French stands. Nor can anyone doubt our sense of responsibility." The group argued that it's essential to let away fans attend the matches involving Reims, Lens, Auxerre and Bordeaux to guarantee safety for all, especially because many fans are already on site. "The aim of our approach is to ensure that these matches can take place in an atmosphere of respect and freedom," the group said. Reims said this week that its fans were not allowed to

travel to Nice because their French league match on Sunday has been identified as "at risk" of violence. Lyon fans were not allowed to attend Wednesday's 3-0 loss at Marseille and Lens supporters have been banned from travelling to Friday's match in Montpellier. In France, travelling fans are regularly banned from high-risk games such as those between bitter rivals Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille. But Oudea-Castera suggested the measure could be used more often. Marseille fans at their Stade Velodrome deployed banners protesting such bans before their team's match against Lyon. "Banned from travelling in the country of freedoms. Today more than ever, freedom for ultras," their message read, in a reference to diehard fans often described as "ultras." The National Supporters' Association said it decided not to challenge the bans imposed on away fans for matches between PSG and Nantes, Saint-Etienne and Nimes, Lorient and Marseille, as well as Lyon and Toulouse. "These orders are highly questionable. But (these matches) will attract very large crowds. It's too late to change their framework," the group said. The Nantes fan who died last week was killed following a fight between supporters before the club's 1-0 win over Nice. The public prosecutor's office has launched an investigation into voluntary manslaughter.

## Naruka, Raiza unstoppable in shooting trials

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hangzhou Asian Games silver medalist Anantjeet Singh Naruka was unchallengeable in the men's skeet national selection trials 1, while Raiza Dhillon overcame national champion Ganemat Sekhon in women's skeet at the Karni Singh range here on Friday. Rajasthan's Naruka and Haryana's Raiza, both shot down 58 clay targets in the 60-shot final to register victories. National champion Naruka, following his exploits in Hangzhou, shot 24 early in the morning in the final qualification round to finish on top in the 40-strong field with a score of 121 out of a possible 125. He missed a target on his very first station in the six-man final, but only one more after that, to leave behind Sheeraz Sheikh comfortably in second



place. Sheeraz shot 56, while Gurjaot Khangura was third with 45-hits in the first 50 targets.

Sheeraz, on a comeback trail, also kept his poise throughout the day, coming second in a four-man shoot-off for two

final qualification spots. Gurjaot won the shoot-off to take the other spot. In women's skeet, Raiza was in sublime form throughout the three-day competition and shot three rounds of perfect 25s to top the qualifiers with a score of 122. She would have broken Ganemat's current national record by two had the scores of the trials been considered. Indian No. 1 Ganemat shot a perfect 25 on the day to get into the finals in second place with a score of 120. There was no stopping Raiza, however, as she shot down 58 targets as against Ganemat's 54 in the finals, to win. Rajasthan shooter Maheshwari Chauhan finished third with a score of 43. The skeet finals concluded the first shotgun national selection trials and the second is due to take place in Bhopal from December 15-21.

# Jon bolts for LIV Golf in stunning blow to PGA Tour

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Masters champion Jon Rahm bolted for Saudi-funded LIV Golf for what's believed to be more money than the PGA Tour's entire prize fund, a stunning blow that deepens the divide in golf as the two sides were negotiating a commercial deal. Rahm confirmed the move in an interview with Fox News on Thursday. Wearing a black letterman's jacket with the LIV logo, he said it was not an easy decision. "I've been very happy," Rahm said. "But there is a lot of things that LIV Golf has to offer that were very enticing." He said he would keep private how much the deal was worth amid reports that put his compensation in the \$500 million range, which likely would include equity in his new team.

The PGA Tour's total purse in 2023 was about \$460 million. The development comes 25 days before the deadline for the PGA Tour and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund try to finalize their June 6 agreement to become commercial partners in a for-profit enterprise, along with the European tour. Talks have been going slowly, and Tiger Woods said last week there were a lot of moving parts. The biggest moving part turned out to be the 29-year-old Rahm, the No. 3 player in the world and a two-time major champion approaching his prime, being the latest to defect. Rahm had been adamant that he has enough money and that he cares only about history and legacy. He recently said he "laughed" whenever he saw his name linked to LIV. "It was a great offer. The money is great, obviously it's wonderful," Rahm said.



"But what I said before is true: I do not play golf for the money. I play golf for the love of the game and for the love of golf. But, as a husband, as a father and as a family man I have a duty to my family to give them the best opportunities and the most amount of resources possible and that is

where that comes in." He remains eligible for the majors for the next five years - the Masters for life, the U.S. Open until 2031. Still to be determined is how the move affects his eligibility for the Ryder Cup. "It's hard to sit here and criticize Jon because of what a great play-

er he is," Rory McIlroy said in an interview with Sky Sports. "Jon is going to be in Bethpage in 2025 (for the Ryder Cup). Because of this decision, the European tour is going to have to rewrite the rules. There's no question about that." Rahm's addition gives LIV Golf seven of the last 14 winners at the majors. "LIV Golf is here to stay," Lawrence Burian, the COO of LIV Golf, said in a news release sent out after Rahm's appearance on Fox News. PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan had been scheduled to meet this week with Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the head of the PIF. The meeting was delayed until next week, but it wasn't clear if it was still on or how Rahm's announcement affects the negotiations. Since the stunning commercial partnership was proposed on June 6, the tour has also enter-

tained offers from private equity groups. Those include Fenway Sports Group and Acorn Growth, which includes former AT&T Chairman Randall Stephenson. He resigned from the PGA Tour board out of protest with its deal with Saudi Arabia. The agreement originally included language to end the poaching of players, but that was removed when the Justice Department had antitrust concerns. Signing with LIV is counter to everything Rahm has said about the league. He has declared his support for the PGA Tour dating to February 2022, and as recently as August he told a Spanish podcast that "I laugh when people rumor me with LIV Golf. I've never liked the format." He had said 54 holes with no cut and a shotgun start "is not a golf tournament."

## Lake Placid offers proposal to host sliding sports for 2026 Winter Games



AP ■ LAKE PLACID (US)

Lake Placid has put forth an offer to host sliding sports for the 2026 Winter Olympics, which are scheduled to take place in Italy, where organizers are struggling to provide a venue for bobsled, luge and skeleton racing. The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee

announced the bid after its quarterly meeting Thursday, only two days after the chief of the Milan-Cortina Games said it is possible the hosts could come up with a new proposal to build a track. In October, organizers told the IOC the Italian government had ordered them to move the events due to cost overruns involved in renovating the

Cortina sliding track. Sliding centers in Switzerland and Austria were considered the best options. Lake Placid hosted the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980 and, as home of a U.S. Olympic Training Center, has a state-of-the-art sliding center. Last year, a \$104 million renovation of the Olympic center was wrapped up in time for Lake Placid to host the FISU World University Games. USOPC CEO Sarah Hirshland said Olympic organizers invited the proposal from Lake Placid. "At this stage, our role is simply to help them present a proposal and to endorse that proposal and ensure that we have the broad support required from the municipalities as well as from the athlete and (national governing body) community," she said. Milan-Cortina is hopeful of not becoming the first Winter Games to hold events outside the host nation's borders, though it's not unheard of on the Summer side: Next year's surfing competition for the Paris Olympics will be held in Tahiti.

## HI names 22-member Indian women team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Goalkeeper Savita Punia will continue to lead the Indian women's hockey team, while veteran forward Vandana Katariya will be her deputy as the national federation on Friday announced a 22-member team for the upcoming 5-Nation Tournament in Spain. India will play against Ireland, Germany, Spain and Belgium in the tournament which is scheduled to be held from December 15 to 22 in Valencia. It will serve as the preparatory assignment ahead of the all-important Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi beginning from January 13. "We are going with a well-balanced, strong team," Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman said in a release from HI. "The tournament gives the players an ideal platform to build on the recent performances and keep themselves in the right frame of mind heading into the all-important Olympic Qualifiers. "The matches against the top European teams will also help



us identify areas that need improvement ahead of the tournament, and we are looking forward to making the most out of the opportunity." The Squad: Goalkeepers: Savita (Captain), Bichu Devi Khairabam Defenders: Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Gurjit Kaur, Akshata Abaso Dhekale Midfielders: Nisha, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Monika, Salima Tete, Neha, Navneet Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, Baljeet Kaur Forwards: Jyoti Chhattri, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Vandana Katariya (Vice-Captain), Beauty Dundung, Sharmila Devi.

## FIA ends its conflict of interest investigation into Toto, Susie

AP ■ PARIS

Formula One's governing body has dropped its probe of a potential conflict of interest between Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff and his wife Susie Wolff, who works for F1's management group. The FIA's compliance department had been looking into the Wolffs following allegations of a conflict of interest and whether they have shared confidential information. "The FIA can confirm that there is no ongoing investigation in terms of ethical or disciplinary inquiries involving any individual," the organization said in a statement on Thursday. Susie Wolff is the managing director of the all-female series F1 Academy. She had rejected the claims "in the strongest possible terms" and said she was "deeply insulted." The probe began after a report in BusinessF1 magazine that rival team executives raised concerns about whether Toto and Susie Wolff passed on information discussed in private meetings. Susie Wolff reports to F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali.



The BusinessF1 report said team officials were alarmed when Toto Wolff made comments in a recent meeting that included details they felt could only have come from F1. The report did not detail what was discussed. The Mercedes team and Formula One Management, which runs the commercial side of F1, denied any allegations of improper sharing of information or conflict of interest. "Following a review of Formula One Management's F1 code of conduct and F1 conflict of interest policy and confirmation that appropriate protective measures are in place to miti-

gate any potential conflicts, the FIA is satisfied that FOM's compliance management system is robust enough to prevent any unauthorized disclosure of confidential information," the FIA's statement said on Thursday. On Wednesday, nine Formula One teams released nearly identical statements denying they had complained to the FIA about an alleged conflict of interest. The flurry of statements followed an appearance by Red Bull team principal Christian Horner on Sky Sports in which he denied instigating the investigation.



# ‘NO COACH CAN CREATE ARTIST LIKE SHAMI’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohammed Shami possesses a rare ability of landing the ball in an upright seam position every single time and no coach in the world can create such a fast bowling “artist”, gushed India’s bowling coach Paras Mhambrey. Shami, who finished on top of the bowling charts with 24 wickets from seven matches in the ODI World Cup, has been India’s go-to bowler in ODIs and Tests. Mhambrey, one of the quietest back-room workers in the current Indian set-up, doesn’t want to take any credit for Shami’s success. Will India get another talent like Mohammed Shami? “Well, if I tell you that coaches could create a bowler like Shami, then I would be lying. If a bowler can land it on upright seam every time then

every other bowler in the world will be Shami,” Mhambrey told PTI in an exclusive interview before leaving for the tour of South Africa. “It is a skill that Shami has acquired with tremendous hardwork and developed himself into the bowler that he is. “Bowling ball after ball on the seam and with that perfect wrist position and getting it to move either ways is a rare skill set. A lot of bowlers, even if they land deliveries on the seam, will see the ball straightening up after pitching,” Mhambrey said. The former India pacer also spoke about another brilliant operator Jasprit Bumrah in the same vein. “Even Bumrah with his unusual action gets the ball to move in or away with same action. This is an art and lot of hard work and dedication goes into perfecting the art.”



The way Shami and Bumrah have managed to dominate the batters around the world is something that has surprised Mhambrey. Many would be envy of their success. “I think in Test matches, we had Bumrah, Shami and Ishant (Sharma), who created this kind of magic but frankly speaking, if you ask me now if I would have expected this kind of dominance, I wouldn’t have dreamt of this level of performance.” “I mean to bowl out Sri Lanka for 50 and then to repeat it against a team like South Africa, score 320 odd and bowl them out for 80. That was surreal. Obviously with an attack like ours, we expected them to do well but to put up such a performance on the biggest stage for such a sustained period was something that was really commendable.” The goal to create perfect bench-strength

Mhambrey, who came on board along with head Rahul Dravid was asked to assess the performance of Indian bowlers in the two-year cycle that ended with World Cup. He spoke about the takeaways, like qualifying for WTC final, beating a strong Australian team and also becoming the first Indian team to win ODI series in England. However Dravid and his team never lost sight of bigger picture, which is to create a bench strength. “When we took over, we needed to see that two years down the line, we have also created a sufficient bench strength in every format. We had to identify at least 3-5 bowlers from next batch and also ensure that they get enough game time and are ready for the challenges of international cricket. Rahul, Vicky (Rathour), myself and (T) Dilip got together and identified the bowlers.”



## Veda desperate to revive cricket career

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tragedies and snubs are nothing new for Veda Krishnamurthy as she has seen it all in the last three years, but the out-of-favour India cricketer is desperate to make a fresh start and has pinned her hopes on the upcoming WPL to regain her spot in the national women’s side. Having got a snub in the inaugural Women’s Premier League auction earlier this year, a leaner and much fitter Veda is now hoping to earn a WPL contract on Saturday, an opportunity which can open the national team’s door for her. “I feel that the ability and experience I have will not take much time for me to get into a system and adjust again. It is all about going there and showcasing whatever I can,” Veda told PTI in an exclusive interview. “Definitely, it’s (WPL) a great platform for players, especially who are on the same boat like me. I haven’t played international cricket for the last three years, so this is a platform where you want to do well, and if you are able to and perform in situations and platforms like this it opens up the door for the Indian team as well. “We have seen that happen in men’s cricket. So that is something which I will have in my mind.” Veda, who has played 48 ODIs scoring 829 runs with a best score of 71, was an integral part of the Indian team that finished runner-up in the 2017 Women’s ODI World Cup final, losing to hosts England by just nine runs at Lord’s. Veda was also part of

India’s squad for the 2018 and 2020 ICC Women’s World Twenty20 tournaments in the West Indies and Australia respectively. But twin personal tragedies halted her career in 2021 when she lost her mother and elder sister to COVID in a span of two weeks, and it took her a long time and effort to come out of that. “Very difficult, honestly, because suddenly when you have been shaken you don’t know what to do. There was a lot of mental health issues I faced because I didn’t know how to live with the grief. There was a lot of anxiousness, there was lot of depression. I was not sleeping well. You want to come out of it but it’s not that easy. I used to be awake till 5-6 in the morning, I used to be scared of closing my eyes,” she said. “It took me close to one-and-a-half years to get back to normal without any medicine. It still kind of comes back and haunts you, but you need to keep that side and focus of the physical aspect. It feels good to be back in shape,” added the right-handed batter, who featured in 76 T20s for India scoring 875 runs. Once she managed to defeat her inner demons, Veda concentrated on reviving her career to be in shape for the WPL auction slated for Saturday and all she wants is an opportunity to showcase her mettle. “I have been putting a lot of hours in my practice. I have become a lot fitter, lot leaner in the last four months. I have been hitting the ball really well. So, now, just hoping what happens on December 9.

## Indian women’s team faces stern challenge against England

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Eying to keep the three-match series alive, India will look for an improved show, especially in the bowling and fielding departments, when they take on a rampaging England in the second women’s T20I here on Saturday. England extended their dominant run against India with a comprehensive 38-run win which gave them a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. It also was England’s 21st victory in 28 T20Is against India and eighth in 10 matches in the country. India failed to read the conditions adequately and also made glaring errors in the first game which turned out to be a one-sided affair. On a flat pitch not offering much to the bowlers especially in the first innings, India used four different spinners - including the rookie Kanika Ahuja - and England took them apart, scoring 121 runs from a collec-

tive 12 overs for three wickets. India handed debuts to two left-arm spinners Shreyanka Patil (2/44) and Saika Ishaque (1/38) but both were wayward and expensive in their respective four-over spells. Senior spinner Deepti Sharma (0/28) was not even trusted with completing her quota of overs. Indian spinners bowled short as well as full tosses at times for England batters to dominate, whereas their fielders did not support them enough. Both Danni Wyatt and Nat Sciver-Brunt were given lifelines which proved to be costly for the home team. The only bright spot in India’s bowling was seamer Renuka Singh Thakur, who had left England reeling at 2 for 2 in the opening over of the match. But India not only allowed England to stage a comeback, the hosts, coming off a two-month break, also could not force their way back into the game at any stage.

PTI ■ MIRPUR (BANGLADESH)


Glenn Phillips played an attacking knock as New Zealand hit back strongly on Day 3 of the rain-affected second cricket test against Bangladesh on Friday to leave the game evenly poised. Phillips struck a 72-ball 87 to help New Zealand put up 180 in its first innings and take an 8-run lead, and then New Zealand’s bowlers left Bangladesh on 38-2 before play was called off due to bad light. Bangladesh was dismissed for 172 in its first innings. After the entire second day and the first session of the third day were washed out, Phillips led the charge with one-day style batting as New Zealand resumed at 55-5. Phillips hit nine fours and four sixes in his innings and was particularly harsh on Mehidy Hasan, hitting three fours and one six in his first three overs to keep the runs flowing. Phillips formed two crucial partnerships - 49 with Mitchell for the sixth wicket and 55 with Kyle Jamieson for the eighth to help New Zealand earn the lead. Mitchell was struggling against the spinners and eventually

## Phillips helps New Zealand hit back on Day 3



was caught out by Mehidy at long-on for 18 off offspinner Nayeem Hasan’s first over. In his next over Nayeem, who took 2-21, dismissed Mitchell

Santner for 1 to leave New Zealand at 97-7 but Phillips got the support of Jamieson to keep Bangladesh at bay. Shoriful (2-15) broke through




**AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as Au HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297)  
Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

**Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002**

As the Loan Account Became NPA therefore The Authorised Officer (AO) Under section 13 (2) of Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 had issued 60 day demand notice to the borrower as given in the table. According to the Notice if the Borrower does not deposit the Amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from Auction of the security as given below. As the demand Notice sent to the borrower/guarantor has not been served, copy of demand notice has also been affixed on the secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrower is informed to deposit the loan amount along with future interest and recovery expenses within 60 days, otherwise under the provisions of section 13 (4) and 14 of the said Act, the AO is free to take possession of the Security as given below.

Name of the Borrower	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged property
<b>ASHOK KUMAR, URMILA DEVI, ARJUN SINGH</b> (A/c No.) LNBH00517-180057547 & LNRW01819-200111799	6-Dec-23 Rs. 839491/- & Rs. 590845/- 7-Dec-23	Khewar No. 83, Khatoni No. 107, Mustatil No. 20, Kila No. 10/L, waka Siwana Mauja Rojika, Rewari 122001 Admeasuring 1210 Sq. Yd.
<b>AVADHESH KUMAR, INDRAWATI INDRAWATI</b> GUARANTOR : RAVINDRA KUMAR RAI (A/c No.) LNBH00617-180060431	6-Dec-23 Rs. 406339/- 4-Dec-23	PROPERTY SITUATED AT KHEWAT NO. 65/127/239, MUSTIL NO. 2, KILLA NO. 14/17/18/2/19/7/8/1/8/2/13, VILL. KHORI KALAN, TAURU, MEWAT 122105 Admeasuring 60 Sq. Yd.

Place : Jaipur      Date : 09.12.2023      Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited



**AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as Au HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297)  
Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

**POSSESSION NOTICE**


Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below.

The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED") for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
<b>MEENA RANI, Mr. Jai BHAGWAN SHARMA</b> (A/c No.) LNKRR02219-200108814	10 May 23 ₹ 2362177/- 8 May 23	A HOUSE COMPRISED IN KHEWAT NO.- 518/502, KHATONI NO.-694, SITUATED AT PATTI CHAUDHARY, KAITHAL, TEH. & DIST. KAITHAL, HARYANA Adm. 239 Sq. Yard	Physical Possession Taken on 5 Dec 23

Place : Jaipur      Date: 09-12-2023      Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

**IDFC First Bank Limited**  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank limited)  
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.  
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022



**APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)]  
POSSESSION NOTICE  
(For immovable property)**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16.09.2023 calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors **1. Amit Kukreja, 2.Kamlesh Surinder Nath** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 49,07,672.24/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lac Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two and Twenty Four Paise Only)** as on **16.09.2023 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub – section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **7th day of December 2023.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** for an amount of **Rs.49,07,672.24/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lac Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two and Twenty Four Paise Only)** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub – Section (8) Of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immoveable properties.
<b>All That Piece And Parcel Of Propety Beingt House No. 839/2, Measuring 80 Sq. Yds. I.E. 720 Sq. Ft. Situated At Prade Mohalla, Tehsil: Kalka, District: Panchkula, Haryana-133302, And Bounded As: East: House Of Inder Nath &amp; Diwan Chand, West: Rasta Then Army Ground, North: House Of Shree Satpal &amp; Manohar Lal, South: House Of Others</b>
<b>Date: 7th December 2023</b> <b>Place: Panchkula</b> <b>Loan Account No: 19089028 &amp; 33676897</b>

Authorised officer  
**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank limited)



**भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो**  
Bureau of Indian Standards  
Two Day Training Programme For Meniors of Standards Clubs  
On 7th and 8th December 2023



A two-day Residential Training Program was organized by Chandigarh Branch office of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Northern Regional Office, Chandigarh on 07.12.2023 and 08.12.2023 for Mentors of Standard Clubs formed in schools across the State of Punjab. This program was conducted at Northern Region Office, Bureau of Indian Standards, Chandigarh.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division, Baggi invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works(s) through off line process :-

Sr. No	Name of work	E/Cost	Earnest Money	Time limit
1	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 270 to 290 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
2	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 430 to 450 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
3	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 450 to 460 = 10 Rmt and RD 470 to 480 = 10 Rmt, Total = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
4	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 480 to 500 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
5	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 500 to 520 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
6	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 555 to 575 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
7	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 575 to 595 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
8	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 595 to 615 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
9	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on left side of Behna Nallah from RD 615 to 630 = 15 Rmt and RD 640 to 645 = 5 Rmt, Total = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
10	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 270 to 290 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
11	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 290 to 310 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
12	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 310 to 330 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
13	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 330 to 350 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
14	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 350 to 370 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
15	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 370 to 390 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
16	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 430 to 450 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
17	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 450 to 460 = 10 Rmt and RD 470 to 480 = 10 Rmt, Total = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
18	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 480 to 500 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
19	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 500 to 520 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months
20	Providing Flood protection work on Sekad Khad and Behna Nallah in Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi (H.P). (SH: - C/O RCC Retaining wall for height of 2.60mts on right bank of Behna Nallah from RD 520 to 540 = 20 Rmt). (Under NABARD RIDF XXVIII)	Rs. 499155/-	Rs. 10000/-	Three Months

Last date of submission of tender: **14/12/2023 upto 11.00 AM.**  
Last date sale of tender from the division office: **13/12/2023 upto 4.00 PM**  
The tender detailed conditions can be obtained from the website **www.hpiph.org** and tender form from office of Executive Engineer, JS Division Baggi upto date specified above.

Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Division Baggi

RO NO. 4293/2023-2024 Dt. 08-12-2023