

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Susilamma and DOB 01 JUN 1964 am Mother of No 15332311M Rank NK Name Krishna G (Name and DOB of Mother as per NoK in Army Record) change to Girukala Sushilamma and DOB 01 JAN 1968 (Proposed New Name and DOB of Mother) due to wrongly entered in Sheet Rool at the at the time enrollment. (reason for change), Vide Affidavit dt 25 Jan 2024 before Pawan Kumar Garg Advocate Regd No. 17787, Panchkula, Haryana.

I, No-15132984-X, Rank- Nk, Name- Harjinder Singh, Residence Of Vill-Dehar, Po & Tehsil-Chamkaur Sahib, District-Rupnagar, State – Punjab Declare That I Change My Wife's Name (Sanpreet Kaur To Manpreet Kaur) Date Of Birth (12-09-1981 To 26-05-1979) . Due To Erroneously Recorded In My Army Record.

I, Dhanpati Wd/o No. 6805343 Late Sepoy Rameshwar R/o Vill. & P.O. Gandhra, Teh. Sampla, Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my name Dhanpati Devi and my DOB 01.01.1946 are wrongly mentioned in my late husband Army record. But my correct & actual name is Dhanpati and my correct DOB is 01.01.1947. vide affidavit dated 27.01.2024 before Notary Public Rohtak.

I Karan Jain S/o Pardeep Kumar Jain, R/o House No. 199, Sector 40-A, Chandigarh inform that I was known by the name Nikhil Jain in dated 04.06.1997 and after that I have changed my name from Nikhil Jain to Karan Jain.

I, Hiru Moni Ray W/O Service No.14927068x Rank Hav Nil Kanta Ray, R/O Adlaguri, Po- Adlaguri, Distt- Bongai Gaon, Pin-783392, State- Assam. Declare That In My Husband Army Service Record My Dob 02/02/1990 Is Wrong But My Dob 08-02-1990 Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No.IN-Pb08376584582662w Dated 27-01-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab.

We, Kanchan Kumar S/o Dev Nath & Lali W/o Kanchan Kumar R/O #92, Rajiv Colony, Sector-17, Panchkula (Haryana) declare that our Grandson Ashish@ Rajje S/o Jai Parkesh & Late Seema is out of our control. So, we disown him from our all movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with him shall do their own risk in future.

I, Rani Bindal D/o Sh. Mamchand & W/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar R/O H.No. 1/24, Oriental Bank, Mission Chowk, Sonipat, presently residing at Baba Colony, Near Tata Showroom, Sonipat have broken all my relation with my husband Sh. Rakesh Bindal as he is out of my control. If anybody deals with him, he/she will do at their own risk.

I Harish Kumar S/o Sh. Kundan Lal R/O H.No-168/21 Aahta Shukan Chand , Ambala Cantt inform that my Son Sunil Kumar, his wife Pooja Rani are out of my control. So I disown both of them from my movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them will do so his/her at their own risk.

I, Balwinder Singh S/o Late Parbha Singh R/o H No. 78, Village Ramgarh, butta singh wala, SAS Nagar Mohali declare that I, disown my son Gagandeep Singh and his wife Amandeep Kaur on March 2019. From my movable immovable properties. Now my son Gagandeep Singh and his wife Amandeep Kaur are in my control. I, cancelling this disown notice. He have full rights in our properties.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Rinku Gulati S/O Shivdayal Gulati Village Saha, Ambala, Haryana Declared That Rinku Gulati And Rinku Kumar Is One Or Same Person. But My Correct Name Is Rinku Gulati. Please Note.

I, Debo w/o Rampal (D/o Maya Ram) R/o Village Mirchheri, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Debo to Surti Devi after marriage. In future, I will be known as Surti Devi.

I, Satyam S/O Subhash Chand R/O H.No. 6542, Tohana Road, Near Anil Mandi W.No.2, Bhuna, Fatehabad, Haryana-125111 Have Changed My Name To Satyam Jagga For All Purposes.

I, Rajinder Kumar alias Rajinder Kumar Gulyani S/o Ram Labhaya R/o H.No. 349 Sector 7 Urban Estate Kurukshetra have changed my name to Rajinder Kumar Guliani.

I, Sarasvati Devi Mother of Pratap Singh R/o #3873, Sector 47-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Sarasvati Devi to saruli Devi vide Affidavit Dated 24-01-2024 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

I, Sandeep Kour W/o Sh. Gurjeet Singh R/o Village Santa Wali Tehsil Rania, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Sandeep Kour to Sandeep Kaur, in future my name is to be called as Sandeep Kaur.

I, Yogender Chaudhary S/o Krishan Dass Choudhary R/o H. No. 290, Mohalla Ram Niwas, Fatehabad, (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Yogender Chaudhary to Yogender Choudhary, in future my name is to be called as Yogender Choudhary.

I, Rajni Chaudhary W/o Yogender Choudhary R/o H.No. 85-86, Soma New Town, Sector-4, Fatehabad (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Rajni Chaudhary to Rajni Choudhary, in future my name is to be called as Rajni Choudhary.

I, Rachhpal Singh S/o Balwant Singh R/o VPO Purihira Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Rachhpal Singh to Rashpal Singh. Concerned note.

I, Hardip Kaur W/o Rashpal Singh R/o VPO Purihira Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Hardip Kaur to Hardeep Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Karanvir Singh S/o Raj Singh Village Fatehpur Kullian, PO Sariana Tehsil Mukerian District Hoshiarpur (Punjab) declare that I have changed the name of my son from Ritanshu to Ritanshu Thakur. All concerned to note.

I, Jaspreet Singh Bhalla Son of Sh. Kanwarjit Singh Bhalla Resident of Sunder Kutia, Opposite Khadi Ashram Abdullapur, VTC, Pinjore Tehsil Kalka Distt. Panchkula, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Jaspreet Singh Bhalla to Jaspreet Singh that now i am known as Jaspreet Singh.

I, Bhupender Singh S/o Sh.Dalbir Singh R/o H.No.173, Ward No.27, New Basti, Rohtak Road, Near Old Truck Union, Jind-126102, have changed my minor daughter's name from Parneet to Parneet Deswal

I, Gurveer Kaur W/o Gurpatap Singh R/o Vill. Gogpur, P.O. Jhansa, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra, declare that I have changed my name from Gurveer Kaur to Sarabjeet Kaur. for all future purposes.

I, Nancy Devi W/o Vikram Singh R/O Vill. Kathlari, P.O. Tigril, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra, declare that I have changed my name from Nancy Devi to Nancy Rani. for all future purposes.

I, Subhash Chander Sharma (DOB 01-01-1959) S/O Gangafal R/O Banawali, Tehsil & District Fatehabad, Haryana declare that In my Pan Card my father's name is Ganga Parsad Sharma that is wrong. I want to change my father's name from Ganga Parsad Sharma to Gangafal.

I, Nimita Rani w/o Ashwani Kumar R/O 2610 Sector 22 C Chandigarh have changed my name from Nimita Rani to Nimta.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Jasbir Singh R/o Village Daha Postoffice Madhuban, District Karnal, have changed my minor son's name from Aaron to Aaron Chauhan.

I, Gurprit Kour W/o Mahender Singh, R/o H.No.398/12, Opp.Kailash Mandir, Punjabi Bazar, Jind, have changed my name from Gurprit Kour to Gurjit Kaur.

I, Anjali Maan W/o Sh. Maninder Singh R/O H.no. 1035, Sector - 4 Ext. HSVP, Rohtak, Haryana declare that in my passport my name has been written as Anjali kadian, Anjali and now I have changed my name from Anjali kadian and Anjali to Anjali Maan. In future I will be called as Anjali Maan for all purposes.

I, Roopjit Kaur W/o Satnam Singh R/o Village Pandori Sidhwan, PO Ransingh, Distt. Tarn Taran, Punjab 143401 have changed my name from Roopjit Kaur to Roopjeet Kaur.

I, Randeep Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh R/O 541/14B, R,B Rattan Chand Road, Near Ram Dham Mandir Brahm Nagar, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my minor daughter name from Parineet Muglani to Parineet Kaur.

I, Jaspreet Kaur w/o Rajwinderjit Singh r/o Village Babehali Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Jaspreet Kaur to Jasprit Kaur. Concerned note.

I Surat Singh S/o Shingara Singh R/o Village Madara Teh. Batala Distt. Gurdaspur declare that I have Changed my name from Surat Singh to Surat Singh Deol. Concerned note.

I, Tushita D/o Upinder Singh Ahlawat R/o 145, Ward no. 22, Lakshmi Nagar, VTC, Rohtak have changed my name from Vasudhiti to Tushita Ahlawat.

I, Vasudhiti D/o Upinder Singh Ahlawat R/o 145, Ward no. 22, Lakshmi Nagar, VTC, Rohtak have changed my name from Vasudhiti to Vasudhiti Ahlawat.

I, Ram Chand Sangar S/O. Late Mohinder Pal R/O. Flat No. 694/2, Omaxe Cassia, New Chandigarh, P.O. Mullanpur-140901 Have Changed My Name From Ram Chand Sangar To Ram Chand.

I, Kiran D/o Ban Singh alias Bhan singh W/o Bittu R/o Moonak Tehsil Moonak District Sangrur declares that Kiran and Kiran Ganaria bothe names are mine but now in future I will do all Government Non-Government and all Official work by the name of Kiran. All concerned please note.

I, Malkeet Singh S/O Baljeet Singh R/O Village Khushhal Majra Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Malkit Singh to Malkeet Singh.

I, Jagriti Singh D/o Sajjan Singh R/O H. No. 663, Urban Estate -II, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Riya (nickname of childhood) to Jagriti Singh for all purposes in future.

I, Aman Singla S/o Lovlesh Kumar r/o #09, HUDA Part 1, Shahabad Markanda Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Aman Singla to Aman Singhal.

I, Atharv s/o Aman Singhal r/o #09, HUDA Part 1, Shahabad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Atharv to Atharv Singhal.

I, Kanishka d/o Aman Singhal r/o #09, HUDA Part 1, Shahabad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Kanishka to Kanishka Singhal.

I, Leena Bansal d/o Amarjeet Bansal r/o Malerkotla have changed my name to Leena Singhal w/o Aman Singhal r/o #09, HUDA Part 1, Shahabad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra after marriage.

I, Arvind Goyal s/o Satya Bhushan r/o #1728/8, Vishnu Colony, Tehsil Thanesar (Kurukshetra) have changed my name from Arvind Goyal to Arvind Kumar. In future I should be known by this name.

I, Randip Kaur w/o Ranjeet Singh r/o Village Gonder, Sub Tehsil Nissing, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Randip Kaur to Randeep Kaur. In future I should be known as Randeep Kaur.

I, Salochana W/O Shyam Lal R/O Village Manikian District Panchkula (Haryana) Have Changed My Name As Salochana Devi.

I Ashmani Kumar Alias Ashwani Verma S/O Ashok Kumar R/O Bhai Jagta Colony Tehsil Barara (Ambala) Have Changed My Name Ashmani Kumar Alias Ashwani Verma To Ashwani Verma.

I Kapil Wadhwa S/O Kharaiti Lal Wadhwa R/O H.No.148, Ward No.13, Near Kalanidhi Printing Press, Shahabad Markanda Distt Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name From Kapil Wadhwa S/O Kharaiti Lal Wadhwa To Kapil S/O Kharaiti Lal

I, Renu W/O Sh. Deepak R/O Devi Nagar, Gohana, Sonipat Have Change My Name From Mannu To Renu For All Future Purchase.

I Manoj Kumar S/O Dharm Singh, R/O 243/1 Sugar Mill Colony, Yamunanagar. That I Have Change My Name From Manoj Kumar To Manoj Kumar Verma.

I, Khem Lal S/O Sh. Karan Bahadur R/O H.No. 203, Gali No.4, Phase-1, Village Mohali And Presently Residing In H.No.522, Gali No.14, Haripur, Sector-4, Panchkula Has Changed My Name From Khem Lal To Rajeev Khadka.

I, Saroj W/O Dharam Pal Baghri R/O H.No- 2579/1, Street No- 9 Shanti Nagar, Manimajra, Ut Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Saroj To Saroj Baghri.

I, Dharam Pal S/O Durga Dass R/O H.No- 2579/1, Street No- 9 Shanti Nagar, Manimajra, Ut Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Dharam Pal To Dharam Pal Baghri.

I Pranjay S/O Dharam Pal Baghri R/O H.No- 2579/1, Street No- 9 Shanti Nagar, Manimajra, Ut Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Pranjay To Paranjay Baghri.

I, Shweta Hooda D/O Manjeet Singh R/O Dhani Mahtab, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021 Have Changed My Name To Aksheta Huda.

I Pawan Kumar S/O Hari Ram R/O Vill-Sakroha, Po-Gagal, Tehsil Balh, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh-175006 Have changed My Name To Rajeev Sharma.

I, Amandeep Kaur Spouse Of 4485013y Hav Yadwinder R/O 234, Gandiwind Tehsil And District Taran Taran Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 06.06.1989 To 25.04.1989 Vide Affidavit Dated 22.01.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Kiran Sharma W/O Sunil Sharma R/O M3/917 Laxmi Avenue O/S Gate Bhagtan Wala Near Sbi Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kiran Sharma To Kiran Bal

I Hitherto Known As Monika Soni Daughter Of Vinod Soni Wife Of Ajay Wadhra Residing At House No.277, Ward No.3, Mahajan Colony, Batala, Gurdaspur-143505 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Monika Wadhra

I Gurpreet Singh S/O Balwinder Singh R/O Vill.Saido Lehal Po Tarsikka Teh Baba Bakala Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurpreet Singh To Given Name Gurpreet Surname Singh

I Baljeet Kaur W/O Davinder Singh R/O Vpo Chogawan Sadhpur Tehsil Amritsar Distt.Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Baljit Kaur

I, Matabai Mother Of Mr. Hake Shankar Dnyanu Resident Of Irali, Sangli, Maharashtra-416405, Have Changed My Name From Matabai To Matabai Dnyanu Hake Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb80149395199326w Dated 25-01-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Ashivini Wife Of Mr. Hake Shankar Dnyanu Resident Of Irali, Sangli, Maharashtra-416405, Have Changed My Name From Ashivini To Ashivini Shankar Hake Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb80149023024489w Dated 25-01-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Subhadra Mother Of Mr. Ladge Govardhan Madhav Resident Of Village Golegaon, Po Shiradhon, District Nanded, Maharashtra-431707, Have Changed My Name From Subhadra To Subhadra Madhav Ladge Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb80149891825348w Dated 25-01-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Narinder Kaur W/O Jaspal Singh R/O L-12/1283, Bazar No.4, Sultanwind Road, Guru Nanak Pura Near Sultanwind Gate Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Narinder Kaur To Narinder Pal Kaur.

I, Gurjant Singh S/O Gulbaddan Singh R/O 160, Vpo Madhoke Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Changed My Name Gurjant Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

I Jasbir Kaur Wife Of Piara Singh Resident Of Ujagar Nagar Batala Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Dalbir Kaur.

I, Shivji Ram S/O Sayian Ram R/O H.No- 178-A, 1/A, Kanch Ghar Treasury Road, Ambala City Have Changed My Name From Shivji Ram To Shiv Ji Ram Bansal.

I, Pawan Kumar Chawla S/O Darshan Lal Chawla R/O H.No- 1901/10 Baldev Nagar Camp Ambala City Have Changed My Name Form Pawan Kumar@ Pawan Chawla To Pawan Kumar Chawla.

I, Palak W/O Kanwal Kishore R/O Hno. 258/5, Kotwali Sarai, Ambala City Distt. Ambala I Have Changed My Name Palak Ahuja.

I, Leelawati W/o Krishan Kumar R/o Gali Number 04, Surya Nagar, Hisar, 125001 declare that I have changed my name from Leelawati to Leelawati Sharma for all future purpose.

I, Sanambir Kour Wife of No. 15488750Y Rank LD Name Parwinder Singh R/O VPO Lakhi Shah Wanzara Colony, Teh. Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab-143202 have changed my name in my husband army record from Sanambir Kour to Sanambir Kaur vide affidavit dated 27-01-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Rajveer Singh Father of No. 14943321X Rank HAV Name Rahul Chauhan R/o Vill. Makanpur Shumali, Teh. Hasanpur, Distt. Amroha, U.P.-244241 have changed my date of birth in my son army record from 01-01-1958 to 01-01-1959 vide affidavit dated 27-01-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Sharma Devi Mother of No. 14943321X Rank HAV Name Rahul Chauhan R/o Vill. Makanpur Shumali, Teh. Hasanpur, Distt. Amroha, U.P.-244241 have changed my date of birth in my son army record from 01-01-1958 to 01-01-1978 vide affidavit dated 27-01-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Sharma Devi Mother of No. 14943321X Rank HAV Name Rahul Chauhan R/o Vill. Makanpur Shumali, Teh. Hasanpur, Distt. Amroha, U.P.-244241 have changed my date of birth in my son army record from 01-01-1958 to 01-01-1978 vide affidavit dated 27-01-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Soma Thakur Wife of No. 15482243P Rank DFR Name Santanu Banerjee R/o VPO Gram Shalika, Teh. Burwan, Distt. Murshidabad, W.B.-742132 have changed my name in my husband army record from Soma Thakur to Soma Banerjee vide affidavit dated 27-01-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Ravinder Kumar S/o Sh. Prem Goyal R/o H. No. 1606 B, 2nd Floor, Sector-14, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Ravinder Kumar to Ravinder Goyal for all future purpose.

I, Sahil S/O Satish r/o Village Jalalpur Kalan Distt. Jind have declare that my Name Changed From Sahil To Sahil Jaglan. In future all purposes.

I, Seema Rani W/o Anil Grover R/o H.No.405-L, Model Town, Panipat declare that I have changed my name after marriage from Seema Rani to Seema Grover in future I should be known as Seema Grover.

I, Ankit S/o Ravi Chand Sharma R/o Village Pharal, Sub Tehsil Dhand, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Ankit to Ankit Sharma. In future, I will be known by the name of Ankit Sharma. All concerned please note.

I Baljeet Singh Gill S/o Bachan Singh Village Ranghrial, Mansa (Punjab) have changed my name to Baljit Singh Gill.

I Ekta Sobti W/o Vishavjit Zakhmi R/O H.No 20/21, Reliance Colony, Near Preet Combine, Patiala Road Nabha (Patiala) have changed my name to Ekta Zakhmi .

I Karmveer Singh S/O Rasham Singh R/O Village Bhangar, Tehsil and District Ferozepur have changed my name from Karmveer Singh Dhillon to Karmveer Singh.

I Barjinder Singh Sran Son of Nachattar Singh Resident of New Harinder Nagar Faridkot have Changed my name to Barjinder Singh.

I Zeero Rani wife of Jagtar Singh Resident of Village Chhanga Rai Hithar Po. Chhanga Rai Uttar Tehsil Guruharsahai District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Arashdeep Kaur.

I, Sahil Son of Satish Kumar Resident of House No. 483, Housing Board Colony, Ferozepur City, District Ferozepur Punjab India have Changed my name to Sahil Kumar.

I Naresh Kumar & Naresh Thukral Son of Dharampal Resident of Ward No.5 Makhu Tehsil Zira District Ferozepur Punjab I am Known by both name's as Above.

I Balwinder Singh Virk Son of Raj Singh Resident of Village Chuhar Khilchi District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Balwinder Singh.

I, Narender Singh S/o Dalip Singh R/o House No 5, Ward No 15, Gurdwara Gali, Ladwa District Kurukshetra, Pin-136132, Haryana, have changed my name to Narinder Singh.

I Parmvir S/o Pardeep Kumar Vpo Dhuleta Teh Phillaur Distt Jalandhar have changed my name Parmvir Singh. And now Singh is my surname.

I, Akashdeep Singh Pannu S/O Harjeet Singh R/O. Mohalla Roriwala Block Verka Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Akashdeep Singh

I Dharminder Singh S/O Jaspal Singh, R/O House Number 798, Guru Teg Bahadur Colony,Vallah Amritsar Punjab I Have Changed My Name Given Name As A Dharminder And Surname As A Singh.

I Jaspreet Singh Bhangu S/O Balbir Singh R/O Vill Khiala Khurd Po Khiala Kalan Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Jaspreet Singh Bhangu To Jaspreet Singh All Concerned May Please Note.

I Sonia Bhatia Alias Harpreet Kaur W/O Amit Bhatia R/O H. No. 138, Kamladevi Avenue, Opp. Neelkanth Hospital, Fatehgarh Churlian Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Sonia Bhatia. All Concerned Please Note.

I, Harjeet Kaur W/O Pritpal Singh R/O.338, Bazar Number No.5, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Harjit Kaur

I Vipan S/O Raja Ram R/O H. No. 120, Gali No. 8, Guru Amar Dass Avenue, C-Block, Airport Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Vipan Kumar. All Concerned Please Note.

I, Heena W/O Lovish Gupta R/O. 103/5, Bollywood Heights-1, Opposite D Mart, Peer Muchalla, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar Have Changed My Name To Heena Garg. All Cornered Please Note.

I, Lakhvinder Kaur, Mother of No. 15212485W, Hav (OPR) Inderjit Singh of Unit 330 FD Regt C/O 99 APO Pin 926330 Resident at Village Jourian Kalan Post & Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak District Gurdaspur State Punjab Pin 143604 Declare That my Son's Army Service Records my name & date of Birth Wrongly mentioned as Paramjit Kaur & 01/07/1964. But Actual and Correct my name is Lakhvinder Kaur & date of birth is 01/01/1961.

I Rinkky Singh Spouse of Deepak Kumar Singh s/o Sh.Nagina Singh Resident of Village Pawra Post-Kuddi, Tehsil Chainpur District Kaimur (Bhabhua) State Bihar Pin code- 821106 have change my name from Rinkky Singh to Kumari Binda Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 25 January 2024 before Notray Ferozepur.

I Mohit Sharma S/o Late. Sh. Anil Sharma R/o House No. A-45, Ridhi Sidhi Avenue, Alpha International City, Karnal, Haryana declare that in my passport my father's name wrongly written as Anil Kumar but his correct name is Anil Sharma. Kindly correct it.

I Anita Rani W/o Sh. Sushil Kumar R/o House No. 76, Sector 20-A, Chandigarh inform that Anita Rani and Anita is the name of one and same person.

USP



BBMB MARKS 75TH REPUBLIC DAY WITH GRAND CELEBRATION OF UNITY AND PROGRESS

Chandigarh: The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) commemorated the 75th Republic Day with spectacular celebrations held at its Board Secretariat in Sector 19, Chandigarh, and across its major project locations in Nangal, Sundernagar and Talwara, including various Sub-Stations in the States of Punjab & Haryana.



Flag Hoisting ceremony on 75th Republic Day at ICSI- Jalandhar

Jalandhar: Chapter of NIRC of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India celebrated 75th Republic day on 26th January 2024 by Hoisting flag at Chapter office premises. CS Atul Sud, Chairman, Jalandhar Chapter of ICSI hoisted the national flag and addressed to the members and students present over there. CS Nagesh Kumar, Vice-Chariman, CS Mahesh Kumar, Treasurer , CS Dharminder Gulati of Management Committee members of Jalandhar Chapter were present.



Punjab Raj Bhavan organizes 'At Home' function on Republic Day

Chandigarh: The Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh, Shri Banwari Lal Purohit hosted the ‘At Home’ function in the lawns of Punjab Raj Bhavan, Chandigarh on the occasion of Republic Day of India, on Friday. The function began at around 4.00 pm with the arrival of the Governor who was given a ceremonial welcome by a police band.



Manpreet Singh AM(HR) PSPCL Honoured.

Chandigarh: S. Manpreet Singh Assistant Manager HR, PSPCL (North Zone) is being awarded by Ramesh Lal Sarangal chief engineer distribution North zone of PSPCL on the eve of 75th Republic Day celebrations.

Republic Day celebrations at Powercom headquarters

Patiala: Punjab State Power Corporation Limited has celebrated 75th Republic Day celebrations in a simple but in an impressive manner. Jasbir Singh Dhillon Sursingh director administration PSPCL unfurled the National Flag on the occasion at PSPCL headquarters.

SJVN wins GUVNL auction for 100 MW Solar Project

Shimla: Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN informed that SJVN has secured full quoted capacity of 100 MW Solar Power Project through e-Reverse Auction conducted by Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL).

75th Republic Day celebrated with patriotic spirit at Aayakar Bhawan, Chandigarh

Chandigarh: The Income Tax Department celebrated the 75th Republic Day at Aayakar Bhawan, Sector-17 E, Chandigarh, with Smt. Amrapalli Das, Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, North West Region, Chandigarh, gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

Punjab CM launches Sadak Surakhya force by Flagging off hi-tech vehicles

PNS ■ JALANDHAR

To reduce the road fatalities by around 3000 annually, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday flagged off 129 hi-tech vehicles of the country's first of its kind 'Sadak Surakhya Force'.

Addressing the gathering in a function to launch this force at PAP grounds, the Chief Minister said that it will go a long way in saving the lives of people and streamlining the traffic movement.

He said that the idea for forming this force has been a result of introspection of this serious problem. He said that with the constitution of this force, the Police will be able to discharge its Policing duties far more effectively, adding that the vehicles that have been roped in for the force are one of the finest vehicles across the world. Mann said that SSF will be instrumental in saving the lives of common man and from now on the data of every month will be analysed to judge the working of SSF and data will be shared with the people after every month.

He said that this is a step forward towards making



Punjab the safest state in terms of road accidents, adding that the day is not far when this motive is achieved in the larger public interest for the well being of the state and its people. He also asked the staff of SSF to discharge their duties effectively and honestly to save the lives of people.

Mann said that points will also be kept for the driving licenses so that in coming times chronic violators are punished by cancelling their Driving licenses, adding that this is the need of hour to make sure that people abide by traffic rules and vehicular movement is streamlined. He said that it is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that a large number of girls are join-

ing the force and 90 drivers of the SSF vehicles are girls.

The Chief Minister said that this force has been launched as a plan for road safety for covering 5500 km of state and national highways, pointing out that Punjab has witnessed a significant increase in traffic and road infrastructure over the past few decades. He expressed concern that 65% of road fatalities take place on the national and state highways adding that most of these fatal accidents take place between 6:00 pm to 12:00 pm, when the presence of police on these roads is minimal.

Mann said that as many as 129 patrolling vehicles, fitted with specialized equipment to check drunken driving



and over speeding, will be deployed on these routes, each covering a distance of 30 kilometres. He said that Police personnel who have been imparted quality training are being deployed in Sadak Surakhsha Force out of the newly recruited cops, adding that training was imparted at Kapurthala and this force will be pivotal to check the fatality rate due to road accidents in the state on one hand and to streamline the movement of traffic on the roads of the state on the other.

He said this force will be entrusted with the task of checking rash driving, streamlining vehicular movement on roads and others to check the road accidents, pointing out that these vehicles will also

have a complete medical kit for providing emergency treatment to any person in need. He said that the force will be duly connected with trauma centres to ensure that people get required medical help on time.

The Chief Minister said that daily around 14 precious lives are lost in road accidents in Punjab and this causality can be checked by manning the roads well for which 'Sadak Surakhya Force' has been constituted in the Punjab Police.

144 HI-TECH VEHICLES OF SSF TO MAN 5500 KILOMETRES ROADS IN THE STATE

The Sadak Surakhya Force has got a fleet of 144 ultra-mod-

ern vehicles in the first phase to monitor the roads efficiently. These vehicles include 116 Toyota Hilux and 28 Mahindra Scorpio which will be deployed after an interval of every 30 kilometres to monitor the roads. A team of four cops headed by an officer not less than rank of ASI, as patrol incharge, will be there in the vehicle.

Road interceptors will be deployed at every district which will be manned by three cops. In the first phase 1296 newly recruited cops along with 432 existing Police personnel will be deployed in SSF. The teams will be deployed 24X7 in eight hour shifts each for which they have been imparted special training at Police Training Academy in Kapurthala.

These vehicles have been equipped with gadgets like speed gun, alcometer, e-challan machines and AI enabled smart mechanism to check the violation of traffic rules. They will also have a recovery van along with command and control centre enabled real time CCTV cameras. Likewise there will be road crash investigation and mechanical engineers, civil engineers and IT experts for handling technical assignments.

Himachal CM Chairs 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar' in Gagret

PNS ■ SHIMLA

While presiding over 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar' programme at Bada Bhanjaal in Gagret assembly constituency of district Una on Saturday, Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the objective of this programme was to resolve the grievances of the people at their very doorstep and to reach out to the last person in the row. He said that the obsolete laws were being changed so that there was no hindrance to the people while working on the modalities for reaping the benefits of the schemes of the Government.

Sukhu announced the office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police to be opened in Gagret, a sum of Rs. 50 lakh for the stadium at Banjhaal and up-gradation of Community Health Centre at Daulatpur to Civil Hospital. He also stated that upon the availability of the land, a college would be opened at Gagret. He said that discussions were being done with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for setting up a Rs 175 crore ethanol plant at Jeetpur-Behri under Gagret assembly constituency.

The government took a decision to hold special Revenue Lok Adalats to dispose of long pending revenue cases of the people. "We are committed to the welfare of the people of the State and to resolve their grievances", he said, adding that so far 65 thousand cases of mutation and more than four thousand cases of partition were disposed off

through these Lok Adalats throughout the State. In Una district, 3713 mutation cases and 1107 pending cases of partition were disposed off in these Lok Adalats.

To give relief to those, whose houses were completely or partially damaged due to heavy rains during the monsoons, an assistance amount of Rs 4.10 crore has been distributed to the affected families in Una district. As per reports 55 houses in the district were completely damaged during the disaster, while 298 houses were damaged partially.

Referring to the Chief Minister Sukh Ashraya Yojna, Sukhu said that financial assistance of Rs 25.18 lakh has been provided to 238 children of the state, in Una district. The present state government made a law, the first of its kind in the country, wherein the government will provide care to the orphans till they achieve 27 years of age, assist them to pursue higher education and to make them self-reliant. Apart from this, under Dr.Yashwant Singh Parmar Student Loan Scheme, one percent interest will be charged upto the loan amount of Rs 20 lakh to students for pursuing higher education, he reiterated.

He said that the Government was going to provide 21000 jobs in the government sector. Besides this, the Rs. 680 crore Rajeev Gandhi Start-up Yojna will also serve as an employment generator for thousands of youth of the State with provisions of subsidy.

Punjab CM unfurls national flag at Ludhiana; Lists pro people initiatives

PNS ■ LUDHIANA

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday recalled the stellar role played by the Punjabis in attaining the freedom of the country and then carving out the modern day Indian Republic by preserving its unity, integrity and sovereignty through countless sacrifices.

Addressing the gathering after unfurling the national tri-color in a function to mark 75th Republic Day, Mann said it is surprising how national festivals can be celebrated without Punjab adding that those who had deliberately kept Punjab's tableau out of the parade must tell what is wrong in them. He said that the rich culture and heritage of the state has been duly showcased in the tableaux made by the state government because we can't compromise with the pride of the state. He said that the mockery of the supreme sacrifices made by the Punjabis, by the Union government, is intolerable and unwarranted due to which the state has vehemently raised this issue.

The Chief Minister said that the Union government has insulted the great martyrs including Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Rajguru, Shaheed Sukhdev, Lala Lajpat Rai, Shaheed Udham Singh, Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha, Mai Bhago, Ghadri Baabe and others by rejecting the tableau of the state. He said that the union government has belittled their contribution and sacrifice of these heroes by not including their tableaux in the



Republic Day parade. Mann said that this cannot be tolerated as it is the grave insult of these great patriots and national leaders adding that the state government has now duly showcased this immense contribution in tableaux across the state.

He said that the state government has decided to name the upcoming International Airport at Indian Air force Station Halwara, Ludhiana as Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha International Airport. He said that due to strenuous efforts of the state government, the Mohali International Airport has already been named after Shaheed Bhagat Singh adding that naming of Halwara airport after Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha will be a humble tribute to the martyr. He further said that naming the airports, universities and other institutions in the name of these iconic martyrs is important to perpetuate their glorious legacy.

Mann said that the state government is making concerted efforts for the welfare of the youth of the state, adding that the focus of his govern-

ment is to ensure that youth become job givers instead of job seekers. He said that during previous regimes the youth were deprived of jobs and education so that they make a beeline behind the political leaders. He said that this culture is being abandoned so that youth become an integral part of the progress and prosperity of the state.

He said that due to all out efforts of the state government for the first time in the last 75 years canal water has reached at the tail end of the last field in the state. He said that the state government is duty bound for this noble cause so that farmers of the state are immensely benefitted from it. He said already due to strenuous efforts of the state government water has reached the far flung areas of Punjab.

The Chief Minister said that to impart quality health services to people, the state government has set up Aam Aadmi Clinics and around 97 lakh people have so far availed the facilities of free healthcare in these clinics. He said that this is a new revolution in the

healthcare sector adding that efforts are afoot to give a facelift to this sector.

The Chief Minister further said that massive efforts are being made to impart quality education to the students, pointing out that the state government has established the first of its kind School of Eminence in the state and during the first year 8358 students have been enrolled in it. He said that an amount of Rs 200 crores has been earmarked for developing school infrastructure and sports facilities, besides providing free uniforms to students.

He said that the state government is committed to make Punjab a frontrunner state in the industrial sector and due to concerted efforts of the state government investments worth Rs 65,000 crore has been firm up in the state which will provide 2.98 lakh jobs to youth. He said that this will give further push to the economic development of the state by putting it on the path of high growth trajectory.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected the parade led by parade commander Akarshi Jain, IPS. He also took a salute from an impressive march past by contingents of Punjab Police, Punjab Home Guards, Punjab Armed Police, NCC Girls and Boys, Bharat Scouts and Guides besides the Punjab Police Brass band. On the occasion, the students of various local schools presented a colorful variety program including Bhangra, Gidha, Group Dance, PT show and group singing.

Himachal Single Window Clearance Monitoring Authority approves Rs 1 937 cr project proposals

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The State Single Window Clearance & Monitoring Authority (SSWC&MA) of Himachal Pradesh has approved 27 project proposals for setting up new industrial enterprises and undertaking substantial expansion of existing units with proposed investment of around Rs 1,937 crore.

SSWC&MA has approved Rs 1,937 crore project proposals and employment opportunities for 2,715 people, according to a statement issued here on Saturday. The decision was taken during the 28th meeting of the SSWC&MA, which was presided over by Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu.

The new proposals approved by the Authority include proposals of Xenone Healthcare and Master Formulations CO for manufacturing of tablets, capsules and ointments. Some of the other approved proposals include that of Gowthami Aquachem for manufacturing of Sodium Chlorite, Him Deep Alkalies Chemical for manufacturing of Caustic Soda Liquid, Hydrogen and Chlorine, Agro Farm Ventures for setting up a cold store, Scottill Healthcare for manufacturing of dry injections and eye drops and Mahalakshmi Spintex for manufacturing of polyester staple fibre and polyester chips.

Expansion proposals approved by the Authority include proposals of Procter and Gamble Home Products for manufacturing shampoo and detergent powder, Loreal India for manufacturing hair colorant and medicated toilet soap among others.

Parksons Packaging got approval for manufacturing corrugated boxes and mono cartons, Dr. Reddys Laboratories for manufacturing tablets, capsules, ointments creams, gel cosmeceuticals, Mondelez India Foods for manufacturing Five Star, moulded chocolate, crumb, gems.

Some of the other project proposals that received approvals include Hindustan Polyfab for manufacturing injection and infusion IV fluids Luminous Power Technologies for manufacturing inverter UPS, transformers, Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA), solar products and battery assembly.

Punjab Governor hosts At Home at Raj Bhavan



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Governor and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh, Banwari Lal Purohit hosted the 'At Home' function in the lawns of Punjab Raj Bhavan, on the occasion of Republic Day on Friday. Eminent people from different walks of life and sec-

tions of the society gathered on the occasion. The Governor greeted the guests and exchanged pleasantries with them. On this occasion, a beautiful cultural performance of music and dance was presented by the artists of North Zone Cultural Center (NZCC). Patriotic songs were also played throughout the event.

BRIEFS

MAN 4 OTHERS HELD FOR DUPING SEVERAL PEOPLE IN HOSHIARPUR

Hoshiarpur: A man has been arrested along with his four accomplices for allegedly duping several people after taking money from them by promising them jobs in the police department, officials said on Saturday. A 32-bore pistol, counterfeit identity cards of the Punjab Police, a sports utility vehicle and three police uniforms have been seized from the accused.

Superintendent of Police (Investigation) Sarabjit Singh Bahia said that the main accused in this case was identified as Rajiv Kumar alias Chhotu Pehalwan of Jangala village. The others were identified as Ajay Banwala of Kaithal in Haryana, Harjinder Singh alias Honey of Khairabad village, Jarnail Singh alias Kailla of Khun-Khun Sarki village and Sanjeev Kumar of Rali village, he added. It came to light that Rajiv, who allegedly had fake police identity cards, would impersonate a high-ranking police official in the Punjab Police and also used to wear a police uniform, police said. The investigation revealed that Rajiv, along with the other accused, allegedly duped around 20 people by promising them employment in the sports wing of the Punjab Police. He had even called all the victims to Jalandhar to hand them fake appointment letters during a function of the Republic Day celebrations there, police said.

NO LET-UP IN COLD WAVE IN PUNJAB, HARYANA

Chandigarh: There was no let-up in the cold wave condition in Punjab and Haryana on Saturday with minimum temperatures staying below normal at several places. Hisar in Haryana was the coldest place as it shivered at 3.1 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal, according to a report of the Meteorological Department here. Among other places, Ambala and Karnal experienced cold weather conditions at 6.2 and 4.6 degrees Celsius respectively. Narnaul, Sirsa, Faridabad, and Fatehabad recorded 7.6 degrees Celsius, 4 degrees Celsius, 3.9 degrees Celsius, and 3.6 degrees Celsius. Faridkot in Punjab was the coldest place in the state as it shivered at 3.6 degrees Celsius. Amritsar reeled at 3.7 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal, while Ludhiana and Patiala recorded their respective minimums of 6 and 6.5 degrees Celsius. Pathankot, Bathinda and Gurdaspur recorded minimum temperatures of 4.3, 4 and 5.5 degrees Celsius respectively. Chandigarh recorded a minimum of 7.7 degrees Celsius.

MAYOR DEDICATES VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS TO PUBLIC AT VILLAGE KAIMBWALA



Chandigarh: Anup Gupta, Mayor, dedicated various developmental works completed by the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh at village Kaimbwala on Saturday in the presence of Anindita Mitra, Commissioner, councilors and officers of MCC, and other prominent persons of the area. Recarpeting of phirni road village Kaimbwala and re-construction of internal gullies in village Kaimbwala were the major works, which gave big relief to the local residents.

Haryana CM hoists national flag in Karnal; Lists achievements

PNS ■ KARNAL / CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday hoisted the flag on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day celebrations held in Karnal and announced that under the Mukhya Mantri Shehri Awaz Yojana, a portal will be opened from February 1 for the allocation of plots measuring 30 square yards in 11 cities under this scheme. Applicants can participate by depositing a nominal amount and avail loans from banks, along with assistance from the central and state governments, to build their homes on these plots.

He said that the state government initiated this scheme to provide roofs over the heads of the poor and needy and through advertisements, applications were invited for plots or flats under this scheme. So far, 1 lakh people have applied under this scheme.

Khattar also announced that statues of Dr. Mangal Sen and Kalpana Chawla will be installed in Dr. Mangal Sen Auditorium in Karnal and Kalpana Chawla Medical College in Karnal, respectively. He paid tributes to martyrs at the War Memorial and inspected the parade of contingents.

The CM further



announced that 'Atal canteens' are being operated in 25 Mandis of the state to provide nutritious food at affordable rates to the poor and farmers. Starting from February 1, such canteens will be opened in 15 more Mandis, and all 40 Mandis will now operate throughout the year instead of just five months, he announced.

He announced that there was a demand from the people to receive electricity bills every month instead of every two months. For this, as a pilot project in the first phase, monthly bills will be issued from February 1 in four districts, namely Hisar, Mahendragarh, Karnal, and Panchkula. Initially, Nigam workers will go for meter readings, and later consumers will send meter readings through a mobile

application, bringing improvements and benefits to the system, said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister paid homage to the freedom fighters who participated in the country's independence and to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the wars of 1962, 1965, 1971, and Kargil. He expressed his gratitude to the scientists, farmers, labourers, and the people of the country who, after independence, together made India a significant power in the world.

He said that Haryana is significantly contributing to the progress of the country and in the past 9 years, the state government has implemented various schemes, arrangements, and administrative reforms, which other states in the country are now following.

Khattar said that from investment to innovation, Haryana is progressing in every sector, adding that the State has achieved top positions in the ease of doing business. In terms of MSMEs, Haryana ranks third in the country, and it holds the second position in food storage facilities. Haryana is the only state in the country with a literate panchayat. Medal-winning players receive an amount of Rs . 6 crores, which is the highest in the country. Haryana is the only state in the country that provides a social security pension of Rs. 3000. With a per capita income of Rs. 2,96,685, Haryana has the highest per capita income among the major states in the country. Haryana contributes 4 percent to the country's GDP, said Khattar.

He said that a college has been established every 20 kilometres, and 5 lakh free tablets have been provided to students in government schools to promote digital education. Regular schools have been transformed into Model Sanskriti schools, and currently, 500 Model Sanskriti schools are operating in the state, with the number increasing each year, he said.

Highlighting the steps taken by the state govern-

ment for women's safety, the Chief Minister said that the number of women in Haryana police is increasing, with 33 women police stations currently operational. To control cybercrime, 29 cyber police stations have been established. Through Dial-112, assistance reaches individuals within 7 to 8 minutes in case of any emergency. Additionally, strict action is being taken against drug traffickers, with 1300 drug traffickers sent behind bars, he said.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has achieved great success at the national level by getting the State's tableau selected for the Republic Day Parade for three consecutive years. In the year 2022, Haryana through its tableau highlighted the achievements of the talented players of the state, while in the year 2023, the world got a glimpse of International Gita Mahotsav through the State's tableau. Similarly, on January 26, 2024, the Haryana Government's ambitious scheme 'Mera Parivar Meri Pehchan' was introduced to the country narrating that in a small state like Haryana, the benefits of government schemes are being extended to the common people sitting at home through digital medium.

Houthi missile hits tanker, crew put blaze off

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The crew aboard a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker hit by a missile launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels extinguished an hourslong fire onboard the stricken vessel Saturday sparked by the strike, authorities said.

The attack on the Marlin Luanda further complicated the Red Sea crisis caused by the Iranian-backed rebels' attacks over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The tanker carried Russian-produced naphtha, a flammable oil, drawing Moscow further into a conflict that so far it had blamed on the US.

Early Saturday, US forces conducted a strike against a Houthi anti-ship missile that was aimed at the Red Sea and prepared to launch, the US military's Central Command said. That attack came after the

USS Carney, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, had to shoot down a Houthi missile targeting it.

The Marlin Luanda burned for hours until being extinguished Saturday, said Trafigura, a Singapore-based trading firm. Its crew of 25 Indian nationals and two Sri Lankans were still trying to battle the blaze sparked by the missile strike, it said. No one was injured by the blast, it added.

"We are pleased to confirm that all crew on board the Marlin Luanda are safe and the fire in the cargo tank has been fully extinguished," Trafigura said. "The vessel is now sailing towards a safe harbor."

The Indian navy said its guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam was assisting the Marlin Luanda's crew in fighting the fire. It posted images showing the blaze still raging Saturday, likely fueled by



the naphtha on board.

The ship, managed by a British firm, is carrying the Russian naphtha bound for Singapore, the company said. It described the flammable oil as being purchased below the price caps set by G7 sanctions placed on Russia over its ongoing war on Ukraine. It wasn't clear what environmental impact the attack had caused.

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed the attack on the Marlin Luanda in a prerecorded statement late Friday, describing it as a "British oil ship." He insisted such

attacks would continue.

Since November, the rebels have repeatedly targeted ships in the Red Sea over Israel's offensive in Gaza against Hamas. But they have frequently targeted vessels with tenuous or no clear links to Israel, imperiling shipping in a key route for global trade between Asia, the Mideast and Europe.

Since the airstrike campaign began, the rebels now say they'll target American and British ships as well. On Wednesday, two American-flagged ships carrying cargo for the US Defense and State departments came under attack by the Houthis, forcing an escorting US Navy warship to shoot some of the projectiles down.

China, which relies on the seaborne trade through the area, has called for calm. The US had sought to get China to apply pressure on Iran, as

No evidence of POWs killed in Russian plane crash: Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

Officials in Ukraine said Russia has provided no credible evidence to back its claims that their own forces shot down a military transport plane carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war who were to be swapped for Russian POWs.

The Ukrainian agency that deals with prisoner exchanges said late Friday that Russian officials had "with great delay" provided it with a list of the 65 Ukrainians who Moscow said had died in the Wednesday plane crash in Russia's Belgorod region. Ukraine's Coordination Staff for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said relatives of the named POWs were unable to identify their loved ones in crash site photos provided by Russian authorities. The agency's update cited Ukraine's military intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, as saying that Kyiv had no verifiable information about who was on the plane.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday that missiles fired from across the border brought down the transport plane that it said was taking the POWs back to Ukraine. Local authorities in Belgorod, which borders Ukraine, said the crash killed all 74 people onboard, including six crew members and three Russian servicemen.

"We currently don't have evidence that there could have been that many people onboard the aircraft. Russian propaganda's claim that the IL-76 aircraft was transporting 65 Ukrainian POWs (heading) for a prisoner swap continues to raise a lot of questions," Budanov, who heads Ukraine's POW agency, said.

Social media users in the

Belgorod region posted a video Wednesday that showed a plane falling from the sky in a snowy, rural area, and a huge ball of fire erupting where it apparently hit the ground.

Kyiv has neither confirmed nor denied that its forces downed a Russian military transport plane that day, and Russia's claim that the crash killed Ukrainian POWs could not be independently verified. Earlier Friday, Mykola Oleshchuk, Ukraine's air force commander, described Moscow's assertion as "rampant Russian propaganda."

Ukrainian officials earlier this week confirmed that a prisoner swap was due to happen Wednesday but said it was called off. They said Moscow did not ask for any specific stretch of airspace to be kept safe for a certain length of time, as it has for past prisoner exchanges.

An International Committee of the Red Cross spokesperson in Ukraine urged Russia on Friday night to return the bodies of any POWs who might have died in the plane crash. In a live interview with the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Red Cross Media Relations Officer Oleksandr Vlasenko also remarked that "very little time" had passed between the initial reports of the incident and Moscow declaring it was ready to return the bodies of the Ukrainian POWs.

While Ukraine and Russia regularly exchange the bodies of dead soldiers, each trade has required considerable preparation, Vlasenko said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called for an international investigation into the crash. Russia has sole access to the crash site.

Trump ordered to pay \$83.3m in defamation case

AP ■ NEW YORK

A jury awarded USD 83.3 million to E. Jean Carroll on Friday in a stinging and expensive rebuke to former President Donald Trump for his continued social media attacks against the longtime advice columnist over her claims that he sexually assaulted her in a Manhattan department store.

The award, when coupled with a USD 5 million sexual assault and defamation verdict last year from another jury in a case brought by Carroll, raised to \$88.3 million what Trump must pay her. Protesting vigorously, he said he would appeal.



Carroll, 80, clutched her lawyers' hands and smiled as the seven-man, two-woman jury delivered its verdict. Minutes later, she shared a weepy three-way hug with her attorneys.

She declined comment as she left the Manhattan federal courthouse, but issued a statement later through a publicist, saying: "This is a great victory for every woman who stands up when she's been knocked down, and a huge defeat for every bully who has tried to keep a woman down."

Trump had attended the trial earlier in the day, but stormed out of the courtroom during closing arguments read by Carroll's attorney. He returned for his own attorney's closing argument and for a portion of the deliberations, but left the courthouse a half hour before the verdict was read.

"Absolutely ridiculous!" he said in a statement shortly afterward. "Our Legal System is out of control, and being used as a Political Weapon."

It was the second time in nine months that a civil jury returned a verdict related to Carroll's claim that a flirtatious, chance encounter with Trump in 1996 at Bergdorf Goodman's Fifth Avenue store ended violently. She said Trump slammed her against a dressing room wall, pulled down her tights and forced himself on her.

In May, a different jury awarded Carroll USD 5 million. It found Trump not liable for rape, but responsible for sexually abusing Carroll and then defaming her by claiming she made it up. He is appealing that award, too.

Trump is also awaiting a verdict in a New York civil fraud trial, where state lawyers are seeking the return of USD 370 million in what they say were ill-gotten gains from loans and deals made using financial statements that exaggerated his wealth.

As for Trump's ability to pay, he reported having about \$294 million in cash or cash equivalents on his most recent annual financial statement, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Testifying at his civil fraud trial last November, he Trump boasted: "I have very little debt, and I have a lot of cash." Trump skipped the first Carroll trial. He later expressed regret for not attending and insisted on testifying in the second trial, though the judge limited what he could say, ruling he had missed his chance to argue that he was innocent. He spent only a few minutes on the witness stand Thursday, during which he denied attacking Carroll, then left court grumbling "this is not America."

Israel presses on with war against Hamas

AP ■ RAFA (GAZA STRIP)

Two women and a man were killed early on Saturday in what witnesses said was an Israeli airstrike on a home in the southernmost part of Gaza, as Israel pursued its military offensive against the Palestinian enclave.

The strike came less than a day after the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza. As part of its binding ruling, the top United Nations court asked Israel for a compliance report in a month, meaning the military's conduct will be under increasing scrutiny.

The court stopped short of ordering a cease-fire, but the orders its judges issued were in part a stinging rebuke of the army's conduct so far in Israel's nearly 4-month-long war against Gaza's Hamas rulers. Friday's decision came in a case brought by South Africa, which alleged Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian territory's

people, a charge Israel vehemently denies.

The war has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, destroyed vast swaths of Gaza and displaced nearly 85 per



cent of a population of 2.3 million people. It was triggered by an unprecedented Hamas attack on southern Israel on October 7 in which militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took about 250 hostages.

The overall Palestinian

death toll in the war rose to 26,257 as of Saturday, with 174 deaths over the past day, the Health Ministry in Gaza said. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count, but has said

ians. Israel says its air and ground offensive in Gaza has killed more than 9,000 militants.

Bilal al-Siksik, who lost his wife, a son and a daughter in Saturday's strike in Rafah, a town on Gaza's border with Egypt, said the decision by the world court meant little since it did not stop the war.

"No one can speak in front of them (Israel). America with all its greatness and strength can do nothing," he said as he stood beside the pile of rubble and twisted metal that was once his home. "What can people do, who have no power or anything?" He said his family was asleep when their residence was struck. Rafah and its surrounding areas are crammed with more than 1 million people after the Israeli military ordered civilians to seek refuge there from the fighting elsewhere in the territory. Despite those orders, the designated evacuation areas have repeatedly come under airstrikes, with Israel saying it would go after militants as needed.

ICJ ruling vindicated us: SA Prez Ramaphosa

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

President Cyril Ramaphosa has said the International Court of Justice's ruling has vindicated South Africa's unprecedented decision to charge Israel of genocide during its military offensive against Hamas in Gaza and marked an important first step in its quest to secure justice for the Palestinians.

The top UN court on Friday stopped short of ordering a ceasefire in Gaza but demanded that Israel try to contain death and damage in its military offensive. South Africa, which brought the case, had asked for the court to order Israel to halt its military operations against Hamas militants. The top UN Court court decided not to throw out genocide charges against Israel for its military offensive in Gaza, as part of a preliminary decision in the case.

In a national TV broadcast on Friday evening, Ramaphosa said the ruling of the International Court of Justice is "a victory for international law, for human rights, and above all, for justice."

"The court has concluded that pursuant to Article 9 of the (1948 Genocide Convention, it has jurisdiction to adjudicate our application. The effect of the order that the ICJ has granted today is that there is a plausible case of genocide. This follows the unprecedented action taken by South Africa to take another country to the International Court of Justice," he said.

The president said the ICJ ruling marked an important first step in South Africa's quest to secure justice for the people of Gaza.

"Some have told us to mind our own business. Others have said it was not our place. And yet it is very much our place, as people who know too well the pain of dispossession, discrimination, and state-sponsored violence.

"We are also a people who were the victims of the crime of apartheid. We know what apartheid looks like. We experienced and lived through it. Sadly, many people died and were exiled like

our beloved leader Oliver Tambo and others, others were jailed, like the father of our democracy (Nelson Mandela) and others were maimed," Ramaphosa said.

He said, "We, as South Africans, will not be passive bystanders and watch the crimes that were visited upon us being perpetrated elsewhere. We stand on the side of freedom for all. We stand on the side of justice."

The war between Israel and Hamas began on October 7 after Hamas' attack in which around 1,200 Israelis were killed.

Since then, Israel has been continuously attacking Gaza with the country's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stressing that they will continue its war till victory is achieved despite "international pressure". Since Israel started bombarding the Gaza strip, some 26,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to the Gaza health authority.

Paraphrasing a statement by Nelson



Mandela made 30 years ago when he was elected South Africa's first democratically elected president, Ramaphosa said, "We say again today, never, never and never again shall it be that acts of genocide are perpetrated with impunity as we, the international community look on."

The president said he firmly believed that following this judgment there should now be a more concerted effort towards a ceasefire.

"Negotiations should commence on a permanent two-state solution, to enable Israel and Palestine to live side by side as independent states," he said as he thanked those in the international community who had supported South Africa's application to the ICJ.

"We will not waver in our commitment to the Palestinian people and their quest for self-determination. Our own painful history obliges us to do no less. We thank the International Court of Justice for upholding its role of achieving justice, promoting peace, preventing genocide and holding those guilty of genocide accountable," Ramaphosa said.

Pak seeks \$2 billion loan from China

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan has sought financial assistance of USD 2 billion from its close ally China for a year, according to a media report on Saturday.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, in a letter, has requested his Chinese Premier Li Qiang to roll over the debt as soon as the deposit time for the loan from China is completed on March 23.

In his letter, Kakar expressed gratitude to China for its financial assistance to Pakistan during its economic crisis as the cash-strapped country has secured a safe deposit of a total of USD 4 billion in loans from China, reducing the country's mounting pressure on external debt payments and stabilising its foreign exchange reserves, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Earlier this month, the UAE rolled over Pakistan's maturing loan of USD 2 billion. Apart from the UAE, Saudi Arabia has deposited USD 5 billion with the State Bank of Pakistan.

Following the loan rollover by the UAE, the interim government requested the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to dispatch a new mission this month for talks for the last loan tranche of USD 1.2 billion. The IMF's next mission is critical for not only securing the last loan tranche but also for beginning negotiations for a new long-term programme.

While speaking to a private TV news channel recently, former finance minister Ishaq Dar said in case his party – the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)

– won the elections and formed the government, the decision about the new IMF programme would be made at the earliest. Dar, the four-time finance minister of the country, added that in case his party decided not to enter the IMF programme, it would immediately start implementing the belt-tightening measures.

The IMF has made new adjustments in its fresh staff-level report about the available financing to Pakistan.

The Washington-based lender has increased the projection of budget support loans to USD 3 billion but cut the project financing to USD 3.7 billion for this fiscal year. The overall external financing requirements have been reduced to a little under USD 25 billion with minor downward adjustments in the current account deficit projections, the report said.

The report suggested the global lender had made a minor adjustment of USD 575 million in its current account deficit projection in comparison with July's estimates.

The IMF has now projected the deficit at USD 5.7 billion or 1.6 per cent of the GDP – an estimate that appeared on the higher end. Pakistan is in economic ruin and awaiting a monumental financial default without long overdue structural reforms sought by global creditors such as the IMF and the World Bank, along with bilateral partners like China and the UAE. The primary reason behind Pakistan's economic woes is its staggering debt levels, which, as of 2023, amount to nearly USD 125 billion owed to external creditors, with approximately one-third to China.

Sharif's party to focus on revival of Pak's economy

PTI ■ LAHORE

Focus on bringing Pakistan's economy back on track, the message of peace to India, a vow to combat climate change, and zero-tolerance towards terrorism are the highlights of the manifesto unveiled by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's party on Saturday.

With less than two weeks before the February 8 general elections, Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) manifesto promises to send a "message of peace" to other countries, including India, on the condition that New Delhi revert its August 2019 action on Kashmir, Dawn.com reported, quoting the manifesto.

The manifesto also vows to combat the impacts of climate change and a "zero-tolerance policy" towards terrorism, it said.

Released at a special event here in the provincial capital of Punjab, the PML-N later shared the detailed manifesto titled 'Pakistan ko Nawaz do' on its official X account. "If voted to power, the party vowed to provide the public with cheap and increased electricity as well as speedy development. Its promises include a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in power bills, a 15,000 megawatt-increase in electricity production, and a 10,000 MW production of solar energy," the Dawn newspaper reported.



Revelers march during a traditional carnival to celebrate the departing winter and forthcoming spring in the village of Hamry, Czech Republic on Saturday. The carnival is part of a centuries old tradition called the Shrove tide Procession which takes place in Eastern Bohemia near the end of winter and before Christian Lent. Experts trace the event, also known as Masopust, with its vibrant colors and archaic masks to pre-Christian paganism, then common in the area. AP/PTI

Tuvalu's PM loses his seat in crucial poll

AP ■ SYDNEY

Prime Minister Kausea Natano reportedly lost his seat in parliament in elections on the tiny Pacific island nation of Tuvalu.

The election for the 16-seat parliament, which could have implications for China, Taiwan and Australia, saw eight new-

comers win seats, according to Radio New Zealand. The report couldn't be independently confirmed. Tuvalu, with just over 11,500 people, is one of the smallest nations in the world. But the election has gained international attention because Tuvalu, a British colony until 1978, is one of only 12 countries that have

official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the self-governing democratic island that China claims as its territory.

Natano is a supporter of Taiwan. Another contender for the top job, the reelected Finance Minister Seve Paeniu, has said he wants to review Tuvalu's relationships with both Taiwan and

China.

The elections come as China, the United States and others wrangle for influence in the strategically crucial region. But China has been putting pressure on supporters of Taiwan. Nauru, for instance, another small Pacific nation, recently switched its support from Taiwan to China.

Budget expectations: Income tax benefits, support to women entrepreneurs

PTI ■ KOLKATA

An increase in income tax exemption limits, support to women entrepreneurs, a long-term taxation policy and steps to boost consumption and savings are among the expectations of experts from the interim budget which will be presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

They also demand for parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and limited liability partnerships.

“This is going to be an interim budget but at least there may be some indications of full-budget benefits. There may be some concession to be offered to individual taxpayers under section 87A under which the overall tax exemption limit may be increased to Rs 8 lakh from now Rs 7 lakh, inclusive of rebates,” All India Federation of Tax Practitioners national president Narayan Jain said.



Bharat Chamber of Commerce president N G Khaitan said there is a need for a long-term taxation policy and parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) for a level playing field for small and medium firms.

MSMEs, which have a huge

contribution to the country's GDP and employment generation, are subjected to higher taxation, he said.

Khaitan also expects some actions to mitigate the burden on salaried persons with a reduction in the personal taxation front and boost consumption and savings.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce's fiscal affairs and taxation committee chairperson Vivek Jalan expected that a simplified “single hybrid scheme” for personal income taxation incorporating certain deductions could be rolled out.

The government needs to pri-

oritise its ‘Vasudeva Kutumbakam’ (the whole world is one family) roadmap and India's leadership role in green manufacturing, the expert said.

Jalan hoped that customs duty on capital goods and raw materials like lithium-ion cells for electric vehicles to propel green energy initiatives could be reduced.

A government-facilitated settlement mechanism for customs disputes and a dedicated tribunal for handling GST-related cases may see the light of day.

Radhika Dalmia, chairperson of FICCI Ladies Organisation (Kolkata chapter), advocated tax relaxations for women entrepreneurs and more paid holidays for working mothers.

“Increasing the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana allowance and enhancing education benefits for girls are crucial steps. Strengthening financial inclusion and healthcare infrastructure along with prioritising education, particu-

larly for girls, is vital for a more inclusive Bharat,” she said.

Mjunction services MD and CEO Vinaya Varma, in his expectations, said, “I think the role of export on e-marketplaces will become important with the government's focus on Made in India. Therefore, a regulatory framework that acknowledges e-marketplaces as responsible players in facilitating cross-border payments, potentially granting them specific roles in the release or holding of funds based on pre-defined criteria and agreements, will be welcome.”

The executive of the company, the B2B e-commerce joint venture by Tata Steel and SAIL, said that the interim budget must prioritise sustainable energy, digital adoption in manufacturing, and increased credit for MSMEs.

“The government must review TDS which is obligatory on us (eCommerce platforms) to deduct and deposit for payments made by the buyers,” he added.

Every partner needs to collaborate for India to become third largest economy by FY28: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the initiatives of Customs department like Faceless Assessment and Single Window Clearance need to evolve with the overall objective of growth of trade as every partner needs to collaborate to help India's GDP surpass USD 5 trillion by 2027-28.

In a written message on the occasion of ‘International Customs Day 2024’, Sitharaman said with a common purpose of ease of doing business for nation building during India's ‘Amrit Kaal’, all the stakeholders need to come together and contribute for benefits to citizen of India.

She said this year's theme of International Customs Day which is “Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose” resonates with the Motto of ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’ given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“Every partner needs to collab-



orate to put India on course to becoming the third-largest economy by 2027-28, with a GDP surpassing USD 5 trillion,” Sitharaman said.

Many initiatives taken by Customs such as Faceless Assessment, Direct Port Delivery, Single Window Clearance, AEO Scheme need to evolve with overall objective of growth of trade and business, she added.

Special focus on MSMEs, new startups and inclusivity will align with the vision of the prime minister, Sitharaman added.

Centre to help Maharashtra cooperative sector: Verma

PTI ■ NASHIK

Union minister BL Verma on Saturday said the Centre will provide all help for the development of the cooperative sector in Maharashtra.

The Union minister of state for cooperation was speaking at the Maharashtra State Urban Cooperative Banks Conference (MSUCBC) 2023-24 being held here.

“Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah, many steps have been taken for development in the country through the medium of cooperation. The Union government will provide all help for development of the cooperative sector in Maharashtra,” Verma said.

He said the Narendra Modi government had created a separate ministry for cooperation, which was ensuring all stake-

holders were getting support and solutions were being found for problems facing the sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Union minister of state for health Bharti Pawar said the government must provide help to the Nashik District Central Cooperative Bank so that the institution can tide over problems.

Pawar is Lok Sabha MP from Dindori in the district.

Maharashtra has a glorious tradition of cooperation and cooperative institutions, which have contributed greatly in the development of the nation, state cooperation minister Dilip Walse Patil said.

“The state government has prepared a scheme to protect depositors of cooperative credit societies and has allotted Rs 100 crore for it. The Union government must also give Rs 100 crore so that these institutions can be strengthened,” he said.

Government working on SEZ reforms: Commerce Secretary

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The government is working on reforms in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) domain so that movement of goods between domestic tariff area (DTA) and SEZ space is carried out smoothly without affecting the competitiveness of goods in the export markets, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Saturday.

During the pandemic two years ago, many office spaces in the SEZ areas had been vacated due to ‘work from home’ practice initiated by the occupants.

Barthwal said this had led to the demarcation of SEZs into SEZ and DTA spaces.

“Scale economies have become very important nowadays. Reforms in the SEZ are in the offing so that movement of goods from SEZ to DTA and vice-versa are not affected rendering goods produced become less competitive”, Barthwal said at a symposium organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce.

The official said that the foreign trade policy (FTP) of the government had been framed keeping in mind the global value chain.

“Our FTP has been designed for exporters to take advantage of



the global value chain. The industry, which had always sought protection in the past, will now have to integrate with the global value chain and look at where the competitive advantage lay”, he added.

Stating that the target of achieving USD two trillion exports by 2030 is possible, Barthwal said that USD one trillion will be forthcoming from merchandise exports and another USD one trillion from services.

“Services appear to be intangible, but there is a huge scope to grow. We should look at the impediments which are preventing the growth of the services sector”, he added.

Barthwal said with external

trade becoming an important part of the growth engine, both the industrial and foreign trade policies are now intertwined.

He said that there is an increasing demand by countries to ink free trade agreements (FTAs) with India. In bilateral and multilateral agreements, the most important aspect is to understand the policy of ‘give and take’.

If one has to take something, he also has to give something, he said.

Barthwal said both the UK and the US are raising the standards by bringing in sanitary and phytosanitary issues in imported goods.

“We will have to adhere to these standards which are becoming increasingly difficult”, he said.

Yes Bank posts ₹231 crore profit for October, December quarter

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Yes Bank reported a net profit of Rs 231 crore for the October-December quarter of 2023-24 on Saturday.

The city-headquartered private sector lender had reported a post tax net profit of Rs 52 crore for the year-ago period, heavily impacted by money it had to set aside following the transfer of sour loans to an asset reconstruction company.

In the preceding September quarter, the bank's net profit was Rs 225 crore.

Its core net interest income grew 2.3 per cent to Rs 1,971 crore in the reporting quarter on the back of 11.8 per cent growth in advances and a 0.10 per cent narrowing in the net interest margin at 2.4 per cent.

The non-interest income grew 12.1 per cent to Rs 1,195 crore.

Total net income grew by 5.8 per cent to Rs 3,211 crore in the third quarter of FY24 against Rs 3,036 crore in the year-ago period.

The deposit growth came at

13.2 per cent for the quarter.

However, echoing peers who have been flagging risks on the deposits front, the bank's managing director and chief executive Prashant Kumar said the bank will have to be conscious of ensuring that the base keeps growing to ensure that credit growth of around 15 per cent can be sustained.

On the asset quality front, the fresh slippages were Rs 1,200 crore, of which over Rs 1,000 crore came from retail alone.

The bank has already recovered Rs 3,800 crore of assets in the first nine months of the fiscal and is confident of surpassing its Rs 5,000 crore target on the same for FY24.

The gross non-performing asset ratio was stable at 2 per cent.

Given the regulatory concerns on the unsecured lending and the prevailing market conditions, the bank has reviewed its underwriting practices to be more cautious on the front, a senior official told reporters on the earning call.

Kumar added that the stance will not impact the overall loan growth.

Fund inflow in real estate from foreign investors dips 30 per cent last year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The inflow of funds in Indian real estate from foreign investors fell 30 per cent to USD 2.73 billion last year, but the influx jumped more than two times from domestic players to USD 1.51 billion, according to real estate consultant Vestian.

According to Vestian data, the total institutional investments in real estate declined 12 per cent to USD 4.3 billion in 2023, from USD 4.9 billion in the previous year.

The consultant highlighted that investments from foreign funds fell 30 per cent annually because of their cautious approach, but rose 120 per cent from domestic investors.

Domestic investors pumped in USD 1,511 million (USD 1.5 billion) last year, as against USD 687 million in the 2022 calendar year. However, the inflow from foreign funds stood lower at USD 2,733 million last year, as against USD 3,926 million in 2022.

Accordingly, the share of domestic investors increased to 35 per cent in 2023 from 14 per cent in 2022.


Shrinivas Rao, CEO of Vestian, said, “Despite uncertainty in demand across the real estate sector, investments remained robust throughout the year. The optimism of domestic investors kept the real estate market buoyant, as they continued to show confidence in India's growth story.”

APPENDIX IV-A		
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property		
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] (“Secured Creditor”), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on “as is where is”, “as is what is” and “whatever there is” basis on 29.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 13,20,942/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00316819, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 23.01.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 24.01.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AMIT KUMAR PANDEY and AJAY KUMAR GUARANTOR.		
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 8,20,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (“EMD”) will be Rs. 82,000/- (Rupees Eighty Two Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.		
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY		
FLAT NO. GF-3 (L. I. G), HAVING COVERED AREA OF 400 SQUARE FEET ON GROUND FLOOR, (BACK SIDE), CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. C-8/2, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201020, UTTAR PRADESH.		
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in		
Date : 25.01.2024	Authorized officer	
Place : GHAZIABAD	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited	

APPENDIX IV-A		
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property		
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] and Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Company Limited [CIN : U6710MH2006PLC305312] acting as a Trustee of Indiabulls ARC- XXXI Trust (both IHFL and IARCL) are jointly and severally referred to as (“Secured Creditor”), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on “as is where is”, “as is what is” and “whatever there is” basis on 29.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of the following amounts due to IHFL and IARCL: DUES OF INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED :		
S. No.	Loan Account Number	Outstanding Amounts (in Rs.) as on 24.01.2024
1.	HHLDMT00404521	Rs. 20,46,232/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Two only)
DUES OF INDIABULLS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED:		
S. No.	Loan Account Number	Outstanding Amounts (in Rs.) as on 24.01.2024
1.	D008XXXI (Old Loan Account No. HHEDMT00404509)	Rs. 16,78,788/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Eight only)
The Loan Account No. HHEDMT00404509, along with all right(s), title(s), interest(s), underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and / or guarantee(s) including the Immovable Property, has been assigned by IHFL to and in favour of Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (“IARCL”) vide Assignment Agreement dated 21.08.2023, and the same has been renounced by IARCL and bears new Loan Account No. D008XXXI. Consequently, IARCL has also become a Secured Creditor for the said assigned Loan Account. IARCL has given its consent to IHFL to issue this Notice of Sale.		
The amounts mentioned in both the tables given above are pending towards the respective Loan Accounts of IHFL and IARCL, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 24.01.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement(s) and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 25.01.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges, due to the Secured Creditor from DILEEP VERMA and VIMAL VERMA.		
The Reserve Price for the Immovable Property will be Rs. 22,40,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Forty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (“EMD”) will be Rs. 2,24,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Four Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.		
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY		
PLOT NO. A-83, HIG FLAT NO. FF-2, FIRST FLOOR BACK SIDE, BLOCK - A, KHASRA NO. 399, SLF VED VIHAR, VILLAGE SHADULLABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201102.		
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in		
Date : 25.01.2024	AUTHORIZED OFFICER	
Place : GHAZIABAD	INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED	

APPENDIX IV-A		
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property		
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] (“Secured Creditor”), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on “as is where is”, “as is what is” and “whatever there is” basis on 29.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 15,38,296/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Six only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDMT00458627, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 23.01.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 24.01.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from VIMAL VERMA and DILEEP VERMA.		
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 9,30,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Thirty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (“EMD”) will be Rs. 93,000/- (Rupees Ninety Three Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.		
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY		
RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEARING NUMBER G. F-2, L. I. G, GROUND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), FRONT RIGHT HAND SIDE, HAVING TOTAL AND COVERED AREA OF 400 SQUARE FEET I.E 37.16 SQUARE METER, BUILT ON RESIDENTIAL PLOT NUMBER A-7/10 MEASURING TOTAL AREA OF 209 SQUARE METER IN “D. L. F ANKUR VIHAR”, SITUATED AT VILLAGE LONI, PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.		
PLOT NUMBER A-7/10 MEASURING TOTAL AREA OF 209 SQUARE METER ON PLOT THE FLAT IS BUILT IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS :-		
EAST : PARK WEST : ROAD 9 METER WIDE, SOUTH : ROAD 12 METER WIDE, NORTH : ROAD 12 METER WIDE, WEST : ROAD 9 METER WIDE, SOUTH : ROAD 9 METER WIDE, EAST : COMMON PASSAGE, WEST : COMMON PASSAGE, NORTH : COMMON PASSAGE, SOUTH : COMMON PASSAGE		
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in		
Date : 25.01.2024	Authorized officer	
Place : GHAZIABAD	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited	

APPENDIX IV-A		
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property		
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] (“Secured Creditor”), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on “as is where is”, “as is what is” and “whatever there is” basis on 29.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 16,16,275/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00384865, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 23.01.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 24.01.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from BHAGWAT YADAV and DEEPAK KUMAR.		
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,30,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Thirty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (“EMD”) will be Rs. 1,03,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Three Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.		
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY		
RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEARING NUMBER SF-4 HAVING TOTAL COVERED AREA OF 325 SQUARE FEET I.E. 30.19 SQUARE METER, L. I. G, SECOND FLOOR WITH ROOF, REAR LEFT HAND BACK SIDE, IN “SLF VED VIHAR” SITUATED ON PLOT NUMBER A-80, HAVING AREA OF 167.22 SQUARE METER, KHASRA NUMBER 399, HADBAST VILLAGE SADULLABAD, PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.		
PLOT A-80 IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-		
EAST : PLOT NUMBER A-81, WEST : PLOT NUMBER A-79, NORTH : OTHER'S LAND, SOUTH : ROAD 9 METER WIDE, BADHUA PARK		
THE FLAT IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS :-		
EAST : FLAT NUMBER SF-3 (L. I. G), WEST : PLOT NUMBER A-79, NORTH : OTHER'S LAND, SOUTH : COMMON PASSAGE AND FLAT NUMBER SF-1 (H. I. G)		
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in		
Date : 25.01.2024	Authorized officer	
Place : GHAZIABAD	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited	



Office of the Superintending Engineer

1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora

Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepdwalm@rediffmail.com

Dated : 25/01/2024

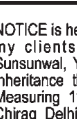
Letter No. : 471(I)/ Nivida-01/2023-24

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 29/01/2024 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	PD PWD Ranikhet Improvement & Damarikaran of Bajkhet Kankot Toulbudhani Turachora Motor Road in Km. 19 to 23.200 in Salt constituency of Almora district under the state sector.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 6.93 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (Including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	Class “A” & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./Any state Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking



उत्तीसगद पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

पर्यावास सन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

//सर्व संबंधित को सूचना//

भारत सरकार पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 2006 (स्था-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स अग्रवाल वैनल मिंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, रायपुर ग्रोथ सेंटर सिलतारा, फेस-11, तहसील व जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) में Expansion of production facilities of Induction Furnace with CCM from existing 59,500 TPA to 2,89,400 TPA, MS Billets along with total Re-rolled Steel Production capacity of 2,72,000 TPA, out of which 2,42,000 TPA through Hot Charging and 30,000 TPA through existing BRF based rolling mill के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 29.02.2024 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थल-पंचायत भवन परिसर, ग्राम-मुंछी, सिलतारा (औद्योगिक क्षेत्र के समीप), जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) निमित्त की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को निजिकल/सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।

2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाइज कर उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।

4. कोरोना वायरस के प्रसारण एवं रोकथाम हेतु केन्द्र सरकार तथा राज्य शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अवशरः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (स्था-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पहन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (संपर्क योगी) जयशंकर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर बाम रोड, नई दिल्ली, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत-रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जनपद पंचायत रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर, कार्यालय, सरपंच, ग्राम पंचायत सिलतारा एवं मुंछी, तहसील-धरसीला, जिला-रायपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय उत्तीसगद पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, न्यायिक बिल्डिंग, गिरो रोड नं. 02, टाटा रोड रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, उत्तीसगद पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव

उत्तीसगद पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Sreeja advances to quarterfinals

PTI ■ MAPUSA (GOA)

Indian paddler Sreeja Akula registered a commanding victory to move into the women's singles quarterfinals of the ongoing World Table Tennis (WTT) Star Contender Goa 2024, while Manika Batra and Archana Kamath suffered defeats in their respective last-eight matches here on Saturday.

The Hyderabad-based paddler Akula began the contest on a positive note against higher ranked Hong Kong opponent Doo Hoi Kem (WR 36) and won the thrilling first game before losing the second.

However, the world No. 66 Indian looked in complete control of the next two games and clinched the match 3-1 (12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 11-8) to reach the quarterfinals.

"In 2021, I had lost to the same opponent, so it feels really great to win a match against her in this tournament. I was able to execute my plans perfectly and kept myself motivated even after losing the second game to win the contest,"



Akula said after the win. "She was really aggressive and I focused on putting the ball on the table and choosing the right ball to attack which worked in my favour. I will be

well prepared for the upcoming match as well." The tournament is co-hosted by Stupa Sports Analytics and Ultimate Table Tennis under the guidance of the

Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). On the other hand, India's top-ranked singles paddler Batra (WR 38) went down 1-3 (11-9, 11-13, 7-11, 9-11) to

the world No. 13 Xiaoxin Yang of Monaco despite winning the first game of the contest. In the other women's singles pre-quarterfinal, youngster

from Bengaluru Kamath lost to South Korea's Jeon Jihee by 1-3 (11-13, 11-9, 6-11, 4-11).

World No. 8 Shin Yubin of South Korea continued her positive form to defeat Sweden's Christina Kallberg 3-1 (11-5, 11-6, 10-12, 11-6), whereas Chinese Taipei's Cheng I-ching (WR 18) beat Yang Ha Eun of South Korea by 3-0 (11-8, 11-9, 11-9).

In the last-16 stage of the men's singles category, world No. 8 Felix Lebrun of France extended his sparkling form to register a comfortable 3-0 (11-3, 12-10, 11-9) win against Sweden's Ruls Moregard.

However, his brother Alexis Lebrun faced a 1-3 (8-11, 11-8, 10-12, 8-11) defeat against world No. 14 Quadri Aruna of Nigeria.

Six-time Olympic medallist Dimitrij Ovtcharov of Germany looked in fine form to beat England's Liam Pitchford 3-1 (11-5, 8-11, 17-15, 11-8) as he made his way into the quarter-finals of WTT Star Contender Goa 2024.

The semi-finals and finals will be played on Sunday.



Rhythm, Ujjwal win mixed team pistol gold

PTI ■ CAIRO

India picked up their first gold medal of the ISSF World Cup here on Saturday when Rhytham Sangwan and Ujjwal combined to defeat the Armenian pair of Elmira Karapetyan and Benik Khlgatyan 17-7 in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

Earlier Arjun Babuta and Sonam Uttam Maskar won silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team event. Indian shooters have so far won one gold and two silver medals here.

Anuradha Devi had opened the team's account with a silver in the women's 10m air pistol on Friday evening.

Rhythm, who won her second consecutive World Cup mixed team gold in Cairo, and Ujjwal finished second behind the Armenian pair in qualifying with a total score of 580. The Armenians were a point ahead.

The Indians, however, proved far too superior in the final, going up 7-1 very quickly as Benik had a horror outing.

The closest Armenians got was when the scores read 11-7, but Rhythm picked up in the later stages

and despite low scores all around, the Indians prevailed by a big margin in the end.

In the air rifle mixed team, Arjun and Sonam had topped qualification, piping the British pair of Dean Bale and Seonaid McIntosh by a point but then went down 3-9 at the beginning of the race to 16 points final.

It was soon 6-12, as whatever the Indians threw at the British pair, they would return in kind. But Arjun and Sonam held their composure as Dean showed nerves and soon it was 14-14.

On match point, McIntosh showed her class and hit a 10.9 and despite solid 10s from the Indians, the British pair snatched the gold.

No Indian shooter, however, was able to make the trap finals at the shotgun ranges.

Zoravar Sandhu shot 118 to finish 12th in the men's trap event as Bhowneesh Mendiratta (114) and Prithviraj Tondaiman (112) finished further down.

In women's trap, Rajeshwari Kumari was 13th with a score of 110 while Manisha Keer (109) and Bhavya Tripathi (106) finished 15th and 18th respectively.

700 wrestlers to compete in senior nationals: WFI president

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 700 grapplers, representing all affiliated state units except Punjab and Odisha, will participate in the Senior National Championship in Pune from Monday, the suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) said on Saturday.

The national body was suspended by the Sports Ministry on December 24, just three days after it held its election for violating its own constitution after it announced to host the 2023 age group nationals in Gonda, UP in last week of December.

The Sports Ministry had said that the Nationals organised by WFI will not be recognised. However, WFI remains defiant.

"The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is organising its 2023 Senior National Wrestling Championship in Free Style, Greco Roman & Women Wrestling. The Championship is being



organised by the Maharashtra Rajya Kushtigiri Sangh at Pune from 29th to 31st January 2024," said WFI president Sanjay Singh in a statement.

"Around 700 Wrestlers across the country are participating in this mega event. All affiliated state units of Wrestling Federation of India have entered its teams for participation in the event except Punjab & Odisha." The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) then on the behest of the ministry formed a three-member panel to manage the day-to-day affairs of WFI.

Aryna beats Zheng 6-3, 6-2 to clinch back to back Australian Open titles

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Aryna Sabalenka clinched back-to-back Australian Open titles with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Zheng Qinwen on Saturday in a one-sided women's final. The No. 2-seeded Sabalenka broke Zheng's serve in the second game and took the first set in 33 minutes. She broke again to start the second set and maintained her dominance throughout against the No. 12-seeded Zheng.

"It's been an amazing couple of weeks. It's an unbelievable feeling right now," Sabalenka said in the trophy presentation. "As usual, my speech is going to be weird - it's not my super power."

Only two things slowed down Sabalenka's progress Saturday as her second Grand Slam singles title.

In the third game of the second set, with Zheng serving, the match was interrupted after an activist



started yelling out. The match continued after the man was escorted out by security.

Then, when she was serving for the match, Sabalenka had three championship points at 40-0 but missed two with wide or long forehands and another with Zheng's clever drop shot.

After giving Zheng a breakpoint chance, she bounced the ball away behind her in disgust but she recovered her composure to win the next three points.

In the end, she needed five championship points before finishing off with a forehand crosscourt winner. It was the kind of shot that had kept Zheng on the back foot almost from the start.

The 25-year-old Sabalenka improved to two wins in three Grand Slam finals, all in a span of 13 months. She beat Elena Rybakina a year ago for the title in Australia.

Sabalenka is the first woman since Victoria Azarenka in 2012 and '13 to win back-to-

back Australian Open titles, and the fifth since 2000 to win the championship here without dropping a set - a group that includes Serena Williams.

The 21-year-old Zheng was making her debut in a major final and playing an opponent ranked in the top 50 for the first time in this tournament. It was the second time in as many majors their paths had met in the second week.

Sabalenka beat Zheng in the U.S. Open quarterfinals last year on her way to the final, where she lost to 19-year-old American Coco Gauff.

Sabalenka avenged that loss to Gauff with a semifinal victory here that extended her winning streak at Melbourne Park to 13 matches. It's now 14.

In just her ninth major, Zheng's push to the final was two rounds better than her previous best run to the quarterfinals in New York last September.

Gukesh draws with Alireza to drop to second spot

PTI ■ WIJK AAN ZEE (THE NETHERLANDS)

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh dropped to second spot after drawing with Alireza Firouzja of France as Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan snatched the lead going into the penultimate round of Tata Steel Masters here.

After the draw with Iranian turned French player Firouzja, Gukesh has seven points for his sole second spot.

Abdusattarov defeated women's world champion Wenjun Ju of China to accumulate 7.5 points and place himself on course for his maiden triumph at the Masters.

Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi improved his chances for a podium finish with a brilliant



victory over Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran. The Indian GM moved to 6.5 points and now shares the third spot with compatriot R Praggnanandhaa, Wei Yi of China and Anish Giri of Holland.

Gujrathi played probably the game of the tournament thus far. It was a Queen's gambit declined as black by Gujrathi but desperately seeking complications, Maghsoodloo went for a very sharp middle game and used up a lot of

time in the process. Gujrathi showcased his calculation skills and came up with a spectacular Queen manoeuvre that sealed the game in his favour.

"I felt relieved because if I don't find that move, I think I am just worse. I was thinking for like 40-50 minutes, trying to figure out if there is something and I couldn't find anything. I thought I just have a lost position, if I don't find something right now," Gujrathi said after the game.

"So I spent the time there and this move struck me like Qe7. After that Black is better. I don't know if it's winning but he collapsed because he had very low time and then my attack was just too strong."

Gukesh was up against a Grunfeld defense against Alireza and this one too was a

keenly contested game. The middle game that arose was sharp and Gukesh tried to change the equilibrium by giving up his queen for two rooks. Alireza was always in control and found a perpetual check to force a draw.

Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by Donchenko in a Queen's Gambit accepted structure. The Indian tried to make a breakthrough but Donchenko held on to his own and drew after 60 moves.

In the challengers' section, India's Leon Luke Mendonca remained in the hunt for top spot but he needs a sort of miracle. Mendonca scored a crushing victory over Mustafa Yilmaz of Turkey but French GM Marc Andria Mariuzzi maintained his full point lead on 8.5 points by defeating Liam Vrolijk of Holland.

Renata wins junior girls title, Rei wins boys final

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Top-seeded Renata Jamrichova claimed the Australian Open junior girls' singles title with a 6-4 6-1 win over 15-year-old Emerson Jones on Saturday.

Jamrichova made six aces and saved five of six break points to clinch her first Grand Slam singles' title in just over an hour on Rod Laver Arena.

"I'm just so happy right now," Jamrichova said.

"I played my best this week. At first I started really nervous because of the crowd and of the Rod Laver (Arena), but then I just told myself, just be happy on the court and enjoy every point, just be happy that you can (be) here and play this amazing match."



The 16-year-old Slovakian won the juniors doubles title at Melbourne Park last year and made the semifinals of the juniors' tournaments at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in a stellar season.

In the boys' final, fourth-seeded Rei Sakamoto of Japan rallied from a set down

to beat Jan Kumstat 3-6 7-6(2) 7-5.

The 17-year-old Sakamoto had to withstand 25 aces from his big-serving Czech opponent, ranked No.42, but still found a way to wrest back momentum after losing the first set to win the title in two hours, 11 minutes.

Vandana returns as Indian women eye fresh start in FIH Pro League

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Smarting from the failure to make the Paris Olympics, a Savita Punia-led 24-member Indian women's hockey team will look to make a fresh start in the upcoming FIH Pro League matches. Savita will be assisted by Vandana Katariya, who returned to the side as vice-captain after recovering from a cheekbone fracture, which forced the senior striker to miss the Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi earlier this month.

The Indian team endured a disappointing outing in Ranchi and failed to qualify for the Olympics after having made the cut in the last two editions.

In fact, in the last edition at Tokyo, the Indians finished a creditable fourth.

The Bhubaneswar leg of the Pro League will begin on February 3 and end on February 9, while the Rourkela leg will commence on February 12 and last till February 18.

India will take on the United States, the Netherlands, China, and Australia twice each across both legs. The Indian women will begin their campaign against reigning Asian Games champions China on February 3. The team might have failed to make the Olympics but the Hockey India selectors decided to stick to the core group that played in Ranchi while adding six more players — both junior and seniors — to strengthen the squad.

Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur, who was missed in Ranchi, and young Jyoti Chhatri are the two additions in the Indian backline, which also has Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary and Monika.

Do not write off Novak after Australian Open loss

Analysis

AP ■ MELBOURNE

It might be tempting to see some tidy symbolism and greater significance in Novak Djokovic's loss to Jannik Sinner in the Australian Open semifinals.

The end of the thirtysomething Djokovic's 33-match winning streak at Melbourne Park. The end of his bid for an 11th championship there and 25th Grand Slam trophy overall. The breakthrough for the twentysomething Sinner, an up-and-coming talent who will

now get to play in his first major final, against Daniil Medvedev on Sunday.

Then again, that was the sort of passing-of-the-torch oversimplification some folks found in Djokovic's loss to another kid, Carlos Alcaraz, in last year's Wimbledon final. And what happened a couple of months later? Djokovic claimed the US Open title as part of a 19-match unbeaten run. So don't be too quick to write off the 36-year-old from Serbia this time, either, as he essentially told the world himself after bowing out 6-1 6-2 6-7(6) 6-3 against Sinner on Friday.

"Doesn't necessarily mean that it's beginning of the end, as some people like to call it," the



No. 1-ranked Djokovic said. "Yeah, let's see what happens in the rest of the season."

At first glance, that seems like a bit of a warning to the rest of the tour.

A few moments later, Djokovic sounded more contemplative and somewhat less sure of

what's to come, saying: "I just hope that I'll get a chance to come back, to play at least another time and go through the emotions once more."

Either way, his takeaway from this particular afternoon was that he played quite poorly - "Everything, you know, was

just subpar" - against an opponent who showed off some of his best tennis and was, in a word, "flawless."

That's a fair assessment. There might not be a much larger meaning, even if Djokovic entered the day a combined 20-0 in semifinals and finals at Melbourne Park. And even if No. 3 Medvedev vs. No. 4 Sinner (they're scheduled to get started Sunday at 7:30 pm local time, which is 3:30 am ET) represents the first Australian Open men's final without at least one of Djokovic, Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer participating since Marat Safin defeated Lleyton Hewitt in 2005.

For Medvedev, a 27-year-old

from Russia who won the 2021 US Open, this will be his sixth Grand Slam final - and first against someone other than Djokovic or Nadal. Medvedev moved on by coming back to eliminate Alexander Zverev 5-7 3-6 7-6(4) 7-6(5) 6-3 in a semifinal that came after Sinner-Djokovic.

"Obviously it means so much to me to beat Novak here in Melbourne," said Sinner, a 22-year-old from Italy who lost to Djokovic in the Wimbledon semifinals last July and has now won three of their past four matchups, "but ... I know that the tournament is not over."

It was remarkable to see Djokovic, the greatest returner of his generation and perhaps

ever, unable to make a dent on Sinner's serve. Consider: This was the first completed match in a Grand Slam career spanning more than 400 contests that Djokovic did not manage to earn a single break point. Another unusual sight was all of the miscues coming off Djokovic's racket. He finished with nearly twice as many unforced errors as Sinner, 54 to 28.

Djokovic hadn't lost a match at the Australian Open since 2018 - a span of 2,195 days - because he collected four championships in a row there and didn't compete at Melbourne in 2022, when he was deported from the country for not being vaccinated against COVID-19.

Pope defies India with gritty hundred

England make 316/6 on Day 3

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Ollie Pope transformed the RGI Stadium into a gladiatorial fighting arena with a doughty hundred as England reached 316 for six to temporarily resist India's push for a win on the third day of the first Test here on Saturday.

Pope (148 batting) and Rehan Ahmed (16 batting) were guarding England's second innings fort at close and the visitors are now 126 runs ahead of India, an unimaginable position at the dawn of the day.

India were bowled out for 436 in their first innings after building a lead of 190 runs.

It was quite remarkable how Pope, who generally resembles a cat on a hot tin roof in these conditions, mustered fortitude and technical perfection to defy the Indian bowlers, who were primed to finish the match on day three itself, reducing England to 163 for five.

But Pope and Ben Foakes (34) milked 104 runs for the sixth wicket alliance to keep India at bay, stretching the match into the fourth day.

It wasn't that Pope had complete command in the middle as spinners on occasions beat him for turn and pacers deceived him outside the off-stump.

There was even a reprieve for him on 110 when Axar Patel grassed a fairly straight



chance at backward square leg off Ravindra Jadeja when the batter attempted a reverse sweep.

But the 26-year-old Essex man found a way to push those distractions away from his thoughts to build on

individual and the team's score.

Pope, whose main source of runs were sweeps and reverse sweeps, duly completed his first Test hundred, fifth in his career, against India off 154 balls, leading England's

recovery act.

It was a massive effort from a batter who had just 384 runs from nine Tests against India at an average of 24 with a highest of 81 before this innings.

However, credit should also

be given to Foakes for playing a mature hand to support Pope in his venture.

The wicketkeeper-batter is one of better players in this England line-up against spin, as he can read the tweakers off their hands and off the

pitch.

The Surrey batter who averages 40 in Asia in Tests, put all those abilities into use here to battle Indian spinners for 108 minutes across two sessions as England fought tooth and nail to stay alive in

the Test. The Indian bowlers too looked clueless in the face of this unexpected confrontation from their rivals.

However, the burgeoning stand came to a close when left-arm spinner Axar Patel managed to slip a low grubber past Foakes' defence to rattle his woodwork.

But before that fight, England resembled a rudderless ship in a storm against a set of brilliant Indian bowlers.

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah found some relevance for himself amidst the dominance of spinners to jettison Joe Root and Ben Duckett to inflict early jolts.

Bumrah managed to sneak an in-ducker past Ben Duckett (47, 52 balls) from the length as the batter was culpable of playing around the ball, while another incoming delivery that kept low gave little chance to Joe Root (2) while hitting his knee rolls.

Soon, the old firm of R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja joined the party. Jadeja was the first to get into the act in the post-lunch session, getting rid of Jonny Bairstow (10).

Bairstow negated a ball that turned away from him quite solidly, but the next one from Jadeja went straight and his decision to shoulder arms had a fatal effect on his stint in the middle.

But there was more magic in store as Ashwin got the

number of England captain Ben Stokes for the 12th time in Test cricket.

After getting tied down by three maidens in a row by the off-spinner, the left-hander tried to release the pressure going for a forward press but the ball spun past his bat to rattle the stumps.

Stokes' bewildered face spoke volumes about Ashwin's mastery over his craft, especially angles.

Before their bowlers made some early inroads into the England line-up, India had a mildly disappointing 54 minutes in the morning session after resuming from overnight 421 for seven.

Jadeja could not bring up a much-anticipated fourth Test hundred, falling leg before to Root.

The left-hander went to front foot to defend a length delivery on off-stump, and the ball took a good amount of turn to hit his pads.

Umpire Chris Gaffaney raised his finger as Jadeja opted to review the call.

The ball seemed to have taken a deflection off his bat but the replays remained inconclusive and the third umpire went with the on-field umpire's decision to give the batter out leg before.

In the very next ball, Root castled Bumrah and Ahmed cleaned up Axar as Indian innings came to a quick end, losing their last three wickets without adding any runs.



India A beat England Lions by innings and 16 runs

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A fine all-round performance powered India 'A' to an innings and 16-run win over England Lions in the second 'unofficial Test' here on Saturday.

The win also helped the hosts take an unassailable 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The hosts dismissed England Lions for 321 in their second innings with Arshdeep Singh (2/62) and Yash Dayal (1/37) claiming the wickets of overnight batters Ollie Robinson (85) and Tom Lawes (32) respectively to complete the win.

Starting the day at 304/8, England Lions' resistance lasted just 5.2 overs as Arshdeep had Robinson caught by wicketkeeper Upendra Yadav in the 88th over.

Lawes added 14 runs to his overnight score of 18 before Dayal got rid of him with Akash Deep taking the catch.

Sarfaraz Khan was adjudged the Player of the Match for his 161-run knock which steered India 'A' to 489 in their first innings. Devdutt Padikkal too flourished with the bat, making 105.

Left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar was the other star performer as he claimed his 22nd five-wicket haul to put India 'A' on the cusp of the win.

Akash Deep snapped six wickets in total to contribute to the team's cause.

The first unofficial Test ended in a draw.

The two teams will face off in the third and final match starting February 1.

Brief Scores: England Lions 152 and 321 allout in 90.2 overs (Ollie Robinson 85, Tom Lawes 32; Saurabh Kumar 5/104, Akash Deep 2/57).

All weather Bumrah ability to get reverse swing leaves Root, Mhambrey gushing

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Amid the focus on spinners, pacer Jasprit Bumrah on Saturday made a statement of his skills bagging two crucial wickets that helped India keep pace with England on the third day of the first Test here.

In a dazzling display of skill and ability to extract reverse swing, Bumrah dismissed Ben Duckett and Joe Root in the middle session of the day.

India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey was stating the obvious when he rated Bumrah as an all-weather bowler.

"Bumrah was bowling very well and was moving the ball both ways. That's the quality he has. He is a special bowler and we have seen what he can do in overseas conditions.

He has not played much (Test) cricket in India. Every time he turns up, he gives his best. It's pure skills," he said.

Mhambrey, however, said Bumrah's influence percolates to the dressing room too as one of the lead thinkers.

"The dressing room conversations he has, the energy he brings on to the field...he is a part of the discussion when the captain and support staff are around, he's right there with all suggestions," said Mhambrey.

Root was all admiration for Bumrah's impressive skill sets and said his dismissal was a big moment in the context of this Test match.

"It's what you'd expect from a Test match, and a big moment in the game. I was disappointed not to



get through it (Bumrah's spell). You know that for four or five overs he will charge in and throw everything at us.

So, you recognise that as a big moment in the game. One of my frustrations was to not still be there at the back end of it, but he's a quality bowler with a huge

amount of skill and pace," said Root.

The former England captain was also excited at the prospect of keeping his on-field rivalry with Bumrah throughout this five-match series.

"So, 1-0 to him, although 1-1 actually as I got him out earlier.

I'm sure that this battle will continue throughout the series," he added.

Later, Mhambrey also allayed any concerns over Bumrah's fitness.

The pacer was seen taking some pills towards the fag end of the day, and Mhambrey attributed it to cramps.



Australia needs 156 runs to beat West Indies

Reaches 60-2 on Day 3 of day night test

AP ■ BRISBANE (AUSTRALIA)

West Indies made early inroads through its pace and made Australia work hard for the first time in its dominant test summer during the day-night test match at the Gabba on Saturday.

Australia lost its recently named test player of the year Usman Khawaja (10) and Marnus Labuschagne (5) to end Day 3 at 60-2, still needing 156 runs to make a clean sweep of its test summer that saw them rout Pakistan 3-0 and beat the West Indies by 10 wickets inside three days in the first test at Adelaide.

West Indies wasted numerous opportunities to swell its lead beyond 215 runs as it got bowled out for 193 in the last session after No. 11 batter Shamar Joseph had to retire hurt when he injured his right toe off a searing Mitchell Starc yorker. He was adjudged leg before wicket while negotiating Starc's toe-crushing yorker only to see the bowler had over-stepped.

Josh Hazlewood picked up 3-23 with his impeccable bowling and

Nathan Lyon grabbed 3-42 with Starc and Cameroon Green picking up one wicket apiece.

Shamar Joseph walked off in lot of pain and might not be able to bowl in the remainder of the test match, but Alzarri Joseph provided West Indies an early breakthrough when Khawaja edged the pacer down the legside.

Justin Greaves then squared up Labuschagne with a brilliant back-of-the-length delivery as Kevin Sinclair snapped a superb diving catch in the second slip.

Steven Smith, who is yet to make an impression in his new role as an opener after the retirement of David Warner, was unbeaten on 33 with Cameroon Green negotiating the last half an hour, not out on 9.

On an oppressively hot and humid day, West Indies lost the initiative through careless batting and some smart catching by the Australians.

The tourists were progressing well at 148-4, ahead by 170 runs, when first innings half-century-maker Kavem Hodge was sharply run-out by Travis Head.

U-19 World Cup

Unbeaten India take on struggling USA

PTI ■ BLOEMFONTEIN

Having already sealed a super six berth, record five-time champions India will be expected to breeze past USA in their final group game of the U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

India beat Bangladesh and Ireland in their first two games and will top the group if they win against a struggling USA, a squad full of Indian Americans. The American outfit come into the game after losing both their games to Ireland and Bangladesh.

While Bangladesh did put the Indian batters under a bit of pressure, the Uday Saharan-

led side hardly put a foot wrong against the Irishmen.

The top three teams from group A and B, and, from C and D, qualify for the super six.

Left-arm pacer Naman Tiwari has been impressive upfront while left-arm spinner Saumy Pandey has got the ball to turn and has been the pick of the bowlers with seven wickets in two games.

Number three Musheer Khan showed a lot of promise with a hundred against Ireland, and like his elder brother Sarfaraz, would be looking to pile on the runs.

Opener Arshin Kulkarni would want to get a big score



under his belt going into the next stage, having made 7 and 32 in the earlier games.

Skipper Saharan has led from the front with back-to-back fifties and would want to cash in against a weaker team like the USA.

Sachin Dhas has played the role of a finisher well by getting the big hits towards the end of the innings. It will be India's third consecutive game at Mangaung Oval.

USA will have to punch above their weight to trouble the Indians.

Their batting let them down in the first two games and were all out for 105 against Ireland.

Squads: India: Arshin Kulkarni, Adarsh Singh,

Rudra Mayur Patel, Sachin Dhas, Priyanshu Moliya, Musheer Khan, Uday Saharan (c), Aravelly Avinish Rao, Saumy Kumar Pandey, Murugan Abhishek, Inness Mahajan, Dhanush Gowda, Aaradhya Shukla, Raj Limbani and Naman Tiwari

USA: Amogh Arepally, Rayaayn Bhagani, Aaryan Batra, Khush Bhalala, Prannav Chettipalayam, Arya Garg, Siddarth Kappa, Bhavya Mehta, Aarin Nadkarni, Manav Nayak, Parth Patel, Rishi Ramesh (c), Utkarsh Srivastava, Ateendra Subramanian, Aryanam Suri.

Reserves: Arjun Mahesh, Ansh Rai, Aryan Satheesh.

BUDGET EXPECTATIONS 2024-2025

Expectations from the healthcare sector in a budget are significant, particularly in the context of public health and well-being. Industry players share some common expectations:



DR ANIL GULATI
Chairman and CEO, Pharmazz

The pharmaceutical industry in India has seen unprecedented growth in recent years and has to be prepared for increased growth in the coming years. It will be necessary to improve manufacturing quality while reducing costs. Innovation is essential to industry growth; therefore, the adoption of novel technologies to discover drugs from new chemical entities needs to be incentivized. In this upcoming budget, the government could advance policies that promote improved drug manufacturing quality and modernize regulations to aid new drug discoveries.



DR ANSHUL GUPTA
Director, of Medical & Haemato-Oncology, Medanta Hospital, Lucknow

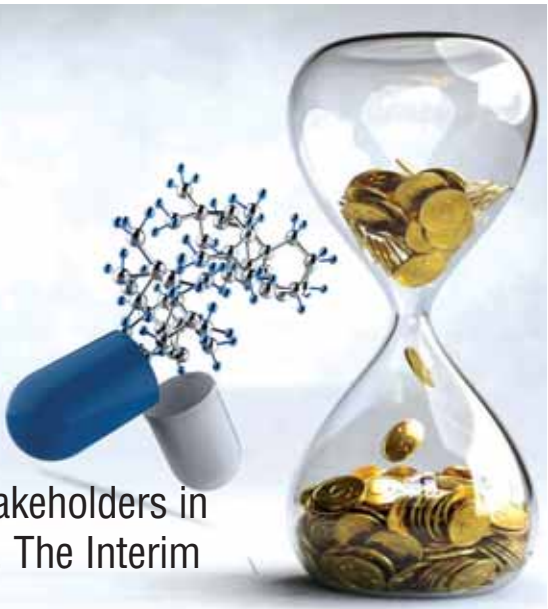
In 2023-24, the Union Health Ministry had allocated Rs 89,155 crore. This was an increase of 13% over revised estimates for 2022-23. So it is but natural that in the current fiscal, we expect the Government to further increase the health budget allocation so as to improve health care facility in the country. The proposed areas where this budget allocation should be done are:

- The health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat scheme should be revised / increased for cancer patients as the cancer care including cancer drugs and supportive care are expensive and the patients despite being the scheme's beneficiary could not afford the anti cancer care.
- For patients having their personal health insurance, additional benefits (over and above existing) under section 80 C should be given.
- Non-Governmental organizations including private hospitals and institutes should also be made eligible for Government funding for research projects.

ULTIMATE GOAL

HEALTH FOR ALL

Ahead of the budget, the HEALTH PIONEER catches up with the stakeholders in the Indian Pharma/Health sectors to get a glimpse of their wishlist. The Interim Budget will be presented on February 1, 2024.



KEY DEMANDS

NATHEALTH: Healthcare Federation of India, an organisation that involves leading healthcare service providers, medical technology providers (devices & equipment), diagnostic service providers and other stakeholders is seeking:
INCREASING HEALTH BUDGET ALLOCATION: India's public healthcare spending remains low, at only around 1.6-1.8 % of GDP, insufficient to tackle the magnitude of healthcare challenges. NATHEALTH recommends increasing budget allocation to 2.5% of GDP to augment the social insurance schemes, boosting healthcare reforms and infrastructure and fast-tracking digital health services across India.
RATIONALIZATION OF GST: Although increased budget allocation has been a longstanding request from the sector, there remains another persistent issue concerning the healthcare credit chain through GST. Indirect tax-

ation and lack of input credit for providers poses a significant challenge for the healthcare industry. NATHEALTH strongly recommends outlining a reform agenda in the Finance Bill aimed at restructuring the healthcare GST framework.
BOOSTING THE VALUE CHAIN: The focus should remain on augmenting local capabilities to extend care to the most remote areas, while concurrently emphasizing the localization of the value chain. Additionally, harmonizing global best practices necessitates integrated budget allocations for effective execution as well safeguards for quality and patient safety.
BOOSTING MEDICAL VALUE TRAVEL: Medical value-added services and Travel is expected to be USD 10 billion. To further aid the growth of this segment the issue of MAT credit needs immediate government attention. It is

crucial for individuals to benefit from exports. This move will give them an opportunity to offset it. It will create a more significant value proposition to focus on MVTs and boost capacity.
SEPARATE BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR SKILLING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS: While the government announced the establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in the previous budget, strengthening health workforce situation in India is one such area that needs continuous government and policy focus. India's doctor-to-patient ratio is lower than WHO recommended threshold. NATHEALTH recommends that the government should allocate funds for training and development programs for doctors, nurses, and allied healthcare workers, putting special emphasis on digital learning stack and smart certification standards.

streamlining bureaucratic procedures, and fostering industry-academia collaboration can stimulate domestic manufacturing. This approach should align with global standards and ensure a stable regulatory environment to attract investments.



PAVAN CHOUDARY
Chairman of the Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI)

In recent years, the Medical Device industry has benefited hugely due to noteworthy initiatives by the government, such as the National Medical Device Policy (NMDP), the Promotion of Research & Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech sector (PRIP) scheme, the establishment of medical device parks and elevation of branding and promotional strategies for the growth of the sector. That said we must also be cognizant of the nuances of the medical device sector which comprises mechanical and engineering complexities. Unlike other sectors, most medical devices have a high value but are produced in low volumes. It may therefore not be economically viable to manufacture all devices in a single geographical area. Even countries with highly developed medical manufacturing hubs like the USA, Japan, Germany, etc. also rely on imports to cater to the healthcare needs of their country.

India's current tariff duty structure on medical device imports is very high. This high customs duty regime adversely impacts the costs of medical devices which contradicts the government's efforts to provide low-cost healthcare available to the masses through schemes like the Ayushman Bharat program (PMJAY). Therefore, we request the government that for products where the ability to import substitutes is still some time away, the customs duty rate should be reduced

- Increase in Custom Duty to a nominal 10%-15% Duty and a predictable tariff policy
- Correction of Inverted Duty by levying Health Cess of 5% custom duty on balance Medical Devices (this was not earlier applied to all HS Codes). Cess is used for Ayushman Bharat.
- Trade Margin Capping by monitoring MRP of Imports (if over 10 - 20 times of CIF)
- Income Tax benefits for project investments in Medical Devices Manufacturing.



CHANDRA GANJOO
Group Chief Executive Officer, Trivitrion Healthcare

import bill of over Rs 63,200 crore, it's crucial for the government to catalyze domestic manufacturing. This not only reduces the financial strain but also propels India towards self-reliance in medical technology. The industry advocates for a comprehensive strategy: incentivizing R&D and indigenous production, streamlining regulatory processes for faster product approvals, and enhancing infrastructure and skills. Tax incentives for investment in advanced technology,

- Artificial Intelligence based software should be installed in the areas of paramedical services such as pathology, radiology etc.
- Separate budgetary allocation should be made for organ transplant patients across the country as transplant is a niche area where Government financial assistance is meager.



DR MAYANK SOMANI
CEO & Managing Director, Apollomedic

As we look ahead to the 2024 Budget, we foresee major advancements in fortifying the hospital industry. The Budget is not merely a fiscal plan but

an opportunity to shape a robust, inclusive, and technologically advanced healthcare ecosystem. The healthcare ecosystem anticipates increased funding for healthcare and pharma, emphasizing innovation, R&D, and digitalization. Expectations include favorable policies, reduced taxes on high-end equipment, and incentives for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model hospitals which will help leverage the private sector expertise to improve public health services. Encouragement for health insurance promotion is sought, with a focus on extending benefits to non-metro areas through strategic hospital projects. The industry looks forward to comprehensive measures supporting advancements, accessibility, and sustainability in healthcare delivery.

The MedTech industry in India holds high expectations from the Budget. With an alarming 80-85% dependence on imports, resulting in a massive

DOCTOR SPEAK

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR NEWBORN SAFE DURING WINTER

Winter months can be harsh for everyone, especially for newborns. These delicate little beings require extra care and protection to ensure their safety and comfort during the cold weather. Here are some essential pointers to follow when it comes to your little ones.



DR RAGHURAM MALLAIAH
Senior Director Neonatology, Fortis la femme, New Delhi

In India, it is a common practice to over wrap or over clad babies during the winter months. However, it is important to remember the golden thumb rule – dress your baby in one layer of clothing more than what you are wearing, regardless of the season. This ensures that they are adequately warm without the risk of overheating. Room Temperature: Maintaining the right room temperature is crucial for your baby's well-being. Resist the temptation to keep the room excessively warm as overheating can be more dangerous than the cold. Aim for an ambient room temperature of around 22-23 degrees Celsius, which most babies find comfortable. If you decide to use room heaters, do so sparingly.

Avoid keeping them on for extended periods and limit their usage to specific tasks such as bathing, changing clothes or diapers, or during exceptionally cold spells. Continuous use of heaters can lead to dry skin, irritation of breathing passages, and even discomfort in their eyes.

Winter air tends to be dry and arid, which can cause discomfort for your baby. Consider using a humidifier to add moisture to the air, making it easier for your little one to breathe and ensuring a comfortable environment.

Keeping your baby's vaccinations up to date is crucial, especially during the winter months. Vaccinations protect your baby from dangerous respiratory infections that are more prevalent during this time of the year. Consult your pediatrician to ensure your little one receives the necessary vaccinations.

Practicing good hygiene is essential to minimize the transmission of viruses during winter. Regularly wash your hands before handling your baby, and avoid taking them to crowded places where the risk of contracting infections is higher.

Breastfeeding provides your baby with both hydration and protection against infections. It is essential to continue breastfeeding during winter months to ensure your little one stays healthy and well-nourished.

Cold weather can cause dryness and discomfort for your baby's delicate skin. Use baby moisturizers to keep their skin hydrated and prevent dryness.

Contrary to some beliefs, it is perfectly safe to continue giving your baby oil massages and warm baths even during winters. Just remember to keep the bathroom warm and cozy, ensuring your little one enjoys a soothing experience. A warm bath and massage before bedtime can promote better sleep as well.

If your baby develops a fever or cough, which are more common in winters, it is important to consult a paediatrician immediately. Prompt medical attention will help identify and address any potential health concerns.

Winter may pose challenges for newborns, but by following these guidelines, you can provide them with the extra protection they need. Remember, your little bundle of joy deserves a safe and comfortable winter experience. Stay attentive, prioritize their well-being, and cherish the precious moments with your newborn during this beautiful season.

BOOK REVIEW

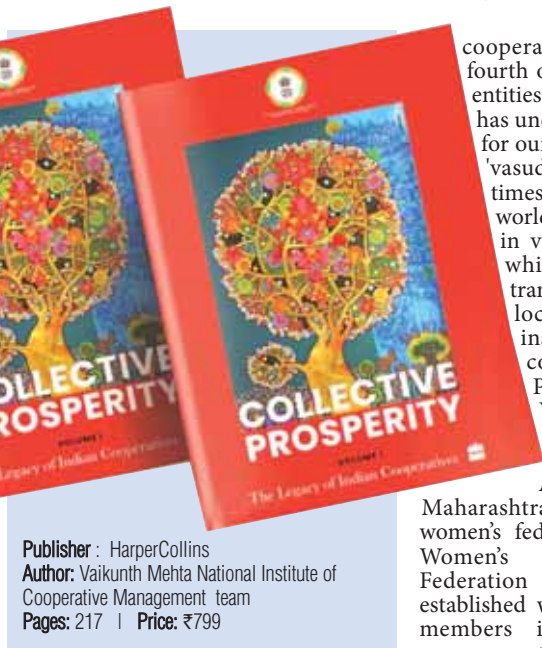
Fostering Collective Prosperity Through Cooperatives

This coffee table book is not just a collection of stories but a testament to the resilience, empowerment, economic growth, and social embeddedness achieved by cooperatives across India. It also serves as a guidepost for the future as India strives to become a global leader

BY ARCHANA JYOTI

The coffee table book 'Collective Prosperity: The Legacy of Indian Cooperatives', is all about recognizing and celebrating the achievements of Indian cooperative societies over the 75 years, taking readers on a tour of as many successful cooperatives from diverse sectors. Recently unveiled by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah in the national capital, the book is compiled by Pune-based Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (Vamnicom), a national institute under the aegis of the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) and promoted by the Union Cooperation Ministry. The volume is the maiden effort by the institute highlighting the best practices in the sector to help the other aspirants to take a cue. One is therefore little surprised, as we delve into its pages, we embark on a journey treaded by historic cooperatives to the likes of India Coffee House, lesser known gems Looms of Ladakh to the Uralungal Labour Cooperative and iconic ones including Amul, IFFCO, Krishak Bharati Cooperativam and National

Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) to name a few. Spread throughout the landscape of the country, these entities are silently working to bring prosperity while opening new opportunities for the individual and for the group to reach their individual and common goals, aligned with the vision of "Sahakar se Samridhhi" as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as also has been pointed out by Vamnicom's Director Hema Yadav who has played a significant role in the book's preparation. It is a valuable resource for individuals and communities looking to actively participate in cooperative endeavors. The remarks of Union Cooperative Secretary Gyaneshwar Singh in his Foreword rightly emphasize the significance of the Indian cooperative system which is one of the biggest in the world particularly in supporting agriculture and allied sectors with almost 30 crore members forming the backbone of the rural ecosystem serving mainly



small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, handloom weavers, fishermen, rural and urban poor, SCS, STs and other backward classes. It needs to be mentioned here that India is home to staggering 8.5 lakhs such

cooperatives- comprising one-fourth of the total number of such entities in the world. Cooperation has undoubtedly been a way of life for our forefathers who advocated 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' from times immemorial. Some of the world's best known cooperatives in various sectors are in India which are continuously transforming the lives of our local communities. For instance, Asia's first cooperative sugar factory, Padmashri Dr Vithalrao Vikhe Patil Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited is at a small village Pravaranagar, Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Similarly, India's first women's federation, the Gujarat State Women's SEWA Co-operative Federation Limited was formally established with an aim to support its members in capacity-building for management, marketing and policy and advocacy interventions with key stakeholders. The Dhundi Solar Pump Irrigators' Cooperative Enterprise (SPICE) established in 2016 at Dhundi, in Anand district, Gujarat is the world's first-ever

enterprise to use solar power to run their irrigation pumps while SWaCH is country's first wholly-owned cooperative of self-employed waste collectors in Pune, Maharashtra. Kerala-based AYCOOPS is India's first cooperative media production house in the cooperative sector which, unlike the traditional cooperatives, operates like a start-up. New-age Eco-friendly Cooperatives. Commendably, these cooperatives belong to different parts of the country, which is an indicator of a fair distribution of development across the land even though a lot still remains to be done in this respect. For instance, as the book extends its reach to highlight cooperative hospitals in India, it is revealed that most of them are located in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. This calls for spreading in populated States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha to fill the widening demand-odisha gap in the sector. In tough times like those during the Covid-19 crisis when the entire world was swept by economic slowdown painting a gloomy future, AMUL, MILKFED, NAFED, MARFED, and other organizations provided necessary services

to the people and the farmers despite the supply chain being disrupted by the lockdown. The narrative also touches upon the significance of cooperative banks, exemplified by the Saraswat Bank, and health cooperatives, providing a holistic view of the diverse roles cooperatives play in India's economic and social landscape. The impact of cooperatives on poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security, social integration, and employment generation is acknowledged, portraying them as social instruments of development, complimented by the recent initiatives of the Ministry to fortify the sector's growth. For instance, by expanding the scope of cooperative activities and integrating them into various facets of the economy, the aim is to create a dynamic ambience that resonates with the aspirations of the younger generation while drawing their energy and ideas. In essence, this compact collection not only shines a spotlight on the past achievements of Indian cooperatives but also serves as a guidepost for the future, as India strives to become a global leader. No doubt, the cooperative sector can be a springboard propelling India towards 'Atm Nirbharta' (self-reliant).



close to the surface. While diving, on the other hand, once you are in water, buoyancy ensures you don't feel the weight of the air cylinders; in fact, a belt studded with metal weights has to be worn so that you can reach the sea floor to get the best view of fish, corals, turtles and even octopuses. The Government-run Dolphin Dive Centre at Kavaratti boasts some of the best trainers, with Sikandar, Taha and Shaukat making us feel comfortable in no time. For the less adventurous, there is the option of travelling into the sea in glass-bottomed boats. I had done that in Maldives and Mauritius, but having experienced the real thing now, that seems rather amateurish. Our first halt in Lakshadweep was at Bangaram, reached by a 90 minute flight to Agatti from Kochi and thereafter another 90 minutes by boat. The day we arrived, the Pawan Hans chopper, the lifeline between the islands, got grounded due to a technical snag. Hence the boat-ride, which in fact, we quite enjoyed. Bangaram is Lakshadweep's most frequented destination, mainly because of a much publicised resort comprising 29 thatched cottages. Running for 17 years it now provides a model for similar development of other uninhabited islands. The Government facility, the Dak Bungalow with four independent cottages, shares the beach with this resort.

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Tilla couple of years ago when asked where I planned to spend the New Year, I would promptly reply "Somewhere the mobile doesn't work". It has become increasingly difficult to locate such a place, although I did manage to herald 2006 at a resort near Ranaapur in Rajasthan where the mobile, somewhat unexpectedly, did not catch the signal.

I thought it would be the same when I planned a trip to Lakshadweep this year. As it transpired, connectivity is no longer an issue even in these far-flung islands that lie between 300 and 500 kms west of the Kerala coast. I had been told that BSNL provides a cellular service to Agatti, the island that has the archipelago's only airfield. What is instantly striking about Lakshadweep is its pristine serenity, untouched by civilisation. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, globally celebrated for creating the world's most famous fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes, also wrote a gripping novel, *The Lost World* — an imagined account of a plateau in the wilds that survived the ravages of man and time to remain home to prehistoric species that were lost to the rest of the world. Purely fictional, it chronicles Sir Doyle's vivid imagination that can be traced to modern-day science fiction films like Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*.

A snorkeling or scuba diving expedition in the marine wilds of Lakshadweep would have definitely spurred the author's powers of imagination. If the phrase "out of this world" could truly be applied to a place very much a part of our Earth, it must be the bountiful marine life throbbing with vitality and variety all along the coral reefs of Lakshadweep's myriad islands. The sheer remoteness of this group of 62 islands, only 10 of which are inhabited, has allowed pristine marine life to prosper in splendid isolation. The sheer tranquility of the tiny islands encircled by emerald blue lagoons and peopled more by swaying coconut palms than humans, makes for a therapeutic holiday for metro rat-racers.

astounding array of marine life, Lakshadweep is now face-to-face with a crucial decision about its future. Which way should it go? Should it emulate the example of its southern cousin, Maldives, which has become one of the world's most sought after destinations with tourism emerging as the backbone of its economy? Or, should Lakshadweep resist the temptation of mindless prosperity, choosing instead to retain its millennial lifestyle quaint but comfortable? It's a tough call. Lakshadweep is not too easily reached. There is only a 15-seater Dornier turbo-prop aircraft of Indian Airlines that aerially connects the island to Kochi on the Kerala coast. The plane commutes between Kochi and Agatti six days a week and is the lifeline of the Union Territory Administration and its officials. There is also the option of taking the ferry, a daily service that connects different islands to the mainland, covering the 404-km distance between the UT's headquarters at Kavaratti and Kochi. Adventurous travellers sometimes hire private boats for inter-island travel: We were told on Kadmat island that some people left for Bangaram at 2 am, intending to make it to the tourist resort by 7 in the morning. Journeys by such motorised boats are exciting; we were ferried to Bangaram from Agatti this way, but it could prove a trifle dangerous if the seas are choppy. One should not forget that Lakshadweep lies directly on the route of the monsoon as it advances towards the Indian Peninsula from the centre of the Indian Ocean. Having spent four magnificent days in these quaint islands, my understanding of marine life and empathy for ecology has multiplied manifold. I cannot ever forget that momentary glimpse of a turtle, which I suddenly found staring at me questioningly as it bobbed up from below while I was swimming in the lagoon at Bangaram. It seemed to ask what right I had to invade its privacy without so much as by your leave! It was the same feeling I got diving deep in the lagoon off Kavaratti as thousands of enchantingly multi-hued fish swarmed around me. I put out my palm at some of them;

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WHICH WAY SHOULD IT
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LAKSHADWEEP RESIST
THE TEMPTATION OF
MINDLESS PROSPERITY,
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COMFORTABLE? IT'S A
TOUGH CALL.

innocently, they came towards me assuming I was offering food and darted away furiously upon realising there was no meal on offer. Being first-timers, we did not risk diving or snorkelling in the deep seas beyond the coral reef, although diving instructors everywhere assured us that even those (like my wife Shobori) who could not swim had nothing to worry once a life jacket was worn. Apparently, the walls of coral that constitute the reef offer fantastic glimpses of marine life. After a couple of days familiarising with the idiom of deep-sea diving, it's worth stepping into the open sea beyond the reef. At Bangaram, we snorkelled close to the reef on which a ship had run aground 70 years ago. The sights we saw were reminiscent of underwater documentaries you watch on Discovery or National Geographic. Apart from thousands of small, colourful fish, many giant-sized fish have also made the wrecked hull of the ship their home, elegantly sashaying in and out of the protection it offers. A visit to the shipwreck at Bangaram is highly recommended as the water is shallow and one can always stand up in case of any difficulty. It is indeed a lost world waiting to be discovered in the warm, tropical waters of Lakshadweep. Living corals are rarely seen anywhere in the world today, but the waters off these islands are brimming with them. Islanders, however, mournfully point out that the El Nino of 1997 that brought swirling currents of warm water caused widespread death and

destruction of corals. "It's only now that the corals are regenerating once again. But it will take decades, provided there is no other ecological disaster, for corals here to regain their earlier vitality," a diving instructor said at Kadmat.

Interestingly, it could be dangerous at times to provoke live coral. Clamp-corals, for instance, close their apparently inert mouths tight if you happen to put your finger into them. Unless propped (which means killed), it isn't possible to make them let go. Moral of the story: Let sleeping corals lie. Similarly, the multifinned Lionfish can release sufficient poison if touched, to disable a human arm for around three hours.

A good diving instructor is one who points to all these facts of underwater life even as he expertly guides you through the depths. We had to learn sign language to communicate underwater even for snorkelling. Making an 'O' by joining your thumb and forefinger is an exclamation of joy, putting your palm out and shaking it as if indicating 'so-so' actually conveys you are not okay, while the thumbs up sign means you aren't comfortable and wish to go up to the surface.

Although scuba diving requires some detailed instructions to be carefully followed and carrying a lot of equipment like air cylinders on your back, it is actually quite simple once you get the hang of it. Personally, I found it easier than snorkelling, which entails pulling air from the surface through a nozzle into your lungs while floating

(The writer is retired Principal
Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Karnataka)

