



OPINION 6
INDIA'S INFLATION
STORY THROUGH TIME

WORLD 8
OBAMA, CLINTON HELP BIDEN RAISE
\$26 MN FOR HIS RE-ELECTION

MONEY 10
FPIS MAKE REMARKABLE
COMEBACK

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RAHUL LED LSG EYE
ALL ROUND EFFORT
AGAINST PBKS
12 SPORTS

Congress stunned by IT slap



Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khara during a Press conference in New Delhi on Friday

The Pioneer Photo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties, the Congress and the CPI on Friday, accused the ruling BJP of indulging in “tax terrorism” to financially cripple the Opposition parties ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. While the grand old party said it has received fresh notices from the income-tax department, asking it to pay ₹1,823.08 crore, the Communist Party of India (CPI) received an IT notice

over “dues” of ₹11 crore for using an old PAN card while filing tax returns during the last few years. On the other hand the Congress alleged that the BJP is in “serious violation” of income-tax laws for which authorities should raise a demand of more than ₹4,600 crore from the saffron party. Addressing a Press conference at the AICC headquarters along with Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh, party treasurer Ajay Maken alleged that the BJP is in

serious violation of income-tax laws and said the I-T department should raise a demand of ₹4,617.58 crore from the saffron party for such violations. Maken said political parties have to fill up a proforma of Form 24A, in which two basic and important information have to be furnished — the names and addresses of their donors. “We have analysed all the submissions of the BJP to the Election Commission (EC). The party has faltered every

year,” Maken claimed. Ramesh alleged that through the “electoral bonds scam”, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has collected ₹8,200 crore and used the route of “pre-paid, post-paid, post-raid bribes and shell companies”. On the other hand, the BJP is engaged in “tax terrorism”, he alleged. Maken alleged that the Congress and other like-minded Opposition parties are being selectively targeted by the I-T department, which he described as the BJP’s

“frontal organisation”. He said the Supreme Court will soon hear the Congress’s plea on the I-T department’s demands from it. Maken alleged that the “BJP-ruled I-T department” has so far forcibly taken out ₹135 crore from the Congress’s bank accounts due to an alleged ₹14 lakh non-compliance demand against the party. “This amount was recovered by freezing more than ₹270 crore of the Congress’s bank balance across several accounts,” he said. During this period of several weeks, the bank accounts of the Congress were effectively “frozen” in an illegal attempt to paralyse the party’s functioning during the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Maken alleged. In the history of India, why is the Congress, a tax-exempt political party like others, being “forced” to pay income tax during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, he asked. “Why have the BJP or its alliance partners not been dealt with similarly? Why has the I-T department not taken cognisance of the Yediyurappa diaries, Jain diaries, Sahara diaries, Birla diaries, Bangaru Lakshman convictions and penalised the BJP?” he asked. The CPI on its part said the Left party is consulting its lawyers to challenge the notice of the tax authorities.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates during a meeting at his residence in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

Modi vows to arm rural women with technology

ARCHANA JYOTI ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday highlighted the transformative potential of technology in critical sectors such as agriculture, education, and health and emphasised the Government’s commitment to harnessing technological innovations to bridge the digital gap in rural areas to ensure inclusive development. During his conversation with philanthropist and Microsoft Co-founder Bill Gates, Modi also shared his vision of empowering rural women through access to technology and training, aiming to challenge traditional gender roles and foster economic independence. He emphasised the need for a

psychological shift, where villagers feel empowered to transform their communities through technology as was done by his Government through innovative programmes like ‘Namo Drone Didi’. “I want to give them technology in their hands and bring a psychological change. Everyone in the villages should feel that they are transforming their village,” he said adding that “he wants to allocate funds to scientists for local research in cervical cancer to develop vaccines at a minimal cost and that his new Government will work to ensure vaccination, especially for all girls”. Gates, in response, lauded India’s proactive efforts to promote technology inclusion and empower women. The philanthropist

highlighted successful collaborative initiatives between the Government and organisations like his foundation in revitalising traditional practices and promoting women’s participation in sectors such as agriculture. Gates said India brings out technology that can be made available for everyone and that helps uplift those who need it the most. The conversation extended to leveraging technology to enhance citizen services and improve ease of living. “Earlier, there was a push for stringent compliance requirements. But I advocated and ensured simplification, and made certain that data is uploaded to cloud (storage) with shared IDs, enabling us to access necessary information directly,” Modi said.



Bihar RJD president Jagdanand Singh and State Congress president Akhilesh Singh join hands with CPI-ML, CPM and other leaders after releasing Grand Alliance candidates’ list for Lok Sabha elections, in Patna, on Friday

PTI

INDIA Bloc in a bind in Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
PATNA/NEW DELHI

Ending speculations though mired with a controversy over one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar, INDIA Bloc Opposition partners on Friday announced that the RJD will contest 26, out of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in the State while the Congress will contest nine seats, followed by CPI(ML) 3 and CPI and CPI(M) one each. While seat sharing has already been done in Delhi with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bloc now awaits to share the deal in Maharashtra among the Congress, Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena, Sharad Pawar-led NCP and other smaller parties where troubles are galore and stakeholders are making last minute efforts to salvage the alliance to contest in 48 Lok Sabha seats in the State. As per the announcement, the

Congress has been made to give up the Purnea Lok Sabha seat, which recent entrant Pappu Yadav, husband of Rajya Sabha MP Ranjeet Ranjan, was hoping to contest, claiming that he had received assurance of the Congress ticket from Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.

The seat will be contested by the RJD, which recently gave the party ticket to JD(U) turncoat Bima Bharti, but stopped short of announcing it formally. The Mahagathbandhan’s seat-sharing announcement comes a day after the filing of nomination papers for the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls was over. The RJD has fielded its candidates in all four seats going to polls in the first phase, in what has been resented by allies as a “unilateral move”. Notably, the CPI and the CPI(M) have already announced their candidates for Begusarai and Khagaria respectively.



Judicial probe in Ansari death

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■
LUCKNOW:

Following the completion of postmortem formalities on gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari by a panel of five doctors, the local administration has initiated a judicial probe into his death. The Chief Judicial Magistrate Banda has directed a three-member team to conduct the investigation and submit their findings within one month. All proceedings, including the postmortem, were recorded as per protocol. Judicial probes are customary in cases of deaths in judicial or police custody. During the postmortem examination, Mukhtar’s younger son Umar Ansari, along with other family members and a few individuals from Ghazipur, were present. The procedure lasted over an hour, after which Ansari’s remains were transported under heavy security to Ghazipur for the final rites. The convoy, comprising 26 vehicles, including Vajras and ambulances, was closely monitored with CCTV cameras. Despite efforts by Ansari’s elder son Abbas Ansari, who is incarcerated, the High Court denied his request for parole to attend



An ambulance carrying the mortal remains of the jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari leaves for his native place in Ghazipur, from a hospital in Banda, on Friday

PTI

the burial. In anticipation of Ansari’s arrival in Ghazipur, shops remained shuttered in Mohammadabad Yusufpur, his hometown. Security measures were intensified, with barricades erected outside his residence and restricted access to the premises. Ansari, a five-time MLA, passed away due to a cardiac arrest after being transferred from Banda jail to a hospital following deterioration in his health. Amidst Ansari’s demise, his

family alleges foul play, accusing authorities of administering “slow poison.” Umar claimed that his father had conveyed this suspicion to them and raised concerns with the court through legal channels. “We said this before also and even today we will say the same thing. On March 19, he was poisoned at dinner. We will move to the judiciary, we have full faith in it...” he said. In a petition filed by Mukhtar’s advocate in the

High Court and the Supreme Court, it is alleged that he was poisoned twice during lunch in Banda jail, suggesting a concerted effort by the Government administration to eliminate him. However, officials have refuted these allegations, asserting that the truth will be uncovered through the ongoing judicial probe. As the investigation unfolds, the circumstances surrounding Ansari’s death continue to spark debate and scrutiny.

UN steps on India's foot on its internal politics

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

A spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said the world body “hopes” that in India and any country, that is having elections, people’s “political and civil rights” are “protected” and everyone is able to vote in a “free and fair” atmosphere. Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Stephane Dujarric made these remarks on Thursday while he was responding to a question on the “political unrest” in India ahead of the upcoming national elections in the wake of the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the freezing of the Opposition Congress Party’s bank accounts. “What we very much hope that in India, as in any country that is having elections, that everyone’s rights are protected, including political and civil rights, and everyone is able to vote in an atmosphere that is free and fair,” Dujarric said at the daily Press briefing on Thursday. The response from the United Nations comes a day after the US also reacted to a similar question on Kejriwal’s arrest and freezing of the Congress party’s bank accounts.



DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
DAMTA (TEHRI GARHWAL)

Unemployment is an issue and challenge being discussed within the sparsely accumulated locals of the villages nestled in interior terrains of Uttarakhand which the youths have termed it a “curse in Dev Bhumi”. And now with the Lok Sabha elections around the corner, the discussion within the people has gained momentum and given rise to individuals like Bobby Panwar spearheading a movement on the subject so much that he has thrown a tough battle for the sitting three-time Tehri Garhwal Lok Sabha MP Maharani Mala Rajya Rani Shah from the BJP and her opponent Jot Singh Gungola of the Congress. Shah is the Royal descendant of Kingdom Tehri and looking for a fourth straight victory.

Though Uttarakhand boasts for the first State to pass the Uniform Civil Code and the BJP hopes to retain all five Lok Sabha seats but the local issues like unemployment and health care is on top of the mind of voters and the Congress is attempting to regain the ground on the above subjects dominating the mind of youths to upset the ruling party here. Though the traditional voters will rally behind the Congress and the BJP, Panwar who is contesting the Lok Sabha as an Independent seems to have emerged the choice and voice of youths of Uttarakhand, particularly in the Garhwal (Tehri and Pauri) region and making inroads in Kumaon landscape above Ramnagar



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami conducting road show campaign in Garhwal on Friday for party nominees for the Lok Sabha polls

Deepak Kumar Jha/Pioneer

Silent rumbling in Dev Bhumi

till Pithoragarh. “I jumped into politics after two of my elder siblings remained unemployed. I send my younger brother to Delhi where he is doing some job. In the absence of employment in all sectors, including defence and paramilitary, youth are left with no option rather than wait for tourism cycle like summer, char dhaam yatras to put their stalls of snacks and beverages. We do not have any complaints regarding infrastructure issue as we understand it’s difficult in this tough terrain but employment is an issue now

deep into our heart,” said Panwar, the Independent Lok Sabha candidate from the Tehri Garhwal Parliamentary constituency. The other four Lok Sabha seats in Uttarakhand are Pauri Garhwal which has sitting BJP MP Tirath Singh Rawat but the current contest is between BJP’s chief media incharge Anil Baluni and Ganesh Gondyal of the Congress, Union Minister BJP’s Ajay Bhatt and Prakash Joshi of the Congress in Nainital Udhamsingh Nagar, Ajay Tamta of BJP and Pradeep Tamta of Congress in Almora, Trivendra Singh Rawat of BJP and Virendra

Rawat of Congress in Haridwar, a constituency represented by former CM and former Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has also been an entity in the State with a sizeable vote share and has announced its candidates for all the five Lok Sabha seats which goes to polls in the first phase of April 19. In 2019, the BJP got a massive 61.01 per cent vote share, while the grand old party 31.40 per cent followed by BSP which stood third, with 4.48 per cent vote share. Every household of villages in Uttarakhand claims of one family member in metros like Delhi, Mumbai, to farthest like Chennai, Bengaluru or Kolkata. Similar is the case in nicely profiled cities of capital town Dehradun, Mussoorie, Almora, Haldwani and Nainital.



Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Subhash Chand S/o Sh. Amar Singh R/o H.No.642, Gali No.4, New Prem Colony, Village Kalampura, Karnal declare that I son Ankit Singh is out of my control. I disown him from my all movable-immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk. I Or My Family Are Not Responsible For Any Type Of Their Any Acts.

I, Vedpal Singh S/o Sh. Puran Singh R/o H.No. 959, Sector-15, Sonipat has disowned my son Manish & his wife Monika from my all movable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Amit (Aadhar No. 2973 8514 0219) S/o Sh. Roshan Lal R/o V.P.O. Alewa & H. No. 101 Sec. 9 U/E Jind, do hereby declare that in my Aadhar card, School Certificates & all other documents my name is mentioned as Amit, But my real name is Amit Bhardwaj. So, I want to registered my name as Amit Bhardwaj in all my Documents also. All Concerned note.

We, Jai Parkash S/o Panna Lal & Seema W/O Jai Parkash R/o #1122B, Ward No.2, VPO-Munak, Distt.Karnal declare that our son Ashish @Raje 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, Satbir S/o Ram Singh R/o Ward no.16, Near Sant Kabir Ashram, Dahiya Colony, Sonipat declare that my son Mahesh and his wife Anjali are out of my control. So I disown them from my all movable/ immovable property. Any body deals with them at own risk.

I, Sunita Devi W/o Late Sh. Surajbhan R/o Vill. Atwan, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Kurukshetra I declare that my son Sumit Kumar are out of control and do not even behave well with us. So I disinherit them (Sumit Kumar) from my all movable /immoveable Properties. If anybody deals with them (Sumit Kumar) in any manner, they will deals on his own responsibility.

I, Sanjay Sachdeva S/o Sh. Wazir Chand Sachdeva and Sonia W/o Sanjay Sachdeva R/o's 84, Mashad Mohalla, Near Shant Smeets, Geeta Bhawan Chowk, Sonipat declare that our unmarried son Rupin Sachdeva is out of our control. So we disown him from our all movable and immovable property. Any body deals with him at his own risk.

I, Barkha Ram S/o Hardeva Ram R/o Village Chibba, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have disown my son Mohit Kumar from my movable- immovable properties, as he is out of my control.

I, Bahadur Singh S/o Tara Chand R/o H.No.767, Burali, Chandigarh do hereby declare that my son Amandeep Singh is beyond my control and his acts and deeds are not according to my desires and not suitable to me. I do hereby disown from my self required property in respect my all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk.

I, Army No. Jc-304404y Rank- Sub(Dmt) Name: Upendra Kumar Singh, Presently Posted Unit-142 Ad Regt. (Spt) C/O 56 Apo, Chandimandir Cantt., Panchkula (Haryana), Permanent Residing At House No/ 151, Gali No.-11, Village- Arrah Jagdev Nagar, Ganeshpuri Colony, Po-Anaith, Tehsil-Arrah, Distt. Arrah, State-Bihar. (Phone-802302 Declare That My Son's Name Mentioned Incorrect In My Service Record As Sunny Kumar Instead Of Sunny Kumar Singh. And Also My Name Mentioned Incorrect In My Service Record As Upendra Kr Singh Instead Of Upendra Kumar Singh Which May Be Amended Accordingly

I Sushma Rana W/O Late Sh Satish Rana, R/O H.No 1810 Sector-15 Panchkula, Declare That My Son Gautam Rana And His Wife Monika Rana Both Are Out Of My Control So I Disown Them From My Moveable Immovebale Properties, Anybody Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk.

I Madan Lal S/O Late Sh. Gurdayal, A/O 2308, Tehelos Society Sector 50c Chandigarh. Declare That My Son Mukesh Kumar And His Wife Sushita Are Out Of Control. So I Disown Them From My Moveable/ Immoveable Property. If Any Body Dealing With Them At His/Her Own Risk.

I, Sunita (Existing Name Of Spouse As Per Change Of Next Of Kin Service Document), Spouse Of Satish Kumar Ex Sea 1 No 163302t Resident Of House No 524a/10 Gali No 1 Ward No.55 Chawla Colony Sonipat (Haryana)-131001, Have Changed My Name From Sunita To Sunita Rani (Existing Name In My Civil Documents) Vide Affidavit Dated 29-03-2024 At District Court Sonipat (Haryana).

I, Babli Devi Spouse Of Gs No. 165535W Mt Dvr Sh. Mehtab Singh R/O Village Pakasma, Teh-Sampla, Distt- Rohtak Declare That My Husband's Service Record In My Wife Name Is Babli Devi Wrongly Written. But My Wife Correct Name Is Babli And Correct Dob - 01.01.1971.Pls Concerned Note.

I, Satpal S/O Shri Rajbir R/O Samargopalpur, Distt. Rohtak Declare That My Son Aman And His Wife Preeti Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Them From My All Moveable/Immoveable Properties. Any Body Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk. I Or My Family Are Not Responsible For Any Type Of Their Any Acts.

I, Army No- 14646134L, Hav Praveen Kumar Verma Unit 234/F WKSP Coy S/o Feku Ram R/o Mau - (UP) 276129 declare that in my Army service record, my wife name wrongly written Kusum Mourya. Her correct name is Kusum Devi.

It Is For General Information That I Chirag S/O Anuraj R/O 268, Jatwara, Nikat Chaupal, Ward No. 1, Sonipat, Haryana-131001 Declare That My Name Wrongly Written As Anurag In My 10th And 12th Class Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Father Is Anuraj Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

I, Nasib Kaur Wife of Jarnail Singh R/o H.No. 103, Beant nagar, near Baba Mohan shah darbar wali gali, Jalandhar, Punjab Declare that my son Kirpal Singh is out of my control. I disown him from my movable and immovable property. Along with this the lender himself will be responsible. I and my family will have no responsibility.

We, Sarabjit Singh, S/o Shri Balbir Singh and Sahinder Kaur, W/o Sh. Sarabjit Singh, R/o Village Lauton, Tehsil Naraingarh, District Ambala, declare that our son Vishwajeet Singh and his wife Simran Kaur are out of hearing from us. We evict them from our movable and immovable property. We will not be responsible for any dealings with them in future.

I Karanvir Singh S/o S. Thakar Singh R/o V.P.O. Littiran Teh. Nakodar Distt. Jalandhar have changed may Residence Address V.P.O. Gill Teh. Nakodar Distt. Jalandhar- 144701. Concerned please note.

I, Savita Rani (01.05.1984 Old DOB) W/O Sanjeev Kumar R/o Vill. Dallewal, Po Binewal, Teh-Garshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my DOB 22.09.1981 (New DOB)

मैं जूनेल सिंह पुत्र गुरदयाल सिंह निवासी गाँव मिमाला, तहसील पिहोवा, जिला कुरुक्षेत्र हलफिया बयान करता हूँ कि मैंने मेरे मेरा सासा पुत्र व मायाी देवी मेरी पुत्र वधू हे ये दोनो विदेश मे रहते हे व दोनो मेरे कहने सुनने से बाहर हे इसलिए मे इन दोनो को अपनी सामग चल व अचल संपत्ति से बेदेखल करता हूँ भविष्य मे इनके साथ लेनेदन करने वाला व अगर ये कोई गैर कानूनी कार्य करते हे तो वो स्वयं जिम्मेवार होंगे, मेरी या मेरे परिवार की कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

CHANGE OF NAME

I RajManti W/ o Sh. Gouri Shankar aged about 29 years Rajmanti Village Yanga 1st P.O. Huri Tehsil Nichar Distt Kinnaur H.P. 172118 declare that I have Changed my son name from Advik Roice (Old name) to Shaarvil Roice (new name) one and the same person. All concerned plz note.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Nand Lal R/o 17, Ward no. 22, Near Gaba Palace, Bawa Colony, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kapoor.

I, Ruby W/o Manish Kumar R/o Village Telipura, PO Jaroda, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Ruby to Rubi Devi.

I, Seeta W/O Mangal Saini R/o 172, Ward Number-4, Ferozepur Jhrika, Mewat, Haryana-122104 have changed my name to Geeta.

I, Dulari D/o Mangal Saini R/o 172, Ward Number-4, Ferozepur Jhrika, Mewat, Haryana-122104 have changed my name to Driшти Saini.

I, Mohd Zahid S/o Mohd Yamin, House No 387, Phase-2, Bapudham colony Sector 26, Chandigarh have changed my name from Mohd Zahid to Mohammad Zaid.

I, 2002875F Rank Hav. Jai Singh, 20 Assam Rifles R/o VPO Dighal, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana declares that in my service documents Names & Dates of birth of my family members have been wrongly entered as: Lata Devi (01/07/1966) (Wife), Monika Devi (20/02/1991) (Daughter) & Sachin KR (28/02/1996) (Son). While their correct Names & Dates of birth are as: Lata (01/01/1971) (Wife), Monika (20/02/1991) (Daughter) & Sachin Ahlawat (28/02/1997) (Son). Please correct it.

I, Akshita Thakur D/o Kanwar Satvinder Singh R/o Vill. Jajala, Teh- Mukerian, Dist. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, declare that I have change my name from Akshita to Akshita Thakur.

I, Rakesh Kumar Bajaj S/o Mukund Lal Bajaj R/o H.No.-1306, Sector 13- 17, Huda, Panipat declare that Rakesh Kumar Bajaj and Rakesh Kumar both are the same person my name. In future I may be known as Rakesh Kumar Bajaj.

I, Suman W/o Rakesh Kumar Bajaj R/o H.No.-1306, Sector 13- 17, Huda, Panipat declare that Suman and Suman Bajaj both are the name of my same woman. In future I was known as Suman.

I, Arti Sangwan D/O Jagwant Singh r/o # 601 Sector 36-B Chandigarh have changed my name to Arti Rani.

I, Satpal S/o Prem Chand r/o Village Munak, Tehsil Ballha, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Satpal to Satpal Singh. In future I should be known as Satpal Singh.

I, Pushpa Rani w/o Rajiv Kumar r/o Panjoura, Sub-Tehsil Saraswati Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar hereby declare that my name is recorded as Pushpa Rani in all my documents, whereas in my daughter Tanushka's school certificate my name has been wrongly written as Pushpa. This should be corrected and written as Pushpa Rani.

I, Rajiv Kumar s/o Gurmej Singh r/o Panjoura, Sub-Tehsil Saraswati Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar hereby declare that my name is recorded as Rajiv Kumar in all my documents, whereas in my daughter Tanushka's school certificate my name has been wrongly written as Rajiv. This should be corrected and written as Rajiv Kumar.

I. No. 3394923H Hav Kabul Singh (Retd.) S/o Sh. Chabeg Singh R/o V.P.O. Thaska Miranji Tehsil Pehowa, District Kurukshetra declare that in my service record my wife's name is wrongly written as Gurjit Kaur instead of Gurjeet Kaur. Note all concerns.

I, Baljinder Kaur Doasnjh W/O Dalbir Singh Dosanjh R/O Village Kharkan Tehsil Guhla Distt Kaithal (Haryana) have changed my daughter's name from Amandeep Kaur to Amandeep Kaur Dosanjh.

I, Baljinder Kaur Doasnjh W/O Dalbir Singh Dosanjh R/O Village Kharkan Tehsil Guhla Distt Kaithal Haryana have changed my son's name from Sukhraj Singh to Sukhraj Singh Dosanjh.

I, Jashanpreet Singh alias Karandeep singh S/o Jeet Singh R/O Moonak, Tehsil Moonak, Distt. Sangrur, State Punjab declares that I have changed my name from Jashanpreet Singh to Karandeep Singh. I will do all work with this Name. All concerned and Related please note.

I, Anil Malik @ Anil S/o Raju R/O Kharwar Tehsil Sampla District Rohtak, declare that my name in Aadhar Card and PAN Card is Anil Malik and 10th class marksheet my name is Anil. Anil Malik and Anil are both names of the same person.

I, Hemshicka Kohli W/o Raveesh Kohli R/O 5A/154 New Vijay Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Hemshicka Bemby to Hemshicka Kohli Concerned noted.

I, Ishwar Bansal S/o Dharampal R/O 448, Urban Estate, Jind have changed my Son Name from Akshit Bansal To Akshay Bansal.

I, Dinesh S/O Hawa Singh R/O H.No.15, Type 5, Thermal Colony, Thermal Plant Colony, PTPS, Asan Kalan, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Dinesh to Dinesh Kumar. In future I should be known as Dinesh Kumar.

I, Shimpi, Wife Of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Resident Of H.No 1/6 Kamal Vihar, Ambala City I Inform That After The Death Of My First Husband Vinod Dhiman Alias Vinod Kumar, I Have Got Second Married With Vinod Kumar Brother's Sanjeev Kumar And Now I Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son From Arnav To Arnab Dhiman.

I, Balvinder Singh S/O Gursharan Singh R/O Village Dhirpur Distt. Kurukshetra I Have Changed My Name Balvinder Surname Singh.

I, Manjeet Kaur W/O Balvinder Singh R/O Village Dhirpur Distt. Kurukshetra I Have Changed My Name Manjeet Surname Kaur.

I, Nirmala Rani W/O Sh. Rajbir Singh R/O Village Tandwal Sub Tehsil Shahzadpur Tehsil Naraingarh Distt Ambala Have Changed My Name From Nirmala Rani To Nirmala Devi. I Use My Name As Nirmala Rani In My All Documents Works.

I, Ranjit Kaur W/o Kultaran Singh R/o H.No. 106. Urban Estate, Kapurthala, Punjab, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ranjit Kaur to Ranjeet Kaur. All Concerned Please note.

I, Sarabjeet Singh S/o Tajinder Singh R/o H.No. 106. Atma Singh Urban Estate, Kapurthala, Punjab, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sarabjeet Singh to Sarabjeet Singh Dua. All concerned please note.

I, Dinesh Verma S/o Patel Soni Verma R/o 872, Ward No. 4, Near Katla Ramelela Khazanchain Bazar, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed the name of my son from Ruhin Soni to Ruhin Verma for all future purpose.

I, Dinesh Verma S/o Patel Soni Verma R/o 872, Ward No. 4, Near Katla Ramelela Khazanchain Bazar, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Dinesh Soni Verma to Dinesh Verma for all future purpose.

I, Arun Kumar S/o Rambilas R/o H. No. 67, W. No. 20, Professor Colony, Balsmand Road, Hisar (Haryana) 125001 declare that I have changed the name of my minor Son from Abhay to Abhay Jangra for future purpose.

I, Arun Kumar S/o Rambilas R/o H. No. 67, W. No. 20, Professor Colony, Balsmand Road, Hisar (Haryana) 125001 declare that I have changed the name of my minor Son from Nirbhay to Nirbhay Jangra for future purpose.

I, Vijender Singh R/o Jamawari, Teh. Hansi, Distt. Hisar declare that I want to change the name of my mother from Sursati Devi to Sarasti and DOB from 1 Jan. 1969 to 1 Jan 1970 and DOB of my father from 1 Jan 1967 to 1 Jan 1968 vide affidavit dt. 29 Mar 2024.

I, Anju Malik D/o Sh. Krishan Malik R/O House No. 419, Near Hathia Wala Makan Village Satrodh Khaz Hisar Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Anju Malik to Anju for future purpose.

I, Surjeet Kaur D/o Sh. Bhag Singh W/O Major Singh R/O H.No. 382/1 Ward No. 3, Kariwala (122), PO-Kariwala, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Surjeet Kaur to Baljinder Kaur, in future my name is to be called as Baljinder Kaur.

I, Mejar Singh S/o Sh. Mukhtiar Singh R/O H.No. 382/1 Ward No. 3, Kariwala (122), PO-Kariwala Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Mejar Singh to Major Singh, in future my name is to be called as Major Singh.

I, Muskan W/o Yash Pal R/O Village Lotni Postoffice Jalbehra District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Muskan (given name) and Kaur (surname).

I, Poonam Seth W/o Rajneesh Seth R/O House No. 615, Sector 13, Urban Estate, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Seth.

I, Kavita W/o Rajesh Kumar R/O 241, Jawahar Nagar Batala Road, Amritsar have changed my name to Kavita Bhardwaj.

I, Mahavir Singh Chahal S/o Suraj Mai R/O Flat No.104, Tower No.3, Parswnath Royale Society, Sector-20, Panchkula (Haryana) declare that Mahavir Singh Chahal & Mahavir both are one and same person.

I, No.14837084n Rank Hav/Mt Name Koushik Manna R/O Vpo- Baghadari, Tehsil Contai, District -Purba Midnapur, State-W.B.-721425 In My Army Service Record My Son's Name Wrongly Mentioned As Krishnanu Manna. But His Correct Name Is Krishnanu Manna As Per His All Government Documents. Now I am Going To Make It Correct As Krishnanu Manna In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 29.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Jeet Rewri S/o Pritam Lal R/O H.No.1015/3, Satguru Kripa Niwas, Pachranga Bazar, Panipat declare that I have Changed my Name From Jeet Kumar to Jeet Rewri for all future purpose.

I, Gurliqaut Singh S/o Niranjan Singh R/o Davinder Nagar, Kotmit Singh Tarn Tarn Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Gurliqaut Singh to Gurliakot Singh

I, Manjeet Kaur W/o Parambir Singh R/o H.No.359, Kanshi Nagar, Verka, Amritsar have changed my name from Manjeet Kaur to Manjit Kaur

I, Satyadev Father of No.JC 671630F SubYadav Surendra Kumar R/O A-66, Shiroani Society Ahmedabad, Gujarat Pin 382345 have changed my name from Satyadev to Yadav Satyadev

I, Varshadevi Mother of No.JC 671630F SubYadav Surendra Kumar R/O A-66, Shiroani Society Ahmedabad, Gujarat Pin 382345 have changed my name from Varshadevi to Yadav Varshadevi Satyadev.

I, Parmjeet Kaur W/o Ranjit Singh R/o Village Dhamala, Kalka, Panchkula (Haryana), have changed my name from Parmjeet Kaur to Paramjeet Kaur. All concerned to note please.

I, Vandana Vasudev W/o Vivek Sheel, H. No. 46-Purana Gurudwara, Nangal, Tehsil Nangal (Rupnagar), have changed minor son name from Madhav Name to Madhav Vasudev.

I, Jyoti W/o Ashok Verma R/o Naya Bazar, Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Jyoti Verma.

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Raj Kumar R/o Naya Bazar Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Ashok Verma.

I, Swarnjeet Kaur W/o Prem Chand Verma R/o Naya Bazar Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Swaran Jit Kaur.

I, Monika W/o Sh. Dinesh Kumar R/o House No.604,First Floor Sector -21 Panchkula Haryana Declare That I have changed my name from Monika to Monika Punia

I hitherto known as Bimla Wife of Veerbhan Residing at Vill. Mangalpur, Mangalpur (98) Teh. Uchana, Distt. Jind Haryana-126152 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vimla Devi.

I, Vijay Laxmi Mendiratta W/o Sh. Baldev Lal Mendiratta, R/O H.no 910 Sector- 4 Panchkula, have changed my name from Vijay Laxmi Mendiratta to Vijay Luxmi Chawla.

I, Suman W/o Kuldeep R/o Village Kalampur Rodan, Distt. Karnal, inform that I have changed my name from Suman Devi to Suman. In future, I will be known and known as Suman.

I Baldev Lal S/o Khushi Ram Mendiratta R/O H.no- 910 Sector-4 Panchkula, have changed my name from Baldev Lal to Baldev Lal Mendiratta.

I, Nikhil Bansal S/o Sh.Bal Mukund R/O House No -83, Sector -9 Panchkula Haryana-134113 Have changed my Minor Son Name from Vaarin to Vaarin Bansal

I, Garima, d/o Vikas Chandhok & Ritlu Chandhok after marriage with Utkarsh Singh s/o Rajesh Kumar Singh & Neelam Singh have changed my name to Garima Singh. Henceforth for Legal and all other purposes I shall be known as Garima Singh

I, Pooja Rani Verma, W/o Satish Kumar, R/o village Mayyad, District Hisar, declare that in the school records of my daughter Alisha, my name is written as Mrs. Pooja Verma, which is wrongly recorded. Now I want to register my correct name as Mrs. Pooja Rani Verma.

I, Nand Kishor S/o Anant Ram, Near Krishna Mandir, Dhariwal Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Nand Kishor to Nand Kishore Sharma. Concerned note.

I, Ishan Sehdev s/o Amit Verma r/o H.No 1017/16, Amam Bara Chowk, Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Ishan Verma to Ishaan Sehdev. Concerned note.

I Madhu W/O Rakesh Kumar R/O House No. 631/7, Ward No 10, Keshav Nagar Samana, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Madhu Goyal

I Jogjeet Singh S/O Inderjeet Singh R/O #B-1/1116, Jagdish Colony, Ward No.4, Old Rajpura Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Have Changed My Name From Jogjeet Singh To Jagjeet Singh

I hitherto Known As Gurbinder Singh Matharu S/O Mukhtiar Singh Residing At Vpo Daula, Teh. Gidderbaha Dist. Sri Muktsar Sahib Pin Code 152101 Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurbinder Singh. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/O Sh. Mukhtiyar Singh R/O House Number 1245-A, Sector-7, Urban Estate, Karnal Kamal, Haryana India Do Hereby Solemnly Affirm And Declare . That The Name Of The Deponent Jaswinder Sahi Is Mentioned In Her Daughter Namely Mandeep Sahi's Passport Number N3257520. That Jaswinder Kaur And Jaswinder Sahi Is The One And Same Person.

I, Mukhtiyar Singh S/O Sh. Mahinder Singh R/O House Number 1245-A, Sector-7, Urban Estate, Karnal Kamal, Haryana India Do Hereby Solemnly Affirm And Declare That The Name Of The Deponent Mukhtiar Singh Is Mentioned In His Daughter Namely Mandeep Sahi's Passport Number N3257520. That Mukhtiyar Singh And Mukhtiar Singh Is The One And Same Person.

I, Sandeep Singh Malik S/O Sh. Rajbir Malik r/o village Risalu, Tehsil and District Panipat declare that my minor son Paras Malik his passport my correct name entered Sandeep malik to Sandeep singh malik. As per documents.

I, Jasvir s/o Sh. Puran Chand R/O H.No. 83/1, Mirokika wali gali, Sangar Sarista, Sirsa have changed my name from Jasvir to Jasbir. Concerned note.

I Saksham S/o Vikrant Malhotra R/O 849/23, Circular Road, Rohtak- Rohtak declare That I am have changed my name from Saksham to Saksham Malhotra. In future I will be called by the name of Saksham Malhotra for all purposes.

I, Nagalakshmi A Is Mother of No. 15793293Y, Hav (OFC), Raja Pandian A presently Serving in Address Unit 408 GUN MSL Regt C/O 56 APO resident of 331, Ganesan Colony, Vishwantham, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar State Tamil Nadhu PIN Code 626189 have change my name in all documents from A Nagalakshmi to Nagalakshmi A and date of birth 14-07-1969 to 04.06.1966.

I, Neelam Kumari W/o Videsh Kumar, No. 15491862K, D.F.R. Videsh Kumar R/o Vill. Khatin (Jharet Jaggian), Tehsil Dheera Distt. Kangra, H.P. Declare That my name is wrongly entered in Army Part-II Order record of my husband Videsh Kumar as Neelam instead of Neelam Kumari Vide Affidavit Dated 12 March 2024 before at Palampur.

I, Balbir Kaur W/o Rajinder Singh R/O Village Nawpanind, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Balbir Kaur To Kaur Dalbir.

I, Gehna Singh S/o Bhagat Singh R/O VPO. Bariar, Tehsil Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Gehna Singh to Gahna Singh.

I, Gurjit Singh S/o Jagwant Singh R/O VPO. Bhurthala Mander, Distt. Malerkotla-148023, Punjab have changed my name from Gurjit Singh to Gurjit Singh Mander.

I, hitherto known as Manjit Kaur W/o Surjeet Singh R/O H.No. 66, Rail Vihar, Jalandhar-144009, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashok Dadwal

I, Balvinder Pal S/o Piaral Lal R/o H. No. 40, Simran Enclave, VPO. Dhanowali, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Balvinder Pal to Balwinder Pal.

I, Preetam Singh S/o Sucha Singh R/o Diwan Colony, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Given Name Preetam Surname Singh.

I, Balvir Kaur S/o Preetam Singh R/o Diwan Colony, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Given Name Balvir Surname Kaur.

I Sukhwinder Singh S/O Darshan Singh R/O Ward No.9, Saini Mohalla Balachaur District S.B.S. Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Harmanpreet To Harmanpreet Kaur.

I Amanpreet D/O Harwinder Singh R/O Ward No.9, Saini Mohalla Balachaur District S.B.S. Nagar Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Amanpreet To Amanpreet Kaur.

I, Smt. Bakhshish Kaur Wd/O No.7015998 EX-NK Late Sh. Malkiat Singh R/O Village & P.O Chabbawal Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Bakshish Kaur To Bakhshish Kaur.

I Manpreet Kaur W/O Mandeep Singh R/O Near Shiv Mandir, Vpo. Piplanwala, District Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name To Kaur Manpreet.

I Devinder Kaur Badwal W/O Kiranjit Singh Badwal R/O Village Bassi Nau, P.O. Kakkon District Hoshiarpur (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Devinder Kaur Badwal To Davinder Kaur Badwal.

I Gurkawaljit Singh S/O Sukhwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Gharyala Tehsil Patti District Tam-Taran 143401, Punjab Changed My Name Gurkawaljit Singh To Gurkawaljit As My Given Name, Singh As My Surname.

I Meenakshi W/O Jai Preet Singh R/O 5-A, Lane No.-7, Guru Amardas Avenue Airport Road Amritsar 143001, Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Minakshi Kurichh To Meenakshi.

I Hardeep Singh Romana S/O Gurnam Singh R/O Vpo. Qila Nau Distt. Faridkot Punjab-151203 Have Changed My Name To Hardeep Singh.

I Rajkanwal Kaur Sidhu W/O Ranjeet Singh Rai R/O H.No.-AD 74, Agarwal Dala, Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name From To Rajkanwal Kaur Rai.

I Mandeep Singh Gill S/O Parkash Singh R/O Vill. Galib Khurd Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Mandeep Singh.

I Paramjit Singh S/O Inder Singh R/O Vpo. Pakhi Kalan (Faridkot) My Son Kamaljit Singh Gill And Kamaljit Singh Is Known By These Both Names.

I Gursahib Singh S/O Gurjant Singh R/O H.No.-107 Phase-4 Model Town Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Gursahib Singh Brar.

I Tanuj S/O Madan Mohan R/O House No.-4110, Ward No.-3, Street No.-2, Gagandeep Colony, Kakawal, Ludhiana, Have Changed My Name To Tanuj Harjai.

I Shakooran W/O Qaim Din R/O 2722, St.No.-2 New Janta Nagar Gill Road Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Shakura Begum.

I, Jung Singh S/o Fouja Singh R/o Vill-Khlichhi Jadid District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Jang Singh.

I, Harveer Singh Sahota S/o Mohan Singh R/o VPO Bhamaddi, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Harveer Singh.

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Buta Singh R/o Vill: Azimgarh Teh-Guhala Distt. Kathal have changed my name to Parmjeet Kaur.

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Himachal Cong chief Pratibha Singh likely to take on Kangana Ranaut in Mandi

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Even though Congress is yet to announce its candidate, sitting MP and Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Pratibha Singh is the front runner to take on film-star and BJP candidate Kangana Ranaut from the Mandi Parliamentary constituency of the state.

The Congress leader on Friday said the people of the state want somebody from her family to contest this Lok Sabha election, indicating her willingness to contest the high-octane polls.

She said people have a sentimental attachment with former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and that is the reason why people always support our family and want somebody from this family to contest this election.

Wife of Virbhadra Singh and the mother of Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh, Pratibha Singh, who is an MP from Mandi, had last week announced not to contest the election as the ground situation was not favourable and workers were disheartened.

However, she changed her stand on Thursday saying, "If the central Congress leadership gives me the command to contest Lok Sabha elections from

the Mandi seat, I will follow." Her statement came after a meeting of the six-member committee constituted by the Congress to ensure better coordination, chalk out the strategy and discuss the names of probabilities was held.

"Whenever the Congress was in power and Virbhadra Singh was the CM, he always worked for the development of the state and whatever development you see around, was done by him," she said and appealed to the voters to wholeheartedly support the Congress as the party has worked for the development of the state.

Development and welfare of the public would be the main focus during the elections and issues of unemployment, inflation, "unfulfilled" promises of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and corruption would be raised.

When asked about film star Kangana Ranaut given ticket by the BJP from the Mandi constituency, she said challenge is always there in elections and it is for the people to decide who they like and want to see as their MP. Referring to "instability" in the Congress after the recent rebellion and six disqualified party MLAs joining the BJP, she said that with time the party will make the workers stronger and

infuse enthusiasm so that they go into the field and start working.

When asked that some BJP leaders are reportedly keen to join the Congress after the BJP gave tickets to six Congress rebels from their respective constituencies, she said, "We will talk to our own party's people before deciding on taking BJP leaders who are willing to join the Congress."

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has claimed that some BJP leaders are in contact with him.

Kangana Ranaut holds roadshow in Mandi, attacks Cong over derogatory remarks

Meanwhile, actor Kangana Ranaut Friday launched a scathing attack on Congress over its leader's derogatory remarks on her and Mandi from where she is contesting the Lok Sabha polls on BJP ticket.

Ranaut began her Lok Sabha election campaign here with a roadshow hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi with "Jai Shri Ram" and asserting that the BJP's main agenda is development.

The roadshow witnessed a large number of people trying

to get a glimpse of the Bollywood actor, a four-time National Award winner who was born in Mandi's Bhambla town. In her maiden election rally at Sarkaghat town, the actor, while referring to the derogatory comment of Congress leader on her and Mandi, said, "Jo betiyon aur

behno ke bhaav lagate hai, wo apke kabhi nahi ho sakte" (those who fix rates of daughters and sisters can never be faithful to you).

Congress leaders Shrinate and H S Ahir kicked up a huge political row with derogatory comments on Ranaut and Mandi posted on their social media handles.

Mandi is named after Mandav Rishi and Prashar Rishi who did "tapasya" here. The biggest Shiv Ratri fair is celebrated here. It is unfortunate that those who know nothing about Mandi are making such statements, Ranaut said during the roadshow.

"Development is BJP's main agenda and we will spare no effort to win the elections under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi," she said,

adding that the "people of Mandi will tell what is in their hearts".

Attacking Congress for misleading and confusing people by saying that she would return to Mumbai after winning the elections, Ranaut asserted that she was "fortunate to return to her motherland to serve the people".

"I will always be accessible to you, I am your daughter and sister and nobody can stop you from coming to me," she said.

Several times during her address, Ranaut switched to the local Mandeali dialect which struck a chord with the people. Ranaut mentioned the names of her family members and said that all the people of Sarkaghat are her family.

The actor said that her journey in the film industry was not smooth and she was constantly "bullied" for hailing from Himachal Pradesh and not speaking good English, but she always felt proud that she is from Mandi. "I have constructed a small Devi temple in my village and have built a house in Manali. I had struggled and worked hard to carve a niche for myself," Ranaut said.

"It is not that my father or husband is chief minister and I have joined politics," she said

in an oblique attack on sitting Congress MP Pratibha Singh and her son PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh.

On Wednesday Vikramaditya Singh had shared a letter of Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol authorising works of his constituency to someone and said that I pray to Lord Ram that such situation does not arise in Mandi. Vikramaditya Singh had targeted Kangana by indirectly comparing her to Sunny Deol, another actor-politician in the BJP camp, who has been criticised for his absences from Parliament and his Lok Sabha constituency.

This was Ranaut's first public appearance in her constituency after getting the BJP ticket on March 24.

At present, the Mandi Lok Sabha seat is being represented by HP Congress chief Pratibha Singh, who won the 2021 Lok Sabha bypolls.

The election to four Lok Sabha seats of Shimla, Mandi, Hamirpur and Kangra would be held along with by-elections in six assembly seats in the last phase on June 1. While the BJP has announced its candidates for the four Lok Sabha and six assembly seats, the Congress has not announced its candidates so far.

Wind of change started in Punjab: Sukhbir Badal

PNS ■ RAMPURA PHUL/MAUR

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal on Friday said the wind of change had started in Punjab and that Punjabis were getting ready to uproot the 'jhadoo', 'khoooni panja' and 'kamal da phul' from the State.

He was addressing people in the Punjab Bachao Yatra tour in Rampura Phul and Maur constituencies and was accompanied by Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal besides Sikander Singh Maluka and Harinder Singh Mehraj in Maur and Rampura Phul respectively.

Thanking the people for the response to the Yatra across the State, Badal said "now the contest has become one of Punjab di fauj – the SAD against the Delhi based parties". Urging the people to stay steadfast in their resolve to support their own regional party, he said "if you do not do this future generations will not forgive you".

Stating that the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had taken Punjab back by decades during the last seven years, the SAD president said "the erstwhile Congress government befooled farmers with false oaths of complete

loan waiver". He said AAP had promised to eradicate drugs within days but the scourge of drugs had increased manifold during the last two years with hundreds of youth dying of drug overdose deaths. He also cited how AAP had bankrupted Punjab by taking on a debt of Rs one lakh crore in the last two years even as no development or infrastructure creation had taken place in the State.

Asserting that the farmers and the poor had been hardest hit, Badal said "this government not only failed to implement its promise to ensure minimum support price (MSP) on all crops, but has even failed to release compensation for crop losses". He said similarly the poor were being denied social welfare benefits like aata-daal and shagun.

Appealing to the people to give a decisive mandate, Badal said "the SAD alone represents your interests and your aspirations. We are committed to safeguarding the interests of Punjab. For us Punjab is first". He said for Delhi based parties, power was most important due to which they had consistently compromised the interests of the State.

Procurement of wheat in Hry to commence from April 1: ACS Dr Sumita Misra

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, Dr Sumita Misra on Friday said that the procurement of mustard has been ongoing in Haryana under the Rabi season 2024 since March 26, and now procurement of wheat will commence from April 1, for which 417 mandis/purchase centers have been established in the State.

Presiding over a meeting with the Deputy Commissioners, Police Superintendents, and District Food and Supply Controllers (DFSCs) regarding the preparations for procurement through video conferencing, Dr Misra said that this year, it is expected that there will be higher arrivals of wheat compared to the previous year, and hence robust arrangements have been made for the procurement of crops. Once again, the payment for crop procurement will be directly credited to the farmers' accounts through electronic mode within 48 to 72 hours, informed Dr Misra.

She directed the officers

concerned that four procurement agencies, namely, Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department, HAFED, HSWC, and FCI (Central Agency), will procure crops at the minimum support price set by the Government of India. Deputy Commissioners will coordinate with these agencies in their districts and monitor procurement activities.

The Additional Chief Secretary said that surprise inspections of mandis will also be carried out by senior officials of the district. In addition, senior IAS officers, who are district in-charges, will inspect mandis in their respective districts.

She said that registered farmers will receive online payments for MSP directly into their bank accounts through the e-kharid portal. Proper cleanliness arrangements and other basic facilities will be ensured in mandis and purchase centers. She directed that this year, considering the expected higher arrival of wheat, sufficient storage space should be earmarked for storing the crop in the concerned districts.

Dr Misra said that coordination should be established with HAFED and Haryana

State Warehousing Corporation to arrange additional storage facilities such as silos, if available in their or adjoining districts.

The ACS said that to ensure proper operation of procurement and to avoid any unpleasant situation, the Director-General of Police ensures adequate security arrangements in mandis. Additionally, traffic management will be carried out by the police to prevent inconvenience to other travelers near mandis due to traffic jams/crowds. She also directed the installation of checkpoints in districts adjoining other states, said Dr Misra.

She directed the Deputy Commissioners to appoint a nodal officer to oversee procurement activities in mandis/purchase centers. For the safety of crops, sufficient arrangements of temporary shed/tarpaulin should also be ensured.

It was informed during the meeting that help desks have been set up in mandis for the convenience of farmers, and arrangements for drinking water and toilets have also been made. CCTV cameras and electronic weighbridges have been provided in mandis as well.

Gurugram launches unique initiative for voters having hearing disability

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/GURUGRAM

The Gurugram District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav on Friday said that a unique initiative has been taken by the district administration to make voters aware of the 2024 Lok Sabha general elections. A video has been prepared by the 'Digital Sign Language Lab' of the 'Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment', Gurugram, to motivate voters having hearing disability. Through this video, such voters are given detailed information about the importance of democracy and voting through sign language, he added.

Yadav said that several activities are going on in the Gurugram district to motivate voters to use their franchise. Awareness programs are being organised daily through Atal Seva Kendras, educational institutions, the Women and Child Development Department, the Transport Department, etc. through the 'SVEEP' programme of the Election Commission of India. He informed that the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities,

Government of India has uploaded this 9-minute video on its YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@DEPwDAccessibleIndiaCampaign>).

This video provides detailed information about what is democracy, the decision of mandate, the formation of the government, the franchise, the duties of voters, etc. through sign language. This effort will prove to be very effective in empowering democracy, he added. Dr Seema, Assistant Director, Welfare Center for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment, Gurugram said that the Haryana Welfare Society has run many programmes for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment. She said that the Digital Sign Language Lab is also working in Gurugram. This video has been prepared in this lab. This video, broadcast by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, is also being liked by many, said Dr Seema.

Citizens can register their vote until April 26: Hry CEO

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal on Friday said that citizens still have the last chance to get their vote registered for the Lok Sabha general elections and can register their vote until April 26.

The Chief Electoral Officer said that eligible individuals can register their vote by filling out Form-6 with the concerned BLO, Election Registration Officer, and Assistant Election Registration Officer. This form is also available on the website of the Chief Electoral Officer's office, <https://www.ceoharyana.gov.in> and can be downloaded. To register a vote, individuals can apply offline or online with two passport-size coloured photographs, along with proof

of residence and an age certificate.

Agarwal said that for the convenience of persons with disability (PwD) voters in the state, EPIC cards and photo voter slips will be printed in Braille script, and facilities such as Braille ballot papers and slips on EVMs will also be available. In addition to this, various facilities are being provided to PwD voters, including arrangements for wheelchairs, ramps at polling stations, and transportation.

He said that so far, the number of identified PwD voters in the state is 1,48,597. Arrangements will be made to bring PwD voters to the polling station. Wheelchairs will also be made available to those voters who are unable to walk. Arrangements for ramps will be made at every polling station. Additionally,

arrangements for volunteers from NGOs, NSS, and Red Cross will also be made for their assistance, shared Agarwal.

The Chief Electoral Officer said that visually impaired voters and PwD voters who are unable to cast their vote by pressing the machine button can bring a helper with them to cast their vote. The age of the helper should be 18 years or older. He said that PwD voters who are capable of casting their vote by pressing the EVM button can bring a helper along with them to the voting booth, but the helper cannot enter the voting booth.

Agarwal said that according to the registered voter data so far, there are a total of 1,98,29,675 voters in the state, including 1,05,25,840 males, 93,03,385 females, and 450 transgender voters.

Punjab CM brings newborn daughter home, names her Niyamat Kaur Mann

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after his daughter was born in a private hospital, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday brought his newborn baby daughter home and named her Niyamat Kaur Mann.

Accompanied by his wife Dr Gurpreet Kaur, who was discharged from a private hospital in Mohali after giving birth to their daughter on Thursday, Mann held the baby girl in his arms as he interacted with the media outside his residence. "Today, it is a big day for my family and my wife. Our relatives have reached home and all are very happy. I thank Almighty for giving us a healthy baby," Mann said.

"Whether it is a boy or a girl, the first thing is that the child should be healthy. Secondly, the child should be given a good education and allowed to chase their dreams. Our daughters are no less and they are excelling in every field and I am happy that I have become a father to a girl," he said.

Replying to a question, Mann said he visited Fortis Hospital in Mohali on Wednesday evening when his wife got admitted there for the child's delivery. He said during her visits to the hospital for checkups earlier he intentionally



avoided not to accompany her as his visits involved security protocols and he did not want any inconvenience to patients.

About the baby's name, he said a few days back he and his wife listened to a song and a word came up from there. "This line had come in that song—Niyamat rab di daad, khuda di bakshish," he said. So, we thought if a baby girl is born, we will name her Niyamat, which means divine blessing, the CM said.

When asked if Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has also congratulated him on her daughter's birth, Mann said he is part of the family, he is like an elder brother. "He has congratulated us and what would I tell him that he has become 'tau' or 'dada'," he said.

Mann married Dr Kaur in 2022 after he separated from his first wife in 2015. He has a son and a daughter from his first marriage. Congratulatory messages poured in on

Thursday after the couple were blessed with a baby girl. While leaving Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court where the Enforcement Directorate had produced him, Kejriwal congratulated Mann on his daughter's birth.

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar had also extended his congratulations to the Mann family. Mann's cabinet colleagues including Harpal Singh Cheema, Aman Arora and Anmol Gagan Mann had also congratulated him.

Election Buzz

EC orders transfer of IPS officer Rajesh Duggal, who is husband of Hry BJP leader Sunita Duggal

Chandigarh: The Election Commission has ordered the transfer of IPS officer Rajesh Duggal, who is the husband of BJP MP from Sirsa Sunita Duggal, and directed that no election-related work be assigned to him till Lok Sabha polls conclude in the state. Acting on the EC's directive, Haryana Government on Thursday issued the transfer order. Rajesh Duggal, who was holding the charge as Joint Commissioner of Police, Gurugram, has now been posted as Deputy Inspector General of Police at the Police Headquarters in Panchkula with immediate effect. "Further, as directed by the Election Commission of India, he shall not be assigned any election-related work till the completion of the current Lok Sabha election in the state," reads the order issued by Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Home Department) T V S N Prasad. At the time of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls too, the ECI had ordered that Rajesh Duggal, who was then holding the charge as commandant of the 3rd battalion of the Haryana Armed Police in Hisar, be posted outside Hisar and Sirsa constituencies.

ECI ALLOWS JOURNALISTS ON POLL DUTY TO VOTE THROUGH POSTAL BALLOT: SIBIN C

Chandigarh: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has allowed media personnel on duty related to poll day cover-

age to vote through postal ballot in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibin C said that according to the notification issued by the ECI, media personnel authorized by ECI for poll day coverage and other state government department officials can vote via postal ballot under Section 60 (c) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The CEO said that as per the notification, the ECI has notified journalists holding authorization letters issued by the ECI who are engaged in polling day coverage as essential service personnel, along with staff from 6 government departments. These departments include Department of Local Government (Fire Services), the Department of Transport (Drivers, conductors, Workshop staff, Operations staff and Officers posted at Headquarters and Depots at District level), Department of Jails (Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Guarding staff posted in Jails), Department of Home Affairs and Justice (Police officers, Police personnel, Civil Defense, and Home guards), Department of Power (Staff of State power corporation and state transmission corporation deputed at Generations units, Thermal plants, Hydel units (within or outside state), Staff on deputation to BBMB and field Staff posted in Grid sub station), Department of Health and Family Welfare (a) Drug Control Officers working under the Commissionerate of Food and Drugs administration (b) Medical and Paramedical Staff working/on duty

on the day of poll. He said that the aim of this is to ensure that no one is deprived of voting due to their service commitments.

Police, Flying Squad seize cash worth Rs 10 lakh in Gurugram

Gurugram: A team of the Gurugram Police and Flying Squad took major action and seized cash worth Rs 10 lakh from a driver near the Gwal Pahari area here in Gurugram, police said on Friday. Due to the Lok Sabha elections 2024, the electoral code of conduct has been imposed in the district. District Election Officer and DC Nishant Kumar Yadav said that the Flying Squad team received information from Police Post Gawal Pahari and Police Station DLF Phase-1 Gurugram that cash worth Rs 10 lakh was recovered from a Uttar Pradesh registered I Twenty Hyundai vehicle near village Gawal Pahari on Thursday. "When the suspect Shailender Agnihotri, a resident of Kanauj in Uttar Pradesh, was questioned about the cash, he could not give any satisfactory answer. The team's then seized the amount and handed it over to the Income Tax Department," Yadav said. He said that the cash would be handed over to its owner only after providing any satisfactory information. Police said the suspect had also installed black film on his vehicle. On which the police has also issued a challan of Rs 10,000 to him as per the rules.

9336 bottles of illicit liquor worth Rs 50 lakh seized in Nuh; One held

Chandigarh/Nuh: The

Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Haryana Police on Friday intercepted a truck transporting illicit liquor concealed beneath planks. One suspect has been apprehended in connection with the incident, said local police. The truck was allegedly engaged in the illicit trade of illegal liquor. The police team discovered and confiscated a total of 9336 bottles of illicit liquor from the truck, estimated to be worth around Rs 50 lakhs, they added. Providing details of the operation, Nuh Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar said that Assistant Sub-Inspector Bhupendra Singh, along with his team, was patrolling near the KMP Bridge on Nuh-Sohna Road. Upon receiving intelligence that a truck driver was transporting illegal English liquor from KMP Road Kundli to Palwal in Bihar, the team initiated a checkpoint operation. Shortly thereafter, the suspected vehicle was spotted approaching, and upon interception, the driver identified himself as Ashok Kumar, son of Aidan Singh, a resident of Durgana district, Barmer, Rajasthan. Upon inspection of the vehicle, 9336 bottles of illicit liquor were found concealed beneath the planks. When asked for documentation, the driver presented a forged bill purportedly from Siliguri, West Bengal to Jodhpur, Rajasthan, and failed to produce any documents related to the seized liquor. The police have filed a case against the truck driver under relevant sections of the law at the local police station. The driver has been arrested and presented before the court in accordance with the law, he added.

44 per cent sitting LS MPs face criminal charges, says ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Out of the 514 sitting Members of Parliament in Lok Sabha, a staggering 44 per cent ie 225 have criminal cases against themselves with 29 per cent facing serious criminal cases, including allegations of murder, attempt to murder, promoting communal disharmony, kidnapping, and crimes against women, an analysis of self-sworn affidavits by the poll rights body Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) has found. Additionally, a noteworthy 5 per cent of these MPs are billionaires, with assets exceeding Rs 100 crore. The report further delves into the severity of these criminal cases, revealing that 29 per cent of elected representatives facing charges are embroiled in serious criminal allegations, including murder, attempted murder, promoting communal disharmony, kidnapping, and



crimes against women. Shockingly, nine sitting MPs face murder charges, with five belonging to the BJP. Moreover, 28 MPs have charges related to attempted murder, and 16 MPs face accusations of crimes against women, including three allegations of rape, as per the ADR. The report also sheds light on the financial aspects of these lawmakers. It has highlighted the disparity in wealth among these MPs, with some possess-

ing assets worth hundreds of crores while others have minimal assets. Among major parties, the BJP and the Congress have the highest number of billionaire MPs, though the analysis shows significant representation from other parties as well. Notably, the top three MPs with the highest declared assets are Nakul Nath (Congress), DK Suresh (Congress), and Kanumuru Raghu Rama Krishna Raju (Independent).

Regarding the distribution of criminal cases among states, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh stand out with more than 50 per cent of their MPs facing criminal charges. The analysis also sheds light on the educational background, age, and gender distribution among sitting MPs. As per the analysis by the organization, 73 per cent of MPs hold graduate or higher educational qualifications. However, political parties seem to be reluctant in giving tickets to the women as only 15 per cent are fair sex, indicating a significant gender disparity in parliamentary representation. Moreover, the distribution of criminal cases among states highlights Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh as areas with more than 50 per cent of their MPs facing criminal charges.

79,000 poll code violation complaints received through cVigil app: ECI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday said its C-Vigil mobile application has become an effective tool in the hands of people for flagging poll code violations and since the announcement of the Lok Sabha election, more than 79,000 complaints have been received. More than 99 per cent of the complaints have been resolved and close to 89 per cent of those were resolved within 100 minutes, the poll panel said. More than 58,500 complaints (73 per cent of the total number of complaints) received were against illegal hoardings and banners, the EC said, adding that over 1,400 complaints received pertained to money, gifts and liquor distribution. Close to 3 per cent of the complaints (2,454) were related to defacement of property. Of



the 535 complaints received for display of firearms and intimidation, 529 have been resolved, the poll panel said. A total of 1,000 complaints were for campaigning beyond the prohibited period, including those related to the use of

speakers beyond the permitted time. The EC pointed out that at the press conference to announce the Lok Sabha poll schedule, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had urged citizens to be vigilant and use the app

to report Model Code of Conduct violations and distribution of any kind of inducements among voters. The seven-phase polls were announced on March 16 and voting will take place between April 19 and June 1.

BJP slams Opposition for criticising UP Government on Mukhtar death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday hit back at Opposition parties for criticising the Uttar Pradesh Government over the death of jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, saying they have the habit of emotionally exploiting every issue to vitiating communal harmony. While former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi targeted Opposition parties, Alka Rai, a BJP leader and the wife of MLA Krishnanand Rai who was killed at the behest of Ansari, described his death as "divine justice". "I always had full faith in God," she said. Her son Piyush Rai rejected the suggestion from some opposition parties, including the state's main opposition Samajwadi Party, that there was a conspiracy behind Ansari's death. It is a wrong allegation levelled due to politics of appeasement, he said. "They (critics) are looking for religion in a criminal," he said. His mother said victims of Ansari's crime and their families will be happy at his end. Alka Rai had been elected to the Uttar Pradesh assembly



on the BJP ticket in the past. The BJP is yet to name its candidate for the Ghazipur Lok Sabha constituency which is currently represented by Ansari's brother Afzal Ansari. Naqvi, in his reaction, accused opposition parties of spreading "communal poison" despite the state administration's statement on his death. In a reference to the criminal past of Mukhtar Ansari, who had been an MLA for several terms, he said his history cannot be ignored. The region he came from used to be a citadel of the Left but turned into a hotbed of criminals, he said. Ansari, who was convicted in

several cases, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in Banda in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. He was brought to the Rani Durgavati Medical College in Banda from the district jail in "an unconscious state" and, according to its principal Suneel Kaushal, he died at the hospital following cardiac arrest. Samajwadi Party leader Shivpal Singh Yadav said the court should take cognisance of Ansari's death in "suspicious" circumstances. BSP supremo Mayawati said the allegations of Ansari's family regarding his death require a high-level probe to bring out the facts.

India holds wide ranging talks with Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As Ukraine conflict continues, India and Ukraine on Friday here held "open and wide-ranging" talks as part of a bilateral engagement between its Foreign Ministers, with discussions focusing on the "ongoing conflict and its wider ramifications." Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba's two-day visit to India comes amid efforts to seek a peaceful resolution to the more than two-year-old Russia-Ukraine conflict. He arrived here on Thursday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Kuleba at the Hyderabad House. After the meeting, Jaishankar in a post on X said, "An open and wide-ranging conversation with Ukraine FM @DmytroKuleba this afternoon." "Our discussions focused on the ongoing conflict and its wider ramifications. Exchanged views on various initiatives in that context. Spoke as well on global and regional issues of interest to both of us. Reiterated our commitment to strengthen the overall relationship, including bilateral cooperation," he said. Jaishankar also shared some photographs of



him shaking hands with his Ukrainian counterpart and the bilateral meeting. In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar welcomed Kuleba to India, and said he was glad to see that "some of our bilateral mechanisms have also met" which has created "a certain momentum in our bilateral relationship." "Welcome to India, to New Delhi. We have been looking forward to this visit, and I'm very glad that despite our - both of us have fairly heavy travel schedules, we have been able to match it and organise this meeting," he said. Jaishankar added that in recent months, "we've had actually interactions at various levels. I'm glad to see that some of our bilateral mechanisms have also

met. I think this has created a certain momentum in our bilateral relationship." "And today, after this discussion in the afternoon, we look forward also to the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission," he said. "Your visit gives us an opportunity, obviously, to understand the situation in your own region, and I look forward to hearing your perspectives on that. I think our teams have prepared a very substantial agenda of our discussions, and I would invite you to make your opening remarks," Jaishankar said. On Thursday, Kuleba had posted on X, "I began my visit to New Delhi upon @DrSJaishankar's invitation. The Ukrainian-Indian cooper-

ation is important and we will be reinvigorating ties. Building on the dialogue between @ZelenskyyUa and @NarendraModi, we will pay specific attention to the Peace Formula." During his weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in response to a query on Kuleba's visit, on Thursday said there will be a "bilateral engagement with the external affairs minister in which they will go over a gamut of issues that lie in the domain of bilateral relations". They will also "review the Inter-governmental Commission that was held earlier," he had said. The two leaders will also discuss regional and global issues of common concern, Jaiswal had said, adding that there are several other engagements also lined up for the Ukrainian foreign minister. "Our position is very clear on peace initiatives and how we look at the Ukraine-Russia conflict. We continue to encourage peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy and remain open to engaging all ways and means that would help achieve this objective," the MEA spokesperson had said on a query on India's position on the peace conference in

Switzerland. The peace formula proposed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in 2022 follows 10 principles aimed at ensuring a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 20 had held separate conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy and asserted that dialogue and diplomacy were the way forward for the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Modi had spoken to Putin over telephone to congratulate him for winning a fifth term in office in the recent elections, and followed it up with a phone call to Zelenskyy to convey India's "consistent support" for all efforts for peace and bringing an early end to the ongoing conflict. During the telephone conversation, the Ukrainian President had thanked India for its support for his country's sovereignty and said that it would be important for Kyiv to see New Delhi attend the inaugural Peace Summit in Switzerland. Zelenskyy had hailed India's continued humanitarian assistance for the people of Ukraine as the two leaders had discussed ways to further strengthen their bilateral partnership in various spheres.

Defence Secretary visits Coast Guard facilities in North West region

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane visited the Indian Coast Guard facilities in the North West Region on March 28-29 and inaugurated the infrastructure for the Hovercraft Maintenance Unit (HMU) at Okha, defence ministry said here on Friday. Giving details, officials said Coast Guard OTM and Married Accommodation at Inaz Village Veraval was inaugurated by Defence Secretary's wife Gayatri Aramane on Friday. The Defence Secretary was also briefed about the upcoming 200 mtr ICG Jetty Construction work at Okha. He appreciated the role played by ICG, in safeguarding national maritime interests in its area of responsibility. The hovercrafts are based at Okha and Jakhau for maintaining surveillance in 50 Islands in the Area of Responsibility (AoR), Gulf of Kutch, in the shallow water and marshy terrain along the coast of Gujarat. The field facility for HMU will enable timely technical support, upkeep maintenance of these hovercrafts which in turn will ensure optimum operational availability and keep them in ever ready state to meet any operational requirement. HMU facilities comprise of ACV parking for technical assistance, Office Building, Workshop and Maintenance Area. The Coast Guard Residential



Area (CGRA) at Inaz Village Veraval includes 60 Nos of Married Accommodations, an all-weather Helipad, living Accommodations for Subordinate Officers and Naviks, a Parade Ground, and a Mess. The presence of a helipad adds a strategic advantage to various operations in Veraval that includes addressing maritime emergencies, search & rescue missions, and surveillance activities. The ICG Regional Headquarters (North West) was established on December 16, 2009 at Gandhinagar. It executes ICG's mandated charter in maritime zones in Gujarat, Daman and Diu. The ICG is focused on the development of berthing and other infrastructure which underscores the commitment of equipping with facilities for operating advanced surface and air platforms. In addition to the recently inaugurated Jetty at Vadinar, ICG is also constructing 100 mtr jetty extension at Porbandar and 125 mtr jetty at Mundra in addition to the 200 mtr jetty at Okha.

Second edition of trilateral exercise concludes in Mozambique

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The second edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania trilateral exercise (IMT-TRILAT) concluded at Nacala, Mozambique on Thursday, navy said here on Friday. The week-long exercise underscores the importance of enhanced maritime cooperation and interoperability between the Navies of India, Mozambique, and Tanzania. Giving details here, officials said Indian ships INS Tir and Sujata participated in IMT TRILAT 24 through a series of joint exercises, training sessions and collaborative activities, providing invaluable opportunities for all three Navies to exchange knowledge, enhance capabilities and bolster maritime security in the region. The IMT TRILAT 24 Exercise unfolded in two phases. The initial harbour phase from March 21 to 24 saw intensive training sessions concurrently held onboard INS Tir at Zanzibar and INS Sujata at Maputo. Activities included vital training on Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS), Damage Control and Firefighting Drills, communication procedures and medical lectures with CPR demonstration and casualty evacuation (CASEVAC). The sea phase commenced on March 24 wherein INS Tir and INS Sujata embarked sea riders from the Tanzanian and Mozambique Navies respectively. Joint operations with



Mozambique Naval ship Namatili and Tanzanian naval ship Fatundu showcased significant synergy and sustained efforts with the regional Navies in line with the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). The evolutions at sea involved simulated VBSS exercises and night manoeuvres. The sea riders were imparted training on bridge watch keeping, damage control and firefighting. The ships also undertook joint surveillance of EEZ off Tanzania and Mozambique in the area of operation. The closing ceremony, held onboard INS Tir and INS Sujata at Nacala, Mozambique featured representatives from all three navies. The closing remarks highlighted successful collaboration, understanding of maritime capabilities and shared

objectives achieved during the exercise. It emphasised continued collaboration towards maritime security and regional stability underlining India's commitment as the preferred security partner. In addition to IMT TRILAT, various official and training exchanges, cross deck visits, sport fixtures and Yoga were held as part of the long range training deployment of the ships. The ships were open to visitors at Zanzibar, Maputo and Nacala, wherein more than 1,500 people including school children, Indian diaspora and local populace visited the ship. Outreach activities were also conducted at Mizzizini orphanage center at Zanzibar and Obra Dom Oratio Reception Centre at Maputo fostering bonds of friendship.

Modi promotes millets in interaction with Bill Gates

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst discussions spanning wide-ranging and serious topics such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), climate change, healthcare, and digital inclusion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his free-wheel conversation with philanthropist Bill Gates on Friday promoted his favourite cereal millets, also called as Shri Anna while giving tips on how to maintain well-being and inner peace in hectic times. Gates, Microsoft co-founder, had sought advice from him on how he manages to maintain high energy levels despite his demanding schedule. In response, the Prime Minister attributed his energy and sense of relaxation to a natural state of being. Despite working tirelessly, he said that he finds inner peace and calmness, which helps him navigate through hectic times. "I find my inner peace through a spiritual practice instilled in me by my teachers which energises me to a great strength. This energy does not stem from physical strength but my dedication and emotional connection to the mission at hand, focusing solely on it," Modi told Gates. "Additionally, my body has adapted to little rest. I sleep for less hours, work late into the night, yet wake up early, feeling refreshed. This resilience partly comes from a period spent in the Himalayas, where I followed the tradition of bathing in early morning hours which has conditioned my body over time," the Prime Minister explained.



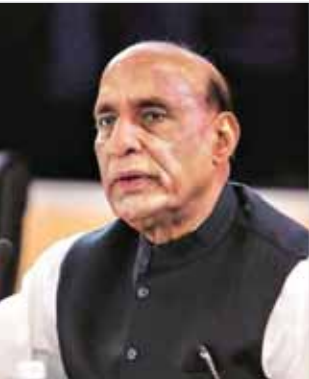
"As a result, I don't need conventional methods to relax." When Gates asked Prime Minister Modi how millet is changing the way vegetarian food is looked at globally, he said that promoting millet can be a big way forward as switching to it can bring several health benefits. "Even within vegetarian options, some choices are harmful and switching to millet could bring significant benefits. I have seen a significant increase in millet production. Many reputable companies are now offering millet-based products, enhancing its value and making it both common and trendy. Even five-star hotels have introduced special millet menus. And it is improving the livelihoods of small farmers," said Modi. "Millet is a superfood. I celebrated 2023 as the Year of Millet with the UN. Millet has great benefits. It grows in barren land. It needs minimal water and does not require any fertiliser," the Prime Minister further explained. At this Gates shared his experience during his visit to Odisha where he was offered a millet. "When I went to

Odisha, I came to know that millet was a very popular food there a long time ago and now it is coming back in the market with the joint efforts of the government. They even took me to the shops where they offered me very nutritious foods and they tasted good to me," Gates added. In order to increase production and productivity of Shree Anna, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in all districts of 28 States & 2 Union Territories viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The interventions such as formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for Shree Anna, setting up Centers of Excellence (CoE) and seed hubs for Shree Anna have also been supported under NFSM. In addition, states such as Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhnad and Uttar Pradesh have initiated Millet Missions in the States to promote millets.

Responsive Govt

Rajnath defends Agnipath scheme but, ahead of polls, says it is not carved in stone

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while defending the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of young defence personnel, has also expressed the Government's openness to alterations "if deemed necessary". The implications of the scheme stretch beyond national security, particularly concerning India's relations with its neighbour, Nepal. In June 2022, the Centre rolled out the Agnipath scheme for short-term induction of personnel into the armed forces to bring down the age profile of the three services. Under this scheme, all military recruitment transitions to an 'All India All Class' basis, where, in the selected youth, termed Agniveers, commit to four years of service, including a six-month training period. Following this tenure, 25 per cent of Agniveers transition to permanent service, while the remainder pursues alternative employment opportunities outside of the armed forces. Agniveers receive a starting monthly salary of Rs 30,000, escalating to Rs 40,000 in the fourth year, with a portion allocated to the Agniveer Corpus



Fund, matched by Government contributions, resulting in a substantial payout of Rs 11.71 lakh at the end of four years. Additionally, each Agniveer receives non-contributory life insurance cover of Rs 48 lakh for the duration of the engagement. However, there are no gratuity or pension benefits for Agniveers, with those opting for permanent service committed to a minimum additional 15-year tenure. The scheme aims to address military restructuring and modernisation needs while infusing technology-savvy youth into the armed forces. By selecting only 25 per cent of Agniveers for permanent service, the military seeks to ensure a high-quality pool for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) while

curbing rising pay and pension expenses.

Despite the offered benefits, concerns have arisen regarding its potential impact on military ethos, professionalism and operational efficiency. Questions linger regarding the maintenance of unit cohesion, the readiness of inexperienced Agniveers for live operational scenarios and the long-term attractiveness of military service. Critics question the scheme's impact on the regimental system of the Indian Infantry and advocate for rigorous testing before full implementation. While some argue for gradual induction to mitigate adverse effects, others emphasise the need for empirical evaluation to safeguard military standards. Broadly speaking, the scheme has not gone down well with the aspiring youth. They feel that most of them would be left without a job in their prime. Moreover, the Gurkhas of Nepal have summarily rejected this scheme and are now looking for options in other countries. This seriously jeopardises India's defence muscle. It has been almost four years since the scheme was launched, and it is the first time the Government has shown its openness to make amendments. The Congress has already termed it an election gimmick. Whatever the reasons, it would be good if the Govt returns to the drawing board and reconsiders the various issues in national interest.

PICTALK



Christian devotees during a play on crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the occasion of Good Friday, in Hyderabad

PTI

India's green energy comes of age

India emerges as a frontrunner in the global shift towards green energy, with solar power leading the charge

Steadfast in its pursuit of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25, India continues to ascend to the position of a frontrunner in the global shift towards green energy. Solar power spearheads this transformative journey having contributed 53.2 per cent of the overall capacity addition to India's cumulative power generation capacity, which soared to 428.3 GW by the close of December 2023. The solar industry statistics above do not just paint a bright picture; they aren't just a testament to its environmental stewardship, but rather one to its self-sufficiency and its contribution to the transformation of the global energy environment. What a remarkable journey this continues to be! Of all RE sources, the versatility of solar energy renders it scalable and inclusive as a solution for implementing the green agenda. A plethora of other factors have, however, significantly contributed to charting India's path towards a shining energy-efficient future. The green pivot against the larger climate change battle and more par-



ticularly directed at plateauing power sector emissions has been driven by the synergy between Government initiatives, technological advancements, and increasing awareness of the benefits that accrue from RE, more particularly from the solar energy potential that India holds. When the goals were surpassed (the National Solar Mission that targeted 100 GW of solar power capacity by 2022), more ambitious targets (achieving 280 GW of solar capacity by 2030) were set. The goals were not just spelled out, but guided through a clear roadmap for RE integration vide the declaration of trajectory for Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) until 2029-30. On one hand, utility projects were prioritised through

increased tendering and the implementation of the "Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects Scheme" which accorded approval to 50 solar parks across 12 states. On the other hand, decentralised generation was not left behind- the Rooftop Solar Programme launched in 2014 that aimed to install 40 GW by 2022 was extended to 2026 and has now been complemented by The Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana. To democratise solar energy access, such decentralised sustainable energy solutions are being actively recognised as complementary means to achieving India's green energy goals. From one of the largest importers to now one of those witnessing the highest dip in solar-related imports from China, India is well on its trajectory of breaking this manufacturing monopoly, expecting ~40GWp of PV manufacturing facilities to be set up by 2025. The approach towards propelling the nation's solar implementation agenda has been rather comprehensive and market-driven. Multiple factors seem to have been

converging in the market including the emergence of credit-worthy commercial and industrial customers as demand drivers for RE, enhanced financial incentives, tax benefits and subsidies. Standards have been established for the manufacturing of solar PV systems and inputs, India is strategically aligning itself with global efforts to attain the SDGs, and very deftly so by nudging investments to their right use and their right IRRs. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of up to 100 per cent has been allowed through the automatic route, encouraging international investment. The solar sector remains at the forefront given India's compelling solar potential and the aforementioned factors. However, tackling challenges that crop up in its energy goals' implementation shall be rendered easy with the adoption of a holistic approach involving collaboration across diverse stakeholders, objectives, policies, and solutions. (The author is an investment professional and specialises in green financing; views are personal)



HIMANI SABHARWAL

India's inflation story through time

From the humble beginnings of the *pai* to the modern era of the rupee, the narrative of inflation paints a vivid picture of economic transformation

One way of knowing about inflation in India is to place a series of old coins on a table, and compare those coins with today's currency. Today, few would believe that well into the twentieth century, there was a *pai* which was 1/92nd of a rupee. 16 annas made a rupee; one anna was divided into four *pice*; one *pice* comprised three *pais*. One could, for example, buy puffed rice, gram or chana or peanuts for one *pice*. When that became impossible, the Government stopped minting the coin. The *pice* or three *pais* together continued to be minted until well after World War II. Today, a rupee is about the least required to buy anything; effectively ten rupees are required to acquire anything worthwhile, no matter how poor the buyer is. As a child of ten years, I ate my first chocobar made by a British company called Magnolias, delivered at one's doorstep by a dry ice-filled cart at 25 *paise*. Today, its minimum price is Rs.10, which makes inflation look benign, 40 times between say and 2024, i.e., 77 years.

The price of the cheapest variety of rice against a Government-issued ration card in 1945 was three *anas* per *seer* or say nineteen *paise* per 800 grams. Today in 2024, similar rice would cost say forty rupees per kilogramme, or 1,000 grammes, say twenty-five rupees per *seer* or 132 times. Food grains have become much more expensive than ice-cream! Tea, which was at the first point of wholesale, was two rupees for the equivalent of one kilogramme, which is Rs. 150 today or 75 times higher. Commenting on inflation, a small shopkeeper or a hawker, would say no matter the inflation, we people are much better off than our parents and grandparents.

Inflation in the Western as well as other centuries is actually much higher than in India. This phenomenon does not show up because the exchange rates are adverse to the Indian rupee. The British pound is about Rs. 100 when exchanged, but its purchasing power in Britain is not



much better than Rs. 10. This is primarily because India imports more than exports. The message is eloquent; must times our economy to be able to export more even if the payment is in rupees as well as in the importers currency which is viable.

There seems to be a systematic policy by Government to meet its purpose of meeting the economy's money supply needs. Some more money has been provided for moderate growth so the path of prosperity and growth is steady. This is like a corporate house increasing its profit every year and an unemployed welcoming an increment annually.

To put it another way, the money or currency supply is increased moderately every year to enable the economy to grow and not shrink. The national or central bank of every country should manage its money. Another way of looking of inflation is creating money in advance of production is order to expand the economy.

It is like a loan without having to pay interest by the country's economy. But with it, the duty of the central bank to watch the production of

“THE PRINTING MONEY IS JUSTIFIED, BUT IF THERE ARE DELAYS IN EXPANDING THE FACILITIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES, INFLATION WOULD TAKE PLACE. THIS MEANS THAT PRICES WOULD GROW AND PEOPLE WOULD BEGIN TO DEMAND AN INCREASE IN THEIR INCOME

goods and service is increased commensurately, with the extra money printed every year. It is like an interest-free loan strictly in order for the economy to be able for invest in the productivity of goods and services. This must be done efficiently, and in reasonable time. The printing money is justified, but if there are delays in expanding the facilities for production of goods and services, inflation would take place. This means that prices would grow and people would begin to demand increase in their income. Since increasing taxation would bring further hardship on people's pocket, the Government would have no alternative but to print more money in order to satisfy people's legitimate demands.

This privilege of Governments of printing money at their discretion, is a luxury, but has cost quite a few countries, making them go virtually bankrupt. What else can one expect of an economy that is hit by inflation of say 80 per cent, year after year? Zimbabwe eventually grew tired of printing money, after doing it wantonly for a long time. It gave up the chase and declared the US

dollar to be the only legal tender in the country.

Pakistan at present is in the grip of an inflationary spiral. Even a much better organised country like Sri Lanka nearly went to the brink of being trapped in this spiral. Many others haven't fared any better; a large country like Turkey is in the grip of such a spiral. Not many years ago, Brazil found itself in a situation of having to reduce the value of its currency almost every morning. Hotels in Rio de Janeiro would quote their room rents in US dollars for the day, pasting the same on the room doors. Contrast this financial jugglery with what William Pitt the Younger, who was Prime Minister of Britain at the turn of the 18th into the 19th century, did. He intended to make his tax collection exceed the national expenditure year after year, for a long enough time, so that Britain could be governed without raising taxes and the nation could run solely on the interest generated on treasury surpluses over the years.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EMPOWERING THE ELECTORATE

Madam — Apropos news article "One vote can change country's fate: UP CM Adityanath," published on March 28, this is my response. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised the transformative power of a single vote during a conference organised by the BJP in Muzaffarnagar. Adityanath's remarks underscored the pivotal role citizens play in shaping the nation's destiny. He highlighted instances where one vote influenced the region's trajectory, emphasising the need for responsible voting to combat anarchy and safeguard faith. Furthermore, Adityanath juxtaposed the BJP's commitment to national welfare against the opposition's alleged focus on familial interests. He credited the BJP-led Government for achievements such as the construction of the Ram temple and the cessation of extortion, contrasting it with the previous administrations' failures. Adityanath's call to prioritise the nation's interests resonates in a political landscape often clouded by divisive agendas. His message reinforces the significance of informed and conscientious voting for a brighter collective future.

Sneha Gupta | Delhi

BREAKTHROUGH IN BLAST CASE

Madam — Apropos news article "NIA arrests key conspirator in Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast case," published on March 28, this is my response. The arrest of Muzammil Shareef marks a significant stride in the investigation into the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case. The coordinated effort by the NIA across multiple states underscores the gravity of the situation. Shareef's alleged involvement in providing logistical support to the main accused sheds light on the intricate web of this nefarious plot. The blast's aftermath, causing injuries and property damage, underscores the threat posed by such incidents. The ongoing raids and seizures of dig-

Political fallout of Kejriwal's arrest



Apropos Editorial "Truth travels freely," published on March 29, this is my response. The arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has not only stirred domestic uproar but has also garnered international attention. Kejriwal alleges political conspiracy behind his arrest, linking it to his anti-corruption stance and the ruling party's electoral bond donations. His wife's hint at crucial re-

lations adds intrigue to the unfolding drama. Amid accusations of being the mastermind of a multi-crore liquor scam, Kejriwal's arrest has ignited debates on political vendetta versus accountability. The international community's scrutiny, particularly the US State Department's remarks on India's internal affairs, underscores the global interest in this case.

However, the essence of justice lies in due process. While authorities assert a strong case, the lack of transparency raises concerns. Hastily orchestrated actions risk backlash, especially with elections looming. This saga underscores the perpetual struggle for transparency and justice in governance. Regardless of political affiliations, the public demands accountability. As events unfold, the nation awaits the resolution of Kejriwal's legal battle, cognizant of its broader implications on democracy and governance.

Khirabdi | Noida

ital devices signify a comprehensive approach to unravelling the truth. However, the fact that key suspects remain at large indicates the challenges ahead. As a concerned citizen, one hopes for swift justice and a thorough uncovering of the broader conspiracy. Such incidents remind us of the constant vigilance required to safeguard our communities against extremist threats.

Lavanya Dubey | Jind

WOMEN BREAKING THE STEREOTYPE

Madam — Beauty should not have any bars of religion or orthodox mentality, today women are no longer subjects of particular control and limits. Saudi Arabia's made a breakthrough while announcing their first Miss Universe Pageant. So far, Saudi Arabia has been caught in a gender divide debate, as their women are not been granted liberty and equal status like what they mentioned. But now Ms Romy Alqahtani will become the representative face of mil-

lions of Saudi women who are not only equivalent and capable like their male counterparts but also among the best. Her representation had been a historic moment as she is the face whose front run was made possible with the struggle of the struggle of thousands such women.

The era belongs to the women-led development and with Ms Romy Alqahtani's breakthrough from a society mostly targeted at the gender-divided country, hope that more such women representation like her will write new stories, and initiate more women's growth stories. Middle East in particular is facing a renaissance for women's participation and women's success, let's congratulate the women of the 21st century for breaking the stereotype and writing their success stories.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

HAPPINESS IS TO LIVE IN THE NOW



RAVI VALLURI


The kingdom of happiness is embedded in our thought processes, feelings and emotions

The country was Japan. It was the Meiji era. A professor was keen to learn the teachings of Zen philosophy. He approached an estimable master. The master offered him a cup of tea and poured it into a cup. The tea was filled up to the brim. However, the Zen master kept pouring in tea. Soon, the tea began overflowing. The professor requested the Zen Master not to pour any more tea into the cup. The friar replied that the professor would be able to learn the pristine tenets of Zen only if he cast away all the self-opinionated beliefs, thoughts and emotions like the overflowing cup of tea.

Past baggage and impressions need to be dissolved and a seeker needs to truly become hollow and empty to acquire knowledge, or else we remain shipwrecked our entire lives and stranded at a particular spot. If not, there is no progression in life.

To be genuinely happy and joyous, the human mind needs to live in the present and not oscillate between the past and the future. The past is full of regrets and unfulfilled desires and the future is gripped by anxieties and fears. True enlightenment is attained to remain only in the present moment. Happiness is a good habit. It increases our self-confidence and aura. William James, an American psychologist, once said, 'The greatest discovery was the power of the subconscious mind touched by faith.' Faith is the intellectual powerhouse that provides us with the supreme confidence to be in the present and become successful without being attached to the success.

'Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things', PHIL 4:8.



Continuously dwelling on fear, worry, anger, hate and failure, makes an individual depressed and unhappy. Life is the projection of our thoughts. We are essentially what we think and a manifestation of our thoughts. We miss precious moments of happiness by harbouring antipathetic and demonic thoughts in our minds.

We are subsumed by negative emotions and thought processes. Febrile thoughts such as 'the world has conspired against me', 'I do not get the right breaks', 'I do not succeed', and 'everything goes wrong in my life' normally cannonade our minds. Such negativity drains us both physically and emotionally. Negativity, as a result, begets negativity. The human mind also has an errant habit of postponing happiness. Often, we hear statements like - 'If I was made head of the organisation', 'if I featured on page 3 of the magazine', 'if I was married to a beautiful princess, then I would live like a king'. We end up daydreaming and living in an illusory world. Humans just need to live in the now. We all have clearly forgotten the power of NOW.

Apart from living in the Present Moment, humans need to make positive affirmations - 'I choose happiness today, I choose love today, I choose right action today and this can be done only now'. By being regretful, we do not count our blessings. We need to handle it with skill and dexterity and not be judgmental. The universe resonates with the positive vibrations in our minds.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Bridging the skill gap in labour-intensive industries

As the spectre of automation looms large, proactive measures are imperative to equip the workforce with the requisite expertise



Amidst rapidly evolving technologies to stay globally competitive, the labour-intensive manufacturing sector has a significant opportunity to address the complex issue of unemployment in the country. The manufacturing sector has the potential to accommodate seven to eight million youths entering the labour force annually, as per the 'India Employment Report 2024', recently released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute for Human Development (IHD). The report reveals that India's youth account for almost 83 per cent of the unemployed workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education in the total unemployed youth has almost doubled from 35.2 per cent in 2000 to 65.7 per cent in 2022. The unemployment rate among youths was six times higher for those with secondary or higher education (18.4 per cent) and nine times higher for graduates (29.1 per cent) compared to those who cannot read and write (3.4 per cent). The brimming challenge of unemployment is majorly due to the skill gap towards the adoption of evolving technologies. The ILO and IHD report warned of the growing uncertainties in the labour market due to rapidly changing technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), which will significantly impact the labour market.

AI presents a significant opportunity to enhance labour productivity and increase the incomes of workers. However, it also cautioned that disadvantaged states are less prepared for this, and active policies and programmes need to be formulated and implemented to skill youths.

A report by Nasscom-Zinnov says that India will face a shortage of 14-19 lakh tech professionals by 2026. As compared to the current tech workforce in the country, India needs 52 lakh tech professionals. By 2026, India is estimated to have 75-78 lakh tech professionals. However, the requirement is being

ENCOURAGING COLLABORATIONS AMONG GOVERNMENTS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIES IS CRUCIAL FOR DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING TARGETED TRAINING PROGRAMMES THAT DIRECTLY ADDRESS SKILL GAPS IN SPECIFIC SECTORS

pegged at 93-96 lakh techies, reflecting a gap of 14-19 lakh tech workforce. The skills gap is not solely due to the digital transformation of the industry; it is creating more job opportunities in operations. To bridge this gap, companies must diversify and expand their workforce to include workers with expertise in robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), AI and analytics. Job openings for roles such as Robot Teaming Coordinators, Smart Factory Managers, Digital Twin Engineers, and Smart Quality Assurance (SQA) Managers are increasingly common.

Companies must embrace these changes and take proactive measures to address the skills gap to stay competitive in the market. Out of the 468 million people in the workforce, 92 per cent are in the informal sector. Shockingly, only 31 per cent are literate, with 13 per cent having only primary education and 6 per cent being college graduates. Moreover, only about 2 per cent of the workforce has formal vocational training, and just 9 per cent have non-formal vocational training. There is a need to increase the proportion of formally skilled labour from 5.4 per cent to at least 15 per cent of India's workforce by 2022-23. However, this goal has not yet been achieved, and it is crucial to re-evaluate our strategies to address this gap.

Given these discouraging realities addressing the challenges requires collaboration among stakeholders, including Governments, educational institutions, industries, and individuals to create a skilled and efficient workforce ecosystem. It is not enough to simply have degrees; we must prioritise inclusivity and eliminate divisions based on gender, location, and organised or unorganised work.

This requires a comprehensive approach. We must bring our skill development infrastructure up to global standards by creating National Occupation Standards (NOS) and Qualification Packs (QP) that meet international requirements for various job roles. It is imperative to act with urgency and determination to achieve these goals for globally competitive smart manufacturing.

Revisit the skill gap: The labour force from agriculture predominantly shifted to the construction and services sectors, highlighting a clear mismatch between job creation and the skill sets of the workforce. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) should collaborate with industries to identify skill gaps. Establishing a District-level Skill Development Plan (DSDP) to create a state-level Skill Development Plan (SSDP) is crucial. The central and state Governments must share the financial burden of unskilled workers with employers for the first six months. Addressing the gap between the demand and supply of skilled workers through on-the-job training (OJT) is essential.

Fostering a culture of continuous learning and upskilling within workforces is essential for maintaining competitiveness. Employers should provide access to training programmes and resources to enhance individual skill sets and foster adaptability and innovation within the organisation.

Public-private partnerships: Encouraging collaborations among Governments, educational institutions and industries is crucial for designing and implementing targeted training programmes that directly address

skill gaps in specific sectors. This collaborative approach ensures alignment between educational curricula and industry needs, promoting effective skill development and enhancing workforce readiness for the evolving demands of various sectors.

Creating apprenticeship and mentorship programmes is integral, enabling experienced professionals to transfer their invaluable knowledge and skills to the next generation. These initiatives not only bridge the skills gap but also foster a culture of experiential learning and continuous improvement within the workforce.

Supportive Government policies that offer tax incentives to companies investing in employee training play a core role in progressive workforce development. These mechanisms encourage the private sector to prioritise continuous skill building, creating a resilient and adaptable workforce.

In conclusion, it is crucial to have proactive collaboration among stakeholders, make strategic investments in education and training, foster a culture of continuous learning, and promote diversity and inclusion. These factors are all essential in addressing the evolving challenges of the labour-intensive manufacturing sector. Ignoring any of these aspects would hinder our ability to build a strong and sustainable workforce for the future.

-The writer is a Co-Founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Network Member, of India International Skill Centres, an initiative of GoI. Views expressed are personal.

India's Green Energy Revolution takes a leap forward

The launch of Open Access Rules 2022 heralds a significant turning point for India's renewable energy sector



KAVIRAJ SINGH

The launch of the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, widely known as the Green Energy Open Access Rules (GOAR) 2022, marks a pivotal moment for the renewable energy sector in India. These regulations, designed to boost the generation, purchase, and consumption of green energy, are a cornerstone in the advancement of India's ambitious Renewable Energy programmes.

Exploring the Key Features of the Green Energy Open Access Rules 2022

Central to GOAR 2022 is the establishment of a uniform Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) across all entities within a distribution

licensee's area. This requirement aims to ensure a collective push towards renewable energy procurement, thus forwarding India's green energy targets. Importantly, GOAR 2022 expands the scope of RPO to include Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia, highlighting the Government's dedication to enhancing the renewable energy mix.

One of the rule's primary ini-

tiatives is granting Green Open Access to all consumers, thereby facilitating unbiased access to electrical transmission and distribution systems for consumers, generators, and state distribution companies (DISCOMs). This initiative is instrumental in promoting the adoption of green energy across diverse sectors.

Another remarkable feature of GOAR 2022 is the reduction of the Open Access transaction threshold from 1 MW to 100 kW for green energy consumers, making renewable power more accessible to a broader audience.

Furthermore, under GOAR 2022, consumers have the right to request Green Power from their DISCOMs, which are then required to procure and supply such green energy,

ensuring the availability of affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. The process for obtaining Green Open Access has been simplified, with a stipulated approval timeline of 15 days, thereby minimizing bureaucratic delays and fostering easier access to renewable energy.

The rules also encourage Commercial and Industrial consumers to voluntarily purchase green power, supporting businesses in achieving their sustainability goals while potentially benefiting from cost reductions associated with renewable energy consumption.

The Significance of Green Energy Open Access Rules 2022

The enactment of GOAR 2022 is a crucial step towards India's

transition to renewable energy and its broader climate change mitigation efforts. It encourages a shift among smaller industries, commercial consumers, and large households towards green energy, promoting the diversification of India's energy portfolio away from fossil fuels.

Aligning with India's renewable energy targets, GOAR 2022 significantly contributes to the national goal of installing 250 GW of renewable capacity by March 2028 and 500 GW by 2030. These rules underline India's commitment to its renewable energy ambitions and climate objectives.

Moreover, GOAR 2022's promotion of green energy is in harmony with India's commitment to reducing emissions by

45 per cent by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. This initiative is vital for mitigating climate change impacts and reducing carbon emissions.

The renewable energy sector stands to gain from economic growth, job creation, and investment opportunities stimulated by the implementation of GOAR 2022. This progress is anticipated to drive innovation, technology development, and infrastructure investment within the sector.

Lastly, diversifying the energy mix through the promotion of renewable sources under GOAR 2022 enhances India's energy security by reducing its dependence on imported fossil fuels.

This strategic move strengthens India's energy indepen-

dence and shields it from global energy market fluctuations. Potential Advantages of Implementing Green Energy Open Access

The introduction of the Green Energy Open Access Rules 2022 offers numerous benefits, supporting India's climate commitments and facilitating a transition towards sustainable energy sources. By promoting the adoption of renewable energy, these rules contribute to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions.

Access to competitive green power pricing under GOAR 2022 could lead to cost savings for consumers over time, making renewable energy an economically attractive option. Moreover, by expanding access to clean energy, espe-

(The writer is founder of Earthood; views are personal)

Obama, Clinton help Biden raise record \$26 mn for his re-election

AP ■ NEW YORK

Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and some big names from the entertainment world teamed up Thursday night to deliver a rousing New York embrace of President Joe Biden that hauled in a record-setting USD 26 million-plus for his reelection campaign. The mood at Radio City Music Hall was electric as Obama praised Biden's willingness to look for common ground and said, "That's the kind of president I want." Clinton said simply of the choices facing voters in 2024: "Stay with what works." Biden himself went straight at Donald Trump, saying his expected GOP rival's ideas were "a little old and out of shape."

Moderator Stephen Colbert, in an armchair conversation with the trio, called them "champion talkers" and joked that the three presidents had come to town "and not one of them is here to appear in court," a dig at Trump's many legal troubles.

most money to seize the presidency. During the nearly hourlong conversation, Obama and Clinton explained just how hard Biden's job is. They spoke of loneliness and frustration over policies that work but aren't immediately felt by the public. They gave an insider's view of the office as they sought to explain why Biden was best for the job. "It is a lonely seat," said Obama, who had hitched a ride to New York on Air Force One with Biden.

The talk was by turns humorous and serious, ending with all three donning sunglasses in the mostly dark music hall, a nod to the trademark Ray-Ban sunglasses that Biden often wears. The sold-out Radio City Music Hall event was a gilded exclamation mark on a recent burst of campaign travel by Biden, who has visited several political battlegrounds in the three weeks since his State of the Union address served as a rallying cry for his reelection bid. Thursday's event also brought together more than three decades of Democratic support for Biden at a time of persistently low poll numbers. The president will test the power of his campaign cash as he faces off with Trump, who proved with his 2016 win over Democrat Hillary Clinton that he didn't need to raise the



President Joe Biden, center, and former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton participate in a fundraising event with Stephen Colbert at Radio City Music Hall, Thursday in New York.

AP/PTI

Protesters angry at Biden's handling of the war in Gaza and strong support of Israel briefly disrupted the show, drawing a pledge from Biden to keep working to stop civilian deaths, particularly of children. But he added, "Israel's existence is at stake." Hundreds more protested outside in the drizzling rain, many demanding a cease-fire

and waving Palestinian flags. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., was up first to warm up the crowd of about 5,000 supporters. Entertainers, too, lined up to make the case for Biden. Lizzo belted out her hit "About Damn Time" and emcee Mindy Kaling joked that it was nice to be in a room with "so many rich people," adding that

she loved that they were supporting a president who openly promises to "raise your taxes." Obama laid out the choice for the audience, saying that "at the end of the day, you do have to make a choice about who sees you and cares about you. I'm pretty confident the other guy doesn't." At one point, Colbert said he

suspected some Americans had forgotten some of the more concerning aspects of Trump's presidency, including January 6, 2021, when a mob of Trump supporters violently stormed the US Capitol in a failed effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election results. Biden said concerns over the riot reverberated outside the US, with foreign leaders questioning the stability of the US democracy. That democracy is still fragile, he said. The fundraiser had different tiers of access depending on a donor's generosity. Other participating celebrities included Queen Latifah, Ben Platt, Cynthia Erivo and Lea Michele. Tickets sold for as low as USD 225.

More money got donors more intimate time with the presidents. A photo with all three was USD 100,000. A donation of USD 250,000 earned donors access to one reception, and USD 500,000 got them into an even more exclusive gathering. First lady Jill Biden and DJ D-Nice hosted an afterparty at the music hall with 500 guests, the campaign said. Obama and Clinton were helping Biden expand his already significant cash advantage over Trump. Biden had USD 155 million in cash on hand through the end of February, compared with

USD 37 million for Trump and his Save America political action committee.

The more than USD 26 million tally for the New York City event includes money from supporters who handed over cash in the weeks before the fundraiser for a chance to attend. It raised USD 6 million more than Trump raised during February. "This historic raise is a show of strong enthusiasm for President Biden and Vice President Harris and a testament to the unprecedented fundraising machine we've built," said campaign co-chair Jeffrey Katzenberg. "Unlike our opponent, every dollar we're raising is going to reach the voters who will decide this election — communicating the president's historic record, his vision for the future and laying plain the stakes of this election."

Trump's campaign is expecting to bring in USD 33 million at a big fundraiser next week in Palm Beach, Florida, according to a person familiar with the details who spoke on condition of anonymity to confirm a number first reported by the Financial Times.

Trump has kept a low profile in recent weeks, partially because of courtroom appearances for various legal cases, the bills for which he's paying with funds from donors. His next political rallies are scheduled for Tuesday

in Michigan and Wisconsin. Some Republican leaders have become concerned that his campaign doesn't have the infrastructure ready for a general election battle with Biden.

Trump was in the New York area on Thursday, attending the Long Island wake of a New York City police officer who was shot and killed during a traffic stop in Queens. Republican Party Chairman Michael Whitley tried to framed the two candidates' whereabouts on Thursday as a demonstration of a "contrast in leadership." On the same day President Trump attended the wake of slain New York Police Department officer Jonathan Diller, Joe Biden wines and dines with celebrities at a fundraiser with Barack Obama and Bill Clinton," he said in a statement.

The facts, said White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, show that violent crime rose during Trump's tenure while Biden's administration has "done the polar opposite, taking decisive action from the very beginning to fund the police and achieving a historic reduction in crime."

The setting was an unusual opportunity for the two past presidents to talk frankly about how they did the job, helping explain Biden and his presidency.

Burned bodies of Easter pilgrims remain in crashed S African bus

AP ■ MMATLAKALA

Emergency workers in South Africa were searching Friday for the bodies of victims after a bus carrying pilgrims to an Easter gathering plunged off a bridge and caught fire. An 8-year-old child was the only survivor of the crash that killed at least 45.

Hours after the Thursday afternoon crash, smoke seeped from the mangled, burned wreck underneath the concrete bridge. Authorities said it appeared that the driver lost control and the bus ploughed into the barriers along the side of the bridge and then over the edge. The driver was among the dead. The crash happened in a mountainous region near the town of Mokopane, which is about 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of the South African capital, Pretoria. The Limpopo provincial government said the bus, which was carrying pilgrims from Botswana, veered off the Mmamatlakala bridge and



AP/PTI

The wreckage of a bus lies in a ravine a day after it plunged off a bridge on the Mmamatlakala mountain pass between Mokopane and Marken, around 300km (190 miles) north of Johannesburg, South Africa on Friday.

plunged 50 metres (164 feet) into a ravine.

It said many bodies were burned beyond recognition and trapped inside the vehicle, while other victims had been thrown from the bus. "We were at the scene," said local

resident Simone Mayema, who said he was one of the first to arrive. "We tried to help (but) there was nothing we could do because there was flames."

Forensic investigators worked through the wreckage early Friday, but while some

bodies had been recovered, others were believed to be still inside what was left of the bus, which was almost crushed flat.

There was no new information on the status of the child who somehow survived the horrific crash. Officials at the hospital where the child was taken declined to give an update.

Government officials were expected to hold a press conference later Friday. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the victims appeared to be all from Botswana and had been on their way to the town of Moria in Limpopo for a popular Easter weekend pilgrimage that attracts hundreds of thousands of worshippers from South Africa and neighbouring countries who follow the Zion Christian Church.

Ramaphosa had phoned Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi to offer his condolences and said the South African government would do all it can to help, according to a statement from Ramaphosa's office.

UK's Labour Party uses Holi message to connect with Indian diaspora

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK's Opposition Labour Party used Holi to reach out to the Indian diaspora, with party leader Keir Starmer tapping into the spring festival's message of ushering in the new in an election year.

During an event organised by British-Indian think-tank 1928 Institute in London this week, Starmer was joined by London Mayor Sadiq Khan and members of his Shadow Cabinet to celebrate the festival of colours. Leader of the Opposition Starmer said the occasion offered the ideal opportunity for the party to highlight its message of "national renewal" as the country prepares for a general election, expected later this year.

"As we welcome the incoming spring, it's a time to celebrate new beginnings; to put the old to bed and welcome in the new. And, I have to say, in election year, that message has a real particular resonance with me," said Starmer, whose Labour

Party is leading in most pre-election opinion polls.

"It's a time for us to give thanks for the rich contribution of Hindus across this country, to the tapestry of our national life and recognise the strength of our shared values and our commitment to one another... the enduring themes of Holi of inclusiveness and hard work, of renewal, of reform, of celebration and compassion, are so important in a world where frankly there is such great uncertainty at the moment. It gives us not just joy together but hope for the future; hope that good prevails over evil, that light overcomes darkness," he said. Wes Streeting, Starmer's shadow secretary of state for health and social care, echoed the message of renewal as he reached out to the British-Indian diaspora electorate, highlighting the India-UK collaboration in the health sector. "I'm incredibly proud of the immense contribution that people of Indian heritage have

made to our National Health Service (NHS)," he said.

"As we look to the future, just as we celebrate so much of its past, we know that the contribution of our British-Indian community will be vital in the future of the NHS," he said. The Holi celebration attracted diaspora representatives from diverse fields, including medicine, business and the arts. Dr Nikita Ved, co-chair of the 1928 Institute, said, "Our research shows that more than half of British-Indians face barriers in accessing physical health care, with 76 per cent facing barriers in accessing mental health care. Many people here are healthcare professionals, inspired by 'sewa' (service), and choose to work in underserved communities to help address these inequities, which is truly inspiring." She further said, "Whilst the journey hasn't always been easy, we are reminded of the legacy between the Indian community and our treasured healthcare system."

Cranes arrive to remove bridge wreckage

Baltimore (AP) The largest crane on the Eastern Seaboard was being transported to Baltimore so crews on Friday can begin removing the wreckage of a collapsed highway bridge that has halted a search for four workers still missing days after the disaster and blocked the city's vital port from operating. As the sun rose Friday, a crane could be seen at the site. Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said the large crane, which was to arrive by barge and can lift up to 1,000 tons, will be one of at least two used to clear the channel of the twisted metal and concrete remains of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the cargo ship that hit it this week. "The best minds in the world" are working on the plans for removal, Moore said. The US Army Corps of Engineers for the Baltimore District told the governor that it and the Navy were mobilizing major resources from around the country at record speed to clear the channel. "This is not just about Maryland," Moore said. "This is about the nation's economy. The port handles more cars and more farm equipment than any other port in America." He warned of a long road to recovery but said he was grateful to the Biden administration for approving \$60 million in immediate aid. President Joe Biden has said the federal government will pay the full cost of rebuilding the bridge. "This work is not going to take hours. This work is not going to take days. This work is not going to take weeks," Moore said. "We have a very long road ahead of us."

Thirty-two members of the Army Corps of Engineers were surveying the scene of the collapse and 38 Navy contractors were working on the salvage operation, officials said Thursday.

Jacob Zuma barred from running in elections

Johannesburg (AP) Former South African President Jacob Zuma is not eligible to run in upcoming elections, the Independent Electoral Commission has ruled.

The commission said at a media briefing on Thursday that it had upheld an objection against Zuma's candidacy in the May 29 elections.

In July 2021, Zuma was sentenced to 15 months in prison for defying a court order to appear before a judicial commission that was investigating corruption allegations during his 2009-2018 presidency. He was granted medical parole after two months and allowed to serve the rest of the sentence under house arrest.

South Africa's Constitution bars people convicted and sentenced to more than 12 months' imprisonment, without an option of a fine, from holding public office.

Zuma and his legal team stormed out of the judicial proceedings when he was asked about wide-ranging allegations of corruption during his rule, including the role of an Indian family, the Guptas, who allegedly had influence over his Cabinet appointments.

Zuma, 81, has until April 2 to appeal the commission's ruling. He is now the face of a new political party, uMkhonto weSizwe Party, abbreviated as MK, that has emerged as a potentially significant player in South Africa's upcoming elections after he denounced the governing African National Congress, which he had previously led. The new party is named after the former military wing of the ANC which was disbanded at the end of white minority rule and racial segregation policies under the former apartheid regime.

Oscar winner Louis Gossett Jr, dies at 87

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Louis Gossett Jr., the first Black man to win a supporting actor Oscar and an Emmy winner for his role in the seminal TV miniseries "Roots," has died. He was 87. Gossett's nephew told The Associated Press that the actor died Thursday night in Santa Monica, California. No cause of death was revealed. Gossett always thought of his early career as a reverse Cinderella story, with success finding him from an early age and propelling him forward, toward his Academy Award for "An Officer and a Gentleman." He earned his first acting credit in his Brooklyn high school's production of "You Can't Take It with You" while he was sidelined from the basketball team with an injury. "I was hooked — and so was my audience," he wrote in his



2010 memoir "An Actor and a Gentleman." His English teacher urged him to go into Manhattan to try out for "Take a Giant Step." He got the part and made his Broadway debut in 1953 at age 16. "I knew too

little to be nervous," Gossett wrote. "In retrospect, I should have been scared to death as I walked onto that stage, but I wasn't."

Gossett attended New York University on a basketball and drama scholarship. He was soon acting and singing on TV shows hosted by David Susskind, Ed Sullivan, Red Buttons, Merv Griffin, Jack Paar and Steve Allen. Gossett became friendly with James Dean and studied acting with Marilyn Monroe, Martin Landau and Steve McQueen at an offshoot of the Actors Studio taught by Frank Silvera.

In 1959, Gossett received critical acclaim for his role in the Broadway production of "A Raisin in the Sun" along with Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee and Diana Sands. He went on to become a star on Broadway, replacing Billy Daniels in "Golden Boy" with

Sammy Davis Jr. in 1964.

Gossett went to Hollywood for the first time in 1961 to make the film version of "A Raisin in the Sun." He had bitter memories of that trip, staying in a cockroach-infested motel that was one of the few places to allow Black people. In 1968, he returned to Hollywood for a major role in "Companions in Nightmare," NBC's first made-for-TV movie that starred Melvyn Douglas, Anne Baxter and Patrick O'Neal.

This time, Gossett was booked into the Beverly Hills Hotel and Universal Studios had rented him a convertible. Driving back to the hotel after picking up the car, he was stopped by a Los Angeles County sheriff's officer who ordered him to turn down the radio and put up the car's roof before letting him go. Within minutes, he was stopped by eight sheriff's offi-

cers, who had him lean against the car and made him open the trunk while they called the car rental agency before letting him go. "Though I understood that I had no choice but to put up with this abuse, it was a terrible way to be treated, a humiliating way to feel," Gossett wrote in his memoir. "I realized this was happening because I was Black and had been showing off with a fancy car — which, in their view, I had no right to be driving." After dinner at the hotel, he went for a walk and was stopped a block away by a police officer, who told him he broke a law prohibiting walking around residential Beverly Hills after 9 p.m. Two other officers arrived and Gossett said he was chained to a tree and handcuffed for three hours. He was eventually freed when the original police car returned.



Lava erupt near the town of Grindavik, Iceland on Thursday.

AP/PTI

Filipino villager will be nailed to cross for 35th time to pray for world peace

AP ■ MANILA

A Filipino villager plans to be nailed to a wooden cross for the 35th time to reenact Jesus Christ's suffering in a brutal Good Friday tradition he said he would devote to pray for peace in Ukraine, Gaza and the disputed South China Sea. Ruben Enaje, a 63-year-old carpenter and sign painter, said he and seven other villagers have registered for the real-life crucifixions, which have become an annual religious spectacle that draws hundreds of tourists in three rural communities in Pampanga province north of Manila.

The gory ritual resumed last

year after a three-year pause due to the coronavirus pandemic. It has turned Enaje into a village celebrity for his role as the "Christ" in the Lenten reenactment of the Way of the Cross.

Ahead of the crucifixions, Enaje told The Associated Press by telephone Thursday night that he has considered ending his annual religious penitence due to his age but said he could not turn down requests from villagers for him to pray for sick relatives and all other kinds of maladies.

The need for prayers has also deepened in an alarming period of wars and conflicts worldwide, he said.

"If these wars worsen and

spread, more people, especially the young and old, would be affected. These are innocent people who have totally nothing to do with these wars," Enaje said.

Despite the distance, the wars in Ukraine and Gaza have helped send the prices of oil, gas and food soaring elsewhere, including in the Philippines, making it harder for poor people to stretch their meagre income, he said.

Closer to home, the escalating territorial dispute between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea has also sparked worries because it's obviously a lopsided conflict, Enaje said. "China has many big ships.

Can you imagine what they could do?" he asked.

"This is why I always pray for peace in the world," he said and added he would also seek relief for people in southern Philippine provinces, which have been hit recently by flooding and earthquakes. In the 1980s, Enaje survived nearly unscathed when he accidentally fell from a three-story building, prompting him to undergo the crucifixion as thanksgiving for what he considered a miracle.

He extended the ritual after loved ones recovered from serious illnesses, one after another, and he landed more carpentry and sign-painting job contracts.

Russia launches drones, missiles on Ukraine’s energy system

AP ■ KYIV

Moscow launched a large-scale attack on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure on Friday, with a mass barrage of 99 drones and missiles hitting regions across the country, Ukraine’s armed forces said. Air raid warnings rang out across the country, with 10 Ukrainian regions coming under fire, the country’s Interior Minister, Ihor Klymenko, said. Russia has escalated its attacks on Ukraine in recent days, launching several missile barrages on the capital, Kyiv, and hitting energy infrastructure across the country in apparent retaliation for recent Ukrainian aerial attacks on the Russian border region of Belgorod. Such sporadic attacks, however, have been common throughout the war. Large-scale blackouts have already affected Ukraine’s eastern city of Kharkiv, where 700,000 people lost power after the city’s thermal power plant was hit in a drone and missile attack on March 22. In the winter of 2022-23, Russia targeted Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, causing frequent blackouts across the country.



Many in Ukraine and the West expected that Russia might repeat this strategy this winter, but Russia instead focused its strikes on Ukraine’s defence industries. Ukraine’s state-owned grid operator, Ukrenergo, said that Friday’s attack deliberately targeted thermal and hydroelectric power plants across central and western regions. DTEK, Ukraine’s largest private electricity operator, also said that three of its thermal power plants had been damaged in the attack. It announced emergency power shutdowns in the city of Odesa, leaving several

neighbourhoods without power. Five people, including a 5-year-old girl, were wounded during the attack in Ukraine’s Dnipropetrovsk region, said local governor Serhii Lysak. He later said that another man had been killed and one more injured in a separate drone attack on Friday. Elsewhere, Ukrainian police said that rescuers had recovered the body of a 66-year-old woman from a building in the Mykolaiv region that was hit by a Russian missile on Thursday night. The bombardment in the west

of Ukraine caused the Polish Armed Forces to scramble its own aircraft, the country’s operational command said on social media. Last week Warsaw demanded an explanation from Moscow, after one of its missiles strayed briefly into Polish airspace during a major missile attack on Ukraine, prompting the NATO member to activate F-16 fighter jets. Romania’s defence ministry also said on Friday that an investigation has been launched after fragments that appear to be from a drone were identified on its territory Thursday evening in an agricultural area of Braila county, close to the border with Ukraine. It did not provide additional details, although since the start of the full-scale invasion of neighbouring Ukraine, NATO member Romania has confirmed drone fragments on its territory on several occasions. Belgorod also came under fire on Friday, Russia’s Ministry of Defence wrote on social media. It said that it shot down 15 Ukrainian shells, with falling debris damaging a number of residential buildings. No casualties were reported.

Nine detained in Tajikistan in relation to Moscow attack

AP ■ MOSCOW

Nine people have been detained by Tajikistan’s state security service over suspected contact with the perpetrators of last week’s attack by gunmen on a suburban Moscow concert hall that killed 144 people, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti said Friday. “Nine residents of the Vakhdat district were detained for contact with the persons who committed the terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall on March 22,” the agency reported, citing information from an unnamed source in Tajikistan’s special services, who said that Russian security forces were also involved in the operation to detain the suspects. Those detained are also suspected of having connections with the Islamic State group, according to RIA Novosti. Russia’s Investigative Committee said Thursday it had detained another suspect in relation to the raid on Crocus City Hall, on suspicion of being involved in financing the attack. It did not give further details of the suspect’s identity or alleged actions. Russian officials previously said that 11 suspects had been arrested, including four who allegedly carried out the attack. Those four, identified as Tajik nationals, appeared in a Moscow court on Sunday on terrorism charges and showed signs of severe beatings. One appeared to be barely conscious during the hearing. A faction of the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the massacre. But Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, have persistently claimed, without presenting evidence, that Ukraine and the West had a role in the attack. The Investigative Committee statement said it has “confirmed data that the perpetrators of the terrorist attack received significant amounts of money and cryptocurrency from Ukraine, which were used in preparing the crime.” Ukraine denies involvement and its officials claim that Moscow is pushing the allegation as a pretext to intensify its fighting in Ukraine.



Members of “Muy Antigua Hermandad del Señor de la Humildad y María Santísima de los Dolores” Catholic brotherhood walk during a Holy Week procession in the southern city of Alcalá la Real, Spain, on Thursday

AP/PTI

Chinese cos suspend work on many dams days after terror attack killed 5

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Two more Chinese companies have stopped work on hydropower projects three days after five Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide attack in Pakistan’s restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to a media report on Friday. The development comes a day after Power Construction Corporation of China (PCCC) suspended civil works at the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project in the Swabi district of KP province and laid off over 2,000 workers. The Chinese were working on the Dasu hydropower project, which is about 300 km to the north of Islamabad. The 4,320 MW project is being constructed by China Gezhouba with funding from the World

Bank. Tuesday’s attack was the second suicide attack on the personnel working on the China-backed hydropower project since 2021. After the Tarbela project, the Chinese companies have now suspended civil work at the Dasu and Diamer-Bhasha dams due to security concerns and about 1,000 Chinese engineers working on both the projects have stopped operations. The local staff for both the projects has been directed to stay home till further orders, The News International reported. An official working on the Dasu dam project confirmed that the Chinese company stopped work and local staff was asked to stay at home. The project employed around 741 Chinese and 6,000 locals. Similarly, General Manager of the 4,800 MW Diamer-Bhasha

Dam (DBD) Nazakat Hussain also confirmed that the Chinese company had stopped work and said around 500 Chinese nationals were engaged in DBD but the Frontier Works Organisation staff, of about 6,000 locals, continues to work. However, 250 Chinese engineers are still working on the Mohmand Dam in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the newspaper said quoting Asim Rauf, the general manager of the dam. “The Chinese have shown satisfaction over the security situation in the project area and they are working on the site,” he told The News International. Thousands of Chinese personnel are working in Pakistan on several projects under the aegis of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sri Lanka on high alert

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka was put on high alert on Friday and security beefed up in major cities across the country, with special surveillance around the Churches having Good Friday services, according to a senior police official. Police spokesman Nihal Thaldewa said that over that 6,000 police personnel, over 3,000 military soldiers and over 400 elite special task force members have been deployed across the country on the occasion of Good Friday. “We have identified 2,268 churches having Good Friday services to provide special security,” Thaldewa said. Police have also set up a special hotline to report any suspicious movements near the churches.

Muizzu alleges his predecessor operated on orders from ‘foreign ambassador’

Male (PTI): Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has alleged that his predecessor, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, operated on orders from “a foreign ambassador.” Muizzu, however, neither named any country nor any diplomat. The president made the allegation when he was asked about criticism from the opposition regarding the recent procurement of military drones during an interview with the Public Service Media (PSM). The interview was aired on Thursday night local time. Ahead of the parliamentary elections, the main opposition, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), has scaled up the attacks on Muizzu on various

issues. Earlier in the month, it was announced that Maldives has, for the first time, acquired surveillance drones from Turkey for patrolling its vast exclusive economic zone and efforts have begun by the state to establish a drone base in Noonu atoll Maafaru to operate the military drones. Responding to the question about criticism about drones, President Muizzu noted that the main opposition MDP, when it held office from 2018-2023, also held a supermajority in the Parliament. “However, the party failed to protect Maldives’ independence, leaving it in the hands of a foreign country,” Muizzu was quoted as saying by Sun.mv, a

news portal. Muizzu further said that President Solih “had operated on orders from a foreign ambassador, which resulted in extensive damage,” according to the news portal. However, he did not specify which foreign country he was referring to, it said. “We had lost independence in all senses of the word, including economically. After having done all this, they would naturally not accept our efforts to remedy all this and put the country on a track that the Maldivian people want, towards a ‘Dhiveheenge Raajje,’” he said. Dhivehi Raajje in Dhivehi, the language of the people of Maldives, means ‘Kingdom of the Dhivehi people.’

Growing number of Americans end up in Russian jails; prospects for release unclear

AP ■ TALLINN

A journalist on a reporting trip in a Ural Mountains city. A corporate security executive traveling to Moscow for a wedding. A dual national returning to her hometown in Tatarstan to visit her family. All of them are U.S. citizens, and all are behind bars in Russia on charges of varying severity. Arrests of Americans in Russia have become increasingly common as relations between Moscow and Washington sink to Cold War lows. Washington accuses Moscow of targeting its citizens and using them as political bargaining chips, but Russian officials insist they all broke the law. Some have been exchanged for Russians held in the US, while for others, the prospects of being released in a swap are less clear. “It seems that since Moscow itself has cut off most of the communication channels and does not know how to restore

them properly without losing face, they are trying to use the hostages. ... At least that’s what it looks like,” said Boris Bondarev, a former Russian diplomat who quit after Moscow invaded Ukraine in 2022.

WHO ARE AMERICANS IN CUSTODY?

Friday marks a year since the arrest of Evan Gershkovich, a 32-year-old reporter for The Wall Street Journal who is awaiting trial in Moscow’s notorious Lefortovo Prison on espionage charges. Gershkovich was detained while on a reporting trip to the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg and accused of spying for the U.S. Russian authorities haven’t revealed any details of the accusations or evidence to back up the charges, which he, his employer and the US government all deny. Another American accused of espionage is Paul Whelan, a corporate security executive

from Michigan. He was arrested in 2018 in Russia and sentenced to 16 years in prison two years later. Whelan, who said he traveled to Moscow to attend a friend’s wedding, has maintained his innocence and said the charges against him were fabricated.

The US government has declared both Gershkovich and Whelan to be wrongfully detained and has been advocating for their release. Others detained include Travis Leake, a musician who had been living in Russia for years and was arrested last year on drug-related charges; Marc Fogel, a teacher in Moscow, who was sentenced to 14 years in prison, also on drug charges; and dual nationals Alsu Kurmasheva and Ksenia Khavana. Kurmasheva, a Prague-based editor for the U.S. government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Tatar-Bashkir service, was arrested October 2023 in her hometown of Kazan, where she traveled to

see her ailing elderly mother. She has faced multiple charges, including not self-reporting as a “foreign agent” and spreading false information about the army. Khavana, of Los Angeles, returned to Russia to visit family and was arrested on treason charges. According to Pervy Otdel, a rights group that specializes in treason cases, the charges against her stem from a \$51 donation to a U.S. charity that helps Ukraine.

A PATH TO FREEDOM VIA PRISONER SWAPS

The precise number of Americans jailed in Russia is unclear, but the cases of Gershkovich and Whelan have received the most attention. Gershkovich was designated as wrongfully detained by the State Department less than two weeks after his arrest, unusually fast action by the US government. The designation is applied to only a small subsection of Americans jailed by foreign countries.

Pak prez reconstitutes Council of Common Interests to tackle eco

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday reconstituted the Council of Common Interests, a top constitutional body, with the foreign minister replacing the finance minister. According to an official notification, the Council of Common Interests (CCI) will be headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif while chief ministers of all four provinces apart from Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and States and Frontier Regions Minister Amir Muqam will be members of the Council. It is the first time that a foreign minister has become part of the CCI, replacing the finance minister who traditionally has been a key member due to involvement in financial matters. Sharif, after approving the reconstitution of the CCI, sent the recommendation to the president, who following the premier’s advice reconstituted the eight-member council

under Article 153 of the Constitution. The CCI is the largest decision-making forum in the country which decides all the matters, including the distribution of natural resources, upon which there is a disagreement between the Centre and provinces. The development comes as reportedly Dar, who had always been undisputed head of the finance ministry of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, was not given the portfolio and instead, a banker, Muhammad Aurangzeb, was tasked with the job of leading the economy of the cash-strapped country. According to sources, Dar was given the boot due to his lacklustre performance during the 16-month duration of the previous tenure of the PML-N. It is also said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was uncomfortable with him. However, due to matrimonial links with the Sharif

family — Dar’s son is married to a daughter of Shehbaz’s elder brother and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif — he enjoys the blind confidence of the former three-time premier and wields enormous influence in the party. Though Dar has been adjusted and given the key ministry of foreign affairs, it is believed that he is trying to call the shots in the financial affairs and trying to take charge of some key bodies. Last week, the Prime Minister set up six cabinet committees, including on economic coordination, energy, Chinese investment projects, privatisation, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and disposal of legislative cases. The premier appointed Dar as head of the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation and appointed himself as head of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) even though all these influential bodies were traditionally headed by the finance minister.

Pak FM says meeting with IMF scheduled for April 14-15

Karachi (PTI): Pakistan’s Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday said the government will hold a meeting with the IMF on April 14 and 15 in Washington to discuss the features of the new bailout programme which the cash-strapped country is seeking, according to a media report. The minister for finance and revenue in the Shehbaz Sharif government, while addressing journalists during his visit to the Pakistan Stock Exchange here, reiterated that the government plans to enter a major programme with the International Monetary Fund which will ensure microeconomic stability, Geo News reported. Aurangzeb said the features of the new programme would be discussed during the meeting, while detailed talks would be held in Pakistan, the report said. Prime Minister Shehbaz on March 21 signalled that the new IMF programme was likely to be continued for three years.

As host of high-profile global events, S’pore attracts cyberespionage

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Cyberespionage is taking place all over the world and Singapore — being one of the hubs for hosting high-profile trade exhibitions and conferences — “inevitably” attracts intelligence operations, a report said on Friday. “Cyberespionage is happening all over the world because we are more connected than ever before,” said Dr Alan Chong, senior fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies. Chong’s comments came after Russian media earlier this month leaked a recording of a German military phone call that Berlin said was due to a participant dialling in through an “unauthorised connection” from a Singapore hotel during the February Singapore Airshow. “In terms of the geopolitical

location of Singapore, to me it’s no surprise. Since the Cold War, long before the digital age, we were already a base of operations for both the Communist and the Western powers,” Channel News Asia quoted Chong as saying. Intelligence operations around the world will happen more frequently as cyberespionage makes remote spy activity possible even without an agent on site, he said. The report said event organisers and hotels have confirmed providing security support — ranging from coordinating with telcos to conducting sweeps for surveillance devices. The German participant was in Singapore to attend the Singapore Airshow. The February event would have been a “field day” for Russian intelligence and hotels where the attendees stayed would have been targeted by

“widespread wiretapping efforts”, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said. In the leaked call, discussions were held on support for Ukraine against Russia’s invasion, including the possible delivery of the long-range Taurus cruise missiles to Kyiv. Singapore “inevitably” attracts intelligence operations given high-level events hosted in the country amid geopolitical tensions, according to international security experts. But Singapore’s reputation is unlikely to take a hit, they said. Stephane Duguin, CEO of CyberPeace Institute, said high-profile events taking place amid political tensions carry risks. “Singapore is one of the leading hubs when it comes to cyber,” he said. “It is, therefore, not a surprise that this alters the risk profile,” Channel News Asia quoted Duguin as saying.

Benjamin Ang, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies senior fellow and head of the its Centre of Excellence for National Security, echoed Duguin. “Spying is as old as history but current geopolitical tensions make it especially useful for governments to leak sensitive information that they have uncovered,” he added. Dr Shashi Jayakumar, executive director of SJK Geostrategic Advisory, agreed that events in Singapore attended by prominent officials would be “tempting” targets for intelligence services to try and surveil for high-value information. Singapore intelligence officers open up as it seeks to recruit more diverse talent. Recurring high-level international meetings in Singapore include the biennial Airshow and the annual Shangri-La Dialogue defence summit.

Singapore has also been entrusted with hosting historic talks such as the 2018 Donald Trump-Kim Jong Un summit between the US and the North Korean leaders, and the 2015 meeting between the Chinese and the Taiwanese presidents. None of the experts thought that the German defence call leak would have a lasting, adverse effect on Singapore’s international reputation as host of such high-level gatherings. “There will be short-term risks but then people will just shrug and move on. It can’t be helped. It can happen anywhere,” said Chong. Jayakumar conceded, “We have to accept that these sorts of things may happen from time to time in Singapore, given our role not just as a host of repute for Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) events but also as a

premier convening hub for defence and security related events.” “One must presume that episodes like these are also scrutinised closely by our own security services,” he added. “But any follow-up would necessarily be behind the scenes. This is in the nature of how these agencies work.” Intelligence operations in Singapore pre-date the country’s independence and have been carried out at high-level events to this day. In 1960, the US Central Intelligence Agency offered the then-prime minister Lee Kuan Yew USD 3.3 million to cover up an unsuccessful intelligence operation. The US confirmed the attempted bribery after Lee revealed it in 1965. During the Trump-Kim summit, Singapore became the top cyberattack target in the world. Out of 40,000 cyberattacks

during the two-day event, 88 per cent were launched from Russia and 97 per cent of those were targeted at Singapore, according to data collected by a US technology company. During that same month, a cyberattack on the SingHealth group’s database stole the information of patients, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Singapore’s government said the attack was “the work of an advanced persistent threat group” and that such groups are “usually state-linked”. In 2022, the Shangri-La Group suffered a data breach of guests’ information across eight of its hotels in Asia. This happened between May and July, and coincided with the Shangri-La Dialogue held at the eponymous Singapore hotel that June. The latest leaked German defence call was made over public videoconferencing plat-

form WebEx, though Berlin has defended its use in this instance as legitimate. Instead, Germany’s defence minister blamed the intercepted call on “individual user error” and described it as a “random hit in the scope of a broad-based approach”. Jayakumar noted similar suggestions that the call was intercepted by chance in the course of larger-scale operations. “Although there are many theories, we do not know and will probably never know, as the Germans have been keen to draw a veil over this (save to say that their own systems have not been compromised),” he said. “We do not in fact know how targeted this compromise was. Russian intelligence services, like the services of all major powers, would have resources and capability to attempt to put the event under surveillance of a fairly large scale,” he added.

FPIS MAKE REMARKABLE COMEBACK

INFUSE ₹2 LAKH CRORE IN EQUITIES IN FY24



Saudi Tourism Authority Hosts 4-City Networking Events for Indian Travel Trade

Beginning the year with big inbound numbers from last year and encouraging growth projections, Saudi tourism is racing ahead on its journey. Saudi aims to make India its top source market targeting 7.5 million visitors within the next seven years. Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) hosted a series of power-packed networking events held across four cities – Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, and Delhi for the members of the Indian travel trade associations. The STA delegation with key stakeholders engaged with over 500 travel agents and tour operators from these key cities. STA also organised a sales mission in collaboration with leading Destination Management Companies (DMC) across all four cities, engaging with key trade partners.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors made a strong return by injecting more than Rs 2 lakh crore into Indian equities in 2023-24, driven by optimism surrounding the country's robust economic fundamentals amidst a challenging global environment. Looking forward to 2025, Bharat Dhawan, Managing Partner at Mazars in India, said that the outlook is cautiously optimistic and anticipates sustained FPI inflows supported by progressive policy reforms, economic stability, and attractive investment avenues. "However, we remain mindful of global geopolitical influences that may introduce intermittent volatility, emphasising the importance of strategic planning and agility in navigating market fluctuations," he added. The outlook for FY25 from an FPI perspective, continues to remain strong, Naveen KR, smallcase Manager and Senior Director at Windmill Capital, said. In the current fiscal 2023-24, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have made a net investment of around Rs 2.08 lakh

crore in the Indian equity markets and Rs 1.2 lakh crore in the debt market. Collectively, they pumped Rs 3.4 lakh crore into the capital market, as per data available with the depositories. The dazzling resurgence came following an outflow from equities in the preceding two financial years. In 2022-23, Indian equities witnessed a net outflow of Rs 37,632 crore by FPIs on aggressive rate hikes by the central banks globally. Before this, they pulled out a massive Rs 1.4 lakh crore. However, in 2020-2021, FPIs made a record investment of Rs 2.74 lakh crore. The flows from foreign investors were largely driven by factors such as inflation and interest rate scenarios in developed markets such as the US and UK, currency movement, the trajectory of crude oil prices, geopolitical scenario, and the health of the domestic economy among others, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said. "Investors increasingly favoured Indian equities, drawn by the market's demonstrated resilience during uncertain periods. Compared to other similar markets, India's economy stood out as more




robust and stable amidst global economic turbulence, further attracting foreign investment," he said. Smallcase's Naveen said that economies like the UK and Japan have fallen into recession, Russia and Ukraine are still at war, the USA's inflation is running hot and the debate of soft versus hard landing still persists, while China has become the global anti-hero. Therefore, India has stolen the spotlight and is delivering numbers with strong GDP growth even amidst a tough business environment. After withdrawing funds in

the preceding fiscal, FPIs poured a staggering Rs 1.2 lakh crore into the debt market too, marking a noteworthy shift in their capital flow. They took out funds to the tune of Rs 8,938 crore in FY23. FPIs' debt investments have been extremely robust this fiscal due to attractive yields on Indian sovereign debt relative to the US treasury. This has been supported by strong macros in the form of the robust growth outlook for the Indian economy, stable inflation and a stable currency, and the stated objective of the Government to improve its

fiscal deficit, Nitin Raheja, Executive Director, Julius Baer India, said. Additionally, the upcoming inclusion of Indian bonds in JP Morgan's index has led to an inflow in advance into the Indian debt markets. Further, the expected global tapering in policy rates should make bond yields in emerging economies look even more attractive to investors making this trend of inflows into Indian debt more sustainable, he added. In September 2023, JP Morgan Chase & Co. Announced that it would add Indian government bonds to its benchmark emerging market index from June 2024. This landmark inclusion, scheduled for June 2024, is anticipated to benefit India by attracting

around USD 20-40 billion in the subsequent 18 to 24 months. This inflow was expected to make Indian bonds more accessible to foreign investors and potentially strengthen the rupee, thereby bolstering the economy, Morningstar's Srivastava said. Overall, FPIs started the year 2023-24 on a positive note in April and incessantly purchased equities till August on the resilience of the Indian economy amid an uncertain global macro backdrop. During these five months, they brought in Rs 1.62 lakh crore. After this, FPIs turned net sellers in September and bearish stance continued in October too with an outflow of over Rs 39,000 crore in these two months. However, FPIs became net investors in November and the optimism persisted in December too, when they purchased equity to the tune of Rs 66,135 crore. Again, they turned sellers and pulled out Rs 25,743 crore in January. This could be on account of China opening up after the lockdown. This led FPIs to pull out their investments from other emerging markets like India and divert them toward China. However, China struggled to sustain investor interest. Moreover, the fiscal year ended on a positive note as FPIs bought shares worth over Rs 35,000 crore in March.



Piramal Finance

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
(LC No. BLSA0000A6B of Pathankot Branch) Balwinder Singh (Borrower) Surinder Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024/ Rs. 8,69,914.8/- (Rs. Eight lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen Only and Eighty Paise) NPA (04-02-2024)	304/4 Panchaji Colony Back Side Agriculture University Gurdaspur Punjab 143521
(LC No. HLSA00008DA3 of Chandigarh - Sector 22 Branch) Neeraj (Borrower) Chandan Devi (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024/ Rs. 17,36,175/- (Rs. Seventeen lakh Thirty Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five Only) NPA (04-02-2024)	House No 35 Basant Vihar Near Daana Mandi Rajpura Patiala Punjab 140401
(LC No. HLSA0000B43E of Bathinda Branch) Kulwant Singh (Borrower) Jasbir Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024/ Rs. 30,38,345.29/- (Rs. Thirty lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Five Only and Twenty Nine Paise) NPA (04-02-2024)	House No 612 Gali No 09 Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar Back Side Ashirwad Muktsar Punjab- 152026
(LC No. 16500003035 of Jalandhar Branch) Akash Sharma (Borrower) Shobha Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024/ Rs. 11,25,667.6/- (Rs. Eleven lakh Twenty Five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Seven Only and Sixty Paise) NPA (08-01-2023)	Kh No 14/10,11,12 Babu Labh Singh Nagar, Jalandhar Jalandhar Punjab- 144001
(LC No. 16500003086 of Jalandhar Branch) Shaminder Singh (Borrower) Loverpeet Singh (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024/ Rs. 6,81,212.6/- (Rs. Six lakh Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Twelve Only and Sixty Paise) NPA (08-01-2023)	Kh No-8224/6732(15-17) V P O Khudda Teh Dasuya, Hoshiarpur Hoshiarpur Punjab- 144305
(LC No. 24500000794 of Bathinda Branch) Jagvir Singh (Borrower) Jaspal Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024/ Rs. 1,83,841.72/- (Rs. One lakh Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Forty One Only and Seventy Two Paise) NPA (30-09-2020)	Near Panchayti Dharam Shala Link Road Dhan Singh Wala V.p.o Mehma Swai Bathinda Bathinda Punjab- 151001

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 30-03-2024
Place: Punjab

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited




THE HARYANA STATE COOPERATIVE SUPPLY AND MARKETING FEDERATION LIMITED HARYANA (INDIA)

District Office : Gobindpura Road, Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)
Tel:- (01732) - 260888, 237838 E-Mail:- dmhfdynr@hry.nic.in

Notice for inviting e-tender for Labour and Transporter work of fertilizer from Hafed storage points Jagadhari to various PACS/ Centers in District Yamuna Nagar

Name of Work :	Labour and Transporter work of fertilizer
Estimated Cost:	Rs. 3900000/-
EMD:	Rs.60000/-
Start date and time of E-tenders: -	30.03.2024 at 11:00 AM
Last date and time of E-tenders:-	08.04.2024 at 10:00 AM

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from website <https://etenders.hry.nic.in/> | **Distt. Manager, Hafed, Yamuna Nagar**



STATE BANK OF INDIA

[Rule-8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to borrower(s)/ guarantor(s), on the date mentioned hereunder, calling upon the borrower(s)/ guarantor(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against below accounts.

The borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Retail Asset and Credit Cell Kachehri Bazar, 1st Floor Opposite Kansal Electrical Rampura Phul for the amount specified against each as per details below less amount of recovery if any plus future interest, expenses, costs, thereon.

The Borrower's / Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding as per Demand Notice
Smt Rani Bansal W/o Sh Naseeb Chand and 2 Sh Naseeb Chand S/o Sh Ram Lal, Both Residents Ward No 6, Near Geeta Bhawan, Maur Mandi, Dist Bathinda (Borrowers)	Residential House Constructed on Plot measuring 15-1/2' x 60' having Serial No 948 Ward No 6, Smt Rani Bansal W/o Sh Naseeb Chand vide Title Deed No 1065 dated 20.11.2009 and Title Deed No 1472 Dated 19.11.2010 and bounded as East: 15-1/2" Kashmiri Lal, West: 15-1/2" Rasta, North: 60' Sohan Lal, South: 60' Jeewan Kumar	23.01.2024	29.03.2024	Rs. 16,49,194.39 as on 23.01.2024, less amount of recovery made, if any plus Intt and other charges/expenses, costs, thereon.
Smt Pushpa Devi W/o Sh Mahesh Pal and Sh Mahesh Pal S/o Sh Hari Krishan Both Residents of Ward No 4, Ganesh Nagar, Near Mandi, Dist Bathinda (Borrowers)	Residential House constructed on plot measuring 3-1/2' Marla i.e.7/916 share out of land measuring 22 Kanah 18 Marla, Khewat / Khatoni No 1157/2939 Kharsa No 3301/ (22-18) as per Jamabandi for the Year 2008-09 Vakia Rakba Mauz Kalan vide Title Deed No 1419 Dated 16.08.2011 In the name of Smt Pushpa Devi W/o Sh Mahesh Pal and bounded as under: East: 65'5" Sanjeev Kumar and Others, West: 69' Jyoti Sarup, North: 14' Angat Singh, South: 14' Rasta 15' Wide	09.01.2024	29.03.2024	Rs. 8,02,869.00 as on 09.01.2024, less amount of recovery made, if any plus Intt and other charges/expenses, costs, thereon.


DATE: 30.03.2024 **PLACE: RAMPURA PHUL** **AUTHORISED OFFICER**



Dalal Street minnows steal show in FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BSE mid-cap and small-cap stocks have outperformed the benchmark Sensex in 2023-24 with about 62 per cent returns, reflecting buoyant investors' sentiment amid robust macroeconomic conditions in the country and impressive quarterly earnings reported by various firms. As per an analysis, the BSE mid-cap gauge jumped 15,013.95 points or 62.38 per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal, while the small-cap index climbed 16,068.99 points or 59.60 per cent. In comparison, the 30-share BSE Sensex raked in a gain of 14,659.83 points or 24.85 per cent during the fiscal under review. "The recent surge in interest towards mid and small-cap stocks among retail investors can be attributed to their remarkable earnings growth and the pursuit of high-growth opportunities. Highlighting this trend, investors have shown a clear preference for mid and small-cap schemes over large-cap ones, as evidenced by the net inflows in equity mutual funds. "This shift in investor sentiment is bolstered by the robust macroeconomic conditions in India, which traditionally foster accelerated growth in mid and small-cap stocks during periods of economic expansion. Moreover, the impressive quarterly earnings reported by numerous mid and small-cap companies further validate their substantial growth potential, enticing retail investors in search of profitable ventures," said Suman Bannerjee, CIO of hedge fund Hedonova. The broader market put up an impressive performance in the 2023-24 fiscal. The BSE midcap gauge reached its record peak of 40,282.49 on February 8 after slipping to its 52-week low of 23,881.79 on March 31, 2023. The BSE small-cap index jumped to its all-time high of 46,821.39 on February 7 after hitting its 52-week low of 26,692.09 on March 31 last year. The 30-share BSE Sensex hit its all-time high of 74,245.17 on March 7 this year. "The outperformance of midcap and small-cap stocks vis-a-vis the Sensex in the current fiscal year reflects the dynamic nature of the Indian equity market and the diverse opportunities it offers to investors," Sunil Nyati, Managing Director, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said. The BSE small-cap index faced correction in March, falling 4.55 per cent. The midcap index declined marginally this month. The correction observed in midcap and small-cap stocks during March is consistent with the assessment of heightened exuberance prevailing in the market, Bannerjee said.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Address: SCO 154, 1st floor, Red Square Market, UE-1, Near Telephone Exchange, Hisar- 125001

Branch Address: SCO No. 121, Sector 17, 1st floor, Commercial Belt, Jagadhari Road, Yamuna Nagar- 135003


The following borrowers have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ram Babu (Borrower), Radha Rani (Co-Borrower), House No. 444 Ward No. 11, Gali No. 10 Preet Nagar Sirsa, Sirsa Sirsa Haryana- 125055. LHSIR00001323346	Khewat No. 2102 Khatoni No. 2412 Ta 2414 Vakya Preet Nagar Vill. Khajakhara Teh And Distt Sirsa Haryana- 125055. Bounded By- North: Gali 4 Wide Gali No. 10, 20 Ft Plot Murba No. 76, South: Gali 4 Karam Wide Gali No. 10, 20 Ft Plot Murba No. 76, East: Gali 3 Wide 44 Ft 6 Inch, West: Plot Shree Mat Pravid 44 Ft 6 Inch.	18-03-2024 Rs. 8,05,071/-	04/03/ 2024
2.	Vinod Grover (Borrower), NIRMLA DEVI (Co-Borrower), Seema Rani (Co-Borrower), Ashok Kumar (Co-Borrower), Gali No. 3 Bharat Nagar Kangpur Road Sirsa Sirsa Haryana- 125055. NHSIR00001261556	Khewat No. 2286 Muraba No. 29 Killa No 16/1/2 Vakya Village Khajakhara Kangapur Road Sirsa Haryana- 125055. Bounded By- North: Street, South: Plot And Property Of Cinderpal Seller, East: Property Ofparaminder Kaur, West: Plot.	18-03-2024 Rs. 17,41,020/-	04/03/ 2024
3.	Vinod Grover (Borrower), Ashok Kumar (Co-Borrower), Nirmla Devi (Co-Borrower), Seema Rani (Co-Borrower), Gali No. 3 Bharat Nagar Kangpur Road Sirsa Sirsa Haryana- 125055. NHSIR00001261555	Khewat No. 2286 Muraba No. 29 Killa No. 16/1/2 Vakya Village Khajakhara Kangapur Road Sirsa Haryana- 125055. Bounded By- North: Street, South: Plot And Property Of Cinderpal Seller, East: Property Ofparaminder Kaur, West: Plot.	18-03-2024 Rs. 11,15,689/-	04/03/ 2024
4.	Dharmender Rana (Borrower), Dharmvati Devi (Co-Borrower), 1133 B6 Tilak Nagar Sasoli Road Yamunanagar Yamunanagar Haryana- 135002 LHYGR00001281503	Plot No. 116 Waka Khasra No. 18/18/1 (6-4) Waka Rakba Mouja Sasoli Mouja Amarpur Colony Tehsil Jagadhari Yamunanagar Haryana 135001. Bounded By- North: Plot No. 117, South: Plot No.115, East: Gali 15 Ft Wide, West: Lala Ram.	16-03-2024 Rs. 11,47,593/-	03/02/ 2023
5.	Manga Ram (Borrower), Deepa (Co-Borrower), Dharmender Rana (Guarantor), Near Hanuman Mandir Sarojini Colony Yamuna Nagar Sarojini Colony Yamunanagar Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001 LHYGR00001325343	Plot No. 34 Khasra No. 18/21 24/2 Rakba Mouja Sasoli Mosuma Jaswant Nagar Tehsil Jagadhari Distt Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001. Bounded By- North: 70 Ft Plot of Leela Wati, South: 70ft Part Plot No.34, East: 19ft Street, West: 19ft Street.	16-03-2024 Rs. 8,62,125/-	03/02/ 2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : March 30, 2024
Place: Sirsa, Yamunanagar

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited



ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.

REGISTERED OFFICE: INDIAN RAYON COMPOUND, VERAVAL, GUJARAT-362266.
BRANCH OFFICE: 1ST FLOOR, VIJAYA BUILDING, PLOT NO.17, BARAKHAMBA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

DEMAND NOTICE U/s 13(2)

You the below mentioned borrower has availed loan by mortgaging the schude mentioned property and You the below mention has stood as borrower/co-borrower guarantor for the loan agreement. Consequent to the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as NPA mentioned below under the provisions of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (In short SARFAESI Act). We Aditya Birla Finance Limited have issued Demand Notice u/s 13(2) read with security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 as amended to the address furnished by you. The contents of the notices are that you had committed default in payment of the various loans guaranteed to you. Therefore, the present publication carried out to serve the notice as the provision of Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act and in terms of provision to the rule 3(1) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002:

Loan Account No./Name & Address of the Account, Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice/ NPA Date	Amount due as per demand notice
Product : Loan Against Property Loan Account No. ABFLDLHAP0000088498 & ABFLDLHAP0000102588 1. Sunil Kumar, E/13/180, Near Green Land School, Aman Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001, Email: arohimanshu1362@gmail.com. Also At: Flat No. 112B, Property No. B-XXXII-E-14-1/A, Third Floor, Block B, Silver Kunj Apartment, Khasra no. 15/13/2-15/4-15/17-15/8/2 and 47, Vakya Village Bhaura, Tehsil & District Ludhiana-141001. 2. Amita Rani, E/13/180, Near Green Land School, Aman Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab -141001, Email: arohimanshu1362@gmail.com. Also At: Flat No. 112B, Property No. B-XXXII-E-14-1/A, Third Floor, Block B, Silver Kunj Apartment, Khasra No. 15/13/2-15/4-15/17-15/8/2 and 47, Vakya Village Bhaura, Tehsil & District Ludhiana-141001. 3. Aasha Garments, Through Proprietor, Shop No. 5, S.D.B College , St no. 16, Gandhi Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab-141007, Email: arohimanshu1362@gmail.com. Also At: Flat No. 112B, Property No. B-XXXII-E-14-1/A, Third Floor, Block B, Silver Kunj Apartment, Khasra No. 15/13/2-15/4-15/17-15/8/2 and 47, Vakya Village Bhaura, Tehsil & District Ludhiana-141001.	All That Part & Parcel of Properties bearing no.: "Flat No. 112 B, Property No. B-XXXII-E-14-1/A, third floor, Block B, Silver Kunj apartment, Khasra No. 15/13/2-15/4-15/17-15/8/2 and 47, vakya village Bhaura Tehsil & district Ludhiana 141001"	20.03.2024 NPA 15.03.2024	Rs 49,54,088 (Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Eighty Eight) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 16.03.2024 within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of this notice, together with any interest and penal interest, and/or other charges which may fall due thereupon till the payment of complete outstanding amount

..... (Hereinafter collectively referred to as "Borrowers")

You are hereby called upon to pay **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** within the period of 60 days from the date of said demand notice the aforesaid amount with interest and cost falling which **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** will take necessary action under the Provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrowers, mortgagors and the guarantors. The power available to the **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** under the said act include (1) Power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrowers/ guarantors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment of sale for releasing secured assets (2) Take over management of the secured assets including rights to transfer by ways of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets and any transfer as of secured assets by **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** shall vest in all the rights and relation to the secured assets transferred as it the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the Provisions of the Section 13(13) of the said act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the normal course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to above and hypothecation/mortgaged to the **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** without prior consent of the **Aditya Birla Financial Limited**.

Place: PUNJAB
Date: 30.03.2024

Signed by Authorized Officer, Aditya Birla Finance Limited

Amidst culinary delights like Varanasi chaat and Malaiyyo, the city's gastronomic offerings add flavours to the sensory tapestry of Kashi. Yet, as Varanasi embraces modernity, a call for collective responsibility echoes, urging all to preserve the city's pristine charm amidst its eternal embrace of divinity and tranquillity. **SHARMILA CHAND** experiences the city firsthand and captures its spirit

KASHI REVELS IN RIOT OF COLOURS AND ASH

I am standing at a height in one corner overlooking HarishChandra ghat and the day is Ekadashi. The site is eclectic with hundreds of devotees and tourists dancing to the tunes of the huge DJ set up. As the music pauses for a few seconds, the sound of damrus fills the air. Young boys are playing drums and damrus while sadhus and babas, dressed in various fancy ensemble, are lost in the revelries. And soon I see clouds of gulal and bhasm in the air. Traditionally, as the legend goes, it was on the day of 'Rang Bhari Ekadashi', Lord Mahadev brought Goddess Parvati to Kashi after performing Gauna (marriage ceremony) and played with gulal. From that day till Holi, the festival is celebrated with full gusto. On the second day of Rang Bhari Ekadashi, it is said, Mahadev played Holi with pyre ashes and that's how the tradition of 'Bhasm' or 'Masan' Holi has been going on which holds significant cultural and religious importance. I realise how the festival is deeply rooted in local traditions, it is indeed the celebration of culture, tradition and spirituality.

SHRI KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE
Early morning I went for darshan. The entry is well organised and I was happy to be there for my sojourn. Situated on the western bank of the Ganges, Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the 12

Jyotirlingas or temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. The main deity of Kashi Vishwanath Temple is Lord Shiva, also known as Vishwanatha or Vishweshwarar.

SANKAT MOCHAN HANUMAN TEMPLE
The Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple is situated by the River Assi and was built in the 1900s by the freedom fighter Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. It is dedicated to Lord Rama and Hanuman.

DURGA TEMPLE
Durga Temple dedicated to Goddess Durga is renowned for its vivid red color and intricate architecture. It houses an imposing idol of Goddess Durga and is one of the main temples in Varanasi. Close to the temple is a huge Durga Kund.

SUBAH E BANARAS
Early morning programme at Assi Ghat is my favorite of the immersive experience. As the first rays of the sun glow on the Ganges, there is chanting of mantras followed by Arati, Surya Namaskar and then Hindustani classical music. That's not all, there is one hour yoga after the music where tourists and the locals perform seriously. I thought that was the final event of the morning rituals but no, the moment yoga ends, a group of locals start bhajans and kirtan which goes on for another one hour. While all this is going on, tea vendors are busy making tea and

boatmen are busy at their job, tempting tourists for Ganges boat ride.

EVENINGS AT THE GHATS
Evenings are very eventful again. There is famous Ganga arati at different ghats. Then there is also Cultural programme at Assi Ghat. As dusk descends, the ghats of Varanasi come alive with the vibrant Ganga Aarti. Priests, clad in traditional attire, choreograph the ritual with synchronised movements, accompanied by the rhythmic ringing of bells and chanting of hymns. The magnificent ritual looks resplendent with huge brass lamps lit with oil and the priests chant the holy mantras that reverberate in the entire location.

KASHI FOOD TRAIL
One thing you cannot miss about Varanasi is its food. Every city has its own style of preparation and flavours. Varanasi chaat and Kachoris are no exception. Gol gappas taste totally different with lot of matra filling. Aloo tikki and samosa chaat comes loaded with curd, matra and chutneys. Tamatar chaat is of course unique to this city. There are several joints for kachoris. I tried at 'Chachi ki Kachori'- kachoris-sabzi and jalebis. It is situated on the mall road in front of Banaras Hindu University gate. As per the locals, the shop was run by an old aunty chachi, who passed away handing over her legacy to her

sons, who now run the shop. Tamatar Chaat is a local version of aloo chaat and is made from a mashed mixture of boiled potatoes, tomatoes, onions, green chillies and fresh coriander leaves. Spices like pounded ginger, red chilli powder and garam masala are splashed into the dish making it deliciously fiery. It is served in a dona, a bowl made with palash leaves. Deena Chaat Bhandar at Dashaswamedh Road is a good option. Head to Gopal Mandir Gali for Choor Matar in the morning. Made of flattened rice soaked in desi ghee and cooked with spices along with green peas, raisins and saffron, Choor Matar is a famous breakfast and evening time snack in Varanasi. Spices like black pepper, garam masala and hing are added to this dish to enhance its flavour.

MALAIYYO - UNIQUE SWEET OF BANARAS
Makhan Malaiyyo or Nimish is a



authentic pizzas, pastas and yes, delightful coffee with a delightful view of the Ganges. Keshav Tambul, Ravidas Gate How can you not have paan ? Want to try the famous Banarasi paan? Keshav Taambul near Ravidas Gate offers one of the best paans in Banaras.

TEA IS NO MEAN DRINK!
Tea in kulhad is a special item in Kashi. You ask locals where to have tea, and you will get a whole lot of different tea stall names in which Pappu Chai wala will many votes. I found my favourite at Assi Ghat who would brew and boil the tea for good 15 minutes, after mixing a whole lot of ingredients. If you are in a hurry, you can move on because this fellow will not change his pace or style. For a tea finicky person like me, it was the best I've ever had and I thanked my stars for the extreme fulfillment I got. One day he didn't show up, I missed him (his tea, of course), the only reason he didn't put up his stall was "I didn't feel like making tea, so did something else." Well, what could I say, he was so right. To conclude, while the ghats have been given a face-lift, facilities (like Sulabh toilets) have been provided and there is regular cleaning done, it is the responsibility of visitors to maintain some civic sense. Unless the local communities, tourists, cafes and clubs come forward to adopt areas and maintain the aesthetics, it is not possible for the administration alone to do the needful. Conscientious efforts are needed to keep the ghats clean, that's the least we can do for such a spectacular city that reverberates divinity, calm and peace — forever embracing one and all!

FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION

India Design ID 2024, the most anticipated decor and design event of the year, came alive in the capital, showcasing the best in design. The four-day extravaganza was all about the fusion of creativity, innovation and trendsetting designs, captivating attendees from all walks of life. **PANKAJ KUMAR** captured the fine artworks with finesse



India Design ID is held once a year in the capital. Having completed 11 successful years, India Design brings together the best of Indian and international names from the design field under one place. It is an Ogaan Media initiative which brings a multitude of everything new in the fields of art, craft, design, decor, interiors and architecture. A treasure trove of luxury products and rare finds with over hundred exhibitors, ID Exhibit is a curated showcase of India's top luxury design brands. The exhibits also include display spaces by Indian architecture and interior firms as well as contemporary emerging talents.





Nortje will take time to get better after injury layoff: Hopes

Last 3 days I was in bed, I was on painkillers: Parag

Execution wise, it was probably my best last over: Avesh

OTHER SPORTS

Grigor ousts top seeded Carlos in Miami Open quarterfinals

