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DEHRADUN

AGENDA

VIJAYAWADA

THE LIONS OF **LONGEWALA**

FRESH UNREST IN **BANGLADESH**

Bangladesh's interim Government, led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, has ordered a nationwide security clampdown after fresh unrest erupted following the shooting of right-wing cultural group youth leader Sharif Osmann Hadi in Dhaka, Hadi, leader of Inquilab Mancha and an independent candidate in the February 12 general elections. was shot in the head at close range on Friday while launching his campaign in the Bijoynagar area. Doctors say his condition remains critical, though stable. and he is on life support at a private hospital. Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury announced the launch of the second phase of "Operation Devil Hunt" to curb illegal arms and rising violence. A reward of Tk 50 lakh has been announced for information leading to the arrest of suspect Faisal Karim Masud, identified as one of three motorcycle-borne assailants. Yunus ordered a manhunt and met Hadi's family pledging full support. Political parties and student groups condemned the attack, warning against a return of violence ahead

UK HONOURS DADABHAI NAOROJI

of the elections.

The House of Lords in London hosted a special reception to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji, the nationalist leader remembered as the "grand old man of India" and the first Indian elected to the British Parliament, Born in Mumbai in September 1825 to a Parsi family, Naoroji travelled to Britain in 1855 and went on to play a significant role in its political and intellectual life. The event was hosted by Lord Karan Bilimoria, the Parsi peer and founder of Cobra Beer, who highlighted Naoroji's pioneering journey as a businessman, academic and politician, and his historic election to Parliament in 1892. Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami reflected on Naoroji's enduring legacy and the outsized contribution of the Parsi community to public life in India and Britain. Former UK minister Sir Vince Cable recalled Naoroji's influential "drain theory", which exposed the economic costs of British colonial rule in India. The bicentenary event also featured an

DELHI FUELS HEALTH CRISIS

exhibition tracing key milestones

of Naoroji's life and career.

Delhi's prolonged pollution crisis is triggering a sharp rise in health problems, with hospitals reporting a 20-30 per cent increase in respiratory patients, including many first-time cases and young adults, doctors said. On Saturday, air quality worsened from "very poor" to "severe", with the Air Quality Index crossing 400, a level that affects even healthy individuals. At 4 pm, the 24-hour average AQI stood at 431, according to official data. Doctors across the city said outpatient departments and emergency rooms are seeing a surge in patients with breathlessness, chest tightness, wheeze and persistent cough. Pulmonologists warned that symptoms are more severe and prolonged this year, often requiring higher medication doses. Alarmingly, people with no prior respiratory illness are showing reduced oxygen levels and airway inflammation. Health experts attributed the spike to sustained exposure to toxic pollutants such as PM2.5, PM10, nitrogen oxides and ozone, which penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream. Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly and diabetics, are most affected. Doctors have advised residents to limit outdoor activity, use N95 masks if necessary, and seek medical care for persistent

Messi mania ends in mayhem

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

GOAT's visit to the City of Joy lapsed into a colossal mess after angry spectators ransacked the Yuva Bharati Stadium in Kolkata setting parts of it on fire. Several people were injured in the melee as billboards were pulled down, seats and bottles were hurled inside the fence, requiring the police to resort to random lathi charge.

Fans of Lionel Messi were upset at not being able to catch a glimpse of the world soccer star as scores of politicians, celebrities and organisers surrounded the football icon throughout his 18 minutes stay inside the stadium. The main organiser of Saturday's GOAT Tour event Shatadru Dutta was arrested, and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offered an impromptu apology to the fans and the footballer.

The soccer star who had to fly off to Hyderabad for a second league programme was escorted out to safety, the police said adding the crowd became restless after Messi's brief appearance at the venue and their failure to see him live allegedly



Fans of Lionel Messi breaking past barriers during an event as part of G.O.A.T. India Tour 2025 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata

because "he was surrounded by a host of personalities." Another person said seething in anger: "There was everything but not the man to see whom we purchased the tickets ... because he had been hijacked by the lobbyists ... He didn't take a single kick or a single penalty. They said they would bring Shah

Rukh Khan too... But not

organisation was such that even the Chief Minister could not reach the venue on time and failed to attend the photo session with the soccer star, sources said.

Fans who came from as far as Odisha and other neighbouring States asked in desperation, "was the programme organised to fleece us only ... why did we pay as

The chaos and lack of high as ₹16,000 and came here for such far places ... only to see some riff raff netas and then get beaten up by the police."

Others who resorted to sloganeering from the stands shouting "Chor ... Chor" or "we want justice" called the programme a big scam worth several hundred crores and asked the Government to investigate into it.

A political free-for-all after chaos

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Kolkata

CHANDIGARH

As the Messi event turned into a mayhem, the TMC, the BJP, the Congress and the Left parties took the opportunity to settle their political scores.

The BJP demanded immediate resignation of Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee for 'discrediting West Bengal before the world". While the Congress also attacked the TMC Government describing the episode as "terrible mismanagement and a mockery of law and order". The CPIM called it a "black day" for West Bengal.

The Congress, Left and BJP demanded a 100 per cent refund for gallery ticketholders, arrest of those respon-

All lashed out at the organisers of the event featuring Lionel Messi in Salt Lake stadium which ended in chaos as irate spectators went on a vandalisation spree for not having a proper view of the football icon.

The TMC on its part demanded action against the organisers. TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that the "overzealousness" of the organisers



Lionel Messi during an event as part of his G.O.A.T. India Tour 2025 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata

and people close to them to crowd Messi and take selfies with him prevented the spectators from the gallery, who shelled out hefty amounts for the event, from having a proper view of the football star, and it infuriated them.

"Why should no action be taken against the organisers for this mess? Why was there no proper planning? Why did chaos break out? It forced Messi to leave the stadium and the chief minister of West Bengal could not attend and accord him a warm welcome on behalf of the people of the

State," the TMC State general secretary said.

Union minister and senior BJP leader Sukanta Majumdar slammed the TMC and the State administration for the chaos. Leader of the Opposition in the State

Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, launched a scathing attack on the State Government, alleging that ministers and leaders "clung to Messi like leeches", while football fans who paid thousands of rupees were left watching him on the giant screen for barely a few

Tax department targets bogus deductions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has stepped up its efforts to curb bogus deduction and exemption claims, nudging taxpayers to voluntarily correct their income tax returns before stricter action follows.

The Income Tax department has started sending SMS and email advisories to taxpayers for wrongful deduction claims related to unrecognised political parties or charitable institutions. The department has come

across cases of fake deduction claims filed under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, which covers a series of investments, and even Section 80GGC, which relates to donations to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) or Charitable Institutions.

The CBDT said through data analysis it has observed that huge amount of bogus claims have been made on account of donation to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) or Charitable Institutions and reduced their tax obligations and have also claimed bogus refunds.

BJP abuzz with speculation on possible leadership shift

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi/Bhopal/Lucknow

Speculations have gained momentum over yesterday about a possible change in leadership in the BJP at the national level as well in its Uttar Pradesh unit. Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Saturday filed his nomination papers for the post of the Uttar Pradesh BJP chief, and was the only candidate to do so. Meanwhile, it is certain that Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan may be tipped to take over the baton at the national level from Union

Minister J P Nadda. A party functionary confirmed both the development and that Chaudhary's name as the next Uttar Pradesh BJP president is likely to be announced on Sunday by the central election officer and

Union Minister Piyush Goyal. Sources said security was tightened around the Bhopal residence of Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday, though officials said it could be part of a routine exercise following a periodic review. A makeshift tent was erected outside the main gate, and a number of barricades were placed along the busy Link



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament, in New Delhi

Road, while additional police personnel were also seen in the residential area of Chouhan, who arrived at the residence late Friday night and left for Delhi on Saturday afternoon. Party sources said the sudden increase in security led to speculation in local political circles that Chouhan could soon be appointed as BIP president.

Chaudhary submitted the papers to former Union minister and BJP State election officer Mahendra Nath Pandev and central election observer Vinod Tawde. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak and Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh were also present for the submission, party sources said.

Chaudhary's anointment is being seen in view of the upcoming panchayat elections and the 2027 Assembly elections, and the candidate with strong regional and caste equations would be chosen.

Chaudhary is a seven-time MP from the Maharajganj parliamentary constituency. A member of the Kurmi caste, categorised as Other Backwards Classes (OBC), he is considered a trusted confidante of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Lotus blooms in Thiruvananthapuram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram

The BJP-led NDA made an unexpected inroads in the Kerala civic body polls in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation on Saturday wresting it from the CPI(M)-led LDF. Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the mandate received by the BJP-led NDA in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation a "watershed moment" in Kerala's politics and expressed gratitude to the BJP workers for

the "spectacular results" Congress-led UDF secured a decisive victory in Kerala's local body elections, dealing a blow to the LDF while the BJP wrested the State capital civic body from decades of Left control. While Congress leaders expressed gratitude to the people of Kerala for giving the UDF a "decisive" mandate, its MP Shashi Tharoor also congratulated the BJP for its "historic performance" in the city corporation in his Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency after BJP won 50 out of 101 seats, ending the CPI(M)-led LDF's 45-year reign in the local body.

The BJP's win in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation has come as a morale booster for the party which is preparing itself for the 2026 Assembly polls. Of the 101 wards in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, the BIP won 50, LDF 29, UDF 19 and two by independent candidates. With this victory it is being speculated BJP will install its first Mayor in Kerala, with the State's first woman IPS officer, 64 year-old R Sreelekha being tipped for the post.

PM Modi said it is a day to recall the work and struggles of generations of karyakartas (workers) in Kerala, who worked at the grassroots, which ensured today's result became a reality. "Thank you Thiruvananthapuram!



BJP members celebrate during the counting of votes for the Kerala local body elections, in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday

The mandate the BJP-NDA got in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation is a watershed moment in Kerala's politics," Modi remarked on social media.

While the NDA won Thiruvananthapura corporation, the UDF increased its seats in the local body as compared to the 2020 polls. This year, the UDF also won 54 of the 87 municipalities, 4 of the 6 corporations, and was significantly ahead in the village, block, and district panchayat segments till the reports last filed. In the 2020 civic polls, it had won a total of 7757 wards in the grama, block, district panchayats, municipality and corporation put together.

This time it holds a commanding lead in the three-tier panchayat system, leading in 8,020 of the 17,337 grama panchayat wards, 1,241 of the 2,267 block panchayat wards, and 195 of the 346 district panchayat wards.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paving tribute to the martyrs of the 2001 Parliament attack during a ceremony to mark its 24th anniversary at the Samvidhan Sadan on Saturday

GRAP IV invoked as Capital turns toxic

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

The air quality commission in the Capital on Saturday, for the first time, invoked Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

On Saturday, the overall Air Quality Index in Delhi hit close to the 450 mark, plunging large parts of the city into thick smog and triggering emergency curbs.

With the Commission for Air Quality Management's (CAQM) announcement, the Delhi Government has issued directions to all Government offices under it and all private offices in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, to work on 50 per cent strength and the



Vehicles moving under a layer of smog in New Delhi on Saturday

rest to work from home. As part of Stage-IV, there is a ban on the entry of trucks except LNG, CNG, electric

tial commodities or providing essential services. Curbs are also placed on light commercial vehicles (LCVs) regand BS-IV diesel — into Delhi, istered outside Delhi, other except those carrying essenthan EVs, CNG and BS-VI

diesel vehicles

All construction and demolition (C&D) activities will remain suspended, including linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission lines, pipelines and telecom

On the education front, NCR State Governments and the Delhi Government may decide to discontinue physical classes for students of Classes VI to IX and Class XI, shifting to online mode if required.

Explaining the reasons for the worsening AQI, the CAQM said the feeble Western Disturbance approaching north-west India was the main contributing factor, and not local emissions.

Sunday Pioneer CHANDIGARH | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 14. 202

Behlana, Chandigarh have

changed my name from

Jasmin to Jasmeet vide

Dated 09-12-2025 before

Mritunjay Kumar Jha R/o

Chandigarh have changed

my name from Ruby Jha to Ruby Kumari vide Affidavit

Dated 10-12-2025 before

I, Jasmin daughter of Dharamvir R/o #332,

Behlana, Chandigarh have

changed my name from Jasmin to Jasmeet vide

Dated 09-12-2025 before

I, Garima D/o Sh Ashok Kohli R/o H.No. 305

Ward No. 17, Friends Colony, Mandi Dabwali

(Haryana). That

changed my name Garima to Garima

I, Narendar Jindgar S/o

Sh. Vishwa Nath R/o H.No.

Seth Nand Lal Wali, PNB

Bank, Nohria Bazar, Sirsa,

Distt. Sirsa (Haryana) have

changed my name from

Narender Jindgar. That in

future my name is to be

called as Narender Jindgar.

Kumar r/o House no 110 A,

Khatri Niwas ward no 7

below thodo ground Solan

H.P. 173212 have changed

my name from Sarita to

Manmeet Singh Mehta R/o

House No 106 Circular

Road, Model Town Ambala

name from Khushi Kaur to

Havaldar Sunil Kumar S/o

Jagadhri,

Yamunanagar, declare that

my wife's name is recorded

service record, which is

incorrect. My wife's correct

Kulbir Singh R/o Village &

P.O. Kotli Harchandan Distt.

Gurdaspur, Punjab have

changed my name from

Surekha Kumari to Surekha

Devi. Please note down my

Mandir, Sainian Mohalla

declare that I have changed

my name from Tanish to

Tanish Saini for all future

R/o House No. 265, Subhash Nagar, Hisar, Haryana 125001 declare

that I have changed my

name from Monika Sachdeva to Monika for all

Hanuman Dass, R/O Ward

No.-09, Ellenabad, Distt.

Sirsa Have Changed My

Name From Harigobind To

Hari Gobind. Concerned

Krishan R/o House No.

1176, Street No. 9, Adarsh Colony Balongi, District SAS Nagar, Mohali Punjab

have changed my name

from Suman Rani to Suman

Bilas R/o House No. 1628,

Deep Complex, Hallomajra

Chandigarh have changed

my minor son name from

Vaidik Dariya to Vaidik

Kumar R/o House No.

1628, Deep Complex, Hallomajra Chandigarh

have changed my name from Kiran Devi to Kiran

Bilas R/o House No. 1628

Deep Complex, Hallomajra

Chandigarh have changed

my name from Vijay Dariya to Vijay Kumar.

Continuity Pg. No. 05

I Vijay Kumar S/o Ram

I Kiran Devi W/o Vijay

Priyadarshi.

Priyadarshi.

I Vijay Kumar S/o Ram

I Suman Rani W/o Bal

I, Hari Gobind, S/O

future purpose.

Note.

I. Monika W/o Harish

1260/18,

purpose.

Hisar, Haryana

I, Tanish Saini S/o

Ram Darbar

125001

name is Reena Rani.

Reena Devi in my

I, Surekha Kumari W/O

Khushi Kaur Mehta.

Sundar Pal R/o

Ahluwala, P.O

I Khushi Kaur D/o

have changed my

no.18001859-A

Jaroda

I. Sarita w/o Joginder

Jindgar

Friends

Distt.

CH59454829089057X

Distt.

CH59482162818054X

Distt.

I, Ruby Jha spouse of

CH59454829089057X

Affidavit

Chandigarh.

Chandigarh.

Affidavit

Chandigarh.

Sirsa

have

Narendar

#1472-A, Sector

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Sandhya W/o Sh. R/o Ward No. 4, Brahman Mohalla, Tehsil Kharkhoda, Distt. Sonipat has sever ties with my real brother Krishan and his wife Ritu R/o Ajayab, Tehsil Distt. Rohtak as they are out of my control. In future, If anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own

We, Ashu Sharma W/o Raj Kumar and Raj Kumar Mohan Lal H.No.405, Gali Dhobian Gate Khazana, Amritsar have declare that our son Shiv Sharma and his wife Sakshi Sharma are out of our control we disinherit them from our all movable and immovable properties any body deal with them is responsibility.

I, Sukhdev Singh S/o Singh, Ramgarh District Kurukshetra, my son Sonu his Manpreet Kaur is out of my control. I, disown them from all my moveable and immoveable properties. If anybody deals with them at his own risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Charanjeet Kaur W/o Amritpal Singh, R/o HNo. 267, Bhagi Bander, P.O. -Talwandi Sabo, The-Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda Punjab - 151302; declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Charanjit in my minor son Navjot Singh aged 17 Years, in his 10th class Statement Certificate bearing Roll No. 13145961. The actual name of mine is Charanjeet Kaur.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Darpan S/o Krishan Lal R/o 65, Shiv Puri Colony, Near Idea Tower, Sasouli Road, Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor son's name from Baby of Pooja to Preet.

I, Bala Devi W/o Sahb R/o Village Singh Mugalwali, Tehsil Vyaspur, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Suresh Bala to Bala Devi. Suresh Bala and Bala Devi both are name of one and same lady.

I, Divyam s/o kulwinder kumar R/o village Sasouli, tehsil Jagadhri, Post office, Jagadhri work yamuna nagar, Haryana -135002, declare that name wrongly written kulwinder in my class 10th and 12th educational documents. The actual name of my father is kulwinder kumar which be may accordingly.

I, Raman Mahajan S/o Roshan Lal R/o 34, Tarapuri Colony, Vishnu Nagar, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my from Mahajan to Raman Kumar.

I, Mohammad Rafi S/o Mohammad Safi R/o Village Jaitpur, Yamuna Nagar changed name my minor daughter's name from Rabina to Rubina.

I, Rajiv Kumar Bansal, S/o Wazir Chand, R/o Mavian Di Patti, Sahauran, have changed my name from Rajiv Bansal to Rajiv Kumar Bansal. Both Names belong to me. All concerned please note.

I, Rajiv Kumar Bansal, S/o Wazir Chand, R/o Mavian Di Patti, Sahauran, have changed my name from Rajiv Bansal to Rajiv Kumar Bansal. Both Names belong to me. All concerned please note.

I, Ruby Jha spouse of Mritunjay Kumar Jha R/o #1472-A,Sector 47-B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ruby Jha to Ruby Kumari vide Affidavit

CH59482162818054X Dated 10-12-2025 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.



National Lok Adalat held on 13.12.2025 Under the Leadership of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court-cum-Executive Chairperson, Punjab State Legal Services Authority, SAS Nagar, the National Lok Adalat was successfully held on 13.12.2025 and witnessed an overwhelming response across various Courts. The Lok Adalat played a significant role in promoting amicable settlement of disputes and expeditious disposal of cases, thereby reducing pendency and ensuring access to speedy justice. During the National Lok Adalat, a total of 33,181 cases were taken up, out of which 30,298 cases were decided. The total amount involved in the settled cases was ₹59,09,14,425/-, reflecting the effectiveness of Lok Adalats as a forum for dispute resolution and financial recovery. A total number of 26 benches were constituted out of which 20 benches were setup at Amritsar Headquarters and 3 benches were setup at each sub-division Ajnala and Baba Bakala Sahib.



Leadership Summit at Thapar School of Management During the time when world is witnessing tremendous volatility and uncertainty, LM Thapar School of Management organized a Leadership Summit to discuss and deliberatehow leaders can "Lead with Purpose in the Age of Transformation" at Derabassi campus on December 12, 2025. This summit brought together academia and accomplished industry professionals to explore how leadership is evolving in a world defined by continuous and dynamic changes. Industry leaders participated in three panel discussions, each focusing on a critical dimension of modern leadership: empowerment-driven leadership styles, organizational resilience, and responsible human-centred digital transformation. These deliberations not only informed the audience butalso inspired new ways of thinking about leadership in today's dynamic environment.

Bank of Baroda recognised as 'Best Bank in India' at The Banker's Bank of the Year Awards 2025

THE BANKER

BANK OF THE YEAR

MUMBAI: Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, has been recognised as 'Best Bank in India'at the prestigious Bank ofthe Year Awards 2025by The Banker magazine, a Financial Times publication. The award celebrates Bank of Baroda's excellence, contribution to the banking



Ludhiana Emerges as Punjab's Leading City in

Crypto Adoption: CoinSwitch Annual Report Ludhiana: CoinSwitch, crypto trading platform, released the 2025 edition of its report, India's Crypto Portfolio: How India Invests on Saturday. Based on the insights from over 2.5 crore users, the report highlights a significant trend: India's crypto participation is steadily expanding beyond the metros, with cities like Ludhiana playing a critical role in this shift. This vear's edition takes a deeper look at state-level trends. Puniab ranks 13th nationally, reflecting the state's growing interest in digital assets. Among all cities in Punjab, Ludhiana emerged as the No. 1 contributor, underscoring its position as the state's most active and engaged crypto-adopting market. India's crypto ecosystem continues to be youth-driven, and Ludhiana mirrors this broader national trend. The city's investor base remains dominated by younger participants, although gender distribution shows clear room for expansion. Women currently represent 9.6% of Ludhiana's crypto investors, while men account for 90.4%. "2025 has been a year of clear maturation for India's crypto market,"said Ashish Singhal, Co-founder, CoinSwitch.

Flipkart Minutes showcases tremendous growth

PANCHKULA: Flipkart's quick commerce offering, Flipkart Minutes, concluded 2025 with robust performance, fueled by growing customer loyalty, rampant geographic expansion, and deeper engagement across high-demand categories. The platform has recorded 16X growth in orders in H2 2025 and over 53 million unique visitors this year, with Gen Z leading the platform adoption, followed by the student cohort. Flipkart Minutes launched operations in more than 30 new cities this year, with a strong focus on tier 2 and 3 regions, reflecting Flipkart's vision of building a nationwide, neighbourhood-led fulfilment network that combines speed, access, and affordability.

Indian Families Seek Phone Free Dinner Tables - Study CHANDIGARH: vivo India released the seventh edition of its annual Switch Off Report understanding 'The Impact of Excessive Smartphone Usage on Parent-Child Relationships'. This year's edition reinforces the central purpose behind vivo's Switch Off initiative - encouraging people to foster better relationships with their smartphones and prioritize real life relationships. The report is part of the larger Switch Off initiative which emphasizes spending more time with your loved ones. The study highlights that 72% of children spend most time with their parents during dinner. With 91% of children saying conversations feel easier and more meaningful when phones are kept aside, dinner becomes a natural space where attention aligns and families reconnect. Encouragingly, the study highlights a growing willingness among families to rebuild these shared moments. Parents and children are experimenting with simple behavioural shifts reducing notifications, keeping phones away from shared spaces, or choosing offline activities which help them feel more in control and more present. Families report that the more they practice small phone-free habits, the easier it becomes to protect these moments of real connection.

The Buffet Box / Renée Ranchan

A City Dressed for Weddings and Goodbyes



November and Delhi undergoes a curious transformation. The city already a great lover of noise, light, and general commotion — turns into a sprawling wedding carnival until February. One could argue that winter in Delhi has two distinct seasons: fog and pheras. Venture out at any remotely respectable hour and you will find yourself in a motorcade that seems to be inching towards somebody's baraat, even if you were merely attempting to buy bread. Fairy lights loop across banquet halls like over-

Christmas zealous decorations, drummers practise their war cries at street corners, and every salon from South Extension to Pitampura emits a faint smell of hairspray, rouge, and matrimonial ambition.

It is, in short, chaos but chaos with sequins.

Delhi weddings, more so in the past decade and a half, have acquired a rather synthetic sheen. There is now a Instagrammified quality to the whole spectacle. The Instagrammification of weddings has ensured that nothing can simply be anymore; everything must be curated, filtered, drone-shot, and preserved for the ages as though the nation's collective memory depends on a Reel. Grooms appear in sherwanis so similar that one wonders if there is a Central Registry issuing them! Makeup arrives in layers thick enough to qualify for civil engineering approval. Sangeets are choreographed with military precision; one half expects the cousins to march off in Wedding formation. planners — those new-age field commanders — stalk about with walkie-talkies, whispering instructions as though guarding state se-

And yet, beneath all the

glitter, bustle and algorithmfriendly aesthetics, lies something softer, more delicate, and unmistakably Indian — the quiet heartbreak of letting a daughter go... It is never declared aloud, for that would be far too honest, but it settles into the corners of the house like the winter mist. Mothers potter about, occupying themselves with cupboards ,opening them, closing them, and repeating the whole ritual---a quiet pastime for nerves that have nowhere else to go...Fathers linger at the dining table longer than necessary, rereading the newspaper without absorbing a word... Even the domestic staff tread gently, as though aware that the home has become an emotional eggshell...

For the girl at the centre of it all, the experience is an intricate blend of thrill and upheaval. She has lived in her parents' home for over two decades — through school exams, sulks, heartbreaks, triumphs, birthday cakes, and countless cups of tea. Her room has witnessed every version of her — from the toddler with chutney on her face to the young woman now fielding messages in her bridal lehenga. Her cupboard carries the archaeology of her life; her bathroom knows her better than most therapists...And then, almost overnight, she must prepare

to leave all of this behind. Excitement, yes. But also a tremor of fear. A faint sense of possibility. And beneath it all, a quiet mourning for the life she is packing away in cardboard boxes, bubble wrap, and hastily folded memories. Even the lehenga conspires to remind her of the weight of change — after all, it weighs more

than a moderately-sized

The groom, let it be said experiences change as well — but of a markedly different nature. In the Indian cultural equation, he expands his household; she uproots hers. He brings a bride, a wife home, but she arrives with an entire emotional universe tucked inside one suitcase. If he lives independently, the transition is simpler; but in a joint or semi-joint household, the adjustments fall disproportionately upon her

shoulders. Her new bedroom has already been arranged long before she arrived, the cushions chosen by someone else. The bathroom shelves are full of aftershaves, hair gels, and mysterious male toiletries that seem to multiply like Delhi's traffic. She places her things gently, careful not to rearrange too much — as though the walls themselves might be watching.

The initial days are a delicate exercise in diplomacy. Where to keep her bags without seeming presumptuous. How to share wardrobe space with a man who has never before surrendered even a sock. How to navigate dinner-table conversations without accidentally trampling family hierarchies.

And how to reassure her mother over nightly phone calls — "Mummy, truly, I'm fine... it's just different, you

Meanwhile, Delhi outside continues its great mat-rimonial opera. The salons go into overdrive — blowdries performed at the pace of a Formula One pit stop. Tailors become minor deities with waiting lists. Banquet halls hum like beehives, and the traffic... Well, the traffic achieves feats of absurdity previously unseen. I once spent so long in a jam outside a wedding venue that I genuinely feared I might be enlisted into the baraat by mistake.

Yet, beyond the laughter, gossip, mithai counters and the relentless commentary of aunties ("Gold is in this season, beta... white gold looks so washed out!"), there is still that one moment no one speaks about — the moment the daughter steps into the car. The moment when the house she grew up in, the life she knew like the back of her hand, slips quietly out of

I once witnessed a bride pause on the threshold, ĥandbag in hand, utterly baffled as to where she ought to place it in the decorated car. A small thing, laughable even — but in that tiny hesitation lay the enormity of her transition. On another occasion, a girl bent down to whisper something to her pet dog before leaving: "I'll be back soon, okay?" The dog, sensing the coming separation, refused to let go of her dupatta. The mother laughed, the father pretended to look stern, but I noticed both blink a little too often.

Delhi, for all its grandiosity, remains curiously shy about acknowledging this emotional truth. Weddings are projected as triumphs of celebration, pageantry, and familial achievement. And indeed, they are. But they are also small goodbyes folded into a single night — a farewell to a girl's childhood home, to the comfort of unquestioned belonging, to the version of herself who never had to explain her presence, her habits, or her heart.

And so the music plays on, the marigolds glow, and life resumes its familiar, bustling rhythm — as Delhi always ensures it does. But somewhere between one banquet hall and the next, a girl steps across a threshold and begins the quiet, courageous work of building a new life from scratch. No drone captures that. No Instagrammified reel records it. And perhaps that is just as well — some transitions are meant to be lived, not

(Dr Renée Ranchan writes on socio-psychological issues, quasi-political matters and concerns that touch us all...)

Voice Within / Vijay Singal

Synthesis of Different Paths of Liberation



'n the chapter (chapter eighteen) of the Bhagavad Gita, Sri Krishna has summarised all his teachings. In shlokas from 18.45 to 18.58, he has not only explained the different ways of attaining spiritual perfection, but has also highlighted the interrelatedness and interconnectedness of these paths.

The most practical way of attaining spiritual enlightenment is to be devoted to one's own work. It has been declared that human beings can attain perfection by fulfilling their duties, born of their innate qualities, without attachment to the actions or their results. Perfection can be achieved by worshipping Him, from whom all beings arise and by whom whole of the universe is pervaded, through unattached performance of one's own natural duties. In other words, work is worship of the Divine, man's offerings to God. Any work done as an offering to the all-pervading divine becomes a form of worship, which leads to the purification of the mind, and realisation of the self.

stated that it is detter to perform one's own duty imperfectly than to perfectly perform the duties of others. One should not give up the work born of his nature (his own duty), even if it has flaws ; because every endeavour is clouded by some fault, in the same manner as fire is covered by smoke. It has been declared that one does not incur sin (the karmic reaction), while doing the duty ordained by his own nature.

After explaining as to how one can attain to perfection by performing his own duty with sincerity and offering the same to the divine, Sri Krishna then proceeded to explain the concept of sannyasa (true renunciation). It has been declared that the one who has mastered his mind, whose understanding (buddhi) is unattached everywhere; and who is free from selfish desires - such a renunciator of works attains to that supreme state of naishkarmya siddhi, which transcends all works. Naishkarmya siddhi implies the inner state of action lessness, even while performing all works with full

vigour. Sri Krishna has further explained as to how after achieving such a state of transcendence of works, one can attain Brahman, the ultimate stage of spiritual enlightenment. It has been stated that the one who is endowed with a pure understanding, who has restrained himself through firm determination, who is free from likes and dislikes, who has turned away from various objects of the senses, who relishes solitude, who eats lightly, who controls body, mind and speech, who

Sri Krishna has further is ever engaged in meditation, (the Supreme Lord). By His wno nas taken refuge in detachment, who is free from egotism, violence, arrogance, lust and anger, who is free from the sense of possessiveness; and who is tranquil in mind - such a seeker of truth becomes worthy of attaining the state of brahm-bhuyay (capable of becoming one with Brahman i.e. realisation of the Absolute Truth). Having become one with

Brahman, such a person of joyous mind neither grieves for anyone nor craves for anything. Being equally disposed towards all beings, such a realised person attains supreme devotion to the Supreme Lord (Ishvara). Through such supreme devotion, the devotee comes to know Ishvara, in truth. Having thus known the Supreme Lord in truth, such a devotee enters into full con-

sciousness of Him. Sri Krishna has, thus, outlined a holistic approach to spiritual perfection that integrates action (karma yoga) and knowledge (gyan yoga); and which culminates in supreme devotion and surrender to Ishvara (bhakti yoga). He has explained how one gains divine consciousness through unattached performance of his works, restraint of the senses and control of the mind, cultivation of equanimity; and the love for and trust in God. It has further been clarified that attaining of divine consciousness does not mean that one should give up work. One should, rather, renounce the pride of being the doer and enjoyer of works. It has been stated by Krishna that His sincere devotees, though performing all kinds of actions, always take refuge in Him

grace, they attain the eterna and imperishable abode. It has further been advised that one should dedicate all his actions to Ishvara, treating Him as his supreme goal. Uniting the intellect with Him, one should keep his consciousness always absorbed in Ishvara. Sri Krishna has assured that if one so fixes his thoughts on the Supreme Lord, he shall overcome, by His grace, all obstacles.

To summarise, one

should perform his natural duties, which are determined by one's innate qualities. By diligently performing the work suited to his nature, one can gain self-purification. When one worships Ishvara through his own work, the material activity is transformed into a spiritual practice. Once the mind is purified by unattached action, one becomes fit to traverse the path of inner discipline and spiritual wisdom, leading to the realisation of Brahman (the impersonal aspect of the Absolute Truth). The one who realises his identity with Brahman, becomes peaceful, neither grieving for anyone nor craving for anything. He ultimately attains supreme devotion to Ishvara (the personal God). When one surrenders exclusively to Ishvara, one overcomes all obstacles, attains supreme peace; and reaches the eternal, imperishable abode.

To conclude, the paths of karma yoga, gyan yoga and bhakti yoga are not opposed to each other. All of them, separately and collectively, lead to spiritual liberation.

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First do something then aspire for positions: Bhagwant Mann's Jibe at Rahul Gandhi, Navjot Sidhu

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Addressing

Taking a swipe at Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Navjot Singh Sidhu, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said both these leaders seek top positions, but people ask them to do something first.

conference, Mann said that when Sidhu was a minister in the Congress government in Punjab, he could have done something for the welfare of people if he had undertaken responsibility departments. Rahul Gandhi and Navjot Sidhu have one common problem, he said. "Rahul Gandhi says 'make me prime minister, I will do

something for the people'. But people ask him, first do something, then we will make you the prime minister. "It is the same with Navjot Sidhu. He says 'make me the CM, I will do something for Punjab'. People ask him to do something for Punjab, then they will make him the chief minister," said Mann, taking a jibe at both the leaders.

A few days ago, Sidhu's wife, Naviot Kaur Sidhu, had said her husband would return to active politics if the Congress declares him as the party's chief ministerial face in Punjab. She had further said they do not have money to give to any party but can transform Puniab into a "golden state". Her 'Rs 500 crore for chief urban

minister's chair remark' had sparked a political row, and she was later suspended by the Punjab Congress. Former Punjab Congress chief Sidhu has not been participating in the party's events and activities for the past many months. He did not campaign in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls either.

Asked to comment on the Sidhu couple's claim that they are honest, Mann said he was nobody to give the certificate of honesty. However, Mann said he has not received any document indicates their which corruption. "Otherwise, I would have made it public by now," he said.

The chief minister said that when Sidhu was the minister in the previous Congress government, he could have solved the problems of uncleanliness, sewerage problems, street light problems, and road problems in the cities. Later, Sidhu got the department of power, and it was an important portfolio, said "We Mann. (AAP government) have made electricity free. Sidhu should have undertaken the responsibility of this department and should have said that he would give 600 units of power (for

"Had Amarinder Singh (the then chief minister) refused it, then he (Sidhu) could have told people that he wanted to give free development power, but Amarinder

free).

refused. He would have been a hero, and if Amarinder accepted it, even then he would have been a hero. It was a win-win situation," said Mann.

MANN SLAMS CONG AND **SAD FOR THEIR CHARGES OF 'HIGH-HANDEDNESS' IN PANCHAYAT POLLS**

The chief minister also slammed the Congress and Akali Dal over their "highhandedness" allegation against the AAP government in the zila parishad and panchayat samiti polls, saying they have accepted their defeat in the elections. Congress leader and former chief minister Charaniit Singh Channi alleged that the AAP government in the state had printed fake ballot papers for the December 14 . Zila Parishad and Block Samiti elections.

Referring to Channi's statement, Mann took on the Congress and reminded it that the AAP supported the grand old party over the issue of "vote theft" whereas it was questioning the polling through ballot polling papers in Punjab. Mann also highlighted the Congress' defeat in Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and bypolls in Punjab and asserted that where they register victory in polls, then voting process is right and where they lose, they

start "crying". "Charanjit Singh Channi who was the chief minister for 111 days made an

irresponsible statement that AAP printed 100 ballot papers each with AAP symbol printed on them at each polling booth. If you analyze it then it shows, actually they have accepted their defeat," said Mann.

"Both the Congress and Akali Dal have accepted their defeat in the rural polls but are accusing the AAP government of highhandedness against opposition candidates," the chief minister claimed.

Giving details of the zila parishad and panchayat samiti polls, Mann said out of 2,833 zones of block samitis, 340 AAP candidates, three Congress nominees and eight Independents have been elected unopposed. "If the Congress

independent candidates were elected unopposed, then wasn't there any high-handedness in these seats?" Mann asked.

He said AAP's 2,771 candidates, Congress' 2,433, SAD's 1,814, BJP's 1,127, BSP's 195, SAD (Amritsar)'s three and 686 others are fighting the panchayat samiti polls. "How were the nomination papers of opposition candidates found to be correct?" asked he rhetorically.

Opposition parties had earlier targeted the ruling AAP, accusing it of misusing official machinery in preventing their candidates from filing their nomination papers and rejecting their candidature.

Battlelines drawn for Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti polls in Punjab today

Haryana CM says Sansad Khel Mahotsav is a powerful platform to nurture youth talent

PNS Chandigarh

For the crucial zila parishad and panchayat polls in Punjab, scheduled to be held on Sunday, all arrangements have been made. Polling will commence at 8 am and will continue till 4 pm through the use of ballot papers, officials said, adding that vote counting will take place on December 17.

A total of 1.36 crore voters are eligible for polling and over 19,000 booths covering all rural areas of the districts have been established in the

Elections will be held to elect members of 347 zones of Zila Parishads and 2,838 zones of 153 Panchayat Samitis. Officials said there are 860 sensitive polling locations while 3,400 sensitive polling locations. They further said around 44,000 police personnel will be deployed for the poll duty. State Election

PNS ■ Chandigarh,

comprehensive

disciplined lifestyle.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab

Singh Saini on Saturday said

that the 'Sansad Khel

Mahotsav' is not merely a

sporting competition but a

movement that motivates

youth to adopt an active and

Strengthening the Khelo

India and Fit India initiatives

at the grassroots level, the

evolved into a people's

movement aimed at building

a healthy, self-reliant and

disciplined generation, he

said, adding that it has proved

to be an effective platform for

identifying hidden sporting

talent in rural areas and

enabling young athletes to

Addressing the closing

international arenas.

'Sansad Khel Mahotsav'

Commission, Punjab, has said that it has appointed election and observers for the polls, adding that it is fully committed to conducting these general elections in a fair and transparent manner.

All the major political parties Aam Áadmi Party, Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and BJP are contesting the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti polls on party symbols.

The AAP sought votes for works undertaken by the Bhagwant Mann government. During poll campaigning, the AAP leaders highlighted 300 units of electricity with 90 percent of households getting zero bills, opening of mohalla clinics and giving government jobs. In the run-up to the polls, parties opposition the targeted Mann government, accusing it of the government machinery in preventing their from filing candidates nomination papers and rejecting them also.

He formally inaugurated

the final matches and watched the kabaddi final

between teams from Sirsa

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MEGA E-AUCTION

ZONAL OFFICE: BATHINDA

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVBLE PROPERTIES LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS (ONLINE) ON/BEFORE 31.12.2025 UPTO 04:00 PM

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act,2002 (No. 54 of 2002) Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with our Branch with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the https://baanknet.com/

	DESC	RIPTION OF MO	VABLE/IM	MOVABLE PRO	PERTIES	3			
Nameof the Branch and	Amount Outstanding Demand Notice Date Possession Date	Details of Property/ies	Reserve Price EMD	EMD Submission Account Details	Date/Time of Inspection of Property	Date/Time of e-Auction	QR Property	QR Property	QR BankNe
Borrower's/Guarantor's	Type of Possession		Bid Increase Amt.	Account Details	Authorise	d Officer	Photo	Location	
Barnala Manjit Kaur W/o Gurjit Ram, Resident Of Bazigar Basti, Harigarh Tehsil & District Barnala (Borrower) Gurjit Ram S/o Vadhwa Ram, Resident Of Bazigar Basti (Guarantor)	Rs. 668415 as on 30.10.2025 + Interest upto date + Litigation & other	share of 91 kanal 12 marlas) Comprises in Khewat Khata No. 75/112 (as per Jamabandi for year 2007-08), Khasra no. 17//14/1/7-11 15/2/1/6-9,74//9/	Rs. 17.50 Lacs Rs. 1.75 Lacs		30.12.2025 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM	31.12.2025 12.00 PM to 04.00 PM			回総道
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Near Axis Bank, Chakki Wali Street, Circular Road,	expenses. 08.12.2022		Rs. 6.50 Lacs		Sh. Sandeep Kumar Mob: 98759-78737				
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Kumar (Guarantor)	A MARKET				1.				

ceremony of the 'Sansad Khel Mahotsav' in Fatehabad, he said that talent often remains unrealised due to lack of opportunity, and it was with this understanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed the organisation of 'Sansad Khel Mahotsav'. Such initiatives, he said, not only promote sporting interest but also motivate youth to

compete at state, national

PUNJAB TO BECOME MOST

STARTUP FRIENDLY STATE IN

NORTH INDIA: CABINET

Chandigarh organised the

founders, industry leaders,

and innovators. Puneet

Verma, TiE Chandigarh

President while speaking

on the occasion spoke

about the various activities

and achievements of TiE

Chandigarh Chapter. The

Chief Guest was Sanieev

Arora, Punjab Cabinet

Minister and Guest of

Honour was Alba Smeriglio,

Commissioner. Arora, while

speaking on the occasion

congratulated the TiE

Puneet Verma and his team

for hosting this event. "I

leadership for its efforts and

appreciate TiE for nurturing

entrepreneurship

innovation and global

Deputy

2025

TiE

with

High

President,

Innovation

MINISTER SANJEEV ARORA

Chandigarh:

Startup &

Conclave

British

Chandigarh

acknowledge

market linkages.

and international levels.

and Fatehabad. He interacted with the players and encouraged them. A total of 45,000 athletes from nine Assembly segments of the Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency had registered for the 'Sansad Khel Mahotsav', out of which 3,604 athletes qualified for the finals across various disciplines. Saini said 11 years o Harvana nad develobed a clear sports vision, to connect every child with sports, create playgrounds in every village and provide opportunities to every youth passionate about sports. The objective, he said, was to establish Haryana not only as India's but the world's sports capital. He emphasised that participation in sports itself is a significant achievement and that effort, discipline and dedication matter more than victory or defeat. These values, he said, shape youth into responsible citizens and successful

sportspersons. The Chief Minister further said that the strong willpower and relentless hard work of Haryana's youth ensured that Haryanvi athletes continue to raise the

national flag with pride, both at home and abroad.

HRM Department, 2" Floor SCO 44 C, Urban Estate Phase-II, J

Chaudhary, (Sr. No. 80508) (Emp ld. 767408) S/o Sh. Sohan Lal R/o Ward No. 2, Balachaur, Nawanshahr mployed as PTS 1/2 (Sub-Staff) at Indian Bank Balachaur Branch under Jalandhar Zone, has been absent from duty without approval/ sanction since 02.11.2023 and

emain absent till date

We have issued various letters an notices dated 04.07.2025, 11.08.2025. 06.09.2025 09.10.2025 and 10.11.2025 to his last recorded address with the bank He failed to re-join the duty or submit any valid reason/explanation for his

continued absence. He is hereby given a final opportunity to report for duty at his of this publication. Non-compliance will be treated as voluntary cessation of service and his employment will be terminated without further notice, with all legal consequences thereof being solely his responsibility. Authorized Officer

M/s Mann Chemicals & Oil Mills Partners 1. Sh. Karamyog Singh Mann (2. Sh. Kanwar Sikander Singh Mann Gaurantor's : Mr. Hari

Singh S/o Harpal Singh

31.12.2025 12.00 PM to

Sh. Shiv Shankar Joshi

Mob: 70874-10201

E-Mail: b1538@psb.bank.in

30.12.2025

10.00 AM to

A/c.No.80105040070003

Name of Account:

NEFT INWARD STP

PARKING ACCOUNT

IFSC Code: PSIB0008010



in Khata No. 3719/19292 Khasra no. 2127/3/2 min area of Patti Mehna Hadbast. No.70 Gali No.2 Harpal Nagar Tehsil and District Bathinda owned by Sh Karamyog Singh Mann (1/2 share)





Name of the Branch	Details of	Amount	Reserve Price	EMD SUBMISSION			
and	Hypothecated	Outstanding	EMD	ACCOUNT DETIALS	Inspection		
Borrower's/Guarantor's	Vehicle	Outstanding	Bid Increase Amt.	ACCOUNT DETIALS	of Vehicle	e-Auction	
MODEL TOWN, BATHINDA	Hypothecation of Vehicle i.e		Rs. 4,25,000.00	A/c.No.80105040070003	20.42.2025	24 42 2025	
Smt. Anita Bansal W/o Mr.Satish	Tata Nexon XZ+(o) Engine No.	30.06.2024 + future	Service appropriate	Name of Account:	30.12.2025	31.12.2025	
Kumar & Sh. Abhishek Bansal			Rs. 42,500.00	NEFT INWARD STP	12.00 PM to		
S/o Satish Kumar Both R/o H.no.	No. MAT627143LLF13537,	Company of the Compan		PARKING ACCOUNT	04.00 PM	04.00 PM	
1506 Gali No.2 Nai Basti Bathinda	Regd. No . PB03BE4585, Cold	r - Pure Silver, Regd.	Rs. 10,000.00	IFSC Code: PSIB0008010			
151001 (Pb.)	Date June 2020, And Fuel-Dise	in the Name of Smt. Ani	ta Bansal W/o Mr. Sa	tish Kumar	27		

2.) 285.00 Lacs

3) 1107.97 Lacs

Rs. 170.79 Lacs

Rs. 0.20 Lacs

2.) Mortgage of immovable property i.e. Complete land and building of residential property bearing MC no. MCB-Z-4-04405 situated at Harpal Nagar Gali No 2 Bathinda

measuring 1200 Sq Yds = 01 Bighas 4 Biswas Kham comprised in Khata No. 3719/19292 Khasra No. 2127/3/2 min area of Patti Mehna Hadbast No.70 Gall No.2

Harpal Nagar Tehsil & District Bathinda, owned by Sh Karamyog Singh Mann (1/2 share) and Sh. Kanwar Sikander Singh Mann (1/2 share)

3.) Mortgage of immovable property i.e. Complete land and building of bounded plot property bearing MC no. MCB-Z-4-04395 situated at near Hotel Saphhire Barnala

Byepass Road Bathinda measuring 1940 Sq Yds i.e. 01 Bighas 19 Biswas comprised in Khata No. 3719/19292 Khasra No. 2127/3/2 min area of Patti Mehna (Vaka Rakba

Barnata Byepass & Gali No. 2 Harpal Nagar) Hadbast No.70 Tehsil and District Bathinda owned by Sh. Karamyog Singh Mann (1/2 share) Sh. Karawar Sikander Singh

EMD To Be Transferred By Bidders in Their Own Wallet Provided On E-auction Portal i.e. https://baanknet.com/ By NEFT/RTGS/Challan Details of Account in Which Remaining Amount After EMD is to Be Deposited Through RTGS/NEFT: A/c Name-NEFT inward STP Parking Account; A/c Number: 80105040070003 ; IFSC Code:PSIB0008010

For Detailed Terms & Conditions of The Sale, Please Refer To https://punjabandsindbank.co.in/module/sarfaesi-list & https://baanknet.com/ STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) & 8(6) SARFAESI ACT, 2002

DATE: 14.12.2025

31.08.2025 + Interest upto

date + Litigation & other

expenses

02.09.2024

08.11.2024

Symbolic

vide registered Transfer Deed No. 10646 dated 14.03.2018.

Mortgage of immovable property

.e. Complete land and building of

residential property bearing MC no.

MCB-Z-4-04501 situated at House

No. 16588 Harpal Nagar Bathinda

measuring 1000 Sq Yds = 01 Bighas 0 Biswas kham i.e. 1/18

share of 18 Bighas Kham comprised

Mann (1/2 share) vide registered Transfer Deed No. 2018-19/23/1/3450 dated 16.11.2018.

and Sh. Kanwar Sikander Singh Mann (1/2 share) owned vide registered Transfer Deed No.5243 dated 27.09.2017

AUTHORISED OFFICER, PUNJAB & SIND BANK



The Pioneer



COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE ADS CONTACT: 9417419351

सूचना

मैं,सुभाष चन्द पुत्र सूरजभान कि मृत्यु दिनांक 19.01.2022 को हो गई है व माता राम देवी की मृत्यु 03.03.2008 हो गई है उनकी भूत्यु के पश्चात हम 3 भाई बहुन 1. सुभाष चन्द, 3.दर्शना कुमारी 3. राजेंद्र है उनमें से एक भाई राजेंद्र की मृत्यु 22.01.2012 चुकी है। पिता की वसीयत अनुसार मकान न C-5 पंचम नगर, सोनीपत जिसकी रक्बा 200 वर्ग गज है। वह मुकान अपनी पोतियों के नाम रिचा शर्मा, आयुषी शर्मा के नाम कर गया है अगर किसी को कोई आपत्ति हो तो 30 दिन के अंदर अंदर दर्ज करवाए।

कार्यालय नगर परिषद बहाद्रगढ नोटिस आम जनता

सर्वसाधाय को सुविव किया जाता है कि वी सतीय कुमार, 5mt. मुंजा कमी W/o Lt. Sh. रमेश कुमार, 5mt. पुणा कमी W/o Lt. Sh. रमेश कुमार, 5m रीए, 5mt. पुणा कमी W/o Lt. Sh. रमेश कुमार, 5m रीए कर 5/0,कोशल, भावला D/o Lt. Sh. रमेश कुमार, 5v Ct. Sh. हरनाम वसा, पुजा 5mt. कैलाशश्रीली W/o Lt. Sh. हरनाम वसा कार्या कार्या प्रतास कराय जाता Online NDC Portal पर Property ID No 3BC4LEQ5 जाई ने 19 कार्यांने जाता में जी, रुखे रोड कहारुएक जे कि नगर परिपर कहारुएक वें मान का कार्या रिवत है में नाम दर्ज के वर्ष गंग कु 5t. 95 वर्ष गंग करवाने हेंचु Online Application No. 0187305629 हक्या अप्लाई हिस्त है। अत: आम व खास को इस मोटिस के माणम से स्वित किया जाता है कि उचन समानि के 3BC4LEQ5 जाई ने 19 कार्याने की कोई अगरी है तो वह स्कृती सहित इस मोटिस के फानाम के 30 टिस के अंदर अंदर नगर परिपर वातरुपक कार्यालय में आकर अपना वावा पेश करें। अन्यक्ष इस मोटिस का समय समान होने पर कस्मानि कर 3BC4LEQ5, 55 जाता प्रार्थ की सतीय कुमार, 5mt. मंजु, 5mt. पुणा रागे W/o Lt. Sh. रमेश कुमार, 5h. देशक 5/0,कोमार, भावना D/o Lt. Sh. रमेश कुमार, 5h. इसनाम दस के नाम से नगर परिपर बहाइएक के हिकाई में दर्ज कर दी जायेगी जिसमें नगर परिपर बहाइएक के हिकाई में दर्ज कर दी जायेगी जिसमें नगर परिपर बहाइएक के हिकाई में दर्ज कर दी जायेगी जिसमें नगर परिपर बहाइएक के हिकाई में दर्ज कर दी जायेगी जिसमें नगर परिपर बहाइएक के हिकाई में दर्ज कर दी जायेगी जिसमें नगर परिपर बहाइएक के हिकाई में दर्ज कर दी जायेगी जिसमें नगर परिपर बहाइएक के हिकाई मोन्या में से हिंगी।

LOST & FOUND

I, Bhushan Kumar S/o Jagan Nath R/o Phase 3, Model Town, Bathinda. have lost my Property Document Sale Deed No. 2059 Dated 12.06.2014 in favour of Bhushan Kumar and Raiesh Kumar, allotment letter no. 3771 dated 08.10.2009 in favour of Bhushar Kumar and Rajesh Kumar approved map in favour of Bhushan Kumar and Raiesh Kumar has been lost dated 01.11.2022 from 03:00:00 Hrs. at Bathinda with SR No. 300720/2022 has been lodged at PS Community Policing Wing, Punjab on 23.12.2022, Time 15:42:00 Hrs. I anyone finds the above mentioned documents, please contact me on my

न्यायालय तहसीलदार-कम-सब रजिस्ट्रार साहिब जीन्द। मनके जोगिन्द्र सिंह पुत्र श्री मनोहर सिंह निवासी श्याम नगर पटियाला चौंक जीन्द जिला जीन्द। जनरल पब्लिक

PUBLIC NOTICE (LOST SALE DEED)
It is hereby informed to the general public that
Smt. Komal Devi Wio Sh. Krishan Kumar S/o
Sh. Phool Chand, originally R/o Village
Khedar, Fehsil Barwala, District Hisar and
presently R/o Laxmi Vihar Colony, Barwala,
District Hisar, is the owner and in possession
of a house measuring 173,77 Sq. Yards
situated at Shyam Market, Tehsil Barwala,
District Hisar. The said property was earlier
owned by Sh. Sardar Hardeep Singh Sio Sh.
Chattar Singh Sio Sh. Natha Singh, who sold
the same in favour of Smt. Komal Devi vide
Sale Deed No. 1570 dated 06.08.2018. The
original Sale Deed No. 1570 dated 06.08.2018
has been lostmisplaced and could not be
traced despite best efforts. The owner is now
intending to avail a loan from the bank against
the above said property! fany person has any
objection or claim regarding the above
property, he/she may file the same along with
documentary proof within 07 days from the
date of publication before the undersigned /
State Bank of India, Sector-14, New Anaj
Mandi, Hisar.After the expiry of the stipulated
period, no claim or objection shall be
entertained.

व्यान हिल्फिया

राज कुमार पुत्र श्री कुरडाराम निवासी मकान नं0 45, भगत

संह चौक हिसार तहसील व जिला हिसार का है। जो कि अप

ल्फ से व्यान करता हुं कि मैं उपरोक्त पते का स्थाई निवासी हूं

मेरी माता श्रीमती शान्ति देवी पत्नी श्री कुरड़ाराम का स्वर्गवार दिनांक 17.02.2012 हो चुका है। मेरे पिता कुरड़ाराम पुत्र श्र

वारूराम का स्वर्गवास काफी अरसा पहले हो चुका है इनवे

वर्गवास के पश्चात उनके निम्नलिखित वारसान है। 1 कैला

कुमार 2-राज कुमार 3-किशन कुमार 4 वलबीर 5-अशोक 6

. संजय 7-विनोद पुत्रान श्रीमती शॉन्ति देवी पत्नी श्री कुरडाराम

-कौशल्या देवी 2 दर्शना देवी 3-लाज रानी 4 माया रानी पत्रियां

श्रीमती शान्ति देवी पत्नी श्री कुरडाराम के वारसान है। इसके

अलावा अन्य कोई दिगर वारिस ना है। अन्य कोई दिगर वारिस या हकदार बनकर कलेम करेगा तो मेरो जिम्मेवारी होगी और कोई

ालत वयानी पाई जाती है तो मैं स्वंय जिम्मेवार रहूंगा। **शपथकार**

निवासी मकान नंबर 45 भगत सिंह चौक हिसा

राज कमार पत्र श्री करदारा

PUBLIC NOTICE (LOST SALE DEED

इस इश्तहार के माध्यम से हर आम व खास को सुचित किया जाता है कि मेरी पत्नी श्रीमती बलजीत कौर निवासी श्याम नगर पटियाला चौक जीन्द का देहांत दिनांक 26.02.2011 को हो चुका है इनकी मृत्यु के पश्चात इसके निम्नलिखित वारिस हैं :-1, जीगृन्द्र सिंह (पति) 2. रवि (पुत्र)3. ज्योति (पुत्री) 4. हत्री (पुत्री) इनके अलावा उक्त मृतक का दीगर वारिस नही है जिसके संबंध में प्रार्थी ने अपना शपथ पत्र भी प्रस्तुत कर दिया है। इसलिए हर आम व खास को इस नोटिस इश्तहार के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त मृतक के बताए गए वारसान / उत्तराधिकारी के बाबत कोई शक या इतराज हो तो वह स्वयं या अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से 30 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर इस कार्यालय के कार्यदिवर नोटिस के प्रकाशन के उपरान्त अपना इतराज प्रस्तुत कर सकता है। अन्यथा उपरोक्त तथ्यों के आधार पर पर्जिकरण कर दिया जावेगा। यह नोटिस वाबत इश्तहार आज दिनांक 20.08.2025 को मेरी हस्ताक्षर व न्यायालय मोहर द्वारा

तहसीलदार-कम-सब-रजिस्ट्रार साहिब जीन्द।

TabTrips has transformed hotel booking TabTrips Simplifies Hotel Booking, Wins Trust of Travelers and Hotels Across India:

TabTrips simplifies Hotel Booking, with Strips an emerging online hotel booking platform, is steadily gaining attention for simplifying and strengthening trust in India's digital travel ecosystem. In a short span of time, the platform has marked its presence among the country's fast-growing digital travel companies.

According to industry sources, TabTrips' advanced technology and service-driven approach have attracted both hotel owners and travelers nationwide. The platform focuses on creating a seamless booking

focuses on creating a seamless booking experience while ensuring reliability and

experience write ensuring reliability and transparency allevery stage.

Speaking on the company's vision, Tab Trips CEO Parveen said, "Our goal is to make hotel booking and travel experiences fast, simple, and stress-free. We want every customer to find and book their preferred hotel in just a few clicks, without any inconvenience."

A Rapidly Rising Name in the OTA

Industry: Industry experts believe that Tab Trips is emerging as one of India's leading OTA brands. The company claims to offer travelers access to verified hotels, ensuring safe, clean, and affordable stays across multiple destinations.

24/7 Customer Support Strengthens India's online travel agency market

User Confidence: According to the User Confidence: According to the company, customer satisfaction remains its top priority. The availability of round-the-clock customer support has significantly increased user confidence, helping travelers complete their journeys smoothly without disruptions.

This growing trust has also encouraged TabTrips to expand its presence beyond domestic markets, gradually building its footprint in the global travel space.

Areliable Platform for Hotel Partners: TabTrips is also gaining popularity among

A Reliable Platform for Tools

Tab Trips is also gaining popularity among hotel partners due to its transparent and tools are presented to the partner and tools are to the partner and tools. The partner are tools are to the partner and tools are easy-to-understand revenue model. The company states that its global reach strategy helps hotels improve visibility, leading to higher bookings and better occurancy rates.

occupancy rates.

Hotel owners from various cities report improved footfall and increased advance bookings after joining the platform. Many partners highlight TabTrips' transparency and customer-first approach as key factors that set it apart from other OTAs.

Analysts' Perspective: Industry analysts suggest that if TabTrips continues across multiple destinations.

With a strong emphasis on quality control and user experience, TabTrips is positioning itself as a trusted alternative in the competitive online travel market.

The properties a suggest that it is to the same momentum and strategic focus, TabTrips.com could soon emerge as one of the strongest players in letting online travel against the same momentum and strategic focus, TabTrips.com could soon emerge as one of the strongest players in letting online travel against the same momentum and strategic focus, TabTrips.com could soon emerge as one of the strongest players in letting on the same momentum and strategic focus, TabTrips.com could soon emerge as one of the strongest players in letting on the same momentum and strategic focus, TabTrips.com could soon emerge as one of the strongest players in letting on the same momentum and strategic focus, TabTrips.com could soon emerge as one of the strongest players in letting on t

DC JAIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION Mehlana Road Sonipat

(A prestigious Jain Minority Institution of NCR) Approved by NCTE, Govt of Haryana Aff. Board of School Education Haryana

ADMISSION OPEN D.EL.Ed/JBT Application for 2nd Counselling Admission to D.EL.Ed course 2025-27 invited

from Jain's and others for direct Admission on the basis as per Govt. Rules Registration, Application Form Filling: 15-12-2025 to 20-12-2025 3rd Round - Allocation & Admission : 22-12-2025 to 24-12-2025 : 25-12-2025 to 28-12-2025 **Application Form Filling** 4th Round - Allocation & Admission

: 29.12.2025 to 31.12.2025 Mob. 80535-40139, 98135-17039

Public Notice

It is informed to the general public that ponds are available for fish farming at Gram Panchayat Jandwala Block Nagpur District Fatehabad. The auction will be held on 19/12/2025 at 01pm at DR BR. Ambedker chopal Jandwala The bidder will have to deposit twenty thousand rupees to the Panchayat as a security. The right to withdraw or not withdraw the bid will remain with the Gram Panchayat. The rest of the conditions will be announced on the bidding

Sh Ramkumar Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Jandwala 9466608396

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक की कर जाखा वे सम्पृतिकर के रिकॉर्ड में नई प्रोपर्टी आई॰डी॰ नं॰. 1H8EU8F7 पुरानी प्रोपर्ट आई॰ डी॰ नं॰ 69C14U14 बार्ड नं॰/पता 1532/15, Pithwara Mohalla पुराने एन॰ डी॰ सी॰ रिकार्ड में Ram Rattan S/e Udham Singh व सर्वे के अनुसार एन॰ डी॰ सी॰ रिकार्ड में Sharda Rani नाम से दर्ज है। अब नगर निगम के रिकार्ड में इस आई॰ डी॰ नं॰ में, प्रार्थी जिसका नाम योग राम, सनोष देवी, कृष्णा, राजरानी, सविता, सत्य भामा, पूनम के द्वारा वसीयत/ वारसान के आधार पर अपने नाम तबदील करवाना चोहते हैं जिसकी वारसान रिपोर्ट तहसीलवार, रोहतक द्वारा तसदीक की गई है। यदि किसी भी जनसाधारण को इनके नाम तबदील करने में कोई भी आपत्ति है तो 30 दिन के अन्दर अन्दरं नगर निगम कार्यालय में अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवाये, अन्यथा प्रोपर्टी टैक्स में उसके नाम तबदील कर दी जायेगी। जिसके लिए नगर निगम रोहतक कोई उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा

COURT NOTICE

Criminal Courts, Ludhiana Ms. Harmeet Kaur Puri Judicial Magistrate - Ist Class Ludhiana

CNR No.:**PBLD03-045441-2023** Peshl:19-01-2026 PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR PROCLAMATION UNDEF SECTION 82 CR.PC

GOODWILL SHAWL V/s

NEW KUMAR CLOTH HOUSE PETITION U/S 138 O NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT <u>ACT, 1881 AMENDED UPTO</u> DATE NOTICE TO:- 1. NEW KUMAF

CLOTH HOUSE C/O CLUB ROAD KALYANI, MUZZAFARPUF BIHAR, THROUGH PROP. MR VINEET KUMAR CHHABRA VINEET KUMAF

CHHABRA **AUTHORIZED** SIGNATORY NEW KUMAR CLOTH HOUSE C/O CLUB ROAD KALYANI, MUZZAFARPUR BIHAI Whereas it has been proved to th satisfaction of the Court that the accused above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamatio under section 82 CRPC is hereby against him/them and should appear personally hrough their counsel 19-01-2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Take notice that, in default of his/their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/their absence.

Given under my hand and the sea of the Court. this 05-12-2025 Judicial Magistrate - Ist Class

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) (SUCCESSION CASÉ) IN THE COURT OF **Parminder Kaur Bains** Civil Judge (Senior Division), Amritsar

SUKHBIR KAUR WD/O JASWAN SINGH S/O GURNAM SINGH R/O VILLAGE OTHIAN, TEHSIL LOPOKE, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

GENERAL PUBLIC CNR No.: PBAS02-005023-2024 Next Date:-09-01-2026

APPLICATION UNDER SECTIO 372 OF INDIAN SUCCESSIO ACT FOR THE GRANT O SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE II RESPECT TO THE ESTATE OF DECEASED SMT. HARBHAJAN AUR WD/O BALWANT SINGH NOTICE TO: GENERAL PUBLIC

TO WHOM MAY IT CONCERN above titled case, defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through ounsel on **09-01-2026 at 10 a.m**. details logon

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trsdistrict notice&district Amritsar Civil Judge (Senior Division) Amritsa

Dated, this day of 08-12-2025

SADA SUKH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GAHRA ROAD KANINA, MAHENDERGARH (HR) – 123027 (Affiliated to IGU Meerpur, Rewari & Recognized by NCTE - Delhi)

Application Invited for Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff (B.Ed.) Teaching Posts: Principal - 01, Assistant Professors: Perspectives in Education - 04, Pedagogy of Mathematics - 01, Pedagogy of Physical Science – 01, Pedagogy of Social Science – 01, Pedagogy of Economics – 01, Pedagogy of Commerce – 01, Pedagogy of Hindi – 01, Pedagogy of English – 01, Pedagogy of Biological Science – 01, Pedagogy of Sanskrit – 01, Health & Physical Education - 01, Fine Arts - 01

Non-Teaching Posts: Librarian - 01, Office Manager / Head Clerk - 01 Office Assistant-cum-Computer Operator / Data Entry Operator – 01, Officecum-Account Assistant / Clerk - 01, Store Keeper - 01, Technical Assistant - 01, Lab Assistant - 01, Lab Attendant - 01, Helper / Support Staff - 01.

Qualification and Pay Scale: As per State Govt. / NCTE / IGU / University Norms.

Instructions: Interested candidates may send their applications along with passportsize photos and copies of all testimonials to the President of college within 21 days of this advt. Candidate must send one copy of same to the Dean of colleges IGU Meerpur, Rewari, along with application processing fees of Rs 1000/- (Only for teaching staff) through Cash Receipt / D.D. in favour of Registrar, IGU, Meerpur, Rewari.

E-mail: ssckanina@gmail.com, Mobile: 9416150682

SARITA JAIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Panchi Jattan, Sonipat (A prestigious Jain Minority Institution of NCR) Approved by NCTE, Govt of Haryana Aff. Board of School Education Haryana

ADMISSION OPEN D.EL.Ed/JBT Application for 2nd Counselling Admission to D.EL.Ed course 2025-27 invited

from Jain's and others for direct Admission on the basis as per Govt. Rules. Registration, Application Form Filling: 15-12-2025 to 20-12-2025 : 22-12-2025 to 24-12-2025 3rd Round - Allocation & Admission : 25-12-2025 to 28-12-2025 **Application Form Filling** 4th Round - Allocation & Admission : 29.12.2025 to 31.12.2025 Mob. 80535-40139, 98135-17039

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that IPD records 31-12-2020 are being destroved by Mund Hospital B Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar. I anyone requires the relevan records, he/she may contact the hospital within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mobile 98150-50241 84270-02770.

है कि नगर परिषद के गहकर रिकॉर्ड में प्रोपर्टी नम्बर 3EFJMPO0 (MCF/B03/0141) अंगुरी देवी विध भागीरथ पुत्र नानक चंद निवासी ठाकर बस्ती के नाम से दर्ज है। अंगुरी देवी का देहांत दिनांक 25.03.2025 को हो गया है। भीयत नामा प्रलेख 112 दिनांक 26.6.2024 की रूह से यश पत्र राकेश पत्र भागीरथ निवासी ठाकर बस्ती फतेहाबाद के नाम करवाना चाहता हूं। अगर इससे संबंधित किसी आमजन को कोई एतराज है तो अपना एतराज नगरपरिषद में इस नोटिस के प्राप्ति के 30 दिन के अंदर दर्ज करवा सकता है।



The general public and customers/policy holders are being informed that the following Offices situated in Punjab, Himachal State & U.T. Chandigarh under Regional Office, Chandigarh, will be rationalized and merged permanently after 60 (sixty) days from the publication of this Notice. Services to the policy holders and customer of these offices will be provided by the nearby offices as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name & Code of Office being merged	Address of New Servicing office
1	BO (BC) BANIKHET (233894)	BO CHAMBA (233802), Ground Floor, Bharmour Road, Hardaspura, Chamba-176310
2	BO (BC) KURALI (231492)	BO ROPAR (231402), First Floor, Nangal Chowk, Ropar-140001
3	CBO -4, LUDHIANA (233902)	BO LUDHIANA (233900), First Floor, Sona Complex, Miller Ganj, G.T. Road, Ludhiana-141003
4	CBO-3,CHANDIGARH (231102)	BO CHANDIGARH (231300), SCO 20, First Floor, Madhya Marg, Sector 26, Chandigarh 160019.
5	CBO AMRITSAR (233301)	BO AMRITSAR (233300), SCO 57, 2nd Floor, B-Block, Ranjit Avaenue, Amritsar-143001
DA	TE: 14.12.2025 Se	1/- RAKESH KUMAR SONI, CHIEF REGIONAL MANAGER

JBM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION **SHADIPUR JULANA JIND HARYANA 126101**

Approved by NCTE & Affiliation With SCERT Gurugram & H.B.S.E Bhiwani The Following Teaching Staff is Required for D.El.Ed Course on Regular Basis Teaching staff for D.El.Ed Course: HOD-1, Perspective in Education/Foundation

of Education-1, Science-1, Social Science-1, Hindi-1, English-1, Fine Arts/Performing Arts-1, Health & Physical Education-1, Music-1, Urdu-1. NOTE: QUALIFICATION & PAY SCALE AS PER GOVT. NORMS

Eligible candidates may download the application form college website or may

obtain it from the college on any working day. The candidate may send the application form duly completed all respect along with copy of all testimonials (visible copy of DMCX, Experience certificates etc.) to the college office within 21 days from the publication of the advertisement.

website www.jbmcoe.com Email – jbmjulana@gmail.com M. 9050001101, 9050001102 सार्वजनिक सूचन

Public Notice

Public Notice
It is informed to General Public That Aashu Behl W/o
Vijay kumar Behl R/o A-5-B-316, SFS Flats Pashim
Vihar Delhi is owner of property - Plot no. 2 MC no.
1294/19 old no. 588E ward no. 15 Shakti Nagar
(RamSukh Dass Colony) Rohtak and she is selling
his property to (i) Mr. Sunil S/o Ashok Kumar (ii)
Mrs. Indu W/o Sushil Kumar (iii) Mr. Jalin
Manchanda So Prem Kumar and they have applied
loan from SBI for purchase of above said Property
In Chain of tille Original Sale deed no. 788 dated 1896-1964 Registered at Office of the Sub Registra
Rohtak relating to above mentioned property had
been lost. A Police Report has also been got
with Delhi Police, If anybody found above mentioned
tille Deed be informed to undersigned or SBI,
RACPC at Delhi Road Rohtak. If any body has any
Objection than files replies along with the proof ownership in within 15 days before the undersigned
of SBI, RACPC at beh ik Road Rohtak. After lapsation
of Stipulated period no claim shall be accepted

Stipulated period no claim shall be accepted parding the above said property.

Sh. Vipul Kapoor, Advocate Chamber no. 246 Distt. Court Rohtak. Mobile 9896205220. Vipul Kapoor, Advocate

मैं, सन्दीप पुत्र स्व. श्री वेद प्रकाश निवासी वार्ड न0 9, निय शोभा एम0सी0, राजीव नगर, हिसार बयान करता हूँ कि एक प्रोपर्टी वाका राजीव नगर, हिसार है जिसका प्रोपर्टी आईडी न0 1DHGMB94 है जो कि मेरी माता आशा रानी पत्नी श्री स्व. वेद प्रकाश के नाम पंजीकृत है। मेरी माता आशा रानी का दिनांक 26-08-2014 को देहान्त हो चुका है। मेरे पिता वेद प्रकाश का दिनांक 06-04-2013 तथा मेरे अविवाहित भाई हितेश का दिनांक 25.05.2018 को देहाना हो चुका है। मेरी माता के देहाना उपरान्त उनके हम निम्नलिखित कानूनी वारसान हैं - 1. संदीप (पुत्र) 2. ललिता (पत्री)। उपरोक्त वारसान के अलावा उनका अन्य की कानूनी वारिस नहीं है। अत: नगर निगम हिसार में उपरोक्त प्रोपर्ट आईडी अपने नाम तबदील करवाने के लिए आवेदन किया है। यटि किसी जन साधारण को उपरोक्त बारे कोई एतराज हो त सूचना प्रकाशन के 30 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर नगर निगम हिसार

कार्यालय में अपना एतराज दर्ज करवा सकता है। अन्यथा प्रोपट

209272434

AUTHORIZED OFFICER

टैक्स में वारसान के नाम तबदील कर दी जाएगी।

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 🕸

Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office, 2nd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

Ph. No. 0172-2602431, 2663733, E-mail: rlcochd@canarabank.com

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

FOR SR. NO. 1 - LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF EMD 29.12.2025 UPTO 5:00 P.M. FOR SR. NO. 1 - DATE OF E-AUCTION: 30.12.2025 AT 11:30 AM TO 12:30 P.M.

ited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale

FOR SR. NO. 1 - DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION: 23.12.2025 & 24.12.2025 BETWEEN 03:00 PM TO 05:00 PM FOR SR. NO. 2 - LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF EMD 19.01.2026 UPTO 5:00 P.M.

FOR SR. NO. 2 - DATE OF E-AUCTION: 20.01.2026 AT 11:30 AM TO 12:30 P.M.

(with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale) FOR SR. NO. 2 - DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION: 12.01.2026 & 13.01.2026 BETWEEN 03:00 PM TO 05:00 PM

SALE NOTICE OF HYPOTHECATED ASSETS THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION)

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the movable property described herein, taken possession and same will be sold through e-auction on the following terms & conditions. E-Auction arranged by the Service Provider M/s PSB Alliance Ltd (ebkray) through the website https://baanknet.com/.

Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) Assets IFSC Code **Possession Type**

1. Canara Bank, Muthi Branch, CHAMPION POLY Total liabilities Sh. Akhil Prashar, PLAST E-ason 29.09.2025: 90,000/-M.: 9055507993, 7799175551, SAARTHI F2; charges thereon. E-mail: Registration No.: JK02DM 0824

9,000/-RICKSHAW Rs. 2,58,846.95 plus interest and other PHYSICAL POSSESSION Borrower(s):- (1) Sh. Paramjeet Rana S/o Ram Dayal Rana, R/o H. No. 573 M, Lane No. 19, Netaji Gali, Rajpura Mangotrian, Tehsil & Distt. Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir - 180001.

Hypothecation of Total liabilities 209272434 Canara Bank, Mehatpur Vehicle:- Toyota as on 12.12.2025 | 10,00,000/- | 1.00,000/-CNRB0005135 Basdehra Branch, Mr. Innova Crysta; Rs. 16,02,395.26 with further interest and PHYSICAL POSSESSION

M.: 8091605135, 8580601020, Engine No. expenses thereon. E-mail: 2GDA168268; Registration No. PB 01B 9896; Chassis No. MBJJB8EM701534771 cb5135@canarabank.com Borrowers:-Pandora Travels and Contractors, VPO Dehlan Tehsil & Distt. Una, Himachal Pradesh - 174315. M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd., Corporate Office:- Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck

support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://baanknet.com/

Place: Chandigarh

Terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai, Maharastra - 400037, Helpdesk Number - 8291220220, E-mail

SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd.

Grihashakti Corporate Off.: 503 & 504, 5" Floor, G-Block, Insigne BKC, BKC Main Road, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 40005' Regd. Off.: Commerzone IT Park, Tower B, 1st Floor, No. 111, Mount Poonamallee Road, Porur, Chennai – 600116, TN

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules") The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as SMHFC) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is/are avoiding the service of the emand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being effected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Deman otice(s) are extracted herein below: Sr. Loan Account No. & Name of the

Loan Account No. & Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrowers Property Holders as the case may be		Description Of Secured Assets / Mortgage Property	Date of Demand Notice U/s. 13 (2) & Total O/s.
	LAN: 610139212016520 1. Ajay Behal 2. Ankit Behal Add: S/O Ram Krishan Behal, House No 2204/1, St. No-5, Basant Nagar, Shivpuri, Ludhiana-141008.	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing House Curn Plot No-18, Corporation No-B-34-6506/Nsv/18, Measuring 150 Sq Yards, Comprised In Khasra No-28/I/62, 35/I/52, 6/1, 7, 28/I/17, 35/I/4, 5/1, Khatta No(Khewat/Khatauni)- 642/659, 754/805, Jamabandi For The Year 2007-08, Hb No-101, Situated At Village-Jassian, Abadi New Shakti Vilhart/Friends Colony), Tehsil-West, District-Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2024-25/101/I/22004 Dated 21-2-2025 Recorded In The Name Of Ajay Behal S/O Ram Krishan. Bounded As Under:- East-Street, West-Other Owner, North-Vacant Plot, South-Vacant Plot.	10.11.2025 Rs. 3784879.31 (Rs. Thirty Seven Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Nine & Paise Thirty One Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date : 05.11.2025
			10 11 2025

All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 100 Sq Yards Comprised In Khatta No-1331/1816-1817, Khasra No-1054-1055, Jamabandi For The Year 2010-11, Hb No-263, Situated At Village-Gill-1, AN: 610139211708048 Jaspreet Kaul Add: S/O Rajinder Singh, House No 1706/402, St. No-20, Preet Nagar, Newshimlapuri, Ludhiana, Punjab-141003. Abadi Ishar Nagar, Tehsil & District-Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearin Wasika No-2024-25/103/1/2874 Dated 27-5-2024 Recorded In The Name Of Jaspreet Kaur W/O Brinder Singh. Bounded As Under:- East-Sukhdev Singh, West-Hardev Singh, North-Street, South-Neighbour.

All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 0 Kanal 4 Marla(Size 40x60), Comprised In Khatta No-55/79, Khasra No . Gurbachan Singh 71//14/1/20-8, Jamabandi For The Year 2009-10, Situated At Village. Amla Singh Wala, Tehsil & District-Barnala As Per Transfer Deed Bearing Wasika No-4989 Dated 25-3-2014 & Sale Deed Bearing Wasika . Harpreet Kaur .dd : S/O Sohan Singh, Amla Singh Wala, Bhadalwad, Barnala

AN: 615339211579254

Add: S/O Kartar Singh, H.no-130 Gandhi Nagar, Ferozepur City Punjab-152002. 108, Situated At Jai Maa Saraswati Enclave, Near Gurudwara Akalgarh, Backside Lakshmi Enclave, Ferozepur City As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2023-24/116/1/4653 Dated 11-1-2024 Recorded In The Name Of Amanpreet Kaur W/O Gurjinder Singh. Bounded As Under: East-Other Land, West-Street, North-Plot No-236, South-Plot No-238 All The Piece And Parcel Of Property Measuring 224 SqYards, Comprised In Khasra No-1422, 1423, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436 AN: 610139511706649

1438, Khatta No-808/1047, Jamabandi For The Year 2014-15, Hb No-279, Situated At Village-Dad, Abadi Green World Home, Tehsil & District-Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2023-24/101/1/14594 Dated 29-1-2024(112 Sq Yards) & As Per Transfer Deed Bearing Wasika Add: W/O Ravinder Singh, Village Dad Tehsil & District-Ludhiana No-2024-25/101/1/908 Dated 16-4-2024(112 Sq Yards) Recorded In The unjab-142022 Name Of Ravinder Singh S/O Balvir Singh. Bounded As Under:- East Neighbour, West-Neighbour, North-Road, South-Neighbour, All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property House Measuring 5 Maria Sarsai Which Is 8/1305 Share Of Total 43 Kanal 9 Marla, Comprised Ir Khewat No-422, Khatauni No-543 To 549, Salam Khatta Total Kitte-8 AN: 609939211875582

Add: S/O Sukhmander Singh Street No-13, Sunder Nagar, Mou Road, Muktsar, Punjab-152026. Wasika No-2024-25/53/1/5072 Dated 10-1-1025 Recorded In The Nam Of Amarjit Kaur W/O Jarnail Singh, Bounded As Under:- East-Street West-Vacant Plot, North-House Paramjit Kaur, South-Vacant Plot, AN: 609939511142801 . Jaspal Singh 8-1/2 Marla, Comprised In Khewat No-282, Khatauni No-417, Khasra No-2108 Min, Situated At Aghwar Kashmiri, Kotkapura, District-Faridkot As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-415 Dated 18-5-2007 Recorded In The Name Of Jaspal Singh S/O Hazura Singh, Bounded As Under: . Karmieet Kau Add: S/O Hajura Singh, St. No-7, Near Sikha Wali Street, Guru Teg

amabandi For The Year 2020-21. Hb No-54. Situated At Sri Mukatsa

Sahib-3. Tehsil And District-Muktsar Sahib As Per Sale Deed Bearing

All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 1 Kanal 2 Marla comprised In Khewat/Khatauni No-1478/2035, Khasra No-287//10(8 . Malagar Singh . Kuldeep Kaur o), 288/6(8-0), 7(8-0), Total 24 Kanal 0 Marla Da 22/480 Share. Jamabandi For The Year 2020-21, Situated At Lehra Mohabbat, Tehsil-Nathana, District-Bhatinda As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2022-Varinder Singh Add : S/O Nachhatar Singh. 289, Lehra Mohabat, Bathinda

Bahadur Nagar, Kotkapura, Faridkot, Punjab-151204.

unjab-148101

. Gurjinder Singh . Amanpreet Kaur

. Amarjeet Kaur

Add :

AN: 610139211144489 . Mamta Sanjeev Kumar 2. Sanjeev Kumar Add: W/O Sanjeev Kumar, Hous

Punjab-151111.

Shimlapuri, Tehsil & District-Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No Z68, Street No 5, Near Desh Bhagat School, New Sunder Nagar, Lohara, Ludhiana, Punjab-141016. No-2022-23/103/1/5585 Dated 15-11-2022 Recorded In The Name Of Mamta W/O Sanjeev Kumar. Bounded As Under:- East-Neighbour, West-Neighbour, North-Neighbour, South-Street. All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property House Cum Plot No-30-3 AN: 610139211710202 Min, Measuring 64 Sq Yards, Comprised In Khasra No-38//8/2, 38//7/1 37//10/2, 38//6/2, Khewat/Khatauni No-287/318, Jamabandi For The . Noor Alam . Mrs Tasibun

Vijay Nagar, St. No-1, New Sabzi Mandi, Near Baba Ghori Dargah, udhiana, Punjab-141008

Add: S/O Habib, House No 504/A

. Siya Ram Mukhiya . Reena Devi : S/O Lachman Mukhia Bilal Nagar, Naudharani Road Malerkotla, Sangrur, Punjab-148023

AN: 617539511714765

AN: 610138011021075

. Sominder Roshan Lal . Sonika Sominder Add: S/O Roshan Lal, First Floo 27, St.no-2, Gopal Nagar, Haibow Kalan, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001.

AN: 609939511321219 Sukhjeet Kau . Gursewak Singh

Add: W/O Sukhpal Singh, Bannder Patti, Kot Shamir, Bathinda Punjab-151001. LAN: 610139511354138 Legal Heir Of Deceased Sogra

Naturi)

Sogra Khatun (Co-Borrower)

Through Legal Heir Of Deceased

Gogra Khatun) Mohammad

tehamatulla S/O Sogra Khatun Legal Heir)

Fakrun Nisha D/O Sogra Khatu Legal Heir) Mohammad Abdullah S/O Sogra Khatun (Legal Heir) Add: S/O Mohamad Shamsuddin Hno 20 St No 2, New Basant Vihar

(akowal Road, Basti Jodhew udhiana-141007

AN: 610239511286776 Randhir Singh . Raniit Kaur Add : S/O Gurcharan Singh, Chaleri, Patiala, Punjab-140401.

LAN : 609939511372786 09939511945715 . Rekha Rani

Add: WO Manoj Kumar, Street No-7. Hans Nagar Road, Sas Nagar, athinda, Punjab-151001.

609938011137611 LAN : 609938 609938311162762 . Sikander Singh

Add : S/O Darshan Sin Dhulkot, Sri Muktsar Singh, Pinc Punjab-152031

13, Situated At Bhatinda Patti Jhutti, Gali No-7, Hans Nagar, Bhatinda, Mcb-2-6-04731, Tehsil And District-Bhatinda As Per Transfer Deed Bearing Wasika No-942 Dated 5-5-2017 Recorded In The Name Of Manoj Kumar S/O Sant Ram. Bounded as Under: East-House Of Bir Singh, West-Street and Sant Ram, North-Baldev Singh, South-Sarwar All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 0 Kanal 10 Marl

All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 0 Kanal 10 Maria Which is 10/2497 Share Of Total 124 Kanal 17 Maria, Comprised in Khewat No-222, Mustil 22, Killa 18/1/2/1(4-2), 17/2(0-18), 18(8-0), 20/1/2/2(3-12), Mustil 40, Killa 4/1/2/1(1-3), 4/1/2/1(1-0), Mustil 77, Killa 22/2(1-3), Mustil 96, Killa 32(2-11), Mustil 40, Killa 5/1(0-8), Mustil 5/1(0-8), Mustil 22/2(2-0), 21(7-12), 22(8-0), 23(8-0), Mustil 40, Killa 7/1/1(0-7), Khasra 317(0-2), Mustil 96, Killa 3/1/1(1-9), Mustil 67, Killa 25/2(1-7), Mustil 68, Killa 21/1(0-10), Mustil 76, Killa 16-4), Mustil 40, Killa 6/2(2-10), 21(3-10), Mustil 26, Killa 21/2(1-10), Mustil 76, Killa 16-4), Mustil 26, Killa 21/2(1-10), Mustil 76, Killa 16-4), Mustil 26, Killa 21/2(1-10), Musti

West-Billu Singh, North-Billu Singh, South-Street.

15), 15(7-12), 16(7-12), 4/2(0-19), 7/1/2(5-12), Mustil 22, Killa 19/2(1-4), 20/2(1-5), 24/2/1(5-4), Mustil 40, Killa 5/2(7-4), 6/1(4-17), 4/1/1(0-9), 4/2/3(2-15), 4/1/2(2/1-14), Mustil 22, Killa 19/1/1(0-9), 20/1/1(0-11), 19/1/2/2(2-5), 20/1/2/1(2-4), Mustil 40, Killa 7/2(2-0), 14(8-0), Khasre 322(1-18), Jamabandi For The Year 2013-14, Situated At Dhulkot, Tehsil-Giddebaha, District-Mukatsar Sahib As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2019-20/48/1/1375 Dated 11-3-2020 Recorded In The Name Of

West-House Of Anish, North-Street, South-Plot Sumit Behal

East-Neighbour, West-Neighbour, North-Street, South-Other Owner,

All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property House Measuring 7 Biswa 16 Biswasi Which Is 39/100 Share Of Total 1 Bigha, Comprised In Khewat Khatta No-56/88, Khasra No-1591/523(1-0), Kitta-1, Jamabandi For The Year 2017-18, Situated At Madanpur, Tehsil-Rajpura, District-Patiala.

All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 70 Sq Yards Which Is 70/227 Share Of Total 227 Sq Yards, Comprised In Khasra No-5794/4728 Min, Khatta No-225/2336, Jamabandi For The Year 2012-

06.11.2025 NPA Date Kulwinder Kaur W/O Darshan Singh, Bounded As Under:- East-Road

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and here n above within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment The borrower(s) may note that SMHFC is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property/properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, SMHFC shall be entitled to exercise all the rights under section 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured assets(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. SMHFC is also empowered to ATTACH AND/OR SEAL the secured assets(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured assets(s), SMHFC also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the SMHFC. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to SMHFC under any other law. The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained/prohibited from disposing of ordealion with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale lease or otherwise (other than in the profiner course of business). of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of SMHFC and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Authorized Officer, SMFG INDIA HOME FINANCE CO. LTD.

Place : Ludhiana, Barnala, Ferozepur, Muktsar Sahib, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Malerkotla, Jalandhar, Patiala, Punjab Date : 06.11.2025 / 19.11.2025 / 10.11.2025

Eighty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen & Paise Seventy No-4991 Dated 25-3-2014 Recorded In The Name Of Gurbachan Single Four Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Dat : 05.11.2025 All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kothi No-237 10.11.2025 Measuring 0 Kanal 3.30 Marla, Comprised In Khasra Khewat No-1645, Mustil No-82 Killa No-5(8-0) & Mustil No-83 Killa No-1(7-18) & Khewat No-1743, Mustil No-69 Killa No-5/1(3-8), 6/1(1-10) Total 20 Kanal 16 Rs. 1872252.95 (Rs. Eighteen Lakh Seventy Two

Marla Da 30/3744 Share, Jamabandi For The Year 2018-19, Hb No Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two & Paise Ninety Five Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date : 05.11.2025 10.11.2025 Rs. 2048892.58 (Rs.

10.11.2025

Thirty One Lakh Eighteen Thousand

Six Hundred

Ninotoon & Paise

Forty Six Only) as on 06.11.2025 NP/

Date: 05.11.2025

10.11.2025

Rs. 1589314.74 (Rs. Fifteen Lakh

Rs. 3118619.46 (Re

Twenty Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Two & Paise Fifty Eight Only) as Date: 05.11.2025 10.11.2025 Rs. 1663471.05 (Rs Sixteen Lakh Sixty Three Thousand

Four Hundred

Seventy One & Paise Five Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA

Date: 05.11.2025

10.11.2025

Seven Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty & Paise Eight Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date East-Rasta, West-Mangal, North-Balwinder Singh, South-Jagdisl : 05.11.2025 Rs. 1302079.10 (Rs Thirteen Lakh Two

Nine & Paise 23/72/1/2799 Dated 9-2-2023 Recorded In The Name Of Malagar Singl Ten Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Dat S/O Nachattar Singh. Bounded as Under-East-Nirmal Singh, West Kora Singh, North-Street, South-Gurwinder Singh. : 05.11.2025 10.11.2025 All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property House Bearing Corporation Rs. 3042592.74 (Rs No-B-Xxi-6162/2a, Measuring 100 Sq Yards, Comprised In Khasra No-737, Khewat/Khatauni No-1217/1653, Page No-1058, Jamabandi For The Year 2010-11, Hb No-263, Situated At Village-Gill-1, Abadi New Thirty Lakh Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two & Paise Seventy Four Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date

: 05.11.2025 10.11.2025 Rs. 1455455 94 (Rs. Fourteen Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Year 2012-13, Hb No-82, Situated At Village-Kanija, Tehsil & District-Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2024-25/106/1/2708 Dated 15-5-2024 Recorded In The Name Of Tasibun W/O Habiw Four Hundred Fifty Four Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date

Bounded As Under:- East-Neighbour, West-Neighbour, North-Street : 05.11.2025 10.11.2025 All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 1 Kanal 18-1/3 Rs. 3498228.81 Marla Which is 23/80 Share Of Total 6 Kanal 13-1/3 Marla, Comprised in (Rs. Thirty Four Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Two hewat No-1217/1064, Khatauni No-1884, Khasra No-221//117/2 Min/3, 221//18min/2-7.1/3, 221//23min/1-6, Kitte-3, Jamabandi For The Yea 2018-19, Hb No-58, Situated At Near Noudhrani Road, Malerkotla **Hundred Twenty** Tehsil & District-Malerkotta As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2023-24/131/1/1129 Dated 19-7-2023 Recorded In The Name Of Reena Devi W/O Siya Ram Mukhiya. Eight & Paise Eighty One Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date

10.11.2025 All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 52.88 Sq Yards, Comprised In Khatta No-80/88, 82/90, Khasra No-30//6/1-15, 29//3/1/3-8/2/2-9, Jamabandi For The Year 2007-08, Hb No-101, Situated At Twelve Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Village-Jassian, Shiv Vihar, Tehsil & District-Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2021-22/101/1/18178 Dated 15-3-2022 Recorded In The Name Of Sonika W/O Sominder. Bounded As Under: East-Plot Eight Hundred Sixty Three & Paise Fourteen Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date: 05.11.2025 10.11.2025

: 05.11.2025

All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Measuring 1 Kanal 1 Marla Comprised In Khasra No-229//13/1(4-13), 229//13/2(3-7), 229//18/1(2 Six Lakh Sixty Six Kitte-3, Total 10-11 Da 21/211 Hissa, Khatta No-877/1575 Jamabandi For The Year 2016-17, Situated At Village-Kot Samir-2, Tehsil & District-Bhatinda As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No-2020-21/23/1/8701 Dated 21-1-2021 Recorded In The Name Of Sukhjeet Hundred Three & Paise Four Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date: 05.11.2025

06.11.2025 All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property House Cum Plot No-20 Bearing Mc No-B-31-E-8/445, Measuring 100 Sq Yards, Comprised In Khasra No-30//8/2, Khewat 482/428, Khatauni 502, Page 560, Jamabandi For

Rs. 3687099.48 (Rs. Thirty Six Lakh Eighty Sever The Year 2005-06, Hb No-80, Situated At Village-Kakowal, Abadi New Basant Vihar, Tehsil & District-Jalandhar As Per Transfer Deed Bearing Wasika No-2019-20/106/1/27537 Dated 9-3-2020 Recorded In The Name Of Sogra Khatun W/O Mohd. Shamshudin. Bounded As Under: Thousand Ninety Nine & Paise Forty Eight Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date : 08.05.2025

> 19.11.2025 Rs. 1052442.00 (Rs. Ten Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four **Hundred Forty** Two Only) as on 19.11.2025 NPA Date : 05.11.2025 10.11.2025

Rs. 938839.09 (Rs Nine Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand **Eight Hundred** Thirty Nine & Paise Nine Only) as on 06.11.2025 NPA Date : 05.11.2025

> 10.11.2025 Rs. 1885531.14 (Rs. Eighteen Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty One & Paise Fourteen

VP pays tribute to 2001 Parliament attack martyrs

President Radhakrishnan on Saturday led Parliamentarians in paying floral tributes to those who died fending off terrorists who attacked the Parliament House in 2001. On the 24th anniversary of the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Radhakrishnan, who is also the Rajya Sabha Chair, were among the first to offer tributes. A function was held outside the now old building Parliament (Samvidhan Sadan) every December 13 to mark the day.

Separately, President Droupadi Murmu paid tributes to the "courageous heroes" who laid down their lives while protecting Parliament, and said the country remains indebted to them and their families. India's commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms,' Murmu said in a social media post.

Modi said on this day,



Vice President CP Radhakrishnan paying tribute to the martyrs of the 2001 Parliament attack during a ceremony to mark its 24th anniversary at Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi on Saturday

"Our nation remembers those who laid down their lives during the heinous attack on our Parliament

"In the face of grave danger, their courage, alertness and unwavering sense of duty were remarkable. India will forever remain grateful for their supreme sacrifice," he said while sharing photographs of the homage ceremony.

CISF personnel presented a salute or "samman guard" at the venue, after which a moment of silence

was observed to mark the anniversary. Till 2023, the CRPF used to offer 'salami shastra' (present arms).

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and his sister Privanka Gandhi Vadra, a senior party leader, were also present at the event. Union ministers Kiren Riiiiu Jitendra Singh and Arjun Ram Meghwal also lined up to offer flower petals at the photographs of the personnel who went down foiling

Akhlaq lynching case: Karat seeks President's intervention in UP Govt's move

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

Senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat on Saturday wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, demanding her intervention in the Uttar Pradesh Government's move to withdraw charges against the accused in the 2015 mob lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq.

In a letter to the President, Karat called it a "politically motivated" step by the Government, and also guestioned the role of the goverurgent attention to the role of the Uttar Pradesh governor in the matter of the mob lynching case of Md Akhlaq, which occurred in September 2015. The governor has given written per- the governor's permission.



to the UP Government to go ahead in its wholly illegal and unjust attempt to subvert the processes of justice and to withdraw the entire case even though the main witness has already given evidence," Karat said.

She said the Government has filed an affidavit in the Greater Noida district court to withdraw the case, with

"I regret that I am forced to write to you on this matter. but since the governor has been appointed by you and is answerable to you, I felt it in the interests of justice to inform you of the facts and to request your urgent intervention," she said.

On September 28, 2015, a mob gathered outside Akhlaq's house in Uttar Pradesh's Bisahada village after an alleged announcement from a village temple claiming that he had slaughtered a cow. He, along with his son Daanish, was dragged out of their home and assaulted, leading to Akhlag's death.

"Even today, Danish has not fully recovered and carries the impact of the grievous wounds inflicted on him," Karat said.

Assets worth ₹92 crore seized in anti-Naxal action: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Centre has significantly constricted the financial lifelines of Naxals with seizure of assets worth ₹92 crore through a multi-agency coordinated action, inflicting severe moral and psychological damage to "urban naxals" by tightening control over their information networks, a Government statement said Saturday.

To meet the firm target of making the country completely Naxal-free by March 2026, the Government has created a dedicated vertical in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) which has seized ₹40 crore, State authorities have seized an additional ₹40 crore, while the Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth ₹12 crore.

"Simultaneous action has inflicted severe moral and psychological damage on urban Naxals and tightened control over their information warfare networks," the statement said.

Giving exhaustive details of action taken against the Maoist extremists, the Government said only three districts remain "most-affected" by Naxalism in 2025 compared to 36 in 2014. In 2025 so far, 317 Naxals have been neutralised, 862 arrested and 1,973 surrendered, it said.

"A total of 28 top Naxal leaders have been neutralised, including one Central Committee Member in 2024 and five in 2025," it said.

Listing out major successes by security forces, the Government said 27 hardcore Naxals were killed in Operation Black Forest, 24 surrendered in Bijapur on May 23, 2025, and 258 surrendered in October 2025 across Chhattisgarh (197) and Maharashtra (61), including 10 senior Naxals.

"Total Naxal-affected districts have been reduced from

126 in 2014 to just 11 in 2025. increased from only 66 until 2014 to 586 constructed in the last 10 years," it said.

Police stations recording Naxal incidents dropped sharply from 330 across 76 districts in 2013 to merely 52 in 22 districts by June 2025. In addition, 361 new security camps have been established in the last six years and 68 night-landing helipads have been built to strengthen

operational reach. 'The Government has adopted a unified, multidimensional and decisive strategy against Naxalism. replacing the scattered approach of previous Governments," the statement said. The Government has also given a parallel push to improve infrastructure in the Naxal-infested zones with 12,000 km of roads constructed in the areas between May

2014 and August 2025. Projects for a total of 17,589 km have been approved at a cost of ₹20,815 crore, ensuring all-weather connectivity and mobility in previously inaccessible areas, it said.

A major project to improve mobile connectivity was also undertaken with 2,343 (2G) mobile towers installed at a cost of ₹4,080 crore in the first phase, followed by 2,542 towers sanctioned in the second phase with an investment of ₹2,210 crore, of which 1,154 are already installed.

'Additionally, under the Aspirational Districts and 4G Saturation schemes, 8,527 (4G) towers have been approved, with 2,596 and 2,761 towers, respectively, now functional, dramatically improving communication and intelligence reach in core Naxal zones," it said.

Banking services were promoted in the Naxal zones with the setting up of 1,804 bank branches, 1,321 ATMs and posting of 37,850 banking correspondents to give deep financial inclusion a boost.

MGNREGA TO CHANGE ITS SPIRIT, NOT NAME: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

sense of entitlement.

"The name on which the Congress considers its exclusive right belongs to the entire country," the BJP leader said in an apparent reference to Mahatma Gandhi's name. The Union Cabinet approved a Bill on Friday to rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural **Employment Guarantee** Act (MGNREGA) as 'Poojya Bapu Grameen Rozgar Yojna'. "The prime minister is not changing the name (of the scheme) but its spirit," Trivedi said.

spirit with which the

prime minister works.

he said, when asked

about the Congress's crit-

icism of renaming

has dedicated his entire life to the service of the nation and the people and he works with this Rohtak, Haryana spirit, the BJP leader said. "But the Congress, which has worked with the principle of 'aage-peeche SHARAN. hamri sarkar, hum hain yahan ke rajkumar' (we aadhar are in rule everywhere, 7908889059071 we are the royals), cannot understand the

PM RENAMED

BJP on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to rename the rural job guarantee scheme was not to alter its name but to change its "spirit". Hitting back at the Congress following its criticism on renaming MGNREGA, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the Opposition party and its leaders cannot understand the decision as they function with a

PUSHPA PAWAR. Army Rank: HAV, PRADEEP Mathura Maat Pradesh-281202, name is mentioned as F BHARDWAJ in correct my name. Prime Minister Modi

I, hitherto Known as

I Mohit (old name) Sh.Labh Singh R/o VPO Kalan Distt Sonepat Haryana 131305 have changed my name Mohit to Mohit Malik for all future purposes.

Congress slams Govt over MGNREGA name change the Mahatma Gandhi National the Government had to take Rural Employment Guarantee this step. Reacting to the Act (MNREGA) scheme and development, Congress asked "what is wrong with the

general secretary in-charge name Mahatma Gandhi" that communications Jairam

Ramesh said the Modi Government is a "master" at renaming schemes and laws. "They renamed the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan to Swachh

Bharat Abhiyan, and the rural LPG distribution programme to Ujjwala. They are experts in repackaging and branding,

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress on Saturday ques-

tioned the need for renaming

■ New Delhi

I Vinay Kumar S/o Sh. Raj Kumar R/o House No. 2483, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh changed my name from Vinay Kumar to Rajinder

I Nitasha Bhateja Roy and Tirthadeep Roy, R/o House No. 212, Sector 18-A, Chandigarh have changed our minor son name from Pargat Singh to Trihan Roy.

I Sonali D/o Barinder Kumar R/o HIG-7, Puda Colony, Sector 48C, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab 160062, have Changed my Name to Sonali Mahajan.

I Balkar Singh S/o Lal Singh R/o Village Rayya, Amritsar have changed my name from Balkar Singh to Balkar Singh Jassi. Concerned

I, Sonia, W/o Vineet Bhatia, R/o 1019 Sector 7, urban Estate Karnal Harvana, declare that I have changed my name from Sonia to Sonia Bhatia. all concerned are noted.

No.14661368M, HAV, Name: SHANKAR KARABASANAVAR S/O MALLAPPA, permanent Kurni Belgaum Karnataka-591221, in my army service record my daughter 's name wrongly recorded as PRATIKSHA, but her correct name is PRATIKSHA SHANKAR KARABASANAVAR. kindly correct daughter's name.

I, Kalpana Upadhya of Mansha Ram Upadhay resident of house no. 1175, Sector 43-B, Chandigarh, That both names are same Kalpna Upadyay Upadya Kalpana correct name is Kalpana Upadya

ASHWINI SHÂNKAR KARABASANAVAR, W/o No.14661368M, HAV, Name: SHANKAR

KARABASANAVAR MALLAPPA Permanent Belgaum R/o Kurni Karnataka-591221, that name wronaly mentioned as ASHWINI in husband's Army Record, Service correct name is ASHWINI SHANKAR KARABASANAVAR,

kindly correct my name I, PUSHPA PAWAR W/O Army No.17002932K, Rank NK, PRADEEP, Name: permanent R/o Amba Chandan PO: Mhow Distt. Indore Madhya Pradesh-453441, my name is wrongly mentioned as PUSHPA KASHYAP in my husband's army service record, now I have changed my name from PUSHPA KASHYAP to

I, PISTA DEVI W/O No.14670797M, Name: **KUMAR** RAWAT Permanent R/o wrongly PISTÁ husband's Army service record, my correct name is PISTA DEVI, kindly

ANKIT S/o RAM BHAJ R/o Ward No. 02, Maham, 124112, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANKIT

Gamri Sub Tehsil Khanpur

I, Ranjit Singh S/o Mukhtar Singh R/o VPO Thothian, Thothian. Amritsar, Punjab-143111 have changed my name from Ranjit Singh to Singh is my surname and Ranjit is my given name.

I, Dil Bag Singh father of No.13770963W Hav Jagtar Singh Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Dil Bag Singh but my correct name is Dilbag Vide Singh affidavit No.IN-PB01979982243987X

Dt.13.12.2025 before Magistrate Executive Amritsar

I Sukhbir Singh S/o Dhanna Singh Saini R/o D-355 Ranjit Avenue Amritsar have changed my name to Sukhbir Singh Saini

Divya Harblas Rattan W/o Abhaydeep Singh R/o 46-B, Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar, Kabir Park Amritsar have changed my name from Divya Harblas Rattan To Divva Arora and Arora is my Surname. All Please

I, Hemlata Spouse of No 4093888W Nk Anil Negi R/o Vill-Ratni, PO Bhagoti, Teh Narayan Bagar, Chamoli, Uttrakhand 246455 have changed my name from Hemlata to Hemlata Devi Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB01580633518374X Dt.12.12.2025 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Amandeep Singh S/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vpo Timmowal Distt Amritsar have declare that Singh is my Surname Amandeep is my given

I, Bhateri Devi w/o Late Sh. Jagbir Singh R/o Village Rabhra, Tehsil Gohana, District Sonipat, declare that service records/PPO 201202200477 records of my husband, my name has been written as Bhateri. But my correct name is Bhateri Devi .Pls

I, Kalpana Upadhya wife of Mansha Ram Upadhya resident of house no. 1175, Sector 43-B, Chandigarh, That both names are same Kalpna Upadya Kalpana Upadya correct name is Kalpana Upadya.

I, Navita Goyal W/o Nitin Garg R/o H. No. 37 HUDA R-3 Ward No. 8 Cheeka, Kaithal, have changed my name to Navita Garg,

I, Navita W/o Nitin Garg R/o H. No. 37 HUDA R-3 Ward No.8, Cheeka, Kaithal, have changed my name to Navita Garg.

I, Priyanka W/o Maninder Singh R/o # 503, Block-E, New Friends Enclave, Patiala (Punjab) declare that in my Son Aditya Rawat school record my name and my husband's name Priyanka written as Rawat and Maninder Singh Rawat but my and my husband's correct name is Priyanka and Maninder Singh.

I, Ganga Pooja W/o Sagar R/o Piyush Mohalla, Attriyaan Kurukshetra Pehowa, have changed my name Kashish Sharma. I Shilpa W/O Abishak

Sharma R/O Bhullarai, Tehsil District Phagwara, Kapurthala, Punjab, India-144401 Have Changed My Name As Shilpa Sharma After Marriage. All Concern Please Note.

I, Kumari Muskan is legally daughter of Army No. JC-562780F Rank Sub Amod Kumar of Resident of Village Bharwari, PO Bharwari Tehsil Muzaffarpur District Muzaffarpur State Bihar, Pin Code 843133 have changed my name from Kumari Miskap to Kumari Muskan due to wrong name recorded in my father's army service record vide affidavit No. IN-PB 01977375806491X Dated 13/12/2025 Before Notary Public, Gurdaspur (Punjab)

I, Harmij Kaur Mother of No.JC-512606Y NB/Sub Sarabjit Singh Villageresident of Dandupur, Post- Burewal. Tehsil- Sultannur Lodhi District- Kapurthala, State-Punjab, Pin-144628, have changed my name from Harmij Kaur to Harmej Kaur Vide affidavit No.IN-PB93152080478981X dated 17 Nov 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15813235Y NK Aiai Kumar Thakur Villageresident of Howrah, Post-Salkia. Tehsil- Howrah, District-Howrah, State-Bengal, Pin-711106, have changed my name from Ajai Kumar Thakur to Ajay Kumar Thakur No.INaffidavit PB01488094652321X dated 11 Dec 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Mahendry Mother No.3212744K Sep Mahesh kumar resident of Village-Veerpur, Post-Dibai, Jirauli. Tehsil-District-Bulandshahr, State- U.P, Pin-202390, have changed my name from Mahendry Devi to Mahendri Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB02035381689698X dated 13 Dec 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.4202271Y NK Jamang Dinesh Babu Bhai resident of Village-Godiva Nagar-3 Narayan Nagar, Post-Ambardipara Narayan Nagar, Tehsil-Lathi, District-Amreli Gujarat, State-365220, changed my name from Jamang Dinesh Babu Bhai to Jamang Dineshkumar Babu Bhai Vide affidavit No.IN-PNX dated 10 Dec 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Suri Reddy Tilugu Father of No.15786902P Hav Rama Suri Kilugu resident of Door No.25-3-19/32, Vizianagaram, Tehsil-Vizianagaram, District-Vizianagaram, State-Andhra Pradesh, Pin-535002, have changed my name from Suri Reddy Tilugu Kilimi Suryanarayana affidavit No.IN-PB00732321100781X dated 09 Dec 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Appala Narsmma ugu Mother of Kilugu No.15786902P Hav Rama Suri Kilugu resident of Door No.25-3-19/32 Post-Vizianagaram, Tehsil-Vizianagaram, District-Vizianagaram, State- Andhra Pradesh, Pin-535002, changed my name from Appala Narsmma Kilugu to Kilimi Appalanarsamma Vide affidavit No.IN-PB00731768202291X dated 09 Dec 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Balvir Kaur W/o Ravinder Singh R/o H.No. 11, Sun City 1, Near Kamal Nursing Home, Rupnagar Tehsil and District Rupnagar Punjab, have changed my name from Balvir Kaur to Balbir

I, Mohinder Singh So Sh. Chanan Singh R/o Nanakpura, ward No.5, New IIT, Rupnagar, District Tehsil and Rupnagar Punjab, have changed my name from Singh Mahinder Mohinder singh

KALAMMA is Mother of Service No: 16119668W Rank-Hav Dommati Shiva Presently residing at 163 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt Haryana Panchkula. declare that have changed my name from DOMMATI KALAMMA and 15/06/1966 to DOMMAT CHANDRAKALA D.O.B 01/01/1964

I, SHILA DEVI am Mother of Army No: 15567278H Rank: Hav Name- Rajesh Kumar Presently Posted at Unit: Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Parmanent Address: Ward No.23 No0516, Behind Of Block Colony. Vijay Nagar, Dist: Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, 477001 declare that I have Correct my Date of birth from 03/02/1961 to 21/12/1958. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219218, Dated: 13/12/2025

I, SHEELA DEVI am Mother of Army No: 15567278H Rank: Hav Name- Rajesh Kumar Presently Posted at Unit: 118 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Parmanent Address: No.23 No0516, Behind Of Block Colony. Vijay Nagar, Dist: Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, 477001 declare that I have changed my name from SHEELA DEVI to SHILA DEVI. Vide Affidavit No: 219217, Dated: 13/12/2025 **DOMMATI**

SURYANARAYANA Father of Service No: 16119668W Rank-Hav Rank-Hav Name: Dommati Shiva Presently residing at 163 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS) Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula, Haryana declare that I changed my name from DOMMATI SURYANARAYANA and Date of Birth from 22/03/1961 to DOMMATI SURYA NARAYANA and

D.O.B 01/01/1962.

I, SATYABHAMABAI am Mother of Army No: 2808207H Rank- Hav Name- Patole Navnath Permanent Address: At -Ashapur, Post- Thangoa, Tehsil-Sinnar. Dist-Nashik. State Maharashtra, Pin- 422103 declare that I have changed my name from SATYABHAMABAI SATYABHAMA DEVRAM PATOLE and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/08/1958 to 01/01/1954 Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219213, Dated: 13/12/2025

I, PRIYANKA SAHU am legally Wedded Spouse of Army No-14847200Y Rank- NK Wedded Binod Presently Posted at Unit: 282 Coy Asc (SUP) Type 'D' Permanent Address: Near Bhagwati Mandir, Vill-Khora, Post-Khora, Thana, Khora, PO: Khora, DIST: Gumla, Jharkhand -835207 declare that I have changed My Name from PRIYĂNKA SAHU PRIYANKA KUMARI SAHU. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219216, Dated: 13/12/2025

I, GYANI PRASAD am Father of Army No: 15567278H Rank: Hav Name- Rajesh Kumar Presently Posted at Unit: 118 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Parmanent Address: Ward No.23 No0516, Behind Of Block Colony. Vijay Nagar, Dist: Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, 477001 declare that I have Correct my Date of birth from 03/02/1953 to from 03/02/1953 to 07/07/1954. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219219, Dated: 13/12/2025 I, LAXMIBAI Mother of Army

2821568A Rank: Sep Name: Sachin Mahalingappa Hingmire Permanent Address: MU Kelgaon ta sillod, Kelgaon, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, declare that I have changed my name from LAXMI LAXMIBAL to LAXMI MAHALING HINGMIRE LAXMIBAI Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219211, Dated: Dated: 13/12/2025

I, UJWALA am legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 2808207H Rank- Hav Name- Patole Navnath At -Ashapur, Address: Post- Thangoa, Tehsil-Sinnar, Dist-Nashik, State-Maharashtra, Pin-422103 declare that I have changed My Name UJWALÁ from UJJWALA NAVNATH PATOLE. Vide Affidavit NAVNATH No: 11AA 219215, Dated: 13/12/2025

I, DEVRAM am Father of Army No: 2808207H Rank- Hav Name- Patole Navnath Permanent Address: At-Ashapur, Post- Thangoa, Tehsil-Sinnar, Nashik State-Maharashtra, Pin-422103 declare that I have changed my name DĔVRAM from BAHIRU PATOLE and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/06/1955 to 01/01/1949. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219214, 13/12/2025

I, ARCHANABAI am Mother of Army No-2824264N Rank-Sep Mahaian Name-Yashwant Kadam Permanent Address: At Dha, Loha, Shelgaon Shelgaon, Karegaon, Nanded, Maharashtra, 431708 declare that have changed my name from ARCHANABAI to ARCHANA YASHVANT KADAM. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219220, Dated: 13/12/2025

HINGMIRE MAHALINGAPPA Army Father of 2821568A Rank: Sep Sachin Name: Mahalingappa Hingmire Permanent Address: MU Kelgaon Kelgaon, Aurangabad, Kelgaon, Maharashtra, 431112 declare that I have changed My Name from HINGMIRE MAHALINGAPPA MAHALING ONKAR HINGMIRE. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219212, Dated: 13/12/2025

SUREKHA Mother of Army 2821022A Rank-Sep Name- Shinde Akshay Somnath Permanen Address: Pandharewadi, Chinchpur bu, Paranda, Osmanabad, Maharashtra, 413505 declare that I have changed my name from SUREKHA to SUREKHA SOMNATH SHINDE. Vide No: Affidavit Dated: 219222 13/12/2025

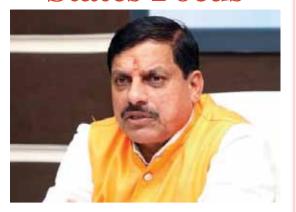
I. BHAGESHWARI is Mother of Army No-18022528M Rank-L/NK Name- Ajit Pratap Singh Presently Posted At Unit: 62 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh-285202 declare that I have changed my name from BHAGESHWARI to BHAGESHVARI. Vide No: Affidavit 11AA 219221, Dated: 13/12/2025

I, No. 15576430M Rank Nk Baldev Singh S/o Sh. Tarsem Singh, resident Tallewal, Tehsil District Barnala, State Punjab-148100, India, declare that my father's name is TARSEM SINGH and his correct date of birth is 07 July 1962, which is mentioned as 24 March 1962, by mistake in my service records and my mother's name is BHUPINDER KAUR and her correct date of birth is 01 January 1960, which is mentioned as 24 March 1966 by mistake in my service records.

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States Focus -



MP TO GIVE SPECIAL PACKAGE TO FORMER NAXAL-HIT DISTRICTS

After declaring the State to be free of Naxalism, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Saturday said his Government would provide a special package to the districts of Balaghat, Mandla and Dindori, once affected by Maoist violence. The elimination of Naxalism was the biggest achievement of his government's tenure so far, Yaday said in an interview on completing two years in office." A special package will be provided for Naxalaffected Balaghat, Mandla and Dindori for development. We want them to become model districts for the future. The last 20-25 years have been very bad, so we are preparing a concrete plan to bring them closer to the rest of the advanced districts," he said.



J&K CM ABDULLAH INAUGURATES ASIA'S LONGEST SKI DRAG LIFT

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday threw open Asia's longest ski drag lift at Gulmarg, widely known as the 'skiing capital of India', officials said. Abdullah also inaugurated the world's highest revolving multi-purpose hall in the Affarwat area of Gulmarg, which also houses a restaurant, they said. Abdullah said the ski drag lift at Kongdori in Gulmarg in Baramulla district will significantly enhance the skiing infrastructure in the hill station and strengthen its standing on the international winter sports map.

Nadda targets Himachal Congress Govt over funds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

BJP President JP Nadda on Saturday alleged that the Congress

Government in Himachal Pradesh has failed to utilise the funds allocated by the Centre and therefore has no right to remain in power, accusing the State administration of functioning with a carefree mindset. 'Congress Government in Himachal Pradesh is working with

a mindset of "Khao Piya Mauj karo, aage kisne dekha hai (indulge in merry making, who has seen the future)," he said and stressed that "double engine Government is the only way to ensure development of the State" Addressing an event, Nadda

accused the State Government of corruption and misutilisation of funds given by the Centre under



BJP National President and Union Minister JP Nadda with LoP in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly and party leader Jairam Thakur during a public meeting in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on Saturday

of houses, repair of roads and smart city.

Refuting the allegations of the Congress Government that the Centre is not giving enough funds to the State, Nadda claimed, "₹3,789 crore were given for disaster relief, over ₹1,000 crore for Smart Cities besides funds for Vibrant Village development, medical colleges, AIIMS Bilaspur, a bulk drug park, four-lane highways and developed Baddi as a pharmaceutical hub in the State yet the Congress continues to spread falsehoods and mislead the innocent people of Himachal.

Targeting the Sukhu-led Government for its incompetence, he claimed that the Centre has sent over ₹2,000 crore as special assistance and approved ₹1,442 crore under JICA funding, but the Congress Government utilised only

several schemes.

Taking a jibe at the Congress, Nadda said that Himachal's treasury is frequently shut, the entire administration runs on ad-hoc arrangements with the chief secretary and director general of police working on additional charge and there is no coordination between the chief minister and his ministers.

The Congress Government has not brought even a single concrete project to the Centre, he said, and called upon BJP workers to take these facts and truths to every village and town, so that the "people of Himachal can free themselves from Congress misrule" and move decisively towards develop ment and good governance.

Nadda alleged that "earlier the Government used to come to power with the support of all but used to

segment and religion, but 11 years back Prime Minister Narendra Modi changed the political scenario of the country by becoming the 'Pradhan Sevak' of the nation and moved from Rajpath to Kartavya Path."

He said the "BJP Government is a performance (report-card) based government, what it promised, it delivered and in contrast, the UPA politics revolved around casteism. appeasement and nepotism, while BIP politics is rooted in accountability and good governance."

State BJP president Rajiv Bindal said that Congress was reduced to only six seats in Bihar, which is proof of its declining credibility and claimed that the same situation will prevail in the upcoming 2027 Himachal Pradesh assembly elections, where the Congress will not even reach double digits and will be reduced to only two seats.

CM Nitish allocates portfolios of new departments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has allocated portfolios of newly created departments among ministers, keeping Civil Aviation with himself, an official notification said.

The Bihar cabinet on December 9 approved proposals to create three new departments — Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department, Higher Education Department and the Civil Aviation Department — and changed the names of three other departments

The Animal and Fisheries Resource Department was renamed as Dairy, Fisheries and Animal Resources Department; the Labour Resources Department as Labour Resources and Migrant Workers Welfare Department, and Art, Culture and Youth Department as

According to the notification, issued on December 12, the CM allocated the portfolio of Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department to Sanjay Singh 'Tiger', who is holding the portfolio of Labour Resources and Migrant Workers Welfare Department.

State Education Minister Sunil Kumar has been given the portfolio of the newly created Higher Education Department. The CM has kept the Civil Aviation Department with himself, the notification said. The CM had recently announced on social media platforms the State government's decision to create three new departments.

"We have set a target to provide jobs to one crore youth over the next five years (2025-30). For this, it's essential that more youth be trained for skill development. Instructions have been given to create three new departments: Youth, Employment Art and Culture Department. and Skill Development



Department, Higher Education Department, and Civil Aviation Department," the CM had said.

On the need for a dedicat-Higher Education Department, Kumar had said its objective was to "bring about qualitative improvement in learning, promote research and innovation. develop technical and vocational education, and ensure that youth from all sections of society receive quality employment-oriented

On the Civil Aviation Department, the CM had written, "All of you know that the construction of several new airports is underway in the State, and in the future, under the UDAN scheme, construction of many new airports has been proposed. The creation of the Civil Aviation Department will accelerate this, enhance the industrial environment. create employment opportunities, and help in the export of products manufactured in

Arunachal municipal, panchayat elections campaigning ends

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Guwahati/Itanagar

Campaigning for the December 15 municipal and panchayat elections in Arunachal Pradesh ended on Saturday. Panchayat and civic elections to Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) and Pasighat Municipal Council (PMC) will be held on

December 15.

The polling, which will begin at 7 am on Monday, will end at 4 pm, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Rinchin Tashi said. The campaigning for the polls ended at 4 pm on Saturday. Tashi, in an order, said that no person shall convene, hold or attend any public meeting relating to panchayat and municipal elections in the State in the next 48 hours.

As many as 63 candidates have already been elected uncontested in municipal and rural elections in the State. The

ruling BJP won unopposed in 58 zilla parishad constituencies, besides one candidate from the National People's Party (NPP).

A total of 5,037 BJP candidates for gram panchayat member seats have also been declared elected without contest. Four BJP candidates were also elected unopposed for the Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC).

A total of 440 candidates will contest 186 zilla parishad seats, along with 39 candidates for 16 IMC wards, and 21 candidates for eight PMC wards. The SEC said that a total of 13 gram panchayat constituencies received no nominations, while all nominations in 14 gram panchayat constituencies were rejected during scrutiny. Polling in the Dumba Singpho gram panchayat constituency has been countermanded due to the death of a validly nom-

Jointness, self reliance, innovation key to combat power: CDS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Hyderabad

General Anil Chauhan on Saturday said the country's future combat power would be driven by the three pillars – Jointnesss, *Atmanirbharta* and Innovation (JAI), what the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) described as [AI.

General Chauhan, who reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) at the Air Force Academy at Dundigal near here, without referring to any country, said developments that indicate institutional fragility and reactive adjustments are often seen around us.

"Wars cannot (be) won by rhetoric, but by purposeful action. Around us, we often witness developments that signal institutional fragility and reactive adjustments. In contrast, India's strength rests on the robust institutions, democratic stability and unwavering professionalism

of our armed forces," he said. The CDS told the newly commissioned officers that



Air Force Academy (AFA) in Dundigal, near Hyderabad, Telangana on Saturday

Air Force during a phase of deep transformation of the armed forces. Integrated structures, joint operations and national pursuit of *Atmanirbharta* (self reliance) in defence are shaping the future of India's military

they are entering the Indian strength, he said. The journey ahead of the newly commissioned officers will be guided by JAI, the first word of Jai Hind, he said.

Jointnesss signifies fighting as one nation and one force and Atmanirbharta indicate trusted platforms and

systems made not just for India but for the world. Innovation signifies daring to think ahead and to be ahead of the curve, he said. "These three pillars will shape India's future of combat power,"

The intensity of operations

may have ebbed, but Operation Sindoor continues, he said. "You (new officers) also join the Air Force at a moment when a new normal has firmly taken shape. An era defined by a high degree of operational preparedness, 24-7, 365 days. The intensity of operations may have ebbed, but Operation Sindhur

ontinues," he said. Asserting that war and warfare are at the cusp of a major revolution, General Chauhan said the Defence forces are committed to adapt to changing environment and imbibing reforms to remain ready and relevant.

He further said battles in the older domains will always remain contested, often brutal. But in the new domains, they will be smart, swift, and shaped by intellect, innovation, and initiative. The force that masters new frontiers is more likely to prevail in future conflicts. General Chauhan reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade of 216 Course.

IMA Passing Out Parade: 491 cadets join Indian Army

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Dehradun

After undergoing rigorous training at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, 491 cadets participated in a grand Passing Out Parade on Saturday and will now be commissioned as officers in the Indian Army.

The spectacular parade, held at the historic Drill Square in front of the academy's Chatwood Building, was reviewed by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, who served as the reviewing officer. Along with 491 Indian cadets, 34 foreign cadets from 14 friendly countries also participated in the Autumn Term 2025 Passing Out Parade.

A total of 525 officer cadets from the 157th Regular Course, 46th Technical Entry Scheme, 140th Technical Graduate Course, 55th Special Commissioned Officers Course, and Territorial Army Online Entrance Exam 2023



Indian army's newly-commissioned officers celebrate during the POF ceremony at IMA in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on Saturday

Course participated in the Passing Out Parade.

The 'Sword of Honour' and gold medal for securing first place during training was awarded to ACA Nishkal Dwivedi, the silver medal to **BUO Badal Yadav for second** place and the bronze medal to SUO Kamaljeet Singh for third place.

The silver medal for securing first place in the 'Technical Graduate Course' was awarded to Officer Cadet Jadhav Sujit Sampat, and the silver medal for first place in the 'Technical Entry Scheme-46' was awarded to WCC Abhinav Mehrotra. The silver medal for the 'Special Commission Officer Course was given to Officer Cadet Sunil Kumar Chhetri.

Among the foreign cadets, the first place in merit was secured by Bangladesh's JUO Mohammad Safin Ashraf. The Army Chief's Banner for overall best performance in the Autumn Term was awarded to Imphal Company.

New meditation hall opens for pilgrims at Vaishno Devi shrine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine Board (SMVDSB) has dedicated a Sadhana Kaksh (Meditation Hall) to the pilgrims visiting the revered shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

The newly set up meditation hall was opened for the devotees amidst vedic chanting at the Bhawan area. marking a significant initiative aimed at further enriching the spiritual ambience and facilitating deeper devotional engagement among the visitors, the officials said

Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, said the establishment of a dedicated Sadhana Kaksh in proximity to the sanctum of Mata Vaishno Devi forms part of the Board's broader endeavour to strengthen the spiritual



infrastructure at Bhawan.

'Lakhs of devotees undertake the Yatra every month with deep faith and devotion. The provision of a serene space for meditation significantly enhances the overall pilgrimage experience," he said.

Located in the lower basement of the Ram Mandir along the exit cave route at Bhawan, the Sadhana Kaksh has been developed with emphasis on simplicity and

devotional sanctity. Spread over an area of approximately 1,500 square feet, the facility can accommodate around 170 devotees at a time. the officials said, adding that special care has been taken to maintain silence and sanctity within the Kaksh (hall), ensuring an atmosphere of calm and spiritual focus. The shrine board has

issued detailed operational guidelines for the Sadhana Kaksh. As per these guidelines, the Shrine Board shall provide basic materials for use by devotees, including prayer beads (malas), cloth pouches (guthis) and other essential accessories.

ED finds ISIS module linked to Khair wood smuggling in Maharashtra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

An alleged ISIS module operating from Maharashtra's Padgha village in Thane district was involved in the illegal cutting and smuggling of Khair wood from the local reserve forests, an ED probe into a terror financinglinked money laundering case has found.

The federal probe agency conducted searches in the twin villages of Borivali-Padgha on December 11, apart from locations in Delhi, Kolkata, Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) and Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), among others.

The money laundering probe stems from a November 2023 case filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against a "highly radicalised" module of the banned global terrorist outfit ISIS, based in Padgha, and its late self-proclaimed leader in India, Saguib Nachan,

The agency said in a state-

ACACIA CATECHU (KHAIR) WOOD IS **ÚSED TO EXTRACT** KATTHA (CATECHU), COMMONLY USED IN PAAN, AYURVEDIC **MEDICINES**

ment on Saturday that it seized ₹3.70 crore in cash apart from gold jewellery and bullion worth ₹6 crore during the raids.

A financial analysis, as per the Enforcement Directorate (ED), found that "various individuals linked with the Borivali-Padgha ISIS module were involved in illegal cutting and smuggling of Kaith trees from the reserve forest areas of the said area".

The wood of Acacia catechu, locally known as Khair, is used to extract Kattha (catechu) that is widely used in 'paan' and as an ingredient

in Ayurvedic medicines. The ED said the searches covered various companies and entities linked with the production of Kattha that were procuring the wood from suspects. Some wood that was recovered during the Thursday searches was handed over to the forest department by the ED.

The NIA had alleged that the Padgha module was engaged in recruitment, training, procurement of weapons and explosives, and raising funds to sustain their operations.

It has named 21 people in the chargesheet in the case on charges of conspiracy to recruit and radicalise vulnerable youth into the ISIS ideology and fabrication of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

According to the NIA, the accused had self-declared the Padgha village in rural Thane as a "liberated zone" named 'Al Sham', and they were motivating impressionable Muslim youth to relocate to Padgha from their place of residence to strengthen their base.

J&K Govt again skips Sheikh Abdullah, Martyrs' Day holidays



MOHIT KANDHARI Jammu

For the second consecutive vear, an elected Government headed by Omar Abdullah in Jammu and Kashmir has failed to fullfil its poll promise of restoring public holidays on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on December 5, and Martyrs' Day on July 13.

On Saturday, when the Union Territory administration issued the holiday calendar, both these public holidays were once again found missing in the list of holidays for 2026.

For the first time, the two-

State holidays on July 13 and December 5 were deleted from the list of public holidays by the LG administration on December 28, 2019, after the Abrogation of Articles 2019 and 35-A. The restoration of these two holidays was included

in its election manifesto by the National Conference during the Assembly polls. After forming the govern-

ment, many leaders and legislators, including the party's general secretary, had passionately appealed to the LG to declare December 5, 2024 as a public holiday, but in vain.





Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji Maharai felicitating New Delhi Station Manager Rakesh Sharma with the Martand Honour for dedicating his selfless service to hundreds of railway passengers during his three decades as a serving Rail-man. The honour was bestowed in the event organised by Kurukshetra Gurukul Foundation led by its Founder President Sandeep Deo. Sharma is credited with reaching out to people/passengers and help them in searching for lost and found items in trains, platforms

Raj Kumar Goyal to be sworn in as new CIC

Former IAS officer Raj Kumar Goyal will be sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) by President

Former Railway Board chief Jaya Verma Sinha, former IPS officer Swagat Das, former CSS officer Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, former IAS officer Surendra Singh Meena and ex-Indian Forest Service officer Khushwant Singh Sethi have been recommended as Information Commissioners.

Senior journalists P R Ramesh and Ashutosh Chaturvedi, and Sudha Rani Relangi, Member (Legal), PNGRAB will take oath as ICs by newly sworn in CIC.

Cooperatives key to India's self-reliance: Minister Gurjar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Guwahati

Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar on Saturday emphasised the role of the cooperative movement in making the country self-reliant, with States like Assam to play a special part in it. He was speaking at the opening of the 4th Cooperative Mela 2025, organised by the State's Cooperation

department, under the

guidance of the Ministry of Cooperation. The three-day event will showcase the strength, diversity and potential of the cooperative movement in the State. Gurjar, the Union Minister of State for Cooperation, said that the cooperative movement in Assam is a natural extension of the State's deep cultural and spiritu-

al ethos. He paid tribute to the great Vaishnavite saints, Srimanta Shankaradev and Madhavdev, whose teachings on unity, equality and service to society form the very foundation of the cooperative spirit.

He maintained that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, and the focused guidance of the Union Minister of Cooperation, the national vision of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) is transforming into a vibrant reality.

Gurjar highlighted the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2021 as a historic step, providing the necessary institutional impetus and a clear blueprint for an allround, world-class cooperative system in the country. Praising Assam's reforms in this sector, the Union minister said this State-level proactive implementation has positioned it as a leader in key national initiatives. including the 100 per cent computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), with over 800 PACS already adopting the new Model Byelaws.

He said that this progress is empowering youth and women, fostering entrepreneurship in diverse sectors and contributing to financial inclusion for over 32 lakh members. Assam is now firmly aligned with the National Cooperative Policy 2025's goal of establishing one cooperative in every village by 2026, Gurjar said, urging collective effort to build a prosperous, self-reliant and cooperative-led future for the State.

State Minister for Cooperation Jogen Mohan, also speaking on the occasion, said the exhibition is a celebration of grassroots empowerment. He praised the participants for achieving self-dependence and demonstrating remarkable resourcefulness by successfully turning waste into valuable resources using locally available materials.

He detailed the comprehensive benefits these cooperatives are bringing to the people, spanning diverse sectorsfrom the production of essential goods to the success of women's Self-Help Groups.

The Cooperative Mela features participation from 160 cooperative societies representing key sectors such as handloom, fishery, dairy, agriculture and youth, and women-led enterprises, providing a vibrant platform for showcasing local products, innovations and cooperative

CJI seeks unified judicial policy, tech for courts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pushing for a "unified judicial policy", Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday said technology can help align standards and practices across courts, creating a "seamless experience" for citizens, regardless of their

He said high courts — due to the federal structure have had their own practices and technological capacities, and "regional barriers" can be broken down with technology to create a more unified judicial ecosystem.

Delivering the keynote address at the West Zone Regional Conference in Jaisalmer, Kant proposed the idea of a "national judicial ecosystem" and called for an overhaul of India's judicial system with the integration of technology.

"Today, as technology reduces geographical barriers and enables convergence, it invites us to think of justice not as regional systems operating in parallel,

tem with shared standards, seamless interfaces, and coordinated goals," he said.

He emphasised how the role of technology in the judiciary has evolved

"Technology is no longer merely an administrative convenience. It has evolved into a constitutional instrument that strengthens equality before the law, expands access to justice, and enhances institutional efficiency," he said, highlighting how digital tools can bridge gaps in the judicial system. Kant pointed out that tech-

nology enables the judiciary to overcome the limitations of physical distance and bureaucratic hurdles. "It allows the judiciary to

transcend physical barriers and bureaucratic rigidities to deliver outcomes that are timely, transparent and principled," he said, adding that the effective use of technology can modernise the delivery of justice and make it more accessible to citizens across the country.

The CJI called for imple- track systemic delays and menting a "unified judicial policy".

He said India's judicial system has long been shaped by its federal structure, and different high courts have their own practices and technological capacities.

"India's vast diversity has led to different high courts evolving their own practices. administrative priorities and technological capacities. This variation, though natural in a federal democracy, has resulted in uneven experiences for litigants across the country," he said.

Kant underscored that predictability is crucial for building trust in the judicial system.

"A core expectation citizens place upon the courts is predictability," he said, adding that citizens should not only expect fair treatment but also consistency in how cases are handled across the country.

He pointed to the potential of technology in improving predictability.

"Technology enables us to

make problems visible rather than concealed," he said.

By identifying areas where delays occur, such as in bail matters or cases involving certain types of disputes, courts can take targeted action to address these issues and improve efficiency, Kant said.

The CJI explained that data-driven tools could identify the reasons behind delays or bottlenecks, allowing for faster, more focused solutions.

"Technology enables pri-oritisation by flagging sensitive case categories, monitoring pendency in real time and ensuring transparent listing protocols," he said.

Justice Surya Kant also discussed the importance of prioritising urgent cases where delays could result in significant harm. He highlighted his recent administrative order that ensures urgent cases, such as bail petitions or habeas corpus cases, are listed within two days of curing defects.

"Where delay causes deep

respond with urgency," he Stated, explaining that technology can help courts identify and expedite such cases. Kant also raised the issue of the clarity of

judicial decisions. He noted that many litigants, despite winning cases, often struggle to understand the terms of their judgment due to complex legal language.

"Although the orders had gone in their favour, they remained unsure of what relief they had actually secured because the language was too technical, vague or evasive to understand," he said.

He advocated for more uniformity in how judgments are written. "A unified judicial approach must therefore extend to how we communicate outcomes," he said.

The CJI also discussed the role of AI and digital tools in improving case management. He pointed to the potential of AI-based research assistants and digital case management

cial processes.

"Emerging technological tools are now capable of performing once-unthinkable functions. They can highlight missing precedent references, cluster similar legal questions, and simplify factual narration," he said, explaining how these technologies can help judges make more consistent

He also highlighted tools like the National Judicial Data Grid and e-courts, which are already helping to standardise processes like case filings and tracking. Kant reiterated that the

integration of technology into the judicial process is not just about improving efficiency but about upholding the integrity of the system and strengthening public trust. "The measure of innovation is not the complexity of the software we deploy, but the simplicity with which a citizen understands the outcome of their case and believes that justice has been served," he said.

Papon lights up IRFC 40th Foundation Day

The Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC) celebrated its 40th foundation day on December 12, 2025 in a spectacular evening filled with music, joy and nostalgia. The highlight of the evening was none other than the renowned singer Papon (Angaraag Mahanta), whose performance left the audience mesmerised.

The night began with a captivating short film showcasing Papon's journey glimpses of his blockbuster hits, achievements and memorable past performances. The cinematic introduction seamlessly led to his grand entry on stage, greeted by the roaring applause of the audience. Setting the tone for the evening, Papon opened with his iconic song "Kyon" from the movie Barfi, instantly winning hearts and raising the energy in the auditorium.

What followed was a performance that combined raw enthusiasm with a soft, enduring charm. Papon's voice resonated deeply, touching not just the ears but the hearts of everyone present. Among the highlights was his rendition of the latest hit

"Qayde Se" from the movie Metro In Dino, which had the audience swaying to the rhythm, their flashlights illuminating the hall like a sea of stars. He delighted the crowd

further with a surprise selection of ghazals by Jagjit

"Tum Itna Io Muskura Rahe Ho," along with evergreen classics like "Pehla Nasha Pehla Khumar," originally rendered by Sadhana Sargam and Udit Narayan. Each note and each verse carried a serene and almost magical quality that held the audience spellbound.

The energy peaked when the crowd passionately requested the chart-topping song "Bulleya" from the movie Sultan. Papon answered with an intriguing performance, doing full justice to the audience's

Accompanied by a talented team of musicians, including a skilled guitarist, flute player and percussionists. flawless musical synergy, musical journey.

Singh, including the soulful creating an unforgettable experience. As the evening drew to a

close, Papon and his band members were felicitated with mementos and warm appreciation from Indian Railways CEO Satish Kumar and the entire IRFC team led by CMD Manoj Kumar Dubey, recognising their remarkable contribution to the celebration. The event was more than

a musical performance, it was a celebration of talent. emotion and the enduring power of music to bring people together. The 40th foundation day of IRFC will be remembered not only for its milestone but also for the magical night when Papon's voice transformed Papon's ensemble delivered the evening into a heartfelt

India in talks with Mexico on high tariffs;



Chennai dams full: 27year record broken after monsoon and cyclone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

For the first time in nearly 27 years, water in three chief dams supplying drinking water to Chennai have reached their full reservoir level. Three other dams. too, are brimming with water as their levels have reached the maximum level. thanks to the northeast monsoon and cyclone Ditwah. The combined storage of water in all six dams accounted for a total 12,273.40 mcft (million cubic feet), which is 92.83 per cent, on December 12, as against a storage of 10,068.42 mcft of water during the corresponding period last year.

Poondi and Puzhal dams have 100 per cent storage, while Chembarambakkam has 99.37 per cent water. As per the data available with Water Supply and Sewerage Board, levels of water in Poondi and Puzhal reservoirs have reached the FRL

(3.300 mcft storage), respectively. Chembarambakkam with a

full tank level of 85.31 feet (3,645 mcft storage), currently has 3,622 mcft of water. All three reservoirs continue to receive inflows from the catchment areas. "The water levels reached

the maximum level due to cyclone Ditwah that triggered intense rainfall in Chennai and neighb ouring districts during the northeast monsoon," officials said.

Cholavaram dam (65.50 feet height), Kannankottai Thervoy Kandigai (115.35 feet), and Veeranam (47.50 feet) have water up to 59.22 feet, 114.33 feet, and 46.10 feet, respectively.

In 2015, when the city and suburbs reeled under massive floods, the water level at Poondi dam stood at 139.26 feet, which was 98.91 the Chennai Metropolitan per cent of the storage (i.E. 2.905 mcft), Puzhal stood at 48.60 feet - 88.85 per cent (2,932)mcft), Chembarambakkam stood of 140 feet (3,221 mcft at 83.05 feet with 83.07 per storage) and 50.20 feet cent storage (3,028 mcft).

reserves right to act to protect exporters PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

over the South American nation's decision to unilaterally raise tariffs on a number of products to find mutually beneficial solutions, even as New Delhi reserves the right to take appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of its exporters, an official said on Saturday.

duties These announced against countries that do not have free trade agreements with Mexico, including India, China, South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia. The official said that India, in fact, was engaged with Mexico during the initial tabling of a bill in this regard. The Embassy of India in Mexico raised the issue with the Ministry of Economy on September 30, 2025, itself, seeking special concessions to shield Indian exports from the new tariffs. "India values its partnership with Mexico and stands ready to work collaboratively toward a stable and balanced trade environment that benefits businesses and con- covered is yet to be officially sumers in both countries,"

the official added. Further, will take effect on January 1, engagement or with the prinand terms of reference (ToR) to initiate the talks formally are expected to be finalised soon. Experts said that the trade agreement will help insulate Indian companies from these tariffs, which were imposed under pressure from the US to align with America on increasing tariffs against China and prevent transshippment to America. Mexico's Senate has approved a new tariff measure on December 11, 2025, and it has since been cleared by both chambers of Congress. It is aimed at boost-

ing manufacturing and reducing trade imbalances. Under the decision, Mexico will impose steep import tariffs - ranging from about 5 per cent to as high as 50 per cent on a wide range of goods (about 1,463 tariff lines) from countries that do not have free trade agreements with Mexico, including India. China, South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia.

However, the list of items notified. The higher duties

both the countries are 2026. "The Department of ciples of predictability and looking to start negotiations
Commerce is engaged with transparency underpinning India is engaged with Mexico for a free trade agreement, Mexico's Ministry of Economy the multilateral trading to explore mutually beneficial solutions which align with global trade rules," the official said. A high-level meeting in this regard between Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Mexico's Vice Minister of Economy Luis Rosendo has already taken place and follow on technical meetings are expected soon.

"India reserves the right to take appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of Indian exporters, while continuing to pursue a solution through constructive dialogue," the official added.

The Government official further said that the actual impact on Indian exports will depend on the criticality of Indian exports to domestic supply chains in Mexico and ability of Indian companies to secure exemptions or pass on the tariff cost to the Mexican consumers.

India believes that unilateral increases in MFN (most favoured nation) tariffs, without prior consultations, do not align with the spirit of system.

The official also said that the Government is currently examining the details and implications of Mexico's tariff revisions and remains engaged with all stakeholders to monitor the evolving situation.Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that Mexico's decision is a matter of concern, particularly for sectors like automobiles and auto components, machinery, electrical and electronics, organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles and plastics."Such steep duties will erode our competitiveness and risk disrupting supply chains that have taken years to develop,' Sahai said, adding that this development also underlines the little urgency for India and Mexico to fast-track a comprehensive trade agreement. Domestic auto component manufacturers will face enhanced cost pressures with Mexico hiking duties on Indian imports, according to

UNESCO meet at Delhi's Red Fort concludes; 67 new elements added to ICH lists

CORRIGENDUM GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, **AMRITSAR**

(All India Service Centre of Preparation for Competitive Examination)

Online applications are invited from the candidate for admission in Al India Service Centre of Preparatio for Competitive Examinations (AIS CCE) for preparation of UPSC/PCS, UGC(NET/JRF). The last date for admission of online applications is 15.01.2026. For online registration and more details, visits websit http://gndu.ac.in/ais/

RO 2426/12/2025-26/5911 Dated CHD :- 12/12/2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi A key UNESCO meet on safe-

guarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) being held at Delhi's Red Fort ends on Saturday, with the panel adding 67 new living heritage elements from various countries during the nearly week-long session. The next session of the

Governmental Committee (IGC) for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will be hosted in December 2026 in China's Xiamen city, a senior official of UNESCO said on Friday.

The closing ceremony was

hosted in the evening by India at the temporary pavilion, Plenary Hall, at the fort complex, as delegates will head out for sightseeing on Saturday after days of intense discussion. The session was held for

the first time in India with the Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as its venue. Fumiko Ohinata, Secretary, UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, in her address at the ceremony, described the Mughal-

era fort complex as a "magnificent backdrop" for the

The Mughal-era monu-

enjoyed all India moments," Ohinata said. Later, interacting with PTI, she said the next session of

ment is famous for its

massive fortified walls. "We

the IGC will be held in China. Sixty-seven cultural ele-

ments, including India's Deepavali, Iran's art of mirror-work in Persian architecture, the UAE's traditional art form that blends performing arts with oral tradition and Switzerland's yodelling, have been added to UNESCO's various intangible heritage lists over the period of December 9-11. Nominations were sent

by nearly 80 countries. In a Statement, UNESCO

week, the 24 member States of the committee examined 67 living heritage elements, including, 11 elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent

Safeguarding; 53 elements Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity; and one programme selected on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices of

Intangible Cultural Heritage. Furthermore, in response to the positive impact of the safeguarding measures put in place since their inscription, two elements

said over the course of the have also been transferred from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and their corresponding safeguarding programmes have been added to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

With this year's inscriptions, 849 cultural practices in 157 countries are now part of UNESCO's living heritage lists, UNESCO said.

"Fragile yet essential, living heritage remains a pillar of cultural diversity in a world that can at times feel

fragmented and divided.

Living, creative, and carried

us of what binds us together," UNESCO Director-General Khaled El-Enany was quoted as saying in the Statement. "Let us keep alive the hope

by communities, it reminds

that unites us today: to share knowledge, strengthen connections, and build bridges across borders," he said. The 20th session of the

panel began on December 8. The opening ceremony was held on December 7, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attending it as the chief guest. "We have reaffirmed the extraordinary diversity, creativity, and living wisdom of communi-

ties across the world. Each

give meaning, identity, and continuity to human societies," India's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Vishal V Sharma, said in his address at the closing ceremony. Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal said this session has reaffirmed the significance of intangible heritage in "sustaining communities, nurturing continuity and fortifying social cohesion, particularly at a time when globalisation, conflict and climate pressure challenge

our cultural ecosystems"

inscription is not merely an

addition to a list but a

renewed commitment to

safeguarding practices that

Ex-leader jailed for corruption

A Bolivian court on Friday ordered the country's former President Luis Arce to remain detained for five months while he awaits trial on corruption charges, the latest development in a case that threatens to exacerbate Bolivia's political tensions. Arce, 62, a leader from Bolivia's Movement Toward Socialism party, was elected in 2020 and left office a month ago following the election of Bolivia's first right-wing leader in nearly two decades. He strongly denies the charges of breach of duty and financial misconduct. He faces up to six years in prison if convicted. Two days after Arce's sudden arrest on the streets of Bolivia's capital of La Paz, a judge ordered his detention in a virtual hearing Friday. Arce was transferred to one of Bolivia's largest prisons in La Paz at night

USA

Clintons face contempt threat

The Republican chair of the House Oversight Committee on Friday threatened to begin contempt of Congress proceedings against former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton if they refuse to appear for depositions as part of the committee's investigation into Jeffrey Epstein. James Comer, a Kentucky Republican, said that the Clintons had "delayed, obstructed, and largely ignored the Committee staff's efforts to schedule their testimony" for several months and said the committee would begin proceedings to try to force them to testify if they do not appear next week or schedule an appearance in January. Comer's statement came just hours after Democrats on the committee had released dozens of photos they had received from Epstein's estate, including images of **Clinton and President**

Fighting rages on Thai-Cambodian border

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fighting continued to rage on Saturday morning along the border of Thailand and Cambodia, even after US President Donald Trump, acting as a mediator, declared that he had won agreement from both countries for a ceasefire.

Thai officials have said they did not agree to a ceasefire, and Cambodia has not commented on Trump's claim. Its defence ministry instead said Thai jets carried out airstrikes Saturday morning. Cambodian media reported Trump's claim without elaborating.

The latest large-scale fighting was set off by a skirmish on Dec. 7 that wounded two Thai soldiers and derailed a ceasefire promoted by Trump that ended five days of earlier combat in July over longstanding territorial disputes. The July ceasefire was brokered by Malaysia and pushed through by pressure from Trump, who threatened to withhold trade privileges unless Thailand and Cambodia agreed. It was formalised in more detail in October at a regional meeting in Malaysia that Trump attended.

About two dozen people have officially been reported killed in this past week's fighting, while hundreds of thousands have been displaced on both sides of the border. The Thai military acknowledges 11 of its troops have been killed, while estimating there have been 165 fatalities among Cambodian soldiers. Cambodia has not



Children raising their hands while receiving donation from charity as they take refuge in Banteay Menchey provincial town on Cambodia

announced military casualties, but has said at least 11 civilians have been killed and 76 wounded.

Trump, on Friday, after speaking to Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, announced an agreement to restart the ceasefire.

"They have agreed to CEASE all shooting effective this evening, and go back to the original Peace Accord made with me, and them, with the help of the Great Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim," Trump said in his Truth Social post.

Trump's claim came after midnight in Bangkok. Thai Prime Minister Anutin had, after his call with Trump, said he had explained Thailand's

The Thai foreign ministry later explicitly disputed Trump's claim that a ceasefire had been reached. Anutin's busy day on Friday included dissolving Parliament, so new elections could be held early next year. Cambodian Prime

Minister Hun Manet, in com-

ments posted early Saturday

reasons for fighting and said

peace would depend on

Cambodia ceasing its

attacks first.

morning, also made no mention of a ceasefire.

He said he held phone conversations on Friday night with Trump, and a night earlier with Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and thanked both for their continuous efforts to achieve a long-lasting peace between Cambodia and Thailand." "Cambodia is ready to cooperate in any way that is needed,' Hun Manet wrote. Thailand has been carrying out airstrikes on what it says are strictly military targets, while Cambodia has been firing thousands of medium-range BM-21 rockets that have caused havoc but relatively few casualties.

BM-21 rocket launchers can fire up to 40 rockets at a time with a range of 30-40 kilometres (19-25 miles). These rockets cannot be precisely targeted and have landed largely in areas from which most people have already been evacuated.

However, the Thai army announced Saturday that BM-21 rockets had hit a civilian area in Sisaket province, seriously injuring two civilians who had heard warning sirens and had been running toward a bunker for safety.

Fire breaks out in 12-storey building in Dhaka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dhaka

A massive fire broke out early on Saturday on the ground floor of a 12-storey mixed-use building in a market in Bangladesh's capital city, officials said. However, no casualties

were reported in the blaze at Jabal E Nur Tower, and fire service officials rescued at least 42 people from the building, the State-run BSS news agency reported.

The incident marks the second major fire in a multistorey building in Dhaka in two months. On October 14, a massive blaze ripped



house and an adjacent garments factory in the capital,

killing at least 16 people. According to news portal at 5.37 am local time and firefighting units reached the scene at around 5.45 am.

Fire service media officer tbsnews.Net, the Fire Service Anwarul Islam said 18 fireand Civil Defence received fighting units were deployed

Bangladesh (BGB) personnel were also deployed at the site to assist in maintaining law and order, controlling crowds and ensuring the smooth movement of emergency responders, BGB public relations officer Shariful Islam said.

control. Border Guard

Senior Staff Officer (Media Cell) of the Fire Service, Md Shahjahan Shikdar, said the fire-hit structure consists of several separate buildings sharing a single basement.

The ground and first floors house a market with garment product shops and small scrap warehouses, while the upper floors

ments. The basement has only two entry points, he said. Firefighters were forced to cut open the locks and shutters of most shops to douse the flames, which slowed down the operation.

The cause of the fire could not be determined immediately. Locals and business owners said scrap clothes stored in the basement may have fuelled the blaze, but officials said the origin of the fire was yet to be ascertained, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Bangladesh has a history of industrial disasters. Past industrial tragedies have often been attributed to

Two Pak universities launch Sanskrit courses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

First time after partition, two universities of Pakistan's Punjab have launched short courses in Sanskrit citing shared heritage and plan to teach Gita and Mahabharat in future. The University of Punjab Lahore (public) and The Lahore University of Management Sciences (private) have launched a three-month course in this classical language.

The instructors are also banking on a significant archieval collection of Sanskrit manuscripts in the Punjab University for later research. While the preparations

started for the short duration courses last year, the year 2025 saw admissions to the first course. "The Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) was the first to start the basic levels I and II followed by the Punjab University Lahore," Prof Dr Ashok Kumar of Hindi Department Punjab University told exclusively on Saturday. 'The course offers basic knowhow of the classical language. To have a grip of Sanskrit, a student needs to complete seven levels that would require at least three years,' Kumar said.

"Let's see if at some point of time, the varsity could offer the three-year full-fledged course to understand the classical language," he said and added that in the three-year course of the classical language the students would be able to read Gita and Mahabharata.

To a question about why the Punjab University (PU) or LUMS felt the need to launch Sanskrit course, Kumar said, "After partition in 1947, there was hardly any person here who could teach this classical language as all those who knew it, left for India."

"Since the Punjab University has vast literature of Sanskrit in archieves, our new dean decided to introduce this."

The Punjab University library houses one of the richest but least-studied Sanskrit archives, Kumar said, adding, none of the locals were using it till now and having Sanskrit-trained students may give us new insights into the region's ancient history. Three students are current-

ly enrolled in the Punjab University while in LUMS, there are some eight students cur-

THE INSTRUCTORS ARE ALSO BANKING ON A SIGNIFICANT **ARCHIEVAL COLLECTION OF SANSKRIT** MANUSCRIPTS IN THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY

course. Kumar said most students enrolled in Sanskrit in PU and LUMS are Muslims, having keen interest in learning of the language.

Dr Shahid Rasheed, Associate Professor of Sociology at Forman Christian College University, Lahore, in a talk with a local newspaper said: "Classical languages contain much wisdom for mankind. I started with learning Arabic and Persian, and then studied Sanskrit."

The professor, who teaches at the LUMS, said he relied on learning through online platforms, studying under Cambridge Sanskrit scholar Antonia Ruppel and Australian Indologist McComas Taylor. "It took almost a year to cover classical Sanskrit grammar. And I'm still studying it."

Rasheed said that people often question his choice to study Sanskrit. "I tell them, why should we not learn it? It is the binding language of the entire region. Sanskrit grammarian Panini's village was in this region.'

"Much writing was done here during the Indus Valley Civilisation. Sanskrit is like a mountain - a cultural monument. We need to own it. It is ours too; it's not tied to any one particular religion," he added. Rasheed further said that South Asia will see a more cohesive state of affairs if people try to learn each other's classical traditions. "Imagine, if more Hindus and Sikhs in India started learning Arabic, and more Muslims in Pakistan took up Sanskrit, it could be a fresh, hopeful start for South Asia, where languages become bridges instead of barriers."

About Hindi language, he said it is one of the 12 foreign languages the Punjab University has been teaching since 1947. "Let's learn Hindi; the language of love and harmony, the cultures and history of the communities of subcontinent," reads a sign board at the Punjab University, Institute of Languages. "At present, we have 10 students in the Hindi language one-year diploma

Gaza amputees struggle to rebuild lives

Sitting in her wheelchair, Haneen al-Mabhouh dreams of rebuilding her family, of cradling a new baby. She dreams of walking again. But with her leg gone, her life in Gaza is on hold, she says, as she waits to go abroad for further treatment. An Israeli airstrike in July

2024 smashed her home in central Gaza as she and her family slept. All four of her daughters were killed, including her 5-month-old baby. Her husband was severely burned. Al-Mabhouh's legs were crushed under the rubble, and doctors had to amputate her right leg above the knee.

"For the past year and a half, I have been unable to move around, to live like others. For the past year and a half, I have been without children," she said, speaking at her parents'



Palestinian Mohammed al-Jabri. 58, warming himself next to the fire as he sits on the rubble of a building destroyed during the Israeli air and ground operations in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, in Gaza City

home.The 2-month-old ceasefire in Gaza has been slow to bring help for thousands of Palestinians who suffered amputations from Israeli bombardment over the past two years. The

World Health Organisation estimates there are some 5.000 to 6,000 amputees from the war, 25 per cent of them children.

Those who lost limbs are struggling to adapt, faced into Gaza. That appears to be been killed.

with a shortage of prosthetic limbs and long delays in medical evacuations out of Gaza. The WHO said a shipment of essential prosthetic supplies recently made it the first significant shipment for the past two years. Previously, Israel had let in almost no ready-made prosthetic limbs or material to manufacture limbs since the war began, according to Loay Abu Saif, the head of the disability program at Medical Aid for Palestinians,

or MAP, and Nevin Al

Ghussein, acting director of

the Artificial Limbs and Polio Center in Gaza City. The Israeli military body in charge of coordinating aid, known as COGAT, did not respond when asked how many prosthetic sup-plies had entered during the war or about its policies

on such supplies. Al-Mabhouh was asleep with her baby girl in her arms when the strike hit their home in Nuseirat, she said. For several weeks while recovering in the hospital, al-Mabhouh had no idea her children had

Ready to deal with external and internal threats, says Asim Munir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Islamabad

Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on Saturday said his forces were ready to deal with the threats posed by the external and international elements.

Munir visited Gujranwala

and Sialkot garrisons, where he was briefed on the formation's operational readiness and key initiatives for strengthening combat pre-paredness, according to a statement by the army."Pakistan Army remains fully focused on both internal and external challenges, including hostile hybrid campaigns, extremist ideologies, and divisive elements seeking to undermine national stability," he emphasised on the occasion. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7,



targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions. In an internal challenge, the government last year notified the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan as "Fitna al-Khawarij", a reference to a group in earlier Islamic history which was involved in violence.

While interacting with officers and soldiers, Munir lauded their high morale to national security while underscoring the importance of rigorous and mission-ori-



UN-sanctioned migrant smuggler killed in Libya

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Cairo

A notorious militia leader in Libya, sanctioned by the UN for migrant trafficking across the Mediterranean Sea, was killed on Friday in a raid by security forces in the west of the country, according to Libyan authorities. Ahmed Oumar al-Fitouri al-Dabbashi was killed in Sabratha. The raid came in response to an attack on a security outpost by al-Dabbashi's militia, which left six members of the security forces severely wounded, according to a statement issued by the Security Threat Enforcement Agency, a security entity affiliated with Libya's western government. Al-Dabbashi, who was also sanctioned by the US Treasury for trafficking, was the leader of a powerful militia, the "Brigade of the Martyr Anas al-Dabbashi," in Sabratha, the biggest launching point in Libya for Europe-bound African migrants.



South Africa eases regulations on Starlink

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Cape Town

South Africa's communications minister ordered a policy change on Friday that allows Elon Musk's Starlink and other foreign-owned satellite internet providers to operate in the country without selling 30 per cent of their local equity to Black or other non-white owners. The policy change published in a Government gazette allows foreign companies seeking licences to operate in South Africa's communications sector. That option is also available for foreign-owned companies in other sectors in South Africa. Musk, who was born in South Africa, accused his home country of having "openly racist ownership laws" by requiring at least 30 per cent local ownership by Black or other races that were denied opportunities under South Africa's apartheid system of white minority rule.

19 US States challenge Trump's \$100,000 H-1B fee

■ New York/Washington

Nineteen US states have sued the Trump administration over its "unlawful" decision to impose a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions, warning that the move will worsen labour shortages in key sectors such as health care, education and technology. New York Attorney General Letitia James, along with 18 other attorneys general, on Friday filed the lawsuit in the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts, challenging what they termed a "massive" increase in H-1B fees without legal authority or due process.

The H-1B visa programme allows highly skilled foreign professionals to work temporarily in the US and is widely used by Indian nationals. The coalition argued that the new fee would make the programme effectively inaccessible for Government and non-profit employers that depend on H-1B workers to provide essential services in health care, education, technology, and other fields.

"H-1B visas allow talented doctors, nurses, teachers, and other workers to serve communities in need across our country. "The administration's illegal attempt to ruin this programme will make it harder for New Yorkers to get health care, disrupt our children's education, and hurt our economy. I will keep fighting to stop this chaos



and cruelty targeting immigrant communities," James said in a statement.

In September, US President Donald Trump announced that his administration would levy a one-time USD 100,000 fee on all new H-1B applications, which the attorneys general described as a "sudden" and "massive' increase over existing charges.The attorneys general contended that the imposition of the new fee is "unlawful" and the move violates the Administrative Procedure Act as well as the **Immigration and Nationality** Act, as it was imposed without congressional approval or the required rule-making process.

Joining James in the lawsuit are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado. Connecticut. Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. The coalition said the new fee on H-1B visas will severely restrict states' ability to hire new workers under the programme to address labour shortages, disrupt- nursing shortage estimated ing access to education, to reach 40,000 nurses by

health care, and other criti-2030. A reduction in H-1B cal services. This shortage of visa holders would only exacworkers would be devastaterbate this shortage, it said. ing for rural and underserved Nationwide, the American communities already facing shrinking workforces, it warned. In New York alone. more than a third of health care workers are immigrants,

while public universities and

hospitals rely heavily on H-1B

professionals, according to

the lawsuit. In New York's 16

rural counties, there are cur-

rently four primary care

physicians for every 10,000

people. New York's hospitals

already face a pervasive

American workers, and drive

up costs for consumers.

Ending these damaging

tariffs will allow the United

States to engage with India

to advance our shared eco-

nomic and security needs,"

the Indian-American law-

maker said. The resolution

follows a bipartisan Senate

passed measure to end

Trump's Brazil tariffs and

rein in his abuse of emer-

gency powers to raise duties

Medical Association estimates the US will face a shortage of 86,000 physicians by 2036, a shortage that H-1B workers will be critical in filling, the lawsuit said. Across the US, at least 930 colleges and universities employ staff on H-1B visas. More than half of these institutions are public four-year universities, and more than 10 per cent are medical schools. In New York, the State University of New York (SUNY) employs 693 employmany who serve students in rural and suburban areas of The coalition argues that

ees on H-1B visas, including

limiting access to H-1B visas will lead to more crowded classrooms for students and disrupt critical research at leading universities.

Other critical industries in New York, such as technology, finance, and the arts, also rely on H-1B visa holders to fill essential roles. Across the state, more than 13,000 people on H-1B visas work in these sectors.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said Trump's \$100,000 H-1B visa fee creates "unnecessary" and "illegal" financial burdens on California public employers and other providers of vital services, exacerbating labour shortages in key sectors.

"The Trump administration thinks it can raise costs on a whim, but the law says otherwise. We are going to court to defend California's residents and their access to the world-class universities, schools, and hospitals that make Californians proud to call this state home," Bonta said. Since the 1950s, the US has had a visa programme that allows skilled workers to temporarily live in America and work in specialised fields. The current version of the H-1B programme was created in the 1990s and allows employers to hire workers in a "speciality occupation" for a maximum of

UK honors Naoroji's 200th birth anniversary



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London

The House of Lords in London played host to a special reception in honour of the 200th birth anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji, the nationalist leader who became the first Indian to win a popular election to the British Parliament during the colonial era. Naoroji was born in September 1825 to a Parsi family in Mumbai and first travelled to England in 1855 for business reasons before going on to become an influential figure in its political landscape. Lord Karan Bilimoria, a fellow Parsi parliamentarian, hosted Friday's reception in honour of the life and legacy of the polymath who straddled multiple roles of a Zoroastrian priest, businessman, academic and politician. "In many ways, I have followed in the footsteps

of Dadabhai Naoroji, who came initially for business to the UK," said Bilimoria, founder of Cobra Beer. "He was also an academic as a professor at Elphinstone College and, of course, he was a politician - the first Indian, first ethnic minority ever to be elected to this Parliament," he noted. Bilimoria revealed that the bicentenary commemoration was initially planned for September, to coincide with the month of Dadabhai Naoroji's birth 200 years ago, but had to be postponed due to strike action."But we were adamant in making sure that this event would take place during the year of his 200th birth anniversary, and here we are," he added. The Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami, reflected upon the legacy of Naoroji and the impact of the Parsi community in the political and

social life of India.

Bulgaria's president will start talks on new cabinet



ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Sofia

Bulgaria's president will start consultations with parliamentary groups next week on forming a new cabinet following the collapse of the Government in nationwide anti-corruption protests. Rosen Zhelyazkov's minority Government had survived six no-confidence votes since it was appointed in January, only to be toppled in the street protests on Thursday by tens of thousands. President Rumen Radev is set to invite the biggest group in parliament for talks on forming a Government. If that fails, the second-largest grouping will get its chance before the president chooses a candidate. If all attempts fail - which is likely - he will

until a new election is held in two months. Analysts expect another election - the eighth since 2021 - would likely produce a deeply fragmented parliament and more political instability as Bulgaria readies to join the common European currency on January 1. Fears of inflation, reportedly fuelled by a disinformation campaign by Moscow, have dampen enthusiasm for the euro. Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007.in a last-moment effort to block the country's path to the euro, the pro-Russian Vazrazhdane party submitted in parliament a draft resolution requesting a oneyear postponement of Bulgaria's entry into the eurozone, citing the absence

Three US lawmakers introduce resolution to end 50% tariffs imposed by Trump on India

New York/Washington

Three influential US lawmakers have introduced a resolution in Congress aimed at ending the tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump on India, saying the "irresponsible tariff strategy" toward Delhi is a counterproductive approach that "weakens a critical partnership".

Representatives Deborah Ross of North Carolina, Marc Veasey of Texas and Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois introduced the resolution on Friday in the House of Representatives to terminate rump's national emergency authorising tariffs of up to 50 per cent on imports from India, helping to restore Congress' constitutional authority over trade.

Trump has imposed a 50 per cent tariff on India, the highest in the world, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil. The resolution would terminate



the national emergency that Trump invoked to impose sweeping tariffs on Indian under International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and rescind the additional 25 per cent "secondary" duties that took effect on August 27 on top of earlier reciprocal tariffs. Together, these mea-

Indian-origin products to 50 per cent, a statement issued by Ross said.

Krishnamoorthi said that Trump's "irresponsible tariff strategy toward India is a counterproductive approach that weakens a critical partnership." "Instead of advancing American interests or security, these duties disrupt

on imports, the statement said. "North Carolina's economy is deeply connected to India through trade, investment, and a vibrant Indian American communi-' Ross added She said that Indian companies have invested over a billion dollars and created thousands of good-paying jobs in our state - especially in the Research Triangle's life sciences and technology sectors. North Carolina manufacturers export hundreds

UN chief visits Iraq

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations Secretary-**General Antonio Guterres** was in Baghdad on Saturday to mark the end of the political mission set up in 2003 following the US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein.

The UN Security Council,

at Iraq's request, voted last year to wind down the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) by the end of 2025. The mission was set up to coordinate postconflict humanitarian and reconstruction efforts and help restore a reprethe country. Iraqı caretak-Minister Prime Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said his country "highly values" the mission's work in a region "that has suffered for decades from dictatorship, wars, and terrorism." He said its conclusion showed Iraq had reached a stage of "full

"Iraq emerged victorious thanks to the sacrifices and courage of its people," he said in a joint statement with Guterres.

The ending of UNAMI's mandate "does not signify the end of the partnership between Iraq and the UN, Sudani said, adding that it represents the beginning of a new chapter of cooperation focused on development and inclusive economic growth.

The prime minister said a street in Baghdad would be named "United Nations Street" in honour of the UN's work and in recognition of 22 UN staff who were killed in an Aug. 19, 2003, truck bomb attack sentative Government in on the Canal Hotel in Bagndad, which housed the UN headquarters.

Guterres praised "the courage, fortitude and determination of the Iraqi people" and the country's efforts to restore security and order after years of sectarian violence and the rise of extremist groups, including the Islamic State group.

of a new budget and of millions of dollars in goods chains, harm appoint a caretaker cabinet sures raised duties on many supply to India each year. self-reliance. political instability. Belarus releases Nobel prize laureate in exchange for US sanctions relief Bangladesh Govt orders security clampdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus-led interim Government on Saturday ordered a nationwide security clampdown as fresh unrest gripped Bangladesh following the shooting of a youth leader of a right-wing cultural group, also a candidate in the February 12 general elections.

'The Government is going to start the second phase of Operation Devil Hunt to help ensure public safety and combat the growing threat of illegal arms," Home Affairs adviser Lt Gen (rtd) Jahangir

The Government is going to start the second phase of Operation Devil Hunt to help ensure public safety and combat the growing threat of illegal arms— Alam Chowdhury, home Affairs adviser

Alam Chowdhury told a press conference. The announcement came after three assailants shot Inquilab Mancha leader Sharif Osmann Hadi on Friday, as he initiated his election campaign at central Dhaka's Bijoynagar area — from where he is contesting as an independent candidate. According to doctors, his condition is very critical. Chowdhury announced a reward of Taka 50 lakh for information leading to the arrest of one of the suspects who shot Hadi, while police issued his picture, identifying him as Faisal Karim Masud.

The interim Government first launched the Operation Devil hunt in February this year, following protests over an attack on the private house of a former minister in the northern suburb of **ASSOCIATED PRESS** ■ Vilnius

Belarusian authorities have released Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski and key opposition figure Maria Kolesnikova from prison, Pavel Sapelka, human rights advocate with the Viasna rights group

Their release comes as authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko seeks to improve relations with Washington. The US earlier on Saturday announced lifting sanctions on the country's potash sector. In exchange sanctions relief, Lukashenko pardoned 123 prisagency reported. A close ally of Russia, Minsk

has faced Western isolation and sanctions for years.

Lukashenko has ruled the nation of 9.5 million with an iron fist for more than three decades, and the country has been repeatedly sanctioned by Western countries both for its crackdown on human rights and for allowing Moscow to use its territory in the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Belarus has released hundreds of prisoners since July 2024.

Earlier Saturday, the United States said it was lifting sanctions on Belarusian potash in

oners, the Belta State news agency reported. the latest sign of a thaw between Washington and the isolated autocracy.

John Coale, the US special envoy for Belarus, made the announcement after meeting Lukashenko in Minsk on Friday and Saturday.

Speaking with journalists, Coale described the two-day talks as "very productive," Belarus' state news agency Belta reported Saturday.

The US envoy said that normalising relations between Washington and Minsk was our goal."

"We're lifting sanctions, releasing prisoners. We're constantly talking to each other," he said, according to Belta. He also said that the relationship between the countries was moving from "baby steps to more confident steps" as they increased dialogue.

The last time US officials met with Lukashenko in September 2025, Washington announced easing some of the sanctions against Belarus while Minsk released more than 50 political prisoners into Lithuania.

Overall, Belarus released more than 430 political prisoners since July 2024, in what was widely seen as an effort at a rapprochement with the West. Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya --

Bialiatski's wife - told The Associated Press on Saturday that sanctions relief was part of a deal between Minsk and Washington, in which another large group of political prisoners in Belarus were expected

"The freeing of political pris-

to be released.

oners means that Lukashenko understands the pain of Western sanctions and is seeking to ease them," Tsikhanouskaya said. She added: "But let's not be naive: Lukashenko hasn't changed his policies, his crackdown continues, and he keeps on supporting Russia's war



Iran raises gasoline prices after deadly 2019 protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Tehran

Iran introduced a new pricing tier on Saturday for its nationally subsidised gasoline, attempting to rein in spiralling costs for the first time since a price hike in 2019 that sparked nationwide protests and a crackdown that reportedly killed over 300 people. Cheap gasoline has been viewed for generations as a birthright in Iran, sparking mass demonstrations as far back as 1964 when a price increase forced the shah to put military vehicles on the streets to replace those of striking taxi drivers. But Iran's theocracy faces a growing squeeze from the country's rapidly depreciating rial currency and economic sanctions imposed due to Tehran's nuclear program. That has made the cost of having some of the world's cheapest gasoline at a few pennies per gallon that much more expensive.



US removes Brazilian SC justice from sanctions list

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

The US removed Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes from its sanctions list after initially adding him over his role in leading the trial against former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro De Moraes' wife and the Lex Institute, which she leads, were also taken off the list, according to documents from the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control. The Treasury Department did not immediately return a message seeking comment on why de Moraes had been taken off the list. The Trump administration had sanctioned the judge in July, accusing him of using his position to authorize arbitrary pretrial detentions and suppress freedom of expression in Brazil. Bolsonaro was accused of masterminding a plot to stay in power despite his 2022 election defeat to current President Luiz Inácio Lula



Gill to face three-game Test to secure T20I future

Dharamsala

The countdown to save his place in the playing XI begins for a beleaguered Shubman Gill, who is likely to get three matches against South Africa to prove his worth before the Indian team management switches to a 'Plan B' ahead of the T20 World Cup, starting in six weeks.

As India gear up to play the third T20I against the Proteas on Sunday in sub-10-degree temperatures in the lap of the ice-clad Dhauladhar range, things are suddenly heating up in the Indian dressing room, with the pro-longed poor form of skipper Suryakumar Yadav coming under the scanner.

Worse, his deputy Shubman Gill, who was pushed into the XI at the expense of a settled Sanju Samson, is not inspiring much confidence.

The South African pace attack featuring Anrich Nortje, Marco Jansen, Lungi Ngidi, Ottniel Baartman and Lutho Sipamla — has shown how to bowl on Indian tracks, and the HPCA Stadium strip, offering extra bounce and some movement off the surface, will certainly keep them interested.

Among all T20 sides, South Africa, in terms of personnel, appears to have the requisite balance to win the trophy in the Indian subcontinent this time. Quinton de Kock's



India's Shubman Gill, Jitesh Sharma and Abhishek Sharma during a training session ahead of the third T20I cricket match between India and South Africa at HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

Aiden Markram, Dewald Brevis, Donovan Ferreira, David Miller and all-rounder Jansen, gives their batting an intimidating look.

With only eight games, starting from the third T20I, left before the start of the T20 World Cup title defence, India's under-fire head coach Gautam Gambhir won't be able to afford, two out-ofform top-order batters in the starting line-up.

Being the skipper of the side, Surya will certainly have immunity going into the T20 return, along with the likes of World Cup despite being the past one year but same can't be said about Gill, who wasn't the original choice as an opener.

Gill's entry into the T20 setup was a classic case of trying to fix something that ain't broken and things haven't looked good so far. In this backdrop, Gill would need to bat out of his skin to prove that Ajit Agarkar-led committee wasn't wrong in throwing Samson under the bus for one bad series against England.

The stylish Indian Test and

completely out of form for ODI skipper will have to find his T20 game and at least score in two of the three matches if he doesn't want Samson to get his rightful place back or for that matter, find Yashasvi Jaiswal, with a fabulous T20I strike-rate of 165, enter the fray during

New Zealand series. While head coach Gambhir is too proud a person to admit but sending Axar Patel as a one drop batter during the second T20I was a "tactical brain fade" from the team's

The kind misstep that was taken with Axar's promotion is unlikely to be repeated in the third game where skipper is expected to go back to number 3 where he has got a lot of success in his first few years at the international level. Similarly, Shivam Dube

being sent at number eight due to the shuffling of batting order was another poor call which would need course

correction in the next game. Kuldeep Yadav is one bowler who has consistently troubled the Proteas batter negotiable, the left-arm wrist spinner often finds himself getting the rough end of

At Dharamsala too, he might have to sit out as Kuldeep and Varun Chakravarthy, two nonbatters can't be clubbed in the same T20 playing eleven as that would lead to compromise in batting depth.

While Arshdeep hasn't had a good series so far, it will be interesting to find if team management can find a place for Kuldeep in the playing eleven with Hardik Pandya sharing the new ball with Jasprit Bumrah.

The five-match series is currently tied 1-1.

Teams:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, NT Tilak Verma, Axar Patel, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Varun Chakravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah. Sanju Samson (wk), Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (captain), Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Dewald Brevis, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs, Donovan Ferreira, Marco Jansen, Lutho Sipamla, Ottniel Baartman. Anrich Nortje, Lungi Ngidi, Corbin Bosch, Keshav Maharaj, George Linde. Match Starts at 7 pm.

Uthappa calls out clarity issues in Indian batting



New Delhi

Former India batter Robin Uthappa has flagged a lack of role clarity in India's batting approach during a big chase, saying excessive flexibility early in the innings made runscoring more complicated.

India suffered a 51-run loss in the second T201 against South Africa after folding for 162 in 19.1 overs while chasing a target of 214 at Mullanpur on Thursday.

Uthappa said the issue was not the loss of early wickets but the strategy adopted after Shubman Gill's dismissal, particularly with a deep batting line-up at India's disposal.

"When Shubman Gill got out, Axar Patel walked in with plenty of batting still to come. At that stage, he had to play the role of a pinch-hitter someone you are willing to risk early to get quick runs and take pressure off

Abhishek Sharma," Uthappa said on Jio Hotstar.

Instead, Uthappa felt Axar's cautious run-a-ball 21 failed to ease the pressure, forcing a shift in approach as wickets fell around him and slowing the chase further.

"At the international level, batters need clear roles and a clear idea of how they're going to construct an innings," he said.

"Flexibility with match-ups after the first six to eight overs is fine, but you still need a solid foundation before vou can chase a big score you can't build a skyscraper without a base.

"Asking players to prepare for multiple roles in the same game makes run-scoring more complicated, and that's where India are missing a trick. I don't agree with being overly flexible so early in the innings beyond the openers," said the key member of the 2007 T20 World Cup winning side.

PCB MIFFED **OVER AGHA'S**

FROM ICC T20

The Pakistan Cricket Board is

unhappy with the International Cricket Council

after the global governing

body released a promotion-

al poster of next year's T20

World Cup ticket sales

without the country's captain Salman Ali Agha on it.

A reliable source in the

PCB said the matter had been

taken up with the ICC as the

promotional poster featured

Suryakumar Yadav (India),

Aiden Markram (South Africa),

Mitchell Marsh (Australia),

Dasun Shanaka (Sri Lanka)

when the Asia Cup was held

a few months back and that

time the broadcasters had

started a promotional

campaign without our

captain featuring in it," the

PCB spoke to the Asian Cricket

He said it was only after the

source said.

"We faced the same issues

and Harry Brook (England).

only five captains -

WC POSTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi

OMISSION

Desert Vipers cruise to easy eigh wicket victory over Gulf Giants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dubai

Khuzaima Tanveer grabbed four wickets before Sam Curran and Max Holden stitched an unbeaten 123-run partnership as Desert Vipers registered an easy eight-wicket win over Gulf Giants for their fifth straight win in the DP World ILT20 Tanveer finished with 4/10

in the first innings, the best by a UAE bowler in DP World ILT20 history, and also became the first to claim four wickets in the powerplay. His early attack kept the Giants on the backfoot throughout, restricting them to 157/7 in 20 overs at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Then, Curran's unbeaten 67 off 43 balls with five fours and three sixes complemented Holden's 64 runs off 41 balls, as they chased down the target with ease.

Fakhar Zaman (14 off 8) was the first Vipers batter to fall in the second over, courtesy a beautiful ball by



Holden kept the runs flowing, and other than a run out of Hasan Nawaz (7 off 9) in the fourth over, the Vipers looked in control of the run-chase. They finished the powerplay at 53/2.

Curran joined the attack in the 11th over, smashing 19 runs off left-arm spinner Liam Dawson's bowling, including three sixes, considerably reducing the required

His power-hitting continued off Kyle Mayers' bowling, completing his half century in just 32 balls with a lovely

four, scoring 18 runs in the 14th over.

This gave the Vipers momentum as Holden joined Curran on the half century list, in just 31 balls also with a four. The two batters kept the scoreboard ticking as they found the regular boundaries while also rotating the strike.

The likes of Chris Wood and Mark Adair were unable to keep them in check and they smashed an unbeaten 123-run partnership in just 77 balls to chase down the target in 16.5 overs.

Most players are ready to bat anywhere: Tilak Varma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India batter Tilak Varma on underlined Saturday the team management's push for a flexible batting order, saying most players are ready to bat any where depending on match situations.

The hosts eye an edge in the five-match T201 series against South Africa, locked 1-1 ahead of the third game to be played on Sunday

With India continuing to experiment in the middleorder in the build-up to next year's T20 World Cup, Tilak said adaptability has become a key requirement in the shortest format.

"Everyone is flexible except the openers. I am up for batting at 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherever the team prefers for me," Tilak said during the pre-match press conference. "If the team feels a particular move is tactically best, everyone goes with the team.'

Drawing parallels with recent examples, Tilak said such decisions are situation-based rather than roledriven. "One-off games keep

already done the same thing and he did well there. It depends on the situation," he said, citing examples of similar roles being successfully executed in recent international tournaments.

Providing context to the conditions in Dharamsala, the 23-year-old said the surface could still favour batters despite the cold weather. "I have played an Under-

19 India series here before. We are watching the wicket and I feel it will be a highscoring one," he said. However, he cautioned

that low temperatures could offer some help to bowlers early on. With dew expected to play a role as the match

begins at 7 pm, Tilak said India are mentally prepared for the challenge. "We don't have the toss in our hands. We are prepar-

ing for the dew and have

practised with a slightly wet ball," he said. Addressing concerns about playing in unfamiliar cold conditions, Tilak said

mental strength is key.

"It's very cold here, but we are prepared mentally happening. Axar Patel has and physically. Those who



Tilak Varma during a training session ahead of the third T20I cricket match between India and South Africa in Dharamshala

are mentally strong succeed everywhere," he said.

Tilak added that moving the order does not affect his

'We follow the basics in practice. I always think about what I can do for the team," he said.

On the toss factor, Tilak felt batting first or second may not make a major difference.

"In the first two matches,

the team batting first won because there was some seam and swing in the cold. Overall, there isn't much difference as dew comes in

early," he said. Confident of India's approach, the left-hander said the side would stick to

its attacking template. "We will play with the same intent we have shown

in the last 15-20 matches. We are confident of winning the series," he said.

Council (ACC), the situation changed. "We are facing a similar situation this time as the ICC has

not projected our captain on the promotional poster for ticket sales," he added. He said while Pakistan was

not in the top five teams in the ICC T20 rankings but it had a rich legacy and remains one of the top draws in the World Cup.



Hooda, Isharani reach **Odisha Masters final**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Cuttack

Top seed Unnati Hooda and compatriot Isharani Baruah set up a women's singles final clash at the Odisha Masters Super 100 after registering contr asting semifinal victories on Saturday.

The 18-year-old Hooda, a winner of the 2022 edition and 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters, was stretched by former iunior world number 1 Tasnim Mir before prevailing 18-21, 21-16, 21-16 in a hardfought encounter that lasted an hour. After conceding the opening game, Hooda raised her intensity, controlled the rallies better and showed superior temstages of the next two games to book her place in the final. In the other semifinal,

Assam's Isharani produced a strong comeback to defeat Tanvi Hemanth 18-21, 21-7, 21-7. In the men's singles, second seed Kiran Geroge and Rounak Chouhan, who were part of India's his-World Junior Championships medalwinning squad, will clash in the semifinal to decide the finalist. In the mixed doubles semifinals, India's S Kanapuram and R Uthayasooriyan bowed out after going down 16-21, 19-21 to fifth seeds Dejan Ferdinansyah and Wardana of Indonesia.

Shooting nationals: Raiza Dhillon wins double gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris Olympian Raiza Dhillon gave a commanding performance on way to clinching the skeet gold in both women's senior and junior cate gories in the National Shooting Championship on Saturday.

The 21-year-old shot 56 in the women's final to secure the top-podium place ahead of Yashasvi Rathore, who settled for silver with 55. Fellow Olympian Ganemat Shekhon finished third after shooting down 45 targets.



Darshna Rathore (36), Risham Kaur Guron (27) and Vanshika Tiwari (18) finished fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Earlier in the the qualification round, Yashavi topped the standings with 118 hits

while Raiza and Ganemat shot 116 each, with the former finishing second on a shoot-off score of plus-5, while Ganemat was placed third at plus-4. Darshna Rathore finished

fourth with 115, while Risham Kaur Guron and Vanshika Tiwari followed closely with 114 apiece, their positions decided on shoot-off scores. In the women's team event, Raiasthan clinched gold, with Yashasvi Darshna and Olympian Maheshwari Chauhan aggregating 343 to top the standings.

Madhya Pradesh (Vanshika Tiwari, Mansi Raghuwanshi, and Oshmi Shrivas) finished second with a total score of 328, while Punjab (Ganemat Shekhon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Asees Chhina) claimed the bronze medal with 325.

Raiza continued her dom inant run in the junior skeet final as well, shooting 55 to finish one ahead of Vanshika Tiwari, who took silver with 54. Mansi Raghuwanshi won the bronze medal with 45.



Lindsey Vonn runner-up day after becoming oldest World Cup winner

ASSOCIATED PRESS

St Moritz (Switzerland)

Lindsey Vonn nearly did it again. The 41-year-old American finished second in a World Cup downhill on Saturday, a day after becoming the oldest winner in the circuit's history.

After winning the season's opening downhill by nearly a full second on Friday, Vonn was beaten by only one racer this time: Emma Aicher of Germany was 0.24 seconds faster.

Vonn attributed a mistake

down her run for the gap, when she nearly lost her balance for an instant and leaned heavily on her left leg to raise herself back up.

"I'm a little bit tired from yesterday, there was a lot of on my hip. Yeah, didn't ski the bottom the way I wanted to."

emotion," Vonn told Swiss broadcaster RTS. "I thought I skied pretty well on top then I was just out of balance, I fell

Sofia Goggia, the 2018 Olympic champion from Italy, finished third, 0.29 behind, and Breezy Johnson, the

was fourth, 0.40 back. Vonn, who is preparing for

the Milan Cortina Olympics, went into first position with her run down the sundrenched Corviglia course. But the 22-year-old Aicher came down next and quickly pushed Vonn out of the leader's seat.

Vonn returned to skiing last season after nearly six years of retirement - following a partial replacement surgery on her right knee, which included inserting two pieces of titanium.



Vonn's results are shaping up to make her a top medal contender at the Olympics and able to compete with skiers half her age. Women's Alpine skiing at the Feb. 6-22 Winter Games will be contested at Cortina d'Ampezzo, where Vonn holds the record of 12 World Cup wins. Vonn registered the top

speed of 102.45 kph (64 mph) on the top section; increased her speed to 110.02 kph (68 mph) on the bottom and flew a massive 41 meters (yards) off a jump toward the end of her run





The Carnival of Cinema

TEAM VIVA

Cinema, at its core, is a collective experience. It draws strangers into a shared space, invites them to observe, reflect and respond together, and in doing so, shapes public imagination. For more than seven decades, the International Film Festival of India has functioned as a vital platform for this exchange, bringing global cinema into conversation with India's evolving cultural identity. Founded in 1952 as a modest showcase of international films, IFFI has grown into South Asia's most significant film festival, mirroring the country's changing relationship with storytelling, technology and creative

The 56th edition of IFFI, held in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2025, marked a deliberate shift in scale and intent. Anchored in the theme "Convergence of Creativity and Technology," the festival positioned cinema not only as an artistic practice but as a strategic driver of cultural influence and economic growth. Its timing alongside the Golden Jubilee year of the National Film Development Corporation further underscored this moment of transition, reinforcing NFDC's renewed role in preserving legacy while actively shaping the future of Indian cinema

The history that underpins IFFI

To appreciate the festival's importance, one must first look at the foundations of Indian cinema. The nation's screen story began in 1913 with Dadasaheb Phalke's silent landmark, Raia Harishchandra, which used mythological narratives to establish a powerful, indigenous storytelling form. The coming of sound in 1931 with Alam Ara permanently embedded music and dialogue, forging the complex, multi-genre identity of Indian film. The artistic maturity of the 1950s and 60s saw the rise of visionaries like Satyajit Ray, whose profound humanism earned India enduring and respected status in the global artistic domain.

This dedication to cultural exchange led to the establishment of the IFFI in 1952. Inspired by the ancient philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ("the world is one family"), its purpose was to build bridges across nations through film. IFFI achieved competitive status in 1965 and holds the distinction of being the sole South Asian film festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF). Since permanently moving to its tropical home in Goa in 2004, IFFI has become Asia's most crucial annual forum for artistic, commercial, and policy dialogue.

The Festival Chronicle

The 56th edition made a bold opening statement by commencing with a Historic Grand Parade in Panaji, rather than an exclusive indoor event. This unprecedented move instantly rendered the opening ceremony accessible and inclusive, dissolving the traditional boundary between an elite festival and the general public.

The procession was a powerful display of cultural federalism, featuring magnificent floats and vibrant state tableaus from Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, and Goa. The emotional peak was the "Bharat Ek Soor" collective-over a hundred folk artists from sixteen states whose combined rhythms and synchronized movement culminated in a breathtaking, living tribute to the nation-

In his official address, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant cemented the state's long-term vision, formally declaring Goa's ambition to become the "Creative Capital of India." The ceremony also paid profound respect to the industry's icons, honouring legendary actor Nandamuri Balakrishna for his fifty-year screen career.

The choice of films set an immediate standard



dystopian drama, directed by Gabriel Mascaro. Having previously won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at Berlinale 2025, the film, which follows an odyssey through the collapsing Amazon, compelled audiences confront climate anxieties through a singular, human lens.

INDIAN PANORAMA:

- Feature Film: Rajkumar Periasamy's Tamil film, Amaran, was selected to showcase the sophisticated craft and storytelling depth emerging from India's regional powerhouses.
- Non-Feature Film: Kamlesh K Mishra's Hindi film, *Kakori*, reaffirmed the festival's dedication to powerful, non-fiction narratives dealing with crucial historical and social moments.

Incubation and economic strategy

The immediate transition from public ceremony to focused industry activity, solidifying IFFI's function as a talent incubator and nexus for global part-

- Masterclass Series Inauguration: The Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Dr L Murugan, inaugurated the Masterclass Series at Kala Academy. This session was strategically opened to the general public for the first time, democratizing access to expert knowledge and drawing international professionals from Australia, Japan, Germany, and Canada.
- The Launch of CMOT 2025: The fifth edition of the Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) commenced, challenging 125 emerging creators with an intensive 48-hour filmmaking competition. Dr Murugan highlighted that this high-pressure environment was intended to refine their craft, linking the programme directly to larger governmental support for creative industries, such as

the new Indian Institute of Creative Technologies.

 Ambassadors' Roundtable on Co-Production: The festival served as a crucial diplomatic and commercial hub. The Roundtable was held to facilitate international co-production agreements and technology partnerships. Secretary Shri Sanjay Jaju emphasised India's growing role as a global production centre. Dr Murugan underscored co-production as a vital pillar of growth, citing the projected expansion of India's Media and Entertainment sector to USD 31.6 billion in 2025, a growth driven by technological advance-

ments in VFX and robust anti-piracy efforts. Red Carpet & Dialogue: The Red-Carpet segment continued to draw high-profile talent (Anupam Kher. Jackie Shroff, Manoj Bajpayee), providing vital exposure for various film premieres. A deeply insightful "In-Conversation" session, "Cinema and Culture: Reflections from Two Eras," featured filmmakers Muzaffar Ali and Shaad Ali, providing a critical lens on

practice across generations. The Engine Room The WAVES Film Bazaar was operating at peak

the evolution of artistic

efficiency as South Asia's largest film market, creating a robust ecosystem for deal-making, coproductions, and project

funding. groundbreaking CinemAl Hackathon continued its focused work on applying Artificial Intelligence to cinematic innovation and critical areas like anti-

piracy solutions. IFFIesta The **Cultural Showcase**

provided the evening's rich public engagement, seamlessly integrating the experience of global cinema with the celebratory, living traditions of

Resilience and Reflection

The Day became a day of intellectual and emotional climax, dedicated to the sheer tenacity required to sustain an artistic career.

The Masterclass of Willpower: The most significant event was the Masterclass delivered by the veteran actor and speaker Anupam Kher, powerfully titled: "Giving Up is NOT a Choice!" Held at Kala Academy, the session transcended mere acting technique, offering a profound, motivational blueprint for sustaining a life in the arts through conviction and perseverance.

Creative Minds Present: The intensive 48-hour Challenge of CMOT officially concluded, with the young filmmakers presenting their final worksa raw demonstration of their ability to execute a creative vision under rigorous pressure. Global Press Narratives: The

> cross-cultural dialogue: International Voices were heard from the teams behind films like De Tal Palo, Pike River, Karla (Christina Theresa Tournatzès), and Renoir (Hayakawa Chie). Asian Cinema

PIB Media Centre hosted a marathon of

found a strong platform with the makers of Seaside Serendipity and Tiger (Anshul Chauhan), emphasizing regional artistic momentum.

representing diverse regional and documentary work, including Sandesh Kadur (Nilgiris — A Shared Wilderness), Paresh Mokashi (Mukkam Post Bombilwadi), and Debangkar Borgohain (Sikaar), engaged the

A Sound Legacy: The day concluded with an intellectual tribute during the Lata Mangeshkar Memorial Talk, "The Rhythms of India: From the Himalayas to the Deccan," where composers Vishal Bhardwaj and B. Ajaneesh Loknath discussed the complex, emotional, and structural role of music in shaping the identity of Indian cinema.

Why does a festival like IFFI matter in today's world of cinema?

The 56th IFFI, through its radical public opening, focused diplomatic efforts, and masterclasses, showcased films while shaping the future ecosystem of film creation and distribution. In a fragmented, digital world saturated with content, IFFI emerged as an essential physical nexus - a place where deals are struck, co-production treaties are signed, and the human spark of a young creator is ignited through mentorship. It stood as a powerful international corrective, reaffirming that cinematic value lies in cultural depth, technological innovation, and artistic excellence, not commercial returns

As technology grows capable of replicating spectacle with ease, the festival leaves behind a quieter, more urgent reflection: how will global cinema protect the human heart of storytelling in a future increasingly shaped by























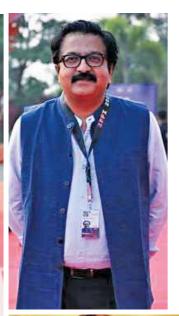


(L-R) Actor Kamal Haasan, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, actor Ranveer Singh, actor Vineet Singh, actor Kishore Kadam from the film 'Gondhal,' German actress Katherina Schüttler, actress Tran Quân, and director Ash Mayfair of the film 'Skin of Youth on the red carpet at IFFI 2025

Moments from IFFI 2025

For nine days, Goa lived cinema as filmmakers, audiences and stories from across the world came together, sharing screens, streets, conversations and memories





Flashbulbs popped as Goa's evenings slipped into festival mode at the 56th International Film Festival of India, with the red carpet setting the pace each day. Cinema legends and emerging faces moved through the same space, turning it into the festival's most visible meeting point.

Across nine days, daily premieres reflected the breadth of Indian and global cinema. Rajinikanth, Ranveer Singh, Rishab Shetty and Aamir Khan appeared alongside teams from Gustaakh Ishq and Tere Ishq Mein. Highlights included the world premiere of The Family Man (Season 3) with Manoj Bajpayee, Nimrat Kaur, Sharib Hashmi, Priyamani and Jaideep Ahlawat; a special showcase of 120 Bahadur featuring Farhan Akhtar, Raashi Khanna and Sparsh Walia; and the Marathi film Asambhav with Sachit Patil, Mukta Barve, Priya Bapat and Sandeep Kulkarni. Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra



also attended the special screening of his restored classic 1942: A Love Story.

A defining feature of IFFI 2025 was its effort to place new cinema alongside traditions of craft, performance and exhibition. The Vintage Camera Exhibition offered a tactile glimpse into the tools that shaped early filmmaking, while the Handloom Sarees in Motion showcase linked cinematic presentation with India's textile heritage. Adding to this was a Photo Exhibition inaugurated by Indian actress Amiee Baruah and Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant at the Kala Academy, showcasing photographs from IFFI's 22-year journey in Goa. The exhibition also featured a collection of antique cameras, tracing the visual and technological evolution of the festival and cinema itself.

The intellectual core of IFFI remained strong through masterclasses and in-conversation sessions at the Kala Academy. Filmmakers such as Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Anupam Kher and Shekhar Kapur spoke about filmmaking as an emotional, ethical and technical practice. The festival also paid tribute to legendary actor Dharmendra, acknowledging his remarkable range and contribution to Indian cinema. A special celebration marked 50 years of Sholay, with director Ramesh Sippy's landmark film revisited as a defining moment in popular cinema and collective memory.

The penultimate evening belonged to Aamir Khan, who closed the festival's final Fireside Chat with candour and wit. Speaking to a packed hall, Khan described his instinct-driven approach to cinema, saying he liked to surprise both his audience and himself. Calling himself "a complete film personality, not an activist," he stressed that entertainment remained his primary objective, adding that the day he consciously chose to direct, he would likely stop acting. IFFI 2025 also advanced—and sustained through collective experiinternational collaboration through indusence, while remaining open to new voices try engagement. A Memorandum of and future possibilities.



Understanding signed between IFFI, NFDC and the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne marked a step towards strengthening Indo-Australian screen relations. Tributes and restored classics provided continuity across generations, with films by Guru Dutt, Ritwik Ghatak and V Shantaram screened alongside contemporary works.

As the festival drew towards its conclusion, participation took on a personal dimension through India Post's 'My Stamp' initiative. Visitors converted their photographs into official, postage-valid stamps using an IFFI-themed template, taking home a tangible memory of the event.

Together, screenings, performances, learning sessions, industry initiatives and personal mementoes shaped an experience that extended beyond the screen. IFFI 2025 presented cinema as an art form shaped by history, refined by craft









IFFI 2025 Official Awards (Key Winners)

International Competition

Gondhal (Indian Marathi thriller).

- Golden Peacock Best Feature Film: Skin of Youth (Vietnamese film by Ash Mayfair) - a bold romance featuring a transgender protagonist. Silver Peacock - Best Director: Santosh Davakahar for
- Silver Peacock Best Actor (Male): Ubeimar Rios for A Poet.
- Silver Peacock Best Actor (Female): Jara Sofija Ostan for Little Trouble Girls.
- Special Jury Award: Akinola Davies Jr for My
- Father's Shadow. • Best Web Series (OTT): Bandish Bandits 2 -
- commended for making arts and music accessible through OTT. ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal: Safe House - recognised
- for promoting peace, nonviolence and intercultural dialogue. Best Debut Director (International/Indian): Kesari Chapter 2 (Hindi) - Karan Singh Tyagi.
- Special Felicitations Lifetime Achievement / Special Recognition: Superstar

Select Top Films & Screenings at IFFI 2025 International Films (Competition & Gala) Skin of Youth (Vietnam/Singapore/Japan) - Golden

Rajinikanth honored for 50 years in Indian cinema.

- Peacock winner.
- My Father's Shadow Special Jury recognition. Safe House - Gandhi Medal winner
- (Norwegian/International). A Poet - Performance-winning film.
- Little Trouble Girls Best Actress performance film. **Indian Competition & Panorama Highlights**
- IFFI's Indian Panorama section featured a rich selection of contemporary Indian cinema across languages (films chosen from hundreds of submissions).
- Notable Indian films included: Gondhal (Marathi) - Best





Director award.

- Amaran (Tamil) major Tamil film featured, also
- nominated for Golden Peacock. • Sarkeet (Malayalam) - Malayalam title in the
- Committee Kurrollu (Telugu) in Best Debut Director
- nomination category. • Shape of Momo (Nepali) - noted Indian Panorama
- ARM (Malayalam) Best Debut Director nominee.
- Binodiini Ekti Natir Upakhyan (Bengali) featured

Special & World Premieres

- Oslo: A Tail of Promise documentary world premiere presented by John Abraham, screened
- in Indian Panorama. The Blue Trail - opened the festival (international selection).

Emerging Voices

- IFFI 2025 screened 240+ films from around 81 countries with world, Asian and international premieres across multiple sections.
- The Indian Panorama featured around 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films selected from a large national pool.
- Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT), a youthfocused program, concluded during the festival with emerging talent at center stage.

Key Themes and Initiatives

- Focus on AI and Technology: CinemAI Hackathon spotlighted AI-driven
- filmmaking and storytelling Global Reach and Collaborations: The festival screened over 240 films from 81 countries, with Japan as Country of Focus and Spain and Australia featured as partner and spotlight countries.
- Inclusivity and Emerging Talent: Aligned with the theme 'Nari Shakti', over 50 films by women directors were showcased, alongside a strong focus on
- debut filmmakers and a dedicated Best Debut Indian Director award. WAVES Film Bazaar: The revamped film market boosted co-productions
- with a tech pavilion and cash grants. Accessibility: The festival incorporated various accessibility measures, including sign language interpreters and audio descriptions at venues, ensuring a more inclusive experience for all delegates.
- Cultural Engagement: The festival opened with a street carnival in Panaji, alongside the four-day cultural showcase IFFlesta.



December 14, 2025

The Pioneer AGENDA

violence pushed to its utmost limits

Fought in the unforgiving sands of the Thar Desert, the Battle of Longewala remains one of the most extraordinary defensive stands in military history. From December 4-7, 1971, a small **Indian Army company**vastly outnumbered and facing overwhelming armour-held its ground against a major Pakistani offensive. Longewala is now regarded globally as a case study in battlefield strategy, leadership and

grit. It is celebrated as

December every year

Vijay Diwas in

Battle of longewala (Rajasthan)

The LIONS of Longewala

A Pivotal Engagement in the 1971 Indo-Pak War

The Battle of Longewala, immortalised in the film Border, was one of the most decisive engagements of the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War. Fought between December 4 and 7 in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, it showcased the extraordinary courage, tactical brilliance, and resilience of the Indian Army. This defensive victory not only halted a major Pakistani armoured thrust but also reshaped the outcome of the war. Owing to its unique character, Longewala is now taught as a case study in leading military academies across the world. The 1971 war was triggered by the Bangladesh Liberation movement, as East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) fought for independence from West Pakistan. As Indian forces advanced rapidly in the East, Pakistan-anticipating imminent defeat-planned a major offensive in the Western theatre. The strategy was to capture Indian territory and use it as leverage during post-war negotiations.

In Rajasthan, the Pakistani Army launched attacks along the border, with its main and most formidable thrust directed at the Longewala post. This post was defended by Alfa Company of the 23rd Battalion of the Punjab Regiment, commanded by Major Kuldip Singh Chandpuri. On December 4, 1971, Captain Dharam Vir of

Alfa Company was on patrol along the International Border. Around 8:00 pm, he detected the unmistakable sound of tank movement across the border-indicating a large mechanized column approaching Longewala. He immediately relayed the information to Major Chandpuri, who at first found the scale hard to believe. But repeated confirmations from Capt Dharam Vir soon made it clear: an enemy infantry brigade supported by a tank regiment and

towards them. This timely intelligence allowed the Indian defenders to quickly assume battle positions. Capt Dharam Vir was ordered to shadow the enemy column, provide continuous updates, and then withdraw to join the main defensive stand. Battalion Headquarters at

an armoured squadron was advancing

Sadhewala rushed two recoilless guns to reinforce the post.

Defence Against Impossible Odds As darkness descended, the Pakistani armour advanced towards Longewala. Outnumbered and outgunned, Alfa Company held its fire until the enemy came within striking distance. Major Chandpuri moved across the defences, encouraging his men and coordinating urgently requested reinforcements and air support. Throughout the night of December 4, Alfa Company withstood repeated enemy assaults, repelling them with fierce determination. Their

defensive stance prevented Pakistani forces from overrunning the post before dawn-a critical factor that would change the course of the battle.



At first light on December 5, the Indian Air Force launched a devastating air campaign. Hawker Hunter and HF-24 Marut aircraft,

guided by a Forward Air Controller, conducted precise bombing runs. Pakistani tanks, stranded in the dunes and unable to manoeuvre effectively, became easy

By evening, the Pakistani advance had collapsed. They abandoned the battlefield, leaving behind 37 destroyed tanks and numerous vehicles. The Indian Army had secured a resounding victory.

Honours and Legacy

GAURAV BHAKHRI

Major Kuldip Singh Chandpuri was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for exceptional leadership. Many soldiers of Alfa Company received honours for their valour. The battle stands as a powerful reminder of the importance of defending sovereignty, adapting under pressure, and leveraging joint operations.

Strategic Significance

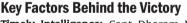
- Decisive Defensive Victory: Longewala demonstrated India's ability to repel a major armoured offensive with minimal resources.
- Protection of Rajasthan: The stand at Longewala prevented Pakistani forces from advancing towards Ramgarh and Jaisalmer.
- Impact on the Eastern Theatre: By failing in the West, Pakistan lost its only potential bargaining tool during the liberation of

Bangladesh.

Morale Booster: The victory significantly uplifted Indian Army morale.

Chandpuri, Company

Global Military Lessons: Longewala continues to be studied for its exemplary use of defensive tactics, intelligence, and airland coordination.



Timely Intelligence: Capt Dharam Vir's early detection of Pakistani armour was critical in preparing the defences.

Effective Air Support: The Indian Air Force's relentless assaults played a decisive role in neutralising enemy armour.

Strong Defensive Positioning: The Indian Army's well-prepared positions and coordinated firepower proved superior despite being heavily outnumbered.

The Battle of Longewala remains one of the greatest examples of courage under fire. It is a testament to how determination, leadership, and strategic clarity can overcome overwhelming odds-and how a single night's stand can alter the destiny of a nation.



IN RAJASTHAN, THE PAKISTANI ARMY **LAUNCHED ATTACKS** ALONG THE BORDER, WITH ITS MAIN AND MOST FORMIDABLE THRUST DIRECTED AT THE LONGEWALA POST. THE POST WAS **DEFENDED BY ALPHA COMPANY OF THE** 23RD BATTALION, THE **PUNJAB REGIMENT**















The 1997 war epic Border, directed by JP Dutta, remains one of Indian cinema's most iconic portrayals of patriotism. Based on the Battle of Longewala during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, the

stories that shaped its authenticity and legacy. **INSPIRED BY A TRUE HERO** JP Dutta drew heavily from the real-life experiences of Major (later Brigadier) Kuldip Singh Chandpuri, who commanded the outnumbered Indian troops at Longewala. The film's character

film's creation is filled with fascinating behind-the-scenes

SHOT IN REAL DESERT TERRAIN

officer himself visited the sets during shooting.

To recreate the harsh conditions of the Thar desert, the crew

played by Sunny Deol is closely modelled on him, and the

shot extensively in Bikaner and Jaisalmer. The temperatures soared above 45°C, posing challenges for actors and crew, but lending the visuals a raw, authentic feel.

AUTHENTIC MILITARY SUPPORT

The Indian Army offered extensive support to the film, providing tanks, artillery, vehicles, and access to border posts. Many soldiers even appeared as extras, adding remarkable realism to the battle sequences.

A TRIBUTE BORN FROM PERSONAL LOSS

Director J.P. Dutta dedicated Border to his brother, Squadron Leader Deepak Dutta, who lost his life in the This personal connection infused the film with emotional depth and sincerity.

REAL TANKS, REAL EXPLOSIONS

Modern CGI-heavy battle films, Border used real explosives, controlled blasts, and actual military hardware. This practical approach gave the combat scenes their gritty impact.

THE ICONIC MUSIC WAS ALMOST DIFFERENT

The now-classic soundtrack by Anu Malik-featuring "Sandese Aate Hain" and "Mere Dushman"-was recorded with live orchestration. Interestingly, the producers initially considered a different composer, but Malik's patriotic melodies became immortal.

SUNNY DEOL'S POWERFUL DIALOGUE DELIVERY It was one of the best performance by Sunny Deol who shined

in his role, his powerful dialogues are still remembered and float on social media.

A MASSIVE ENSEMBLE CAST

for Indian war cinema.

Putting together the star-studded team-Sunny Deol, Jackie Shroff, Suniel Shetty, Akshay Khanna, Tabu, and others-was a logistical feat. Many actors agreed to reduced fees due to the film's patriotic subject.

ONE OF INDIA'S BIGGEST BLOCKBUSTERS Despite being over three hours long, Border became one of the highest-grossing films of 1997 and remains a benchmark

OPINE 14

Partition of India A Human Catastrophe

In August 1947, India was partitioned into India and Pakistan. What was intended to be a political solution to terminate colonial control resulted in one of history's largest, most violent, and most inhumane partitions, fuelled by religion. Millions were uprooted; communal riots, massacres, abductions, forced conversions, and sexual assault ensued as people fled over hastily formed borders. The human toll-lives lost, families fractured, and communities torn apart-became the defining tragedy of the subcontinent's fall from empire.

A History of Cultural Integration

Long before 1947, the Indian subcontinent was a layered, composite civilisation. Over many centuries it assimilated migrants and conquerors. India developed as a cross-cultural civilisation; Greeks, Kushans, Huns, and Persians all contributed to the development of India's culture; Amir Khusrau shaped early Hindavi-Urdu; Akbar's Din-i-Ilahi and Sulh-i-Kul promoted pluralism; Dara Shikoh connected Sufism and Vedanta; and Jayasi's Padmavat combined Islamic mythology with Indian ethos, creating a shared, composite civilisation that transcended strict boundaries.

The Tragic Anomaly

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi opposed syncretism; Altaf Hussain Hali emphasised a distinct Muslim identity; Sir Syed Ahmad Khan advocated for separate Muslim sociopolitical interests; Muhammad Iqbal envisioned autonomous Muslim destiny; Muhammad Ali Jinnah turned this into political separatism; extremist sects later inflamed hostility but some humane stories of partition emerged amidst the chaos.

Their swords were gleaming, icy, and ruthless

I was only 12 years old when Pakistan was formed, but those moments still live inside me as if they happened yesterday. My mother, Gyanvati; father, Anant Ram; uncle, Santaram; older brothers, Ramnath and Prannath; and my six-monthold baby sister all resided in Bahdemalli at the time. Before everything turned red one day, life was straightforward and

I can recall the thudding footsteps of men hurrying into our home and the sound of angry voices. Their swords were gleaming, cold, and ruthless. They attacked and killed my father, my uncle, and my older brother Ramnath before I could comprehend anything. I saw firsthand how repeatedly they struck them. I can still hear their cries of "hai, hai!" They cried out, but nobody responded. As a small child witnessing her world being torn apart, I was frozen.

My brother Prannath grabbed my hand, crying and shouting. We ran. My mother carried my infant sister in her arms and ran. She looked for a well to jump into to save their honour. To her shock, the well was already filled with women's dead bodies. Unfortunately, my little sister died due to suffocation. My mother survived, along with around thirty-five other women. Hours later, the military arrived and pulled the 35 survivors out of the well. From there, they were taken to the refugee camp, where my mother and I were reunited — thanks to the lawans of the Gorkha Rifles.

Even now, when I try to talk about it, the words break on my tongue. My heart starts to shake. I survived, but I lost my father, uncle, brother, and my youngest sibling at home, whom I never saw again. That youngster inside me is still looking for them. Name: Darshana Rani

Born: 1935 Baddomalli, Tehsil Shakargarh,

Now lives in: Ghuman, Punjab

Terror consume even the toughest men

I was around thirteen or fourteen when Partition tore through our lives. We lived near Shakargarh, in a community where Hindus and Muslims had coexisted for years. My father, Ram Lal; my mother, Chaman Dai; and all of our relatives were present. We never anticipated that one day we would be running for our lives.

I visited Gota Sarajwali with my maternal grandparents a few days before the actual violence began. I had no idea that I would be separated from my entire family. When the killings began, people in my community started fleeing on foot-afraid, unarmed, and trying to save their children. My family crossed the Rawi Bridge and arrived in Sarajwali. There, Muslims urged us, "If you want to save your life, convert," and we all converted to Islam. For nearly a month, this continued, and I witnessed terror consume even the toughest men. "Many who converted then used to go to the masjid for namaz, adopting a distinct identity.

One day, Indian military vehicles entered the village. Their voices broke through the dread like a miracle. They saved the surviving Hindus and led us to safety. I was reunited with my mother and brothers in a refugee camp, and it felt as though I had been given my life back.

Years later, we rebuilt our lives in Ghuman. I married there, my family expanded, and life progressed. Her son Rajakumar nas narrated this account.

Name: Kamala Rani Born: c. 1933-34 Kanjrur area, Tehsil Shakargarh Ghuman, Punjab

They gave the girls poison pills

"EVEN NOW, WHEN I TRY TO TALK ABOUT IT, THE WORDS

BREAK ON MY TONGUE. MY HEART STARTS TO SHAKE. I

SURVIVED, BUT I LOST MY FATHER, UNCLE, BROTHER, AND MY

YOUNGEST SIBLING AT HOME, WHOM I NEVER SAW AGAIN. THAT

YOUNGSTER INSIDE ME IS STILL LOOKING FOR THEM

My father, Sardar Gulab Singh, was an industrialist. He owned a cotton factory. We were four brothers and five sisters. The population of the Sillanwali mandi was about 10,000. More than half of them were Muslims. Inside the town there were Hindus, and around the outside were Muslim bastis. There were mostly bhatti (labourer) Muslims there. There was a municipality.

We had a very big haveli. The haveli's name was "Guru Arjun Building." There were many ser-

Nawab Allahbakhsh, who was the uncle of CM Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana and happened to be my father's friend, told us that we need not worry as long as he was with us. My father told all of us brothers and sisters that if ever there was an attack on our haveli by the Muslims, how would we face it? What should we do in that situation? Above all, he worried about his three daughters, who were aged about 12 to 17. He gave them, one by one, small sachets of poison (zehar ki pudiya) and told them that if such a situation arose and they fell into the hands of Muslims, then at that time they should take this poison.

Pakistan was formed, and conditions became worse and worse. Nawab Allahbakhsh said, "Sardar ji, now it is not right for you to remain

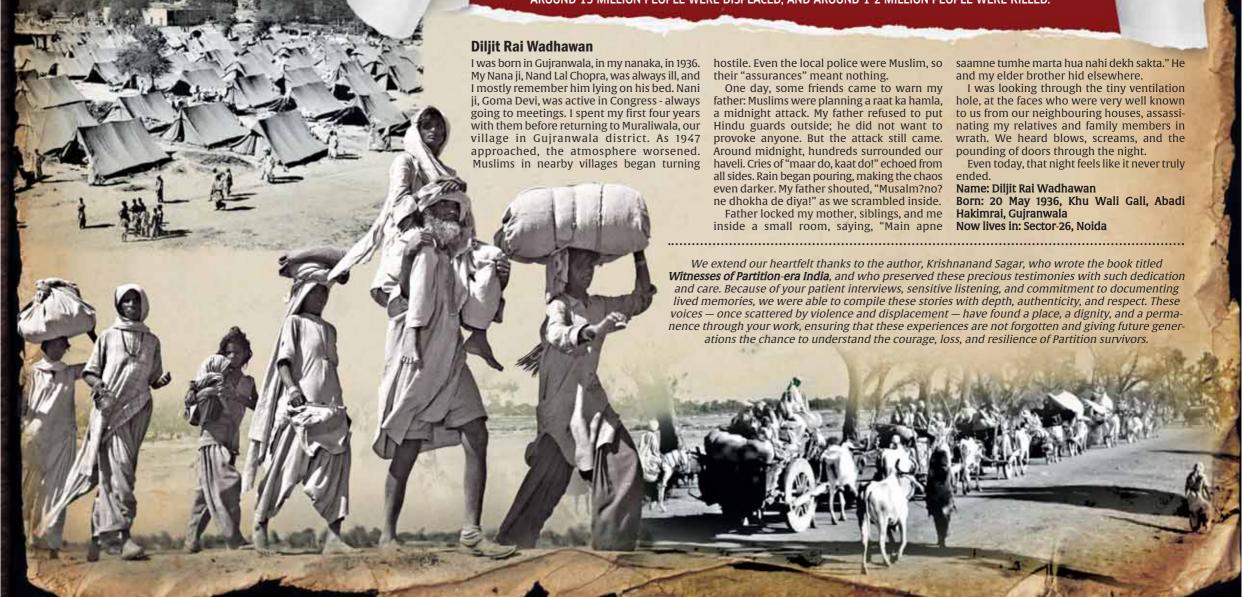
here. Now you must leave this place." Another friend from the bhatti also said, "Now you should leave and sell your kothi to me; I will give fifty thousand rupees for it." But my father said that he would give him the haveli without him purchasing it and come back later on when all this ended-little did he know that we would not be able to return.

So one day we decided to leave the place and went to the station in the dark. Others soon followed, saying, "If you leave, we will leave as well." Unfortunately, we could not leave because the train was full of dead bodies. By mid-August 1947, tensions in Puniab were rising, with allegations of looting and killings. Many Muslims' behaviour in Sillanwali had also changed, causing concerns.

We fled in a truck to Sargodha and from there to Amritsar, then spent a year in Rajasthan before settling in Ludhiana. There my father reopened our ration depot and rebuilt life from scratch. In 1963, I joined the Punjab Police, later serving in anti-terror operations and eventually becoming IGP. I also led the RAF and handled communal crises, retiring with Partition's memories still engraved in my soui

Name: Charanjit Pal Singh Born: 2 December 1936, Sillanwali Mandi, District Sargodha. Now lives in: Sector-40, Noida

THE 1947 PARTITION WAS A TRAGEDY ON A MASSIVE SCALE. SIR CYRIL RADCLIFFE, THE BRITISH LAWYER WHO DREW THE LINES, WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH INDIA'S GEOGRAPHY. HE DIVIDED THE PROVINCES OF PUNJAB AND BENGAL BASED ON MAPS AND RELIGIOUS/CASTE DATA, A TASK HE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT EVER VISITING INDIA. AROUND 15 MILLION PEOPLE WERE DISPLACED, AND AROUND 1-2 MILLION PEOPLE WERE KILLED.



Mizoram: Where scenic splendour meets soulful cuisine



Mizoram, a strikingly beautiful state of North-East India is known as much for its brave people as it is for its breathtaking landscape. As if defining this character, its name derives from two Mizo words, mi meaning people and ram meaning land, together meaning the land of the Mizo people. Situated in the eastern Himalayan region, Mizoram is bordered by Myanmar to the east and south, Bangladesh to the west, and the Indian states of Tripura, Assam and Manipur to the north, making it a strategic and cultural crossroad between South and Southeast Asia.

Much of Mizoram lies at elevations ranging from 2,000 to over 7,000 feet above sea level, giving the state a cool and welcoming climate for much of the year. Aizawl, the capital city, is situated along a ridge at an elevation of 3,714 feet, as if to keep watch upon the rest of the state, and is among the highest state capitals in India. The terrain is rugged and marked by narrow valleys and steep slopes and almost 85 per cent of the state is covered by emerald green forests making it one of the most forested states in the country. This geography has encouraged carefully planned systems of habitation and food production that respected the contours of the land. Rivers such as the Tlawng, Chhimtuipui also known as the Kaladan, and Tuivawl flow through the hills, supporting fishing, small-scale farming and are used effectively as transport routes to connect remote towns and regions.

The historical roots of Mizoram can be traced to the migratory movements of Tibeto-Burman people who travelled southward over centuries from, between approximately 1000 BCE and 500 CE. Oral traditions, clan genetics, and linguistic evidence suggest a gradual settlement process rather than a single migration. These early communities formed the foundations of what later came to be known collectively as the Mizo people. These clans shared similar languages, customs and agricultural practices while maintaining their own distinct identities. Settlements were built along hill ridges for protection and ease of defence while village life facilitated close and intimate social interaction. An enduring feature of this community was mutual support and a strong sense of collective identity that extended to sharing in the preparation and consumption of food making it an ideal com-

These groups initially established settlements between the 4th and 7th centuries CE, across the Lushai Hills, and were governed by hereditary chiefs known as lal. Each village functioned as

an independent political unit, with land allocated by the chief. This system governed patterns of agriculture, food sharing and rituals. Loyalty to the village and clan formed the backbone of social organisation and inter-village relations were defined by alliances, common celebrations and at times conflict, which were often settled by sharing food and reconciliation. Communal feasting also marked important occasions such as harvests, victories and funerals, reinforcing food as a social binding force long before formal state structures emerged.

The famed forests of Mizoram are rich with bamboo, wild greens, medicinal



ticular dominate much of the landscape and influence many aspects of Mizo life, from housing and tools to food and ritual practices. The state's high rainfall also nourishes this ecosystem, and determines its agricultural patterns and produce. This intimate connection between forests and hills shaped not only how people lived and moved, but also how they cooked, ate and preserved food, giving rise to a cuisine that is austere but nourishing and deeply connected to nature.

Agriculture in Mizoram historically relied on jhum or shifting cultivation, locally known as lo. Land in forests were cleared and cultivated for a few years at a time and then allowed to regenerate, ensuring fertility and sustainability. Traditional jhum cycles were carefully balanced with long fallow periods that allowed forests to recover fully and retain their natural nutrients. Rice, maize, millets, colocasia, legumes and chillies formed the backbone of crops, and were supplemented by forest foraging and hunting. The agricultural patterns were naturally determined by the seasons and the local festivals, songs and rituals revolved around them ensuring that cooking methods were adapted in harmony with seasonal availability.

Social life in traditional Mizo society was centered around the zawlbuk, a youth center that transmitted traditional community led practices in decision-making, cooperation and culture over generations. This served well in perpetuating their distinctive lifestyle, customs, morality and rituals. Food played a vital role in this process, reinforcing traditional communal bonds. Meat obtained from hunting, vegetables gathered from forests and grains harvested from jhum fields were shared and celebrated among the people

and communities. This collecapproach shaped a cuisine that honesty of flavour and nourishment over complexity or excess.

The 19th century CE marked a period of profound political transformation. Following a series of expeditions, the British formally annexed the Lushai Hills in the 1890s, integrating the region into colonial administrative frameworks. The introduction of written records, census practices and new economic systems altered traditional structures, yet everyday life within villages remained largely rooted in customary practices, especially in food and traditions. Missionaries, however, introduced formal education and Christianity, bringing changes to social structure and belief systems. Over time, Christianity became the dominant faith (87.16% of the population as per the 2011 census) though traditional lifestyles endured and older values of community cooperation, respect for nature and disciplined living remained intact and con-

tinued to influence the lives of the people. Christianity also reshaped festival calendars and dietary customs, even as traditional agricultural rhythms persisted. Sunday gatherings, church feasts and communal meals became new markers of social life. Meat consumption, especially pork, gained prominence during celebrations, even while everyday meals retained their characteristic simplicity. The Mizo ethos of moderation and humility found expression in the kitchen, where food remained functional, nutritional and rooted in local produce rather than indulgence.

The strategic position of Mizoram also connected it historically to trade routes linking present-

day Myanmar and Bangladesh. Salt, dried fish, forest produce and textiles moved along these hill pathways, bringing subtle culinary influences without altering the core simplicity of Mizo cooking. Even today, the cuisine reflects a seamless blending of influences from neighbouring hill cultures and Southeast Asia, that filtered into local tastes.

In keeping with this adaptation but also the availability of local roduce determined by its geography and weather, Mizo cuisine is deeply seasonal and unique to its people. It is defined by boiling, steaming and light smoking rather

spices are minimal and flavours rely on freshness and natural taste. Food is prepared to sustain, mindful of nutrition rather than flavours that overwhelm the senses. This culinary philosophy aligns closely with the Mizo lifestyle that values restraint, discipline and harmony with nature.

Rice is the staple and forms the basis of most meals. It is normally eaten plain, accompanied by an assortment of vegetables, meat or fish. One of the most iconic components of Mizo food is bai, a light stew that is prepared in many variations across households and regions. Bai is usually made by boiling seasonal vegetables

such as pumpkin leaves, jungle greens, beans or mustard leaves with herbs, bamboo shoots and sometimes fermented soybean paste. Pork fat or smoked meat is sometimes added for flavour, but the dish remains gentle and nourishing. Bai reflects the Mizo approach to cooking that allows ingredients to express themselves with minimal

Another important dish is sawhchiar, a rice por ridge cooked with meat, usually pork or chicken, and seasoned lightly with ginger and local herbs. It is both a normal household meal but also a dish offered during community gatherings. Variants like sawhchiar chawhpawk, enriched with rice flour, are prepared during festivals or for those recovering from illness, underlining food's role as curative and sustenance. Meat occupies a prominent place in Mizo cuisine, particularly pork, which is a preferred option. Traditional Mizo households often preserved meat by smoking it over kitchen fires. Smoked pork, known for its firm texture and deep aroma, is used in stews, bai preparations or eaten simply with rice and boiled greens. Smoking not only ensured preservation in humid climate but also added complexity without the need for spices.
Forest produce plays an equally vital role.

Bamboo shoots, known locally as mautak or rawtuai, are used fresh, fermented or dried. Fermented bamboo shoot preparations add depth and mild acidity to otherwise plain dishes. Bamboo shoot chutneys, stews and accompaniments are common during particular seasons, reinforcing the link between forest cycles and food.

Leafy greens gathered from hillsides and forests are also standard in Mizo meals. Leaves of mustard, colocasia, pumpkin and wild herbs are used by lightly boiling and sometimes mashing them into coarse pastes. These greens provide essential nutrients and are also valued for their medicinal properties. The emphasis on greens reflects an intuitive understanding of curative and nutritional diets long before formal nutritional science became popular knowledge. I believe these are lessons from our ancient traditions that we should make known with a view to preserving their memory and informing future generations of our wise ancestors.

Besides meat, fresh water fish is also an important culinary delicacy specially in areas closer to rivers such as the Chhimtuipui. Small river fish are boiled or smoked and added to vegetable stews while aried fish is also relished, lending simple, focusing on texture and natural taste even beyond. rather than being overpowered by spices.

Chillies are often used in Mizo cooking but not

mashed into simple accompaniments rather than elaborate curries. One common side dish is a crushed chilli and herb mix, sometimes combined with fermented bamboo shoot or dried fish, served in small quantities to add heat to bland staples. In the southern districts inhabit ed by the Lai and Mara communities, culinary practices show subtle variations. Rice remains central, but greater use of fermented ingredients and local herbs is preferred. Pork and chicken stews are slightly richer, though still restrained. Bamboo shoot fermentation techniques here are more pronounced, producing sharper flavours that complement plain rice.

In eastern regions near the Myanmar border, rice noodle preparations appear, reflecting cross-border cultural exchanges. These noodles are served in light broths with greens, herbs and bits of meat or fish. The cooking methods remain aligned with Mizo sensibilities, emphasising boiling and steaming rather than heavy seasoning, suggesting influence without cultur-

Fermentation occupies an important place in Mizo gastronomy, though in a quieter form than in some neighbouring cuisines. Fermented bamboo shoots and soybean paste are used sparingly, also unlike neighbouring states, to add depth and preserve nutrients. Traditional fermentation methods rely on ambient temperatures and natural microbes, demonstrating empirical knowledge passed down through generations. These techniques ensured food security during lean periods and allowed forest abundance to be extended across seasons.

Traditional beverages brewed from rice and using local fermentation techniques have existed for long in the region. However, some anthropological studies show that rice-beer and traditional alcoholic beverages lost their social and ritual status in Christian households who preferred tea or other non-alcoholic drinks. Food rituals have also shifted towards church-centred gatherings but even these occasions bring communities together in faith, bonding and goodwill. In contemporary times, Mizoram's cuisine is witnessing renewed interest and revival specially among the youth. Cafes and home kitchens are retaining traditional dishes with pride, adapting presentation without altering core practices. Smoked pork, bai, bamboo shoot preparations and sawhchiar are appearing in curated menus in contemporary cafes and restaurants seeking to highlight both heritage and health. Its low oil content, liberal use of greens and reliance on natural preservation has aligned well with mindful dietary habits. This is indeed a welcome development and must be encouraged.

It is my belief, therefore, that preserving Mizo cuisine in its simplicity and traditions is not about nostalgia but about recognising its relevance for future generations. They are a narrative of a people shaped by hills, rain and forests, who learned to live with what the land offered rather than in depleting it. Each bowl of bai, each serving of smoked pork or plain rice accompanied by forest greens reflects generations of practical wisdom, discipline and respect for balance.

To value this cuisine is to value the cultural intelligence of the Mizo people and their ability to adapt without excess. By safeguarding these food traditions, we honour a way of life that sees nourishment not only as sustenance for the body but as an expression of harmony between people, land and belief. Let us all play a role in ensuring that Mizoram's culinary heritage continues to nourish, instruct and inspire intensity to mild dishes. Fish preparation remains those who inherit its hills and forests and, indeed,

(The writer is Secretary, Cuisine India Society)



A passage through ritual

MYTHRI TEWARY

When a soul crosses the river, a granddaughter's journey through the Vedic art of saying goodbye.

To everyone who loves quietly and loses suddenly.

In the quiet, early hours of 4 November, before the day could even break, my grandfather - as we fondly called him 'Baba' - exhaled for one final time. And in that silent moment, something arose within the walls of our Patna home: a language of grief older than our memories, older than the family he built and left behind. Something far older than desolation, cries, and silence awakened. It was the Vedic language of leave-taking: a departure in honour of the one who not only lived but completed the cycle of life given, and guidance to the one leaving the physical world.

A pilgrimage, a process. A process of returning, cleansing, remembering, releasing, and finally transcending. In our part of existence, passing away is not an ending. It is a journey, undertaken not by the living but accompa-

nied by them — at every step, every ritual, every breath, until the soul proceeds on its journey to the next world. A set of traditions that do not rush sorrow, nor fear departure, and that do not let the soul take its leave unattended. A subtle way of being, a gentle whisper: 'You were not alone here, neither shall you walk ahead alone,

The thirteen days that followed my Baba's transcendence seemed like walking on a land unknown, following a map across an unseen terrain. It brought not just grief, loss, 'ifs' and 'buts' or a desperate 'one last time', but a philosophy of a sequence of customs, elaborate and unexpectedly tender. The loss is personal yet felt civilisational. An entire community of people gathered together in mourning and support, reciting a story of how it is not one man's departure but a reminder that 'you do not walk through this alone'. Not only us, but the soul. It is eerie, but comforting.

This is the story of that journey: of petals and pyres, of pepper and jaggery, of hidden lamps and clay pots hung under ancient trees; every step, every tear, every symbol and the world it carries forward. Of how humanity helps the living walk alongside the gone, one step at a time.

Life to Light

The morning our Baba left this world, time shifted its rhythm. What happened behind the mocha-brown iron gates of our residence was not panic or haste but quiet. A soft glance of affirmation among each other to place him in the earth he belonged to. He was lifted from the cot, along with his pillow and comforter, and placed gently on the floor to make sure he had a departure of utmost comfort. The Vedas call it not floor or ground but

'prithvi', the primordial mother, who absorbs the turbulence of the 'prana' as it leaves. Holding true to its essence and meaning came to mind with an unusual clarity Longfellow's 'A Psalm of Life': "Dust thou art, to dust returnest." Drawing a sharp connection to the Vedas and literature, science agrees - though unknowingly - that ground is the most stabilising conductor that helps discharge the final residual electrical impulses of a human system, ultimately bringing it into equilibrium.

Maybe this is what alignment actually is. Every aspect of what comprises the earth, science, faith and literature, in their own ways, align in perfect symmetry for one last time.

South, the Soul, and the Lord of Time

The Indian Vedic belief is to lay the departed to rest in a specific direction: south. The belief, as it elucidates, is that south has been considered the direction of Yama, the deity who receives the soul once it leaves the physical world. Contrary to the widely known, south is not negative; it is simply the correct spiritual orientation for a soul that has begun its divine journey.

It is also said that the soul subtly remains connected for some time, and that placing the head towards the south is a gentle symbolisation of closure, of peaceful surrender, an acceptance of the greatest transition. South ensures the soul follows the correct cosmic pathway, preventing the soul from wandering back.

Southward movement is for those who have completed their earthly cycle and are now moving to the realm of ancestors, called Pitrloka. Every gesture in Hindu funerary rites is designed not only spiritually but also psychologically to help the living



becomes a quiet act of letting go, a way of saying that we do not intend to pull you back energetically.

Science, yet again, remains in alignment with the cosmic order. The human body still holds some bioelectromagnetic charge for a few hours after it stops breathing. The earth's magnetic field runs from north to south; if placed towards the north, the remaining currents may cause disturbances leading to rigidity, while facing south makes it stable and electrically grounded.

The Touch of Ganga, the Sanctity of Tulsi

Born from the locks of Lord Shiva, the Ganga is said to represent piousness, a transition, the eternal cycle of life and beyond. She is a goddess, the locus of Hindu mythology, whose waters are believed to sanctify everything they touch. It is a symbol of purification, spiritual merit, a pristine passage from the material world to the divine.

As Baba rested there, still, we were asked to put a few drops of this holy water — gangajal — in his mouth. Vedic literature calls it 'amrita' (the divine nectar of immortality). This symbolic final sip denotes that the soul has

begun its next journey with utmost purity. When one turns to science regarding this, it can be noted that Ganga water contains self-purifying bacteriophages, surprisingly. Thus, both realities — mystical and scientifco-exist without conflict.

With 'amrita' in his mouth and Tulsi beside him, he slept. His sleep was deep, peaceful but most significantly heavenly. Tulsi is a sacred plant in Vedic Hindu households dating back to its origin. It is believed to guide the departing consciousness onto the state of being. Contemporary studies have shown that the fragrant oil of this plant slows down the initial process of decay for a brief and blessed interval. The faith of our ancestors is now chemistry for us, but what remains constant is the tenderness and intention behind following the system. Translucent grey spirals of lit incense sticks rose around him all through the day and the night.

Please read the complete article online a https://www.dailypioneer.com

(Mythri Tewary writes to reach anyone who carries their grief silently - grandchildren, children parents, and all those who heal alone. Through her work, she hopes to offer companionship, gentleness, and a reminder that loss is a shared human truth)





The 15 second rule: A pause is powerful

GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

A long time ago, a CEO called me and said, "Gurudev, you saved my job. Once, I had written a nasty letter to my boss, and I was going to send it off. Then I remembered what you said: 'Give yourself a 15-second pause before you are about to do anything important.' I took a 15-second pause. And when I read through the letter again, I couldn't send it! I had written such a nasty letter that, if I had sent it out, I would have lost my job.'

The Pioneer AGENDA

If you look back at your own life, you will notice that all mistakes happen at the spur of the moment due to a lack of awareness. When you are in a great rush and under a lot of stress, you are bound to make mistakes. Also, when you are in the midst of a storm of emotions, you are more likely to make mistakes. See, for example, when you are upset, what do you want to do? You just want to pick up the phone and yell at somebody! You want to get it off your chest. Before you do that, just give yourself 15 seconds. Freeze for those 15 seconds. What happens when you do that? Your emotions get time to settle; you regain your awareness and alertness. And your whole attitude changes. Everything changes around you. When you hold your breath, the mind

Let's do an exercise. Are you breathing? Continue to breathe. Now stop the breath for a few seconds. Breathe again. Stop. Hold your breath. Continue breathing. Did you observe what was happening within? Stillness dawns in you. Stillness is the precursor to infinity. In this moment of stillness, awareness blos-

Taking that little time, that 15-second gap, can make a big difference. You can do this several times during the course of the day. As children, we used to play a game called 'Statue', where we would be running and someone would say 'Statue', and we had to stand still wherever we were. This game is a brilliant activity to help bring the mind to the present moment. Just a few seconds of pausing transports the mind from a state of impulsiveness to greater centredness.

How important are these momentary pauses? Everything emerges from silencing the mind. The purpose of speech is to create silence within you. If it doesn't, then the speech hasn't fulfilled its purpose. Whenever you say 'Yes!' or whenever you have a sense of wonder, your mind pauses. In such a state, you want to know about that object or person more closely. When you know something, it leaves you with a deeper sense of wonder. And wonder is the doorway to a mental pause. When you are amazed at the whole of creation - with all that you see, smell, or taste - each of these experiences that we derive from our senses leads us to a space of absolute tranquillity. And that is what meditation is.

When you start meditating regularly for a few minutes, when you are calm and collected, you become spontaneous and intuitive, which is quite different from being impulsive, which happens when you are emotional and If you look back at your own life, you will notice that all mistakes happen at the spur of the moment due to a lack of awareness. When you are in a great rush and under a lot of stress, you are bound to make mistakes



"WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE SURPRISED OR SHOCKED? THE MIND DRIFTS INTO SILENCE. SOMETHING STUNNING TAKES YOU INTO SILENCE. **WORDS DISAPPEAR**" GURUDEV

restless. Once you calm your emotions, the decisions you take are spontaneous, intuitive,

No matter how busy you are, take a few moments and observe your breath. Using simple meditation techniques, calm down your mind. Bring it to this moment, relax each part of your body, relax your mind, your senses. You'll find such peace, so much love gushing from within. We are all born with this gift of love and peace. And somehow, we forget to look within. That is most important. Take a few moments to see what is happening inside.

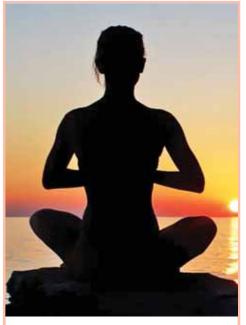
Very ambitious people cannot have deep sleep because the mind isn't free. The more anxious you are about doing or achieving something, the tougher it becomes to sleep. Before going to sleep, if you pause, surrender

Power, and simply let go of everything, only then are you able to rest, isn't it? Why not apply the same thing to life as you live from one moment to another? When you want to sit for meditation, let go of everything.

The human mind is very complex; it has both delicate and tough aspects. If you have had a misunderstanding with a friend or colleague at work, you can become stiff inside, and this can distort your emotions, leading to negativity, which you carry wherever you go. In your day-to-day activities, the mind gathers many such impressions, anxieties, and tensions. They do not allow you to be happy; they block your intuition and your joy. These impressions strain and burden the mind, and eventually they can lead to many psychosomatic issues. But when you pause the mind with meditation, your worries and ambitions to some Higher its tendency to hold on to negative emotions

simply disappears. You gain the ability to live happily in the present moment and let go of the past. Pausing the mind for a few minutes every day is how you move it from a state of chaos to a state of bliss and clarity, and from restlessness to deep restfulness. And it is only from this state of deep rest that something creative can emerge. Deep silence is the mother of creativity. No creativity can come from one who is too busy, worried, over-ambitious, or lethargic

The mind vacillates between the past and the future. It is either occupied with what has happened or busy thinking, planning, or feeling uncertain and anxious about what is to come. Wisdom is being aware of this phenomenon of the mind - of what is happening right now in your mind as you are reading this column. Information can be acquired by reading books or browsing the internet. You can open a book on any subject — how to lose weight, how to prepare for an interview, success 101, and so on. There are innumerable volumes on countless topics, but awareness of your own mind cannot be learnt from a book. That can come



JOIN THE WORLD'S LARGEST MEDITATION EVENT WITH THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN AND SPIRITUAL MASTER, GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR, ON GURUDEV'S OFFICIAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL ON 21ST DECEMBER AT 8.30 PM IST.

only from meditation.

Total rest is meditation. Only when the mind settles down can total rest happen. Restlessness, agitation, desire, and ambition stir up the mind and keep it busy planning for the future or feeling regretful and angry about the past. A mind in the present moment is meditation. A mind without agitation is meditation.

Why have practices like meditation and silence been given so much importance in our spiritual traditions? Greater awareness alone can root out misery from our lives and break the patterns we live with. Nothing helps achieve this more than stepping into brief periods of meditative silence. This is not something alien to us; it is built into our nature. The human body is made that way. You'll notice that when you are faced with something too much for the mind to take, the mind goes into silence. What happens when you are surprised or shocked? The mind drifts into silence. Something stunning takes you into silence. Words disappear. At the helm of every emotion, at the peak of every event, there is silence. And by recognising it, practising it, and manifesting it in your life, you cross the ocean of 'samsara', the sea of misery.

The Indian paradox of power, participation, and exclusion

In Democracy for Winners Only, retired civil servant Raj Kumar Srivastava presents a deeply reflective and unsettling account of how India's democratic journey has drifted away from its founding ideals. Drawing on over thirty years in public service across India's forests, villages, and administrative corridors, Srivastava offers a powerful meditation on the widening gap between democratic participation and democratic power. The core argument is arresting: India's democracy increasingly privileges the victorious rather than the virtuous. Electoral triumphs, he argues, have evolved into tools that legitimise centralisation, weaken institutions, and reduce citizens to spectators. Participation remains high, vet its influence on decision-making diminishes. This is the paradox at the heart of what Srivastava terms a "winner's

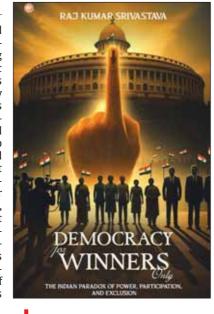
Democracy from the Ground Up

What distinguishes this book from typical political commentaries is its grounded storytelling. Srivastava draws from village panchayat meetings, forest rights disputes, drought relief interventions, and encounters with marginalised communities. These vignettes reveal the asymmetry between those who govern and those who bear the weight of governance. They illustrate how structural inequities-caste, class, bureaucracy, and political patronage continue to shape democratic outcomes at the grassroots level.

His training as both a forester and administrator allows him to see democracy not as an abstract theory but as a lived ecosystem. Forest clearances, land conflicts, and community rights become windows through which the reader glimpses the contradictions of democratic practice.

The Digital Illusion of Participation

Srivastava's exploration of the digital age is particularly compelling. He warns that India's expanding online participation-tweets, hashtags, and viral campaigns-may be creating the



Title: Democracy For Winners Only Author: Raj Kumar Srivastava MRP: ₹200

Publisher: Orangebooks Publication

illusion of empowerment without the substance of influence. When narratives overpower nuance and algorithms amplify majoritarian sentiment, the democratic conversation becomes shallow, polarised, and easily manipulated.

Institutions Under Strain

From legislatures to the media, from civil services to citizen forums, the book traces how key institutions struggle under the pressure of populism and speed-driven politics. Srivastava argues that institutional resilience-not electoral arithmetic-is the true measure of a functioning democracy. When institutions bend too easily, power becomes personalised and accountability erodes.

A Blueprint for Reclaiming Democracy

Despite its sharp critique, the book is not despairing. Srivastava lays out a reform agenda grounded in constitu-



- revitalising local governance
- ensuring transparency in political finance
- strengthening the autonomy of regulatory and oversight bodies
- embedding community voice in development decisions · rebuilding civic education and demo-
- cratic culture His message is clear: democracy must be continuously defended, renewed,

A Timely and Courageous Work

and reclaimed.

Democracy for Winners Only stands out for its clarity of thought, graceful prose, and rare combination of practitioner insight and philosophical depth. It challenges readers without overwhelming them and urges introspection without cynicism. In a time of loud slogans and shrinking democratic space, Srivastava's voice is steady, principled, and necessary.

This book is essential reading for policymakers, administrators, scholars and any citizen who cares about the future of India's democratic experiment. It raises a question that cannot be ignored: If democracy serves only those who win, what remains of its promise to the rest of us?

Why states act the way they do: A defence of rationality in global politics

To comprehend global politics, it is essential to grasp the mind-set of states. A significant portion of international relations theory wants us to believe that states act rationally. However, numerous scholars contend that political leaders seldom behave rationally.

This question is vital for both the analysis and application of international politics, as only if states are rational can scholars and policymakers effectively understand and anticipate their actions. In contrast to individuals, states do not act impulsively; rather, policymakers evaluate threats in a strategic manner. Based on this reasoning, they argue that states typically place a higher value on survival and security than on any other consider-

John J Mearsheimer and Sebastian Rosato assert that rational choices in international politics are based on credible theories regarding the functioning of the world and arise from thoughtful decisionmaking processes. By applying these standards, they conclude that the majority of states act rationally most of the time, even if they do not always achieve

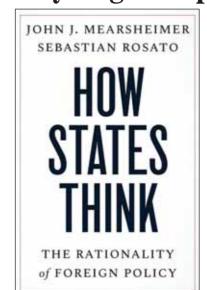
Mearsheimer and Rosato support their argument by investigating whether his-

torical and contemporary world leaders, such as George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin, have made rational decisions in the context of significant historical events, including both world wars, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War period. This book presents the concept of the decisionmaker as homo theoreti-

cus, an individual who is directed by coherent theories regarding the functioning of the world.

KANISHK SHEKHAR

Mearsheimer is recognised for his ground-breaking contributions to the theory of offensive realism. With a notable career, he has written many influential works, including his magnum opus The Tragedy of Great Power Politics. Rosato, an emerging talent in the field, contributes his expertise in international relations to this collaboration. Together, they delve



Title: How States Think: The Rationality of Foreign Policy Author: John Mearsheimer & Sebastian Rosato MRP: ₹1,257

Publisher: Yale University Press

into the intricacies of state decisionmaking, challenging established beliefs

and offering fresh insights into the rationale behind foreign policy. Through thorough investigation and persuasive arguments, the authors illuminate the complex processes that shape state behaviour in the international

In the initial chapter, the authors contend that states typically act ratio-

nally in their pursuit of foreign policy objectives, rather than being irrational entities motivated solely by emotions or ideologies. The book evaluates alternative theories such as liberalism and constructivism, claiming that the fundamental driving force behind state actions is a rational reaction to security issues rather than ethical principles or cultural

sphere.

Although liberal theories — including democratic peace, interdependence, and

constructivist concepts - possess some validity, they ultimately fall short when compared to fundamental security concerns. Realism's emphasis on material factors serves as the most dependable framework for understanding state behaviour. States place a premium on survival over other aims, and failure to do so results in their classification as nonrational. Through a variety of examples, the authors illustrate that states adhere to the theory of expected utility maximisation, making calculated choices to enhance their security and interests.

In the subsequent chapter, the authors examine strategic rationality within the context of international relations, addressing the challenges faced by policymakers and states in a world filled with uncertainties. This is illustrated through historical instances such as American policy during the Second World War, strategies in East Asia, the post-Cold War era, Japanese decisions prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, and American actions during the Cuban Missile Crisis. They underscore the widespread uncertainty and lack of information that complicate decision-making processes. Whether in military strategy, diplomacy, or alliance formation, decisionmakers encounter uncertainties that hinder risk assessment and rational choice. Mearsheimer and Rosato recognise the constraints of state rationality, investigating instances where external factors might affect decision-making. They contend that although states aim for rationality, internal dynamics and external pressures can occasionally result in irrational actions. The authors delve into the complexities of state decisionmaking processes, scrutinising the influence of leaders, bureaucracies, and other elements in determining foreign policy choices.

They emphasise the necessity of comprehending these processes to accurately evaluate state behaviour. Furthermore, the authors underscore the significance of goal rationality in the context of rational decision-making.

> For the complete book review please see our website www.dailypioneer.com

(The writer is a columnist and an educator who trains aspirants for the Civil Services Examination)