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The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 SINCE 1932 WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

सत्यमेव जयते

Secure Society, Developed India
From Punishment to Justice

Dedication to the nation of
The successful implementation
of the New Criminal Laws

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

in the august presence of

Shri Amit Shah
Minister of Home Affairs
and Minister of Cooperation

Shri Gulab Chand Kataria
Administrator
UT Chandigarh

Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu
Member of Parliament

December 3, 2024 | 12 noon
Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh

Key Features

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita - These new laws focus on justice instead of punishment
- Testimony through digital medium also
- Crimes like terrorism, organized crime defined
- 37 sections to deal strictly with crimes against women and children

The programme will be telecast live on DD News

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

THE WORLD

STRUGGLES TO SEE HIS NEW STAGE MUSICAL

ELTON JOHN SAYS HE LOST HIS EYESIGHT

Elton John says he struggled to watch his new musical because he has lost his eyesight after contracting an infection. He attended the opening night of *The Devil Wears Prada* in London Sunday and said: "I haven't been able to come to many previews because... I have lost my eyesight." "So it's hard for me to see it, but... boy, it sounded good tonight," he said. **AP**

TOP OF THE WORLD

BNP leader Tarique Rahman

BANGLADESH

HC acquits Zia's son, 48 others in 2004 grenade attack case

Dhaka: Bangladesh's High Court on Sunday acquitted former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son, Tarique Rahman, and 48 others, overturning their verdicts in a deadly 2004 grenade attack on a political rally. Rahman serves as the acting chairperson of Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party while in self-exile in London, and could become Bangladesh's next leader if his party is voted into power. Rahman and the 48 others were found guilty in 2018 in the attack targeting a rally held by supporters of Hasina, who led the opposition at the time, leaving two dozen people dead and wounding about 300 others. A court sentenced 19 to death while Rahman got life in prison. **PTI**

PAKISTAN

Imran sent on judicial remand over PTI protests

Islamabad: An anti-terrorism court Monday sent former prime minister Imran Khan on a 14-day judicial remand in connection with seven cases related to the recent protests by his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Judge Amjad Ali Shah presided over the hearing, during which the court approved Khan's judicial remand in the New Town police station case, as well as in six other cases. Khan, 72, was presented before the anti-terrorism court judge at Adiala jail, where he has been incarcerated for months. **PTI**

THE PHILIPPINES

Civil society groups seek VP impeachment

Manila: Philippine civil society and religious leaders asked Congress on Monday to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte over a list of complaints that include graft, incompetence and amassing ill-gotten wealth while in office. The daughter of ex-President Rodrigo Duterte has been embroiled in a row with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and faces an enquiry into her spending by the Congress. **REUTERS**

AFTER REPEATEDLY SAYING HE WOULD NOT

Biden pardons son Hunter in tax, arms cases, Trump says miscarriage of justice

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 2

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden said on Sunday he had pardoned his son, Hunter Biden, a reversal after pledging to stay out of legal proceedings against the younger Biden who pleaded guilty to tax violations and was convicted on firearms-related charges.

"Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter. From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department's decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted," the president said in a statement.

The White House had said repeatedly that Biden would not pardon Hunter, a recovering drug addict who became a target of Republicans, including President-elect Donald Trump.

"No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son," Biden said in a statement released shortly before leaving for a trip to Africa.

President Joe Biden in Sal island, Cape Verde on Monday. *AP*

The grant of clemency said Biden had granted "a full and unconditional" pardon to Hunter Biden for any offenses in a window from January 1, 2014, to December 1, 2024. Hunter Biden faced sentencing for the false statements and gun convictions this month. In September he pleaded guilty to federal charges of failing to pay $1.4 million in taxes while spending lavishly on drugs, sex workers and luxury items. He was scheduled for sentencing in on December 16.

"I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction – mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport," Hunter Biden said in a statement on Sunday, adding he had remained sober for more than five years. "In the throes of addiction, I squandered many opportunities and advantages ... I will never take the clemency I have been given today for granted and will devote the life I have rebuilt to helping those who are still sick and suffering."

Republicans criticized the president's move. "Does the Pardon given by Joe to Hunter include the J-6 Hostages, who have now been imprisoned for years? Such an abuse and miscarriage of Justice!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social site, referring to those convicted for storming the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, after Trump claimed falsely that he had won the 2020 election.

"Joe Biden has lied from start to finish about his family's corrupt influence peddling activities," said Representative James Comer, chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

"It is clear that Hunter was treated differently. The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden said. "In trying to break Hunter, they've tried to break me – and there's no reason to believe it will stop here. Enough is enough."

EXPLAINED

Can pardon be revoked?

IT IS unclear if Trump can revert Hunter Biden's pardon. Pardons are generally irreversible — Congress and courts can't reverse them. George W Bush in 2008 revoked a pardon, the very next day of granting it, but because the pardon attorney had not signed it. The Supreme Court has not tackled the question of when a pardon is no longer revocable.

French Prime Minister Michel Barnier speaks in the National Assembly in Paris on Monday. *Reuters*

VOTE LIKELY TOMORROW

French govt faces collapse as Left, Far-Right seek confidence vote

REUTERS
PARIS, DECEMBER 2

THE FRENCH government is all but certain to collapse later this week after far-right and left-wing parties submitted no-confidence motions on Monday against Prime Minister Michel Barnier.

Investors immediately punished French assets as the latest developments plunged the euro zone's second-biggest economy deeper into political crisis, with serious doubt cast over whether the annual budget will be approved.

"The French have had enough," National Rally (RN) leader Marine Le Pen told reporters in parliament, saying Barnier, who only became prime minister in early September, had made things worse and needed to be pushed out. "We are proposing a motion of no confidence against the government," she said.

Barring a last-minute surprise, Barnier's fragile coalition will be the first French government to be forced out by a no-confidence vote since 1962.

A government collapse would leave a hole at the heart of Europe, with Germany also in election mode, weeks ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump re-entering the White House.

RN lawmakers and the left combined have enough votes to topple Barnier and Le Pen confirmed her party would vote for the left-wing coalition's no-confidence bill on top of the RN's own bill. That vote is likely to be held on Wednesday.

The parties announced their no-confidence motions after Barnier said earlier on Monday that he would try to ram a social security bill through parliament without a vote as a last-minute concession proved insufficient to win RN's support for the budget.

"Faced with this umpteenth denial of democracy, we will censure the government," said Mathilde Panot of the left-wing France Unbowed. "We are living in political chaos because of Michel Barnier's government and Emmanuel Macron's presidency."

Barnier urged lawmakers not to back the no-confidence vote.

"The French will not forgive us for putting the interests of individuals before the future of the country," he said as he put his government's fate in the hands of the divided parliament which was the result of an inconclusive snap election Macron called in June.

'Brain rot' named Oxford Word of the Year 2024

London: Many of us have felt it, and now it's official: "brain rot" is the Oxford dictionaries' word of the year. Oxford University Press said on Monday the evocative phrase "gained new prominence in 2024", with its frequency of use increasing 230 per cent from the year before.

It defines brain rot as "the supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state, especially viewed as the result of overconsumption of material (particularly online content) considered to be trivial or unchallenging".

The word of the year is intended to be "a word or expression that reflects a defining theme from the past 12 months". "Brain rot" was chosen by a combination of public vote and language analysis by Oxford lexicographers. **AP**

Landmark climate change case opens at Hague as island nations fear rising seas

ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE HAGUE, DECEMBER 2

THE TOP United Nations court took up the largest case in its history on Monday, hearing the plight of several small island nations helpless in combating the devastating impact of climate change that they feel endangers their very survival. They demand that major polluting nations be held to account.

After years of lobbying by island nations who fear they could simply disappear under rising sea waters, the UN General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice last year for an opinion on "the obligations of States in respect of climate change." "The stakes could not be higher. The survival of my people and so many others is on the line," said Arnold Kiel Loughman, attorney-general of the Vanuatu archipelago nation.

South African delegates at the International Court of Justice in The Hague on Monday. *Reuters*

"As the principal legal officer of my country, I have come before this court because domestic legal remedies are unable to address a crisis of the scope and magnitude," he said during the opening session of two weeks of hearings.

"States have obligations ... to act with due diligence, to prevent significant harm to the environment, to prevent, to reduce the emissions and provide support to countries like mine to protect the human rights of present and future generations," he said.

Any decision by the ICJ would be non-binding advice and couldn't directly force wealthy nations into action to help struggling countries.

In the decade up to 2023, sea levels have risen by a global average of around 4.3 centimetres, with parts of the Pacific rising higher still. The world has also warmed 1.3 degrees Celsius since preindustrial times because of the burning of fossil fuels.

Guinea stadium crush kills 56 people after disputed refereeing

REUTERS
CONAKRY, DECEMBER 2

A CONTROVERSIAL refereeing decision sparked violence and a crush at a soccer match in southeast Guinea, killing 56 people according to a provisional toll, the government said on Monday.

The fatalities occurred during the final of a tournament in honour of Guinea's military leader Mamady Doumbouya at a stadium in Nzerekore, one of the nation's largest cities.

Some fans threw stones, triggering panic and a crush, the government statement said, promising an investigation.

A video authenticated by Reuters showed dozens of people scrambling over high walls to escape.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an official from the city's administration said many victims were minors caught in the turmoil after police started firing tear gas. The official described scenes of confusion and chaos with some parents retrieving bodies before they were officially counted.

People scramble in Guinea's Nzerekore, Monday. *Reuters*

Videos and pictures shared online showed victims lined up on the ground. In one video, over a dozen inert bodies could be seen, several of them children.

Reuters was not immediately able to verify that footage.

Iran-backed militias enter Syria to back offensive against rebels

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, DECEMBER 2

IRANIAN-BACKED Iraqi militias have deployed in Syria to back the government's counteroffensive against an advance by insurgents who seized the largest city of Aleppo last week, a militia official and a war monitor said Monday.

Insurgents led by jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham launched a two-pronged attack on Aleppo and moved into the countryside around Idlib and neighbouring Hama province.

The push is among the rebels' strongest in years and raised the prospect of another violent front reopening in the Middle East, at a time when US-backed Israel is fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both Iranian-allied groups.

It also risks drawing Russia and Turkiye — each with its own interests to protect in Syria — into direct confrontation.

Government troops built a fortified defensive line in northern Hama in an attempt to stall the insurgents' momentum while jets on Sunday pounded rebel-held lines. On Monday, Syria's military said that their airstrikes alongside Russia's killed 400 insurgents over the past 24 hours. It said that government forces were mobilising to encircle the rebels in the Aleppo, Hama, and Idlib countrysides.

Syrians near destroyed buildings in Idlib on Monday. *AP*

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call with Assad Monday said Tehran was willing to provide all the support needed to push back the rebels.

Hezbollah won't send fighters to Assad now

Lebanese armed group Hezbollah does not currently intend to send fighters to northern Syria to support the Syrian army there, three sources familiar with the group's thinking told *Reuters* on Monday.

Canada launches global ad campaign to curb asylum claims

REUTERS
TORONTO, DECEMBER 2

ONCE PRESENTING itself as one of the world's most welcoming countries to refugees and immigrants, Canada is launching a global online ad campaign cautioning asylum-seekers that making a claim is hard.

The C$250,000 ($178,662) in advertisements will run through March in 11 languages, including Spanish, Urdu, Ukrainian, Hindi and Tamil, the immigration department told *Reuters*.

They are part of a broader shift in tone by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government on immigration.

Migrants have been blamed for high housing prices, although some experts argue this is a simplistic explanation, and polls show a growing number of Canadians think the country admits too many newcomers.

Advertisements to run in 11 languages including Urdu, Hindi and Tamil. *Reuters File*

"Claiming asylum in Canada is not easy. There are strict guidelines to qualify. Find out what you need to know before you make a life-changing decision," one ad reads.

Canada has long been seen as a welcoming place for newcomers. Now its leaders are slashing immigration and trying to get temporary residents to leave and to prevent people fleeing U.S. President-elect Donald Trump from claiming asylum.

CARTELS HAVE AN AMBITIOUS DREAM — TO SYNTHESISE RAW MATERIALS REQUIRED TO MAKE FENTANYL TO AVOID IMPORTING THEM

Drug cartels recruit chemistry students from Mexican colleges to make fentanyl

NATALIE KITROEFF & PAULINA VILLEGAS
CULIACÁN, DECEMBER 2

THE CARTEL recruiter slipped onto campus disguised as a janitor and then zeroed in on his target: a sophomore chemistry student. The recruiter said the cartel was staffing up for a project. "You're good at what you do," the student recalled the recruiter saying. "... decide if you're interested."

In their quest to build fentanyl empires, Mexican criminal groups are turning to an unusual talent pool — chemistry students studying at Mexican universities.

People who make fentanyl in cartel labs — cooks – told *The New York Times* that they needed workers with advanced knowledge of chemistry to help make the drug stronger and "get more people hooked," as one cook put it.

The cartels also have a more ambitious goal: to synthesise the chemical compounds, known as precursors, that are essential to making fentanyl, freeing them from having to import them.

If they succeed, US officials say, it would mark a terrifying new phase in the fentanyl crisis, in which Mexican cartels have more control than ever. *The Times* interviewed seven fentanyl cooks, three chemistry students, two high-ranking operatives and a high-level recruiter — all working for the Sinaloa cartel.

A 2020 Mexican intelligence assessment, leaked by a hacker group, found that the Sinaloa cartel appeared to be recruiting chemistry professors to develop fentanyl precursor chemicals after the pandemic slowed supply chains. U.S. law enforcement officials also said that many young chemists had been swept up in arrests at Mexican fentanyl labs in recent years. A chemistry professor at a university in Sinaloa state said he knew that some students enrolled in chemistry classes just to become more familiar with skills needed to cook synthetic drugs. "Sometimes when I am teaching them synthesis of pharmaceutical drugs, they openly ask me, 'Hey, professor, when are you teaching us how to synthesize cocaine and other things?'" he said.

A drug cartel safe house in Culiacán, Sinaloa. *NYT*

President-elect Donald Trump had threatened to deploy the US military to battle the criminals, vowing to issue a 25% tariff on Mexican goods if it doesn't stop the flow of drugs and migrants. Mexico's president, Claudia Sheinbaum, said that "international collaboration" was needed to prevent the shipment of precursors to Mexico from "Asian countries."

The cartels "know we are now focused on the illicit trafficking of these precursor chemicals," said Todd Robinson, the assistant secretary of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. That drives the cartels "to try to bring this thing in-house," he said.

But trying to synthesize the precursors from scratch is a much more difficult process, said James DeFrancesco, a forensic science professor at Loyola University Chicago.

Yet the work pays more than many legal jobs in chemistry, and that's often enough of a sell. The student said the recruiter who visited the campus had offered him $800 up front, plus a monthly salary of $800 — twice as much as the average pay for chemists formally employed in Mexico, according to government data.

He told the recruiter he was interested, and five days later, he was picked up by cartel members, blindfolded and driven to a clandestine lab hidden in the mountains, he said. **NYT**

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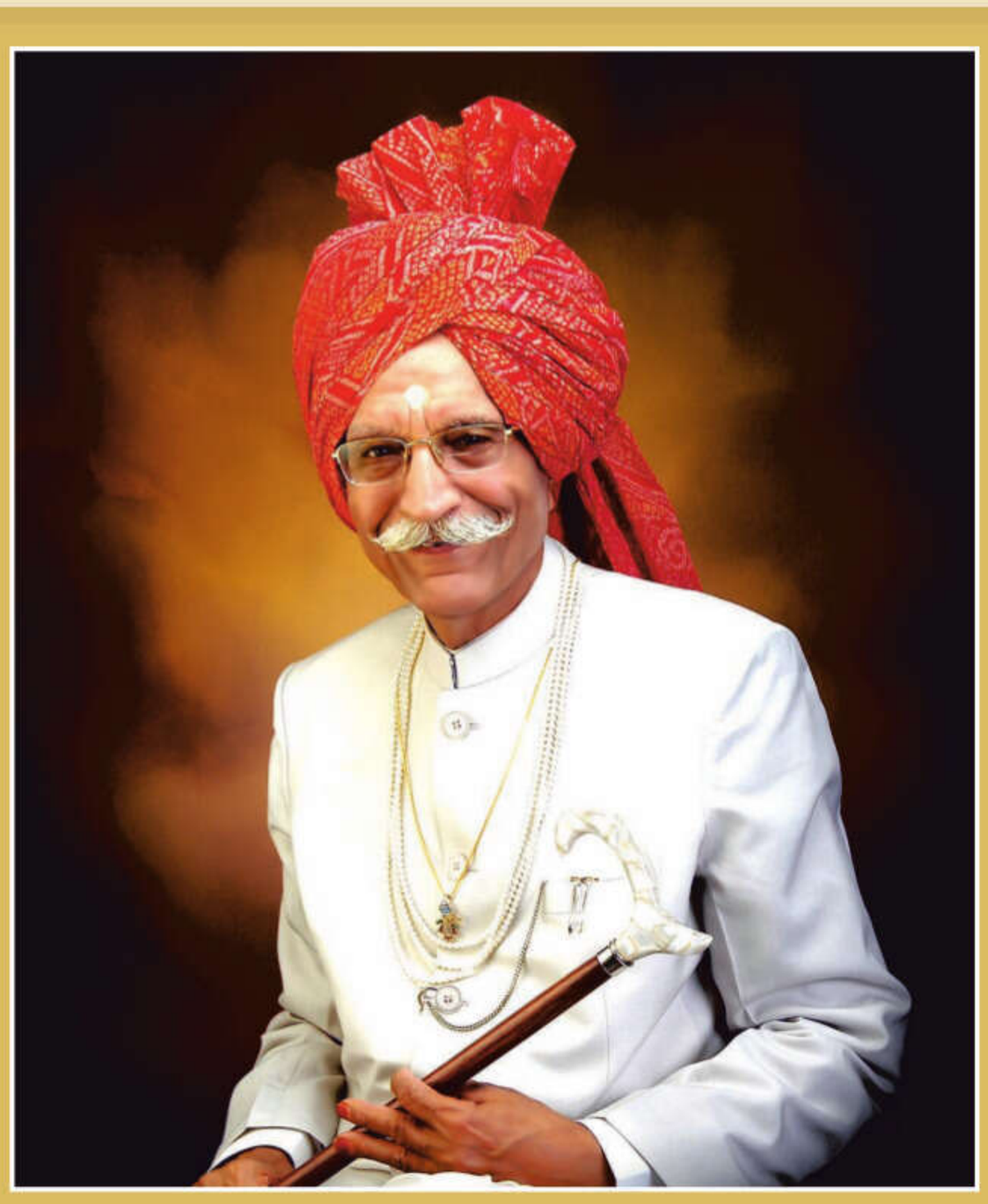

महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी जी

संस्थापक चेयरमैन, महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लि०

पुत्र स्वर्गीय महाशय चूनीलाल जी

(27.03.1923 - 03.12.2020)

एक सच्चे कर्मयोगी, एक दूरदर्शी, परोपकारी और एक उच्च कोटि के उद्योगपति। मसालों के बादशाह को याद करते हुए आपके कर्मयोगी जीवन से प्रत्येक परिवार में भोजन के स्वाद में अधिभूत आनन्द को महसूस किया है। आपकी विनम्रता, सूझबूझ, करुणा एवं मार्गदर्शन हमारी प्रेरणा का स्त्रोत रहेंगे।

हमारी प्रेरणा, प्रतिबद्धता, प्यार और स्नेह के स्त्रोत के लिए हमारी सम्मान जनक श्रद्धांजलि

एक युग का अंत 1923 – 2020 (एक सरल, परोपकारी और आत्मसमर्पण की दूरदर्शी जीवन यात्रा) आपका काम के प्रति सच्ची निष्ठा और दृढ़ संकल्प, समाज समर्पण और प्रगतिशील विचारों के प्रति निस्वार्थ भक्ति हमेशा सुनहरे अक्षरों में याद की जाएगी। आपकी अनुपस्थिति का गहरा घाव कभी नहीं भर पाएगा। महाशय जी का मुस्कुराता हुआ चेहरा और दूरदर्शितापूर्ण अथक निरंतर प्रयासों से निस्वार्थ दृष्टिकोण और मानवीय मूल्यों से हमेशा प्रेरित यह मानव समाज सदा आपका आभारी रहेगा। यह मानव समाज आपका सदा ऋणी रहेगा।

शोक सन्तप्त परिवार

महाशय चूनीलाल धर्मार्थ ट्रस्ट एवं महाशय धर्मपाल धर्मार्थ ट्रस्ट द्वारा संचालित एवं संवर्धित संस्थान

० महाशियां दी हट्टी प्रा० लि०, (दिल्ली, गुड़गांव, फरीदाबाद, कुण्डली, नागौर) ० सुपर डेलिकेसीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड नई दिल्ली ० माता चन्नन देवी अस्पाताल, (जनकपुरी, नई दिल्ली) ० एम.डी.एच. इंटरनैशनल स्कूल (जनकपुरी एवं द्वारका, नई दिल्ली) ० महाशय चुन्नीलाल सरस्वती बाल मन्दिर (हरी नगर, नई दिल्ली) ० माता लीलावंती सरस्वती विद्या मन्दिर, (टेगौर गार्डन, नई दिल्ली) ० महाशय धर्मपाल विद्या मन्दिर, (बेदगी, कर्नाटक) ० श्री संजीव गुलाटी चिकित्सालय एवं शोध केन्द्र (ऋषिकेश) ० माता लीलावंती वैदिक संस्कृति प्रशिक्षण केंद्र (उदयपुर, राजस्थान) ० माता चन्नन देवी आर्य कन्या गुरुकुल, (पिल्लु खेड़ा, हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल चैरिटेबल सोसाइटी ० महाशय धर्मपाल दयानन्द आर्य विद्या निकेतन (आसाम, एम.पी. झारखण्ड एवं नागालैण्ड) ० एम.डी.एच. गऊशाला (अजमेर, नागौर – राजस्थान) ० माता लीलावंती श्री कृष्ण वैदिक कन्या विद्यालय (खुशीपुरा, मथुरा) ० एम.डी.एच.परिसर निर्वाण न्यास (अजमेर, राजस्थान) ० महाशय धर्मपाल वेद रिसर्च फाउण्डेशन (कालीकट, केरल) ० महाशय धर्मपाल हार्ट इंस्टीट्यूट (जनकपुरी, नई दिल्ली) ० एम.डी.एच. पार्क, (नागौर) ० महाशय धर्मपाल अंतरराष्ट्रीय अतिथि गृह, ग्रेटर केलाश, नई दिल्ली ० महाशय संजीव कुमार धर्मार्थ औषधालय, नालागढ़ (हिमाचल) ० महाशय धर्मपाल यज्ञशाला आर्य समाज, त्रिनगर, नई दिल्ली ० महाशय धर्मपाल स्वावलंबना गृह, सिरसा जेल, सिरसा (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल सर्वोदय विद्यालय मलारना चौड़ (राजस्थान) ० गुरुकुल यमुनावट मंझावली फरीदाबाद (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल सर्वोदय विद्यालय एवं वैदिक शोध केंद्र हल्दीघाटी मार्ग उदयपुर ० महाशय धर्मपाल सर्वोदय विद्यालय एवं वैदिक शोध केंद्र नागौर (राज०) ० श्री सत्य सनातन वेद मंदिर रोहिणी, नई दिल्ली ० स्वामी आत्मानंद वैदिक गुरुकुल मलारना चौड़ जिला सवाई माधोपुर (राजस्थान) ० आर्योदय गुरुकुल संस्थान (जयपुर राजस्थान) ० आर्य समाज कोटपूतली, जिला जयपुर (राजस्थान) ० हवन उत्थान जन कल्याण समिति, मण्डावली,(दिल्ली) ० महर्षि दयानन्द योग धाम, अलवर (राजस्थान) ० सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः ट्रस्ट, गाज़ियाबाद (यू० पी०) ० वानप्रस्थ साधक आश्रम (गुजरात) ० आर्य समाज श्री विजयनगर श्रीगंगानगर (राजस्थान) ० आर्य कन्या गुरूकुल शिवगंज, सिरोही (राजस्थान) ० महर्षि पतंजलि इंटरनेशनल योग विद्यापीठ, मुजफ्फरनगर (यू० पी०) ० आर्यवीर दल उत्तर प्रदेश, गुरूकुल विश्वविद्यालय, वृंदावन ० श्री गोपाल गोशाला लोहारू, भिवानी (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल ओपन एअर थियेटर, भिवानी जेल (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल चेरिटेबल ट्रस्ट टंकारा (गुजरात) ० महाशय धर्मपाल चेरिटेबल ट्रस्ट अजमेर (राजस्थान) ० महात्मा रामलाल ट्रस्ट इंदरपुरी (दिल्ली) ० सनातन धर्म मंदिर गुरूग्राम ० महाशय धर्मपाल संस्कृत भवन गुरू विरजानंद संस्कृत कुलम हरी नगर, नई दिल्ली ० युगपुरुष महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी (एम.डी.एच.) चेरिटेबल भवन एवं डायग्नोस्टिक सेंटर X-25 कड़कड़डूमा इंस्टीटयूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली ० युगपुरुष संत महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी (एम.डी.एच.) चेरिटेबल कैंसर निदान सहयोग हॉस्पिटल एंव रिसर्च सेंटर X-25 कड़कड़डूमा इंस्टीटयूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली ० युगपुरुष संत महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी (एम.डी.एच.) आयुर्वेदिक, पंचकर्मा, योग एंव प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य वर्धक एंव रोग निवारण धर्माथ संस्थान, खसरा नं० 259, 275, 276, ग्राम ईशाक नगर, तहसील मोदीनगर, जिला गाजियाबाद यूपी ० विश्वारा कन्या गुरूकुल रुड़की जिला रोहतक (हरियाणा) ० श्री मद्दयानन्द कन्या गुरूकुल महाविद्यालय चोटीपुरा, (उत्तर प्रदेश) ० संजीव गुलाटी स्मृति चिकित्सालय वन्देमातरम कुंज गंगा भोगपुर तल्ला पौड़ी गढ़वाल (उत्तराखंड) ० महर्षि दयानन्द वेद–विद्या आर्य गुरूकुल नली खुर्द (करनाल) ० श्रीमद् दयानन्द विद्यालय 119, गौतम नगर नई दिल्ली ० श्रीमद् दयानन्द आर्य ज्योतिर्मठ गुरूकुल, पौन्धा, देहरादून (उत्तराखंड) ० बाबा ब्रह्मदास गऊशाला (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० बाबा जमीन नाथ गऊशाला सेवा समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० जय बाबा मन्सानाथ गऊशाला, छात्तर ० जय बाबा धुणेवाला विकलांग गऊशाला समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० श्री कृष्ण गौशाला, नगूरां (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० नन्दी सेवा संघ, उचाना मण्डी (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० श्री गौशाला बाबा फुल्लू साध (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० जय दादा खेड़ा गऊशाला समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० बाबा दलीप गिरी डेरा गऊशाला समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० श्रीमद्दयानंद उत्कर्ष आर्य कन्या गुरूकुल मेरठ ० आर्य समाज विजयनगर (अजमेर) राजस्थान ० महर्षि दयानन्द आर्य गुरूकुल एवं गोशाला भादस जिला मेवात हरियाणा ० आर्यवर्त खेल महासघं जहांगीरपुरी, नई दिल्ली ० महर्षि दयानन्द सेवा समिति (पं.) जनपद एटा, उत्तर प्रदेश

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निवेदक

महाशय राजीव गुलाटी

चेयरमैन, महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लि०

० आर्य समाज निरसा धनबाद ० वेदविद्या शोध संस्थान (न्यास) कुरुक्षेत्र (हरियाणा) ० वेदविद्या आर्य गुरूकुल कन्धमाल (ओडिशा) ० वानप्रस्थ साधक आश्रम साबरकांटा (गुजरात) ० आर्य समाज सैक्टर–11, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली ० सार्वदेशिक आर्य वीर दल, मथुरा (उ.प्र.) ० महर्षि दयानन्द आर्ष कन्या गुरूकुल समिति, शाजापुर (म.प्र.) ० आर्य समाज निरसा, धनबाद झारखण्ड ० आर्य कन्या गुरूकुल, शिवगंज, गुरूकुल – आर्ष कन्या विद्यापीठ नजीबाबाद (उ.प्र.) ० आर्ष गुरूकुल शिक्षा प्रबंध समिति, नोएडा (उ.प्र.) ० गुरू विरजानन्द स्मारक समिति ट्रस्ट, करतारपुर जालन्धर (पंजाब) ० श्रीमती चन्द्रावती कन्या गुरूकुल संस्कृत विद्यापीठ, कासगंज (उ.प्र.) ० वैदिक राष्ट्रनिर्माण गुरूकुल, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.) ० स्वामी कृष्णानन्द आर्य बालाश्रय चैरिटेबल ट्रस्ट वेद मन्दिर ब्रह्मपुरी, दिल्ली ० आर्य समाज पूर्वी पंजाबी बाग, दिल्ली ० आर्य समाज शकरपुर, दिल्ली ० दर्शन योग महाविद्यालय, सुंदरपुर कुटिया, रोहतक ० दर्शनयोग धाम, संस्कृतिवन, गांधीनगर, गुजरात ० टीकम सिंह आर्य आदर्श बाल/पू०मा० विद्यालय, रजपुरा (सम्भल) ० गुरूकुल विद्यापीठ, पुष्पावती पूठ (पंजि०), गढमुक्तेश्वर, जिला हापुड (उ.प्र.) ० श्रीमद् दयानन्द गुरूकुल विद्यापीठ गदपुरी, पलवल (हरियाणा) ० वैदिक संस्कृति गुरूकुलम् फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट (रजि.), आर्य समाज ब्रह्मपुरी, न्यू उस्मानपुर, दिल्ली

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महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लिमिटेड

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Electronic monitoring of prisoners: arguments for and against

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu last month released a report by the Supreme Court's Centre for Research and Planning, which suggested several measures to address the problem of overcrowding in India's prisons.

The report, *Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion*, has a section on 'Electronic Tracking of Prisoners', which discusses the use of tracking technology as a condition for bail to reduce the number of undertrial prisoners who make up the vast majority of prisoners.

This July, the Supreme Court had held that bail conditions that allow the police to track the movement of an accused released on bail, violate the right to privacy.

However, the report — like the Law Commission of India and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs — has said that tracking, with the right guardrails, would be beneficial.

The case for tracking

As of December 2022, India's prisons had an overall occupancy of 131.4%, with 5,73,220 inmates against a total capacity of 4,36,266, according to figures compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). More than three quarters of prisoners were undertrials, who had not been convicted of a crime.

According to the report, electronic monitoring "could prove to be a cost-effective method to decongest jails". It gives the example of Odisha, where the government spends about Rs 1 lakh annually on each undertrial, while a tracker "would cost around Rs 10,000 to 15,000".

A report submitted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs last year noted that "through the use of [ankle/bracelet] trackers, administrative machinery or human resources staff involved in keeping track of prisoners who are out on bail can be reduced". (*Prisons: Conditions, Infrastructure and Reforms*)

Lessons from the US

Several studies have argued that electronic monitoring is essentially incarceration by another name – "e-carceration".

In a report published in September 2022, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) noted that "EM (electronic monitoring) serves as an extension of the carceral crisis, expanding the punitive power of jails and prisons beyond their traditional physical walls as a system of "e-carceration"".

The "overuse of government surveillance can create oppressive, criminalizing environments, especially for communities of color", the report, *Rethinking Electronic Monitoring: A Harm Reduction Guide*, said.

EXPLAINED LAW

Electronic monitoring and restrictions on movement for persons on parole or in the pre-trial stage is common in the US. Like people of colour in the US, members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are overrepresented in prison populations in India. The latest NCRB data show almost 70% of prisoners belong to these communities.

The other question is of bearing the cost of electronic monitoring. The Supreme Court's report suggests it should be the government — in the US (which has been cited as an example in the report) though, the costs are often borne by the individual under monitoring. These include $100-$200 in setup charges and daily charges of up to $35, according to the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation.

The report also acknowledges the possibility of stigma associated with a visible monitoring device: "Some individuals may resist wearing [them] due to concerns about social stigma or a perception of invasive surveillance".

Question of privacy

On July 8, an SC Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan struck down a bail condition imposed by the Delhi HC on two foreign nationals booked for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 — that they must "drop a PIN on the google map to ensure that their location is available to the Investigation Officer...".

This, the top court held, would violate the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21. "The investigating agency cannot be permitted to continuously peep into the private life of the accused enlarged on bail," it said.

The Standing Committee Report of 2023 had noted that such measures must only be taken with the consent of the individual. "...It must be ensured that to avoid any kind of human rights violation this scheme or method should be used on voluntary basis after procuring the consent of inmates," the report said.

Research by George Washington University on the impact of electronic monitoring on privacy in 44 US states reported that "people on court supervision (including those who are on monitors) are often subjected to invasions of their bodily autonomy through random drug testing, blood and DNA sampling, as well as invasions of their home through mandatory home visits...".

The 268th Report of the Law Commission of India, published three months before the SC verdict recognising the fundamental right to privacy, argued for electronic monitoring, but acknowledged the possible "grave and significant impact on constitutional rights".

"Such monitoring must be used only in grave and heinous crimes, where the accused person has a prior conviction in similar offences", the Report said.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

President Biden pardons his son: What will it entail?

President Joe Biden embraces his son Hunter Biden after his speech in Chicago on August 19, 2024. *The NYT*

THE US President Joe Biden on Sunday pardoned his son Hunter after repeatedly saying that he will not. Here are the circumstances in which the pardon came, and what all it entails.

What did the pardon cover?

Hunter Biden was pardoned for his conviction by a jury in Delaware and a guilty plea in California. Hunter was also pardoned for federal crimes "he committed or may have committed" between January 1, 2014 through the end of this year.

What crimes was Hunter convicted of?

A Delaware jury in June found the President's son guilty of lying about his addiction to illegal drugs on a disclosure form that is required to purchase a firearm. Hunter was scheduled to be sentenced on December 12.

He separately pleaded guilty to criminal charges of failing to pay $1.4 million in taxes while spending lavishly on drugs, sex workers, and luxury items. He was scheduled to be sentenced on December 16.

What kind of sentence was Hunter looking at?

Hunter was potentially facing decades in prison, although sentencing guidelines suggested he was likely to receive a much less severe punishment.

For the gun charges, sentencing guidelines are 15 to 21 months, although legal experts said defendants in similar situations receive shorter sentences and are less likely to be incarcerated if they abide by the terms of their pretrial release.

Could Hunter still be implicated in other cases?

If the US House of Representatives or the Justice Department decides to probe the Biden family business dealings, as some Republicans have promised to do, Hunter could potentially be called to testify.

Before he was pardoned, he could have declined to do so, citing his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The pardon could limit his ability to invoke that right, because he no longer faces criminal jeopardy for any federal crimes committed during the period covered. Presidential pardons do not protect people from prosecution for state crimes.

Are presidential pardons unusual?

No. Presidents beginning with George Washington, the first US president, have granted pardons. Gerald Ford pardoned his predecessor Richard Nixon, who had resigned in disgrace, Bill Clinton pardoned his brother-in-law, and Donald Trump pardoned Charles Kushner, a real estate developer and the father of Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

REUTERS

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EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

BRICS currency, Trump threat

What does the US President-elect's threat of 100% tariffs if BRICS countries ditch the dollar mean for India — and the US? What has provoked Trump, and why is India pushing for the internationalisation of the rupee?

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

DONALD TRUMP has threatened the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries with 100% import tariffs if they create their own currency or back an existing currency to replace the United States dollar as the world's reserve currency.

"We require a commitment from these countries that they will neither create a new BRICS currency nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar, or they will face 100 per cent tariffs and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful US economy," the US President-elect posted on social media over the weekend.

Ever since the US threw Iran and Russia out of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), which is key to international financial transactions, countries around the world, including India, have looked to reduce dependence on the US dollar, as well as on the US-led global financial system.

At the BRICS summit in Kazan in October, Russian President Vladimir Putin said: "The dollar is being used as a weapon. We really see that this is so. I think that this is a big mistake by those who do this."

At the 2023 BRICS summit in Johannesburg, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil had said the "creation of a new [BRICS] currency…increases our payment options and reduces our vulnerabilities".

Internationalisation of rupee…

In an attempt to reduce reliance on the US dollar and to internationalise the Indian rupee, the Reserve Bank of India allowed invoicing and payments for international trade in Indian rupees in 2022, after sanctions were imposed on Russia amid the war in Ukraine.

In his remarks at Kazan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India "welcome[d] efforts to increase financial integration among BRICS countries", and "trade in local currencies and smooth cross-border payments will strengthen our economic cooperation".

Last month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission meeting in Mumbai that "mutual settlement of trade in national currencies is of great importance, especially in the current circumstances".

India's trade with Russia in domestic currency remains low due to Indian banks' fear of US sanctions, and an unbalanced trade relationship between the countries — Indian imports far outstrip its exports. Russia has, therefore, not been able to use its huge pile of rupee reserves to settle bilateral trade dues, and has used it to invest in Indian stocks and bonds instead.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin, seen at the Kazan BRICS summit in October with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping, has said the United States is using the dollar as a "weapon". *Reuters*

The more balanced Russia-China trade, by contrast, has helped transactions using the yuan and ruble. According to the Russian government, more than 90% of trade settlement between the two countries is now done in rubles.

…But not targeting US dollar

In October Jaishankar had clarified that while US policies often complicate trade with certain countries, and India sought "workarounds" in pursuit of its trade interests, it did not "target" the dollar or seek to move away from it.

"We have never actively targeted the dollar. That's not part of our economic, political, or strategic policy. Some others may have done so. What I will say is that we have a natural concern. We often have trade partners who lack dollars for transactions. So, we must decide whether to forgo dealings with them or find alternative settlements that work. There's no malicious intent towards the dollar," Jaishankar said in response to a question at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, an American think tank in Washington DC.

The Triennial Central Bank Survey 2022 of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), an international financial institution owned by member central banks, showed the US dollar accounted for 88% of the global forex turnover. The rupee accounted for 1.6%.

High tariff wall could hit US

While the dollar dominates global trade — accounting for more than 90% of transactions — it is not the only currency used internationally. Other convertible currencies like the Japanese yen, the euro, and the British pound are also integral to global commerce, and the US has not objected to their use. The proposed BRICS currency is simply another of these alternatives, aimed at facilitating trade among member countries and reducing over-reliance on a single currency, international trade experts said.

"It is the actions of the United States that have pushed many countries to seek alternatives to the US dollar. The US has a history of leveraging its influence over global financial systems, such as the SWIFT network, to impose unilateral sanctions. SWIFT is essential for secure and standardised international financial transactions. By blocking countries like Russia and Iran from accessing SWIFT, the US has effectively weaponised the global financial infrastructure, forcing other nations to find alternative payment mechanisms to continue legitimate trade," Ajay Srivastava, head of the think tank Global Trade Research Initiative, and a former Indian government trade official, said.

According to Srivastava, a 100% tariff on BRICS countries would ultimately hurt the US. "Imports into the US would shift to third countries, potentially increasing costs for American consumers without bringing manufacturing jobs back home. The US has become less competitive in manufacturing labour-intensive goods due to higher production costs, and tariffs are unlikely to reverse this," he said.

Need for China caution

Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the country's top trade promotion organisation, said that while supporting local currency initiatives, India should ensure the framework does not disproportionately favour China, given the asymmetry in economic power among BRICS nations.

"China is very keen to assume a dominant role to use the bloc against the US, though India, Brazil, and South Africa are more keen to work with the US and settle the differences amicably through negotiations," Sahai said. India should engage diplomatically with the US to explain its position, emphasising that diversifying trade mechanisms is not anti-American but a move towards multipolarity and financial stability, he said.

India should accelerate its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) initiative and push for internationalisation of financial platforms such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Sahai said.

"Trump's threat is unlikely to deter BRICS nations from pursuing alternatives to the US dollar. For India, the best course is a balanced approach: supporting financial reforms within BRICS that align with its interests while maintaining strong ties with the US to safeguard its broader strategic and economic priorities," he said.

The Currency Composition of Official Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows a gradual decline in the share of the dollar in central bank and government foreign reserves. However, the reduced role of the dollar over the past two decades has not been matched by corresponding increases in the shares of the euro, yen, and pound, according to the IMF.

"Rather, this has been accompanied by a rise in the share of…non-traditional reserve currencies, including the Australian dollar, Canadian dollar, Chinese renminbi, South Korean won, Singaporean dollar, and the Nordic currencies," the IMF said in a blog published in July. The gains of the renminbi in particular, "match a quarter of the decline in the dollar's share", the blog said, confirming a trend it had also flagged in a paper in 2022.

How land degradation is threatening Earth's capacity to sustain humanity

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

LAND DEGRADATION is undermining Earth's capacity to sustain humanity, and failure to reverse it will pose challenges for generations to come, a new United Nations report found.

A million sq km of land is getting degraded each year, with an estimated 15 million sq km already impacted — more than the entire continent of Antarctica — by land degradation, the report titled *Stepping back from the precipice: Transforming land management to stay within planetary boundaries* said.

EXPLAINED ENVIRONMENT

The analysis has been carried out by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) — a legally binding framework to address desertification and the effects of drought — in collaboration with Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. It was published on Monday, a day before the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of UNCCD began in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

What is land degradation? Why is it a matter of concern?

According to UNCCD, land degradation is "the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from a combination of pressures, including land use and management practices".

Land degradation adversely affects humans and ecosystems around the planet. For instance, it raises the risk of malnutrition by reducing the quality and quantity of food production. It contributes to the spread of water- and food-borne diseases that result from poor hygiene and scarcity of clean water. It can cause respiratory diseases due to soil erosion.

Marine and freshwater systems also suffer due to land degradation. For example, eroded soil carrying fertilisers and pesticides washes into water bodies, harming both the fauna living there and local communities which depend on them.

LAND DEGRADATION IN NUMBERS

60%: Remaining global forest cover — well below the safe boundary of 75%.

15 MN SQ KM: Degraded land area, more than the size of Antarctica, expanding by 1 mn sq km annually.

20%: Earth's land surface covered by the savanna, now under threat from cropland expansion and poorly planned afforestation.

46%: Global land area classified as drylands, home to a third of humanity

90%: Share of recent deforestation directly caused by agriculture.

20%: Decline in trees' and soil's CO2 absorption capacity since 2015 attributed to climate change

25%: Share of biodiversity found in soil

50%+: World's major rivers disrupted by dam construction

47%: Aquifers being depleted faster than they are replenished

Source: UNCCD report

Land degradation contributes to climate change as well. The world's soil is the largest terrestrial carbon sink. When land is degraded, soil carbon can be released into the atmosphere, along with nitrous oxide. This can further exacerbate global warming.

The new report said land degradation has reduced the capacity of land ecosystems such as trees and soil to absorb human-caused carbon dioxide by 20% in the last decade. Previously, these ecosystems could absorb nearly one-third of this kind of pollution.

What is causing land degradation?

Unsustainable agricultural practices such as the heavy use of chemical inputs, pesticides, and water diversion are the foremost drivers of land degradation, the report said. That is because such practices lead to deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution.

"Unsustainable irrigation practices deplete freshwater resources, while excessive use of nitrogen- and phosphorus-based fertilisers destabilise ecosystems," according to the report.

Another factor is climate change — land degradation not only contributes to climate change but is also spurred by it. A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change, noted that global warming has worsened land degradation by increasing frequency, intensity and/ or amount of heavy precipitation, and increased heat stress.

Then there is rapid urbanisation, which has intensified land degradation by contributing to habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Which areas are the worst affected?

The report has identified several land degradation hotspots in dry regions such as South Asia, northern China, the High Plains and California in the United States, and the Mediterranean. A third of humanity now lives in drylands, which include three-quarters of Africa.

It also noted that land degradation hits low-income countries disproportionately. That is because its impacts are concentrated in tropical and arid regions, and poorer countries have lesser resilience to withstand land degradation and its fallouts.

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BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

CBSE plan: Pick from standard or advanced Social Science and Science in Classes 9-10

Proposal to start from 2026-27, must be cleared by CBSE governing body

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

AFTER INTRODUCING two levels of Mathematics (standard and basic) for Class 10 students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is learnt to be working towards a similar structure for Science and Social Science (standard and advanced) for Classes 9 and 10, starting from the 2026-27 academic session.

The decision to offer these subjects at two levels was taken during a recent meeting of the CBSE's curriculum committee. The Board's governing body, which serves as its highest decision-making authority, has to give the final approval.

The framework for this change, including whether students opting for the advanced level will use different study material or simply take a different exam, is yet to be finalised.

EXPLAINED
In line with NEP

AS PART of the attempt to "reduce pressure", the National Education Policy, 2020, stated that "all subjects and corresponding assessments, beginning with Mathematics, could be offered at two levels, with students doing some subjects at standard level and some at higher level".

According to sources, the CBSE is awaiting the release of new textbooks by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), aligned with the updated National Curriculum Framework.

While the NCERT, which advises the Centre on school education and classroom curriculum, released new textbooks for Classes 1 and 2 last year and for Classes 3 and 6 this year, it is expected to release textbooks for a few more classes in early 2025 before the new academic session begins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'MISTAKES COMMITTED BY AKALI GOVT'

'Unfit to lead community': Akal Takht indicts Badal, says need to 'rebuild' SAD

Jathedar to SAD: Accept Badal resignation, start process to elect new leadership

Sukhbir Singh Badal and other SAD leaders during the hearing, Monday. *Rana Simranjit Singh*

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 2

IN A scathing indictment of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and its president Sukhbir Singh Badal, Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh on Monday imposed religious punishment on Badal and other senior Akali leaders, saying they were unfit to lead the Sikh community.

The Jathedar directed the party's working committee to accept Badal's resignation and announced the formation of a committee to initiate a membership drive and begin the process of electing a new leadership.

The proceedings, held at the Akal Takht Sahib, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs at the Golden Temple, extended beyond punitive measures, with the Jathedar also asking the splintered party to stop squabbling and rebuild the over 100-year-old regional party,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BIG DAY FOR SIKH INSTITUTIONS
PAGE 7

Will set date for Putin visit early next year: Kremlin

Expected to visit India next year

SHUBHAJIT ROY & DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

IN LESS than a month, Russia has conveyed twice that President Vladimir Putin is expected to visit India next year. Saying that Putin had received Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to visit India, the Kremlin has said the dates will be decided early next year. This will be Putin's first visit to India since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022.

"Our leaders have an agreement to hold meetings once a year. This time, it's our turn... We received PM Modi's invitation and we will certainly consider it positively... We will figure out the tentative dates early next year," Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Protesters vandalise Bangla mission in Agartala, MEA says 'deeply regrettable'

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, DECEMBER 2

A PROTEST outside the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala over the recent arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das spiralled out of control Monday afternoon as a group of protesters broke the police barricade and stormed inside, indulged in vandalism and removed the Bangladesh national flag from a pole.

Security at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala on Monday. *PTI*

In the evening, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the incident as "deeply regrettable" even as Bangladesh said the incident appeared to be "preplanned" and blamed Tripura Police for not doing enough.

In a statement, the MEA said, "The incident earlier today of the breach of premises at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

35% GST likely on cigarettes, aerated drinks and tobacco

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

IN A step that would mark the first major restructuring of tax rates under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) seven years after its rollout, a special rate of 35 per cent could be carved out for demerit (sin) goods such as aerated beverages, cigarettes, tobacco and related products.

At a meeting on Monday, ahead of the GST Council meeting on December 21, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation finalised its report with this recommendation of a special rate, in addition to proposing a slew of rate tweaks for over 148 items including ready-made garments.

The proposed hike in GST rates for sin goods, from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

House deadlock breaks as Govt and Opp agree on Constitution debate

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE WEEK-LONG standoff in Parliament came to an end as the government and the Opposition reached an agreement Monday, which was reflected by the announcement of dates for a special discussion on the Constitution in both the Houses.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla meets floor leaders. *Express*

The Opposition leaders indicated that they would cooperate with the government for smooth functioning of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, which have been stalled over various issues — including Gautam Adani's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

At home of IIT researcher killed in Lothal, a box of soil, questions

MAULSHREE SETH
SITAPUR, DECEMBER 2

"THIS IS all we have now," says Maheshwari Verma. On the centre table in front of her is an open black suitcase with plastic bags of mud samples that her daughter Surabhi Verma collected during her study of the Harappan site of Lothal.

Surabhi Verma

Last week, on November 27, Surabhi, a 26-year-old PhD student at IIT Delhi's Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, died when a trench she was working in near Lothal collapsed on her. While Surabhi was buried alive, her Associate Professor Yama Dixit was pulled out of the trench.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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• Akal Takht indicts Sukhbir

signalling a significant political shift within the community.

In an unprecedented move, the Jathedar also revoked the title of Fakhr-e-Qaum (Pride of the Nation) awarded to former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal. Ironically, he was the first political leader to be conferred with this title.

As part of the punishment, Sukhbir Badal and core committee members of the Akali Dal, including cabinet ministers from 2015, were ordered to clean toilets, serve in the langar (community kitchen), perform Nitnem (daily Sikh prayers), and recite Sukhmani Sahib. Placards were also placed around their necks as part of the sentence.

Due to health concerns, Badal and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa were instructed to serve as gatekeepers at the Guru's abode for two days, donning traditional servant attire and holding spears as a mark of humility.

Additionally, the Jathedar announced that all facilities provided to former Jathedar Giani Gurbachan Singh — who had pardoned Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ran Rahim, ostensibly under the influence of the Badals — would be withdrawn, barring him from speaking at public events. He also directed the recovery of funds spent on advertisements related to Dera Sacha Sauda, including interest, to be collected from Badal, Sucha Singh Langah, Gulzar Singh, Daljit Singh Cheema, Balwinder Singh Bhundar, and Heera Singh Gabria.

The punishment stems from allegations that the Akali leadership maintained ties with Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim despite his excommunication by the Sikh community in 2007. Later, the leadership allegedly facilitated his pardon by the Akal Takht.

The party leadership also faced criticism for failing to address key panthic issues when they were in power between 2007 and 2017. These included incidents of sacrilege, and police firing at Kotkapura as well as the appointment of DGP Sumedh Singh Saini, who was accused of rights violations during the period of militancy in Punjab.

During the proceedings, Jathedar Raghbir Singh pointedly questioned Badal, often asking him to answer in yes or no when the latter tried to express his regrets at his actions. Badal admitted to inviting the then Akal Takht Jathedar to his residence before he granted a pardon to Gurmeet Ram Rahim.

It was an unprecedented public inquisition the kind the Akal Takht has not seen in the recent past.

Badal also clarified that the decisions were made without external pressure. He and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa admitted to their mistakes in response to the Jathedar's queries.

The Akal Takht Sahib, as the supreme Sikh authority, holds the power to summon any Sikh for transgressions and impose religious punishments, known as Tankhah.

Giani Harpreet Singh, Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, said, "When the Akali Dal came to power, it was expected to heal the wounds of the Sikh community, but sadly, those wounds were deepened."

BJP state president Sunil Jakhar welcomed the decision in a post on X. "The historic hearing held at Sri Akal Takht Sahib today has further elevated the stature of this premier institution of the Panth. The decision announced from Sri Akal Takht Sahib today has not only enhanced the respect for this institution but also instilled pride in the community, reaffirming that our Guru Sahiban established such a powerful and supreme authority to guide those straying from the Guru's path back onto the righteous way," he posted.

In 1994, acting Akal Takht Jathedar Manjit Singh made several efforts to unite all SAD factions on a common platform. He even succeeded briefly in bringing together prominent leaders such as Captain Amarinder Singh, Simranjit Singh Mann, and Gurcharan Singh Tohra. However, Parkash Singh Badal resisted the Akal Takht's call to unite the SAD (B) factions, ultimately thwarting these efforts. Badal's influence eventually prevailed, leaving Manjit Singh's attempts unsuccessful.

Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders of the previous SAD government during the hearing, in Amritsar, Monday. *PTI*

The questions posed by Jathedar Raghbir Singh to Sukhbir Badal, to which he responded in affirmative:

- While being part of the Akali government, have you committed the sin of ignoring the sacrifices of thousands of martyrs on panthic issues?
- Have you committed the sin of promoting officials responsible for the killing of thousands of Sikhs or giving party tickets to their family members for elections?
- Have you committed the sin of getting cases against Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim—an enemy of Sikhs and Sikhism—cancelled?
- Have you committed the sin of granting a pardon to the Dera Sacha Sauda head without his seeking it, and reportedly calling the Jathedars to your Chandigarh residence for this purpose?
- Later, when the sacrilege of Shri Guru Granth Sahib occurred, did you shelter the accused? Following that, two Sikh protestors were killed in the Behbal Kalan firing. Do you confess to this sin, which took place during your government?
- Have you committed the sin of misusing the Guru's Golak by instructing the SGPC to incur expenses on newspaper advertisements to justify the pardon granted to the Dera head?
- Have you edited the pardon letter of the Dera Sacha Sauda head by adding the phrase "Khima Jachak" (seeking forgiveness)?

Sukhu dedicates ₹13.25-cr Dhalli bus stand to public

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, DECEMBER 3

CHIEF MINISTER Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Monday dedicated Rs 13.25 crore newly constructed Dhalli bus stand in Shimla to the public and also inspected the facilities therein. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who holds the transport portfolio, was present on the occasion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the function, Sukhu said that the previous BJP government merely laid the foundation stone for the construction of Dhalli and Theog bus stands without allocating any budget. All this was done purely for electoral gains and not in the name of development. He said that his government allocated Rs 5 crore last year and an additional Rs 5 crore this fiscal year for the completion of the bus stand at the earliest to facilitate the public. He added that a modern HRTC workshop to cost Rs 24 crore was also being constructed in the area and would be completed at the earliest.

The CM said that the previous BJP government deceived the public with their hollow promises, Their "double-engine Centre-state government" completely failed on all the fronts and during the fag end of their regime distributed freebies worth Rs 5,000 crore ahead of Assembly elections in 2022. However, the people rejected BJP's governance model, said Sukhu, adding that the present government laid out the foundation stones of the development projects after ensuring proper budgetary provisions and ensured timely completion of such projects.

Later, the CM laid the foundation stone for the modernisation of the Dhalli Vegetable Mandi, projected to cost Rs 36 crore. Work on the mandi would begin within a month and will be completed in one and a half year. He stated that a new parking would also be constructed at Dhalli.

Sukhu emphasised the state government's efforts to strengthen the road infrastructure. He said that the state government was prioritising road construction and added that the Parwanoo-Shimla four-lane highway to Dhalli would be ready within two years.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Govt, Opp agree on Constitution debate

indictment by the US prosecutors in an alleged bribery case, recent Sambhal violence and Manipur unrest — since the Winter Session got underway on November 25.

At a meeting of floor leaders of all parties convened by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, both the government and Opposition parties agreed for a special discussion on the Constitution during the session.

Expressing confidence that both the Houses will function smoothly from Tuesday, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the Lok Sabha will take up a debate on the Constitution on December 13-14 while the Rajya Sabha will hold a discussion on it on December 16-17.

Rijiju, who attended the meeting, told reporters that the Opposition parties had demanded discussions on the issue to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly.

Earlier in the day, several Opposition MPs met Speaker Birla, seeking a discussion on the Constitution and urging him to slot dates for the same.

The Opposition members meanwhile continued their protests in both the Houses over the Adani indictment, Sambhal violence and other issues, leading to the repeated disruption of their proceedings before their adjournment for the day.

The first week of the session has been washed out in the wake of the Congress's insistence on a thorough discussion on the Adani row and the government's reluctance to accept it.

The Congress leadership, however, came under pressure amid unease among a section of the party MPs as well as some other Opposition parties over the continued stonewalling of the two Houses.

Sources said there was "an overwhelming" view among the Congress MPs at their morning huddle before Parliament met that such stalling of discussions and proceedings were not helping the party's cause. "The leaders, in a way, came under pressure to look for ways to see that Parliament functions," said a party MP.

In the meeting of the INDIA bloc leaders, too, which was attended by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the Left parties took a stand that the Opposition's current strategy of protests in the House was not working. While maintaining that the Left is with the INDIA bloc, its leaders suggested that there should be a "rethink" in its strategy. The decision to approach the Speaker and press for a discussion on the Constitution was subsequently taken, sources said.

With a large Opposition section keen on participating in the business of both the Houses to take up multiple issues, the Congress leadership thus decided to change its parliamentary tactics and resolve the impasse, sources added. Later in the day, Congress sources said that while deciding to participate in the parliamentary proceedings, the party would not give up its protests over the Adani row.

In a meeting of Congress leaders held at party president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in the evening, the party decided to rally the Opposition MPs to hold a sit-in protest over the Adani issue at Makar Dwar of Parliament House before the resumption of the House sittings Tuesday.

"We will continue our protest. Our members will raise this issue during the debates on Bills, such as when the House takes up the banking law amendment Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha today, or on other occasions," said a Congress leader.

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal told reporters in the morning that the Opposition has demanded a discussion on the Constitution.

"We have met the Speaker and our only demand is that he has to take action to run the House smoothly. We are ready to run the House provided there should be a discussion on the Constitution which they promised us," Venugopal said.

The BJP leaders, however, asserted that the party had already demanded a discussion on the Constitution. "We had made this demand on the first Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting of this Winter Session itself. We wanted a proper discussion on the Constitution and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to speak on it too," said a BJP leader.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh accused the government of allegedly not showing any interest in running Parliament. "Today also, both Houses got adjourned. INDIA parties had given notices for an immediate discussion on Adani, Manipur, Sambhal and Ajmer. These (Opposition) parties never agitated. There was hardly any sloganeering. But the Modi government simply did not want Parliament to function," Ramesh alleged.

"The situation is truly extraordinary. The Opposition wants a discussion but the government is running away from it," he claimed. "The responsibility of the government is to get Parliament functioning. The Opposition must have its say but the government will have its way. But here the government has lost its way and does not want Parliament to function."

Ramesh dismissed reports of differences within the Opposition ranks over the Adani issue, saying that different parties have different issues but all of them were united over this "important matter". "We are also of the view that Manipur is an important issue. The way a Pandora's box has been opened (with respect to) the Places of Worship Act is an issue. So there are various issues," he added.

Some INDIA parties, especially the TMC, were however said to have not attached the same priority to the Adani row as the Congress, seeking discussions on a slew of other issues, including unemployment, price rise and the Centre's alleged discrimination against Opposition-ruled states in fund allocations.

• Will set date for Putin visit early next year: Kremlin

at a briefing, according to the Russian Embassy.

However, there has been no word of confirmation from New Delhi, and the Indian government is reading this public articulation as interest in Moscow to signal to the world that India is an important partner and Russia is far from isolated in the international community. Sources said the Indian government announces visits closer to the date, and would not like to speculate on the timeframe. But they pointed to the schedule for reciprocal annual visits, according to which it is the Russian President's turn to come to India next year.

This comes at a time when US President-elect Donald Trump is set to assume office in January next year. In the past, Trump has said that the Russia-Ukraine war would not have happened if he were the US President, and that he could "negotiate an end...in 24 hours". He has also touted his relationship with Putin. In this context, a visit by Putin to India can be significant. In fact, Trump is also expected to visit India for the Quad leaders' summit next year.

In Kazan last month, Modi had told Putin that India was ready to help bring about a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. He had also travelled to Kyiv in August and met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, asking him to sit with Putin to "find a way out of the crisis".

The Russian Embassy said that Putin and Modi have maintained regular contact, holding telephone conversations once every couple of months. Before travelling to Kazan for the BRICS Summit in October, Modi also made a two-day visit to Moscow to take part in the 22nd Russia-India Summit in July.

This is not the first time that Moscow has announced Putin's intent to visit India. Two weeks ago, Kremlin press secretary Dmitry Peskov had announced his upcoming visit. "We welcomed Prime Minister Modi twice this year and we hope that soon we will figure out the dates of the visit of President Putin to India," Peskov had said during his video address at an event in New Delhi organised by state-owned Sputnik news agency.

Putin last visited India in December 2021 — months before the war started in Ukraine. His planned visit is part of a protocol between India and Russia for reciprocal annual visits by their leaders. However, after the war began in Ukraine, there were no visits by either side, and it was only resumed when Modi went to Moscow in July this year. While thanking Putin for the "gracious hospitality" extended to him and his delegation in Moscow in July, Modi had invited him to visit India in 2025 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs had said then.

Last month, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Manturov, also visited India for key discussions on bilateral and global issues. He participated in the plenary session of the Russia-India Business Forum in Mumbai, which focussed on expanding economic and business cooperation. Manturov also held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi, and participated in the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Russian-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Cooperation.

• 35% GST likely on cigarettes, aerated drinks & tobacco

current highest slab of 28 per cent, would help the Centre and the states to make up for the loss from other rate cuts for common-use items, officials said. The current four-slab GST structure — of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent — will continue for the medium term, a state finance minister said.

Among other rate change proposals, the GoM, headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, has suggested levying 5 per cent GST on readymade garments priced up to Rs 1,500; 18 per cent for those priced at Rs 1,500-10,000; and 28 per cent for garments costing above Rs 10,000.

"The GoM has proposed raising the rates for tobacco and related products, and aerated beverages to 35 per cent. It will be a special rate and will help in minimising the revenue loss impact from the other rate changes," a state finance minister, who is part of the GoM, told *The Indian Express*.

The GoM has also proposed hiking rates on other high-end items such as cosmetics, watches and shoes. With this, the indirect tax regime would transition towards a regime where taxation gets linked to the pricing of the product and hence, a greater incidence would be on those who buy luxury and high-end items.

The GST Council is scheduled to meet in Jaisalmer on December 21, where it will also take up the key proposal of GST on life and health insurance premiums. The premiums paid by senior citizens for health insurance and premiums paid by all for term life insurance are likely to be exempted. For other citizens, health insurance cover till Rs 5 lakh is likely to be exempted and the existing rate of 18 per cent will be charged for health insurance cover over Rs 5 lakh.

At its meeting in October, the GoM had suggested GST rejig for several items and proposed cutting rates for some items such as packaged water above 20 litres (5 per cent from 18 per cent), bicycles priced less than Rs 10,000 (5 per cent from 12 per cent) and exercise notebooks (5 per cent from 12 per cent). Shoes costing above Rs 15,000 and wristwatches above Rs 25,000 are likely to be shifted to the highest slab of 28 per cent GST from 18 per cent.

Separately, the GoM on compensation cess, headed by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, also held its meeting on Monday and sought an extension of six months to submit its report to the GST Council. This GoM, which includes members from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, MP, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, was mandated to submit its report by December 31.

The GoM is looking at the legal implications of removal of the cess — levied on sin and luxury goods such as cars, tobacco, over and above the existing highest rate of 28 per cent. "There is time till March 2026 to take a decision regarding the levy of the cess. So it was felt that a detailed discussion should happen, and so more time will be sought for submission of the report," the minister said.

The compensation cess was proposed to be levied for five years after the rollout of GST, till June 2022, to compensate states for revenue loss. In 2022, the Council decided to extend the levy till March 2026 to repay the interest and principal amount of the Rs 2.69 lakh crore of loans taken in FY21 and FY22 to pay off states' revenue loss during Covid years. At its meeting on September 9, the Council decided to set up a GoM to decide the future course of the cess.

• CBSE plan: Pick from standard or advanced Social Science and Science in Classes 9-10

The decision is in line with the National Education Policy, 2020, which states that "all subjects and corresponding assessments, beginning with Mathematics, could be offered at two levels, with students doing some of their subjects at the standard level and some at a higher level". This suggestion is part of the policy's push to "reduce pressure and the coaching culture".

Currently, the Board offers only one subject at two levels in Class 10. In this model, the syllabus for students opting for Mathematics (Standard) and Mathematics (Basic) is the same, but the question papers and the difficulty level of the questions in the Board examination differ. This system was introduced in the 2019-20 academic session.

According to CBSE data, in the 2023-24 exam, more students registered for the standard level (15,88,041 students) of Maths as compared to the basic level (6,79,560 students).

The objective behind offering Science and Social Science at two levels for Classes 9 and 10 is to allow students with the aptitude for these subjects to study them at an advanced level before they take up these subjects in Class 11, said a source.

Students are likely to be granted a certain time-frame to take a final decision on whether they want to take the advanced or standard levels, allowing them to switch within that period.

The advanced level could mean additional learning material, different textbooks or the same textbook with more advanced exercises, and/ or additional learning hours. For the exams, it could mean an entirely different set of question papers for the advanced level, or a question paper that may have a different set of questions for the standard and advanced levels.

The framework — on how the two levels will be implemented — will depend on the new textbooks that will be developed by the NCERT.

Textbooks that align with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), 2023, have already been introduced for Classes 1, 2, 3 and 6. The NCERT is in the process of developing textbooks for Classes 4, 5, 7 and 8, and these are set to be made available to students from the 2025-26 academic session.

At an event in October this year, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had said that new textbooks for more classes are likely to be made available from next year. "By January 2026…desh mein nayi pathyapustak aa hi jayega (the country will have new textbooks)," he had said.

• Protesters vandalise Bangladesh Assistant High Commission

Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala is deeply regrettable. Diplomatic and consular properties should not be targeted under any circumstances."

"Government is taking action to step up security arrangements for the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi and their Deputy/Assistant High Commissions in the country," the MEA said.

The protest was held under the aegis of the Hindu Sangharsh Samiti. The breach took place even as a delegation of the protesters was submitting a representation to the Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh inside.

In a statement later in the evening, Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "The Government of Bangladesh deeply resents the violent demonstration and attack by a large group of protesters of the Hindu Sangharsh Samiti... on the premises of the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala."

It said that accounts received by them "conclusively attest" that the protesters were allowed to aggress into the premises, by breaking the main gate of the mission in a "pre-planned manner".

"In the process, in the presence of the members of the local law enforcement agencies, they vandalised the flagpole, desecrated the national flag of Bangladesh and also damaged properties inside the Assistant High Commission. Regrettably, the local police personnel present in charge of protecting the premises were found not to be active in containing the situation from the beginning," the Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Ministry said.

"This particular act in Agartala stands in violation of the inviolability of diplomatic missions, as the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, asks for," it said.

Stating that it is the responsibility of the host government to protect diplomatic missions, Bangladesh called upon the Government of India to take immediate action. It called for a thorough investigation and action to prevent any further act of violence against diplomatic missions of Bangladesh in India.

Although the protest started as a peaceful sit-in demonstration, the protesters later began raising anti-Bangladesh and 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans near the Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner's office.

They spoke of alleged atrocities meted out to Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh under the current dispensation led by Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus, and also demanded the release of Chinmoy Das, who was arrested last week on sedition charges.

Ruling BJP state vice-president Subal Bhowmik, who also joined the protest, demanded that Yunus's Nobel Prize be withdrawn.

"Such attacks on Hindus are intolerable... Hindus across the world are getting united. Attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh are increasing by the day….. Md. Yunus is provoking these incidents," he told reporters.

A six-member delegation of the protesters then met the Assistant High Commissioner to convey their message.

However, as the delegates were busy with the Assistant High Commissioner, a group of protesters broke the security barricade and stormed the premises. They removed Bangladesh's national flag from the pole, damaged chairs, flower-pots and other property.

Security forces brought the situation under control within minutes and dispersed them from the premises. DG (Intelligence) Anurag Dhyankar rushed to the spot and assessed the situation. Additional security forces were deployed outside the mission shortly afterwards.

• At home of IIT researcher killed in Lothal, a box of soil, questions

Hours later, at their house in Sitapur district, as the family got a call from an "official in Gujarat" informing them of the accident, it was decided that two of Surabhi's cousins from Delhi would go to Lothal to collect her belongings and bring back the body.

In the days since then, Maheshwari's heart has been bursting with questions. "I still don't understand. What was the hurry to do this digging in such a short time? Why did the pit have to be so deep? My nephew who saw the pit told me water was still seeping into it. And they got an excavator to dig? Who gave them the permission for all this? I do know who can tell me all this. Do you know?"

Surabhi's father R K Verma, who teaches at the government primary school nearby, is just back from Naimisharana, a religious site in Sitapur, after dispersing his daughter's ashes in the Gomti river.

He slumps on to the bed in front of the still-open suitcase and talks about how, seven years ago, Surabhi, the second of his four children, made a journey he is proud of — from the congested lanes of Sitapur's Sri Nagar colony to Allahabad University, where she did her BSc and MSc in Geology and later an MTech in Earth Sciences, before joining IIT Delhi last year for her PhD.

"I always wanted Surabhi to join the IAS. In fact, I was the one who pushed her to take up Geology as her third subject for BSc, hoping it would help her score better. But then, she developed a keen interest in the subject. The rest of it was her decision -- to do MTech, apply for the scholarship and do research in the field. Still, somewhere, I wanted her to be an IAS officer and she would often tell me, 'Papa, don't worry, I'll appear for the UPSC exams as well. But let me first settle down in my field. She was always very clear about what she wanted," says Verma, his tears flowing freely.

Maheshwari says she lived her own life through Surabhi's.

Parents and siblings of IIT-Delhi PhD student Surabhi Verma at their home in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh. *Vishal Srivastav*

"I did an MA in Economics from Lakhimpur Kheri but my father never let me work. After I got married, my children were my sole focus. We were all very proud of Surabhi — she was the topper and vice-captain of her school (Sacred Hearts School in Sitapur)," she says.

She says Surabhi had applied for the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship. "She told me that soon she would start getting Rs 70,000 a month. She would tell me that once she got the money, she would call me to Delhi and take me to a lot of places. I don't want any of that now... I only want my daughter," says Maheshwari, breaking down.

As her younger daughter Devyanshi leafs through the family album — its plastic sheets holding several photographs of Surabhi on stage, receiving medals and certificates over the years – she says "didi" was her "guiding light". "I would always turn to her when I needed help. She was the one helping me for the IBPS PO (bank probationary officers') examination," says Devyanshi.

After clearing the preliminaries, Devyanshi appeared for the main exam on November 30, the day after Surabhi's body was brought home. "I had no strength left in me but I travelled to Lucknow for the exam because that is what didi would have wanted," she says, adding, "Her sole focus was to attain financial independence... That's something she wanted from me and my siblings too." Devyanshi's eldest sister Suprabha, who has a BEd, teaches in a private school in Sitapur and her younger brother Ankush is preparing for his JEE.

Devyanshi says that around 10.30 pm on November 26, the night before the accident at Lothal, she had made a video call to Surabhi. "We had a long call then. She spoke to our mother too. Then, I called her again at 12.30 at night because I needed help with something I was studying. She said she had a long day at the site and was very tired. She had to wake up early too, so she hung up," she says.

That was the last time they spoke.

A day after her death, the family got another call — from IIT Delhi. Surabhi had topped her second semester. "The professor told us Surbahi had got an A throughout... aur use pata hi nahi chala (she did not even get to know). Wherever she went, she brought medals. *Woh research scholar thi jo climate change jaise vishaya par research kar rahi thi... Woh ghar ki hi nahin nation ki treasure thi* (She was a research scholar who studied subjects like climate change. She was not just our treasure, but the nation's too)," says Verma.

He, too, has questions, "No other child should lose their life because of such negligence. I am also a teacher — every student in my class is my responsibility and I am accountable if something happens to them. Who is accountable for my daughter's death?" says father.

PM Modi to be in city for 3 hours today, some schools consider winding up early

Preparations going on at Punjab Engineering College for the Prime Minister's visit, in Chandigarh on Monday. *Kamleshwar Singh*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation the successful implementation of three new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam — at 12 noon on December 3 from Chandigarh. Modi will be staying in the city for three hours.

Due to the PM's visit and being a working day, certain schools considered closing down slightly earlier than the schedule for primary classes.

A message sent out to parents by a private school said, "Dear parents, in view of the Prime Minister's visit between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm and change in the routes, it has therefore been decided to send all students from classes pre-nursery to class V from the school at 12:40 pm tomorrow. Parents who pick up the wards from school are to plan accordingly. All school buses will leave the premises by 12:50 pm tomorrow."

School authorities stated, "This is being done keeping the safety and well-being of our students as well as to ensure that they reach back home in time before the traffic blockades become worse. Inconvenience caused is regretted."

The PM's programme will showcase the practical application of three new criminal laws

The PM will be arriving at the Chandigarh airport and from there he will be taking a helicopter to reach Rajendra park before proceeding to the venue which is PEC.

Union Home minister Amit Shah already arrived for the event on Monday evening.

More than 5,000 people are expected at the PEC venue on Tuesday.

The programme will showcase the practical application of these laws, demonstrating how they are already reshaping the criminal justice landscape. A live demonstration will also be held, simulating a crime scene investigation where the new laws will be put into action.

A statement issued by the administration said, "The conceptualisation of the three laws was driven by the vision of the Prime Minister to remove colonial-era laws which had continued to exist post-Independence, and to transform the judicial system by shifting focus from punishment to justice. Keeping this in mind, the theme of this programme is 'Secure Society, Developed India- From Punishment to Justice'."

"The new criminal laws, which were implemented nationwide on July 1, 2024, aim to make India's legal system more transparent, efficient, and adaptable to the needs of contemporary society. These landmark reforms mark a historic overhaul of India's criminal justice system, bringing in new frameworks to tackle modern-day challenges such as cybercrime, organised crime and ensuring justice for victims of various offenses," it was added.

Stop charging meter rent from residents: Consumer forum to UT electricity dept

HINA ROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

NOW RESIDENTS won't have to shell out meter rent.

For, a move that shall provide relief to 2.47 lakh electricity consumers in Chandigarh, the Chandigarh electricity department has been directed by the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum to stop charging meter rent from residents.

It was after Indian Citizens' Forum president S K Nayar and secretary Narinder Sharma took up the issue before the forum that the respite was ordered.

A copy of their complaints was sent to Indian Citizens' Forum for taking up the matter with the authorities to redress the grievances.

The Chandigarh electricity department was also directed to submit a compliance report within 45 days or face action under Section 142 of the Electricity Act.

Both from domestic and commercial consumers, the Chandigarh electricity department had been charging meter rent up to Rs 200. And this was despite the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) not approving the same in the tariff orders for 2023-24.

A refund of excess meter rent paid since April 1, 2023, to all power consumers was also ordered.

Not just this, the department was directed to pay a compensation of Rs 100 per day to seven residents, who had submitted applications to the SDO concerned against the charge, until their bills are rectified.

Consumers, namely Charanjeet Singh, Tarlochan Singh, Chaman Lal, Komal Kumar, Satish Kumar and Ganga Prashad, had submitted individual complaints to the office of SDO (Electricity), Manimajra, for refund of wrongly charged meter rents and stoppage of further charges in their future electricity bills.

What Citizens' Forum had raised

The Indian Citizens' Forum, (ICF) had lodged a complaint with the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum (CGRF) regarding "refund of wrongly charged rental-amount from consumers in Chandigarh."

They had also requested the forum to direct to stop further charging in future bills, as per Tariff orders dt 30.3.2023 for FY 2023-24 and 25.07.2024 FY 2024-25 of JERC 'Meter Rents are abolished' by the JERC, since April 1, 2023 onwards."

The plaint by the forum said that " few consumers of the department have submitted their complaints with ICF for taking favorable action in the interest of consumers with the concerned authority as they have already submitted their individual complaint to the concerned sub division as well for the refund of wrongly charged rental amount and to stop further charging in future bills.

The drive begs the question: Who brought them all here for alms?

HINA ROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

Suvajit Dey

NOT A single beggar in Chandigarh apprehended during the "beggar-free city" drive was found to be a resident of Chandigarh. All belonged to other states.

Regular rescue drives for adults and children involved in begging or selling items on the streets were conducted during the drive that concluded on November 5.

A senior official of the UT Administration engaged in the drive said, "All of those who were apprehended belonged to either Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other neighbouring states. But none was from Chandigarh. The police are investigating who got them here and how."

Most of the apprehended adults and rescued children were rehabilitated in the notified institutions of Department of Social Welfare as per the Haryana Prevention Beggary Act, 1971, and Juvenile Justice Act, 2016, respectively.

As per the report prepared by the UT, a total of 42 individuals were apprehended by the police department who were repeat offenders. Of this, 35 were adults -- 34 males and one female. Sixteen of them have been rehabilitated. Other than this, seven children were rescued and rehabilitated.

An eight-day public awareness campaign commenced on October 21 with the objective of creating mass awareness among the general public about the ill effects of giving alms to beggars and refraining from buying items from children on the streets.

The awareness drive was extended till November 5. Not only jingles were aired on all radio channels for 10 days, raising public awareness about the campaign but announcements at traffic lights were also made.

The jingles urging the general public to refrain from giving alms to beggars and to avoid contributing to child labour and human trafficking were broadcast on digital screens at major traffic lights.

Announcements were also made repeatedly at key roundabouts across the city to educate the public on the negative impacts of alms-giving.

Other than this, awareness programmes were also conducted in all government, private, and semi-aided schools of the city. These sessions were held during morning assemblies, educated students and their families on discouraging alms-giving to beggars and buying items from children on the streets.

As part of the drive, the department of excise was also asked to monitor market areas to identify child beggars or children selling items.

Reports or calls regarding such cases were made to the 1098 toll-free number. The department also undertook initiatives to discourage alms-giving during the festive season.

Additionally, the UT also began an initiative under the banner of "Neki ki Deewar", encouraging residents of Chandigarh to donate essential items (such as socks, caps, mufflers, gloves, and school supplies) for needy individuals at certain locations.

A total of 217 items were collected and distributed to those in need during a culmination ceremony held on November 5.

24-year-old man arrested for 'possessing' 4.826 gm ganja

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

THE CHANDIGARH Police has arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly possessing 4.826 grams of ganja.

The accused has been identified as Satish Kumar Yadav of Rae Bareli district, Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, said case has been registered against him under sections of NDPS Act.

As per the police, on the intervening night of November 30 and December 1, 2024, police officials of District Crime Cell-24 were on patrolling duty. When they reached near Sector 63 gurdwara, they parked their vehicle and started patrolling on foot. At 7.40 pm, when they were going toward the dividing road Sec-50-D/51, they saw one person was coming on cycle track in Sector 50-D carrying a black bag on his left shoulder.

On suspicion, a policeman stopped the person and asked him to get his bag checked. On this, he got nervous. The police party checked the said plastic bag and found ganja in it. During checking, 4 kg and 826 grams of ganja was recovered from the accused. The police said that the accused is a BMC operator in tractor spare part factory in Industrial Area, Mohali, and has studied up to class 12.

Soon after BJP protest, Mann says Bhagat Singh statue to be unveiled tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, DECEMBER 2

CHIEF MINISTER Bhagwant Mann Monday announced that the unveiling of Bhagat Singh's statue would take place on December 4, with a special team from Bangalore coming for the purpose.

Earlier in the day, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders were detained while on their way to Mohali airport to protest against the delayed unveiling of martyr Bhagat Singh's statue.

BJP Punjab vice-president Kewal Dhillon, Fateh Jang Bajwa and Dr Subhash Sharma, state general secretary Anil Sarin, state media head Vineet Joshi, BJP Mohali district president Sanjiv Vashisht and former MP Sushil Rinku marched towards the Mohali airport to unveil the statue themselves. However, they were detained while lodging a peaceful protest.

During the BJP protest march near Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport in Mohali on Monday. *Jasbir Malhi*

The BJP had earlier given an ultimatum of 72 hours to the AAP-led Punjab government for unveiling the statue. The BJP had been demanding that the martyr's statue be given due importance.

Regarding the BJP's protest, the CM said they should be ashamed of protesting in the name of Bhagat Singh.

Arena Polo: Army Service Corps team scores 8-4.5 victory over Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

FOUR GOALS by Sepoy Mukesh Gurjar coupled with three goals by sepoy Ravinder Mang propelled Army Service Corps team to score a 8-4.5 win over Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club in the second match of the Arena Polo held under the aegis of Indian Polo Association (IPA) being played at Chandigarh Polo Club at Khudda Lahora.

While Gurjar and Kang were the main scorers for the winning team, Major Qaramat Ali too scored one goal for the winning team. For the losing side, Salim Azmi scored three goals. Earlier in the opening day, Rajasthan Polo Club scored a 12.5-4 win over Chandigarh Polo Club. While Col Manoj Dhawan scored the opening goal for the hosts in the opening minute, the hosts suffered a blow when their key rider Jitendra Singh was injured. At the end of the second round, Rajasthan Polo Club were leading by 9-3. For the winning team, Shubham Gupta scored eight goals while Alan scored four goals. Col Manoj Diwan scored three goals for the losing side.

During the first match between Rajasthan Polo Club and Chandigarh Polo Club near Nayagaon. *Kamleshwar Singh*

On Tuesday, 61 Cavalry will face Remount and Veterinary Corps while the Indian Navy will face the Indian Army Artillery team in another match.

Panjab University wins overall trophy at inter-varsity youth fest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

PANJAB UNIVERSITY secured the overall champion trophy at the Inter-University Youth Festival held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, from November 29 to December 2. The festival, organised by the Directorate of Youth Affairs, Government of Punjab, saw participation from 17 universities, with over 2,000 students competing.

LPU Phagwara and GNDU Amritsar clinched the second and third positions, respectively. Panjab University's Director of Youth Welfare, Rohit Kumar Sharma, received the overall trophy on behalf of the university.

The event featured 45 competitions across various categories, including literary, heritage, music, fine arts, and dance. Panjab University's contingent, comprising over 150 students from affiliated colleges and departments, excelled in these events after qualifying through the university's zonal and inter-zonal festivals.

This marks the third consecutive year that Panjab University has retained the overall trophy.

PU'S CENTRAL INSTRUMENTATION LABORATORY GETS NEW DIRECTOR

Chandigarh: Prof Gaurav Verma of chemical engineering and nanotechnology has assumed charge as the new director of the Central Instrumentation Laboratory (CIL/SAIF/UCIM) at Panjab University, Chandigarh. CIL, a Department of Science and Technology-supported advanced analytical instrumentation facility, is recognised as one of the top-performing facilities in India. It houses cutting-edge instruments like FESEM, HRTEM, NMR, SAXS, and XRD, serving researchers across the country. **ENS**

PENDENCY OF APPLICATIONS BROUGHT DOWN TO ZERO LAST WEEK: GMADA

Mohali: The Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) has brought down the pendency of citizen-centric services in various branches. In another public-friendly initiative, to cross check that the applications were getting disposed of in a satisfactory manner, Additional Chief Administrator, GMADA, has been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the pendency.

The Chief Administrator, GMADA, said that sincere efforts were made by the officials concerned to deliver services to the citizens in a seamless and time-bound manner simultaneously ensuring that the disposal of the applications was to the satisfaction of the applicants. While the pendency of applications was once brought down to zero last week, the officials have been instructed to keep up the momentum and do not let the count of pending cases increase considerably in any case, he said. **ENS**

Spain dedicates exhibition to a living legend of Chandigarh

Shiv Datt Sharma started his illustrious innings as a young architect assisting Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

THE WORKS of architect Shiv Datt Sharma are currently being celebrated on an international stage at the University of Alcalá, Madrid, Spain. Entitled Chandigarh Modernism and S D Sharma, the exhibition showcases 52 panels and two videos highlighting his contributions to architecture. It features his government projects in Chandigarh and ISRO, along with private institutional, educational, healthcare and cultural designs.

The exhibition also sheds light on his collaborations with Pierre Jeanneret on three private houses.

Initiated by the university after a visit to Chandigarh, the exhibition honours Sharma's pivotal role in shaping the city's modernism. His architect son and partner, Sangeet Sharma, represented him at the inauguration and lauded the effort as a remarkable tribute to a career that has influenced generations. The exhibition will remain open to the public until December 15, 2024.

This global recognition adds another feather to the cap of Shiv Datt Sharma, who, even at 92, continues to inspire with his architectural wisdom and legacy. His journey began in Chandigarh's early years, when he was selected to join the team of architects for the city's Capital Project. Sharma's exceptional talent and dedication earned him a position assisting luminaries like Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret.

After Corbusier's sudden death in 1965, Sharma was entrusted with completing the Art Museum in Chandigarh. He not only delivered on this task but also designed two additional museum buildings, creating a landmark example of modernist architecture. Dr M S Randhawa, Chandigarh's first Chief Commissioner, praised his work, saying, "SD Sharma assisted Le Corbusier in designing the Museum & Art Gallery, Chandigarh. He also independently designed the Museum of Evolution of Life. These buildings show his abundant creative talent."

S D Sharma's son Sangeet Sharma at the exhibition

Jeanneret described Sharma as an "architect of rare qualities who deeply understands the meaning of built environments". Similarly, M N Sharma, Chandigarh's first Chief Architect, wrote, "It was due to his extraordinary ability as a designer that Sharma was chosen to assist Corbusier and Jeanneret. He is utterly devoted to his profession and constantly eager to learn."

Sharma's contributions extended far beyond Chandigarh. In 1972, he became the Chief Architect of the Department of Space (ISRO) in Bangalore, holding the position until 1979. In 1980, he ventured into private practice, leaving behind the security of a government job. Over the decades, he designed hospitals, institutional buildings, auditoriums, trade centres, and advanced technical facilities, crafting a distinct architectural style instead of merely emulating his mentors.

In Chandigarh, his signature designs include the Arts College Hostel, the zigzag bridge in the Rose Garden, the UT Guest House, the National Teachers' Training Institute, and The Tribune School. His projects on the CSIO campus remain celebrated even after five decades.

In recent years, Sharma has emerged as a key figure in preserving Chandigarh's architectural heritage. As a member of the city's Heritage Conservation Committee and the Governor's Advisory Committee, his pragmatic approach has helped strike a balance between preservation and progress.

The exhibition in Spain is a fitting acknowledgement of Sharma's lifelong contributions. Alongside the panels and videos, a short film delves into his architectural philosophy and career, offering insights into his unique blend of creativity, functionality, and respect for the environment.

If individuals could be considered heritage, Sharma would undoubtedly qualify as one for Chandigarh. While this international exhibition is a matter of pride, it also serves as a reminder of how little has been done locally to celebrate and honour the pioneers who shaped the city's legacy.

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NOTICE INVITING BID

e-Bids for Milling cum Transportation & Supply of Chana Dal under welfare scheme at Fair Price Shop Dealers & Other Govt./Semi Govt. institutions and any other directions by Food Dept./RSFCSC for supply of Dal IN RAJASTHAN are invited from interested bidders 10.12.2024 till 3:00 PM Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** of the state, and rsfcsc.org. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 160 Crore. **UBN No.- FCS2425SLOB00055**

Raj.Samwad/C/24/8544 **OIC, PDS, RSFCSC HQ**

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No.: 05/2024-25 **Dated :** 02.12.2024

Concerned Office: Sr. Xen, O&M Division, BBMB, Panipat.

Name of Work: Refabrication and casting of trench covers in 220/33KV Yard at 400KV S/Stn. BBMB Panipat.

Bid Document Download Date and Time	02.12.2024 from 17:00 Hrs.
Receipt of Bid Online Date and Time	31.12.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Bid Opening Date and Time	02.01.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.

For detailed NIT including Pre-Qualifying conditions and EMD, please visit BBMB website **www.bbmb.gov.in** or **https//etenders.gov.in.**

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CORRIGENDUM

Certain updations/modifications, clarifications and rectifications with respect to provisions contained in the Prospectus 2025 and other publications related to the admission and allied matters of the regular programmes of the University have been made, which may or may not be covered in any information material or publication issued by the University; and therefore are listed below for the information of all the concerned:

1. There are certain updations in important dates, fees and scholarship amounts for Type-A, Type-B and Type-C programmes. For updated details, refer to the University website (under the head Admissions i.e. https://www.lpu.in/admission/).
2. B.Sc. (Hons.) Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, B.Sc. (Optometry), B.Design (User Experience) [Lateral Entry], M.Sc. (Design - Product and Industrial), MCA (Hons.) (Cyber Security), BBA (Digital Marketing), BBA (Fintech), B.Tech. (Semiconductor Technology and VLSI Design) [3+1 International Credit Transfer], M.Sc. (UI/UX Design), B.Sc. (Medical), B.Sc. (Non-Medical), B.Com. (Corporate Finance), BBA (Corporate Finance), MBA (Management Technology), BBA (International Accounting), Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), B.Tech. (CSE - Internet of Things), B.Tech. (CSE - Computer Science and Business Systems), B.Tech. (ECE - VLSI Design and Technology), B.Sc. (Bakery and Pastry Management), Bachelor of Tourism and Travel Management (BTTM), Master of Tourism and Travel Management (MTTM), M.Design (Fashion), B.Sc. (Fashion Management and Communication Design), and M.Design (Animation and VFX) programmes are also offered for the session 2025-2026. For eligibility and other details, refer to the university website (under the head Admissions i.e. https://www.lpu.in/admission/).
3. Eligibility of B.Sc. (Medical Laboratory Technology) and Bachelor of Occupational Therapy has been updated. For details, refer to the university website (under the head Admissions i.e. https://www.lpu.in/admission/).
4. The nomenclature of the following programmes has been corrected:
   - B.Sc. (Design - Fashion) is to be read as B.Sc. (Fashion Design).
   - B.Sc. (Design - Fashion) [Lateral Entry] is to be read as B.Sc. (Fashion Design) [Lateral Entry].
   - M.Sc. (Design - Fashion) is to be read as M.Sc. (Fashion Design).
   - B.Sc. (Design - Gaming) is to be read as B.Sc. (Gaming Design).
   - B.Sc. (Design - Graphics) is to be read as B.Sc. (Graphics Design).
   - B.Sc. (Design - Interior and Furniture) is to be read as B.Sc. (Interior and Furniture Design).
   - B.Sc. (Design - Interior and Furniture) [Lateral Entry] is to be read as B.Sc. (Interior and Furniture Design) [Lateral Entry].
   - M.Sc. (Design - Interior and Furniture) is to be read as M.Sc. (Interior and Furniture Design).
   - M.Sc. (Design - Product and Industrial) is to be read as M.Sc. (Product and Industrial Design).
   - B.Sc. (Design - Multimedia) is to be read as B.Sc. (Animation and VFX Design).
   - B.Design (Multimedia) is to be read as B.Design (Animation and VFX Design).
   - M.Sc. (Design - Multimedia) is to be read as M.Sc. (Animation and VFX Design).
   - B.Design (User Experience) is to be read as B.Design (UI/UX).
   - B.Design (User Experience) [Lateral Entry] is to be read as B.Design (UI/UX) [Lateral Entry].
   - M.Design (User Experience) is to be read as M.Design (UI/UX).

For more details, contact at University Campus or log on to University Website (under the head Admissions i.e. https://www.lpu.in/admission/).

Registrar

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Irrigation Wing)

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Refer our tender notice **(NIT No. : 24/2024-25)** for the work **"Replacement Work of damaged Roofing for S-3 type - 10 Nos, S-4 type 08 Nos. S-5 type 5 Nos. quarter in BBMB colony Sundernager."** The last date for download and upload of tender document extended upto **19.12.2024** till **15:30** and same will be opened on **20.12.2024** at **15:30.**

All other terms and conditions will ramain same.

Sr. Executive Engineer, Township Division, BBMB, Sundernagar Distt. Mandi. (HP) Pin 175019

1474-PR-BSL-4 **FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. office: PSEB head office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. UP0109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 09/GC/TS/PSPCL/2024-25 **Dated: 02.12.2024**

Dy. CE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites open e-Tender for outsourcing of Augmentation of Power Transformers related works on partial turnkey mode under RDSS Scheme under Grid Construction Division Bathinda under Grid Construction Circle Ludhiana. For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 02.12.2024 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in**.

No. 39717/PB C-899/24

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited

Regd. Office Plot No. 10. Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003 Telangana, India CIN U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

Dept-HOD, HR & ADMIN GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:

1	Tender Enquiry No. 004/GATP/HRADMIN/50006998 dated 02/12/2024 "FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES" at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of One year'

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 02/12/2024 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

No. 39723/PB GATP-03/24

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

"A State Government Undertaking"

PRESS NOTE NOTICE INVITING TENDER (E-Tendering Mode Only) Short Term Tender

Online (Two Part bid) short term tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned for and on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEBL, Shimla-4 for the below described work from appropriate eligible Contractors enlisted/registered with H.P. Govt. or any other state/HPSEBL/HPPWD/HIMUDA /HP I&PH/CPWD etc. The tender documents are available on HPSEBL website **https://hptenders.gov.in**

Sr. No./ Bid No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender documents	Online publication of Tender	Start date of bid submission	End date of bid submission	Date of Technical Bid Opening
HPSEB/ ESDU-02-2024-25	Tender for repair of defective Air Conditioners (ACs) along with replacement of defective Compressor, Fan Unit/Motor, Electrical/Electronic component and filling of refrigrent gases at various Sub Stations under Electrical System Division, HPSEBL Una. Chargeable to :- **R & M of Sub-Stations**	Rs. 373352/-only	Rs. 3800/- only	Rs. 500/- only + 18% GST = Rs 590	03.12.2024	03.12.2024 at 11:00 AM	16.12.2024 at 11:00 AM	17.12.2024 at 11:00 AM

"SAVE ENERGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SELF & NATION"

(Er. Puneet Chaudhary) Sr. Executive Engineer, Electrical System Division, HPSEB Ltd., Una.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE SIRSA DISTRICT COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD SIRSA VITA SIRSA	TENDER ID 2024_HBC_407524_6, 2024_HBC_407524_2, 2024_HBC_407524_4, 2024_HBC_407524_3 REF NO MUS/E-TENDER/213	TENDER DATE EXTENDED 09.12.2024	https://etenders.hry.nic.in vitaindia.org.in	9812302153 vitasrs@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.etenders.hry.nic.in No- 30719/HR

Form No. 14 [See Regulation-33 (2)] By publication

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)

SCO 33-34-35, Ground Floor, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh 160017

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/1069/2019 **DEMAND NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION** **04-09-2024**

To **HDFC Bank Ltd. Vs. Sahil Sharma**

(CD 1): Sahil Sharma S/o Natwar Lal Sharma R/o # 5, Block A, 2nd Floor, Spangle Heights Guru Gobind Singh Nagar, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Mohali, Punjab 140301
2nd Address: Sahil Sharma S/o Natwar Lal Sharma Prop. Krishana Enterprises SCF 21-22-24 Harmilap Nagar, Baltana, Mohali, Punjab 140301

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3) in **OA 1621/2018** an amount of **Rs. 12,94,085.78** (Rupees Twelve Lacs Ninty Four Thousand Eighty Five and Seventy Eight Paisa only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 14.5 % simple interest yearly w.e.f. 26/06/2018 till realization and costs of **Rs. 33,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Thousand Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve You in ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on **11.12.2024 at 10:30 AM.**
4. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 04.09.2024

Recovery Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Chandigarh (DRT-3)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	ESTIMATE FOR COMPL. OF AMBEDKAR BHAWAN AT VILLAGE LATHRON BLOCK NILOKHERI DISTT. KARNAL	30.11.2024 09.12.2024	3.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 prexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ HISAR	KAIMRI, HISAR1, CONST OF IPB RASTA (1) KAIMRI ROAD TO CHOTU RAM MAILA, RAISINGH KARWASRA (2) KISRSHAN GODRA TO NATHU DUDI (3) GANGWA ROAD TO ROHTASH MAKKAR, ROHTASH BICHU AND RAMESH MAKKAR (HRDF) + 10 WORKS	28.11.2024 04.12.2024	291.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466629211 prexeeng.hsr@hry.nic.in
3	HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	ENGAGEMENT OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) UNDER JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) FUNDED PROJECT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BIDDING	30.11.2024 16.12.2024	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7988480986 sfacharyana@gmail.com
4	HEALTH DEPARTMENT HARYANA FATEHABAD	E-TENDER 2024-25 CONCURRENT AUDIT NHM FATEHABAD	30.11.2024 13.12.2024	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7419945047 tallydatafatehabad@gmail.com
5	HEALTH DEPARTMENT HARYANA KARNAL	SELECTION OF PATIENTS PROVIDER SUPPORT AGENCY PPSA FOR PROVIDING TUBERCULOSIS RELATED SERVICES UNDER NTEP FOR DISTT KARNAL (HARYANA)	02.12.2024 17.12.2024	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9896349684 dtohrknl@rntcp.org
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ AMBALA	D PLAN CONST. OF B/WALL OF GOVT. SCHOOL AT VILL. CHETAN AND B/WALL OF SCHOOL (PLUS PAINT ON OLD B/WALL) AT VILL. CHAJJU MAJRA BLOCK SHAHZADPUR	28.11.2024 05.12.2024	6.79 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2551368 prexeeng.amb@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 30740/HR

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 rule 20 CPC)
In The Court Of Ms. Ranjeet Kaur Principal Judge Of Family Court, Hoshiarpur
Danvir Singh Aged About 35 Years S/o Sh. Narinder Singh Bhullar R/o Village Bub, Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur
.....petitioner
Vs.
Gagandeep Kaur W/o Danvir Singh D/o Bhupinder Singh R/o 159-a, Kishanpur, Street No.2, Model Town Phagwara, District Kapurthala At Present Residing At 2/14, Charlemont, St (Street) Whitiora, Hamistor, New Zealand 10021 (Phone No. 006421294371)
.... respondent
CNR NO: PBHO01-008431- 2021
Next Date: 18-12-2024
Petition Under Section 13 Of Hindu Marriage Act For Dissolution Of Marriage By Way Of Decree Of Divorce
Publication Issued To:
Gagandeep Kaur W/o Danvir Singh D/o Bhupinder Singh R/o 158-a, Kishanpur, sTreet No.2, Model Town Phagwara, District Kapurthala At Present Residing At 2/14, Charlemont, St (Street) Whitiora, hamistor, new zealand 10021 (Phone No 006421294371)
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent (s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 18-12-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for details logon to: https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=Hoshiarpur
Ranjeet Kaur
Principal Judge Of Family Court Hoshiarpur

Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes And Antyodaya (SEWA) Department, Haryana

State Awards in the field of Drug De-addiction.

Applications are invited for conferment of State Awards for the year 2024-25 in the following categories to those who have done outstanding work in the field of Drug De-addiction:-

Sr. No.	Category	Description	Nature of Award
1	Best Drug De-addiction Centre providing services to alcoholics and drug users.	For a drug de-addiction centre with a record of outstanding work in providing services to alcoholics and drug users.	1st Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-
2	Best Panchayati Raj Institution working for prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse.	For a Pachayati Raj Institution, with a record of outstanding work in providing services to alcoholics and drug users.	1 Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-
3	Best Municipal body working for prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse.	For a Municipal body, with a record of outstanding work in providing services to alcoholics and drug users.	1st Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-
4	Best School doing outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse.	Outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse.	1st Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-
5	Best College doing outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse.	Outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse.	1 Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-
6	Best Curative Campaign	For outstanding curative campaign through consistent and comprehensive coverage on addiction related issues on sustained basis, to be awarded to any institution or organization other then education institution.	1 Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-
7	Best Awareness Campaign	For outstanding awareness campaign through consistent and comprehensive coverage on addiction related issues on sustained basis to be awarded to any institution or organization other then education institution.	1 Price Rs. 50,000 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000-
8	Outstanding individual achievement professional	For a professional individual such as General Doty of specialist medical doctor including psychiatric, treatment and rehabilitation professional, psychologist, clinical psychologist, skill trainer, etc. Who has made outstanding achievement in the field of prevention of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse and rehabilitation of addicts.	1 Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-
9	Outstanding individual achievement by a non-professional	For a non-professional individual such as activist, students leader, etc who has made outstanding achievement in the field of prevention of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse and rehabilitation of addicts.	1 Price Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Price Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Price Rs. 20,000/-

Interested and eligible individuals/institutions may apply on online portal **https://award.socialjusticehry.gov.in** along with complete details/evidence of achievements from 02.12.2024 at 9:00 a.m. to 23.12.2024 till 11:59 p.m. Detailed terms & conditions can be obtained from office of the District Social Welfare Officer of concerned district and also on department's official website **https://sewa.haryana.gov.in** Decision of the Department will be final and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

No. 30721/HRY Sd/- **Director General**

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 rule 20 CPC)
In The Court Of Ms. Harjinder Kaur Civil Judge (Junior Division) Hoshiarpur
Manjit Kaur W/o Late Tarlochan Singh R/o 155, Moseley Road, Wolverhampton West Midlands, UK WV 14 6 HZ through their SPOA sh. Jagdish Kumar S/o Late Sh. Kewal Krishan R/o Central Town, Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur .....plaintiffs
Vs.
Surjit Singh S/o Late Sucha Singh Basan S/o Late Wattan Singh R/o VPO satour, tehsil and district hoshiarpur
....defendants
CNR NO: PBHO02-000665- 2023
Next Date: 18-12-2024
Publication Issued To: No.2 Sukhdev Singh S/o Late Sucha Singh S/o Late Wattan Singh Resident Of 3 Charlecote Rise, Willenhall WV 13 3EG , west midlands UK
no.4, baljinder kaur assi w/o raju d/o late sucha singh s/o late wattan singh r/o 10/11 new shastri nagar, mulund colony, mumbai
no.7 satwinder kaur w/o pardeep singh d/o late sarwan singh s/o late wattan singh r/o #1094, 2nd floor, phase 3b2, mohali sector 59, SAS Nagar
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent (s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 18-12-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for details logon to: https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=Hoshiarpur
Civil Judge (Junior Division) Hoshiarpur

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In The Court Of Ms. Gurpreet Kaur -II Civil Judge Junior Division-2, Zira
Central Bank Of India
Vs.
Sulkhan Singh
CNR NO: PBFZAO-000068-2024
Next Date: 17-12-2024
Publication Issued To: Sulkhan Singh Father: Sarup Singh Through Its Lrs
2. Sh Hira Singh S/o Sulkhan Singh S/o Sarup Singh Both Rs/o Village Lohke Kalan Tehsil Zira, Dist Ferozepur
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 17-12-2024 at 10:00 a.m. for details logon to: https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=Ferozepur
Civil Judge Junior Division-2 Zira

PERSONAL

I, No. 14834273M, SEP/MT, Umesha KD of unit 5089 C?? ASC C/O 56 APO have changed my mother name from Jaya Lakshmi to Jayamma and DOB 10.05.1967 to 01.01.1965 vide affidavit 26.11.2024 before Notary Udhampur.

0020485253-1

I, No. 14834273M, SEP/MT, Umesha KD of unit 5089 C?? ASC C/O 56 APO have changed my wife name from VIDYASHREE A.E to VIDHYASHREE A E vide affidavit 26.11.2024 before Notary Udhampur.

0020485253-2

I, No. 14834273M, SEP/MT, Umesha KD of unit 5089 C?? ASC C/O 56 APO have changed my father name from Dharma Prakasha to Dharma Prakash and DOB 20.07.1964 to 01.01.1963 vide affidavit 26.11.2024 before Notary Udhampur.

0020485253-3

Government of Karnataka

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Indira Gandhi Centre for Career Development, Dr. Babu Jagajeevan Ram Research Centre, Outer Ring Road, Summanahalli Circle, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore -560091.

No. SWD/IGCCD/S-5/CR-Trg/2024-25 **Dated: 02.12.2024**

NOTIFICATION OF TENDER

(Through e-tendering only)

Short Term Tender is invited from Reputed & Prestigious Training Institution through E-Procurement portal, to provide pre-examination coaching for UPSC course to Schedule Castes & Scheduled Tribes candidates for the year 2024-25. Short term Tender notification (15 Days) number given below. **(1) UPSC SWD/PETC/S-5/CR-01/UPSC/SC/2024-25.** For more details please visit **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/
Assistant Director
& Tender inviting Authority
Indira Gandhi Centre for
Career Development (IGCCD), Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3572/SSC/2024-25

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI)

SETTING UP OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (CoE) FOR CERAMIC AT BIKANER (RAJASTHAN)

Department of Mines & Petroleum, Govt. of Rajasthan, Directorate of Mines & Geology, Shastri Circle, Udaipur, desires to set up of Centres ofExcellence forCeramic at Bikaner.

Application are invited from Central Government, State Government, PSU's, Research & Development Institutes, Universities, Industrial Associations, Corporate Institutes & any other having prior experience of working in the field of Ceramic.

Interested entities must submit documents pertaining to financial strength i.e. Audited Financial Statements of last 3 financial year, documents supporting with technical capabilities of the organization, experience of the team, prior experience of working or currently working in the field of Ceramic etc. as per enclosed Annexure in the document.

DMG, Rajasthan reserve the right to short list proposal by way of evaluation and to ask the interested party to furnish other detail/document related to the company/proposed project. The party submitting the EoI shall be bearing all cost associated with the preparation & submission of EoI. DMG, Rajasthan in no case be responsible or liable for these costs.

DMG, Rajasthan may, at its absolute discretion, decide to abandon any part or whole of the process without giving prior notice to the Proponents.

All details regarding eligibility & condition may be downloaded from the DMG website(s); https://mines.rajasthan.gov.in

Last date of sub mission of applications - 18th December, 2024.

Department Mines & Geology
Government of Rajasthan
Shastri Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

SETTING UP OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (COE) FOR RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REE) AT UDAIPUR (RAJASTHAN)

Department of Mines & Petroleum, Govt. of Rajasthan, Directorate of Mines & Geology, Shastri Circle, Udaipur, desires to set up of Centres ofExcellence forRare EarthElements at Udaipur.

Application are invited fromCentral Government, State Government, PSU's, Research & Development Institutes, Universities, Industrial Associations, Corporate Institutes & any other having prior experience of working in the field of Rare Earth Elements.

Interested entities must submit documents pertaining to financial strength i.e. Audited Financial Statements of last 3 financial year, documents supporting with technical capabilities of the organization, experience of the team, prior experience of working or currently working in the field of Rare Earth Elements etc. as per enclosed Annexure in the document.

DMG, Rajasthan reserve the right to short list proposal by way of evaluation and to ask the interested party to furnish other detail/document related to the company/proposed project. The party submitting the EoI shall be bearing all cost associated with the preparation & submission of EoI. DMG, Rajasthan in no case be responsible or liable for these costs.

DMG, Rajasthan may, at its absolute discretion, decide to abandon any part or whole of the process without giving prior notice to the Proponents.

All details regarding eligibility & condition may be downloaded from the DMGwebsite(s); https://mines.rajasthan.gov.in

All subsequentnotifications, changes, amendments etc. will be posted on the website.

Last date of sub mission of applications - 18th December, 2024.

Department Mines & Geology
Government of Rajasthan
Shastri Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No. 10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
Branch Office: 16/12, 2nd Floor, W.E.A Arya Samaj Marg, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that **online auction (e-auction)** of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 29.11.2024	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid
1	45849430000480	1) Mr. Gamdoor Singh, S/O. Sagar Singh (Applicant), 2) Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur, W/o. Gamdoor Singh (Co-Applicant)	12-06-2024	23-10-2024	Rs.14,88,664.76 (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four and Paisa Seventy Six Only)	24.12.2024 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Only)	Rs.1,20,000/- (RupeesOne Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	07.01.2025 @ 11:00 AM	06.01.2025 before 05:00 PM. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited. Branch Office Address: 16/12, 2nd Floor, W.E.A Arya Samaj Marg, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005.
	Details of Secured Assets: A Property Measuring 13 Kanal 19 Marle, Comprised Khewat/ Khatoni Number 294/479 Khasra Number 109//9/2(0-18) 12(8-0) 19 Min (5-1-7) Total 13 Kanal 19 Marle 7 M Da 44/2518 Hissa Bakdar Ok-4m-8m Jamabandi for the Year 2012-2013 Wakia Rakba Lahira Thana Bathinda. Owned by **Mr. Gamdoor Singh Bounded as: East:** Sukhdeep Singh, **West:** Street, **North:** Vacant Plot, **South:** Street.									
2	30469630000220	1) Mr. Makhan Singh, S/o. Pyara Singh (Borrower), 2) Mrs. Pyara Singh, S/o. Ratan Singh (Co-Borrower)	06-09-2023	30-09-2024	Rs.9,48,128.84 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eightand Eighty Four Paisa Only)	24.12.2024 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.8,93,100/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Only)	Rs.89,400/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Only)	07.01.2025 @ 11:00 AM	06.01.2025 before 05:00 PM. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited. Branch Office Address: 16/12, 2nd Floor, W.E.A Arya Samaj Marg, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005.
	Details of Secured Assets: Property Measuring 0-Kanal 2 Marle Bardar 1/10 Part (1 Kanal-0 Marla Bardar Part of Property) Comprised in Khasra No.243/1(1-0) Khata No.429/542 Jamabandi for the Year 2013-2014 situated at Village Sekha Sub Tehsil Malod Dist. Ludhiana, Punjab. Wasika No.135 Dated 3-05-2016. Owned by **Mr. Pyara Singh, S/o. Ratan Singh. Bounded as: East:** Others, **West:** Road, **North:** Nirmal Singh, **South:** Owner.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" &" AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the **E-Auction** will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Uttkarsh Adesh Contact Number: 9515160064. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/ adesh@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank Authorized officers Mr. Tung Kaushik (Mob. No.9873662400), Mr. Rakesh Sharma (Mob. No.7230070463), Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362951653),** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 03.12.2024, Place: Punjab **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

34-yr-old man held for rape, murder of minor girl in Nuh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, DECEMBER 2

A 34-YEAR-OLD man was arrested in Nuh for allegedly raping and murdering a three-year-old girl Saturday, police said Monday.

The accused, who resides in the same village, allegedly took the girl to the hills and raped her before dumping her body near shrubs, police said.

The police received information around 7 am Sunday that a minor had been raped and the body was found late on Saturday. "We rushed to the area and collected details. The family of the victim lodged a complaint and we filed an FIR. The suspect was arrested with the help of five teams and initially was detained for questioning when he confessed to committing the crime," said Station House Officer Subhash Chand.

The police officer said that a boy who was present near the spot informed the villagers about the accused. "The accused had also allegedly informed villagers about the incident and left the village. We will check if the accused has any cases registered against him," he added.

The father of the victim said the girl was playing near the house and went missing around 5 pm Saturday. "The girl was lured by offering food and drinks by the man to the hills. My cousin saw him taking her there. While searching for the girl, we found her body under shrubs around 11 pm. Blood was flowing from her mouth and private parts, and there were injury marks on her legs and other body parts. We called the police helpline no 112. After some time, the local police reached the spot and took my daughter to the hospital for post-mortem," the father stated in his complaint.

Another relative said they had issued an announcement in the mosque, relaying the message that the girl was missing and to help retrieve her.

Police said that the team collected soil, blood and stone from the scene of the incident as samples. An FIR has been registered under BNS 137(2) (kidnapping), 65(rape), 103(murder), 238 and section 6 under the POCSO Act, the officer said.

Shimla DM bans rallies, slogans at 10 key locations

Orders aim to maintain public order; restrictions to remain for two months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, DECEMBER 2

SHIMLA DISTRICT Magistrate Anupam Kashyap Monday issued prohibitory orders restricting public meetings, rallies, demonstrations, and other activities at 10 key locations in the state capital. The restrictions, issued under Section 6 of the Punjab State Security Act, 1953, came into immediate effect and will remain in force for two months, as per the official orders.

The designated areas under the ban include:

- Chhota Shimla to The Ridge and Kennedy House.
- A 150-meter radius from Rendezvous Restaurant to Rivoli Cinema.
- Scandal Point to Kali Bari Temple.
- Chhota Shimla Gurudwara to Link Road and Chhota Shimla-Kasumpti Road.
- Chhota Shimla Chowk to Raj Bhavan to Oak Over.
- Chhota Shimla Gurudwara to Satti Stairs and the pedestrian path towards Kasumpti Road.
- Cart Road to Majitha House Link Road.
- AG Office to Cart Road.
- CPWD Office to Chaura Maidan.
- Police Booth above the Deputy Commissioner's Office to Lower Bazaar within a 50-meter radius.

The order also prohibits sloganeering, playing bands, and carrying objects that could be used as weapons with criminal intent. However, it does not apply to police, paramilitary, or military personnel performing their duties.

An official said that the order aims to ensure public order and prevent disruptions in sensitive areas. "Permission from the competent authority is required for any events at the restricted locations. Violators will face legal action," the official said.

Aditya Birla Capital Limited — ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

Regd. Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval - 362 266, Gujarat | Tel: 91 2876 243257
CIN: L67120GJ2007PLC058890 | www.adityabirlacapital.com | abc.secretarial@adityabirlacapital.com

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL,
AHMEDABAD BENCH
C.A. (CAA)/ 49 (AHM) 2024
In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 read with other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013
and
In the matter of Scheme of Amalgamation
of
Aditya Birla Finance Limited ("Amalgamating Company")
with
Aditya Birla Capital Limited ("Amalgamated Company")
and
their respective shareholders and creditors

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LIMITED, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval - 362 266, Gujarat, India. **CIN**: L67120GJ2007PLC058890) **... APPLICANT NO. 2 / AMALGAMATED COMPANY**

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated November 29, 2024 ("**Order**"), the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ("**Hon'ble Tribunal**") has directed convening of the meeting of the equity shareholders of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "**Amalgamated Company**"), for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving the arrangement embodied in the Scheme of Amalgamation of Aditya Birla Finance Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "**Amalgamating Company**") with the Amalgamated Company and their respective shareholders and creditors (hereinafter referred to as the "**Scheme**") pursuant to the provisions of Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("**the Act**") and other applicable provisions thereof and applicable rules thereunder.

In pursuance of the Order passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal and as directed therein, further Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. (1100 hours) IST through Video Conferencing ("**VC**")/Other Audio Visual Means ("**OAVM**") (hereinafter referred to as the "**Meeting**") in compliance with the applicable laws including circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("**MCA Circulars**") from time to time and the Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2024/133 dated October 3, 2024, issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**Circular issued by SEBI**") and the said equity shareholders are requested to attend the Meeting.

The Amalgamated Company has completed the electronic dispatch of the Notice of the Meeting dated December 2, 2024; the explanatory statement as required under Sections 230(3) to 232 (1) and (2) and 102 of the Act read with Rule 6 of Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016; and the annexures to the explanatory statement which includes the Scheme (collectively referred to as "**Particulars**") on December 2, 2024 through e-mail. The Particulars were sent through electronic mode to those equity shareholders whose e-mail addresses are registered with Kfin Technologies Limited ("**Kfin**"), Registrar and Transfer Agent of the Amalgamated Company/depositories/ Amalgamated Company and whose names appear in the register of members/list of beneficial owners as on Friday, November 29, 2024. The Particulars are placed on the website of the Amalgamated Company and can be accessed at **https://www.adityabirlacapital.com/investor-relations/scheme-of-amalgamation** and also available on the websites of BSE Limited at **www.bseindia.com**; National Stock Exchange of India Limited at **www.nseindia.com**; and Kfin at **https://evoting.kfintech.com**.

If so desired, copy of the Particulars can be obtained free of charge, between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on all working days up to the date of the Meeting at the registered office of the Amalgamated Company, or from the office of its advocates, M/s. Singhi & Co., Singhi House, 1, Magnet Corporate Park, Off Sola Bridge, S. G. Highway, Ahmedabad - 380 059, Gujarat, India or by sending a request along with the details of shareholding to the Amalgamated Company by email at **abc.secretarial@adityabirlacapital.com**.

Since, the Meeting is being held pursuant to the Order passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal and in compliance of MCA Circulars and Circular issued by SEBI through VC/OAVM, physical attendance of the equity shareholders has been dispensed with. Accordingly, the facility for appointment of proxy by the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company is not available at this Meeting.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Justice (Retd.) Akil Kureshi, Former Chief Justice of the High Courts of Rajasthan and Tripura, and in his absence, Mr. Unmesh Shukla, Senior Advocate, to be the Chairman of the Meeting.

Mr. Dilip Bharadiya, Practicing Company Secretary (FCS No.: 7956/ C.P. No. 6740); or in his absence Mr. Omkar Dindorkar (ACS No.: 43029), or in his absence, Mr. Saurabh Agarwal (FCS No.: 9290), from M/s MMJB & Associates LLP (C.P. No. 24580), have been appointed as the scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting during the Meeting and the remote e-voting process.

The Scheme, if approved by the equity shareholders will be subject to subsequent approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal or such other regulatory approvals as may be necessary.

NOTICE is further given that:

1. The Amalgamated Company has provided remote e-voting facility to its equity shareholders to enable them to cast their votes electronically and has availed the services of Kfin for providing VC/OAVM facility, remote e-voting and e-voting during the Meeting (Insta Poll). Some of the important details regarding remote e-voting are provided below:

EVEN	8519
Commencement of remote e-voting period	Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. (0900 hours) IST
End of remote e-voting period	Monday, January 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (1700 hours) IST The remote e-voting module will be disabled by Kfin thereafter.

2. The e-voting facility will also be made available during the Meeting (Insta Poll) to enable the equity shareholders who have not cast their vote through remote e-voting, to exercise their voting rights. Equity shareholders who have cast their vote through remote e-voting prior to the Meeting may attend the Meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.
3. An equity shareholder, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the list of beneficial owners maintained by Kfin/depositories/Amalgamated Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. Tuesday, December 31, 2024 only shall be entitled to exercise his/her/its voting rights on the resolution proposed in the Notice and attend the Meeting of the equity shareholders. The voting rights of the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company shall be in proportion to their share in the paid-up equity share capital of the Amalgamated Company as on cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, December 31, 2024.
4. The Scheme shall be acted upon if a majority of persons representing three-fourth in value of the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company voting through remote e-voting and e-voting during the Meeting (Insta Poll) approve the Scheme, in terms of the provisions of Sections 230-232 of the Act.
5. The results, together with the scrutinizer's report, will be displayed at the registered office and on the website of the Amalgamated Company and on the website of Kfin at **https://evoting.kfintech.com** and shall be communicated to BSE Limited and to National Stock Exchange of India Limited on or before Thursday, January 9, 2025.
6. Information and instructions for attending the Meeting including manner of voting [both remote e-voting and e-voting at the Meeting (Insta Poll)] by the equity shareholders holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for equity shareholders who have not registered their e-mail address has been provided in the Notice of the Meeting. The manner in which (a) person who becomes an equity shareholder of the Amalgamated Company after dispatch of the Notice and holding equity shares as on cut-off date (mentioned herein above); (b) equity shareholders who have forgotten the User ID and Password, can obtain/generate the User ID and password, has also been provided in the Notice of the Meeting.
7. Equity shareholders holding equity shares in physical mode, who have not registered/updated their e-mail address with the Amalgamated Company/Kfin, are requested to register/update their e-mail address and other KYC details, if applicable, by sending request at **einward.ris@kfintech.com** along with Form ISR-1 and other relevant forms and documents. The format of Form ISR-1 is available on the website of Kfin at **https://ris.kfintech.com/clientservices/isc/isrforms.aspx**.
8. Equity shareholders holding equity shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered/updated their e-mail address with their depository participant(s), are requested to register/update their e-mail address with the depository participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.
9. Equity shareholders having any queries seeking any information with regard to the Scheme or the matter proposed to be considered at the aforesaid Meeting, are requested to write to the Amalgamated Company atleast 3 (three) days before the date of the Meeting through e-mail on **abc.secretarial@adityabirlacapital.com**.
10. In case of any difficulty or queries in connection with attending the Meeting through VC/OAVM or casting vote through remote e-voting facility, equity shareholders may contact:

For	Name & Designation	E-mail	Address	Contact Number
E-voting and VC/OAVM	Mr. Ganesh Chandra Patro, Vice President, KFin Technologies Limited	**einward.ris@kfintech.com**	Selenium Building, Tower B, Plot No. 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Telangana, India - 500 032	Phone No.: + 91 40 6716 1630 Toll-free No.: 1800-309-4001

Sd/-
Dated: 2.12.2024
Justice (Retd.) Akil Kureshi
Chairman appointed for the Meeting

BANK OF INDIA
Relationship Beyond Banking
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
ZONAL OFFICE : SCO 102, DISTRICT SHOPPING CENTRE, RANJIT AVENUE, AMRITSAR. PH. 0183-5099346
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable / Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 6(2), 8(6) and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrowers and guarantors that the below described moveable and immovable properties mortgaged / charged to **Bank of India (Secured Creditor)**, the constructive / physical possession of these properties has been taken by the **Authorised Officers** of **Bank of India (Secured Creditor)**, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26-12-2024,** for recovery of bank dues + interest (as mentioned below against the properties) due to the **Bank of India (Secured Creditor)** from below mentioned borrowers / guarantors. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned below against the properties. Detailed terms and conditions of the Sale are mentioned below / refer to **Website : (a) https://BAANKNET.com (b) https://www.bankofindia.co.in**

DATE OF THE INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES	LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD IN GLOBAL EMD WALLET ON OR BEFORE	DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION
12-12-2024 from 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM with Concerned Branch	EMD shall be deposited before participation in Auction Process i.e. 26-12-2024	26-12-2024 from 11.00 AM onwards

Name of the NPA Accounts / Branch Name	Owner of the Propertry	Description of the Movable and Immovable Properties / Nature of Possession	Demand Notice Date / Outstanding Amount	Account Name / Number for Remaining Payment through RTGS / NEFT	Name of the Authorised Officer / Mobile no. / Email ID	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
(1) Smt. Sandeep Kaur and Smt. Parminder Kaur Branch : Circular Road, Amritsar	Mrs. Sandeep Kaur W/o Mr. Swaran Singh	All that part and parcel of the Property situated at Plot Private 66 Min, (East side), Khasra no. 3//6/1, 4//9/2/1, 4//10, 4//26 min, Gali no. 22, Fateh Singh Colony, Dana Mandi Road, Outside Gate Bhagtan Wala, situated at Wakia Rakba Village Mulle Chak, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar, 143001, admeasuring area 50 yards, owned by Mrs. Sandeep Kaur W/o Mr. Swaran Singh **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	05-04-2021 Rs. 11,91,700/- + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632890200000033 IFSC: BKID0006328	Neelamadhaba Sahoo (M) 97771-12227 Email : CircularRoad.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 9,07,000/- Rs. 90,700/- Rs. 10,000/-
(2) Sh. Varinder Singh S/o Parkash Singh & Guarantor Sandeep Kaur Branch : Circular Road, Amritsar	Sh. Varinder Singh S/o Sh. Parkash Singh	All that part and parcel of the Property consisting of House Private no. 11, measuring 113 sq. yards bearing Khasra no. 2922/95/2 min, situated at Rakba Village Wadali Guru Urban, Abadi Hargobindpura, Near Namdhari Dharamshala, Sun Sahib Road, Amritsar & bounded as North : Gali 20' wide, South : House of other, East : Open Plot, West : Plot no. 10. **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	05-04-2021 Rs. 16,14,150/- + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632890200000033 IFSC: BKID0006328	Neelamadhaba Sahoo (M) 97771-12227 Email : CircularRoad.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 12,17,000/- Rs. 1,21,700/- Rs. 10,000/-
(3) Sh. Surinder Kumar Branch : Circular Road, Amritsar	Mrs. Jaswinder Kaur W/o Mr. Surinder Kumar	All that part & parcel of the **Property consisting of Plot no. 31 min** measuring 50 sq. Yards bearing Khasra no. 9//37, 9//39, 9//16 min, situated at Wakia Rakba Bharariwal Urban New Preet Avenue, Adjoining Lane Life Care Medicos, Near Sandhu Dairy, Outside Gate Hakima, Amritsar 143001 and bounded as North : House of other, South : House of Vishal Sharma, East : House of Other, West : Gali 22' wide **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	06-01-2023 Rs. 13,95,128/92 + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632890200000033 IFSC : BKID0006328	Neelamadhaba Sahoo (M) 97771-12227 Email : CircularRoad.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 10,75,000/- Rs. 1,07,500/- Rs. 10,000/-
(4) Sh. Amrik Singh and Mrs. Manju Kaur Branch : Circular Road, Amritsar	Mrs. Manju Kaur W/o Mr. Amrik Singh	All that part and parcel of the **Property consisting of 22 Min,** Gali no. 2, Sahibzada Fateh Singh Colony, Near FCI Godowns Bharariwal Road, Chabal Road, Amritsar 143001, **measuring** 87.86 sq. Yards and bounded as North : 16' wide Street, South : Balance of Plot no. 22 Min, East : Plot # 23, West : 11' wide Street. **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	06-04-2023 Rs. 19,30,819/51 + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632890200000033 IFSC : BKID0006328	Neelamadhaba Sahoo (M) 97771-12227 Email : CircularRoad.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 12,76,000/- Rs. 1,27,600/- Rs. 10,000/-
(5) Sh. Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Bhajan, V.P.O. Jagat Pur Jattan, Kapurthala Sarai Jattan, Distt. Kapurthala 144402 & **Guarantor** Roop Lal S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram, VPO Jagat Pur Jattan, Kapurthala Sarai Jattan, District Kapurthala **Branch : Nakodar**	Raj Kumar S/o Bhajan	All that part and Parcel of the **Property Residential House** situated at Village Sharakpur, Tehsil Nakodar, District Jalandhar vide Title deed no. 2018-19/184/57 dated 02-07-2018, standing in the name of Mr. Raj Kumar S/o Mr. Bhajan, measuring 4 Marlas of 272 ft. and bounded as North : Plot, South : Plot, East : Plot, West : Road **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	30-09-2021 Rs. 13,90,817/69 + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 641290200000033 IFSC : BKID0006412	Mr. Rakesh Dogra (M) 94656-28300 Email : Nakodar.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 9,96,000/- Rs. 99,600/- Rs. 10,000/-
(6) (i) M/s Khushi Enterprises through its **Prop.** Mrs. Indu Handa W/o Sh. Harish Handa, R/o House no. 254-A, Jogial Road, Khanpur, Pathankot **(ii) M/s. Shiv Enterprises** through its **Prop.** Mr. Harish Handa S/o Mr. Krishan Kumar, R/o House no. 254 A, Jugial Road, Khanpur, Pathankot **Branch : Near Bus Stand, Gurdaspur Road, Pathankot**	Mrs. Indu Handa W/o Sh. Harish Handa	All that part and parcel of the **Property Shop no. 211** (Title Deed no. 3955 dated 29-09-2010) and Shop no. 212 (Title Deed no. 2571 dated 21-07-2010), admeasuring 135 sq. ft. each, situated at First Floor, Golden Sahil Plaza Building, Dalhousie Road, Pathankot 145001, both the aforesaid shops owned and possessed by Mrs. Indu Handa W/o Mr. Harish Handa and bounded as (Shop no. 211) North : Shop no. 210, South : Shop no. 212, East : Building of Ravi Nandan, West : Rasta and bounded as (Shop no. 212) North : Shop no. 211, South : Shop no. 213, East : House of other, West : Rasta. **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	03-01-2019 (i) Rs. 8,57,101/24 (ii) Rs. 8,28,192/48 + Interest, other charges w.e.f. 21-12-2018 and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 635090200000033 IFSC : BKID0006350	Mr. Puneet Gupta (M) 78896-44364 Email : Pathankot.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 14,70,000/- Rs. 1,47,000/- Rs. 10,000/-
(7) (i) M/s Clothier Inc through its **Prop.** Mr. Vivek Nayyar and **Guarantor** Priya Nayyar **Branch (Previous) : Asr Main now shifted to ARB, Armtisar** (ii) **M/s Techno Fab** through its **Partners** Mr Vivek Nayyar and Priya Nayyar **Branch (Previous) : Amritsar Main now shifted to ARB, Amritsar**	Vivek Nayyar S/o Harbans Lal Nayyar and Priya Nayyar W/o Mr. Vivek Nayyar	All that part and parcel of the **Property Qilla no. 36//6/1 (7-14)** and 15/2 (7-14), situated at Rakba Village Khiala Khurd (Open Plot), Opp United College of Nursing, near Satyam College of Engineering and Technology, in the Revenue Estate of Village Khiala Khurd, Ram Tirath Road, Tehsil Lopoke, District Amritsar 143001, vide Four Sale Deeds i.e. **(i)** 2 Kanal 15 Marla in the name of Mrs. Priya Nayyar W/o Vivek Nayyar vide Sale deed no. 2020-21/97/1/812 dated 25-11-2020 **(ii)** 1 Kanal 13 Marla in the name of Mr. Vivek Nayyar S/o Mr. Harbhans Lal Nayyar vide sale deed No. 2020-21/97/1/811 dated 25-11-2020 **(iii)** 1 Kanal 13 Marla in the name of Priya Nayyar W/o Mr. Vivek Nayyar vide sale deed No. 2020-21/97/1/810 dated 25-11-2020 **(iv)** 1 Kanal 13 Marla in the name of Priya Nayyar W/o Mr. Vivek Nayyar vide sale deed No. 2020-21/97/1/809 dated 25-11-2020, Total area measuring 154 Marlas **(Free Hold Property - Symbolic Possession)**	01-05-2023 (i) Rs. 76,80,727/41 (ii) Rs. 66,99,991/23 + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. : 630090200000033 IFSC : BKID0006300	Mr. Mohit Garg (M) 99999-30463 E-mail : ARB.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 77,58,000/- Rs. 7,75,800/- Rs. 70,000/-
(8) Sh. Vivek Nayyar S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Nayyar and **Smt. Priya Nayyar** W/o Sh. Vivek Nayyar **Branch (Previous) : Amritsar Main now shifted to ARB, Amritsar**	Mr. Vivek Nayyar S/o Mr. Harbans Lal Nayyar and Mrs. Priya Nayyar W/o Mr. Vivek Nayyar	**(i) Double Storied Residential Property** situated at Opposite United College of Nursing, Near Satyam College of Engineering and Technology, Village Khiala Khurd, Focal Point, Tehsil Ajnala / Lopoke District Amritsar Hadbast no. 327, measuring total 33 Marla in the name of Mr. Vivek Nayyar & Mrs. Priya Nayyar vide details :- **(a)** Khasra no. 36//6/1 (7-14) and 15/2 (7-14) out of this 33/616 share i.e. 16.50 Marlas vide Sale deed no. 2018-19/97/1/781, Bahi no. 1 dated 25-02-2019, property owned by Sh. Vivek Nayyar S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Nayyar and bounded as North : Rohit Sen, South : Rohit Sen, East : Rohit Sen, West : Rohit Sen **(b)** Khasra no. 36//6/1 (7-14) and 15/2 (7-14) out of this 33/616 share i.e. 16.50 Marlas vide Sale deed no. 2018-19/97/1/780, Bahi no. 1 dated 25-02-2019, property owned by Smt. Priya Nayyar W/o Sh. Vivek Nayyar and bounded as North: Rohit Sen, South: Rohit Sen, East : Rohit Sen, West : Passage **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	17-04-2023 Rs. 1,00,20,878/77 as on 17-04-2023 + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. : 630090200000033 IFSC : BKID0006300	Mr. Mohit Garg (M) 99999-30463 E-mail : ARB.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 62,39,000/- Rs. 6,23,900/- Rs. 60,000/-
(9) Sh. Jagdish Parshad Gupta S/o Sh. Kapil Dev Prasad Gupta, **Address 1st :** House No. 67-L, Model Town, Hoshiarpur (Punjab) 146001 **Address 2nd :** Village Ram Nagar, P.O. Mubarakpur, Tehsil Amb, District Una (H.P.) 177202 **Address 3rd :** Flat no. 26, Juhu Sea Queen CHS 4th Floor, Opp. Hotel Sea Princess, Juhu Tara Road, Mumbai 400049. **Address 4th :** Flat No. C-31, Neha Apartment, Juhu Tara Road, Santacruz West, Opposite SNDT College, Mumbai 400049 **Address 5th :** Shop no. 7, Ruturaj Complex, Juhu Tara Road, Santacruz West, Opposite SNDT College, Mumbai 400049 and **Guarantor** Mr. Jasbir Singh S/o Sh. Sewa Singh, **Address 1st :** House no. 67L, Model Town, Hoshiarpur, Punjab 146001, **Address 2nd :** Backside Gursimran Hospital, Hargobind Nagar, Naloyian, Hoshiarpur, (PB) 146001 **Address 3rd :** C/o Khalsa Mobile, Naloyian, Hoshiarpur 146001 **Branch (Previous): Teg Complex, Roshan Road, Hoshiarpur now shifted to ARB, Amritsar**	Mr. Jagdish Parshad Gupta S/o Mr. Kapil Dev Prasad Gupta	**Double Storied Residential Building Property** measuring 10 Marla 96 sq.ft., situated at House no. 67-L, Model Town, Hoshiarpur, Punjab and bounded towards as East : Kothi No. 91-L, West : Road, North : Remaining part of House no. 67L, South : Kothi No. 67-R, standing in the name of Mr. Jagdish Parshad Gupta S/o Mr. Kapil Dev Prasad Gupta **(Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)**	19-10-2023 Rs. 1,27,84,986/56 + interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 652890200000033 IFSC : BKID0006528	Mr. Mohit Garg (M) 99999-30463 E-mail : ARB.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 66,96,000/- Rs. 6,69,600/- Rs. 60,000/-
(10) M/s D7 Knitwears through its **Prop.** Sh. Ajit Pal Sharma S/o Sh Harjinder Pal Sharma **Branch (Previous) : Mall Road, Amritsar now shifted to ARB, Amritsar**	Mr. Ajit Pal Sharma S/o Mr. Harjinder Pal Sharma	**Double Storied Industrial Building** consisting of Plot no. 97, area 200 sq. yards, Khasra no. 71//8 Min, Khata Khatouni no. 161/171, situated at Ek Roop Avenue, Near Cold Store, falls in the Revenue Estate of Naushera, Majitha Road, Amritsar vide Document no. 9460, Book no. 1, Volume no. 3825, Page no. 8586 dated 30-11-2009 and bounded as North : Plot no. 96, South : Plot no. 98, East : Street, West : Plot no. 102 **(Free Hold Property - Symbolic Possession)**	25-05-2018 Rs. 48,21,120/81 + Interest, other charges w.e.f 27-04-2018 and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 630490200000033 IFSC : BKID0006304	Mr. Mohit Garg (M) 99999-30463 E-mail : ARB.Amritsar@bankofindia.co.in	Rs. 22,90,000/- Rs. 2,29,000/- Rs. 20,000/-

Terms and Conditions :- (1) E-auction is being held on **"As is where is", "As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** will be **conducted "On Line".** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** at Web portal **https://BAANKNET.com** E-auction Tender document containing online e-auction bid form, declaration, General Terms and Conditions of Online auction sale available in websites **(a) https://BAANKNET.com (b) https://www.bankofindia.co.in (2)** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the properties, prior to submitting their bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The properties are being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues. **(3)** In case of sole bidder, he / she has to increase minimum 1 Bid from Reserve Price. **(4)** Names of the Eligible Bidders, will be identified by **Bank of India above mentioned Branches** to participate in online e-auction on **webportal : https://BAANKNET.com PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** will provide User ID and Password after due verification of PAN of the Eligible Bidders. **(5)** It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the properties before submission of the bid. **(6)** The e-Auction / bidding of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date and Time as mentioned above by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of the amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increment Amount" against each property. In case bid is placed in the last 10 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 10 minutes. The bidders who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of e-auction process shall be declared as Successful Bidder and a Communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor **(7)** The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of the unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidders shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price including EMD already paid, immediately on acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer & the balance of the sale price on or before 15th day of sale in above mentioned account. Please note that Cheque shall not be accepted. The auction sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. Default in deposit of amount by the successful bidders would entail forfeiture of the whole money, already deposited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidders shall have no claim / right in respect of the property / amount. **(8)** The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-Auction from **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** prior to the date of the e-auction. Neither the Authorised Officer / Bank nor **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** will be held responsible for any Internet Network Problem / Power failure / any other technical lapse / failure etc. In order to ward-off such contingent situation the interested bidders are requested to ensure that they are technically well equipped with adequate power backup etc. for successfully participating in the e-Auction event. **(9)** The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamps duties / registration fee / other charges, etc. & also all the statutory / non-statutory dues, taxes / TDS, assessment charges, etc. owing to anybody **(10)** The Authorised Officer / Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn / postpone / cancel the e-auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason therefore **(11)** The Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser / applicant only and will not be issued in any other names. **(12)** The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. For further details / enquires if any on the terms & conditions of sale can be obtained from **Authorised Officer / Bank of India** of above mentioned Branches or **Bank's website (a) https://BAANKNET.com (b) https://www.bankofindia.co.in (13)** For further details regarding the above said properties / inspection of properties, the intending buyers may **contact above mentioned Branches** of **Bank of India.** All the intending purchasers are also advised to visit **https://BAANKNET.com** For any information on procedure of e-auction **(14)** The Authorised Officer or Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of immovable properties e-auctioned **(15) The Bidder should get themselves registered on https://BAANKNET.com** by providing **requisite KYC documents & registration fee as per the practice followed by PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. well before the auction date. The registration process takes minimum of two working days. (Registration process is detailed on the above website). (16) The Intending bidder should transfer his EMD amount by means of challan generated on his bidder account maintained with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** at **https://BAANKNET.com by means of NEFT transfer from his bank account. (17)The Intending bidder should take care that the EMD is transferred at least one day before the date of auction and confirm that his wallet maintained with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. is reflecting the EMD amount without which the system will not allow the bidder to participate in the e-auction. (18) The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be refunded to their respective wallet maintained with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. The Bidder has to place a request with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. for refund of the same back to his bank account. The bidders will not be entitled to claim any interest, costs and any other charges (if any). (19) It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS @ 1% as applicable u/s 194 1-A, if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 Lakhs or more. TDS should be filed online by filing form 26 QB and TDS Certificate to be issued in form 16B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax in to the government account.**

All concerned to note please this publication is also a Statutory 15 Days Sale Notice under Rule 6(2), 8(6) & 9 of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to the Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor

DATE : 03-12-2024 **PLACE : AMRITSAR** **SD/- AUTHORISED OFFICER (BANK OF INDIA)**

LESS THAN 1 PER CENT WOMEN OWN LAND IN THEIR NAME: STUDY

'Punjab's agrarian distress burdening its rural women: 60% under debt, 53% face violence'

Only .98% women said they have a bank account in their name, finds PU study

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 2

PUNJAB'S AGRARIAN distress, marked by farmer suicides, rising agricultural input costs, and mounting debts, has had a cascading effect on the state's rural women. A study by the Department of Economics at Punjabi University (PU), Patiala, reveals that 60 per cent of surveyed women are under outstanding debt, while 53 per cent have experienced some form of violence. The study highlights the precarious financial and social conditions faced by these women, many of whom lack ownership of land, homes, or assets yet are left to shoulder the burden of repaying debts after male family members commit suicide.

The study — Understanding the Nature, Forms, and Implications of Structural Violence Against Rural Women in the Context of Agrarian Distress in Punjab — was conducted by Dr Anupama, Professor of Economics at Punjabi University, Patiala, and Simran, Assistant Professor at Mata Gujri College, Fatehgarh Sahib. It was carried out in collaboration with the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) and Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM) — organisations working for women's welfare in Punjab.

Based on data from 711 respondents across the districts of Sangrur, Mansa, and Bathinda — areas identified as hotspots for farmer suicides by Punjab Agricultural University — the findings paint a grim picture of the toll agrarian distress has taken on women. Of the respondents, 74 per cent women were married, 23 per cent widowed, 1 per cent unmarried, and 2 per cent divorced or separated.

Debt burden and its impact

The study revealed that 60 per cent of surveyed women are grappling with outstanding debt, with the incidence being highest in Mansa (66 per cent), followed by Bathinda (60 per cent) and Sangrur (54 per cent). The average debt burden per family was Rs 3.8 lakh in Sangrur, Rs 3.75 lakh in Mansa, and Rs 3.5 lakh in Bathinda.

Caste-based data showed disparities in debt levels. Sixty-one per cent of respondents from the general category reported being under debt, with an average of Rs 4.91 lakh, compared to 59 per cent of Scheduled Castes (SC) respondents with Rs 1.17 lakh and 48 per cent of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) with Rs 1.6 lakh.

The study also found that married women were more likely to take loans for agriculture and building assets, while widows and separated women borrowed for health expenses, daily needs, or their children's weddings. The average loan amount for agriculture was Rs 4.54 lakh for married women, Rs 3.5 lakh for separated women, and Rs 6.28 lakh for widows — indicating that widows often inherit their late husbands' accumulated debts.

"Women in Punjab agriculture are mainly engaged in livestock rearing or as agricultural labourers," said Dr Anupama. "They are denied ownership of productive assets, face limited access to institutional credit, and are excluded from equal participation in the agricultural sector. Lower-caste women are especially vulnerable, relying on debt even for basic consumption needs. Despite these challenges, there is minimal government or institutional support."

Stories of struggle

The study highlighted individual cases, such as that of Veerpal Kaur, 44, who lost her father, father-in-law, and husband to suicide due to debt. Married at 16, Veerpal struggled to educate her children and sustain her family after her husband's death, all while battling exploitation and humiliation. Her perseverance led her to work multiple jobs, eventually securing a position as an anganwadi worker.

Similarly, Charanjeet Kaur, 40, works as a daily wage labourer after her husband's suicide. She struggles under the burden of his debts, forcing her children to drop out of school. Another widow, Baljeet Kaur from Bathinda, lost her husband to suicide and was left with Rs. 14 lakh in debt. To repay it, she sold off farm machinery and now manages agriculture alone, but her son remains traumatised after discovering his father's body.

Purpose of loans

The study revealed that 30 per cent of loans were taken for agricultural purposes, particularly in Sangrur (32 per cent). Other reasons included household needs (18 per cent), weddings (14 per cent), building assets (14 per cent), and health expenses (10 per cent).

Caste dynamics influenced borrowing purposes. General category families, who are predominantly land-owning, borrowed mainly for agriculture (43 per cent), while SC families borrowed for daily livelihood needs, health, and weddings. For weddings, general category respondents borrowed six times more than SC respondents.

Prevalence of violence

At least 53 per cent of women reported experiencing some form of violence, including physical, verbal, or emotional abuse. Domestic violence was the most common form, with 53 per cent admitting to experiencing it. Mansa reported the highest instances, followed by Bathinda and Sangrur.

The study found that verbal abuse was the most prevalent, with 86 per cent of victims facing it from husbands and 39 per cent from other household members. Physical violence by husbands was reported by 22 per cent of women, with alcohol consumption often cited as a trigger. Among widows, 46 per cent reported domestic violence, while separated women unanimously cited it as a cause of their marital breakdown.

Education levels did not shield women from violence. Among those with no formal education, nearly 49 per cent reported experiencing violence. The proportion rose to 60 per cent for women with education up to the matric level, while even graduate and postgraduate women were not immune.

Caste-wise, 61 per cent of SC women reported experiencing violence, compared to 52 per cent of general category women and 31 per cent of OBCs. SC women in Mansa were the most affected (67 per cent), followed by Bathinda (61 per cent) and Sangrur (54 per cent).

Only 33 per cent of women sought help to address domestic violence. Most relied on informal support from family members (89 per cent), while 18 per cent approached village panchayats or friends. A mere 13 per cent filed police complaints.

Farmer suicides and compensation

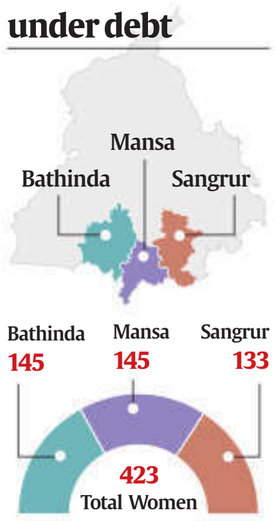
During the survey, 31 households reported a suicide by any family member in the household, the highest in Sangrur. "However, only four households reported that they have received any compensation from the government. 27 out of 31 households i.e. 87 per cent did not receive any compensation for the suicide committed by their family members," says the study.

The study underscored the bureaucratic hurdles that prevent widows from accessing aid. Charanjeet Kaur, for instance, has repeatedly sought compensation but continues to be ignored.

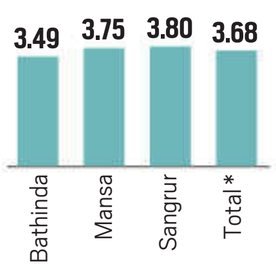
Most don't own land, home, or other assets

The study, conducted by Patiala's Punjabi University, is based on data from 711 rural women respondents across the districts of Sangrur, Mansa, and Bathinda — areas identified as farmer suicide hotspots

No. of Women under debt



Average amount (in ₹lakh)



The study found that married women were more likely to take loans for agriculture and building assets

Experiences of women agricultural laborers

Delay in payment	53.52%
Denied work in own village	6.57%
Verbal abuse by employer	4.69%
Being asked to work for extra hours	3.76%
Employer refused to pay	0.94%

Violence experienced by women

Forms of violence	Bathinda	Mansa	Sangrur	Total*
Verbal abuse by husband	92%	81.82%	83.74%	85.79%
Physical abuse by husband	20.8%	27.27%	16.26%	21.58%
Verbal abuse by other family members	41.6%	35.61%	39.84%	38.95%
Physical abuse by other family members	8.8 %	2.27%	2.44%	4.47%
Forced to handover your income	2.4%	6.06%	0.81%	3.16%
Violence escalated by alcohol/drugs	31.2%	38.64%	30.89%	33.68%
Demand for dowry	2.4%	1.52%	0.81%	1.58%
Denial of rightful share in family property	4%	3.03%	-	2.37%
Family pressure for male child	4%	4.55%	5.69%	4.74%

Total

Source: Understanding the nature, forms and implications of structural violence against rural women in the context of agrarian distress in Punjab: a study conducted by the Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala

OTHER MAJOR FINDINGS

99% respondents living in their own house, but only 4 per cent of them have legal ownership, and 2 per cent have joint ownership with other members. In 82 per cent cases, houses were owned by father, father/mother-in-law, or husband

- Among those who have farm machinery, none were owned by the respondent. In case of tractors and threshers, less than one per cent, and 0.14 per cent have joint ownership with husband.
- 0.28% and 0.84 per cent of the respondents have self-ownership of tubewell and borewell.
- 0.28% respondents own bicycle, 0.14 per cent of own two wheeler to move around according to their own will; none owned a four-wheeler.
- 99% respondent have toilet facility at home
- 31% have own mobile phone, and 24 per cent, a smart phone
- 0. 90% respondents have a bank account, and 96 per cent of those who have the bank account said they hold it in their name only
- Among the issues faced by women agricultural labourers, the delay in payments impacted considerable number of respondents with 53 percent females reporting this issue.
- 99% of respondents consume wheat daily; less than 1 per cent eat fruits daily, and 77 per cent consume them rarely.

A police vehicle and personnel are stationed at the CETP, ahead of 'Kale Pani da Morcha' protest, at Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana, on Monday. *Gurmeet Singh*

BUDDHA NULLAH

Security beefed up as Kale Pani Da Morcha to stop discharge of effluents today

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 2

IT IS Kale Pani Da Morcha (KPDM) versus the dyeing associations of Ludhiana, with the former giving a call to people of Punjab to reach the Buddha Nullah on December 3 and stop discharge of effluents into it.

Discharge from different outlet points of common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) set up by dyeing units goes into the nullah which, as per the claims of the units, is treated. Therefore, the dyeing associations are questioning the KPDM diktat.

Police authorities have beefed up security around Buddha Nullah area and even on the entry points of Ludhiana as many associations, farmer unions will be coming from Malwa districts and Rajasthan on Tuesday.

The morcha has been raising a red flag about pollution in Buddha Nallah for long now. On Monday, activists Jaskirat Singh, Kuldeep Singh Khaira, Kapil Dev, film director Amitoj Mann and a few others wrote emails to the Ludhiana deputy commissioner and Ludhiana police commissioner.

In the email, they said, "We had given a call to the people of Punjab to come to Ludhiana on December 3, 2024, to stop illegal effluents from falling into Buddha Dariya. This has become necessary as the govt and Punjab Pollution Control Board are not taking any concrete action against polluters beyond issuing orders which remain on paper and are not enforced. For example, the Central Pollution Control Board issued an order on 12 August 2024 to close three outlets of dyeing industry CETPs followed by three separate orders by PPCB on 25 and 26 September for immediate closure of these illegal outlets. We had given a police complaint at Tibba police station in this regard but nothing happened on that. The NGT has not given a stay on those three orders despite appeals filed by the industry. The PPCB or the DC can get those orders implemented even today if they want and there is no technical or legal hurdle in that."

The email noted, "The water of Buddha Dariya is a drinking water source of millions in south Punjab and Rajasthan and they are very severely affected by the consequences of drinking this toxic water which includes the children, the pregnant women and the elderly. It is only after all our requests to the govt and its various departments and agencies have failed to stop polluters throwing effluents in an illegal manner into the Buddha Dariya as no action taken by Punjab govt as well as PPCB is an act against Article 21 of Constitution of India for Citizens of Punjab and Rajasthan and to protect our fundamental right, we have announced the closure of illegal discharge of industrial effluent to protect the environment which is primarily the duty of Punjab govt under Article 48A of the Constitution of India but has failed to act despite repeated complaints raised by the affected people."

"We want to inform you that this gathering is intended to be completely peaceful. Everyone has been asked to remain disciplined and abide by the law.

We request you to ensure security so that no untoward incident happens or any mischief is done by any intruders from the dyeing industry which have been aggressively threatening and challenging openly in their press conferences and

that the people of Punjab are allowed to peacefully reach the illegal outlets on Tajpur road to close them without confrontation," said Amitoj Mann, Jaskirat Singh, Kuldeep Singh Khaira and others in the email.

However, when The Indian Express contacted Gurpreet Singh Gogi, AAP MLA from Ludhiana West, he said, "I am concerned about the discoloured water of Buddha Nullah. I am finding pollution control board as the culprit. However, the organisation has no right to take law and order situation in their hands. We appeal to them to follow peaceful mode of protest only."

Ludhiana Police Commissioner Kuldeep Singh Chahal said, "Everyone has the right to protest but no one can take law and order in hands. The problems can be discussed at a platform. Our teams will be on duty and I am sure nothing untoward will happen."

GST compensation cess: Cheema seeks regime extension beyond March 2026

Chandigarh: Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday demanded extension of the goods and services tax (GST) compensation cess regime beyond March 31, 2026, to ensure that states can mitigate the revenue loss caused by various taxes subsuming into the GST.

The recommendation was made during the Group of Ministers (GoM) meeting on compensation cess, which Cheema attended via video conferencing.

Cheema emphasised that the GST Council, as per the Goods and Services (Compensation to States) Act 2017, has the mandate to recommend extending the compensation period beyond five years.

He highlighted the significant and permanent revenue loss faced by Punjab due to the purchase tax on foodgrains subsuming into the GST. This tax was a crucial contributor to the state's revenue in the pre-GST era, he added.

Cheema further pointed out that the rate of tax on goods under the Value Added Tax (VAT) regime was significantly higher than the rate applicable under GST. This "discrepancy" has resulted in considerable revenue loss for the state, he added.

The FM stressed that the continuation of the GST compensation cess regime is essential to address these financial challenges and ensure fiscal stability of states like Punjab. **PTI**

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan and AAP state chief Aman Arora with the party's newly elected MLAs after they took the oath of office, in Chandigarh, Monday. *Express*

Ludhiana: One held after exchange of fire with police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 2

THE LUDHIANA police Sunday late arrested an accused wanted in several cases following an exchange of fire in a brief encounter near Dhanansu Cycle Valley.

The police said that the accused suffered a bullet injury to his thigh after the police opened fire. However, no police personnel suffered any bullet injury.

The accused was identified as Gulab Singh of Haider village of Koomkalan. The accused is already booked in at least four FIRs, said the police.

Amandeep Singh Brar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Investigation) said that teams of CIA staff-1 and CIA staff -2 were conducting checks near Dhanansu Cycle Valley on Sunday night. The accused was crossing from the area on a two-wheeler.

"When stopped for checking, the accused opened fire targeting the police team. The police retaliated and opened fire. One of the bullets hit the accused in his thigh and he fell down. The police rushed him to the Civil Hospital," said the ADCP.

"A total of four bullets were fired from both sides, of which the police fired two bullets. The accused was recently booked by Shahkot police of Jalandhar Rural in a kidnapping case. The accused was also wanted by the accused in a case of illicit liquor smuggling lodged against him at Meharban police station," he added.

A forensic team examined the spot after the encounter. The police recovered a .32 bore pistol, two bullet shells and a bike from the spot. An FIR was lodged against the accused for opening fire on the police team.

Sandhu bats for Vande Bharat to Hazur Sahib as Centre boosts connectivity with new air, rail links

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

TWO UNION ministers detailed the Union government's initiatives to enhance connectivity to Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib in Nanded, Maharashtra, during the ongoing winter session of Parliament. The responses came in reply to questions raised by Rajya Sabha MP Satnam Singh Sandhu, who highlighted the need for improved air and rail links to the sacred Sikh shrine.

Sandhu inquired about steps taken under the UDAN scheme and rail projects to ease travel for pilgrims visiting the site, which is the final resting place of Guru Gobind Singh and one of the five Sikh Takhts. Over six lakh pilgrims visit the shrine annually.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu shared that Nanded Airport, operational since 2017 under the UDAN scheme, now connects to nine cities: Ahmedabad, Hindon, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Pune, Patna, Adampur, and Goa.

He added that Star Air began flights from Nanded to Ahmedabad, Hindon, Bangalore, and Hyderabad in March 2024, followed by Nagpur and Pune in June 2024, with 76-seater aircraft.

CETPs established with the govt approval: Dyers' body

The office-bearers of Punjab Dyers' Association (PDA) term the members of KPDM 'blackmailers'. They held a meeting with the police and district administration officials last week over the call given by KPDM.

Ashok Makkar from PDA said, "These two CETPs were established with the approval of both the Central and Punjab governments at a cost of approximately ?250 crore. Of this, ?45 crore was subsidized while ?200 crore was funded by the members themselves. To supply water to these plants, members invested in laying about 50 kilometres of pipelines. Each plant treats approximately nine lakh litres of water daily, incurring a monthly operational cost of around ?3 crore. In contrast, the so- called activists, who have become contractors for controlling pollution in the Buddha Nullah have not invested a single rupee to address this issue. They lack the knowledge and expertise to effectively combat the pollution. By instilling fear of diseases like cancer and other ailments, they are misleading the public," said

Bobby Jindal, general secretary of PDA.

On Tajpur Road, all the dairy waste is flowing into the Buddha Nullah. This waste is causing the failure of sewage treatment plants (STPs). Both the Punjab and Central governments need to find a solution to this dairy waste issue. They should explore ways to utilise this waste, such as producing methane gas and compost. Finally, we want to emphasize that we are committed to protecting our factories, CETP plants and sewage lines." **ENS**

FOR SIKH INSTITUTIONS, A BIG DAY

With tankhah verdict, Jathedars introspect and assert authority

Singh Sahiban stress maintaining Akal Takht's sanctity, acknowledge that their actions would be scrutinised

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 2

AS THE Akal Takht Monday pronounced 'tankhah' (religious punishment) for Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders for the "mistakes" committed by the Shiromani Akali Dal government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017, the biggest jolt to the party came when the title of "Fakhr-e-Qaum" (Pride of the nation), conferred upon former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, was revoked.

This decision effectively erased three decades of SAD's political narrative concerning Sikh institutions and community affairs.

While delivering a religious decree against Sukhbir and others, Giani Raghubir Singh, the Akal Takht Jathedar, announced the revocation of the honour granted to Badal Sr for his contributions to the Sikh community.

"The leadership of the Shiromani Akali Dal has lost its moral authority to lead the Sikh Panth politically due to its actions. Therefore, the five Singh Sahibans have constituted a committee to oversee the reorganisation of the Shiromani Akali Dal. Recruitment must be genuine, with members enrolled using Aadhaar cards. Along with existing delegates, new ones must be appointed, and elections for the president and other office-bearers must be held within six months as per the constitution," the Jathedar declared.

The Jathedar, reflecting on SAD's politics since 1997, concluded that the party had failed to serve the community's interests. He criticised its inability to secure justice for the victims of post-1984 atrocities and protect the Sikh community from the growing influence of 'Deravad' (sects deviating from Sikhism). He also accused the SAD leadership of undermining the integrity of Sikh institutions, including the Akal Takht, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), and the SAD itself.

A look within

For the first time, a former Akal Takht Jathedar, Giani Gurbachan Singh, was held guilty of misleading the supreme Sikh temporal seat during his tenure. He was criticised for his role in the controversial 2015 pardon granted to Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim.

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh with other high priests pronouncing the verdict at the Akal Takht, in Amritsar, Monday. *PTI*

The incumbent Jathedar, Giani Raghubir Singh, instructed both Giani Gurbachan Singh and former Takht Damdama Sahib Jathedar Giani Gurmukh Singh to clarify their roles in granting the pardon. As Sukhbir admitted to influencing their decisions, both Jathedars were asked to resubmit their responses, as their initial letters were deemed unsatisfactory.

Giani Raghubir Singh and Takht Damdama Sahib Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh acknowledged that their predecessors' actions were unethical. Giani Harpreet Singh further admitted that central agencies had interfered with Akal Takht's operations.

The two Jathedars emphasised that there was no external pressure influencing Monday's decision. However, they expressed concern about how their verdict would be perceived, given that they were appointed by the SAD-controlled SGPC. Both repeatedly stressed the importance of maintaining the Akal Takht's sanctity and acknowledged that their actions would be scrutinised by the Sikh community.

Reorganising SAD

After introspection and delivering religious decrees, the Jathedars turned their focus to reorganising the SAD.

A committee, headed by SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami, was formed to oversee the process. Members include former SGPC president Kirpal Singh, former MLA Gurpratap Singh Wadala, MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali, Santa Singh Umaidpuri, and Bibi Satwant Kaur.

The committee was instructed to ensure Sukhbir's resignation within three days and report back to the Akal Takht.

Jathedars also directed rival SAD factions to dismantle parallel structures and work towards uniting the party. "Both factions must set aside ego and jealousy to work together in unity," the Jathedar said.

Attempts in the past

In 1994, then acting Akal Takht Jathedar Manjit Singh made multiple attempts to bring all SAD factions together. At one point, he succeeded in uniting key leaders, including Captain Amarinder Singh, Simranjit Singh Mann, and Gurcharan Singh Tohra. However, Parkash Singh Badal resisted the Akal Takht's directives, and his influence eventually prevailed, derailing the effort.

Similarly, in 1986, Akal Takht Jathedar Darshan Singh Ragi sought to unite the factions. However, then Akali Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala opposed the move, leading to his excommunication by the Akal Takht in 1987. Barnala retaliated by organising a counter-gathering at Longowal in Sangrur, challenging the Jathedar's authority. This led to the dismissal of his government by the Centre. Barnala, excommunicated from the Akal Takht, sought atonement in 1988 but never regained prominence in Sikh politics.

BJP hails verdict, panthic leaders find view 'lenient', ask why not political punishment

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 2

HAILING THE verdict announced by the Akal Takht for Sukhbir Suinvgh Badal and other leaders for the "mistakes" committed by the Shiromani Akali Dal government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017, the BJP and the Congress said that it has further elevated the stature of the Sikh institution and re-established the authority of the temporal seat of the Sikhs.

Pronouncing 'tankhah' (religious punishment), the Sikh clergy directed the Sukhbir and others to clean the toilet, wash dishes and clean shoes at the Golden Temple in Amritsar as a 'sewadar'. Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh also announced to withdraw the title of 'Fakhre-e-Qaum' bestowed upon former chief minister late Parkash Singh Badal.

BJP state president Sunil Jakhar welcomed the decision. "The historic hearing held at Sri Akal Takht Sahib has further elevated the stature of this premier institution of the Panth. It has also instilled pride in the community, reaffirming that our Guru Sahiban established such a powerful and supreme authority to guide those straying from the Guru's path back onto the righteous way," Jakhar said on X.

Another senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sampla hailed verdict as "commendable", saying the uniform approach adopted by the Sikh high priests is a positive aspect, reflecting the beauty of Sikhism.

"Although the sentence is just two hours long, the message it conveys is profound. This will serve as a lesson for others. The Shiromani Akali Dal will decide its future course of action, but this is a good decision, reflecting respect for religion," said Sampla.

Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders of the previous SAD government, in Amritsar, Monday. *Rana Simranjit Singh*

While there was no official response from the Akali Dal, party MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali "bowed his head towards the decision taken by the Akal Takht Sahib. "Let's see as how the party shapes up in future," he added.

Congress MP from Gurdaspur, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, meanwhile, said "Guru Sahib and Sikh community will not forgive those who harmed the panth".

"Today, Sukhbir finally admitted that he had a hand in pardoning 'Sauda Sadh', who was accused of 'beadabi'. Confessing to this before the Akal Takht signifies a lot. We hope that the punishment given to Sukhbir will give some comfort to the Sikh Sangat and make them aware of the truth," he said.

Meanwhile, Sikh preacher Baljit Singh Daduwal, who earlier headed the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, felt that Akal Takht has taken a lenient view. "Sukhbir should have been given political punishment as well. I have put a petition before the Akal Takht Jathedar to review his decision towards Sukhbir yet again," said Daduwal.

Faridkot MP Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa said it was commendable that Sukhbir and other leaders were questioned about their mistakes in full public view. " They now stand exposed after admitting their mistakes. I feel that Sukhbir should have been given political punishment," said Khlasa, who is the son of Beant Singh, one of the assassins of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Dr Gurmohan Singh Walia, former vice chancellor of SGGS World University, welcomed the pronouncements of the Akal Takht and said, "Today's historic decision has re-established the sovereignty of Akal Takht. For the past several decades the principle of Miri and Piri was conveniently compromised by the political class in favour of Miri.The panthic issues were deliberately ignored to win over votes of certain deras. The pain, sorrow and sufferings of people of Punjab were brushed under the carpet and the leaders forgot to hold the hands of the people who had lost their near and dear ones during the dark days. The decision of the five Sikh Sahibans could usher in a new political dawn for the Shiromani Akali Dal."

In Faridkot, Sukhraj Singh, the convenor, Bargari Insaaf Morcha, refused to comment on the decisions of Akal Takht Sahib. "However, my question is towards Congress and AAP governments. When Sukhbir himself has admitted to the gross mistakes done during his tenure, including the Behbal Kalan firing, why have they not been able to do anything constructive in this case? Now that Sukhbir has accepted his mistakes in full public view, will AAP government produce challan in court in Behbal Kalan firing case," he asked.

Bilaspur farmers hit by natural calamities paid Rs 57 lakh in compensation

Bilaspur: Over 1,000 Bilaspur farmers, affected by natural calamities last year, have been given compensation amounting to Rs 57 lakh, Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training Minister Rajesh Dharmani said on Monday. According to Dharmani the decision to compensate the 1,078 farmers was made following amendments in the state's relief manual.

He said that the previous governments offered a meagre compensation of Rs 1,400 per bigha for agricultural land affected by floods but the present Congress government increased this amount to Rs 5,000 per bigha, according to a statement issued here.

Similarly, compensation for damage to cultivable and horticultural land has been raised from Rs 3,600 per bigha to Rs 10,000 per bigha while the compensation for crop loss, which earlier ranged from Rs 300 to 500 per bigha has been enhanced to Rs 2,000 per bigha, it said.

The Agriculture Department has brought 230.63 hectares of land under irrigation through initiatives such as minor irrigation schemes, water storage structures, and tank construction, Dharmani said.

He affirmed that the state government is committed to expanding irrigation facilities in Bilaspur district.

The Himachal government has launched the Him Unnati Yojana to enhance agricultural productivity and promote crop diversification, the minister said.

Under this scheme, 72 clusters have been established across villages and panchayats in the district. **PTI**

RAMGARHIA GIRLS COLLEGE
MILLER GANJ, LUDHIANA 0161-2546228, 0161-2543516
(Affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh)
Online applications are invited for the post of Principal(Female) (covered under 95% Grant in Aid scheme of Punjab Govt.) at https://facultyjobs.puchd.ac.in on regular basis. Eligible candidates, in accordance with the qualifications/conditions laid down by the U.G.C./State Govt./Panjab University, Chandigarh, can apply within 30 days from the publication of advertisement.
President

Army Institute of Technology
Alandi Road, Dighi Hills, Pune- 411015
(Tele 7249250184, 7249250185)
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the Post mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Post	Total Vacancy	Qualification/ Experience
1	Assistant Professor	Comp/IT 02	M. Tech. or equivalence in relevant Branch with first Class or equivalent in BE/M.Tech Professional experience :- 2 years after Master Degree for Grade I
2	Nursing Assistant	01	**Class 1 -** Nursing Assistant **Age:** Not more than 40 years. Preference will be given to AMC (retired) person.

- Applications by post, to reach **Registrar, AIT, Dighi Hills, Pune-411015 by 15 Dec. 2024**
- Post will be on contractual basis & on consolidated salary only.
- Candidates should attach relevant documents.
- No TA/DA will be given for attending interviews.
- Applications to be forwarded in the prescribed word format available on AIT Website: **www.aitpune.com** alongwith Qualification required (QR)

Director, AIT

Capital Small Finance Bank Ltd.
HO:- MIDAS Corporate Park, 3rd Floor, 37, G.T. Road, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab, India
PROPERTY SALE NOTICE
The Undersigned as Authorized Officer of **CAPITAL SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED** has taken over possession of the following property u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act.
Public at large is informed that sale in the below mentioned case for recovery of amount outstanding against NPA accounts plus future interest and other charges shall be held on **07-01-2025** by the Bank.

Name of the account	**Mr. Randeep Kumar** S/o Mr. Inderdev R/o 132 KV Service Station, Nurmahal, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab-144039. **Mrs. Mamta Rani** W/o Mr. Randeep Kumar R/o Nakodar Road Colony, Nurmahal, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab-144039. **(Borrowers)** **Anil Kumar** S/o Murari Lal, R/o Mohalla Takiaran, Nurmahal, Jalandhar, Phillaur, Punjab-144039. **(Guarantor)**
Outstanding Amount HL/54611000022	**Rs. 17,99,110.10 (and future Interest w.e.f 01.11.2024)**
Description of the property	Immovable property measuring 03 Marlas 8 sarsai, situated at Village Uppal Jagir, Tehsil Phillaur (Nurmahal), Distt. Jalandhar, owned by Mr. Randeep Kumar S/o Mr. Inderdev Vide Sale deed No. 2020-21/179/1/1051 Dated-30-03-2021.
Reserve Price	**Rs. 13.50 Lacs (Rupees Thirteen Lacs and Fifty Thousand only)**
EMD (Earnest Money)	Total EMD (Earnest Money) is 25% of reserve price shall be paid by the successful bidder on **07-01-2025** through Demand Draft in favour of Capital Small finance Bank Ltd. payable at Jalandhar. Tender Forms and EMD be sent to Authorised Officer, Capital Small Finance Bank Ltd. H.O- Midas Corporate Park, 3rd Floor, 37 G.T Road, Jalandhar.

Encumbrances known to Bank: Nil. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". Last Date / Time for receiving tenders along with the EMD(Earnest Money) i.e. 25% through Demand Draft in favour of Capital Small Finance Bank Limited, payable at Jalandhar: **Till 11.00 AM on 07-01-2025.** The tender will be opened and may be further negotiated on the said date after 11.00 AM in the presence of all the offerers/ their authorized representatives at **H.O: MIDAS CORPORATE PARK, 3rd FLOOR, 37 G.T. ROAD, JALANDHAR.** For detailed Terms of Sale along with the tender form and Inspection of property, please contact the **Branch Office Kangna.** The Sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. The Authorized officer reserves the right to cancel/postpone/indefinitely defer/change the terms & conditions any time before confirmation of sale without assigning any reasons thereof
DATE: 02.12.2024 **AUTHORIZED OFFICER**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A scheduled commercial bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY
SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002. (SARFAESI ACT)
The undersigned as Authorized Officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken over Physical Possession** of the schedule property under the SARFAESI Act. The Authorized Officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** had already conducted multiple public auctions for selling the property, but they turned out to be unsuccessful as no bids were received. Hence please be informed that if the total outstanding dues in the aforesaid loan account are not paid within **Fifteen (15) Days** from the date of this publication of this notice, then the Authorized officer will proceed for sale via private treaty of the property as stated below.
Public at large is informed that the secured property as mentioned in the Schedule are available for sale through Private Treaty, as per the terms agreeable to the Bank for realization of Bank's dues.
Standard terms & conditions for sale of property through Private Treaty are as under:
1. Sale through Private Treaty will be on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**
2. The purchaser will be required to deposit 100% of the sale consideration on the expiry of publication of this notice.
3. In case of non-acceptance of offer of purchase by the Bank, the amount if any paid along with the application will be refunded without any interest with in the stipulated time.
4. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property (under sale through private treaty) to his satisfaction. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor in this regard at a later date.
5. The Bank reserves the right to reject any offer of purchase without assigning any reason.
6. The purchaser has to bear all stamp duty, registration fee, and other expenses, taxes, duties, society dues in respect of purchase of the property.
7. Sale shall be in accordance with the provisions of SARFAESI Act/ Rules.

SCHEDULE

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrowers	Amount as per 13(2) Demand Notice under SARFAESI Act.	Reserve price for private treaty	Description of Secured Assets/ Immovable Properties
1	45838640000090	1) M/s. P.R Trading Co, Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Sandeep Sadana (Borrower), 2) Mr. Sandeep Sadana, S/o. Surinder Pal Singh Sidana (Borrower), 3) Mrs. Sonia Sadana (Guarantor)	Rs.69,66,429/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Nine Only) as on 04-03-2024	Rs. 35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Only)	**Details of Secured Assets:** A House/ Plot Comprised Khasra No.22//22/ Min. Khata Khatoni No.298/471 for the Year Jamabandi 2009-2010 H.B. No.343 situated at Village Meera Road Khurd Lohara Road Tehsil & Dist. Ludhiana. Owned by **Sandeep Sadana, S/o. Surinder Pal Singh Sadana.** Document No.2021-22/197/1/1236 Dated 11. Nov. 2021. **Bounded as: East:** Neighbour, **West:** Neighbour, **North:** Neighbour, **South:** Road.

The aforesaid Borrower/ Co-Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of SARFAESI Act for redemption of secured assets mentioned hereinabove by tendering the aforementioned outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the bank before the sale of secured assets.
Correspondence Address: Mr. Tung Kaushik (Mob No: 9873662400) tung.kaushik@janabank.com, Mr. Ranjan Naik (6362951653)email: ranjan.naik@janabank.com. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, (formerly known as M/S. Janalakshmi Financial Services Pvt Ltd), having office at Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, (Branch Office Address: 16/12, 2nd Floor, W.E.A Arya Samaj Marg, Karol Bagh, Delhi - 110005.
Date: 03.12.2024, Place: Ludhiana **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

पंजाब एंड सिंध बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) **PUNJAB & SIND BANK** (A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
ZO : MODEL TOWN JALANDHAR — Where Service is a way of life — ZO : MODEL TOWN JALANDHAR
REDEMPTION OF SECURED ASSET NOTICE
Notice for exercising the right of redemption under Section 13 (8) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act").
The undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Act do hereby issue this notice, under Section 13(8) of the Act read with Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Rules. Whereby attention of the noticee is drawn to the provisions of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset. As Such you are hereby called upon to pay the outstanding dues as detailed below within 30 days from the receipt of this notice and get the secured assets released as detailed below.
In case you fail to pay the aforesaid amount along with costs/litigation etc within the said period, the undersigned will be constrained to put the mortgaged property on sale for realizing the bank dues and take other measures as deemed fit as per the provisions of aforesaid Act & Rules.

Name of the Branch/Borrower (s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)	Description of the Secured Assets	Demand Notice Date u/s 13(2)	Possession Notice Date u/s 13(4)	Amount Outstanding
1. URBAN ESTATE PH-1 JALANDHAR 1. M/s Chopra Motors (through its proprietor Sh. Parvesh Chopra S/o Sh. Deepak Chopra), Booth No.7, Crystal Plaza, Near Taj Hotel, Choti Baradari, Jalandhar 2. Sh.Parvesh Chopra S/o Sh.Deepak Chopra 3. Sh.Deepak Chopra S/o Sh.Sohan Lal Chopra 4. Smt. Suman Chopra W/o Sh.Deepak Chopra 5.Smt. Garima Chopra W/o Sh.Parvesh Chopra all resident of 21-A, Golden Avenue Phase II, Jalandhar.	Commercial property situated at Booth No 7,Chotti Baradari ,Crystal Plaza ,Part-I Jalandhar measuring 23.03 Sq.Yrds registered in the name of Sh.Deepak Chopra S/o Sh.Sohan Lal Chopra registered before Sub-Registrar ,Jalandhar vide Sale deed no. 2377 dated 09-06-2010	27-09-2022	31-08-2022	Rs 39,83,386.18 (Rs. Thirty Nine Lac Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Six and Eighteen Paisa Only) including interest applied upto 31-Aug-22 plus future interest, cost & charges.
2. GORAYA 1. Sh. Mohd. Akhtar Ali S/o Sh. Mohd. Amir Hasan #12, Railway Colony, Phillaur JALANDHAR, 144410 Also At : 2nd Address Mohalla Brahampur, Akalpur Road, Village Panj Dhera, Phillaur Jalandhar 144410 2. Smt. Roshan Khatun w/o Sh. Mohd. Akhtar Ali #12 , Railway Colony,Phillaur Jalandhar 144410 Also At : 2nd Address Village KewatgamaTole Pachhiyarihi Post Kewatgama,Thana Kusheshwarasthan Koetgama, Darbhanga Bihar 848213 3. Sh.Aurang Baz S/o Khadim Hussain Gana Pind , Tehsil Phillaur Jalandhar 144410.	All the part and parcel of Residential property measuring 05 marla i.e. 1/32 share of total land measuring 8 kanal 00 Marla comprised in khewat no 73,khatoni no 77,khasra no 5//22(8-0) as per Jamanbandi for the year 2017-18 of Village Panj Dhera ,Hadbast No 132,Tehsil Phillaur , Jalandhar registered in the name of Shri Mohd. Akhtar Ali S/o Shri Mohd. Amir Hassan vide SALE DEED dated 11/04/2019 bearing Vasika No. 76 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Phillaur Bounded as under :- East – Plot of Shri Varinder Yadav ,West – Plot of Shri Harminder Singh ,North – Rasta ,South :- Prem Singh	15-01-2023	24-04-2024	Rs 13,80,052.80 (Rs. Thirteen Lac Eighty Thousand Fifty Two and Eighty Paisa Only) including interest applied upto 31-Dec-22 plus future interest, cost & charges.
3. MODEL TOWN JALANDHAR 1.M/s Shri Shakti Industries(Borrower) through its proprietor Addressee no. 2 Village Daburgi , Near Gill Farm , Amritsar 2. Smt. Payal Sharma W/o Sh. Vikas Rajpurohit (proprietor Shri Shakti Industies) 63. Gali No 3. Friends Colony , Jalandhar – 3 3. Sh. Vikas Raj purohit S/o Amrit Rajpurohit (Guarantor) 63. Gali No 3. Friends Colony ,Jalandhar - 3	Sr. No.1 Hypothecation Of Plant & Machinery - Wire Drawing Machine (heavy Duty) Capacity 10mm To 8 Mm:-2, Wire Drawing Machine(heavy Duty) Capacity 8 Mm To 5 Mm:-3, Wire Drawing Machine(heavy Duty) Capacity 5 Mm To 3 Mm:-3, Wire Drawing Machine(heavy Duty) Capacity 4 Mm To 3 Mm:-2, Wire Drawing Machine(heavy Duty) Capacity 3 Mm To 2 Mm:-2, Wire Pointing Machine(heavy Duty) Capacity 10 Mm To 6 Mm:-2, Wire Pointing Machine (heavy Duty) Capacity 5mm To 2 Mm:-1, Wire Straightening And Cutting Machine (capacity 10 Mm):-1, Wire Straightening And Cutting Machine (capacity 6 Mm):-2, Lathe Machine(8 Ft):-1, Wire Rounding Machine(heavy Duty) With Heavy Gear Box:-2, Wire Pointing Machine(8 Mm):-2, Wire Pointing Machine(5 Mm):-1, Concrete Vibrating Table:-1, Radial Drille Machine:-1, Drille Machine 1":-1, Electric vibro motors 3 H.P.,3 phase:-5, Electric vibro motors 3 H.P.,1 phase:-1, Welding set300a :-1, Hand grinder:-1, Drill ¾":-1, Plate:-10, Pipe:-3, Flat bars:-4, Best way cement, Flyash Bricks Sr. No.2 All that part & parcel of property measuring 1 Kanal 17.50 Marlas in village Sultanwind , Suburban towards Mahal-II ,Tehsil and District Amritsar out of Khasra Nos 1550,1569 registered before Sub-Registrar,Amritsar vide sale deed no. 2018-19/89/1/1024 dated 07-09-2018 in the name of Smt. Payal Sharma W/o Sh. Vikas Rajpurohit bounded as under : East – Land of Rajdeep Arora, Sandeep Arora , Lovely Arora West – Land of Nanak Singh , Charan Singh ,Guljar Singh North – Land of Sarwan Singh South : Passage Sr. No.3 All that part & parcel of property measuring 9 Kanal 4 marlas in village Mahindwani , Tehsil Garhshankar ,District Hoshairpur , Khewat No . 63 as per fard jamnabandi for the year 2014-15 Khasra nos. 13//19/1 , 13//19/2 registered before the SubRegister ,Hoshairpur vide gift deed no. 2480 dt.24-03-2017 in the name of Smt. Payal Sharma W/o Sh. Vikas Rajpurohit	16-12-2022	26-Jun-2024 (S.No.1&2) and 12-Dec-2023 (S.No.3)	Rs 1,37,86,719.92 (Rs. One Crore Thirty Seven lac Eighty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen and Ninety Two Paisa Only) including interest applied upto 30-Nov-22 plus future interest, cost & charges.
4. IBD JALANDHAR M/s Rajat Glass Traders Prop Raj Khosla Basant Nagar, Sodal Road ,Jalandhar 144004 A. Mr Raj Khosla S/o Shiv Ram Khosla (Borrower) 21A Basant Nagar , Sodal Road ,Jalandhar 144004 B. Mrs Sangeeta Khosla W/o Sh. Raj Khosla (Guarantor) 105 , New Kailash Nagar , Jalandhar 144004 C. Mrs Sudesh Khosla W/o Sh. Shiv Ram Khosla (Guarantor) 21A Basant Nagar , Sodal Road , Jalandhar 144004 D. Mr. Mike Khosla S/o Sh. Shiv Ram Khosla (Guarantor) 21A Basant Nagar , Sodal Road ,Jalandhar 144004 E. Mr. Deepak Khosla S/o Shiv Ram Khosla (Guarantor) 21A Basant Nagar,Sodal Road , Jalandhar 144004 2. M/s Mike Enterprises Prop Vinay Khosla Doaba Chowk ,Kishanpura Road , Jalandhar - 144004 A. Mr. Vinay Khosla s/o Sh Raj Khosla (Borrower) 21A Basant Nagar,Sodal Road ,Jalandhar 144004 B. Mr. Mike Khosla S/o Sh. Shiv Ram Khosla (Guarantor) 21A Basant Nagar,Sodal Road,Jalandhar 144004 C. Mr.Raj Khosla S/o Shiv Ram Khosla (Guarantor) 21A Basant Nagar, Sodal Road, Jalandhar 144004	All that part and parcel of property measuring 33.41 marla situated at Village Raipur Rasulpur ,Pathankot Road ,Tehsil & District Jalandhar comprised over Khewat No 752 Khatauni No 949 Khasra No 91//10/1 ,11/2 , 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20/1, 23/1/1, 23/2/1, 24/1, 24/2/1, 653/4, 84//21/2/1, 20/2/2, 20/3, 21/1, 85/16/2, 25/1/1, 25/2/3, 90//5/3, 91/1, 2, 7/4, 8, 9 HB: 163 as per Jamanbandi for the year 2002-23 in the name of Mr. Raj Khosla S/o Shiv Ram Khosla and Mr. Mike Khosla s/o Shiv Ram Khosla vide sale deed no. 2022 dated 12-06-2008	02-Dec-21 and 11-May-22	15-Jun-23	Rs 93,46,578.97 (Rs. Ninety Three lac Fourty Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Eight and Ninety Seven Paisa Only) including interest applied upto 29-Oct-2021 and 30-Apr-22 plus future interest, cost & charges.
5. BHOGPUR 1.M/s Vishal Collection (Borrower) Prashar Market , Railway Road , Bhogpur,Dist Jalandhar (Pb) Through its Proprietor Shri Santosh Kumar 2. Shri Santosh Kumar S/o Raju Ram (Borrower) Proprietor M/s Vishal Collection Prashar Market , Railway Road, Bhogpur, District Jalandhar (Pb) 2nd Address: Residenty of House No 143, Ward No 8 , Near Railway Station, Bhogpur, Dist-Jalandhar 3.Shri Ajay Sharma (Guarantor) S/o Shri Subhash Chander Rampal , Resident of Ward No 7, Adampur Road, Bhogpur , District Jalandhar.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Property measuring 03 Marlas , comprised in Khasra No 325/1 , 326/2/1 , 327/2/1 situated in village Binpalke Nangal , Bhogpur ,Hadbast No 87 ,Dist Jalandhar (Pb) being ownership of the Shri Santosh Kumar S/o Raju Ram vide Sale Deed bearing Vasika No 291 dated 22-05-2013, registered with the office of Joint Sub Registrar ,Bhogpur ,District Jalandhar bounded as : **On the North by : Manoj Kumar On the South by : Others On the East by: Gali On the West by : Others**	14-Mar-23	27-Feb-24	Rs 6,57,888.46 (Rs. Six Lac Fifty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Eight and Fourty Six Paisa Only) including interest applied upto 31-JAN-23 plus future interest, cost & charges.
6. ADDA HOSHIARPUR 1. M/s Real Motors Through Prop. Sukhjinder Singh S/o Sukhwant Singh Bawa 2. M/s SS Enterprises Through Prop Sukhjinder Singh S/o Sukhwant Singh Bawa 3. Sukhjinder Singh Bawa S/o Sukhwant Singh Bawa R/o H. No. 3 A jyoti Nagar Jalandhar 4. Sukhwant Singh Bawa S/o Harbhajan Singh Bawa R/o E.E. 140 ,Bawa Hospital Panjpeer Jalandhar 5. Baljinder Singh S/o Sukhwant Singh R/o H.No. 3 A jyoti Nagar Jalandhar 6. Tanvir Kaur W/o Baljinder Singh Bawa R/o H.No. 3 A jyoti Nagar Jalandhar 7.Damneet Kaur W/o Sukhjinder Singh R/o H. No. 3 A jyoti Nagar Jalandhar	Property no 19 Bhai Ditt Singh Nagar Jalandhar in the name of Sh. Sukhwant Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh measuring 8 Marla 204 Sq.Ft.(1 Marla = 207 Sq.ft.) as per Reg Deed No. 6308 dated 30-12-1987 Bounded as under - East - Road West : Plot No 22 North : Plot No 20 South : Plot No 18	10-Aug-22	29-Oct-22	Rs 1,20,42,828.70 (Rs. One Crore Twenty Lac Fourty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Eight and Seventy Paisa Only) including interest applied upto 31-JULY-22 plus future interest, cost & charges.
7. GTB NAGAR 1. M/s RSD Experts through Prop Sandeep Tandon S/o Ramesh Chander R/o Plot No 259 Sector 2, HSIIDC IGC Saha Ambala Haryana Also at H No 134-140 Garden Enclave 66ft Road Opp Jalandhar Height 1 Jalandhar 2. Natasha Tandon W/o Sandeep Tandon H No 134-140 Garden Enclave, 66ft Road opp Jalandhar Height 1 Jalandhar 3. Parika Walia W/o Vishal Walia H No 580 Rishi Nagar Near Shankar Garden , Jalandhar 144001 4. Saveena Dhir W/o Naveen Dhir H No A7 Khurla Kingra Road, Near Wadala Chowk Silver Residency, Model Town, Jalandhar 144003	Commercial Property as MC No 340 & 340 A at Post Office Road, Nakodar, District Jalandhar in the name of Sh. Sandeep Tandon S/o Sh. Ramesh Chander vide Sale Deed No 2019-20/184/1/527 dated 19.07.2019 for area measuring 17 Marlas (per marla 207 sqft) bounded East : Sewage ; West : Road Post Office Road; North : Inder Mohan; South : Bittu Cement	20-Sep-2022	13-Mar-23	Rs 2,16,03,891.47 (Rs. Two Crore Sixteen Lac Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One and Fourty Seven Paisa Only) including interest applied upto 31-AUG-22 plus future interest, cost & charges.

DATE: 03-12-2024 **PLACE: JALANDHAR** **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

JAMMU & KASHMIR30NOVEMBER1996(OP RAKSHAK)

Late NkMuraleedharan G
8 Mtn Div Int & FS Coy
25.05.1969 -30 Nov 1996

Late NkMuraleedharan G was serving with 8 Mtn Div Int & FS Coy deployed at Sopore, Dist-Baramulla, J & K and engaged in active Counter Insurgency Operation. On 30 Nov 1996, while carrying out his duties, he fell victim to an attack by unidentified militants.Despite efforts to save him, he succumbed to his injuries and was died on the spot.On this auspicious day Intelligence Corps salute and pay homage to this brave soldier who made the supreme sacrifice in the finest traditions of the Indian Army.

Col Comdt, OIC Records &
All Ranks of Intelligence Corps

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
3 December 2014

Shaheed ASI Samsher Singh
07-08-1970 To 03-12-2014
183 Bn

On 3rd December 2014, troops of 183 Battalion of CRPF were deployed for road sanitization to ensure the safe induction of CISF personnel during Assembly Elections. Pickets were established at regular intervals, including one near village Pahoo, Pulwama. At around 1715 hrs, shortly after a CISF convoy passed, unidentified militants, exploiting the crowded surroundings, hurled a grenade at the picket and fled in a vehicle. In the attack, ASI Samsher Singh sustained critical injuries and made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
3 December 2004

Shaheed Head Constable A. Thulasi
01-06-1963 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

Shaheed Constable Gagan Singh
08-08-1969 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

Shaheed Constable Rampal Sharma
01-01-1973 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

Shaheed Constable K. Shiv Raj
04-10-1970 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

Shaheed Ct/Barber Mohd. Sayeed
16-01-1968 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

On 3rd December 2004, two militants, under the cover of darkness, launched a heavy attack with gunfire and grenades on the sentry post of 16 Battalion, CRPF in Sopore, Baramulla. Despite a brave response, the sentry was martyred. The militants then stormed the camp, firing indiscriminately and targeting the barracks. CRPF troops retaliated, forcing them to take cover inside a room. An assault team was quickly formed, and after a swift room intervention drill, both militants were neutralized. In this fierce gunfight, five brave CRPF troopers- HC A. Thulasi, Constable Gagan Singh, Constable Rampal Sharma, Constable K. Shiv Raj, and Constable Barber Mohd. Sayeed—made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
L/NK KISHAN LAL
30.08.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Derababa Nanak, Punjab.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT BALBIR SINGH
28.02.1948 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
NK SAT PRAKASH
11.04.1942 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Derababa Nanak, Punjab.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT HARNEK SINGH
26.03.1948 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
LCT SURJIT SINGH
02.01.1947 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

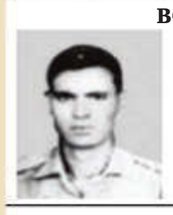
BORDER SECURITY FORCE
L/NK LAKHI RAM
05.05.1947 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo- Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT RAGHUNATH SINGH
15.05.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
NK MEHAR SINGH
06.12.1948 - 03.12.1971



Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
HC AMRIK SINGH
01.01.1945 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT RAM SINGH
03.04.1947 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo- Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
Civil Engineering Department
TUTICORIN - 628 004.
SAGARMALA

GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. CIV-OFCPD-PRJ-DEVEL-V1-21(50298)/D.3328 Date:03.12.2024

V.O.Chidambaranar Port re-invites Application from interested parties (Applicants) in accordance with the Request For Qualification (RFQ) and Request For Proposal (RFP) for the project "Development of Outer Harbour Container Terminal Project including Dredging and Construction of Breakwater at VOC Port on DBFOT Basis".

Name of Work	**Development of Outer Harbour Container Terminal Project including Dredging and Construction of Breakwater at VOC Port on DBFOT Basis**
Indicative Project Cost	**Rs.7055.95 Crores**
Sale of bid Documents	**03.12.2024 to 20.01.2025**
Bid document fee	**Rs.24,97,806/- (inclusive of GST @ 18%)**
Bid Security	**Rs. 70.56 Crs (As per cl. 1.2.4 of RFQ)**
Last date of receiving queries	**11.12.2024**
Pre-Application Conference	**12.12.2024 at 11:00 hours**
Last date and time for submission of Tender through online	**20.01.2025 upto 15:00 hours (IST)**
Date RFQ Bid opening date and time	**21.01.2025 at 15:30 hours (IST)**
Validity of offer	**180 days from the last date fixed for submission of Tender**

For downloading of RFQ, RFP & further details, visit port Website: www.vocport.gov.in
Ph.No : 0461-2352270
Email : ce@vocport.gov.in, vocportce@gmail.com

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D Ananya Reddy
AIR 3

Abhinav Jain
AIR 35

Final Selection: 16

Batch Starts: Dec 15 | Admissions Dec 4
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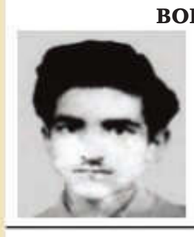
(M): 9212665841, 9212008155

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT/WC ABDUL GANI
06.07.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT KARLEEP SINGH
09.09.1950 - 03.12.1971



Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo- Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT SAHIB DITTA
10.11.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

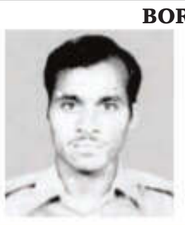
BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT AZAD SINGH
03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Jafarwal (Punjab).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT DAYA RAM
10.12.1948 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
L/NK FAQUIR CHAND, PMG
13.10.1959 - 03.12.1993



Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K).

SASCI SCHEME

Sukhu: Excluding Himachal from Central assistance for tourism discriminatory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, DECEMBER 2

THREE DAYS after the Centre released a list of 23 selected states under the Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme, which allocated Rs 3,295.76 crore for promoting tourism sectors in these states, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu Monday accused the Central government of discriminating against Himachal Pradesh by excluding it from the list.

Under the SASCI scheme, the Central government provides interest-free loans for 50 years to create long-term, sustainable tourism infrastructure in the selected states. The states were selected on November 29. On the same day, BJP MP from Hamirpur Anurag Thakur had shared the list of 23 states on his X account applauding the Central government.

In a post on X, CM Sukhu said, "The discriminatory politics of the Central government has once again targeted the people of Himachal Pradesh. Under the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment Scheme,' Rs 3,296 crore was allocated to 23 states, but Himachal was excluded from this crucial assistance. He claimed this is a clear attempt by the Central government to hinder Himachal Pradesh's developmental journey."

He wrote that there is a significant gap between the Central government's words and actions. He asserted that the discriminatory attitude of the Central government has now been fully exposed. "The BJP MPs from Himachal are celebrating by releasing the list, as if they've achieved a major victory. I wonder if they truly represent the people of Himachal or not. Even during the crisis brought on by natural disasters, the Central government remained silent. Despite adverse circumstances, we have reached new heights in the tourism sector through hard work and dedication," he remarked.

Senior Congress MLA from Theog constituency and AICC spokesperson Kuldeep Singh Rathore too criticised the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre for excluding Himachal Pradesh from the list of 23 states selected under the SASCI scheme.

MLA Rathore said, "This is step-motherly treatment toward Himachal Pradesh. The Central government is completely ignoring the state's interests. We are disappointed that even the BJP MPs from Himachal Pradesh are failing to safeguard the state's interests." He added, "The Central government has excluded Himachal Pradesh from the list of 23 states earmarked for special assistance of ?3,295.76 crore for the development of the tourism sector. Despite Himachal Pradesh's reputation as a prominent tourist destination, the BJP-led NDA government has failed to allocate any incentives for the state's tourism development."

Rathore urged Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda to advocate for Himachal Pradesh's interests and raise the issue with the Central government. He also called on BJP MPs from Himachal Pradesh to exert pressure on the Centre to address the state's concerns.

C-1108

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BALASORE.
AT-SAMALPUR, P.O-BALIA, DIST-BALASORE, PIN-756056
(e-mail: eephbls@gmail.com, Phone-9438660004)

NO 5442 / **1ST CORRIGENDUM** **DATE 26.11.24**
Tender for the work

"Supply of ISI Marked DI (K7) Pipes for the work Improvement of water supply to Basudevpur Municipality".
In continuation to this office Bib-Identification No.SEPHBLS-16 of 2024-25 dt.14.11.2024. The following changes are hereby made.

Sl. No.	Item/Clause	Description	Existing	Revised/Amended
1	Clause- 7.1(V), (Page-4)	NIT (DTCN)	The manufacturer should have valid Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) license for marking ISI mark on their product for at least 5 (Five) years from the last date of Bidding	1) Each intending bidder (manufacturer) should have valid BIS License for manufacturing ISI marked DI pipes. 2) Only ISI marked DI pipes should be procured with necessary test certificates as communicated earlier.
	Clause- 7.1(VI), (Page-4)	NIT (DTCN)	The manufacturer's Ductile Iron (D.I) pipes& fittings are in satisfactory performance in Indian Projects for at least three years from the Bid Date	Regarding past history of satisfactory performance of the DI pipes of any intending manufacturer-bidder, at least one year history (one year to be reckoned from the date of invitation of each tender) of satisfactory performance in any projects executed in India would be adequate.
2	DTCN- Clause 6.4 (Page-7)	DTCN (Check list to be filled by the bidder)	Complete audited annual financial year statements for last Five Years including audit report, balance sheets, profit & loss accounts statement all other schedules etc.	Bidders should have annual financial turnover of not less than 40% of estimated cost in at least one year during last 5 (Five) peccoding financial years. Inflation/Escalation @10% per financial year (on compound basis) shall be considered on the value of annual turnover of the proceeding years

All other terms and conditions Un-Altered.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Public Health Division, Balasore.

OIPR-13053/11/0007/2425

B-718

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender call Notice
E-mail: rbcicrlekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-18/2024-25 Memo No 2346 Dt. 29.11.2024
The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Bridge works as detailed in the table below:

1. **Nature of Work** : Bridge Works
2. **No of Work** : 1 Nos
3. **Tender Cost** : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. **Class of Contractor** : Special, A Class
5. **Available of Bid document in the Website** : From 10.00 AM of Dt.07.12.2024 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.17.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM
6. **Date of opening of Bid** : Dt 18.12.2024 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha

OIPR-34127/11/0020/2425

B-721a

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
"e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-II-21/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : Road work
3. No. of work : 6 Nos.
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : A Class/ Special Class/Super Class
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 12.12.2024 to 5.30PM of 30.12.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.31.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./-
Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha

OIPR-34181/11/0001/2425

थाना सैक्टर-9 A **जिला- गुरुग्राम**

इस्तहारे शोरे गोगा

FIR NO...202..... DT 18.06.24
U/S 346 IPC PS SEC-9 A GURGAON

गुमशुदा की तलाश

निवेदन है कि मुनेश पुत्र दोलतराम प्रेमचंद निवासी ग्राम बमनी थाना अलाहपुर जिला बदाऊ **UP** हाल देवीलाल कालोनी दिनाक 16.06.2024 को अपने किराये के घर से साम को 5 बजे बिना बताए चला था जो अपने घर वापिस नही आया जिस संबंध मे दिनाक 18.06.2024 को शिकायत कर्ता दिनेश ने अपने भाई मुनेश को घर से बिना बताए चले जाने पर एक शिकायत पेश कि जिसके नही आने पर उपरोक्त अभियोग दर्ज किया गया जिसकी हुलिया इस प्रकार से है रंग सावला हस्ट पुस्ट शरीर लम्बूतरा चेहरा उम्र 33 साल जिसने सफेद बनियान व टोलिया पहने हुए है। अगर जिस भी आमजन व्यक्ति को पता चले तो थाना प्रबंधक सेक्टर 9 A गुरुग्राम को फोन नंबर 9205892117 व 9911784615 पर संपर्क करे सूचना देने वाले को उचित ईनाम दिया जाएगा ।

हस्ता/-
थाना प्रबंधक
थाना सेक्टर 9A गुरुग्राम
दिनांक: 28.07.2024

HARYANA TOURISM
Come, holiday with us !

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Bids are invited for licensing out Parking at Yadavindra Gardens Tourist Complex, Pinjore of Haryana Tourism Corporation ltd. The e-auction will be held on 24th December, 2024 (11:00 am to 4:00 pm). Last date for submission of documents is 20th December, 2024 till 11:00 am. For enquiry please contact concerned DDO of the complex (Sh. Anil Kumar, AGM, Tourist Complex Pinjore. M. No.94666-36541).

E-Auction documents along with details of activity are available at the website of HTC i.e. **www.haryanatourism.gov.in** as well as on NIC portal **http://eauction.gov.in** for online participation. Managing Director, HTC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.

ISSUED BY
No. 30726/HR **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

कार्यालय जिला सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क अधिकारी, हिसार निविदा सूचना

जिला स्तरीय गीता जयंती महोत्सव 9 से 11 दिसम्बर 2024 को पुराना राजकीय महाविद्यालय के मैदान में मनाया जाना है। इसके लिए निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं व सेवाओं के लिए निविदाएंव कुटेशनें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

1. **टैंट सर्विस:** वाटरप्रूफ व सामान्य दोनों के रेट्स -कुर्सियां-400, सोफासैट-12 सीटर, सेंटरटेबल-5, कारपेट, पर्दे, कालीन, स्पीच स्टैण्ड, दो प्रवेश-द्वार (स्टॉल-15 15 फुट 2 कुर्सी, एक टेबल व दो ग्रीन रूम)
2. साउंड सिस्टम (12 स्पीकर बॉक्स 15, 4 स्पीकर बॉक्स स्टेज, एम्पीफायर सैट, मिक्सर, 6 हॉरन स्टैण्ड, 2 बेस, 4 मोनिटर, 2 पोडियम माईक, 2 कॉर्डलेस माईक, 12 माईक स्टैण्ड सहित, लैपटॉप ऑपरेटर सहित इत्यादि), टाटा मैजिक पर 2 होरन, 4 माईक लगाने है व जरनेटर (25 केवी व 62 केवी)
3. वीडियोग्राफी/फोटोग्राफी प्रतिदिन प्रति व्यक्ति
4. स्मृति चिह्न, शाल, चद्दर व गिफ्ट आईटम, लंच बॉक्स, बोतल इत्यादि।
5. निमंत्रण कार्ड व प्रशस्ति पत्र व फलैक्स प्रिंटस (डीपीआर रेटस पर) इत्यादि ।
6. गीता पुस्तक व अन्य पुस्तकें।
7. खाद्य सामग्री (नाश्ता, लंच, डीनर व चाय-कॉफी, मिष्ठान, नमकीन इत्यादि)।
8. बैंड बाजा 11 सदस्य घोड़ा बग्गी सहित तथा अतिरिक्त घोड़ा बग्गी के रेटस (टाटा मैजिक हायर, बंचारी नगाड़ा पार्टी, तबला, अरिगन, पैड, एकल कलाकार 1000/- प्रतिदिन इत्यादि)।
9. फूल मालाएं, बुके व स्टेज सजावट सामग्री, टाटा मैजिक सजावट आदि।
10. कलाकारों के ठहरने की व्यवस्था।

नोट :- इच्छुक फर्में अपनी निविदाएं/कुटेशनें बंद लिफाफे में डीआईपीआरओ, हिसार के नाम दिनांक 04.12.2024 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक लघु सचिवालय स्थित चौथी मंजिल, कमरा नंबर 465 पर भिजवाना सुनिश्चित करें। निविदाएं व कुटेशनें अतिरिक्त उपायुक्त हिसार की अध्यक्षता में गठित कमेटी सदस्यों के समक्ष व फर्म सदस्यों की उपस्थिति में दिनांक 05.12.2024 को सुबह 11.00 बजे जिला सभागार में खोली जाएंगी। वस्तुओं की मात्रा में कमी या बढ़ोतरी की जा सकती है। निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी जिला सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क अधिकारी के कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

क्रमांक 1 के कार्य हेतु इच्छुक फर्म 25 हजार रुपए व क्रमांक 2 के कार्य हेतु 10 हजार रुपए की अग्रिम राशि का चैक या ड्राफ्ट कार्यालय जिला सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क अधिकारी, हिसार को जमा करवाया जाना अनिवार्य है। कार्यक्रम स्थल परिवर्तन या अन्य बदलाव की अपरिहार्य स्थिति में कमेटी का निर्णय अन्तिम होगा।

No. 30745/HRY डीआईपीआरओ, हिसार

GOVT. COLLEGE, BHERIAN (PEHOWA), KURUKSHETRA
E-mail:gcbherian@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Tender is hereby invited for eleaning of premises and housekeeping (Sweeper) services in Govt. College Bherian (Pehowa) from the interested and eligible tenderers/ service agencies (approved by Govt. of Haryana) having at least three years experience in similar services in prescribed form. Interested Tenderer/service agencies can collect tender forms from the Office of Principal, Govt. College Bherian (Pehowa) on any working day between 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM by paying Rs. 500/-(Payable through demand draft/ Banker cheque of any nationalized bank drawn in favour of Principal Govt. College Bherian). All terms and conditions will be attached with the form. Last dated of receipt of sealed tender document: 18/12/2024 upto 04:00 pm
Date of Opening of tender: 19/12/2024 at 11:00 am

Sd/-
Principal
Govt. College Bherian (Pehowa)
Principal
No.30734/HR **GOVT. COLLEGE Bherian (Pehowa)**

Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Punjab

Institutional Area, Sector 26, Chandigarh 160019, India

MGSIPA

Phone: +91-172-2793589/91 Fax: +91-172-2793589/90 Extn: 400
Email: helpdesk.mgsipa@punjab.gov.in, Website: https://mgsipa.punjab.gov.in

WALK IN INTERVIEW

MGSIPA invites prospective candidate to appear in Walk-in Interview for the purely contractual position as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name of the position	Number of positions	Consolidated remuneration
1.	Research Scholar	1 (one) (only for SC Category)	Rs. 70,000/- (Seventy Thousand) per month
Date, Time and Venue for Interview		18-12-2024 (Wednesday), from 9:30 am onwards, Conference Hall No. 2, Convention Centre, MGSIPA Complex	

For more detailed information regarding, eligibility criteria, job profile etc. log onto www.mgsipa.punjab.gov.in

Note: Any corrigendum (s) to this appointment notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/-
Director General

39716

HIMACHAL PRADESH GRAMIN BANK

BRANCH OFFICE : BILASPUR
CORRIGENDUM

Refer to our Auction Sale Notice for the account of Sh. Shivansh Sharma Published on dated 29.11.2024. Now in this Account Please the read the Vehicle Model name as Hector Plus instead of Mector Plus. **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

GENERAL CAUTION

PUBLIC AT LARGE is hereby informed that **www.creditgateltd.com** is not a website hosted or used by Credit Gate Private Limited and Credit Gate Private Limited shall have no accountability for any transaction on **www.creditgateltd.com.** Credit Gate Private Limited does not have any office at 27, Vivekananda Road Kolkata, West Bengal, 700027 India.

ESTATE OFFICE, UT., CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE SH. RAJIV TEWARI, ASSTT. ESTATE OFFICER, U.T., CHANDIGARH

Subject: Transfer of Ownership in respect of COMMERCIAL Booth No. 15, SECTOR 23- Chandigarh (CP 642) to the extent of 100.00% share on the basis of Registered Will of Late SMT MANJIT KAUR.

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh./Smt./ SMT MANJIT KAUR is the owner/lessee of COMMERCIAL Booth No. 15, SECTOR 23-Chandigarh to the extent of 100.00 % Share.

It has been informed by SUKHKARAN SINGH that Sh./Smt SMT MANJIT KAUR expired on 02/08/2024 and he/she/they has/have also intimated the following legal heirs of the deceased owner/lessee:-

Name of Legal Heir - Relation with deceased
1. JASLEEN KAUR- DAUGHTER, 2. HARNEET KAUR - DAUGHTER, 3. SUKHKARAN SINGH-SON, 4. JYOTI PURI - DAUGHTER, 5. SATINDER KAUR - DAUGHTER

Now, SUKHKARAN SINGH has/have applied for the Transfer of Ownership in respect of COMMERCIAL Booth No. 15, SECTOR 23-Chandigarh, to the extent of 100.00 % Share held by Late SMT MANJIT KAUR in his/her/their favour on the basis of Registered Will dated 23/05/2013. If anybody has any information about any other legal heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh. immediately.

If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may be furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/ Notary) in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary/ies and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

Rajiv Tewari, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the Powers of Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh

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PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Web site: www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Inquiry No. 91/GHTP/MM-II/HM-50(IX) | **Dated: 29-11-2024**

Superintending Engineer/MM-II/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of "AMC for Routine, Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery, i.e. Loco Shunters, Bulldozers including, Grabber Loader Machines, Poclain, Auger and Coal Compactor etc. AND Re-railment of minor derailments of Wagons & Loco Shunters in CHP of GIFTP, Lehra- Mohabbat as per tender specifications, For detailed NIT and tender specifications please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 03-12-2024 at 11:00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** only.

No. - 39719/PB GHTP-96/24

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

Notice Inviting Bid

(A) BID FOR ESTABLISHING OF 2 X 500 MVA, 400/220 KV SUB-STATION AT KUMHER (DISTT. BHARATPUR) ALONGWITH 400KV, 1X125 MVAR, SHUNT REACTOR (BUS TYPE) & 4 X50 MVAR, SHUNT REACTOR (LINE TYPE) AND ASSOCIATED BAYS INCLUDING SUPPLY OF ALL EQUIPMENTS/MATERIALS, ERECTION (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS), TESTING AND COMMISSIONING (TURNKEY PROJECT) AGAINST SPECIFICATION No. RVPN/EHV/BN-9018002425 (UBN: VPN2425WLOB02157) ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UP TO 04:00 PM ON 20.01.2025.

(B) BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TRANSMISSION ELEMENTS (02 NO. 400 KV (approx. 49.5 kM) & 02 NO. 220 KV (approx. 15 kM) TRANSMISSION LINES) FOR PROPOSED 400 KV GSS KUMHER [DISTT.-BHARATPUR] INCLUDING SURVEY, SUPPLY OF ALL EQUIPMENTS/MATERIALS, ERECTION (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS), TESTING AND COMMISSIONING (ON TURNKEY BASIS) AGAINST SPECIFICATION No. RVPN/EHV/BN-9018002426 (UBN: VPN2425WLOB02158) ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UP TO 04:00 PM ON 20.01.2025.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.

Superintending Engineer (Contract - I), Jaipur

Raj.Samwad/C/24/8526 RRVPN/TR-6492/2024

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pnb punjab national bank

.....Together for the better

Circle Sastra Centre Ludhiana, Site No.5 Ferozpur Road Ludhiana.
E-mail : cs4540@pnb.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT)

A notice is hereby given that the following **Borrower's/Co-borrower's/Guarantor's** have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Punjab National Bank Branch and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

The Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrowers/Guarantors/ Partners/Mortgagor	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice / Date of NPA	Amount outstanding (As on the date of notice)
Sh Gaurav Aggarwal S/o Sh Adarsh Aggarwal (Borrower) and Smt Priyanka W/o Sh Gaurav Aggarwal (Co-Borrower)	Flat No 1008, Tower Amazon- 9,10th floor of Residential Project known as Eastern park by Gaurav Basera, situated at adjoining Garden City, Village Bholapur, Chandigarh Road Ludhiana.	25.11.2024 / 29.06.2024	**Rs. 12,85,099.00 (Rs. Twelve Lakh Eighty five thousand Ninety Nine only)** with further interest and other expenses

Date: 29.11.2024 **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

"IMPORTANT

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

GOVERNMENT OF GOA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

601 & 306, KAMAT TOWERS, PATTO, PANAJI - GOA 403001

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(e-procurement mode only)
No. 68/DPPP/PMU/2024/202

Setting up of Project Management Unit (PMU) by Selection of Consultants - PPP consultancy and Transaction Advisor.

THE Department of Public Private Partnership, Government of Goa (Authority), invites e-tender offers from interested, qualified and eligible bidders to submit their technical proposals and financial offers for the project of Selection of Consultants, PPP Consultancy and Transaction Advisory for Development of Projects on PPP basis in the State of Goa.

Bidding Process : Proposals are invited (Single Stage - 2 Parts) as per the RFP Criteria from interested reputed National/International Consulting Firms for Setting up of Project Management Unit (PMU) by Selection of Consultants - PPP consultancy and Transaction Advisor. The Bid Documents can be procured only through the e-procurement portal of the Government of Goa (https://eprocure.goa.gov.in/nicgep/app) from **29.11.2024** onwards. All further updates shall only be posted on the e-procurement portal.

Schedule : A Pre-bid meeting will be held on **09.12.2024**. The last date & time for submission of Proposals through the e-procurement mode, in the format prescribed in the RFP Document is **20.12.2024, 1700 Hrs IST.**

In case of any queries / clarifications, please contact at the details mentioned below. GoG reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason thereof.

Nodal Department : Department of Public Private Partnership, Government of Goa, 601 & 306, Kamat Towers, Patto, Panaji- Goa 403001
Phone : 9011924758/0832-6933700; E-mail: ppp-cell.goa@nic.in
For technical queries regarding bid submission on eprocure.goa.gov.in or submission of online bids, contact help desk number 0120-4001002 email: support-eproc@nic.in

DI/ADVT/1465/2024

FORM NO. 3
[SEE REGULATION-15(1)(A)/16(3)

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

2ND FLOOR, SCO 33-34-35, SECTOR 17-A, CHANDIGARH
CASE NO. : OA/382/2020
SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE ACT, READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

EXH. No.: 23745

INDIAN BANK
VS
SHRI SUKHWINDER SINGH

To,
(1) SHRI SUKHWINDER SINGH
D/W/S/O-S/O SH. BALWANT SINGH, R/O VPO BOPARAI BAZ SINGH, TEHSIL AJNALA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR, PUNJAB.

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/382/2020 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on **12/08/2024.**

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 40,28,328/-** (application along with copies of document etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or others assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before **Registrar on 16/12/2024 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this tribunal on this date : 14.08.2024.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

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pnb punjab national bank

.... Together for the better

CIRCLE SASTRA: RECOVERY CENTRE KAPURTHALA, PNB HOUSE, SATNARAYAN BAZAR, NEAR NATRAJ HOTEL, KAPURTHALA Ph. 01822-509629 M: 7737230628

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Punjab National Bank** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices dated mentioned hereunder calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrower and the public in General that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the dates mentioned against the account.

The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **Punjab National Bank,** for the amount, mentioned herein below besides along with future interest, costs, charges and other expenses thereon against the account.

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

Name of Account/ Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Outstanding Amount as per demand notice
BRANCH: KAPURTHALA SULTANPUR ROAD. Mob. 77372 30628 Email: bo3492@pnb.co.in **Sh. Sukhraj Singh S/o Sh. Rawel Singh,** R/o 644, Guru Nanak Nagar, Kapurthala 144601, Punjab	Equitable Mortgage of land & building measuring land 5M situated at House No. 644, Guru Nanak Nagar, Near Asian Public school Kapurthala, Tehsil and Distt. Kapurthala , 5/843 share of total land 42k-3m, comprising in Khewat/ Khata No.108/173 Khasra no.26//25/0-9,29//5/5-6, 6/9-4,15/8-4,16/1/2-16,30//1/2-9,10/7-11,11/1/5-13,28/0-11.	23.09.2024	27.11.2024	**Rs. 503245/-** as on 13.09.2024 swith further interest thereon at contracted rate/misc expenses until payment less recovery (if any)

Dated: 02.12.2024
Place: Kapurthala

(Mr. Ravindra Singhal Mob. 7737230628)
Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank

NPCL — Noida Power Company Limited, Greater Noida

NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310
(CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)

TENDER NOTICE Date: 03.12.2024

Sealed tender under two Bid System (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following job from all interested bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	EMD (Rs)	Start and DueDate & Time of Submission
NPCL/PRJ/FY24-25/16MVA PTR/019	Augmentation of Power Transformers from 12.5MVA to 16MVA at 33/11 Substations	6.0 Lakh	From 03.12.2024 to 24.12.2024 (up to 15:00 hours)

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/-
For tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website **www.noidapower.com-->Procurement-->Tenders**

DGM (CMM)

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pnb punjab national bank

.....Together for the better

BO : SCO 27, KIPPS MARKET, SARABHA NAGAR, LUDHIANA-141001
E-mail : bo020510@pnb.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE OF POSSESSION TAKEN OVER OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

The Authorised Officer of Punjab National Bank under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act-2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules- 2002. issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the borrower to repay the amount as mentioned against the account within 60 days from the date of notice. The **Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor** having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the **Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor** and the public general that the Authorised Officer of the Bank has taken **Possession** of the property/ies described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules(2002)

The **Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor** in particular and the public general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to charge of Punjab National Bank for the amount and interest thereon

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Name of the Branch/Borrrowers /Guarantors/Mortgagors	Description of the Secured Assets	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession & Type	Amount outstanding as on the date given below
BO- Sarabha Nagar (020510) **Borrower- Sh Amarpal Singh S/o Randhir Singh, Co-Borrower- Tajinder kaur W/o Amarpal Singh, Co-Borrower- Randhir Singh S/o Bela Singh** H. No. 15 Street no. 9 Block-B Bhai Himmat Singh Nagar Near Punjab Palace Dugri 141013	Eqm of Immovable property measuring 65 szq yds comprised in Khasra No. 1527, 3440/1526, 3441/1526, Khata No.1268/1767, 1269/1768 jamabandi 2000-2001 Hadbast no. 263, Abadi Bhai Himmat Singh Nagar Tehsil and Distt Ludhiana, as per sale deed bearing wasika no. 13969 dated 20.10.2003 **Bounded as under: East:** Neighbour 45, **West:** Neighbour 45, **North:** Street 20, Wide 13, **South:** Neighbour 13	22.12.2023	26.11.2024 Symbolic Possession	**Rs. 7,88,467.00 (Seven Lac Eighty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Seven Rupees only) as on 30.11.2023** with further interest **w.e.f 30.11.2023** at agreed rate plus other expenses & charges as applicable, less recovery if any, until payment in full.

DATE : 26.11.2024 **PLACE : LUDHIANA** **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

HDFC BANK LTD

Branch office : HDFC Bank, FIRST FLOOR OF M.C .NO. B-35-922-K, SUNDAR NAGAR, NEAR MBD MALL, FEROZEPUR ROAD, LUDHIANA-141012. TEL.: 0161-5144444, CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 WEBSITE: www.hdfcbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Honble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)**, under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and / or realisation.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies)
1.	**MR. NEETU KUMAR S/O SUBHASH KUMAR (BORROWER) AND MRS. PREETI W/O MR. NEETU KUMAR (CO-BORROWER) BOTH R/O BLOCK-C, NEAR SAURABH DEPARTMENTAL STORE, SATJOT NAGAR, VILLAGE DHANDRA-1 LUDHIANA-141001**	**Rs. 8,97,032/- as on 31-May-2024***	02-Jul-2024	28-Nov-24 (SYMBOLIC)	Plot of land and construction thereon both present and future property measuring 49.77 sq. yards or 41.66 sq. mts comprised under Khassra No. 2370/331-332-337- 338/1-338/3-339 Khata No. 525/646 H.B. No. 274 as per Jamabandi for the year 2007-2008, Situated at Village Dhandra-1, Colony Satjot Nagar, Block-C, Street No. 10, Near Narula Property Dealer, Dhandra road, Tehsil and District Ludhiana-141116 in favour of Mr. Neetu Kumar S/o Mr. Subhash kumar vide a Sale deed bearing wasika no. 10854 dated 12.12.2017 Boundaries are as under East: Neighbour Adm. 32' West: Neighbour Adm. 32' North: Street 20' Wide Adm. 14' South: Neighbour Adm. 14'
2.	**SH. PAWAN PAL S/O SH. JUGAL KISHORE (BORROWER) AND SMT. USHA RANI W/O SH. PAWAN PAL (CO-BORROWER) BOTH HOUSE NO. 44, WARD NO. 11, GALI NO. 09, KHUH CHAH PARASIA, VILLAGE SATIYE WALA, BASTI TANKA WALI, FIROZPUR, PUNJAB – 152001 Also at: M/S PAWAN PAINT WORKS THROUGH ITS PROP., WARD NO. 11, GALI NO. 09, FIROZPUR, PUNJAB PIN – 152001.**	**Rs. 4,65,871/- as on 30-Nov-2023***	11-Jan-2024	28-Nov-24 (SYMBOLIC)	Plot of land measuring 2.5 marla or say 76 square yard or say 63.28 square meter with construction thereon both present and future comprised in khewat no. 496 khasra no. 12 killa 15(7-7) out of which 23/1323 share i.e. 2.5 marla as per jamabandi 2007-08, HB 114 situated in locality Khuh Chahpasiya Dakhli, Village Satiye wala Tehsil and District Ferozpur registered in the name of Sh. Pawan Pal S/o Sh. Jugal Kishor vide sale deed no. 2302 dated 27.06.2013. The boundary of the property is as follows: East: Passage West: Owner herself North: Passage South: Owner Herself
3.	**MR. PARMOD S/O DES RAJ (BORROWER) AND MRS. RAJINDER KAUR W/O PARMOD (CO-BORROWER) BOTH R/O HOUSE IN STREET NO 3, COLONY VEER NAGAR ACCHE WALA ROAD, FEROZEPUR CITY FEROZEPUR, PUNJAB-152003 Also at: C/O TCM-II, NORTHERN RAILWAY FEROZEPUR, PUNJAB –152003**	**Rs. 14,26,598/- as on 30-Apr-2024***	03-Jun-2024	28-Nov-24 (SYMBOLIC)	"Plot of land and Construction thereon both present and future property admeasuring 3 Marlas or say 84 sq. mtrs, comprised in Khasra number 138// 27 (41-17) situated at Colony Veer Nagar, Street No. 03, Iche Wala Road, Near Church, Main Road, District Ferozpur- 152003, registered in favour of Mr.Parmod Kumar S/o Mr. Des Raj vide a Sale Deed dated 07.06.2006 bearing Vasika No. 1878 The said property is bounded as under: East: Sandeep Singh West: Gali North: Sandeep Singh South: Himself"
4.	**MR. MANJIT SINGH S/O MR. TEHAL SINGH (BORROWER) AND MRS. JAGBIR KAUR W/O MR. MANJIT SINGH (C0-BORROWER) BOTH R/O HOUSE IN RAKBA DAANDPURA, TEHSIL PATTI, DISTRICT TARN-TARAN-146104.**	**Rs. 21,57,424/- as on 31-Jul-2024***	09-Sep-2024	29-Nov-24 (SYMBOLIC)	Plot of land and Construction thereon both present and future admeasuring 5 Marlas or say 126.47 sq mtrs, comprised in Khasra number: 1//24 (8-0) Khata/Khatauni no. 82/329 H.B No 134 as Per Jamabandi for the year 2014- 15 Situated At Rakba Saandpura, Tehsil- Patti, Tarn-Taran- 146104. Registered in favour of Mrs. Jagbir Kaur W/o Mr. Manjit Singh vide Sale Deed dated 29.05.2020 bearing Vasika No. 2020-21/171/1/49 The said property is bounded as under: East: House of Mr. Balwinder Singh West: House of Mr. Balor Singh North: Gali South: Property of Mrs. Jagbir Kaur
5.	**MR. RAHUL DHAMAN S/O MR. RAJ KUMAR (BORROWER) AND MRS. MONIKA W/O MR. RAHUL DHAMAN (CO-BORROWER) BOTH R/O PLOT 119, VILLAGE CHAK JINDA, COLONY TOOR, ENCLAVE PHASE 1, JALANDHAR- 144005. Also at: C/O ACADEMY FOR AMERICAN ENGLISH, 2ND FLOOR SILVER PLAZA MARKET, SODAL ROAD, OPP. SANJOG PALACE, JALANDHAR.144004 Also at: C/O ACADEMY FOR AMERICAN ENGLISH FF, KMV COLLEGE ROAD, JALANDHAR CITY-144001.**	**Rs. 20,88,429/- as on 31-Jul-2024***	30-Aug-2024	29-Nov-24 (SYMBOLIC)	Plot of land and Construction thereon both present and future bearing Plot No. 119 admeasuring 3 Marlas 104 sq. fts or say approx.. 85 sq. mtrs, comprised in Khasra No. 5//4, 6, 7, 8, 14/1, 15, 3//18, 22/2, 23, 24/1 Khata No. 16/18, 20/24 H.B. No. 159 as Per Jamabandi for the year 2016-17 Situated at Toor Enclave, Phase -1, Village Chak Jinda, District Jalandhar-144005, Registered in favour of Mrs. Monika W/o Mr. Rahul Dhaman vide a Sale Deed dated 27.04.2022 bearing Vasika No. 2022-23/187/1/916. The said property is bounded as under: East: Plot no. 112 West: Road North: Plot no. 118 South: Plot no. 120
6.	**MR. SANJEEV KUMAR S/O MR. SHAM SUNDER SHARMA (BORROWER) AND MRS. SANTOSH SHARMA W/O MR. SHAM SUNDER SHARMA (CO-BORROWER) BOTH R/O HOUSE 370/2, COLONY ARYA NAGAR, WARD NO- 29, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR- 146001 Also at: C/O KAPURTHALA CENTRAL CO-OP.BANK, Model Town, PHAGWARA, DISTT.KAPURTHALA 144601**	**Rs. 13,89,111/- as on 31-May-2024***	02-Jul-2024	29-Nov-24 (SYMBOLIC)	Plot of land and Construction thereon both present and future admeasuring 3 Marlas or 93 Sq. Yds. or say 66 sq mtrs, bearing House No. 370/2 Situated At Colony Arya Nagar, Ward no. 29, District Hoshiarpur-146001. Registered in favour of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Late Sham Sunder vide Sale Deed dated 27.08.1997 bearing Vasika No. 2838 The said property is bounded as under: East: Gali West: House of Shankar Dass Bhalla North: House of Ram Piari South: Gali

*with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and /or realisation.

However, since the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer/s of HDFC have taken symbolic possession of the immovable property (ies) / secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/them under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above.

The borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) and any dealings with the said Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of HDFC.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is/are invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Copies of the Pnachanma drawn and Inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is / are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

For HDFC Bank Limited
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

Place : Ludhiana
Date : 03-Dec-2024

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

ਬਾ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਡਾ. ਪੂਨਮ ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ, ਪੀ.ਸੀ.ਐਸ., ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਦਰਜਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਕਮ ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੇਂਡੂ।
ਕਿਸਮ ਕੇਸ ਖਾਨਗੀ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਇੰਤਕਾਲ ਨੰਬਰ 12680
ਕੇਸ ਅਨੁਵਾਨ ਵਰਾਸਤ ਮੁਤਵਫੀ ਰਾਮ ਰਤਨ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੁਲਖਰਾਜ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਧਨਪਤ ਰਾਏ ਪਿੰਡ ਹੈਬੋਵਾਲ ਖੁਰਦ
ਤਾਰੀਖ ਪੇਸ਼ੀ 09.12.2024

ਵਰਾਸਤ ਮੁਤਵਫੀ ਰਾਮ ਰਤਨ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੁਲਖਰਾਜ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਧਨਪਤ ਰਾਏ

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕੇਸ ਖਾਨਗੀ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਇੰਤਕਾਲ ਨੰਬਰ 12680, ਪਿੰਡ ਹੈਬੋਵਾਲ ਖੁਰਦ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਪੇਂਡੂ) ਜਿਲਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵਰਾਸਤ ਮੁਤਵਫੀ ਰਾਮ ਰਤਨ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੁਲਖਰਾਜ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਧਨਪਤ ਰਾਏ ਬਾਹੱਕ ਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੰਗਤ ਰਾਏ ਦਰਜ ਹੋਣ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਪਟਵਾਰੀ ਹਲਕਾ ਵੱਲੋ ਫੈਸਲੇ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਗਿਆ। ਉਕਤ ਇੰਤਕਾਲ ਮੁਤਵਫੀ ਰਾਮ ਰਤਨ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੁਲਖਰਾਜ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਧਨਪਤ ਰਾਏ ਬਰੂਏ ਖਾਨਗੀ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਮਿਤੀ 24.01.1990 ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਦਰਜ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮੁਤਵਫੀ ਰਾਮ ਰਤਨ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੁਲਖਰਾਜ ਸੋਧੀ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਧਨਪਤ ਰਾਏ ਦੇ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਇੰਤਕਾਲ ਦੇ ਮੰਨਜੂਰ ਹੋਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਨਿਯਤ ਮਿਤੀ 09.12.2024 ਨੂੰ ਅਸਾਲਤਨ / ਵਕਾਲਤਨ/ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰਨ ਇਸ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਾਜਰ ਆਉਣ। ਜੇਕਰ ਨਿਯਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੱਕ ਉਕਤ ਇੰਤਕਾਲ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਨਹੀ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਤਾਂ ਕੇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਕਤਰਫਾ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਅਮਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਆਉਂਦੇ ਹੋਏ, ਫੈਸਲਾ ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 2/12/2024 ਨੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ ਹਸਤਾਖਰ ਅਤੇ ਮੋਹਰ ਹੇਠ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ।

ਨੰਬਰ 2780 ਮਿਤੀ 2/12/2024

ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਦਰਜਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ
-ਕਮ-ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ
ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੇਂਡੂ।

Capital Small Finance Bank Ltd.

HO:- MIDAS Corporate Park, 3rd Floor, 37, G.T. Road, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab, India

PROPERTY SALE NOTICE

The Undersigned as Authorized Officer of **CAPITAL SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED** has taken over possession of the following property u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act.

Public at large is informed that sale in the below mentioned case for recovery of amount outstanding against NPA accounts plus future interest and other charges shall be held on **07-01-2025** by the Bank.

Name of the account	**M/s Suyash Trading Co.,** 273 Transport Nagar, Jalandhar through its Partners:- **A. Mr. Divayam Wadhawan** S/o Mr. Navjeet Rai Wadhawan R/o H. No. 72/3, Near Gurudwara Sahib, Preet Nagar, Ladowali Road, Jalandhar. **B. Mrs. Anuradha Wadhawan** D/o Mr. Rajwant Rai Wadhawan R/o H. No. 72/3, Near Gurudw

Punjab 7th in milk production, UP leads the country: Reply in Rajya Sabha

Ludhiana: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has conducted a study on demand of milk and its products in the country under National Dairy Plan Phase I (NDP-I) scheme. As per the study, the demand projections of milk and milk products for the year 2030 at all-India level is 266.5 million metric tonnes against a current production of 231 million tonnes.

This has been stated by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh in a reply to the question on milk production in the country asked by MP (Rajya Sabha) from Ludhiana Sanjeev Arora in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament.

As per the data made available by the minister, the total volume of milk production in the country during FY 2022-23 was approximately 231 million tonnes. Of this, Punjab's contribution was 14 million tonnes, which is 6% of total country's production, ranking 7th in the country. Uttar Pradesh leads the nation with a milk production of 36 million tonnes amounting to 16%, followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and then Punjab.

In a statement here on Monday, Arora said the minister mentioned in his reply that according to the study, it is estimated that the consumption of milk products in the rural sector is going to witness a massive jump by 2030 and the consumption will be higher than urban areas.

As per the study, the total consumption at the all-India level in 2019 (including household and non-residential consumption) was 162.4 million metric tonnes for milk and milk products. During 2019, urban areas had a larger share in consumption of milk than that of rural areas while the milk products consumption was larger in rural areas in comparison to urban areas.

The minister's reply mentioned that Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is implementing dairy development schemes that provides for financial assistance for quality and accessibility. **ENS**

SET TO RETIRE ON APRIL 30, 2025

With 57th transfer, Khemka back in Vij's department — as transport secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

THE HARYANA government has posted Ashok Khemka as the additional chief secretary (transport), marking the senior IAS officer's 57th transfer in his over 33-year of service. Khemka will be retiring in five months, on April 30 next year.

Khemka had served as transport commissioner and secretary in the first term of the BJP government which was led by Manohar Lal Khattar. Last week, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini-led government made some key appointments to his office and effected a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the order for which was issued on Sunday. The reshuffle had been on the cards since the Saini dispensation was sworn in on October 17.

Khemka's transfer and posting orders came along with that of 43 other IAS officers. For Khemka, was looking after the printing and stationery department as additional chief secretary till now, it is the first significant posting after nearly six years. During the past 10 years, he mostly remained sidelined except for a brief period of one and half years, when he looked after transport department for four months, social justice for less than two months, and sports under the then sports minister Anil Vij for nearly a year.

In January 2023, Khemka was transferred to the archives department for the fourth time. In April 2023, he was given additional charge of the printing and stationery department. However, the charge of the archives department was withdrawn from him in January this year.

Now, Khemka has been assigned the transport department, a portfolio currently being looked after by Anil Vij, the BJP leader and minister who in 2020 had described the IAS officer as a "rare breed" and a "gem" that he has "rarely seen" in his 40-year-long political career.

Khemka relieves 1994-batch IPS officer Navdeep Virk of the charge of transport secretary.

Ashok Khemka

According to a government order dated December 1, 1990-batch officer Sumita Misra, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Medical Education and Research Department, has been posted as ACS, Home, Jails, Criminal Investigation and Administration of Justice Departments, relieving Anurag Rastogi of the charge.

Rastogi will continue to hold the charge of ACS, Finance and Planning departments. He will hold additional charge of Financial Commissioner of Revenue and Disaster Management and Consolidation Department.

Among others, Anand Mohan Sharan has been posted as additional chief secretary (forests), Vineet Garg has been posted as ACS, Higher Education Department and Chairman of Haryana State Pollution Control Board. A K Singh will look after the town and country planning as its additional chief secretary and D Suresh will be the principal secretary (industries and commerce). Principal Secretary (Fisheries) Rajeev Ranjan will now also look after the labour department.

Amit Kumar Agrawal will take charge of the panchayats and public relations department, Ashima Brar will look after the excise and taxation department, and C G Rajini Kaanthan will be the new transport commissioner of Haryana.

P C Meena has been posted as the commissioner of the Ambala division and A Sreenivas as the commissioner of Hisar range. Rohtak division commissioner Sanjeev Verma was posted as the director general of the sports department and Hisar division commissioner Geeta Bharti is now the secretary, home-I and home-II in the state home department.

Anshaj Singh will be the new commissioner of the Rohtak division, Pankaj will be the director of the urban local bodies department, and Rajesh Jogpal will be the director of food, civil supplies, and consumer affairs department.

A 2021-batch IAS officer Nisha will be the new deputy commissioner (DC) of Panchkula.

Sudhir Rajpal has been given charge of medical education and research, and Ayush departments,

Shyamal Mishra will be the new CEO of Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority as well as Principal Secretary of Civil Aviation Department.

Vijay Singh Dahiya has been posted as Commissioner and Secretary of Printing and Stationery and Animal Husbandry departments, Amit Kumar Agrawal will also be the Commissioner and Secretary of departments of Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture, and Foreign Cooperation.

Yashendra Singh has been posted as Director and Special Secretary of Medical Education and Research Department.

Among other IAS officers, G Rajini Kaanthan will be the new Transport Commissioner while Yash Garg will be Commissioner of Food and Drugs Administration.

From Dec 1, Haryana implements new collector rates for property registration

Officials say increase only up to 20 %, won't affect property rates; realtors say will demoralise buyers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

THE HARYANA government has increased the collector rates meant for the registration of properties in urban and rural areas with effect from December 1. The new rates would be effective till March 31, 2025.

A senior revenue department official told The Indian Express on Monday:" The new rates have come into effect from December 1 itself. However, December 1 being a holiday (Sunday) and execution of the related technical works on Monday, the registration work now will be done as per the revised rates with effect from Tuesday."

Another official said that the hike in collector rates would be in the range of 10 per cent to 20 per cent in most of the towns and cities, including Panchkula and Ambala. The official also said that this hike would be applicable for registration of all types of properties including residential and commercial in towns and cities and agriculture sector in rural areas.

In an official communication to all the deputy commissioners, the state government has asked them to implement the collector rates for the purpose of registration of instruments of transfer of property without any delay.

Stating that the Haryana government earned a revenue of Rs 12,300 crore for the 2023-24 financial, an official said they are expecting to make Rs 15,000 crore in 2024-25 fiscal. According to the official, the collector rates are revised every year keeping in view the existing market rates. He also claimed that the collector rates are much lower than the actual prices of the property especially in the urban areas. "Last time, the collector rates were increased in April 2023. This year too, the rates were to be revised in April but the same could not be done first due to the parliamentary polls and later due the Assembly polls," said the official.

The official claimed that there would be no impact on the prices of properties following the hike in the collector rates. However, former president of Panchkula Property Dealers Association Jagdeep Attri said that the move would lead to a crash in the property rates. Attri said: "The increased collector rates would discourage the buyers. This would also lead to a spike in the real estate market".

The property dealers also said that with sudden increase in the collector rates, that too in the mid of the financial year, it would be difficult for them to make the adjustments in the ongoing transactions.

Rajya Sabha MP and senior Congress leader Kumari Selja has urged the government to reconsider the hike in the collector rates while considering the demands of the property dealers associations. She said that the Haryana government has planned to increase collector rates significantly in NCR districts such as Rohtak, Gurugram, Faridabad, Palwal, Bahadurgarh, Sonipat, Karnal, and Panipat, with an expected hike of up to 30 per cent. In other districts, Selja said, the increase may range from 6 per cent to 15 per cent.

Selja said: "The BJP government did not increase the collector rates earlier, before the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, fearing public backlash, but raised it now prematurely, betraying public trust."

GURGAON WOMAN ASKED TO TRANSFER Rs 55,000 ONLINE

BluSmart driver held for robbing woman at gunpoint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, DECEMBER 2

A CAB driver who works with ride-hailing company BluSmart was arrested for allegedly robbing a customer of Rs 55,000 while holding her at gunpoint in Gurgaon, police said Monday.

According to police, a woman who works as a freelancer in the medical tourism industry filed a police complaint stating she had booked a BluSmart cab from Airia Mall in Sector 68 to Microtek Greenburg residential society in Sector 86 on November 30.

"While traveling in the cab, upon reaching Sector 83, the cab driver sprang up on her, threatening her with a gun, and forced her to transfer Rs 55,000 online. Once the payment was complete, the driver fled with her suitcase after forcing her to get out of the cab. A case was registered under relevant sections at Kherki Daula police station," said Gurgaon police spokesperson Sandeep. An FIR was registered under BNS section 309(4) for robbery, and 25 of the Arms Act.

The accused, Sonu Singh, was arrested Sunday after the woman shared the registration number of the car with the police. Singh hails from Kohta in Uttar Pradesh and currently resides in Gurgaon's Badha.

He was produced before a court and taken on a one-day police remand for further questioning and recovery.

"During the remand, the police will thoroughly question the accused and ensure the recovery of the stolen items. We will also investigate how he came to possess the gun and if he has any criminal antecedents," Sandeep said.

BluSmart, on its part, said several steps related to verification, including background checks and court record criminal checks, are followed while onboarding driver partners.

As per the company website, five documents — "driving licence, Aadhaar card, current and permanent address proof, one reference (address and phone number), and bank details (passbook or cancelled cheque)" — are required to become a BluSmart driver.

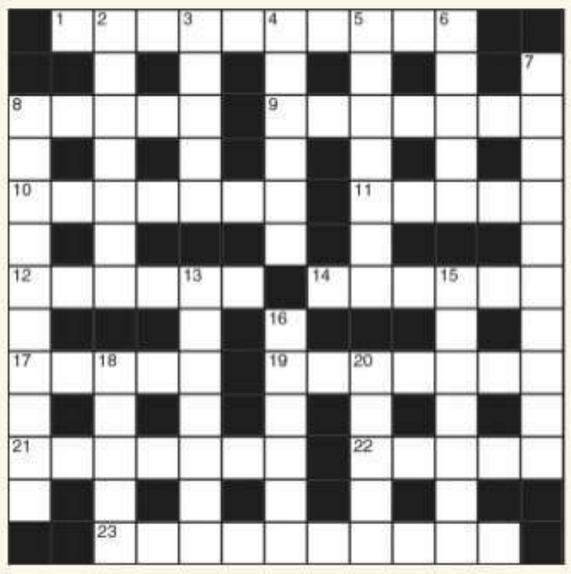
"Mandatory background checks and court record criminal checks; physical address verification of both current address and permanent address as per documents; mandatory face-to-face interview and aptitude test; driving test with scorecard on highway as well as on side-roads; daily randomised alcohol checks at the hubs; verification of identity while handing over the vehicle every day; frisking on randomised basis; digital facial verification while on duty via the app (are conducted)," it said in an official statement.

The company also said they assisted law enforcement authorities with information and during the search that enabled the arrest of the accused within 24 hours.

"This was possible due to the company's practice of keeping active records of all driver partners, their background checks, address and other details. The safety and security of our customers is our utmost priority, and we are in touch with the family and the law enforcement authorities to provide all possible assistance. As a responsible company, we will continue to support the law enforcement authorities in their investigation into the incident," BluSmart stated.

Meanwhile, the victim's husband said she has been deeply affected by the incident and was seeking medical help. "She did not get time to sound an alarm as the driver suddenly pointed the gun," he said.

CROSSWORD 5537



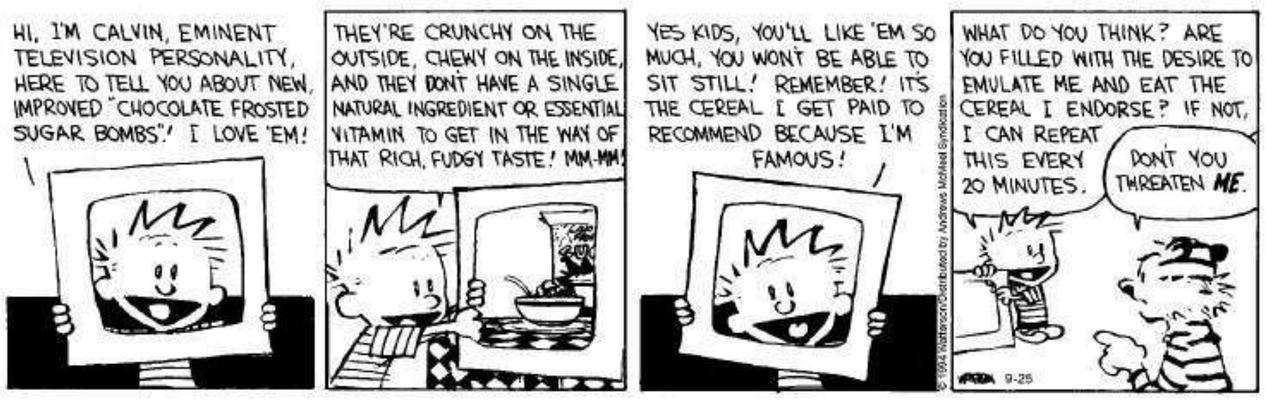
ACROSS
1 He sticks up for his employer (10)
8 The price of a suit (5)
9 Chap unfit to work on a tough paper (7)
10 It's not a positive answer (7)
11 Fall into part of the main current (5)
12 One who deserves what he gets (6)
14 Condemns strikes (6)
17 Beastly Holst composition (5)
19 Top clue put out eight times (7)
21 Position right for military leader (7)
22 Goes out of play (5)
23 Contests in which no one goes the distance (5,5)

DOWN
2 To an extent it's of Iran's making (2,2,3)
3 Turns the tables (5)
4 Refurbished room in mid-blue or gilt decoration (6)
5 One isn't put out by it but it's a strain (7)
6 Priest in church demonstrates holy memento (5)
7 Advocates acting on brief instructions (10)
8 It does business in more than one way (6,4)
13 Latch that is about right (7)
15 Accountant has added a charge on a whim (7)
16 Many include an alternative to being ill (6)
18 Tender proposal (5)
20 A letter is all the thanks you get (5)

Solutions Crossword 5536 Across: 1 Nudity, 4 Former, 9 Clamour, 10 Costs, 11 Twang, 12 Corsage, 13 Flat refusal, 18 Pass out, 20 Eider, 22 Opine, 23 Assures, 24 Eights, 25 Plates **Down:** 1 Nicety, 2 Drama, 3 Thought, 5 Oscar, 6 Mascara, 7 Rested, 8 Cricket team, 14 Lasting, 15 Utensil, 16 Oppose, 17 Crisis, 19 Overt, 21 Durst

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You won't be the only person to be affected by pride today, but you may have the most cause. Yet rather than being smug or complacent, focus on your own real achievements and do what you can to help others. You'll be rewarded for your generosity.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Unexpected developments are about to enter the domestic and private pattern of your life. There is every indication that these will represent a considerable improvement over current conditions. That has to be good news, especially in view of everything that you've been through recently.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Any discussions with family members, or news about emotional ties, are bound to be pleasant. At the best you will experience a sense of hope and personal liberation. If you wish, you may abandon the lack of confidence which has so often held you back.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
All your instincts and hunches may tell you that this is the time to splash out, and they could well be right! If you feel a generous impulse coming on, you may give it free rein and count the cost tomorrow. But if partners disagree, you'd better get them on your side first.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You're still in control, even if the flag of emotional revolt does happen to be raised very soon. If you are faced with anger at home, don't confront it. Gently deflect bad feeling in the manner of an oriental sage, and so disarm your opponent with goodwill.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Sometimes you're willing to face big personal challenges head on. A bone of contention may relate to a home or family matter, but if I were you, I'd leave well alone today. If you do want to get your own way, and which of us doesn't, hold your horses.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You are now in an ideal position to take the initiative socially. Even at work you will be able to galvanise other people, although it looks as if you should leave them to figure out the details. I should think it will be good for them to take a little responsibility.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You're reaching a minor turning point in your material affairs. At this stage, you must either complete a financial deal or think about writing off a small sum of money for good. The fact is that pursuing such issues may not be worth your valuable time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
The world is about to see you at your best, and I mean the whole world. If you have any aspirations at all to set off on a tour of distant parts, there is no time like the present. At the very least you should get in touch with relations in far away places.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You often experience emotional insecurities and conflicts. The last thing you should do is to revive old battles, especially over pointless issues like who pays for, or owns, what. A generous gesture would be far better.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
If you are to achieve the kind of acceptance you have always craved, you must make a bid now. The close relationship between the Moon, Jupiter and a series of other planets indicates that, if you give them the chance, other people will at last be ready to listen and help.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You seem to be in danger of overplaying your hand at work. Although you're in a fortunate position, you should now reinforce your current gains and allow other people a chance to shine. In love, do be sure to let others know how you're feeling.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The _____ know what to leave out. - Charles de Lint (4,7)

FERAL

EILTTT

BILSS

HIOYBS

Solution: WORDS: FLARE, BLISS, TITTLE, BOYISH
Answer: The **best artists** know what to leave out. - Charles de Lint

SUDOKU 5793

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

5	2	6		3				
	4				5			
				2			3	1
	9	2	4				1	
4								7
	6				9	2	8	
3	7			4				
			5				7	
				6		3	9	8

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5792

7	6	8	4	3	1	5	9	2
9	5	4	8	2	7	6	1	3
2	3	1	5	6	9	7	4	8
3	4	7	6	1	5	8	2	9
1	9	5	2	7	8	3	6	4
8	2	6	3	9	4	1	7	5
5	7	2	9	8	6	4	3	1
6	8	9	1	4	3	2	5	7
4	1	3	7	5	2	9	8	6

SC to farmers: You can engage in peaceful protests, but don't inconvenience public

Khanauri border is a lifeline for Punjab: top court

Farmers from Gautam Buddh Nagar in Noida march to Delhi Monday. *Abhinav Saha*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE SUPREME Court Monday asked agitating farmers who were marching towards Delhi not to cause inconvenience to the public. "In a democratic setup, you can engage in peaceful protests but do not cause inconvenience to people", Justice Surya Kant, presiding over a two-judge bench, remarked.

The bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, was hearing a habeas corpus petition filed on behalf of farmer leader and chief of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) Jagjit Singh Dallewal.

The plea alleged that Dallewal was "unlawfully detained" from the Khanauri border point on November 26, shortly before he was to commence a fast unto death demanding that the government accept the demands of farmers. The plea claimed that Dallewal was "incommunicado and untraceable" for four days since then. It added that "the State, Union and its authorities are setting a tyrannical precedent by unlawfully detaining Mr Jagjit Singh Dallewal which is against the spirit of constitutional morality and the basic structure of the Constitution of India."

On Monday, the court was told that he was "no more in alleged illegal custody".

Taking note, the bench remarked: "We have seen that he has been released and he even persuaded a fellow protester to end his fast-unto-death protest on Saturday."

Disposing of the petition, the SC bench once again underlined the need for maintaining public order. Underlining that "the Khanauri border is a lifeline for Punjab", the court clarified that "we are not commenting on whether the protest is right or wrong".

Justice Kant remarked that Dallewal could persuade fellow protesters to keep their agitation within the bounds of the law without disrupting the daily lives of citizens.

The court also pointed out that the farmers' grievances were already before the court in another matter dealing with the opening of the Singhu border. Though it said it is not entertaining the plea now, the court left it open for Dallewal to approach it in the future if needed.

Traffic on the Delhi-Noida road, Monday. *Abhinav Saha*

Farmers' march to Delhi halted in Noida, traffic thrown out of gear

NEETIKA JHA
NOIDA, DECEMBER 2

NEARLY 5,000 farmers from different parts of Uttar Pradesh kicked off their 'Dilli Chalo' march to Parliament Monday, demanding adequate compensation for land acquired by the government since 1997, but were stopped at the Noida-Delhi border.

The protest threw traffic out of gear, causing inconvenience to commuters crossing the Delhi-Noida borders as police set up multiple layers of barricades and deployed heavy security. Traffic jam was witnessed at Noida's Chilla border for several hours as protesters crossed the initial barricades. They were finally stopped near Dalit Prerna Sthal, a kilometre from the Chilla border — an entry point to Delhi.

The agitation, which began on November 25 with over 3,000 protesters from Gautam Buddh Nagar, Agra, Meerut and Bulandshahr, entered its eighth day on Monday.

Around 11.30 am, farmers, waving flags and banners, gathered at the Mahamaya Flyover on the Dadri-Noida Link Road. They demanded the allocation of 10% developed plots for farmers displaced by land acquisition, increased compensation under the old acquisition law, implementation of new legal benefits, and adoption of recommendations by a state committee for farmer welfare.

"We've been protesting for a long time now but the authority has done nothing except exploit poor farmers. Now, they are talking of New Noida, they will again usurp our land forcefully," said Bharatiya Kisan Union (Akhand) President Chaudhary Mahesh Kasana. The protest was led by the Bhartiya Kisan Parishad, Bhartiya Kisan Union, Samyukta Kisan Morcha and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha.

Around 1.30 pm, protesters could be seen breaking through initial police barricades as security personnel looked on; some climbed over tractors and fire-fighting vehicles parked at the spot.

It was finally halted at Dalit Prerna Sthal Gate No. 2 on the Noida Link Road, nearly a kilometre away from the Chilla border where police forces were also deployed in huge numbers.

Officials of Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna authorities told farmers they would convene a meeting between the farmers and the Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh government. "We have given them a week's time to arrange the meeting," said Atul Yadav Roja, Bhartiya Kisan Union youth president. He said they also halted the protest as traffic congestion was creating problems for regular commuters.

Around 4.30 pm, Noida Police said normalcy was restored after farmers left the site. "We were continuously in talks with farmers and officials of the three authorities. Once the officials gave them their assurance, farmers left and traffic returned to normal," said Joint CP (Law and Order) Shivhari Meena.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida, Manish Kumar Mishra, who was present at the site, said they made arrangements keeping in mind the safety of commuters and protesters. "We charted out a route diversion plan to keep traffic in check," he said.

ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS LIKELY TODAY

Haryana toughens stance on march with tractor-trolley, may allow farmers on foot

RAAKHI JAGGA, VARINDER BHATIA
LUDHIANA, CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

THE HARYANA government continued to hold a tough stance on the Punjab farmers, who have announced a march to Delhi, making it clear Monday that it will not let them pass through the state in their tractor trolleys. It may, however, let the farmers through if they agree to move on foot.

Several Haryana ministers, including Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana, and Energy Minister Anil Vij, gave clear hints that the sate government was in no mood to allow farmers to cross through the State.

For over 10 months, farmers, under the aegis of Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) are protesting on two borders of Punjab and Haryana - Shambhu and Khanauri. Heavy barricading continues to be in place at both the places barring farmers to enter Haryana from both the borders. Farmers continue to camp on the Punjab side. These are the same two places, from where the farmers are seeking entry into Haryana to reach Delhi on December 6.

The Haryana Police Monday called farmer union leaders for talks at Ambala. The farmers' delegation was led by KMM coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher. Speaking to reporters after meeting Superintendent of Police (Ambala) SS Bhoria, Pandher said the delegation informed the police administration about the route of the farmers' march. He said the delegation assured the police that the march would be peaceful and traffic along the route would not be blocked.

"The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. We gave details about our programme, which we have already announced to the media. We said that we would go in 'jathas' and go peacefully. There will be no traffic blockade. We will halt on the roads at night," Pandher said.

The farmers assured the Haryana Police that they will not hold any protests or cause any traffic hurdle on the highways. "We told them that morcha at Shambu will stay put till the time we get either Ramlila ground or Jantar mantar at New Delhi to protest," he added.

Asked if the Haryana authorities had given permission for the march to proceed towards Delhi, the farmer leader said, "They will hold a meeting and accordingly inform us."

CM Saini, meanwhile, said, "Farmers should protest in Punjab where Aam Aadmi Party is governing or other states that are governed by the Congress. Haryana is the only state that is giving MSP on 24 crops to our farmers".

Minister Vij said farmers should first show if they have indeed secured permission from Delhi government.

Shyam Singh Rana added, "The law and order situation can not be allowed to be disrupted".

Former Haryana chief minister and senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda extended support to farmers' march and termed it as "their democratic right". He, however, added that "nobody should breach the law and order. Action should be taken against anybody who disrupts law and order. But, if farmers are going to make their point peacefully, it is their democratic right".

The Congress leader added, "Earlier, a committee was constituted. No report of the committee has come so far. Farmers are demanding that legal guarantee on MSP should be given, which is not being accepted."

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar too advocated for dialogue with farmers. He said that farmers in Punjab feel deceived after facing exploitation due to the slow lifting of paddy and reduced prices in mandis.

Pandher had earlier said on December 1 that a group of farmers would march towards Delhi on Thursday, even as he lashed out at the Centre for not holding talks with the protesting farmers for resolving their issues, including a legal guarantee on MSP for crops.

Besides a legal guarantee on MSP, the farmers are demanding farm loan waiver, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in the electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases, "justice" for victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

Sharing details about their plan to march towards the national capital from Shambhu, Pandher had said on December 1 that the first "jatha (group)" would be led by Satnam Singh Pannu, Surinder Singh Chautala, Surjit Singh Phul and Baljinder Singh.

The group will carry essential items and peacefully head towards Delhi, he had said.

The farmers will walk from 9 am to 5 pm and spend the nights on the road.

Man held from Punjab for 2022 murder of Zomato delivery agent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

A 27-YEAR-OLD man was arrested from Punjab for allegedly murdering a Zomato delivery partner in June 2022, Delhi Police said Monday. The accused, Surjeet Singh, used to dress as a Nihang and live in deras across Punjab to evade the police, they added.

The victim, Sagar Singh, was stabbed to death in Tilak Nagar two years ago following an altercation after the two accused objected to his smoking.

While the second accused, Harshdeep, was arrested two days later, Surjeet absconded to Punjab and remained in hiding before being tracked down and arrested in Batala.

"The team visited several potential hideouts in Delhi and Punjab, deploying numerous sources in the areas surrounding these locations. They also utilised technical surveillance, analysing Call Detail Records (CDR) and Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) data from suspected numbers. Eventually, Surjeet Singh was traced to the Amritsar region of Punjab," said DCP Crime Branch Satish Kumar. He was declared a Proclaimed Offender by a Delhi court and was apprehended after a week-long operation in Punjab, he added.

"Information from sources confirmed that Surjeet had changed his appearance and was hiding in Batala. The team travelled to Punjab and, after seven days of searching, he was arrested from a village area near Batala Bypass in Gurdaspur district," the DCP added.

During questioning, Surjeet allegedly admitted that he and Harshdeep had objected to Sagar Singh smoking, which led to a scuffle that resulted in the fatal stabbing. Sagar, who was stabbed in the chest, was rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay, where he was declared brought dead.

Surjeet has been booked under IPC 302 (murder) and 34 (common intent).

BUDDHIST TOURISM CIRCUIT TO BE DEVELOPED IN TRIBAL AREAS OF HIMACHAL: SUKHU

Shimla: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday announced that the state government is planning to develop a Buddhist Tourism Circuit and heliports in tribal areas to promote tourism. Presiding over the 49th meeting of the Himachal Pradesh Tribal Advisory Council, here, he said that the initiative would boost local employment and self-employment opportunities for the residents of tribal areas, according to statement issued here. **ENS**

What is the Act that Sukhu govt wants to amend to facilitate transfer of Radha Soami Satsang's hospital

SAURABH PARASHAR
SHIMLA, DECEMBER 2

CHIEF MINISTER Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has decided to amend the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act 1972 to address a request from Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB), an influential religious and spiritual organisation, to transfer the Bhota Charitable Hospital to its sister organisation, the Maharaja Jagat Singh Medical Relief Society (MJSMRS), in Hamirpur district.

Sukhu instructed the law and revenue departments on Sunday to draft the amended Act, which will be presented for approval in the Assembly on the first day of its winter session beginning on December 18 in Dharamshala.

What is the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act?

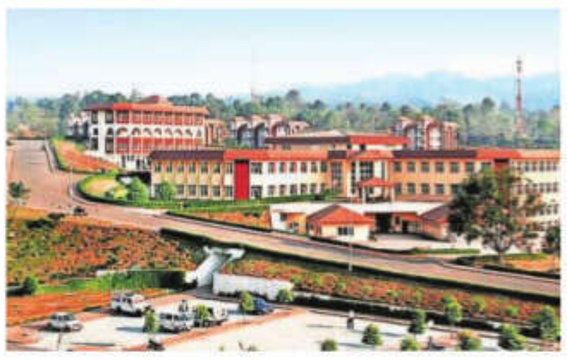
The Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act 1972 was enacted during the tenure of Himachal Pradesh's first chief minister, Y S Parmar, to protect the interests of the residents after the state's formation on January 25, 1971. The Act aims to prevent land from being taken away from local residents and regulates the maximum amount of land that can be owned by an individual, family, or entity. Upon implementation, many individuals, including royal families from erstwhile princely estates, had to donate surplus land to comply with the Act's provisions. Since 1972, the Act has been amended multiple times to meet the demands of local residents, industry expansion, horticulture, and government bodies. In 2023, the Act was amended to grant equal property rights to daughters, allowing them to inherit an additional 150 bighas of land beyond inherited property. The Act comprises 28 sections.

Why is Hamirpur's Bhota Charitable Hospital being sought to be transferred?

Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB) is a religious organisation based on spiritual values. Established in 1891, its headquarters are at Beas in Punjab's Amritsar district, and it operates in 90 countries. The Bhota Charitable Hospital in Hamirpur, a 75-bed facility spread over 44 acres, is the only medical facility directly managed by RSSB. All other medical facilities associated with RSSB, including hospitals and dispensaries, are managed by its sister organisation, the MJSMRS, a registered society also headquartered in Beas.

According to Advocate-General Anup Kumar Rattan, who recently met RSSB and MJSMRS representatives, RSSB expressed its inability to manage the hospital, citing its nature as a religious and spiritual organisation. They stated that the MJSMRS, which exclusively handles RSSB's medical facilities, is better suited to manage the hospital. However, legal restrictions under the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act 1972 currently prevent the transfer. Reports suggest that RSSB may also want to avoid GST on medical equipment purchases by transferring the hospital to the MJSMRS, but the advocate-general declined to confirm this.

BHOTA CHARITABLE HOSPITAL REOPENS



- The Bhota Charitable Hospital, run by Radha Soami Satsang Beas in Hamirpur, Momnday resumed its services.
- The notices put up at its main gate pertaining to the hospital closure were removed following which several patients utilised the OPD services.
- Patients who had earlier been assigned Monday's date for surgery, were given fresh dates.
- The hospital has recalled staff members who were previously reassigned to other institutions.

What is relevance of section 5(i) of HP Ceiling on Land Holdings Act?

Section 5 of the Act pertains to exemptions and lists entities excluded from its provisions, including government bodies, cooperative societies, banks, tea estates, local authorities, industrial undertakings, and hydropower projects (clauses a-h). Religious and spiritual bodies like RSSB are covered under clause (i), which states, "Lands belonging to religious or spiritual bodies or organizations propagating moral or secular teachings, including eradication of casteism, alcoholism, and drug addiction, shall be exempt, provided such lands and structures are used solely for their intended purposes and are not transferred by sale, lease, gift, will, or any other means. Any contravention will result in the land and structures vesting in the State Government, free of encumbrances." The Act was amended in 2000, 2003, 2012, and 2017 to accommodate demands from various religious and spiritual organisations. Advocate-General Anup Kumar Rattan said the amendment would be made in section 5 (i) of the Act.

Will the amendment pass? Will Sukhu government face opposition?

The draft amendment will be presented in the Assembly's four-day winter session starting on December 18 in Dharamshala. Insiders believe it will pass without opposition for two reasons. First: The Congress holds a majority with 40 MLAs in the 68-member House. Second: the main Opposition BJP has supported RSSB's demand to transfer the hospital to the MJSMRS. A Congress MLA, speaking anonymously, said, "When the Opposition does not oppose a move, it usually abstains from the proceedings."

RSSB has a significant following in Himachal Pradesh, further discouraging political opposition. It has lakhs of followers particularly in the lower belt of the state, which includes the areas of Kangra, Hamirpur, Mandi, Una and Bilaspur, except for a few areas of upper Himachal Pradesh. In November 2022, just ahead of the Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the RSSB headquarters and met its head, Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon, in Amritsar. Once the amendment passes in the House, it will be sent to the governor for his assent.

How is it linked to section 118 of Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act?

Section 118 of the HP Tenancy and Land Reforms Act 1972 restricts land transfers to non-agriculturists in the state. Though the amendment to the HP Ceiling on Land Holdings Act will address some issues, RSSB must still seek government permission under section 118 to transfer the hospital to the MJSMRS. A law department officer said, "Earlier RSSB made a representation to allow it to transfer the hospital to the MJSMRS. The examination of representation was found contrary to the various provisions of Tenancy Act and the Ceiling Act. The RSSB has put forth an argument that such transfer shall avoid the GST liability. This argument was not accepted."

SC seeks EC response on plea against increase of voters per booth to 1,500

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE SUPREME Court on Monday sought the response of the Election Commission on a PIL questioning the poll body's decision to raise the number of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 in all polling booths.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar asked the poll body to file a short affidavit in three weeks. The direction came after senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the EC, said the number was increased in 2019 and since then, the process has been smooth.

"Your Lordships have not been told this.. 1,500 is being carried out from 2019. And there's no problem with franchise. People have not complained anywhere…" Singh said, adding that political parties are consulted before every step.

"You file a short affidavit. Explain that position because we are concerned that no voter should be troubled," said CJI Khanna. Singh said, "Absolutely, that has to be the main concern of the EC too…"

In the PIL, petitioner Indu Prakash Singh, a social activist, claimed ECI's decision to raise the number of voters could lead to longer queues at polling booths and deter the underprivileged from voting.

AHEAD OF NAVY DAY ON DECEMBER 4

Despite Ladakh thaw, China approach in Indo-Pacific still a worry: Navy chief

Says deals for Scorpene submarines and 26 Rafale Marine aircraft could be signed by next month

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE THAW between Indian and Chinese forces in eastern Ladakh has not brought any change in the Chinese approach in the Indo-Pacific region and that remains a cause for concern, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi said on Monday. He also suggested that China had a role in Pakistan's growing naval strength.

On his force's impending acquisitions, Admiral Tripathi said the deals for Scorpene submarines and 26 Rafale Marine aircraft could be signed by next month.

Admiral Tripathi was addressing the Navy's annual press conference ahead of Navy Day on December 4, which will be celebrated in Puri this year.

Responding to a question on whether the Navy had seen any perceptible change in China's approach in the Indo-Pacific region following fruitful negotiations between India and China over Depsang Plains and Dhemchok in eastern Ladakh, Admiral Tripathi said in his view nothing had changed.

"China's approach is too early to call. You are talking of a wide swathe of the Indo-Pacific region and whether it has changed or not. We have operated across the globe, including the South China Sea. They have operated here. What is happening in South China Sea is not with us but with others. That is the cause for concern. Whether that has changed or not is in the open domain. In my view, I don't think anything has changed. It's a cause for worry," he said.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi in Delhi. *Amit Mehra*

The Navy chief, however, underlined that the last known visit of a Chinese submarine in the Indian Ocean region was last year. "It went to Karachi and went back. After that we have not heard of any Chinese submarine coming in the Indian Ocean region," he said.

According to Admiral Tripathi, the Navy had kept a close watch on the activities of "extra-regional forces operating in the Indian Ocean region, which included the PLA Navy units". "We knew who is doing what, where and how," he said.

"We believe that oceans are open to all. Anybody can operate in the oceans, till the time they are not affecting our security… whether it is A, B, C or D country. But we have established a structure to monitor what is happening. We will ensure there is no effect on our interests in the maritime domain," he said.

The Navy chief suggested that the "surprising growth" of the Pakistan Navy was being spurred by China.

"We are aware of the surprising growth of the Pakistan Navy and they aim to become a 50-ship force by the next decade. Seeing the economy of Pakistan, it is very surprising how they are building or getting so many ships and submarines. Obviously, they have decided to choose between weapons over the welfare of their people. So, good luck to them," he said.

According to Admiral Tripathi, a lot of Pakistan ships and submarines were either being built in China or with its help at the Karachi shipyard.

"It shows China is interested in strengthening the Pakistan Navy. The eight submarines being built for them will add significant combat potential to the Pakistan Navy. We are fully aware what is happening, what is the level of their deployment, what is their concept of operations. Therefore, we are tweaking ours as well to negate any infringement in our area of operation. We are fully ready to tackle all threats from our neighbours," the Navy chief said.

On Chinese activity in Bangladesh, he said, "We don't know fully how close the relations between China and Bangladesh are. We are aware they have provided some platforms… provided help in creation of infrastructure and there are some training efforts happening. We are not very concerned about it. We have good relations with Bangladesh."

Admiral Tripathi said China was a rising power which wanted to attain its rightful place in the world. "There is intent and they have the resources. There is a vision that they want to become a world power. Whenever that happens there is friction with the established power. We see it already being played out. It will manifest more in the Pacific Ocean. But we are keeping a watch."

The Navy chief said all countries were working closely on the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA). The IPMDA is an initiative of the Quad grouping -- Australia, India, Japan, and the US -- that provides maritime domain awareness information to partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

In terms of enhancing the Navy's own capabilities, Admiral Tripathi said India was at an advanced stage of acquiring 26 Rafale Marine combat aircraft. "Rafale marine is at an advanced stage of negotiations …and just one level short of taking it to the Cabinet Committee on Security following which a contract would be signed. It is a government-to-government deal so I expect it to happen fast," he said.

MAHARASHTRA GOVT FORMATION

Nirmala, Rupani central observers for BJP MLAs' meet tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

Nirmala Sitharaman, Vijay Rupani

THE BJP parliamentary board Monday deputed Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani as observers for the Maharashtra legislature party meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

The party also sent former cabinet minister and party leader Girish Mahajan in a bid to placate caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde whose party has been demanding the Home ministry. Sources said that while it was to seek his active participation in the government formation process, it was also to send out a message that the BJP really cares for him and its allies. The new BJP-led government will swear in on December 5 at the Azad Maidan in Mumbai.

It was the first meeting of a BJP leader with Shinde after he returned from Delhi on November 28, where he had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

After coming out of the 90-minute meeting, Mahajan said, "I came to meet Shinde ji to enquire about his health. As we all know, he has been unwell for four to five days."

Rubbishing the speculations, Mahajan said, "All is well within the Mahayuti. There is no dispute. Shinde himself has clarified to the media a few days ago that he will not be a hurdle in government formation. He is not unhappy."

Known as a trouble-shooter, Mahajan's visit to Shinde is being seen as rapprochement by the BJP to the Shiv Sena leader and reassure the party values his support in government formation.

Mahajan said, "By Tuesday, Shinde would resume his work, including meetings, as a caretaker CM. We have taken the decision to work together as a team."

The 132 elected BJP legislators Wednesday will meet with the central observers at the Central Hall in Vidhan Bhawan at 10 am, to elect the party's new state legislative leader.

The decision comes after BJP central and state leaders were assured of support to their decision by both the alliance partners — Shinde-led Shiv Sena and NCP led by Ajit Pawar.

A senior BJP leader requesting anonymity said, "There are absolutely no hurdles in government formation. All the issues confronting the allies were sorted out and the decision on oath taking ceremony was announced only after that."

BJP insiders have already indicated that Devendra Fadnavis will be the chief minister of the BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra.

Responding to apprehensions between Shiv Sena and BJP, a highly placed source said, "Had there been any inconclusive discussions or power tussle, we would not have given nod for oath taking on December 5."

According to insiders, "Along with Fadnavis taking oath as CM, Shinde and Ajit Pawar will also take oath as deputy chief ministers." It will have representation from all three Mahayuti allies — BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP.

Manipur forms panel to review Inner Line Permit as 29 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL, DECEMBER 2

THE MANIPUR government has constituted a state-level committee to review overall implementation of the Inner Line Permit System (ILPS) after 29 people were found with ILP permits not adhering to system guidelines.

The 29 people, all from Assam, were held at Mayang Imphal in Imphal's west district during a raid conducted on Saturday.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that based on an input regarding some illegal immigrants, suspected to be from Bangladesh, a special police team conducted a raid. "The 29 individuals, working in a bakery, had 'Labour' category ILP, which upon verification through deputy commissioner, Imphal West, were not found to have been issued in compliance with the Manipur ILP guidelines, 2019. As per preliminary findings, we have identified the officer who has issued the permits," he said.

As per ILP guidelines, 2019, amended in 2022, the labour permit is issued for a specific period to individual labourers or a group of them brought by a contractor or firm or company or individual engaging them for construction works.

As per the extant guidelines, those individuals should have been considered under Regular ILP valid for 90 days, subject to sponsorship by any permanent resident of the state.

Singh said the 'Labour' category ILPs were cancelled and the apprehended labourers were deported and sent to their respective states.

He further said that the Manipur home department has instructed the district administration concerned and the deputy labour commissioner to run a detailed inquiry into such lapses and initiate stem action against the government functionaries involved.

The review committee will be headed by the commissioner (home) as chairman and representatives of the UIDAI, chief electoral officer, land resource department, DCs and SSPs. A direction has been issued seeking a report within 15 days.

"The state is currently grappling with a crisis that is a result of illegal immigrants. In such a crucial time we urge every section of the society to be sincere," Singh said.

Cong team stopped from going to Sambhal, party slams Yogi govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 2

Congress workers jostled with police outside the party office in Lucknow on Monday as a party delegation led by its Uttar Pradesh unit chief Ajay Rai was prevented from leaving for Sambhal, which has been made out of bounds by administration after the November 24 violence.

Amid high drama, Rai, who took the driver's seat in his car with senior party leader P L Punia next to him, could not leave for the "fact-finding" visit. He sat on a dharna outside the party office along with Congress workers, Punia said.

A large police contingent had been deployed and barricades put up since Sunday night around the Congress office in Lucknow's Mall Avenue area to prevent Rai and others from leaving for Sambhal, which was hit by violence during protests against a court-ordered survey of a mosque.

"Preventing Congress leaders from going to Sambhal is undemocratic," Rai alleged. "There is definitely something in Sambhal that the government does not want to reveal, but the Congress party is committed to becoming the voice of the people," said Rai, who sat on dharna outside party office, when stopped by the police force," he added.

The Congress team led by Ajay Rai stopped outside the party office in Lucknow. *Vishal Srivastav*

SP team meets Sambhal accused in jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 2

DAYS AFTER a 15-member Samajwadi Party (SP) delegation, tasked with gathering information on the violence that broke out in Sambhal on November 24, was barred from entering the district by the police due to an extended ban on outsiders, another delegation of the party visited the Moradabad jail to meet — among others — one of the accused booked for alleged involvement in the violence.

Four persons died and others, including police personnel, were injured in the violence.The Sambhal Police have arrested 30 persons, including women.

The SP delegation includes former MP Dr ST Hasan, MLA (Thakurdwara) Nawab Jan Khan, MLA (Naugawan Sadat) Samarpal Singh, district general secretary Mudassir Khan, state secretary Gulzar Ahmed and others, said a press release.

A prison official said a former MP and two sitting MLAs visited the Moradabad jail and met one person accused in the violence, apart from two others who were "not connected to the incident."

The release added that the delegation listened to the grievances of the accused and assured party's support for all innocent persons implicated in the violence.

The delegation interacted with the family of the accused.

SP leaders attempted to enter Sambhal from multiple directions but were blocked by heavy police deployment across the state.

In race for key Navy deal, Spanish firm displays S-80 AIP sub

KIRAN PARASHAR
CARTAGENA (SPAIN), DEC 2

IN THE race to clinch a major Indian Navy deal, Larsen and Toubro (L&T) and its Spanish partner Navantia have showcased the integration of a hydrogen-based air-independent propulsion (AIP) into an S-80 class diesel-electric submarine.

The S-80 AIP submarine, which can stay underwater longer than conventional diesel-electric submarines, is Navantia-L&T's offering to India which is looking to modernise its naval capabilities and warfare strength through Project 75 (India).

Under the military acquisition project, the Indian Navy seeks to buy six advanced submarines by 2030 at an estimated cost of ₹43,000 crore to counter China and Pakistan. The operational deadline for the first submarine is 2026.

Navantia showcased the AIP integration on an under-construction Spanish Navy submarine in Cartagena, Spain, on November 26. Also bidding for the Indian Navy deal is Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, which has partnered with Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited to offer its Type 214 and Type 212 CD submarines, both of which also feature the AIP.

The firm's chief of commercial and business development, Jose Manual Mondejar, said teams from the Indian Navy also visited the construction site earlier this year for a field evaluation trial. According to sources, the Defence Ministry has set up a committee to look into it.

The AIP system, also known as BEST (Bio-Ethanol Stealth Technology), is considered the next-gen technology in conventional submarines.

Maharashtra is in its pocket, but why Mahayuti is still ironing out the wrinkles

BJP yet to stake claim, nor has Governor invited it; CM face yet to be announced, and Shinde sending mixed signals. What gives the confusion post Maharashtra win?

THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

A LUNCH thrown by NCP MP Praful Patel last week at his 26, Gurdwara Rakabgunj Road, residence in Lutyens Delhi, where he has lived for 34 years, bespoke the tectonic changes that have taken place in Maharashtra politics. It was one of those rare days when Delhi saw sunshine break through the pall of a polluting haze.

This was like the countless parties Patel has hosted where mediapersons could meet the first family of Maharashtra -- the Pawars. But this time the cast of Pawars was different. It was not Sharad Pawar or daughter Supriya Sule who were there, but his nephew Ajit Pawar, his wife Sunetra, who lost to Supriya in the Lok Saha elections and was subsequently made a Rajya Sabha MP, his son Parth and NCP MP Sunil Tatkare who were the stars.

Praful Patel, at one time Sharad Pawar's right-hand man, was introducing to the national media Ajit Pawar who had wrested control of the NCP, having won 41 seats in the recent Assembly elections, with his uncle reduced to a mere 10.

Ajit Pawar sported a different image, dressed in casual shirt trousers and a jacket, mingling with mediapersons and answering questions on the new government about to be formed in Mumbai. There are indications he is set to be a Deputy CM again and retain the Finance portfolio.

After the Assembly results, as the BJP stood far ahead of the rest with 132 seats, "Ajit Dada (as he is called)" moved with alacrity and announced his support to Devendra Fadnavis as CM. This means Ajit Pawar would be there in the reckoning in any new arrangement and that, if push came to shove, it is the third partner, the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, who might find itself out of favour, especially due to Shinde's initial insistence on being made CM again.

However, as of Monday, that is nine days after the people of Maharashtra gave the Mahayuti a massive mandate (236 out of 288 seats), the coalition has not been able to decide the contours of the new government. Neither, and this too is odd, has the BJP chosen to stake its claim, nor has the Governor invited it to form a government.

Even if the nuts and bolts of the power-sharing arrangement are still being worked out, the BJP — and this is the curious part of the story — has not even announced its CM candidate. If Ajit Pawar has already lent his support to Fadnavis as CM, Shinde has declared publicly that he will abide by the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

With Fadnavis seen as the chief architect of the BJP's biggest ever victory in Maharashtra, at 132 seats, the BJP has few options but to appoint him the CM. It cannot experiment in Maharashtra as it did earlier in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, by picking Bhajan Lal Sharma, Mohan Yadav or Vishnu Deo Sai, respectively — that is opting not to go for strong or established leaders.

The new CM in Maharashtra will need the experience and a steady hand to keep Eknath Shinde, Ajit Pawar, and the state bureaucrats in check, and yet push ahead with its infrastructural and development plans for the state.

The RSS, which has delivered both Haryana and Maharashtra to the BJP (unlike the Lok Sabha elections when it had held back), has been rooting strongly for Fadnavis as CM. The BJP cadre is also sympathetic towards him — bearing in mind that he had earlier agreed to be Deputy CM under Shinde.

"The only thing that goes against him is his caste," a political journalist in Mumbai points out. With Fadnavis, a Brahmin, as CM, and with Marathas Shinde and Ajit Pawar as Deputy CMs — the scenario considered most likely — the BJP will have to innovatively accommodate OBCs, who consolidated in its favour in the Assembly elections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah consulted leaders like BJP Maratha face Vinod Tawde to find out the impact Fadnavis's elevation would have on the Maratha community!

The chief ministership of the country's second largest state in terms of parliamentary strength (48 Lok Sabha seats), on top of the BJP's electoral performance under him, could also bring Fadnavis into national reckoning once again, at par with Yogi Adityanath in UP.

However, as CM from 2014-19, Fadnavis's rule is remembered as a "one man show", which ruffled some feathers in the party. By taking time to announce his name, the BJP brass may be sending a message that even if Fadnavis has crafted the party's victory and becomes CM, "the control lies with us".

Shinde, whose sudden "illness" and decision to head to his native village after talks in Delhi with the BJP leadership, raised eyebrows. While Shinde is supposedly bargaining hard for the Home Ministry, sources said he is too savvy not to know that the BJP would not part with the Home department, which was held by Fadnavis when he was CM as also Deputy CM.

Shinde also knows he does not have many cards up his sleeve. Moving to the Union cabinet in Delhi or supporting the new government from "outside" are non-options, politics having become so transactional today. Being out of power in Maharashtra could mean going out of the public mind.

The BJP has been trying to mollify him, not because it needs his Shiv Sena numbers (57) to form a government, but for other reasons – wresting control of the BMC from Uddhav Thackeray in the soon-to-be-held civic poll, for one. Shinde's usefulness has lain in weakening Uddhav Thackeray – a process which is far from complete as 10 of the 20 overall seats the Shiv Sena (UBT) won were from Mumbai.

When he was appointed CM in 2022, few had heard of Eknath Shinde. He has used the last two years to create a political niche for himself as an up and coming Maratha leader (even quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil has been soft on him) and a benefactor of social welfare schemes, particularly the Ladki Bahin Yojana.

He had appointed a committee of senior officials to suggest schemes that could be rolled out this year (keeping in mind the elections), and decided that Ladki Bahin Yojana should be rolled out in time for the Assembly elections, and not earlier for the Lok Sabha polls!

By helping delay the process of government formation, Shinde may also be using the situation to position himself as the tallest Maratha leader, after Sharad Pawar, that the BJP is going out of its way to woo – and cannot do without.

Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of How Prime Ministers Decide

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹79,400	₹84.70	$72.77	₹90,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of November 29

SENSEX: 80,248.08 ▲ 445.29 (0.56%) **NIFTY:** 24,276.05 ▲ 144.95 (0.6%) **NIKKEI:** 38,513.02 ▲ 304.99 **HANG SENG:** 19,550.29 ▲ 126.68 **FTSE:** 8,327.55 ▲ 40.25 **DAX:** 19,892.58 ▲ 266.13

International market data till 1900 IST

FABBED AT TSMC

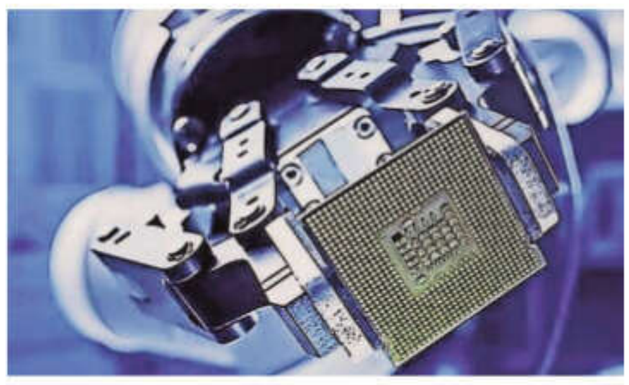
'Designed in India' 5G chip facing fund crunch, low commercial uptake

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

A FIRST of its kind 'designed in India' 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) chip, which has been allocated funding of close to Rs 45 crore by the Indian government, is facing mass production issues owing to a lack of funds, and an inability to draw commercial orders, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The Narrow Band IoT (NB-IoT) chip, which has been designed by WiSig Networks — a startup incubated at IIT Hyderabad — and fabricated using the 40 nanometre process of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), is targeted primarily for smart metres used in the electricity distribution sector. WiSig Networks has also been approved by the IT Ministry under its Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme for the chip. Hyderabad-based technology and engineering company Cyient collaborated on the tapeout process for the chip, while WiSig Networks is commercialising it. Multiple tapeouts have resulted in hundreds of chips fabricated and successfully completing 3GPP-compliant testing, and drive testing on Reliance Jio's NB-IoT network is ongoing at the IIT Hyderabad campus. The tapeout process is the final stage in the design phase of semiconductor manufacturing.

This is the first time a 3GPP compliant modem system-on-chip (SoC) has been indigenously designed and made working.



File

Volume production of the chip includes the development of a package, production test solution suited for volume production, organisation of silicon fabrication, volume testing of the integrated circuit (IC), and the management of supplying the chip. The Department of Telecommunications' (DoT's) 5G testbed project allocated Rs 40 crore for two chip revisions, and an additional Rs 5 crore grant was awarded to WiSig Networks for refining the third tapeout. The IT Ministry has allocated Rs 13 crore to extend the chip's functionality for satellite connectivity, this paper has learnt.

However, a 12,000-unit production tapeout and the development of a production test program are required, as per an internal government assessment. But, it is understood that WiSig Networks has a shortage of funds as well as commercial orders to complete the remaining activities.

Among the policy interventions that the government is considering to boost commercial uptake of the chip include the Ministry of Power requiring that a share of the smart meter procurements by discoms be those that have domestically designed chips, and for the IT Ministry to introduce design-linked-manufacturing scheme for locally made smart metres, among other things. Cyinet did not respond to a request for comment until publication.

"WiSig Networks has licensed the chip from IIT Hyderabad for commercialisation, WiSig received a Rs 5 crore DCIS Grant for Rev 3 tapeout of the chip, which has been completed and chip samples are in working in the lab, we are further evaluating the same… As the chip is still under customer evaluation and qualification, we can complete the production tapeout once it is completed and production orders are received… Regarding availability of funds, it is a matter of going concern, which will be addressed as part of our business plans (sic)," WiSig Networks told *The Indian Express* in an emailed statement.

The DLI scheme is part of the overall $10 billion incentive scheme for the semiconductor ecosystem, which was rolled out by the government in December 2021. The design scheme aims to offer financial incentives and infrastructure support across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design for integrated circuits, chipsets, and system on chip over a period of five years.

India is a major force in chip designing, with all major semiconductor companies having their design offices in the country. However, these engineers have traditionally designed systems for foreign companies, which has resulted in zero to little intellectual property creation by Indian entities. The chip DLI scheme is an attempt at plugging that gap, as it incentivises a crucial part of the chip supply chain — the IP.

As of September 2024, the IT Ministry had approved chip design related proposals from at least 12 Indian start-ups and has committed more than Rs 130 crore to their projects, which span from developing integrated circuits for telecommunication applications, to artificial intelligence (AI) hardware accelerators, *The Indian Express* had reported.

In total, the approved projects will cost Rs 342 crore, and the government has so far released close to Rs 7 crore. It received 59 applications under the DLI scheme, with 15-20 applications currently under review. However, the run rate of the scheme seems to be slower than the Centre's initial projections. The government wants to fund at least 100 start-ups over five years under the DLI scheme, which would be an average of 20 entities per year. That run rate has not been met yet.

EXPLAINED

Crucial part of semiconductor ecosystem

INDIA WANTS to create an indigenous chip design ecosystem, where its domestic companies hold intellectual property. Chip designing is a crucial part of the semiconductor ecosystem, and one that takes years of sustained research, and funding. Having domestic chip making capabilities is also expected to help New Delhi strategically, where it can prescribe use of domestically designed chips for use in certain sensitive sectors.

Rupee hits record low on concerns over slowing growth, strong dollar

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THE RUPEE lost 21 paise to end at a fresh record low of 84.70 against the US dollar on Monday after the country's gross domestic product (GDP) slowed to a multi-quarter low in the July-September 2024 period and tracking weakness in other Asian currencies.

The local currency closed at 84.70 against the greenback, compared to the opening of 84.58 and the previous close of 84.49.

"Indian rupee touched a fresh record low on Monday on economic data and a strong US dollar," said Anuj Choudhary, research analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

The country's real gross domestic product (GDP) slumped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in July-September 2024, as against a growth of 6.7 per cent in the April-June 2024 quarter and 8.1 per cent in the July-September 2023 period. Most analysts projected GDP growth to be in the 6.5-6.8 per cent range in Q2 FY25.

"Slower GDP growth means easing of monetary policy, which implies that there could be a cut in the repo rate soon. A reduction in the interest rate will widen the difference between rates in India and the US, which may result in outflows from the domestic market. This kept the rupee under pressure," said VRC Reddy, head treasury, Karur Vysya Bank.

In the last two months, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have been selling domestic equities. In October and November, they offloaded Rs 1.16 lakh crore worth of local shares. In case of FII outflows, there is higher demand for the foreign currency, which in turn leads to a downward pressure on the local currency.

Internationally, Chinese Yuan depreciated to a one-year low of 7.3 per dollar due to tariffs threats by US President-elect Donald Trump to the BRICS nations if they move away from the dollar and look to create a new currency.

Besides, analysts said that higher demand for the US dollar from importers also weighed on the rupee.

The downside in the rupee was limited by the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the market, forex participants said. The RBI intervened at 84.65 and 84.70 levels.

The RBI has always maintained that its intervention in the forex market is aimed at preventing excessive volatility, anchoring market expectations and providing a stable exchange rate regime.

The rupee is likely to trade with a negative bias on strong dollar and FII outflows. The USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 84.50 to Rs 84.95, said Mirae Asset Sharekhan's Choudhary.

HIGHER DEMAND FOR USD DUE TO FII OUTFLOWS

In the last two months, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have been selling domestic equities. In October and November, they offloaded Rs 1.16 lakh crore worth of local shares. In case of FII outflows, there is higher demand for the foreign currency, which in turn leads to a downward pressure on the local currency

BRIEFLY

H2 GDP number expected to be better: DEA secy

New Delhi: Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth on Monday said second quarter GDP growth at 5.4 per cent is lower than the potential but exuded confidence that the second half to be better. **PTI**

'SteelMin for 25% safeguard duty on steel imports'

New Delhi: Taking up the concerns of domestic steel industry, the Steel Ministry on Monday proposed for a 25 per cent safeguard duty on import of certain steel items into the country, sources said. **PTI**

JSW MG Motor to drive in electric sports car

New Delhi: JSW MG Motor India has said it plans to drive in an electric sports car, 'Cyberster' as its first offering under the new retail channel brand, 'MG Select'. **PTI**

₹6,839 cr worth ₹2,000 notes still with public

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank has said 98.08 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system, and only Rs 6,839 crore worth such notes are still with the public. **PTI**

Sebi order on Reliance Big Entertainment

New Delhi: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has ordered the attachment of bank accounts as well as shares and mutual fund holdings of Reliance Big Entertainment to recover dues of Rs 26 crore. Before this, Sebi on November 14 sent a notice to Reliance Big Entertainment Pvt Ltd (now known as Rbep Entertainment Pvt Ltd) and asked the entity to pay dues within 15 days in a case pertaining to illegal diversion of funds in the matter of Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL). **PTI**

RBI'S ALL-INDIA HOME PRICE INDEX RISE TO 322 AS OF SEPT 2024 AGAINST 308.6 IN SEPT 2023

RBI: Home price index rises by 4.3% amid high interest rates, inflation

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

HOME PRICES are on the rise in India despite high interest rates in the banking system and inflation. The All-India Home Price Index (HPI) of the Reserve Bank of India rose by 4.34 per cent to 322 as of September 2024 as against 308.6 in September 2023, indicating that price rise is continuing across the metros, according to Reserve Bank of India data.

HPI has gone up by nearly 67 per cent in the last ten years from 193.05 in 2014-15 amid the pandemic, high inflation and interest rates. The annual HPI growth varied widely across the cities, ranging from a high growth of 8.76 per cent (Bengaluru) to a decline of (-)2.0 per cent (Kanpur). On sequential (quarter-on-quarter) basis, all-India HPI decreased by 0.1 per cent in September 2024-25. Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Kolkata and Chennai recorded a sequential rise in house prices during the latest quarter, RBI data shows.

File

Home price index for Mumbai rose by 2.95 per cent to 303.62 in September 2024 as against 294.92 a year ago, Delhi increased by 3.31 per cent to 350.40 from 339.16 and Bengaluru by 8.76 per cent to 360.11 from 331.08.

The RBI's home index is based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities in top ten major cities.

Average housing prices across the top eight markets in India rose 11 per cent year-on-year at Rs 11,000 per sq ft during Q3 of 2024, led by sturdy demand and positive market sentiments, industry body CREDAI said. Interestingly, average housing prices have increased for the 15th consecutive quarter since 2021. All the eight major cities saw an annual increase in housing prices with Delhi NCR witnessing the highest rise at 32 per cent, followed by Bengaluru at 24 per cent rise during the quarter. After registering record high sales over the last two years, the demand momentum across the top cities is stabilizing. Nevertheless, with anticipation of healthy residential activity in the last quarter, 2024 is likely to end on a strong note, it said.

However, overall unsold inventory continued to witness a quarterly drop for the third consecutive quarter, led by healthy uptake in housing units. At the end of September 2024, unsold inventory stood at over 10 lakh housing units across the eight major cities, with Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) accounting for a majority at about 40 per cent share. Unsold units in Hyderabad saw a modest dip on a sequential basis despite a yearly increase of about 28 per cent.

"The ongoing rise in housing prices is another validation of positive homebuyer sentiments and the highly conducive nature of the real estate market. We are seeing more and more aspirational homebuyers come to the fore – resulting in bigger homes that are also being reflected in the rise in prices as homes continue to get more expansive, truly reflecting the current market dynamics and consumer preferences," said Boman Irani, president of CREDAI National. "While the housing market is gradually stabilising, the outlook for the residential segment remains positive supported by strong underlying market fundamentals. Developers are recalibrating their strategies, particularly in the price-sensitive segments, by offering compact size units," said Badal Yagnik, chief executive officer, Colliers India.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Windfall gains tax on domestic crude production, export of petrol, diesel, ATF scrapped

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

ALMOST TWO-AND-HALF years after it was introduced, the government has finally withdrawn windfall gains tax on domestic production of crude oil and export of diesel, petrol, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). The Finance Ministry notifications for removal of the windfall tax—special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude and export of ATF, and road and infrastructure cess (RIC) on export of petrol and diesel—with immediate effect were laid in Parliament on Monday.

Lately, not much revenue was getting generated by the windfall gains tax. In fact, the levies are currently nil. This is mainly due to significant softening in prices of crude oil and the three major fuels in the international market.

The enabling provisions to impose the levy, however, continued to be in place. With Monday's move, the government has effectively withdrawn those provisions as well, sources indicated. The industry had also raised concerns about the continuation of the levy, sources said.

These levies were first imposed on July 1, 2022 due to the surge in global oil and fuel prices in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the price of crude oil produced in India is benchmarked to international prices, domestic oil prices also went through the roof. At the same time, margins on fuels were a lot more lucrative in other markets, incentivising refiners, particularly private sector players, to export fuels. This had resulted in fuel supply disruptions in some parts of the country.

Apart from taking a share of windfall profits of oil producers and fuel exporters to partly soften the blow of duty cuts on domestic petrol and diesel sales, the government also wanted to ensure enough fuel supply to meet domestic demand through these taxes.

The levies were reviewed on a fortnightly basis by the Finance Ministry based on crude oil and fuel prices in the international market.

With the international crude oil and fuel market nowhere as volatile as it was in the initial months of the Ukraine war, and the domestic fuel supplies stable and robust, the windfall gains tax collection has seen a steady decline over the past two-and-a-half years. The windfall gains tax mop-up was around Rs 25,000 crore in 2022-23 (FY23), around Rs 13,000 crore in FY24, and around Rs 6,000 crore so far in FY25.

While the levy on petrol exports has been zero since July 20, 2022, on diesel exports, it has been nil since March 1, 2024. On ATF exports, windfall gains tax was reduced to nil from January 2, 2024, while on domestic oil production, the levy was brought down to zero from September 18, 2024. When the windfall gains tax was first imposed, it translated to a levy of about $40 per barrel on domestic crude oil production, as crude oil prices were well over $100 per barrel at the time.

FINANCE MINISTRY NOTIFICATIONS

File

THE FINANCE Ministry notifications for removal of the windfall tax—special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude and export of ATF, and road and infrastructure cess (RIC) on export of petrol and diesel—with immediate effect were laid in Parliament on Monday

India has contributed $2 billion to BRICS Bank: Finance Ministry

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

INDIA HAS contributed nearly $2 billion to the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), and 20 externally aided projects, with loans amounting to $4,867 million in areas such as transportation, water conservation, food management, and connectivity in rural areas, are currently ongoing in the country, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday.

Chaudhary's response followed a Lok Sabha question regarding the government's stance on the initiative for a joint currency for BRICS nations and India's contribution to the BRICS Bank. The queries were prompted by concerns over US President-elect Donald Trump's threats of imposing 100 per cent tariffs on BRICS nations as a reaction to their efforts to reduce reliance on the US dollar in international trade.

The question was asked by MK Raghavan, Member of Parliament, Kozhikode.

MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary's response followed a Lok Sabha question regarding the government's stance on a joint currency for BRICS nations and India's contribution to the BRICS Bank

"India's contribution to the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) stands at $2 billion, paid in seven instalments from the fiscal year 2015-16 to 2021-22. As of now, 20 externally aided projects with loan amounts of $4.867 million funded by the NDB are ongoing in India," Chaudhary stated.

However, regarding the question of a joint currency, the minister referred to a report on the international financial system prepared by Russia during its BRICS chairmanship. "During 2024, under its BRICS Chairmanship, Russia prepared a report, 'BRICS Chairmanship Research on the Improvement of the International Monetary and Financial System'." The report emphasises that BRICS nations recognise natural constraints and the will of the free market. Thus, BRICS "do not seek to replace the US dollar as a medium of exchange" due to its significant share in the global economy. Instead, BRICS aims to "offer a viable alternative that will aid the market in its perpetual mission for efficiency" and foster greater prosperity, promoting universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation.

Nevertheless, the report highlighted that the current cross-border payments infrastructure "lacks competition" and struggles to meet participants' demands. It stated that the prevailing reliance on centralised settlement mechanisms and reserve currencies for cross-border payments represents a "legacy overhang" that is no longer optimal for the 21st century.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Manufacturing sector growth falls in Nov: PMI

New Delhi: India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a joint 11-month low of 56.5 in November, restricted by competitive conditions and inflationary pressures amid a softer increase in factory orders, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 57.5 in October to 56.5 in November, signalling a softer improvement in the health of the sector. However, the pace of growth remained above its long-run average. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India recorded a 56.5 manufacturing PMI in November, down slightly from the prior month, but still firmly within expansionary territory," Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC said. Bhandari further noted that strong broad-based international demand, evidenced by a four-month high in new export orders, fuelled the Indian manufacturing sector's continued growth. **PTI**

Intel CEO Gelsinger retires from struggling chipmaker

REUTERS
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 2

INTEL CEO Pat Gelsinger has retired, the company said on Monday, following a tumultuous period for the chip pioneer that has struggled to keep up in the AI era with players like Nvidia dominating the market.

The company named chief financial officer David Zinsner and senior executive Michelle Johnston Holthaus as interim co-chief executive officers while its board conducted a search for a new CEO. Shares of the company rose nearly 5 per cent in premarket trading. They have lost more than half of their value this year.

Gelsinger was appointed as CEO in 2021 to spearhead a transformation of the chipmaker which was once at the helm of the US semiconductor industry but ceded its manufacturing lead to players like Taiwan's TSMC.

Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger in Taipei, Taiwan on June 4. *Reuters File*

"While we have made significant progress in regaining manufacturing competitiveness and building the capabilities to be a world-class foundry, we know that we have much more work to do at the company and are committed to restoring investor confidence," Frank Yeary, independent chair of the board, said in a release. Under Glesinger, Intel undertook a costly turnaround centered around making the company a contract manufacturer for other chip firms and reinvigorating its technological lead.

The company's board has formed a search committee to appoint Gelsinger's successor.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE LESS THERE IS TO JUSTIFY A TRADITIONAL CUSTOM, THE HARDER IT IS TO GET RID OF IT.

— MARK TWAIN

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RBI'S CHALLENGE

As differences emerge with government on growth and inflation, it will need to draw on multiple policy tools

OVER THE NEXT few days, the RBI's monetary policy committee will hold its last scheduled meeting for this calendar year. So far, the central bank's "resilient" growth outlook provided the committee the space to keep the policy rate unchanged and focus on "attaining a durable alignment of inflation with the target". However, since the last committee meeting in October, the macroeconomic scenario has changed dramatically — inflation has edged upwards, while growth has slowed down. In this changed environment, questions are being asked, including by the government, about whether the RBI has kept interest rates too high for too long, not anticipating the economic slowdown.

As reported in this paper, the government has raised questions over the stance of monetary policy, calling into question the central bank's assessment of the underlying growth momentum and price dynamics in the country. On growth, it viewed the RBI's exuberance — the central bank had raised its growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for the year in June — as out of sync with other signals. Thereafter, even when economic indicators subsequently pointed towards a slowing growth momentum, the central bank continued to exude confidence about the economy's growth prospects, retaining its growth forecast in the October MPC meeting. Its assessment was also at odds with some segments of India Inc who have spoken frankly about the pain points in the economy. The economy grew at 5.4 per cent in the second quarter, compared to the RBI's assessment of 7 per cent in the October MPC meeting. There is also disagreement with the central bank's assessment of the underlying price pressures in the economy. The RBI is worried about the second round effects of high food inflation spilling over to core inflation. But as per government officials, there are no second round effects. Excluding gold and silver, core inflation is stable. Moreover, the surge in headline inflation over the past two months has been largely due to food inflation, which in turn is driven by vegetables. Analysts expect vegetable prices to show some moderation in the coming data.

RBI's inflation targeting framework of 4 plus/minus 2 per cent has a degree of flexibility that gives the committee the space to look through such transient supply side shocks. Monetary policy works with long lags. With the RBI's forecasts now showing inflation at 4.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of this financial year, and 4.3 per cent in the first quarter of next year, real interest rates remain at levels that former MPC members have characterised as excessively restrictive. The question now, after the recent GDP data, is whether the MPC will continue to attach primacy to inflation, or will growth considerations also dominate its thinking, or will the currency now also be a factor. The RBI has multiple policy tools at its disposal. It will need to draw on them as it navigates the rapidly changing environment.

THE APATHY MUST END

Express investigation of manual scavenging highlights continuing failures and abdications at several levels

SINCE 1993, INDIA has had a law to ban manual scavenging. Since 2013, employers are required by law to provide 44 types of protective gear to labourers engaged in cleaning septic tanks and sewers. Yet, according to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's data, 443 workers died between 2018 and 2023, while undertaking this hazardous task. This, by all accounts, is a conservative estimate. Several independent surveys have talked about the continued reluctance on the part of state governments to admit that the practice prevails under their watch. Unable to provide safety equipment, municipalities live in denial. Employers are rarely held accountable when manual labourers succumb to the perils of their jobs. An investigation by this newspaper has revealed only one conviction for 75 sewer deaths in Delhi in the past 15 years. From the police being unable to trace the culprits to the investigating officers not cooperating with the judiciary or failing to appear before the courts, it reveals the apathy of law-enforcing agencies. That several sewer deaths happened at high-profile locations at the national capital, including prominent malls, hospitals and hotels only shows that the abdication is unabashed and pervasive.

The Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, which came into force in 2013, asks state governments and municipalities to identify workers who clean sewers and provide them with alternative employment options. A year later, the Supreme Court also asked states to abolish manual scavenging and rehabilitate the workers. However, local bodies outsource sewer cleaning to private contractors, who do not maintain proper rolls of manual scavengers. Investigations often come to a dead end because the police cannot find written orders from contractors asking workers to enter sewers. Located at the margins of society, the families of the deceased do not have the resources to fight lengthy legal battles.

Government initiatives to end manual scavenging have fallen short of their objectives because they do not adequately account for the social conditions that force people to plumb toxic cesspools. Civil society groups have, for long, argued that fixing the problem is difficult without acknowledging that it operates at the intersections of caste, economic inequalities and the deficits of the country's sewerage networks — most septic tanks are not amenable to new technology and machines are too big to operate in the narrow bylanes of dense urban areas. The failings, as this newspaper's investigation shows, are at multiple levels. A government that counts the Swachh Bharat Mission among its successes needs to do more for the safety and well-being of the workers at the frontlines of its cleanliness projects.

WHOSE DRESS

If some see the graduation cap and gown as a colonial relic, for others it represents empowerment and choice

FROM THE VANTAGE point of the present, there is something faintly absurd about certain traditions of dressing that came as part of the baggage of colonialism — such as the wigs that members of the legal fraternity were once forced to wear. Time and context wore out any extra dignity that they conferred on the wearer, and they felt hot and uncomfortable to boot. A similar argument made against the graduation ceremony cap and gown by the UGC — which issued an advisory to the effect in 2015, with follow-ups in 2019 and January this year — has led to several central institutions easing out the outfit. As a report in this newspaper revealed, they have replaced it with "Indian attire" to boost the country's handloom traditions, ostensibly as part of a decolonisation exercise.

But what place does the government have here? It's not as if its education to-do list isn't weighty enough. Among the several ongoing concerns — such as ensuring equity and access to learning resources and infrastructure — the matter of what a ceremonial outfit should look like seems out of place. In any case, practical concerns regarding the synthetic fabrics used to make the gown and mortarboard, as well as a desire to promote "traditional" clothing, had led some institutions to ease out the uncomfortable gown and mortarboard even before the UGC put out its advisory — just as a sentimental attachment to another kind of tradition, one handed down during the Raj, made others retain the ceremonial wear.

The matter of clothing presents a peculiar problem, being deeply imbued with meaning not only at a personal level, but also at the level of community, institution and state. In 2019, at Lucknow's Babasaheb Ambedkar University, the Dalit Students' Union sought permission to wear formal Western attire, instead of the mandated Indian wear, as a tribute to B R Ambedkar. Clearly, what is seen as a "colonial relic" by some, represents empowerment and choice for others.

Neighbourhood on edge

Ironically, in a deep ideological sense, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh are once again joined at the hip

PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

SOUTH ASIA IS at a precipice. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are now vulnerable to the fatal kiss of religious nationalism destroying both democracy and decency in their societies. It is anathema for an Indian audience to think of these three countries on the same plane. But, with varying degrees of intensity, they are now displaying symptoms of the same political disease. Each of the three countries seems to already have, or is in the process of creating, the background conditions for significant religious conflict. Each of them seems to be now determined to reopen the settlement of 1947, not in the direction of freedom and human rights, but the denouement of targeted conflict, almost as if to complete the logic of partition, not to undo it. And their ideological fates are intertwined. India may, with all its arrogant bluster, claim to be a big power that transcends its region. But its fundamental insecurities, its domestic politics, and increasingly its identity, is so tied to its neighbourhood that this claim is almost laughable.

Let us start with Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina had lost popular legitimacy, or at least deprived herself of the means to establish it. But it is still an open question what kind of successor regime will be institutionalised in its wake. Bangladesh may still overcome its present hurdles, but there are three ominous signs. The first is that the strategy of the new regime seems to be moving not towards building an inclusive democracy, but to keep on engaging in the same cycles of recrimination between the Awami League and its opponents that have marked Bangladesh's history, a cycle of recrimination that never ends well for democracy. Second, Islamists seem to have gained much more visible space, and there is no political force that can marginalise them. There is greater risk to minorities, especially Hindus in Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi elites deny this charge as simply Indian disinformation, used to discredit the regime and used by the BJP for domestic politics in India.

It is true that the Indian state has a vested interest in exaggeration. But the response in large sections of Bangladesh's elites to a genuine concern is dispiriting because it has all the elements of a familiar South Asian play book. When it comes to communal targeting, it goes something like this: Claim that reports are exaggerated (though exaggeration might be less of a sin than denial), or whataboutery (nothing has fundamentally changed) or root causes (they were not targeted as Hindus but were collateral damage in the violence against Awami League supporters) or pretexts (there are genuine non-communal reasons to be worried about of some of the ISKCON figures). Or finally a performative secularism, where the leader gives a statement that ticks a box, while not addressing fundamental insecurities. All of our societies are masters at this playbook, it is the way we do communalism without thinking of ourselves as communal.

> For good or for ill, Sheikh Hasina's authoritarianism collapsed under its own weight. It is in India's interest not to use Bangladesh to flame sectarian fires, but to find a solution. And no solution will be forthcoming if India is ex-ante openly hostile to what, for good or for ill, is the de facto government of Bangladesh. In fact, it will only jeopardise the fate of Hindu minorities. India is right to be concerned about the fate of minorities in Bangladesh. But our interest in them is not humanitarian, it is also cut of a deeper communal cloth. India's concern at the fate of minorities at this point is a bit like the US being concerned about the fate of international law.

India, for its part, is doing the utterly myopic thing. For good or for ill, Sheikh Hasina's authoritarianism collapsed under its own weight. It is in India's interest not to use Bangladesh to flame sectarian fires, but to find a solution. And no solution will be forthcoming if India is, ex-ante, openly hostile to what, for good or for ill, is the de facto government of Bangladesh. In fact, it will only jeopardise the fate of Hindu minorities. India is right to be concerned about the fate of minorities in Bangladesh. But our interest in them is not humanitarian, it is also cut of a deeper communal cloth. India's concern at the fate of minorities at this point is a bit like the US being concerned about the fate of international law.

Its entire ideological orientation is now towards majoritarianism and creating the conditions for conflict. The government literally finds a new pretext to needle minorities: Lynching, bulldozers, hate speech, normalising of prejudice, claiming more mosques and now the Waqf issue. The Waqf Board may need reform but that is not the point. The modus operandi of the government is to keep pushing minorities into disempowerment and marginalisation. This is an open playbook.

Ayodhya was not the satiation of Hindu nationalism. Because it was a victory achieved through sheer power, and not a political settlement, that playbook will now be generalised. The legitimation of violence and the degree of communal suffocation in India is at unprecedented levels. If those concerned about Bangladesh would admit this, their concern would come across as more sincere.

The Pakistan story is, of course, familiar. In part, Hindutva takes inspiration from that story. Pakistan is an example of what happens when the meaning of religion becomes subordinated to maintaining the religious character of that state. The need for benchmarking a religious identity will constantly put all minorities at risk. In Pakistan all minorities are at risk, including Ahmadiyyas and Shias. The recent massacre in Kurram has a regional dimension, but it has a deep overlay of Shia-Sunni schism.

Pakistan has reached a point where the ideological basis of its state is bound to fail, or at best just stutter along. Overlay on top of that the gap between popular sentiment and the military's legitimacy and you have the makings of a perpetual crisis. The need to benchmark the state to a religious identity, once it runs out of other minorities to target or cleanse, will turn on other groups. The only thing one can say about Pakistan is that its dark humour about its own potential dystopian state seems to be more potent and more openly critical than most people in India's elites dare to be.

So, ironically in a deep ideological sense, these three countries are now once again tied at the hip. They are all potentially caught in a spiral where the identities they seek to craft as states will exacerbate conflict. India uses the fires in Pakistan and Bangladesh to shore up the claims of a Hindu state, and the "India" card is still a potent defining feature of their identity. There is only one abiding lesson in South Asian history: State sponsored religious nationalism will always turn authoritarian, and it will always destroy democracy and humanity.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

FAIRNESS, NOT JUST SPEED

A sensitive judicial system maintains a delicate balance between the two

OM DAMANI AND ANSHUL AGRAWAL

SHAILAJA CHANDRA'S ARTICLE, 'Leaner, Faster, Fairer' (*IE*, November 22), highlights several reasons behind the high number of pending cases across Indian courts and proposes two main solutions — measuring judge's performance by the case disposal rate and recruiting retired officials. It also pointed out the absence of video conferencing facilities in several district courts.

We started the project 'System dynamics modelling of the pendency of undertrials' with a focus on speeding up the disposal of cases. However, after talking to several stakeholders in the judicial system for a year and a half, we realised that a fair trial is as important as a speedy trial. One must be careful while talking about faster case disposal since reducing the number of pending cases requires a delicate balance. The pursuit of speed should not come at the cost of fairness.

Categorising judges, on their disposal performance, could push them to choose cases that have a high likelihood of faster disposal. This might negatively impact the hearings of sensitive cases where judges might not have enough time left on the listing days. Hasty judgments can increase the likelihood of appeals, further clogging the judiciary.

The article also mentions, "In an average district or subordinate court, about half of the 90 cases listed daily reportedly get adjourned." Keeping the fairness aspect in mind, we need to ask why are there such frequent adjournments. Which type of cases are adjourned frequently? Is it justified to put a permissible limit for adjournments? During our research, multiple advocates told us that they demand adjournments to get more time to gather evidence, research the law, file motions, or wait for certain events that can have a significant impact on the verdict. Refusing these adjournments in such cases could be unfair.

> Each case passes through multiple stages: Charge sheet filing, charge framing, trial (evidence presentation), arguments, and judgment. Each stage has a different source of delay. For example, investigation officers can take time to gather evidence; police and public prosecutors usually keep issuing summons instead of a non-traceable report if a witness is not responding; the 'roznama' has inaccurate or misleading information about the case stage.

The judicial system is complex with numerous actors — with judges, lawyers, litigants, and court employees having their own mental models. Delegating administrative tasks to retired officials who are not familiar with and sensitive towards judicial procedures, might create new inefficiencies and increase the unfairness. A system's behaviour is a function of its structure. Delayed disposals and high pending case counts are due to the justice-system structure and cannot be improved by tweaking without addressing structural issues. Each case passes through multiple stages: Charge sheet filing, charge framing, trial (evidence presentation), arguments, and judgment. Each stage has a different source of delay. For example, investigation officers can take time to gather evidence; police and public prosecutors usually keep issuing summons instead of a non-traceable report if a witness is not responding; the *roznama* has inaccurate or misleading information about the case stage; case files get misplaced or are not available since the case has been pending for long. It is necessary to identify the critical stages where there are bottlenecks and focus on reducing the delays in those specific stages.

Several experts we spoke to raised concerns about video proceedings. During such proceedings, the accused are often surrounded by jail officers creating an environment of intimidation. If they are mistreated in jail, say they have been tortured, they fear saying so; judges cannot see their physical condition clearly. During the physical trial, the accused are under the custody of judges, not jailers. Coming out of jail to the court for trial is the only chance for an accused to breathe free air. They can meet their family members and talk to their lawyers confidentially. Video conferencing trials take away these particularly important rights of undertrials.

Accessing prompt legal advice and assistance is critical for ensuring a fair trial and the rule of law. However, researchers at National Law University Delhi's Project 39A have shown that undertrials from poor socioeconomic backgrounds cannot get the desired legal assistance due to unawareness about free legal aid, and the poor quality of the legal aid system. We urge allocating more resources to strengthen the legal aid system to ensure that the judicial system is both efficient and fair.

Damani is with the Department of Computer Science and the Center for Policy Studies at IIT Bombay. Agrawal is a research associate at IIT Bombay

INDIAN EXPRESS

DECEMBER 3, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

MILITANTS KILL 11

11 SINHALESE FISHERMEN were killed when Tamil militants attacked two villages in Sri Lanka's north-eastern Mullaitivu district on December 1. He said people had fled the villages and taken shelter at the district headquarters. This was the second attack by militants on Sinhalese civilian settlements since November 29, when they attacked settlements of ex-convicts at Padaviya, killing 65 people.

ASSASSINATION PLOT

BEANT SINGH, KILLED by ITBP commandos, had taken an oath on October 20 at the Akal Takht in the Golden Temple complex, to kill Indira Gandhi. This was disclosed by Kehar Singh, Beant Singh's uncle, who was arrested in Delhi on November 30, intelligence sources revealed. Beant Singh, who was gunned down by ITBP commandos on October 31, had confessed the conspiracy to Kehar Singh.

PM ON DIVISIVENESS

PRIME MINISTER RAJIV Gandhi, on December 2, vowed to stamp out "forces of destabilisation" which he said had their roots outside India. These forces were behind the assassination of Indira Gandhi and were financed by outside sources. He said these forces were trying to divide the nation based on caste, religion, and region. To root them out, he said, a new movement was necessary.

PAKISTAN'S REFERENDUM

A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER on December 1 barred all courts, tribunals or any authority from questioning the conduct of the referendum to be held on December 19. The Pakistani government made it compulsory for all those 21 and above to exercise their verdict in the referendum. The referendum order put to the nation the question of whether it endorses the process of Islamisation initiated by Gen Zia-ul-Haq.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"To counter the spread of misinformation and disinformation on social media, the government must develop ways to address deepfakes. Countering false narratives, controlling the propagation of disinformation by forces outside the nation may require thought-out strategies." —THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

What kind of India do we seek?

In Kachchh, at a gathering of organisations, this and other big questions, and a daring to imagine alternatives to modern 'development'

DESHKAAL

BY YOGENDRA YADAV

C R Sasikumar

KACHCHH INVITES YOU to ask big questions. This is the site for a fusion of horizons. Here, sea meets desert under an uncluttered sky. Shifting topography, recurring earthquakes, the intermingling of races and cultures from Gujarat, Sindh and Rajasthan to Afghanistan, Iran, and East Africa and a line in the sand that marks the boundary of nation-states serves to remind you of the transient nature of everything. Kachchh releases you from the prison of the here and now, from the cycles of breaking news, election results, scandals and wars, and lets you sit back and reflect.

So, we asked big questions: What does our future look like? What should it look like, if we could shape it? What kind of India do we seek? Can we envision something beyond the stale dream of a modern, developed, superpower with cutting-edge technology and an x-trillion dollar economy — a mirage that we have been chasing, breathless and mindless? Is another world possible?

"We", here, meant a group associated with Vikalp Sangam, a confluence of over 90 organisations and movements that share a quest for transformative alternatives. These are activists, scholars and development practitioners who do not merely complain and protest; they actively seek alternative "ways of meeting human needs and aspirations, without trashing the earth and without leaving half of humanity behind". And they do not seek it just on paper, but on the ground. This was the 10th anniversary of Vikalp Sangam, a moment to remember the journey and to reflect on the future.

Kachchh provides stark options to think about our future. From an outsider's gaze, this largest district of India is a backward wasteland — vast swathes of unproductive arid land unfit for cultivation — waiting to be reclaimed for "development". Following the earthquake of 2001, all kinds of modern, multi-storied buildings and industries (led by, who else, but Adani!) have come up here. From a different point of view, however, Kachchh is diverse and vibrant, home to many ecological practices, crafts and art that we need to learn from. When I read that someone called Kachchh a "museum of environmental hardship" the first image that flashed in my mind was the breathtaking museum of Kachchh embroideries in that extraordinary LLDC complex at Bhuj that could put any of our metropolitan museums to shame. Kachchh is a museum of human resilience and creativity under conditions of hardship.

More than high-rise buildings and factories, for me the symbol of modernity in Kachchh is a thorny tree that you see everywhere. The scientists call it *Prosopis juliflora*. Locals call it *gando bawal* (or *kharo babul*), the mad tree. Native to Mexico, this tree was imported to India and showered on to Kachchh — literally, thanks to government helicopters — ostensibly to prevent desertification. Today, this invasive and impossible-to-uproot tree is omnipresent in Banni, the largest grassland of India, displacing other native trees and grasses, extracting the scarce underground water, besides harming animals who consume its leaves. This is what we call development.

Are there alternatives? Are there ways to support local farming practices and pastoral communities like Maldharis? Kachchh is also home to many experiments in alternatives. As many as 13 organisations hosted this decennial Vikalp Sangam. Sahjeevan is involved in organising the Maldhari community in demanding community forest rights that they are entitled to under the Forest Rights Act. They have also initiated a project to replant native (*meetha*) *babul* to replace the invader tree. Khamir, whose campus hosted the confluence this time, is involved in the promotion of traditional handicrafts and the preservation of culture, community and local environments. They have revived cultivation of and weaving in Kala cotton, a local variety destroyed by industrialisation. Other organisations are involved in increasing the participation of women in decision making and making self-governance a reality.

The deliberations in this decennial meeting were obviously not limited to Kachchh. A team from Gadchiroli in Maharashtra and another from Karnataka shared the success stories of how Adivasi communities acquired community forest rights and have managed their common resources for collective good. Activists from all over the country discussed alternative experiments, success stories and challenges in ecological agriculture, water, environment, energy, health, education and democracy.

Over the last 10 years, Vikalp Sangam has documented nearly 2,000 such stories from all over the country on its website https://vikalpsangam.org and showcased some of these in a documentary "Churning the Earth". These stories include a Goa-based couple (who else but Sikhs from Jalandhar) that grows their veggies and fish without using soil and any chemicals, a successful off-grid, small-scale, rooftop, solar experimentation around Kolkata, revival of traditional architecture in Spiti and Ladakh, recharging of "dead" rivers in Alwar district of Rajasthan, an alternative hospital run for and by Adivasis in Tamil Nadu, models to integrate hawkers and street vendors in urban planning, and *hunnarshala* to promote craft learning in mainstream education. A similar initiative, ASHA (Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture) has held five Kisan Swaraj Sammelans to bring together successful models in alternative agriculture. Just last week, a People's Festival of Innovation was held in Delhi that showcased a wide range of affordable, grassroots innovations. We are not short of alternatives.

> You might ask: Are all these really an alternative to modern development? Can they take on the challenge of scale and survive in the face of giant corporations in a globalised market economy? Does the practice of majority-based democracy leave any room for concerns of future generations and nature? Valid questions. But you must also ask another valid question: Can we really ever hope to offer every Indian the lifestyle available to everyone in the Global North? Is this model worth replicating? Can we afford to go on with the destruction of nature, lives and livelihoods?

You might ask: Are all these real alternatives to modern development? Can they take on the challenge of scale and survive in the face of giant corporations in a globalised market economy? Does the practice of majority-based democracy leave any room for concerns of future generations and nature? Valid questions. But you must also ask another set of valid questions: Can anyone seriously think of offering to every Indian the lifestyle available to everyone in the Global North? Is this model worth replicating? Can we afford to go on with the destruction of nature, lives and livelihoods as an inevitable cost of "development"?

Once we recognise the unbearable weight of these questions, a quest for alternatives does not remain an obsession of a mad minority. Once we realise that alternatives are not about going back to our past, but about imagining and shaping our future, this becomes a collective search. How do we make these radical alternatives feasible? Can we think of a "scale out" rather than "scale up" model? What is the roadmap of transition from where we are to where we wish to go? Someone has to begin thinking about these questions. Someone has to risk being called "mad" and think of alternatives before all of us are left with nothing to think about. Kachchh invites you to ask these big questions.

Postscript: As I was writing this article, I heard about the passing away of Dr Rakesh Sinha, an engineer and a thinker who argued that unemployment was inherent in the modern, large-scale, industrial model of development; who believed in an alternative paradigm of economy and technology.

The writer is member, Swaraj India and national convenor of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan. Views are personal

Choking on smoke

Climate financing that fails to promote transitions from biomass cooking fuels to LPG could leave millions in developing countries vulnerable

KALPANA BALAKRISHNAN, SAGNIK DEY, CHANDRA VENKATARAMAN, SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN

AROUND THE TIME the COP 29 ended in Baku, some parts of our country, especially the National Capital Region (NCR), witnessed yet another year of predictable deterioration of seasonal air quality to "severe" levels with an air quality index (AQI) of greater than 400. The 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on Climate Change and Health, while pointing to the need to reduce fossil fuel dependence, also argues for health-centric approaches for climate finance to support public-health interventions aimed at reducing exposure to air pollution through shifts to clean energy sources.

Unhealthy air pollution exposures are neither limited to winter time in the NCR nor attributable to the same mix of sources across the country. It is time for India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to re-examine sectoral priorities that place health at the centre. This would entail redefining strategic, near term, clean energy shifts to fossil fuels (LPG) in the residential sector that can reduce net climate warming. This is central to preserving energy equity for the vulnerable poor, while also making attainment of national air quality standards a feasible reality.

Over the last two decades, primary field studies have been undertaken in India to establish that exposure to household air pollution (HAP), resulting from the use of solid cooking fuels, are associated with a wide range of acute and chronic health conditions among adults and children. This includes impacts on chronic respiratory diseases including lung cancer, adult blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, birth weight, child pneumonia, and child growth and development.

Burning solid fuels in inefficient open fires or *chulhas* in poorly ventilated homes can result in dangerous levels of exposure to multiple harmful air pollutants, including fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5μm (PM 2.5), black carbon, and carbon monoxide, among others. Quantitative HAP measurements performed across multiple states have shown HAP exposures exceeding the WHO's air quality guidelines (AQGs) by several orders of magnitude.

While Indian cities, in particular NCR, come to focus often for ambient air pollution (AAP) and have remained as the focal point for the NCAP, the insidious health damaging HAP exposures experienced routinely by rural populations, have largely been missing from the air-pollution discourse.

Until recently, the scale and magnitude of HAP's contribution to AAP has been underrecognised and poorly characterised and the impact of emissions from solid cooking fuels has been largely overlooked. Newly developed emission inventories estimate that primary PM2.5 emissions, summed across non-attainment cities of the NCAP, contribute a small fraction of state-level emissions (for example, 4 per cent in Uttar Pradesh and 17 per cent in Maharashtra). Further, while the traditional focus has been on coal as the largest sectoral contributor, residential biomass cooking-fuel use dominates emissions across the cleanest to the most polluted air-sheds in India.

The estimates of the contribution of solid cooking fuels to ambient PM 2.5 are also getting more consistent with an estimated median national contribution of 30 per cent, with considerable heterogeneity across states. Granular models conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC) now estimate that eliminating residential biomass combustion can reduce average national ambient exposure to fine particulate matter below the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) across most districts in India.

Finally, transitioning poor populations from biomass cook-fuels to LPG has often been pitched as being inconsistent with the global "de-carbonisation" and "fossil fuel phase out" goals. However, the use of biomass cooking fuels punishes the climate agenda twice, on account of non-renewable biomass harvesting and release of short-lived climate pollutants during combustion. These climate pollutants like particulate black carbon (or soot) are nearly 1000-times stronger atmospheric warmers, on a per mass basis, than carbon dioxide. Globally and in India, complete transitions to gaseous cooking fuels such as LPG have been shown to result in drastic reductions in emissions of climate-damaging pollutants with health co-benefits from reductions in HAP and AAP.

India has an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility of a public-health intervention focused on eliminating household air pollution. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has already made hefty infrastructure investments for providing LPG access that cover nearly 99 per cent of households in the country. Recently conducted studies have shown that provision of free LPG results in sustained attainment of the WHO interim target guidelines within the household and a virtual elimination of solid fuel use even among the poorest of biomass-using households. Since both household and ambient air-pollution exposure are causally linked to a range of child and adult health outcomes, mitigating emissions from residential biomass combustion would reduce overall exposure much faster than any other source, translating to a bigger health benefit.

Strengthening PMUY with additional financial resources including further subsidies to enable poor communities to completely transition to LPG would yield transformative co-benefits for the NCAP and public health in India. Cost effectiveness of such strategies have also been noted in a recent World Bank report on addressing air pollution in South Asia.

Global climate investments shying away from promoting near-term transitions from biomass cooking fuels to LPG could leave millions across developing countries in the shadow of unjust transitions that leave vulnerable communities bearing the brunt of energy and health inequities.

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Spokesperson for the oppressed

Amiya Kumar Bagchi went against dominant currents in his research, convictions

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

PROFESSOR AMIYA KUMAR Bagchi passed away on November 28 at 88. A legendary Indian academic, teacher and institution builder has left us. Since the 1970s, there would hardly be any historian or economist in any premier institution in India who was not exposed to or grappled with his writings, whether they agreed with some of his conclusions or not. He will be sorely missed, particularly in today's times when the academic world is under severe stress in India, with free and non-conformist thought becoming increasingly difficult and even punishable.

If there was one quality that distinguished Professor Bagchi, it was his ability to stand up boldly against the dominant current, however powerful and pervasive it may be, if his own research and conviction pointed the other way. In the discipline of economics, India began to witness by the late 1960s and early '70s a turn away from the study of Political Economy, (which was the hallmark of our early nationalists, people like Dadabhai Naoroji and R C Dutt, a tradition kept alive by later economists like Bhabatosh Datta, B N Ganguli, K N Raj and several others), towards econometrics, mathematical modelling, game theory, etc. It was at that time that Bagchi, as a doctoral student at Cambridge, switched from being a game theorist to probing issues of political economy, particularly economic history. Economic history proved critical in making major theoretical breakthroughs, as is evident from the writings of Karl Marx, Dadabhai Naoroji, Maurice Dobb, Ernest Mandel, Andre Gunder Frank, Paul Baran, Daniel Thorner and so many others. Bagchi too used his deep foray into economic history to make important theoretical generalisations.

Bagchi's magnum opus *Private Investment in India*, 1900-1939, published in 1972 was his first major work as a result of his shift in focus to economic history. Based on research from a variety of sources in India and England, the book immediately became a must-read for every student of history and economics and it remains so till today, more than 50 years after it was published. After a deep and thorough study of all major sectors of the Indian economy, Bagchi demonstrates, proving many current supply-oriented hypotheses wrong, that the reason for the lack of industrial investment and overall growth in colonial India was not what economists had been repeating ad infinitum. That is, the lack of supply of capital, or its "shyness", lack of entrepreneurship, unsuitable social traditions and values in contrast to the so-called "protestant ethic" in England, overpopulation and so on, but the imposition of the priorities of British imperialism in India which constrained demand severely, limiting the profitability or even viability of investment.

Professor Bagchi's foray into the economic history of the modern period led him inevitably to look at the capitalist system as a global phenomenon, which explained the development of some parts of the world and the underdevelopment if not decimation of other parts. Among his numerous publications, the next major contribution came in the form of the book *The Political Economy of Underdevelopment*, published in 1982. It is a study that looks at various parts of the world which became victims of colonialism at different points of time for varying periods, under different colonial masters, but all sharing certain underlying similarities and structural disabilities. The study covered Latin America, Indonesia, China and India.

From here, the logical next step was his masterly overview of the emergence of world capitalism and its impact, not only in the early stages of the rise of capitalism but also its devastating consequences on a large part of humanity up to the current millennium. It was to be his last magnum opus, *Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendancy of Capital*, published in 2005. In this work, Bagchi, in his inimitable polemical style backed by huge amount of empirical evidence, demolishes several Eurocentric myths promoted by the dominant Western world, such as that Europe went ahead of the rest of the world centuries before the Industrial Revolution, or that Europe shot ahead of the rest of the world with the Industrial Revolution because of some intrinsic advantages or capabilities. On the contrary, he shows that the Great Divergence, the rapid rise of the West was in fact predicated upon surplus extraction and decimation of the rest. Through a detailed calculation he shows that between 1871 and 1916, Britain extracted as tribute from India about £3.2 billion while total British investment abroad was about £4 billion, a large part of it going to the White colonies and the US. The blood and sweat of the Indian people thus contributed, in no small measure, to the "peopling of the United States" through massive migrations from Europe "and its rise as the most economically advanced country in the world (and) also helped improve the living conditions of the Europeans left behind." A connection Professor Bagchi brings home so dramatically that our colonised minds did not make.

The world will miss a great spokesperson for the oppressed.

The writer taught contemporary history at JNU. His latest book is Nehru's India: Past, Present and Future

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A BAD PRECEDENT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When court undermines itself' (IE, December 2). It is surprising that civil courts across India have ordered an archaeological survey of various mosques. Such an order violates the Places of Worship Act, 1991 which mandated that the religious status of any place of worship should be maintained as it existed on August 15, 1947. The Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and the Krishna Janmabhoomi site in Mathura have received special attention. The Supreme Court has not intervened effectively. The Court's observation that the Act did not bar a survey to find out the nature of a religious place actually encouraged activists and petitioners to intensify their campaign.

Sankar Paul, *Nadia*

WOMEN'S AGENCY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Hit and miss' (IE, December 2). Women seeking fewer work hours is a cause for celebration, not concern. Workers trying to have a balanced work life balance leads to self-enrichment and improvement of mental health. An assured payout encourages women to dream bigger, seek better wages and improve their social standing within family and society. To say that women are less incentivised to seek work because of such schemes falls victim to the narrow vision of viewing them as mere "labhartis".

Nimmish, *Mumbai*

BANGLADESH UNREST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A time to rebuild' (IE, December 2). Atrocities against minorities continue to be reported in Bangladesh. The Indian government has expressed its concern to the Yunus government. However, this diplomatic push for communal harmony is nuanced. If the BJP has not shied away from religious polarisation targeting Muslims in India — indeed, making it a cornerstone of its politics — why would any other party, in a similar situation, not exploit polarisation politics? This presents a paradox: Countries whose domestic politics stand at odds with their projected international image.

L R Murmu, *New Delhi*

IN HOUSE

Bill to promote coastal trade brought in LS

A BILL that seeks to promote coastal trade and encourage the participation of Indian-flagged vessels owned and operated by Indian citizens for national security and commercial needs was introduced in Lok Sabha Monday by Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister Sarbananda Sonowal. It seeks prohibition of trade in the coastal water without licence by vessels other than Indian vessels and permitting inland vessels to engage in coastal trading subject to conditions. It also seeks to empower the DG to issue licence after taking into consideration certain factors including citizenship of the crew and building requirements of the vessel so as to create major jobs for India seafarers and to promote ship building in India. **PTI**

Lok Sabha secy general gets fresh extension

LOK SABHA Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh has been granted a fresh one-year extension, an official order said. According to the order, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has extended the tenure of Singh up to November 30, 2025. Singh, a 1986-batch IAS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, took over as Lok Sabha Secretary General on December 1, 2020, and his tenure has been extended earlier too. He retired as chief secretary of Uttarakhand on July 31, 2020, and took over as secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat on September 1, 2020. He assumed office as Lok Sabha Secretary General three months later after the superannuation of Snehlata Shrivastav. **PTI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers (from left) Manohar Lal Khattar, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, J P Nadda, Mansukh Mandaviya, Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Jayant Chaudhary as they watch the film *The Sabarmati Report* at the Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament complex on Monday. *PTI*

PM Modi, Cabinet Ministers watch *The Sabarmati Report*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi watched the movie *The Sabarmati Report* on Monday along with several members of his Cabinet besides MPs from the ruling alliance at the Balyogi Auditorium in the Parliament library building.

Some members of the audience, including veteran actor Jeetendra and Raashii Khanna, who has a key role in the movie, told reporters after the meeting that Modi told them this was the first film he had watched after becoming the prime minister.

Modi was joined by Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Jitan Ram Manjhi, a BJP ally, among others. The film claims to reveal the truth behind the fire incident in Sabarmati Express at Godhra on February 27, 2002, killing 59 devotees returning from Ayodhya after participating in a religious ceremony.

Vikrant Massey, who played the lead protagonist, said it was a different experience watching the movie with Modi that cannot be expressed in words. He expressed his delight and appealed to the people to watch the film. This experience was the highest point in his career, he added.

In a post on X after watching the film, Modi commended the makers of the film for their effort.

Jeetendra told reporters that this was the first time he had watched a film with the prime minister due to his daughter Ekta Kapoor, one of its producers.

"He (Modi) told me that it was the first movie he has seen after becoming prime minister," one of the Hindi film industry's leading actors of his times said.

Actor Raashii Khanna also made a similar comment and expressed delight at the experience.

The ruling BJP has actively promoted the movie, with many of its state governments making it tax-free.

Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat at the time of the incident, which was followed by communal riots, and the state police had blamed a Muslim mob for setting some of the train coaches on fire. Many accused chargesheeted by the police were later convicted in courts.

The incident had triggered a major political row as an enquiry commission constituted by the then railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, a Congress ally, had claimed that the fire was an accident.

The Gujarat High Court had, however, quashed its findings and termed the commission unconstitutional.

Sessions in South: Those in favour included Ambedkar and Vajpayee

VIDHATRI RAO
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

SHOULD PARLIAMENT have sessions in South India? A new debate has set off, with YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MP Maddila Gurumoorthy writing a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 28 and requesting him to hold two Parliament Sessions in South India annually.

In the letter, Gurumoorthy argued the move will help national integration and "address the practical challenges faced by Parliament while dealing with the extreme weather conditions" of Delhi, and facilitate "effective" working of Parliament.

The idea of holding Sessions in the South has been discussed in the past by Parliament, with among those in its favour being B R Ambedkar.

In November 1959, Independent Gurgaon MP Prakash Vir Shastri introduced a Private Member's Resolution that proposed holding a Session of the Lok Sabha in South India, either in Hyderabad or Bangalore (as it was known then), annually.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was then a first-time Bharatiya Jan Sangh (the precursor to the BJP) MP from Balrampur in Madhya Pradesh backed the proposal, saying it had "been made to strengthen the unity of the country" and shouldn't be looked at through a "political prism".

Vajpayee added that there was no question about shifting the national capital. "*Keel yehin gaadi gayee thi… Woh keel abhi tak gadi hai, aur usko ukhaadne ka koi prayatna ho bhi nahin raha hai aur karna bhi nahin chahiye* (The foundation of the national capital was laid here in Delhi. It is very much based here, and no attempt is being made to uproot it, nor should there be any.)

In his book *Thoughts on Linguistic States*, Ambedkar had proposed two capitals and given three reasons for it. "Delhi is most inconvenient to the people of the South. They suffer the most from cold as well as distance. Even the Northern people suffer in the summer months," he had written. He had also argued that people in the South feel their Capital is far away and that they feel they are being "ruled" by the North.

The third reason he had given was defence. "Delhi is a vulnerable place. It is within bombing distance of neighbouring countries."

As per Ambedkar, the second capital of the country could be Hyderabad, especially in the summer months. "Hyderabad fulfils all the requirements of a capital for India," he said, and was "equidistant to all states". "The only thing that is wanting (in Hyderabad) is a Parliament House...It is a place in which Parliament can sit all year round and work, which it cannot do in Delhi."

The then Congress Anantapur MP Nagi Reddy also backed holding House Sessions in the South. **FULL REPORT**
www.indianexpress.com

AMID OPP PROTESTS ON ADANI ROW, MANIPUR

Both Houses adjourned again, Dhankhar cites Murphy's Law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

AFTER A washout during the first week, the Winter Session of Parliament resumed its proceedings on Monday morning. However, both Houses were adjourned without much business amid the Opposition's protests on the Adani row and the Manipur situation. Parliament will now reconvene on Tuesday.

Proceedings for the Lok Sabha began amid constant sloganeering by the Opposition. During the Question Hour, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary responded to a question on the Centre of Excellence for Skill Development. Meanwhile, the House was filled with "We want justice" slogans.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in Rajya Sabha, Monday. *ANI*

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House until noon. However, before proceeding with the adjournment, he urged the protesting MPs to let the House function, asking them to return to their seats. Meanwhile, floor leaders of the INDIA bloc parties, after a meeting at the Congress Parliamentary Party office chaired by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, sought the Speaker's intervention in the smooth functioning of the House.

In Rajya Sabha, within 15 minutes of the proceedings, the Upper House was first adjourned until noon. But soon after the House met at noon, Opposition members raised their issues, including the allegations of bribery against the Adani Group and the recent violence in Sambal and Manipur, even as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said nothing would go on record.

The chairman also disallowed 20 notices served under rule 267, including eight that had sought a discussion on the US indictment of the Adani Group. Stating that the notices did not call for admittance, Dhankhar went on to equate the situation in Parliament, which has seen repeated adjournments since it met on November 25, to Murphy's Law that states, "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

"It appears that there exists a deliberate algorithm to actualise Murphy's laws in this august House, consequently impeding the proper functioning of Parliament. We find ourselves achieving precisely the antithesis of what our Constitution ordains," said Dhankhar.

As he allowed Question Hour to proceed, Tiruchi Siva of DMK also sought to raise some issues, which the Chairman said he would allow only after members took their seats and maintained decorum. As the opposition members continued to raise an uproar, Chairman Dhankhar adjourned the House for the day.

The chairman appealed to them in the name of the framers of the Constitution to allow the House to function. "We find ourselves achieving precisely the antithesis of what our Constitution ordains… In reverence to the framers of our Constitution... I implore this House to permit me to proceed with the business listed on today's agenda," he said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

BJP chief J P Nadda with party MP Anil Baluni. *@anil_baluni*

BIRTHDAY MYSTERY

BJP NATIONAL president J P Nadda, who celebrated his 64th birthday on Monday, was greeted by almost everyone in Parliament, but one MP stood out. As BJP's national media head and Lok Sabha member Anil Baluni extended birthday wishes to Nadda, the latter returned the greeting with "same to you". Monday was Baluni's birthday too and the two leaders posed with a bouquet, leaving party MPs confused over who gave the flowers to whom.

SPLIT SCREEN

ON A day Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other NDA MPs watched *The Sabarmati Report* at the Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament complex , Rajya Sabha MP Jaya Bachchan organised a special screening of her son Abhishek Bachchan's latest movie *I Want to Talk* for her MP friends. The screening at Chanakya auditorium was attended by leaders cutting across party lines. The stand-off in Parliament did not seem to affect the warmth among the MPs. Those who attended the screening included Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, BJP MP Neeraj Shekhar, TMC's Derek O'Brien, Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi and CPM's John Brittas.

PRESS BRIEF

SINCE THE Winter Session started last week, Union Ministers and junior ministers have been holding press briefings on government programmes. Monday saw a briefing on health by former health minister Mansukh Mandaviya and former Ayush minister Shripad Yesso Naik. Later this week, Jyotiraditya Scindia will brief the media on infra push in road, rail and air and Arjun Ram Meghwal will hold a press briefing on social empowerment.

Opp slams Bhagwat's '3 kids' advice: 'Stop instrumentalising women, are we rabbits?'

NDA allies TDP, JD(U) offer more measured reaction, BJP steers clear of row

VIKAS PATHAK, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELJHI, DECEMBER 2

RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat's comment that couples should have at least three children to ensure that India's population does not decline evoked varied reactions on Monday, with the Congress and the Left targeting him, the BJP choosing to remain mum, and the BJP's NDA allies adopting a measured approach.

Criticising Bhagwat, Congress's Rajya Sabha MP Renuka Chowdhury told the media outside Parliament, "Unemployed men cannot get married as no one is ready to give their daughters to them. How will they take care (of their partners)? Elderly parents are working and looking after their children as there is no money. He (Bhagwat) is saying produce more children. Are we rabbits that we will keep reproducing? How many children do people who are talking have?"

Samajwadi Party leader Abhishek Mishra told *The Indian Express* there should be no "ideological sermonising" on the issue and such decisions should be left to families.

CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat said Bhagwat's remarks were an attempt to "instrumentalise women's bodies and choices". She told *The Indian Express*, "Bhagwat ji and his kin should stop instrumentalising women's bodies and their choices about having children to suit his agenda."

The BJP's biggest NDA ally Telugu Desam Party (TDP), whose chief and Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu recently advocated for couples having more children, citing the state's ageing population, had a measured reaction to Bhagwat's remarks. The party claimed it was concerned about Andhra Pradesh and its holistic development. "We recently scrapped the two-child policy as it suits the state's population dynamics vis-a-vis low fertility rates and did not link it to delimitation or any particular community's population," said TDP national spokesperson Jyothsna Tirunagari.

BJP's Kiran Choudhry, Sena (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi and RJD's Misa Bharti at Parliament. *ANI*

Saying that the RSS is a cultural organisation, the BJP's second-largest ally Janata Dal (United) pointed out how Bihar is a "role model" when it comes to implementing population control measures. "Since our student days, we have been learning about population explosion being a problem. (Former PM) A B Vajpayee ji had spoken of population control through education and healthcare. Even PM Narendra Modi has expressed similar sentiments and said the issue has to be approached socially. NFHS data shows Bihar is among the best in controlling population growth," JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar told *The Indian Express*. According to NFHS-5 data, Bihar's TFR has come down to 3 from 4 three decades ago but is still the highest in the country.

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) national spokesperson A K Vajpayee called for a change in approach with changing times. "Earlier, population control was the need of the hour. As the requirements change, the approach also must be tweaked," he told *The Indian Express*.

Trump 2.0: Jaishankar anticipates a 'degree of unpredictability'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

WITH UNITED States President-elect Donald Trump set to take office on January 20, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday predicted a "degree of unpredictability" for Trump's second term, but added that when it came to India and the US, strategic ties have only grown over time.

"The advent of the second Trump Administration is obviously a major consideration in business circles. Obviously, the only safe prediction is one of a degree of unpredictability. Different countries have had their own experiences from the first Administration and would presumably draw from that to approach the second. I can state with confidence that the strategic convergences with the United States for India have only grown deeper with time," Jaishankar said, while addressing the Confederation of Indian Industry's Partnership Summit in New Delhi.

Spoke at the CII Summit in New Delhi. *PTI*

The Minister added that there would always be "some give and take" between the two major economies.

"When we look at economic or technology domains, the case for trusted and reliable partnerships have actually increased in recent years. A lot of what lies ahead would be in fashioning terms of engagement that are perceived and recognised to be mutually beneficial. And in that regard, the more that India can bring to the table, the stronger will be our appeal," he said.

Bangladesh nationals rush home amid rumours of border sealing

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
PETRAPOLE, BONGAON, DEC 2

AS TARAK Mondol hauled his luggage — a backpack and two duffel bags — towards the immigration centre at the Petrapole-Benapole checkpoint on the India-Bangladesh border, it could not have been more disappointing for the 38-year-old.

For, Mondol, a resident of Khulna district in Bangladesh, had to cut short his stay in India without getting his eye surgery done amid rumours of the international border being sealed soon. Diagnosed with an eye ailment he was asked to undergo surgery for which he was in India.

At Petrapole, India's largest land customs station near Bongaon in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, many Bangladeshi nationals are making a beeline to go back to their country after calls from their families.

There was fresh turmoil in Bangladesh following the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das. Das was arrested on November 25 by the Bangladesh Police on charges of sedition.

"I lost vision in my left eye after I met with an accident. I came to India (West Bengal) a few days back and got my eye checked at a private hospital. I was advised to get my eye surgery done," said Tarak Mondol. "Moreover, there are rumours that the border will be sealed in the next couple of days. So I am rushing back without getting my surgery done even as I had my visa till December 17."

An anti-Bangladesh protest by Hindu outfits at Petrapole, the border town in North 24 Parganas, Monday. *Partha Paul*

Kalpana Ghosh (57) and her husband Dulal Chandra Ghosh (62), from the Mymensingh Sadar area, were also among those rushing back. "I underwent cataract surgery yesterday. I could have stayed here back and rested for a while. But the situation is bad there and we want to get back home as soon a possible," said Kalpana.

Sipra Biswas, who along with husband Babul Biswas was standing in the queue at the checkpoint, said, "What if our homes are vandalised? Our children and relatives are there...We came here after things settled a bit, but now the trouble started once again."

Shahinoor Begum (30), who was in Bengal for her son's treatment, said, "I don't understand politics much... whatever is happening is not acceptable. My son's treatment is done and now we are returning home..."

Rajdeep Roy (31), a Sylhet resident who came to India on Monday for liver treatment, said, "I usually come to India twice a year. But now, people from Bangladesh are not getting visas as easily."

Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked the Centre to move the UN to send its peacekeeping force to Bangladesh to "ensure security to people of all caste, creed and religion". Speaking in the Assembly, she said: "The recent situation in Bangladesh is quite alarming. I would request the Central government to send peacekeeping forces there through the United Nations... Security should be ensured to all, irrespective of religion, caste and creed."

5 INDIANS PART OF RAPID & BLITZ WORLDS

Lausanne: R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and R Vaishali will be among five Indian participants in the upcoming 2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) said on Monday. The prestigious event will be held in New York City from December 26-31. **PTI**

BGT SHORTS

I'm good to go: Marsh ahead of pink ball Test

Australia's seam bowling all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has allayed concerns about his injury, declaring himself "good to go" for the pink ball second Test against India, which begins here on December 6. The 33-year-old had felt discomfort after bowling after bowling 19.3 overs in the opening Test, which Australia lost by 295 runs at Perth, but Marsh has confirmed his fitness ahead of the second Test at Adelaide Oval. Australia had included uncapped Tasmania all-rounder Beau Webster in the squad due to doubts over Marsh's fitness. However, Marsh has assured that he is ready for the challenge. Asked about any fitness concerns, Marsh told Channel Nine: "The body's all good, yep. Nah, nah, I'm good to go." "I'll be there," he added after arriving in Adelaide on Monday. This news will come as a boost for Australia, who are also dealing with the absence of pacer Josh Hazlewood, who pulled out of the pink ball Test due to a side strain. Marsh, who has been managing a recurring ankle injury, also underwent surgery that saw him miss parts of the 2022-23 summer. **PTI**

I'll tell my grandkids I faced Bumrah: Head

Australia batter Travis Head feels Jasprit Bumrah will go down as "one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game" and said he'll proudly tell his grandchildren about the formidable challenge of facing the Indian pace maestro. Bumrah reinforced his status as the best bowler in the world with a stunning performance in the opening Test in Perth which India won by 295 runs. "Jasprit will go down as probably one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game. I think we're finding that at the moment -- how challenging he can be, and it's nice to play against that," Head told reporters on Monday. "It's gonna be nice to go back and look at your career and go tell the grandkids that you faced him. So not a bad series of playing with him. Hopefully I'll face a few more times, but he has been challenging," he added. Bumrah, who was captaining the visiting side, led from the front with a match-haul of 8/72, including several pivotal wickets, showcasing his exceptional form. **PTI**

Gambhir to rejoin Indian team in Aus

India head coach **Gautam Gambhir** is set to rejoin the team in Australia ahead of the second Test at Adelaide Oval, having flown back home due to "personal reasons" after the big win in the series opener in Perth. Gambhir missed the two-day warm-up game against the Prime Minister's XI at Manuka Oval here, which was reduced to a 46-overs-a-side contest due to inclement weather. He had left the touring party on November 26, the scheduled final day of the first Test in Perth. India won the opening Test by 295 runs and with plenty of time left in the match. The second Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, a pink-ball day-nighter, will start on Friday. Finalising the playing XI will be Gambhir's top priority after he links up with the Indian squad. In Gambhir's absence, his three trusted lieutenants Abhishek Nayar, Ryan ten Doeschate and Morne Morkel oversaw the team's training and preparations for the tour match, which India won by six wickets. **PTI**

BENAFSHA'S TALE OF SURVIVAL

Escape from Kabul

Her father was killed in mysterious circumstances in Afghanistan, but cricket kept her determined at 18 to escape Taliban atrocities

EXPRESS IN AUSTRALIA

SRIRAM VEERA
CANBERRA, DECEMBER 2

BENAFSHA HASHIMI is sitting on her father's lap, stroking his beard, in Kabul, when an advisory message plays out on television. 'Don't come to Australia illegally on boats' – a note for the many travellers risking, often losing, their lives to get across.

Little Benafsha thinks Australia is just on the other side of the big river in Kabul. "I shall go there one day, I have to just cross the river". Her father tells her she has to learn swimming first. "Don't worry, I can go in a boat!" The father laughs but assures her that she can go the proper way one day but has to study hard and grow up.

Nearly a decade and a half later, in 2021, Benafsha, 21, ended up in Canberra. She escaped the Taliban's clutches and survived the mysterious death of her father, an Afghan special forces soldier. She saw her aunt bleed to death and witnessed myriad shootings. But at has been able to drag the entire Afghan women's cricket team to Australia. All this when she was still a teenager. It's a remarkable story of hope, willpower, selflessness, stubbornness, and a lot of cheekiness.

It's the morning of India's warm-up game against the Prime Minister's XI. Benafsha has agreed to meet at an outdoorsy cafe where a loud dog catches her attention. After petting it, she plonks back on her chair to announce, "I have a cat, Lilly. I love lilies and my Lilly. We talk a lot." Right now, she reflects her age; the rest of the time, as she narrates her life story, immense maturity floats in the air.

Hers is a tale where it's difficult to decide where to start. Perhaps in 2021, when the Taliban have taken over Kabul. She is 18 but responsible enough for her family of 10 to send her to the bank to withdraw money. She could hear Taliban soldiers outside the bank firing in the air.

The start could even be at the checkpost on the Pakistan border, when she is fleeing with the family in the middle of night "like a pack of thieves". They would be stopped by Talibs, who bark at her brother Hamid to tell "this girl" to stop talking. "Who has given a girl the right to talk, just stand aside," they would shout threateningly.

> **My well-wishers, who were trying to help me escape, called me an idiot. In weak moments, when I would think perhaps I should take it, an inner voice would say: 'C'mon Benafsha, you are a team player. You can't abandon your friends'."**

Or the moment when her phone starts to ring, with a popular Farsi love song triggering outrage among Taliban soldiers, and her brother muttering, 'we are all going to die' even as he tries to stop the call. It is her friend, a cricketing team-mate, wanting to know her whereabouts.

It's perhaps best to start with why that friend was reaching out. Not at that moment, but how Benafsha became the rallying group leader for the girls of her cricket team, and their families, to get to Australia. "No, it was a combined team effort, I couldn't have done it without my friends," she says but it's clear that they couldn't have even dared to dream this life without her.

She was the resourceful one, tirelessly pursuing opportunities outside, sending emails to all parts of the cricketing world and beyond for a possible light at the end of the Taliban tunnel. The first three replies were her passport to survival and a better life but she chose to ignore them. The US authorities offered her escape due to her father's past with them, Canada threw a lifeline, as did Dubai, but she was adamant that she wanted her team with her.

"My well-wishers, who were trying to help me escape, called me an idiot. But I was stubborn. In weak moments, when I would think perhaps I should take it, an inner voice would come loud and clear: 'C'mon Benafsha, you are a team player. You can't abandon your friends and be selfish'." And so she even lied to her mother that she didn't hear back from anyone. That they had to just wait and hope.

Then Mel Jones, a former Australia woman cricketer of stature, hears her story and offers help. The Australian authorities get into the picture but are shocked to hear that Benafsha wants the entire team and families to escape. "We can't do that. It's not easy, how can we take so many people out? You and your family come first."

But Benafsha listens to no one but her inner voice. "Even today when I speak to youngsters, I tell them my life motto is, 'Listen to all, but don't follow anyone. Only follow your heart, courage will come automatically'."

The conversation soon goes back to Kabul, her escape and her father. "He treated me like a little princess. Usually Afghan men prefer sons; he was different, distributing laddoos in the neighbourhood when I was born, his fourth child."

Due to the nature of his work, he was often away. "And then one day, he came in a coffin. There he was laid out, outside our door and I was not even 10 then. I just sat there, staring at him. My younger sister kept repeating, "he is just sleeping, he will wake up."

Benafsha Hashimi crossed over to Pakistan from Afghanistan, and then flew to Australia in 2021. *Express photo*

It was their mother who took both aside to tell them that their father was no more and it was okay to cry. "Don't bottle it up, cry if you have to. This is what it is. We have to face reality."

The reality kept turning dark. "Some said he had a heart attack, some said he was poisoned, we don't know to this day." Not long after that, another tragedy struck. Benafsha found herself pouring water on her aunt's dead body. "Only women are allowed in our tradition. She was shot in the hip and head, blood on her body when she was brought home." A childhood shot to pieces, pushing her to grow up rather too quickly, but luckily one remnant would remain.

"Cricket saved my life," she says with a chirpiness, adding solemnly, "Cricket is my life."

Her mother never liked her playing cricket. Especially in the streets with boys, once she grew up a little. The coaches at the academy didn't take a liking to her because she was a "street cricketer", not someone who grew up in the system.

> **And then one day, he (her father) came in a coffin. There he was laid out, outside our door and I was not even ten then. I just sat there, staring at him. My younger sister kept repeating, "he is just sleeping, he will wake up."**

Her memories of playing in the streets still remain special to her. "The empty oil tin cans were our stumps and I terrorised the boys by hitting!" It was her eldest brother Hamid who kept fighting with their mother to allow her to play cricket and things turned a bit when she won a scholarship to a cricket talent programme. Things kept escalating positively and she was named alongside 25 girls, officially contracted by the Afghanistan Cricket board in 2021. The lights would go out soon though.

She remembers that day at the bank just days after the Taliban took over. "When I heard the shootings, I froze in fear. I huddled behind other women, not knowing what would happen." But it wasn't the bullets that's her worst memory, but the vulgar gaze of a male Taliban soldier. "He gave me this look - a dirty look that I can't describe. He told the others to stop shooting and told me that the bank is shut today, but write your name now in this paper and come to meet me tomorrow. I shall take you inside. I ran from there, shivering. That look is my worst memory from those days in Kabul. It made me doubly determined to leave Afghanistan."

But even when the opportunities came, she didn't take them as she wanted her team to be safe too. "I am the one doing all the paperwork, emailing, talking in my broken English; what would happen to them if I left?" And so she pressed the Australian authorities to somehow pull off a miracle for her.

They buckled under her emotional pressure, and promised they would. That they will process the paperwork and get the required permission, but the evacuation can't be en masse. First she and her family. "I managed to get two more families along with me, of course," she smiles.

It's to that night in September 2021 she returns to. "Many in our group were happy, but me and my sister Safia, who is two years younger and also in our team, were sad. We love Afghanistan, We didn't want to leave …"

There were numerous checkpoints where they would all insist that they were off to a wedding. It was at one such post where her phone rang with a Farsi love tune drifting in the air. "The Talibs were so angry, screaming that it's blasphemy and that we shall be whipped. Somehow we got through." They were in Pakistan for a week before flying to Australia.

Benafsha's story is similar to those of other Afghan women players like Nahida Sapan, Aysha Yousofzai and Firooza Amiri, who escaped from Taliban under some pretext or the other.

It took people from different countries to accomplish the evacuation. Walwala and Toba in Afghanistan's cricketing circuit, unnamed Australian authorities, Mel Jones, and Catherine Ordway, a lawyer, academic, and sports integrity expert who has been part of tribunals.

Benafsha plays for two clubs in Australia, turned out briefly for the Sydney University team, and travelled to Fiji to play cricket with the organisation 'Cricket without Borders'. In January, she will represent an Afghan Women XI against Cricket without Borders at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. "We shall get there early January and there will be selection trials. I would absolutely love it if I were the captain!"

This match is a result of the exiled Afghan women cricketers writing to former International Cricket Council chairman Greg Barclay after the country's men's team reached the semifinals of the T20 World Cup. The letter sought help in setting up a refugee team for them in Australia.

Not everything is hunky dory. The past has a way to cling on, leaving its residue in the soul. Benafsha often wakes up screaming at night, calling out for her mother. "I would have different nightmares that also include me being about to be killed."

She explains: "Often, when you reach a safe place, with the troubles seemingly behind you, that's when the trauma hits." She is taking counselling and is all set to pursue her sports management course, that has psychology in the syllabus, at the Canberra University, starting February.

She then recalls a moment with her mother, who had worried about her playing cricket. "One day here, she said, 'Benafsha, without you, none of this would have been possible. I dread to think what would have happened to us in Kabul'."

As she gets up to leave, refusing the offer of a lift, Benafsha, which means 'violet' and whose nickname is '*Chhoti Shaitaan*' (Little Devil), smiles and says, "Don't worry *janaab* (sir), I know my way. This is my country now!"

How cricket has been Oz premier's unwritten perk over the years

SHIVANI NAIK
DECEMBER 2

AUSTRALIAN PRIME Ministers don't wade into cricket. Their toes, it would seem, are permanently sunk into the soft, fine sand on the beach that cricket resembles, while rougher political tides ebb and flow all around.

Not merely because the Indian team was camped in Canberra, and paid a visit to the PM Anthony Albanese, but Cricket and the Australian PM are entwined deeper than what normal statecraft, would afford. It's the unofficial distraction, a PM's unwritten perk.

Back in 2018-19 former PM Scott Morrison had a private WhatsApp group called 'Legends', and added Pat Cummins and then coach Justin Langer, onto it. He did his best to gee them up with, 'good luck, go get 'em today' messages, according to an Amazon documentary. Tim Paine earlier, received texts of encouragement from Morrison too. But cricket has famously wooed every inhabitant of 'The Lodge', the official PM residence.

PMs, considerably more ancient than Morrison, like Ben Chifley, the first post-war elected head, were in fact lobbied for serious issues. Chifley softened the federal entertainment tax on the sport, which during the 1948 tour by India, took out £17,724 out of the £76,186 gate receipts, writes historian Greg Blood.

Joseph Lyons, the Bodyline-era PM, saw the sport as a national distraction to Great Depression, but had to intervene to convince the bruised Aussies to carry on against Jardine's 'leg side threat'.

Australian state finances were delicate, and he was petrified Britain would play hardball on repayment of loans if the tour was called off. But Lyons famously adjourned Cabinet meetings to receive updates on team selections, kept the radio in his room blaring to catch clues of wicket and weather conditions and set up the Australian Broadcast Corporation in July 1932 for popularising cricket.

While Robert Menzies formalized the PM XI tradition that still carries on, his successor Bob Hawke, a grade cricketer in Sydney, famously survived a session till lunch with Jeff Thomson, Max Walker and Gary Gilmour darting all morning at him. Batting with sports writer David Lord in a Parlimentarians vs Press match, he pointed to Lord-Hawke partnership, and quipped, "We would make a great political team with a name like that." The trade unions chief took a few more bouncers to the head but was elected Prime Minister subsequently.

Australian PM Anthony Albanese hosted the Indian team last week. *Instagram/AlboMP*

Other PMs encountered cricket on their way to the top post. Paul Keating had his election campaign news pushed way down by Australia refusing to play a World Cup match at Colombo.

The unmissable presence though was of John Howard's - much before his ICC stint. He notoriously called Muttiah Muralitharan a chucker, saying rather uneloquently with no PM-esque grace that "they proved it in Perth with that thing." The biomechanics.

The self-anointed cricket tragic, who was a regular at SCG, spoke to Mark Taylor ahead of his 334 declaration in Pakistan, rejigged cabinet meetings to meet Tubby on arrival, found urgent matters to discuss with Britain around Ashes, and was in the stands for Steve Waugh's farewell, as PM. His constituency didn't vote him back to power, to watch Ricky Ponting bid goodbye, but the jury is out on whether his off-spin action on a Pakistan visit was "biomechanically faultless", as one commentator described.

What he did manage though was to deter Julia Gillard from attempting to roll her arm over, when she visited Delhi as PM. "I wasn't tempted to showcase my skills … because I don't really have any skills, so that would be a problem. I have learnt something from watching John Howard and that is, don't succumb to playing cricket in front of TV (cameras)," she jested.

Her decision to bestow the Order of Australia on cricketer Sachin Tendulkar though, saw her being accused of using cricket for diplomatic gain. Her hedge was that the Tendulkar headlines would smoothen feathers ruffled due to a tricky "nuclear issue which is a trust issue with the Indian government."

Kevin Ruud angered his own countrymen when he scolded his team battling the Harbhajan-Symonds controversy in 2008, lecturing, "It's a tough and competitive business (but) you can conduct it with a bit of civility." By the time of his second term in 2013, with Australia battling to save the third Ashes Test, and Usman Khawaja given out caught behind with replays unclear, the Gary Sobers fan was billowing away on Twitter like a proper cricket crank, "I've just sat down to watch the Test. That was one of the worst cricket umpiring decisions I have ever seen."

Tony Abbott, who took office after Gillard, admitted he made it to the Oxford cricket team because he could get lippy. "I couldn't bat, I couldn't bowl, but I could sledge," he said. He then proceeded to call English captain Alastair Cook an 'extremely stylish man in every sense.' Swooning over an English captain was more cringe than sledging them.

But Malcolm Turnbull, Abbott's successor belonging to the Liberal Party too, wanted to have nothing to do with sledging. PM during the ball-tampering scandal, he termed sledging "right out of control", and Steve Smith's admission a "shocking affront to Australia."

Little wonder then that Scott Morrison who followed, needed to calm things down, and pull off the modern-day, mature, masterstroke - forming a WhatsApp group with all relevant cricket characters on board. But we know how that one ended.

Albanese's cricket cred? He invited the Indians for high tea. Then Virat Kohli brewed a nice spicy masala storm in the tea cup.

BRIEFLY

Sindhu to tie knot on December 22

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu will tie the knot on December 22 in Udaipur. The former world champion, who ended a long title drought with victory at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow on Sunday, will marry Hyderabad-based Venkata Datta Sai, who is an executive director at Posidex Technologies. "The two families knew each other but it was only a month ago that everything was finalised. This was the only possible window as her schedule will be hectic from January," Sindhu's father, PV Ramana, told PTI. "So that is the reason the two families decided to have the marriage ceremony on December 22. The reception will be held in Hyderabad on December 24. She will start her training soon after as the next season is going to be important." **PTI**

U-19 Asia Cup: India thrash Japan

Sharjah: Mohamed Amaan led from the front with an unbeaten century, while KP Karthikeya and opener Ayush Mhatre made fifties to hand India a comfortable 211-run victory over minnows Japan in the Under-19 Asia Cup here on Monday. Amaan slammed an unbeaten 122 off just 118 balls, a knock studded with only seven boundaries, after India were invited to bat. Besides Amaan, Karthikeya made 57 off 49 balls with the help of five fours and one six, while Mhatre's fiery 29-ball 54-run knock featured six boundaries and four hits over the fence.

Brief Scores: **India Under-19:** 339 for 6 in 50 overs (Mohamed Amaan 122, KP Karthikeya 57, Ayush Mhatre 54; Hugo Kelly 2/42) beat **Japan Under-19:** 128 for 8 in 50 overs (Hugo Kelly 50; Hardik Raj 2/9) by 211 runs

Seales takes four wickets for 5 runs

Kingston: Fast bowler Jayden Seales took four wickets and conceded only five runs in almost 16 overs to give West Indies the advantage over Bangladesh on Day 2 of the second Test. Seales bowled 10 maiden overs in total and helped to mop up the tail Sunday as Bangladesh was all out for 164 in 71.5 overs in its first innings.West Indies trailed by 94 runs after reaching 70-1 at stumps in reply. Captain Kraigg Brathwaite is 33 not out and Keacy Carty is on 19. Mikyle Louis was the only wicket taken by Bangladesh, caught behind off Nahid Rana (1-28).

Brief scores: **West Indies** 70 for 1 (Brathwaite 33*, Rana 1-28) trail **Bangladesh** 164 (Shadman 64, Mehidy 36, Seales 4-5, Shamar 3-49) by 94 runs

Jamshedpur bag 3-1 win vs Mohammedan

Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC returned to winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Mohammedan SC in the Indian Super League here on Monday. Mohammed Sanan (53rd min) handed Jamshedpur FC the lead before Javier Siverio (61st) and Stephen Eze (79th) stepped up and joined the party at the JRD Tata Sports Complex. Mohammed Irshad (88th) scored a consolation goal for the visitors as the Khalid Jamil-coached team held their lines brilliantly. It was one of the slow burners where both teams took their time to settle down before throwing attacks at each other. **PTI**

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

'Mistake after Mistake'

Carlsen, Nakamura, Kramnik left unimpressed by quality on show in title showdown between Ding Liren and Gukesh

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THE FIDE world chess championship battle between holder Ding Liren and challenger D Gukesh spiced up quite early, with the Chinese grandmaster winning game 1 before allowing his opponent to level the score in Game 3. Heading into Tuesday's Game 7, both players are tied with three points each after three successive draws.

However, former world champions like Magnus Carlsen and Vladimir Kramnik have been left underwhelmed by the quality of play so far in the title showdown.

Kramnik flayed the players for calculating too much and not playing like humans.

"Frankly, I am very disappointed by today's game (Game 6). Even Game 5 was not extremely high level, but today it was really — for a professional — it was really weak play from both players. It's a very disappointing level," former world champion Kramnik ranted while analysing game 6 on his YouTube channel.

"It's such a strange game. Both players were making mistake after mistake, strategical mistakes. As if they don't get the sense of the position. Maybe I'm old-school but it's pretty basic! Of course, they're both great players and great calculators. They calculate fantastically. But I expect something a bit more from a world championship match, like ideas! Human play, human concepts! If I want to enjoy chess as just a game of calculation, I would rather watch a world championship of chess engines!"

Kramnik said that he didn't even want to analyse Game 6 too deeply because there were "too many obvious and conceptual mistakes". He pointed out a specific instance when Gukesh could have pushed for a win in the endgame with a push of his king while also pointing out how Ding had made life difficult for himself by making inaccuracies on the board. Ding's predecessor on the throne, Magnus Carlsen has also been doing daily analysis on his new Take Take Take app, where he frequently opens up on how he would have played differently if he were in the shoes of either player. After Game 5, he had some harsh words for the 18-year-old from Chennai.

"Gukesh has generally not impressed me (so far at the world championship). Ding has probably done a little bit better than we thought. But we probably didn't expect much (from Ding). And Gukesh has probably been a little bit worse," he said. Carlsen said Game 6 was "interesting", but pointed out, as Kramnik had, how Gukesh could have played for a win.

"D Gukesh has generally not impressed me (so far at the world championship). Ding Liren has probably done a little bit better than we thought."
— MAGNUS CARLSEN

"Very strange game (Game 6): even though Ding was better for much of the game positionally, it felt like Gukesh was the one trying to win the game!
— HIKARU NAKAMURA

"Both players were making mistake after mistake, strategical mistakes. As if they don't get the sense of the position. Maybe I'm old-school but it's pretty basic!
— VLADIMIR KRAMNIK

Not impressed

World No.3 Hikaru Nakamura called Game 6 a "strange game", pointing out the paradoxical nature of the play by the end.

"For me, this was a game that was hard to understand! I thought Ding had a nice position on the board out of opening, he was up on the clock. Easy position to play. He squanders the time advantage and then wants to make a draw. Gukesh declines and plays on. Very, very hard to judge. Very strange game: even though Ding was better for much of the game positionally, it felt like Gukesh was the one trying to win the game! Really hard to understand the psychology behind this game," said the American grandmaster on his YouTube recap.

The American went as far as saying that he was unable to understand what the world champion's strategy for the match was.

In Game 6, Gukesh made a daring attempt to keep the game going despite being in a worse position when he could have ended the game in a draw early with one move (moving 26…Qh4 instead of playing 26…Qe7). Ding, at that stage, had already signalled he was ready to head into the rest day with a draw. But Gukesh, instead of repeating the position for the third time, played a different move, thus signaling he wanted to grind on.

Kramnik was livid at Gukesh's tactics and exhorted some pragmatism considering the Indian is playing at the biggest stage of all.

"I understand it could have been some kind of an idea to play for a win but it's a very big misjudgement of the position. Obviously, white (Ding) is much better here. Modern-day players are so much into calculating variations. Black's position (Gukesh's position) is practically on the edge of losing. I don't understand! This is a world championship match. The decision here should be completely automatic."

Heading into Game 7, Carlsen predicted a "fight" solely because that's how games in which Gukesh plays with white have been so far. But he did have a sobering analysis of the match situation for the Indian prodigy.

"We're almost down to a 60-40 match, in Gukesh's favour. The odds are getting better and better for Ding. If he doesn't win the next game, we're closing in on a very even match."

No ice-cream, just some Thai food: Ding

A POST-PRESS conference exclusive with IM Mike Klein by Ding Liren (correct pronunciation Ding Lee-Gen spellt Lizhen), revealed that though the Chinese wasn't gorging on tubs of ice cream on the sidelines of the World Chess championship, he had his favourite among the frozen treats

"Strawberry ice cream," Liren named his favourite flavour, while adding that there was another flavour he was curious about.

Liren and Indian D Gukesh are currently level on points after Game 6, with Monday as rest day.

When asked if GM Rapport would be dispatched to find him strawberry ice cream, Liren said, "haven't had any ice cream, just some Thai food. I remember there was coconut ice cream …."

Post a press conference where he further endeared the crowd with his quippy responses, Liren made light of his fast-gaining funny reputation. Chess 24 asked Ding Liren, "Do you like making us laugh?" The Chinese responded, "It is by accident. I really don't know what the question means."

Quizzed on whether he was happy that memes on him were getting popular and internet was talking about him, he said he recalled hearing, "I smile like a very innocent man." He also admitted he was a tad tired "after long thought on the opening", though the six games hadn't been particularly long. He thought was surprised that Gukesh refused the first offer of a draw. Expecting Gukesh to play same move third time, he was readying to write it in the score sheet where everyone records theirs and their opponent's moves. Then he realised Gukesh had changed course and refused draw with a different move.

The Russian chess federation official report of Game 6 meanwhile noted a coincidence in Liren's play similar to when he played Ian Nepomniachtchi last edition.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A FAREWELL TO REMEMBER

Tennis icon Gabriela Sabatini with Novak Djokovic at Juan Martin del Potro's last match. *Reuters*

'Special player': Legends hail DelPo on retirement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DECEMBER 2

A THUNDEROUS, iconic forehand and winning smile was enough for Juan Martin del Potro to endear himself into the heart of tennis fans when he stunned Roger Federer for the 2009 US Open title.

Once seemingly destined to be an all-surface champ, relentless injury issues derailed a career that failed to reach greater heights, and officially came to a close in an exhibition match that was a repeat of the 2018 US Open final — beating old friend and rival Novak Djokovic 6-4, 7-5 in Buenos Aires early on Monday.

The tributes for the 36-year-old Argentine poured in soon after.

"Like everyone here in this stadium, I am very emotional today," Djokovic said after the match. "I am also grateful for being able to play with my friend, with a great person and a great player, as well as a great rival. It is a very special day for me too.

"Juan Martin is an example for all of us, and his greatest victory in life is being a wonderful person," the 24-time Major winner added.

A video that played in the arena after the conclusion of the match included messages from the likes of Carlos Alcaraz, Gael Monfils, and Federer

"You were a very special player and person for the world of tennis, and I hope this moment is a beautiful one, one where you are celebrating, not a sad one."
ROGER FEDERER

"You were a very special player and person for the world of tennis, and I hope this moment is a beautiful one, one where you are celebrating, not a sad one. We all need to take that next step in life, and I believe the best for you is yet to come," Federer said.

"It has been a total honour and pleasure to play against you and spend time with you off the court. I wish you all the best and I am sure we will see each other soon," the Swiss legend added.

Del Potro reached a career-high ranking of World No. 3, and reached only one Major final after winning in New York in 2009. But among his career achievements, which includes 22 titles and over $25 million in prize money, are back-to-back Olympic medals in 2012 (bronze) and 2016 (silver).

MUMBAI INDIANS: FINDERS, KEEPERS

Behind spotting Ghazanfar, Minz; retaining scouts Sourabh, Robin

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
DECEMBER 2

■ ALLAH GHAZANFAR is from Paktia, a Pashtun province with a violent history on Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. He is a 19-year-old mystery spinner, a lower-order six-hitter and is being compared to the greatest cricketer his country has produced - Rashid Khan.

■ Robin Minz grew up in Telgaon, the tribal belt in Jharkhand's Gumla district that's mostly in news for insurgency. He is a 22-year-old wicketkeeper, has earned a MS Dhoni recco and is also being called 'Jharkhand ka Chris Gayle.'

■ Bevon Jacobs was born in Pretoria, South Africa, now lives in Auckland, New Zealand. Those who have seen the 22-year-old play see shades of living legends from his country of birth - AB de Villiers and Faf du Plesis - in his batting.

At this week's mega Indian Premier League (IPL) auction, Mumbai Indians signed these youngsters who were unknown to those outside cricket's inner circle but are central to their plans going ahead. Ghazanfar and Minz, those in the know say, will start in all games. As for Jacobs, he is a long-term investment, one for the future.

The story of how MI spotted, followed, chased, tested and finally drafted these three promising players points to IPL's pushing back boundaries, stretching its reach and asserting its reputation as a truly global league. Not just India, the nets are now being cast into the deep interiors of the entire cricketing world. It's like the searing gaze of European football clubs on the ghettos of South America or NBA travelling to public basketball courts in Eastern Europe with cheque books. There's more ...

The valuable inputs about the potential of these untested players were provided by the army of ex-MI players spread across the world. Close to 15 talent-spotters have been MI's loyal and trusted retainers.

It also helps that MI have sister teams in franchise leagues in South Africa, USA and UAE. Since the launch of the International League T20, a tournament owned by the Emirates Cricket Board, MI have a unit stationed in Dubai. Incidentally, that is where the Afghanistan national team trains. MI old hand Robin Singh, who coaches MI Emirates, first spotted Ghazanfar when he got into the Afghanistan national camp.

Singh's regular cable to HQ Mumbai would mention the boy from Paktia. Ghazanfar was now on MI watch. Comparisons would be made. The optimists would see in him Sunil Narine - the Trinidadian mystery spinner-cum-opener who helped Kolkata Knight Riders win their third title earlier this year. At the junior level, the Ghazanfar graph would keep showing spikes. From the under-19 national team, he would graduate to the seniors.

Months before the auction, the Afghan boy would play India A in the Emerging Trophy tournament in UAE. He would dismiss India's big T20 hope - left-hander Abhishekh Sharma. Next in was India A captain Tilak Verma, the top-order batsman retained by Mumbai. Tilak would face a few Ghazanfar deliveries, most being dot balls. Another vital input would reach the MI core team that would be at the auction table. Tilak's green signal was all MI needed to go 'all out' for the Afghan teen. They would end up buying him for much less than what they had expected. Maybe, other franchises don't have that many talent scouts posted at every cricketing outpost. Maybe, that's why they didn't know his true worth.

Minz has a different backstory. The Jharkhand boy was part of the auction last time also. He was picked by Gujarat Titans for Rs 3.6 crore. Unfortunately for Minz, a freak motorbike accident ruled him out for the season. But MI's hot pursuit continued. They had whiffed a star, and didn't give up on the trail.

MI's man in Jharkhand is Saurabh Tiwary. The burly left-handed batsman was with the franchise for four years. He was a utility player, a master of cameos who MI kept retaining. He was reliable and it was this quality that came handy again. Tiwary's 'all ok' was a factor in Minz getting picked by MI.

Long-term view

While Ghazanfar and Minz are ripe to take the field, Jacobs still has time. MI is ready to wait. The batsman has numbers and is also recommended by the trusted voice of Mitchell McClenaghan, another former MI player. Back in 2015, the Kiwi pacer was signed for a bargain price of Rs 30 lakh. He would prove to be priceless that season. He got 18 wickets of which three were in the final against Chennai Super Kings. He played a role in MI winning the title. Even after retirement, he continues to be valuable. So when McClenaghan called to say that Jacobs had potential, MI were ready to listen and lift the paddle at the auction.

Robin Singh, Tiwary and McClenaghan are the back room boys to the coaching galacticos, also former MI players, seen in the dugout on match days. Starting with their first marquee player, the GOAT himself, Sachin Tendulkar, most MI stars, after their playing days, remain part of the Mumbai Indians set-up. Shaun Pollock, Ricky Ponting, Lasith Malinga, Shane Bond, Zaheer Khan ... the list is long.

It's the post-retirement employment, along with playing-day perks, that makes MI a franchise where players rarely leave after checking in. Take the example of India's present MVP, Jasprit Bumrah. He was spotted by MI's long-time talent spotter-in-chief John Wright, groomed by Bond and Malinga. When he got injured, the world-class medical facility, owned by the MI owners, came in handy. It was the same when Hardik Pandya got injured. Even lesser players are extended the same perks.

Back in 2019, MI's West Indian signing Alzarri Joseph, within days of his 6/13 on debut, got injured while taking a tough catch. Even six months after the IPL season, Joseph was put up in a five-star hotel for his rehab.

All this helps to answer that pre-auction puzzling retention question: How were Mumbai able to hold on to Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav - the marquee players who could have got more cash and the captaincy arm-band from any other team of their choice? They wouldn't have got the same perks elsewhere.

This also ended up helping others. The huge supply-demand leadership gap would result in the likes of Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer getting the crores that didn't match with their captaincy acumen and record. The unending spotting-retaining cycle also makes MI avoid the existential questions that a one-man franchise like CSK faces - Who after MS Dhoni?

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