



Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

It Is Notified For The Information That I Jaswant Singh S/O Balvir Singh My Minor Son's ICSE Board Unique ID: 8439978 (10th Standard) Matriculation Certificate From Sacred Heart School Moga Has Been Lost. Name: Shehbaj Singh Gill R/O Near Society Pirthi Mall Patti Manuke Distt. Moga Punjab 142045.

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Ramphal S/o Dhan Singh R/o Village Nangal Khurd, Tehsil Rai, Sonipat declare that my son Anil and his wife Kiran and their children 1. Chetan 2. Deepu, and 3. Priya from all my movable and immovable properties, wherever situated in India. I am taking this action because their conduct is unsatisfactory, and they refuse to heed the counsel of myself and my family. Anyone entering into any dealings with them in the future shall be solely responsible; neither I nor my family shall bear any liability in this regard.

I, Sheetal Singh, son of Jai Singh, resident of Village Chamaru (Sub-Tehsil Ghanaur, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala), declare that our son Satpal Singh and his wife Harpreet Kaur are out of my control. so i disowned from them movable and immovable properties anybody dealing with them on their own risk.

I Devinder Singh S/o Faquir Singh R/o village Majra PO Rahaon Tehsil Khanna {Ludhiana} declare that my son Prabhdeep Singh, daughter in law Manpreet Kaur are out of my control. They don't give me any respect. I disown my son Prabhdeep Singh and daughtir in law Manpreet Kaur from my moveable and immovable property. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/ her own risk and responsibility.

I Ramsaran S/o Sh. Ram Kumar R/O H.No.563-A, Ward no 23, Kuldeep Nager, Panipat, declare that my son Bajrang and his wife Dimpal both are out of my control. I am disassociating him from my movable and immovable property. If any legal action is taken against him in the future, he will be responsible and anyone having dealings or relations with him will be responsible.

I, Monika Sharma W/o Daljit Shukla, House No 3509, Sector 23-D, Chandigarh inform that my daughter Gauri Shukla is out of my control. I disown her from my all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody who deals with her will do at their own Risk. If she does something wrong she herself is responsible for any activities.

I, Sunita W/o Sh. Late Subhash Chand, House No 46, Indira Colony, Manimajra Chandigarh inform that my son Nitin Garg is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody who deals with him will do at their own Risk. I and family members will not be responsible for his any activities.

We, Gurumukh, S/o Indra Singh, and Mrs. Pinky, W/o Gurumukh, R/O H. No. 777, Khadak Mangoli, Panchkula, Haryana-134108, hereby evict our son, Prince, who is not amenable to our advice, from our movable and immovable property. Anyone dealing with our son will be responsible for his own actions.

I, Rattan Singh S/o Juglal R/o Shadi Khera Kaul At Present Dhand, district Kaithal, my son Karam Das is out of my control. I, disown her from all moveable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with her at their own risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Surender Kumar, son of Shri Fakir Chand, resident of Village Nangthala, Tehsil and District Hisar, declare that my name is recorded as Surender Kumar in all my records, whereas in all the records of my son Sumit, my name is recorded as Surender. I am known by both names Surender Kumar and Surender and these names refer to the same person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gurpreet Kaur C/o Amit Jain R/o #5750-B, Chandigarh, I have changed my name from Gurpreet Kaur to Gurpreet Kaur Minhas.

I, Sham Sunder Gulati S/O Neb Raj Gulati R/O H.No. 221, Sector 44-A, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Sham Gulati To Sham Sunder Gulati.

I, Narender Kumar S/o Dharmchand Sharma R/o Village Dhadota Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal-136034 (Haryana) have changed my minor son name from baby Second of Mamta Rani to Navya Sharma.

I Mamta Devi W/O Chhatarpal R/O Pinjora Sub Tehsil Saraswati Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamunanagar Have Changed My Name From Mamta To Mamta Devi.

I, Aakansha Dahiya D/o Anth Singh Dahiya R/O Near chaudhary Aata Chakki, Bank Colony, Bhiwani have changed my name from Aakansha to Aakansha Dahiya.in future I will be known as Aakansha Dahiya.

It is for general information that I, Anth Singh Dahiya son of Sh. Ram Kumar Dahiya residing at House No. 1713, Near Chaudhary Atta Chaki, Bank Colony, Bhiwani, Tehsil and District Bhiwani, Haryana 127021 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as ANTH SINGH and AAKANSHA in my minor daughter namely AAKANSHA DAHIYA aged 16 years in her 10th and 12th Class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my minor daughter are - ANTH SINGH DAHIYA and AAKANSHA DAHIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

I Chand Singh son of Sh. Suraj Bhan, resident of House No.504, Sector 27, Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name from chand Singh to Chand Singh Dahiya.

I, Tushar S/o Satpal R/o VPO. Jubbal, Tehsil Radaur Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my name from Tushar to Tushar Kamboj. In Future I will be Known as Tushar Kamboj.

I, Satish Kumar S/o Krishan Lal R/o 47B Jammu Colony b, Babe ki Kothi, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135001, I Have changed my name from Satish Kumar to Satish Verma.

I, Guloo D/o Enam R/O House no. 62, Jaswant Colony, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135001, I Have changed my name from Guloo to Gulnaz.

I, Tanu Pawar D/o Ajay Pawar R/o House no. 57, Tagore Garden, Near Bus Stand, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135001, I Have changed my name from Tanu Pawar to Tanu Chadha.

I, Saksham S/o Rajiv Kumar R/o House no. 1277, Mukharij Park, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135003, I Have changed my name from Saksham to Saksham Kumar.

I, Dinesh S/o Dharm Pal R/o Mujafat Kalan, Tehsil Pratap Nagar, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135021, I Have changed the name of my minor son from Son of Dinesh to Yugam Kohli.

I Prithvi Raj S/o Brij Raj Giri R/O # 1439 Vashisth Colony, Ward No 10, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Prithvi Raj to Prithvi Raj Giri.

I, Vinod Sharma s/o Triveni Prasad Sharma r/o 756, Housing Board Colony, Ambala Cantt, have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Sharma.

I, Deepak S/o Rajender R/O H.no.-46, Vill.- Fazilpur, Teh-& District Sonipat Haryana 131001 have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Rana for all future purposes.

I, Udham Singh S/o Som Nath R/o Village & P.O Muradgarh, Tehsil Indri, Distt. Karnal declared that I have changed my minor daughter's name from Gurnoor to Gurnoor Kamboj. This is for all future references.

I Naresh S/o Sh. Randhir R/o Village Bhaklana, Teh. Bass, Distt Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Naresh to Naresh Naresh. This is for all future references.

I, Shubhankar S/O Tushar K. Chandra R/O H.No. 102, Sector 12, Panchkula, Haryana Have Changed My Name From Ronnie Chandra To Shubhankar. That Ronnie Chandra And Shubhankar Is One And Same Person.

I, Pooja Rani, w/o Bhajan Lal, R/o Ghotru, District Fatehabad, declare that my name appears as Pooja Rani in my educational records, whereas it appears as Pooja on my Aadhaar card and other documents. Both Pooja Rani and Pooja refer to me.

I, Ajaib Singh S/o. Dalbir Singh R/o. # Village Gaganpur, Po Holi, Near govt school, Tehsil-Barara, Distt Ambala have changed my minor Son name from Rakshit Deswal to Aarav Deswal.

I, Shivani D/o Surender Kumar R/o #Village Bhogpur, poMehar majra, Tehsil jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Shivani to Shivani Kamboj.

I, Gulsher Mohamad S/o. Akbar Ali R/o. # Chuharpur Kalan, Po Malikpur Khadar, Tehsil-Pratap Nagar, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my minor Daughter name from Baby Of Gulsher to Aayat.

I, Avtar Singh S/o Sh. Baldev Singh R/O Village Begomajra PO Bhanokheri Tehsil and District Ambala, Haryana have Changed my minor son name from Babjot Singh to Bavjot Singh.

I, Amit Kumar S/o Sh. Puran chand R/O Village & PO-Harnaul, Tehsil- Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India have changed my minor son's name from Kabin to Kevin.

I, Ashu Sehgal W/o Rajesh Sehgal R/O 582/18 Near Ravi Dass Hostel, Arya Nagar Rohtak 124001 (Haryana) declared that Ashu Rani Sehgal and Ashu Sehgal both are one and same person. Future name Ashu Sehgal for all purpose.

I, Krishan Chander S/o Inder Singh R/O House No. 158, Near Badi Choupal, Village Israna Tehsil Israna. Distt Panipat, Haryana, have changed name of my minor son from Havish Jaglan to Keshav Jaglan for all future purposes.

I Sulinder Kumar S/o Ram Kishan Village Salola Tehsil Naraingarh Distt Ambala have changed my name from Sulinder Kumar to Surender Kumar. In future I will be known as Surender Kumar.

I, Asha Rani W/o Ashok Kumar R/o House No. N.D 200, Mohalla Fatehpuri, Jalandhar-1, Jalandhar City, Punjab-144001 have changed my name to Anu Bala.

I, Subhash Arora alias Subhash Chander S/o Roshan Lal R/O House No. B-47, D.C. Colony, Meerut Road, Karnal, Haryana-132001 have changed my name to Subhash Chander Arora.

I, Amarjit Kaur alias Kiranjit Kaur D/O Jinder Singh W/O Satwinder Singh R/o Hindo Patti, Ghudani Kalan, Ludhiana, Punjab-141419 have changed my name to Kiranjit Kaur.

I, Manyata Garg W/O Vikas Jain, House NO. 2035/2, Sector 45, Burail Chandigarh have changed my name from Manyata Garg to Sonia Goyal.

I, Rajwinder W/o Bocky R/o village Trija Nagar, Dhariwal, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name as Rajwinder Kaur. Concerned note.

I Karam Kaur W/O Pritam Singh R/O House No. 3277, Sector 35-D Chandigarh have Changed my Name from Karam Kaur To Bant Kaur.

I, Simmi D/o Sh. Harbhajan Lal R/O H. No. 56, Gaushala Road, Anant Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) after taking Sanyas Diksha has accepted my Guru Ji as my father have changed my name to Sant Parshant Puri D/o Anant Parkasha Nand.

I, Rupesh Kumar Mehta S/o Sh. Lekh Raj, R/o Flat No. 1203, Tower 2, Royal city, Singhpura, Zirakpur, PO: Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab 140603 . I have changed my Name Rupesh Kumar Mehta to Rupesh Kumar.

I Savita, w/o Amarjeet Singh R/o Balchhapar, Bal Chhapar, (365), Yamuna Nagar, Haryana 135003 that I have changed my name from Savita Atwal to Savita.

I, Rammehar Singh S/o Mai Ram R/o VPO Shahpur Tehsil Alewa District Jind, Haryana have Changed my name from Rammehar Singh to Rammehar Sharma.

Continuity Ppg. No. 05

Guest Column: Niraj K Singh / Ina Goel
When Cities Forget Their Water:
Rediscovering Delhi's Lost Water Heritage



NIRAJ K SINGH



INA GOEL

City memories survive in its monuments, names and sometimes beneath the layers of concrete, hidden from sight. Water is one such memory which once surrounded the city, sustaining its life and times. Civilizations world over have flourished on banks of rivers and water bodies. Today's cities, thriving as centres of commerce, administration and industry were once villages, self-sufficient settlements where communities thrived and survived with abundant water available for their requirements.

Villages developed around natural and man-made water bodies long before piped supply and underground reservoirs became part of urban planning. Every settlement had its pond, tank, baoli, johad, or seasonal reservoir and formed the heart of community life. They recharged groundwater, sustained agriculture, supported livestock, moderated local temperatures, and provided spaces where people gathered, celebrated festivals, and performed religious rituals. Alongside grazing lands, agricultural fields, local markets and places of worship, these water bodies complemented the ecological and social fabric of the village. Water was harvested, reused, respected and conserved and was rarely treated as waste.

Increase in population, city and state formation led to the expansion of political and administrative centres, which eventually grew as towns and cities, altering the delicate balance between settlement patterns and availability of water around. Urbanisation nonetheless, brought undeniable opportunities - roads, industries, educational institutions, hospitals and commercial establishments which transformed

settlements into engines of economic growth. But this also led to the race to accommodate more people and more infrastructure, and thus, consuming the very ecological resources that had sustained the cities for centuries. Agricultural fields disappeared under concrete, grazing lands became residential colonies, seasonal drainage channels were built over, ponds filled to create parking lots or housing complexes and the wetlands were viewed as vacant land waiting to be developed rather than as living ecosystems. Water, once regarded as the foundation of settlement, became an afterthought in urban planning. And the consequences of this transformation are increasingly visible now.

Cities today are struggling with declining groundwater levels. Rainwater, instead of entering underground, rapidly runs off impervious roads and paved surfaces into storm drains before disappearing into rivers. Thus, underground aquifers receive little opportunity to recharge. This is further aggravated by excessive extraction of underground water through bore wells. Equally worrisome is the quality of the water that remains underground, which is contaminated due to heavy industrial discharge, untreated sewage, leaking drains and indiscriminate dumping of waste have contaminated aquifers that took centuries to develop. In many urban areas, groundwater is no longer considered fit for drinking without treatment. As a result, heavy metal content is noticed in the underground water and is not fit for drinking or even watering of plants.

Delhi is a witness to this transformation with remarkable clarity. For nearly

a millennium, Delhi has served as the seat of powerful kingdoms and empires. Every dynasty that made Delhi its capital understood the importance of water. The rulers of the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughals and later the British invested in elaborate systems of water harvesting and storage. Baolis, stepwells, tanks, canals and reservoirs were carefully integrated into the city's landscape. These were feats of engineering adapted to the region's semi-arid climate, designed not merely to store water but also to recharge groundwater and ensure resilience during periods of scarcity.

Hidden within historical monuments or tucked away amidst dense urban neighbourhoods, many of these structures continue to exist even today. They stand as testimony of a civilisation that understood the need to live within ecological limits. Yet most of them have lost their original purpose. Some remain dry for much of the year. Others are disconnected from their catchment areas. Several such reservoirs have been encroached upon, neglected or reduced to archaeological relics admired for their architecture but rarely appreciated for their environmental significance.

Disappearance of Delhi's traditional water systems is thus not merely a heritage management issue. Urban settlements and expansion, especially after 1947, subsumed many of these water bodies. The city continues to battle with declining groundwater levels, seasonal flooding during heavy rains and increasing dependence on external water sources. Ironically, these seemingly unrelated problems share a common origin—the systematic neglect of natural and traditional water infrastructure.

Revival of these water bodies, including rejuvenating the Yamuna floodplains are the need of the hour and an ecological necessity rather than mere landscaping and beautification programmes. Every pond restored, every baoli rejuvenated and every wetland protected strengthens the city's capacity to capture rainwater, recharge its aquifers, moderate urban temperatures and support biodiversity. Equally important is the protection of

natural drainage channels that connect these water bodies. Without restoring these hydrological linkages, isolated conservation projects will deliver only limited results.

Urban planners also need to rethink how rainwater is managed. Rain falling on rooftops institutional campuses, parks and public buildings should become a valuable resource rather than a burden on drainage systems. Rainwater harvesting must move beyond regulatory compliance and become an integral component of urban design. New developments should be planned around existing water bodies instead of replacing them with concrete. The responsibility, however, does not rest solely with governments. Resident welfare associations, educational institutions, civil society organisations and local communities all have a role in protecting neighbourhood ponds, reporting encroachments and promoting water-sensitive practices. Water conservation succeeds only when it becomes a shared civic responsibility.

As our cities continue to expand, they must remember the wisdom of the villages from which they evolved. Those early settlements recognised that prosperity depended not on conquering nature but on working with it. They built communities around water because they understood that water was life itself. And perhaps, the time has come for our cities to recover that forgotten wisdom. While saving our ponds, lakes, baolis and wetlands, we may well be saving the future of our cities.

Dr Niraj Kumar Singh is a Professor in the Department of History at the University of Delhi, and Dr Ina Goel is an anthropologist based at The Design Village. Both are members of the Initiative for Sharing Ecological Responsibility and Conserving Heritage (INSERCH) Society. This is a non-profit voluntary organisation that provides consultancy services in environmental impact solutions and heritage studies.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Street No. 1, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Sudipta Singha (Borrower) Mrs. V Singha (Co-Borrower) Account No. LBHYD00004930660	Flat No. B-221, Block No. B, Second Floor, With super built-up area of 1250 Sq.ft., including common area, together with UDS of 49.41 Sq.Yds., out of land admeasuring Acres 11-32.22 Guntas, Janapriya Arcadia, GHMC Bearing No. 4-5-150/B-221 (PTI No. 1270404119), Survey Nos. 9, 10, 11, 11/E, 12/2, 12/A, 12/A/A, 13/2, 13/A, 13/A/A, 13/E, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21/A, 21/A/A, 27/A, 27/A/A, 28/A, 28/A/A, 28/E, 29/2, 29/A, 29/A/A & 29/E, Mahadevpur Village, Alwal Municipality, Malkajgiri Mandal, Alwal Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana. Boundaries: North: Open to Sky - South: Open to Sky - East: Open to Sky - West: Passage to Staircase	Rs. 23,99,817/- as on (Aug 25, 2026)	Rs. 33,00,000/- Rs. 3,30,000/-	September 07, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon	September 22, 2026 from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

The online auction will be conducted on the website (<https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by September 21, 2026 before 05:00 PM, else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Ltd Street No. 1, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016 on or before September 21, 2026 by 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before September 21, 2026 by 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Ltd Street No. 1, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016 on or before September 21, 2026 by 05:00 PM Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Hyderabad

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Customer Employee Phone on 800899536/ 8008277236.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p45

Date : August 30, 2026
Place: Patiala (Punjab)

Authorized Officer,
ICICI Bank Limited

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Central Bank of India, Regional Office-Shimla invites tenders from interested bidders/tenderers offer for **ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT work of UPS** for its Branches under **REGIONAL OFFICE SHIMLA**. The detail regarding the tender is available on Bank's website <https://www.centralbank.bank.in> and/or can be obtained from our office on any working days. The last date for submission of tenders is **22.09.2026** up to 2:00 p.m. Bank reserves its right to accept/reject all or any tenders.

For Central Bank of India
Dated : 29.08.2026

Authorized Signatory

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

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Regional Office, Shimla
Address:- Combermere Complex, The Mall Shimla-171001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Central Bank of India, Regional Office-Shimla invites tenders from interested bidders/tenderers offer for Furnishing and Electrical work for it's **REGIONAL OFFICE**, Situated at Hotel Combermere Complex, The Mall Road Shimla, Distt. Shimla, HP-171001. The detail regarding the tender is available on Bank's website <https://www.centralbank.bank.in> and/or can be obtained from our office on any working days. The last date for submission of tenders is **15.09.2026** up to 2:00 p.m. Bank reserves its right to accept/reject all or any tenders.

For Central Bank of India
Dated : 24.08.2026

Authorized Signatory

Waste-to-energy plants to come up at four major urban centres across Haryana; MoUs signed

PNS ■ Chandigarh

In a major initiative towards strengthening urban waste management in Haryana, the State Government has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for setting up four Integrated Waste-to-Energy Plants. To be established in the Hisar, Ambala, Faridabad and Gurugram clusters, these plants will collectively process 5,000 tonnes of waste per day through scientific methods and generate a total of 50 MW of energy once they become operational. The plants are expected to become operational by October 2028.

On the occasion of the signing of the MoUs in Nuh, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that these agreements mark a major step towards making the cities of the state cleaner, healthier and more modern. The plants will be established by Oil Green Energy Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Oil India Limited. He said that this partnership will not only give fresh impetus to Haryana's urban development but will also bring about a significant transformation in the way waste is managed across the state.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Rao Inderjit Singh, Development and Panchayat Minister, Krishan Lal Panwar,

Education Minister, Mahipal Dhanda, Urban Local Bodies Minister, Vipul Goel, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Shyam Singh Rana, Oil Green Energy limited CMD, Ranjit Rath and other dignitaries also remained present on this occasion.

The Chief Minister said that with increasing urbanisation, the challenge of proper waste management is also growing steadily. Waste is not merely a problem; with the right technology and scientific systems, it can be converted into energy and useful resources. Translating this approach into action, an important beginning has been made towards setting up four Integrated Waste-to-Energy Plants in the state.

Saini said the State Government is working to ensure that heaps of waste do not accumulate in cities, the practice of open dumping and unscientific disposal of waste is reduced, and scientific waste disposal is ensured through modern technology. This initiative will further strengthen that resolve.

He said that the first Integrated Waste-to-Energy Plant will be established in the Hisar cluster, covering the concerned Urban Local Bodies of Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Jind. The plant will process 500 tonnes of waste per day and is expected to generate a



minimum of 5 MW of energy.

The second plant will be established in the Ambala cluster, covering Urban Local Bodies in Ambala, Yamunanagar and Panchkula districts. The plant will process 900 tonnes of waste per day and is expected to generate a minimum of 9 MW of energy.

The third plant will be established in the Faridabad cluster, covering Faridabad district. The plant will process 1,600 tonnes of waste per day and is expected to generate a minimum of 16 MW of energy.

The fourth plant will be established in the Gurugram cluster, covering Gurugram district. It will process 2,000 tonnes of waste per day and is expected to generate a minimum of 20 MW of energy.

The Chief Minister said that when all four plants become operational, they will collectively process

5,000 tonnes of waste per day and generate a total of 50 MW of energy. He expressed confidence that the plants would become operational by October 2028, in accordance with the envisaged timeline. On the one hand, thousands of tonnes of waste will be scientifically processed every day, while on the other, the same waste will be utilised to generate energy. Converting what is currently viewed as waste into energy and useful resources is the essence of the 'Waste to Wealth' vision.

Saini said that the distinguishing feature of these plants is not merely their capacity but also the integrated and modern technology that will be adopted. Different types of waste will be appropriately processed according to their nature. Waste will first undergo pre-processing. A Compressed Biogas plant will be provided for producing biogas from wet waste, while dry waste that

cannot be reused or recycled will be processed in the Waste-to-Energy plant.

He said that the objective of the entire system is not merely to burn waste, but to process it scientifically and sustainably while minimising waste incineration. The State Government will ensure that there is no compromise on environmental protection and that the highest environmental standards are adhered to at these plants.

The Chief Minister said that the financial arrangement for setting up these plants is a good example of cooperation and partnership between the Central and State Governments. The projects will receive financial assistance under the 'Urban Challenge Fund' of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. He said that 25 per cent of the total capital cost of the projects will be borne by the Central Government. Another 25 per cent will be shared by the State Government and Urban Local Bodies, while the remaining 50 per cent will be invested by Oil Green Energy Limited. Thus, the Central Government, State Government, local bodies and a strong public sector entity will jointly take forward this initiative to make Haryana's cities cleaner and more modern.

Punjabi social media influencer dies almost two months after assault

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Punjabi social media influencer Manjit Kaur has died at a government hospital here, almost two months after she was allegedly assaulted and set on fire. Kaur, 28, died during treatment at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) on August 26, police said on Saturday.

According to a complaint lodged by her mother, Kaur was allegedly kidnapped by her two acquaintances — "Shubhi and Pinda" — on July 3 after they called her near a liquor shop in Sector 34 here. She was allegedly taken to Morinda in Punjab, where she was assaulted, tied to a tree and set on fire, the complaint stated.

Kaur's friend reached the spot and used a blanket to put out the fire, before rushing her to a hospital in Morinda. She was later taken to a private hospital in Mohali and then to PGIMER, Chandigarh.

The victim's mother alleged that her daughter had regained consciousness on August 5, but despite notifying the Kharar police in Mohali to record her statement, police did not arrive. Police, however, rejected the allegations, saying that they fully cooperated with the family.

A case under sections 103 (1) (murder) and 140 (1) (kidnapping), among others, has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), police said.

CM Saini Invites Filmmakers to Haryana, Says State Will Offer Not Just Shooting Locations but Full Support

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday attended Film Expo India at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi as the Chief Guest and felicitated various artists on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, he said that regional cinema has emerged as a new strength of Indian cinema and language is no longer a barrier. A compelling story can transcend linguistic boundaries, and today, a good story can reach audiences across the world, he said.

Inviting filmmakers and directors to shoot their films in Haryana, Saini said that they should come to Haryana and the State Government would provide them not only shooting locations but also extend full support. On the occasion, he also extended greetings on National Sports Day, observed on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.

Appreciating Film Expo India, he said that the Expo is not merely a celebration of India's talent, but also of the country's creative strength

and culture. It celebrates an India that is writing its own stories and sharing them with the entire world. He said that the Film Expo brings together cameras, producers, directors, artists and writers, all of whom play an important role in filmmaking.

Saini said that the Haryana Government has implemented the Film and Entertainment Policy-2022 to create a conducive and film-friendly environment for filmmaking in the state. The State Government is providing a subsidy of up to Rs. 2 crore for films shot in Haryana. Film actor Mukesh Rishi appreciated the Haryana Government and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, for the various development initiatives undertaken by the State Government and its policies related to the film sector. Film actor Preeti Sapru also spoke in detail about the Cine Artist Welfare Trust and Film Expo. Film actor Bindu Dara Singh, director Jyoti Yadav, actor Puneet Issar and Balbir Singh Randhawa were also present on the occasion.

Gurugram metro expansion gains momentum as first 160-Tonne U-Girder installed

PNS ■ Gurugram

The Gurugram Metro Expansion Project achieved a major construction milestone with the successful lifting and installation of its first 160-tonne U-girder near Cyber Park. The massive precast structure was positioned between Pier Nos. 26 and 27 using 400-tonne and 600-tonne hydraulic cranes, marking the beginning of a new phase of on-ground construction.

Haryana Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh formally inaugurated the operation after performing a ceremonial puja. The U-girder was subsequently installed at the designated location in the presence of project officials while adhering to prescribed engineering standards and safety protocols. Speaking on the occasion, Rao Narbir Singh said the installation of the first U-girder represents a significant step forward in the execution of the Gurugram Metro Expansion Project, which remains one of the Haryana Government's key infrastructure priorities.

He said the government is committed to providing modern and efficient public transport facilities to support Gurugram's rapid urban growth while ensuring strict compliance with quality and safety standards during construction. "The lifting of the first U-girder is not merely the start of another construction activity but a crucial step towards strengthening Gurugram's future connectivity. As the project progresses, residents will begin to see its benefits on the ground," the minister said. The successful installation is expected to accelerate construction activities along the corridor, with additional structural works scheduled to proceed in accordance with the project timeline. The metro expansion is widely regarded as a critical initiative to address increasing traffic congestion and mobility challenges in Gurugram. Once completed, the expanded metro network is expected to improve connectivity between key urban centres, provide a faster and more reliable mode of transport, and reduce dependence on road-based travel.

Orientation Programme Held for 1,054 Newly Appointed Primary Teachers of Mewat Cadre

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana's Mewat region received a major boost in the field of education on Saturday as Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, handed over appointment letters to 1,054 newly appointed Primary Teachers (PRTs) of the Mewat Cadre during a State-level Orientation Programme held at the Grain Market in Nuh.

Saini said that the appointment of the new teachers will improve the teacher-student ratio in the region and further strengthen the standard of primary education. He said that the organisation of such a large-scale programme on the land of valour associated with Veer Hasan Khan Mewati was a matter of pride for the Mewat region.

On the occasion, an exhibition comprising 22 education-related stalls was organised for the newly appointed teachers, which was visited by the Chief Minister. An effective training session was also conducted through a PowerPoint presentation on a large LED screen to enhance the professional skills of the teachers.

Addressing the gathering, Saini described the new recruitment as a victory of the merit of the youth. He said that under previous governments, jobs were given based on nepotism, caste considerations, regionalism and the 'parchi-kharchi' system. He said that after the BJP Government came to power, more than 2 lakh government jobs have been provided without 'parchi-kharchi', restoring the self-respect of deserving youth, whereas the previous Congress Government had provided merely 86,000 government jobs during its 10-year tenure. He also strongly criticised the Aam Aadmi Party over alleged corruption in recruitments in Punjab. Addressing the newly appointed teachers of the Mewat Cadre, he said that their appointment is the rewarding outcome of years of hard work and the sacrifices made by their families. He urged the teachers not to view their appointment as a difficult posting, but as a posting for transformation, and to give their best wherever opportunities appear limited.

Punjab minister launches 10-day cleanliness drive from Nangal

PNS ■ Nangal

Punjab Local Government Minister Harjot Singh Bains on Saturday launched a 10-day cleanliness drive from Nangal to eliminate garbage-vulnerable points (GVPs). Bains participated in the cleanliness campaign along with 'Safai Sewaks' and local councillors.

The campaign, which will end on September 7, aims at making Punjab a cleaner state through collective public participation, Bains said. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the drive would bolster Punjab's efforts to eliminate open garbage dumping sites. "Punjab is the sacred land of our gurus and saints and a land of immense spiritual power. It is our collective responsibility to keep it clean and beautiful," the Aam Aadmi Party leader said.

He said that over the next 10 days, MLAs, deputy commissioners, municipal corporation commissioners, additional deputy commissioners, executive officers, councillors, NGOs and other stakeholders will participate in the statewide campaign. Bains also sought the general public's support in making the campaign

successful. According to the government, people can use its M-Seva app to upload photographs of garbage vulnerable points in their areas. A unique ID will be generated for every complaint, allowing the public to track its status. The minister said that several GVPs have already been identified in the state's cities and towns. Bains also said the hard work of 'Safai Sewaks' must be respected.

"Our Safai Sewaks work tirelessly to keep our cities and towns clean. We must support them and ensure that their efforts are not undone by irresponsible dumping of garbage," he said.

In Hoshiarpur, local MLA Bram Shanker Jimpa, mayor Praveen Saini, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Jyoti Bala Mattu, councillors and civic body officials took part in the campaign from Fatehgarh Chungi. Addressing the gathering, Jimpa said the Punjab government, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, is making efforts to make cities and villages clean, beautiful and pollution-free. Jimpa said maintaining a clean city is not only the responsibility of the government or the municipal corporation but also of every resident.

BRIEFS

SIR 2026: DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIMS AND OBJECTIONS EXTENDED TILL SEPTEMBER 30 IN HARYANA

Chandigarh: The Election Commission of India has once again revised the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Haryana. As per the revised schedule, claims and objections can be filed from July 31 to September 30. Claims and objections will be disposed of from July 31 to October 28. Under the revised schedule, the final electoral roll will now be published on November 6. Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana, A. Sreenivas said that the Election Commission has revised the dates keeping in view the interests of the voters of the state. The extension will provide relief to eligible citizens who, for any reason, could not file a claim or objection relating to the electoral roll within the stipulated period. He said that the Commission is working to ensure that the name of every eligible Indian citizen in the state is included in the electoral roll and that the particulars of electors enrolled therein are accurate and error-free. If the name of any eligible person is not included in the electoral roll, a claim for inclusion of the name can be submitted through Form 6 along with the requisite documents and declaration. So far, a total of 87,262 Form 6 applications have been received. Besides, 6,167 Form 7 applications and 79,246 Form 8 applications have been received. The Election Commission has so far issued 41,59,707 notices, while 21,98,288 objections have been disposed of.

CM SAINI REVIEWS DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT 32ND MEETING OF MEWAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, while chairing the 32nd meeting of the Mewat Development Board held on Saturday at the Mini Secretariat in Nuh district headquarters, said that Nuh district is rapidly moving towards becoming a major hub for employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth. He said Nuh was included under the Aspirational Districts Programme, under which NITI Aayog has so far approved 12 projects worth Rs. 36.20 crore. Various important issues, including education, health, sports, irrigation, sewerage and cyber security, were discussed during the meeting. During the meeting, a budget of about Rs. 30 crore 43 lakh 79 thousand was approved under the Annual Action Plan for the financial year 2026-27. Saini said that development works worth about Rs. 10.06 crore have been approved for strengthening the education sector in Nuh district. These include providing dual desks in government schools, setting up Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) labs in 20 government schools, scholarship schemes and providing coaching to students, among other initiatives. Under social infrastructure development, about Rs. 4.50 crore will be spent on the renovation of the stadium at Pingwan and development of a public park on the premises of the old court complex in Nuh.

WARRING DARES MANN TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYEES

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring on Saturday cautioned the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann against taking any action against the striking employees, warning him that this might well prove to be his last day as the Chief Minister of the state. In an informal interaction with reporters, Warring asserted that protest was a democratic right of the employees as long as they were doing it lawfully. "You cannot intimidate and bully them using the threats of action", he warned, while challenging the Chief Minister to try his authority of acting against the employees. "IT will have far reaching consequences for the Chief Minister which he must never have imagined", he warned. Replying to another question about not being present at the party's Rakhar Puni conference in Baba Bakala on Friday, he said that it is not necessary that all the senior leaders will be present at all the places all the time. He said there were many other senior leaders who did not attend.

HIMACHAL CM ANNOUNCES SDM OFFICE AT DADASIBA, 24-HOUR CHC AT KASBA KOTLA

Shimla: Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday announced the opening of a new Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) office at Dadasiba in Jaswan-Pragpur Assembly constituency of Kangra district. He said that the notification for the new office would be issued shortly. To strengthen healthcare services in the area, he also announced that necessary provisions would be made to ensure round-the-clock functioning of the Community Health Centre (CHC) at Kasba Kotla. He made these announcements while addressing a public gathering at Dadasiba after releasing financial assistance under the Mukhyamantri Matsya Samman Nidhi Yojana to 1,012 fisher families. An amount of Rs. 3,500 per family was transferred directly into their bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism. He said the state government was providing annual financial assistance of Rs. 3,500 each to fisher families during the annual fishing ban period. He said the scheme had been launched after understanding the difficulties faced by the fishing community. "Earlier, no government thought about the welfare of fisher families. This is what real change in governance means- ensuring that every section of society gets an equal right over the resources of the state", he said.

HARYANA MINISTER INAUGURATES BOOSTING STATION, GOVERNMENT SCHOOL BUILDING AND CHAUPAL

Chandigarh: Haryana Public Works and Public Health Engineering Minister Ranbir Gangwa, on Saturday, inaugurated various development projects at Kharkari village in Hisar. These included a boosting station constructed at a cost of about Rs. 2.75 crore, a Government Senior Secondary School building constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.80 crore, and development works at the village chaupal undertaken at a cost of Rs. 8 lakh. These projects will provide better drinking water, educational and community facilities to the villagers. Gangwa said that once the Integrated Manufacturing Cluster project, proposed near Hisar Airport, is completed, it will give a boost to industrial activities in the region and create new employment and self-employment opportunities for local youth.

Himachal CM announces first ozone-based drinking water project in Dehra at a cost of Rs. 46 crore

PNS ■ Shimla

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday said that Himachal Pradesh's first ozone-based drinking water treatment project was being established in Dehra area to ensure the supply of clean and safe drinking water to people and the state government has allocated Rs. 46 crore for this project.

Addressing people at Baddal Thor in Dehra assembly constituency of Kangra district, he said that similar ozone-based water treatment projects would subsequently be established across the state to ensure safe drinking water. He said that consumption of contaminated water could cause several diseases, making it essential to provide people with clean and safe drinking water. He also announced the opening of a veterinary hospital at Baddal Thor to strengthen veterinary services in the area.

Sukhu said the state government had also initiated the process of providing beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Ka Apna



Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana, for which surveys were currently being conducted in panchayats. The government was committed to ensuring that even the person standing at the last rung of society gets a rightful share in the state's resources. He said that since the Congress government came to power in the state, several initiatives had been undertaken to make the state self-reliant and the positive results of these efforts were now becoming visible.

He said the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana had been launched to involve yuva and mahila mandals in planting and

protecting forests. Under the scheme, self-help groups are provided financial assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh, besides incentives linked to the survival of plantations. He said the state government was also taking several steps to strengthen the education sector. CBSE schools had been opened in the state and more such schools would be established in the coming period to provide quality education to students. He said that there would be no dearth of funds for development in Dehra and that adequate funds were being spent on various development works across the constituency.



Kapil Dev launches GB Chandigarh Legends for TGCL 2026

Chandigarh: Cricketing legend Kapil Dev launched Chandigarh's team for the Trinity Golf Champions League (TGCL) 2026, as defending champions unveiled their new identity as GB Chandigarh Legends at a launch event. GB Chandigarh Legends will represent Chandigarh in TGCL 2026 as defending champions. The launch brought together the team's leadership, owners, players, partners and distinguished guests around the message: "A New Name. A Bigger Game. A Stronger Legacy." The team's vision was also captured through the theme "From Chandigarh's Greens to India's Fairways", reflecting its ambition to take the city's golfing story to a larger national platform. Speaking at the launch, Kapil Dev said, "It is always special to see a sporting team represent a city and give its people something to believe in and support. Chandigarh has a wonderful sporting culture, and GB Chandigarh Legends is an exciting opportunity to take that spirit onto a bigger stage." Karan Gilhotra, Co-owner, GB Chandigarh Legends, said the new identity reflected the team's ambition to create a lasting sporting legacy.



Horticulture Minister reviews progress of HP SHIVA project

Revenue, Horticulture and Tribal Development Minister Jagat Singh Negi today chaired a meeting to review the progress of plantation and field preparation works under the HP SHIVA project, here today. Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the HP SHIVA project is being implemented in seven districts of Himachal Pradesh. The Minister reviewed the progress of works being carried out as per the prescribed timelines, as well as compliance with the action points and directions issued during the previous review meeting. It was informed that Mandi district has completed plantation over approximately 993 hectares, recording the highest progress among all seven districts covered under the project. The Minister directed the officials to expedite the work and achieve the stipulated targets within the fixed timelines. A target of planting over 3,000 hectares has been set under the project by March, 2027 and so far, approximately 2,600 hectares of land has been prepared for plantation.



Bank employees launch agitation over demands, stage protest in Shimla.

Shimla: Bank employees staged a massive protest in Shimla on Thursday to press for various demands. Officers and staff from different banks participated in the demonstration, which was organized at the call of the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU). During the protest, the employees strongly demanded the implementation of a five-day work week in banks, asserting that they too deserve a better work-life balance. Additionally, they called for fresh recruitment to alleviate the rising workload, sought the resolution of issues regarding salaries, pensions, and service-related rights, and voiced their opposition to the increasing outsourcing and privatization within the banking sector. The protesters highlighted the crucial role bank employees play in taking various central and state government schemes to the grassroots level. They argued that ignoring their legitimate demands amounts to an injustice against them. The bank employees warned that if no positive action is taken regarding their demands, the agitation will be intensified in the coming days.

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Vacancy for the post of COMPANY SECRETARY in our leading Company **Yogindera Worsted Limited** having Registered Office at Ludhiana. Eligibility: Associate member of ICSI, Having experience of 2-3 years, Salary as per Industry norms. Interested candidates can send their resume at csyw140@gmail.com

ICICI Bank Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Shal Tower, Plot No 23, New Rahtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Annexure 54
Notice for Disclosure of Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Overdraft 008205500784 (Credit facility) was granted M/S.A K INFOCOM/ SATISH KUMAR MALHOTRA/ ASHISH MALHOTRA, along with the deceased MR. SATISH KUMAR MALHOTRA, by ICICI Bank Ltd. (The Bank). We would like to inform you that the demise of MR SATISH KUMAR MALHOTRA has come to our knowledge during field visits conducted by the Bank officials and by telephonic communications on the registered contact numbers. In this regard, letter dated AUGUST 25,2026 was previously sent to the registered addresses of the Borrowers and the deceased MR SATISH KUMAR MALHOTRA, for providing information about the Legal Heirs of the deceased Borrower. Therefore, this Notice is hereby given for sharing details of the Legal Heirs of the deceased MR. SATISH KUMAR MALHOTRA with supporting documents for updating the Bank's records, within 15 days of publication of this Notice. You may submit the above-mentioned details to Mrs. SANGEETA by visiting ICICI BANK LTD FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS, NEHRU SIDHANT KENDER TRUST BUILDING, FEROZE GANDHI MARKET LUDHIANA PUNJAB- 141001. MOBILE NO.: +91 8104986124 Date: August 30, 2026 Place: Jalandhar

Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd

LOST & FOUND
1. JAWALA DEVI D/o ANOL KUMAR R/o H.No: HN HIG-81 Colony: SECTOR 4 District: Solan, Himachal Pradesh P.S: Parwanoo Pin: 173220 Village: Umphol Parwanoo my Original Sale Deed No. 1199 Dt: 02.07.2012 registered in the o/o Sub Registrar, Kalka executed by Mr. Suchra Ram in favour of Mrs. Renu has lost. If found Contact: +91 9736134417

PUNJAB COLLEGE OF LAW, BAHADURGARH PATIALA.

Apply for 8 Management Quota seats of BALLB in the college till 01.09.2026 and appear for manual counselling on 02.09.26 in the college. Admissions purely on merit as per GNDU law admission cell 2026 rules. Ph: 9216100992, 9041322222

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-13 (1)(a)]
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)
Ground Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh- 160017
Case No.: OA/1015/2025

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.: 33447
ICICI BANK LIMITED VS AMREETPAL SINGH AND ANOTHER To,
1. Amreetpal Singh S/o Sh. Sohlib Singh @Sahab Singh R/o Village Dotal (173), Tehsil Patran, District Patiala, Punjab- 147105
2. Ramandeep Kaur W/o Sh. Amreetpal Singh, R/o Village Dotal (173), Tehsil Patran, District Patiala, Punjab-147105

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/ 1015/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding officer/Registrar on 17/08/2026. 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. 28,15,712.02/- 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 other 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 realised 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 01/10/2026 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: 20/08/2026.

Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue summons

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice of missing the below mentioned documents on behalf of Hardeep Singh & Charanjeet Kaur Hardeep Singh & Charanjeet Kaur wants to avail a loan for LAP Commercial from ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd. having its Branch at Shanti Complex, Above Yes Bank, Ambala Cantt against Property situated at Raha 17392 Sq Yards Vajha Shop No- 9/0, Near Whole Sale Sabzi Mandi, Ambala Cantt Property Id No. 34CQUAS. Enclosed as Under North Bhuj 12 Feet 3 inch and Shop No-9/C And South Bhuj 12 Feet 3 inch and Service Lane Road And East Bhuj 11 Feet 8 inch and Sabzi Mandi Road And West Bhuj 8 Feet 8 inch & Neelkant Hotel, and it is informed that ORIGINAL Conveyance Deed No. 2286 Dated 09-11-2024 as executed and registered by Estate Officer Ambala Sadar to Sh. Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Sukhdev Raj, & Original Demand Letter with regard to the above said property has mislead and same is not traced out. If any person/Entity/OSA/Financial Institution/Buyer/Agent or Department may have obtained or have issued any loan/Stay Order/Court Case against this property as well as this document or have any objection of any kind with regard to giving loan against above said property. They/he can file an objection regarding the use of above said documents as well as property within 14 days from the date of the present Publication to below mentioned person on the address or contact numbers given and after 14 days no claim shall be admitted and it would be assumed that the property is free from encumbrance/litigation as far as the above documents are concerned.
Dr. Rajiv Jain Advocate at 425A/9, 3 Cross Road, Ambala Cantt Contact No's 9416028460 0174-4003960.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-13 (1)(a)]
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)
2nd Floor, SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh Case No.: OA/1744/2025

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.: 35516
ICICI BANK LIMITED VS M/S. GURCHARAN SINGH JASPAL SINGH COMMISSION AGENT To,
(1) GURCHARAN SINGH S/O SH. SUCHA SINGH. PARTNER M/S. GURCHARAN SINGH JASPAL SINGH COMMISSION AGENT R/O VILLAGE MUGALA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GURDASPUR PUNJAB- 143511
(2) LAKHWINDER KAUR W/O GURCHARAN SINGH R/O VILLAGE MUGALA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GURDASPUR PUNJAB- 143511

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/1744/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 05/08/2026. 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. 5144043.43/- (application along with copies of documents 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 other 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 realised 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 05/10/2026 at 10:30A.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: 14/08/2026.

Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue summons

नगर निगम रोहतक
सार्वजनिक सूचना
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर श्रावक के सम्पत्तिका के रिकॉर्ड में नई प्रॉपर्टी आईडेंटिफाई नं. 1HRDVOC5 प्रॉपर्टी प्रॉपर्टी आईडेंटिफाई नं. 219C130U70 वर्ड न/ना 490/17, Janta Colony, Rohtak पुनः परराष्ट्रप्रोपर्टी रिकॉर्ड में Hari Kishan S/o Ram Kumar च रब के अनुसार न् परराष्ट्रप्रोपर्टी रिकॉर्ड में Hari Kishan नाम से दूब है, अब नगर निगम के रिकॉर्ड में इस आईडेंटिफाई नं. से प्रॉपर्टी सिस्का नाम ओमपरी, राधा, सुनील देवी, नरेश कुमार, आरती के द्वारा खसियत/खसियत के आधार पर अपने नाम नवदीन कखाना चाहते है, सिस्को खसियत रिपोर्ट नवदीनखार, रोहतक द्वारा समदीक को नुं है। यह किसी भी अनसाधारण को इनके नाम नवदीन कले में कोई भी आपत्ति हेतु 30 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर नाम निगम कार्यालय में अपने आपत्ति दर्ज करायें, अन्यथा प्रॉपर्टी टेक्स में उसके नाम नवदीन का दर्ज जायेगा। सिस्के निग नगर निगम, रोहतक कोई समदीक नही होगा। क्रमांक: MCRZ/TO/2026/1321 दिनांक: 24/08/2026
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय अधिकारी, नगर निगम रोहतक।

Form No. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- VII, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)
2nd Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
DEMAND NOTICE

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/931/2025 10-08-2026
ICICI BANK LIMITED Versus M/S. SHAM SUNDER AND SONS To,
(CD 1) M/S. SHAM SUNDER AND SONS THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR OPP. SANT BABA BITURI WALA, TARN TARAN ROAD, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB- 143001
Also ot- GALL MURGIKHANA TARN TARAN ROAD (CD 2) HARIOM SHARMA S/o SH. SHAM SUNDER PROPRIETOR M/S. SHAM SUNDER AND SONS SI/351, GALI PEERA WALI, FLR, INSIDE GATE HAKIMA GPO, AMRITSAR- 1 AMRITSAR, PUNJAB- (CD 3) MANISH KUMAR SHARMA S/O SH. HARIOM SHARMA, SI/351, GALI PEERA WALI, FLR, INSIDE GATE HAKIMA GPO AMRITSAR- 1 AMRITSAR, PUNJAB-

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 1) in OA/222/2020 an amount of Rs. 34,96,564.81/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Ninety Six Thousands Five Hundred Sixty Four and Poise Eighty One Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 9.50% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 06/01/2020 till realization and costs of Rs. 37,005/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Thousands Five 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. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 24/11/2026 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings. 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 the Tribunal, on this date: 10/08/2026.

Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

"NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER"
The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dharampur Distt. Solan H.P. invites e-tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/firms for the following work through e-tendering process:

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time.	Cost of form
1.	Providing WSS to Parwanoo Town in Tehsil Kasauli Distt. Solan H.P. (SH:-Supply and erection of control panel for 50 HP Motor and allied accessories at LWSS Sheel Chandiyani). Under CRF	6,43,140/-	12,862/-	One Month	350/-
2.	Providing water supply scheme to Parwanoo Town in Tehsil Kasauli Distt. Solan H.P. (SH:-Providing and Fixing of Pump Set and allied accessories at Sector -5 Pump House) Under CRF.	4,21,766/-	8,435/-	One Month	350/-
3.	Providing WSS to Parwanoo Town Kaushalaya Khad in Tehsil Kasauli Distt. Solan H.P. (SH:- Providing and Fixing of Pump Set and allied accessories at Sector 5 Pump House)	4,01,000/-	8,020/-	One Month	350/-
4.	Restoration of Rain damages of LWSS Bhar 6, Tehsil Kasauli, Distt:- Solan H.P.(SH:- Repair of 2 Nos Multistage Centrifugal pump sets make Kirloskar RKB 40/14 H, Sr.No:1387110835 & 1387109052) PDNA	2,92,128/-	5,850/-	One Month	350/-
5.	RRD of LWSS Dhar Banar Tehsil Kasauli, Distt. Solan H.P. (SH:- Repair of Pump Set make KSB movi 32/78 repair of common header)	2,57,740/-	5,154/-	One Month	350/-
6.	LWSS NC/PC Habitation Barog Bohli Bhijnagar Tehsil Kasauli District Solan H.P. (SH:- Providing various electrical items for various LWSS under Section Dharampur).	4,34,000/-	10,000/-	Two Months	350/-

Bid Submission start date and time :- From 29.08.2026, 06.00 PM
Bid Submission end date and time :- Up to 09.09.2026, 11.00 AM
Date of opening Bid i.e eligibility certificate:- 09.09.2026 at 11.30 AM
The tender forms and other details can be obtained from website <http://hptenders.gov.in>.
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division,
Dharampur, Distt. Solan H.P.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Home Finance Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: Plot No. 45-46, 1st floor, Sat Kartar Complex, 45, Wazir Chand Colony, Opp Mughal Canal Fountain Chowk, Karnal - 132001

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Amarjeet Singh S/o Bir Singh (Borrower), Karamjit Kaur W/o Surjit Singh (Co-Borrower), Sangeeta W/o Amarjeet Singh (co-borrower), M/s Beniwail Trading Co (Co-Borrower), Surjeet Singh S/o Bir Singh (Co-Borrower), LHKLN00001323722.	All Piece And Parcel of Property Measuring 137.5 Sq. Yards SCF No 100, Situated At New Grain Market, Katthal Tehsil And District Katthal, Haryana 136027 As Executed By Satish Kumar S/o Ram Kumar In Favour of Karamjeet Kaur And Smt. Sangeeta As Per Document Deed No. 1720 Dated 18.06.2013. Bounded By- North: Street, South: Feed and Road, East: SCF No 101, West: SCF No 99 of Ramesh Jindal/ Date of Possession- 25-Aug-26	14-08-2024 Rs. 29,35,209.58/-	Karnal

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: August 30, 2026 Place: Katthal
Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

REGIONAL OFFICE, SHIMLA:- FIRST FLOOR, DOGRA COMMERCIAL COMPLEX (SANKET HEIGHTS), NEAR APPLE MANDI, BHATKAPUR, SANJAULI, SHIMLA, H.P. - 171006					
GOLD AUCTION SALE NOTICE					
The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 14.09.2026 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 10:00 A.M. on 15.09.2026 or any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the Bank.					
Sr. No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name and Address of the Borrower	Branch Name	Branch Head Name & Contact No.
1.	02.04.2025	56890600001418	Niraj W/o Sanjeev Rajia Thanari, Tehsil Kothkhai, Shimla- 171202	Sanjauli, H.P.	Mr. Praveen Kumar M: 6283285137
2.	07.10.2024	34490600002019	Sandeep Kumar S/o Balbir Kumar, H. No. 387, Hisar, Ward No. 28, Patel Nagar, Hisar, Haryana- 125001	Pinjore, Haryana	Mr. Manoj Kumar M: 6283285132
3.	03.11.2025	34490600002260	Parminder Singh C/o Gurcharan Singh, 0575, Baba Bhandari Wali Gali, Near Railway Crossing, Dharampur Colony, Pinjore, Haryana- 134102	Pinjore, Haryana	Mr. Manoj Kumar M: 6283285132
4.	18.11.2024	98360600000998	Lokesh Kumar, Hansrela Niwas, Jiwnoo Colony, Parimahal, Kasumpti, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh -171009	Kasumpti, Shimla	Mr. Ishaan Sharma M: 6283285139
5.	08.01.2026	34500600001322	Balveer Singh, Village Badah, Mohal 35 84, Kullu- 175126	Kullu, Himachal Pradesh	Mr. Harikrishan M: 6283285131
6.	10.07.2025	34500600001217	Balveer Singh, Village Badah, Mohal 35 84, Kullu- 175126	Kullu, Himachal Pradesh	Mr. Harikrishan M: 6283285131
7.	01.01.2025	79440600001722	Charan Dass Bharti S/o Shailg Ram Bharti, VPO Poshana, Tehsil Nimrand, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh - 172001	Rampur Bushahr	Mr. Manish Kumar M: 6283285223
8.	26.04.2023	541406000000640	Aditya Taak S/o Malkhan Singh, Set No. 19, Near Police Station, Kasumpti, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh - 171009	New Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	Mr. Tejaswi Kashyap M: 6283285085
Date: 29.08.2026 AUTHORIZED OFFICER					

PUBLIC NOTICE
ICICI Home Finance Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Address: 2nd floor, 5F-384, Opposite Vodafone office, Central Mall 32, Mall Road, Amritsar (Punjab)- 143001, Branch Address: SCO B0023/00398, 1st Floor, Above Canara Bank, Ward no. 4, Desu Mojra, NH-21, Kharar, Dist. Mohali-143031

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Vipul Puri S/o Varinder Kumar (Borrower), Monika W/o Vipul Puri (Co-Borrower), H No 58 Gokul Ka Bagh 100 Ft Futti Road Amritsar 143001, LHAMT00001609925	File Document No 2462 Dated 27 May 2024 In Favour of Vipul Puri, Ik Makan Private No A-54 Khasra No 17/11, 17/10, 17/11, 17/20 Min Paimaish East, West 31.6 Ft, North, South 17 Ft Kul Rakba 59.50 Sayard Vakra Rakba Vill Fatehpur Abadi Dashmesh Vihar Near Waheguru City Chabhal Road The Amritsar -2 & Dist Amritsar Punjab Hadbast No 377 Bounded By- North By: Plot No: A-53, South By: 25 Feet Wide Road, East By: Plot No: A-55, West By: House No: A-54, Corner Portion, Owned By Rohit Kumar.	13-08-2026 Rs. 16,28,937/-	08-08-2026
2.	Rahul Bansal S/o Shiv Kumar Bansal (Borrower), Priyanka W/o Rahul Kumar Bansal (Co-Borrower), Shiv Kumar Bansal S/o Pyare Lal Bansal (Co-Borrower), House No 518, Sector 45, Burail, Ram Dassia Mohalla Near Kalagidar Gurudwara Chandigarh-160045, LHKRH00001597661	House No 518, Old No 496, Measuring 125.57 Sayard Street No 1 Ram Dasia Mohalla Near Gurudwara Kalagidhar Sahib At Village Burail Ut Chandigarh Bounded By- North By: House of Other, South By: Street 32 Ft 6 Inch, East By: House of Sh. Mamleshwar, West By: House of Sh. Sher Singh 35 Ft.	13-08-2026 Rs. 25,16,164.8/-	08-08-2026
3.	Rahul Bansal S/o Shiv Kumar Bansal (Borrower), Priyanka W/o Rahul Kumar Bansal (Co-Borrower), Shiv Kumar Bansal S/o Pyare Lal Bansal (Co-Borrower), House No 518, Sector 45, Burail, Ram Dassia Mohalla Near Kalagidar Gurudwara Chandigarh-160045, LHKRH00001597662	House No 518, Old No 496, Measuring 125.57 Sayard Street No 1 Ram Dasia Mohalla Near Gurudwara Kalagidhar Sahib At Village Burail Ut Chandigarh Bounded By- North By: House of Other, South By: Street 32 Ft 6 Inch, East By: House of Sh. Mamleshwar, West By: House of Sh. Sher Singh 35 Ft.	13-08-2026 Rs. 1,11,819.99/-	08-08-2026

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

Date: August 30, 2026
Place: Amritsar, Chandigarh
Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

pnb punjab national bank
.....the name you can Bank upon
BRANCH OFFICE: 511710-APJ SCHOOL (JALANDHAR)
Email: bo511710@pnb.bank.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice within dates mentioned hereunder, calling upon the **Borrower(s)** to repay the amount mentioned in the 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 the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, on the dates mentioned against the account.
The **Borrower's** 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, less recovery if any.
The **Borrower's** attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secure assets.

Name of the Borrower/Owner/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding as on date of Demand Notice
Borrower Smt. Sonia Arora W/o Nitin Arora (Borrower/Mortgagor), Add 1: H. No. 6-A, Karol Bagh, Ladhewali, Jalandhar-1, 9323, 9326, 9327, 9328, 9329, 9355, 9356, Jalandhar-144009 and Add 2: House No 5 Karol Bagh, Ladhewali, Near DIPS School, Jalandhar, Pin Code-144009	Equitable Mortgage of Residential House No 6A measuring 3 Marla 55 Sqft (1Marla = 207 Sqft) situated at Karol Bagh, Near DIPS School, Ladhewali, Jalandhar comprised in Khaska No. 9318, 9319, 9320, 9321, 9323, 9326, 9327, 9328, 9329, 9355, 9356, Hundred Ninety and Jalandhar-144009 and Add 2: House No 5 Karol Bagh, W/o Nitin Arora Bounded by: East: Other, West: Road, 31.05.2026 plus future interest w.e.f. 01.06.2026 and incidental expenses thereon, less recovery if any.	22.06.2026	29.08.2026	Rs. 9,99,590.73/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Ninety and Paise Seventy Three)

Date: 29.08.2026 PLACE : JALANDHAR AUTHORIZED OFFICER

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपकार A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office, 2nd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh
Ph. No. 0172-2602431, 2663733, E-mail: rlcochd@canarabank.com

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF EMD 18.09.2026 UPTO 5:00 P.M.

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 19.09.2026 AT 11:30 AM TO 12:30 P.M.
(with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION: 14.09.2026 & 15.09.2026 BETWEEN 03:00 PM TO 05:00 PM

CHANGE OF NAME

I **hitherto** known as Parmala Devi W/o Pawan Kumar residing at Village Bhol Kalota, PO: Amroh, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144224 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shashi Bala.

I Rohini Grover W/O
Atul Narula R/O House
No.1034 Urban Estate
Phagwara Distt.
Kapurthala Punjab Have
Changed My Name From
Rohini Grover To Rohini
Narula.

Buzurg, Dist. Faizabad,
Tehsil: Milikipur, State:
Uttar Pradesh, Pin:
224208 declare that in my
Son's Service record my
name is by Mistakenly
mentioned as
YASHOMATI DEVI but as
per Civil/Govt. Documents
my Correct Name is
YASHOMATI
CHAURASIA. Vide
Affidavit No: 11AA
832400, Dated:
29/08/2026

I, BHARMA DEVI am
Mother of Army No: 15614915F Rank: Chm
Name: Ajay Presently
Posted at Unit: 20 Guard
C/o 56 APO Permanent
Address: House No-
838/490, Badi Gali, Lal
Dass Thola, Dubaldhan
Kirmian (136), Hjjajar,
Haryana, 124202 declare
that in my Son's Service
record my Name is by
Mistakenly mentioned as
BHARMA DEVI but as per
Civil/Govt. Documents my
Correct name is BRAHMA
DEVI. Vide Affidavit No:
11AA 832406, Dated:
29/08/2026



यूको बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)



UCO BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

सम्मान आपके विश्वास का

Honours Your Trust

General Notice Regarding Branch Relocation

The general public, customers, and locker holders are hereby informed that UCO Bank is relocating the premises of the following branch by 9 September.

Bhiwani Branch : (SOLID-0337)

Current Premises: Opposite Nehru Park, Circular Road, Bhiwani.
 New Premises: Krishna Colony Turn, near Khurana Hospital, Circular Road, Bhiwani.

The relocation of the said branch will take place soon.

Please note that should any unforeseen or emergency situation arise regarding the old premises, the Bank may relocate the branch to the new premises earlier than scheduled, if necessary.

Branch Manager



THE PIONEER



COLOR
OR BLACK AND WHITE ADS
CONTACT: 9417419351

19. Farming comprised in Khwarid No.343, situated in village Lush, Tehsil and District Hissar belonging to owner M/S Sakshi Vardhak Hybrid Seeds Pvt Ltd, Hissar.
20. Farming comprised in Khwarid No.344, situated in village Anaga, Tehsil and District Hissar belonging to owner Sargay Arora V/O Panch Panch.
21. Property is Land measuring 44K 0M and Factory Building constructed thereupon situated at village Lush Tehsil and District Hissar details below:
 - a. Factory Building measuring 10K 0M and measuring 08K 0M comprised in Khwarid No.350, Khatum No.58 and Kharsa No.366 (R/O) situated in village Lush Tehsil and District Hissar belonging to owner M/S Sakshi Vardhak Hybrid Seeds Pvt Ltd, Hissar
 - b. Factory building constructed on land measuring 10K 0M comprised in Khwarid No.354, Khatum No.393 and Kharsa No.356 (7/8-1) situated in village Lush, Tehsil & District Hissar belongs to owner VED Parkash S/O Ram Kumar S/O Ami Chand R/O H.N.1915, Sector-14, Hissar under lease with M/S Sakshi Vardhak Hybrid Seeds Pvt Ltd, Hissar
 - c. Factory building measuring 10K 0M comprised in Khwarid No.363, Khatum No.392 and Kharsa No.356 (1/4-0), situated in village Lush, Tehsil & District Hissar belongs to owner Ram Kumar S/O Ami Chand S/O Phusa Ram R/O H.N.1915, Sector-14, Hissar under lease with M/S Sakshi Vardhak Hybrid Seeds Pvt Ltd, Hissar
 - d. Factory Building constructed on land measuring 20K 0M comprised in Khwarid No.365, Khatum No.394 and Kharsa No.356 (4/7-11) 56/1-1, 6/6-8) situated in village Lush, Tehsil & District Hissar belongs to owner M/S Sakshi Vardhak Hybrid Seeds Pvt Ltd, Hissar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Devinder Kumar s/o Dyal Das Give Notice To The Public That The Chain Title
I. Easika No. 2824 Date 15/06/1981 and
Easika No. 6709 Date 14/10/1996, Houses
No 2042-C Situated At Phase 2 Urban
Estate, Patiala Has Been Lost by Angel/D
Tel Singh R/o H no 2042 C Urban Estate
Phase 2, Patiala For Which DDR No. 015
Date 20/10/2023 and LR No: LAR-2026
PTL-73573 Date 22/06/2026 has Been
Lodged At PS Urban Estate, Patiala. I Want
To Purchase and Mortgage the Property
With State Bank of India RACPC Patiala
61078, Mail Road, Patiala For Availing
House Loan. If Anybody Has Any
Objection On The Said Property He/She
May Contact On 0175-2395624/2392128
SBI.61078@SBI.Co In Within 15 Days Of
This Notice And No Dispute Will Be
Accepted After This Period.

सायंजनिक सूचना

हे कि प्रभारी राज कुमार पुत्र जब जल निवासी ग्राम ससीतोने में अपने नौ को कानूनी कार्य की रिपोर्ट जमा करने हेतु प्रान्त प्रशासन पर इस कारवाही में प्रास हुआ हे जहाँ दावा किया गया है सलंगन हलक नामा व रिपोर्ट पार्श्व *नमस्कार* पृष्ठक १० अनुसार मूक सल तपयवी को राज कुमार प्रान्त कार्य के निम्नलिखित कानूनी कार्य है- राज कुमार, रवि कुमार, अशरा प्रसाद, डी.एन।, रिमिने पुरा/ कुमिल है। मलियार कल्लास रिटर्न को क्लिपि सारी को कोई अप्रति है। तो वह तहसीलदार जगन्नाथ प्रसाद को प्रस्ताव के 15 दिव के अंतर्- ८ अप्रति दावा कर ससलत है यथा प्रसाद यो दाई कारवाही मलियार की समय सलत पर्व जहाँ है। २०११ प्रसाद यो दाई सलही को धा 177 व अन्य कानूनी कार्य कानूनी दायक व पार्श्वद हो।। लालीसल, जगन्नाथ

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 197, Near Post office colony Bilsapkur
Hr District Gurugram Haryana, inform that the Original documents of property situated in village Islampur Hadbest No. 153, Under Kalka Dist Panchkula Haryana have been lost/misplaced and are not traceable: Original Sead Deed No. 2479/1, Dated 19.10.2005 registered in the office of Sub Registrar Kalka District Panchkula Haryana, and Original Sead Deed No. 4060/1, Dated 20.01.2006 registered in the office of Sub Registrar Kalka District Panchkula Haryana for favour of Madan Lal Sharma Kishore Chand, Now Krishna Kuman Wani Haryana. The said property is situated in Post office colony Bilsapkur Hr District Gurugram Haryana intend to avail a mortgage loan from Bank of Baroda Branch Raipur Chandra Chand against the property measuring 153 Sq. Yards. The said property is situated in 153, Under M.C. Near Himshikha colony Panchkula, Tehsil Kalka Dist Panchkula Haryana. A Police Complaint regarding the loss of the above documents has been lodged vide No. 27.08.2026 at Police Station Haryana. If any person/entity/DSA/Financial Institution/Bank/government department or any claimant/objection, charge, stay order, litigation or claimant/objection within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice at the address mentioned below. If no objection is received/objection within the stipulated period, it shall be deemed that there are no encumbrances, claims, litigation, and no claim shall be entertained thereafter.

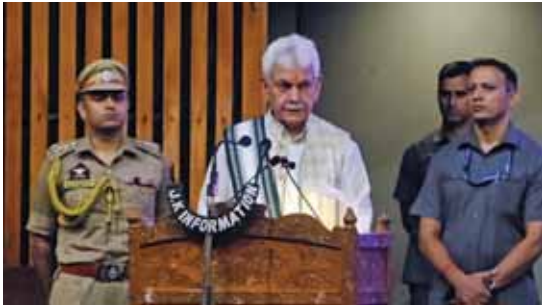
Bank of Baroda , Branch:- Raipur Khurd Chandigarh
(UT)-160003, Contact no. 8558846406

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that I, Neha Chaudhary, wife of Mr. Amandeep Gill, resident of Plot No. 407, Tower B, ISKCON Arena, Nagal Road, Zirakpur, Mohali, Punjab – 140603, have lost the following documents relating to Plot Nos. 92 and 94 at Gohana Road, Jind 1. Allotment Letter No. ADDPL/2025-26/190, dated 24/01/2026, for Plot No. 92, 26/191, dated 24/01/2026, for Plot No. 94, 26/191, dated 24/01/2026, for Plot No. 94/3. Payment Receipt No. 1, 2, 3, 24/01/2026, for an amount of ₹ 151,240/-, Payment Receipt No. 261, dated 27/02/2026, for an amount of ₹ 52,480/-, 5. Payment Receipt No. 2, 25/03/2026/2026, for an amount of ₹ 12,00,000/-, 26/191, dated 24/01/2026, for an amount of ₹ 151,240/-, 26/191, dated 24/01/2026, for an amount of ₹ 151,240/-, 7. Payment Receipt No. 263, dated 27/02/2026, for an amount of ₹ 52,860/- and 27/02/2026, for an amount of ₹ 52,860/-.

In this regard, I have also registered a Police Report on the online portal bearing Report No. 13330/2026/1598 dated 27/02/2026. If anyone finds any of the above-mentioned documents, they are requested to immediately inform me at the address mentioned above.

States Focus



J&K SHOULD ASPIRE TO HOST GLOBAL SPORTS EVENTS: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir should aspire not only to participate in international sporting events but also to host them and showcase its talent to the world.

Addressing a function on National Sports Day, Sinha said the region's achievements in sports over the past six years showed that dedicated preparation could create "an entire era of champions".

He also paid tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand and called upon the youth to contribute to building a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

"Champions are forged through discipline and effort, not shortcuts," Sinha said, urging corporate houses to support athletes at the talent-recognition stage rather than only after they win medals. He said society, coaches, support staff and parents had a collective responsibility in shaping sporting champions. Sinha outlined three duties for young people – to lead by example, compete with dignity, accept defeat gracefully and inspire future generations. (PTI)



BJP CHIEF NITIN NABIN HOLDS MEETING ON YOUTH OUTREACH

BJP president Nitin Nabin on Saturday held a crucial meeting with party leaders to discuss and formulate the party's youth outreach plan, sources said.

According to sources, the party's preparations for the upcoming Assembly polls in seven States, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat, were also a key agenda for the meeting.

The meeting was attended by newly appointed BJP Yuva Morcha president Hemang Joshi. Former presidents of the party's Yuva Morcha, Anurag Thakur, Poonam Mahajan and Tejasvi Surya, were also present at the meeting. (PTI)

PM Modi must order filing of FIR: Rahul on Kharge purification row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday attacked the BJP-RSS over the 'shuddhikaran' (purification) ceremony carried out at the venue of a rally addressed by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in Haldwani earlier this month, saying it was a "crime", and Prime Minister Narendra Modi must order the registration of an FIR in the matter.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said this incident shows the BJP-RSS mindset that they do not want the Dalits to progress and live with respect and be successful.

"We are demanding justice for the Congress president. Give the Congress president justice in Uttarakhand. It is the duty of the Central and State Governments to ensure that Kharge gets justice," he said at a press conference.

Gandhi also accused the Uttarakhand BJP chief Mahendra Bhatt of defending the purification act and said 20 days have passed since the "crime" was committed, but no action has been taken. "We demand that an FIR be



LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference at Indira Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday

lodged against those who have done this. PM Modi states that he belongs to every caste and is the prime minister of the country, but his party chief of Uttarakhand defends 'shuddhikaran,' Gandhi said.

It is the RSS people who did it, and the PM should order an FIR under the SC/ST Act against these people, Gandhi demanded, asserting that the Congress will ensure justice for its party chief.

"There is a fight between two ideologies — the Constitution given by the likes of BR Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru on one side, and the BJP-RSS on the other side," he said.

"For thousands of years,

violence was perpetrated against Dalits. This is illegal under the Constitution, but today also in schools, Dalit children are made to clean toilets. This is the reality of the country," Gandhi said.

"Dalits are not allowed to drink water from wells. In tea shops, there are two cups — paper ones for Dalits and glass ones for others. In a Baraat in India, a Dalit groom wears a helmet as he could be beaten up for riding a horse. This is the reality in the country," Gandhi said.

Citing the examples of Congress president, the party's Rajasthan leader Tikaram Jolly and NDA minister Jitan Ram Manjhi - who all reportedly faced 'purification' situations at different

times - Gandhi said the more successful the Dalit person is, the attack on him or her is more fierce.

"This is another name for untouchability.

"The BJP people practice untouchability. When they do shuddhikaran, they say that Dalits cannot touch as they are impure," Gandhi said.

"They did shuddhikaran on August 10, two days after the rally of Kharge ji in Haldwani. This is a crime. On August 13, Kharge ji raised this issue in Parliament," Gandhi recalled.

The Congress on Thursday accused Uttarakhand BJP chief Mahendra Bhatt of "justifying" the purification ceremony and asked whether the ruling party would take action against the leader as he "defended untouchability".

Bhatt had reportedly said the place was polluted with slogans not fit for a religious place, as he dismissed the criticism over the ritual by the opposition.

The alleged purification took place at Ramila Maidan in Haldwani, where Kharge had addressed a gathering on August 8.

Bihar Govt to replace term fail with eligible for skill training in marksheets of Class 10, 12

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Patna

The Bihar Government has decided to replace the word "fail" with the phrase "eligible for skill training" in the marksheets of students appearing for Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations from the current academic session, officials said on Saturday.

The move is aimed at enabling the students to pursue vocational training programmes offered by the Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination (BBOSE), they said.

"The Education Department will amend the



Bihar Education Minister Mithlesh Tiwary

rules accordingly to implement this change. The department will soon issue necessary instructions to the BSEB. Instead of 'Fail', the certificates will carry the term 'Eligible for Skill

Development'." Bihar Education Minister Mithlesh Tiwary told reporters.

Tiwary said students' talent does not disappear merely because they fail to secure the expected marks

in an examination.

"Students appearing for the Class 10 board supplementary examinations will be provided special sessions for one month to help them prepare and improve their chances of success," he said.

The initiative is part of broader efforts to provide remedial support and prevent students from falling behind after an unsuccessful examination attempt, Tiwary said.

The Bihar Government has been taking measures to provide students with greater exposure to activities beyond conventional textbook-based learning, the officials said.

BJP to go ahead with foot march despite Karnataka minister's resignation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bengaluru

The BJP will go ahead with its scheduled 10-day foot march from Raichur to Ballari beginning September 1, former minister B Sriramulu said on Saturday.

The saffron party decided to continue with its plan despite Planning and Statistics Minister B Nagendra resigned on Friday over allegations of ₹89 crore scam in the Maharshi Valmiki



Ex-Karnataka minister B Sriramulu
Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation in 2024.
The padayatra will begin at

Lingasugur on September 1 and conclude in Ballari on September 10, covering nine Assembly constituencies, Sriramulu said.

The march was earlier announced as a campaign demanding Ballari Rural MLA Nagendra's resignation.

"The speciality of the Government today is that it has accepted a resignation for the second time on the same charges," Sriramulu said. He said the march would be

inaugurated at Lingasugur by BJP state president BY Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and Union ministers, including Pralhad Joshi and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy.

The march will pass through Maski, Sindhanur, Hanchanal Camp, Kanakagiri, Gangavathi, Kampli, Sandur and Ballari Rural

before culminating in Ballari city, he said.

Sriramulu credited the BJP and JD(S) legislators' protests in the Assembly with forcing Nagendra's resignation, saying, "They ensured that a minister resigned within about 25 days." He alleged that the ₹187-crore irregularity involved funds meant for the development of Scheduled Tribe communities, and was used during the Lok Sabha elections in Ballari and Koppal.

Maratha activist Jarange begins fast over Kunbi certificates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

Quota activist Manoj Jarange launched an indefinite hunger strike on Saturday, demanding that the Maharashtra Government immediately issue caste certificates based on the 58 lakh Kunbi records identified earlier and asserted that the community will not grant any further time.

Speaking to reporters at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district, Jarange warned

that this would be his "final agitation" and accused Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of bearing a "grudge" against the Maratha community and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde of quietly supporting him.

He also demanded the elimination of the caste verification committee, and threatened to march to the Chief Minister's residence in Mumbai if the Government fails to resolve all pending quota issues.

"Devendra Fadnavis is deliberately bearing a grudge



against the Maratha community, and Eknath Shinde is giving him covert support

through Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat. If they do not resolve our

issues, we will march to the 'Varsha' bungalow (the CM's official residence in Mumbai). We will speak to the Government delegation if they come to negotiate, but they must arrive with concrete solutions," he said.

Jarange has led several agitations demanding that eligible Marathas be recognised as Kunbis, an agrarian community that enjoys reservation benefits in education and Government jobs under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category.

Patnaik urges BJP MPs from Odisha to call for reversal of mining law amendments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhubaneswar

BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Saturday wrote to BJP MPs from Odisha, urging them to call for reversal of the MMDR Act amendments that seek to restrict States' powers to levy taxes on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land parcels.

Patnaik, who is also the leader of the opposition in the State Assembly, appealed to the MPs of the ruling party to safeguard the interests of people who elected them to Parliament.

"I earnestly appeal to you (BJP MPs) to listen to your



BJD president Naveen Patnaik

conscience and think about the future generations of Odisha. I appeal to you to challenge and call for a reversal of the amendment made in the MMDR Act that takes away the powers of the State

Government," Patnaik said in the letter.

He also said August 13, which saw the passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the

Lok Sabha with Odisha BJP MPs' support, was a "black day" for the State.

Noting that Parliament is the highest temple of Indian democracy, Patnaik said MPs are the voice of Odisha in this tallest forum of democracy.

"The people of Odisha elected you in good faith to protect their interests. It is therefore a matter of utmost concern that you voted in favour of one of the most arbitrary legislations that will have far-reaching adverse implications for the people of Odisha who put their trust in you," the BJD chief said in the letter.

Goa police hunt for suspects who fired at casino director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Panaji

The Goa Police have launched a search to trace two unidentified men who allegedly opened fire at the director of a casino group outside his hotel in Porvorim, a senior officer said on Saturday.

The director escaped unhurt while his security personnel returned fire, police said, adding that the shooting occurred on Friday night outside a five-star property, located near the local police station.

The incident has prompted the opposition Congress to allege that law and order has collapsed in the



BJP-ruled State.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday said that those involved in the incident will not be spared. Superintendent of Police (North Goa) Harishchandra Madkaikar said that two men fired three rounds at Srinivas

FSSAI proposes label on food products high in fat, salt, sugar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has told the Supreme Court that it has proposed to provide a prominent front-of-pack warning label in red colour for food products which are high in added saturated fat, added sugar and salt.

In a compliance affidavit filed in the apex court, the FSSAI said the proposal is intended to provide a simple, prominent and easily comprehensible warning to consumers regarding food products which are high in specified nutrients of concerns.

It said the warning label shall indicate the applicable declarations, such as "High Fat", "High Sugar", "High Salt" and/or "Highly Sweetened Beverage", as the case may be, to enable consumers to readily identify products high in the specified nutrients.

The affidavit was filed in compliance of the apex court's August 13 order passed while hearing a plea of public charitable trust '3S and Our Health Society'.

The petitioner, represented by advocate Rajiv Shankar Dvivedi, has sought directions to the Centre, states and Union territories to implement mandatory front-of-package warning labels (FOP) on packaged foods.

While hearing the matter on August 13, a bench of justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran had slammed the FSSAI over the delay in introducing warning labels on packaged foods and asked if the Government "does not want its people to

be healthy". In its compliance affidavit filed in the court, the FSSAI said it has prepared a proposal for providing information relating to added sugar, added fat and salt in pictorial form on the front-of-pack (FOP).

"The warning shall be displayed in a font size one point larger than that used in the nutrition information table on the back of the pack," it said.

It said the following categories are proposed to be exempted from the front-of-pack warning requirement — single-ingredient food products, and food products which are inherently rich in fat, sugar or salt, such as ghee, edible oil, salt, sugar, jaggery and honey, subject to the applicability of other requirements under the food safety and labelling regulations.

The affidavit said it is proposed that front-of-pack nutrition labelling (FoPNL) be implemented in phases to facilitate consumer acceptability and provide industry adequate time for reformulation.

It said while phase I would cover products high in two or more specified nutrients — added fat, added sugar and salt — and specified sweetened beverages, phase II would extend the warning to products high in any one of these nutrients.

"The proposed approach is intended to address the need for an effective and consumer friendly FoP labelling mechanism and to facilitate informed food-choices, particularly in relation to children and other vulnerable group of the population," the affidavit said.

Bombay HC disposes plea by cab drivers as Govt grants one-year time to learn Marathi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Saturday disposed of a petition filed by four cab drivers seeking a stay on the Maharashtra Government's Marathi language mandate after it was informed about the State's decision to extend the timeline to learn the language by a year.

Additional Government pleader Jyoti Chavan told a bench of acting Chief Justice Ravindra Ghuge and Justice Gautam Ankhad that the Government has decided to extend the time given to auto rickshaw and taxi drivers to learn the language by one year.

The high court accepted the statement and disposed of the petition.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced the timeline extension after a delegation met him on Thursday, halting immediate action against non-Marathi drivers and giving them more time to learn the language.



Bombay High Court

The public interest litigation (PIL), filed through advocate Vivek Shukla, had said the Government notification dated August 12 was violative of the fundamental rights of citizens.

The petitioners - Mohd Kasim Ahmad, Mohd. Tauseef Shaikh, Siyad Ahmad, and Sadik Nasir Ali Khan - had claimed that the rule violates their fundamental rights under Articles 14 (right to equality), 19 (freedom to carry on trade and profession) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution and is ultra vires the Motor Vehicles Act, which does not prescribe any language requirement for driving licences.

"The Motor Vehicles Act confers no power upon the State Government to prescribe working knowledge of any language as a qualification for a driver, as a condition of a badge, or as a condition of a permit, and confers no power to suspend or revoke a badge on such a ground," the plea had said.

It added that lakhs of poor and migrant drivers, including themselves, face the imminent threat of suspension of badges and cancellation of permits, due to the implementation of the "working knowledge" of Marathi rule, which they said will affect their livelihoods.

reflected the collapse of the law and order situation in the State.

"A firing incident reportedly took place just metres away from the Porvorim police station. If criminals can allegedly open fire in the vicinity of a police station, how safe is the common Goan?" Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar said in a social media post.

"Today, even those seen as close to the BJP establishment are not safe. What does this say about the state of law and order under the BJP Government?" he asked.

CM Sawant said this is the first such incident during his tenure as the chief minister.

Banks to appeal NCLT approval of Subhash Chandra repayment plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Days after the controversial NCLT Order favouring media baron Subhash Chandra, many lenders such as Union Bank of India (UK) Ltd, Canara Bank and LIC Housing Finance Ltd have decided to challenge the order reducing liability from more than `22,000 crore to just `6.25 crore. The controversial order came in a case filed by Indiabulls (now name changed as Sammaan Capital) against Subhash Chandra, from invoking personal guarantee against the loans to firms related to him.

These lenders will challenge the NCLT's decision in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) as they are aggrieved by the former's decision, which gives them a recovery of just 0.03 per cent of their admitted dues. Referring to the matter of a personal insolvency case filed by Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd against Subhash Chandra, Union Bank of India, in a statement, said its wholly-owned UK subsidiary "along with other public sector undertakings



Subhash Chandra

like Canara Bank, LIC Housing Finance Ltd etc have rejected the resolution plan and pleaded before NCLT for not approving the same."

However, due to a majority vote of certain private creditors, the same plan has been approved by NCLT, it added. Now, Union Bank of India (UK) Ltd is immediately challenging the decision of NCLT before NCLAT, per the statement.

Canara Bank, in its statement, said the bank (1.60 per cent voting share), along with other public sector entities Union Bank of India (0.76 per

cent voting share) and LIC Housing Finance (6.09 per cent voting share), opposed and voted against the repayment plan submitted by Chandra for `6.25 crore. However, the repayment plan was approved by other private creditors with a majority vote (80.81 per cent voting share), it added.

"In fact, Canara Bank demanded a forensic audit, but the same could not be allowed in view of our minority voting share. The bank is filing an appeal in NCLAT against the NCLT order," the public sector bank said. LIC

Housing Finance Ltd, in its statement, noted that it and other public financial institutions, including Canara Bank and Union Bank of India (UK) Ltd., voted against the repayment plan proposed by Chandra. The plan was ultimately approved on account of the votes cast in favour of the repayment plan by the other financial creditors, aggregating to 80.81 per cent.

LIC HFL said it will immediately file an appeal before the NCLAT, along with the other public financial institutions. HDFC Bank was the first to come out with the statement challenging the order in NCLAT.

HDFC Bank, in its statement a couple of days back, observed that its admitted claim was only 3.2 per cent of the total stated claim amount. The bank inherited this facility, which was previously provided by HDFC Ltd.

Meanwhile, Subhash Chandra came out in the media, blaming Mukesh Ambani for attacking him through his media organisations by putting out "wrong stories". Reliance Industries rejected Chandra's allegations.

HDFC Bank CEO Jagdishan opts out of reappointment amid governance concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai

HDFC Bank's managing director and chief executive Sashidhar Jagdishan on Saturday opted out of being considered for reappointment after his current term ends on October 26, the largest private sector lender said in a regulatory filing.

Jagdishan, 61, will retire from the bank on October 26 after spending nearly three decades at the lender.

After taking over as the bank CEO in October 2020, Jagdishan is serving his second three-year term as the lender's head.

The HDFC Bank board will fast-track the process for selection and appointment of Jagdishan's successor "well within time", the exchange filing said.

He conveyed his decision not to seek reappointment as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer and also reiterated the decision despite "persuasion" from the board, it added.

"The board deeply appreciated his commitment, leadership, contribution to the growth and stability of the



HDFC Bank's CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan

Bank and his role in successful completion of one of the largest mergers in corporate India," the filing said.

It also conveyed best wishes to Jagdishan in his future endeavours.

Jagdishan took over as the CEO of the bank from Aditya Puri, who had led the bank since its founding in 1995.

Within months, it announced the merger of its mortgage major parent, HDFC, with itself, leading to huge expansion in the asset book and worries over business performance. HDFC liability payouts and compressed net interest margins of the combined entity.

The management, however, said the merger will accrue benefits over the long term.

The issue of Jagdishan's reappointment has been a subject of intense speculation, especially after the surprising resignation of non-executive chairman Atanu Chakraborty in March this year, citing concerns on ethics and governance practices at the lender.

In late July, the bank board found shortcomings in the deposit arrangements with the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) and also slapped a fine of Rs 1 lakh each on Jagdishan and other key

executives, even though it said that their actions were not mala fide.

It was alleged that the bank paid, over and above the card rate, for getting high-value deposits from the state-run body and routed them as marketing spends.

Besides, the bank has also faced allegations of mis-selling Credit Suisse's AT-1 bonds to diaspora clients from its Dubai DIFC branch, which led the local regulator to prohibit the bank from onboarding new customers or conducting new business last year.

In an interview after his sudden exit, Chakraborty rued that the bank did not act in time in the AT-1 bonds case, and compensation practices have to be in sync with value systems to ensure that any mis-selling does not happen.

There have also been reports of non-resident Indians being stuck with over USD 100 million in investments in a platform floated by Carlisle Asset Management sold as a high-yield product, but clients are unable to redeem their investments.

Finance ministry to begin preparing for Budget 2027-28 from October 12

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Finance Ministry will begin the exercise to prepare the Union Budget for 2027-28 from October 12 amid heightened global uncertainties and rising food and fuel prices.

The Budget for the next financial year is expected to focus on the reform continuation exercise to further accelerate economic growth, along with measures to create jobs and boost domestic demand.

"Pre-budget meetings chaired by Secretary (Expenditure) shall commence from October 12, 2026. Financial Advisers shall ensure that necessary details...are properly entered in UBIS (Union Budget Information System) before/latest by October 6, 2026," Budget circular 2027-28 issued by the Department of Economic Affairs said.

Hard copies of the data in the specified formats should be submitted for cross-verification, it said.

It will be the fourth Budget of the Modi 3.0 Government



Nirmala Sitharaman with senior finance ministry officials

FILE PHOTO

and the 10th straight Budget for Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a rare distinction in Indian polity.

The circular further said that pre-budget meetings would commence from October 12, 2026, and continue till mid-November 2026.

The Budget Estimates for 2027-28, as well as Revised Estimates for 2026-27, will be provisionally finalised after completion of pre-Budget meetings, it added.

After detailed discussions in the pre-budget meetings, provisional expenditure ceilings will be indicated to the ministries/departments, it said.

Final expenditure ceilings will be decided by the ministry after factoring in the expenditure priorities and receipt projections of the Government, it said.

The final expenditure figures would be transmitted through and reflected in the UBIS latest by end-December 2026/early-January 2027, it added.

It further said that estimates of central taxes and duties, including surcharges and cesses, should be furnished by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to the Budget Division.

Temasek says supportive of Singapore Airlines' investments in Air India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Singapore's sovereign wealth fund Temasek on Saturday said it supports Singapore Airlines' investments in Air India and highlighted that the Indian carrier's large-scale transformation involves complex, multi-year operational and integration challenges.

A statement from Temasek, which is a stakeholder in Singapore Airlines (SIA), comes against the backdrop of concerns raised in certain quarters about the carrier's investment in the loss-making Air India.

Singapore Airlines owns a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India, and the remaining shareholding is with Tata Sons, which acquired the Indian airline from the Government in January 2022.

In a statement on Saturday, Temasek said SIA has articulated its objective to invest in a second hub to secure long-term growth beyond Singapore.

"As the world's third-largest air transport market after the US and China, India is well-positioned to serve as this second hub. SIA has



long participated in the India market, including an operating presence through Vistara since 2013, and its investment in Air India allows it to deepen its participation in India's aviation growth," it said.

Temasek said that as a shareholder of SIA, "we view their business decision from a long-term perspective and are supportive of it".

Earlier this week in a social media post, Singapore's Member of Parliament Kenneth Tiong Boon Kiat cited a media report and flagged concerns about Singapore Airlines investing more in Air India.

"Air India has asked its owners for another \$1.5 billion. Singapore Airlines

owns about a quarter of it, and Temasek owns most of Singapore Airlines, so this is not only a question for private shareholders. Whichever of the two writes the cheque, it will have a significant impact on Temasek," he had said in a Facebook post.

Singapore Airlines Group's net profit dropped 57 per cent to SGD 1184 billion (nearly `8,900 crore) in the fiscal year ended March 2026, mainly due to the absence of a prior-year one-off accounting gain related to the Vistara merger, and Air India losses.

Air India's loss stood at more than SGD 3.56 billion (over `26,700 crore) in the financial year ended March 2026, as the carrier grap-

pled with the fallout of airspace curbs and other headwinds.

Figures were disclosed by Singapore Airlines Group in its annual financial report for 2025-26, released in May. The rupee figures are based on the exchange rate of May 14.

Sources earlier this week said Air India is planning to seek additional funds to the tune of \$1.5 billion, which is over `14,000 crore at the current exchange rate.

On Saturday, Temasek also said it recognises that the large-scale transformation of Air India involves complex, multi-year operational and integration challenges.

"Efforts of this scale take time and are not expected to be linear, particularly in the aviation sector, where outcomes are shaped by industry developments, including aircraft innovation and fleet renewal cycles, and external factors such as airspace disruptions, geopolitical developments, and fuel price volatility," it said in the statement.

Meanwhile, on August 27, Singapore Airlines said its board will carefully consider Air India's any requests for

additional capital after taking into consideration the group's other capital requirements, as well as the Indian carrier's business strategy.

N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons and Air India in July, said Air India's transformation journey must be seen as a five-to-ten-year journey considering the years-long supply chain disruptions in key components, the need to overhaul the legacy systems, culture, fleet and creation of a large cadre of airline professionals.

Earlier this month, Chandrasekaran announced he would step down as Tata Sons Chairman when his current term ends in February 2027.

In the Facebook post earlier this week, Kenneth Tiong Boon Kiat also said that no one, least of all Singaporeans, owes Air India a living.

"I will not support, nor expect, any future use of Temasek's funds to prop up Air India via Singapore Airlines. If Singapore Airlines wants to continue its bet on Air India, it should do so on its own two feet, and not on Temasek's," he had said.

Argentina to ease market entry for Indian pharma sector, says Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Argentina has committed to reduce barriers to facilitate entry of Indian pharmaceutical sector in the South American nation, the Commerce Ministry said on Saturday.

This is expected to provide greater opportunities for Indian pharmaceutical companies and contribute to improving access to quality and affordable healthcare in Argentina, it said.

"Argentina has committed to work towards upgrad-



ing India from Annex II to Annex I under its pharmaceutical regulatory framework and reducing barriers to entry," it added.

The issue came up for discussions during the visit of Commerce Secretary Rajesh

Agarwal to Buenos Aires this week.

He was in the country for the India-Argentina Joint Trade Committee (JTC), which was held on August 24, 2026 at Palacio San Martin, Buenos Aires.

Geopolitical issues may slow Noida airport ramp-up: Zurich Airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Noida International Airport is expected to see a "slower ramp-up" due to a challenging geopolitical environment, and near-term performance is subject to elevated uncertainty, according to its operator, Zurich Airport International AG.

The airport, located in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, started operations on June 15, handling 1,044 flights and 77,000 passengers in July.

In June, Noida International Airport handled 204 flights and



25,000 passengers.

"Slower ramp-up expected due to challenging geopolitical environment, with near-term performance remaining subject to elevated uncertainty," Zurich Airport International said in its investor presentation for the first half of 2026.

After Bombay HC rap, FDA withdraws licence cancellation and suspension orders against Cipla and MCA eateries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Saturday dealt a double blow to the Maharashtra FDA, forcing the regulator to backtrack on two major enforcement actions after being admonished for acting against the "principles of natural justice" and taking a "pedantic instead of pragmatic view."

Pulling up the FDA for showing "undue haste" in passing orders without analysing the law in connection with eateries on the Mumbai Cricket Association premises, the high court asked: "Do you feel you are a Lord and you can do anything?"

In the first instance, the FDA withdrew its order cancelling the



Bombay High Court

drug sale licence of Cipla Pharma and Life Sciences Limited's unit in Pune after a bench of Acting Chief Justice Ravindra Ghuge and Justice Gautam Ankhad scolded the regulator for going "overboard" and behaving in a "high-handed" manner.

In a separate setback for the agency, the FDA informed the court that it would also withdraw its order suspending the operations of five restaurants at the MCA premises in Bandra-Kurla Complex after the court warned of stinging orders against officials, noting that a fresh inspection showed the eateries were 88 per cent compliant with food safety rules.

However, the licences of eateries remained suspended as they were being operated by another entity, M/s Shirke Infrastructure, despite the licences being issued in MCA's name.

The court said there is no provision under the law prohibiting the same, noting that on the last hearing the court had specifically

asked the FDA officials to apply their mind and take a pragmatic view of the situation.

"However, despite clearly saying this, the FDA has disobeyed our order and taken a pedantic view instead of a pragmatic view. We are tired of scolding the department and officers all the time. It is now time to pass stinging orders. We will issue contempt action against the concerned officers. Let them convince us or go to jail," the HC said.

When warned of contempt action, the FDA said it would issue a fresh notice to MCA and grant them a hearing on the issue of the contract between the association and Shirke Infrastructure and then pass a reasoned order.



कार्यालय, अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुरक्षण शाखा (गंगा)
उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, जगजीतपुर, हरिद्वार – 249408
ई-मेल – eegangaujs@gmail.com, eeganga-ujs-uk@nic.in
दिनांक – 27.08.2026

पत्रांक : 987 / निविदा सूचना / 2026-2027

ई-निविदा सूचना

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, महोदय उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान देहरादून की ओर से कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, अनुरक्षण शाखा, (गंगा) जगजीतपुर हरिद्वार, के अन्तर्गत माननीय मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा की गयी घोषणाओं के क्रम में निम्नानुसार कार्यों हेतु उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान / उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम में सीवर लाइन सम्बन्धी कार्यों के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित श्रेणी के पंजीकृत ठेकेदार / फर्मों को ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम के आधार पर ई-निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र० सं०	कार्य विवरण	घरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	कार्य की समाप्ति	बिड सिस्टम	निविदा मूल्य	पंजीकृत श्रेणी
1	जनपद हरिद्वार की हरिद्वार गंगा शाखा में मा० मुख्यमंत्री घोषणा सं० 749 / 2025 के अन्तर्गत जोन तृतीय ज्वालापुर में विभिन्न स्थानों पर सीवर लाईनों के प्रतिस्थापन के कार्य हेतु प्राकलन (नगरीय)	8,18,000.00	04 माह	दू-बिड	5000.00+18% (जी.एस.टी.)	
2	जनपद हरिद्वार की हरिद्वार गंगा शाखा में मा० मुख्यमंत्री घोषणा सं० 748 / 2025 के अन्तर्गत जोन द्वितीय कनखल में विभिन्न स्थानों पर सीवर लाईनों 150 एमएम और 200 एमएम व्यास सीवर लाईनों के प्रतिस्थापन के कार्य हेतु प्राकलन (नगरीय)	7,60,400.00	04 माह	दू-बिड	5000.00+18% (जी.एस.टी.)	बी श्रेणी या उच्चतर
3	जनपद हरिद्वार की हरिद्वार गंगा शाखा में मा० मुख्यमंत्री घोषणा सं० 747 / 2025 के अन्तर्गत जोन प्रथम भोपतवाला में विभिन्न स्थानों पर स्थित क्षतिग्रस्त एवं कम व्यास की सीवर लाईनों के प्रतिस्थापन के कार्य हेतु प्राकलन (नगरीय)	9,64,800.00	04 माह	दू-बिड	5000.00+18% (जी.एस.टी.)	
4	जनपद हरिद्वार की हरिद्वार गंगा शाखा में मा० मुख्यमंत्री घोषणा सं० 436 / 2026 के अन्तर्गत जोन तृतीय ज्वालापुर में विभिन्न स्थानों पर सीवर लाईनों के प्रतिस्थापन के कार्य हेतु प्राकलन (नगरीय)	3,14,100.00	04 माह	दू-बिड	5000.00+18% (जी.एस.टी.)	सी श्रेणी या उच्चतर

Sl. No	Details of Tender Activity	Date Of Activity
1	Date of Tender	27.08.2026
2	Date of online Publication of tender Notice and tender document	01.09.2026
3	Online Document download: Start Date	01.09.2026
4	Online Document download: End Date	14.09.2026
5	Pre Bid Meeting	08.09.2026
6	Physical Submission of Bid Security, cost of bid Document and offline Submission of bid Documents :End Date	15.09.2026
7	Date of online Technical Bid Opening	16.09.2026
8	Date of online Financial Bid Opening	Date will be announced later on after Technical Bid opening.

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयां व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

FROM THE

WORLD

USA

Trump claims Venezuela oil

President Donald Trump said the US has entered an agreement with Venezuela to take control of 65 billion barrels of the South American country's oil reserves. Trump in a social media post announced the agreement he said was negotiated by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodríguez.

"The United States of America has just entered into an Agreement with the Country of Venezuela on, THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY!" Trump wrote.

The announcement of the deal comes nearly nine months after the US military at Trump's direction carried out an operation to capture Venezuela's president and spirit him to the United States to face federal narcoterrorism and drug trafficking charges. (AP)

CANADA

Reverses 9/11 terrorism policy

Canada's public broadcaster said Friday it is making an exception to its policy of not labelling specific attacks as terrorism for the 9/11 attacks after coming under fire over a memo restating it.

Like other news outlets including The Associated Press, CBC/Radio-Canada's standards normally don't allow reporters to describe events as terrorist attacks unless they are quoting someone else's words.

But the director of the FBI, the US ambassador to Canada, Republican members of Congress and Canada's Conservative party all criticised the CBC following media reports about a memo reminding journalists of the policy sent to staff ahead of the 25th anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks. Basem Boshra standards and public trust, said in a blog post afternoon that CBC would make an exception to the rule for the 9/11 attacks. (AP)

PM Modi begins visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, eyes deeper ties

ASHOKE RAJ n New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a two-nation visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on August 29, 2026, with New Delhi seeking to deepen strategic, economic and security cooperation with key partners in Central Asia.

Before his departure, Modi said he was confident that his engagements during the visit would further strengthen India's partnerships in the region. His tour will begin in Tashkent, where he is scheduled to meet Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev for bilateral discussions on August 29 and 30. He will then travel to Bishkek to attend the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on August 31 and September 1. Modi described his Uzbekistan programme as an opportunity to further advance the longstanding friendship between the two countries. He is also scheduled to visit the Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

The India-Uzbekistan relationship has historical roots stretching back centuries. India was among the first countries to recognise Uzbekistan as a sovereign state following its independence. Diplomatic relations were formally established on March 18, 1992, while the two countries elevated their

Nepal digs through mud and grief, as families search for loved ones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA n Kathmandu

People lined up outside hospitals, looking through photographs of the dead pasted on walls; families wading through mud and debris in search of their possessions; a woman carrying a child past damaged buildings; and a dead dog lying amid the wreckage. These are some of the stark images that have come to define the aftermath of Nepal's devastating flash floods.

With each passing day, relatives of those missing lose a little more hope, even as rescuers battle difficult conditions in the search for survivors. Nepal is struggling to find its footing after a torrent of water, mud and debris swept through towns and villages on Wednesday, washing away homes, vehicles, roads, bridges and damaging hydropower projects, causing heavy casualties.

The death toll crossed 650 on Saturday, while more than 2,400 people remained missing, as rescue teams raced against time amid intermittent rainfall in the flood-affected regions.

Outside hospitals, families could be seen lining up to check lists of injured people admitted for treatment, carefully going through names and photographs in the hope of finding someone they know. When they fail to find their loved ones among the survivors, many turn to another list – photographs of the dead – with heavy hearts.



People stand amid mud and debris outside damaged structures in the aftermath of devastating flash floods in Dhading district, Nepal

Rescuers, meanwhile, are working round the clock, braving rain in some places and digging through drying mud in others in their search for those still missing.

In the darkness of the night, Nepal Home Minister Sudan Gurung monitored excavators clearing tonnes of mud at the Upper Trishuli 3A hydropower project site, where more than a hundred people were trapped inside a tunnel following the devastating floods.

The Nepali Army has already rescued 350 people who were trapped inside the tunnel, online Khabar news portal reported.

The scale of the devastation was visible across villages in central Nepal, with buildings buried under

several feet of mud, vehicles half-submerged, and roads and other infrastructure washed away by the torrent of water and debris.

For those who survived, the immediate task is to find shelter, seek medical assistance and recover whatever belongings can be salvaged from the wreckage.

Heart-wrenching scenes have emerged from the affected villages.

In Devighat village in Nuwakot district, people moved through thick mud and debris in search of their possessions. Damaged structures and uprooted electricity poles stood amid the wreckage, while vehicles remained buried in the mud.

A woman sat beside scattered corn, while another,

carrying a child, walked past damaged structures and a dead dog. A man carrying a gas cylinder made his way through the debris-covered area – the only belonging he could salvage from the wreckage. An aerial view showed damaged structures stretching alongside a swollen river, underlining the scale of destruction caused by the floods.

In Trishuli, an Army relief camp has emerged as a major support centre for people affected by the disaster. Army personnel were seen helping elderly people and children, while makeshift medical facilities treated the injured. The camps were also providing information on those missing, dead and rescued. More than 15,000 security personnel have been mobilised for search and rescue operations. An 11-member Indian team comprising medical personnel and tunnel rescue experts also arrived in Nepal to assist local authorities.

Around 4,500 people have been rescued so far, Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said on Saturday, adding that the country remains on "high alert". With the country's meteorology department indicating the possibility of moderate rainfall, the task facing rescuers is expected to become even more difficult.

Yet, for a country that has faced similar disasters before, the focus remains on searching for the missing, helping the survivors and beginning the long task of rebuilding.



Nepal Army personnel and local authorities prepare food for flood victims at a relief camp set up at an ayurvedic hospital following devastating flash floods in Kathmandu, Nepal, Saturday

Nepal praises India's flood relief

DIPAK RANJAN n Kathmandu

Nepal on Saturday praised India's efforts towards helping it in times of crisis, and described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "exceptionally generous", in the wake of the devastating flood in the country that has killed more than 600.

Speaking to Videos, Nepal Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle said that New Delhi has indicated it would provide generous assistance for reconstruction.

An ice-rock avalanche following a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating towns and villages, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges, and damaging hydropower projects. More than 2,400 people remained missing, while nearly 2,500 people were evacuated as rescue teams raced against time amid on-and-off rainfall in the flood-affected regions. Since Wednesday, India has dispatched 57.6 tonnes of relief material to the flood-ravaged areas of Nepal. An 11-



Nepal Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle

member Indian team comprising medical personnel and tunnel rescue experts also arrived in Nepal to assist local authorities, following a request from Kathmandu.

Wagle said Nepal was dealing with the crisis "in phases." "The immediate priority is to rescue people who can be saved, including those stranded or trapped in hydropower plants," said the finance minister, adding that the Nepal Army has airlifted 1,930 people.

He further said efforts were underway to airlift relief supplies to areas such as Dhunche, Rasuwa and Syaphru Besi, which had been cut off after roads were damaged. (AP)

I knew I was going to die: Eyewitnesses recall the terror of Nepal's flash floods

SHIRISH B PRADHAN n Kathmandu

At first, Dipak Tamang thought the ground was shaking. Then he saw a wall of water, mud and stones racing towards the houses along the Bhotekoshi river in Timure market, and realised there was nowhere to go but up.

Survivors of the floods have described scenes of extraordinary terror – desperate climbs towards higher ground, homes collapsing around them and people being swept away as torrents of water, mud and debris tore through towns and villages, washing away everything on its way, on Wednesday. The death toll crossed 650 on Saturday, while more than 2,400 people remained missing. Nearly



Family members and relatives mourn outside a hospital mortuary after identifying their loved ones who died in the flash floods, in Kathmandu, Nepal, Saturday

2,500 people were evacuated as rescue teams raced against time amid intermittent rainfall in the flood-affected regions.

For some, survival came down to a desperate race uphill. Others watched helplessly as friends and loved ones were swept away.

People who reached the affected areas later found markets buried in mud and families searching for missing relatives. Tamang, a resident of neighbouring Sindhupal district, was in Timure, a town on the Nepal-Tibet border, when the flash flood struck.

"When I came out of the house and ran upward towards the hill, few houses had already collapsed due to the powerful flood," he recalled, according to a report by Nepali news portal

Onlinekhabar. "There was not much choice for me. Behind me was the flood and in front of me was a wall-like hill," Tamang said. He ran towards the slope, struggling to climb what seemed like a wall. He fell several times, grabbing thorny bushes and stinging nettles to pull himself higher. "It was my last race between life and death," he said.

People were running in different directions as the flood surged below them. Each time he fell, Tamang thought it might be the last moment of his life.

Eventually, he reached the top of the hill, from where he saw people being swept away by the flood. Among them were his friends. "I could do nothing when my friends were swept away by

the wave before my eyes," he recalled. Tamang eventually found an old go-down used for storing wood in the forest, where dozens of other people who had managed to save themselves had also taken refuge. He spent the night there without a bed as rain continued to fall, waiting for rescuers. He was rescued about 24 hours later.

For photojournalist Amul Thapa, who reached Trishuli shortly after the flood, the devastation was almost impossible to comprehend.

Writing about his visit in Nepali daily Naya Patrika, Thapa said he began his journey from Kathmandu around 10 am, about an hour after the incident, and reached Trishuli market a couple of hours later. (PTI)

Nepal's public, private sectors donate crores for relief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA n Kathmandu

Nepal's public sector, private companies and individuals have pledged millions of rupees to the disaster relief fund as the Himalayan nation continues its fight against one of its worst natural disasters that has killed over 600 people.

Nepal is struggling to find its footing after a massive flash flood swept through towns and villages on Wednesday, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges, besides damaging hydropower projects.

The death toll crossed 600 on Saturday, while more than 2,400 people remained missing. Nearly 2,500 people, including 163 foreigners, were evacuated as rescue teams raced against time amid intermittent rainfall in flood-affected

regions. Nepal's private companies, banks, insurers and individual donors have decided to contribute to the disaster relief fund to help victims, The Kathmandu Post reported. The contributions to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund will help authorities treat the injured and provide food and shelter to families displaced by the disaster.

The contributions poured in even as the full scale of the damage to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods is still being assessed, the report said. Raji Rana met Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle personally handed over NPR 10.98 million for relief efforts. Among the largest corporate contributions announced on Friday was NPR 150 million from Surya Nepal Private Limited and NPR 50 million from the Jyoti Group, the report said.

Haitian gang releases women, children after mass kidnapping, deadly attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS n Port-au-Prince

Six children and seven women were released by a gang in Haiti that had kidnapped more than 50 people after launching a deadly attack on a community near the capital, Port-au-Prince, nearly a week ago, according to UNICEF.

The United Nations children's agency said late Friday that among those released are three children under the age of 2, a 7-year-old and two teenage girls.

"This release offers a rare moment of hope amid the violence threatening children in Haiti," said Yannig Dussart, UNICEF's deputy representative in Haiti.

"The Kenscoff abduction was not an isolated incident but another stark reminder of the scale and frequency of attacks on children across the country," UNICEF said it worked with community leaders to help secure the release of the women and children. It wasn't immediately clear if they needed medical treatment, and whether there are more women and children being held. While individual kidnappings in Haiti are commonplace, mass abductions are



more unusual. The outcomes vary: Some people are released without a ransom, while others are killed despite multiple ransoms being paid.

Gangs killed at least 47 people during the attack late Sunday on Kenscoff, a once-peaceful farming community nestled in the hills above Haiti's capital. A gang leader known as Izo 2 had threatened to execute all the hostages if police killed any gang members in their push to secure Kenscoff. Izo 2 leads an armed group in that area on behalf of and in coordination with other gang leaders including Izo, considered one of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders.

6 months on, Iran's leaders defying US, signalling no tolerance for dissent

LEE KEATH/DAVID RISING n Dubai

After six months of war, Iran's leadership has coalesced around a hard core of military generals and clerics long entrenched in the ruling theocracy. They are ready for a potentially long confrontation with the US and determined to prevent any unrest at home.

It's a far cry from US President Donald Trump's initial hopes of toppling the Islamic Republic and his subsequent claims that "regime change" had brought more



compromising officials to the fore. Iran's new leaders evince little faith in any agreement with Trump – after coming under attack twice while holding talks – and they may be bracing for another assault once the US replenishes its supplies of interceptors. They have also threatened to escalate the war as a continuing American blockade and Trump's plans for new sanctions threaten to suffocate Iran's already worsening economy. "If (Trump) wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner," the

new secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, said last weekend. In a post on X, he said that "if the economic war continues, not a single drop of oil will be exported" from the Persian Gulf.

Rezaei's appointment came in a recent set of decrees by the Ayatollah Mojtaba, that formally set Iran's new senior leadership. Khamenei's father and much of the highest echelons were killed in the bombing campaign launched by the US and Israel on February 28. (AP)



Heavy gunfire, blasts shake Niger’s capital

ASSOCIATED PRESS n Niamey

Heavy gunfire and explosions were heard overnight into Saturday morning in Niger’s capital of Niamey, including near the main airport and in an area housing the presidential palace, according to an *Associated Press* witness and local media.

Sustained gunfire began past midnight at the premises of the Diori Hamani International Airport, which hosts a major military base, according to an AP witness who requested anonymity for safety reasons.

It is the third time this year the airport has experienced unrest. Local media also



reported gunshots ringing out from the Plateau administrative district, where the Presidential Palace and key institutions are located.

The ruling military council, known as the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, said the military has been deployed.

Let us remain united, vigilant and supportive,” it said in a Facebook post. It was not immediately clear what caused the gunfire and explosions although a local lawmaker called it a “cowardly attack.”

The airport area had been attacked twice by jihadis in recent months as pressure mounts on Niger’s struggling military junta.

SOLDIERS ATTEMPTED PREDAWN MUTINY, SAYS DEFENCE MINISTER

Niamey: A group of soldiers in Niger rebelled against officers at a key military base and shot at “sensitive” locations in the capital city of Niamey in an apparent mutiny that resulted in gunfire and explosions, authorities said on Saturday.

Niger’s Defence Minister Gen Salifou Mody said there had been a “break with the discipline and military regulations.”

He said soldiers attempted to rebel against officers at the base and shot at “sensitive sites”



before authorities regained control of the situation. (AP)

Artemis II astronauts receive highest US space honour



ASSOCIATED PRESS n Washington

The Artemis II astronauts who flew around the moon earlier this year received the nation’s highest space honour on Friday.

President Donald Trump presented the Congressional Space Medal of Honour to the three Americans and one Canadian whose April lunar flyby set a new distance record for humanity.

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman and other dignitaries took part in the packed ceremony at Houston’s Johnson Space Centre, home to Mission Control. Trump used the occasion to announce the creation of a US Space Academy for the Space Force as well as NASA and the commercial space community. “Space is the hot thing,” the

president told the crowd, adding that the academy’s location has yet to be determined.

Commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada’s Jeremy Hansen became the first astronauts to travel to the moon in more than half a century, coming within 4,067 miles (6,545 kilometres) while test-driving NASA’s new Orion capsule. They were the first to launch aboard NASA’s new moon rocket, a 30-story behemoth that had soared only once before from Florida’s Kennedy Space Centre. While they didn’t stop at the moon, the four set the stage for next year’s Artemis III docking rehearsal in orbit around Earth. Artemis IV’s moon landing by two astronauts, near the lunar south pole, could follow as soon as 2028.

27 dead in head-on minibus, truck crash in Zimbabwe

ASSOCIATED PRESS n Harare

A collision between a minibus taxi carrying church members and a haulage truck killed 27 people on Friday in Zimbabwe, a police spokesperson said, in the latest road disaster to hit the southern African country.

Paul Nyathi, the police spokesperson, said on Saturday that members of a popular indigenous African Christian denomination, known for wearing white robes, were travelling for a conference when the minibus taxi collided head-on with the truck Friday night.

The truck was trying to overtake another vehicle when it crashed with the minibus taxi on a major highway near Chivhu town, 132 kilometres (82 miles) south of the capital, Harare, Nyathi said in a statement.State-run broadcaster ZBC News, citing a provincial gov-

ernment minister, said 23 people died at the scene, while others succumbed to their injuries after being admitted to a local hospital.

The minibus taxi burst into flames and was reduced to a shell following the collision, according to local media, which published pictures of the wreckage. Nyathi said both vehicles were carrying an “unspecified” number of passengers.

Road accidents involving crowded buses, minibus taxis and unregulated sedan taxis are common in Zimbabwe and are often blamed on dangerous driving and poor road conditions.

Zimbabwe is among the countries with the worst road safety records, with 94 per cent of road accidents attributed to human error, according to authorities.

Across Africa, road crashes kill about 300,000 people annually, roughly a quarter of the global toll,



according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, which says the continent has the world’s highest road fatality rate.

This is despite the continent of 1.5 billion people accounting for just about 3 per cent of the global vehicle fleet. (AP)

Colorado river water cuts leave cities and farmers in doubt

ASSOCIATED PRESS n Phoenix

On the outskirts of Phoenix, a small town with a huge reliance on the Colorado River has capped growth, revived old wells and struck water deals.

But Cave Creek Mayor Robert Morris can’t shake the real possibility that it’s not enough to keep the desert community of about 5,000 people afloat well into the future. And a recent federal plan to address a deepening crisis in the river basin won’t help.

Cave Creek gets nearly all of its water from the river, which serves 40 million people across the US West and has been dwindling because of climate change, demand and overuse. The town already was forced to make cuts this year, and it stands to lose more under a new federal plan.

Morris likened the situation to planning for a meteor strike. “You can see it coming, but you can’t get out of the way, and you don’t know what the damage is going to be,” he said.

The uncertainty stretches across seven US states, tribal nations and Mexico. Farmers are deciding which crops are worth the investment. Phoenix could lose some municipal and industrial water for the first time and turn to backup supplies. And residents could face even more costly water.

Nevada raised the stakes this week by suing the Interior Department and the US Bureau of Reclamation, saying basic needs in the Las Vegas region will go unmet if the area has to absorb planned reductions of up to 70 per cent of its Colorado River water in the next decade. The bureau said Thursday it does not comment on litigation.



Death toll following Russian attack on Ukraine’s Kyiv region rises to 37

ASSOCIATED PRESS n Kyiv

At least 37 people have been killed following a Russian attack on the Bucha district, close to the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, officials said Saturday.

Tymur Tkachenko, head of the local regional military administration, said that at least 50 residential buildings had been damaged in the attack, which also sparked a large-scale fire that spread to homes and a restaurant. In a statement, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that a warehouse had been struck in the village of Myla “followed by a detonation.” He did not give details on the site, but wrote in the same message that criminal proceedings had been opened on charges of official negligence. “There are regula-



tions in place – ammunition cannot be stored near homes or other residential areas,” Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian leader wrote that a care home for elderly people and people with disabilities and residential buildings were damaged. “More than 370 people have

already been evacuated, and the evacuation is ongoing,” he said.

“Unfortunately, we can already see that the terrible tragedy in Vyshneve did not become a lesson,” Koretskyi said. “In the fifth year of a full-scale invasion, making the same mistakes is criminal negligence. And all those guilty, without exception, must be severely punished so that such situations do not happen again.”

In a statement, Russia’s Ministry of Defense said that it had hit a warehouse in Myla storing components and launch boosters for long-range drones. It also said that it had attacked the ports of Mykolaiv and Izmail, as well as a logistics center and warehouse facilities storing parts for Ukraine’s Flamingo cruise missiles in the Kyiv region.

Munir visits Pak’s largest defence factory

SAJJAD HUSSAIN n Islamabad

Pakistan’s army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir on Saturday visited the country’s largest defence industrial complex to see its production and export capabilities.

Pakistan Ordnance Factory (POF) in Wah is located about 41 km west of capital Islamabad.

According to a statement by the army, Munir’s visit to “Pakistan’s largest defence industrial complex”, focused on reviewing production capabilities, export potential and contributions towards the country’s defence industrial base.

During the visit, he was briefed on various aspects of POF’s operations and its role in strengthening national defence through the indigenous development and production of a diverse range of military equipment.He also witnessed



the tests and trials of locally designed and manufactured arms and ammunition, highlighting POF’s commitment to innovation, self-reliance and enhancing Pakistan’s defence production capabilities, according to the state-

ment. Munir was also apprised about the ongoing indigenisation and upgradation efforts through the installation of two new industrial plants, which are likely to commence production by the end of current year. (PTI)

Ex-Ecuador President gets 5 years for bribery

GONZALO SOLANO n Quito

Former Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno was sentenced Friday to 5 years in prison after a court found him guilty of accepting bribes from a Chinese company in exchange for helping it secure a contract to build a hydroelectric plant.

Moreno, who was present for the reading of the verdict, is 73 years old and has a physical disability that prevents him from walking. He will serve the sentence under house arrest.

Moreno was convicted as a direct participant in the bribery scheme during his tenure as vice president under Rafael Correa. His wife and daughter, two brothers and a brother-in-law were convicted as accomplices. The wife and daughter each received 30-month sentences.

Moreno is the third former Ecuadorian president to be sentenced for corruption, though he was tried for crimes before reaching the presidency. Correa was sentenced in 2020 to eight years in prison in a bribery case involving Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht but remains in Belgium, where he has lived for years. Former President Jamil Mahuad was also sentenced in 2014 to eight



Former Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno

years for misuse of public funds. Another former president, Abdala Bucaram, is awaiting sentencing after being convicted of organised crime.

Prosecutors said a corruption network operated from 2008 to 2018, collecting bribes equal to 4 per cent of the value of the project carried out by Sinohydro. They said the money was distributed through domestic and international transactions to public officials and other beneficiaries, including Moreno. (AP)

FM Sitharaman invites global investors to build manufacturing and tech hubs in India

SAGAR KULKARNI n Washington

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman invited global investors to set up manufacturing bases, and technology and innovation centres in India, urging them to leverage talent and opportunity to build for the world.

Addressing a high-level Business Roundtable with leading investors and business leaders in Chicago on Friday, Sitharaman highlighted India’s broad-based growth, reform momentum and expanding opportunities for long-term investment.

Sitharaman emphasised that India’s investment proposition rests not on any



Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a business roundtable with investors and business leaders in Chicago, Illinois, United States

AP

single sector, but on the convergence of scale, growth, talent, infrastructure, technology and sustained reform over the past decade.

“The policy environment is increasingly focused on enabling businesses to invest, manufacture, innovate and expand,” she said at the roundtable organised by India’s Consulate General in Chicago in association with US-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

The Finance Minister invited global partners to co-develop, co-produce and build for global markets.

She urged them not to consider India merely as a market to serve, but as a platform from which to build for

the world -- whether as a manufacturing base, technology and innovation centre, consumer market or destination for long-term infrastructure investment -- leveraging India’s engineering talent, manufacturing scale and technology ecosystem.

The focus of the meeting was “Manufacture in India - for India and for the world”, with opportunities across manufacturing, AI & digital, financial services, infrastructure, food processing, defence and advanced technologies.”As global companies reassess supply chains and capital allocation, India offers not only scale as a market, but increasing depth

as a long-term investment and operating platform,” Sitharaman said.

The minister said India’s Digital Public Infrastructure such as Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, ONDC and India Stack, has created platforms at population scale.

“The next opportunity is to build higher-value businesses in AI, engineering, analytics, product development, semiconductors and electronics, with India’s Global Capability Centres increasingly becoming global innovation hubs,” she said.

Sitharaman said GIFT City was emerging as an international financial centre connecting global capital with Indian opportunities. (PTI)

BRIEFLY

Women’s Junior Asia Cup Hockey: India face Korea



Led by midfielder Khaidem Shileima Chanu, the Indian women’s hockey team will open its campaign against South Korea in the AHF Women’s Junior Asia Cup, to be held in Moqi, China, from September 4 to 13. The 18-member squad has undergone extensive preparations under newly appointed coach Tim White, including an exposure tour of the United Kingdom earlier this summer. India have been drawn in the Elite Pool alongside hosts China, Japan, South Korea, and Malaysia. The teams will battle for the top positions before the tournament moves into the knockout stage, culminating in the gold-medal match on September 13. White said the team’s preparations in Bengaluru had gone according to plan.

“The team is very excited to leave for China tomorrow for the Asia Cup. Our preparation has been good, including important matches against a combined India A team, which came to Bangalore for four matches. We will go to China confident that we have built a game plan which can be hard to play against, and we are very excited to test that against the best teams in Asia,” said White. (PTI)

Pranavi lone Indian to make cut in Irish Open, tied at 8th



Rising Indian golf sensation Pranavi Urs emerged as the sole Indian to qualify for the weekend rounds at the prestigious KPMG Women’s Irish Open.

Delivering a resilient performance at the Palmer South course at The K Club, Urs carded a solid two-under-par 70 in her second round to secure a spot tied for eighth place.

While her steady play kept Indian hopes alive in the tournament, a highly competitive global field means she faces a steep uphill battle. Urs currently sits ten strokes adrift of the runaway tournament leader, South Africa’s Cassandra Alexander, who continues to dominate the leaderboard. Urs endured an erratic but ultimately resilient front nine.

She suffered an early setback with a bogey on the second hole, but quickly recovered with a birdie on the fifth.

A subsequent bogey on the sixth threatened to derail her momentum, but a crucial birdie on the eighth allowed her to turn in at even par. Urs then showcased her immense potential on the back nine. (PTI)

Telangana Golconda Masters to tee off on September 1



Top Indian professionals, including Saptak Talwar, Veer Ahlawat and Rashid Khan, will be in action when the Telangana Golconda Masters is held at the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) from September 1 to 4. The prize purse for the event is ₹1 crore. This competition will determine the top-24 players from the DP World PGTI Order of Merit who will earn their spots at the season-ending DP World India Championship. The 132 field will include DP World PGTI Order of Merit leader Saptak, Honey Baisoya, Veer, Rashid, Akshay Sharma and Om Prakash Chouhan, to name a few.

The prominent foreign players in the field are defending champion Jamal Hossain of Bangladesh, Badal Hossain also from Bangladesh, Czech Republic’s Stepan Danek, Sri Lankans N Thangaraja and Mithun Perera, Nepal’s Subash Tamang, Uganda’s Joshua Seale and the Japanese duo of Koichiro Ishika and Taiga Tanaka. The local challenge will be led by Hyderabad-based professionals Mohd Azhar, Vishesh Sharma and Rupinder Singh Gill.

The tournament is part of the Race to DP World India Championship which is a competition to crown the DP World PGTI’s number one player. Kapil Dev, President, DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (DP World PGTI), said, “The tournament will go a long way in promoting Telangana and Hyderabad as a leading destination for golf tourism. (PTI)

Indian men’s hockey team finishes 8th at WC

MONA PARTHSARATHI
n Wavre (Belgium)

Captain Harmanpreet Singh’s last-gasp penalty-corner strike took the match into a shoot-out but India finished eighth at the FIH World Cup after losing 3-4 to co-hosts Belgium here on Friday.

World No. 2 Belgium were leading 3-2 until the final minute when India earned a penalty corner with just 26 seconds left on the clock. Harmanpreet made no mistake in converting it to force a shoot-out after the two sides were locked 3-3 in regulation time.

It was Harmanpreet’s eighth goal of the tournament. In the shoot-out, Shilanand Lakra, Dilpreet Singh and Abhishek converted their attempts but Harmanpreet and Sukhjeet Singh missed the mark as Belgium prevailed 4-3. Tom Boon, Arthur de

Sloover, Alexander Hendrickx and Roman Duvekot scored for Belgium, while Victor Fourbert missed the target.

Abhishek had opened the scoring for India before Harmanpreet struck twice, while Duvekot, Hugo Labouchere and Nicolas de Kerpel scored in regulation time for Belgium.

The Indians, who were playing all their matches in the Netherlands, took the lead in front of a sizeable group of home supporters at the Belfius Hockey Arena amid cold winds but could not maintain their early momentum against the higher-ranked Belgians.

Abhishek put India ahead in the sixth minute, finding the net after his shot from inside the circle took a deflection off a Belgian defender’s stick. Belgium gradually took control and drew level in the 22nd minute through Duvekot before Labouchere



put them ahead a minute later with a powerful penalty-corner drag-flick.

India had a chance to restore parity soon after half-time and Harmanpreet did exactly that, converting a penalty corner in the 31st

minute. Belgium thought they had regained the lead shortly afterwards when Hendrickx found the net from a penalty corner, but India successfully referred the decision and the goal was disallowed.

Neeraj Chopra ruled out of Asian Games and rest of 2026 season with ankle ligament tear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n New Delhi,

In a setback for India’s athletics campaign at the Asian Games, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra on Saturday announced that he will miss the remainder of the 2026 season, including the Continental showpiece in Japan, after suffering a ligament tear in his ankle during training.

Chopra said he sustained the injury shortly after producing a season-best throw at the Lausanne Diamond League. “After a period of hard work, I finally felt I was gaining the momentum I had been looking for with a season’s best throw in Lausanne. “Unfortunately, shortly after, I sustained a ligament tear in my ankle during training. After discussions with my doctor and team, we’ve decided that I will sit out the rest of this season,” Chopra said in a



post on Instagram. The 28-year-old javelin thrower said the decision was disappointing as he felt he was “close to finding my rhythm”, but added that his immediate focus would be on recovery. “My focus now is on recovering well and coming back even stronger,” he said. While his focus now shifts

towards rehabilitation, the athlete has made it clear that he intends to return to competition after recovering fully from the injury.

“It’s disappointing, especially because I felt close to finding my rhythm. But as they say, setbacks are a part of the journey,” he said.

“Thank you all for the love

and support,” Chopra added. The injury means he will also miss the Diamond League Finals in Brussels on September 5 though he had qualified for it.

Chopra’s withdrawal is a major setback for India at the Asian Games, where he was expected to be one of the country’s biggest medal hopes. The Tokyo Olympics gold medallist had endured a challenging phase in the build-up to the second half of the season, but his performance in Lausanne had offered encouragement that he was finding his rhythm again. Chopra has been one of the most consistent performers in world javelin over the past few years, winning Olympic gold in Tokyo in 2021 and a silver medal at the Paris Games in 2024. He also became the first Indian to win a World Championships gold in athletics when he triumphed in Budapest in 2023.

If we get basics right, we will be unstoppable at Asian Games: Rifle shooter Ashi Chouksey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Bhopal

Multiple Asian Games medallist rifle shooter Ashi Chouksey is confident that if the Indian contingent gets the basics right and stays true to its fundamentals, it will be “unstoppable” at the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, next month. There are high expectations from the Indian shooters to bring home a rich haul of medals at the continental showpiece, to be held from September 19 to October 4, after their impressive performances at the last two editions in Jakarta in 2018 and Hangzhou in 2023.

“Little things matter a lot. We know what to do, we know how to shoot, but there are small things which are neglected. If we do them right, towards perfection, then I think we will be unstoppable,” said Chouksey, 24, who won two silvers and a bronze at the previous Asian Games. Chouksey is also relishing

the prospect of competing against a strong Chinese shooting contingent in Aichi-Nagoya, with China being India’s biggest rival on the continental stage.

“I am really excited to compete with the Chinese shooting team because they are a very strong team and in the 2023 Asian Games, we had a gold (Sift Kaur Samra) and a bronze (Ashi Chouksey) in the women’s 50m 3P category, while they got a silver at their home,” she said. “So they might still be holding it against us (laughs) and can be looking for revenge. They are a very strong team but I am really excited to compete with them,” said Chouksey.

Chouksey won a silver in women’s 10m air rifle team and women’s 50m rifle 3P team event respectively, and a bronze in the women’s 50m rifle 3P event at the Asian Games in 2023.

Reflecting on the difference between her first and second Asian Games campaigns, Chouksey said, “Asian Games is one of the



biggest multi-sport tournaments after the Olympics, and I have competed there before. I have performed on that stage, so I know what it takes. “After winning three medals, I now have good experience of competing at this level. So, this time, I am going to Japan with a clear view and goal for what I want to achieve at this competition.”

From discovering shooting almost by chance at a school camp to establishing herself as a high-level international shooter, Chouksey’s journey has been one of rapid progression. She was first intro-

duced to the sport at an NCC camp, where she picked up a rifle for the first time. A strong showing in her maiden attempt prompted her to consider shooting as a career, eventually leading to her selection at a state shooting academy.

Her road to the Asian Games has since involved an intensive preparation phase, with the Indian contingent undergoing training camps in Bhopal. The first camp featured multiple match and final simulations, including extended shooting sessions designed to test the athletes’ endurance, focus, and stability.

Blaak lauds Savita-Bichoo camaraderie in women, flags post-Sreejesh gap in men



MONA PARTHSARATHI
n Amstelveen

Legendary Dutch goalkeeper Pirmin Blaak is impressed by the camaraderie between veteran Savita Punia and Bichoo Devi, saying their willingness to help each other instead of rivalry could ensure a smooth transition in Indian women’s goalkeeping, in contrast to the “huge gap” he sees in the men’s team following the retirement of PR Sreejesh.

Blaak, 38, who was a part of the Netherlands’ Paris Olympic gold-medal winning team, feels India’s young men’s goalkeepers have so far lacked the quality and presence needed to take the team to the next level.

“I watched the men’s team also and there is a huge gap after the legendary PR Sreejesh retired. The big-status goalkeeper. Young goalkeepers have come but they lacked the quality to push India to the next level,” Blaak said.

Blaak said replacing Sreejesh was not simply about finding a goalkeeper with the required technical skills. “Sreejesh has a big legacy. I feel some similarity with him. We had something with our body language like we are there. He was really outspoken. A goalkeeper should make a difference and it seems to be missing,” he added. Blaak had a short stint with the Indian women’s team to help Savita and Bichoo prepare for the World Cup and was struck by the relationship between the two goalkeepers.

“I love the way they help each other. It was not there during my career and I can also learn as a trainer with them. They are really nice, friendly people and that’s what I like the most,” Blaak

when they earned a penalty corner with 26 seconds remaining, and Harmanpreet sent his drag-flick into the net to keep India in the contest.

However, the Belgians held their nerve in the shoot-out to consign India to an eighth-place finish.

The Indian team, dreaming of winning a World Cup medal after 51 years, defeated Wales 3-1 and Pakistan 5-3 in the first round before losing to England 2-4.

In the second round, India failed to score a single point, conceding three goals in the final 19 minutes against the Netherlands in a 1-3 defeat. Argentina defeated them 5-3, ending their last remaining hopes of reaching the semi-finals. Belgium, meanwhile, also fell short of expectations, having been knocked out of the semifinal race after 1-1 draws against Australia and Spain in the second round. (PTI)

said. “It is very rare that two players are not competing but rather they are helping each other. I asked them, ‘Are you serious, you are not competing with each other?’,” he said.

Both the goalkeepers were instrumental in India’s reasonably good World Cup show where they finished fifth – their best performance in 52 years.

Blaak feels Savita, who has been India’s first-choice goalkeeper for more than a decade, is herself playing an important role in preparing her successor.

“What Savita was setting up for the last decade is incredible. It is nice that she herself is preparing Bichoo to come through.

“It will be really nice if they can play together for some time, where Savita opens up and says that I am going to retire soon and I am giving that last push to Bichoo to help her. It is nice to have an experienced goalkeeper besides a younger one,” said the former keeper who has played over 150 matches for Netherlands. Blaak said his own role was not to make drastic technical changes to the two goalkeepers, given the limited time available before the World Cup.

“I haven’t changed anything tactically. I just discussed where we want to grow and what my vision is. I keep them the way they are. They are brilliant and unique in their style of play,” he said. Instead, he focused on the mental side of goalkeeping and the pressure that comes with representing India at a major tournament. “Savita and I also talk about pressure to perform on Team India. I understand that. I have been in those moments and Savita has also experienced that,” he said. (PTI)

Golf: Ryan Gerard and Viktor Hovland share 36-hole lead at the Tour Championship

DOUG FERGUSON
n Atlanta

Ryan Gerard hit it well enough for five relatively easy birdies on Friday and dropped a surprise from just inside 80 feet for another, giving him a 5-under 65 and a share of the 36-hole lead with Viktor Hovland at the season-ending Tour Championship.

Hovland had one of five birdies on the peninsula-green 15th hole, a par 3 at only 155 yards but tucked to the left near a sharp slope that feeds off the putting surface. He had a 66 to join Gerard at 10-under 130 going into the weekend. Right behind? Just about everybody. That includes Scottie Scheffler, the world’s No. 1 player who had a 67 and was two back. And it included Cameron

Young, in last place after the first round and atop the leaderboard for much of the day after a 62. He also wound up two behind.

Collin Morikawa and Chris Gotterup each shot 67 and were one behind at 9-under 131.

Gerard has more on his mind than the \$10 million prize and the five-year exemption on the PGA Tour. The captain’s picks for the Presidents Cup will be announced after the Tour Championship, and it’s on the mind of the 27-year-old from North Carolina.

“It’s hard not to think about it a little bit,” Gerard said. “I’m very aware that a good week this week goes a long way to help my chances. I’m playing this week for myself and to try and put up some good scores and hopefully win a trophy at the end of the



week.” The trophies - one for the Tour Championship and one for the FedEx Cup - are up for grabs at the halfway point. One third of the field is separated by three shots on a course that has relatively soft with either rain Thursday

or overcast Friday, even with a little wind late in the day.

No one took advantage quite like Young, who remains in the picture for PGA Tour player of the year with his signature win at The Players Championship and a big

win at a signature event at Doral.

He opened with two early bogeys in the opening round when everyone was going low and jokingly said it made him wonder about his career choice. He shot 70 that left him tied for last place and going off as a single Friday in the 29-man field (J.J. Spaun has withdrawn).

He made the turn in 30, and then poured in two more birdies to reach 7 under through 11 holes. Young cooled slightly with a bogey from the bunker at the 12th and missed opportunities the rest of the way until a 40-foot eagle putt slammed into the back of the cup on the par-5 18th for a 62. The put him in a tie for the lead as the final group was starting, and Young would have been a little surprised to be within two

shots by the end of the round. Low scores were there, and he had reason to believe someone would motor well past him.

“I was in last place about three-and-a-half hours ago,” Young said. “There’s not much wind today, and the field seems to be playing pretty well for even par being last place after yesterday. I think I can pat myself on the back for shooting 8 under, but that doesn’t change how much work there is left to even give yourself a chance.” He ended the way with a mock handshake for the partner he didn’t have. Young didn’t race his way around the course. It felt like a practice round he plays by himself. There was one moment where it looked like any recreational round when he removed the flag on No. 12 and set it on the

fringe because his caddie was busy raking the bunker.

Now that single falls to Robert MacIntyre, the only player not under par at East Lake. MacIntyre shot a 76 - eight shots over the field average - and was 13 shots behind. Scheffler had two early bogeys to fall five shots behind and then answered with five birdies in a stretch of six holes around the turn to get back in the game. He was closing in until his approach sailed over the 17th green — the pin was in the back - and he stooped over for the longest time. “I watched it get in the jet stream up there and fly,” Scheffler said. He made up for it with a two-putt birdie on the 18th was in a good position - along with so many others — with two days left in the season. (AP)

India begin Women’s Asia Cup T20 campaign against Thailand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Dubai

Harmanpreet Kaur’s India will look to banish their ordinary run in the shortest format while facing questions over their consistency and form as they take on Thailand in their Women’s T20 Asia Cup Group A opener here on Sunday.

India have been the most dominant team in the Women’s T20 Asia Cup over the last decade— winning the title thrice in five editions of the T20 format since 2016-17

— but their performances bring forth more concerns than assurances at the moment. India have lost nine of 16 T20Is this year, and their most recent loss — against Australia in the Women’s T20 World Cup —knocked them out of the competition at the group stage itself.

With questions persisting over captain Harmanpreet’s own form and future in the shortest format, India head into a crucial phase of competing in two Asian-level competitions in which they would

be expected to go the distance. Following the eight-team Women’s T20 Asia Cup, where India are placed in Group A along with Thailand, Hong Kong and Pakistan, they will head into next month’s Asian Games in Japan with expectations high to bring more laurels to the country.

Having endured a largely disappointing campaign in the Women’s T20 World Cup, Harmanpreet fired in the all-important clash against Australia, but her inconsistency with the bat remained one of the talking points



from the campaign in which India struggled against higher-ranked teams.

With dependable batter Jemimah Rodrigues sidelined for the Asia Cup and Asian Games, India have added Pratika Rawal to their star-studded squad, but the choice hardly settles the requirement for a middle-order enforcer. At the top, India will continue to have the formidable opening pair of Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma, but the biggest challenge for batters at No. 3 and beyond would be to

sustain momentum and provide further impetus to the scoreboard. Poor fielding was again a major concern the last time India played in the format, as a string of dropped chances near the ropes led to their downfall, and the team management would be desperate to have their bases covered this time around. India will rely on their seasoned all-rounder Deepti Sharma to lead the spin attack once again, with Shree Charani, the highest wicket-taker of the T20 World Cup, Radha Yadav and Prema

Rawat sharing the workload.

India’s seam bowling arsenal looks potent too, with the experienced Renuka Singh Thakur having the likes of Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy and Nandani Sharma to share the responsibilities. Thailand, meanwhile, will look to draw confidence from their victory over Hong Kong in their opening match, for which they had to work hard. A sedate start led to Thailand finishing at a modest 120 for nine, but they did well with the ball and in the field to restrict Hong Kong to 114 for seven.

Sarfaraz denies knowing about PCB’s threat to end England tour



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n London

Former Pakistan captain and head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed has denied having any knowledge of Pakistan Cricket Board’s threat to end the tour of England during the second Test here, which was reportedly made around the airing of Sky’s interview with Imran Khan’s sons.

Sky Sports had aired an interview with Imran’s sons Suleiman Khan and Kasim Khan which was conducted by broadcaster and former England captain Michael Atherton, during the lunch break on the opening day of the second Test here at Lord’s. Imran’s sons had expressed their concern about the health of the former Pakistan captain in the interview, who has been in prison for three years, saying that they feared for his life. The 39-year-old Sarfaraz, who last played for Pakistan in December 2023, said at the end of second day’s play that he was not aware of any such developments. “I don’t

know anything. I’m just focusing on the match,” Sarfaraz said when asked what he knew about the situation and of the conversation between the PCB and the England and Wales Cricket Board. Sarfaraz was further asked if there was any suggestion that Pakistan players would not take the field after lunch. “No, no. You’re talking about the interview? We don’t know about the interview,” he said while interrupting the question.

When asked if the players were going to play, Sarfaraz replied, “All are okay. We were having our lunch at that time.”

The PCB had made a formal complaint to Sky Sports after the interview was aired.

According to the BBC, the ECB took government advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office in their “response to the tension” around the situation.

The interview was not telecast in Pakistan by PTV, which is broadcasting the match using Sky’s pictures.

England in control, stretches lead to 261 after skittling Pakistan for 110

FOSTER NIUMATA
n London

England was bossing Pakistan by an imposing 261 runs after two days of the Lord’s test on Friday.

The host side was 81-3 in its second innings when bad light stopped play and in total command after routing a depleted Pakistan for 110 in the afternoon.

Pakistan medium-pacers Khurram Shahzad and Mohammad Ali did well to prise out Ben Duckett, Jordan Cox and Joe Root in the last session but they were bowling in damage limitation mode.

Their batters’ failure conceded an intimidating 180-run lead to England on the first innings. Pakistan hasn’t totaled 180 in the series yet and was without opening batter Imam-ul-Haq, who suffered a left calf strain while fielding early Thursday

and won’t reappear. England won the first test in Leeds by an innings last week and may yet repeat the three-day feat and clinch the three-match series.

England’s four seamers feasted on a Pakistan batting order that wasn’t boosted by the return of captain Babar Azam. Ollie Robinson took 4-11 from 13 overs, including six maidens. Jofra Archer had 3-26 from 11.2 and the fastest new-ball spell of his career. Josh Tongue claimed two wickets and Gus Atkinson was luckless. “I could probably play until 40 at this rate (with this attack),” the 31-year-old Archer told broadcaster Sky Sports. “It’s really nice having the extra seamers in the lineup. It’s unbelievable when everybody is fit and firing. Each day it will be someone else’s turn.” Pakistan was blown away in 37.2 overs, and the bowlers were back in



harness just over four hours after finishing England’s first innings at 290 at noon.

The only resistance when Pakistan batted came from novice opener Azan Awaiz.

Embarrassingly out to the first ball of the series in Leeds, Awaiz dug in for 35 overs at Lord’s. He debuted in May with a century in Bangladesh and was four runs shy of his third half-century. Awaiz faced 102

balls to score 46. “I survived a good innings and built a little bit of my confidence,” Awaiz told the BBC. His innings was remarkable considering the next best runs in Pakistan’s scoreboard was 20 extras. Awaiz was dropped on 8 off Atkinson and over-turned being given out on 43. He was caught on the boundary after top-edging a pull at Robinson. Robinson was heading toward a third

player-of-the-match performance in three tests. He came to the fore after lunch, pinning Saud Shakeel and Mohammed Rizwan to expose the tail. Robinson added Shahzad and Awaiz but couldn’t grab another Lord’s five-for.

Archer averaged 90.7 mph (146 kph) before lunch, topping at 95 mph (153 kph) but could nick off only Shan Masood, who moved up to open as Imam’s replacement. Archer took out two tailenders at the end.

“I don’t think the speed gun is accurate in this game, to be honest,” Archer said. “It didn’t really feel that way. But I’ll take it.” Tongue bagged Pakistan’s most in-form batter, Abdullah Shafique, right on lunch. Shafique tried driving Tongue on 5 and was caught behind after England reviewed. Tongue also got Babar straight after lunch. Coming back from a finger

injury that made him miss the first test, Babar hit a couple of boundaries through the covers then edged Tongue to third slip on 8. Tongue had a good day before he bowled. He earned a career-best batting score of 30 not out in the morning. Atkinson was last man out for 45. They resumed England’s first innings on 248-9 and their 10th-wicket partnership added a valuable 47 runs, 42 of them on Friday to retake the momentum from Pakistan. In their second bat, Duckett gave his wicket to Shahzad in the second over and Jordan Cox was pinned on the back pad by Shahzad in the fourth.

Root reviewed being dismissed by Ali on 24 but it was plumb, and he was out lbw for the ninth time in his last 12 test innings. Still batting at stumps were the streaky but determined Emilio Gay on 30 and Harry Brook on 7. (AP)

‘Ishan didn’t know I am wicket-taking bowler’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Bengaluru

He could not contribute with the bat in his team’s only innings in the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal but Vaibhav Sooryavanshi provided two crucial breakthroughs as East Zone crushed North East Zone by an innings and 210 runs.

All eyes were on young batting sensation Sooryavanshi when East Zone batted first, but the left-handed batter fell for a mere eight and his side went on to pile up a massive 467 in their only outing with the bat. While the total was enough for East Zone to dominate the proceedings for the remainder of the game, their skipper Ishan



Kishan was forced to summon Sooryavanshi to roll his arm over with his left-arm spin, looking for a breakthrough.

“If you ask any batter, he enjoys bowling as well, or vice versa with the bowler; they like to bat. Both enjoy doing the other a lot,” Sooryavanshi, who returned figures of 3-0-11-2 in North East Zone’s second innings,

enjoyment for a batter than to taking wickets when required. “The only thing I had in my mind was even if I take five wickets here, I would only get three overs to bowl so I tried to bowl my best, tried to bowl at the same spot and finish my spell,” he said.

“I enjoyed it a lot because it did not go well in batting for me, so to have contributed with my bowling felt really good. Of course, when a batter takes a wicket there is no bigger enjoyment than that,” Sooryavanshi added.

East Zone will now take on the defending champions Central Zone in the first semifinal of the Duleep Trophy starting here on Sunday.

India’s top cricket players summoned for mandatory fitness test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Bengaluru

India’s top centrally-contracted cricketers reported at Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Saturday for fitness test ahead of the fresh home season, less than 48 hours after completion of a gruelling two-Test away series against Sri Lanka.

Having been at a stretch on the field for three days, it was impressive to see some of the Test team regulars marking their pre-season fitness parameters ahead of what will be a gruelling eight-month period concluding with 2027 Indian Premier League.

The likes of senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal were seen sweating it out along with T20I skipper Shreyas Iyer, shortest format specialists Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson and Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad among others.

The mandatory fitness tests include ‘Bronco Test’, 2k run, YoYo test and some of the cricket specific drills like running between the wickets.

Bronco Test is a fitness marker where cones are placed at starting point (0m), 20m, 40m and 60m. Players have to run from 0 to 20m and back, repeating with 40m and 60m without a break for five sets.

In all, a 1200m distance is expected to be covered in five-and-a-half minutes.

The YoYo test marker for



long has been 16.5 while 2k run (2000m) needs to be completed within 10 minutes.

However the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Nitish Kr Reddy will appear for these fitness drills only when they are declared fully fit.

They are undergoing rehabilitation. Fast bowlers such as Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna are exempted for the time being as they bowled extensively in back-to-back Tests in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Prince Yadav, who sustained a hamstring niggles during India’s Tour of UK is now fit and available for selection.

BCCI’s home season, known as ‘India Cricket’, commences every September and this year it will begin with an “away series at home” against Afghanistan in a three-match T20I series in New Delhi.

It would be followed by first-choice T20 team going to Japan for the Asian Games while another set of white ball experts will play against the West Indies in a home series at the same time.

Duleep Trophy semis: Patidar’s Central take on East, South clash with North

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Bengaluru

The Duleep Trophy reaches its business end here on Sunday with defending champions Central Zone taking on an East Zone side brimming with confidence, while last year’s runners-up South Zone face North Zone.

The last-four stage promises an intriguing contest, with East and North having negotiated the quarterfinal hurdle while Central and South received direct entry.

East Zone recorded a crushing victory over North East Zone in their quarterfinal, while North Zone scraped through a tense knockout thanks largely to left-arm spinner Abid

Mushtaq. Central, led by Rajat Patidar for the second successive season, and South, last year’s runner-up, will have to hit the ground running despite not having played a game in the tournament. Central, however, have the advantage of continuity, having retained a strong core from the side that lifted the trophy last year. Patidar comes into the tournament on the back of a prolific season in the IPL and MP T20 League, while vice-captain Rinku Singh adds experience to the middle order.

Their biggest strength could be the bowling depth. Saransh Jain, who impressed under trying circumstances in the drawn second Test against Sri Lanka, and Harsh



Dubey, who recently featured in the ODIs against Afghanistan, form a quality spin combination. Yash Thakur adds pace and first-class experience, while Zeeshan Ansari, rewarded for his recent performances, will be another player to

watch. East, though, would want to build on their momentum with the young spin combination. Yash Thakur adds pace and first-class experience, while Zeeshan Ansari, rewarded for his recent performances, will be another player to

Bengal’s Sudip Gharami and Shahbaz Ahmed striking commanding centuries.

Shahbaz also contributed with four wickets, while Anukul Roy claimed a five-wicket haul in the second innings and Abhijit Sarkar finished with six wickets in the match. Gharami and Shahbaz’s form gives East plenty of confidence, while skipper Ishan Kishan adds experience and authority to the batting line-up. Abhimanyu Easwaran brings proven First-Class pedigree, while teenage sensation Sooryavanshi, despite a modest outing with the bat in the quarterfinal, remains capable of changing the game if he gets going at the top. Last year’s runners-up

South Zone have the experience to go one step further, with new captain Tilak Varma leading a strong batting unit featuring Ricky Bhui, Narayan Jagadeesan, and Karun Nair. Nair, in particular, will look to draw on his experience in pressure situations, while Jagadeesan has been among the more consistent run-getters on the domestic circuit. Shreyas Gopal and left-arm spinner Tanay Thyagarajan add variety to the attack, with Vidwath Kaverappa providing the pace option.

North Zone, however, arrive with the confidence of surviving a tight knockout, edging the star-studded West Zone by 52 runs in the quarterfinal.

Japan’s Rei Sakamoto beats Kei Nishikori to earn US Open spot

BRIAN MAHONEY
n New York

Rei Sakamoto played his way into the U.S. Open - but only by taking the spot that Kei Nishikori, Japan’s greatest men’s tennis star, hoped to earn for one last Grand Slam appearance.

In a changing of the guard match, Sakamoto beat Nishikori 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Friday in the final round of qualifying to earn a place in the main draw. “Not happy to lose today, but I’m happy for Rei,” Nishikori said. “He’s the next Japanese top player.” The 20-year-old Sakamoto, like many other players from Japan,



considers Nishikori his hero. He was 8 years old and remembers when Nishikori reached the 2014 U.S. Open final, becoming the first Asian man to get that far in a Grand Slam tournament. “I honestly grew up watching him

play and he was my idol for my whole life,” Sakamoto said, “and it’s also a pity to see his last season.” Sakamoto is typical of many tennis players and doesn’t like to look at his draw ahead of time to see who he might play. (AP)

After being out for four months, Alcaraz expects to be himself at US Open

STEPHEN WHYNO
n New York

After sitting out more than four months nursing an injured right wrist that caused him to miss the French Open and Wimbledon, Carlos Alcaraz didn’t decide to return for the U.S. Open to be anything less than his Grand Slam-winning self. “You’re going to see Carlitos playing the way he always has,” Alcaraz said.

The 23-year-old from Spain is set to play his first competitive singles match Monday since getting sidelined by the wrist injury in mid-April. He insists he has not changed anything about his mechanics and expressed confidence about physically feeling great.



“I need competition,” Alcaraz said Friday. “We, my team and me, believe that I’m ready. It wasn’t an easy decision. I just did whatever it took to be ready.”

Alcaraz is the defending champion and favored to go back-to-back, a year after beating Jannik Sinner and

overtaking him for the No. 1 ranking. The field this time does not include Sinner, who withdrew because of a right knee injury.

“We are not going to see each other for, like, six months now, seven months,” Alcaraz said. “It’s kind of a weird situation, to be honest.”

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The Deputy Chief Engineer/Const.-I, Northern Railway, Chandigarh, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-	
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Tender Notice No.	2-W/C/294/CDG-I Dated 29.08.2026
Full name of Work	Repair and maintenance of residential and service buildings, store, construction and repair of roads and other allied works at Chandigarh.
Approx. Cost of work	₹1,64,85,444/- (Rs. One Crore Sixty Four Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty Four only)
Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	₹3,29,700/- (Rs. Three Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred only)
Completion period of the work	12 (Twelve) Months
Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded up to 15:00 hrs. on 21.09.2026 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender which will be opened at 15:00 hrs. on 21.09.2026.
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and tender document is available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 31.08.2026 to 21.09.2026 upto 15:00 hrs. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender is given in tender document. The detailed tender notice can also be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
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The river is constantly turning and bending and you never know where it's going to go and where you'll wind up.
— Eartha



EKLAVYA PRASAD
Managing Trustee, Megh Pyne Abhiyan

The proposition may appear straightforward, link India's great rivers, from the Brahmaputra in the northeast to the Godavari and Cauvery in the south, and India could potentially overcome water shortages for decades. Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently brought the idea back into public discussion when, at the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, on August 20, he said that interconnecting India's great rivers from the Brahmaputra to the Cauvery and Godavari could help ensure that the country faces no water shortage for the next 100 years.

But before we look at the vision as a solution, there is a simpler question. What exactly would it mean to link the Brahmaputra to rivers such as the Godavari and Cauvery?

India has had a formal National Perspective Plan (NPP) for interlinking rivers since 1980. It envisages 30 links, 14 under the Himalayan component and 16 under the Peninsular component. The government says feasibility studies have been completed for many of these links, while Ken-Betwa is the first to enter implementation. There is also a proposal to transfer water from the Godavari towards the Krishna, Pennar and ultimately Cauvery basins.

The Union Home Minister's proposition therefore does not emerge from nowhere. It sits within a much older national ambition to move water between river basins. But it is important not to confuse that ambition with a ready-to-build Brahmaputra-Godavari-Cauvery project. Such a project would require a defined route, diversion

points, storage, volumes, costs, environmental assessments, operating rules and agreements among affected states. That gap between political vision and executable project matters.

At its simplest, river interlinking means transferring water from one basin to another through dams, barrages, reservoirs, canals, tunnels and, where necessary, pumping systems. The underlying argument is that some basins have more water than they need while others face shortages.

The difficulty begins with the word surplus. In the Brahmaputra basin, about 85 per cent of annual rainfall occurs during the monsoon, producing enormous seasonal variations in flow. But high monsoon flow does not automatically mean surplus water. Floodwaters can be destructive, yet the flood pulse also recharges wetlands and groundwater, supports fisheries, spreads nutrients and sediment, and sustains floodplain ecosystems and livelihoods. The Brahmaputra is one of the world's great sediment-carrying rivers, and its sediment contributes to the maintenance of downstream floodplains and deltaic systems.

The relevant question, therefore, is not how much water a river carries in a wet month, but how much dependable water is actually available for transfer after accounting for existing uses, downstream requirements, ecological needs, seasonal variability and international obligations.

This becomes particularly important when the proposed destination is the peninsular rivers. The Godavari, and Cauvery also receive a substantial share of their annual rainfall and runoff during the monsoon. So what exactly would be transferred from the Brahmaputra?

If the proposal is to move water during the monsoon, the case for transferring water from one river experiencing its principal period of abundance to another doing the same is not immediately obvious. If the intention is instead to capture Brahmaputra flows, store them and

THE BRAHMAPUTRA ADDS ANOTHER LAYER OF COMPLEXITY BECAUSE IT IS NOT SIMPLY A LARGE INDIAN RIVER. IT IS A TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER SYSTEM

transfer them south for use during dry months, the proposition becomes a vast storage-and-transfer system designed to overcome seasonal variability.

That raises another set of questions. Where would the water be stored, how much storage would be required, how much would be lost through evaporation, what energy would be required to move it, and how would the system perform after a weak monsoon? Surplus is not a permanent characteristic of a river basin. It is relative to season, location, demand and hydrological conditions.

The Brahmaputra adds another layer of complexity because it is not simply a large Indian river. It is a transboundary river system originating in Tibet, China and flowing through India and Bangladesh, where it continues as the Jamuna. The basin extends across four countries, with tributaries originating in Bhutan as well. Bangladesh is therefore not an incidental observer of what happens to the river upstream.

India already shares hydrological information with Bangladesh for flood forecasting and disaster preparedness, but there is no comprehensive Brahmaputra water-sharing treaty comparable to the Ganga agreement. A major alteration in the volume or timing of Brahmaputra flows would therefore have implications beyond India's internal water policy.

India must also consider that it is itself downstream of China in the Brahmaputra system. A major intervention would consequently sit within a wider geopolitical context involving

China, India and Bangladesh.

There is another question worth asking. India is already considering moving water southward without reaching for the Brahmaputra. The NPP includes the proposed Godavari Cauvery link project, which is designed as a three link system comprising Godavari Inchampalli or Janampet to Krishna Nagarjunasagar, Krishna Nagarjunasagar to Pennar Somasila, and Pennar Somasila to Cauvery Grand Anicut.

If the Godavari-Cauvery connection is already envisaged, why is the Brahmaputra required? Has projected demand in the south grown beyond what the peninsular links can address? Is the available water in the Godavari insufficient? Or are we progressively expanding the geographical area from which water must be sourced because demand itself continues to grow?

These are not merely engineering questions. They concern how India defines its water problem. The northeast and eastern India are often portrayed as having too much water, while western and southern India have too little. There is some truth in this broad seasonal picture, but it can obscure a second reality. India's water stress is also a problem of management and demand. Groundwater depletion, water-intensive cropping, inefficient irrigation, urban leakage, inadequate used-water reuse, destruction of tanks and wetlands, floodplain encroachment and poor watershed management all contribute to scarcity. This does not mean inter-basin transfers can never form part of India's water-security strategy. But before moving water across enormous distances, India should establish how much of the projected deficit remains after addressing these factors. The larger the intervention, the stronger that evidence should be.

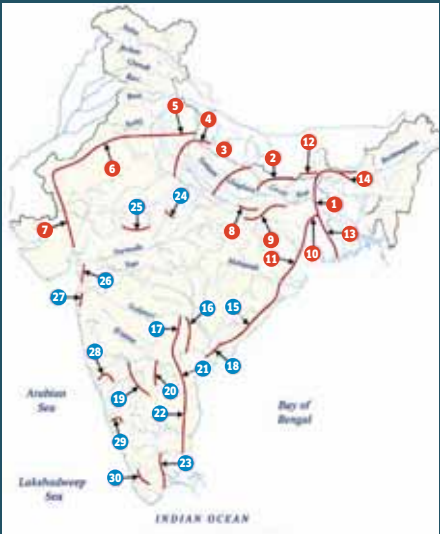
That leads to a more fundamental question. Is river interlinking being pursued because it is demonstrably the most appropriate response to water stress, or because it sustains a particular model of large-scale construction? There is nothing inherently wrong with infrastructure. India needs water-supply systems, irrigation infrastructure, wastewater-treatment systems and flood-management infrastructure. But infrastructure should follow a clearly demonstrated problem, it should not define the problem in a way that makes increasingly large infrastructure appear necessary.

Feasibility, therefore, cannot be reduced to whether engineers can build the system. A project may be technically possible but economically prohibitive, economically possible but environmentally damaging, politically agreed upon but difficult to govern, or functional under historical hydrological conditions but unreliable under climate change. A system that works in an average year may fail precisely when water is most needed.

The engineering challenge of creating a Brahmaputra to peninsular river system would be formidable, involving the diversion, storage

MAPPING INDIA'S RIVER LINKING PROJECTS

The National Perspective Plan envisages interlinking of 30 rivers through 14 Himalayan and 16 Peninsular projects to transfer surplus water to water-deficit regions and promote equitable water distribution.



HIMALAYAN RIVER LINKING SYSTEM

1. Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga
2. Kosi-Chagra
3. Gandak-Ganga
4. Chagra-Yamuna
5. Sarda-Yamuna
6. Yamuna-Rajasthan
7. Rajasthan-Sabarmati
8. Chunar-Gold Barrage
9. One dam-southern tributaries of Ganga
10. Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha
11. Subernarekha-Mahanadi
12. Kosi-Mecchi
13. Farakka-Sunderbans
14. Jogighope-Tista-Farakka

PENINSULAR RIVER LINKING SYSTEM

15. Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram)
16. Godavari Inchampalli-Krishna (Pulichintala)
17. Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)
18. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijaya)
19. Krishna (Almatti)-Pens
20. Krishna Srisaillam-Pennar
21. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila)
22. Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut)
23. Cauvery (Kattalai) Vaigai-Gundar
24. Ken-Betwa
25. Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal
26. Par-Tapi Narmada
27. Damanganga-Pinjal
28. Bedti-Vanda
29. Netravati-Hemavati
30. Pamba-Achankovil-Valppar

SOURCE: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR INTERLINKING OF RIVERS, 1980

and long-distance transfer of water across multiple river basins, potentially requiring extensive pumping. It would also have to contend with sedimentation, evaporation, floods, seismic risks and increasingly variable rainfall patterns. But the federal challenge may be equally important. Who decides how much water moves, when it moves, who gets priority during water scarcity, and what happens when the source state's own requirements increase? The government itself recognises the importance of agreement among concerned states for interlinking projects.

Ken-Betwa offers an early opportunity to examine these trade-offs. It is the first NPP project to enter implementation, with the government projecting irrigation, drinking-water and hydropower benefits at an approved cost of `44,605 crore. At the same time, it has generated significant environmental concerns, including forest diversion and impacts on the Panna landscape. The lesson is not that large projects are necessarily unacceptable, but that their benefits and costs must be examined together.

International experience offers comparisons but no ready-made blueprint. China's South-to-North Water Diversion Project, Australia's Snowy Mountains Scheme, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and California's State Water Project demonstrate that very large-scale inter-basin water transfer systems can operate.

CONTINUED ON >> P14

KEN-BETWA LINK PROJECT

The mega-infrastructure project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the water-deficit Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh

STATES: Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

CURRENT STATUS: Under implementation.

TARGET COMPLETION: 2030, generally stated in government documents as March 2030.

ESTIMATED COST: `44,605 crore.

PLANNED BENEFITS: Irrigation, drinking-water supply and hydropower generation in parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

This is currently the only National Perspective Plan river-linking project for which the Union government has publicly stated a firm completion target.



India's river-interlinking programme: The journey so far...

India's river-interlinking programme has 30 proposed links. Its implementation depends on State consent, land acquisition, rehabilitation, environmental and wildlife clearances, and water-sharing agreements; only the Ken-Betwa Link Project is under implementation with a stated completion target of March 2030.

1972 The idea of transferring water between river basins was formally examined through national-level water-resource planning.

1980 The Union government formulated the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for inter-basin water transfer, covering Himalayan and Peninsular river links.

1982 The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established to study and develop the proposed links. It is an autonomous society established in July 1982 under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India

1980s-2000s NWDA prepared Pre-Feasibility Reports and Feasibility Reports for proposed links. The programme expanded to 30 identified projects: 16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan.

2002 The Supreme Court directed the government to pursue the interlinking programme and established monitoring arrangements.

2012 The Supreme Court reiterated the need for a time-bound mechanism and institutional structure to examine the projects.

2014 The government constituted the Special Committee on Inter-Linking of Rivers.

2015 A Task Force for Inter-Linking of Rivers was constituted to help accelerate studies, consultations and implementation.

2021 Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh signed an agreement for the Ken-Betwa Link Project. December 2021, The Union Cabinet approved implementation of Ken-Betwa at an estimated cost of `44,605 crore, including `39,317 crore in central support.

2022 Works on Ken-Betwa-including preparatory works and the Daudhan Dam component-started progressively.

2026 Feasibility Reports completed for 26 of 30 links and Detailed Project Reports for 13 links. Ken-Betwa remained the only priority link in the implementation stage. The primary objective is to tackle chronic water scarcity and mitigate droughts in the socio-economically marginalised Bundelkhand region, which spans across both states. The work on Ken-Betwa is likely to be completed by 2030.

“QUIET DIPLOMACY IS FAR MORE EFFECTIVE
THAN PUBLIC POSTURING”
— ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Soft power: India’s opportunity to shape the global imagination



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

Power has traditionally been understood in fairly straightforward terms, economic strength, military capability, technological advancement and political influence. But in today's interconnected world, there is another form of power that is becoming equally important: the ability of a country to attract, inspire and influence without coercion. That is the power of soft power.

India has always possessed it. What is changing now is the scale of the opportunity before us. In his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi identified soft power as one of the seven Saptadharas that can take India towards greater national strength, alongside manufacturing, agriculture and food processing, technology and innovation, infrastructure, defence, and the green and blue economy. The inclusion of soft power in this framework is significant because it places culture, creativity and global influence within the larger developmental vision of Viksit Bharat.

For India, soft power is not something that needs to be artificially created. It already exists in extraordinary depth. Yoga is today practised across continents. Ayurveda has found growing international interest. Indian cinema and music travel far beyond the country's borders. Indian food has become part of everyday life in cities across the world. Our spiritual traditions, festivals, textiles, classical arts, literature and philosophies have shaped perceptions of India for generations. But possessing cultural richness and converting it into sustained global influence are two different things. That is where India's next opportunity lies.

There is a broader understanding of soft power beyond the traditional ideas of heritage and culture. It connects yoga, Ayurveda and tourism with newer sectors such as VFX, animation, gaming and the creative economy. It also identifies wildlife, national parks, major sporting events and the rapidly growing concert economy as areas through which India can attract the world and showcase its capabilities. This is an important shift. Soft power today is no longer only about how much of a country's past the world admires. It is also about how relevant that country feels in the present.

India has one of the oldest civilisations in the world, but it also has one of the youngest populations. Our global identity, therefore, cannot rest only on ancient temples, classical traditions or historical achievements. It must also include contemporary India, its filmmakers, designers,



musicians, gamers, animators, athletes, entrepreneurs and digital creators. The real power lies in bringing both together.

India should be able to speak to the world through yoga and artificial intelligence, Ayurveda and animation, classical music and gaming, ancient knowledge systems and cutting-edge digital creativity. These are not contradictions. In fact, they are what make India distinctive. The creative economy is particularly important in this context. Countries increasingly shape global perceptions through the stories they tell. Cinema, television, music, gaming and digital content reach people in ways that formal diplomacy often cannot. They enter homes, influence taste, create familiarity and build emotional connections.

A person may know very little about the politics or foreign policy of a country and yet feel deeply connected to it because of its films, food, music or culture. That emotional familiarity matters. When people admire a country's culture, they become curious about the country itself. Curiosity can lead to tourism, education, business engagement and deeper people-to-people ties. In that sense, soft power is not separate from economic development; it can actively contribute to it.

Tourism is perhaps one of the clearest examples. India has extraordinary geographical and cultural diversity, from the Himalayas and the deserts of Rajasthan to wildlife reserves, coastal regions, heritage cities, spiritual centres and the North-East. Yet the potential of these assets as instruments of global influence remains far greater than what we currently realise.

The Prime Minister specifically highlighted wildlife, national parks and tourism as areas through which India can draw global visitors. A tourist who visits India does much more than spend money here. They experience the country personally. They interact with people, encounter its culture and carry those experiences back with them. In that sense, every positive visitor experience becomes a form of informal diplomacy.

International sporting events and the concert economy are becoming the new areas of opportunity. Hosting major global events does not simply generate revenue. It places a country at the centre of global attention. It showcases infrastructure, cities, culture and organizational capability. It



INDIA SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE WORLD THROUGH YOGA AND AI, AYURVEDA AND ANIMATION, CLASSICAL MUSIC AND GAMING, AND CUTTING-EDGE DIGITAL CREATIVITY. THESE ARE NOT CONTRADICTIONS

also creates memories associated with a country that can last far beyond the event itself. India's improving international sporting presence and its ambitions around major sporting events therefore have a larger significance as well. There is also an economic argument for taking soft power more seriously. Culture today is an industry.

Films generate tourism. Music creates events and digital revenue. Gaming creates valuable intellectual property. Wellness traditions create global markets. Cuisine supports food exports and restaurant businesses. Heritage sustains tourism economies. Sporting events create opportunities across hospitality, transport, advertising and broadcasting. Soft power can therefore create a chain of value: cultural visibility creates curiosity; curiosity creates engagement; engagement creates trust; and trust can eventually create economic and strategic opportunities. But for India to fully realise this potential, one important shift is necessary. We have to move from simply being proud of our culture to becoming better at presenting it to the world. That means investing in creators, institutions and platforms. It means supporting animation, films, gaming, music and design at international standards. It means better preservation and presentation of heritage. It means making tourism seamless, safe and globally competitive. It means strengthening translation so that Indian literature and ideas can travel across languages. It means helping regional stories find global audiences rather than reducing India to a few familiar cultural symbols.

India's greatest strength here may actually be its diversity. There is no single Indian

story. There are thousands of them. Every region offers its own food, music, language, landscape, literature, craft, history and cultural tradition. If these are given global platforms, India does not merely have one source of soft power; it has an almost limitless reservoir of them.

There is, however, one condition. Soft power works only when it is credible. A country cannot build long-term influence through projection alone. What the world sees must ultimately connect with what the country is. The Prime Minister himself linked India's growing international respect with the country's political stability, vibrant democracy, judicial system and constitutional framework. Reputation is strongest when it is backed by reality. That is why soft power should not be viewed as publicity. It is something much deeper. It is the cumulative impression created by a country's culture, institutions, people, achievements and behaviour. For India, this makes soft power an extraordinary force multiplier. Manufacturing can make India competitive. Technology can make India innovative. Defence can make India secure. Economic growth can make India influential. But soft power can make India relatable. It can make people across the world feel that they know India, understand India and want to engage with India.

As India moves towards the goal of Viksit Bharat, this dimension of national growth deserves far greater attention. Becoming a developed country is not only about expanding economic capacity. It is also about expanding the space a country occupies in the imagination of the world.

India already has the stories, traditions, knowledge, landscapes and talent. The next step is to give them the scale, confidence and platforms they deserve. Because in the decades ahead, the countries that shape the world will not only be those that produce the most or possess the most. They will also be the countries that inspire the most.

The author is a Commentator and Writer on Cinema, Branding, Media Management and Geo-Strategic Communication. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan

— FROM AGENDA COVER —

United Rivers...

They also highlight the enormous investments, institutional capacity, long-term operational arrangements, and significant environmental and social trade-offs required to develop and sustain such large-scale inter-basin water transfer systems.

There is no close global equivalent to what Brahmaputra to Cauvery and Godavari implies. A system potentially connecting a huge transboundary Himalayan river with distant peninsular basins across a federal country. The absence of such a precedent does not, by itself, settle the question of whether such a system can be developed. It does, however, mean that India would be attempting something for which there is no established global blueprint to simply replicate.

Climate change makes the question more urgent. Historical rainfall and river-flow patterns may no longer provide a reliable guide to future conditions. Changing monsoon intensity and timing, extreme rainfall, prolonged dry spells and other hydrological shifts could alter the reliability of projected surpluses.

Before the Brahmaputra is declared a source of national water security, India should therefore publicly demonstrate the calculations. What is the dependable surplus? How much is required downstream? What storage is required? What are the energy and financial costs? How will the system perform during water scarcity? What alternatives have been examined? Which states will be affected? And what are the implications for Bangladesh?

Most importantly, the public should be able to see and scrutinise these calculations. Ultimately, the question is not whether India should ever move water between

river basins. Water already moves between basins through natural hydrological connections. The more important questions are whether a proposed transfer is necessary, how much water can actually be transferred without compromising existing downstream needs, and what its ecological, social, economic and political consequences would be. Any such proposal must also be judged against the enormous investments, institutional capacity, long-term operational arrangements, and environmental and social trade-offs that large-scale inter-basin water transfers entail.

The Brahmaputra makes this debate especially consequential. It is a river, a floodplain, a sediment conveyor and the basis of millions of livelihoods, with its waters continuing downstream as the Jamuna.

So when India hears the phrase Brahmaputra to Cauvery and Godavari, the first response should be to ask what exactly is being proposed, what problem it is intended to solve, and whether its hydrological, ecological, social, economic and institutional implications have been adequately examined. That means asking some very basic questions.

How much water? From where? In which months? What qualifies as surplus, and according to whose calculations? Where would it be stored? How would it be transferred? At what cost? Who would benefit? Who would bear the risks? And what happens when the river does not behave as planners expect?

India needs water security. But before India attempts to connect its great rivers, it must first demonstrate that the water can, needs to and should be moved.

BY ANIL BHAT

This book has been sponsored by Bharat Global Industries Forum (BGIF), a premier national think-and-action platform uniting India's top corporations, policymakers, and global investors to support the concept and accomplishment of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) and helping this nation to grow into a manufacturing hub with a \$30 trillion economy.

The central theme of the book aims at Vision 2047 going beyond headline numbers of GDP (\$30 Trillion) and GDP per capita (\$18000/-) to the overall well being of ordinary citizens. NITI Aayog's ambitions of creating an India of 2047 where the citizens are intimately connected to governance, assured best of education, health care, social services and public infrastructure are discussed against the backdrop of past inertia and baggage of organisational slack.

He describes the unsatisfactory state of private sector investment in R&D and the inefficiencies of SMEs. At the same time some early silver linings are also highlighted - like the high percentage of indigenous defense systems, India's achievements in space, quantum computing and semi-conductors. The unique feature of author's style is his dependence on hard data without diluting the readability for an ordinary student of the subject.

In a broader sense linking 'Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision' to the three major pillars- economy, national security and geopolitics makes the road to 2047 much more distinct and meaningful. Students of macro and political economy will find the chapter on



Author: Ashok Pathak
Publisher: Pentagon Press
Pages: 124 pages
Price: ₹695

economy very lucid and informative as it links the current milieu with the ancient - Kautilya's Arthashastra; and western economic philosophy of Adam Smith.

The book highlights the Indian philosophy of oneness of humanity. Ekamaveda, or Integral Humanism, is a socio-economic and political philosophy propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in 1964. It presents an integrated approach to human existence, balancing individual needs with societal welfare.

The author has emphasised that national security should not be looked at only in terms of military strength, but holistically and that defense expenditure should be viewed as economic investment. The issues of indigenisation of defense production have been very lucidly explained with the help of case study on HF 24 and LCA Tejas and the overall strength of Indian Air Force.

On geopolitics the book has exposed to the global challenges arising out of national ambitions based on power, assumed roles in global affairs and theol-

ogy driven undercurrents that trigger conflicts. India's strength, challenges, compulsions and their impact on achieving the vision 2047 have been neatly explained. The author has done well to bring out the role of soft power in achieving geopolitical goals.

Since the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, India has witnessed a profound shift toward mainstreaming Hindu civilizational identity and state-backed cultural nationalism. This movement views its current trajectory as a long-overdue decolonization and public reclamation of indigenous heritage, contrasting sharply with decades of post-independence "secular" governance. This post-2014 era in India is at last emerging as a vital correction to centuries of cultural and political marginalization, during which foreign Islamic rulers and British colonial powers suppressed native Hindu identity, history, and traditions. This political shift in 2014 of democratic reassertion of India's indigenous civilizational ethos was waiting to happen.

Massive development of roads, railways, and ports; growth in manufacturing through production incentives; expansion of the tech and renewable energy sectors and strong domestic consumption of the rising middle class are indications of the strong possibility of the aims stated. The author served in the Corps of Signals and retired in 2006 as Deputy Director General of Army Signals Intelligence.

Col Anil Bhat, VSM (Retd) is a strategic affairs analyst and former Defence Ministry and Indian Army spokesperson.

When Quiet Reflection Turns into Practical Action

Dr Shanker Adawal
Astrologer, Author & Researcher

This forecast is based on your Moon Sign (Janma Rashi), which often reflects day-to-day emotional and instinctive patterns more closely than general Sun-sign readings.

Moon Watch

The Moon's quiet message for the week ahead. The waning Moon begins reflectively, gathers courage in Aries and settles into Taurus. The message is simple: understand first, act with purpose, then give worthwhile decisions enough time to become steady.

Weekly Overview

The week opens with the Moon in Pisces, favouring reflection, intuition and a quieter pace. Aries then brings movement, initiative and more direct decisions. From Thursday, Taurus steadies the mood and turns attention towards practical matters. Friday adds a gentle note of devotion and simplicity, while late Saturday brings a livelier, more communicative tone.



Aries (Mesh): The opening days may feel slower than expected, and some unfinished thoughts need attention before you move ahead. Once the Moon enters Aries, confidence returns and personal matters begin moving more quickly. Taurus later shifts attention towards money, family and practical priorities. By Saturday, conversations become easier. Avoid spending energy proving a point that is already clear to you.



Taurus (Vrishabh): Friends, professional contacts or longer-term plans may bring useful support early in the week. The Aries phase then encourages you to step back, rest or work quietly behind the scenes. Once the Moon enters Taurus, confidence and emotional steadiness improve noticeably. Personal priorities become easier to sort out. Late Saturday turns attention towards finances and family arrangements that need a practical look.



Gemini (Mithun): Professional responsibilities may be active at the start, and your judgement could be noticed more than usual. Aries then brings friends, networks and future plans into the picture, helping a stalled idea regain momentum. Taurus later asks you to slow down and clear some mental clutter. By Saturday evening, energy begins returning. A little distance may help you recognise which commitments still deserve your time.



Cancer (Karka): Learning, travel or a broader life question may occupy your thoughts during the opening days. Aries then puts career and responsibilities back in focus, making direct action necessary in one area. Taurus brings support through friends, colleagues or familiar networks. The weekend becomes quieter internally. You need not solve everything immediately; sometimes knowing what can wait is also useful progress.



Leo (Simha): Shared finances, trust or an emotionally sensitive matter may need calm handling early in the week. Aries lifts the mood and encourages learning, travel or a wider perspective. Taurus then brings career matters and public responsibilities into sharper focus. Friday may feel especially grounded and purposeful. By Saturday, support from friends or professional contacts can make one practical matter easier than expected.



Virgo (Kanya): Relationships and one-to-one discussions need attention at the beginning of the week, especially where expectations have remained unspoken. Aries may then bring shared responsibilities, finances or trust issues into focus. Taurus broadens perspective and supports learning or future planning. Late Saturday turns attention towards career matters. A straightforward conversation earlier in the week may save unnecessary confusion later.



Libra (Tula): Work routines, health priorities or unfinished tasks may need better organisation early on. Aries then places relationships and cooperation at the centre, making balanced communication important. Taurus later deepens the mood and may bring financial commitments or emotional expectations into view. The weekend opens a wider perspective. Do not let one uncomfortable conversation convince you that the larger picture has changed.



Scorpio (Vrishchik): Creative interests, children or personal plans may bring welcome energy during the opening days. Aries then turns attention towards work, routines and health, where small improvements can be useful. Taurus highlights relationships and close partnerships later in the week. Friday feels steadier and more cooperative. By Saturday, shared matters may need a little more honesty. Listen carefully before assuming you know the other person's intention.



Sagittarius (Dhanu): Home, family or personal arrangements may keep you occupied early in the week. Aries then brings more confidence, creativity and social energy, making the middle phase feel lighter. Taurus restores discipline and turns attention towards work, health and everyday responsibilities. Late Saturday puts relationships back in focus. Keep the weekend flexible; another person's plan may not move at the same pace as yours.



Capricorn (Makar): Communication, paperwork or short journeys may make the opening days busy. Aries then shifts attention towards home and family, where one practical decision may need to be taken. Taurus later brings a lighter mood through creativity, children or personal interests. Friday supports simple pleasures rather than unnecessary pressure.



Aquarius (Kumbh): Financial priorities, family responsibilities or questions of personal value may need sensible handling at the start. Aries then increases communication, movement and useful exchanges of information. Taurus brings attention towards home, comfort and emotional security. Friday may encourage you to simplify rather than expand. Late Saturday feels lighter and more expressive, helping creativity or social plans return without much effort.



Pisces (Meen): With the Moon beginning the week in Pisces, personal feelings and priorities become stronger and easier to recognise. Use the opening phase to understand what you genuinely want before acting. Aries then turns attention towards money and practical arrangements.

“EAT FOOD. NOT TOO MUCH.
MOSTLY PLANT”
—MICHAEL POLLAN

Makkhan se prasad: Krishna's story through food



ANIL
RAJPUT

At midnight in Mathura, temple bells ring, conches sound and chants rise through the streets as devotees mark the birth of Krishna. In homes far beyond Braj, the same story is retold through food. White butter recalls the mischievous child of Gokul. Poha rem embers the humility of Sudama's offering. Sugar-palm fruit is turned into Taler Bora in Bengal, while rice flour becomes crisp seedai in Tamil Nadu. Across India, ingredients, techniques and memories transform devotion into taste. Janmashtami is therefore not simply a festival with a special menu. It is a journey from fasting to worship, from bhog to prasad, and finally from an offering made to Krishna to food shared among families and communities.

Celebrated in 2026 on Friday, 4 September, Janmashtami falls on the Ashtami, or eighth lunar day, of Krishna Paksha associated with Krishna's birth. The story begins in Mathura, where Devaki and Vasudeva were imprisoned by the tyrant Kansa. Tradition recounts that after Krishna was born, Vasudeva carried the infant across the Yamuna to Gokul, where he was raised by Nanda and Yashoda. His childhood unfolded in the pastoral world of Braj, among cows, milk, curd and butter, before his life later carried him from Mathura towards Dwarka. That geography helps explain why food occupies such an intimate place in Janmashtami. Krishna is remembered not only through sacred narrative, but through the foods associated with his childhood, friendship, pastoral surroundings and the regions that made his story their own. The 4 September date is also the one listed for the 2026 celebrations in Mathura.

The observance itself is shaped by restraint before abundance. Many devotees fast through the day, but the fast is not merely a dietary exercise or a list of prohibited ingredients. It is a spiritual discipline intended to reduce everyday distraction, cultivate self-control and turn attention towards Krishna. Practices differ between regions and traditions. Some devotees take fruit, milk, nuts or foods prepared from permitted fasting ingredients, while others observe a stricter fast until the midnight worship. For many, purity in preparation is as important as abstinence itself. What unites these practices is the idea that restraint prepares the mind for devotion. The day gradually moves towards Nishita, the sacred midnight hour, when Krishna's birth is celebrated with prayer, singing, abhisheka and the offering of food.

That offering also explains the difference between food and prasad. A preparation may begin in the kitchen as ordinary food, but once it is prepared with care, placed before the deity as bhog and offered in devotion, it is received back as prasad. The transformation is not one of ingredients but of meaning. Food that might otherwise satisfy hunger becomes something shared as grace. This movement from fasting to mid-

night worship, from bhog to prasad and from prasad to communal sharing gives Janmashtami food its spiritual structure. It also explains why the festival cannot be understood simply as a directory of festive dishes.

At the centre of this tradition stands Makkhan Mishri, perhaps the most direct edible memory of Krishna's childhood. Fresh white butter is mixed with crystals of mishri and offered to Bal Krishna, recalling the affectionate image of Makkhan Chor, the child who stole butter from the homes of Braj. Traditionally, curd is churned until the butter separates, then the butter is washed, collected and paired with sugar candy. Its simplicity is precisely its strength. Few ingredients could evoke Krishna's pastoral world more immediately. Makkhan Mishri continues to be closely associated with Krishna devotion in Mathura and Vrindavan.

From the butter pots of Gokul, the story moves naturally to Mathura Peda, one of the defining foods of Krishna's birthplace. Milk is slowly reduced to khoya, roasted until it develops a deeper caramelised flavour, then mixed with sugar and cardamom before being shaped into small rounds. During Janmashtami, peda is prepared in large quantities in Mathura and is also offered in temples and homes. Here, the sweet does more than satisfy festive appetite. It turns the sacred geography of Mathura into something that can be carried home, shared and remembered.

North Indian Janmashtami traditions also include Dhaniya Panjiri, particularly in households where grains are avoided during the fast. Coriander seeds or powder are gently roasted until aromatic, then combined with ghee, powdered sugar, coconut, makhana and nuts. The unusual use of coriander gives it a flavour distinct from ordinary wheat-based panjiri. Makhana Paag offers another characteristic preparation. Fox nuts are roasted in ghee until crisp and then bound with sugar, coconut, cardamom and sometimes nuts or raisins. Both are prepared as offerings and



reinforcing the festival's association with ingredients suited to fasting traditions while still producing texture and richness.

The idea of abundance reaches its grandest expression in Chhappan Bhog, the ceremonial offering of fifty-six foods associated with Krishna worship and often presented during Janmashtami celebrations. Popular tradition links the number fifty-six to the belief that Krishna normally ate eight meals a day and went without them during the seven days he held up Govardhan Hill, leading devotees to offer eight times seven dishes in gratitude. The exact composition varies widely, and that variation is part of its character. Sweets, dairy preparations, fruits, savouries and grains may all appear depending on temple and regional custom. Chhappan Bhog is therefore less a fixed recipe than a statement of devotion expressed through abundance.

As Krishna's story travels west, Janmashtami food begins to take on distinctly regional forms. In Maharashtra, Gopalkala, also known as Dahikala, is especially associated with the celebrations surrounding Dahi Handi. Poha is mixed with curd and ingredients such as cucumber, grated coconut, roasted peanuts, coriander and green chilli. Some versions add fruit or soaked pulses. Cool, savoury and meant for sharing, it recalls Krishna eating with his cowherd companions and complements the public spectacle of the handi filled with curd or butter. Unlike a formal sweet carefully shaped for presentation, Gopalkala is mixed together and shared communally, which is part of its charm. Dahi Handi itself remains one of Maharashtra's most prominent Janmashtami traditions.

In some Gujarati households, where devotion to Krishna is strongly connected with Dwarka, Janmashtami menus absorb regional favourites while retaining the larger themes of dairy, fasting and offering.

Patra, made by spreading a sweet, sour and spiced flour paste over colocasia leaves, rolling and steaming them before slicing, brings a layered savoury element to the table. Malpuda uses a batter of wheat flour and jaggery that is rested and fried into small rounds, sometimes finished with poppy seeds. Elaichi Shrikhand, made by draining curd until thick and then beating it with sugar and cardamom, returns the menu to the dairy world so strongly associated with Krishna. These are regional expressions rather than compulsory Janmashtami foods, and their value lies precisely in showing how local households celebrate the same deity in their own food language.

In Bengal, the festival enters the late monsoon kitchen through Taler Bora. Ripe palmyra fruit is pulped, combined with rice flour or wheat flour, coconut and jaggery or sugar, then fried into small golden fritters. The fruit ripens around the Janmashtami season, so its presence at the festival reflects not only devotion but ecology and seasonality. The result is fragrant, slightly dense and deeply regional. In Bengali Janmashtami traditions, Taler Bora is prepared as an offering before being shared, making it a striking example of how a local ingredient can become part of the larger story of Krishna.

Tamil Nadu's Krishna Jayanthi traditions bring some of the festival's most distinctive savouries, although they represent one regional branch of a much wider celebration rather than the entire Janmashtami table. Uppu Seedai is prepared from rice flour and roasted urad dal flour mixed with butter, sesame or cumin, salt and asafoetida. The dough is rolled into tiny balls and fried until crisp, a process that demands careful control of moisture. Its sweet counterpart, Vella Seedai, combines rice flour with jaggery, coconut and cardamom. Together they produce one of the most recognisable sweet-and-savoury pairings associated with Krishna Jayanthi. Seedai and thattai are also recognised among the regional foods associated with Janmashtami celebrations.

Alongside them, Thattai is made by flattening a seasoned rice-flour dough into thin discs before frying, often with chilli, sesame, asafoetida and soaked chana dal. Thenkuzhal uses rice and urad flours pressed through a mould into crisp coils, while Nei Appam provides a softer sweet contrast

through a batter of rice, jaggery, coconut and cardamom cooked with ghee until browned outside and tender within.

These preparations are valued not only for their taste but for the skill involved in shaping them. In many homes, children learn by watching elders roll seedai, press thenkuzhal or turn appam, allowing ritual knowledge to pass almost invisibly from one generation to another.

Flattened rice creates another bridge between regions and stories. Vella Aval, made by softening poha and combining it with jaggery, coconut and cardamom, recalls the beloved episode of Sudama bringing Krishna a humble gift of flattened rice. The story gives poha a meaning beyond its ingredients. It becomes a reminder that devotion is measured not by extravagance but by sincerity. In some southern households, the same ingredient appears as Aval Puttu, where poha is combined with jaggery and coconut, or Aval Payasam, in which it is gently cooked with milk or coconut milk into a softer sweet. The simplicity of aval sits beautifully beside the grandeur of Chhappan Bhog, showing that Krishna can be honoured through abundance or through a modest offering given with affection.

Beverages carry the same devotional symbolism. Panchamrit, made from milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar or mishri, is central to many abhisheka rituals and is later received as prasad. Sweetened milk scented with saffron or cardamom may also be offered, while lassi and chaas reflect the dairy culture of Braj and western India. In different homes and temples, these drinks vary in sweetness and seasoning, but their common ingredients return again to the cow, milk and curd that surround the remembered world of Krishna's childhood. Even the act of drinking can therefore reinforce the festival's central imagery.

Taken together, these foods reveal two overlapping layers of Janmashtami. At the devotional core are the broad themes of fasting, milk, butter, curd, bhog, prasad and the midnight celebration of Krishna's birth. Around that centre sit regional expressions shaped by local crops, techniques and inherited household practice. Maharashtra gives Janmashtami Gopalkala, Bengal gives it Taler Bora, Gujarat adapts familiar regional foods for the occasion, and Tamil Nadu's Krishna Jayanthi is marked by seedai, thattai and other carefully shaped offerings. The festival does not become less unified because its food changes from region to region. Its unity lies in the intention behind the offering.

That may be Janmashtami's most enduring lesson about food. Heritage survives through practice: in the butter churned at dawn, in the peda patiently reduced over heat, in the seedai rolled between fingers, in the poha mixed with jaggery, and in the plate first placed before Krishna before anyone else eats. Tradition passes from one generation to another not only through texts or ceremonies, but through repeated gestures in the kitchen. This Janmashtami, families can preserve that inheritance by preparing at least one traditional dish with younger members, explaining why it is made, whom it is offered to and what story it carries. When the next generation learns both the recipe and the reason behind it, food becomes more than memory. It becomes a living tradition, renewed every time bhog becomes prasad and prasad is shared.

(The writer is Secretary, Cuisine India Society)

A feast fit for the butter thief The flavours of Janmashtami



TEAM AGENDA

Janmashtami, the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, falls this year on September 4 (September 5 for Vaishnava and ISKCON traditions), marking the eighth avatar of Vishnu's descent to earth to end the tyranny of King Kansa and restore dharma. Krishna's midnight birth in a Mathura prison cell to Devaki and Vasudeva remains one of Hinduism's most cherished stories - the child who would grow

up to deliver the Bhagavad Gita, teaching karma and devotion to a fractious world. For devotees, the day is less ritual than homecoming: Bal Gopal, the mischievous butter-stealing infant, is welcomed back into every household.

Celebrations open with a day-long vrat, broken only after the midnight Nishita Puja, when Bal Gopal's idol is bathed in panchamrit, dressed in new clothes and cradled in a jhula.

Temples in Mathura and Vrindavan hold jagran through the night; Maharashtra and Gujarat erupt the next morning into Dahi Handi, human pyramids scaling for curd pots slung high above the street to re-enact Krishna's boyhood butter raids. Further south, Gokulashtami unfolds more quietly, with tiny rice-flour footprints tracing Krishna's path from doorstep to altar.

But it is food that truly carries the festival's spirit. Its centre-piece is Chappan Bhog - 56 dishes recalling the seven days Krishna went without food while holding aloft Govardhan Hill, after which the Brajwas cooked him eight meals a day to make up the loss. Makkhan-mishri, butter whipped with sugar crystals, remains the essential offering, alongside panjiri, kheer, peda, rabri and the honeycombed disc of ghehar across the north. Once presented to Bal Gopal, the spread is distributed as prasad, turning neighbourhoods into one shared table. Fasting devotees turn instead to sabudana khichdi, kuttu and singhara flour,



and fresh fruit, avoiding grain and salt until the midnight

vrat breaks.

Regional larders reshape the feast entirely. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka offer crunchy seedai and murukku alongside sweet aval; Maharashtra and Gujarat pair Dahi Handi's chaos with shrikhand, poha and panchamrut-laced laddoos; Bengal answers with delicate sandesh and rasgulla; Bihar fries up vegetable taura fritters and simmers makhane ki kheer; and Puri's Jagannath temple sends out khichdi, dahi pakhala and khaja as mahaprasad. Across every kitchen, though, one instinct holds constant: Krishna is fed first, and only then does the household eat - devotion, quite literally, served on a plate.



From midnight prayers to Chappan Bhog, Janmashtami brings devotion to the table, blending regional flavours, cherished rituals and Krishna's playful spirit.

Sufiana: Where culinary excellence meets melody



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

In a city brimming with dining options, Sufiana by Cherish stands out as a sanctuary for those seeking more than just a meal-it promises a complete sensory experience that lingers long after the last bite. Located within The Anand Villas in Ashok Vihar, this elegant 108-cover restaurant has masterfully crafted a space where traditional charm seamlessly intertwines with contemporary sophistication.

● **The Culinary Journey**
Executive Chef Bharat V. Sharma's menu is a testament to thoughtful curation, striking an impressive balance between beloved classics and innovative creations. The dal makhani arrives velvety and rich, its depth of flavor earned through meticulous preparation, while the butter chicken melts on the palate with understated elegance.

However, it's the experimental offerings-like the delicate tuls aur badam ke kofte and earthy mushroom rarha-that truly showcase the kitchen's creative ambition. The diverse menu, spanning north Indian staples, artisanal steaks, aromatic Thai curries, and vibrant Mexican plates, ensures every palate finds its perfect match. Each dish reflects a commitment to quality ingredients and technique that never feels pretentious.

● **Ambiance and Design**
The restaurant's spacious layout immediately puts you at ease. Warm lighting, thoughtfully appointed interiors, and comfortable seating create an inviting sanctuary where conversations flow effortlessly. Whether you're



celebrating a milestone or enjoying a casual evening, the relaxed yet refined atmosphere strikes that rare balance between approachable and elevated.

● **The Soul of Hospitality**
What truly sets Sufiana apart is its genuine hospitality. Drawing on two decades of excellence with Cherish's hospitality legacy, the staff anticipates needs with quiet efficiency. Their warmth isn't performative-it feels authentic and personal, transforming service into genuine care.

● **Live Music Magic**
The evening is elevated further by live music that complements rather than overwhelms the dining experience. The carefully

curated performances create an enchanting backdrop, adding emotional depth to your meal without interrupting intimate conversations.

● **The Verdict**
Sufiana understands that unforgettable moments aren't about complexity; they're about the convergence of exceptional food, genuine service, and welcoming ambiance. This is where memories are made-with people who matter, over dishes that delight, in a space that feels like home. Sufiana doesn't just serve dinner; it orchestrates experiences.



Taking responsibility as children of the earth

AMMA (SRI MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI DEVI)

Many years ago, when Amma was travelling through Tamil Nadu, she was giving rice, clothing, and other relief to those who had lost their homes and families to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. A very old man came up to her, and the moment the items reached his hands, the poor man broke down and wept aloud.

"O God, to whom am I to give this now? Who is left to me to cook a meal from it?" And then his tears completely engulfed him. The tsunami had carried away his house and all his dear ones. That face, and that sorrow, do not fade from Amma's heart. For all the brilliant scientists the world over, no one could foretell the tsunami was coming; and even had it been foretold, nothing could have stopped it. Our home, our belongings, our parents, our children - any of it can be lost in the blink of an eye. We have seen the mightiest structures that human hands have raised collapse like a house of cards before nature's fury.

This is happening because people blinded by arrogance and wealth have lost their sense of dharma; they are plundering nature for their own selfish gain. They have no regard for the destructive impact this will have on others. The harmony of nature is broken, and this is the root cause of most of the world's disasters. Within our own lifetime we can see how greatly the seasons have changed. Because of our carelessness in guarding the soil, we have watched the great cities of Kerala go under in floods. Across the world, many creatures and birds once seen everywhere are nowhere to be found. Why is this happening?

In truth, we ourselves invite these calamities. So long as we are unwilling to cherish nature as we would a mother, such destruction will keep returning, like blows struck in the dark. Each disaster is an alarm bell, calling us to wake from a guilty sleep. And for



Ammamma offering prayers after mass funeral rites for those lost to the 2004 Tsunami in the area surrounding Amritapuri Ashram

all our cruelty, Mother Nature goes on loving us, even though today she lies ill. She who once gave us everything, like the wish-granting cow Kamadhenu, has become a starved and milkless cow.

Our numbers on this Earth continue to grow, and growth itself is not the sin - the question is how we take. There are three types of people: those of prakriti, who take only their own share and think no further; those of vikriti, who take their share and then snatch what belongs to others; and those of samskriti who take only as little as they need and give away as much as they can.

Look at Mother Nature Herself - she takes only to give back a hundredfold. If humanity is to survive, let us evolve as samskriti: learning to take only what we need to live peacefully and then share the surplus with those who are suffering. As the population increases, it does not need to come at the cost of ruin for all.

This Earth is the dwelling place of countless living things. It is a home that belongs equally to all, from the smallest of cells to the massive blue whale to humankind as its guardians. Under our vast sky of stars, let us delay

no longer to take responsibility for our global family.

The rhythm of Nature depends upon how humanity proceeds. We see this in the many natural disasters we are facing and the sorrow this causes to those left behind. But after our grief, even if we are completely surrounded by darkness, we must keep the light within aflame and use it to show the path to others as well. Even if we cannot completely remove their suffering, despair lessens when it is shared with others.

Regardless of the destruction we have witnessed, we do not need to remain bound by our mistakes. Look forward with strength and hope. Each one of us can do our own small part to help restore the natural world. We should perform these actions with utmost faith and alertness, and yet with a sense of detachment. Don't be attached to the fruits of your actions. That is in Mother Nature's hands.

So let us move forward, one step at a time. We are children of the Earth and, therefore, must be grateful for and take care of everything She gives. It is our dharma as humankind, the most intelligent of beings, to care for all others, both sentient and non-sentient. When beauty, harmony, and love blossom in our hearts, a new age will dawn.

(Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, known simply as Amma, is a spiritual master and humanitarian who has given her darshan in the form of a motherly embrace to more than 4 crore people. Listening to the cries of the suffering, Amma leads the Mata Amritanandamayi Math, an NGO that reaches across more than 50 countries, working in the areas of healthcare, disaster relief, education, gender equality, and environmental restoration)



A Culture Based on Inner Science

SADHGURU

Right from ancient times, any number of visitors have visited India, and so did the great American writer and thinker Mark Twain. After his short visit, he said, "Anything that can ever be done either by man or God has been done in this land."

Most Indians are not aware of the depth of mysticism and spiritual process that has happened and still continues to happen in India. This land has always been known as the spiritual capital of the world, simply because no other culture has looked at the inner sciences with as much depth and understanding as this culture has.

But in the last hundred years, because of a very upstart-ish attitude towards life, we have dropped many things. Because of political and other kinds of dominance, we have come to a kind of conclusion that if something comes from the West it becomes science; if it comes from the East it becomes superstition.

Many of the things that your grandmothers would have once told you are today being discovered in top scientific laboratories as "great" discoveries about human nature. Everything that they are saying after billion-dollar research studies, we have already said in our culture, because this is not a culture which has evolved out of compulsions of living. This is a culture which was evolved

consciously by sages and saints—seeing how you should sit, how you should stand, and how you should eat. It was designed for what is best for human well-being, and there is immense scientific value in it.

Today, particularly in the last few



years, a phenomenal amount of research has gone into water and the potential of water. One thing scientists are saying is that water has memory. Like a fluid memory bank, water remembers whatever it comes in touch with. For example, if I take a glass of water in my hand, look at it in a certain way and give it to you, wellbeing will come to you. If I look at it another way and give it to you, you will fall sick tonight.

In this culture, we have always known that water has memory. This is why in traditional homes, people keep a copper vessel which they wash every day, do a pooja for, and only then fill it with water to drink. What you call as teerth is just this. You may have seen how people struggle to get that one drop of teerth from the temple. Even if you are a billionaire, you are still dying for that one drop of water because you want to take in water which has the memory of the Divine.

Today, there are a lot of studies showing how a pregnant woman eats, what kind of people she is with, what she is exposed to has a huge impact on the next generation of people. But over the last few decades, fully pregnant women have been in trains, buses and bars. They

are drinking and smoking. When asked, "Won't this have an impact on the baby?" people would say, "No. We studied the blood parameters, nothing happened." Now, after fifty years of that culture, there are a lot of studies saying that it is actually having an impact for many generations of people.

In India, we have always been conscious about this. There is a whole process from the moment a woman conceives until delivery, and later on for as long as the mother is breastfeeding the child - what she should and should not consume, what kind of people she should meet, where she should go or not go.

Science has done incredible things in the last hundred years, no question. The comfort and convenience that all of us are enjoying today is essentially because of the outcome of the scientific endeavor on the planet. At the same time, the limitation of science has been in trying to achieve everything through physical means - by measuring physical quantities, going by the physical laws.

If only scientists, who have pursued things so far into physical reality, pay a little attention to the most fundamental physicality which is themselves, if they spend an equal amount of time turning inward rather than solely looking through a telescope or a microscope, I think something phenomenal could come out of it.

There is an inner strength in Indian culture that stems from a whole science and technology of inner wellbeing - right now the whole world is crying for it. They have outer technology with which they have done wonderful things on the outside, but they are struggling inside.

If we fall back on the knowledge bank that we have in this country, it could be the greatest asset — not only for this nation's wellbeing but for the world's wellbeing as well.

(Sadhguru is a yogi, mystic and visionary, and a prominent spiritual leader. An author, poet, and internationally-renowned speaker, Sadhguru's wit and piercing logic provoke and widen our perception of life)

Handling difficulties in life

GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

In life, everyone goes through pleasant and unpleasant times. Just walk ahead with courage. Whenever there is a problem, we either deny it, saying there is no problem, or we sit down to worry about it and make it bigger. Neither helps. A problem doesn't disappear when you deny it, and it doesn't get solved by worrying about it.

The first thing is to acknowledge that there is a problem. Then see it as small and solvable. If it concerns people, keep in touch with them rather than avoid them. Talk less and give time a chance. Get together and celebrate. When you put the problem on the back burner for a while, you often find that it gets resolved in time.

When a problem comes, instead of looking at the solution, we often keep looking at how big it can become and imagine the worst outcomes. But every problem that comes in front of you is an opportunity to discover the skill, talent, and ability within you. It is there for you to uncover your true potential.

The second thing is to see life from a broader perspective. Look back at your own life. How much time have you spent worrying? Even though you worried so much, things still happened as they should have. And you realised there was no need to worry.

Looking back at your own life gives you strength. You have overcome many difficulties in the past. This remembrance gives you confidence that you can overcome challenges in the future too. Challenges may come in new forms, but challenges have always been there.

Have confidence in your own ability and in your own fortune. Know that only the best happens to you. Life moves in the direction of the best. On the way, you may find rough roads, but they are taking you towards something better.

If these two things don't work, there is a third option: invoke the valour in you. Tell yourself, "Come what may, I will handle it. I have the power to overcome this." Know that you are never given a problem that you cannot handle. When you invoke this energy, this spirit to counter a challenge, fear vanishes.

Trying times bring out the best in you. Rewarding times give you the best of the world. Life is a combination of both.

Life is often caught in storms. In those moments, all your spiritual practices and philosophical ideas may seem to fall apart. But remember something very important: you aren't alone in those trying hours. No storm can last forever. Waves come, and for no reason, turmoil is created in the mind. The storms rise in you, but they never stay forever. They subside after a while.

When the mind cools down and you experience that inner softness and delicate aspect of yourself, a big relief dawns in you. Peace and love are significant aspects of your true nature.

If the ocean thinks, "I am blue and nice only when there is no storm," it is under the influence of a wrong idea. Even when the storms are there, deep inside, the



ocean is still calm.

Every storm that has come into your life has widened your horizon and deepened your awareness. It has destroyed some smallness inside you. A storm comes into your life, whether you like it or not, and pulls you out of your likes and dislikes, your cravings and aversions.

When there is chaos, and you are surrounded by problems, you need calmness the most. When everything around is peaceful, being peaceful is easy. But when everything is falling apart, remaining peaceful has real value.

Uncertainty can produce fear and anxiety, but it can also bring enthusiasm, joy, and a sense of thrill. When you know you are on a roller-coaster ride, uncertainty itself can become part of the experience. The uncertainty may remain, but your relationship with it changes.

There are four ways to overcome a tough situation. One is to have faith that this tough situation too will pass. Everything changes, and chaotic situations also change. The second is your own experience. Just as you have had the energy, courage, and strength to handle problems in the past, you have them for the future too.

The third is to share and serve others. If you always think about yourself, your problem becomes insurmountable. When you open up and see what is happening in the world, you realise that you aren't the only one dealing with problems. The fourth is faith in a greater power. What you cannot do by your efforts, you can do by your prayers. You aren't alone in your trials and tribulations. There is a higher power with you. Have faith in that.

Wisdom from past experiences, spiritual practices, valour, and faith help you sail through the rough patches of life. Problems and challenges are there in everyone's life. Wisdom and Devotion give us the strength to overcome these easily. During hard times, take special care of your overall well-being. Keep the body active. Go for walks; practise Pranayamas, Sudarshan Kriya and meditation. These practices give you enormous prana, or life energy, and strengthen the mind and body, helping you overcome difficult situations. And don't skip prayer-genuine, heartfelt prayer.

There will always be some flaw in worldly activities. Don't overthink or try to find perfection in them. When we go deeper on the spiritual path and in meditation, we learn to rise above the challenges.

Having this, you can move ahead in life with confidence. That is why it is said

in Sanskrit: "Charaiveti! Charaiveti! Charaiveti!"-Keep moving. Keep moving. Keep moving!

In 2016, we organised the World Culture Festival on the banks of the Yamuna. Why did we choose the Yamuna? In 2010, through the 'Meri Dilli Meri Yamuna' campaign, thousands of our volunteers had come together to clean Delhi. We removed nearly 700 tonnes of waste-jerkins, slippers and all kinds of rubbish from the Yamuna. Seeing the state of the river, I thought that if people from all over the world came to its banks for the World Culture Festival, perhaps the attention of the authorities would turn towards cleaning and restoring it.

We obtained the required permissions from all the concerned authorities. And then we created something extraordinary: a seven-acre floating stage, with 36,602 artists and people from 155 countries. Hundreds of dignitaries, heads of state, and 2,500 religious and spiritual leaders came from across the world. Representatives of the Pope, Dharmacharyas, the Grand Mufti of Syria, leaders from Egypt, the US, Cuba, Russia, Ukraine, ministers, Buddhist monks from the Far East-people from different faiths, cultures and nations came together on one platform. Around 3.7 million people attended the three-day celebration.

We took utmost care of the environment. The stage was constructed using metal sheets and pillars, without digging into the ground. When we dismantled it, there was grass still growing beneath the plates. Yet, even before the event began, allegations were made that we had damaged the Yamuna floodplains. The National Green Tribunal ordered us to deposit ₹5 crore as environmental compensation, even though the event had not yet begun. There were only two days left and international dignitaries from across the world were arriving. I did not want to pay for something we had not done. I said I was ready to go to jail, but I would stand for the truth. Eventually, with the programme at stake, our people requested that we comply with the order, and we deposited the amount while continuing to contest the allegations.

The matter continued for years. There was a media trial, and the allegation that the World Culture Festival had damaged the Yamuna was repeated again and again. But we did not lose heart. We stood by the truth with patience.

Today, after 10 years, the Supreme Court has upheld the truth. It has vindicated our stand. It set aside the NGT judgment and all consequential and interim actions against us, and directed that the ₹5 crore deposited in compliance with the NGT order be refunded. More importantly, the Court found that the material on record did not establish the necessary causal link between the event and the alleged environmental degradation.

This was a reminder of what I had shared in 2017. Truth will always Triumph; however, before that, lies will have their dance.

France's first traditional Hindu Mandir

In Paris, a city renowned for art, beauty, and culture, France's first newly built traditional BAPS Hindu Mandir is more than a remarkable example of Indian architecture. It stands as a living symbol of the cultural bond between India and France

DR SWAMI GYANANANDDAS

It was 7 July 1970. An aircraft travelling from London to Mumbai made a brief stop at Orly Airport in Paris. For the passengers, it was perhaps nothing more than an ordinary pause in their journey. Little did anyone know that, in that brief halt, an invisible seed of history was being sown.

Among the passengers was Swami Yogi Maharaj, who was returning to India after consecrating a Hindu mandir in London. At that moment, the visionary guru asked two of his disciples, Pramukh Swami Maharaj and Mahant Swami Maharaj, to step off the aircraft. Thus, for the first time, two swamis of the Swaminarayan tradition set foot on French soil, carrying the sacred murti of Swaminarayan Bhagwan in their hands. In accordance with their guru's wish, they descended from the aircraft, paused in prayer, and then returned.

It was then that Yogi Maharaj expressed a profound resolve: "One day, a beautiful mandir will be built in Paris." At that moment, there was no land for a mandir, no construction plan, no team of artisans, no architectural blueprint. There was only the divine resolve of a guru and an unshakable faith in God.

Time moved on. Years turned into decades. Yet today, that sacred resolve has pierced through the veil of time and risen upon French soil as an enduring monument.

This newly built mandir is not merely



a place of worship. It is also a comprehensive center for Indian culture, art, education, and dialogue. Located at Allée Madame de Montespan, 77600 Bussy-Saint-Georges, France, in the eastern suburbs of Paris, the approximately 5,000-square-metre complex has two principal dimensions: a traditional mandir on the upper level and a cultural center, designed in the form of a haveli, beneath it.

5 pinnacles, 10 magnificent domes, 20 monumental pillars adorned with intricate carvings, 120 ornate windows, 49 sculptural character panels, and four elegantly ornamented chhatris reflect the timeless identity of traditional Indian architecture. The sanctum, prayer hall, and assembly hall further reveal the spiritual vision at the heart of the mandir.

Equally remarkable is the global collaboration embodied in its construction. Different varieties of marble sourced from Greece, India, Italy, and Vietnam, along with sandstone from Gwalior in India, have come together to give the mandir a truly international character. In India, skilled artisans painstakingly hand-carved these stones with motifs drawn from the classical traditions of Hindu sculpture. These sculpted stones then travelled to France, carrying with them the artistic heritage of a civilization thousands of years old, where they were harmoniously integrated with modern French engineering.

The grand haveli, built in the ancient Maru-Gurjara architectural style, houses an assembly hall, classrooms, exhibition

spaces, recreational areas, offices, and other multipurpose facilities. The entire complex thus becomes, at once, a place for darshan, a center of learning, a museum of culture, and a space where people can come together.

Significantly, the complex stands within the Esplanade des Religions et des Cultures, an area where places of worship representing different religious traditions stand alongside one another, a beautiful expression of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

The forthcoming Festival of Culture, to be held from 2 to 14 September, will be a celebration of this broader vision. A Vedic Mahayagna, a Palkhi procession, a journey on the River Seine, a grand procession passing near some of Paris's celebrated landmarks, and a variety of cultural programs will offer more than festive occasions; they will create opportunities for cultures to meet and hearts to connect. The consecration and inauguration ceremony by Mahant Swami Maharaj on 6 September will mark a defining moment in this historic journey, with devotees from across the continents gathering to celebrate the mandir's harmonious blend of traditions.

At a time when the world continues to struggle with divisions, conflicts, and cultural intolerance, a new cultural landmark has emerged on French soil, one that will stand as a living symbol of the unity between two great civilizations: India and France.

The creator and spiritual inspiration behind this mandir, Mahant Swami Maharaj, says: "This mandir has not been built to establish the identity of any one community, but to bring people of diverse identities closer to one another. Its very construction carries an important message: our paths may be different, but the ground of respect and coexistence can be one."

The dedication of the swamis and volunteers in building this mandir is unforgettable. Of course, some carved the stones, some managed the arrangements, and some prepared the meals, but together, each one placed a piece of their heart into this mandir.

The mandir that now stands in Paris is not merely a symbol of India. It is a symbol of a deeper faith: that when cultures learn to respect one another, boundaries begin to fade, and a new mandir of humanity is built.

(Dr Swami Gyanananddas is a dedicated follower of the Swaminarayan tradition and has earned a PhD from MS University)

