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Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR
CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN
HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

City Vol. 18 Issue 287
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



A HUMBLE INITIATIVE BY
Government of Punjab



ਸਰਬੱਤ ਦਾ ਭਲਾ

ARDAAS

A common prayer for
NASHA MUKT PUNJAB

at

Sri Harmander Sahib, Amritsar

October 18, 2023 | 11:00 AM

Let us Join

Chief Minister

Bhagwant Singh Mann

in

ARDAAS



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Punjab Governor queries CM on fiscal discrepancies, advocates fiscal prudence

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Tuesday, received a letter from Governor Banwarilal Purohit raising concerns about a significant gap of Rs 10,000 crore in the government's borrowings and Rs 1,500 crore decrease in capital expenditure.

At the same time, the Governor emphasized the importance of fiscal discipline and responsible management of public funds, underscoring that borrowing should be primarily used for creating capital assets rather than implementing populist measures.

This exchange of letters follows their previous interactions on various state issues, adding to their ongoing disagreements. The Governor has been frequently writing to the Chief Minister on several issues concerning Punjab and the functioning of the state government, with the Chief Minister being selective in his reply.

The latest exchange of letters began with the Governor's letter, dated September 21, in which he sought accountability from the Chief Minister regarding the utilization of Rs 50,000 crore debt raised by the State Government in the past 1.5 years. In his response, the Chief Minister provided details of the state's debt and finances on October 3. He pointed out that his government had added Rs 47,107.6 crore to the state's debt in the past 1.5 years, with 57 per cent of it going toward meeting the interest liability on the state's legacy debt, while attributing the hefty debt to his predecessor's policies.

Purohit, in his Tuesday letter, referred to Mann's earlier correspondence detailing the state's expenditure. The Governor mentioned "feedback from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India", indicating "substantial variations" in the figures provided by the Chief Minister, in his letter dated October 4, 2023.

Questioning the state's fiscal management, Purohit demanded an explanation for a considerable disparity between the Government's reported expenditures and the feedback from the CAG of India — the custodian of the accounts of Government of India as well of the states. The Governor expresses his apprehension regarding the allocation of capital receipts for undisclosed purposes.

Need for Fiscal Prudence

Underlining the importance of fiscal prudence and responsible management of public funds, the Governor said that the borrowings should ideally be used for creating capital assets rather than implementing populist measures. While he acknowledged the significance of comprehensive welfare measures, he emphasized that these should be accompanied by fiscal discipline, resource mobilization through curbing pilferage, cutting down on unproductive expenditure, and avoiding fiscal profligacy.

"Deficit financing is an instrument, universally resorted to for boosting capital asset growth. Borrowings should ideally be leveraged for the creation of capital assets and not for rolling out populist mea-

sures...I agree that welfare measures should be implemented comprehensively, but financial prudence demands that such welfare measures should be accompanied by fiscal discipline, resource mobilization from curbing pilferage, cutting down on unproductive expenditure and shunning fiscal profligacy," he said.

At the same time, he maintained that the State Government is not managing its fiscal resources effectively and efficiently, even though it was expected to follow prudent fiscal policies to manage its scarce financial resources.

Concerns Over Borrowings

The Governor pointed at the additional borrowing of Rs 10,000 crore in 2022-23, which exceeded the approved budget. He also questioned the utilization of this additional borrowing for the purposes other than creating capital assets. Purohit raised the issue of a substantial reduction in effective capital expenditure, highlighting that the state might fall short of its capital expenditure targets.

"Can I get the accurate figures along with reasons for diverting Capital receipts for other undisclosed purposes which may please be clarified? I am asking this question for the sake of transparency. I assure you that once such a comprehensive picture is available, we can approach the Government of India for appropriate assistance as the Prime Minister has always expressed his commitment to Punjab, as the welfare of its magnificent people is close to his heart," said Purohit.

Purohit further mentioned that the additional borrowing

was not used to discharge legacy interest obligations as initially projected. He pointed at the significant increase in debt and minimal capital expenditure, which indicates inefficient fiscal management. The Governor also expressed his concern over the failure to achieve capital expenditure targets in the current fiscal year.

Punjab Governor pointed to the State Government borrowing in 2022-23 of Rs 33,886 crore as against the approved amount of Rs 23,835 crore, which is above the amount approved originally by the state Assembly in the Budget. Stating that the "additional borrowing needs to be explained", the Governor maintained that it has, apparently, not been utilized for the creation of capital assets, additional borrowing was not utilized to discharge legacy interest obligations, and there is a substantial variation in expenditure shown by the government of Punjab and CAG.

"This is evident from the fact that the effective capital expenditure dropped by over Rs 1,500 crore — from a projected Rs 11,375.59 crore to Rs 9,691.53 crore. The CAG points out an increase in debt by Rs 49,941 crore and capital expenditure of a mere Rs 7,831 crore against Rs 10,208 crore projected in your letter. During this year, the projected levels of capital expenditure have reached only 12 per cent so far, causing concern that this year too, the state will fall short of its capital expenditure targets," he said.

Electricity Losses and Fiscal Responsibility

Referring to a 2023 report by the Punjab State Electricity

Regulatory Commission (PSERC), Purohit underscored the need to reduce technical and commercial losses in electricity utilities in the State. He emphasized that curbing electricity theft is essential for financial savings, which should be directed toward the welfare of weaker sections of society.

"To illustrate the technical and commercial losses of the electricity utilities of Punjab, identified by PSERC, need significant reduction. Otherwise, this only means that we are actually subsidizing large-scale theft of electricity by unscrupulous elements. Good governance demands that such electricity theft must be curbed, and the resultant savings should be utilized to subsidize the weaker sections of society, lest it amounts to facilitating large-scale pilferage of public funds to wrongly enrich the underserving," he said.

Purohit called for honest efforts to restore Punjab's fiscal health and enhance the welfare of its residents through efficient governance and fiscal prudence. "In this context, the performance of the Government is causing concern. All public borrowings should be carefully calibrated so that the youth of Punjab are not imperiled by unsustainable debt," he said.

The exchange of letters between the Chief Minister and the Governor represented the latest in a series of disputes over various state matters. These disputes have been ongoing for the past year and have included disagreements on summoning special sessions, appointments to various institutions, adherence to legal procedures, and other issues.

Punjab CM says Oct 20-21 Assembly session is "legal"

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a tense showdown of legalities and authority, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Governor Banwarilal Purohit are embroiled in a clash of words over the legality of an upcoming special session of the Punjab Assembly, scheduled for October 20-21. Days after the Punjab Raj Bhavan declared that the ensuing session, being projected as an extension of the Budget session, is "bound to be illegal" and any business conducted during it is "unlawful", Chief Minister defied the same while claiming that the session is "fully valid and legal".

That was not all! The Chief Minister announced that several "pro-people bills" would be presented during the two-day assembly's proceedings.

Mann argued that the session had been called in consultation with legal experts and in accordance with the Constitution. He emphasized that the legislative assembly is a democratically-elected body accountable to the people of the State.

The root of the dispute lies in whether the October 20-21 session should be treated as an extension of the previous Budget session or a distinct event requiring the Governor's approval. The Government officials contend that since the previous session has not been officially prorogued, the Governor's consent is not necessary. They argue that the Assembly Speaker holds the authority to convene the session under these circumstances.

The central focus of the upcoming assembly session is expected to revolve around a recent Supreme Court directive regarding the contentious Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal project in Punjab. The State Government has resisted the canal's construc-

tion, citing an alleged water scarcity issue.

Notably, the Apex Court, in its October 4 ruling, instructed the Central Government to assess the land allocated for the canal's construction in Punjab and determine the extent of the work accomplished so far.

Aside from the legal tussle, the Chief Minister also challenged the opposition leaders to a debate on November 1. He accused them of running away from the debate and being responsible for deceiving the people of Punjab on various issues. Mann's provocative challenge comes amid a backdrop of criticism from opposition parties on the contentious SYL canal issue.

"These leaders deceived Punjab on various issues for which they are answerable to the people of the state... These lead-

ers looted the masses and backstabbed the Punjabis on various issues," he said.

Mann had recently dared Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar, Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa, and SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal for an open debate on issues concerning the State. For the same, the State Government has made an arrangement for holding the debate on November 1 at an auditorium of the Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana.

As the battle of legalities and political confrontations escalates in Punjab, the state braces for significant developments during the upcoming assembly session, as well as the anticipated debate on November 1.

HARYANA TO MODEL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE AMBULANCE SYSTEM AFTER OLA AND UBER: CM

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday unveiled a plan to establish an Ola and Uber-style system for immediate ambulance assistance to patients in need. Under this initiative, a unified pool of both government and private ambulances across the state will be created. Patients will receive prompt assistance from the nearest available ambulance, ensuring timely and efficient medical care. Khattar revealed this during the monthly meeting of the District Public Relations and Grievance Redressal Committee held in Faridabad. Out of the 13 cases brought forward in the meeting, 10 were promptly addressed. He also highlighted the importance of essential medicines and added that out of the 510 medicines required, specific instructions have been issued to ensure the availability of 65 critical medications in hospitals at all times.

HRY CM APPROVES 13 NEW PROJECTS UNDER RURAL AUGMENTATION AND MAHAGRAM YOJANA WORTH RS 284 CRORES

Chandigarh: To bring change in the lives of the state's rural population, the Haryana Government has decided to implement 13 new projects worth more than Rs 284 crore under Rural Augmentation programme and Mahagram Yojana in 4 districts—Hisar, Jind, Sonapat and Rewari. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday accorded administrative approval for these projects to be implemented by the Public Health Engineering Department with NABARD assistance as loan. He also allotted additional funds of Rs 16.98 crore for the speedy completion of ROB on Chandigarh-Kalka Railway line, NH21A (New NH-105). Now the total revised estimate of the construction work will be around Rs. 38.71 crore, said a government official spokesperson.

FOOT ESCALATOR OVERBRIDGE TO BE INSTALLED IN CIVIL HOSPITAL COMPLEX OF AMBALA

Chandigarh: Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij on Tuesday said that the foot escalator overbridge in the Civil Hospital complex of Ambala along Ambala-Sahra Road will probably be the first escalator to be installed on any road in Haryana. This foot escalator overbridge will be built at a cost of Rs 2 crore, Vij said while addressing the gathering present after laying the foundation stone of Foot Escalator Overbridge in Ambala. He said that there is an OPD of more than three thousand patients every day in the Civil Hospital and in view of the increasing traffic on Ambala-Sahra Road, a foot escalator overbridge was sanctioned.

HIMACHAL GOVT IDENTIFIES 11 ECO-TOURISM SITES TO ATTRACT TOURISM: CM

Shimla: Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu while presiding over the meeting of Himachal Pradesh Eco Tourism Society, said that the State Government would promote eco-tourism on a large scale and infrastructure was being developed for the same. The Government has identified 11 eco-tourism sites in forest areas having scenic and natural beauty including Swaar, Saurabh Van Vihar, Neugal Park, Bir-Billing in Palampur forest division, Kasol, Kheer Ganga and Sumarupa in Parvati forest division, Sojha in Seraj, Narkanda in Kotgarh and Shogi camping site besides Potter Hill camping site under Shimla forest division. Every eco-tourism destination will be developed in an area of one hectare. A reserve price has been fixed for these sites to be developed and operated through outsourcing, he added. Sukhu said that eco-tourism would help in increasing the foothold of tourists and add to the revenue as well. Apart from this, employment and self-employment opportunities will also be created in the state. He said that eco-tourism sites at other places in the state will also be identified and developed from a tourism point of view.

HPMC PROCURES 32454 MT APPLES UNDER MIS: NEGI

Shimla: The 213th Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of H.P. Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (HPMC) was held on Tuesday under the Chairmanship of Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi. The Minister formally launched the new Web Portal of HPMC Ltd. All the services of HPMC such as booking of CA/Cold Stores, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and sale of horticulture inputs have been made online through the web portal. Negi said that HPMC has procured 32454 MT apples to date, under the Market Intervention Scheme 2023. Despite the disaster caused by the heavy rainfall in the State, HPMC has managed to lift the entire quantity of apples procured under the Scheme. HPMC has produced a record 1288 MT Apple Juice Concentrate at its three Fruit Processing Plants at Parala, Parwanoo and Jarol (Mandi) during the current apple season. He informed that the trial and commissioning of the newly established HPMC fruit processing plant Parala was successfully conducted during the current apple season. HPMC will be producing Apple Juice Concentrate, Pectin, Ready to ready-to-serve juices and Drinks, fruit wines and apple cider vinegar at the facility.

GMSH-16 SENSITIZES STAFF ON FIRE SAFETY

Chandigarh: Due to the recent fire incidents in PGIMER, the Govt. Multi Speciality Hospital, Sector-16 on Tuesday sensitized the staff for disaster preparedness (fire safety) and conducted an awareness training and mock drill. This training was attended by all senior officials of the Health Department, U.T., along with SMO and MO Incharges, the Paramedical Staff including Nursing Officers, Lab Technicians, Operation Theatre Assistants, Reception Counters Employees, and Security Staff. The training was basically to make all the participants aware of usage and handling of fire safety equipments and the fire extinguishers. The Team from the Chief Fire Officer, imparted the training and stressed upon precautions to be taken in the hospital premises and do's and don'ts in case of fire and the importance of escape routes in the hospital buildings. A live demonstration was carried by the Fire Officers on types of fire extinguishers and the way to use them in case of any fire.

Himachal CM launches 'Him Samachar' App of IPR department



PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu on Tuesday launched the 'Him Samachar' App of the Himachal Pradesh Information and Public Relations Department. This user-friendly App will help provide easy access to information to the people about the policies and programmes of the State Government besides the departmental bulletins, video contents, short reels and essential updates on the government's decisions offering a diverse range of content. Him Samachar App can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or by scanning the QR code.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has introduced numerous welfare schemes aimed at improving

the lives of the people of the State, adding that the Information and Public Relations Department plays a pivotal role in disseminating the policies and programs to the grassroots level. He asked the department to further embrace modern technology to enhance the dissemination of the government's public welfare initiatives to the last man in the queue.

Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Awasthi, MLA, Kewal Singh Pathania, Principal Advisor (Media) to Chief Minister, Naresh Chauhan, Director, Digital Technology and Governance, Mukesh Repaswal, Director Information and Public Relations, Rajiv Kumar amongst others were present on the occasion.

27 services on fast-track for industrialists in Haryana: CS

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Issuing a notification under the Haryana Right to Service Act (RTSA) on Tuesday to ensure expeditious service delivery and promote transparency and accountability, Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal said that entrepreneurs and industrialists in Haryana can now avail 27 services related to building plans, certificates, permissions, and property transactions provided by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) in a time-bound manner.

He said that the RTSA provides a mechanism for citizens to file complaints against any department that fails to provide services within the stipulated time frame. This initiative is a significant step towards improving the ease of doing business in Haryana and supporting the growth of the state's economy.

Each service under this ambit is accompanied by a specific time-frame. Now, the approval of building plans for industrial or residential purposes takes 15 days, while commercial plans take 30 days. Completion/occupation certificates for buildings are issued within 15 days. Other services, such as No Objection Certificates, conveyance deeds, and No due certificates, are expedited in 20, 15, and 15 days, respectively.

Plot transfers, whether through sale or uncontested transfers will be done in 30 and 45 days, respectively. Permissions for mortgage and attested copies of documents are efficiently provided within 30 and 3 days, respectively. Changes in ownership (other than death cases), demarcation of plots, and issuance of Plinth level certificates will take 30, 5, and 7 days, respectively.

Water and sewerage connections will be given within 15 days, while the allotment of land or shed in the IE/IDA will take 60 days. Permissions for installing communication and connectivity infrastructure will be given within 45 days. Physical possession of plots and extensions for project implementation completion will take 7 and 14 days, respectively.

Each service is handled by a designated officer who is responsible for processing applications and ensuring adherence to the stipulated time limits. In the event that a service is not provided within the specified timeframe, individuals have the right to file a grievance with the First Grievances Redressal Authority. Should concerns remain unresolved, the Second Grievances Redressal Authority is available to facilitate further action and resolution, he added.

Hry to set up Sainik Schools in PPP mode in districts, says CM Khattar



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that Sainik Schools in Public-Private-Partnership mode will also be established in other districts of the state. This will not only enhance the state's contribution to the armed forces but also prepare a substantial number of Agniveers, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the All India Sainik School National Games-2023, hosted at Sainik School, Kunjapura in Karnal, he said that it is a matter of great pride that All India Sainik School National Sports Games have been organized in Haryana for the first time. He said that this event offers numerous participating athletes an opportunity to earn selection for national and international competitions. Over 650 players from various Sainik Schools across the country participated in diverse competitions conducted during this

event. He also announced a grant of Rs 10 crore for infrastructure development at Sainik School, Kunjapura.

Target killings averted with arrest of 4 operatives of Rinda gang

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Police on Tuesday claimed to have averted a "possible target killing" of prominent persons in the region with the arrest of four operatives of a terror module backed by Pakistan-based terrorist Harwinder Singh Rinda, and operated by USA-based gangster Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passia.

Sharing details, the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav identified the arrested accused persons as Vikramjit Singh alias Raja Bains of Batala; and Bawa Singh of Luddarh village in Amritsar; Gurkirpal Singh alias Gagan Randhawa; and Amanat Gill — both residents of Amritsar. Police teams have also recovered one .32 bore pistol along with 10 live cartridges from their possession, he added.

DGP Yadav said that following intelligence inputs about Rinda and Happy Passia planning to target some prominent persons in the state, and they have hired two shooters to accomplish this task, Police teams from State Special Operation Cell (SSOC), SAS Nagar, launched a special operation and nabbed two accused persons, including Vikramjit alias Raja Bains and Bawa Singh.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that gangster Happy Passia had a deal with accused Vikramjit to pay Rs 15 lakh for to carry out target killing, said the DGP, adding that the accused Vikramjit had also conducted the recce of the target in the last week of September 2023.

Punjab CM celebrates 50th birthday at native village

.PNS ■ SANGRUR

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann celebrated his 50th birthday at his native village on Tuesday as political leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, extended their greetings. The Aam Aadmi Party organised several blood donation camps across the state on the occasion.

Mann visited a camp at his native Satauj village in Sangrur district, along with his wife, mother, and sister, and said donating blood is the "biggest" service that an individual can render to the society as it can help save precious lives. He said the youngsters of Punjab have always excelled in every field and there was no reason that they should lag behind when it comes to donating blood as it is a true service to humanity. The youth must realise that every blood donor is a hero and they should regularly donate blood, he said.



He also asked them to motivate their peers to become blood donors. Cutting across party lines, political leaders extended their greetings to the Punjab chief minister on his birthday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on X, said, "Birthday wishes to Punjab CM Shri @BhagwantMann ji. Praying for

his long and healthy life." AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also greeted Mann and prayed for his good health. In Satauj village, Mann said his govt will launch a decisive war against drugs from Amritsar on Wednesday. Thousands of youth from across the state will converge at the

Golden Temple and take a pledge to wipe out the scourge of drugs from the state, he said.

The campaign against drugs has been started from the grassroots level, he said, adding that this menace will be wiped out from the state with the proactive support and cooperation of the people.

OPINION 6
HAMAS' RESOLVE MAY SURVIVE IDF ONSLAUGHT

NATION 4
PLANS AFOOT TO SEND INDIAN ON MOON BY 2040

MONEY 10
MARKETS REBOUND AFTER THREE DAYS OF FALL

CHANDIGARH, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹2



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NZ AIMS TO KEEP THEIR UNBEATEN RUN INTACT
12 SPORT

Nation Awards its Artists National Awards for Indian Cinema

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award upon famous actor Waheeda Rehman. She became the eighth woman artiste to receive the award, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema. The 85-year-old actor dedicated it to her "dear film industry" and its various departments.

The President presented the award to Rehman during the 69th National Film Awards ceremony, held at Vigyan Bhawan. The veteran, who received a standing ovation from the A-list gathering as she walked to the stage, said filmmaking is a collaborative process.

"I feel very honoured and humbled... But whatever I have achieved today, it is because of my dear film industry. Luckily, I got to work with top directors, producers, filmmakers, technicians, writers, dialogue writers, music directors and musicians," Rehman said in her acceptance speech.

"I got a lot of support, respect and love from them," she said, also crediting the make-up artists, hair and costume designers.

"...Which is why I am sharing this award with all the departments of the film industry. They gave me a lot of respect, support and love from the



President Droupadi Murmu after presenting the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to actor Waheeda Rehman during the 69th National Film Awards at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday

very beginning. A film is not made by just one person, we need each other," she added. President Murmu praised Rehman for championing women empowerment through her roles and life.

"I am elated to honour Waheeda Rehman ji with Dadasaheb Phalke award. I congratulate Waheeda ji. With her art and personality, she has reached on top in the film industry. She has made a name for herself as a woman of dignity, confidence and original-

ity in her personal life too," the President said. Murmu also spoke about how Rehman refused to change her name as a newcomer in the film industry when it was common for actors to opt for a different screen name.

"In her movies, she played roles of women who broke shackles. Waheeda ji has set the example that women have to take the initiative when it comes to women empowerment," she added. Rehman was selected for the

prestigious honour by a five members jury comprising close friend and last year's Dadasaheb awardee Asha Parekh, actors Chiranjeevi, Paresh Rawal, Prosenjit Chatterjee and filmmaker Shekhar Kapur.

The actor made her debut in Hindi films opposite Dev Anand in Guru Dutt's 1956 film "CID" and went on to build a stellar career of over five decades, including classics "Pyaasa", "Kaagaz ke Phool" and "Chaudhvin Ka Chand",

"Guide" as well as later hits such as "Kabhi Kabhie" and "Khamoshi".

The announcement of the Dadasaheb Phalke honour coincided with the birth centenary of her "Guide" and "CID" co-star Dev Anand on September 26, 2023.

Rehman, who forayed in cinema with the 1955 Telugu films "Rojulu Maraayi" and "Jayasimha", has worked in more than 90 films across languages. In the 2000s, she appeared in "Om Jai Jagdish", "Rang De Basanti", "Delhi-6" and "The Song of Scorpions". Film actor producer Devika Rani was the first Dadasaheb Phalke awardee. Other female artists to have received the honour are Sulochana, Kanan Devi, Durga Khote, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and Asha Parekh.

Alia Bhatt made a fashion statement at the awards ceremony by repeating her ivory wedding saree as she attended the ceremony with actor husband Ranbir Kapoor. Alia won the best actress National Film Award for her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Gangubai Kathiawadi".

Alia shared the best actress award with Kriti Sanon, who also wore a ivory saree. Kriti is receiving the award for her work in Hindi film "Mimi" while her co-star Pankaj Tripathi won the best supporting actor award for his role in the film.

SC says No to same sex marriage

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday unanimously refused to accord legal recognition to same sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act, ruling that it is within Parliament's ambit to change the law for validating such union.

The top court, however, recognised equal rights for queer people and their protection, while calling for sensitisation of the general public so they don't face discrimination.

The apex court, while passing four separate verdicts, was unanimous in holding that there is "no unqualified right" to marriage, and same sex couples can't claim it as a fundamental right under the Constitution.

The bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud was critical of the Centre's stand that the pleas for legal validation of same sex marriage was reflective of an urban elitist concept.

Queerness is neither an urban nor an elite concept or characteristic, said the apex court, which pronounced the verdicts on 21 petitions seeking legal sanction for same sex marriages.

It, however, differed on certain aspects, especially on the applicability of adoption rules for queer couples. The five judges bench comprising the CJJ, and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha concurred on the main issue

that the court can't accord legal validation to same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act, agreeing with the views of the CJJ and Justice Kaul, Justice Bhat said the Constitution does not grant a fundamental right to marry. At the outset, Justice Chandrachud said there are four judgments — by himself, Justices Kaul, Bhat and Narasimha — in the matter.

Directing the Centre, states and Union Territories (UTs) to ensure the queer community is not discriminated against, the CJJ said queer is a natural phenomenon known for ages and is neither urban nor elitist.

Justice Kaul said he agrees with the CJJ on grant of certain rights to queer couples. "Non-heterosexual and heterosexual unions must be seen as both sides of the same coin," Justice Kaul said, adding legal recognition of non-heterosexual unions is a step towards marriage equality.

The CJJ said it is for Parliament to decide whether there is a need for a change in the Special Marriage Act regime. "This court can't make law. It can only interpret it and give effect to it," he said.

While reading out the operative portion of his verdict, Justice Chandrachud directed the Centre, States and UTs to take steps to sensitise the public about the rights of queer people and ensure that sex reassignment surgeries are not performed on inter-sex children at an age they cannot fully comprehend the consequences.

TMC silent on its Party MP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress continues to remain tightlipped on the cash-for-queries charges brought against its MP Mahua Moitra with some senior leaders privately communicating party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's views that she should be left to "clean the mess she has created, if at all she has created it".

And as a measure to do so, Moitra on Tuesday filed a defamation suit against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey who had written letters to two Union Ministers and Speaker Om Birla charging her with accepting bribes from one business conglomerate in lieu of asking questions against its rival group: In this case the Adanis.

A senior party leader and a State Cabinet Minister said all the party leaders were expected to follow the "austere lifestyle and valued principles of Mamata," and if anyone "deviates" from that then "it is for that person to explain her

conduct... the party will not take any responsibility".

Earlier Dubey had alleged that Moitra had taken bribes from a business house to ask questions in the Lok Sabha against its rival the Adani group. Dubey claimed "if the claims are found to be true," then it "constitutes a serious criminal breach of trust as well as a violation of India's national security."

The TMC MP, however, put up a brave front saying she is ready for any kind of probe and iterating that all the allegations leveled against her were malicious and untrue. The Speaker is known to have referred the matter to the Ethics Committee.

Moitra on Tuesday filed a defamation case against BJP Dubey before the Delhi High Court. A Supreme Court advocate has also been made a party in the suit.

The reason behind the top TMC leadership distancing itself from the Moitra case, or in the least not openly backing her are three-fold, insiders say.

Firstly, as a straight-talker, Moitra has often earned the wrath of senior TMC leaders most of whom have no sympathy for her now.

Even party supremo Mamata has on a couple of occasions rebuked her for crossing swords with other leaders or their supporters.

Secondly, the Chief Minister who is desperate to showcase some investment in Bengal post her Singur movement that drove away the Nano car factory of the Tata Motors from the State during the Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee regime is not willing to enter into an issue where the Adanis are involved.

"Remember the Adani group has offered to construct a deep sea port at Tajpur in East Midnapore district," a senior Bengal Minister said, adding Moitra had gone too far across asking questions against them in her bid to politically corner the BJP.

"If Mamata is not happy with her on certain issues this is perhaps the one of them," said the TMC leader, adding the

TMC has privately conveyed to the Adanis that Moitra's stance would not reflect on what the TMC thought about the group.

And finally when a number of its senior leaders are already in jail in connection with recruitment, coal and cattle scams the Bengal ruling outfit does not want to get embroiled in more number of such issues "particularly when Moitra is not a mass leader and a dispensable leader", a TMC sympathiser and a political analyst said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has referred the "bribe-for-query" complaint made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against Moitra to the Ethics Committee of the lower House. Dubey alleges that Moitra accepted "bribes" from a businessman in exchange for posing questions in Parliament. He has urged Birla to establish an "inquiry committee" to thoroughly investigate these accusations. The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha is presided over by BJP member Vinod Kumar Sonkar.



Netherlands captain Scott Edwards plays a shot during the ICC Men Cricket World Cup 2023 match between South Africa and Netherlands at HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala on Tuesday

Sabarimala continues to plead

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Sabarimala, the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa, nestled amid the jungles in the Western Ghats, is back in the news and is expected to stir up a hornets' nest, even as the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is getting ready to hear the plea demanding the restoration of the ban on women's entry into the temple.

Adding to the woes of Lord Ayyappa devotees is the demand by a section of MLAs and MPs of Kerala, belonging to a particular community, that the Centre should take up the task of laying a railway track to Sabarimala ostensibly to facilitate the transportation of cannabis from the Western Ghats to the rest of the State.

The demand for women's entry to the shrine has been made by Ranga Hari, former All India Baudhik Pramukh of the RSS, the organisation that spear-

headed the agitation against the entry of women in the age group of 10 to 50 into the shrine.

"Off with Outgrown Customs", authored by Hari (93), states that reformation is inevitable in Hindu society. "Traditionalists have always opposed reformers, and it is a human phenomenon in human society. The great Indian poet Kalidasa has said that nothing is good only because it is old and nothing is bad only because it is new," Hari writes, quoting from Malaavikagnimithram, a play by Kalidasa.

Hari has also quoted Malayalam's mystic poet Kumaran Asan, who exhorted the society to reform and change the rules. "Else those very rules will be your downfall," the author has quoted Kumaran Asan's explosive poem Duravastha written immediately after the Mappila Rebellion of 1922.

The nonagenarian has called for the extension of the darshan period of Sabarimala from the present three months to a year-round event. "Sabarimala is a global Hindu pilgrimage Centre. Hence we have to consider the status of Hindu women globally, their psyche, knowledge, finance, inquisitiveness, scientific temper, jobs, etc. Today's woman is an entirely different person. Indian women have more adherence to things religion, and culture... Though both men and women have gone through a westernised public instruction system, it is the woman who transforms India into Bharat; it is the man who makes Bharat, India," Hari has written, and he calls for the establishment of a casteless and classless Hindu society in the country.

To substantiate his arguments, he draws the attention of the Hindus towards temples in Mauritius, Trinidad, Myanmar,

and Singapore. Hari points out in his book that though there are Hindus in these countries,



there is no caste or caste-related discrimination. The custom in Sabarimala,

which was in vogue from time immemorial, was not to allow women to worship in the temple, citing that the presiding deity at Sabarimala was an eternal Brahmachari.

The apex court had passed a landmark judgment on September 28, 2018, in which it allowed the entry of women inside the Sabarimala Temple. The petitioners, Indian Young Lawyers Association, had contended that denial of permission to women for worshipping in the temple was violative of the Right to Equality and liberty. The association argued that the custom violates the Right to Equality under Article 14 since it is "degradatory to the dignity of women." Article 25 of the Constitution states that "all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice, and promote religion." The exclusion of female worshippers was a vio-

lation of such rights.

The verdict was pronounced by a Bench consisting of the then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices Rohinton Nariman, DY Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra, and AM Khanwilkar. Following the Supreme Court verdict, the Kerala Government went all out to ensure the entry of women into the temple. Despite a massive agitation staged by hundreds of thousands of devotees across the State and the resistance under the leadership of Valsan Thillankeri, the top RSS leaders in the State, the Kerala Police ferried women activists to the shrine, masquerading them as women cops. Fatima and Bindu Ammini, the women activists who made it to the shrine, are Maoists. Valsan Thillankeri, who spearheaded the agitation against the Kerala Government's move to allow women into the shrine, told *The Pioneer* that there

was no change in the stance of the RSS. "The Sangh as well as the women themselves are unanimous in their opposition to women entering the holy shrine. What Hari has written are his personal views," said Thillankeri.

The book, written in Malayalam, has been translated into English by eminent journalist and author Rama Chandran. Many scholars with whom *The Pioneer* spoke expressed their anguish over the views of Hari. "It is an age-old custom and tradition, and there is a scientific reason behind the decision to ban women devotees. A pilgrimage to Sabarimala itself is a ritual that needs stringent regimen," said Unnikrishnan Panicker, a Vedic scholar in Kerala's Parappanangadi. Many lives have been lost in police action on devotees who had thronged the shrine in 2018 demanding a ban on women.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Amandeep Kaur W/o Pritpal Singh Sandhu R/O H.No. 62, Golden Avenue, 88ft Road, Majitha Road, Amritsar, Punjab I want Amandeep as my given name and Kaur is my surname.

I Ravinder Kumar Ex Havildar Sr. No. 3199735-F S/O Shri Ramkishan R/O Village Garhi Sampla, Tehsil Sampla District Rohtak Haryana Declare That In My Army Record My Son Raman Date Of Birth Is Wrongly Recorded As 23.01.2009. His Birth Certificate Correct Date Is 23.01.2008.

I, Azad Kour Wd/O No. 14908539-L Late Hav Bramjit R/O Vill. & Po Karor Teh. Sampla Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) Declare That My Son Name Yogesh Kumar And His Dob 04 Years Are Wrongly Mentioned In My Late Husband Army Record. But My Son Correct & Actual Name Is Yegesh Malik And His Correct Dob Is 10.08.1994. Vide Affidavit Dated 17.10.2023 Before Notary Public Rohtak.

I, Balvinder Singh S/O Gulzar Singh R/O Vill. Takhana, Tehsil Nilokheri Distt. Karnal Inform That My Passport No. In H9963217 My Name Is Balvinder Singh, My Mother's Name Is Mohinder Kaur And My Wife's Name Is Sarabjit Kaur, Which is Wrong. Whereas In All My Documents My Name Is Balvinder Singh, My Mother's Name Is Mahinder Kaur And My Wife's Name Is Sarabjeet Kaur. Which is Correct. All Concerned Please Note.

I, Ajay Kumar S/O Satpal R/O Flat No.12 Ff Shri Devaji Residency Kishanpura Road Motia Pacific Centre, Peer Muchalla Dhakoli Sas Nagar Mohali Declare That In My Passport My Name Mentioned As Ajay Ranga And My Father Name Mentioned As Satpal Ranga. Whereas My And My Father Actual Name Is Ajay Kumar And Satpal.

It is For General Information That, I, Malkit Singh S/O Sh. Bachan Ram Residing At Vill. Bishanpur, P.O. Khanpur, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab - 144211 Declare That Name Of My Wife Has Been Wrongly Written As Manjeet Kaur In My Passport No. V9168899. The Actual Name Of My Wife Is Manjit Kaur Respectively, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

I, 15625482P, Rank Nk Balvant Yadav Unit 14 Guards C/o 56 APO R/O Atroullia, Azamgarh, UP 22323 have changed my mother name wrongly enter in sheet roll is Saroja Devi. But actual name is Saroja.

I 15612416N Rank Hav Ravi Gautam Unit 14 Guards C/o 56 APO R/O Atroullia, Azamgarh, UP 22323 have changed my mother name wrongly enter in sheet roll is Kusum Gautam. But actual name is Kusum Devi.

I 15625482P, Rank Nk Balvant Yadav Unit 14 Guards C/o 56 APO R/O Atroullia, Azamgarh, UP 22323 have changed my father name wrongly enter in sheet roll is Shyam Sunder Yadav. But actual name is Shyam Sundar.

I, Kashmir Singh S/O Ran Singh Village Rattangarh Kakrali Po. Kakrala Gujaran Tehsil Pehowa Distt Kurukshetra, My daughter Neha is out of my control. I, disown them from all My moveable and immovable properties. If Anybody deals with him at Own risk.

I, Anita Devi W/o Kulveer Chand R/O H.NO.86/14. Sodal Road Chhotla Saipur Jalandhar, Punjab, declare that my son Lakhwinder Kumar (Unmarried) is out of our control. I disinherit him from all my moveable/immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with him shall be responsible. My family members shall not be responsible for the same.

I, Anita Devi W/o Kulveer Chand R/O H.NO.86/14. Sodal Road Chhotla Saipur Jalandhar, Punjab, declare that my son Lakhwinder Kumar (Unmarried) is out of our control. I disinherit him from all my moveable/immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with him shall be responsible. My family members shall not be responsible for the same.

I, Anita Devi W/o Kulveer Chand R/O H.NO.86/14. Sodal Road Chhotla Saipur Jalandhar, Punjab, declare that my son Lakhwinder Kumar (Unmarried) is out of our control. I disinherit him from all my moveable/immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with him shall be responsible. My family members shall not be responsible for the same.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bandana D/o Ashok Kumar R/o Village Baruhi, P.O. Koi, Tehsil, Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur (Punjab) declare that my name is Bandana in my school certificate Now I have changed my name from Bandana to Bandana Chaudhary. All concerned please note.

I Reena, W/o Sh. Manjeet Singh R/O H.No. 2140, Sector-23, Sonipat, Haryana declares that Reena & Reena Dahiya both are my names. In future, I shall be known as Reena.

I, Fakir Chand S/O Satpal R.O.H.No.1456, Gali No. 02, Goal Masit Gurudwara, Amritsar hereby inform that my actual and correct name is Fakir Chand and not Faqir Chand. Concerned note.

I, Pavenjit Kaur W/o Iqbal Singh R/o Village Kukran PO Sarhala Kalan Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Pavenjit Kaur to Pawanjit Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Mohd Nadeem Khan Father of Saina Khan R/o #750-A, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh have changed my Daughter name from Saina Khan to Shaina Khan vide Affidavit Dated 15-10-2023 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

I Ruchi W/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar R/o H No. 3427, First Floor, Sector 27-D Chandigarh have changed my name from Ruchi to Ruchi Garg.

I, Deepak Kumar Son of Shri Krishan Lal Resident of House Number 977 ,Sector 17, Panchkula (Haryana) declare that I have Changed my Minor son's Name Form Hiten to Hiten Nagpal. All Concerned Please Note.

I, Sanjeev Khurana S/o Madan Lal R/O 471, Gali No. 2, Azad Nagar, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sanjiv Khurana to Sanjeev Khurana.

I, Vinod Kumar S/o Madan Lal R/O 471, Gali No. 2, Azad Nagar, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Vinod Kumar Khurana to Vinod Kumar.

I, Vir Arjan S/o Jaishi Ram # 295, Gobind Vihar Baltana-Zirakpur (Mohali) Punjab. have changed my name Vir Arjun Sharma to Vir Arjan. All Concerned note.

I, Manjeet Singh, S/o Mahender Singh, House Number 312, Village Dangra, Tehsil Tohana (Fatehabad), declare that I have changed my name from Manjeet Singh to Parveen Kumar. In future, I should be known and known as Parveen Kumar.

I, Yogeshwar Singh S/o Kulwinder Singh R/o Village Saini Majra Jattpatti (Ghanaula), Teh. and Distt. Ropar have changed my name from Yogeshwar Singh to Jogeshwar Singh.

I, Army No. JC-501995K Rank Sub Surinder Singh S/o Bakhshish Singh R/o Village Gandhon Kalan, Tehsil and Distt. Ropar (Punjab) declare that in my Army Record my wife's name wrongly written as Mandip Kaur her correct name is Mandeep Kaur and her date of Birth wrongly written as 02.02.1983 her correct date of Birth is 02.05.1983. Concerned please note and correct it.

I, Mukesh S/o Dhoo Singh R/o 995/18,7 Dharam Singh Colony, Narwana, Tehsil Narwana, Distt.Jind, have changed my name from Mukesh to Mukesh Kumar.

I, Manish S/o Satbir R/O 237, Khatkar Patti, Village Badhana, Tehsil Alewa, Distt.Jind, have changed my name from Manish to Manish Khatkar.

I, Shkuntla W/o Surender R/o Village Muana, Tehsil Safidon, Distt.Jind, have changed my name from Shkuntla to Shakuntla.

I, Vivek S/o Prem Lal R/O Village Mianwal PO Mau Sahib, Tehsil Phillaur Distt Jalandhar, Punjab India have changed my name from Vivek to Vivek Kumar.

I, Somwati W/o Sh. Bhupinder Parshad Pant, resident of House No. 2092, Sector 28, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name after marriage from Somwati to Somya Pant.

I, Sunita Devi W/o Sulekh Kumar, R/o Ward No. 14, Punjabi Colony Gohana, District Sonapat. My name is Sunita Rani registered in the 10th marksheet. Whereas my correct name is Sunita Devi. Sunita Devi and Sunita Rani are same person.

I, Jitender Panchal S/o Devi Ram R/O 718/24, Birla Mandir Chowk, Thanesar, Kurukshetra declared, I have changed my name Jitender to Jitender Panchal.

Tara Tegwan W/o Sh Ranbir Singh Tegwan aged about 44 years R/o Village Dhar, P.O. Chanana Dhar. Tehsil Kupvi Distt, Shimla H.P. Pin Code 171210 That I am residing at above mentioned address. after my joining in the Education Department in the year 2007 I have changed my name from Tara Devi (Old Name) to Tara Tegwan (New Name) That I shall be known as Tara Tegwan according to this affidavit in all records/documents/ Marksheets.

I, Surinder Kumar Mendiratta S/o Gokal Chand R/o 522, Mohalla Rajputana, Near Dhari Chowk, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Surinder Kumar to Surinder Kumar Mendiratta for all future purposes.

I, Sunita W/o Surinder Kumar Mendiratta R/o 522, Mohalla Rajputana, Near Dhari Chowk, Panipat declare that Sunita and Veena Kumari is the same and one Lady. In future I may be known as Sunita.

I, Harbhajan Singh S/o Gurmukh Singh R/o VPO-Sadiq, Tehsil-Sadiq, Distt.Faridkot (Punjab)declare that in my passport my name is Harbhajan Singh Deol is incorrect, my correct name is Harbhajan Singh.

I, Rekha Rani W/o No. 15575294P Late Hav Krishan Kumar R/o VPO Ishaq, Tehsil Pehowa, Kurukshetra declare that in my husband's service record his mother's & son's name & D.O.B is wrongly written as Sunhari instead of Sunehari and D.O.B 02.11.1939 instead of 01.01.1943 Vinay Kumar instead of Vinay and D.O.B 11.07.2003 instead of 14.07.2003.

I, Deepa Bhandari W/o Service No. 15674215X, Rank LCO CQMh Balbir Chand Katoch, Unit WCSR C/o 56 APO, Chandimandir Cantt, Panchkula, Haryana declare that in my husband Army Service record my name is erroneously written as Deepa Katoch whereas my correct name is Deepa Bhandari.

I, Om Parkash s/o Karam Chand r/o Village Hansala (Kurukshetra) declare that in my passport my name is written by clerical mistake as Om Prakash & DOB is 4-10-1988, whereas the correct spelling of my name is Om Parkash & DOB is 10-04-1988.

I, Navin s/o Ajmer Singh r/o VPO Hathira, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Navin to Navin Kumar. In future I should be known as Navin Kumar.

I, Phool Singh S/o Chnder R/o Village Nidana, Tehsil & Distt. Jind, have changed my name from Phool Singh to Phool Kunwar.

I, Amit S/o Rammehar R/o Village Ghimana, Tehsil & Distt.Jind, have changed my name from Amit to Amit Kumar.

I, Aneeta W/O Anil Kumar R/O H.No.36, R.B Rattan Chand Road, Near Police Station Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Aneeta To Aneeta Aggarwal

I, Aneeeta W/O Anil Kumar R/O H.No.36, R.B Rattan Chand Road, Near Police Station Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Aneeta To Aneeta Aggarwal

I, Aneeeta W/O Anil Kumar R/O H.No.36, R.B Rattan Chand Road, Near Police Station Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Aneeta To Aneeta Aggarwal

I, Aneeeta W/O Anil Kumar R/O H.No.36, R.B Rattan Chand Road, Near Police Station Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Aneeta To Aneeta Aggarwal

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I, Aneeeta W/O Anil Kumar R/O H.No.36, R.B Rattan Chand Road, Near Police Station Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Aneeta To Aneeta Aggarwal

I, Sneha Garg W/o Mohak Garg R/O H.No.2, Bajrang Bhawan, Behind UCO Bank, Panipat Declare that I have changed my name after marriage From Sneha Bansal to Sneha Garg and both are my names but in future I should be known as Sneha Garg.

I, Amandeep Singh s/o Wasava singh vill Mahdodan distt Kurukshetra have changed my name From Amandeep To Amandeep Singh.

I, Kali Charan S/o Sh. Maya Ram R/o H.No. 525, Ward No. 23, Sasauli Road, Near I.T.I., amuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar I declared that my both name Kali Charan and nikku Chauhan is one and the same person. All concerned note.

I, Savinder Pal Singh Son of Sh. Satinder Pal Singh Resident of House No.28, Vishnu Gareden Jagadhri Tehsil Jagadhri Distt Yamunanagar I have change my name from Savinder Pal to Savinder Pal Singh All concerned note.

I, Gurekannoor Singh S/o Sr. Sadeep Singh Soni, Age 27 years, Address #792, Phase 6, Mohali, Punjab, 160055 has changed my name from Gurekannoor Singh to Gurekannoor Singh Soni.

I, Surendr Pal Chauhan S/O Vish Pal Singh #259, Sec-10, Ambala City, Haryana Declared That Surindr Pal And Surendr Pal Chauhan Is One Or Same Person. But My Correct Name Is Surendr Pal Chauhan. Please Note.

I, Sandip Kumar Son Of Raj Kumar Residing At E-1/410, Wadali Road, Hargobind Pura, Chheharta District Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son Soham Aged 11 Years And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Soham Kumar.

I, Sarabjeet Singh S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O 3118, Main Bazar I/S Gate Hakima Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sarabjeet Singh To Sarabjit Singh

I, Gurinder Bir Singh Sandhu Son Of Jarnail Singh R/O H.No. L-4/28 Kot Atma Ram Sultanwind Road Amritsar Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Gurinderbir Singh Sandhu.

I, Navdeep Kaur Wife Of Gurinderbir Singh Sandhu R/O H.No. L-4/28 Kot Atma Ram Sultanwind Road Amritsar Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Navdeep Kaur Sandhu.

I, Gurinder Bir Singh Son Of Jarnail Singh R/O H.No. L-4/28 Kot Atma Ram Sultanwind Road Amritsar Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Gurinderbir Singh Sandhu.

I, Aneeta W/O Anil Kumar R/O H.No.36, R.B Rattan Chand Road, Near Police Station Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Aneeta To Aneeta Aggarwal

I, Maninder Kaur W/O Satinder Singh R/O H.No.Ak-3/1604, Gali No.7, East Gobind Nagar, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Maninder Kaur To Mahinder Kaur

I Hitherto Known As Davinder Kishan Pal S/O Gurmit Ram, Residing At Vill. Kala Bahian, P.O. Nussi, Jalandhar-144004, Punjab, India Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Davinder Krishan Paul.

I, Kuldip Singh S/O Harnam Singh R/O H.No.50-B, Gali No.2, Block-B, Sandhu Colony Chheharta Amritsar Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Sehaj To Sehaj Kureja

I, Tribhuvan S/O Ram Dulare R/O Dashmesh Nagar Kot Khalsa Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Tribhuvan And Tribhuvan Teli To Tribhuvan Gupta

I, S Ajantha Legally Spouse Of No. 14843774n Rank Hav Name Pandiselvan R Unit 515 Asc Bn, C/O 56 Apo, Have Changed My Name From S Ajantha To Ajantha Pandiselvan Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb5089131340462v Dated 17-10-2023, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Manjeet Kaur W/O Navdeep Singh R/O 88 Phase-1, Sq Enclave Majitha Bye Pass Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Manjeet Kaur To Manjit Kaur

I, Anil Tandon S/O Lekh Raj R/O H.No.34, Golden City Airport Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Anil Tandon To Anil Kumar

I Srishti Sareen C/O Jatin Arora R/O H.No. 1455, Gali No.9, Bagh Ramanand, Chowk Fuwara, Amritsar-1, Amritsar, Punjab-143001 Have Changed My Name From Srishti Arora To Srishti Arora

I Tejinder Singh S/O Gurdip Singh R/O Vpo Bagga Tehsil Baba Bakala Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Singh Is My Surname And Tejinder Is My Given Name

I, Jasbir Masih S/O Najir Masih R/O H No 37, Abadi Indera Colony, Verka, Amritsar-143501 Have Changed My Child Name Change From Blessed Raj To Change Emmanuel Masih.

I, Viney Kumar S/o Surender Kumar R/o House No. 1281, Ward No. 12, Gali No. 3, Shiv Nagar Mill Gate, Hisar-125001 declare that I have changed my name from Viney Kumar to Vinay for all future purposes.

I, Vishal S/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o H. No. 33, Sector-3, Hisar, Haryana, 125001 declare that I have changed my name from Vishal to Vishal Berwal for all future purpose.

I, Sneh Tayal W/o Sh. Krishan Kumar R/o House No. 300/2, Ward No. 10, Anaj Mandi, Ratia, Distt. Fatehabad declare that I intend to change my name from Seneh Lata to Sneh Tayal.

I, Krishan Kumar S/o Sh Parmeshwari Dass R/o House No. 300/2, Ward No. 10, Anaj Mandi, Ratia, Distt. Fatehabad declare that I intend to change my name from Krishan Tayal to Krishan Kumar.

I, Sudesh Wife of No. 14659523K Rank HAV/TECH (SA) Name Satish Kumar R/o VPO Hamirwas Bara, Teh. Rajgarh, Distt. Churu, Rajasthan-331305 have changed my date of birth in army record from 04-08-1984 to 04-03-1984 vide affidavit dated 16-10-2023 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Sarita Devi Wife of No. 15788926X Rank HAV/DMT Name Manesh R/o Vill. Sarola, PO Chhapar, Teh. Jhajjar, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana-124108 have changed my name in army record from Sarita Devi to Sarita Kumari vide affidavit dated 16-10-2023 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Monika Rani W/o Sh. Paramejeet Singh R/O H.No-1918/1 Kaithi Majri Ambala city have changed my name from Monika Rani to Monika.

I, Shakuntla Devi (Old Name) W/o Charanjit Singh R/O Village Bohla Khalsa District Karnal, have changed my name to Shushma Devi (New Name).

I, Avnish Kumar S/o Rajinder Pal R/O H.No. 623, Sector 3. Urban Estate Thanesar, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Avnish Kumar to Avnish Goel.

I, Saksham (Aadhaar No. 452214331640) S/o Neeraj Goyal R/O H No. 896 Sector 7 Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, Haryana, have changed my name from Saksham to Saksham Goyal. In future call me as Saksham Goyal.

I, Subham Kumar S/o Ramesh Kumar R/O Village Kunwar Kheri Postoffice Kirmach Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Subham To Subham Kumar.

I, Punjab Singh S/o Mohar Singh R/o Village Hansala Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, declare that I am known by two names: Punjab Singh and Panjab Singh.

I, Manju W/o John Lakra, House No 1549, Sector 34-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Manju to Manju Lakra.

I, Rajesh Kumar Kamboj S/o Sardari Lal, H.No. 233, Phase-1-B, Shivalk Avenue, Naya Nangal (Rupnagar) have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar.

I, Radhika W/o Gitesh Madaan, H.No. 1022, Preet Colony, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar, have changed my name to Radhika Madaan.

I, Rakhi Saibo w/o Gourav Sharma r/o #271, Near Hanuman Mandir, New Prem Nagar, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Rakhi Saibo to Rakhi Sharma. In future I should be known as Rakhi Sharma.

I, Jai Singh R/O House No 415/27, Street No. 4, Dev Nagar, Sonipat Haryana Have Changed My Name From Jai Singh Rohilla To Jai Singh.

I Jasveer Kaur W/O Tarsem Singh R/O Bhullar, Tehsil & Dist. Sri Muktsar Sahib, I Have Change My Name To Jasvir Kaur.

I Amritpal Singh Baleana S/O Jugraj Singh R/O Khosa Kotla Teh.Dharmkot Distt.Moga.That I Have Changed My Name As Amritpal Singh Baleana To Amritpal Singh.

Harnoop Jot Kaur Batra Wife Of Ranmeet Singh Batra Resident Of Plot No. 1 Lal Dwara Jagadhri Road Waryam Singh Hospital Yamuna Nagar Has Change Her Name From Harnoop Jot Kaur Batra To Harnoopjot Kaur

I Kashmiro Devi W/O Sh.Dharam Pal R/O Vill. Dadlu, Po Rawa, Tehsil Shahabad, Markanda. Distt. Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Dharam Pal To Dhampal.

I Dharam Pal S/O Sh.Mangat Ram R/O Vill. Dadlu, Po Rawa, Tehsil Shahabad, Markanda, Distt.Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Dharam Pal To Dhampal.

I, Yogesh Bhardwaj S/O Harbans Lal R/O H.No.295/7, Jattan Wala Chontra, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Yogesh Kumar.

I, Meenakshi Bhardwaj D/O Yogesh Kumar R/O H.No.295/7, Jattan Wala Chontra, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Meenakshi.

I, Manjit Kaur W/O Saudagar Singh Panech R/O Vpo Bhari Panechan, Tehsil Nabha, Patiala (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Manjit Kaur Panech.

I, Bhagwan Singh Behely S/O Ram Singh R/O Village Doun Khurd, Po. Janherian, Distt. Patiala Have Changed My Name To Bhagwan Singh.

I Seeta Rani Wife Of Mukhtiar Singh Resident Of Sethi Model School Makhu Gate Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Sita Rani.

I Jasvir Resident Of Nishan Singh Kaur Of Village Sodhe Wala District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Jaswinder Kaur.

I Veena Sachdeva W/O Ramesh Sachdeva, R/O Street No 13 Nai Abadi Abohar, Fazilka Punjab - 152116 Have Changed My Name And Shall After Be Known As Veena Rani

I Parveen Kumari W/O Amit Sachdeva, R/O Street No 13 Nai Abadi Abohar, Fazilka Punjab -152116 Have Changed My Name And Shall After Be Known As Parveen Rani

I Rajinder Kumar Galhotra Son Of Dhanpat Rai Resident Of House No. 133 Ward No. 19 Mohalla Dollian Wala Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Rajinder Kumar.

I Jagdish Kumar Galhotra Son Of Dhanpat Rai Resident Of Mistrian Wali Gali Multani Gate Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Jagdish Kumar.

I Jeewan Asha Wife Of Mahendra Kumar Sharma Resident Of House No.D-47, Dada Nagar Near Model Town Jalandhar District Jalandhar Have Changed My Name To Jeewan Asha Sharma.

I, Army No.2496322p, Rank Hav Nishan Singh S/O Dalbir Singh. R/O Vpo-Passnawal. Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur-143518, Punjab, India. Declare That In My Army Service Record My Son's Name Armanpreet Singh Is Wrong. But My Son's Name Armanpreet Singh Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb50660365271606v Dated 17-10-2023 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab.

I, Charanjit Kaur W/O Parminder Singh. R/O Village-Chhourian Bangar, Kotli Sainian, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143530. Have Changed My Name From Charanjit Kaur To Charnjit Kaur.

I, Sukhvinder Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o Village Nano Mazara, Post Office Dosaanjh Kalan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Sukhvinder Singh Khangura to Sukhvinder Singh. All Concerned Please Note.

I, Surender S/o Diwan Singh R/o Thuyan(12), Fatehabad, Haryana- 125053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Surender Singh.

I, Ormlia Devi W/o Sukhdev Lao R/o H.No. B-5 MCH, 70 Mohalla Kashmirian, Near Water Tank Hariana, Hariana, Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 144208. have changed my name as Urmila Devi.

I, Kanwaljit Kaur D/o Sudarshan Singh R/o H.No.141, St No- 08, Pakhowal Road, Vishal Nagar, Basant Avenue, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141013. have changed my name as Kamaljeet Kaur.

I, Sulakhan S/o Dharu Masih R/o Village Mamma, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, Raichak, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143511, have changed my name as Sulakhan Masih.

I, Rajat Kumar S/o Narinder Kumar R/o Village Sanaura, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Rajat Kumar to Kumar Rajat. (Surname as Kumar)

I, Thakar Dass S/o Ram Chand R/o Vill. Indna Kalaske, Po. Dosaanjh Kalan, Teh.Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Thakar Dass to Thakur Dass. (same person).

I, Rajesh Kumar s/o Mohinder Pal r/o VPO. Ghuman, Distt. SBS Nagar declare that Given name as Rajesh & Surname as Kumar.

I Javantri Devi W/o Kartar Chand R/o Near Ravidas Mandir VPO Adhoi Tehsil Barara distt. Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Javantri Devi to Jawantri Devi. Concerned note

I Bharto Devi (existing name) wife of No. 13839565 Ex Naik Bagphal resident of Village Jindran Kalan, PO : Kalanaur, District Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my name from Bharto Devi (existing name) to Bhatari (proposed new name) My correct/actual DOB is 01.01.1947 instead of 01.07.1947 as per my Aadhaar/Pan Card. In future I shall may be known and called as Bhatari (DOB : 01.01.1947) for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 11 Oct 2023 before 1st Class Magistrate, Kalanaur (Rohtak)

I Navotj Chandan D/o Anant Ram R/O H.No. B-1/373, Mohalla Dharampura, Qadian, Teh. Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur declare that in school record my daughter's name has been written as Tanirika at her admission time. Please correct it as Tanirika Chandan.

I Jagdish Kour W/O Balram R/O Village Bhawanipur Bhagtan P.O. Bhawanipur Tehsil Garhshankar District Hoshiarpur 144523 Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Jagdish Kour To Jagdish Kaur.

I Shri Ram Chauhan S/O Lachhman R/O House No.24, Shiv Mandir Wali Gali, Khalwara Gate, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Shri Ram Chauhan To Shri Ram Chohan.

I Kabir S/O Nisar Ahmed R/O House No.B9/88, Near Balmiki Chowk, Sikhon Mohalla, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Kabir To Kabir Ahmed.

I Mandeep Singh S/O Sodhi Singh R/O Village Khera, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Mandeep Singh To Mandeep Singh.

I, No.6643128F Ex-Hony Nb Sub Sarwan Kumar S/O Chet Ram R/O House No B-23/231/1, Ajit Nagar Aslamabad Hoshiarpur Teshil & District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Wife's Name From Kamal Devi To Kamla Devi Whose Date Of Birth 24/06/1947.

I Gagandeep Kaur Sivia W/O Kiranpal Singh Sivia R/O H.No.-1078 Ward No.-27 Kotkapura Road Moga Changed Minor Son's Name Jaskirat Singh To Jaskirat Singh Sivia

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Murder without killer

Nithari killing prime suspects win relief, justice for kin families goes abegging

This has become an intermittent habit with our justice delivery system, our judicial system and us as society. From Jessica to Arushi to now at least 19 underprivileged kids in the Nithari are of the NCR, there have been murders most foul discovered, but our learned courts at last tell us that the investigation does not prove that the suspects/accused did it. So they are let off with a rap on the knuckles. The investigators ---- transferred, promoted, retired or dead ---- face no accountability either. That seems to be the bane that has come to revisit us in the form of Allahabad HC's shocking decision on the Nithari murder accused, domestic help Surinder Koli and his master Moninder Singh Pandher. The incident, reported from Noida in 2005-06, took years for the horrifying details to come out. The Nithari murders were especially gruesome as they involved killing innocent children in cold blood; several dead bodies were recovered from a nearby drain. Many bodies had internal organs removed, hinting also at an organised organ racket. But a botched-up investigation along with loopholes in the judicial system made sure that the perpetrators could go scot-free. Though Koli and Pandher were found guilty in 2009, the High Court has recently overturned the guilty verdict ostensibly because of lack of evidence and the testimony of alleged witnesses.



In the annals of Indian criminal history, the Nithari serial killings stand as a chilling testament to the depths of human depravity. The case shocked the nation as young women and children fell victim to unimaginable brutality. The Nithari killings were a series of abductions, sexual assaults and murders. The victims disappeared without a trace, leaving their families in anguish and despair. As investigations progressed, the police unearthed gruesome evidence at the residence of Pandher and Koli. The house was a charnel house, revealing the ghastly remains of several missing persons. The CBI recovered many bodies and body parts from the nearby drain and it was thought that the case was foolproof against the prime suspects. But turns out that the scales of the blindfolded lady do not tilt equally for the influential and the underprivileged. Most victims were migrants from UP and Bihar, living on day's earnings and thus hardly had any say in the system or resources to pursue the case. The Nithari case is emblematic of the slow, convoluted and frustrating Indian justice system. The Nithari case is not just a local tragedy but a national shame. It epitomises the systemic issues that afflict India's criminal justice system, including lack of accountability, shortage of forensic resources and the inordinate delay in adjudication. It calls for immediate and comprehensive reforms within the Indian criminal justice system. Only then we can hope to prevent the travesty of justice from being repeated. This decision to acquit the prime suspects should stir society's collective conscience. If it does not, we are all as good as dead.

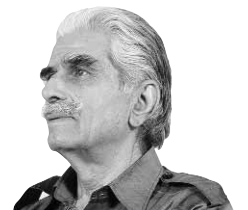
appeared without a trace, leaving their families in anguish and despair. As investigations progressed, the police unearthed gruesome evidence at the residence of Pandher and Koli. The house was a charnel house, revealing the ghastly remains of several missing persons. The CBI recovered many bodies and body parts from the nearby drain and it was thought that the case was foolproof against the prime suspects. But turns out that the scales of the blindfolded lady do not tilt equally for the influential and the underprivileged. Most victims were migrants from UP and Bihar, living on day's earnings and thus hardly had any say in the system or resources to pursue the case. The Nithari case is emblematic of the slow, convoluted and frustrating Indian justice system. The Nithari case is not just a local tragedy but a national shame. It epitomises the systemic issues that afflict India's criminal justice system, including lack of accountability, shortage of forensic resources and the inordinate delay in adjudication. It calls for immediate and comprehensive reforms within the Indian criminal justice system. Only then we can hope to prevent the travesty of justice from being repeated. This decision to acquit the prime suspects should stir society's collective conscience. If it does not, we are all as good as dead.

PICTALK



Artisans prepare effigies of demon King Ravana ahead of the Dussehra festival, in Rampur

Hamas's resolve may survive IDF onslaught



ASHOK K MEHTA

Hamas pulled off Pearl Harbour and 9/11 combined, on October 7, which shows its mettle and motivation. Annihilating it will not be easy for Israeli Defence Forces

On this page last week, a colleague expressed misgivings about the Israeli Defence Forces' (IDF) resilience and wondered if the steel was blunted. No one has ever doubted the will, fighting prowess and potential of Israelis given their history of conflict, survival and incredible prosperity. Israel has almost similar experience in its conflicted history as our own: war on creation in 1948, a second bigger round in 1956 and full-fledged regional wars in 1967 and 1973.

IDF, like now, was caught with its pants down when Egyptians executed a cross-Suez offensive that hesitated allowing the counter-Canal riposte led by Ariel Sharon's Centurion Tank division and Squadron and Troop leaders like Chaim Erez and Benny Taran. In the 1973 war on the Syrian front, the hero was Avigdor Kahalani who later became Mayor of Tel Aviv and Minister of National Security. His book Heights of Courage is a prescribed reading for the Israeli military. He was worshipped by Armoured Corps officers who used to take a second oath near Mount Hermon on Golan Heights where a UN Indian Mechanised force is currently located.

And who will not remember Moshe Dayan, the toast of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and Commander of Jerusalem Front? He became a legend: his eyepatch was replaced with the Jaffa orange in an ad proclaiming The Best. I was privileged to know Kahalani, Erez and Taran, all Armoured Corps, the sword in desert terrain. With the last two, we spent year-long training and friendship at Fort Leavenworth, US and Belgravia, UK. I visited Israel before India formally recognized it in January 1992. That travel is etched as the journey that commenced in Cairo where the Yom Kippur War was conceived. The taxi was driven by a retired Artillery Lieutenant Colonel from the Egyptian Army. We crossed the Suez and drove through Sinai still littered with debris from the 1967 and 1973 wars. The drive was punctuated with a vanquished Veteran's narration of victory turned into defeat. In 1991,



Israel had a string of pearls of UN/EU Peacekeeping Forces. Most are still there - Lebanon, Syria and Jerusalem. Before entering Israel on the border with Egypt, we were welcomed by Lt Gen Johannes Van Ginkle, the Dutch Force Commander of the EU PeaceKeepers. He like I was an Erez admirer who we were going to meet after nearly 20 years since Fort Leavenworth. Since then, I have been in Israel more than a dozen times including attending uninterrupted since 2010, the annual International Institute of Counter Terrorism conference in Herzilya till COVID paused it. So, I think I know the IDF pretty well. For anyone doubting its combat strength is a strategic error. Israel has signed peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt and the Oslo Accord in 1993. The most recent is the Abrams Accord which hopes to improve Israel's relations with Arab states. Except with Iran, Syria and Lebanon, there is peace including efforts to mend ties with Saudi Arabia. Since 1973, no Arab country has challenged de facto nuclear Israel. Tel Aviv is fighting internal wars against non-state actors Hezbollah in Lebanon, Islamic Jihad and Hamas which has been mis-governed since 2007 Gaza is the periodic source of Hamas rocketry against Israel.



ISRAEL HAS SIGNED PEACE TREATIES WITH JORDAN AND EGYPT AND THE OSLO ACCORD IN 1993. THE MOST RECENT IS THE ABRAMS ACCORD WHICH HOPES TO IMPROVE ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES

The West Bank, which was infiltrated by Islamic State last year, has opened a third front for the IDF where more than 300 Palestinians and 50 Israelis have been killed this year. But Hezbollah appears to be only shadowboxing. Iran is external enemy no 1. Both Iran and Israel have vowed to destroy each other and do not recognize the other's right to exist. Iran backs Syria, Lebanon and Gaza. Hamas has a stockpile of 130,000 rockets and missiles. It was only in 2012 that their accuracy improved and Israel decry the Iron Dome whose launch I witnessed. It is an expensive antidote to missiles but can distinguish which missile will hit populated areas. Its discrimination capacity makes it valuable. The current ground offensive against Hamas will be the fifth large-scale operation with the first launched in 2008 after Hamas took control of Gaza. Similarly, Israel has invaded Lebanon thrice - in 1978, 1982 and 2006. IDF has failed to deter Hamas and diminish Hezbollah. Its punitive strikes only degrade capability till their next rocket attack. This time IDF is tasked to permanently destroy Hamas and rescue the 199 hostages hidden in an underground web of tunnels. This cordon and search operation can take months and become an abattoir. Taran says the

operation is not the reoccupation of Gaza. Israel is known to have exchanged 1,200 Palestinian prisoners for one soldier. Iran says Hamas will release hostages if air attacks cease. Ultimately the safety of hostages will constrain operations with IDF fighting on enemy terrain. Hamas's daring incursion into Israel is a brilliant strategy but the barbarity and brutality of tactics shaming Chengis Khan. Hamas achieved total surprise and horrendous gains. This time they did 9/11 and Pearl Harbour combined, inflicting on Israel their highest losses since the Yom Kippur war. It has already become the world's largest man-made humanitarian catastrophe that you and I watch on TV. But no one can stop the mauled Israelis from retaliation and the IDF from wreaking retribution by reducing Gaza to the stone age. Fingers crossed the Gaza Front does not spark Lebanon and the West Bank. IDF may destroy Hamas's capability to fight; but not its will to fight another day. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Development census serves our goals better

A census on the educational and professional profiles of citizens would help the government devise policies to plug in gaps that impede our development



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

Even though scientifically we are one species of Homo sapiens, human beings continue to show discrimination based on religion, race and caste. It's a shame for our country in particular and humanity as a whole when people kill each other in the name of caste, religion and race in different parts of the country. Most of the so-called developed countries have reached the level that we see today as they were able to do away with this social mischief. Unfortunately, in our country caste is a dominating player in our social set-up. To preserve the dignity of one's caste even parents are killing their children who try to move away from the clutches of caste rules. People make relationships, friendships and even helping hands based on caste factors. The caste system that we see today was initiated during the post-Vedic period when more rigid 'Jathis' emerged from the varnas. Around the 6th century BCE, religious movements led by figures like Buddha and Mahavira challenged the hierarchical nature of the caste system.



However, the colonial British rule, as part of their policy of divide and rule, reinstated the social divisions. They introduced census operations that classified people into various castes and communities. This had the effect of reinforcing existing social divisions. The great spiritual philosopher from Kerala Sree Narayana Guru advised people to follow the "one caste, one religion, one god" philosophy for the betterment of humanity. Unfortunately, even in his home state, no one is following this in true spirit. The Christian missionaries who converted native people on the belief that Christianity does not follow a caste system and gives respect to everyone are also bereft of a culture of oneness. Few Christian sects in Kerala are more fanatic than any other community in

the country. It seems that caste is a deeply ingrained aspect of Indian society, its reflection can be seen in every religious group in the country. Even after 75 years of independence despite efforts to dismantle the formal caste system through legal means, caste-based discrimination and social stratification continue to be significant challenges in contemporary India. It is at this juncture, that the demand by the opposition parties in "INDIA" pushing for a nationwide caste census comes as a retrogressive step. What do our political parties expect from this? Do they want to reinstate the caste sentiments in the mindset of our youngsters? Are they promoting the historical wrongs our predecessors have done and want our youngsters to fight against one another along caste lines? Are they not interested in seeing our country as a developed nation? Politicians should not play petty electoral politics by fooling people. What is the ultimate objective of pushing for a caste census? If it is for the upliftment of a community/ caste by providing reser-

ervations, previous experience shows that it has failed miserably as the community that receives reservations remains backwards even today. What is the use of giving reservations to the children of government servants based on caste lines? Government support can be provided for one generation for their upliftment. There is no meaning in providing reservations to the next generation, as these people have been lifted from the marginalized category. Many communities that had been the dominant earlier are becoming marginalized now. Irrespective of caste, governments should support every citizen who is marginalized based on their financial status. Instead of a caste-based census, our political parties should take steps to conduct a census on the educational profile and professional profiles of citizens. This can help devise policy measures to identify gaps that impede our development. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, views are personal)

SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK IN MANIPUR
Sir—The Manipur's Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department has confirmed an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the state, with the Pig Farm of the Central Agriculture University (CAU) in Imphal West District declared as the 'epicenter' of this contagious disease. Measures have been taken to prevent, control, and eradicate the infectious disease, including prohibiting the movement of pigs from the affected areas. Reports indicate that ASF might have been introduced through pigs or pork from neighboring countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh. The outbreak has already caused significant damage to the region's pork industry, affecting thousands of families and causing financial losses. The northeastern region's annual pork business is substantial, and this outbreak poses a severe threat to the livelihoods of many. **Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai**

IN BAD TASTE
Sir—MakeMyTrip's recent advertisement, aimed at Pakistan cricket fans during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, has faced backlash for its lack of sensitivity. The ad begins with an "Open Invitation to Pakistani Fans," encouraging them to put aside rivalries when visiting India. It goes on to offer discounts based on Pakistan's performance: a 50% discount if they lose by 10 wickets or 200 runs, with the code "BoysPlayedWell"; a 30% discount for a 6-wicket or 100-run loss, using the code "EkShaheenHaar"; and a 10% discount for a 3-wicket or 50-run loss with the code "NoMaukaMauka." India has a historical record of victories over Pakistan in World Cup matches, having won in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015, and 2019. Nevertheless, the ad has faced criticism for its tone and the way it ridicules the Pakistani team. **Manzur Hasan | Howrah**



Two distinct eras

The four decades before and after 1990 mark two distinct eras in India, accompanied by differing social and economic philosophies. The 1950s represented a shift from agricultural deficiencies, with the Green Revolution transforming India from a nation living hand-to-mouth to a self-sufficient one. The Nehruite philosophy emphasized technology, economic growth, and progress, leading to the

establishment of the first IIT before the nation's first general elections. The present day reflects a thriving middle-class that emerged from this transformation and ushered in the era of aspirational India. While the 1990s witnessed economic liberalisation, the current leadership is focused on leveraging India's political and economic standing. This progress has, however, led to social strain and disproportionate wealth distribution, exacerbated by jobless growth from disruptive technologies. The next generation of leaders faces the challenge of optimising multiple factors, using technology to promote inclusiveness and bridge socio-political divides. This requires statesmen with vision and foresight, and it's essential to trust in India's ability to produce such leadership through the electoral process. **R Narayanan | Mumbai**

CHECK ELECTION SOPS
Sir—Election dates have been announced for five states. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar has pointed out that freebies offered by political parties have a "tadka" of populism, and voters have every right to ask the parties how they intend to fulfill these promises if elected to power. He is correct, and the promises made by these parties are often extravagant, unrealistic, and outright absurd. However, these promises are still made because there are certain sections of society that are susceptible to such grandiose assurances. As long as there are segments of the population ready to be exploited, there will be political parties willing to offer free rations, direct money transfers to women's accounts, monthly cash incentives for women, free electricity up to a certain unit consumption, specific annual allocations of free

gas cylinders, and the list goes on. It appears that the Election Commission (EC) can do little to curb this practice. So, who else can put an end to this unsavory practice? The courts, of course. Politicians find courts easy to approach and convenient to evade the issue, which would otherwise be their own responsibility. The Supreme Court had, on a previous occasion, criticized the "freebie culture," noting that offering freebies disrupts the level playing field in an election, with the party making such promises standing to gain. The Supreme Court suggested the formation of a committee of experts to address this issue. Indeed the country must decide a policy on freebies that are offered by the political parties so that there is no confusion on the issue. **Ganapathi Bhat | Akola**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

SPIRITUAL LITERACY IS A MUST

Our real enemies are not our rivals but suspicion, fear, hatred and violence



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ

It's a proven fact today that disharmony in human relations gives rise to not only wars but to almost all other problems directly or indirectly related to us. The phenomenon of split in families, the rising number of cases of divorces, and even most of the psycho-somatic diseases which are caused by stress or mental tension are due to disharmony in human relations only and nothing else. In the past few days, we all have witnessed how extreme conflict between 2 countries over a border issue resulted in a mass exodus of people from their homeland as well as deaths of innocent people in massive bombings during night time. Hence one cannot deny the fact that the forces that are leading to the disintegration of nations, communities and political parties crop up primarily from disharmony. Most problems of law & order and even the commotions and disturbances in major Legislatures also are due to disharmony in relations between political parties or various linguistic groups, religious communities, etc. It is, thus, very much essential to find a solution to eliminate this problem lest it will eliminate us. But what is the way out? How does one move ahead? Well!! It is quite clear from some of the examples that have been given of the world-events that these problems are mainly the creations of our minds, our attitudes and our negative thinking. Hence, to create harmony, we need to first of all disarm our minds to dismantle the forces of disharmony. It is estimated that world over approximately two trillion dollars are spent every year by various countries on what is called 'Defence' or 'Security' and yet it's quite surprising that insecurity is increasing rather than decreasing. What's more saddening is that all the diversion of resources to war purposes deprives the poorer sections of society of the help that they need or deserve. In this respect, it is essential to redefine security and to break the link between security and military force. We need to understand that our security lies not in an armed state of readiness for war but in friendliness, love and peace with others.



Our real enemies are not men and women but suspicion, fear, hatred, violence and feeling of revenge and these enemies cannot be eliminated by military means. It has, therefore, rightly been said in the Gita: 'Arjuna, the soul is its own best friend and it is its own worst enemy'. A deep study of the history of human civilization would reveal that presently, there are prevalent certain wrong beliefs that have led us to this kind of a negative culture, negative lifestyle and negative attitudes, one of these wrong beliefs is that there has always been disharmony in the world and there was no time in the history of mankind when there was total harmony. If that were so, then why today do we have a greater number of wars that are more devastating and which result in mass killings? Why are we today inventing more and more deadly weapons? It shows that there was a time in the distant past when there were less and less wars and there was also the earliest era which was free from all kinds of disharmony. Thus, there must have been a time when the world population was small, the environment was clean and there were no wars and people lived in amity and peace. Such an era was known as the Golden Age. That was the time when there was Universal Harmony. It is that new world which we wish to usher in again. And, we want those attitudes and that thinking which can restore harmony in human relations. So, how can we bring about that change? It's very simple, for that we need to realize that most of our problems arise from our spiritual illiteracy which has to be eradicated. If, therefore, we can get rid of this kind of illiteracy and have a new lease of consciousness beyond war and enmity, then we can open to a new paradise, otherwise, we will end in eternal darkness.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

State doles can put discoms at risk



UTTAM GUPTA

Discoms will be profitable only when they are unshackled from state controls and electricity distribution is deregulated



Even as the Central government is making all-out efforts to remove the financial distress of power distribution companies or discoms (situated at the core of the power supply chain, they procure electricity from power generating companies or genscos and distribute it to the consumers) and restore them to robust health, actions of the state governments undermine these efforts. The financial distress of discoms arises fundamentally due to their inability to generate enough revenue to pay for the electricity they buy. For over two decades, they have been incurring losses year after year. They have funded these losses by borrowings from banks and other FIs apart from keeping bills pending. At the end of FY 2021-22, their total debt was Rs 620,000 crore. Discoms' inability to generate required revenue has to do primarily with two factors viz. aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses - a jargon for power theft - and shortfall in the average revenue realisation from the sale of electricity vis-a-vis the average cost of supply (cost of purchase, wheeling and distribution), or the ACS-ARR gap. During 2020-21, AT&C losses were 22.32 percent while the ACS-ARR gap was Rs 0.54 per kWh. Both maladies arise due to constant meddling in the running of discoms by their owners namely the state governments. Power theft on such a massive scale is unthinkable without the complicity of the political establishment. People living in slum settlements/jhuggi clusters being a big vote bank, the party in power encourages unauthorized connections to enable their access to free power. As for the second malady, the political brass orders discoms to sell a major slice of electricity to households (HHs) and farmers, either at a fraction of the cost of supply or even free (the state electricity regulatory commissions or SERCs which are mandated to fix tariff merely act as rubber stamps). Even as the state government promises to reimburse the differential amount to discoms, most states don't reimburse or do it partially and after considerable delay.



REPORTEDLY, MORE THAN 100,000 METERS HAVE BEEN BIFURCATED OR TRIFURCATED ENABLING EVEN HIGH-END CONSUMERS TO AVAIL OF THE FREE BONANZA

(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)

Given nearly a quarter of the revenue lost due to power theft and a substantial amount in subsidies remaining unpaid, the financial stress of discoms is inevitable. The politics of freebies now deeply entrenched in the system has exacerbated the already grim situation. Let us look at the developments in Punjab. Last year, amongst a host of freebies promised by AAP the most prominent was free electricity to households (HHs) for consumption up to 300 units per month. Going by sheer common sense, the State should give help only to those HHs who can't afford to pay cost-based tariffs. The way to go is to identify households whose income is below a threshold. AAP hasn't gone by this. Could it be presumed that only low-income HHs have consumption of fewer than 300 units? So, in essence, the assistance reaches only to those who can't afford it. A closer scrutiny would reveal that the approach adopted by the AAP government is mischievous. Its real intent was to give the dole to 'all and sundry'. If a household consumes less than 300 units a month, it doesn't necessarily follow that it is a family with low income. For instance, there would be umpteen number of well-off/high-income old-age couples living alone who consume less than 300 units a month. Even for others, who consume more than this threshold, we see a dastardly trend of consumers applying for multiple connections within the same HH. For instance, a household consuming 900 units a month, gets three meters installed to keep consumption of each under 300 units thereby ensuring zero bill. Reportedly, more than 100,000 meters have been bifurcated or trifurcated enabling even high-end consumers to avail of the free bonanza. As a consequence, cur-

rently almost over 95 per cent of power consumers in Punjab avail of subsidies. The swelling number of connections has increased the subsidy by Rs 125 crore per month on average. As a result, the total domestic subsidy for the current FY is now expected to be Rs 8,813 crore - Rs 1,500 crore higher than the initial estimate of Rs 7,313 crore. In Delhi, where there is no charge for HHs consuming up to 200 units (HHs consuming between 200 and 400 units get a deduction of Rs 800 from their bill), the possibility of the majority of households availing of access to electricity - free of any charge - is not ruled out. The situation in other states won't be different. Given almost the entire population of the State - including the rich, millionaires, billionaires and so on, getting to enjoy the free bonanza, the burden of power subsidy is bound to gallop. Faced with budget constraints, the states will take increasing recourse to underpayment and delayed reimbursement of subsidy dues to discoms. Meanwhile, the Centre is dealing with discoms under a two-pronged strategy (i) forcing them to make timely payments and (ii) helping them cut AT&C losses and reduce the ACS-ARR gap. Under (i), it implemented late payment surcharge (LPS) and related matters Rules, in 2022. The LPS rules made it mandatory for discoms to clear their legacy dues as existing on June 3, 2022, in a time-bound manner in 12 equal monthly instalments (EMI) with the benefit of non-applicability of the LPS after its implementation date. The same rules are also provided for time-bound clearance of current dues failing, which will attract a power supply cut. The pressure tactics have worked. The legacy dues of all stakeholders in the electricity supply chain viz.

power generating companies (genscos) and transmission companies (transcos) from discoms decreased from Rs 1,39,747 crore in June 2022 to Rs 69,957 crore in July 2023. Faced with the threat of LPS, the latter could have used loans taken from PFC and REC (out of Rs 130,000 crore sanctioned under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan') to make payments to the former. As for (ii), under the 'Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution' (RLRBS) launched in July 2021, the Centre has undertaken a massive investment of Rs 300,000 crore to improve the reliability and quality of the power supply and enhance the efficiency of discoms. It has compulsory pre-paid and smart metering components to be implemented across the power supply chain, including in about 250 million households. The Scheme has yielded results. The AT&C losses of discoms have gone down from 22.32 per cent during 2020-21 to 13.5 per cent during 2022-23. The ACS-ARR gap has also reduced from Rs 0.54 per kWh during 2020-21 to Rs 0.15 per kWh in 2022-23. A 9 per cent cut in AT&C losses is a stupendous achievement. It seems that pre-paid and smart meters have been installed, and power theft is almost eliminated. The Centre is keen that the ACS-ARR gap should be reduced to 'zero' by March 2025. This will require making power theft 'nil' and timely recovery of all subsidy dues from the States. But, this won't be possible if states continue with business as usual; it could even lead to erosion of the gains made in 2022-23. Modi's efforts would deliver only when (a) discoms are unshackled from state controls; (b) States give subsidies directly to the beneficiaries and (c) electricity distribution is deregulated.

The Israel-Hamas war: Where does India stand?

India's diplomatic stance, which supports a two-state solution, may necessitate a revision in light of the evolving dynamics of the conflict

When the global economy is reeling under the crisis, the current geopolitical crisis in the Middle East has doubly heightened the level of inflation. This crisis emerged following the unexpected offensive launched by the Hamas against Israel, which subsequently led to Israel declaring war. Since Israel is a significant trading partner for India, the effects could be escalating. With sheer surprise, the week-end's unexpected strike by Hamas on Israel has triggered a huge armed war in the Middle East. More than 2300 people have been killed in the fighting so far, and hundreds more have been held prisoners. Israeli Prime Minister has warned of a harsh response, so the situation is unlikely to



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY

(Chakraborty is HoD-Digital Marketing and associate professor at the School of Management, Presidency University, Bangalore; views are personal)

improve very soon. In this context, India, one of Israel's oldest and greatest allies, has expressed its support for the Jewish state and has pledged to assist in the time of crisis. India's Prime Minister has timely expressed shock and condemnation of the terror incident. Inflation throughout the world is possible if the terror attack and retaliation between Israel and Palestine escalate into a full-scale war. This might be economically comparable to the beginning of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. **Consequences on India's Trading** At present, Israel is India's third-largest Asian trading partner and India's 10th-largest trade partner globally. Military trade between India

and Israel is valued at approximately Rs 74,000 crore, making it the second largest supplier of military equipment to India after Russia. India's goods exports to Israel constitute 1.8% of India's overall exports, mostly driven by the sale of petroleum products. Israel imports between \$5.5 to 6 billion worth of refined petroleum products from India. During the fiscal year 2023, the aggregate value of India's exports to Israel amounted to \$8.4 billion. Hence, there exists a significant likelihood of rupee devaluation, necessitating intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In such a scenario, the currency range is expected to increase to the '83-84 bracket. In contrast, India engages in the importation of equip-

ment, pearls, diamonds, and other valuable gemstones, including both precious and semi-precious varieties, from Israel. Israel's primary exports to India are the essential materials and machinery used in India's major industries and factories, such as precious stones and metals, electronic equipment, fertilisers, machines, engines, pumps, medical and technical equipment, organic and inorganic chemicals, salt, sulphur, stone, cement, and plastics. Currently, Israel exports items and equipment to India valued at more than \$3 billion. If bilateral commerce between the two nations is halted due to the terror strikes and the conflict, India might miss out on commodities worth Rs 25,000

crore, resulting in a surge in the prices of several common household items. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has caused a sense of unease in financial markets worldwide, leading investors to redirect their investments towards safe-haven assets. Investors maintain a cautious stance and exhibit vigilance in response to global developments, as a risk-averse mentality pervades the market. Investors may tend to exercise caution when considering high-risk ventures. **Indian stock market** Last week, the Indian stock market had a notable decline, along with the performance of other global stock indexes. This decline was influenced by the unexpected multifaceted assault carried out by the ter-

rorist group Hamas, involving land, air, and sea operations, resulting in the loss of more than 1,000 lives in Israel. The aforementioned trend has resulted in an escalation of geopolitical tensions, accompanied by an increase in crude oil prices and heightened volatility in global stock markets. **Only predictions** There are only predictions with conclusions. The right-wing politics in Israel and Palestine exhibit a disinclination towards embracing compromise. This hinders the process of negotiation. India's diplomatic stance, which supports a two-state solution, may necessitate a revision in light of the evolving dynamics of the conflict. Indian citizens stuck in Israel may need to be

evacuated as quickly as possible to avert loss of lives. The Indian diaspora residing in these nations may also experience repercussions in their life. In the context of the broader Israel-Palestine conflict, India has always advocated for a peaceful resolution that upholds the rights of all involved parties. The persistent war has resulted in heightened geopolitical tensions. The attainment of a peaceful resolution of the issue necessitates the collaborative endeavours of the global community. A balanced approach is of utmost importance, as it not only facilitates the cultivation of positive ties with Arab nations but also ensures a productive and meaningful interaction with them.

Putin begins China visit

AP ■ TAIPEI

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for a visit that underscores China's support for Moscow during its war in Ukraine as well as Russian backing for China's bid to expand its economic and diplomatic influence abroad.

The two countries have forged an informal alliance against the United States and other democratic nations that is now complicated by the Israel-Hamas war. China has sought to balance its ties with Israel against its relations with Iran and Syria, two countries that are strongly backed by Russia and with which China has forged ties for economic reasons as well as to challenge Washington's influence in the Middle East.

Putin's plane was met by an honour guard as the Russian leader began his visit that is also a show of support for Chinese leader Xi Jinping's signature 'Belt and Road' initiative to build infrastructure and expand China's overseas influence. In an interview to

Chinese state media, Putin praised the massive but loosely linked BRI projects.

"Yes, we see that some people consider it an attempt by the People's Republic of China to put someone under its thumb, but we see otherwise, we just see desire for cooperation," he told state broadcaster CCTV, according to a transcript released by the Kremlin on Monday. Putin will be among the highest profile guests at a gathering marking the 10th anniversary of Xi's announcement of the BRI project, which has laden countries such as Zambia and Sri Lanka with heavy debt from contracts with Chinese companies to build roads, airports and other public works they could not otherwise afford. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has praised the Chinese policy as bringing development to neglected areas.

Asked by reporters Friday about his visit, Putin said it would encompass talks on Belt and Road-related projects, which he said Moscow wants to link with efforts by an

economic alliance of former Soviet Union nations mostly located in Central Asia to "achieve common development goals."

He also downplayed the impact of China's economic influence in a region that Russia has long considered its backyard and where it has worked to maintain political and military clout. "We don't have any contradictions here, on the contrary, there is a certain synergy," Putin said.

Putin said he and Xi would also discuss growing economic ties between Moscow and Beijing in energy, high-tech and financial industries. China has also grown in importance as an export destination for Russia.

Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Centre, said that from China's view, "Russia is a safe neighbour that is friendly, that is a source of cheap raw materials, that's a support for Chinese initiatives on the global stage and that's also a source of military technologies, some of those that China doesn't have."

'Russia sending more forces to eastern Ukraine city after assault slows'

AP ■ YIV

Russia is throwing more units into its effort to take a key eastern Ukraine city, Western analysts say, after apparent setbacks that have slowed its dayslong onslaught.

The attempt to storm Avdiivka, a heavily defended city that stands in the way of Moscow's ambition of securing control of the entire Donetsk region, is Moscow's most significant offensive operation in Ukraine since the start of the year, the UK defence ministry said Tuesday.

The Kremlin's push to claim Avdiivka comes after months of fending off Ukraine's counteroffensive, which Kyiv launched some 16 months after Russia's full-scale invasion. Both sides are looking for battlefield advantages ahead of winter. They are also looking to secure future weapons supplies for what is shaping up as a protracted war of attrition.

The Kremlin's forces deployed to Avdiivka are like-



A Ukrainian soldier in his position in Avdiivka, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on August 18, 2023. Russia is throwing more units into its effort to take this key eastern Ukraine city, Western analysts say, after apparent setbacks that have slowed its dayslong onslaught

ly making slow progress and sustaining high casualties in what is proving a costly effort, the UK defence ministry said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

The pace of Russia's attack on the heavily fortified target

has reportedly slowed in recent days since its launch last week, a Washington-based think tank said. Citing the Ukrainian General Staff, the Institute for the Study of War said Ukrainian forces pushed back 22 Russian attacks on Monday,

down from 30 reported assaults the previous day. Kyiv officials said Russia mounted up to 60 attacks per day in the middle of last week.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said Tuesday that Russia is nevertheless still attempting to encircle the city, with 10 attacks over the previous 24 hours. The UK defence ministry said Russia's effort to overrun Avdiivka "looks increasingly unlikely in the short term."

More widely, Russian forces launched six Shahed drones and one Kh-59 cruise missile over southern regions of Ukraine late Monday, Kyiv authorities said.

The Ukraine Air Force of Ukraine claimed to have intercepted all the targets, with no casualties or destruction reported. Ukraine struck two helicopter airfields near the Russia-controlled Luhansk and Berdyansk regions, the Air Force claimed. It was not immediately possible to verify the two sides' battlefield claims.

Ukraine uses ATACMS missiles against Russian forces for the first time

Washington (AP) — A US official says the longer-range ballistic missiles long sought by Ukraine have been delivered quietly by the US and are being used on the battlefield against Russia nearly a month after President Joe Biden promised them to his Ukrainian counterpart.

The official was not authorised to publicly discuss the matter before an official announcement and spoke Tuesday on the condition of anonymity. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other Ukrainian leaders have been urgently pressing the US to provide the Army Tactical Missile System, known as ATACMS. Their delivery to the war front was shrouded in secrecy, with the expectation that the first public acknowledgement would come when the missiles were used on the battlefield.

Pakistan court adjourns Imran Khan, Qureshi's indictment till October 23

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

CIPHER CASE

A special court in Pakistan on Tuesday adjourned till October 23 the indictment of former prime minister Imran Khan and his close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case for allegedly violating the secret laws of the country. The case pertains to a secret diplomatic document that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Khan used to criticise his opponents for allegedly orchestrating his ouster from power in April last year.

The document reportedly went missing from his possession. Khan's party alleges that the document contained a threat from the US to oust Khan from office.

The special court set up by the government held the in-camera hearing at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail after the Islamabad High Court on Monday reject-

ed a plea by Khan against holding his trial in jail.

Judge Abual Hasanat Zulqernain adjourned hearing till October 23 with the remarks that Khan and former foreign minister Qureshi would be indicted on that day.

Barrister Salman Safdar and Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry were present as 71-year-old Khan's counsels, the Dawn newspaper reported. Qureshi's wife and daughter also reached the court. However, it was not confirmed whether they were allowed to attend the hearing, it said. Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) special prosecutor Shah Khawar, Khan, Qureshi and their legal teams were all present during the hearing.

Khawar told journalists that the indictment proceedings will take place next



Monday (October 23), Geo News reported.

As per the court's orders of October 9, both PTI leaders were expected to be indicted in the case on Tuesday.

However, the indictment could not take place on Tuesday with the court only distributing the copies of the challan (charge sheet) among the suspects.

Speaking to the media after the hearing, lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat said that Khan and Qureshi will now be indicted during the next hearing.

Khan was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. He was incarcerated on August 5 this year, after an Islamabad court sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case. The PTI chief was lodged in the Attock District Jail to serve his prison term.

Later, his sentence was suspended by the Islamabad High Court, but then he was arrested in the cipher case.

Pak Army backs govt's decision to deport illegal foreigners

Islamabad (PTI) — Pakistan's powerful army on Tuesday extended its full support to the government's decision to repatriate and deport all illegal foreigners, including Afghan refugees, from November 1 onwards. The caretaker government has set October 31 as the deadline for thousands of undocumented immigrants, including around 1.7 million Afghan refugees, to leave the country or risk imprisonment, deportation and forcible expulsion from November 1 as it intensified its crackdown against those involved in militancy and smuggling. Pakistan's decision has drawn widespread criticism, with organisations such as the UNHCR for Refugees and Amnesty International calling on the government to rethink its plans. The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has also expressed its reservations over the move. At the 260th Corps Commanders' Conference held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, top brass of the Pakistan Army resolved to fully support the federal government's decision to repatriate and deport all illegal foreigners from November 1 onwards, the military said in a statement.

'40 places of worship of Ahmadiis destroyed in 2023 in Pakistan'

PTI ■ LAHORE



At least 40 places of worship of the Ahmadi minority community have either been attacked by radical Islamists or partially demolished by police in different parts of Pakistan during the first 10 months of this year, a body representing the persecuted group said on Tuesday. Ahmadiis in Pakistan are usually referred to as Qadianis, which is considered a derogatory term for them. Pakistan's Parliament in 1974 declared the Ahmadi community as non-Muslims. A decade later, they were banned from calling themselves Muslims. They are banned from preaching and from travelling to Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage.

"At least 40 incidents of desecration of our worship places have taken place this year between January and October in various parts of Pakistan. Of them, 11 occurred in Sindh and the remaining in Punjab province," Amir Mahmood, an official of the Punjab chapter of Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan, told PTI.

In Sindh, some Ahmadi worship places came under attack by religious extremists who committed the offence with impunity as police remained silent spectators, he

said. While in most cases, radical Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked the Ahmadi worship places, in some incidents, police demolished minarets, arches and removed sacred writings from the prayer halls under the pressure of religious extremists, Mahmood said.

The TLP argues that Ahmadi worship places are similar to that of Muslim mosques because they have minarets. Mahmood said not a single case against the religious extremists has been registered so far for attacking and damaging the Ahmadi worship places. He also blamed Punjab's caretaker government for its complete failure to stop desecration of Ahmadi worship places in the province.

During its tenure, around 30 such incidents took place in the province, he said.

The Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya

Pakistan said the situation is becoming worse day-by-day for the already marginalised community.

"Ahmadiis are facing persecution at the hands of the evil elements. The acts of desecration of the places of worship in various areas of Pakistan continues unabated. It is a new norm and the authorities are doing nothing," it said.

Earlier, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) said the destruction of part of Ahmadiyya sites of worship is a brazen violation of the recent Lahore High Court judgment regarding the protection of Ahmadiyya sites of worship.

"It demonstrates yet again that the community is being hemmed in systematically and deliberately by law enforcement and the religious far right alike. According to the 2014 Supreme Court judgment, the police are supposed to protect the community's right to practice its faith. The government must hold the perpetrators accountable, repair the damage and ensure that this does not recur again," the HRCP had said.

Although the number of Ahmadiis in Pakistan is around a million, unofficial figures put their population much higher.

Child killed, 9 injured in hand grenade explosion

Karachi (PTI) — A child was killed and eight others injured on Tuesday when a hand grenade exploded in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province.

According to police, a group of children belonging to a religious seminary were playing with the hand grenade when it exploded in the Zarchain area of Wadh city.

The injured were immediately transported to a local hospital. Police and law-enforcement agencies cordoned off the area and launched a detailed investigation.

"This is not the first time such an incident has taken place. Militants and separatists leave behind or drop such dangerous explosives and when children find them they end up being killed or injured," Wadh DSP Abdul Manaf said.

He said hand grenades were left behind by the militants and separatists operating in the province and in some cases even rocket launchers had gone off when found and children tried to play with them.

Indian former chief priest fails in appeal to cut jail term

PTI ■ SINGAPORE



A former Indian chief priest at one of Singapore's oldest Hindu temples has failed in his bid for a lighter jail term for pawning the temple's gold jewellery for more than SGD 2.3 million.

Kandasamy Senapathi, 39, was sentenced to six years in jail by a district judge in May after he pleaded guilty to two charges of criminal breach of trust (CBT) and two charges of removing the benefits of his criminal activities from jurisdiction. Six similar charges were taken into consideration during his sentencing.

The Indian national was employed by the Hindu Endowments Board as a priest at the Sri Mariamman Temple in the central business district here from December 2013 until he resigned on March 30, 2020.

He would pawn a piece of jewellery that adorned statues of deities at the temple for cash and then return on another day to redeem the first piece of jewellery using a second piece of jewellery, according to The Straits Times newspaper.

On Tuesday, his lawyer,

Disagreeing with the lawyer, Justice Vincent Hoong pointed out that when Senapathi pawned the jewellery pieces, he received the proceeds, as reflected in the charges. The amount represented the value of the items misappropriated.

"How the appellant chose to use the pawn proceeds subsequently is irrelevant to determining the sum misappropriated in each of the CBT charges," the report quoted the judge as saying.

Noting that sums owed to the pawn shops resulted from Senapathi's unlawful acts, the judge said, "This is simply a disingenuous argument."

Between 2016 and 2020, Senapathi pawned 66 distinct pieces of jewellery at various pawn shops on 172 occasions. He was caught when the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, throwing the regular audit timing off and revealing the missing jewellery.

All the pieces of jewellery he pawned have since been returned to the temple. However, the sum of SGD 141,054.90, which was remitted, still needs to be recovered.

Divanan Narkunan, argued before the High Court that the sentence imposed was manifestly excessive, the report said.

Divanan argued that the district judge had erred by focusing on the misappropriated sum stated in the charges without considering that the money obtained by Senapathi was merely a fraction of the total pawn proceeds.

The lawyer argued that although Senapathi received a total of SGD 2.3 million (USD 1.6 million), he had obtained only SGD 141,054.90 as benefits, as most of the pawn proceeds were used to redeem the jewellery and pay off the interest owed to the pawnshops.

Afghan mob attacks Pak Customs, police and paramilitary rangers

Karachi (PTI) — A mob of Afghans residing in Pakistan's biggest city attacked a team of Customs accompanied by police and paramilitary rangers after they carried out a raid to seize smuggled goods from a market in a main commercial area of the city.

A video, which has gone viral, shows dozens of Afghans armed with sticks running after the Customs officials and vehicles of the Police and Rangers on Tariq Road as they tried to carry out a raid during nighttime on Monday.

Tariq Road is one of the busiest commercial centres of Karachi and has numerous fabric and clothing shops in shopping malls and markets which are generally owned by Afghans, who have now settled down in the city after fleeing from their country. A source in the Customs vigi-

lance confirmed the incident and said the team had gone with police and rangers back up after confirmed intelligence reports that smuggled cloth and fabrics worth millions of rupees were being sold by Afghan shop owners on Tariq Road.

Many of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan have established successful businesses in Karachi and other parts of the country and mostly focus on clothes, fabrics, carpets, curtains, and rug businesses. They own or rent shops in nearly all the major commercial centres and malls of Karachi. A police official said the raid had nothing to do with the government announcement that Afghans living illegally in Pakistan had to return home by November 1 or would be sent back to Afghanistan forcibly after the deadline.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to the public at large that Mr. Vard Prakash S/o Late Mr. Jugendra Singh is Recorded owner of the Residential House of area measuring (Undivided 3/4 Share), i.e. 55.1775 Sq. Mtrs., out of total area 88 Sq. Yds., i.e. 75.57 Sq. Mtrs., out of Khastia No. 198/3, situated at Ward No. 3, in the area of Village Dundahera, Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District, Ghazabad vide Sale Deed dated 19/07/2023-Vide Doc. No. 7467, SRC-IV Ghazabad, And same to be finance & mortgage by Ummeed Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. That the Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Mr. Jugendra Singh S/o Mr. Nathi Singh is Lost/Misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucam Legal LLP
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 22 Noida, UP-201301, Contact No: 0120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all, ASHA JULKA W/O LATE SH.MOHTI KUMAR JULKA R/o 7266-D-7, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI-110070 (Mutatee)/Owner of DDA LIG FLAT NO.57-C, FIRST FLOOR, POKET-K, SHEIKH SARAI PH-II, DELHI-110017, have applied for certified copies & conversion from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Demand-cum-allocation Letter, possession Letter, Noc For Water And Electricity Connection, & Other Documents of the above said flat has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/LR No. 10256313/2023 dated 16/10/2023 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection of found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 9818023230 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB-Housing)-LIG or Director (LAB-Housing)-LIG, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

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Notice Inviting Tender

e tender is hereby invited for the supply of following item:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head Office, Sector-34 A, Chandigarh Freezer On Wheel i. 100-110 Ltr. ii. 200 Ltr.	Annual/ 15 Units 85 Units

NOTE:

- For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
- Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Incharge (Purchase)

Baidu unveils Ernie 4.0 AI model, claims that it rivals GPT-4

AP ■ HONG KONG

Chinese search engine and artificial intelligence firm Baidu on Tuesday unveiled a new version of its artificial intelligence model, Ernie 4.0, claiming that it rivals models such as GPT-4 in the U.S.

Baidu's CEO Robin Li demonstrated Ernie 4.0 at the company's annual Baidu World conference in Beijing. He said the model has achieved comprehension, reasoning, memory and generation, which uses algorithms to produce and create new content.

Li said that Ernie 4.0 was able to understand complex questions and instructions and apply reasoning and logic to generate answers to questions. "It is not inferior in any aspect to GPT-4," Li said, stating that the latest model was "significantly autonomous driving and more recently, improved" compared to its original Ernie Bot model.

The company's Hong Kong-listed

In a live demonstration, Li prompted Ernie 4.0 to generate advertising materials including advertising posters and a marketing video. He also asked Ernie 4.0 to come up with a martial arts novel complete with characters with various personalities. Baidu is a frontrunner among a slew of Chinese companies racing to come up with artificial intelligence models, after OpenAI's ChatGPT took the world by storm last year. Beijing sees artificial intelligence as a key industry to rival the United States and aims to become a global leader by 2030.

Beijing-based Baidu started off as a search engine firm and over the past decade has invested heavily in artificial intelligence technology such as the latest model was "significantly autonomous driving and more recently, improved" compared to its original Ernie Bot model.

The company's Hong Kong-listed



shares fell 1.7 per cent Tuesday following the announcement. Baidu introduced its Ernie Bot in March. In August, it made the model available to the public. Ernie 4.0 is not yet available to the general public but

some people have been invited to try it.

Li said Baidu plans to incorporate artificial intelligence technology into its search engine, maps and cloud drive services, and its business intelligence offerings for enterprise customers. He did not give a timetable for that.

The technology can transform how certain products work. Baidu's search engine might generate a customized answer to a query instead of just providing a list of results and links.

China has recently sought to regulate the generative AI industry, requiring companies to carry out security reviews and obtain approvals before publicly launching their products. Companies that provide such AI services must also comply with government requests for technology and data. The US does not have such regulations.

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
CIN : L92199DL200PLC104779

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company.

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	SPP0003916	NANDESH SETHI RAVI PARKASH SETHI	4389	298879-915	37
2	SPP0001699	RAVI SETHI	1749	65274-310	37
3	SPP0005091	ATUL JAYANT SHAH	6318	446431-61	31

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim /objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Sd/-
EKTA MAHESHWARI
WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR, CFO & COMPANY SECRETARY

Place : Gurugram
Date : 17.10.2023

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Indora, Tehsil Indora, Distt. Kangra (HP) on behalf of Governor of HP invites the item Bid in Electronic tendering system from the eligible Class of Contractor registered in HPPWD. For the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated cost.	Earnest Money.	Starting date for downloading of Bid.	Deadline for submission of the Bid.	Time Limit.	Cost of Tender.	Eligible Class of Contractor.
1	C/O Link road from Sanjal to Khanda road km 000 to 700 (SH - C/O 6.00 Mr Span RCC Slab culvert at RD 0/815) under Working Programme.	3822253	77000	20.10.2023 10.00 A.M.	26.10.2023 5.00 P.M.	Three Months.	1500	C to D
2	C/O Link road DughRiyali (SH - C/O Edge walls of approaches of bridge over DughKhad in ward No. 05 Badkhar Side)	984880	20000	20.10.2023 10.00 A.M.	26.10.2023 5.00 P.M.	Three Months.	350	C to D

The Bidders are advised to note other details of Tender from the Department website www.hptenders.gov.in. & the said tender will be opened on 27.10.2023 at 11.30 AM.

Executive Engineer, Indora Division, HPPWD, Indora, Telephone No. 01893-22412336 e-mail- ee-wpd-indora-hp@gov.in On behalf of Govt. of Governor of HP.

RO NO. 3326/2023-2024 Dt. 17-10-2023

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

e-procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Division Sarkaghat H.P. on behalf of Governor of HP invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of each of the following works from the eligible Class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed below.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of tender	Time limit	Eligible class of contractor.
1	Repair of Govt Senior Secondary School Gopalpur in Tehsil Sarkaghat Distt Mandi (H.P.) (SH- Construction of Steel truss roof/Deposit work)	7,11,932/-	15,000/-	500/-	One Month	Class - D

- Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 23.10.2023
- Starting and End Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering w.e.f. 23.10.2023 at 10:00 AM. to 31.10.2023 up to 10:00 A.M. Technical bid opened 01.11.2023 at 11:30 AM and financial bid opened on 02.11.2023 at 11:30 AM.
- The bidder are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptender.gov.in
- The tender shall be awarded to the lowest bidder without any negotiation if his tendered amount is within limit of (+) 5% to (-) 3% of the amount put to tender otherwise the tender will be cancelled and recalled.
- The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tender without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer, Sarkaghat Division, HPPWD, Sarkaghat. For behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh. RO NO. 3330/2023-2024 Dt. 17-10-2023

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
RACPC ROPAR, Opposite HMT Resort Bela Road, Ropar, Ph. No. 01881-222014, Email: sbi.64110@sbi.co.in

[See Rule - 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement), Rules, 2002] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to borrower on the date mentioned hereunder; calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The date mentioned against the account.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property(ies) will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, for an amount mentioned herein below.

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

Name of the Borrower & Guarantor	Description of the Immovable property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of possession	Amount as per demand notice
Mr. Jagjit Singh S/o Sh. Sukhdev Singh and Smt. Rajinder Kaur W/o Sh. Jagjit Singh both at Village Siastpur, Tehsil & District Ropar-140108	Equitable mortgage of property measuring 0 Kanal 16 Marla 1 Sarsahi detailed as under: (1) K/K No. 76/78, Khasra No. 27/9/4 measuring 0 Kanal 2 Marla out of which 11/4 share of Jagjit Singh & 15/82 share of Rajinder Kaur i.e. 0 Kanal 0 Marla 8 Sarsahi.	17.02.2023	12.10.2023	Rs. 11,21,121/- as on 17.02.2023 plus further interest & other legal charges w.e.f. 18.02.2023 until payment in full
(2) K/K No. 77/79, Khasra No. 58/16 measuring 1 Kanal 19 Marla out of which 67/1599 share of Rajinder Kaur & 496/1599 share of Jagjit Singh i.e. 0 Kanal 13 Marla.				
(3) K/K No. 78/80, Khasra No. 52 measuring 0 Kanal 9 Marla out of which 1/8 share of Jagjit Singh & 1/8 share of Rajinder Kaur i.e. 0 Kanal 2 Marla 2 Sarsahi, situated at Village Siastpur, Hadbast No. 361, Tehsil & District Ropar. Bounded as: East: Property of Jaswinder Kaur, West: Street, North: Property of Bahadur Singh, South: Property of Dalbara Singh/ Malkit Singh as per property documents detailed below: i. Registered Sale Deed bearing Vasika No. 2797 dated 15.01.2010 in the name of Jagjit Singh S/o Sh. Sukhdev Singh. ii. Registered Sale Deed bearing Vasika No. 1592 dated 04.08.2011 in the name of Rajinder Kaur W/o Jagjit Singh. iii. Transfer Deed bearing Vasika No. 2530 dated 28.03.2016 in the name of Jagjit Singh S/o Sh. Sukhdev Singh.				

Date: 17.10.2023 Place: Ropar Authorised Officer

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank 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 Symbolic 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 Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunder Singh Kirpal Singh/Harpreet Singh/Harpreet Singh S/o Kirpal Singh/ Jaswinder Singh/Jaswinder Singh S/o Joginder Singh/Ishwinder Singh/Ishwinder Singh S/o Joginder Singh/Tappreet Kaur/Tappreet Kaur W/o Harpreet Singh/07850002247/07855000038	House Number 2-A/179 Mesuring 60 Ft X 60 Ft = 3600 Sq Feet i.e. 0 Kanal 13 Marla i.e. 13/121 Share of Total Land Mesuring 6 Kanal 1 Marla Comprised In Khasra Number 131/1 (S-1) Khewat No.345 Now 392 Khatoni Number 518 Now 569 Wide Jamabandi For The Year 2014/15 Situated at Jhulelal Colony, Fazilka Punjab/ October 12, 2023	June 26, 2023 Rs. 97,56,319.00/-	Fazilka

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: October 18, 2023 Place: Fazilka Authorised Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

(INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) (E-Procurement Module)

The Executive Engineer, Tissa Division, HPPWD Tissa H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage Rate/Item Rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Class	Completion period
1	Prevention of Land Slide disaster for protection of Baijagarh Upper Nallah and Lower Nallah on Tissa Satiyas road KM 24/380 to 24/620 and 22/580 to 22/700)	13642328.00	273000.00	5000.00	B and C	12 Months

- Starting Date for downloading: 17/10/2023 at 10.00 AM
- Deadline for submission of Bid: 25/10/2023 at 11.00 AM
- Date of Technical bid opening: 25/10/2023 at 11.30 AM

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of. The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer, Tissa Division, HPPWD Tissa Pin-176316 Email: ee-tis-hp@gov.in On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

RO NO. 3311/2023-2024 Dt. 16-10-2023

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

INVITATION FOR BIDS(IFB)

The Executive Engineer H.P.P.W.D., Theog Division on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage rate basis, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with H.P.P.W.D., for the works as detailed in the table:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost ₹	Starting date for downloading bid	Earnest money ₹	Time allowed	Cost of form ₹	Deadline for submission of bid
1	Restoration of rain damages on Rahighat Kiartoo rd km. 0/0 to 9/0 (SH-C/O R/wall at RD 0/008 to 0/043.50)	1,92,90,155	17/10/2023 17:00 Hrs	385803	One month	2000	23/10/2023 17:00 Hrs

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer Theog Division B.R. H.P.P.W.D., Theog Tel.01783 238376 Email: ee-the-hp@nic.in RO NO. 3302/2023-2024 Dt. 16-10-2023

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank
...मररो के प्रतीक... the name you can BANK upon!

BRANCH : GOHANA, DISTT. SONEPAT, HR-131301

POSSESSION NOTICE (PHYSICAL)

Notice for Immovable Properties of more than one borrower by the same Authorized Officer (For Immovable property) Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice(s) on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s).

The borrower having 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 under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the day 12.10.2023 (as given below date of possession Notice) The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon

Name of the Branch	Description of property Mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Balance Outstanding
Branch: Gohana, Distt. Sonepat Borrower : ShriNarayan Dass S/o Sh. Kanhaiya Lal / M/s Sh. Sai Baba Machinery Store	All that part and parcel of the property i.e. Res. House at Ward NO. 7 land Msg. 198 sq. Yds, standing in the name of Sh. Narayan Dass at Railway Colony Gohana Distt. Sonepat (Haryana) vide sale deed No. 1441 dt. 23.02.1978 Bounded: On the North by Street On the South by Nihal Chand On the East by House of Bishamber On the West by .House of Gopi Ram.	24.07.2003	12.10.2023	R.s . 1,51,767.80 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty one Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty seven And Paisa Eighty only) with further interest plus other charges thereon until payment is full.

DATE: 17.10.2023 PLACE: Gohana Authorized officer, Punjab National Bank

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Indora, Tehsil Indora, Distt. Kangra (HP) on behalf of Governor of HP invites the item Bid in Electronic tendering system from the eligible Class of Contractor registered in HPPWD. For the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated cost.	Earnest Money.	Starting date for downloading of Bid.	Deadline for submission of the Bid.	Time Limit.	Cost of Tender.	Eligible Class of Contractor.
1	Construction of Veterinary Dispensary building at Gangath (SH - C/O Building portion , Septic Tank, WS & Si an Rain water Harvesting tank).	16,43,728	33,000	23.10.2023 10.00 A.M.	29.10.2023 5.00 P.M.	Nine Months.	500	C to D

The Bidders are advised to note other details of Tender from the Department website www.hptenders.gov.in. & the said tender will be opened on 30.10.2023 at 11.30 AM.

Executive Engineer, Indora Division, HPPWD, Indora, Telephone No. 01893-22412336 e-mail- ee-wpd-indora-hp@gov.in On behalf of Govt. of Governor of HP.

RO NO. 3327/2023-2024 Dt. 17-10-2023

PRESS NOTICE TO BE ISSUED FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWS PAPERS FOR E-TENDERING

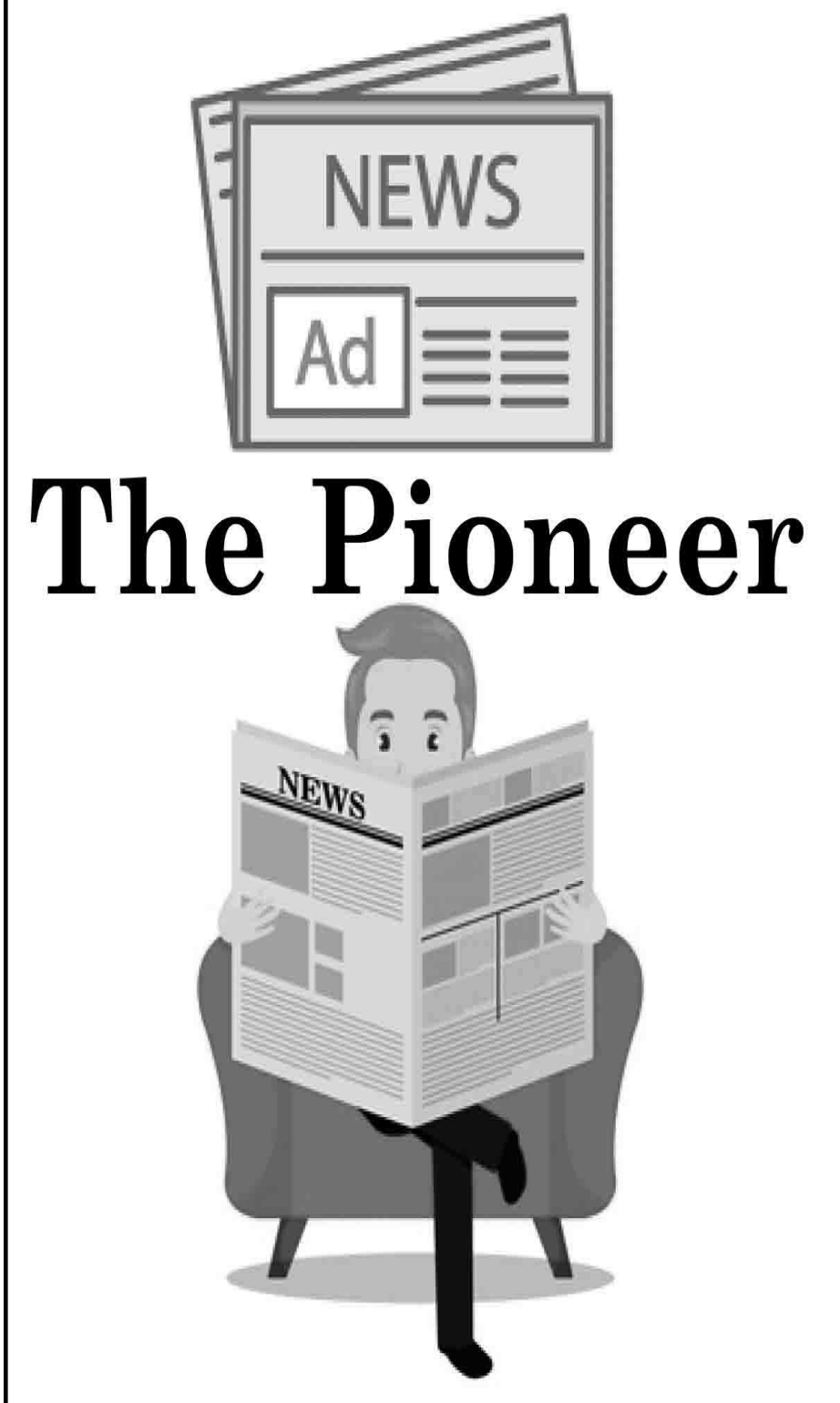
The Assistant Engineer JSV Sub-Division Hamirpur invites following tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e- tendering Process -

Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of form	Time of completion
A/R and M/O of LIS Nalli in Tehsil and Distt. Hamirpur (SH - Providing and fixing of 50 HP Starter, 200 Amp OCB, 100 Amp main switch and repair of 300 mm dia foot valve).	1,05,225/-	2105/-	250/-	One Month
A/R and M/O of LWSS Hamirpur Town in Tehsil and Distt. Hamirpur (HP/SH: Renovation and repair in Jal Shakti Bhawan complex i.e. Chief office, Circle office, Xen Office and sub Division office at Hamirpur) JOB No.2(b)).	1,62,500/-	3250/-	250/-	Three Months

Last date of sale of tender from Sub-divisional office 21.10.2023 upto 3.00 PM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website : www.hpiph.org or from office of Executive Engineer IPH Division Hamirpur upto date specified above.

Assistant Engineer, JSV Sub-Division, Hamirpur. RO NO. 3344/2023-2024 Dt. 17-10-2023

Classified Advertisement



COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE ADS CONTACT: 9417419351

The Chandigarh Young Dwellers Cooperative House Building (First) Society Ltd. Sector 49-A, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of general public and all concerned that the following members/applicants applied for transfer of Share/ Flat and issue of NOC/ Permission for execution of transfer of Lease Right before the Managing Committee of the Society/ Registrar Cooperative Societies, U.T. Chandigarh as per notification issued by Finance Department, Chandigarh Administration:-

Name of Original Allottee/ Transferor	Name of Applicant	Property
Sh. Anil Kumar Garg	(I) Sh. Anand Sagar Narang & (II) Smt. Veena Narang	Flat No. 58, G. F. CAT 'A' Sector 49-A, Chandigarh

If anybody has any objection upon the transfer of Title Right or interest in above mentioned flats of the Society in favour of the applicant, then, he/she may submit the objection in writing along with relevant documents to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice failing which the ownership of the above said flat shall be transferred in favour of the applicant.
No further claim in any manner whatsoever shall be entertained later on. (President)

GENERAL NOTICE

We, Tilak Raj Ahuja, Gulshan Ahuja, Sunita Arora, Harbajan Kaur, Alka, Bharti Arora sons/daughters of Late Sh. Ram Lal Ahuja Residents of House No. 5F/19A, Faridabad are legal heirs of Late Ram Lal Ahuja. Our father Late Ram Lal Ahuja expired on dated 17-04-2008 and our mother Late Smt. Prem Kaur is expired on dated 14-12-2010 and our sister Sulochna is expired on dated 19.2.2011. Hanish & Kamlesh Kafr are two leaving heir of Late Smt. Sulochna. Legal heir certificate is certified by Nambaradar, Patwari & Tehsildar. There is no other legal heir of Late Sh. Ram Lal Ahuja. If any one has any objection in this matter please submit their objection within 15 days in the concern department.

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display / Classified) carried in this newspaper. The Paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the content on their own.



In a continued effort to promote the well-being of our esteemed staff pensioners and their spouse/family pensioners, a Health Check-up Camp with the help of Alchemist Hospital, Panchkula & Apollo Clinic, Chandigarh was organized at the IRT, Panchkula. The camp aimed to provide comprehensive health assessments and medical consultations to the retired employees and their families. The event witnessed the active participation of over 25 individuals, who availed the facility. Participants underwent a series of medical tests, including blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar levels, and ECG. Senior cardiologist & Urologist from Alchemist Hospital, Panchkula were available for one-on-one consultations. Participants were encouraged to discuss any health concerns and seek advice. The Health Check-up Camp had a positive impact on the participants. Many individuals found it to be a valuable opportunity to assess their health, seek professional guidance, and acquire knowledge about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This initiative also helped in fostering a sense of care and community among our retired staff and their families.



Bank of Maharashtra opens its 44th branch in the state of Haryana at Kundli.

Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its new branch at Kundli, Haryana by Mr. Mukesh Upadhyay, Zonal Manager, Bank of Maharashtra, Chandigarh Zone along with Mr. Subhash Gupta, Director, Kundli Industrial Association. This new branch will provide smooth and timely high level customer service in the area and retail, agriculture, MSME and all other types of loans, disbursement of government schemes will be done in the least amount of time. Leading Public Sector Bank, Bank of Maharashtra today inaugurated its new branch with state-of-the-art services at Kundli, Haryana. With the opening of this branch, Bank of Maharashtra now has 44 branches in Haryana. The branch will cater to all basic banking transactions as well as specific banking needs of the customers, providing a complete spectrum of financial services and banking products to the retail, agriculture and MSME sectors. The Bank offers various niche products to its customers based on their needs, inter alia, such as ATM cum Debit Card, Secure Internet Banking, 24/7 Customer Care Centre and Mobile Banking. Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Manager, Mr. Mukesh Upadhyay said that this branch will help in meeting all the banking financial needs of the local people. "With the opening of the new branch at Kundli and through our rapidly growing network of branches and other channels, we are extremely proud to fulfill our commitment of providing banking services to retail customers. It is a one-stop shop for the banking needs of the customers. One stop solution.

SMAAASH re-launches centre in Chandigarh

Chandigarh: SMAAASH, gaming and entertainment centre, has announced the re-opening of its centre in Chandigarh with bowling and cricket as its unique selling proposition. With cutting-edge amenities and top-notch equipment, it promises to be a haven for sports enthusiasts of all ages. It also offers some of the best food in town, ensuring that every visit is a gastronomic adventure. From sumptuous meals to mouth-watering snacks, the culinary experience at SMAAASH Chandigarh is one that you won't want to miss. It also presents a wide range of branded soft toys and games to keep the excitement alive and spirits high for children and adults alike. "Our aim is to provide an exceptional experience that brings people together, offering a perfect blend of fun and entertainment. We believe in providing users a larger than life experience through our games and other offerings", said Avanish Agarwal, Consulting CMO, SMAAASH.

Markets rebound after 3 days of fall

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices bounced back on Tuesday after three days of fall amid recovery in global markets and buying in HDFC Bank post its quarterly earnings. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 261.16 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 66,428.09. During the day, it jumped 392.89 points or 0.59 per cent to 66,559.82. The Nifty gained 79.75 points or 0.40 per cent to 19,811.50. Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC Bank were the major gainers. HDFC Bank ended nearly 1 per cent up after the company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 16,811 crore for the September quarter, its maiden quarterly earnings announcement after merging parent HDFC with itself. Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the laggards. "The market's gap-up opening today, offsetting the losses of the past three days, indicates an optimism over the ongoing Q2 earnings despite concerns about the Middle East and subdued start by the IT sector. The



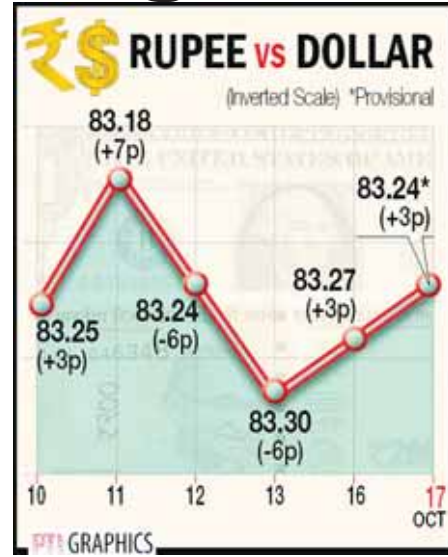
upward trend was broad-based with particular upside in banking, oil & gas and FMCG sectors. "However, some profit-taking was evident as the day concluded. FIIs continue to withdraw funds due to rise in the US bond yields. An insight about the future direction of

interest rates is expected from the Fed chair's upcoming speech on October 19th. While the market will also closely monitor the developments in the Israel-Hamas conflict, with a consensus emerging that the geopolitical risk will not elevate," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE small-cap gauge jumped 0.70 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.39 per cent. Among the indices, utilities rallied 1.21 per cent, power jumped 0.98 per cent, energy (0.94 per cent), oil & gas (0.80 per cent), financial services (0.66 per cent) and telecommunication (0.64 per cent). Capital Goods and realty were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the positive territory. European markets were trading in the green. The US markets had ended with gains on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.48 per cent to USD 90.08 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 593.66 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark had declined 115.81 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 66,166.93 on Monday. The Nifty slipped 19.30 points or 0.10 per cent to 19,731.75.

Rupee rises 3 paise to close at 83.24 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 3 paise at 83.24 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a positive trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the rupee is trading with a slight positive bias on positive domestic markets. However, a strong US dollar and concerns over the ongoing conflict in the Middle East capped sharp gains. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.22 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 83.22 to 83.26 in the day trade. The rupee finally settled 3 paise higher at 83.24 (provisional) against the previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled at 83.27 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on the rise in risk appetite in global markets and decline in crude oil prices. Diplomatic efforts to contain the Middle East conflict may also support the risk assets," said Anuj Choudhary — Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, elevated US dollar and any further escalation on geopolitical tensions between Hamas and Israel may cap sharp gains. "Selling pressure from FIIs and RBI's maturing of dollar/rupee swap transactions may pressurise the rupee at higher levels. Traders may take cues from retail sales and industrial production data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.90 to Rs 83.70," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the



greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.09 per cent to 106.33. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.41 per cent to USD 90.02 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex closed 261.16 points or 0.39 per cent higher at 66,428.09. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 79.75 points or 0.4 per cent to 19,811.50. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday as they sold shares worth Rs 593.66 crore, according to exchange data.

RBI imposes penalty on ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank for violation of norms

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and Rs 3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms. The penalty on private sector lender ICICI Bank has been imposed for contravention of norms related to 'Loans and Advances-Statutory and Other Restrictions' and 'Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs'. In another statement, the RBI said the penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited has been imposed for contravention of directions related to "Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks", "Recovery Agents engaged by Banks", "Customer Service in Banks", and "Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions". In both cases, the RBI said the penalties are based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.



Vedanta explores tieup with Japanese tech firms as it plans to set up chip plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian conglomerate Vedanta Group on Tuesday said it is exploring collaborations with Japanese technology companies as it continues with its plan to set up a semiconductor fab in Gujarat. Vedanta's semiconductor and display business Global Managing Director Akarsh K Hebbar during Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit roadshow in Japan had said that it is a USD 80-billion opportunity for companies willing to come and invest in the electronics manufacturing hub in Gujarat. "He (Hebbar) outlined Vedanta's ambitious plans to establish semiconductor and display fabs in Dholera SIR, Gujarat, and invited Japanese companies to partner with Vedanta in helping build the country's first electronics manufacturing hub in the state," the statement said. Hebbar also pointed out that the hub has the potential to attract hundreds of SMEs and create more than one lakh jobs. "There is a USD 80-billion opportunity for companies willing to come and invest in this electronics manufacturing hub, and Vedanta will be the anchor

for Japanese companies interested in investing in India," Hebbar said. Vedanta group firm AvanStrate Inc is headquartered in Japan. Late last year, the company signed agreements with 30 Japanese technology companies to foster the development of India's semiconductor and glass display manufacturing ecosystem. Japan is also the second Quad partner after the United States to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain. With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem. Earlier, Vedanta had formed a joint venture with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn which announced plans to invest USD 19.5 billion in setting up a semiconductor wafer fabrication plant. Both the firms have announced that they will invest in setting up electronic chip plants in India separately, but they are yet to announce the name of their technology partner.

GPT Healthcare refiles IPO papers with Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GPT Healthcare, which operates and manages mid-sized multispecialty hospitals under the ILS Hospitals brand, has refiled draft papers with capital market regulator Sebi to raise funds through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 40 crore, and an offer for sale of up to 2.6 crore equity shares by BanyanTree Growth Capital II, LLC, a Mauritius-based structured private equity, according to the draft red herring prospectus filed on Monday. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for payment of debt and general corporate purposes. Kolkata-based GPT Healthcare had in January 2021 filed preliminary papers with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to raise Rs 450-500 crore through the



issue. The company had received the capital markets regulator's nod to float the issue but it didn't go ahead with the launch. GPT Healthcare, which started with an eight-bed hospital in Kolkata in 2000, operates four full service multispecialty hospitals, with a total capacity of 561 beds, and attends to over 35 specialties and super specialties such as internal medicine, diabetology, gastroenterology, orthopaedics and joint

replacements, interventional cardiology, neurology, neurology, neurosurgery and paediatrics, as per the DRHP. The company competes with listed industry peers, including Global Health Ltd, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences Ltd, Jupiter Life Line Hospitals Ltd, Yatharth Hospital & Trauma Care Services Ltd, Kovai Medical Center & Hospital Limited and Shalby Ltd. Its total income increased 7.11 per cent to Rs 366.73 crore in FY23 from Rs 342.40 crore in FY22. The company's net profit declined to Rs 39.01 crore for FY23 from Rs 41.66 crore a year ago. The company had reported a net profit of Rs 9.98 crore in the June quarter while the total income was at Rs 97.63 crore. JM Financial is the sole book-running lead manager to the issue. The equity shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE and the NSE.



India to spend nearly ₹143 lakh crore on infrastructure between FY24 and FY30: Crisil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will spend nearly Rs 143 lakh crore on infrastructure between fiscals 2024 and 2030, more than twice the Rs 67 lakh crore spent in the past seven financial years starting 2017, rating agency Crisil said on Tuesday. Of the total, Rs 36.6 lakh crore will be green investments, marking a five times rise compared with the amount spent during fiscals 2017-2023, it added. "India's infrastructure spending will double to Rs 143 lakh crore between fiscals 2024 and 2030, compared with 2017-2023," Crisil said in its Infrastructure Yearbook 2023. Crisil Ltd managing director and CEO Amish Mehta said the agency expects India's gross domestic product to grow at an average 6.7 per cent through fiscal 2031 to be the fastest-expanding large economy. "Per capita income is seen rising from USD 2,500 now to USD 4,500 by fiscal 2031, creating a middle-income country," he said, adding that this growth will be underpinned by massive all-round infrastructure development, with sharp focus on integrating sustainability. While releasing 'CRISIL Infrastructure Yearbook 2023', which includes a unique national index CRISIL Infralnvex, Mehta said policy interventions and a conducive investment climate have aided the uptrend in the CRISIL Infralnvex scores across sectors. "Four of these — roads and highways, power transmission, renewable energy and ports — have an overall score of 7-plus (out of 10), which underscores the pace of reforms and developments of the past few years," he added. The rating agency noted that the next phase of infrastructure development will be marked by growth in the average ticket size of projects and a significant number of mega-scale projects. Appropriate and consistent policy and regulatory interventions and focus on timely execution build an attractive case for various stakeholders to accelerate investments across infrastructure sectors, Crisil said. The rating agency predicted that prominent sectors such as roads and power are expected to remain major contributors, while relatively nascent ones such as EVs, solar, wind, and hydrogen will pick up pace. "The share of EVs in India's overall automobile sales is likely to reach 30 per cent by 2030. "Two-wheeler EV sales are expected to outpace other segments up to 2028, while demand for EV buses will be driven by state transport undertakings," it said. According to Crisil, favourable total cost of ownership and total cost of acquisition, as well as model availability for two- and three-wheelers will support EV uptake in coming years. It said the share of renewable energy in total capacity is estimated to grow 4x between fiscals 2023 and 2030.

CCI approves merger of IDFC Ltd with IDFC FIRST Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday approved the merger of IDFC Ltd with IDFC FIRST Bank. IDFC FIRST Bank is in the business of providing banking services, while its parent IDFC Ltd (IDFCL) is an RBI-registered non-banking financial company. The deal is subject to conditions, including the merger of IDFC Financial Holding into IDFC Ltd in the first step and subsequently, the amalgamation of IDFCL with IDFC FIRST Bank. Further, CCI also approved the cancellation of the existing shares held by IDFC Financial Holding in IDFC FIRST Bank and then the issue of new shares of the bank to IDFCL's shareholders. IDFC Financial Holding is a non-operative financial holding company registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Competition Commission said it has

approved the deal under the green channel route. "There are no horizontal overlaps or vertical/complementary linkages between the business activities of the parties in the country. "Given the absence of any horizontal overlaps or vertical or complementary linkages between the parties, the transaction is being notified under the green channel route," CCI said. Under the green channel route, a transaction which does not raise any risk of an appreciable adverse effect on competition is deemed to be approved on being intimated to the CCI. In July, IDFC FIRST Bank announced the merger of its parent IDFC Ltd with itself in an all-stock transaction. Also, boards of IDFC FIRST Bank and IDFC have approved the reverse merger and said the composite scheme of amalgamation includes the merger of IDFC and IDFC Financial Holding Company with IDFC First Bank.

Bajaj Finance Q2 profit up 28 per cent at ₹3,551 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) on Tuesday reported a 28 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 3,551 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The non-banking finance company had posted a net profit of Rs 2,781 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago. Its total consolidated income increased to Rs 13,382 crore during the July-September period against Rs 9,974 crore a year earlier, BFL said in a regulatory filing. The Pune-headquartered company's total expenditure rose to Rs 8,624 crore compared to Rs 6,222 crore in the year-ago period. Its consolidated assets under management (AUM) as of September 30, 2022, grew by 33 per cent to Rs 2,90,264 crore from Rs 2,18,366 crore a year ago. Capital adequacy ratio (including Tier-II capital) as of September 30, 2023, was 23.19 per cent. The Tier-I capital was 21.88 per cent, it said. The board at its meeting held on October 5 has approved raising of capital through a qualified institutions placement (QIP) for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 8,800 crore by issue of equity shares of face value of Rs 2 each. Besides, the board has also approved preferential issue (PI) of up to 15,50,000 warrants convertible into equivalent number of equity shares to Bajaj Finserv Limited, the promoter and holding Company, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 1,200 crore in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, it said.

SUV segment to see intense competition among players: Tata Motors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Tuesday said it plans to keep updating its SUV range as it expects the robustly growing segment to remain highly competitive with presence of all leading players. Sports utility vehicles are driving the overall growth of the domestic passenger vehicle segment. As per the latest SIAM data, SUV sales account for 60 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle sales in the country. In an interaction with PTI, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said the company has a leadership position in some of the SUV sub-segments and is looking to consolidate in others. "The SUV segment is going to be an intensely fought segment.

The top three-four players will have just a few thousand (units) here and there. At some point someone will be number one, sometimes somebody else will become number two," he said. He noted that in such scenarios it is more important to focus on the individual products and whether they are in the top two consideration for buyers. Chandra said Punch and Nexon are market leaders in their respective segments while Harrier Safari combo was number two in its vertical. Tata Motors on Tuesday rolled out new versions of Harrier and Safari with price starting at Rs 15.49 lakh and Rs 16.19 lakh, respectively. "Going beyond this, we are coming with two more models — Curvv and Sierra — in 2024



and 2025, respectively," he stated. So the company's SUV portfolio is going to further strengthen from where it is now, Chandra noted. "We have been number one for quite some time. There have been few new launches by other players. The ranking will keep changing... There is no clear

number one here. "Important thing is that we are doing excellent in all these four SUVs that we have. More importantly, we are adding to this portfolio, so our strength in SUV is going to always remain very strong going forward," he added. The updated versions of both Harrier and Safari have received top safety ratings from the vehi-

cle safety group Global NCAP. "With their 5-star GNCAP rating and highest scores by any Indian vehicle to date, our SUVs are the safest spaces on Indian roads," Chandra said. In a separate statement, Global NCAP said it has given five-star safety ratings to the new versions of Tata Safari and Harrier SUVs. Both models have achieved the

highest ever score for adult and child occupant safety in the crash tests done by Global NCAP on Indian cars so far, it stated. Global NCAP rates vehicles from zero to five based on their safety features and automobiles with a higher rating are considered safer for occupants. "This is a very strong result... The top adult and child safety score in our testing to date confirms the manufacturer's strong commitment to developing safer vehicles, which we warmly welcome and applaud," Global NCAP Secretary General Alejandro Furas said in a statement. Global NCAP's crash test protocols assess frontal and side impact protection for all models, as well as electronic stability control.



Delhi Metro's first Managing Director E Sreedharan, popularly known as Metroman, visited Metro Bhawan on Tuesday. He was received by the present Managing Director Dr Vikas Kumar and Principal Executive Director, Corporate Communications Anuj Dayal. Sreedharan interacted with the senior officials and wished the Phase 4 of the project all success.

SABITZER'S PENALTY, SENDS AUSTRIA TO EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP



AP ■ BRUSSELS

Substitute Marcel Sabitzer scored from the penalty spot shortly after entering the game to secure a 1-0 win for Austria at Azerbaijan and send his country to next year's European Championship in a day overshadowed by a deadly shooting in Brussels which saw Belgium's game against Sweden halted at halftime.

"Due to the incidents in Brussels earlier tonight, play is suspended. Our thoughts are with all those affected," a post from the

Belgian national team read on X, formerly known as Twitter. European soccer governing body UEFA confirmed the Group F match had been called off following consultation with both teams and local police. The score was 1-1 at the time. Viktor Gyokeres gave Sweden a 15th-minute lead, but Romelu Lukaku had Belgium level just after the half-hour. Belgium had already qualified for Euro 2024 while Sweden's chances of a top-two place had been ended by Austria's victory earlier.

AUSTRIA ADVANCES

After losing 3-2 to Belgium in Vienna last week in the fight for Group F supremacy - Austria's only defeat in seven qualifying games so far - Sabitzer and his teammates knew a win in Baku would secure a spot at the tournament hosted by Germany. With several key players sidelined because of injuries, Austria struggled to create real chances in the first half. It was awarded a penalty just minutes into the second half after a hand ball. Sabitzer was clinical in converting with a strike into the corner

in the 48th. Sabitzer, who plays for Borussia Dortmund, recently returned to competition after recovering from an adductor injury he picked up last month in a Champions League match against PSG. Austria finished with 10 men after striker Guido Burgstaller was sent off in stoppage time for a second yellow card. Austria became the seventh team to qualify after Belgium, France, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Turkey, along with host Germany.

RONALDO SCORES 2

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice for Portugal in a 5-0 demolition of host Bosnia in Group J. Bruno Fernandes, Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix also scored with all goals coming in the first half. Iceland routed Liechtenstein 4-0 and Slovakia won 1-0 at Luxembourg in the same group. Netherlands came away from Greece with a 1-0 win in Group B to revive its hopes. Virgil Van Dijk's penalty in second-half stoppage time sent the Netherlands above their oppo-

onents and into second in their group. Both have 12 points. Wout Weghorst earlier failed to convert his penalty. "We do not have a specialist for penalties, corners and free kicks," said Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman. "When Virgil was behind the ball for the second one, I suddenly thought Surely it won't be one of those evenings when this one goes wrong too." But Virgil took it well and decided the match.

Ireland thrashed Gibraltar 4-0 in the group's other game.



Sweden players take overnight flight home, returning to clubs

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Sweden players were returning to their clubs on Tuesday after taking an overnight flight home from Brussels following the suspension of their European Championship qualifier against Belgium at halftime because a gunman killed two Swedish nationals before kickoff.

The squad went directly to the airport and flew back to Sweden once they were allowed to leave King Baudouin Stadium, which was locked down for 2½ hours for security reasons before officials began an evacuation process around midnight local time. It was around 4 am local time when the last of the Swedish supporters — totaling about 650, according to the Swedish Football Association — left the stadium under police surveillance, along with some staff from the federation. All hotels where Swedish supporters were staying were also guarded by police, the federation said.

The Swedish FA confirmed to The Associated Press that the national-team players were now making their way back to

their clubs. The suspect in the shooting was shot dead by police on Tuesday, Belgian Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden said, and the weapon believed to have been used by the man has been recovered. Authorities had been searching for a 45-year-old suspected Tunisian extremist who was known to police and was living in Belgium illegally. Swedish FA officials said information about the shooting incident, which also led to another Swedish national getting seriously injured and taken to hospital, reached them just before the match began and that Belgian authorities and police considered the game should be played because the stadium was viewed as the safest place for the Swedish fans. A decision was made to halt the match at halftime. Martin Fredman, the federation's head of security, said about 400 Swedish fans "received help during the evening and night." "The cooperation between supporters, federations and authorities has worked very well in an extremely stressful situation," Fredman said.



India men's hockey plays compactly at Asian Games: Somaya

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Olympic gold medalist M M Somaya feels the Indian men's hockey team produced one of the most "compact" performances to win its fourth yellow metal at the recently-concluded Hangzhou Asian Games. Somaya, who was the Indian contingent's deputy chef de mission at Hangzhou, said it was mostly an unblemished performance from the Harmanpreet Singh-led side, who directly qualified for Paris Olympics by winning the gold.

"I think they (India) played outstanding in all the matches, barring a few lapses of concentration against Japan and Korea, but otherwise, overall, I think one of the most compact and sound performances we have seen," said Somaya, a member of India's 1980 World Cup-winning team in Moscow. With next year's Paris ticket secured, the Indian team can focus on its preparations now. "Now that the burden of qualifying is gone, they can concentrate on making a strong program up to Paris. So just because

they're not playing in the tournament for qualification doesn't mean that they will be complacent. They can now engage in preparatory camps and tours with Paris in mind," Somaya said.

The 64-year-old also lauded the women's team, who bagged the bronze at the Asian Games but missed out on a direct ticket to Paris.

"The women also played very well, barring that game against China in the first half where they were a little overwhelmed. And then in the second half they opened up, but it was too late. Overall, it was an excellent performance from both the teams."

Somaya also had words of appreciation for the Odisha government for its overwhelming support to Indian hockey. "Odisha have stood out because of their support for hockey, I don't remember any other sport where a state has supported the national team. It's always been a corporate, but in this case the state itself has supported the national team, which is a big thing."

AITA actions against Sasi for not wearing official jersey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The AITA is contemplating action against Sasi Mukund for not wearing the official jersey during the Davis Cup tie against Morocco and has also introduced a players' code of conduct to ensure 'discipline' in future.

In the opening singles of the World Group II play-off tie against Yassine Dlimi on September 16, Mukund wore the jersey provided by his personal sponsor and not the one made available by official Indian team sponsor 'OOK' after taking "permission" from skipper Rohit Rajpal. To make matter worse, the jersey that Mukund wore had 'INDIA' spelt wrongly and the matter was brought to AITA's notice by the team sponsor. The team name printed on the back had an extra 'I'.

It may be mentioned that the official sponsor only provided the kit and no sponsorship money was given to either All Indian Tennis Association (AITA) or the players who were part of the tie that India won 4-1 in Lucknow last month.

AITA issued a showcause notice to Mukund on September 28, asking him to explain within seven days why action should not be taken against him for not wearing the official jersey and playing with a jersey that had India written wrongly.

On October 3, Mukund sent his reply to the national federation, saying that "shorts received from OOK were not comfortable".

Mukund also wrote that he had taken prior permission from both captain Rajpal and coach Zeeshan Ali to wear the jersey that had his sponsor's



name printed. Explaining the spelling fiasco, Mukund wrote that he had received eight T-shirts from his sponsor and unfortunately he picked the only one that had printing mistake. He also lamented that neither the captain nor his teammates noticed when he stepped on to the court.

"I have immense respect for my country and I would never do something intentionally to tarnish its image," he wrote and also apologised for the inadvertent mistake.

On October 13, the AITA communicated to Mukund that his explanation was not acceptable since the captain has denied giving him any permission and further asked him to clarify his stand. When contacted by PTI,

Mukund said captain Rajpal had indeed allowed him. "There was no money involved. The players were not given any sponsorship fee for this tie. Only the kit was provided by the official sponsor. Captain Rajpal had understood this and allowed me," Mukund, who had lost his match to Dlimi, said.

"Usually the players are asked to sign a contract with the AITA for that one week if they are being paid for wearing that official kit. In this case, we did not sign any contract. My personal sponsor 'Indian Tree' pays me, so what's wrong in it. The pockets of the shorts were such that the ball were coming out. "These are the reasons that the players lose interest in playing for the national team," he said. AITA Secretary General Anil

Dhupar said they have introduced a players' code of conduct for clarity and all players will be bound by it. "The players code of conduct is before the Executive Committee members. It will come into effect immediately. It is for all players, be it men's, women's, boys or girls," he said.

Asked if they will indeed take action against Mukund, Dhupar said, "Mukund has apologised but we are still discussing the matter".

Asked for his viewpoint, Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali said, "All players should be wearing only the official kit. During the Asian Games all the players and support staff wore the official kit only. Procedure has to be followed by all". It is not the first time that an Indian player has preferred

playing with the kit that has his personal sponsor's name written. They do get paid for wearing the sponsor's name. If the match is telecast live, the amount increases. "The AITA had also introduced the system of paying the players for official sponsor's name. The initiative was taken by captain Rohit Rajpal. If you have to stop players from wearing the name of their personal sponsor during the Davis Cup, then you have to compensate," said a team source.

"In this case (Morocco tie), no sponsor was willing to pay any sponsorship money to the players and the AITA. Just the kits had arrived through OOK, it is difficult to even arrange for kits for Indian Davis Cup team," the source said, summing up the state of Indian tennis.



Contrasting results for Indian sub-junior hockey teams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian boys' and girls' sub-junior (U-16) hockey teams endured contrasting results on the final day of their maiden tour to the Netherlands. While the boys beat the Netherlands' U-16 side 4-0, the Indian girls lost 1-4 against the Dutch. Rohit Irengbam Singh, Ketan Kushwaha, Rahul Rajbhar and captain Manmeet Singh Rai scored for the Indian boys team.

"This is a great way to finish off such a historic tour. The boys showed immense character and grit and the efforts that have been put in are unmatched. It's a matter of pride to have produced such a fine show especially in overseas conditions," Indian sub-junior boys' team coach Sardar Singh said.

In the girls' game, Kajal Jr scored the lone goal for India. Former India captain and sub-junior girls' team coach Rani Rampal, said, "The girls played their hearts out and that is exactly what is expected of them every time they step out on the field. "There are a few areas for us to work on and this tour has given us exactly what we needed to identify our strengths and shortcomings."

Kusale now aiming for gold at Asian Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rifle marksman Swapnil Kusale's dream of winning an Asian Games medal in Hangzhou might have gone sour, courtesy one poor shot, but that has not stopped him from aspiring for gold at the Asian Championships, scheduled to commence in Changwon, South Korea on October 22.

One of the best 50m rifle 3-positions shooter in the country, the 28-year-old Kolhapur marksman was leading by a huge margin in his event at the Asian Games recently before a rank bad 7.6 on the third-last shot in the finals saw him take a mighty tumble from No.1 to 5.

That effectively ended his hopes of winning even a bronze medal in the quadrennial continental showpiece as he finished fourth. However, as the shooting team leaves for the Asian Championships, Kusale has put the disappointment on the back-burner and wants to concentrate on the next assignment.

"That shot... How did it go that way, I have absolutely no idea. It's a game basically. I still had two shots remaining and I focused on them. I just forgot that had I shot a poor score," said Kusale, one of the early birds to secure a Paris Olympic quota place.

Initially, I was a bit shocked how it

could happen to me. But without bothering about it much, how and why it happened, I prepared myself for the next two shots," said Kusale, who had bagged the 2024 Olympic quota by finishing fourth at the World Championships in Cairo last year.

"Yes, it did strike me that I had missed the gold medal because of that one shot, but then I thought it can happen in this sport and I will concentrate on the next championship."

A similar last shot in the finals at the 2022 World Championships in Cairo had robbed him of a medal, but that disappointment was masked by the Olympic quota place



he won there. "It had happened to me at the World Championships in Cairo last year as well, but yes, I bagged an Olympic quota there and finished fourth, so that was the saving grace," said Kusale on the sidelines of a function organised by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) to felicitate the Asian Games medal winners.

India returned home with 22 medals in shooting, their best ever performance at the Games. "I was very deeply concentrating on the moment, too much focused and because of that, maybe, my entire process (went for a toss). It's something which I never anticipated I

could do. I tried my level best to come back, but I still missed an individual medal. Kusale, though, won the team gold along with Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Akhil Sheoran. Kusale, a junior TC with the Railways, says that world champion rifle shooter Tejaswini Sawant has helped him handle tricky situation while competing.

Sawant, who also hails from Kolhapur but now resides in Pune, had become world champion in 2010 in women's 50m rifle prone. "Teju di (Tejaswini) has taught me how to handle different situations, etc. I have learnt from her and she has inspired me a lot over the

years," said Kusale. Kusale is also not surprised that his "best pal" Akhil Sheoran too has bagged the second Olympic quota for the country at the World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan just before the Asian Games. The two have been competing together since 2012, when they were juniors, and Kusale said he cannot remember a national camp when they have not been room-mates.

"Akhil has been my roommate and best pal since 2012 since the time we were competing as juniors. We are like brother and both have won (Olympic) quota, albeit one year apart."

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NZ AIMS TO KEEP THEIR UNBEATEN RUN INTACT

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Afghanistan's upset win over defending champions England has given the side a new stature and New Zealand would underestimate Hashmatullah Shahidi's side at their own peril when the two sides clash in their World Cup match here on Wednesday.

While the Kiwis would look to keep their unbeaten run going in the tournament, Afghanistan, who shocked England by 69 runs, would be keen to create another big upset and put their campaign firmly on track in the showpiece event. New Zealand are going great guns in the tournament, having won all three matches so far and are currently placed second on the points table, trailing India on net run rate.



On the other hand, Afghanistan had an inauspicious start to their campaign losing to Bangladesh and India before leaving Jos Buttler's England in a tizzy with a victory to be cherished for long in New Delhi on Sunday. New Zealand will again be led by wicketkeeper-batter Tom Latham after their charismatic skipper Kane Williamson suffered a fracture on his left thumb during the match against Bangladesh and was ruled out for a few games. Williamson, who had missed the opening two matches — against England and the Netherlands — due to an ACL injury suffered during IPL 2023, was looking good to strike a century after being out of action for more than five months. But the skipper's innings was cut short at 78 when he was struck on the thumb by a throw from the outfield. Despite the huge setback, the Kiwis would be banking on their success so far to win their fourth game on the trot against an unpredictable Afghanistan, who played their guts out against England. It would be interesting to see if pacer Tim Southee finally gets a chance against Afghanistan, having recovered from a thumb injury, though his match fitness has remained an issue. The Kiwis will rely heavily on their top order comprising Will Young, Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell, while all-rounder Rachin Ravindra, with his impactful performances across departments, will also be the player to watch. The Kiwi batters would certainly have watched the video footage of Afghanistan spinners Rashid Khan and Mohammed Nabi many times over to counter the slow-bowling threat, given that the duo accounted for five England wickets. With the meeting happening at the Chepauk, where the pitch has traditionally assisted spinners, New Zealand will have their hands full when they take on the trio of Rashid, Mujeeb Ur Rehman and Nabi. As for the Afghanistan batting, opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz is the man in form, having scored 50-plus in two matches so far, while the likes of skipper



Rohit best man to lead India to third WC title

PTI ■ DUBAI

Australian legend Ricky Ponting believes a "laid-back" Rohit Sharma is the ideal captain to lead India to their third ODI World Cup title, the second on home soil after the 2011 triumph. With three convincing wins under their belt, India have made a perfect start to their World Cup campaign. India defeated Australia by six wickets in their tournament opener, before registering emphatic eight and seven-wicket wins over Afghanistan and Pakistan to sit on top of the points table. "He's very laid back, Rohit. Very laid back with everything he does. You can even see that by the way that he plays. He's a pretty laconic sort of batsman as well, and that's the way he is both on and off the field," Ponting told the ICC on Tuesday.

Rohit took the captaincy reins from Virat Kohli in both the white-ball formats in December 2021. And Ponting believes Rohit's character fits perfectly for the India job, allowing Kohli to focus on his batting. "Someone like Virat, who is a bit more heart-on-the-sleeve, and probably listens to the fans and plays up with the fans a little bit more, someone with his personality would probably find it a bit harder," the two-time World Cup winning Australia skipper said. "But I think Rohit will be fine with it. He's a terrific bloke and has been a great player for a long time, and he's done a great job as leader of India." The Men In Blue last won the World Cup when the tournament was jointly hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 2011. So, the extra pressure of performing in front of home fans

would definitely be there, but Ponting feels Rohit is the best man to deal with that. "We can't sit back and say that the pressure won't get to them (India) at some stage, or it won't affect them, because it will, just with the enormity of the tournament. "But he'll (Rohit) take it and cope with it as well as probably anyone," he said. Ponting said that with all bases covered, India are the team to beat in the ongoing showpiece. "I said from the start that I think they're going to be the team to beat. They've got a very talented team," he said. "They've got all bases covered with their fast bowling, their spin and their top-order, middle-order batting. They're going to be extremely hard to beat. But we'll see how they hold up under extreme pressure as well," Ponting concluded. India will next play Bangladesh in Pune on Thursday.

We regret squandering promising: Nissanka

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

A disappointed Pathum Nissanka said anything close to 300 would have been a challenging total but Sri Lanka failed to sustain a promising start against Australia in a World Cup match here. Nissanka (61) and fellow opener Kushal Perera (78) gave Sri Lanka an ideal start on Monday, stitching a 125-run partnership but the island nation suffered an unexpected batting collapse, losing all 10 wickets for just 84 runs to put up a below-par 209 on the board. The Australians grabbed the opportunity with Josh Inglis (58) and Mitchell Marsh (52) scoring half-centuries each to take their side to a five-wicket win in 35.2 overs, their first victory in three matches. "Despite our promising start, we deeply regret not being able to sustain it, resulting in us being limited to a score of 210 runs," Nissanka said at the post-match press conference. "On a wicket like this, I believe we should aim for a total closer to 300 runs, and this was a contributing factor for our defeat." Nissanka's 61 off 67 balls was his



second successive half-century in the tournament. "I believe I've given my best for the team. I'm hopeful that I can contribute significantly by scoring substantial number of runs and playing substantial innings in the upcoming matches," he said. Sri Lanka have lost three games they have played so far and need to win all their remaining six

Shami's role is clear still no place in 'Perfect IX'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

At times, the greatest of actors don't fit the character of a particular film and in director Rohit Sharma's 70 mm World Cup panorama, Mohammed Shami is that protagonist who is missing out on a meaty role. Unlike the 2019 World Cup campaign, the Indian team management seems to have absolute clarity on the role of each squad member, leaving a world class operator like Shami on the bench for the first three games of the ODI showpiece. With the team ticking all the boxes so far, Shami, who is among the best in the business and ended with a five wicket haul against Australia ahead of the World Cup, might just have to keep warming the bench in the coming fixtures. Mohammed Siraj is Jasprit Bumrah's new ball partner at the moment while all-rounder Hardik Pandya is performing the role of a third pacer effectively. Shardul Thakur, who has bowled a total of 8 overs in two games, is the fourth fast bowling option on a flat deck and if it is a spin friendly track like the one in Chennai, R Ashwin comes in to the eleven in place of Thakur to complement



Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja. There seems to be crystal clarity even on the batting front. Unlike the 2019 edition, the lead up of which saw the number four position become a game of musical chairs, Shreyas Iyer, if he is fit, is the clear choice in that position. Even though he oozes X factor, Suryakumar Yadav has to wait for his return. Rohit Sharma has led from the front thus far and India look the

team to beat in the World Cup. However, there are a few questions that need to be answered. Can the team rely on Hardik as the third seamer? Should Shami not play in place of Thakur as the latter has not yet been required with the bat at number 8? Speaking to PTI, former chief selector MSK Prasad lauded the team's horses for courses approach. "They are using horses for courses and it is working fan-

tastically well for the team. If you see they used Ashwin in Chennai and Shardul for the other two games (in Delhi and Ahmedabad). Last game, Shardul was not required as the others did the job (he bowled only two overs)," said the former India wicketkeeper. "Shami will come into picture if they want to rotate Siraj. Replacements are very clear right now, Sky will replace Shreyas if there is a need, Ishan

will replace Gill at the top and Shardul will play if it is a flat deck. Ashwin will come in his place if it is a turning track." Hardik lends a critical balance to the playing eleven but considering his fitness issues in the past, can he be expected to bowl 10 overs game after game as the third seamer if the need arises? "With Hardik, you can't expect him to bowl 10 overs in every game. The job that he is doing. Of bowling 5-6 overs per game, that is good enough. Team management seems to have absolute clarity on the role of every individual," added Prasad.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Website- www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in
Under noted amendment is hereby made against Tender notice No. 12-Dt. 29.09.23 (Item No.8), Item No. -8. Existing Entry : 1- Opening Date: 17.10.23, 2- Rate variation in the height will be applicable on Ex-Factory price., Amended As : 1- Opening Date: 26.10.23, 2- Rate variation in the height will be applicable on quoted rate. 3- Annexure-1 enclosed with this tender to be submitted with the offer. (Not allowed) 4- Annexure 2 As per RDSO specn. Attached. 5-Annexure EC3 declaration of parent Company. (Yes, Allowed mandatory) 6-Annexure EC4 Parent company undertaking. 7- Annexure EC5 Parent company guarantee. All other terms and condition will remain unchanged. Note: Above information may be seen on N.E. Railway website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in & Govt. of India's website www.tenders.gov.in
Principal Chief Material Manager/Gorakhpur CPRO/S - 80
"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

Want to take more wickets: Zampa

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Panned for his poor show in the opening two World Cup matches, Australia's sole front-line spinner at the World Cup Adam Zampa said that expensive figures don't bother him as he bowls to get wickets. Australia found themselves in a precarious situation after suffering back-to-back losses against India and South Africa before notching up a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday. Zampa, who has enjoyed a lot of success between the 2019 World Cup and the start of the ongoing edition, flattered to deceive in the opening two games, going for plenty of runs. "I'm very good at self-reflection. I look back on the first two games and I'll probably look at the last game as one where I could have made a difference there and made it easy for those other guys," Zampa said after Australia's win. "But yeah, the Indian game, I mean, we're under the pump

defending 200 and I'm always going to be the guy who tries to get wickets. I'm not going to try and let the game peter out and let it go into nothing. So yeah, figures, whatever." He registered figures of 0/53 and 1/70 against India and South Africa respectively for a combined figure of 1/123 in 18 overs. "It's more about my attitude and reflecting on that too. Did I bowl the ball where I wanted it to? Did I make the right decisions? Did I put my game on the line to try and make a difference? And that's how I think about it. "I don't really care about combined figures. It's just doing what I can to try and help win the game," Zampa added. Against Sri Lanka too Zampa looked sluggish at the beginning, giving away 22 runs in his first three overs but he roared back to form with a match-winning spell of 4/47. "It took me a lot longer than I wanted to get into the game today. Bowling to set batters as well, trying to build some pres-



sure, I just wasn't really able to do that. "I won't make any excuses. I think I should be good enough to kind of play that role as well." The wrist spinner revealed that he suffered "random back spasm" and had to undergo a fitness test before the game against Sri Lanka. "I did a gym session a couple of nights ago and I don't know if you've ever had a back spasm, but I was worse for over the last couple of days. "I had to do a fitness test before the game today. Yeah, I felt like adrenaline was going to get me through and a bit of Panadeine Forte (medicine). It was a tough one to get

changed the energy for us. "He kind of led from the front. His spell changed the momentum of the game. And then same as in the field, that run out, those little things can turn scores from 210 to 260, and it's game on. So, he particularly led from the front," Zampa said. Australia flies off to Bengaluru for their next game against Pakistan on Friday. "After the first two games, there's definitely a flat feeling in the change rooms. We all know that you could probably go from 1 to 11 and say we all could do our roles a little bit better, particularly those first two games. "But we know, as boss (Cummins) said the other day, we get backed into a corner and guys step up and we get on a roll, then anything can happen. It's a World Cup, so get on a roll. "Obviously, really big game against Pakistan in Bangalore, and if we can put it all together and play a good game there, you go 2 and 2 and the feeling's much better," he added.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
"A State Government Undertaking"
"SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE"
Sealed item rate Short Term Tender is hereby invited on behalf of the Chairman cum Managing Director HPSEBL by the undersigned from the approved/experienced contractor/authorize dealers for the execution of work as per the detail mentioned hereinafter. The tenders shall be received on prescribed form clearly superscribed with tender No. and date of opening together with earnest money in the office of Sr. Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPSEBL Ltd. Rajgarh, on stipulated date and time & will be opened in the presence of the contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender document can be had on any working day as specified below in the table from Division Office HPSEBL Rajgarh after completing codal formalities.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Estimated Amount in Rs.	Completion Period	Earnest Money	Price of tender document
1	123/2023-24	Tender for Providing 1 Phase LT Line for SOP to BSNL 4 G Site Tower at Nei- Netti in (E) Section Chandol, and Banalidhar in (E) Section Habban under ESD Rajgarh 02:- Tender for Providing 1 Phase LT Line for SOP to LWSS Kot Dangar in existing 250 KVA LIS Kot Dangar under ESD Rajgarh Ch to Deposit Work 14(96)6	1,07,414/- only	1 Month	1075/- only.	Rs. 590/- only
2	124/2023-24	Tender for C/O Additional 11 KV HT Line for SOP to LWSS Kujji under ESD Narag Ch:- to Deposit Work (14(96)6) vide TS NO:- RED-42/2023-24 WBS NO:- D-23-1277	4,97,911/- Only	3 Month	4980/- only.	Rs. 590/- only
3	125/2023-24	Tender for Providing 11/0.4 KV, 250 KVA Substation for SOP to LWSS Koti Bounch 1st Satge, Booster Stage along with Metering System under ESD Panog.Ch to :- Deposit Work 14(96)6	4,24,354/- Only	3 Month	4245/- only.	Rs. 590/- only
4	126/2023-24	Tender for Providing 11/0.4 KV, 250 KVA Substation for SOP to LWSS Koti Bounch 2nd Satge, Booster Stage along with Metering System under ESD Panog. Ch to :- Deposit Work 14(96)6	4,14,916/- Only	3 Month	4150/- only.	Rs. 590/- only

Key Dates:-
Start date of Sale of Tender: 19/10/2023 11.00 AM to 25/10/2023 12.00 PM
Last date of Receipt of tender: 25/10/2023 up 01.00 PM
Due Date of opening of Tender: 25/10/2023 at 3.00 PM
Before issue of the tender documents, the bidder shall have to furnish adequate documentary evidence in support of qualifying requirements stipulated as below:-
The All the terms and conditions can be seen in the our HPSEBL website i.e. //hptender.gov.in
Save Energy For the Benefit of Self & Nation. Sr. Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPSEBL Ltd. Rajgarh