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AT 7-7.2% IN FY25: DELOITTE

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INDIA WAITS
FOR GOLDEN BOY
NEERAJ TO SHINE
11 SPORTS



BANGLADESH PM FLEES COUNTRY

PTI ■ DHAKA

With Bangladesh descending into chaos, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina surreptitiously fled the country in a military aircraft on Monday and the Army stepped in to fill the power vacuum, ending one uncertain chapter and opening another in the nation's restive history. As news of Hasina's departure spread, hundreds broke into Hasina's residence, vandalising and looting the interiors, providing dramatic expression to the anti-Government protests that have killed more than 100 people in the last two days. At the centre of people anger is the Hasina Government's controversial quota system reserving 30 per cent jobs for families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war. With volatile crowds taking to the streets — some clambering on Hasina's father and Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue and smashing it with hammers in a lasting image underscoring the fickleness of history — Army chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced that the 76-year-old Prime Minister has resigned. An interim Government will be taking over, he said in a televised address amid feverish speculation about where Hasina was headed. "I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate," Zaman added, signalling the end of Hasina's 15-year power run. The Army chief said he had met political leaders and told them the Army would take over responsibility for law and order. However, there were no leaders from Hasina's Awami League party at the meeting. As protests spiralled across the country, the Army chief said he had asked both Army and police not to



Protesters climb a public monument as they celebrate after getting the news of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Right top) Sheikh Hasina

NSA Doval meets ex-PM Hasina at Hindon Airbase

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who resigned on Monday, arrived at the Hindon airbase, Ghaziabad in a Bangladesh air force transport aircraft. She is reportedly planning to leave for London after a brief stopover at the airbase. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval

met Hasina at Hindon Air Base. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the situation in Bangladesh, sources said. Taking note of the fast evolving situation in Bangladesh, the BSF was on high alert while the Delhi Police further strengthened security around the Bangladesh High Commission in

the national Capital. Air India and Indigo announced the suspension of their operations to and from Dhaka. Hasina's C-130 plane landed at the Hindon airbase in the evening. Indian Air Force fighter jets were airborne as soon as her aircraft entered Indian air space and kept an eye on it for some time, sources said.



fire any shots. Zaman also urged restraint and asked protesters to end the violence. He vowed "justice" for all the people. In Dhaka, restive crowds, swarmed the airport and even spilled into the runway. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in the city's Dhanmondi area was damaged. Four Hindu temples suffered "minor" damages across the country, eyewitnesses and a community leader said. The Bangabandhu memorial museum — dedicated to Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated along with his wife and their three sons while serving as president in 1975 — was also vandalised. Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana had survived the purge as they were abroad. Hasina then spent six years in exile in India. The home of Dr Wajed Miah, Hasina's husband, was not spared either in the vortex of violence on Monday, local reports said. From Ganabhadan, the Prime Minister's official residence, came extraordinary visuals of protesters storming in and walking away with sofas and even chairs.

Turmoil worries families living in West Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The continuing violence in Bangladesh and the fall of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Government have raised concern among the families residing on this side of the border. Hundreds of families have lost sleep worrying about the fate of their relatives and other loved ones in the strife-torn neighbouring country. "I don't know how they are... though from different communities their neighbours are good and understanding but given the scale and magnitude of the violence I wonder how they are now... more than 20 of them," said 80-year-old Chintamani Kar of Behala in South Kolkata expressing concern for his cousin brothers' families at Magura off Jessore. A Bengali film actor, requesting anonymity, said she was worried about her grand uncle who was in Kolkata last year and was scheduled to visit again during the Durga Puja. "Their family was attacked twice at Sathkira... we asked them to migrate but they would not... they had unflinching faith in the governance of Sheikh Hasina... but now what will happen to them... we have not been able to speak to them for the past fortnight or so," she said. Sheikh Qamran, a businessman from central Kolkata, said he too had not received any news of his relatives from Dhaka. "Traditionally, they are supporters of the ruling party there... it is obvious... that helps in business... but now after the fall of this Government I don't know what will happen to them... particularly because the way the establishments are being attacked and torched," said the trader about his relatives who live near Banani area of Dhaka. He said he had even tried to get in touch with them via relatives in Dubai but in vain. However the condition of Arindam (name changed) is more pathetic. His uncle is a member of the ruling party and had been a panchayat member somewhere in Pabna district owning several acres of land and fisheries.

Bloodbath on Dalal Street

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Stock market investors lost a whopping ₹15.32 lakh crore on Monday following a crash in Indian equities triggered by a sharp plunge in Japanese and other global markets. The 30-share BSE benchmark plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86. Following the sharp decline in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped by Rs 15,32,796.1 crore to Rs 4,41,84,150.03 crore (USD 5.27 trillion). "Domestic equity indices came under the grip of global markets carnage as a host of external factors like recession fears in the US on the back of weak jobs data, interest rate hike in Japan leading to impact on Yen-carry trade and a raging Middle East conflict triggered massive sell-off across the board," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Detailed report on Page 10



File photo: Ranjan Dimri/PTI

Setback for AAP over LG's 10 aldermen appointment

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the appointment of 10 aldermen by the Lieutenant Governor to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without the aid and advice of the Delhi Government's Cabinet. The judgment came as a major blow to the Arvind Kejriwal Government in Delhi amid tussle with the Lieutenant Governor on a host of issues. The top court pronounced its verdict on the Delhi Government's plea after reserving it for nearly 15 months. In its ruling impacting the fraught relationship between the LG's office and the AAP-led Delhi Government, a Bench of Chief Justice of

India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and PS Narasimha ruled that the Delhi Lieutenant Governor is not bound by the aid and advice of the Delhi Government's Cabinet on appointment of aldermen since his powers in that regard is derived from the Municipal Corporation Act. The bench said the statutory power under section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, as amended in 1993, empowered the LG to appoint the aldermen. "It is the law made by Parliament, it satisfies the discretion exercised by LG since law requires him to do so and falls under exception of Article 239," the bench held.

Coaching centres death chambers: SC; notice issued to Centre, Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of the deaths of three IAS aspirants due to flooding in the basement of RAU's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar and issued a notice to the Centre and Delhi Government, to examine if safety norms are being followed. The Supreme Court said coaching centres have become "death chambers" and are playing with the lives of students. "The incident was an eye-opener for all," it added. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing an appeal by the Coaching Federation of India challenging directions of the Delhi High Court regarding the proliferation of coaching institutes in Mukherjee Nagar. The bench said it was not sure as to what effective steps regarding safety had been taken by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi or the Central Government.

Wayanad tragedy due to illegal habitat expansion: Min

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As search and rescue operations continue in landslide-hit Wayanad district in Kerala which has claimed over 380 lives and left more than 100 missing, Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav on Monday attributed the tragedy to the "illegal human habitat expansion and protection for illegal mining in the fragile region by local politicians" under the tutelage of the Southern State Government. Talking to reporters here on Monday, Yadav also accused local politicians of failing to regulate and protect sensitive zones, contributing to the disaster that struck the region six days ago. The impacts of the landslides are still being felt by the locals, exacerbating the ongoing crisis in Wayanad. "It is an illegal protection to the illegal human habitation by the local politicians. Even in the name of tourism, they are not making proper zones. They allowed encroachment of



A rescue operation underway after a landslide in Wayanad

feel it's purely a mistake by the State Government. There has been illegal human habitation and illegal mining activity under the protection of the local Government. It is very shameful. They must protect nature and human lives," he said. "The Western Ghats is one of the most fragile regions in the country like the Himalayas. Serious efforts must be made to prevent disasters in such regions and the Kerala Government is also responsible for ensuring the same," Yadav said hoping that consultations on eco-sensitive zone notifications for the Western Ghats should be completed soon. Last week, i.e. on July 31, the Centre had issued a sixth draft notification to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states, including 13 villages in Kerala's landslide-hit Wayanad, Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), inviting suggestions and objections within 60 days.

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BRIEFS

HP CM releases newsletter of APG University Shimla

Shimla: The second edition of the AGU Newsletter, published by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of APG Shimla University, was released by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at the State Secretariat on Monday. On this occasion, the editorial team of the newsletter and senior officials from APG Shimla University paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Minister. Chancellor Suman Vikrant, Pro-Chancellor and Editor-in-Chief of the newsletter Ramesh Chauhan, Head of Department Ashwani Sharma, Assistant Prof Neelam Sharma and Assistant Prof. Vijayashree briefed the CM of University's academic and overall achievements.



HP Govt releases Rs 50 crore for Bulk Drug Park Shimla

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu while presiding over a review meeting of the Industries department on Monday said that the state government has released an amount of Rs. 50 crore for infrastructure development of the Bulk Drug Park to be built at Haroli in Una district. The Government is committed to ensure timely construction of the Bulk Drug Park, said he while directing all the departments and agencies to work in unison for the early completion of the construction work. While emphasizing on site development, he said that the approach roads, discharge treatment plant, steam generation, ducting should be done on priority.

12-Yr-Old Haryana Boy Pedals 1200 KM to Honour Kargil Heroes

Chandigarh: In an inspiring display of patriotism and determination, 12-year-old Arav Bhardwaj from Haryana embarked on a 1200-kilometer cycling journey from the Kargil War Memorial in Leh to the National War Memorial in New Delhi. His mission — to pay homage to the Kargil Martyrs on the occasion of the Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay. The journey, which began on July 27 is set to conclude on Thursday — August 8. Punjab's Special Director General of Police, Law and Order, Arpit Shukla lauded Arav's efforts during their meeting on Monday. Shukla bestowed Arav with a Punjab Police memento and a poster bearing the message, "Say No To Drugs, Say Yes To Punjab", underscoring the importance of spreading awareness against drug abuse. "Arav Bhardwaj is not just a young cyclist; he is an ambassador for a drug-free India and a true patriot saluting our Kargil Heroes," said Shukla, while giving his blessings to the young adventurer. During his journey from Leh to Chandigarh, Arav made it a point to pay tributes at various war memorials, including Zojila, Badami Bagh, and the Punjab State War Memorial. Accompanied by his father, this 13-day expedition spans the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Chandigarh, and Haryana. A student of VIII standard at Heritage School in New Delhi, Arav is no stranger to such ambitious undertakings. In 2022, he embarked on a 32-day, 2612-kilometer yatra from INA War Memorial in Moirang, Manipur, to the National War Memorial in New Delhi. This journey was to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



for all these mistakes and shortcomings, whether done knowingly or unknowingly. Every command issued by Sri Akal Takht Sahib in accordance with Gurmat traditions will be accepted by me and my companions with humility," read Sukhbir's letter. The rebel group's letter to the Akal Takht highlighted several key issues — pointing out that during the SAD Government, a significant section of the Sikh panth and Punjab's populace grew disillusioned with the party's leadership. This dissatisfaction was attributed to multiple incidents, including the contentious favouring of Sirsaba Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim. Notably, in 2007, Ram Rahim impersonated Sikhs' tenth master Sri Guru Gobind Singh, which led to a police case that was later withdrawn by the SAD Government. Despite the Akal Takht Sahib excommunicating Ram Rahim, Sukhbir allegedly used his influence to secure a pardon for the Dera chief allegedly to gain political interest. Furthermore, the rebels accused the SAD Government of making egregious mistakes, such as appointing Sumedh Saini — an officer notorious for fake police encounters that resulted in the martyrdom of Sikh youths — as the Punjab Police chief. Additionally, the party gave a political ticket to the wife of another controversial officer and appointed her as a chief parliamentary secretary. The rebels lamented that the SAD Government failed to conduct impartial investigations into fake police encounters or provide relief to victims despite promises made to the public. In his apology, Sukhbir underscored his dedication to the Guru and the Sikh Panth. He expressed deep remorse for the actions and decisions that led to public and religious dissatisfaction. The letter also included a reference to his father, former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, and his own contributions to the party's legacy. As the Akal Takht Sahib deliberates on Sukhbir Badal's apology, the Sikh community and political observers keenly await the outcome. The apology marked a significant moment in Punjab's political landscape, reflecting an attempt by the SAD leadership to reconcile with the community and address past grievances. The public disclosure of the apology letter by the Akal Takht Sahib secretary Sukhdev Singh highlighted the ongoing demand from the Sikh community for transparency and accountability. The secretary announced that the final decision on the matter would be taken in a meeting of the five Singh Sahibans — the highest authority — at the Akal Takht Sahib.

ECI disqualifies 6 candidates who contested Punjab Assembly Elections 2022: Sibin C

Chandigarh: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has disqualified six candidates who contested 2022 Punjab Assembly elections. Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer Sibin C stated that these candidates have not submitted their election expenses as per section 78 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 to the commission within the specified timeframe, thus rendering them ineligible to contest elections for the next 3 years under Section 10 A of Representation of the People Act, 1951.

About 2 lakh posts lying vacant in Govt Depts in Hry: Hooda

Chandigarh: Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Monday alleged that more than two lakh posts are lying vacant in Government Departments. Permanent jobs are being abolished through schemes like Kausal Nigam. Addressing the Congress' Dhanyawadi Karyakarta Sammelan in Palwal, Hooda said that the Lok Sabha election results have deflated the BJP's balloon, which was inflated by fake surveys, propaganda and events. The public has clearly stated that they will not fall into any illusion of BJP, and will not rest until it wipes out this government from Haryana. He promised that these vacant posts will be filled through permanent recruitments after the formation of the Congress government. On the occasion, around 20 leaders of BJP and JJP joined Congress.

Doctors honoured in Chandigarh

Chandigarh: Rotary Club of Chandigarh on Monday organised a program named 'Hands That Heal' to honour the doctors and volunteers who have been a part of International Medical Missions of Rotary Club and have served humanity beyond borders, since August 1998. The President, Rotary Club Jatinder Kapoor welcomed the chief guest Rajeev Verma, UT Adviser and led the lamp lighting ceremony. In his speech, the Adviser expressed gratitude towards the doctors and volunteers for their selfless service who continue to carry forward their mission to serve humanity beyond borders.

13 cyber criminals arrested in Gurugram

Gurugram: The cyber crimes teams of Gurugram Police arrested 13 cyber criminals including four women who defrauded people in 3,332 complaints worth Rs 12.63 crore. According to police, after reviewing the data of mobile phones and SIM cards recovered from the accused by the police from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordinate Center (I4C), it was found that the accused were involved in fraud of about Rs 12.63 crore and around 3,332 complaints were registered against them across India. In connection with this, out of 3,332 complaints, 148 were converted into cases which were registered across India. Out of 148 cases, four cases were registered against them in different cyber crime police stations across Gurugram. "The accused used to defraud people who were investing in the name of the stock market and offered lucrative offers to the victims and duped them," Priyanshu Diwan, ACP (South) said.

JJP makes several announcements ahead of Hry Assembly elections

Chandigarh: Ahead of the upcoming Assembly election in Haryana, senior Jannayak Janta Party leader Dushyant Chautala on Monday announced several promises related to the youth, such as providing free education to Agniveers to become officers, free bus passes for students in educational institutions, special transportation arrangements for commuting to schools and colleges, and increased diet allowances for athletes, should their government come to power in Haryana. He was addressing the youth at the INSO Foundation Day program in Sirsa on Monday.

Himachal CM announces free medicines for cancer patients

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday announced that free of cost treatment and free medicines will be provided to cancer patients in the state. "The state government will provide 42 medicines free of cost to cancer patients in government hospitals for their treatment and these medicines have been included in the state's essential medicine list," the Chief Minister stated while presiding over the first meeting of the State Advisory Board on Cancer and Palliative Care Program. He said that Himachal Pradesh has come second in the country in cancer cases which is a matter of concern for the state. "In view of this, this revolutionary decision has been taken to provide relief to cancer patients. This facility will be provided in various government hospitals," Sukhu said. These free of cost medicines also include Trastuzumab vaccine used for cancer treatment, which costs about Rs 40 thousand. A breast cancer patient needs 18 such vaccines in a year for treatment. To provide this vaccine, the state government will spend about seven lakh rupees on each patient. These medicines will be made available at the

doorsteps of the people in various government hospitals. He approved Rs. 300 crore to strengthen cancer treatment facilities in the state. The government would provide Rs. 75 crore for developing infrastructure of Center of Excellence, Cancer Care Hamirpur. Another Rs. 75 crore for bone marrow transplant facility in Chamiyana, Shimla, and Rs. 150 crore for providing world class cancer treatment equipment in Center of Excellence Hamirpur.

He said the state government was setting up cancer day care centers all across the state in a phased manner. In the first phase, cancer day care centers have been set up in 13 hospitals. In the second phase, these centres will be set up in 27 high load civil hospitals and community health centres. In the third phase, cancer day care centres will be set up in 28 institutions. Palliative care units will also be set up in cancer day care centres. He said that world class technology will be adopted in the Cancer Care Centre of Excellence to be set up by the state government in Hamirpur. "A special department of nuclear medicine will be set up here in which a large capacity nuclear lab and cyclotron will also be made available," he added.

Sukhbir, in His Letter to Akal Takht, Seeks Forgiveness for All Past Mistakes

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Amidst a wave of public and political scrutiny, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal issued an unconditional apology to the Sikh community's supreme temporal seat — the Akal Takht Sahib. The apology comes in response to a series of serious allegations made by the 'rebel' leaders within the Akali Dal, concerning controversial decisions and incidents during the party's government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017. The Akal Takht Sahib on Monday made public Sukhbir's letter, addressed to Jathedar Giani Raghu Singh, where the SAD chief sought forgiveness for all the transgressions alleged by the 'rebel' faction, including favouring Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim, influencing the Akal Takht, and appointing Sumedh Saini as the Punjab Director General of Police (DGP). Without directly mentioning specific allegations, Sukhbir's letter expressed his submission to the Guru and the Sikh community, acknowledging the mistakes made during the SAD-led Government's tenure. "I am a humble servant of the Guru's house... I have always been dedicated to Sri Guru Granth Sahib and Sri Akal Takht Sahib. Without any questions or answers, I sincerely pray to Waheguru," he said in the letter.

On July 1, the 'rebel' SAD leaders, including former Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Bibi Jagir Kaur, former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, and senior leaders Gurpratap Wadala and Surjit Singh Rakhra, had appeared before the Akal Takht Jathedar to apologize for their roles in the perceived mismanagement and controversies during the SAD Government. Acting on the rebels' letter, the Akal Takht Jathedar summoned Sukhbir, leading to his visit to the Sri Akal Takht Sahib on July 25 to submit his response. In his letter, Sukhbir Badal took full responsibility for the actions and decisions of the party and government during his leadership, whether done knowingly or unknowingly. He emphasized his commitment to accepting any directives from the Akal Takht Sahib and adhering to Gurmat traditions with humility. "...Whatever has been written against us, I present myself before the great throne of the Guru, seeking unconditional forgiveness from Guru Sahib and the Guru Panth. As the head of the family, I take all the mistakes upon myself. Whether these mistakes are from the party or the government, I am seeking forgiveness

for all these mistakes and shortcomings, whether done knowingly or unknowingly. Every command issued by Sri Akal Takht Sahib in accordance with Gurmat traditions will be accepted by me and my companions with humility," read Sukhbir's letter. The rebel group's letter to the Akal Takht highlighted several key issues — pointing out that during the SAD Government, a significant section of the Sikh panth and Punjab's populace grew disillusioned with the party's leadership. This dissatisfaction was attributed to multiple incidents, including the contentious favouring of Sirsaba Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim. Notably, in 2007, Ram Rahim impersonated Sikhs' tenth master Sri Guru Gobind Singh, which led to a police case that was later withdrawn by the SAD Government. Despite the Akal Takht Sahib excommunicating Ram Rahim, Sukhbir allegedly used his influence to secure a pardon for the Dera chief allegedly to gain political interest. Furthermore, the rebels accused the SAD Government of making egregious mistakes, such as appointing Sumedh Saini — an officer notorious for fake police encounters that resulted in the martyrdom of Sikh youths — as the Punjab Police chief. Additionally, the party gave a political ticket to the wife of another controversial officer and appointed her as a chief parliamentary secretary. The rebels lamented that the SAD Government failed to conduct impartial investigations into fake police encounters or provide relief to victims despite promises made to the public. In his apology, Sukhbir underscored his dedication to the Guru and the Sikh Panth. He expressed deep remorse for the actions and decisions that led to public and religious dissatisfaction. The letter also included a reference to his father, former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, and his own contributions to the party's legacy. As the Akal Takht Sahib deliberates on Sukhbir Badal's apology, the Sikh community and political observers keenly await the outcome. The apology marked a significant moment in Punjab's political landscape, reflecting an attempt by the SAD leadership to reconcile with the community and address past grievances. The public disclosure of the apology letter by the Akal Takht Sahib secretary Sukhdev Singh highlighted the ongoing demand from the Sikh community for transparency and accountability. The secretary announced that the final decision on the matter would be taken in a meeting of the five Singh Sahibans — the highest authority — at the Akal Takht Sahib.

"Corruption that has been entrenched for 75 years will take time to eliminate, but we are making significant strides. Vigilance is constantly at work to catch corrupt officials," he declared. The Chief Minister highlighted the 'Sarkar Tuhada Dwaar' (Government at Your Doorstep) initiative, aimed at delivering services directly to citizens. This flagship program is designed to ensure that administrative tasks are handled efficiently and transparently. As part of this initiative, Mann inspected government offices to assess their performance at the grassroots level. The State Government is also setting up CM Window or Help Centers at district levels, where administrative officials will assist in resolving public issues promptly. "District-level issues will be resolved on the spot, while other matters will be forwarded to the relevant departments for necessary action," Mann explained. The Chief Minister said that the state government has adopted a zero tolerance policy against corruption and no stone is being left unturned to weed out this menace. "The State Government is committed to providing clean, effective and corruption-free administration to the people of the state. For the first time in the state after independence, a crusade has been launched against corruption," he said.

minutes," Mann asserted, underscoring his commitment to efficiency. At the same time, Mann urged all government employees to perform their duties with honesty and dedication. He highlighted the importance of regular, unannounced visits to various government offices, including hospitals and schools, to ensure accountability and prompt service delivery. "I can visit any government office at any time. Any dereliction of duty will be met with strict action," he warned. The surprise visit also provided an opportunity for the public to share their experiences directly with the Chief Minister. Many citizens expressed their appreciation for the government's efforts to streamline operations and reduce bureaucratic delays. "This kind of direct engage-

ment is crucial for understanding the ground realities and making informed decisions," Mann said. One of the significant announcements made during the visit was the government's plan to eliminate the No Objection Certificate (NOC) requirement for land and property registration. Mann explained that this move would protect citizens from fraudulent activities by illegal colonizers and simplify the registration process. "We are committed to safeguarding the interests of the common man and ensuring they do not have to run from pillar to post for basic services," he stated. Mann also reaffirmed his government's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. He acknowledged that while corruption has decreased, it has not been entirely eradicated.

Haryana Cabinet approves buying 10 more crops at MSP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Cabinet on Monday gave approval to the proposal of buying 10 more crops at the Minimum Support Price. This came a day after Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced at 'Vijay Shankhnad' rally in Kurukshetra that the State Government would buy all crops at MSP. Besides this, he had also announced waiving outstanding canal water irrigation charges. These announcements came ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls due later this year.

Approves Haryana Agniveer Policy, 2024 to provide employment & entrepreneurship opportunities

The Cabinet has also approved the Haryana Agniveer Policy, 2024, which aims to provide comprehensive employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to Agniveers after their completion of service in the Armed Forces. The Haryana Agniveer Policy, 2024, offers significant benefits in government recruitment, including a 10% horizontal reservation for Agniveers in direct recruitment for positions such as Constable, Mining Guard, Forest Guard, Prison Warder, and SPOs. The Agniveer shall be exempted from the written exam in case of these posts. Apart from this, there will be a 5% horizontal reservation for Group C civil posts and a 1% horizontal reservation for Group B posts related to the Agniveers' skill specializations. The policy also includes age relaxation of three years for Group B and C posts, with a five-year age relaxation for the first batch of Agniveers. Furthermore, Agniveers will be exempted from the Common Eligibility Test requirement for Group C posts.

They shall be exempt from both written test and skill test in case they have been awarded the requisite skill certificate. For self-employment and entrepreneurship, the policy provides a subsidy of Rs. 60,000 annually to industries employing Agniveers, provided they are paid a salary exceeding Rs. 30,000 per month, including

the subsidy amount. Agniveers will receive priority for gun licenses provided they fulfil conditions set out in Arms Act, preference in deployment through the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited (HKRNL), and interest-free loans for up to three years for principal amount up to Rs. 5 lakhs to start their own businesses. The Cabinet has approved significant amendments in the policy of 'Mukhya Mantri Shehri Awaz Yojana' (MMSAY). This amendment aimed at addressing the housing needs of urban families with an annual income up to Rs. 1.80 lakhs as verified by the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP). The Cabinet has approved the Haryana Registered Vehicle Scrapage and Recycling Facility Incentive Policy 2024.

Backward Class-B to get Reservations for Municipalities and PRIs

For the upliftment of Backward Classes and promote their participation in the democratic process, the Cabinet has decided to give reservations for Backward Classes of Citizens Block B (Schedule-II) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Municipalities across the state. The reservation for Backward Classes Block-B will be implemented based on the recom-



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini addressing media person after a meeting of the state Cabinet on Monday. Pioneer Photo

mendations of the Haryana Backward Classes Commission. Presently the BC-A population in the state is 18.93 percent and the BC-B population in the state is 15.05 percent. The Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to criteria for exclusion of persons within the Backward classes from Creamy Layer in Haryana State. As per the announcement of the Chief Minister, the annual income limit of creamy layer of backward classes in the state has been increased from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh and the criteria for assessment will be in accordance with Central Government norms. The notification was issued by the State Government on July 16, 2024.

Haryana set to bring Ordinance to amend Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Act, 2014

The Cabinet has approved the draft of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Amendment Ordinance, 2024 to amend the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Act, 2014. As per the proposed draft ordinance, now the Chairman of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Judicial Commission shall be Judge of High Court, if so appointed, and if a judge of the High Court is not appointed, then the District Judge if so appointed and if the District Judge is also not appointed, the one of the three selected members of the Commission shall be the Chairman in the order of their seniority either in service or at Bar, as the case may be and the term of the Chairman or the Member shall be five years from the date he assumes charge.

The Cabinet has also approved the revision of pension/family pension (Pre-2016 and Post-2016) of Retired Judicial Officers of Government of Haryana as per Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC).

Pb Police Conduct Extensive Security Operations Ahead of I-Day

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

To ensure peaceful celebrations for the forthcoming Independence Day-2024, Punjab Police on Monday conducted extensive cordon and search operations (CASO) across the State targeting the District and Sub-Divisional Courts, aimed to bolster security at all Judicial Complexes across all.

The statewide security checks, carried out from 11 am to 2 pm, were initiated on the

directives of the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav in all the 28 Police districts of the State. Special DGP, Law and Order, Arpit Shukla said that Commissioners of Police (CPs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) were instructed to personally oversee the operation, ensuring a robust police presence under the supervision of SP-rank officers. CPs and SSPs were tasked with scrutinizing all suspicious individuals in and around the court complexes and inspect-

ing vehicles parked nearby using the Vahan app. Police teams were also instructed to verify the functionality of Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMDs) and Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras within Judicial Complexes. Providing further details, Shukla revealed that police teams had frisked 1,421 suspicious individuals found near court complexes. Additionally, 1,850 vehicles parked around court premises were checked, resulting in 62 traffic challans and the impounding of one

vehicle. "The objective of these checks is to ensure fool-proof security at Judicial complexes and to clamp down on anti-social elements," said Shukla, emphasizing that these measures are part of a broader strategy to enhance security and public safety during the Independence Day celebrations. In a significant operation amidst special drives for ensuring peaceful Independence Day celebrations, Punjab Police has dismantled a cross-border smuggling module.

Punjab CM's Surprise Visit to Rajpura Tehsil: Promises Better Services

PNS ■ RAJPURA/PATIALA

The typically quiet Rajpura Tehsil in Patiala district was abuzz with activity on Monday when Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann made an unexpected visit to the Tehsil complex. The surprise inspection, according to Mann, was aimed at ensuring efficient and transparent delivery of citizen-centric services, marking a significant step in his commitment to foster a responsive and accountable government.

During his one-hour visit, the Chief Minister interacted extensively with the Tehsil staff, officers, and the general public present for various administrative tasks. Mann emphasized that his visit was not a raid but a constructive effort to understand and improve the functioning of the Tehsil. "I'm here to see how we can make things better, not to point fingers. It's about enhancing our service delivery," he said.

The Chief Minister observed the registration process, interacted with citizens, and held a meeting with Tehsil staff. He noted that while some improvements had been made, there were still areas that required attention. "I'm pleased to see progress, but there's always room for improvement. We aim to make registries possible within 30



Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann interacting with citizens at the Rajpura Tehsil complex. Pioneer Photo

minutes," Mann asserted, underscoring his commitment to efficiency. At the same time, Mann urged all government employees to perform their duties with honesty and dedication. He highlighted the importance of regular, unannounced visits to various government offices, including hospitals and schools, to ensure accountability and prompt service delivery. "I can visit any government office at any time. Any dereliction of duty will be met with strict action," he warned. The surprise visit also provided an opportunity for the public to share their experiences directly with the Chief Minister. Many citizens expressed their appreciation for the government's efforts to streamline operations and reduce bureaucratic delays. "This kind of direct engage-

ment is crucial for understanding the ground realities and making informed decisions," Mann said. One of the significant announcements made during the visit was the government's plan to eliminate the No Objection Certificate (NOC) requirement for land and property registration. Mann explained that this move would protect citizens from fraudulent activities by illegal colonizers and simplify the registration process. "We are committed to safeguarding the interests of the common man and ensuring they do not have to run from pillar to post for basic services," he stated. Mann also reaffirmed his government's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. He acknowledged that while corruption has decreased, it has not been entirely eradicated.



Govt. of Haryana



Mhara Haryana

Non-Stop Haryana

Haryana has taken the historic step to guarantee purchase of all crops at MSP

**In the last 8 seasons,
Rs. 1.12 lakh crore for crop purchase deposited
directly into the accounts of farmers**

**Haryana Government will ensure sale of each and
every grain produced by farmers at MSP or above**

**Unwavering commitment
towards Farmers'
Welfare Continues**



Classifieds

BEDAKHLI NOTICE

I, Rahis Ahmed S/O Rehmat Ali R/O H.No. 471, Ward No. 21, Dargah Gosh Ali Shah, Gali No 9, Near Sector 11-12 Panipat, Haryana, Declare That My Son Soyab And His Wife Mobina Ansari Are Out Of Our Control I, Debar Them From All Our Moveable /Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them Will Do So At His/Her Own Risk And Responsibility.

I, Anwari W/o Late Bhupinder R/O Village-Surajpur, Tehsil-Kalka, Distt. Panchkula (Haryana) declare that my son Sharik Khan is out of my control. So, I disown him from my all movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with him shall do their own risk in future.

I, Om Parkash S/O Harkesh Ram R/O Station Majri, Shahabad (M.), Kurukshetra, declare that my son Satish Kumar, daughter-in-law Saroj and their two daughters are out of my control, and do not even behave well with us. So I disinherit them from my all moveable/ immoveable Properties. If anybody deals with them in any manner, they will deal on his own responsibility.

I, Rakesh Kumar S/O Ram Pher R/O New Ranjeet Nagar, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra, declare that my Daughter Varsha are out of my control, and do not even behave well with us. So I disinherit them from my all moveable/ immoveable Properties. If anybody deals with Versha in any manner, they will deal on his own responsibility.

We, Naresh Kumar S/O Sh. Mangeram and Taj Kumari W/O Sh. Naresh Kumar permanent R/O H.No. 409 Sector-14 HSPV/HUDA Opp. MDU Gate No. 2 Rohtak declare that our son Nishant and his wife Sonia Dalal and our daughter Tanvi, the above three. We evict all our movable and immovable property. In future, they themselves will be responsible for any transactions and legal and illegal activities done by them, we will not take any responsibility.

I, Baljit Singh Sandhu S/O Late Sh. Gian Singh Sandhu /, House No. 6, Sector 7, Panchkula Haryana declare that my son Tarunjit Singh Sandhu is out of my control. I had already disinherited him from my moveable/ Immoveable Property since 23.07.2024. I and my family will not be responsible for his actions or deeds.

I, Jai Singh S/O ChanderBhan R/O Village Patti Kalyana, Tehsil Samalkha, Distt.Panipat, dealers that my son Ankit and his wife Swati are out of my control. So, I disown them from my moveable and immoveable property. In future anybody deals with them responsible for that deal himself.

We, Rakesh Kumar S/O Late Jagdish Kumar and Bhawna W/O Rakesh Kumar R/O LIG 1313 Housing Board Colony, C-Block Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar have declare that Surinder Ghai Alias Prem Ghai W/O Satpal Ghai and Shikha Ghai W/O Mukesh Kumar R/O 677, Housing Board Colony C-Block Ranjit Avenue Amritsar are out of our control We Break the Relatin with them, anybody deal with them is his own risk and responsibility.

We Sudesh Kumar Chopra S/O Diwan Chand Chopra and Kawal Chopra W/O Sudesh Kumar Chopra, R/O 545/3, Modern Housing Complex, Manimajra, Chandigarh, declare that our son Jatesh Chopra is out of our control, so we disown him from our moveable-immovable properties. Anybody deals with them then he will do at his own risks.

I, Monika D/o late Pritam Das R/O 1479, near water supply tubewell, Jyoti Nagar, Kurukshetra, had broken all relations with my husband Suraj Bhan S/O Balbir Singh (resident Jagadhari) and divorce from him is pending in the honourable court. He has the property documents of me and my family. If he tampers with the property documents or makes any transaction, then I will not be responsible. Also, anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Hira Lal Paswan S/O Langat Paswan R/O H.No. 1016/5A, Bhagwan Nagar Colony, Pipli Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have evicted my son Dalip Kumar, his wife Vijeta Kumari from all my movable-immovable properties and legal rights, as they are out of my control. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Shish Pal S/O Jagat Ram R/O Village Santokh Majra, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that my son Ravi and his wife Manisha Devi are out of my control so I disown/evict them from my moveable/ immovable properties. Myself and my family are not responsible for their work and dealing. Deal with them at your own risk. We are not concerned with them. All concerned please note.

I Rakesh Chander Tripathi S/O Late. Bindravan Tripathi, Mohan Prakash Tripathi W/O Rakesh Chander Tripathi R/O Near BSNL. Exchange H.No. 1260/D Dera Bassi Teh: Dera Bassi (S.A.S. Nagar) declares that our son Vikas Tripathi and his wife Anita who are out of our control, we were evicted by us from our movable property vide dated 17-02-2022. Our boy Vikas Tripathi is divorced from his wife Anita. Now our boy in our Control. Therefore, we withdraw our son evicted Notice Our son Vikas Tripathi will be equally entitled in our property.

मैं, सुभाष चन्द्र पुत्र फलाऊदिन पुत्र उदमी, निवासी गाँव भमोवा, तहसील सफीदाँ, जिला जोध, ने अपने पुत्र महबूब व उसकी पत्नी सलमा को अपनी चल्- अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल कर दिया है क्योंकि वे मेरे व परिवार के कहने से बाहर हैं। उनके किसी भी प्रकार के लेनदेन/अच्छे-बुरे कार्य आदि के लिए मैं व मेरा परिवार जिम्मेवार नहीं हूँगा।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jyoti @ Jyoti Bala W/O Late No. 14928410Y Varinder Kumar R/O Village Bhulla PO Dorangla Distt Gurdaspur declare that in army service record of my deceased husband, my name has been written as Jyoti. That Jyoti and Jyoti Bala is one and the same person i.e myself. Concerned note.

I, Sukhjinder Kaur W/O Avtar Kaur, Village Kolian-258 Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) declare that in my son Jagtar Singh School record my name wrongly recorded as Sukjinder Kaur. But my correct name is Sukhjinder Kaur.

I, Kuljit Kaur W/O Guralp Singh, Village Mahuldeenpur Gazi Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) declare that in my husband Passport my name wrongly recorded as Kaljit Kaur. But my correct name is Kuljit Kaur.

I, Ex No-13622426-Y, Rank-L/Hav, Name - Hardip Singh, Of Para Regt. S/O S. Babu Ram. Resident Of Vill-Shah Pur Bela, Po- Kiratpur Sahib, Tehsil-Anandpur Sahib, District- Rupnagar, State-Punjab Declare That I Want To Amend My Name In My Army Records Hardip Singh To Hardeep Singh

I, Upinder Thakur S/O Arjan Singh r/o #307, Kotkapura Road, near electricity office, opp. Gill petrol pump, Sri Muktsar Sahib, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that In the School Record of my minor daughter Sushila Thakur my name is wrongly recorded as Upinder Singh and Neetu Upinder Thakur and Neetu Thakur All concerned may kindly note.

I, JC- 492901X Rank Nb Sub name Sunil Kumar Son Of Sh.Ram Swarup resident of H.N. 558/25 Rohtak road Bhagwan Nagar Jind tehsil and district Jind Haryana That In my service record my son name is wrongly recorded as Yesh Kumar Dhandha instead Yash Kumar Dhandha. That in my son's documents His name is Yash Kumar dhandha. That both names Yesh Kumar dhandha and Yash Kumar Dhandha To One & Same Person So Ever My Son Be Known As Only Yash Kumar Dhandha

I, Gita Rani wife of JC-492901X Rank NB sub name Sunil Kumar resident of H.N 558/25 Rohtak road Bhagwan Nagar Jind ,tehsil and district Jind Haryana .I declared that in my husband service record my name is wrongly recorded as Geeta Devi instead of Gita Rani. that in all of my documents my name is Gita Rani . Geeta Devi and Gita Rani is One & same person. so ever Be known me as only Gita Rani

I, Abhishek Singh Allaria S/O Sh. Kailash Kumar R/O H.No. 945, Ward No. 24, Near Double Phatak, Geeta Colony, Rohtak - 124001 declare that I have changed my name to Abhishek Singh Allaria. Abhishek and Abhishek Singh Allaria both name are same and one person. In future I will be known as Abhishek Singh Allaria.

I, Service No. JC-588752M Rank H/LT Nawang Tundup Ex-Serviceman, S/O Stanzin Wangail R/O Pibcha Zanskar Tehsil Padum Zanskar District Kargil, Union Territory of Ladakh, do declare that my son's name is wrongly mentioned as Jegmat Dorjey in my service record, whereas correct name of my son is Jigmet Dorjey and wrong date of birth of my son is mentioned in my service record as 15-04-2002, whereas correct date of birth of my son is 15-01-2004.

I, Manjot Kaur D/O No 3396804L Ex Hav (MACP Nb Sub) Major Singh Residence of Village- Pandher, PO- Pull Tibbri, Tehsil and District Gurdaspur (PB) declare that in my father army service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/11/2004 but my correct date of birth is 07/11/2004 as per my Aadhar card, birth certificate and 10th class certificate. vide affidavit No-IN- PB 29967173617862W Dated 28/06/2024 before Executive magistrate, Gurdaspur (Punjab).

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kulwinder Singh Tamber S/O Surjeet Singh R/O #1403-B, Sector 37-B, Chandigarh have changed my name to Kulwinder Singh.

I, Jasbir Singh Tamber S/O Ganpat Rai R/O Village Maana PO Dhakkowal Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that my name is Ravinder Kumar. Kumar is my surname and my given name is Ravinder.

I, Ravinder Kumar S/O Ganpat Rai R/O Village Maana PO Dhakkowal Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that my name is Ravinder Kumar. Kumar is my surname and my given name is Ravinder.

I, Rakhi Anand W/O Ashok Kumar R/O H.No. 199, Mohalla Bazar Kalan Bahadurpur Distt. Hoshiarpur 146001 Punjab have changed my name from Rakhi to Rakhi Anand. Concerned note.

I, Gurdeep Kumar Jassi S/O Om Parkash R/O Village Thatthal Distt. Hoshiarpur 146001 Punjab have changed my name from Gurdeep Kumar Jassi to Gurdeep Kumar. Concerned note.

I, Varinder Singh S/O Tarlochan Singh R/O Village Kangmai, PO Hariana Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Varinder Singh to Varinder Singh Sidhu. Concerned note.

I, Jitender S/O Jagdish Saini R/O Village Jhaguri Baindi (196), Banidi, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Jitender to Jitender Saini.

I, Renu W/O Jitender Saini R/O Village Jhaguri Baindi (196), Banidi, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Renu to Renu Bala.

I, Aditi D/o Jagpal Singh R/O Village Haibatpur, Post office Saranwa, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Aditi to Aditi Singh.

I, Rimpy Devi wife of Shri Harjeet Singh, R/O House No. 541, Village Kajheri, Sector 52, Chandigarh, hereby declare that my name is (Rimpy) in the school records of my son (Deepanshu) but my correct name is Rimpy Devi.

I, Vipin Kumar S/O Raj Pal R/O H.No. 681, Mohalla Sali Kullian Pathankot declare that in the school record of my son Johnson Mangotra his DOB is wrongly mentioned as 04/05/2012 instead of 28/04/2012 and his mother name wrongly mentioned as Mamta instead of Mamta Bhagat.

I, Vidhi Chand (Aadhar No. 234440518554) S/O Sh. Rounak Ram R/O 503, Sector 21, Panchkula, Haryana Have Changed My Name From Vidhi Chand To Vidhi Chand Mittal.

I, Usha Devi W/O Krishan Kumar village Sair Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Usha to Usha Devi.

I, Malook Singh S/O Udhram Singh R/O village Ladana Chaku Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Maluk Singh to Malook Singh. I known by Malook Singh.

I, Sukhjait Kaur W/O Sh. Surjint Singh Virk R/O Shop No. 32A, Around Additional Mandi, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Sukhjait Kaur to Sukhjeet Kaur Virk, in future my name is to be called as Sukhjeet Kaur Virk.

I, Sushila Palwal Spouse of Dinesh Kumar R/O D-41 Lovely Apartment Mayur Vihar Extn Phase-1 Delhi 110091 have changed my name from Sushila Palwal to Sushila Kumari vide affidavit 5126 dated 05 Aug 2024 before Sirsa Court.

I, Mandeep Kaur Sohi D/o Satnam Singh W/O Robinder Jit Singh R/O H.No. L-12/1184, Gali No. 4, Sarwarpura, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name after marriage from Mandeep Kaur Sohi to Mandeep Kaur.

I, Maninder Jit Singh S/O Manjeet Singh R/O H.No. L-12/1184, Gali No. 4, Sarwarpura, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Maninder Jit Singh to Maninder Jeet Singh.

I, Komal D/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Village Manawala, Tehsil Lopoke, Distt. Amritsar have changed my name from Komal to Komalpreet Kaur.

I, Kavita Khanna W/O Amar Khanna, H.No. 1439, Sector 22-B, Chandigarh Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Nipun Khanna To Krishiv Khanna.

I, hitherto known as Tanisha Alias Tanisha Kadyan D/O Sukhanpal R/O H.no.-368, Near post office, Siwana (134) Jhajjar.Haryana-124202 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Tanisha Kadyan. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Ankita Bhalla W/O Ankit Bhalla R/O 421, Sector-4, Panchkula (Haryana), have changed my name from Ankita Bhalla to Ankita Dewan Bhalla.

I, Sourabh Kumar S/O Rajpal R/O House no 2592/A, Sector - 27 C, Chandigarh have changed my name from Sourabh Kumar to Sourabh.

I, Karjina alias Firoja Begum alias Firoja Begum W/o mohd Sattar # 1101, Small Flats HBC, Dhanas, Chandigarh have changed my Name to Firoja Begum.

I, Chanchal S/O Sh. Krishan Kumar R/O H.No.668, Gandhi Nagar, Ganaur, TehsilGanaur, Distt. Sonipat declare that I have change my name from Chanchal to Abhijeet, for all future purposes.

I, Bimla Devi W/OJasmer Singh R/O H.No-41, Village Nizampur, Tehsil &Distt. Panipat, declare that I have change my name from Bimla Devi to Bimla Rani, for all future purposes.

I Agrima Chhabra D/o Sanjeev Chhabra R/O H.no 26 Behind Bal vikas school ,Shanti nagar, model town panipat declared change my name from Agrima to Agrima Chhabra and in future my name should be known as Agrima Chhabra.

I, Shipu Rani W/O Pardeep Garg R/O Flat No-701, GH 104E Sector- 20, Panchkula Haryana have changed my name to Shipu Garg.

I, Sachin Panwar R/O VPO Idrishpur Tehsil Baraut Distt Baghpatt (Uttar Pradesh)-250622, India have changed my father name from Sohanveer Singh to Sohanbir due to wrong name record in my Army Service record.

I, Sachin Panwar R/O VPO Idrishpur Tehsil Baraut Distt Baghpatt (Uttar Pradesh)-250622, India have changed my mother name from Chandra Bala to Chander Bala Devi due to wrong name record in my Army Service record.

I, Kuldip Singh S/O Rattan Singh R/O Village Jogi Chima PO Kadian Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name and address as Kuldeep Singh S/O Rattan Singh R/O Village Jogi Cheema PO Qadian, Distt. Gurdaspur, Pin - 143516. Concerned note.

I, Narendra Kaur W/O Kuldip Singh R/O Village Jogi Chima PO Kadian Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name and address as Narinder Kaur W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Village Jogi Cheema PO Qadian, Distt. Gurdaspur, Pin - 143516. Concerned note.

I, Parkash S/O Lakhwinder Vill. Maan PO Sidhwan, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Parkash to Parkash Sahota. Please Concerned note.

I, Sunita Kumari W/O Pyarelal R/O Village Piprali, Post Office Piprali, Tehsil Sikar, District-Sikar, State Rajasthan Pin-332027 have changed my name from Sunita to Sunita Kumari due to wrong name recorded in my husband's army service record vide affidavit before Notary Public Gurdaspur dated 05/08/2024.

I, Rupa Gupta W/O Pushpendar Kumar R/O H.No. 81, Vishwas Nagar, KDB Road, Thanesar District Kurukshetra have changed my name to Ritu.

I, Sarabjeet Singh S/O Bachan Singh R/O VPO Tarsikka, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Sarabjeet Singh to Sarabjit Singh.

I, Kamaljit Singh Arora S/O Surjit Singh R/O H.No 146-R, Model Town, Jalandhar-1, Jalandhar, Punjab-144003 have changed my name to Kamaljit Singh.

I, Ranjit Kaur W/O Harnek Singh R/O Dhurkot, Ludhiana, Punjab-141109 have changed my name to Gurmel Kaur.

I, Soham Mehta S/O Sumesh Mehta R/O 636, Near Water Tank, Sector-13 Extension, Urban Estate, Karnal, Haryana-132001 have changed my name to Shrihaan Mehta.

I, Sukhdev Singh Bhullar S/O Surjit Singh R/O Vill. Kamala Middu, P.O Rukne Wala, Teh. And Distt. Ferozepur, Punjab-152021 have changed my name to Sukhdev Singh.

I, Shilpa Bade Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No 15795545y Rank Hav(Dmt) Name Bade Padmakar Nagnath, Present Residing At Village-Hadoli, Po- Satala, Tehsil-Chakur, Distt- Latur, Maharashtra-413528 Have Changed My Name In Army Record From Shilpa Bade To Shilpa Padmakar Bade Vide Affidavit Dated 03-08-2024 Before Ambala Cantt.

I, Anmol Choudhary, S/O Shri Anuj Kumar R/O Husseini Road, Ward No. 1, Tehsil Naraingarh, District Ambala, hereby declare that in my school certificate my father's name is Anuj Choudhary and mother's name is Pinki Choudhary, whereas the correct name of my father is Anuj Kumar and the correct name of my mother is Pinki Rani. In future I should be known as Anmol Choudhary S/O Smt. Pinki Rani and Shri Anuj Kumar. All concerned please note.

I, Vishal Chauhan S/O Sh. Randhir chauhan R/O village kalawar, sub -teh Saraswati nagar, teh Jagadhri Distt yamuna nagar declare that Randhir Chauhan and Randhir Singh both name belongs to my father and he is known by both names.

I, Gurmaj Singh S/O Narender Singh R/O H.No.295, new beholi, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Gurmaj Singh to Gurmaj Singh. In future I should be known as Gurmaj Singh.

We Sarabjeet Singh Chawla S/O Late S. Parkash Singh & Davinder Kaur W/O Sarabjeet Singh Chawla R/O H.No-34 New Model Colony Ambala City have changed our minor Daughter's name Charleen to Charleen Chawla.

We Sarabjeet Singh Chawla S/O Late S. Parkash Singh & Davinder Kaur W/O Sarabjeet Singh Chawla R/O H.No-34, New Model Colony, Ambala City have changed our minor Daughter's name Jasnoor to Jasnoor Chawla.

I Sahil Singh S/O Gurdass Singh S/O VPO Jharmari Tehsil Dera Bassi (SAS Nagar) Mohali Pb. 140501 have changed my name from Sahil Kumar to Sahil Singh. All concerned please note

We Amit Kalyan S/O Sh. Som Nath Kalyan & Sapna W/O Amit Kalyan R/O H.No 2049/C Naraingarh Road, Sethi Enclave Ambala City have changed our minor Daughter's name Nivedita to Navyaa Kalyan.

I Wazeer Singh S/O Kehar Singh R/O VPO Naneola Tehsil & Distt Ambala have changed my name from Wazeer Singh to Wazir Singh.

I Geeta Rani W/O Vikas Atri R/O 1478 Sainik Nagar Near Guga Mari Mandi Babyl Road Babyal Distt Ambala Haryana Changed My Name To Geeta Atri.

I, Balkar Singh (Old Name) S/O Sh. Hamam Singh R/O Dera Chhakjagatyaan , Lukhi, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Balkar Singh to Gurnam Singh.

I, Ravneet Singh S/O Karam Chand R/O #521, Sector-12, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my daughter's name from Saranshi to Saranshi Saini.

I Raghbir Singh S/O Teja Singh R/O #225, Phase 9, Sector 63, Mohali, Tehsil & Distt SAS Nagar Have Changed My Name From Raghubir Singh To Raghbir Singh

I, Rupali W/O Vijay Sharma R/O House No- 827, Main Road Sector-2, Panchkula Haryana have changed my name to Rupali Sharma

I, Kawaljit Kaur W/O Pritam Singh R/O H.No.31, Lane No.1, Sant Avenue, Opp Mall of Amritsar, Amritsar have changed my name from Kawaljit Kaur to Kawaljeet Kaur

I, Payal Mehra W/O Girish Kumar Madan R/O H.No.7, Gali No.4, Guru Amar Das Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Payal Mehra to Payal Madan

I, Kuldip Singh S/O Ajaib Singh R/O Hno.74 F G C Road Green G Thakur G Estate, Nangli Amritsar Have Changed My Name Kuldip Is My Given Name and Singh is My Surname

I, Rajwinder Singh S/O Churn Singh R/O Vpo Udhoke Kalan Tehsil Baba Bakala District Amritsar Have changed my name Rajwinder is My Given Name and Singh Is My Surname

I, Neha Mehta D/o Rajinder Singh W/O Sh. Kawsaljeet Singh R/O 1154/8, Masjid wali Gali, Islamabad, Amritsar-I, Amritsar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name after marriage from Neha Mehta to Neha Slaich

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Charan Dass R/O A-205, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar have changed my name from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Kumar Arora

I, Poonam Kapoor W/O Mohit Sodhi R/O VPO Jaintipur Tehsil & District Amritsar have changed my name from Poonam Kapoor to Poonam Sodhi

I, Vijay Laxmi Sharma W/O Dharam Pal Prashar R/O 32, Majitha Road, Green Field Avenue, Amritsar have changed my name from Vijay Laxmi Sharma to Vijay Prashar.

I, Gurminder singh S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O House No.5911, Gali No.13 Nawan Kot Amritsar have changed my name from Gurminder Singh to Gurminder Singh Heir.

I, Harmeet Kaur W/O Gurminder Singh Heir R/O House No.5911, Gali No.13 Nawan Kot Amritsar have changed my name from Harmeet Kaur to Harmeet kaur Heir.

I, Manjit Singh Son of Karaj Singh Resident of Mari Kamboke Tehsil Patti District Tam Taran have changed my name to Manjit is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Gurmit Kaur Wife of Satnam Singh Resident of Dalri Tehsil Patti District Tam Taran have changed my name Gurmit is my Given name and Kaur is my Surname

I, Laxmi Spouse of No.13778981N Nk Narinder Kumar R/O VPO Chalyati Teh Rajpura Distt Samba State J&K-184121 have changed my name from Laxmi to Laxmi Devi Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB42827879262556W Dt.05.08.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Joyti Dashoni Spouse of No.4206505P Nk Ramesh Singh R/O VPO Baggha 54, Distt U.S Nagar Ultrakhand-262308 have changed my name from Joyti Dashoni to Joyti Devi Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB42827311254949W Dt.05.08.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Pardip Kaur W/O Rajinder Singh Sandhu R/O H.No.21, Gali No.2, Rishi Vihar, Phase-2, Majitha Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Pardip Kaur to Pardip Kaur Sandhu

I, Salwinder Kumar S/O Kpoor Chand R/O F22/320, Kotla Basti Mustfabad, Amritsar have changed my son's name from Prince to Prince Attri

I Gulvinder Singh S/O Chet Singh R/O Village Dubliar Ram Rauni Po Maluwal Taran Tarn 143401 have change my name Gulvinder Singh to Gulwinder Singh

I, Seema Kumari W/O Anil Kumar, R/o # 1204, Dadu Majra Colony, Sector 38 West, Chandigarh have changed my name to Seema Sharma.

I, Neelu Devi W/O Arvind Kumar, # 106, Sector 52, Kajheri, Chandigarh have changed my name to Neetu.

I Baljit Kaur W/O Harjinder Singh R/O H.No 3054/1 Moh Rajputan Nakodar Distt Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Baljeet Kaur To Baljit Kaur.

I Preeti Goel W/O Ankit Goel R/O H.no- 920 Sector 17 have changed my minor daughter name from Alayna to Alayna Goel.

I Preeti Goel W/O Ankit Goel R/O H.no- 920 Sector 17 have changed my minor daughter name from Rhyna to Rhyna Goel.

I, Roop Rani wife of Davinder Kumar resident of VPO Jallowal Colony, District Jalandhar, Punjab, 144303, have changed my name from Roop Rani to Rupa. All concerned notes.

I Surjit Singh S/O Dhani Ram R/O #83, Bansal Colony Rajpura Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That Sanjana Dhiman Is My Minor Daughter. Sanjana Dhiman And Sanjana Names Of One And Same Person

I Dinesh Kumar Alias Vishal S/O Ramker R/O Hno. 1673, Aman Colony, Dhanas, Chandigarh, Declare That I Dinesh Kumar & Vishal Is One And The Same Person. And My Actual & Correct Name Is Dinesh Kumar For All Purpose In Future.

I, Sudesh Devi Urf Sudesh Kumari W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O House No. 357-A, Gali No. 3, Adrash Colony Gangwa Road, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Sudesh Devi Urf Sudesh Kumari to Sudesh Kumari for future purpose.

I, Swati W/O Rajesh Kumar Arora R/O H. No. 596, Urban Estate-2, Hisar, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Swati Arora for future purpose.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/O Ram Parkash R/O H. No. 596, Urban Estate-2, Hisar, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kumar Arora for future purpose.

I, Rajesh Arora S/O Ram Parkash R/O H. No. 596, Urban Estate-2, Hisar, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Rajesh Arora to Rajesh Kumar Arora for future purpose.

I, Ajit Sangwan S/O Parbhu Dayal Sangwan R/O Ho. No.962, Sector-23, Bhiwani declare that I have changed my name from Ajit Sangwan to Ajit Singh son of Parbhu Dayal Sangwan all future purposes.

I, Hitherto Known As Dilsher Singh S/O Nafe Singh R/O Village Popran, Tehsil Assandh, Distt Karnal, Haryana-132039 Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Dalsher.

I, Pranjal D/o Parveen Kumar Wadhwa, r/o 306-R model town, yamunanagar. That I have change my name From Pranjali to pranjali wadhwa.

I, Ritu w/o Parveen Kumar Wadhwa, r/o 306-R model town, yamunanagar. That I have changed my name From Ritu to Ritu wadhwa.

I, Parbjeet Kaur W/O Bhupinder Singh R/O B 45/36/5, Aliwal Road,



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Justice delayed

Chief Justice of India highlights frustration over court delays, calls for urgent reforms to address pendency

The Chief Justice of India has voiced a growing concern shared by many: the prolonged delays in Indian courts are causing immense frustration among the public, turning the judicial process into an unwelcome ordeal. In a recent statement, the Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud remarked, "People get fed up with protracted court proceedings, the process becomes a punishment." This stark observation brings to light the urgent need to address the pervasive issue of case pendency in India's legal system. The Indian judiciary is grappling with an overwhelming backlog of cases, which has long been a subject of public discontent and legal scrutiny. The Chief Justice of India's recent statement underscores the severity of this issue, highlighting how extended court delays are not only hindering justice but also eroding public trust in the legal system. As of recent estimates, over 40 million cases are pending across various levels of the Indian judiciary and may take 300 years to clear it at the going pace. This

staggering number includes civil, criminal, and administrative cases, many of which have been unresolved for years or even decades.

The backlog creates a bottleneck that prevents timely justice, leading to prolonged legal battles and increasing costs for the litigants. Extended delays can lead to a lack of confidence in the judiciary, with people perceiving the legal process as slow and inefficient. When cases languish in the courts for years without resolution, individuals begin to doubt the effectiveness and reliability of the judicial system. Knowing that legal proceedings are likely to be drawn out, many individuals may avoid seeking justice through the courts altogether.



This reluctance is particularly pronounced among those who cannot afford prolonged litigation or who need prompt resolution due to personal or financial constraints. The inordinate delays can drive people to seek alternative, and often extrajudicial, means of resolving disputes. Moreover, businesses and investors rely on a robust legal system to enforce contracts and resolve disputes. Addressing these delays is crucial for maintaining the integrity and efficacy of the judicial system and ensuring that justice is accessible and timely for all citizens. Several factors contribute to the chronic issue of case pendency in India. A significant number of judicial positions remain unfilled. The legal procedures in India can be highly complex, often leading to unnecessary delays. Many courts lack the necessary infrastructure and technological support. But the biggest source of delay is the practice of frequent adjournments, often granted for frivolous reasons. A Bollywood film dialogue 'tareekh pe tareekh' sums it up succinctly. Some issues have been dealt with in the amendments to the Indian penal code which are now called 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita' but a lot more needs to be done to expedite justice and establish a rule of law! As the saying goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied," and the legal system must cope with the needs of a fast-paced society that we have today.

PICTALK



People take a dip before performing rituals on the occasion of 'Aadi Amavasi', in Rameshwaram

Grim prospects for peace in West Asia

The killing of Hamas leader threatens to derail any hopes for a ceasefire in Gaza further complicating efforts for peace in the region



UMANG KOHLI



Israel seems to have eliminated Hamas leader Haniyeh, using an airborne guided projectile in an early morning attack.

Haniyeh was in Iran for the Iranian president's swearing-in ceremony as a state guest and was staying in one of the residences for veterans. The events in the Middle East are shaping dangerously, the things as they are turning out to be, it's not out of the scope of imagination that soon Iran may be part of a major regional conflict.

We have already seen that a confrontation between Hezbollah and Israel is underway in Lebanon. However, Israel has still not taken responsibility for the strike. Israel has been accusing Iran of harbouring Hamas leaders like Haniyeh and has openly vowed to kill them. Israel not taking responsibility for the attack shows that it does not want a direct confirmation with Iran right now. It remains to be seen how things play out, there is also a section in Israel that is suspicious of Iran's state media's claim that Haniyeh has even been killed.

Having said that there are little or no takers of the version that Israel is not responsible for the killing of Hamas's political leader. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa has condemned the assassina-

tion of Ismail Haniyeh and termed it a violation of the entire international rule of law. The act is a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty and the supposed security bubble of the Iranian capital. This is likely to have far-reaching consequences in the short and the long term. Haniyeh, normally based in Qatar, had been the face of international diplomacy for Hamas. He had been an important part of internationally brokered indirect talks on reaching a ceasefire in the Palestinian enclave. This killing appears to set back chances of any imminent ceasefire agreement in the 10-month-old war in Gaza and Lebanon.

Vowing to retaliate, Iran declared three days of national mourning. Iran has blamed the U.S. for providing Israel with the missiles that have been fired, and hence holding it directly responsible. The US itself has accepted that the risk of escalation is certainly up right now.

The killing of Haniyeh has made the task of de-escalation, deterrence and dissuasion towards war, which is the goal of the UN and the international community, much more complicated. It has given a reason for those who want things to escalate on



HEZBOLLAH WILL FIND LEGITIMACY IN TAKING ON ANY POSSIBLE TARGET IN ISRAEL, CIVIL OR MILITARY. IRAN WOULD FIND IT CONVENIENT TO DIRECTLY USE SOME OF ITS MISSILES AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE YARDSTICK TO JUDGE ITS EFFECTIVENESS WOULD BE THE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS KILLED

both sides to scuttle chances of peace and also provided them with the fodder to fuel further attacks on each other with impunity.

The immediate consequences of this escalation, Netanyahu will get support from the far right in Israel and he may push for attacks deeper into Lebanon. Hezbollah will find legitimacy in taking on any possible target in Israel, civil or military. Iran would find it convenient to directly use some of its missiles against Israel and the yardstick to judge its effectiveness would be the number of civilians killed. The Houthis will attack commercial ships in the Red Sea even more, leading to loss of business and livelihood across the world. Palestinians would cry on the streets for lack of food and medicine even more, but like always would only get lip service. Oil prices will go up and some people will make even more money. More arms would be sold and better technology would be used to kill more people in less time. More and more areas may become dangerous even for the media. Schools and hospitals may be targeted even more since all the terrorists are hiding there only. In the US leaders would keep

blaming each other for the escalation with each side doing what is required to be done to get votes. UN is likely to look even more helpless in the days to come.

Apart from this humanity would be disgraced for it does not feel ashamed of any act of inhuman violent behaviour anymore. Aircraft carriers from the US will be deployed to safeguard the territorial integrity of Israel. There will be calls for people to join hands in the name of religion, and they will, only humanity will be divided and more people will die.

Some people in India may find this killing of Haniyeh a great act of bravery, and they may even ask the political hierarchy to take lessons or even replicate this kind of attack.

Little do they realise that Israel has been fighting for existence, and are not at peace with themselves, peace has eluded them since their existence. However, we as a country are at peace and no one can dare challenge our existence, and hence we should never think of acting whimsically.

(The writer is expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOOD SECURITY VS RISING PRICES

Madam — Apropos "Modi reaffirms India's role as Vishwa Bandhu, Aug 4. According to him, India has become a food surplus country and second largest producer of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables etc. But the high prices of cereals, pulses, edible oils, vegetables and fruits etc. has indeed impacted households across the country and made them beyond affordability of many.

According to the Economic Times, since November 2023, food inflation in the country has persisted at around 8% year-on-year. The Opposition too raises repeatedly about high food inflation. Per capita consumption of pulses, fruits and vegetables in India are one of the lowest in the world. Low consumption of them affects overall health, leading to deficiencies in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants and accordingly Indians are deficient in them, particularly in children it is a grave concern. Vegetarianism is a major dietary choice in India, therefore, plant-based food must be available at affordable prices in adequate quantities for a healthy nation.

O Prasada Rao | Hyderabad

INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM EXCELS

Madam—Who could have asked for more intriguing and a close contest in Sunday that added yet another unforgettable moment to India's hockey history that snatched victory from the jaws of defeat that once loomed large.

After surprising world class Australia in a span of 52 years, India continued their winning streak by defeating England 4-2 in a nail biting finish in Olympics Hockey that kept millions of fans glued to their t.v. sets. With this resounding win, India enter into the semi finals.

The national game of India Hockey is again in the limelight as India produced a real fitting spirit especially at a critic moment when the odds are stacked against them as they were reduced to 10. This also could not dampened their spirit as Veteran Goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh saved one goal after to showcase her



Quota within quota

This refers to the news report, "Apex Court Upholds Quota Within Quota" (August 3). The Supreme Court's historic verdict now allows states to sub-categorize Scheduled Castes (SCs) for reservations. This sub-categorization is crucial as many SCs, particularly marginalized groups like the Balimiki in North India, Madiga and Arunthathiyar in South India, and Mang in Maharashtra, have been left behind in accessing benefits meant for SCs. Previously, states struggled to ensure their share of benefits due to an

earlier Supreme Court judgment in the EV Chinnaiiah case. However, the recent Supreme Court ruling has highlighted the political dilemma faced by parties. During the assembly elections in Telangana last year, Prime Minister Modi announced a committee to examine the Madigas' demand for sub-categorization.

Implementing this sub-categorization is challenging in many other states, as it faces opposition from NDA ministers like Chirag Paswan and Ramdas Athawale. Sub-categorisation could affect the interests of dominant castes such as Paswan in Bihar, Mahars in Maharashtra, and Jatavs in UP, Rajasthan, and Delhi. Will the BJP risk losing Paswan's support in Bihar? Additionally, the BJP is seeking to gain Jatav votes in UP, traditionally supporters of the BSP. Therefore, it will be interesting to see the BJP's stance on the Supreme Court's decision.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

protest that even saved penalties to see India remain in contention for a medal. This achievement has added yet another feather in the cap of Indian hockey since the 1972 Munich Olympics that India reached the semifinals in back to back games, followed the bronze medal in Tokyo.

The English team could not penetrate the Great wall of India as Indian players fought like warriors throughout the match and took it to the penalties. It seems that the golden era of Indian hockey is returning. No matter what the outcome of the forth coming matches, but one positive is the world class overall performance and team coordination, cooperation, fighting spirit until the last, hard work has really won hearts of millions.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

Madam—A bulletin issued by the World Health Organization explores the increasing smoking among women and its health effects on children or unborn babies. A shocking reality has come to light.

Handling disrespect and finding inner peace

We should recognise the value of pausing and reflecting, to determine whether our reactions to perceived insults are genuinely justified



SANJAY CHANDRA

I read a beautiful story by a well-known Indian author about a middle-class household. The lady of the house locks herself in an earmarked dark room whenever she feels unloved and uncared for by her family. We too retreat to our inner self, the equivalent of our dark room, sometimes in our lives. During a recent vacation, my wife's friend compared me to a beast of burden.

The adjective is also often used by parents admonishing their good-for-nothing sons. The word is probably also applicable to all husbands. I sulked till a couple of hours later, I gave it back to her. This time my wife objected, forcing me into another sulk. They had probably expected a better sense of humour. I was not amused. A friendly neighbour objected to my entrance to attend a meeting in a rather loud stage whisper for reasons I was unaware of. I was asked to wait outside. It turned out that he was retaliating to an earlier fight with another neighbour. He had probably expected



me to empathise with his unexpressed anguish. I felt insulted. Another time, a neighbour acting as an observer in society elections, got up rather aggressively, started shouting at me, and asked me to get out, on the grounds of some rules not mentioned anywhere. A couple of hours later, he came out and shook hands with me. I tried to mend fences by putting on my best smile. He rudely turned his face away, telling anyone who cared to listen, "He is a writer; he does not even know the rules." I could not understand the relationship between a writer and knowledge of

unwritten rules. Rationally thinking about the incident a day later, I thought he was probably venting his frustration about inadequate writing skills. It was no consolation.

I faced several unpleasant events in my professional life. I took them in my stride. One such incident happened within a few weeks after I had joined my first working post in the railways.

I sat in the senior foreman's office after my usual morning round of the maintenance shed, when I was interrupted in my discussions by the entry of 30 odd staff led by a union leader. Listening to the problems, I was startled by the landing of an earthenware teacup on the table.

They were trying to gauge my reaction. I took it as a management challenge, not an insult. I witnessed a cat-fight between two young ladies in an upmarket shop in Delhi. One lady had tried to get ahead of the other at the payment counter. I was relieved that it remained a verbal duel,

rather than turning into a fisticuff. In another incident, a mother trying to help her teenage son choose clothes was rudely snubbed by the latter, "Do not talk like a fool." The mother had tears in her eyes as she surreptitiously looked around, and then fussed some more over her child. I too looked the other way, embarrassed at the rude snub in public to a mother's affection.

There are many such incidents that we face in our lives. We take a few more seriously than the others, while others we shrug off. The line between a perceived insult and rational logic is often blurred. It is easy to cross this line without even realising it. It may save a visit to the inner dark room, if we do not react, but pause, reflect, and remember the Greek philosopher, Epictetus, "It is not he who reviles or strikes you who insults you, but your opinion that these things are insulting."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

Children's lungs are affected by women who smoke. Also, such children have weak immune system and children suffering from diseases like asthma are struggling with lung related diseases throughout their life. In adolescence and old age, such children's immunity decreases. It has been found.

Women are also suffering from various lung diseases due to the addiction of v-cigarettes and e-cigarettes. The major disease in these patients is asthma. It has been observed significantly. Also, children in such households are constantly sick due to various reasons. Increasing smoking among women affects the infant and children born with smaller lungs and weak immune system. It has been found that India has. Also, the warning given by the World Health Organization must be taken seriously. The problem of babies born with small lungs due to smoking is a big challenge.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

STRATEGIES TO COMBAT CHRONIC STRESS

Understanding and managing stress effectively is essential for a healthier life



SAKSHI SETHI

The human body is designed to experience stress. The 'fight or flight response' otherwise thought of as an 'acute stress' response are inbuilt mechanisms that allow an individual to deal with threats to survival. Stress at the workplace can arise from various factors, often stemming from the demands of the job, the work environment and individual characteristics. Chronic stress is a state of ongoing, persistent stress that can develop when a person faces prolonged challenges or pressures without adequate periods of relaxation or recovery. Unlike acute stress, which is short-term and can even be beneficial in certain situations (like a deadline or a sudden challenge), chronic stress lasts for an extended period and can have deleterious effects on both physical as well as mental health.

Signs of chronic stress at the workplace can manifest in various ways, affecting an individual's physical health, emotional well-being, cognitive abilities and behaviour. Cognitive-behavioural approaches, mindfulness training and resilience-building programs have been shown to help employees manage stress more effectively. These strategies can enhance employees' ability to cope with stressors and reduce the negative impact of stress on their health and performance. It can lead to significant economic costs for employers, including healthcare expenses, lost productivity, absenteeism and turnover. Organizations through interventions such as job redesign, flexible work arrangements, employee wellness programs and stress management training can reduce chronic stress as these interventions aim to reduce job



demands, increase job control and provide employees with the resources they need to cope effectively with stress. Recognizing these signs early can help in addressing the underlying issues before they escalate. Research shows that in the United States, the American Institute of Stress (AIS) has estimated that around 40% of worker turnover is due to stress and the cost of stress in the workplace has been estimated to be over \$300 billion per year.

Studies also show that perceptions of stress and coping mechanisms can vary across cultures. The shift to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new stressors related to work-life balance, isolation and digital overload. Ongoing research is exploring how these changes affect chronic stress levels and what interventions are most effective in this new work environment. Furthermore, studies highlight the role of leadership in either mitigating or exacerbating stress. Supportive leadership styles, clear communication and recognition of employee efforts can reduce stress, while authoritarian or inconsistent management can increase it. There is no denying the fact that different industries have unique stressors. For instance healthcare professionals often face stress due to high-stakes decision-making and emotional demands, while employees in tech industries might experience stress from rapid changes and constant innovation.

This type of stress can lead to individual burnout, which is when the body's budget is depleted. Unlike acute stress, which is short-term and can even be beneficial in certain situations such as a deadline or a sudden challenge, chronic stress lasts for an extended period. It can have detrimental effects on both physical and mental health. It is the chronic stress that comes from any area of our lives that can lead to a place of exhaustion and demotivation. It's tough, but the individual needs to find the will within self to get inspired and take recovery into their own hands. Understanding the sources of stress is crucial for both employees and employers to develop strategies to manage and reduce stress, thereby creating a healthier and more productive work environment.

(The writer is an educator, views expressed are personal)

Japan's defence dilemma: Pacifism vs security



SANTHOSH MATHEW

As the world commemorates the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan contemplates pivotal shift in its defence policy



As the world commemorates the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a profound moment of reflection intersects with a pivotal shift in Japan's defence policy.

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan were devastated by atomic bombs dropped by the United States, marking a pivotal moment in World War II and the history of warfare. The bombings resulted in the immediate deaths of tens of thousands of people, with the total number of casualties, including those from radiation sickness and injuries, rising to over 200,000. Hiroshima, targeted first, saw the "Little Boy" bomb obliterate much of the city, while Nagasaki was struck by the "Fat Man" bomb three days later.

The immense destruction and loss of life precipitated Japan's surrender on August 15, 1945, effectively ending World War II. These events also ushered in the nuclear age, highlighting the devastating power of atomic weapons and sparking global debates on nuclear ethics, warfare, and disarmament. The bombings remain a somber reminder of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear conflict and the importance of striving for peace and international cooperation.

The devastation, which claimed the lives of civilians, imprinted an indelible mark on the nation's collective consciousness and laid the foundation for its pacifist constitution. In the aftermath of these horrific events, Japan adopted a policy of defensive neutrality, enshrined in Article 9 of its constitution, renouncing war and prohibiting the maintenance of armed forces for combat.

This commitment to pacifism became a cornerstone of Japan's identity, earning it a place of respect in the global community and even frequent nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. However, as



JAPAN'S NEW NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY IS A RESPONSE TO THE GROWING TENSIONS IN THE REGION. NORTH KOREA HAS ALREADY CONDUCTED MISSILE TESTS CAPABLE OF REACHING JAPANESE TERRITORY, WHILE CHINA'S INCREASING ASSERTIVENESS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

the world grapples with evolving geopolitical threats, Japan has announced a significant shift in its defence policy.

The government has decided to allocate 2% of its GDP to defence spending, marking a departure from its longstanding pacifist stance. This decision, driven by perceived threats from North Korea and China, positions Japan as the second-largest arms importer globally, following Saudi Arabia.

Japan's new national security strategy is a response to the growing tensions in the region. North Korea has already conducted missile tests capable of reaching Japanese territory, while China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea and its broader regional ambitions have raised alarms in Tokyo.

These developments have prompted Japan to reconsider its post-World War II defence posture. Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a staunch advocate for revising Japan's pacifist constitution, argued that the nation must strengthen its military capabilities to counter regional threats. Although Abe's tenure saw some legislative changes allowing for a modest self-defence force, widespread public opposition prevented a complete overhaul of Article 9. Nonetheless, Abe's vision of a robust Japanese military continues to influence current policies. Current Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, with the backing of both the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives, has pressed forward with this new defence agenda. However, public

sentiment remains largely against these changes. According to a Kyodo News Agency survey, 80% of the population opposes the government's constitutional amendment efforts, reflecting a deep-rooted commitment to pacifism among the Japanese people.

The decision to shift defence policies on the anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is particularly poignant. The memories of the atomic bombings serve as a stark reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of peace. The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not just a military strategy but also an unprecedented human tragedy. The bombings, justified by the U.S. as necessary to end the war, were, in reality, cruel scientific experiments that unleashed untold suffering and long-term consequences.

The atomic bombings forced Japan to adopt a peace-oriented constitution, promoting disarmament and dialogue over conflict. Article 9 has been a symbol of hope and a testament to Japan's commitment to ensuring that such devastation never occurs again.

The policy shift, therefore, raises important questions about the future of pacifism in Japan and its role in international peace and security. As Japan increases its defence budget and modernizes its military capabilities, it steps into a complex and competitive arms race.

The nation that once stood as a beacon of pacifism now finds itself at a crossroads, balancing its historical commitment to peace

with the pressing need to address contemporary security challenges. The legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki endures, reminding the world of the catastrophic consequences of war and the enduring value of peace.

As Japan navigates this new defence trajectory, it must reconcile its past with its present, ensuring that the principles of peace and humanity remain at the forefront of its national identity. In the shadow of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan's defence policy evolution marks a significant chapter in its history. The world watches closely as Japan seeks to uphold its commitment to peace while safeguarding its future in an increasingly uncertain global landscape.

The devastating bombings marked a turning point in World War II, leading to Japan's surrender and the end of the conflict. These tragic events imprinted a commitment to pacifism in Japan's national consciousness, enshrined in its post-war constitution.

However, with rising geopolitical threats from North Korea's missile tests and China's regional ambitions, Japan has no choice but to reconsider its pacifist stance and increase its defence spending, sparking a national debate on the future of its long-held commitment to peace.

(The writer is an associate professor Centre For South Asian Studies, School of International Studies & Social Sciences Pondicherry Central University; views are personal)

Bangladesh's political shakeup: A diplomatic setback for India

The resignation of Sheikh Hasina poses a significant challenge for New Delhi, as it now faces an uncertain political situation in its neighbouring country

While Bangladeshis may be celebrating the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after she was forced to resign and flee the country on Monday, her removal is a huge blow to India. Not only had New Delhi-Dhaka ties flourished under her prime minister-ship but the Awami League leader had been mindful of India's strategic interests. She had even tried to keep India's strategic interests in mind vis-à-vis China while adroitly balancing relations with both. During her 15 years of unbroken rule, New Delhi-Dhaka ties enjoyed both stability and mutual trust. But with the army taking charge in Bangladesh and an interim government set to take over, India has a lot to



PARUL CHANDRA

worry about. For one, it now has to deal with a new dispensation after having built a very comfortable working relationship with the Sheikh Hasina government over the last 15 years. Secondly, it will also have to contend with the fact that it is the army that will be exercising actual control even with an interim government in place. Thirdly, India will be dealing with an entirely new politi-

cal set-up if and when elections are held in Bangladesh to install a new government. With India having thrown all its weight behind Sheikh Hasina, it may be faced with a huge challenge to build ties with the Opposition parties. India could also be in deep trouble if the pro-Pakistan Bangladesh National Party (BNP) returns to power. It had recently triggered anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh by carrying out an 'India Out' campaign which fortunately fizzled out early. Opposition parties can fan the simmering of these sentiments again, especially given how closely New Delhi was identified with her government. Indeed, for New Delhi, ties with Dhaka had been a "son-

ali adhayay" (golden chapter) under Sheikh Hasina who delivered on New Delhi's expectations, while choosing to downplay India's inability to deliver on the important Teesta waters sharing agreement. But with a new government in power, all this might change. New Delhi, therefore, will have to deftly manoeuvre its way through a tricky diplomatic situation now. It has no choice but to do so given that it has vital stakes in the stability of Bangladesh, ranging from the economic to the strategic, in a country with which it shares a 4,096-km long border.

It will also be hoped that the situation in Bangladesh will stabilise soon, knowing well that prolonged instability



there can have serious security and economic ramifications for India. For instance, taking into account New Delhi's security concerns, Sheikh Hasina had cracked down on northeast insurgents sheltering in Bangladeshi territory early on in her second stint as PM. Her government's relentless pursuit of the pro-Pakistan

BNP as well as its ally JeI, also helped India's security interests. Equally worrying for India has been the rise of other radical Islamist outfits like the Hefazat-e-Islam in Bangladesh, which had organised anti-India protests ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit there.

The over one million Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar and are sheltering in Bangladesh too have been a security concern for India. Already home to a sizable number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, India would also be concerned about a further influx of refugees seeking to flee their troubled country. With five Indian states in the northeast sharing a border with Bangladesh, any such

influx could pose a huge security challenge for the region.

Additionally, prolonged turmoil there could hurt Indian efforts to boost connectivity to the NE via Bangladesh using rail links and the sea route. India has for long been seeking alternative routes to bypass the vulnerable Siliguri corridor, which if blocked can cut off land access to its entire NE. The push for shorter routes to the NE via Bangladesh, which would cut down time and costs for the movement of goods, could also receive a setback.

The quota stir has already hit bilateral trade after the movement of trucks was stalled at the land ports. While cross-border trade

has now resumed, there have been huge economic losses on either side. Prolonged turmoil can only worsen trading ties between the two countries. Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia. In FY 2022-23, the bilateral trade was \$15.9 billion, though it remains heavily skewed in favour of India. A lot is at stake for India as its close neighbour witnesses some tectonic changes in its governance and political landscape. It means it will have to put in all its diplomatic and political heft into its outreach to whoever is in charge of the new dispensation in Bangladesh.

(The writer is a senior New Delhi-based journalist writing on foreign affairs)

Hasina: From record 4th consecutive term to dramatic ouster

PTI ■ DHAKA

Sheikh Hasina, who was elected for a record fourth consecutive term and fifth overall term this year, was always admired by her supporters as an "Iron Lady" before the dramatic development that abruptly ended her 15-year-rule in Bangladesh.

Hasina, who provided stability to the once military-ruled Bangladesh but at the same time criticised as an "autocratic" leader by opponents, was among the world's longest-serving female heads of government. The 76-year-old daughter of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had been ruling the strategically located South Asian nation since 2009. She was elected for a record fourth consecutive term in January in an election boycotted by the main opposition party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former premier Khaleda Zia and its allies.

Born in erstwhile East Pakistan (now in Bangladesh) in September 1947, Hasina

became active in politics while studying at the University of Dhaka in the late 1960s. She served as her father's political liaison during his imprisonment by the Pakistani government.

After Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan in 1971, her father Mujibur Rahman became the president and then prime minister of the country. However, in August 1975, Rahman, his wife and their three sons were assassinated in their home by military officers.

Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana survived the purge as they were abroad. Hasina, who spent six years in exile in India, was elected as the leader of the Awami League, a party founded by her father. In 1981, Hasina returned home and became vocal about democracy in the country ruled by the military, which placed her under house arrest on multiple occasions.

In the 1991 general elections, the Hasina-led Awami League failed to secure a majority. Her rival Khaleda Zia of the BNP

became prime minister. Five years later, Hasina was elected prime minister in the 1996 general elections. Hasina was voted out of office in the 2001 elections but returned to power with a thumping victory in 2008 polls. Khaleda Zia-led BNP has been left in the lurch since then. Hasina escaped an assassination bid in 2004 when a grenade exploded at her rally. Soon after coming to power in 2009, Hasina set up a tribunal to try 1971 war crimes cases. The tribunal convicted some high-profile members of the opposition, sparking violent protests.

Jamaat-e-Islami, an Islamist party and a key ally of BNP, was banned from participating in elections in 2013. BNP chief Khaleda Zia was sentenced to 17 years in prison on corruption charges.

The BNP boycotted the 2014 elections but joined the one in 2018, which party leaders later said was a mistake, alleging that the voting was marred with widespread rigging and intimidation. In the 2024 elections,



Black smoke rises from the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University during clashes between protesters and Awami League members, on the first day of the non-cooperation movement in Dhaka, on Sunday, August 4

the BNP and its allies boycotted the votes, demanding polls under a non-party caretaker government. They alleged that Hasina cannot deliver credible voting. The polls were fought by 27 political parties, including the parliamentary opposition

Jatiya Party. The rest were members of the ruling Awami League-led coalition, which experts dubbed as the "satellite parties." The BNP's boycott, however, raised questions about the credibility of the polls, which registered a low turnout.

Six months after the elections, a massive protest erupted against her government over a controversial quota system that reserved 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971.

Over 300 protesters were killed in violence during the protests that led to her dramatic ouster. Hasina presided over one of the world's fastest-growing economies and improved living standards in the South Asian nation in the past 15 years. The NEWSNEXTBD.com dubbed her the "Iron Lady" several years back and since then it was used by the Western media to refer to her.

Her supporters credit Hasina with humming development projects and providing stability in the country, which has witnessed military rule for years. Hasina won praise for the handling of the world's biggest refugee crisis as over a million Rohingya have taken shelter in Bangladesh after fleeing for their lives in neighbouring Myanmar to evade persecution after a 2017 army crackdown at their homeland.

Hasina is also credited for skillfully negotiating the rival interests of India and China as Bangladesh is virtually sandwiched between the two Asian giants. She got the support of both the big neighbours and

Russia ahead of the elections. Bangladesh's per capita income tripled since Hasina took power in January 2009 while its gross domestic product (GDP) clocked at a growth rate of 7.28 per cent last year.

The country of nearly 170 million people has achieved near self-sufficiency in food production and raised average life expectancy to levels higher than neighbouring India. People close to her used to say that the premier is a "workaholic" and she performs the daily Islamic rituals.

Rising energy and commodity prices in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, however, forced her government to seek IMF support amid falling foreign reserves.

The workers in Bangladesh's main export-earning garment industry were dissatisfied with a recent wage hike and lodged protests in recent years. Political opponents described Hasina's government an "autocratic" and corrupt regime, while many civil society figures and rights groups accused it of rights abuses.

Kim marks delivery of 250 N-capable missile launchers to frontline units

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea marked the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units at a ceremony where leader Kim Jong Un called for a ceaseless expansion of his military's nuclear program to counter perceived US threats, state media said on Monday.

Concerns about Kim's nuclear program have grown as he has demonstrated an intent to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the North's border with South Korea and authorised his military to respond with preemptive nuclear strikes if it perceives the leadership as under threat. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the launchers were freshly produced by the county's munitions factories and designed to fire "tactical" ballistic missiles, a term that describes systems capable of delivering lower-yield nuclear weapons.

Kim said at Sunday's event in Pyongyang the new launchers would give his frontline units "overwhelming" firepower over South and make the operation of tactical nuclear weapons more practical and efficient. State media photos showed lines of army-green launcher trucks packing a large street with seemingly thousands of spectators attending the event, which included fireworks.

North Korea has been expanding its lineup of mobile short-



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, Kim Jong Un speaks during a ceremony to mark the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Sunday

range weapons designed to overwhelm missile defences in South Korea, while also pursuing intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to reach the US mainland.

Kim's intensifying weapons tests and threats are widely seen as an attempt at pressuring the United States to accept the idea of North Korea as a nuclear power and to end US-led sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear program. North Korea also could seek to dial up tensions in a US election year, experts say. Kim lately has used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to further accelerate his weapons development. In

response, the United States, South Korea and Japan have been expanding their combined military exercises and sharpening their nuclear deterrence strategies built around strategic US military assets.

In his speech at Sunday's event, Kim called for his country to brace for a prolonged confrontation with the United States and urged a relentless expansion of military strength. He justified his military buildup as a counter to the "increasingly savage" military cooperation between the United States and its regional allies, which he claimed are now showing the characteristics of a "nuclear-based mili-

tary bloc."

"It would be our choice to either pursue dialogue or confrontation, but our lesson and conclusion from the past 30 years ... is that confrontation is what we should be prepared more thoroughly for," said Kim.

"The United States we are facing is not just an administration that comes and goes after a few years, but a hostile nation that our children and grandchildren will be dealing for generations to come and that also illustrates the necessity to continuously improve our self-defense capabilities."

Kim also said the decision to hold the weapons ceremony while the country was trying to recover from disastrous flooding showed its determination to "push ahead with the strengthening of our national defense capabilities force without stagnation under any circumstances."

The floods in late July submerged thousands of homes and huge swaths of farmland in regions near the border with China.

Russia has offered flood aid to North Korea, in another sign of expanding relations between the two nations. Kim has made Russia his priority in recent months as he pushes a foreign policy aimed at expanding relations with countries confronting Washington, embracing the idea of a "new Cold War" and trying to display a united front in Putin's broader conflicts with the West.

Australia lifts terror threat level from 'possible' to 'probable'

AP ■ MELBOURNE

The Australian government on Monday elevated the nation's terrorism threat level from "possible" to "probable," citing concerns about increasing radicalisation among young people and community tensions over the Israel-Hamas war.

It is the first time the threat level has been elevated to the midpoint of the five-tier National Terrorism Threat Advisory System since November 2022. The level had been "probable" the previous eight years.

But Prime Minister Anthony Albanese added that while government officials think the current climate makes terrorism an increased danger, they didn't know of any specific threats. "I want to reassure Australians probable does not mean inevitable, and it does not mean there is intelligence about an imminent threat or danger," Albanese told reporters.

He said the government was acting on the advice of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the nation's main domestic spy agency known as ASIO.

"The advice that we've received is that more Australians are embracing a more diverse range of extreme ideologies and it is our responsibility to be vigilant," Albanese said.

"We've seen a global rise in politically motivated violence and extremism. Many democracies are working to address this, including our friends in the United States and in the United Kingdom. There are many things driving this global trend towards violence. Governments around the world are concerned about youth radicalisation, online radicalisation and the rise of new mixed ideologies." Australian authorities last declared a terrorist act in April, when a 16-year-old boy was accused in the stabbing of a Sydney bishop while a church service was being livestreamed.

Hezbollah launches drone attack on northern Israel

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said it launched a drone attack early Monday on northern Israel that the Israeli military said wounded two Israeli troops and set off a fire. The violence came as fears of an all-out regional war mount following the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah said in a statement it targeted a military base in northern Israel in response to "attacks and assassinations" carried out by Israel in several villages in south Lebanon.

The attack did not appear to be part of a more intense retaliation expected in response to the killing of Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur in Beirut last week.

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months against the backdrop of the war in Gaza, but they have previously kept the conflict at a low level that

had not escalated into full-on war.

Last week's assassinations of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran's capital, Tehran, and Hezbollah commander Shukur in Beirut raised tensions in the region. Israel has been bracing for a retaliation from Iran and its allied militias.

Gen. Hossein Salami, the head of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, threatened Israel on Monday over the assassination of Haniyeh, warning that Israel was "digging its own grave" with its actions in its war against Hamas.

"They will see the result of their mistake. They will see when, how and where they will get their response," Salami said in a speech.

Israel returns more than 80 bodies to the Gaza Strip, Palestinian official says: A Palestinian official says Israel has returned more than 80 bodies to the Gaza Strip. The identities of the deceased and the cause of death were not immediately known.

Over the course of its nearly 10-month offensive in Gaza, the military has exhumed remains as it searches for the bodies of hostages taken in Hamas' October 7 attack, which ignited the war.

Weam Fares, a spokesperson for the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, says 84 bodies were handed over at the Kerem Shalom crossing on Monday and were taken directly for burial. The hospital did not provide further details.

The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment.

Associated Press reporters saw the bodies being brought to a cemetery in a container truck belonging to a private company. They were buried in a mass grave.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was not involved in the transfer.

Meanwhile, The Israeli military said Palestinian militants fired at least 15 projectiles into Israel from Gaza, and first responders say one person was lightly wounded.

TikTok to withdraw rewards feature

AP ■ FRANKFURT

TikTok has agreed to withdraw a rewards feature that raised concerns about its potential to encourage excessive screen time, particularly among children, the European Union's executive commission said Monday.

It was the first resolution of an investigation under the 27-country EU's sweeping Digital Services Act, which went into effect in February and aims to ensure a "safe and accountable

online environment" by regulating large digital platforms. TikTok made the commitment without conceding the feature violated the Digital Services Act, officials said.

The commission has however ruled that the withdrawal is legally binding, which "sends a clear message to the entire social media industry," said Margrethe Vestager, European commission for digital affairs. "Design features on platforms with addictive effects put the well-being of their users at

risk," she said in a statement. "That's why we have made TikTok's commitments under the DSA legally binding."

The case involves TikTok Lite, a low-bandwidth version of the app released in Spain and France. It allowed users to earn points for things like following creators, liking content, or inviting friends to join TikTok.

The points could be exchanged for Amazon vouchers and gift cards on PayPal. TikTok said rewards were restricted to users

18 years and older, who had to verify their age. Users could watch up to one hour a day of videos to earn rewards, which were capped at the equivalent of one euro (USD 1.09) a day. The commission opened an investigation in April due to concerns that TikTok has not done a diligent assessment required under the act of the feature's potential "addictive effect," especially for children. "Given suspected absence of effective age verification mechanisms on TikTok,"

Vietnamese biz tycoon sentenced to 21 yrs for duping stockholders

AP ■ HANOI

A prominent Vietnamese business tycoon was found guilty Monday of defrauding stockholders of nearly USD 150 million by falsely inflating the value of his company, in a case that comes as the government cracks down on widespread corruption in the country.

The Hanoi People's Court sentenced Trinh Van Quyet, 48, to 21 years in prison after a two-week trial that included 49 defendants who were named as accomplices, state-run VN Express reported. He was arrested in 2022.

The billionaire was the chairman and founder of the FLC Group, which owns the discount Bamboo Airways and has broad real estate holdings including hotels, resorts and golf courses, among other

assets. According to the indictment, Quyet fraudulently inflated the value of the group's general contractor subsidiary, FLC Faros, by reporting fictitious capital contributions, before taking the company public in 2016.

In the initial public offering, the company sold some 391 million shares to about 30,000 investors, defrauding them of 3.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (about USD 144 million) according to the indictment. Among Quyet's co-defendants were officials from Vietnam's State Securities Commission and State Securities Depository Center, who were accused of being complicit in the scheme by approving and facilitating the initial public offering despite knowing of discrepancies in the figures. Details on the verdicts for the

co-defendants were not immediately released.

Quyet was arrested in 2022, as part of a crackdown on corruption instituted by Vietnamese authorities. The Communist Party's Blazing Furnace campaign began in 2013, but it wasn't until 2018 that authorities began scanning the private sector. Since then, several owners of Vietnam's fast-growing businesses have been arrested. The anti-corruption campaign had been the hallmark of Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam's top politician, who died last month at age 80, three days before Quyet's trial started. The ideologue had called corruption a grave threat to the party and vowed that the campaign would be a "blazing furnace" where no one was untouchable.

China's marriage registrations to fall record low this year

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's marriage registrations in 2024 were set to register a record low since 1980, a demographic expert has warned after the marriage registrations in the first half of this year fell by 4.98 lakhs, heightening the country's looming demographic crisis.

The fall in marriage numbers was expected to add to the declining birth rates, which have been steadily falling over the years amid the rapid rise of the ageing population.

The latest statistics from China's Ministry of Civil Affairs show that 34.3 lakh Chinese couples got married during the first half of 2024, a drop of 4.98 lakh couples compared to the same period from last year, state-run Global Times reported on Monday. It said that 1.27 million couples also got divorced. He Yafu, an independent demographic expert who tracks marriage registration data, predicted that based on the present trend, the annual figure of marriage registrations in 2024 will drop to a record low since 1980.

The decline in the number of marriage

registrations since 2014 was attributed to a decrease in the young population, the gender imbalance with more men than women among the marriageable population, the postponement of the age of first marriage, high costs of getting married, and changing attitudes toward marriage.

He said the continued decline in the number of marriage registrations in 2024 indicates that the number of new-borns will go downward again in 2025.

Due to factors such as the decrease in the young population and low child-birth intentions, the declining trend in China's birth rate, in the long run, will be difficult to fundamentally change unless substantial childbirth support policies are implemented in the future to address this challenge, the report quoted him as saying.

China's population continued to decline as the overall population fell by 20.8 lakh last year to 140.97 crore, down from 141.18 crore in 2022, as India overtook China to become the most populous country in the world in 2023, according to official data released early



this year.

China's population reported its first decline in six decades in 2022 after the birth rate hit a new low, resulting in decades of the child policy pursued vigorously by the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) to control population growth, with experts predicting a steeper decline in the coming years.

Researchers warned that the Chinese

economy, which, in the past significantly benefited from a demographic dividend, will have to tackle challenges including fewer working-age people, weaker spending power and a strained social security system as its population ages further.

China's overall population is set to see a steeper decline in the coming years, said Professor Peng Xizhe from the Centre for Population and Development Policy Studies at Fudan University. It's almost certain the population will go on with negative growth, Peng told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post early this year.

The demographic crisis was largely attributed to a decades-old one-child policy that was scrapped in 2016, after which China permitted all couples to have two children.

In 2021, China passed a revised Population and Family Planning Law allowing Chinese couples to have three children and announced a number of incentives to encourage people to have more children, in an apparent attempt to address the reluctance of couples to have more kids due to mounting costs.

Starmmer calls emergency meeting

UK PM terms riots 'far-right' thuggery

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has called an emergency COBRA meeting of senior ministers and police chiefs at 10 Downing Street here on Monday after a weekend of riots across several cities in the country, which he termed a "far-right thuggery" that will face the full force of the law.

Hundreds of arrests have been made as police officers in riot gear responded to violent scenes in Rotherham, Middlesbrough, Bolton and other parts of the UK on Sunday, after days of some of the worst rioting seen on the streets of the country in the wake of the fatal stabbings of three schoolgirls in Southport, north-west England. Hotels housing asylum seekers and mosques have been among

the targets of the anti-immigrant mobs after initial false claims spread online regarding the stabbing suspect being an immigrant who arrived in the country illegally.

"I utterly condemn the far-right thuggery we have seen this weekend. Be in no doubt: those who have participated in this violence will face the full force of the law," said Starmer in a statement on Sunday.

"There is no justification - none - for taking this action, and all right-minded people should be condemning this sort of violence. People in this country have a right to be safe and yet, we've seen Muslim communities targeted, attacks on mosques, other minority communities singled out, Nazi salutes in the street, attacks on the police, (and) wanton violence alongside racist rhetoric. So, no, I won't shy away from calling this what it is: far-right thuggery," he said.

He will chair the emergency Cabinet Office Briefing Room A (COBRA) meeting with UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper to discuss the future course of



action to curb the violence. The Home Office has also announced that mosques will be offered greater protection with new "emergency security" that can be rapidly deployed to respond to violent disorder targeting places of worship.

"They do not speak for our communities. It's a total disgrace, and there has to be a reckoning. Those individuals who are involved in the disorder need to know that they will pay a price," said Cooper, as she indicated that additional prosecutors and courts are on standby to charge those being arrested for a series of offences.

"We have made very clear to the police that they have our full support in pursuing the full range of prosecutions and penalties, including the serious prison sentences, long-term tagging, travel bans and more,"

she said.

During clashes over the weekend, cars were set alight, windows smashed, large bins burnt and hurled at officers and stores looted. Masked anti-immigration mobs broke into a hotel housing asylum-seekers in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and rocks and long pieces of wood were thrown at police officers who lined up in front of the building as they tried to protect it.

"The mindless actions of those today have achieved nothing other than sheer destruction and leaving members of the public and the wider community in fear," said Assistant Chief Constable Lindsey Butterfield of South Yorkshire Police.

Several police officers have suffered injuries as they faced off with the mobs, who are being fuelled by misinformation being spread online. The riots started in Southport, near Liverpool, last week following the stabbing of a group of young children at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class on July 29.

Ties with US should be mended but not at China's cost: Pak PM

PTI ■ LAHORE

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan wants to repair ties with the US but not at the cost of its ties with China as no other country could do what Beijing was doing for his cash-strapped country.

The 72-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader made these remarks during a meeting with a group of journalists who had recently returned from an official visit to China at his Model Town residence here, according to the Dawn newspaper.

Sharif said that work was progressing fast in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and also informed that during the recent visit of Chinese experts to Pakistan, there was positive movement in the promotion of cooperation in different fields.

Asked about the Pakistan-US relations, the prime minister said that the country needed to repair its relations with Washington as that was in its best interests but it shouldn't be

at the expense of China. "I think our relations with the US must be repaired, as it is very necessary for Pakistan... But it shouldn't be at the cost of China... and I had told (the Americans) recently in the presence of various dignitaries, including Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar," Sharif was quoted as saying.

"I also told them that similarly, the friendship with China is not at the cost of the US, as both have significance for us," he clarified. Ties between the two countries soured after jailed former prime minister Imran Khan openly accused the US of orchestrating his downfall after he was removed through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022.

Prime Minister Sharif said he believed that whatever China was helping Pakistan-tan accomplish, the US cannot do. Sharif also spoke about his letter to Beijing requesting a debt re-profiling and said that if China agreed to give Pakistan five to seven years to pay back the loans, the government would be able to bring down inflation, including electricity

prices, the Dawn reported. The premier said their request is under consideration and he is hoping for a positive response from China. He also expressed his concern about the safety and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan and assured that the government would use all its resources to ensure their well-being.

In March, five Chinese nationals were among six people killed when an explosives-packed vehicle rammed into their bus in Pakistan's troubled province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was the second suicide attack on the personnel working on the China-backed hydropower project since 2021.

The Chinese were working on the Dasu hydropower project, which is about 300 km to the north of Islamabad. The 4,320 MW project is being constructed by the China Gezhouba with funding from the World Bank. Thousands of Chinese personnel are working in Pakistan on several projects being carried out under the aegis of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Japan's defence minister begins visits to Cambodia, Vietnam



Manila : Philippine Coast Guard personnel wave flags as the Vietnam Coast Guard CSB-8002 patrol ship makes a port call at the Port of Manila, Philippines, 05 August 2024. Philippine and Vietnam coastguards will conduct joint maritime exercises in the disputed South China sea to foster mutual understanding and enhanced cooperation between the two nations

AP ■ PHNOM PENH

Japan's defence minister held talks with senior officials in Cambodia, a top ally of China, on Monday as he began a Southeast Asian trip that will also take him to Vietnam, whose relations with Beijing are complicated by maritime disputes. Japan has historically maintained warm relations with Cambodia, but its influence is minor compared to that of China, Tokyo's biggest geopolitical rival in Asia, with growing influence throughout Southeast Asia. Tokyo is disturbed by China's aggressive maritime activity, as are several Southeast Asian nations, and seeks to counter Beijing's diplomatic and economic outreach.

Defence Minister Minoru Kihara held talks with his Cambodian counterpart, Tea Seih, as well as with Prime Minister Hun Manet and former Prime Minister Hun Sen, who is now president of the Senate, Defence

Ministry spokesperson Gen. Chhum Sochet said on his Facebook page. He said the two defence ministers vowed to promote cooperation, especially in human resources and exchanges of personnel visits, as spelled out in a 2013 memorandum of understanding.

A separate Defence Ministry statement said the two sides agreed to hold a joint military training course covering disaster rescue operations and to exchange military attachés.

Kihara told reporters before his trip that Japan has been stepping up defence ties with Cambodia and Vietnam in recent years and that he hopes to deepen cooperation.

"Southeast Asian countries are in strategically important areas that are part of Japan's crucial sea lanes," Kihara said. He said Japan has elevated its relations with both Cambodia and Vietnam to the level of comprehensive and strategic partnership.

Kihara said he hoped to share

his "understanding of the strategic environment" in the region and reinforce defence and security cooperation with Cambodia and Vietnam.

Kihara's visit coincided with Cambodia's breaking ground on Monday on a controversial China-backed canal linking the capital, Phnom Penh, with the sea, despite environmental concerns and the risk of straining ties with neighbouring Vietnam. The USD 1.7 billion, 180-kilometre Funan Techo canal is to connect Phnom Penh with Kep province on Cambodia's southern coast, giving it access to the Gulf of Thailand. Cambodia hopes the 100-metre-wide, 5.4-metre-deep canal will lower the cost of shipping goods to the country's sole deepwater port, Sihanoukville, and reduce reliance on Vietnamese ports. China has gained outside political and economic influence in Cambodia through aid and investment in major infrastructure projects.

Robert F Kennedy Jr says he left a dead bear in Central Park as a prank

Wilmington (AP): Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. once retrieved a bear that was killed by a motorist and left it in New York's Central Park with a bicycle on top, sparking a mystery that consumed the city a decade ago.

Kennedy describes the incident in a video that was posted to social media Sunday, adding it will be included in a forthcoming New Yorker article that he expects to be damaging.

It's the latest bizarre incident in Kennedy's quixotic campaign that has divided his famous family and left Republicans and Democrats alike concerned about his potential impact on the presidential contest. Kennedy has acknowledged a parasite that lodged in his brain and died. He denied eating a dog after a friend shared a photo with Vanity Fair maga-

zine showing Kennedy dramatically preparing to take a bite of a charred animal; Kennedy said it was a goat. In the video, Kennedy recounts the story to actress Roseanne Barr. He says he was heading to a falconry excursion with friends when a woman driving ahead of him hit and killed the young bear with her vehicle. He says he put it in his own vehicle, intending to skin it and eat the meat, but the day got away from him.

Eventually, he says, he was in Manhattan and needed to get the bear carcass out of his vehicle. His friends, fueled by alcohol, concocted the Central Park plan as a prank, he said, adding he was not drunk himself. At the time, bicycle accidents were getting significant media attention, so Kennedy and his friends thought it would be funny to make it look like the bear was hit by a bicycle.

PTI ■ LAHORE

Imran Khan's party on Monday claimed that the former Pakistan prime minister is being given "substandard food" in jail on the orders of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, leading to deterioration in his health and demanding his immediate medical checkup.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also observed a black day on Monday as it marks a year of the 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician's arrest by the National Accountability Bureau in a 190-million pound corruption case. "Imran Khan had said he was being given substandard food in jail which is causing him to feel unwell. All of this is happening on the orders of Maryam Nawaz," PTI senior

leader Moonis Elahi wrote on X on Monday. The former federal minister said only the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) could stoop so low.

He further said Khan braved the imprisonment for a year for the rights of the people of Pakistan. "We salute Khan's steadfastness, courage and bravery. We demand his immediate release in all fake cases against him," Elahi demanded.

"Khan told reporters that due to the intense heat and there being no refrigerator, his food goes stale even before it's cooked. It has caused him food poisoning. Inadequate measures are being taken to keep him safe and healthy," another PTI leader Zulfi Bokhari said.

Former minister Hamad

Azhar said there is a threat to the PTI founder's life. Azhar, who is also the party's general secretary in Punjab, said Khan had already survived an assassination attempt during the party's long march in 2022.

"We demand an immediate medical checkup of Khan. The nation should be informed about his health status. The most popular and towering leader of the Muslim ummah has been deliberately imprisoned in such conditions by petty and fake rulers where his health is deteriorating," Azhar said. On Sunday, Khan refused to apologise for the May 9 riots that erupted after his arrest last year and claimed that it was the Army that owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence.

Head of Russian military's main congress centre, top official held

AP ■ MOSCOW

The director of the Russian military's main congress centre and a top Defence Ministry official were arrested on Monday on fraud charges, part of a sweeping probe into abuse of office in the top echelons of the country's military leadership.

The Investigative Committee, Russia's top state criminal investigation agency, announced that Vyacheslav Akhmedov, head of the Patriot Park was arrested on charges of fraud. Maj Gen Vladimir Shestero, deputy head of the Defence Ministry's innovations department, was detained along with Akhmedov.

The committee said the two men are suspected of embezzling government funds earmarked for the Patriot Park, a gigantic military exhibition and congress centre just west of Moscow.

The venue, which covers an

area of more than 5,400 hectares (over 13,300 acres), has hosted annual army forums, international meetings and displays of Russian weapons since it opened in 2015. Along with conference halls and sprawling exhibition grounds, it includes an air base, a massive firing range and even a huge Orthodox Church.

In 2019, President Vladimir Putin made a donation from his own money to commission the church's main icon, according to

the Kremlin. Their detention follows a series of arrests of senior military officials who were part of an inner circle of Sergei Shoigu, whom Putin dismissed as defence minister soon after his May inauguration for a new term.

Shoigu, who had personal ties with Putin, was given the high-profile post of secretary of Russia's Security Council, but several members of his close entourage lost their jobs and many of them were arrested, including his top associate and deputy, Timur Ivanov, who has been jailed on bribery charges since April.

The former defence minister had been widely criticised for Russia's setbacks on the battlefield in Ukraine and was accused of incompetence and corruption by mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin, who launched a brief mutiny in June 2023 to demand his dismissal.

Australian authorities kill 16-foot crocodile: Authorities killed on Monday a large crocodile thought responsible for Australia's second fatal attack in a month. The latest victim was a 40-year-old man from New South Wales state who had been fishing on Saturday while on vacation with his wife and children, travelling through Queensland state with a trailer. AP

Antisemitic incidents in Czech Republic rose sharply in 2023

AP ■ PRAGUE

Antisemitic incidents in the Czech Republic sharply increased last year, with their peak appearing in the final quarter of 2023 following the deadly Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7, an assault that triggered the war in Gaza, the country's Jewish community said on Monday.

In its annual report, the Federation of the Jewish Communities said it registered 4,328 antisemitic incidents in 2023, up 90 per cent from 2,277 in the previous year. The report said that 1,800 incidents — or 41.59 per cent, of the total — happened in the last three months of the year.

"The October 7 was immediately followed by a global explosive wave of antisemitism, which also strongly hit the Czech Republic," the report said.

The bulk of the anti-Jewish hatred, 98 per cent, was expressed online, most of them through social media, it said. Those included the publication of false, dehumanizing, demonizing, vulgar and conspiracy theories and stereotypes as well as hatred aimed at the state of Israel. The report, however, concluded the Czech Republic remains a safe country for Jews. It said there was no physical attack registered for the second straight year. But 18 incidents involved antisemitic threats, harassment and verbal insults, more than double than the previous year. The rest of the incidents included demonizing the Jewish community with conspiracy theories and stereotyping, according to the report. The Hamas attacks on Israel killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians. The militants also took around 250 people hostage.

Chinese-American Nobel Prize-winning physicist Tsung-Dao Lee dies at age 97

AP ■ TAIPEI

Chinese-American physicist Tsung-Dao Lee, who in 1957 became the second-youngest scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, died on Sunday at his home in San Francisco at age 97, according to a Chinese university and a research center. Lee, whose work advanced the understanding of particle physics, was one of the great masters in the field, according to a joint obituary released Monday by the Tsung-Dao Lee Institute at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the Beijing-based China Center for Advanced Science and Technology.

Lee, a naturalized US citizen since 1962, was also a professor emeritus at Columbia University in New York.

Robert Oppenheimer, known as the father of the atomic bomb, once praised Lee as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists of the time, whose work showed "remarkable freshness, versatility and style."

Lee was born in Shanghai on November 24, 1926, the third of six children to a merchant father, Tsing-Kong Lee, and a mother, Ming-Chang Chang, who was a devout Catholic, according to local newspaper Wenhui Daily.

He went to high school in Shanghai and attended National Chekiang University in Guizhou province and National Southwest Associated University in Kunming in Yunnan province.

After his sophomore year, he received a scholarship from the Chinese government to attend

graduate school in the United States. Between 1946 and 1950, he studied at the University of Chicago under Enrico Fermi, a Nobel laureate in physics.

In the early 1950s, Lee worked at the Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, at the University of California at Berkeley and at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.

His research in elementary particles, statistical mechanics, astrophysics and field theory, among others, was standing out. In 1953, he joined Columbia University as an assistant professor. Three years later, at age 29, he became the youngest-ever full professor there. He developed a model for studying various quantum phenomena known as the "Lee model."

In 1957, Lee was awarded the

Nobel Prize in physics together with Chen-Ning Yang for work exploring the symmetry of subatomic particles as they interact with the force that holds atoms together. At 31, Lee was the second-youngest scientist to receive the distinction. He won many other accolades including the Albert Einstein Award in Science, the Galileo Galilei Medal and the G. Bude Medal, as well as honorary doctorates and titles from organizations around the world.

As China became more open to international exchanges in the 1970s, Lee returned to his home country on repeated visits to give lectures and encourage the development of sciences, according to state media.

On Monday, the topic of his death was trending on social media platform Weibo.

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E-Tender (O) Enq. No. 7579/P-2/EMPW-12740 Dated 22.07.2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124723_1 for Procurement of spare for HEA (High Energy Area System) for Stage-II & III of GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 01.08.2024 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP-76/24
76155/12/3228/2023/36376 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

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E-Tender Enquiry No. 544/P-2/EMPW-12745 Dated 02-08-2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124843_1 for Service/repair of electrical operated actuators of valves during annual overhauling of units at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 02.08.2024 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP-74/24
76155/12/3226/2023/36373 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

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E-Tender Enquiry No. 545/P-2/EMPW-12753 Dated 02-08-2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124840_1 for Replacement of 6.6 KV Nuhon Colony overhead feeder from CHP Switchgear no.-2 to 11 KV Nuhon Colony Sub-Station with Underground 11KV XLPE Cable at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 02.08.2024 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP-77/24
76155/12/3229/2023/36377 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

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Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspsc.in
(Contact No. 96461-20640)

Tender Enquiry no.1693/CMC/O&M/PC-2532 Dated: 05-08-2024
Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-1), GHTP, Lehra Mohabat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Railway track material for Railway siding at GHTP Lehra Mohabat. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 05-08-2024 from 17:00 hrs. onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP-64/24
76155/12/3230/2023/36378 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

Sensex, Nifty nosedive nearly 3% to month low

Amid global equity rout on US growth concerns

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty crashed nearly 3 per cent on Monday following extremely weak trends in global equity markets amid fears of a slowdown in the US economy. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86. The NSE Nifty slumped 662.10 points or 2.68 per cent to settle at 24,055.60. During the day, it tumbled 824 points or 3.33 per cent to 23,893.70. Nifty also saw its worst single-day fall since June 4, 2024, when markets crashed more than 5 per cent due to general election results. An over 12 per cent plunge in Japan's Nikkei and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East dented market sentiment, analysts said.



In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled sharply lower. Japan's benchmark stock index plunged 12.4 per cent on Monday, compounding a global market rout set off by investor concerns that the US economy could be headed for recession. A report on Friday showing hiring by US employers slowed last month by much more than expected convulsed financial markets, vanquishing the euphoria that had taken the Nikkei 225 to all-time highs of over 42,000 in recent weeks. On Monday, the Nikkei closed

down 4,451.28 points at 31,458.42. It had dropped 5.8 per cent on Friday, making this its worst two-day decline ever. Its worst single-day rout was a plunge of 3,836 points, or 14.9 per cent, on October 19, 1987, a global markets crash that was dubbed "Black Monday" but proved to be only a temporary setback despite fears it might have augured a worldwide downturn. European markets were also trading with deep cuts. The US markets ended significantly lower on Friday. From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors slumped over 7 per

cent. Adani Ports, Tata Steel, SBI, Power Grid, JSW Steel and Maruti were the other big laggards. However, Hindustan Unilever and Nestle ended in positive territory. "The global markets were jolted into a cautious mode by recessionary fears in the US following disappointing job statistics and unwinding of carry trade following the rapid rise of the yen. The effects were felt by the domestic market as well and are expected to impact in the near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,310 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. "The global market is reeling as bears enter with a cocktail of bad news. The fear of a reverse Yen carry trade, following an interest rate hike in Japan, was the initial catalyst. This was compounded by fears of a recession in the US after extremely poor jobs data, which spooked market sentiment," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.93 per cent to USD 75.33 a barrel. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge dropped 4.21 per cent and midcap index plummeted 3.60 per cent. Amid widespread selling pressure, the BSE benchmark plunged 1.08 per cent on Friday. The broader Nifty of NSE dropped 1.17 per cent. In two straight sessions to Monday, Nifty and Sensex have corrected nearly 4 per cent.

India's services sector growth eases slightly in July



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's services sector growth recorded another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June, largely supported by robust demand conditions and investment in technology, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index was at 60.3 in July, down only fractionally from 60.5 in June. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "Service sector activity rose at a slightly slower pace in July, with new business increasing further, primarily driven by

domestic demand. Looking ahead, services firms remained optimistic about the outlook for year ahead," Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said. New export orders increased at the third-strongest pace since the inception of the series in September 2014, amid strengthening demand for Indian services from across the world. Some of the sources of rising export orders mentioned by panellists included Austria, Brazil, China, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands and the US. Favourable economic conditions and optimistic expectations for output supported recruitment among services firms, the survey said. On the price front, higher wage and material costs continued to

push up business expenses, with the overall rate of inflation quickening from June. Stronger cost pressures and positive demand trends contributed to the steepest rise in prices charged for the provision of services for seven years. Looking ahead, services firms remained strongly optimistic about growth prospects. Around 30 per cent of the survey panel forecast greater output volumes in the next 12 months, while only 2 per cent expect a decline. The overall level of sentiment rose since June and was aligned with its long-run average. Anecdotal evidence suggested that confidence in the outlook for demand and sales, alongside improved customer engagement and new enquiries, boosted optimism. Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index posted 60.7 in July, down only fractionally from 60.9 in June and above the crucial 50.0 no-change mark for the thirty-six month running. "India's composite PMI recorded another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June," Bhandari said.

Rupee tumbles 31 paise to close at all-time low of 84.03 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slumped 31 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, following a sell-off in broader global markets amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and worries over recession in the US. Forex traders said the downfall in the domestic unit came on the heels of a sharp downturn in the Indian equity markets and significant foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.78 and touched an intra-day high of 83.76 and a low of 84.03 against the dollar during the session. It finally settled at its fresh record low level of 84.03 (provisional) against the American currency, down 31 paise against its previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled 1 paise higher at 83.72 against the US dollar in a range-bound



the rupee, Choudhary added. Traders may take cues from US ISM services PMI data. Investors may watch out for the RBI's monetary policy decision this week. USD/INR spot price is likely to trade in a range of Rs 83.60 to Rs 84.20, Choudhary said. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 2,222.55 points, or 2.74 per cent, to settle at 78,759.40 points, and Nifty dropped 662.10 points, or 2.68 per cent, to 24,055.60 points. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, dropped 0.65 per cent to 102.54. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.91 per cent to USD 75.34 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,310.00 crore, according to exchange data.

Bringing blueberries to Indian market

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Camposol, Peru's largest blueberry producer joins forces with Walmart-backed Ninjacart, India's leading agri-startup that leverages technology and data to organise the global agriculture ecosystem to bring high-quality blueberries to Indian consumers. Camposol and Ninjacart's strategic partnership is transforming the blueberry market in India through Ninjacart's digital marketplace, tech-enabled supply chain, cutting edge solutions, and a data-driven approach. This collaboration aims to facilitate Camposol's market entry through a curated strategy, utilising Ninjacart's expertise and data systems to drive accelerated growth. Leveraging Ninjacart's extensive network of over 100,000 retailers, the partnership ensures a reliable and consistent supply of high-quality blueberries, benefiting consumers and retailers alike.

Indian economy likely to grow at 7-7.2% in FY25, says Deloitte

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economy is expected to grow at 7-7.2 per cent in the current fiscal year driven by robust economic fundamentals and continuity in domestic policy reforms, Deloitte India said on Monday. The August update of Deloitte's India Economic Outlook said several initiatives in the Union Budget 2024-25 toward improving agriculture productivity, creating jobs for the youth, and in manufacturing and addressing the challenge of access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), would help improve supply-side demand, curb inflation, and prop up consumer spending, especially in rural areas. Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said, India will witness robust growth in the second half after a period of uncertainty in the first six months of the year. "Key contributing factors include the continuity in domestic policy reforms, reduced uncertainties in the US post-elections, and more synchronous global growth within a low inflation regime. "Additionally, improved global liquidity conditions, as central banks in the West ease their monetary policy stance, will enhance capital flows and drive higher investments, particularly in the private sector," Majumdar said. Observing that strong economic fundamentals would drive GDP growth between 7 per cent and 7.2 per cent in FY25, the Economic Outlook report said



effectively addressing the urban-rural consumer spending gaps, inflation, and employment concerns can significantly enhance the affordability of aspirational rural consumers. "The much-desired policy pivot was evident in the Union Budget presented last month. Reducing the urban and rural spending gap in the coming years will ensure sustained consumer demand from a larger consumer base," it added. Deloitte India's growth projection is at par with that of RBI, which projected FY25 growth at 7.2 per cent. It is higher than Finance Ministry's Economic Survey which estimated GDP expansion between 6.5-7 per cent. The Indian economy grew at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24 fiscal year. The report further said despite strong growth, private consumption spending has remained modest over the past five years. The pandemic, high global and domestic inflation, consequent tightening of financial conditions, and the effects of poor agriculture output on rural demand

seem to have capped private consumption growth in India. But a Deloitte research showed that India is witnessing distinct and broad-based shifts in consumption patterns. There is a broad-based shift in the composition of consumption towards more non-food and discretionary items, reflecting changing lifestyles and preferences that are here to stay. According to the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, spending on discretionary goods and services (including conveyance) has gone up both in rural and urban India, with the former quickly catching up in spending on discretionary durable goods (including automobiles, electric and electronic goods) with the latter in just one decade. "Demand for processed food has been among the highest in most states, suggesting a shift towards ready-to-eat options. Rapid urbanization, increasing women's participation in the workforce, and enhanced marketing and availability are driving these changing dietary habits," the report said. According to Deloitte research, if increasing income in states results in a relatively equitable distribution and higher rural spending, businesses can tap into a larger proportion of the state's population that resides in rural areas. This gives businesses access to a large consumer base and a sustainable consumer spending demand, as compared to states with a widening gap.



Sebi amends mutual fund rules to curb front-running, insider trading

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has amended mutual fund norms requiring Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to put in place an institutional mechanism to identify and deter front-running and insider trading in securities. Additionally, the management of AMCs will be responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the institutional mechanism. Also, the regulator has directed AMCs to have a whistle-blower mechanism. This came in the wake of Sebi's passing two orders regarding front-running cases involving Axis AMC and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). In a gazette notification dated August 1, Sebi said, "Asset management companies shall put in place an institutional mechanism, as may be specified by the Board, for the identification and deterrence of potential market abuse including front-running and fraudulent transactions in securities." Front-running refers to an illegal practice, where an entity trades based on

advanced information from a stock broker or analyst before the information has been made available to clients. As per the notification, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Managing Director (MD) or such other person of equivalent or analogous rank and Chief Compliance Officer of the asset management company will be responsible and accountable for the implementation of such an institutional mechanism. "The asset management company shall establish, implement and maintain a documented whistle-blower policy that shall provide for a confidential channel for employees, directors, trustees, and other stakeholders to raise concerns about suspected fraudulent, unfair or unethical practices, violations of regulatory or legal requirements or governance vulnerability, and establish procedures to ensure adequate protection of the whistleblowers," Sebi said. To give these effects, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended mutual fund rules, which will come into force from November 1.

Over ₹177 cr lost on account of ATM/credit card, internet banking frauds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As much as Rs 177 crore was lost on account of credit, debit card and internet banking frauds in the 2023-24 fiscal, Parliament was informed on Monday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the amount of loss due to cyber fraud has increased from Rs 69.68 crore in FY23 to Rs 177.05 crore in FY24. The quantum of loss in FY22 was Rs 80.33 crore, it was Rs 50.10 crore in FY21 and Rs 44.22 crore in FY20.

Chaudhary further said to help customers recover the loss on account of fraudulent transactions, the RBI has issued instructions to banks on limiting the liability of customers in cases of unauthorised electronic banking transactions. A customer need not bear any loss if the deficiency is on the part of the bank and in cases, where the fault lies neither with the bank nor with the customer but lies elsewhere in the system and the customer notifies the bank within three working days of receiving the



communication about the unauthorised transaction. Where the loss is due to the

customer's negligence, the customer has to bear the entire loss until he/she reports the unauthorised transaction to the bank. Where the fault lies neither with the customer nor with the bank and lies elsewhere in the system, and the customer reports between 4-7 working days of the unauthorised transaction, the maximum liability of the customer ranges from Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000, depending on the type of account/instrument. If the unauthorised transaction is reported beyond 7 working days, the customer liability shall be determined as per the bank's Board approved policy.

"The burden of proving customer liability in case of unauthorised electronic banking transactions shall lie on the bank," Chaudhary said. To facilitate the citizens to report any cyber incidents, including financial frauds, the Home Ministry has launched a National cybercrime reporting portal (www.Cybercrime.Gov.In) and a National cybercrime Helpline Number '1930'. Further, customers can also report financial fraud on the official customer care website or branches of banks.

RBI proposes regulatory principles for management of model risks in credit

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Monday proposed to lay down principles for management of model risks in credit for banks and other regulated entities with a view to ensuring prudence and robustness. Regulated Entities (REs) generally use various models as part of their credit management, including for credit appraisal, borrower scoring, pricing, and risk management, among others. Inherently, model outputs are exposed to uncertainties as they are based on assumptions which may not manifest in the envisaged ways and may take different forms in a real-world scenario, the RBI said in a draft circular on 'Regulatory Principles for Management of

Model Risks in Credit'. This potentially exposes REs to model risk, which has implications on prudential aspects of credit risk management, compliance and reputational risk. With a view to ensuring prudence and robustness, in the use of such models, RBI proposed to lay down certain broad regulatory principles which should be adopted by REs. "REs shall put in place a detailed Board approved policy with regard to model risk management framework for all models deployed, covering the entire model life cycle," the draft said. The policy should cover details of governance and oversight aspects commensurate with model materiality; processes

around model development or selection; and documentation for models deployed. It should also cover independent vetting / ongoing validation or review processes; change control; and the monitoring and reporting framework including role of internal audit function. "Credit risk model" refers to any quantitative method that applies statistical, economic, financial, or mathematical principles and assumptions to process data into an output to be used for credit decisions. The models used by REs may either be developed internally or sourced from external third-party suppliers, including under collaborative lending arrangements, or can be a mix of both as per the provisions of the policy, the draft said.

IndiGo to introduce business class seats in select flights from mid-November



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IndiGo will introduce business class seats in select flights on 12 domestic routes starting from November 14 and will also launch a customer loyalty programme, as the 18-year-old airline embarks on ambitious business expansion plans. Making the announcement at an event to mark 18 years of flying, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers on Monday said the business class seats will be open for booking from August 6 and added that business class passengers will be offered curated special meals.

There will be a total of 12 seats in the configuration of 4 seats in 3 rows in the A321 neo planes. These aircraft will have a total of 220 seats -- 12 business and 208 economy class, according to an official. The seats will be introduced in the select flights from November 14, the official added. The introductory one-way fare for a business class seat will be starting at Rs 18,018. Elbers said the business class seats will be available on busiest and business routes, and will start with Delhi-Mumbai flights. The airline, which is focused on cost leadership, will also be launching the customer loyalty programme 'IndiGo BluChip' which will go live in September. On May 23, IndiGo announced that it will introduce business class in select routes this year. Currently, Tata Group-owned Air India, Air India Express and Vistara offer business class seats. Elbers said the airline will launch flights to seven more international destinations in the current fiscal that ends on March 31, 2025.

INDIA WAITS FOR GOLDEN BOY NEERAJ TO SHINE



PTI ■ PARIS

A man of many firsts in Indian athletics, Neeraj Chopra would be eyeing another piece of history with his javelin when he takes aim at his second Olympics amid expectations of a golden finish yet again. His fabled consistency would be tested after a season that has seen him battle a nagging adductor niggle. He would begin his quest on Tuesday with the qualifications round from where the Haryana lad is expected to make the finals on August 8.

A top podium finish will make Chopra only the fifth man in Olympics history to defend his title and the first Indian to win two gold medals in an individual event in the multi-sporting spectacle.

Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908 and 1912), Jonni Myrta (Finland; 1920 and 1924), Chopra's idol Jan Zelezný (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones

to have defended the men's javelin gold medals in the Olympics.

He has competed in just three events this year but the 26-year-old world champion is back in full flow in a season where none of his global competitors have done exceptionally well. After finishing second in the Doha Diamond League in May with a throw of 88.36m, which is his season's best, Chopra withdrew from Ostrava Golden Spike on May 28 as a precautionary measure after he felt "something" in his adductor (group of muscles located on inner thighs).

Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, made a strong comeback by winning gold at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland on June 18 with a throw of 85.97m.

He later opted out of the Paris Diamond League on July 7, insisting that the event was never a part of his competition calendar this year.

His coach later dismissed concerns surrounding

Chopra's fitness, telling PTI that his adductor has no issues now and his ward has been in high intensity phase of training.

One of the most consistent javelin throwers in recent times, Chopra has sent his spear beyond 85m mark just twice out of his 15 competitions since winning gold in the Tokyo Olympics. Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Czech thrower Jakub Vadlejch, who beat Chopra in the Doha Diamond League, Germany's Julian Weber and former world champion Anderson Peters will once again be the Indian superstar's main rivals.

The other Indian in fray in men's javelin is Kishore Jena, who booked an automatic berth with his 87.54m throw in the Asian Games last year, but has struggled to cross the 80m mark after that.

Chopra is expected to lift the sagging spirits of the Indian athletics contingent which is yet to register a performance of consequence in the showpiece's ongoing edition.

Motivated India eye German scalp to script another historic chapter in men's hockey



PTI ■ PARIS

Having displayed nerves of steel to be within touching distance of a second successive Olympic medal, the Indian hockey team will fancy its chances against familiar foe and reigning world champion Germany in the semifinal of the ongoing Games, hoping to better the bronze that it claimed in the Tokyo edition.

India won last of their eight Olympic gold medals way back in the 1980 Moscow Games. Paris provides them a great opportunity to make history. A semifinal win will ensure a silver for India, which they last won in the 1960 Rome edition.

The Indians displayed a tenacious performance against Britain in the quarterfinal at the iconic Yves-du-Manoir Stadium on Sunday.

Playing with 10 men for close to 40 minutes after Amit Rohidas was shown a red card for unintentionally hitting rival forward Will Calnan on his face, the Harmanpreet Singh-led side defended stoutly to hold Britain 1-1 in regulation time and force a shoot-out, where it emerged 4-2 winner.

Veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, playing his last international tournament, seemed to have saved his best for the last leg of his career as he made save after save, including two in the shoot-out, to seal India's second consecutive Olympic semifinal spot. It was one of the bravest

performances from the Indians as in modern day hockey, to play and win with a man down is a Herculean task.

And come Tuesday, Harmanpreet and his men would not only look to better the colour of their Tokyo medal but would also want to give a befitting farewell gift to the talismanic Sreejesh who will walk into the sunset after the Paris Games.

Nicknamed 'The Great Wall of Indian hockey', Sreejesh has been phenomenal in the Games so far, standing like a warrior in front of the post and enjoying every moment of his last hurrah at the Olympics.

Against Britain, Sreejesh made 10 spectacular saves from field shots. If that was not enough, he kept out 10 penalty corners. "When I stepped on this field today (Sunday), there were two options for me. This can be my last match, or I got an opportunity to do two more matches and I think, yeah, I got two more matches now," Sreejesh said later.

"See, whoever comes in the semis, we (will) just play our game. That's it, that's important, because now it's a different game, because we are one man down and we need to focus on that now."

But it won't be easy for the Indians as key defender and first rusher Amit Rohidas has been suspended from the semifinal match after receiving a contentious red card against Britain, a decision which

Hockey India has appealed. Rohidas' absence will also weaken India's options from penalty corners as he has been second to Harmanpreet from set pieces and the entire responsibility will now rest on the skipper.

"Now, these things are not in our control. While it is a setback to not have Amit on the pitch for the semis, we are focused on the task at hand," said Harmanpreet, who has been India's leading scorer at the Games with seven goals.

"On Sunday, what stood out in our performance was the team's ability to take on the added responsibility of a key position that Amit played. Every player stepped up and even until the last minute, we were fighting back."

Going by world ranking and recent head-to-head record, there is hardly anything to differentiate between current world champions and four-time Olympic gold medalists Germany from India.

While Germany are ranked fourth in the world, the Indians are a rung below. Germany, who beat Argentina 3-2 in the quarterfinal, are familiar opponents for India in high-stakes tournaments, the most famous being the bronze medal match in Tokyo where India registered a thrilling 5-4 win, thanks a stunning last-second save by Sreejesh.

In the days leading up to the Paris Games, India had played Germany in practice matches and the Harmanpreet-led side won five out of those six contests.

India's most recent contests against Germany were in the FIH Pro League's London leg in June this year, where they defeated the Honamas 3-0 before losing 2-3 in the return tie.

"We wanted to play Germany in the final. At least, that was what we had discussed amongst ourselves during team meetings ahead of the Olympic Games.

Classifieds

- CHANGE OF NAME**
- I, Balamurugan** is Father of JC/Army No. 16115647H Rank SPR Name Sowreeswaran B of Unit 05 Engr Regt, resident of VTC: Salvarpatti, PO: Salvarpatti, District Virudhunagar, State: Tamilnadu, Pin-626128 Declare That my true and correct date of birth is 13.10.1963 as per my Aadhaar Card & PAN Card, but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned as 01.07.1963, which is wrong. Vide Affidavit Dated 05 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Eswari** is mother of of JC/Army No. 16115647H Rank SPR Name Sowreeswaran B of Unit 05 Engr Regt, resident of VTC: Salvarpatti, PO: Salvarpatti, District Virudhunagar, State: Tamilnadu, Pin-626128 Declare That my true and correct date of birth is 10.03.1965 as per my Aadhaar Card, but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned as 01.07.1961, which is wrong. Vide Affidavit Dated 05 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Gurav Bhagwan** Sadashiv is Father of JC/Army No. 16129026P Rank L/NK Name Gurav Vinayak Bhagwan of Unit 05 Engr Regt, Resident of Vill & Post- Hasur Dumala, TK- Karvir, Dist- Kolhapur, State-Maharashtra Pin-416001 Declare That my true and correct date of birth is 01.06.1965 as per my Aadhaar Card, but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned as 01.07.1965 which is wrong. Vide Affidavit Dated 05 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Gurpratap Singh** son of Balwant Singh Resident of House No. 3560 Ward No. 03 Baba Sewa Singh Marg Gandhi Nagar Jalalabad Fazilka have Changed my name to Gurpartap Singh.
- I, Kulwant Kaur** W/O Navinder Singh R/O Khilchi Jadid, Ferozepur Have Changed My Given Name To Kulwant And Sumame To Kaur
- I, Navinder Singh** S/O Karlar Singh R/O Khilchi Jadid, Ferozepur Have Changed My Given Name To Navinder And Sumame To Singh
- I, Jarnail Singh** Third Son of Balvir Singh Resident of Village Tega Singh Wala PO Mahalam District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Jarnail Singh.
- I, Monika D/o Sh. Sher** Singh R/O Village Gangwa, Teh. & Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Kamlesh Kumari to Kamlesh Devi for all future purpose.
- I, Kamlesh Kumari** W/O Sh. Parduman R/O Village Khairi, Teh. Barwala, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Kamlesh Kumari to Kamlesh Devi for all future purpose.
- I, Maya Devi** W/O Sh. Rajesh Godara R/O Vill. Bheri Akbar Pur, Tehsil Uklana, Distt. Hisar declare that I am known as names of Maya Devi & Radhika Nee Maya Devi, which is one and same person that is me. Both are my names.
- I, Surjit Kaur** W/O Ravinder Kumar R/O VPO Dhamai district Hoshiarpur declare that have changed my name from Surjit Kaur to Sukhjit Kaur. All concerned to noted.
- I, Vaghela Rajeshvariben** Vipulsinh spouse of No.15793263F L/NK Vaghela Vipulsinh Raghuvirsinh resident of Village-Kavitha, Post-Kavitha, Tehsil- Bavla, District-Ahmedabad, State-Gujarat, Pin-382260, have changed my DOB from 28 May 1988 to 28 May 1987 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB25562685772534W dated 14 June 2024 before notary public Pathankot
- I, Satbir Singh** Father of No.15786135F Hav Satywan resident of Village- Banwasa, Post- Banwasa, Tehsil- Gohana, District- Sonapat, State- Haryana, Pin-131304, have changed my name & DOB from Satbir Singh to Satbir and date of birth from 01 July 1959 to 01Jan 1951 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB42924240574919W dated 05 Aug 2024 before notary public Pathankot
- I, Rajeshvari** Vaghela spouse of No.15793263F L/NK Vaghela Vipulsinh Raghuvirsinh resident of Village-Kavitha, Post-Kavitha, Tehsil- Bavla, District-Ahmedabad, State-Gujarat, Pin-382260, have changed my name from Rajeshvari Vaghela to Vaghela Rajeshvariben Vipulsinh Vide affidavit No. IN-PB20585227834247W dated 29 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot
- I, Bashir Mohamad** Father of No.13769132L CHM Sardar Mohd resident of Village-Lahasana, Post- Kohala, Tehsil-Dehra, District- Kangra, State-Himachal Pradesh, Pin-176036, have changed my name & DOB from Basaraj Abbar And Also I Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 10/10/1970 To 01/01/1970. Vide Affidavit NO-54AA 510705, Dated: 05/08/24
- I, Rani Beebi** Mother of No.13769132L CHM Sardar Mohd resident of Village-Lahasana, Post- Kohala, Tehsil-Dehra, District- Kangra, State-Himachal Pradesh, Pin-176036, have changed my name & DOB from Rani Bibi to Rani Beebi and date of birth from 30 June 1959 to 01 Jan 1966 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB42658110555680W dated 03 Aug 2024 before notary public
- I, Salma Begam** spouse of No.13769132L CHM Sardar Mohd resident of Village-Lahasana, Post- Kohala, Tehsil-Dehra, District- Kangra, State-Himachal Pradesh, Pin-176036, have changed my name & DOB from Salma Begum to Salma Begam and date of birth from 01 Aug 1988 to 01 June 1988 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB42657835787924W dated 03 Aug 2024 before notary public
- I, No.13769132L** CHM Sardar Mohd resident of Village-Lahasana, Post- Kohala, Tehsil-Dehra, District- Kangra, State-Himachal Pradesh, Pin-176036, have changed my name from Darshan Kaur to Darshana.
- I, Renu Bala** W/O Jaswinder Singh Rahelu R/O VPO. Bhangala, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144033, Punjab have added my surname as Renu Bala Rahelu. (Surname as Rahelu)
- I, 15814327X** Sep Vikaram Singh Patel, serving unit 71 OMP C/O 56 APO have change my daughter name from Praanvi to Praanvi Patel.
- I, Vinderjit Singh** S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O 98, Master Colony, Maqsudan, Jalandhar-144008, Punjab have changed my minor daughter name from Jasleen Kaur to Kaur Jasleen (Surname as Kaur)
- I, Balbir Kumar** S/O Daulat Ram R/O Vill. Jagpalpur, Distt. Kapurthala have changed my name from Balbir Kumar to Balvir Kumar.
- I, Veenu** W/O Karan Verma R/O H.No. 869, Rose Garden, Near Dilbag Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Veenu to Veenu Verma, After Marriage.
- I, Karan Kumar** Verma S/O Mohinder Pal Verma R/O H.No. 869, Rose Garden, Near Dilbag Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Karan Kumar Verma to Karan Verma.
- I, hitherto** Known as Gurminder Kaur W/O Harjinder Singh R/O VPO. Sikri, Distt. Hoshiarpur-146113, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gurwinder Kaur.
- I, Sonika** W/O Sanjeev Kumar R/O H.No. 60, Hardyal Nagar, Halotalli, Garha, Jalandhar-144022, Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter Hamoor Age 14 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Hamoor Choudhary.
- I, hitherto** Known as Pinky D/o Sohan Singh W/O Jalinder Singh R/O Village Litran, Po. Bainch Baja, Distt. Hoshiarpur-144203- Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harjit Kaur.
- I, No.15808356W** Sep (Dmt) Arpan Banerjee resident of Village- Darapur, Post-Darapur, Tehsil- Bishnupur, District- Bankura, State- West Bengal, Pin-722141, have changed my Mother Mangala Banerjee DOB from 01 Jan 1969 to 12 June 1962 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB41091739082134W dated 30 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot
- I, No.15808356W** Sep (Dmt) Arpan Banerjee resident of Village- Darapur, Post-Darapur, Tehsil- Bishnupur, District- Bankura, State- West Bengal, Pin-722141, have changed my Father Uma Prasad Banerjee DOB from 23 Nov 1957 to 01 Jan 1956 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB41092286174348W dated 30 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot
- I, Parmjeet** W/O Rajender Kumar R/O Adhoi Tehsil Barara distt. Ambala that I have changed my name from Parmjeet to Parmjeet Kaur. Concerned note
- I, Harinder Kaur** W/O Ravinder Singh R/O H.no. 3013 Karnal Colony Barara Tehsil Barara Ambala that I have changed my name from Harinder Kaur to Kaur Harinder and surname to Kaur. Concerned note
- I, Shingar Singh** S/O Sampurnan Singh R/O Vill. Sahnipur Tanda P.O. Masigan Distt. Patiala Punjab that I have changed my name from Shingar Singh to Singh Shingar and surname to Singh. Concerned note
- I, Ranjit Kaur** Multani W/O Amandeep Singh R/O H.no. 3 Lakshmi Nagar Jandi Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Ranjit Kaur Multani to Ranjit Kaur Multani. Ranjit Kaur Multani and Ranjit Kaur Multani are the names of the one person. In future I will be called as Ranjit Kaur Multani. Concerned note
- I, Mohinder Singh** Rathee S/O Sh. Bhagwan Singh R/O House No. 870, MC Ward No. 29, Kamal Colony Model Town Rohtak, Haryana-124001 Have Changed My Name From Mohinder Singh To Mohinder Singh Rathee.
- I, Gauravva** AM Mother Of Army No:16117856Y Rank: Nk Name-Vinod B Abbar Presently Posted At Unit: 164 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (Fms) Chandimandir Cant Panchkula Haryana Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Gauravva To Gouravva Basavaraj Abbar And Also I Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 10/10/1970 To 01/01/1970. Vide Affidavit NO-54AA 510705, Dated: 05/08/24
- I, Baaz Singh** S/O Pritam Singh R/O Village Nathupur, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Baaz Singh to Malkit Singh.
- I, Resham** S/O Tarsem Singh R/O Vill. Rampur, Po. Kala Sanghian, Kapurthala-144623 have changed my name from Resham to Tarsem Lal
- I, Darshan Kaur** W/O Gian Singh R/O Village Bussowal, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, Distt. Kapurthala-144626, Punjab have changed my name from Darshan Kaur to Darshana.
- I, Renu Bala** W/O Jaswinder Singh Rahelu R/O VPO. Bhangala, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144033, Punjab have added my surname as Renu Bala Rahelu. (Surname as Rahelu)
- I, 15814327X** Sep Vikaram Singh Patel, serving unit 71 OMP C/O 56 APO have change my daughter name from Praanvi to Praanvi Patel.
- I, Vinderjit Singh** S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O 98, Master Colony, Maqsudan, Jalandhar-144008, Punjab have changed my minor daughter name from Jasleen Kaur to Kaur Jasleen (Surname as Kaur)
- I, Balbir Kumar** S/O Daulat Ram R/O Vill. Jagpalpur, Distt. Kapurthala have changed my name from Balbir Kumar to Balvir Kumar.
- I, Veenu** W/O Karan Verma R/O H.No. 869, Rose Garden, Near Dilbag Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Veenu to Veenu Verma, After Marriage.
- I, Karan Kumar** Verma S/O Mohinder Pal Verma R/O H.No. 869, Rose Garden, Near Dilbag Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Karan Kumar Verma to Karan Verma.
- I, hitherto** Known as Gurminder Kaur W/O Harjinder Singh R/O VPO. Sikri, Distt. Hoshiarpur-146113, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gurwinder Kaur.
- I, Sonika** W/O Sanjeev Kumar R/O H.No. 60, Hardyal Nagar, Halotalli, Garha, Jalandhar-144022, Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter Hamoor Age 14 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Hamoor Choudhary.
- I, hitherto** Known as Pinky D/o Sohan Singh W/O Jalinder Singh R/O Village Litran, Po. Bainch Baja, Distt. Hoshiarpur-144203- Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harjit Kaur.
- I, No.15808356W** Sep (Dmt) Arpan Banerjee resident of Village- Darapur, Post-Darapur, Tehsil- Bishnupur, District- Bankura, State- West Bengal, Pin-722141, have changed my Mother Mangala Banerjee DOB from 01 Jan 1969 to 12 June 1962 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB41091739082134W dated 30 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot
- I, No.15808356W** Sep (Dmt) Arpan Banerjee resident of Village- Darapur, Post-Darapur, Tehsil- Bishnupur, District- Bankura, State- West Bengal, Pin-722141, have changed my Father Uma Prasad Banerjee DOB from 23 Nov 1957 to 01 Jan 1956 Vide affidavit No. IN-PB41092286174348W dated 30 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot
- I, Parmjeet** W/O Rajender Kumar R/O Adhoi Tehsil Barara distt. Ambala that I have changed my name from Parmjeet to Parmjeet Kaur. Concerned note
- I, Harinder Kaur** W/O Ravinder Singh R/O H.no. 3013 Karnal Colony Barara Tehsil Barara Ambala that I have changed my name from Harinder Kaur to Kaur Harinder and surname to Kaur. Concerned note
- I, Shingar Singh** S/O Sampurnan Singh R/O Vill. Sahnipur Tanda P.O. Masigan Distt. Patiala Punjab that I have changed my name from Shingar Singh to Singh Shingar and surname to Singh. Concerned note
- I, Ranjit Kaur** Multani W/O Amandeep Singh R/O H.no. 3 Lakshmi Nagar Jandi Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Ranjit Kaur Multani to Ranjit Kaur Multani. Ranjit Kaur Multani and Ranjit Kaur Multani are the names of the one person. In future I will be called as Ranjit Kaur Multani. Concerned note
- I, Mohinder Singh** Rathee S/O Sh. Bhagwan Singh R/O House No. 870, MC Ward No. 29, Kamal Colony Model Town Rohtak, Haryana-124001 Have Changed My Name From Mohinder Singh To Mohinder Singh Rathee.
- I, Lakvir Singh** S/O Pritam Singh Resident Of Vpo. Bhaloor Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Lakvir Singh.
- I Jaspreet Singh** Dhalwal S/O Jagtar Singh R/O Vpo. Lakha (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name To Jaspreet Singh.
- I Amarjeet Kaur** W/O Harpreet Singh Grewal R/O Vill. Kahan Singh Wala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Amarjeet Kaur Grewal After Marriage.
- I Gunneet Singh** S/O Mohinder Singh Baweja R/O 268-B Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar Ludhiana Changed Minor Son's Name Jai Sidak Singh Baweja To Jai Sidak Singh.
- I Gunneet Singh** Baweja S/O Mohinder Singh Baweja R/O 268-B Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Gunneet Singh.
- I Harleen Kaur** Baweja W/O Gunneet Singh R/O 268-B Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Harleen Kaur.
- I Rajinder Singh** Bhatia S/O Hakam Singh R/O 370 D Model Town Extension Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Rajinder Singh.
- I Lakhvir Singh** S/O Gurdeep Singh R/O Vpo. Burj Hamira Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Lakhvir Singh Marar.
- I Sukhpreet Singh** Aulakh S/O Ajmer Singh R/O Vpo. Aulakh Distt. Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Sukhpreet Singh.
- I Amrik Singh** Nahal S/O Jit Singh R/O Vill. Narangpur P.O. Athouli Tehsil Phagwara Distt. Kapurthala Have Changed My Name To Amrik Singh.
- I Shankar** S/O Putti Lal R/O Street No.-7, Subash Nagar, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Shankar To Ram Shankar.
- I Sukhwinder Gill** S/O Balvir Singh R/O Vpo. Duneke Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Sukhwinder Gill.
- I Rajdeep Kaur** W/O Balvinder Singh Sabbarwal R/O Vpo. Jalalabad East Tehsil Dharamkot Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Rajdeep Kaur Sabbarwal.
- I Kuldeep Singh** Atrane S/O Sukhdev Singh, R/O Street No.-6, Banker Lane, Kirji Nagar, Hoshiarpur- 14600, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Singh.
- I Jaspinder Kaur** D/O Bal Singh Sandhu R/O H.No.-9, Bharwain Road Mount View Colony, Kotla Gounspur Hoshiarpur Changed My Name From Jaspinder Kaur To Jaspinder Kaur Sandhu.
- I Sandeep Kumar** S/O Surinderpal Singh R/O Adarsh Nagar Vpo Beas Teh-Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar Rural Punjab I have changed my name from Sandeep Kumar to Sandeep is my given name and Kumar is my surname.
- I, Ruksana** W/O Chirgadeen R/O Ward No-4 Suniar Basti Patran District Patiala Have Changed My Name Ruksana To Ruksana.
- I, Chiragdeen** S/O Rafiq Khan R/O Ward No-4 Suniar Basti Patran District Patiala. Have Changed My Name Chiragdin Khan To Chiragdeen.
- I Antima** W/O Vishal Verma H/No 738 W/O 08 Arjuna colony Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Antima To Antima Verma.
- I am Pannu** Muskandep D/O Mandip Singh Pannu R/O Gali Shellar Wali Near Railway Crossing Jandiara Road Tam Taran, Punjab-143401 have changed my name Pannu Muskandep to Ashmeen Kaur.
- I Tajinder Kaur** W/O Amarjit Singh R/O Vill-Rajgarh Teh-Raikot Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Tajinder Kaur.
- I, Ashwani Kumar** Chhabra Alias Ashwani Chhabra R/O Thakur Mohalla, Gidderbaha, Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib, Have Changed My Name From Ashwani Kumar Chhabra Alias Ashwani Chhabra To Ashwani Kumar.
- I, Veena** W/O Ashwani Kumar R/O Thakur Mohalla, Gidderbaha, Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib, Have Changed My Name From Veena To Veena Rani.
- I, Umesh Singh** S/O Mangat Rai R/O H.No. 6436 Ward No. 24, Muhlla Bhai Ka, Bathinda-151005 have changed my Name to Umesh.
- I, Kamaljit Singh** Baath S/O Balwinder Singh R/O V. Naurang Singh Wala, District Ferozepur. His Name Has Been Changed To Kamaljit Singh.
- I, Amandeep Singh** S/O Ruldu Singh R/O Guru Ki Dhab (Faridkot) have changed my minor son's name from Avijot Singh Wander to Avijot Singh.
- I, Bhupinder Kumar** S/O Banarsi Dass R/O Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name to Bhupinder Bansal.
- I, Sushma** W/O Bhupinder Bansal R/O Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name to Sushma Bansal after marriage.
- I, Shivani Singla** W/O Aman Bansal R/O Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name to Shivani Bansal after marriage.
- I, Amandeep Singh** Wander S/O Ruldu Singh R/O Guru Ki Dhab (Faridkot) have changed my name to Amandeep Singh.
- I, Kulwinder Kaur** Wander W/O Amandeep Singh R/O Guru Ki Dhab (Faridkot) have changed my name to Kulwinder Kaur.
- I Bhajan Singh** S/O Puran Singh R/O Ward No 4 Friends Colony Ludhiana Have Changed My Name Bhajan Singh To Harbhajan Singh.
- I, Ravinder Grover** S/O Abinash Chander R/O St.No.8 Main Bazar College Road Malout (Muktsar) have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar.
- I Charnjit Kaur** W/O Joga Singh R/O Kot Dharam Chand Kalan Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Charnjit Kaur To Charanjit Kaur.
- I Kuldip Singh** S/O Davinder Singh R/O Vill Bainka Tehsil Bhiakhind Distt Tam Taran Punjab Declare That I Have Changed My Name To Kuldip Singh.
- I, Kulwinder Pawar** W/O Kamaljeet Singh Vill Kad Gill Tehsil & Distt. Tarn Taran Have Changed My Daughter Name From Sukhmandeep Rai To Sukhmandeep Kaur.
- I, Jagjit Singh** S/O Gurbax Singh R/O Vill: Ghuman (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jagjit Singh Ghuman.
- I Kulwinder Singh** S/O Visakha Singh R/O Kacha Barkandi road, Sri Muktsar Sahib, have changed my Minor Daughter name Mankirat Kaur To Mankirat Kaur Johal.
- I Gurtej Singh** S/O Jit Singh R/O Vpo Kot Sukhia (Faridkot) have changed my name to Gurtej Singh Brar.
- I Karm Singh** Alias Karam Singh S/O Gurmial Singh R/O Vpo Kot Sukhia, Teh. Kolkapura (Faridkot) is known by two names as above.
- I Karmjeet Kaur** Gill W/O Anandpal Singh R/O Patti Phula, VPO. Gholla Kalan (Moga) have changed my name to Karmjeet Kaur.
- I Ravinder Kumar** S/O Sh Rajpal Singh R/O House No 651 Vill Padha Distt Karnal Have Change My Name From Ravinder To Ravinder Kumar. In Future I Shall Known As Ravinder Kumar.
- I Buta Singh** S/O Sh. Munshi Ram R/O Vill. Salpani Khurd, P/O Ajarana Kanla, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name To Buta Ram.
- I Ravi Kumar** Alias Ravi Rana S/O Dal Bahadur R/O Grewal Enclave, Sular, Patiala (Punjab) Inform Above Both Names Belongs To One Person That Is Me.
- I Sarswati Devi** Alias Sarswati Rana W/O Ravi Kumar R/O Harinder Grewal Enclave, Sular, Patiala (Punjab) Inform Above Both Names Belongs To One Person That Is Me.
- I Zafar Kaifi** S/O Lai Kuz Zama R/O H.No.200/8 Near D.M.W. Aman Nagar, Patiala, Punjab- 147001, Have Changed My Name To Mohammad Zafar Kaifi.
- I, Munish Kumar** S/O Vinod Kumar R/O W.No. 6 Garhi Mohalla Urmar Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Pb, declare my given name Munish and my surname Kumar.
- I Vinod Bala** W/O Amrik Singh R/O Nanak Chowk Gurusahasai District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Vinod Saini.
- I Kanwaljit Kaur** W/O Iqbal Singh R/O Vpo Mallan Tehsil Gidderbaha District Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Kanwaljeet Kaur.
- I, Charanjeet Kaur** Insan W/O Gura Singh R/O H.No.207 W.No.24 St.No.03 Guru Shri Chander Nagar Near Bahona Chowk Moga Distt Moga have changed my name to Charanjeet Kaur.
- I, Balraj Singh** Insan S/O Gura Singh R/O H.No.207 W.No.24 St.No.03 Guru Shri Chander Nagar Near Bahona Chowk Moga Distt Moga have changed my name to Balraj Singh.
- I Poonam** W/O Vizay Kumar R/O H.No.02 St.No.03 Kundan Nagar Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Mamta.

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WITH SO MUCH SPIN ON OFFER, GAME CAN TURN ON ITS HEAD: INDIA ASSISTANT COACH NAYAR

PTI ■ COLOMBO

“Was it a shock? I would say yes,” said India’s assistant coach Abhishek Nayar as he tried to make sense of the unexpected defeat to Sri Lanka in the second ODI, blaming it on the spin-friendly conditions that have the potential to completely alter the course of a match.

India’s fragility against spin was once again on display as leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay wreaked havoc with a six-wicket haul to hand the visitors a 32-run defeat in the second ODI here on Sunday.

“...There is a surprise. But you anticipate and understand that in these conditions the game can turn on its head because there is so much spin on offer,” Nayar said at the post-match press conference.

India were chasing 241 on a pitch that had plenty of assistance for the spinners, and they ended up at 208 all out in 42.2 overs. In the previous game as well, the Indian batters barring skipper Rohit Sharma had struggled. “Even if you look at the last game, it was relatively easy to score against the new ball. As the ball got older, the conditions when batting second got slightly tougher. Sometimes in tough conditions, especially in the 50-over format, this happens,” he added. The assistant coach said the think-tank will reflect on what has gone wrong so



far. “We want to go back and understand, and rectify, why it happened twice in a row. The day before yesterday, we were able to stitch partnerships but today we lost quite a few wickets in a bundle.” India shuffled their middle order, promoting Shivam Dube (0) to the number four spot, while maintaining the right-left batting combination with Shreyas Iyer (7) and KL Rahul (0) at numbers six and seven, respectively.

“My belief is that in any sport, position only matters if you’re playing in different areas of a game. We lost wickets in the middle phase, and that’s where the middle order batters batted. It’s not as if middle order batters batted towards the end. “The thought process was right. When it doesn’t work out, these questions are asked often. But I’ve always believed that if a middle order batter bats as a middle order batter, it is the right

decision,” Nayar said. Nayar feels there is more pressure on the team batting second. “When you are batting first, there is less pressure. When you are chasing, the pressure is more because you have to keep an eye on the run rate, wickets. “Whenever you bat first, you often have partnerships. Wellalage batted really well, both in the last game and this game. They scored important runs in the lower order.”



Dinesh Karthik appointed SA20 league ambassador

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former India wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik was on Monday appointed the league ambassador of the SA20 League. Karthik, who is the first Indian player to be associated with the South African tournament, retired from all forms of cricket earlier this year. “The league has been electric in the first two seasons with some of the world’s best players on show and exciting young

talent putting up their hands on the global stage,” Karthik was quoted as saying in a media release. “Karthik will be working very closely with fellow SA20 ambassador AB de Villiers and the management team to help strengthen the league’s global fan base and reinforce brand awareness across key strategic markets in India and the United Kingdom,” the release added. Former South Africa captain and league commissioner

Graeme Smith expressed, “His exceptional cricketing talent and personality make him the perfect fit for our league and his involvement will undoubtedly elevate the league’s status globally and in India.” The SA20 comprises six franchises -- MI Cape Town, Joburg Super Kings, Durban Super Giants, Paarl Royals, Pretoria Capitals, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, all of which are owned by the owners of IPL teams.



Former England batter Graham Thorpe dies at 55

PTI ■ LONDON

Former England and Surrey batter Graham Thorpe has died aged 55 after battling a “serious illness” since 2022, the country’s cricket board announced on Monday. Considered one of the finest batters of his generation, Thorpe was hospitalised shortly after being named the head coach of Afghanistan in 2022 but the details of his medical condition are not known.

He is survived by his wife Amanda and four children, Henry, Amelia, Kitty and Emma. “It is with great sadness that the ECB shares the news that Graham Thorpe, MBE, has passed away,” ECB said in a statement, without giving the exact cause of his death. “There seem to be no appropriate words to describe the deep shock we feel at Graham’s death. More than one of England’s finest ever batters, he was a beloved member of the cricket family and revered by fans all over the world,” the statement read. Thorpe began his Test career in 1993 with an Ashes century and repeated the feat on the

return tour, in Perth in February 1995. The left-hander was also instrumental in England’s back-to-back series wins in Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the 2000-01 season. A lynch-pin of England’s middle order, he went on to play 100 Tests for England between 1993 and 2005 and averaged 44.66 with 16 centuries. He also represented the Three Lions in 82 ODIs, collecting 2830 runs at an average of 37.18.

Thorpe enjoyed success at the county level as well. He was picked at the under-11 level by Surrey and played for them for 17 years, scoring close to 20,000 runs for the team. “Graham is one of the great sons of Surrey and there is an overwhelming sadness that he will not walk through the gates of the Oval again. He is a legend of Surrey and brought great pride to the Club wearing both the Three Feathers and the Three Lions. “He made outstanding contributions to the Club as a cricketer, and as a man, and he will be so sorely missed,” said Oli Slipper, Chair at Surrey CCC.

From ‘monkey boy’ to ‘horse guy’, Stephen is soaking up in limelight

AP ■ PARIS

Stephen Nedorosik is gleaming into his newfound stardom as a geeky, bespectacled, Rubik’s Cube-solving video gamer who just won two bronze medals at the Paris Olympics. “It’s still just surreal to me. I wake up in the morning, I’m like, Oh my gosh, I’m a two-time Olympic medalist! It is so cool,” he told The Associated Press. With both medals hanging around his neck, he beamed and laughed as he marveled at his rise to fame and the attention his speciality in gymnastics is receiving. The 25-year-old U.S. Gymnast finished third in the pommel horse on Saturday, five days



after helping the American men’s team earn bronze - its first Olympic medal in 16 years. Along the way, he’s captured the hearts of Olympics viewers with his endearing personality and nerdy tendencies. Images and clips of Nedorosik

removing his glasses and centering himself before hopping on the pommel horse for a focused routine have gone viral. The memes and tweets have likened him to Clark Kent taking off his glasses and transforming into a hero. “The memes are hilarious and

I’m loving them all,” he said. Internet fodder aside, Nedorosik and his eyeglasses have brought visibility to an eye condition called coloboma, which occurs when part of the tissue that makes up the eye is missing. Fans have approached him thanking him for being a role model for children who need to wear glasses. “Even just last week, for the first time, I met someone else who has the same eye condition as me,” Nedorosik said - a young boy whose mother said he really wanted to meet the gymnast. “It was also my first time meeting someone outside my family that has that disease. That was so cool to see that. And, you know, he was just so happy.”



Great Scottie! Scheffler gets Olympic gold medal in thriller

AP ■ SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES (FRANCE)

Scottie Scheffler was a model of calm and greatness as he delivered the greatest closing round of his career. The final two hours were about charges and collapses, pure theater that ended Sunday with the Olympic gold medal fittingly draped around the neck of golf’s No. 1 player. It was only when Scheffler stood on the top podium, when the final few bars of the national anthem belted out across Le Golf National, that he lost control. The medal dangling beneath his right hand fixed across his chest, Scheffler raised his left arm to cover the sob.

Tears are nothing new for Scheffler. His latest trophy brought out his very best. Four shots behind to start the final round, six shots behind early on the back nine, Scheffler birdied five of six holes down the stretch and matched the course record with a 9-under 62 for a one-shot victory over Tommy Fleetwood. “It’s been a long week. It’s been a challenging week. I played some great golf today, and I’m proud to be going home with a medal,” Scheffler said. “These

guys played tremendous golf and I think we should all be proud of the golf that we played this week.” It was a show-stopper, the best of the three men’s competitions since golf returned to the Olympic program in 2016 before 30,000 spectators that got their euros’ worth. The remarkable surge by Scheffler, who shot 29 on the back nine. The relentless play of Fleetwood (66) and Hideki Matsuyama, who had birdie chances on the final six holes and had to settle for pars for a 65 to win the bronze. And there was a stunning collapse by Jon Rahm, who saw a four-shot lead disappear in two holes and his hopes vanish with a double bogey; by Rory McIlroy, one shot behind until hitting wedge into the water; and by Xander Schauffele, the PGA and British Open champion who had a chance to win another gold until playing a four-hole stretch in 4-over par. Not to be overlooked was Victor Perez of France, who hit the opening tee shot on Thursday and came within one shot of a medal on Sunday. He should know the lyrics to “La Marseillaise” if he didn’t already. Fans serenaded him on just about every tee.

High jumper Yaroslava wins Ukraine’s 1st individual gold of Paris Olympics

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS (FRANCE)

It was a night for war-torn Ukraine to rejoice. Thousands of Ukrainians watched on YouTube as high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh won gold for the country she was forced to flee, then celebrated with two teammates who also medaled at the Paris Olympics on Sunday. Iryna Gerashchenko shared bronze in the high jump and Mykhaylo Kokhan then claimed a bronze in the hammer throw, too - doubling Ukraine’s Olympic medal haul from three to six in the span of about an hour. “Medals are very important for Ukraine because the people are having a very happy time, and they can cheer us and they can celebrate this with us and not think about the war for one day,” Kokhan said. Mahuchikh, who left her home due to the war with Russia, earned Ukraine’s first



individual gold of these Summer Games, following a victory in women’s team saber fencing on Saturday. She is from Dnipro, a city of nearly 1 million located only about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the front lines of the war. When Russia invaded, she piled as much as she could into her car and left town quickly. On her way out, she heard gunfire and could, at times, see shells raining down miles away. The next time she returns, it will be as an

Olympic champion. Once the medals were assured, Mahuchikh and Gerashchenko ran down the track waving Ukrainian flags, prompting a standing ovation at the Stade de France. Then, when the two high jumpers were given special permission to run over and embrace Kokhan, all three Ukrainian medalists posed together with their blue and yellow flags. It wasn’t all about celebrating, though. Mahuchikh also recalled the “almost 500 sportsman (who) died in this war. “They will never compete. They will never celebrate. They will never feel this atmosphere,” she said, adding that her gold medal is “really for all of them.” Mahuchikh succeeds Tokyo gold medalist Maria Lasitskene, a Russian who - along with everyone else from her country - has been banned from track and field’s international events since the country invaded Ukraine.

Boxer Cindy becomes first athlete competing as refugee to clinch Olympic medal

AP ■ VILLEPINTE (FRANCE)

Boxer Cindy Ngamba made history by becoming the first athlete competing as a refugee to clinch an Olympic medal. The 25-year-old originally from Cameroon offered hope for the Refugee Olympic Team that was created to call attention to the plight of refugees across the world. Ngamba’s victory at the Paris Games comes after a fierce bout with French boxer Davina Michel in the women’s 75-kilogram quarterfinals in front of a passionate French crowd. Ngamba, who screamed and pumped her fist when she won, has scored at least a bronze medal as she advances to the semifinals Friday night. She will face Atheyna Bylon, who ensured that Panama would get its fourth-ever Olympic medal with her own win shortly after Ngamba’s fight. “It means the world to me to be the first ever refugee to win a medal,” Ngamba told reporters. “I want to say to all the refugees around the world ... Keep on working hard, keep on believing in yourself.” She was a flag bearer for the 37

athletes making up the biggest Refugee Olympic Team since the idea was born ahead of the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. The International Olympic Committee created the team as a way for displaced athletes and migrants to participate fully in the Olympics without help from national federations. Ngamba moved to the United Kingdom at the age of 11 and said she was granted refugee status in 2021 because she could have been imprisoned for being gay in Cameroon. She has said boxing has been her escape from the chaos - it’s also lifted her up to the international stage. She told reporters Sunday that she struggled when she first moved to the U.K., going from a bubbly kid in Cameroon to an introvert as she learned English and adapted to her new home. She said she found her home in boxing and on the Olympic team. “I had my family and my team by my side every day,” she said. “The refugee team welcomed me with open arms.” Ngamba, who upset former world



champion Tammara Thibault of Canada in her first bout, entered her Sunday match aggressively against Michel, quickly dodging the French boxer’s swipes. Michel received deafening cheers from French fans, while Ngamba said she heard boos in North Paris Arena. “I think I only listened to boos as I walked into the ring,” Ngamba said, adding that the spectators were just another group of people who didn’t believe in her throughout her journey to get where she is today. While some of the athletes on the refugee team have already won Olympic medals for their countries in past Games, Ngamba has been seen as the team’s best chance at medaling in Paris. The success of Ngamba and other athletes on the refugee team comes at a time of record migration and as 100 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced from their homes. The Refugee Olympic Team has nearly quadrupled in size since its debut. The team is “a symbol of inclusion, of equality, of achievement for a large community around the world of

refugees and displaced people,” U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told the AP in an interview last week. Grandi congratulated Ngamba, writing on X: “You do us all very, very proud! And now onward to gold.” The refugee team was among the first Olympic delegations to cruise along the Seine River in the opening ceremony last week. Ngamba’s victory comes as women’s boxing has drawn intense scrutiny in recent days as fighters Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan and Imane Khelif of Algeria faced a cascade of online abuse, with comments falsely describing them as transgender or men. Both boxers won their fights this weekend as the IOC backed both women and warned against turning the competition into a “witch hunt.” Looking forward to her next match, Ngamba wants to keep sending a message of hope to refugees everywhere, saying that while she’s got at least a bronze medal locked down, she’s going for gold. “Hopefully in the next round, I will get the job done - not hopefully.”