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RONAK WINS BRONZE IN 110KG 11 SPORTS



NDA's push for majority mark in Rajya Sabha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leader Kiran Choudhary, former Union Minister Upendra Kushwaha, Supreme Court lawyer Manan Kumar Mishra, renowned Kudumi community leader Mamata Mohanta, Union Minister George Kurian, nominees of BJP and NCP, Dhairiyasheel Patil and Nitin Patil, Mission Ranjan Das and Rameshwar Teli and Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu were among those who filed their nomination papers for election to the 12 vacant seats in the Upper House on Wednesday.

For the BJP, the by-poll is crucial for pushing the NDA's Rajya Sabha tally past the majority mark, a key factor in passing of Bills. The current effective strength of Rajya Sabha is 229. Of this, the BJP has 87 MPs, with the NDA allies taking the number to 105. The support of six nominated MPs takes the NDA's strength further up to

111, four short of half-way mark. The Opposition has 84 members — Congress 26 and allies 58. Several of the 12 seats fell vacant as the sitting members, including Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Sarbananda Sonowal and Jyotiraditya Scindia, were elected to the Lok Sabha.

From Haryana, BJP leader Kiran Choudhary filed her nomination for the Rajya Sabha by-poll on Wednesday, with some JJP rebel MLAs also extending support to her candidature. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, State BJP President Mohan Lal Badoli, several party MLAs, the party's co-in-charge for the State Biplab Kumar Deb and some JJP rebels were among those present when Choudhary submitted her nomination papers.

Wednesday was the last day for filing of nominations for the Rajya Sabha by-poll. The BJP named Choudhary as its nominee shortly after she resigned from the

Assembly on Tuesday, nearly two months after she left Congress. She represented the Tosham seat in the Haryana Assembly. The by-poll for the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Haryana was necessitated after Congress leader Deepender Singh Hooda was elected to the Lok Sabha from Rohtak. His Rajya Sabha term was to end in April 2026.

In Jaipur, Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu filed his nomination as a BJP candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-poll from Rajasthan. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Deputy Chief Ministers Premchand Bairwa and Diya Kumari, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel. Before submitting his nomination paper, Bittu, during a meeting of the BJP Legislature Party, expressed gratitude for his selection as the Rajya Sabha candidate from Rajasthan. Rajasthan has a total of 10 Rajya seats, one of which is vacant.

Modi to discuss with Zelenskyy ways to end war

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

PPrime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said he was looking forward to sharing perspectives with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict. The Prime Minister's comments came on Wednesday shortly before he embarked on a two-nation trip to Poland and Ukraine. Modi on Wednesday said his maiden visit to Poland will add momentum to the bilateral friendship and benefit the people of the two countries as he arrived here on the first leg of his two-nation visit during which he will also travel to the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

Modi, who will meet Poland's President Andrzej Sebastian Duda and hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Donald Tusk, said he was looking forward to the various programmes in the Polish capital here.

"Landed in Poland. Looking forward to the various programmes here. This visit will add momentum to the India-Poland friendship and benefit the people of our nations," Modi said in a post on X soon after his arrival at the Warsaw military airport here.

On the first leg of the visit, Modi is visiting Polish capital city of Warsaw on August 21



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives his autograph on a portrait presented to him by the Indian community members upon his arrival at a hotel, in Warsaw, Poland, on Wednesday. PTI

and 22. Modi will be in Kyiv for around seven hours on August 23 in the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since the country became independent in 1991. In a departure statement, Modi, referring to the Ukraine conflict, said as a "friend and partner," India hopes for an early return of peace and stability in the region.

"From Poland, I will be visiting Ukraine at the invitation of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. This is the first-ever visit by an

Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine," he said. "I look forward to the opportunity to build upon earlier conversations with President Zelenskyy on strengthening bilateral cooperation and share perspectives on peaceful resolution of the ongoing Ukraine conflict," he said. "As a friend and partner, we hope for an early return of peace and stability in the region," he added.

Modi said he was confident that his visit to Warsaw and Kyiv "will serve as a natural continuation of extensive

contacts with the two countries and help create the foundation for stronger and more vibrant relations in the years ahead."

The Prime Minister will travel to Kyiv from Poland in a 'Rail Force One' train that will take around 10 hours. The return trip will also be of the same duration.

A number of world leaders including US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Kyiv by train after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Modi's visit to Kyiv comes nearly six weeks after his high-profile trip to Moscow which drew criticism from the US and some of its Western allies. India has been calling for resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

In his summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow last month, Modi said "a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs and bullets."

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said Modi's visit to Ukraine would be a "landmark and historic" one.

"Lasting peace can only be achieved through options that are acceptable to both parties. And it can only be a negotiated settlement," said Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West) in the MEA.

"On our part, India continues to engage with all stakeholders," he said. "My visit to Poland comes as we mark 70 years of our diplomatic relations. Poland is a key economic partner in Central Europe," he said.

"Our mutual commitment to democracy and pluralism further reinforces our relationship. I look forward to meeting my friend Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Andrzej Duda to further advance our partnership," he said.



Firefighters douse a fire which broke out following an explosion in a reactor unit of pharmaceutical company Escientia, in Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday. PTI

13 killed in Andhra pharma unit fire

PTI ■ ATCHUTAPURAM (ANDHRA PRADESH)

The death toll in the fire accident at a pharmaceutical unit here on Wednesday rose to 13, officials said. Anakapalli District Collector Vijaya Krishnan said the fire broke out at 2:15 pm at Escientia Advanced Sciences Pvt Ltd at Atchutapuram in Anakapalli district.

"The factory operates with 381 employees in two shifts. The blast occurred during lunch time. Therefore, staff presence was less, Krishnan told PTI, adding that the explosion is suspected to be electricity-related. As many as 33 injured people were shifted to different hospitals in Anakapalli and Atchutapuram while the Fire Department is engaged in rescue operations, deploying six fire tenders. Further, the collector said 13 people trapped in the unit were rescued. Meanwhile, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed grief over the loss of lives. The CM assured that the Government will stand by the families of the workers who died, said an official press release.

WB icons join march for justice in Kolkata horror case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Kolkata continued to remain loyal to its age old insignia — Michhil Nagari or City of Processions — with players and engineers, IT personnel on Wednesday joining the doctors in their ongoing protest movement against the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case.

Veteran players from myriad fields like football swimming, athletics etc joined the march for "Justice" for the 31-year-old lady doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered in the wee hours of August 8.

Among who joined the march were Chess Grand Master Dibyendu Barua, swimmer Bula Chowdhury, sprinter Jyotirmoye Sikdar and national soccer player Gautam Sarkar.

"We have joined not to get justice for the young lady doctor but also for the whole society... enough is enough we cannot breathe anymore in this vitiated system where everything is rotting... tomorrow it can be my family members or anyone else's... you need a foolproof system in place," said Chowdhury.

Sarkar too lent his voice saying, "It is not the culprits that have to



be hanged but the system in which they flourish that has to go to the gallows... this rule of the corrupt, by the corrupt and for the corrupt must end because in the mire of this corruption these devils are born... who else than the State can do it... we demand justice for the State... if a doctor is not safe inside her own hospital ... if a journalist is not safe inside her own office... if a policewoman is not safe inside the police station... if a player is not safe inside the camp... or for that matter if a politician is not safe inside the legislature then who is safe in which place?"

A former Ranji Trophy player said, "It is the voice that has risen from within the society and that has to be addressed or else it will turn into a volcano... society is scared... I am a father of a girl who too is in a profession that I won't name and I want her safe..."

"I can just imagine what the old parents of the ill-fated doctor who was killed so brutally must be going through... gradually this fire will subside but the pain of losing an 'aulad' (offspring) that is burning the old parents by the hour will never subside... so it is the duty of the society to see the end of it."

Google, Meta in trouble over ads linked to fake lotteries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala police have issued a notice to Google to remove apps from its Play Store that are selling fake lotteries online in the name of the lottery run by the state. A similar notice was issued to Meta to remove advertisements of such fake lotteries from social media platforms Facebook, Whatsapp and Instagram managed by it, the State Police Media Centre (SPMC) said in a release on Wednesday. Police took the action after cyber patrolling revealed that 60 fake lottery apps, 25 fake Facebook profiles and 20 websites are connected to the scam, the



SPMC release said. It said that stringent legal action will be taken against those who are behind the fraud. Giving details of the scam, the police said that fake advertisements in the name of 'Kerala Megamillion Lottery' and 'Kerala Summer Season Dhamaka' have been circulating on social media

platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram and Instagram for some time stating that lotteries run by the state government can be bought online. People also get messages on their phones stating that the Kerala government has started an online lottery, and on spending ₹40 rupees there is a chance to win up to ₹12 crore, it said. When a person sends ₹40 on the number mentioned in the message, they get a fake lottery ticket image on WhatsApp. Later, when the draw time is over, the fraudsters send artificially fabricated results that show that the ticket held has won a prize of ₹5 lakh, the release said.

Bharat Bandh against SC's quota ruling evokes mixed response

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid protest against the Supreme Court's decision to permit the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), a daylong nationwide strike called by Dalits and Adivasi communities led to partial disruption in rail and road services in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan on Wednesday, evoked a mixed reaction. The response was tepid in other parts of the country.

The bandh was by and large peaceful with some sporadic incidents of violence. Several videos of cops lathicharging protesters were doing the rounds on the Internet. One such video from Bihar's Patna has grabbed

eyeballs after a policeman accidentally hit a Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) with a baton while managing law and order in Patna.

The bizarre incident occurred at the busy Dak Bangla square in Bihar's capital city. Having broken barricades at the JP Golambar intersection, the protesters reached Dak Bangla, where, to control the situation, security forces resorted to a lathi-charge. In a viral video, the policeman is seen hitting Khandekar, who was in civil dress, with a stick. While the SDM is taken away by his colleagues, who tell him about the mistake. The SDM identified as Shrikant Kundlik Khandekar.



SC resumes hearing on LMV driving licence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to resume its hearing on the legal question of whether a person holding a driving licence for a light motor vehicle is also entitled to drive a transport vehicle with an unladen weight not exceeding 7,500 kg.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took the decision after Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, said though the consultations to amend the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act 1988 were "almost complete", but the proposed amendments are yet to be tabled before Parliament. The top most law officer said the amended Bill can be presented before Parliament in the Winter session and suggested the bench either defer the hearing till it is cleared by the House or proceed with the matters.

Dosa, butter chicken, Indian street food popular in Poland

PTI ■ WARSAW

Dosa, butter chicken and mango lassi, an unlikely combo for some perhaps but topping the list of favourites for Polish diners who say the dishes remind them of their travels to the country. More than 45 Indian restaurants are offering a variety of traditional Indian food across Poland, with the capital Warsaw City having at least a dozen of them, as per the listing of the Embassy of India in Poland here.

And not just dining out, Indian food is popular as a takeaway option too across Poland.



India and Indian food are the talk of the town yet again as Warsaw is excited to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will arrive here for his two-day visit on

Wednesday. This will be the first official visit of an Indian Prime Minister to this country in 45 years.

In Warsaw, Chetan Nandani, a Gujarati businessman, recently opened a restaurant called 'Chaiwala', possibly alluding to the moniker that has stuck with Modi since 2014.

Nandani, who already ran a restaurant called 'Curry House', opened the 'Chaiwala' owing to the popular demand for Indian food. He claimed to have introduced Indian street food to Warsaw.

Greed for big catch poses risk to fish eaters

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Several fishermen are illegally using commonly available pesticides, particularly synthetic pyrethroids to harvest high-value crustaceans or prawns in the lower stretches of the River Ganga in West Bengal. The practice may cause significant harm to the river's ecosystem in the long run, scientists from ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) have sounded alarms.

"Research has shown that pesticide residues are present in fish tissues from the River Ganga, although concentrations are currently below levels deemed hazardous to human health.

"However, long-term exposure to these chemicals can impact reproductive health in fish and pose risks to wildlife and human populations dependent on the river for drinking water and livelihood," the researchers warned, calling for urgent stringent regulatory actions and community awareness. The illegal fishing practice is particularly prevalent in areas extending from Nabadwip to Balagarh in the State, said the study.

Also, as per the representation of the local communities in the studied area, the scientists found that illegal intruders appear from neighbouring areas, specifically the villages adjacent to the river. "They target the lucrative



freshwater prawn (Macrobrachium spp.), which commands high prices in the market. Apart from this, a variety of Small Indigenous Fish species are caught rampantly as the bye catch, including Puntius spp., Gudusia chapra, Salmostoma," said Ajay Saha,

Archisman Ray, Kausik Mondal, Basanta Kumar Das from ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, and Vikas Kumar from ICAR-CIFRI, Prayagraj. Presently, majority of the fish are harvested using gill nets, cast nets, passive fish traps, or occasionally plant-based fish poisons, the banned pesticides are being rampantly used despite being banned.

"Indiscriminate use of synthetic pyrethroids, such as cypermethrin and deltamethrin, disrupts aquatic ecosystems by causing imbalances in fish populations and damaging aquatic flora.

Classifieds

BEDAKHLI NOTICE

I, Anita Rani W/O Late Sh. Karan Singh R/O H.No. 2784-P, Sector-21, Panchkula (Haryana), declare that my daughter Alisha is out of my Control. So I disown her from my moveable/Immoveable Properties. If anybody dealing with her will be at own risk/responsibility.

We Jaibhagwan S/O Ramdiya and Sangeeta W/O Sh. Jaibhagwan R/O H.No.138/5, Badi Pahad, Tehsil & Distt. Panipat, declare that my son Chirag Sharma and his wife Shivani are out of my control. So I disown them from my moveable/Immoveable Properties. If anybody deals with them shall do their own risk in future.

I, Krishan Chand Aggarwal S/O Late Brij Lal R/O H.No. 655, Sector-4, Panchkula (Haryana), declare that my Grandson Sunil Aggarwal S/O Rakesh Kumar Aggarwal is out of my Control. So I disown him from my moveable/Immoveable Properties. If anybody dealing with him will be at his/her own risk/responsibility.

I, Jasmer Singh Saini S/O Joginder Singh, R/O House No. 1753, Sector 80, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab-160062, (UID No. 7016 8304 1045) declare that my son Malkheet Singh and his wife Kiranjot Kaur are out of my control. Hence, I debar them from all my moveable/immovabel properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities. I will not be responsible and liable for any of their activities.

I, Neelam W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Mullana Distt Ambala inform that my Son Sandeep Kumar is out of my control. So I disown him from my moveable and immovable properties. I and my family will not be responsible for any kind of transaction or legal or illegal work done by him.

I, Bharat Kumar S/O Shri Ram Parkash R/O H.No.36, Gali No.6, Aman Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar have declare that my son Nishat and his wife Tania are out of my control I Disinherit them from my all movable and immovable properties any body deal with them is his own risk and responsibility.

I, Nachhatar Singh S/O Sucha Singh R/O Village Mirzapur Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That My Son Amandeep Singh & His Wife Gurpreet Kaur Are Out Of My Control So I Disowned Both Of Them From All My Moveable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

I, Nardev S/O Satdev R/O 2165/10 Ram Gopal Colony, Tau Nagar, Gali No. 18, Rohtak Declare That My Son Ajay And His Wife Deeptri Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Them From My All Moveable/Immoveable Properties. Any Body Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk. I Or My Family Are Not Responsible For Any Type Of Their Acts.

I, Ramesh Bhatt S/O Satya Parsad R/o # 1140, Ambedkar Awas Yojna, Sector 56, Chandigarh, my son Sandeep Bhatt and his wife Himanshi Bhatt are out of my control. I disown them from my moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals them in future shall be self responsible.

I, Kanshi Ram S/O Banarsi Dass R/o village Jogna Khera, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have evicted my son Kapil Dev, my daughter -in- law Shruti Shama wife of Kapil Dev from all my moveable- immovable properties, as they are out of my and my wife Krishna Devi's control. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Ajmero Devi W/O Sube Singh, R/O Karan Colony, Mirzapur, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have evicted my son Ashok Kumar from all my moveable - immovable properties, as he is out of my control. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Kirpal Singh, S/O Tarlok Singh, R/O 218 Ward No. 15, Pehowa, Kurukshetra, my son Surjit Singh, my daughter-in-law Harpreet Kaur is out of my control. I, disown them from all My moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at their Own risk.

I, Suresh Kumar S/O Sh. Ramdiya Soni R/O H.No. 381/6 Savitri Nagar Jind Teh. & Distt. Jind (Hr.) declare that my son Sahil and his wife Bharti are out of my control. So, I disown both of them from my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk. I and my family members are not responsible.

We Gurmukh Singh S/O Raja Singh and Kanwajit Kaur W/O Gurmukh Singh R/O 11-12 New Dyal Bagh Babyl Road Ambala Cantt that my son Ramandeep Singh Jassal and his wife Jaswinder Kaur are out of my control so we disown them from all our moveable immoveable properties. In future anybody dealing with them at their own risk, we and our family members will not be responsible.

We, Jatinder Kumar S/O Sikandar Lal and Kanchan W/O Jatinder Kumar R/O H.No. 505 First Floor Phase-3B-1 (SAS Nagar, Mohali) declare that our son Rajat alias Ankit is out of our control. So We disown with him from our moveable/immoveable property. If anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Madhumitha D/O Ramesh M, Jc-312130n , Rank-Sub., R/O-2/89, South Street, Rayappapuram, Maruthankinar, Sankarancoil, Tamil Nadu-627953 Have Changed Her Name From Madhumitha To Madhumitha R In My Father Army Record

I Jashandeep Singh Nagi S/O Amarjit Singh Nagi R/O Village Mahlan Wala Kalan Tehsil Zira Distt Ferozepur Declare That My 10th Class Certificate Unique Id No. 7648675 Has Been Lost. If Anybody Found Please Contact On Above Address

I, Ramesh M F/O Manush Adithya, Jc-312130n , Rank-Sub, R/O- 2/89, South Street, Rayappapuram, Maruthankinar , Sankarancoil, Tamil Nadu -627953 Have Changed His Son Name From Manush Adithya To Manush Adithya R In My Army Record

I, Army No. 15182073x Hav(Opr) Harpreet Singh Son Of Narinder Pal Singh, Resident Of Village Mussimbal, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Yamunanagar Haryana, Declare That The Date Of Birth Of My Mother Surjit Kaur Is 23-12-1963 In My Army Documents While Other Documents Are Aadhar Card And Pan Card Has 1-1-1954. Now I Want To Get My Mother's Date Of Birth Changed To 1-1-1954 In The Army Documents Also. Concerned Please May Note The Related Information.

I Smt Sumitra Kaur Mother Of No 19001536n Hav Jasbir Singh Of Vpo Naukerian Tehsil And District Fazilka Pin 152033 Have Changed My Name Sumitra Kaur (Dob 27 February 1965) To Mitto Bai (Dob 01 January 1958) Vide Affidavit No. In - Pb475400626966282w Dated 19 August 2024 Notary

I, M Muthulakshmi Legally Mother Of No. 16118695n Rank L/Hav Name Santhana Mahalingam M Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of 105, Vasagam, Pillai Street, Chinnamanur, Theni, Distt. Chinnamanur, State Tamil Nadu-625515 Declare That I Have Changed My Name From M Muthulakshmi To Muthulakshmi M And Dob From 01.07.1970 To 23.09.1965

I, Guddi Legally Mother Of No. 3209396h Rank L/Nk Name Sachin Singh Unit 22 Jat Regt. C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of Bahera, Bhind Bahera, State Madhya Pradesh-477660 Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Guddi To Guddi Bai And Dob From 12.08.1975 To 01.01.1971

I, Avdesh Singh Legally Father Of No. 3209396h Rank L/Nk Name Sachin Singh Unit 22 Jat Regt. C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of Bahera, Bahera, State Madhya Pradesh-477660 Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Avdesh Singh To Avadhesh Singh And Dob From 05.11.1974 To 08.07.1970

I Rani Thapar W/O Rakesh Kumar Thapar R/O Hadiabag, Phagwara, Satnampura, Kapurthala Declare That In My Daughter's Taniya Thapar School Record Her Name Is Wrongly Mentioned As Taniya And My Name Is Mentioned As Rani And Her Father's Name Mentioned As Rakesh Thapar. But Her Correct Name Is Taniya Thapar, My Correct Name Is Rani Thapar And His Father's Correct Name Is Rakesh Kumar Thapar

I, Kunisetty Vijaya Laxmi Legally Spouse Of No. 15710757p Rank L/Hav Name Naidu Kunisetty Unit Hq 2 Ew Bde C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of # 2/9, Khajjapalem, Po: Khazeeepalem, Distt. Anakapalli, State Andhra Pradesh-531033 Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Kunisetty Vijaya Laxmi To Kunisetty Vijaya Lakshmi.

I, Depanshu son of Naresh Aggarwal, age 25 years, permanent resident of House no. 444, Ward no. 07, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Near Khadi Bhandar, Post Office, Sujjanpur, Tehsil Pathankot, District Gurdaspur, has changed my name from Depanshu to Depanshu Aggarwal.

I, Aljibab W/O No. 1459096P Nk Nazar Ram R/O Vill: Chak Mehra Po. Jalota Teh-Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, declare that in my husband Army Record my name is Alzbeth and my date of birth 12-06-1958 written wrongly. Actually my name is Aljibab and my date of birth is 01-01-1956 as per my Adhaar Card etc record.

I JC199848W EX Sub. Dilek Ram VPO Dadial Tehsil Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Have Changed My Name Spellings in my Sparash PPO NO 232198602361 as Dile Ram inplace of Dilek Ram as per My All documents.

I, Nirvair Singh Saini S/o Raj Bhpupinder Singh R/o 20 Sal Circle Brampton L6R1G9 on Canada declare that Nirvair Singh Saini and Nirvair Singh are the name of one & same person.

I, Baldev Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Vpo. Terkiana Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) declare that in my Passport the name of my wife wrongly mentioned as Parmjeet Kaur. But her correct name is Paramjit Kaur.

I, Hardav Singh S/O Kharak Singh R/O Vpo. Miani W.No. 1 Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Punjab, declare that Kulvir Kaur is my real Wife and in her Passport No. T0458502 In my name is written as Hardev Singh. which is incorrect. But my correct name is Hardav Singh. please correct my name in my wife Passport.

I, Vijayamma wife of Mohanan Pillai P Mother of Army No 14686988N Rank NK Name Manu. M residing of Manu Bhavan, Aeram, Mathurappa, Thadicadu, P O – Anchal Kollam, Thadicadu Kerala, PIN - 691306, have changed my name from Vijayamma (old Name) to Vijayamma B (New Name) vide Affidavit dated 21 Aug 2024 sworn before Notary Neelkamal, Pathankot. PI correct it.

I, Mohanan Pillai V.P S/O Parameswaran Pallai, Father Of Army No 14686988N Rank Nk Name Manu. M Residing Of Manu Bhavan, Aeram, Mathurappa, Thadicadu, P O – Anchal Kollam, Thadicadu Kerala, Pin - 691306, Have Changed My Name From Mohanan Pillai V.P (Old Name) To Mohanan Pillai P (New Name) Vide Affidavit Dated 21 Aug 2024 Sworn Before Notary Neelkamal, Pathankot. PI Correct It.

I Ajay Kumar Aneja S/O Sada Nand R/O Plot No. 17-B, Opp. H.No. 1350, near NTC School Rajpura town, distt. Patiala declare that my minor son's School Certificate .His name is wrongly written Moksh but his actual name is Moksh Aneja.

CHANGE OF NAME

मै सुखपाल सिंह उर्फ जगपाल सिंह पुत्र महेश सिंह निवासी गांव बाहमणवाला तहसील रतिया जिला फतेहाबाद (हरियाणा) हल्कन ब्यान करता हूँ कि मेरे आधार कार्ड सहित सभी दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम सुखपाल सिंह है परन्तु मेरे एल-आइ-सी-ओ की पुलिस में मेरा नाम जगपाल सिंह दर्ज है। मैं हल्कन ब्यान करता हूँ कि उक्त दोनों नामों का मैं एक ही व्यक्ति हूँ और मुझे उक्त दोनों नामों से जाना जाता है। सभी संबंधित नोट करें।

मैं पुनत्र श्री दिलबाग निवासी डेवरी मोहल्ला रोहतक अपने हल्क से ब्यान करता हूँ कि मेरे पिता का नाम रजिस्ट्री में दिनेश लिखा हुआ है व असल में मेरे पिता का नाम आधार कार्ड में दिलबाग है। दिलबाग व दिनेश एक ही व्यक्ति के नाम है।

I, Karminder S/O late shri Barinder Kumar Sharma, Mother Name Narinder Kaur R/O H.No. 762 New Sunny Enclave, Village Jandpur, Tehsil Kharar, Sector 123 SAS Nagar, Mohali Punjab have Changed my name to Karminder Sharma.

I, Virender Jain S/O Sh. Amar Chand Jain R/O H.No. 1103, Sector 15-B, Chandigarh declare that V.K. Jain, Virender Jain, Varinder Kumar Jain, Virender Kumar Jain, Varinder Jain, Virendra Jain and Virendra Kumar jain is One & same person.

I, Madan Lal S/O Sh. Dwarka Nath R/O House No. 89, Rose Avenue, Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Madan Lal to Madan Lal Tuli.

I, Pooja Arora W/O Arun Arora R/O B-34/24, Mohalla Top Khanna, Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Pooja Arora to Pooja Tuli.

I, Arun Kumar S/O Sh. Walaiti Ram R/O B-34/24, Mohalla Top Khanna, Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Arun Kumar to Arun Arora.

I, Bittan Devi W/O Dinesh and D/o Ram Dass R/O Khargipur, Amethi, Ramganj, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name from Bittan Devi to Suman Devi. In future I should be known as Suman Devi. Note all concerns.

I, Ankita Malik d/o Saijan Singh R/O House No. 1214, Sector-6, Bahadurgarh, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar Haryana declare that I, have changed my name from Ankita Malik to Ankita Beniwal for all future purposes.

I, Shaveta W/O Sushil Kumar R/O Village Kotla Gaunspur, Mount View Colony Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Shaveta to Shaveta Sharma. Concerned note.

I, Kulwant Singh S/O Parkash R/O VPO Tuto Mazara Tehsil Garhshanker Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter from Anjali to Anjali Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Devi Dutt S/O Ram Dutt R/O 22/4 A, Near Lavjeet Kariyana Store, Narinder Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Devi Datt S/O Ram Datt to Devi Dutt S/O Ram Dutt.

I, Ravita W/O Amit Kumar R/O Tejli, Yamuna Nagar Have Changed My Name From Ravita Devi To Ravita.

I, Harjit Kaur W/O Shamsher Singh Sodhi R/O 2300, Huda, Sector 17, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Harjit Kaur to Harjit Kaur Sodhi.

I, Shamsher Singh S/O Surjit Singh Sodhi R/O 2300, Huda, Sector 17, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Shamsher Singh to Shamsher Singh Sodhi.

I, Beena Goel W/O Dinesh Goel R/O 1052, Wagon Street, Khera Bazar, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Beena Goel to Veena Goel.

I, Mansi Sharma W/O Nilesh Kumar Sharma R/O 812, Durga Garden Colony, Near Mata Ka Mandir, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar declare that in my LIC policy no. 173875091 my name written as Manorma. But my actual name is Mansi Sharma which is written in my Adhar Card. Manorma and Mansi Sharma both are my name, one and same lady.

I, Jaspal Singh alias Swami Mahesh Muni Chela Hansmuni Maharaj Udasin S/O Charanjit Singh R/O Village Roorkee Sub Teh: Chanarthal Kalan District Fatehgarh Sahib, declare that- I have changed my old Name jaspal Singh to new name Mahesh Muni C/O Hansmuni Maharaj.

I, Harjot Singh S/O Raju Judge, R/O House No. 1596, Ram Darbar, Industrial Area Phase-2, Chandigarh have changed my name from Harjot Singh to Harjot Singh Judge.

I, Kiran Thakur alias Himani Sood D/o Dharam Chand Thakur and wife of Kunal Sood resident of vill Banasari Distt. Kullu Tehsil Manali (H.P.) presently residing at H-No. 2593 Sector 22-C Chandigarh have Changed my name from Kiran Thakur to Himani Sood.

I, Karuna W/O Gulshan Durgja R/O 421 Sector 1, Rohtak - 124001 (Haryana) declare That I have changed my name from Karuna to Karuna Durgja for all future purposes.

I, Vivek Goyal S/O Surender Goyal R/O 808 - 1/23 A DLF Colony, Rohtak - 124001 (Haryana) declare That I have changed my name from Vivek Goyal to Vivek Goel for all future purposes.

I, Saraj Ansari S/O Niyamat Ansari R/O #2602 Sector 49C Chandigarh have changed my minor daughter's name from Shaziya Ansari to Shazia Ansari.

I, Beerbala alias Birbala, Mother Name Narinder Kaur R/O H.No. 762 New Sunny Enclave, Village Jandpur, Tehsil Kharar, Sector 123 SAS Nagar, Mohali Punjab have Changed my name to Beerbala and Birbala Devi. Now I am going to make it correct as Vir Bala in my husband army service record.

I, Anil Gandhi s/o Hansraj Gandhi R/O h.no 950 B Block Ansal Sushant City distt. Panipat declared that I have changed my name from Anil Kumar to Anil Gandhi and in future my name is Anil Gandhi.

I Meenu Gandhi w/o Anil Gandhi Gandhi R/O h.no 950 B Block Ansal Sushant City distt. Panipat declared that I have changed my name from Meenu to Meenu Gandhi and in future my name is Meenu Gandhi.

I Sachin Kumar Makhija s/o Bhim Sain R/O h.no 950 B Block Ansal Sushant City distt. Panipat declared that I have changed my name from Sachin Kumar to Sachin Kumar Makhija and in future my name is Sachin kumar Makhija.

I, No. 1480960N HAV Satyawand S/O Nandu Ram R/O Village Sanwad, Tehsil Charkhi Dadri, Distt Bhiwani declare that in my army record my wife's name wrongly written as Sukdarsan. But my wife's actual name is Sukhdarshan.

I, Baby W/o Harpaviterjit Singh R/O Village Budha Theh, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name after marriage from Baby to Baby Kaur.

I, Service No.90006263 ASI/GD Amarjit Singh S/O Sh.Joginder Singh 52 BN ITBP Amritsar permanent resident of Village Kalsian Khurd P.O.Khalra, Teh. Patti, Distt. Tarn Taran declair that in my service record my name has wrongly been mentioned as Amarjeet Singh while my actual and correct name is Amarjit Singh. Concerned note.

I, Gurpreet Singh W/O Maninder Raj Singh Deol R/O Cheema Kalan Tehsil Patti Distt. Tarn Taran have changed my name from Gurpreet Kaur to Gurpreet Kaur Deol after my marriage. Concerned note.

I, Manjeet Kaur Am Legal Spouse Of No 4482543h L/Hav Sohan Singh (Unit 10 Sikh LI C/O 56 Apo), Presently Residing At Vill- Chapar Chiri Khurd ,Po-Landran, Distt SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab-140307 Have Changed My Name From Manjeet Kaur To Manjit Kaur Vide Affidavit Dated 21-08-2024 Before Ambala Cantt

I Bhawna Sharma Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No 15728460w Signm Vishnu Sharma R/O 2 Corps Signal Regt (A) C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From Bhawna Sharma To Bhawna Vide Affidavit Dated 22-07-2024 Before Ambala Cantt.

It Is For General Information That I, Riya D/O Pardeep Kumar R/O 98- A, Near Gurruravi Das Mandir, Nanhera, Ambala, Haryana-133004 Declare That Name Of My Father Has Been Wrongly Written As Pardeep In My 10th & 12th Class Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Father Is Pardeep Kumar Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

I Minakshi Dnyaneshwar Chavan W/O Service No. Jc 735420L Rank Nb Sub Trade Skt / Wpn , Chavan Dnyaneshwar Bhanudas Of Unit 175(I) Rkt Regt Wksp (Smerch) C/O 56 Apo , Ambala. Have Changed My Name From Minakshi To Minakshi Dnyaneshwar Chavan.

I Mohina Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 15784585a Rank Hav Basheer Khan Pathan, Presently Residing At 9/1, Muslim Bazar, Tenalimandal Nandivelugu, Tenali Guntur, Andhra Pradesh,522306. Have Changed My Name From Mohina To Pathan Mohina Vide Affidavit Dated 14.08.2024 Before Tehsil Ambala Cantt

I Mohina Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 15784585a Rank Hav Basheer Khan Pathan, Presently Residing At 9/1, Muslim Bazar, Tenalimandal Nandivelugu, Tenali Guntur, Andhra Pradesh,522306. Have Changed My Name From Mohina To Pathan Mohina Vide Affidavit Dated 14.08.2024 Before Tehsil Ambala Cantt

I, Mansi Garg W/O Sh. Jagjivan Garg R/O H. No. 131-P, Sector 13 Part-II, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have change my name from Mansi to Mansi Garg. In future I will be known with the name of Mansi Garg for all purpose.

I, Sadajaap Singh Chadha S/O Jaswinder Singh Chadha, R/O House no. 437, East Mohan Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Sadajaap Singh to Sadajaap Singh Chadha.

I, Sangeeta W/O Sandeep Sehgal R/O 44-H, Gali no. 2, Gopal Nagar, Majitha Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Sangeeta to Sangeeta Sehgal.

I, Pawan Kumar S/O Ujjagar Singh R/O Q. 2 Type 3, N.S. N.I.S, Patiala, Punjab-147001 have changed my name to Pawan Kumar Sahota.

I Neelam W/O Satyawand Saharan R/O 628/2, Railway Road Junction, Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Jind, Haryana-126102 have changed my name to Neelam Saharan.

I Mohammad Hafiz S/O Mohammad Baggu R/O H No 80/15 Moh Maqbrion Wala I/S Sirhandi Gate, Malerkotla, Punjab-148023 have changed my name to Mohd Hafeez.

I, Prashant Chngra S/O Ramesh R/O Ward No-3, Naya Bazar, Tehsil-Theog, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-171201 have changed my name to Prashant Sharma.

I, Rupesh S/O Sanjay Goyal R/O 9-A, Mc Colony, Hisar, Haryana-125005 have changed my name to Rupesh Goyal.

I, Parvati Shankar Bhalekar M/O No.15717682L, NK,(TTC) Bhalekar Maharudra Shankarrao Serving In Dakshin Bharat Area Signal Company Pin -900432, C/O 56apo, Declared That Please Correct My Dob.1 Jan 1948 And Name Parvati Shankar Bhalekar Instead Of Name Par W ATI And Dob 01 Jan 1963 In Service Records Of My Son.

I, Shankar Baburav Bhalekar F/O No.15717682L, NK,(TTC) Bhalekar Maharudra Shankarrao Servng Dakshin Bharat Area Signal Company C/O 56 Apo Declared That Please Correct My Name I Shankar Baburav Bhalekar And D.O.B. 01 Jan 1948 Instead Of Shankarrao And D.O.B. 1 Jan 1955 In Service Records Of My Son.

I, Rekha Bajwa W/O Jaswant Kumar Vill. Fatehpur Saran (449), Yamunanagar, Haryana Declared That I Have Changed My Name From Rekha Kumari To Rekha Bajwa. Please Note.

I, Seema aadhar no. 748939617732 W/o Neeraj Kumar, R/o 107 D/16, Street No. 2, Shiv Chowk Aazad Nagar, Panipat have changed my name from Seema to Seema Devi for all future purposes.

I, Amandeep Singh S/O Natha Singh, # 533/1, Maloya Chandigarh have changed my name to Amandeep Singh Rattu.

I, Mandeep Singh S/O Surinder Singh R/O #256/B, Railway Station Kalka, Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Mandeep Singh Dhamu to Mandeep Singh.

I, Saakshi Ohri W/O Sumit Ohri R/O H.No. 04, New Gobind Nagar, Jalandhar Road, Hoshiarpur Declare that Saakshi Ohri & Saakshi is one & the same person. Concerned note.

I, Ouma Devi W/O Madan Lal R/O VPO Jandoli Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Ouma Devi to Uma Devi. Concerned note.

I, Smt. Nrinder Kaur W/O No 202845N Ex PO (AH) Surjit Singh R/O Village & PO Miani, (W.No.06) Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name Nrinder Kaur to from Narinder Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Umesh Kumar S/O Puran Chand Sardana R/O H. No. 735, Ward No. 9, Gandhi Dairy Colony, Hisar 125001 (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Umesh Kumar to Umesh Sardana for all future purpose.

I, Ishwar Singh, Service No. 15715478N, Rank NK is legally son of Sarbati Permanent resident of V.P.O. Ghangala, Teh. Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana-127046 have changed my mother's name and date of birth from Sharbati (DOB 19.01.1962) to Sarbati (DOB 01.01.1960) in my Army Service records, vide affidavit dated 20.08.2024 before the Notary Public, Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana.

I, Ishwar Singh, Service No. 15715478N, Rank NK is legally son of Karan Singh Permanent resident of Vill. Ghangala, P.O. Ghangala, Teh. Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana-127046 have changed my father's name and date of birth from Karn Singh (DOB 05.09.1957) to Karan Singh (DOB 01.03.1953) in my Army Service records, vide affidavit dated 20.08.2024 before the Notary Public, Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana.

I, Mansi Garg W/O Sh. Jagjivan Garg R/O H. No. 131-P, Sector 13 Part-II, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have change my name from Mansi to Mansi Garg. In future I will be known with the name of Mansi Garg for all purpose.

I, Sadajaap Singh Chadha S/O Jaswinder Singh Chadha, R/O House no. 437, East Mohan Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Sadajaap Singh to Sadajaap Singh Chadha.

I, Sangeeta W/O Sandeep Sehgal R/O 44-H, Gali no. 2, Gopal Nagar, Majitha Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Sangeeta to Sangeeta Sehgal.

I, Pawan Kumar S/O Ujjagar Singh R/O Q. 2 Type 3, N.S. N.I.S, Patiala, Punjab-147001 have changed my name to Pawan Kumar Sahota.

I Neelam W/O Satyawand Saharan R/O 628/2, Railway Road Junction, Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Jind, Haryana-126102 have changed my name to Neelam Saharan.

I Mohammad Hafiz S/O Mohammad Baggu R/O H No 80/15 Moh Maqbrion Wala I/S Sirhandi Gate, Malerkotla, Punjab-148023 have changed my name to Mohd Hafeez.

I, Prashant Chngra S/O Ramesh R/O Ward No-3, Naya Bazar, Tehsil-Theog, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-171201 have changed my name to Prashant Sharma.

I, Rupesh S/O Sanjay Goyal R/O 9-A, Mc Colony, Hisar, Haryana-125005 have changed my name to Rupesh Goyal.

I, Parvati Shankar Bhalekar M/O No.15717682L, NK,(TTC) Bhalekar Maharudra Shankarrao Servng In Dakshin Bharat Area Signal Company Pin -900432, C/O 56apo, Declared That Please Correct My Dob.1 Jan 1948 And Name Parvati Shankar Bhalekar Instead Of Name Par W ATI And Dob 01 Jan 1963 In Service Records Of My Son.

I, Shankar Baburav Bhalekar F/O No.15717682L, NK,(TTC) Bhalekar Maharudra Shankarrao Servng Dakshin Bharat Area Signal Company C/O 56 Apo Declared That Please Correct My Name I Shankar Baburav Bhalekar And D.O.B. 01 Jan 1948 Instead Of Shankarrao And D.O.B. 1 Jan 1955 In Service Records Of My Son.

I, Rekha Bajwa W/O Jaswant Kumar Vill. Fatehpur Sar

Punjab Secures Major Investments as CM Mann Courts Top Corporations in Mumbai

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/ MUMBAI

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has secured a series of high-profile investments for the state, following his strategic meetings with leading business magnates in Mumbai on Wednesday. The engagements saw enthusiastic responses from industry giants such as Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, RPG Group, Sify Technologies, and JSW Group — all expressing strong interest in expanding their operations in Punjab. These commitments are poised to significantly boost the state's industrial landscape, driving economic growth and creating new opportunities for its residents.

During his meetings, CM Mann positioned Punjab as a prime destination for industrial investments, emphasizing the state's conducive business environment, skilled workforce, and robust infrastructure. He highlighted the state's communal harmony, peace, and amity as key factors contributing to its rapid emergence as a leading industrial hub in India. Mann assured the corporate leaders that the Punjab Government is dedicated to providing uninterrupted power

supply across all sectors — residential, commercial, and agricultural — recognizing that power is the engine of growth. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited — a major player in the pharmaceutical sector, expressed keen interest in expanding its existing operations in Punjab. Damodharan Satagopan, CEO of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) Business at Sun Pharma, praised the state's pro-industrial policies and favorable business climate. He highlighted Punjab's strategic advantages, including its infrastructure, professional bureaucracy, and skilled workforce, which make it an ideal location for pharmaceutical operations.

Satagopan revealed that Sun Pharma is exploring opportunities for business expansion through in-licensing, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic partnerships with world-renowned academic institutions. The company, with an annual turnover of Rs 48,496 crore, currently operates in Toansa, Balachaur (SBS Nagar), and Mohali (SAS Nagar) and sees Punjab as a key area for future growth.

The RPG Group, a diversified conglomerate with interests ranging from infrastructure to technology, also signaled its intent to invest sig-

Investment Plans

- ◆ Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd: Expanding its existing Taunsa project
- ◆ RPG Group (CEAT): Planning significant investments, particularly in Jalandhar
- ◆ Sify Technologies: Investing Rs 1,500-cr in an AI-based data center in Mohali
- ◆ JSW Group: Setting up a new steel unit in Rajpura on 28 acres with an investment of Rs 1,600-cr

nificantly in Punjab. Group's vice chairman Anant Goenka commended the state's single-window system, which streamlines the investment process by providing a single point of contact for addressing all challenges faced by industrialists.

Goenka emphasized that CEAT, a leading tire manufacturer under the RPG Group, is considering significant expansion in Punjab, viewing the state as a pivotal hub for its growth ambitions. The group's existing investments in South and West India have been successful, and Punjab is now

seen as the next strategic location for growth.

Sify Technologies, a leader in IT and digital services, has announced plans to invest Rs 1,500 crore in Punjab by setting up a dedicated Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based horizontal data center in Mohali. Its president Daleep Kaul confirmed the company's commitment to establishing this cutting-edge facility, which will cater to the growing demand for digital infrastructure in the region. The investment is expected to bolster Punjab's position as a leading technology hub in North India, attracting further investments in the IT sector.

In another significant development, JSW Group, one of India's largest conglomerates, has agreed to invest Rs 1,600 crore in expanding its operations in Punjab. The group plans to set up a new unit on 28 acres of land adjacent to its existing plant in Rajpura. Business Heads Amarjit Singh Dahiya and Ashwani Kumar Sharma of JSW Steel Coated Products Limited conveyed that this expansion will enhance the company's capacity to meet the growing demand for steel products in the region, further solidifying Punjab's role as a key industrial hub.

BJP candidate Kiran Choudhry set to be elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Kiran Choudhry, who switched from Congress to BJP earlier this year, on Wednesday filed her nomination for the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana and is set to be elected unopposed as she is the lone candidate in the fray. No other party has put up their candidate for the bypoll for the seat which was necessitated after Congress' Deepender Singh Hooda was elected to Lok Sabha from Rohtak. His Rajya Sabha term was to end on April 9, 2026.

Some JJP rebel MLAs also extended support to her candidature as she filed her nomination on the last day. Only one candidate has filed nomination for the bypoll on the last day of filing of papers, officials said.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, state BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli, several party MLAs, the party's co-incharge

for the state Biplab Kumar Deb and some JJP rebels were among those present when Choudhry submitted her nomination papers this morning before the Returning Officer for the bypoll at the Haryana Vidhan Sabha Secretariat.

The BJP named Choudhry as its nominee for the bypoll shortly after she resigned from the Assembly on Tuesday, nearly two months after she switched over from the Congress. She represented the Tosham seat in the Haryana Assembly.

Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda had earlier said his party would not field a candidate for the Rajya Sabha seat as it did not have the numbers. The scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on August 22 while candidates can withdraw their nominations until August 27.

Speaking to reporters after Choudhry filed her nomination, Chief Minister Saini said

that apart from BJP MLAs, some legislators from other parties have also extended their support to her candidature. "(JJP rebels) Jogi Ram Sihag, Ram Niwas Surjakhara, Ram Kumar Gautam and Anoop Dhanak, (Independent MLA) Nayan Pal Rawat and (Haryana Lokhit Party chief) Gopal Kanda have given their support letter," he said. In response to a question, Saini said the party was unanimous over Choudhry's candidature for the Rajya Sabha bypoll in Haryana. She has a long experience in politics and has a vision for the state, the chief minister said.

A former Haryana minis-

ter, Choudhry (69) joined the BJP along with her daughter Shruti and their supporters in June. In response to a question, Choudhry said she may have spent 45 years in the Congress, but now she is with the BJP and will serve the party until her last breath. The BJP's Rajya Sabha candidate said that she belongs to the family of Chaudhary Bansi Lal, who ran a government in Haryana, in alliance with the BJP in the 1990s. "We have old relations with the BJP and I was impressed with their policies. The BJP works in the state's and nation's interest and it is my fortune to be associated with it," she said.

BJP launches ambitious membership drive in Punjab

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

To bolster its presence in Punjab, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has officially launched its membership drive, with activities set to commence from September 1. The initiative, announced on Wednesday, is part of the saffron party's broader effort to consolidate its foothold in the state following recent political developments.

The launch event took place in Mohali, where key BJP figures including national vice-president Lakshmi Kant, Punjab unit president Sunil Jakhar, state membership chief Manoranjan Kalia, and organizational secretary M Srinivasulu were in attendance. During the ceremony, the party unveiled a dedicated missed call number — 880002024 — through which individuals can express their interest in joining the BJP. By giving a missed call to this number, prospective members will be able to enroll easily in the saffron brigade.

Jakhar, the Punjab BJP chief, emphasized the importance of this membership drive, stating that the BJP renews its membership process every six years. The previous drive was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the party's efforts.

He noted that prior to the pandemic, the BJP had approximately 18 crore members nationwide, making it the largest political party globally. The current drive aimed to rebuild this membership base and achieve similar milestones.

The formal commencement of the membership campaign marks the beginning of an extensive strategy to recruit new members and manage the operational aspects of the

drive. Training sessions are being held to prepare party workers for the recruitment process and to address logistical concerns. However, the BJP faces challenges in rural areas of Punjab, particularly due to ongoing farmer protests, which have made it difficult to engage with rural populations effectively.

Despite these challenges, the BJP's recent performance in the Lok Sabha elections showed promising results. Although the party did not secure any seats in Punjab, it

experienced a significant increase in its vote share, achieving 18.56 percent. This growth has positioned the BJP as a major political force in the state, surpassing its old ally and Punjab's regional party Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which garnered 13.42 percent of the total votes polled.

The 2024 election was notable for the first separate contest between the BJP and SAD, with SAD winning only the Bathinda seat.

BJP's membership drive is designed to leverage this

increased vote share by expanding its base and addressing the current socio-political challenges in Punjab. The party's ability to mobilize support and navigate the complexities of the regional political landscape will be crucial in determining the success of this initiative. As the campaign unfolds, the BJP will be keenly observing its impact on the party's political positioning and its capacity to engage with the electorate in Punjab in the run up to 2027 state assembly polls.

Punjab Govt mulls providing Rs 1500 financial aid, free transportation for people living with HIV

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a significant move to support children impacted by HIV, the Punjab Government is set to implement a monthly financial assistance program, providing Rs 1,500 to the children of HIV-infected parents. The initiative, revealed by Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh during the first meeting of the State Council on AIDS at Prayas Bhawan on Wednesday, aimed at alleviating the hardships faced by these vulnerable families.

Dr Balbir also announced additional measures to aid those affected by HIV. The State Council proposed offering free transportation services for HIV-infected patients to their treatment facility, the Anti-Retroviral Therapy Centre, once a month. Moreover, a dedicated task force will be established to design programs tailored to improve the employability and quality of life for individuals living with HIV, helping them lead dignified lives.

Dr Balbir also directed the Industry and Labour Departments to enforce the HIV/AIDS Policy in industrial establishments, mandating the appointment of a complaint officer in industries with 100 or more employees to address issues of stigma and discrimination. He encouraged industries to include HIV prevention and welfare initiatives in their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

The Health Minister further instructed the organization of HIV testing camps across the State and the launch of a mass Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign to raise awareness about the disease. He stressed the

importance of educating the public on prevention, care, and support for people living with HIV, emphasizing that the virus does not spread through casual contact, air, or water, but through specific behaviors like unprotected sex and needle sharing.

"People living with HIV have the right to live a normal life and it's crucial for everyone to understand that HIV doesn't spread through touching, air or water. Transmission occurs through unprotected sex, sharing needles, syringes or other injecting equipment," he said.

Dr Balbir highlighted that individuals with HIV, who adhere to their medication and achieve viral suppression, can live healthy lives without transmitting the virus to others. He urged all Panchayats to pass resolutions in Gram Sabha meetings to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.

Additionally, he called for the installation of hoardings and wall paintings in Panchayat Bhawans to reinforce this message.

Dr Balbir also directed the Industry and Labour Departments to enforce the HIV/AIDS Policy in industrial establishments, mandating the appointment of a complaint officer in industries with 100 or more employees to address issues of stigma and discrimination. He encouraged industries to include HIV prevention and welfare initiatives in their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

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"People living with HIV have the right to live a normal life and it's crucial for everyone to understand that HIV doesn't spread through touching, air or water. Transmission occurs through unprotected sex, sharing needles, syringes or other injecting equipment," he said.

Haryana Cong meet underscores winnability and loyalty as criteria for candidate selection

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Top Haryana Congress leaders met in Delhi on Wednesday to firm up the party's assembly polls strategy with winnability and loyalty stressed upon for candidates' selection.

Former chief minister and Leader of Opposition in the Haryana Assembly Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee president Uday Bhan, Lok Sabha MP Kumari Selja, Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala and senior leader Birender Singh, among others, attended the meeting of the party's Pradesh Election Committee.

Leaders said the process of selection of candidates will begin within the next few days. Polls to the 90-member Haryana assembly will be held on October 1 and the results will be declared on October 4.

Shahbad JJP MLA Ramkaran Kala joins Congress

Ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections, Shahbad JJP MLA Ramkaran Kala joined Congress on Wednesday along with his supporters and dozens of local leaders. Kala took membership of Congress under the leadership of former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Congress State President Choudhary Udaibhan. In addition to this, Kuldeep Kakran, who was BJP candidate from Kharkhoda in 2014 elections, and Jai Singh Bishnoi, former Information Commissioner, also left the party and joined Congress. Hooda and Choudhary Udaibhan welcomed all the leaders and workers who joined the party and assured them of their former respect. Hooda said all the leaders have taken the right decision at the right time.

"This decision will pay off in the upcoming elections and will prove helpful in forming the Congress government. It is clear from the continuous joining and the public support being received for the party's programs that there is a wave of Congress in Haryana. This time it is certain that Congress will form the government in Haryana," he stated.

Hry BJP launches campaign to invite suggestions for poll manifesto

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday launched the BJP's election campaign by inviting suggestions from every community within one week to be included in the party's manifesto for the October 1 Assembly elections.

After attending a meeting at the BJP office in Panchkula with the manifesto committee led by former Cabinet minister Om Prakash Dhankar, Saini said that the suggestion boxes would be kept in the party's offices in all 22 district headquarters.

Saini also flagged-off vans called 'Sankalp Yatra Rath' that will travel across the constituencies seeking suggestions from the voters for the manifesto. The "raths" will travel through various regions,

gathering feedback that will help shape the party's manifesto.

"They aim to gather feedback regarding the people's expectations from the BJP. In the past 10 years, our government has fulfilled what was promised in the earlier manifesto. Now the election has been announced. The van will go to the block level. It will be going to all the 22 districts. We are starting this from Panchkula. They will go to different districts and take suggestions from people. People should also suggest solutions to problems," he said.

Dhankar said that within one week, the public can submit their views. "The manifesto will incorporate views of every section of society." He also said that feedback compiled by 'Sankalp Yatra Rath' will be analysed in two weeks before drafting the manifesto.

Bittu Accuses Farmer Leaders of Foreign Funding, Blackmail Tactics

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu made headlines on Wednesday as he accused several farmer leaders of receiving foreign funding and blackmailing over land acquisition for central projects. Speaking to the media after filing his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha by-election from Rajasthan, Bittu expressed confidence in his victory while asserting his commitment to both Punjab and Rajasthan.

Criticizing the portrayal of BJP's relationship with farmers in Punjab, Bittu said that contrary to the narrative suggesting discontent among farmers, the reality is that most farmers in Punjab are supportive of the BJP. He claimed that a small group of farmer leaders, "motivated by personal gain, are spreading misinformation and misleading farmers...These leaders are obstructing national projects by coercing farmers and creating

obstacles to land acquisition for development".

Bittu emphasized that genuine farmers are focused on their work, while a few leaders are engaged in blackmail tactics. He highlighted that substantial investments are being made in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for crops in Punjab and Haryana, with the Government spending approximately Rs one lakh crore annually on MSP alone, covering wheat, rice, sugarcane, and cotton. Despite this, he alleged that the farmer leaders are misleading the public and hindering development projects.

Also addressing the recent claims by farmer leaders about being denied access to Delhi, Bittu made it clear that no one was barred from entering Delhi while asserting that any individual carrying weapons or explosives would be stopped, but peaceful protesters and visitors were welcome. He urged the public not to be misled by false narratives. Bittu further pledged that he would uphold the honour of

both Rajasthan and Punjab, promising to address the needs of farmers and other constituents in his new role. He expressed his determination to ensure that the BJP's development projects and welfare schemes reach the rural areas of Rajasthan, enhancing crop branding and processing.

After filing his nominations, Bittu exuded confidence in winning the by-polls saying that his 'karmabhoomi' will be Punjab and Rajasthan. "I will be elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. This is also right that other parties had not fielded any candidate, so this is a very big victory for the BJP here. It is a matter of great happiness for Rajasthan because just a few days ago, our Chandigarh Administrator and our Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, who has been an MLA for more than eight times, took charge...So Rajasthan and Punjab, from where I come, both are always ready for the protection of the country, for the pride of the country, for the turban of the

country...Now, my karmabhoomi will be Punjab and Rajasthan," he said.

Further asserting that in 2027 assembly polls, the BJP would form the government in Punjab. "I can say with confidence that all the workers and leaders of Punjab are confident that they will bring a BJP Government in Punjab in 2027," he added.

Earlier today, Bittu filed his nomination in Jaipur, accompanied by Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Deputy CMs — Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa, and State Minister Jogaram Patel. After filing nomination, they attended a meeting held in the Legislative Assembly, in Jaipur along with other BJP MLAs and ministers of the state government.

Notably, Bittu lost the Lok Sabha polls from Ludhiana but is presently the Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries. The by-elections to 12 Rajya Sabha seats are scheduled to be held on September 3.

Punjab Police, IAS Study Group Launch Discounted Coaching for Personnel's Children

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To support the educational aspirations of Punjab Police personnel's children, the Punjab Police have joined forces with the IAS Study Group, Chandigarh, to provide discounted coaching services. The agreement was formalized by Punjab Armed Police (PAP) ADGP MF Farooqui and IAS Study Group director Raj Malhotra during a signing ceremony held at the PAP campus in Jalandhar.

Under this initiative, children of police personnel will benefit from premium coaching for IAS, PCS, and related services at substantially reduced rates. The standard fee for the course is Rs 1.40 lakh, but police families will enjoy significant discounts — a 50 percent reduction for those up to the rank of Inspector, lowering the fee to Rs 70,000, and a 40 percent discount for families of DSPs and higher-rank-

ing officers. Families of police martyrs will receive a full fee waiver, allowing their children to access the coaching free of charge, recognizing and honouring their sacrifices. This initiative also includes a flexible payment plan, where fees can be paid in three installments over six months. Additionally, if a candidate does not achieve selection, no further payment will be required.

The MoU also outlines provisions for a 50 percent scholarship for deserving candidates facing financial difficulties, supported by the NGO 'Joy of Guidance', ensuring that talented students from economically challenged backgrounds can benefit from this opportunity. Those outside the police force can avail themselves of the coaching services at a 10 percent discount. Classes will be held six days a week from 3 pm to 5 pm at the PAP campus.

BRIEFS

PUNJAB TO LAUNCH SPECIAL CAMPAIGN FOR CLEANLINESS IN ALL CITIES

Chandigarh: To make the state clean, waste-free, and to ensure an environment-friendly atmosphere, Punjab Chief Secretary Anurag Verma on Wednesday directed to start a special campaign in the cities and towns of the State. The directions were issued by the Chief Secretary during a meeting with Local Government officials, all Deputy Commissioners, Municipal Corporation Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners (Urban Development) and EOs of Municipal Councils and Panchayats. Verma said that the piles of garbage in the cities should be removed, and it should now be managed immediately in an effective manner by making a comprehensive plan in this regard. Under this special campaign, arrangements should be made to dispose of the legacy wasteage by taking new initiatives. He also asked the Deputy Commissioners to keep a constant review of the cleanliness drive. Apart from this, if there is a need for a place to set up a sewage treatment plant, in this regard the Deputy Commissioners should do the needful. Similarly, where the work of setting up the plant is going on, it should be speeded up. "The cleanliness of the surroundings is the responsibility of all of us and efforts should be accelerated to provide a clean environment to the residents of our city," he said.

HIMACHAL'S ECONOMY WILL STABILISE IN SIX MONTHS: CM SUKHU

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh's economy will stabilise in six months after which additional arrears and dearness allowances would be disbursed, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has said. "I will not allow the government treasury to be misused for political gains and emphasised that subsidies on electricity and water would be rationalised to ensure that only the needy gets desirable benefits," Sukhu said at an event in Solan. He was in Solan to unveil the new logo of the Jogindra Cooperative Bank to mark its 100 years. Giving insights into the state's financial management, CM Sukhu said that out of every Rs 100 spent by the present government in this fiscal year, Rs 25 is allocated to salaries, Rs 17 to pensions, Rs 11 to interest payments, Rs 9 to debt repayment, Rs 10 to grants for autonomous institutions and the remaining Rs 28 to capital expenditures and other activities. He said the state has witnessed a reduction in the revenue deficit grant, which has decreased from Rs 10,000 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 3,000 crore by 2025-26. Despite inheriting financial debt of Rs 75,000 crore and outstanding liabilities of Rs 10,000 crore from the previous BJP government, the present Congress government provided a seven per cent dearness allowance (DA) to employees and plans to pay arrears to 28,000 pensioners over the age of 75 this year, the chief minister said. Sukhu reassured that it would take about six more months to stabilise the state's economy, after which additional arrears and dearness allowances would be disbursed.

BHARAT BANDH AGAINST SC'S RESERVATION RULING FAILS TO EVOKE RESPONSE IN WB, HRY

Chandigarh: The pan-India shutdown on Wednesday to oppose the Supreme Court ruling on the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) failed to evoke a response in Punjab and Haryana as life was not disrupted, except a few places in Punjab. Likewise, the situation was almost normal in Chandigarh. Banking services and operation of educational institutions and business establishments were normal, although heavy security was deployed in Punjab's SC-dominated Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur districts that were vulnerable to disruption. Traffic across Punjab and Haryana was plying normally and there was no report of activists of political parties squatting on national highways and rail tracks. There was no report of any untoward incident from anywhere in these two states. Emergency medical services were exempted from the blockade.

PHOTO IDENTITY CARD DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY GRANT RIGHT TO VOTE: NAME MUST BE REGISTERED IN VOTER LIST: HRY CEO

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal on Wednesday said that in a democratic system, every single vote carries great importance. Therefore, all voters should ensure their participation in the Assembly elections to be held on October 1. Voting is their right, and the opportunity to vote comes only after five years. Possessing a photo identity card does not automatically grant the right to vote; rather, one's name must be registered in the voter list, which is the key to participation in the voting process. He mentioned that voters whose names are registered in the voter list can cast their votes by showing any of the 12 types of ID documents, such as an Aadhaar card, driving license, passport, etc. Various apps have been developed to ensure that every voter can easily, quickly, and conveniently reach the polling station. Through these apps, voters, candidates, and other political parties will receive all types of information related to the election process, he added.

36 PLEDGING FOR ORGAN DONATION & 35 VOLUNTEERING FOR BLOOD DONATION

Chandigarh: ROTTO North (PGIMER), in collaboration with the University Institute of Applied Management Sciences (UIAMS), Panjab University, and the Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, organized an Organ Donation Pledging Camp as part of their ongoing student engagement project, 'Be the Change, Be an Organ Donor', at the Student Centre, Panjab University today. The awareness camp, held alongside a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp organized by the Department of Transfusion Medicine, PGIMER, witnessed enthusiastic participation. A total of 36 volunteers pledged their organs, while 35 volunteers donated blood, each contributing to the noble cause of saving lives, said PGIMER official in a statement.

CHANDIGARH BJP TO START MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ON SEP 1

Chandigarh: To strengthen its unit, the Chandigarh BJP will start its membership drive from September 1, coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's launch of the membership campaign. In a statement, Chandigarh BJP spokesperson said, "The drive aims to strengthen the party at grassroots level and build on its status as the world's largest political party."

16 MPs, 135 MLAs face charges of crimes against women, WB tops: ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 151 sitting MPs and MLAs have declared cases related to crimes against women in their election affidavits, with West Bengal having the highest number of lawmakers facing such cases, according to a recent report by a poll rights body.

For the report, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) examined 4,693 out of 4,809 affidavits of sitting MPs and MLAs submitted to the Election Commission of India during elections between 2019 and 2024.

The organisation identified 16 MPs and 135 MLAs facing cases related to crimes against women.

West Bengal tops the list with 25 sitting MPs and MLAs facing charges related to crimes against women, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 21 and Odisha with 17,



according to the report that comes amid the nationwide protests over the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor in a State-run hospital in Kolkata and sexual assault of two children in Thane.

According to the report, there are 16 sitting MPs and MLAs who have declared cases related to rape under Indian

Penal Code (IPC) section 376, which carries a minimum sentence of 10 years and can be extended to life imprisonment. Of these, two are MPs and 14 MLAs. The charges include repeated offences against the same victim, further underscoring the gravity of these cases. Among political parties, the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has the highest number of representatives (54 MPs and MLAs) with declared cases related to crimes against women, followed by the Congress with 23 and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) with 17, according to the report. Both BJP and Congress have five sitting lawmakers each facing rape charges.

The ADR has issued strong recommendations in response to these findings. It stressed on the need for political parties to refrain from giving tickets to candidates with criminal backgrounds, especially those with charges of rape and other crimes against women.

The report called for the fast-tracking of Court cases against MPs and MLAs, ensuring professional and thorough investigations by police. The ADR urged voters to avoid electing candidates with such charges.

India-US to review defence ties, during Rajnath's four-day visit



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and the US will review the entire gamut of their defence ties during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's four-day visit there commencing Friday, Defence Ministry announced here on Wednesday. The forthcoming visit will further boost the comprehensive global strategic partnership between the two countries.

In Washington, Rajnath will hold talks with Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan among others.

He is also likely to review the situation in the Indo-Pacific during talks with Austin, sources said. China is flexing its muscle in this strategically crucial region and has all along opposed Quad combine claiming it will lead to militarization of the zone. Quad comprises, India, US, Australia and Japan.

Sources also said Rajnath may also discuss the issue of non-state players using drones to target merchant shipping after the Israel military action in Gaza. India's plan to procure 31 MQ-9B Predator drones, the proposed joint manufacturing of Stryker

infantry combat vehicles and co-production of GE F414 engines in India are likely to figure prominently in Rajnath's parleys with US defence establishment, officials said.

"The visit is expected to further deepen and broaden the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," the Defence Ministry said announcing Singh's trip to the US from August 23 to 26.

"The visit comes in the backdrop of the growing momentum in India-US relations and defence engagements at multiple levels," it said.

Rajnath will also chair a high-level roundtable meeting with the US defence industry on the ongoing and future defence collaborations.

He will also interact with the Indian community during the visit. US has emerged as one of the biggest defence exporter to India in the last two decades with figures touching 15 billion dollar mark.



Desi 700 MW reactor now fully operational

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India's second home-built 700 MW nuclear power reactor at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat on Wednesday started operating at its full capacity, the plant operator said.

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) said Unit 4 at KAPS had been operating at 90 per cent capacity before raising it to full power of 700 MWe.

"The full power operation of KAPS-4 after the smooth operation of its twin unit KAPS-3 at full power demonstrates the strength of the first of a kind indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) design," the NPCIL said.

The KAPS-4 unit achieved first criticality on December 17 last year and commenced commercial operations on March 31.

The power level of the unit, which commenced commercial operation on March 31, 2024 was raised in line with the permissions of the regulatory authority, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

India is building 14 more 700 MW nuclear power reactors of the same design which are expected to commence operations progressively by 2031-32.

The NPCIL presently operates a fleet of 24 reactors with a total capacity of 8180 MW and has eight units with a capacity of 6800 MW under construction.

In addition, 10 more reactors with a total capacity of 7000 MW are in pre-project activities.

These are expected to be completed progressively, taking the installed nuclear power capacity in the country to 22480 MW by 2031-32, the NPCIL said.



Shah to review Naxal coordination, security at meeting in Chhattisgarh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will review the inter-state coordination among the Naxal-affected States at a high-level meeting to be held in Chhattisgarh's Raipur on Saturday.

At a separate meeting on the same day, Shah will also review security and development initiatives in Maoists-hit areas of Chhattisgarh, sources said here on Wednesday.

The Chief Secretaries and Directors General of police of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, besides top security officials of the central Government are expected to attend the inter-State coordination meeting.

During his three-day tour of Chhattisgarh, Shah will also visit the Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya Ashram in Raipur, review the functioning of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the State Capital and attend a meeting related to the Ministry of Cooperation. Earlier, Shah had said after a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government assumed charge in the Central Indian State late last year, about 125 Naxals were killed, more than 352 arrested and about 175 had surrendered in just five months.

On April 16, security personnel gunned down 29 Naxals, including some senior cadres, in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district. This was the highest number of fatalities suffered by the red ultras in a

single encounter in the history of the State's fight against left-wing extremism.

According to the Union Home Ministry's data, the number of incidents of left-wing extremism has reduced from 14,862 in the decade from 2004 to 2014 to 7,128 from 2014 to 2023.

The number of deaths of security forces personnel due to left-wing extremism has declined by 72 per cent, from 1,750 in the 2004-to-2014 period to 485 between 2014 and 2023, and the number of civilian deaths has declined by 68 per cent, from 4,285 to 1,383, in the said period. The number of districts with violence was 96 in 2010. It declined by 53 per cent to 45 in 2022.

Along with this, the number of police stations reporting violence decreased from 465 in 2010 to 176 in 2022.

In the last five years, more than 5,000 post offices were set up in 90 districts that has Maoists presence or where the ultras had presence in the past. As many as 1,298 bank branches were opened and 1,348 ATMs made operational in the 30 most-affected districts, officials said.

A total of 4,885 mobile towers were constructed at a cost of Rs 2,690 crore in the Naxal-hit areas and 9,356 km of roads were laid at a cost of Rs 10,718 crore.

Local youngsters are being engaged by setting up 121 Eklavya residential schools, 43 ITIs and 38 skill-development centres in the Naxal-affected areas, the officials said.

EC halts recruitment results in Haryana until Assembly polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In order to maintain the level playing field and to ensure that no undue advantage is accrued to anyone, the Election Commission (EC) has directed the Haryana Government not to declare the results of these recruitments till completion of Assembly polls in the State.

The Assembly elections in Haryana will be held in a single phase on October 1 and results will be declared on October 4. The EC's model code instructions do not bar the continuing regular recruitment process or promotion through the UPSC, the State public service commission or the staff selection commission

or any other statutory authority. But States that take "recruitments through non-statutory bodies will require prior clearance of the commission".

The commission took cognisance of a complaint from Congress Leader Jairam Ramesh regarding violation of the MCC in the process of recruitment against 5,600 vacancies for the post of constable in the Haryana Police, 76 posts of two categories of teachers by the HSSC and recruitment for various posts by the HPSC. After ascertaining the facts from the State Government and in view of the existing Model Code of Conduct (MCC) instructions, the commission found no violation of the code in the ongoing

recruitment processes by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) and the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC). The commission has found that the recruitment processes were initiated before the announcement of the election on August 16 and is within the existing MCC instructions as stated above, where statutory authorities can continue their work.

However, in order to maintain level playing field and to ensure that no undue advantage is accrued to anyone, the EC has directed that announcement of results of these recruitments by the authorities concerned (HSSC and HPSC) will not be released till completion of the Assembly poll in the State.

Govind to succeed Ajay as Union Home Secretary



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan on Thursday will take charge as the new Union Home Secretary from Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who completes his five year tenure at the sensitive post, official sources said. Mohan, a B.Tech from Banaras Hindu University and PG Diploma from IIM, Ahmedabad, was serving as Union Culture Secretary before his appointment to the top bureaucratic post, next only to the Cabinet Secretary.

A 1989 batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, Mohan has already joined the Union Home Ministry as an Officer on Special Duty.

He has a wide experience of serving both the Sikkim and the Central Governments in various capacities. Mohan is considered to be one of the brilliant officers presently serving in the Government and known for his diligence. He had earlier served the Home Ministry as additional Secretary handling several key divisions, including Union territories.

A seasoned bureaucrat, Mohan was also the Government's key officer during the COVID-19 pandemic and tasked with overseeing implementation of decisions taken for various protocols and ensuring smooth coordination with States.



IAF aircraft malfunctions, drops air store at Pokhran

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An IAF fighter aircraft on Wednesday reportedly faced a technical malfunction resulting in the inadvertent release of an "air store" near the Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan, officials said. The incident occurred earlier in the day, prompting air force authorities to initiate an investigation to determine the cause of the technical issue that led to the inadvertent release.

No casualties or damage to property has been reported in the incident.

"An inadvertent release of an air store from an Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter aircraft took place near Pokhran firing range area, due to technical malfunction, today. An enquiry by the IAF has been ordered to investigate into the incident. No damage to life or property has been reported," IAF said in a social media post.

During a routine operation, an unexpected malfunction led to the accidental deployment of an air store, which generally includes munitions, bombs, or other military equipment carried by aircraft. IAF, however, has not disclosed the specific type of air store involved in the incident.

Brazilian Navy chief visits India for talks on maritime, cooperation, training

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Admiral Marcos Sampaio Olsen, Commander of Brazilian Navy is on an official visit to India from August 19-24. The visit aims to enhance maritime cooperation between the two countries as well as showcases the commitment of like-minded navies to collaborate and cooperate on shared challenges in the maritime security.

He called on Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi here on Wednesday and held discussions on various aspects encompassing operational engagements, technical cooperation, and training.

Indian Navy cooperates with the Brazilian Navy through various initiatives, which include operational interactions, training cooperation and other maritime avenues. The two navies have also been interacting in multilateral forums like MILAN and India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (IBSAMAR).

Bilateral Defence Cooperation between the two countries is conducted through the Joint Defence Committee, steered by respective Ministries of Defence.

As part of his official engagements, the Commander of Brazilian Navy is also scheduled to meet Defence Secretary, National Maritime Security Coordinator, and Vice Chief of Army Staff in Delhi.

During this visit, Admiral Marcos Sampaio Olsen would also visit Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram and will hold interaction with various Defence Industry representatives.

In addition to New Delhi, the Commander of Brazilian Navy, would also visit Mumbai, where he would be interacting with Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, as well as visit indigenous warships and submarines, Naval Dockyard and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders limited.

Empowering women in tribal Odisha linked to improved child nutrition: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The adage 'Educate a woman, and you educate an entire family' holds good in the realm of child nutrition too, as has been confirmed by a team of researchers who in their recent study found that empowering females women in tribal areas of Odisha, India, significantly improved child nutrition and reduced underweight and wasted children.

The study is crucial given India's pressing health challenge as highlighted by the 2023 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) which reports that over 40 per cent of tribal children are underweight and stunted, and about 30 per cent are wasted.

Published in PLOS ONE, the study analysed the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) to measure empowerment among 1,900 farm households.

It found that women's empowerment in agricultural decision-making, income, and access to resources led to better household dietary diversity and higher weight-for-age and weight-for-height scores in children.

However, the study also suggested that complementary interventions are necessary to enhance dietary diversity further. Sylvester Ogutu, a researcher for the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and the paper's lead author, explained that by using this score and then comparing it to outcomes like the number of different foods found in the household and the weight



of children for their age, a clear picture emerged.

"As primary care-givers, the empowerment of women contributes to improved child nutrition, health, and education," he said and added, "Women's empowerment in agricultural input use, sales, income, and other (access to credit, group membership and employment) decision-making domains was associated with fewer underweight and wasted children."

Jonathan Mockshell, an agricultural economist at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, study lead, and a coauthor of the paper chipped in saying that in terms of the effects of women's empowerment on the household dietary diversity score (HDDS) — a snapshot of the economic ability of a household to access a variety of foods dietary diversity — the study found women's empowerment contributes to

improved food production and dietary diversity.

"The magnitude of the effect of women's empowerment on dietary diversity was relatively small, which suggests that complementary interventions may be required to achieve higher household dietary diversity," he said in the study, "Women's empowerment, household dietary diversity, and child anthropometry among vulnerable populations in Odisha, India". The researchers also measured the height and weight of children and discovered that women's empowerment significantly increased children's weight-for-age z-scores (WAZ), and weight-for-height z-scores (WHZ), but not their height-for-age scores (HAZ).

"The improvements in the z-scores contributed to reduced prevalence of underweight and wasting in children with mother's with a higher empowerment score," Mockshell said.

Congress blames hydel projects for Sikkim landslides, environmental damage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of landslides in Sikkim, the Congress on Wednesday hit out at the Government and said hydel projects in ecologically fragile regions have been coming up over the past few years without giving adequate thought to their cumulative environmental impact. The Opposition party also asserted that dams on the Teesta river are the prime example of how ecology is being fundamentally altered with grave consequences for this and future generations.

A massive landslide struck east Sikkim on Tuesday, damaging parts of a 510-mw hydroelectric project on the Teesta river.

The landslide happened at Dipu Dara near Singtam in Gangtok district around 7.30 am, causing significant



damage to the powerhouse of the Teesta Stage V hydroelectric project of the NHPC.

In a statement, Congress General Secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said a series of landslide disasters in Sikkim has substantially damaged the Teesta V, a 510 MW hydel power station on the Teesta. This disaster comes on the

heels of the Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and riverine floods in the Teesta River basin in October 2023, which caused massive devastation in Sikkim and Kalimpong, West Bengal, he noted. The Union Budget, unveiled in July 2024, had a section dedicated to 'Irrigation and Flood Mitigation,' where Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

made the vague promise of "assistance" without any details of funds for Sikkim, he said. "In a classic case of the Government's confrontational federalism, the Budget was indifferent to the areas in West Bengal which were equally affected," Ramesh said. "The obvious vendetta politics aside, the Budget announcements were insufficient - what the entire region needs is for a development framework that centres ecological dimensions, the case for which has become apparent from the cascading series of disasters in the last year," the former Environment Minister argued.

National Highway 10, the lifeline of Sikkim and Kalimpong, runs along the Teesta and has been in a precarious State with frequent landslides and closures, he pointed out.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The Govt steps back

The Government withdraws lateral entry into bureaucracy amid opposition from its allies

The government has decided to withdraw its initiative on lateral entry into the civil services. This decision comes in the wake of mounting opposition from its political allies, who raised concerns over the potential implications of such a policy shift. However, this withdrawal would put the clock back on the Government's desire to infuse the bureaucracy with fresh talent from the private sector and other domains, aiming to bring specialised skills and perspectives into the administration. Lateral entry, as a concept, was introduced to bridge the gap between the skills required for contemporary governance and the traditional expertise within the civil services. By allowing professionals from various fields—such as finance, technology, and social sciences—to enter the bureaucracy at senior levels, the government aimed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration. This initiative was seen as a way to inject new ideas and innovation into a system often criticised for being slow, rigid, and out of touch with modern realities. But it was not well taken by the Opposition and the BJP allies alike.



Critics argued that lateral entry could undermine the foundational principles of the Indian civil services, which have historically emphasised neutrality, continuity, and a deep understanding of the country's socio-political landscape. This policy, they claimed, might lead to a dilution of these values, creating a disconnect between the administration and the people it serves. This is indeed a valid point as the professionals in the private sector do not have the training and mindset to serve the people, they are more focused on achieving targets and making profits. This does not go well

with the public office which has to be more sympathetic to people's aspirations even if the cost is high. Another major concern, and that is more pronounced in the Indian context, was that lateral entry could become a tool for political patronage. It was feared that the process could be manipulated to favour individuals with political connections, thus compromising the meritocratic nature of the civil services. Surely, it could lead to the politicisation of the bureaucracy, further eroding public trust in the system. Besides, bypassing the traditional recruitment process could create resentment among career bureaucrats. The decision to withdraw the lateral entry initiative reflects a pragmatic recognition of the political realities at play. While the government may have been convinced of the merits of the policy, the need to maintain a cohesive and supportive alliance outweighed the potential benefits of pushing forward with a contested reform. For now, the Government's retreat on lateral entry is a reminder of the delicate interplay between policy and politics. While the idea of bringing in fresh talent from outside the civil services is laudable, the concerns raised by political allies cannot be ignored. Moving forward, any attempt to reform the bureaucracy will need to address these concerns head-on, ensuring that innovation does not come at the cost of values.

PICTALK



People perform Shrawani Purnima rituals while taking bath in the Ganga river, in Varanasi

J&K gears up for historic elections

For the first time since the revocation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, the region is set to hold its Assembly elections



KALYANI SHANKAR

Jammu and Kashmir will have Assembly elections from September 18 to October 1 to elect 90 legislators, the first after the revocation of Article 370 and the state's bifurcation in August 2019. The delay in holding new elections has been a contention for years. However, a recent Supreme Court directive was crucial in setting the timeline. Now that the elections are announced, political parties of all shades welcomed it. Kashmir has been a significant source of conflict for long between India and Pakistan. Both countries claim Kashmir, although they only govern a part of it. Pakistan has even internationalised the issue, which has been brought to the United Nations. In 2019, mixed reactions followed Modi's decision to divide the state.

This decision led to Kashmir losing its flag, criminal code, and constitutional protections. Government job opportunities for Kashmiris decreased and are now open to non-residents. Despite challenges, the state has seen both positive and negative changes. The Prime Minister's initiatives have spurred development, and the growing interest of Gulf countries in investing in Jammu and Kashmir signals a promising future, bringing hope to the residents. The Ministry of Home Affairs reports decreased security force casualties from 80 in 2019 to 33 in 2023 and a drop in civilian deaths from 44 in 2019 to 12 in 2023. The last state elections were in 2014. The high voter turnout in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls has led to Assembly polls. In Kashmir, there was a historic 58.46% voter turnout in the recent parliamentary elections, a 30-point increase from the 2019 general election. The government completed a delimitation exercise after the 2019 revocation of Article 370 and the bifurcation. The assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir increased from 87 to 114 after the 2022 delimitation, including 24 seats for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). This increase in seats could potentially shift the balance of power and influence the strategies of political parties in the upcoming elec-



tions. The BJP claimed that the scrapping of Article 370 and their subsequent policies in Kashmir had developed the region for the better. The recently concluded Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir were a significant victory for Indian democracy. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the NC and PDP saw a resurgence. The election allowed them to revitalise their membership and bring long-standing issues to the forefront. Although the Congress did not secure any seats, the NC won two out of three, presenting a strong challenge for the third seat. Despite the region's history of terrorism and allegations of rigged elections, the polls were widely celebrated for the conduct of free and fair polls. The upcoming election will test the central government's efforts to integrate Jammu and Kashmir more fully into the Indian Union after revoking the region's special status under Article 370. It is also a test for the Election Commission to conduct polls without any violent incidents. The political parties have started preparing for the upcoming assembly elections, including campaign strategy, alliances, and candidate selection. The People's Conference, Congress,



THE UPCOMING ELECTION WILL TEST THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE JAMMU AND KASHMIR MORE FULLY INTO THE INDIAN UNION AFTER REVOKING THE REGION'S SPECIAL STATUS UNDER ARTICLE 370

Peoples Democratic Party, and National Conference met to plan for the elections. The political parties have started preparing for the upcoming assembly elections, including campaign strategy, alliances, and candidate selection. The People's Conference, Congress, Peoples Democratic Party, and National Conference have all met at their party level to plan for the elections. If the assembly elections are held as scheduled, the Valley will see a contest between the NC and the PDP. Moreover, the polarisation and separatist narrative that gained traction during the Lok Sabha elections will only intensify and peak during the assembly elections. The PDP leader and daughter of Mehbooba Mufti echoed the others. Other political parties, including the Congress, the BJP, the CPI(M) and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), welcomed the EC's announcement. In the 2014 Jammu and Kashmir elections, no party won a majority. Governor's Rule was imposed for 49 days until PDP's Mehbooba Mufti was appointed chief minister with BJP's support. 2018, the BJP withdrew from the ruling alliance, leading to the Governor's Rule again. The

assembly was dissolved in November 2018, and President's Rule was imposed in December 2018. Since then, the governor's Rule has been in the state. The government needs to decide whether to intervene in the Kashmir Valley to address soft separatism or consider a reorganisation plan before the elections. During the parliamentary elections, Congress and the NC allied. The NC contested three seats in Kashmir, while Congress contested in Jammu and Udhampur. PDP, part of the INDIA Alliance, was not accommodated and fielded candidates on three seats in Kashmir against the National Conference. For the upcoming Assembly polls, the scene is not explicit. Congress and NC might go together. Omar mentioned that allying with the PDP would be difficult because they ran against each other in the parliament elections. If the regional parties want to improve, they must unite, and the INDIA Bloc must collaborate. The Kashmir elections are crucial, and the entire country will observe a popular government's rise after a decade. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

Madam — All eyes may be on Supreme Court hearings with respect to the Kolkata case but time shouldn't die down and the government can't be numb further on this issue. The pains undergoing by the parents of the victim as well as the fear in the minds of the medicos when they enter into a hospital for their work need to be realised by the law making authorities. It's time to burn the culprits and not the candles. The time has come for the government to pass a bill for capital punishment for rapists. When currency can be changed overnight, when special session can be called to increase the salary of politicians, when parliament can remain open all night for trust votes, wondering what is delaying to pass a stringent law against rape. The State of West Bengal must be taught a lesson by enforcing the President's role till the case gets cracked and culprits taken to task. Only drastic change like this will also become a lesson for other states to adhere caution and to protect the women from this society. The female MPs in the parliament must take this up as a cause of their own and today it may be somebody's and tomorrow this can happen at their own house can't be ruled out. A.P. Thiruvadi | Chennai

REAL HERO

Madam — Amid the dance of death and destruction in Wayanad, humanity dawned. Darkness gets a relief when the sun softly touches it at dawn. Our pessimism and doubt in goodness in human beings similarly got a relief. It was when we read the report that some people on their own rushed to the danger zone in Wayanad and saved others at the cost of their lives. Sharath saw that the roof of his home had been blown away after landslides hit Chooramala on July 30. Immediately, he took his parents to a safer place. But he did not stop there. He rescued 18

Saga of champai Soren!



Sixty eight year-old Champai Soren, who was the Chief Minister of Jharkhand for a few weeks, is in the headlines of newspapers these days. Some are saying that he will join BJP, some are predicting that he will form a new party, some are assessing that he will join JDU. But three days have passed since this news break but it has not come to fruition yet. He is still silent, yes, his intention has definitely become clear that after four decades, the people of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, with whose help he became famous,

insulted him. He should remember very well what was the fate of Geeta Koda, Congress MP from Singhbhum parliamentary constituency, when she jumped to BJP at the last moment in the last Lok Sabha elections? She was neither here nor there. The mystery of Champai Soren's future is going on for a long time because he played the game of rebellion thinking that all the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLAs of Kolhan will come with him. But nothing like that happened. Nor is it going to happen in the future.

It is quite possible that he may lose the election from his constituency Saraikela as well. Because in the last assembly elections in the entire Kolhan, BJP was wiped out. Therefore, even though the people here call Champai the 'Tiger of Jharkhand', they will never tolerate rebellion against JMM. Therefore, for the time being, it seems that Champai Soren's political life has come to an end. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

SAFETY AT SCHOOLS

Madam — Schools are noble and honorable places where students learn humility, humanity, compassion, benevolence, respect for others, and how to abandon violence and corruption. They foster unity, peace, and a spirit of togetherness. Unfortunately, today, schools have become places of fear and distress. Instances of student suicides due to teachers' cruelty, conflicts among students, vandalism on campus, and incidents like the recent Udaipur stabbing have left parents frightened and apprehensive about sending their children to school. Why is this happening? Why aren't government schools especially peaceful anymore? We heard a lot about shooting in the US schools and wondered why that happens but now it is happening in our own country. A close look is needed. Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Raj Kapoor's deep bond with Delhi: A legacy of cinema

Raj Kapoor's relationship with the capital remains an enduring part of his legacy, etched in the memories of cinema halls and the city's cultural fabric



VIVEK SHUKLA

As fans gear up to celebrate the birth centenary of Bollywood's legendary showman Raj Kapoor on December 14th, it is essential to remember his deep-rooted connection with Delhi—a city that was almost like a second home to him. Kapoor's association with Delhi was profound, and this bond will be celebrated in a grand event in the capital on his birth anniversary. Raj Kapoor's final days were also tied to Delhi, where he passed away on June 2, 1988. Just a month before his death, on May 2nd, 1988, he was honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award by then President R. Venkataraman at the Siri Fort auditorium. Unfortunately, his health deteriorated shortly after the ceremony, leading to severe breathing difficulties. He was admitted to AIIMS, where doctors, led by Dr. J.N. Pandey, tried their best to save him, but his condition did not improve, and he passed away due to complications from asthma. Delhi, the city that played such a significant role in his life, also became the place of his final farewell.



Kapoor had a special affinity for Delhi's iconic cinema halls, particularly Regal and Moti, where he preferred his films to be premiered. Regal, one of New Delhi's first cinema halls, held a special place in his heart. It was here that some of his most celebrated films, including "Sangam," "Mera Naam Joker," "Satyam Shivam Sundaram," "Boot Polish," and "Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai," were released. The RK Banner films consistently performed well in the capital, further cementing Kapoor's connection with the city. As Pandit J.P. Sharma "Trikhya," a close family friend, recalls, even Kapoor's father, Prithviraj Kapoor, had acted in plays at Regal, which showcased both English and Hindi productions in its early days. Sadly, Regal closed its doors

in 2017, with Moti following suit shortly after. Shashi Kapoor, Raj Kapoor's younger brother, fondly remembered his visits to Regal with his elder brother. For Shashi, Regal was more than just a cinema hall; it was a place filled with memories of Raj Kapoor. Raj Kapoor's connection with Delhi was not limited to cinema alone. His tryst with the city began in 1957 when he produced the film "Ab Dilli Door Nahin." The film also marked one of the early appearances of a young Amjad Khan, who would later become famous as Gabbar Singh. "Ab Dilli Door Nahin" captured various iconic locations in Delhi, including the old iron bridge over the Yamuna, Daryaganj, and Connaught Place. Kapoor's relationship with Delhi deepened further in 1970 when his eldest daughter, Ritu, married Rajan Nanda, son of H.P. Nanda, the founder chairman of the Escorts Group. Raj Kapoor would often visit his daughter's home in Jor Bagh whenever he was in town, strengthening his bond with Delhi. The Kapoor family's connec-

tion with Delhi extended beyond Raj Kapoor. His younger brother, Shammi Kapoor, had a different association with the city's cinema culture. In the mid-1960s, Shammi Kapoor became a partner in Plaza Cinema in Connaught Place, along with film producer F.C. Mehra. While he later sold his stake, Shammi Kapoor remains the only member of the Kapoor clan to have held a stake in a cinema hall. Raj Kapoor's fondness for his younger brother Shashi was evident, with the former often treating the latter as a son. Shashi Kapoor's early film "Householder," directed by James Ivory and produced by Ismail Merchant, was primarily shot in a large house near Times House in Daryaganj. "Householder," written by Ruth Praver Jhabvala, featured two of Delhi's iconic landmarks, Jantar Mantar and Jama Masjid. The Kapoor family's connection with Delhi is deeply rooted, with their memories continuing to be cherished in the city. (The writer is a journalist and a columnist; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

THE DIVINE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Aligning with this divine justice system is essential for realising true justice and harmony in life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Along with the Creation, God has set in place a perfect justice system. This is overseen by the Divine Authority under the superintendence of God. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 9.10) The Divine Authority is required to record all our acts by the mind, words and the body 24x7. Obviously, they have access to them. They are required by God to decide awards and punishments according to the guidelines given by Him. God does not interfere in this, and we keep on getting rewards and punishments as deserved life after life according to the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is: "what we sow we reap." Going into details, there are three parts of this.

There is 'prarabdha' (acts done earlier), 'kriyamana' (acts currently being done) and 'svabhava' (nature). What was done earlier including past lives, which has not been acted upon is carried forward till rewarded or punished. This process goes on eternally. The timing of rewards and punishments are decided by the Divine Authority. God knows what is being done, but does not interfere in it.

God gets into the act only if someone, mostly a devotee having God's consciousness, approaches Him for relief/pardon. If the request is found appropriate, God helps those approaching Him in order to deal with their punishments, i.e. makes them tolerable. (18.58) In this connection, it is necessary to point out that nature of all souls are also results of past karmas (deeds), as determined by the Divine Authority. It is very difficult to change one's nature by self-help. For example, if someone is lusty,



he or she will continue to be so during his entire life, unless God intervenes and helps in improving it. Again, we have to pray for it. These are the basics. Now let us see how it turns out practically. Take up a soul as an example. He has past karmas, which are due for rewards and punishments in this life. They manifest at their appointed times.

A man gets into an argument with his brother for his share in the paternal property. He decides to seek legal help. This is stage one of the justice system. Now it is 'Panchayat' at the village level or a court of justice. Such courts deliver justice based on man-made laws. These authorities deliver justice expeditiously, i.e. not taking too much time. But they must do justice, in which 'dharma' (highest religious principles) is the basis, wherever they have some latitude. Failing which, they create their faulty destiny; they just act as mediums. Whatever happens to a person has been decided long ago. That is how astrologers can predict what will happen to us.

At every stage of the legal process, rewards and punishments, as destined only, keep coming. If the person concerned is fated to get relief, it will happen in a higher court. Vice versa is also true. God has no pre-conceived or prejudiced notion towards anyone, except if someone takes His shelter, as mentioned earlier. Like all of us, nations have also destiny. This is a cumulative total of fate of all its residents. Let me take up India for example.

The 21st century is likely to be dominated by India. If it is true and India will become a developed nation by 2047, then, its judicial system has to be functioning smoothly. It must have been streamlined. There will be no delay in the delivery of judgements, i.e. there will be time-bound at every stage. Justice delayed is justice denied will be a thing of the past. There will be adequate judicial infrastructure with sufficient resources. But for this miracle to happen, some people in authority have to become mediums. For this, they will be rewarded personally according to the karmaphala principle. The divine justice system is foolproof. Are people in authority listening? It will be a shame if an opportunity like this is squandered; whatever is destined will surely happen. The question is: who would become mediums and get credit? This has been left to individuals.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

Streamlining Punjab's administrative web



A S MITTAL

To unlock the State's true potential, there is an urgent need for structural reforms that prioritise smooth operations, accountability and stakeholder engagement

It's time for the complex web of multiple organisations of the Punjab government to take cues from the Indian Army's well-structured organisational hierarchy, which prioritises efficient command, control, and operational efficiency to maintain readiness. From a Havaldar leading a section, the smallest unit comprising ten soldiers, to the Chief of the Army Staff, the Army meticulously ensures cohesive functioning, distinct roles, and responsibilities, enabling the 14.55 lakh personnel to effectively fulfil defence and security roles. In contrast, the Punjab government's organisational structure (4.15 lakh personnel, including contractual and outsourced) requires an overhaul. In total, 50 parent departments and 163 affiliated organisations, each with its administrative head, aim for seamless result-oriented operations, which are below expectations. In the current government, the Chief Minister, who also oversees the industry sector, plays a pivotal role. However, the current structure, with around 20 administrative secretaries heading 17 departments, corporations, boards, and regulatory authorities, is not conducive to growth. By fostering a culture of collaboration, we can overcome these hurdles and drive efficiency and accountability towards a single goal of industrial growth, which has the potential to exceed the current stagnation of around 3% over the past 20 years in Punjab. Unfortunately, the complexity of multiple departments cannot achieve the single target of developing a fresh entrepreneurial class in the state. Rather, numerous channels breed corruption at various levels, and coercion can easily be gauged as the Punjab government scrapped 1498 mandatory compliances for industries three years ago. Therefore, it is high time to further ease the parent department as a single unique point, focusing on the singular target of developing a fresh entrepreneurial class in the state. It's impractical for any chief secretary to closely monitor 50 parent departments and their 163 affiliated organisations, which around 75 administrative secretaries head.

Assigning an Apex officer, preferably at an additional chief secretary (ACS) level, is crucial to overseeing and synchronising each key sector. This officer will provide guidance, ensure alignment of goals and strategies, and streamline human resources operations effectively. Industries and other key sectors, such as Education, Health, urban development, Rural Development, and Agriculture, also need help navigating the complex web of 15 parent departments and their 69 affiliated organisations, which hampers good governance in Punjab. However, these challenges also present an opportunity for policymakers to reassess and reform, driving efficient and accountable human resources and paving the way for a vibrant Punjab. Industries: In Punjab industries are overseen by over 20 administrative secretaries who manage 17 departments and affiliated organizations. This large organizational structure, instead of collectively achieving the goal of growth, is currently engaged in assessing around 2000 compliances, posing a significant challenge for entrepreneurs. The need for an efficient and accountable administrative setup is urgent to create a conducive and thriving business environment. Initially, the Department of Punjab Industries and Commerce and its



IT'S IMPRACTICAL FOR ANY CHIEF SECRETARY TO CLOSELY MONITOR 50 PARENT DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR 163 AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS, WHICH AROUND 75 ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIES HEAD

seven affiliated organisations oversaw the industrial sector.

However, three additional departments were later established - the Department of Investment Promotion, the Department of Employment Generation and Training, and the Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training - along with their ten organisations to fulfil the same objective. To fetch new investment, "Invest Punjab" was established under the Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion (PBIP) as a single access point to streamline processes. It is claimed that this entity has been empowered to provide over 34 regulatory approvals, clearances, and compliances related to more than 30 organisations. This streamlined approach is crucial for existing industries, as they face challenges in directly dealing with 17 departments- the Punjab Industries & Commerce Department, Pollution Control Board, Chief Electrical Inspector, Labour Commissioner, Department of Factories, Department of Industries, Employment Generation and Training, Skill Development Mission, Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion and Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation etc.

This complex web of multiple departments is directionless and unfocused; enormous human resources can be utilised in a single merged service provider entity. In 2012, the idea of merging The Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation (PSIDC) and Punjab Financial Corporation (PFC) into the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC) was also

proposed but has yet to materialise. Punjab, with 99.7 per cent of MSMEs, is a promising hub for growth. However, the most significant roadblock for these enterprises is dealing with multiple departments and keeping track of their compliance. Despite the implementation of ten policies since the first industrial policy was formulated in 1978, the need for actionable governance reforms is still pressing. It is necessary to explore various measures to significantly improve services and make Punjab an attractive destination. Policymakers must urgently re-imagine the state. Agriculture: In Punjab, agriculture is overseen by five distinct departments: the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Department of Horticulture, and Department of Soil & Water Conservation.

Eighteen additional organisations support these departments. Despite the involvement of multiple organisations, the state's agricultural growth has consistently declined, resting at around three per cent from 1990 to 2000 and further declining to less than two per cent from 2010 onwards. Education: The government greatly emphasises education and considers it a top priority. There is a critical need to revamp the administrative structure, as there are currently two separate departments, with six organisations and a school education board. The Department of Higher Education and Languages manages organisations in education and languages, while the Department of School Education oversees the six organisations. Despite these efforts,

it is essential to address that Punjab's secondary school dropout rate was 17.2% in 2022, exceeding the national average of 12.6%. The Way Forward: The reforms have the potential to significantly improve the functioning of key sectors in Punjab, creating a more accessible, transparent, efficient, responsive and accountable system to achieve a single goal collectively. Therefore two steps may be taken: First, Empowering Apex Officials: To achieve seamless collaboration among departments, empower at least five to six apex officers who will oversee the overall administration of their respective departments and have to report to the chief secretary. Each apex officer should have the support of five to six officers as direct reports.

This approach aims to improve responsiveness, ensure transparency in decision-making processes, and hold apex officials accountable for their actions. Second, Stakeholder Engagement: The active participation of stakeholders is not just important, it's integral to the success of the proposed reforms. Encouraging stakeholder participation through feedback mechanisms and regular interactions to understand their needs and concerns is a key part of inclusive growth.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman (Cabinet minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association (TMA). Views expressed are personal)

A bold leap towards 'Viksit Bharat' with historic push for education and skilling

This budget allocation of Rs 1.48 lakh crore for education and skilling along with digital learning will help build a robust, future-ready workforce

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan hailed the 2024-25 budget as a pivotal milestone on India's path to becoming a developed nation by 2047. Prioritising education, skilling, employment generation, research and innovation like never before, #Budget for Viksit Bharat paves the way for strengthening Bharat's credentials. "Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan posted on X. He noted that these are comprehensive and concrete measures taken up by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman that will be a win-win for all stakeholders—students, academia, and industry. The budget allocation for Education, employment, and skilling has been increased by



REETU SRIVASTAVA

30% to Rs 1.48 lakh crore. India has the largest educational system with 265 million students in schools, 43 million in higher education and more than 10 million learners enrolled in skilling institutions. The Budget Allocation for 2024-25 of Rs 73,498 crores is the highest ever for the Department of School Education & Literacy. Autonomous bodies such as the Kendriya Vidyalaya

Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti have also received their highest-ever allocations. The flagship schemes like Samagra Shiksha, POSHAN and PM-SHRI have got Rs 3,250 crores. The budget includes strengthening the skilling and apprenticeship ecosystem, skill development and internship opportunities for one crore youth by India's top companies, and providing employment-linked incentives to first-time employees across the sector. The government has introduced a revamped 'Model Skill Loans Scheme' from 1.5 lakhs to 7.5 lakhs to 25000 students annually and education loans up to 10 lakhs for pursuing education in higher domestic educational institutions to one lakh students every year with an annu-

al interest subvention of 3%. The step will certainly promote enrolment in domestic institutions as well as reduce the financial burden on the students. In addition to this, the finance minister also outlined several initiatives for the Skill Development sector. These include the upgrading of 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in line with the skill requirements of the industry. The internship opportunities for one crore youth in 5 years by the government is a welcoming step, this will provide youths with an engagement and enhance employability and practical skills. In the scheme 'National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)', an allocation of Rs 600 crore has been made. There has been an over-



all increase of Rs. 3525.15 crore (7.99%) in the budget allocation of the Department of Higher Education in this budget. Deemed Universities, IITs, NITs, IISERs, and IISc have got hefty allocations, considerably high in comparison to the previous budget. In higher education, areas like Digital e-learning, Research and Innovation, teacher training, the Centre of

Excellence in Artificial Intelligence and some specific institutions have received higher allocations. Under Digital e-learning, the government is looking forward to tapping the potential of virtual learning and aligning it with the Academic Bank of Credits with the view of increasing portability and flexible study options.

In the scheme 'National Mission in Education through ICT', an allocation of ₹480 crore has been made in 2024-25 and this is ₹80 crore more than the allocation in 2023-24. The increased budget for Research and Innovation is to focus on academic and research collaborations in science, engineering and technical education. To improve the quality of education being

imparted at the school level it requires a revamped pedagogical structure, so, the Teacher Training segment has got its due share. The scheme 'Establishment of 3 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has got an allocation of ₹255 crore in the budget. The Major Schemes For Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) erstwhile known as Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the budget has been kept at ₹1814.94 crore. An allocation of ₹1800 crore has been allocated for Institutions of Eminence. In the scheme 'Multi disciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education EAP (MERITE)', an allocation of ₹200 crore has been made and this is a 100% increase over the

last year's budget. The NEP 2020 says that the aim of the policy must be for India to have an education system by 2040 with equitable access to the highest-quality education for all learners regardless of social or economic background. Recognising the crucial role of education the government has designed an ambitious package for education for it to be growth-oriented, inclusive and progressive. However, the most important aspect is its implementation. The features of the budget meant for education will play a crucial role in guiding India towards becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 as stated by the Education Minister. (The writer is an educationist and a freelance writer; views expressed are personal)

'Commercial ship drifts, ablaze after attacks in Red Sea'

AP ■ DUBAI

A commercial ship traveling through the Red Sea came under repeated attack Wednesday, leaving the vessel "not under command" and drifting ablaze after an assault suspected to have been carried out by Yemen's Houthi rebels, the British military said. Few details were immediately available about the attack, though it comes during the Houthis' months-long campaign targeting ships on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The attack saw men on small boats first open fire with small arms some 140 kilometers (90 miles) west of the rebel-held Yemeni port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) center said.

Four projectiles also hit the ship, it added. It wasn't immediately clear if that meant drones or missiles. "The vessel reports being not under command," the UKMTO said, likely meaning it lost all power. "No casualties reported." Later, the UKMTO warned the ship was drifting while on fire in the Red Sea. The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack, though it can take them hours or even days before their acknowledgment one of their assaults. The Houthis have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sunk two in the campaign that also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have been either intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red

Sea or failed to reach their targets. The rebels maintain that they have targeted ships linked to Israel, the United States or the UK to force an end to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran. The Houthis have also launched drones and missiles toward Israel, including an attack on July 19 that killed one person and wounded 10 others in Tel Aviv. Israel responded the next day with airstrikes on the Houthi-held port city of Hodeida that hit fuel depots and electrical stations, killing and wounding a number of people, the rebels say. After the strikes, the Houthis paused their attacks until August 3, when they hit a Liberian-flagged container ship traveling through the Gulf

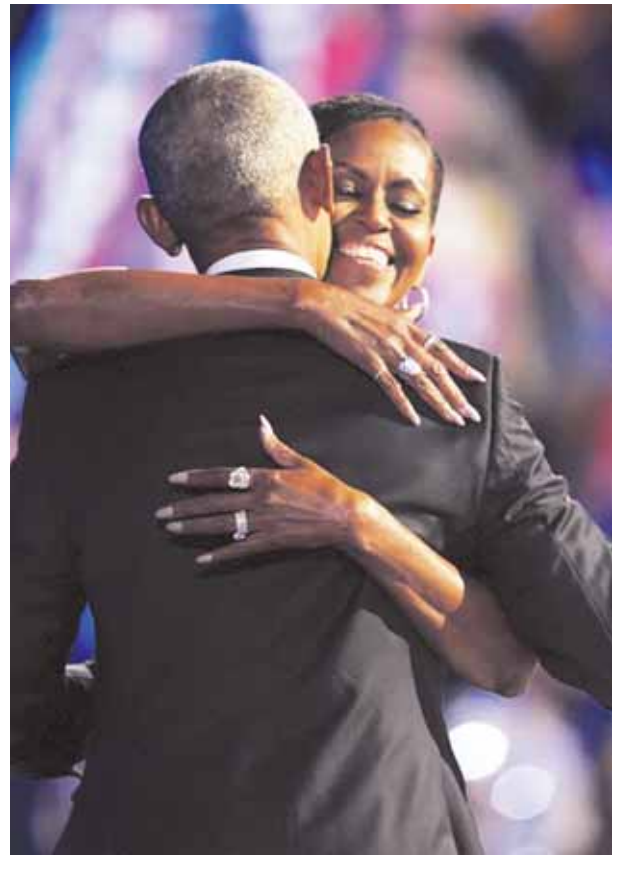
of Aden. A Liberian-flagged oil tanker came under a particularly intense series of attacks, beginning August 8, likely carried out by the rebels. A similar attack happened Aug. 13 as well. As Iran threatens to retaliate against Israel over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, the US military told the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to sail more quickly to the area. America also has ordered the USS Georgia guided missile submarine into the Mideast, while the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier strike group was in the Gulf of Oman. Additional F-22 fighter jets have flown into the region and the USS Wasp, a large amphibious assault ship carrying F-35 fighter jets, is in the Mediterranean Sea.



Israeli police officers scuffle with ultra-Orthodox Jewish men during a protest against a potential new draft law which could end their exemptions from military service in Jerusalem, Wednesday. AP/PTI

Iran's parliament approves all members of president's Cabinet

Tehran (AP) — Iran's hard-line parliament on Wednesday approved all members of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian's Cabinet, the first time in over two decades a leader has been able to get all of his officials through the body. The approval marks an early win for Pezeshkian, a longtime lawmaker who found himself catapulted into the presidency after a helicopter crash in May killed his hard-line predecessor. Getting his officials approved shows Pezeshkian picked a Cabinet of consensus with names palatable to all of the power centres within Iran's theocracy, as opposed to going for controversial choices as well. Former Foreign Minister Mohamad Javad Zarif, who campaigned for Pezeshkian in his election, later resigned as a vice president for the new leader over the Cabinet selections. Underlining that point, Pezeshkian immediately posted an image online with him standing next to Iran's judiciary chief, a Shiite cleric, and the country's parliament speaker, a hard-liner he once faced in the election. "Consensus for Iran," he wrote in the caption. Among those in Pezeshkian's new Cabinet is Abbas Araghchi, 61, a career diplomat who will be Iran's new foreign minister. Araghchi was a member of the Iranian negotiating team that reached a nuclear deal with world powers in 2015 that capped Tehran's nuclear programme in return for the lifting of sanctions. In 2018, then-President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the deal and imposed more sanctions on Iran. Pezeshkian said during his presidential campaign that he would try to revive the nuclear deal. The candidate who received the most support from lawmakers was the country's new defence minister, Aziz Nasirzadeh, who received 281 votes out of 288 present lawmakers.



Former President Barack Obama hugs former first lady Michelle Obama as he is introduced during the Democratic National Convention Tuesday, in Chicago. AP/PTI

Michelle Obama attacks Trump on 'Black jobs'

PTI ■ CHICAGO

In perhaps her boldest words ever against Donald Trump, Michelle Obama, the former first lady took a swipe at the former president for attacking her family because of their race, saying that the top job he is seeking once again "might just be one of those Black jobs." Delivering a forceful endorsement of Kamala Harris during the second night of the Democratic National Convention, Michelle said former president Trump, the Republican candidate in the race for the White House, will try and attack the US Vice President, the Democratic Party's nominee — something she said she and her husband have personal experience with. "For years Donald Trump did everything in his power to try to make people fear us. His limited narrow view of the world made him feel threatened by the existence of two hard-working, highly educated, successful people who happen to be Black," she said in her

nearly 20-minute address on Tuesday in Chicago, her hometown. Voicing her hope that Harris will win the November 5 election - and Trump's repeated use of the term - "Black jobs" - she chided him for promoting birtherism and other racist comments. "Who is going to tell him that the job he currently is seeking might just be one of those Black jobs?" the 60-year-old former first lady said, referring to Barack Obama, America's first Black president. The Obamas were targets of unfounded claims by Trump and other Republicans that Barack Obama's birth certificate was a forgery. Her powerful statement was a jab at Trump's comments at the June presidential debate and while speaking last month to the National Association of Black Journalists, where he said that immigrants are taking "Black jobs." If Harris is elected, she will become America's first woman — and first woman of colour

and first Indian-origin politician — to win the presidency. Michelle, the wife of the country's first Black president, predicted that Trump would launch attacks on Harris' race and gender. She warned that the race to the White House was still close, and asked the Democratic Party to continue working in the days ahead to ensure the victory of Harris. Michelle, in her address, described Vice President Harris, 59, as one of the most qualified presidential candidates who worked her way up from a middle-class background, drawing on lessons from the two women's late mothers. "Even though our mothers grew up an ocean apart, they shared the same belief in the promise of this country. That's why her mother moved here from India at 19," she said of Shyamala Gopalan, the mother of Harris. "She'd often tell her daughter: 'Don't sit around and complain, do something,'" Michelle said. She also recounted how

Harris was a student at Howard University — a historically black university — and then attended law school. "And then she went on to work for the people," Michelle said, "from a middle-class household. Kamala worked her way up to become vice president of the United States of America. My girl Kamala Harris is more than ready for this moment. She is one of the most qualified people ever to seek the office of the presidency." Michelle was earlier greeted by a long standing ovation from the crowd as he arrived to address them during which she delivered a series of not-so-subtle digs at Trump — evoking his name to critique what she described as his "ugly, misogynistic, racist lies." "No one has a monopoly on what it means to be an American," she said in an apparent reference to Trump's recent remarks on Harris' background as a child of immigrants. "If we see a mountain in front of us, we don't expect there to be an escalator waiting

to take us to the top," she said. Lest anyone think she was being ambitious, Michelle called Trump out by name. Michelle Obama's speech, "delivered with a clear voice as she looked straight into the camera to address Americans watching at home, was not saccharine. She began her time onstage by framing her remarks in the context of reaching for hope through despair," the New York Times commented. Kamala Harris rallied thousands of voters in one packed arena as former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama energized millions more on Harris' behalf inside another on a Tuesday night designed to demonstrate the energy and breadth of the Democratic nominee's evolving coalition. "I am feeling hope," Obama told the Democratic National Convention in Chicago just minutes after his wife, the former first lady Michelle Obama, told the same crowd that, "Something wonderfully magical is in the air, isn't it?"

Congo reports more than 1k new Mpox cases in a week

Cape Town (AP) —

Congo reported more than 1,000 new mpox cases in the last week up to Tuesday as African health authorities asked for desperately needed vaccines to help fight its "growing" threat on the continent. The World Health Organisation has declared the outbreaks in Africa a global emergency. Mpox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox but causes milder symptoms like fever, chills and body aches, and mostly spreads through close skin-to-skin contact, including sexual intercourse. People with more serious cases can develop lesions on the face, hands, chest and genitals. While mpox has been reported in 12 of Africa's 54 countries during these outbreaks, the vast central African nation of Congo has recorded by far the most cases this year. Out of a total of 18,910 cases in 2024, 94% — or 17,794 — were in Congo, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said, with 535 of the 541 deaths reported. The figures are likely an underestimate, as only about one in five suspected cases in Congo are being tested for mpox. Africa CDC director-general Dr. Jean Kaseya said many affected African countries had limited testing and surveillance capabilities. Over the last seven days, Congo recorded 1,030 of the 1,405 new cases in Africa according to statistics provided late Tuesday by the Africa CDC. Only 16% of the cases have been confirmed by virus tests, but the infections meet the agency's definition of the disease. The rising mpox case count in Africa and a new form of the virus identified in Congo that might be more easily transmitted led the WHO to declare it a global health emergency last week. Some hope this will encourage donors to share vaccines and other help to curtail the outbreaks in Africa before cases spread internationally as Sweden recorded a case of the new mpox variant first seen in eastern Congo.

UK steps up action against Mpox in Democratic Republic of Congo

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK on Wednesday announced new GBP 3.1 million funding to work with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to bolster the regional African response to outbreaks of Mpox and cholera in the country. The funding announcement follows a declaration from the World Health Organisation (WHO) that the upsurge of Mpox in the DRC and a growing number of countries in Africa constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). During a visit to the Institute National de Recherche Biomedicale (National Institute of Biomedical Research) in the DRC, minister Lord Ray Collins announced the funding for a new partnership with UNICEF aimed at benefiting over 4.4 million people in affected communities and preventing the further spread of Mpox to neighbouring countries. "Working together, with our partners and

using the expertise and dedication of Congolese scientists, including those at the world-leading research centre I have visited in DRC, our support will play an important role in ensuring global health security for all," said Collins, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) minister in charge of Africa. "By protecting the health and wellbeing of communities across DRC, and by helping contain these outbreaks, we reduce the risk of diseases spreading further afield. This will ultimately benefit us all," he said. There have been more than 17,000 Mpox cases and 571 deaths in Africa this year, following the emergence of a new clade 1b variant of the disease first spotted in the DRC. Mpox, previously referred to as monkey pox, causes blisters on the face and elsewhere, and mainly spreads when fluids from these lesions are passed on during sexual contact. But it can also be spread through other types of skin-to-skin contact, as well as an

infected person coughing or sneezing nearby, and can even be spread by touching clothing, bedding, or towels used by someone with Mpox. The small-pox vaccine is used to protect against its spread. The UK said it remains in regular contact with the WHO and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention on developments of the outbreak and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is closely monitoring the situation. India is also on high alert over the disease, which has reportedly been detected outside Africa in Sweden and Pakistan. "The UK's support to the DRC, in partnership with UNICEF, on the Mpox response, will contribute to saving the lives of affected populations by aligning with the DRC's national Mpox preparedness and response plan," said Professor Christian Ngandu, Public Health Emergency Operations Centre Coordinator at DRC's National Public Health Institute.

Bus carrying Shiite pilgrims from Pak to Iraq crashes in Iran, killing 28

AP ■ TEHRAN

A bus carrying Shiite pilgrims from Pakistan to Iraq crashed in central Iran, killing at least 28 people, an official said Wednesday. The crash happened Tuesday night in the central Iranian province of Yazd, said Mohammad Ali Malekzadeh, a local emergency official, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. Another 23 people suffered injuries in the crash, 14 of them serious, he added. He said all the bus passengers hailed from Pakistan. There were 51 people on board at the time of the crash outside of the city of Taft, some 500 kilometers southeast of the Iranian capital, Tehran. Iranian state television later broadcast images of the bus, turned upside down on the highway with its roof smashed in and all its doors open. Rescuers stepped gingerly through the broken glass and debris littering the road. In the state TV report, Malekzadeh



This image taken from a video released by Iranian state television shows the aftermath of a bus crash near Taft, Iran, early Wednesday. A bus carrying Shiite pilgrims from Pakistan to Iraq crashed in central Iran, killing multiple people, an official said Wednesday. AP/PTI

blamed the crash on the bus brakes failing and a lack of attention by its driver. In Pakistan, authorities described those on the bus as coming from the city of Larkana in Pakistan's southern Sindh province. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he was "deeply saddened" by the crash and that diplomats were providing assistance to those affected. "My thoughts are with the bereaved families," Sharif said

undermine our border security putting lives at risk. And by increasing enforcement capabilities and returns we will establish a system that is better controlled and managed, in place of the chaos that has blighted the system for far too long," she said. As part of the measures unveiled this week, the Home Office expects a "large surge" in enforcement and returns flights, with the aim of putting removals at their highest level since 2018. There will also be increased detention capacity, including 290 added beds at Campsfield and Haslar Immigration Removal Centres, and redeployment of staff to drive the process of returning migrants entering the UK illegally from a country deemed as safe.

From blind date to 'Momala': Kamala Harris' husband shares their love story

PTI ■ CHICAGO

Kamala Harris' husband Douglas Emhoff shared his love story and recalled how he met his wife on a blind date in 2013 and left an awkward voice message for her which she plays for him every year on their wedding anniversary. Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff took to the stage at the Democratic National Convention here on Tuesday night with this deeply personal story to drum up support for Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage. He said he loved working as a lawyer, became a dad to son Cole and daughter Ella, got a divorce and then "something unexpected happened" — he was set up on a blind date with Harris.



"In 2013, I walked into a contentious client meeting. We worked through the issue and, by the end of the meeting, the now happy client offered to set me up on a blind date—which is how I ended up with Kamala Harris's phone number," he said. Emhoff, 59, said he left a long and awkward first voicemail which Harris, also 59, now

plays for him every year on their anniversary. "For generations, people have debated when to call the person you're being set up with, and never in history has anyone suggested 8:30 am. And yet, that's when I dialled," he said. "I got Kamala's voicemail, and I just started rambling." "I remember trying to grab the words out of the air and put them back in my mouth. After what seemed like far too many minutes, I hung up. By the way, Kamala saved that voicemail, and she makes me listen to it every anniversary. That message wasn't the only unusual thing about that day," he said, drawing laughs and cheers from the Democratic Party supporters. "Kamala, who normally would have been working hard at the

office, just happened to be waiting at her apartment for a contractor to do some work on her kitchen. I was eating at my desk, which was not a regular occurrence for a busy lawyer like me who appreciates a good business lunch," Emhoff said. "That's when she called me back. We talked for an hour. We laughed. You know that laugh. I love that laugh. Maybe that counted as our first date. Or, maybe it was that Saturday, when I picked her up and told her "Buckle up—I'm a really bad driver," he said. He called his wife a "joyful warrior" and a loving co-parent to his kids. Emhoff, a Los Angeles attorney who took leave from his firm when Harris became vice president, has two now-grown children from his first marriage.

UK to deploy specialist officers, speed up returns in illegal migration crackdown

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government on Wednesday announced a new set of illegal migration crackdown measures that include the immediate recruitment of up to 100 new specialist intelligence officers and the reopening of detention centres to speed up returns to countries of origin. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the new officers will be deployed at the National Crime Agency (NCA) to target, dismantle and disrupt organised immigration crime networks. She also announced a "surge" in immigration enforcement, with plans for the next six months to achieve the highest rate of removals of those with no right to remain in the UK, including failed asylum seek-

ers. In addition, a new "intelligence-driven" illegal working programme will be rolled out to target, investigate and take down "unscrupulous employers" who illegally employ those with no right to work in the country. "We are taking strong and clear steps to boost our border security and ensure the rules are respected and enforced," said Cooper. "Our new Border Security Command is already gearing up, with new staff being urgently recruited and additional staff already stationed across Europe working with European enforcement agencies to find every route into smashing the criminal smuggling gangs organising dangerous boat crossings, which

undermine our border security putting lives at risk. And by increasing enforcement capabilities and returns we will establish a system that is better controlled and managed, in place of the chaos that has blighted the system for far too long," she said. As part of the measures unveiled this week, the Home Office expects a "large surge" in enforcement and returns flights, with the aim of putting removals at their highest level since 2018. There will also be increased detention capacity, including 290 added beds at Campsfield and Haslar Immigration Removal Centres, and redeployment of staff to drive the process of returning migrants entering the UK illegally from a country deemed as safe.

Another case filed against Hasina, her aides in B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

A case was filed on Wednesday against Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 86 others on charge of attacking a procession in Sylhet city which left several people shot and injured during the recent mass protests on August 4, taking the number of cases against her after her ouster to 33.

Juber Ahmed, acting president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's Sylhet city unit, filed the case with the court of Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Suman Bhuiya.

Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana is also an accused in the case. According to the case statement, the accused attacked a peaceful rally, brought out by Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its associate organisations in Sylhet City's Bandarbarza area on August 4, which left several shot and injured, The Daily Star newspaper said.

Awami League's general secretary and former road transport minister Obaidul Quader, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former foreign minister Hasan



Mahmud, former law minister Anisur Rahman, and former advisor to the prime minister Salman F Rahman were among people named in the case. With this case, Hasina is now facing 33 cases against her, including 27 for murder, four for crimes against humanity and genocide, and one for abduction, the paper said. Hasina fled to India on August 5 after resigning from her post amidst unprecedented anti-government student-led protests.

The Hasina-led government was replaced by an interim government, and 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was named its Chief Adviser. Bangladesh's interim govern-

ment has said it will try those involved in the killings during the recent mass movement of the students against the Hasina-led government in the International Crimes Tribunal. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the massive protest by students against a controversial quota system in government jobs first started in mid-July.

On Tuesday, she along with five other was implicated in a case lodged over the murder of private company employee Firoj Talukder in indiscriminate shooting from a helicopter by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) during recent anti-discrimination students' movement.

Earlier Hasina, her son Sajeeb, daughter Saima and sister Rehana and 17 others were sued in a case filed over the killing of a fruit seller in the capital's Jatrabari on August 5. The victim's father, Sultan Miah, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shakil Ahmed.

Another case was filed against Hasina and 49 others over the death of Md Omar Faruque, a student of Kabi Nazrul Government College, at Laxmibazar of Sutrapur on July 19.

Hasina and 24 others were sued for the death of 18-year-old garment worker Sohail Rana in the city's Adabor area on August 5.

In Savar, Hasina and 75 Awami League men were sued over the murder of a barber shop worker on August 5.

In Narayanganj, a case was filed against Hasina, seven former ministers and lawmakers and 179 others for killing a bus helper in the Kanchpur area of Sonargaon upazila.

In Rangpur, Hasina, her sister and 49 were sued over the killing of a vegetable trader during the quota reform movement on July 19.

In Joypurhat, a murder case has been filed against Hasina along with 216 others in connection with the death of an auto driver in front of a police station on August 5. In Bogura, Hasina and Obaidul Quader have been sued for the murder of a rickshaw puller on August 4.

Moscow faces massive Ukrainian drone attack but destroys all

AP ■ MOSCOW

Moscow came under one of the largest attacks yet by Ukrainian drones since the start of fighting in 2022, Russian authorities reported Wednesday, saying they destroyed all of those headed toward the capital.

Russia downed 45 Ukrainian drones overnight, the Ministry of Defense said. It said 11 were destroyed over the Moscow region, 23 over the Bryansk region, six over Belgorod, three over Kaluga and two over Kursk.

"This was one of the biggest attempts of all time to attack Moscow using drones," Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said on his Telegram channel. He said strong defenses around the capital made it possible to shoot down all the drones before they could hit their intended targets.

Some Russian social media channels shared videos of drones apparently being destroyed by air defense systems, which then set off car alarms.

Alexander Bogomaz, the governor of the Bryansk region, which borders Ukraine, reported



a "mass" attack on his region but that 23 drones were destroyed.

While Ukraine has been bogged down in a land conflict in eastern Europe in which the Russians have been driving forward slowly at a heavy cost to both sides, Kyiv has also been attacking Russia with drones. Ukraine has targeted oil refineries and airfields in an attempt to weaken Russia's fighting potential, and also has targeted the capital several times.

The drone attacks come as

Ukrainian forces are continuing to push into Russia's western Kursk region.

The daring incursion into Russia has raised morale in Ukraine with its surprising success and changed the dynamic of the fighting. But it's uncertain how long Ukraine will be able to hold the territory it has seized in Kursk.

It has also opened up another front in a fight where Ukrainian forces were already badly stretched. The gains in Kursk come as Ukraine continues to lose ground in its eastern industrial region of Donbas.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, said in its daily report late Tuesday that the Ukrainians had made additional advances in their incursion, now in its third week.

The Russian state news agency Tass reported that 31 people had died since Ukraine's attack on Russia began Aug. 6, citing an unnamed source in the medical service — figures which are impossible to verify. It said 143 people had suffered injuries, of whom 79 were hospitalized, including four children.

Ukraine's attacks on three bridges over the Semyr River in Kursk, in areas it does not control, could potentially trap Russian forces between the river, the Ukrainian advance and the Ukrainian border. Already they appear to be slowing down Russia's response to the Kursk incursion.

Ukrainian forces appear to be striking Russian pontoon bridges and pontoon engineering equipment over the Semyr in an area west of the Ukrainian advance point, the Washington think tank said.

Unrest impact: Hospitality sector hit in Dhaka, rooms empty at hotels

PTI ■ DHAKA

The recent anti-government protests that rocked Bangladesh for over a month have hit the hospitality sector hard in the capital Dhaka with the majority of rooms at several luxury and economy hotels here going empty in the aftermath of the unrest.

Dhaka is both the political and financial capital of Bangladesh and home to several landmark commercial properties managed by international hotel chains which cater largely to business travellers.

Senior managers at many of these hotels say, the "heaviest impact" was felt in July when huge booking cancellations took place resulting in a "big financial loss".

PTI spoke to front office employees, managers and restaurant staff at some of the luxury chains as well as economy hotels located in plush areas, and they all painted a sombre picture of the current condition of the hospitality sector in Dhaka.

"The situation is now a bit better, but still far from normal in our sector as the majority of the rooms are still empty. While a certain section of business travellers are still coming, after the

unrest in the country, the number of guests occupying rooms have dramatically shrunk," a senior manager in the sales department of a luxury hotel told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

This five-star hotel operating under the current brand name for a year-and-a-half is located in a towering building near Gulshan enclave — an affluent area which also houses several diplomatic missions of foreign countries in Bangladesh.

"We have 150 rooms of different categories — standard, premium, junior suite and executive suite. Currently, about 35 rooms are occupied. The numbers are slowly increasing," the senior manager said.

He recalled the situation in the area on August 4-5 when the unrest had reached its peak leading to the ouster of embattled Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Hasina as the prime minister, plunging the country into a state of crisis.

Several hundreds of people have been killed in the protests in Bangladesh, triggered by the reinstatement of a quota system for the allocation of jobs in civil services, and injuries suffered in its aftermath.

The protests began in July and local residents and staff at

multiple hotels still talk in a hushed tone about the police action that took place in the third week of July and later days to halt the protests. However, the police crackdown only infuriated the masses which eventually led to the fall of the Hasina-led government.

"For July, the mass cancellations of booking for rooms, food and beverage services and banquet and catering services led to the loss of Taka 1.2-1.3 crore, and the financial loss suffered in the first week of August was about Taka 35 lakh," the senior manager at the five-star hotel added.

As the situation had escalated, the hotel administration had asked its women staff to stay at home on August 4-5 while arrangements were made for the stay of male staff within the premises of the hotel building which is a huge landmark in the area with Gulshan Avenue and Kemal Ataturk Avenue being major thoroughfares.

Recalling the challenges faced on August 5, the day the Hasina government fell, he said, on that day there were Germans, Russians, Swiss, Indian and Bangladeshi people among the guests and some members of the diplomatic community, at the hotel.

Imran demands open court trial of ex-ISI chief

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday demanded an open court trial of former Pakistan spymaster Lt Gen (retd.) Faiz Hameed if his links with the May 9 violence were established as then "it would not be an internal military affair."

These remarks came just two days after Khan on Monday expressed his fear that authorities were coercing the arrested former spymaster to become a state witness against him (Khan) in the May 9, 2023 riots.

After Khan was arrested in an accountability case last year, hundreds and thousands of his followers and workers of his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander House), Mianwali Airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad on May 9.

The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi too was attacked by the mob for the first time of Hameed, the former chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), was disclosed by the military last week.

During an informal conversation with journalists at the Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi, where he has been lodged since last



year, Khan said that if Hameed is "indeed the mastermind behind the May 9 conspiracy, then the trial should be held openly," adding that the incident was a local issue rather than a matter of national security. Earlier in one of the similar informal talks with the media soon after Hameed was arrested, Khan had said it was an internal matter of the army.

"They'll make Faiz Hameed turn state witness against me," he told reporters and added, "The army chief should facilitate a transparent trial for Faiz Hameed."

Hameed, who served as director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) from 2019 to

2021 when Khan was the prime minister, was arrested following action in the complaint of a private property developer over alleged misuse of official authority. He denied that he had any association with the ex-spy chief since the latter retired in November 2022.

"General Faiz became insignificant after retirement. How could he benefit me in any way?" Khan questioned, dismissing the notion that he was in contact with the former ISI chief. The former premier also said he knew who ordered "my arrest" and this person was the "number one and the Badshah and the super King" but didn't name anyone.

Pak police charge man with cyber terrorism

Lahore (AP): Pakistani police have arrested a man and charged him with cyber terrorism for his alleged role in spreading misinformation that led to widespread rioting in the UK earlier this month, a senior police investigator said Wednesday.

The suspect was identified as Farhan Asif, 32, a freelance web developer, said Imran Kishwar, deputy inspector general of investigations in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province.

The man is accused of spreading misinformation from YouTube and Facebook about the British teenage suspect in a stabbing attack that killed three girls and injured 10 other people July 29 at a dance class in Northwest England. The false information claimed that the suspect was a recently arrived asylum-seeker and had a name that suggested the teen was Muslim. After the misinformation led to a violent mob attacking a mosque near the site of the stabbing the next day, police took the unusual step of clarifying that the suspect was born in the UK. It's been widely reported in British media

that his parents are from Rwanda and said to have Christian beliefs. Channel3 Now, an account on the X social media platform that purports to be a news channel, was one of the first outlets to report the false name, Ali Al-Shakati. A Facebook account for the channel said it is managed by people in Pakistan and the US.

The site's editor-in-chief posted an apology July 31 for "the misleading information published in a recent article on our website, Channel3 NOW. We deeply regret any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused." But the false reports were widely disseminated and are blamed for fueling more than a week of rioting that broke out across the United Kingdom and has led to more than 1,000 arrests.

Authorities have blamed far-right agitators for stoking the violent unrest by continuing to spread misinformation and promoting the violent demonstrations online. At a news conference in the eastern city of Lahore, police said Asif was arrested at his house in the city for questioning.

Indonesia searches for ways to balance domestic industries with surging Chinese imports

AP ■ JAKARTA

A flood of Chinese products into Indonesia has hit local manufacturers hard, prompting the government to look for ways to placate domestic producers while avoiding angering the country's biggest trading partner. Garment makers — both home-based piece work producers and factories — have appealed for help as they lose market share to low-cost apparel and textiles from China. A surge of products bought online has added to the problem.

A protest by workers in Jakarta prompted Indonesian Minister of Trade Zulkifli Hasan to announce in July that the government will impose import tariffs of up to 200% on some products from China, particularly textiles, clothing, footwear, electronics, ceramics and cosmetics, to try to protect local businesses and prevent layoffs. "The United States can impose a 200% tariff on imported ceramics or clothes, so we can do it as well," Zulkifli said,

to ensure micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and industry. But China is Indonesia's largest trading partner, with two-way trade exceeding \$127 billion in 2023. Imposing higher tariffs could prompt Chinese manufacturers to invest in more factories in Indonesia, but could also backfire, leading Beijing to retaliate. As a result, the government announced in July that it was setting up a task force to monitor and handle problems related to certain imports.

It's an urgent matter, Hasan said, given the flood of imported products that has caused closures of textile factories and mass layoffs.

From January to July 2024, at least 12 textile factories shut down operations, causing more than 12,000 workers to lose their jobs, according to the Nusantara Trade Union Confederation.

In Bandung district in Indonesia's West Java province — an area famous for textiles such as batiks, handwoven fab-

rics and silks — imports of Chinese products have left thousands of workers idle and without regular incomes, said Neng Wati, a manager at manufacturing company Asnur Konveksi.

"Now they take turns. The number of workers stays the same, but the work is divided up and not all get some. Some of them have been off for two weeks, some of them haven't gotten work for a month," Wati said. That's a hard blow coming after the slow days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many workers were shifted to e-commerce to make ends meet, said Nandi Herdianan, head of a local organization of small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs. Only 60% of the 8,000 members of the association kept working after the pandemic.

Now, the biggest challenge is cheap imports from China. In the past two months, output from home-based industries has fallen by 70%, the industry organization says.

The uptick in imports of Chinese products is partly seen as the result of trade friction between the U.S. and China, which has led to increased American tariffs on Chinese goods. But it also reflects rising trade within Asia as the region implements various free trade pacts, as well as weakening demand in Western markets for Chinese exports. Industry groups in Thailand have also expressed increasing concern about an influx of cheap products from China, which they say have greatly hurt sales by domestic producers who are unable to compete. In what it called an urgent measure, the Thai government imposed a 7% value-added tax on all imported products, a change from the previous rule that only collected taxes on imported products that cost more than 1,500 baht (\$44). The policy is only in effect from July until December this year to give the government time to study the issue before a longer-term solution can be applied.

School employee kills at least 3 in Bosnian town

Sarajevo (AP): A school employee shot and killed three people Wednesday in a town in northwestern Bosnia, police said. The shooter was severely injured after trying to kill himself. The shooting took place around 10 a.m. local time in a secondary school building in Sanski Most, about 300 kilometers northwest of Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo, said regional police spokesman Adnan Beganovic. Beganovic told The Associated Press that the man used a "military weapon, an automatic rifle." He then attempted to kill himself and is in serious condition in a hospital in nearby Banja Luka. The victims include the school principal, a secretary and a teacher, said Beganovic. Regional N1 television reported that the man had a dispute with the school management.

No other details were immediately available. Bosnian schools are closed for the summer holiday, but Beganovic said there were people in the school as repeat examinations were underway.

China opens investigation into EU exports as trade tensions flare

AP ■ BEIJING

European milk and cheese producers have become the latest target in a simmering trade war with China. The Chinese Commerce Ministry said Wednesday that it would launch an investigation into subsidies given by the European Union and EU

member countries for dairy products that could lead to tariffs on their export to China.

The announcement came one day after the EU released a draft decision to finalize tariffs on electric vehicles made in China, in a follow-up to provisional tariffs announced last month. The tariffs have said.

been denounced by the Chinese government and automakers and threaten to set back the industry's efforts to go global.

The dairy investigation will cover a range of products including fresh and processed cheese, blue cheese and milk and cream with a fat content of more than 10%, a Commence Ministry notice last month. The tariffs have said.

Sirisena settles compensation for Easter Sunday bombings victims

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka's former president Maithripala Sirisena has settled in full the SLR 100 million compensation for the victims of the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed 270 people, including 11 Indians, during his tenure.

Sirisena, 72, was ordered by the Supreme Court to pay SLRs 100 million as compensation to victims for his negligence in preventing the

country's one of the worst terror strikes despite having credible information of an imminent attack.

His lawyers said the full payment of rupees 100 million was completed on August 16. Nine suicide bombers belonging to local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through



three Catholic churches and as many luxury hotels on April 21, 2019, killing nearly 270 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500.

Sirisena was also the minister of defence at that time. The attack stirred a political storm as the then President Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe were blamed for their inability to prevent the attacks despite

prior intelligence being made available.

In mid-July, Sirisena reported to the court that he had already paid SLR 58 million and pleaded for six more months to pay the balance of 42 million.

A presidential panel of inquiry appointed by Sirisena after the attacks ironically found the then-president guilty of his failure to prevent the attacks.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. EM/MSD-1/TECH-03/2024/1199 Date: 16.08.2024
e-TCN No. EM/MS-23/2024
Name of the Work: "Hiring of another 01 (one) no. of Truck Mounted Conveyors Mechanical Road Sweeping Machine for a period of (03+02) years inside port prohibited area". Estimated cost: Rs.6,40,20,000/- excluding GST and cost of Diesel. Last date & time of Submission of bid: **05.09.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs.** Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (M) Workshop Division-II, Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/29/2024-2025 dtd.20.08.2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscpl.in
(Phone No. 01881-275289) E-mail: se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcpl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 7585/P-2/EMP-12755 Dated 05-08-2024 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124940_1 for procurement of differential pressure switches for Stage-II & III.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 14.08.2024 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
RTP-94/24
76155/12/3322/2023/36870 Dated CHD :- 8/21/2024

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
(Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Nishtha Parisar, Bijljinagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-462023
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-34, Fax No. : 0755-2589821, E-mail : dgmp2.cz@mp.gov.in
Website : <https://mptenders.gov.in>, CIN Number : U40109MP2002SGC015119
No. MD/MK/04/Abgd.NIT/1364 Bhopal, Dated : 21.08.2024

TENDER NOTICE
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal invites following bids through e-tendering.

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Cr.)	Tender Fee including GST @18% (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of opening of tender
MD/MK/04/1079	Survey, Supply and Installation of ACDB, DCDB and Marshalling Box along with Replacement of Deflecting OTI, WLI, MOG and Switches, Indication Lamp, Ammeter, Voltmeter and Other Panels Equipments etc. at various 33/11KV Substation Under Substation Renovation Work on Semi Turkey Contract Basis in MPMKVVCL, Bhopal.	6.54	11800.00	29.08.2024 3:30 pm	10.09.2024 at 3:30 pm

Other details are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & <https://mptenders.gov.in>
M.P. Madhyam/116024/2024
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)

Markets extend gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Wednesday, helped by gains in FMCG, consumer durables and healthcare stocks amid strong buying support from domestic institutional investors.

However, foreign capital outflows amid a cautious trend in global equities ahead of the release of US Fed minutes restricted the gains in domestic markets, traders said.

In a range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained for the second day in a row, rising 102.44 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 80,905.30. During the day, it rose 149.97 points or 0.18 per cent to hit an intra-day high of 80,952.83.

Rising for the fifth straight session, the NSE Nifty went up by 71.35 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 24,770.20.

"The Indian market traded on a tight range with a positive bias supported by strong DII flows. While defensive sector outperformed due to a continued shift in portfolio towards FMCG, consumer, commodities, and pharma.

"Global markets exhibited a mildly cautious tone ahead of the release of the FOMC minutes later today. Currently, the expectation of a rate cut



remains high, given the fall in US inflation and moderation in overall growth," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Among the Sensex firms, Titan, Asian Paints, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Nestle India, Bajaj Finserv and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers. In contrast, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, HCL Technology, State Bank of India and ICICI Bank were the laggards.

Shares of FSN E-Commerce Ventures, beauty and personal care brand Nykaa, bounced 9.42 per cent on Wednesday. During the day, it rallied 18.6 per cent to hit its 52-week high

of Rs 228.50.

GE T&D India stocks fell 5 per cent — its lower circuit limit — after the company said its promoters are considering selling a minority stake to simplify its holding structure. Meanwhile, the scrip of NHPC fell 0.88 per cent after a major landslide in East Sikkim caused significant damage to the 510-MW hydroelectric project on the Teesta River.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.87 per cent, and the midcap index climbed 0.43 per cent.

Among the indices, Consumer Durables surged by 1.56 per cent, FMCG by 1.33 per cent, healthcare by 0.94 per cent, metal by 0.73 per cent,

Telecommunication by 0.66 per cent, Commodities by 0.58 per cent and Consumer discretionary by 0.55 per cent. Realty, Power, Bankex and Utilities were the laggards.

"The Indian markets showed mixed signals as key indices traded in a narrow range on Wednesday.

"Investors are now focusing on the minutes from the Federal Reserve's most recent monetary policy meeting and Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium for clues on the US interest-rate cuts this year," Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst at StoxBox, said.

The European markets were trading higher on Wednesday. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were closed in the negative territory, while Seoul ended higher on Wednesday.

The US stock markets settled lower in overnight trade on Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) again turned sellers on Tuesday as they offloaded equities worth Rs 1,457.96 crore, according to exchange data.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,252.10 crore on Tuesday.

Sebi slaps ₹11 lakh fine on IIFL Securities for flouting stock brokers rules

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital market regulator Sebi on Wednesday slapped a fine of Rs 11 lakh on brokerage firm IIFL Securities for flouting stock broker rules and other regulatory norms.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) inspected IIFL Securities Ltd (IIFL) to look into various compliance requirements adhered by the brokerage firm.

The inspection was conducted for the period beginning April to July 2022. Thereafter, a show cause notice (SCN) was issued to IIFL Securities on April 15, 2024 by the regulator.

In its 35-page order, Sebi observed that the noticee (IIFL Securities) has admitted to the allegations stated in the SCN in respect of the monthly/ quarterly settlement of client funds and securities stating that there was some technical error.

"I find that the circulars specifically mandate brokers to settle accounts and issue retention statements on a timely basis. However, the noticee failed to do so," Sebi's Adjudicating Officer Barnali Mukherjee said in the order.



While the noticee has now taken corrective action, it noted that it failed to settle the funds and securities on a monthly/ quarterly basis. The regulator also alleged that the noticee did not do periodic reconciliation of client securities lying in DP accounts, with back office holding and also reported incorrect quantity in weekly holding statement in one instance for 1,835 shares valued at Rs 11.69 lakh.

As per Sebi norms, stock reconciliation is a critical process for all brokers to ensure that their physical inventory count matches the recorded data in their systems to make correct

reporting to the exchange. IIFL Securities admitted that it was a one-off case and a very small portion of the entire holding of shares valued at Rs 120.73 crore. Therefore, the noticee failed to reconcile 1,835 shares, and hence the allegation of violation of norms by the noticee stands established, the order said.

"I find that the noticee has given an ambiguous reply and not addressed the issue raised in the SCN regarding the passing of penalty on short reporting of upfront margin.

"The noticee has not given any reason why it had passed on a penalty to clients on account of short reporting of upfront margins amounting to Rs 24.22 lakh in the CM segment for 26 clients, Rs 56 lakh in Futures & Options segment for 13 clients and Rs 5.19 lakh in CD segment for 15 clients," Mukherjee said.

Accordingly, IIFL Securities contravened the provisions of brokers' rules. IIFL Securities was under a statutory obligation to abide by and comply with the provisions of the circulars/directions issued by Sebi and stock exchanges, which it failed to do during the inspection period, Sebi said.

Studying in Australia made easy for Indians

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For Indian students eager to pursue higher education in Australia, a new fintech platform has been launched by Australian fintech Ziksu in partnership with India's Elanistech. This innovative platform, introduced at a launch event at the Australian High Commission here is designed to simplify and enhance the financial journey for students studying abroad.

The collaboration aims to address the financial needs of Indian students by providing a unified platform that covers the entire financing process, from pre-admission to post-admission stages. With student loans averaging AUD 3.2 billion annually (INR 17,700 Crores), this platform will support students and their families by offering comprehensive financial solutions.

Dr Monica Kennedy, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner — South Asia at Austrade said, "Australia's Ziksu's collaboration with India's Elanistech and IDFC First Bank Limited showcases how Australian technology is bridging education and financial services.

AI-led demand for data centres in India to drive 500 MW capacity addition in 4 yrs: Avendus

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-led demand for data centres in India is projected to drive about 500 MW of capacity addition over next four years, according to a report released by Avendus Capital on Wednesday.

India is among the fastest-growing data centre markets globally, it has seen overall capacities doubling to about 1,011 megawatt (MW) in 2023 from about 540 MW in 2019.

Poised to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 26 per cent over the next three years, the sector now has the attention of investors, from growth stage PEs to long-term pension and sovereign wealth funds, as per the report.

According to it, India's data centre (DC) market is undergoing massive disruption led by increased demand and use cases by AI customers.

The report said that AI-led data centre capacity in India has the potential to add another 500 MW over the next four years.

"With AI workloads set to surge and eventually outpace traditional cloud computing, the demand for DCs is also



expected to rise sharply," the report said.

Hyperscalers in India are opting to build and own data centre tailored to their specifications, marking a major deviation from trends seen globally. This preference is bolstered by India's long-term growth potential and regulatory guidance for data sovereignty.

Prateek Jhwar, Managing Director and Head, Infrastructure and Real Assets Investment Banking, at Avendus Capital believes that India's data centre market will pave the way for the next wave of investments in real estate and AI unlocking tremendous stakeholder value.

"Developers can expect to generate 25 per cent plus IRR (Internal Rate of Return) with a build-and-sell model,

highlighting the sector's potential for superior returns compared to other yielding real asset classes," Jhwar said. This will drive overall demand for DC capacity in India, which is expected to double to 2 gigawatt (GW) by 2026, Jhwar pointed out.

Close to 94 per cent of the current installed data centre capacity is concentrated in India's top seven cities. Over the next five years, around 40 per cent of the total additional capacity is projected to be added in Mumbai. Chennai is expected to contribute about 25 per cent of the new capacity, while Delhi will account for around 15 per cent.

"We anticipate heightened transaction activity from both public and private markets. Scaled investments with a vintage of over 4 years are expected to seek listing opportunities, while developers will look to raise larger amounts of capital to fund this growth. The industry is maturing with the entry of long-term investors with commitments of over USD 250 million per investment, offering de-risked returns," Jhwar added.

Scheme to bolster medical device industry to roll out soon: Pharma Secy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A new scheme to strengthen the domestic medical device industry will be rolled out in the next one month, Department of Pharmaceuticals Secretary Arunish Chawla said on Wednesday.

The scheme is being formulated after detailed consultations with the medical device industry, he stated while participating in an event here. "This (the scheme) will be launched in the next one month. It was part of the stakeholder consultation so that different parts of the scheme are firmed up and are aligned with the needs of the industry," Chawla said.

He further said: "We have already received in-principle approval from the Finance Ministry for launching the new scheme." Participating in the second Meditech Stackathon, the

secretary said the scheme envisages a reduction in import dependence on medical devices going forward.

"The scheme is being brought in order to make the domestic industry self-reliant in the long run," Chawla said.

He noted that the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for medical devices has worked well so far with 20 big greenfield projects having already commenced operations.

Various high-tech medical devices like computed tomography (CT) scan, MRI, ultrasound and dialysis machines, among others, are now being manufactured in the country.

Last year in April, the Union Cabinet approved the National Medical Devices Policy to increase domestic production and reduce imports of such equipment.

Rupee plunges 14 paise to 83.91 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee nosedived 14 paise to 83.91 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid unabated outflow of foreign capital and volatile domestic equity markets.

Forex traders said a weak American currency and lower level of crude prices, however, cushioned the local unit at lower level.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened weak at 83.79 and touched the intra-day low of 83.94 against the greenback. The unit finally settled at 83.91 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 14 paise from its previous days' closing level of 83.77.

The rupee settled 10 paise higher at 83.77 against the American currency on Tuesday, a day after gaining 8 paise.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the rupee declined on recovery in US dollar index and US treasury



yields. "FII outflows also weighed on the rupee. However, weak crude oil prices cushioned the downside."

He said the rupee is expected to trade with a slight negative bias due to recovery in the US dollar and geopolitical tension in the Middle East.

"USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.70 to Rs 84.20," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.09 per cent at 101.38.

Analysts said the dollar index is at its seven-month low level

amid concerns over upcoming PMI data from the US and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium later this week.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.40 per cent to USD 77.51 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex rose 102.44 points, or 0.13 per cent, to close at 80,905.30 points. The Nifty went up 71.35 points, or 0.29 per cent to 24,770.20 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday, offloading shares worth Rs 1,457.96 crore, according to exchange data.

Online vendors generated 15.8 million jobs in India, says e-commerce report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online vendors have generated 15.8 million jobs in India, including 3.5 million for women, with about 1.76 million retail enterprises participating in e-commerce activity, says a report released on Wednesday.

The report 'Assessing the Net Impact of e-Commerce on Employment and Consumer Welfare in India' was launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

"Plugging in data from our survey, we estimate that online vendors generate 15.8 million jobs, including 3.5 million jobs for women," the report prepared by Pahlle India Foundation (PIF), a Delhi-based policy research institute, said.

E-commerce, according to the report, has been a key driver of employment generation in India. On an average, online vendors employ 54 per cent more people and almost twice the number of female employees, compared to offline vendors.

The report noted that two of the most widely-recognised contributions of e-commerce penetration in the retail sector are — growth in employment and improvements in consumer welfare.

It said rather than displacing physical markets, e-commerce is expanding into new territories like tier 3



cities. "Our data shows that a higher percentage of Tier 3 city consumers spend more than Rs 5,000 per month on online shopping as compared to consumers from bigger cities," it said, adding this is the India consumption story, which enables the co-existence of physical and digital retail.

The study analysed the impact e-commerce has had on employment and consumer welfare through a pan-India survey of 2,062 online vendors, 2,031 offline vendors, and 8,209 consumers of products from e-commerce websites across 35 cities in 20 states and UTs.

According to the report, each e-commerce vendor on an average employs about 9 people, of which 2 are female, while each offline vendor employs about 6 people, of which only 1 is female.

It pointed out that there was increase in employment across skill levels, including high-skilled (management,

marketing), medium-skilled (customer service, operations), and low-skilled (warehousing, logistics, delivery) functions.

The report said that the growth of e-commerce and accompanying digitalisation have fundamentally changed the skill sets and roles required in the industry.

"Vendors have experienced improved business performance parameters since listing online, including higher sales and profits," it said.

According to the report, 60 per cent and 52 per cent of vendors, respectively, state that their sales and profits have increased since the time they have started selling online.

"Overall, more than two thirds of the online vendors interviewed experienced an increase in online sales value and profits in the past year," the report said, adding that 58 per cent saw an increase in both.

Brookfield proposes massive investment in renewable energy sector in Andhra

PTI ■ AMARAVATI (ANDHRA PRADESH)

Brookfield, a global owner and operator of real assets, has proposed to invest massively in Andhra Pradesh in the next three to five years in renewable energy, focusing on wind and solar formats.

A delegation from the Canadian company met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday in Amaravati and proposed to build the renewable energy projects, a state government official said.

"Brookfield officials did call on

the Chief Minister and expressed desire to examine investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh," the official confirmed to PTI. However, he said he could not comment on the quantum of investment.

Meanwhile, K Ravi Kumar Reddy, chairman, Evren, a joint venture between Brookfield and Axis Energy Group, said the platform envisages to invest over Rs 50,000 crore in the next three to five years in the southern state.

Evren aims to install 1,380 MW of solar power capacity and 1,640 MW of wind power capacity by 2026, Reddy said. It already operates 210 MW of



wind power assets in Andhra Pradesh. Further, he said that the joint venture envisages to add 828 MW of solar power capacity and 204 MW of wind power capacity in 2027.

It also plans to install 1,311 MW of solar power capacity and 3,300 MW of wind power capacity beyond 2027 with the

ambition to achieve 8,873 MW of joint solar and wind capacities in total.

"These projects will mostly come up in the Rayalaseema region. We have to procure land for wind energy projects... We are very committed," Reddy said, adding that Kurnool and

Anantapur could feature in the larger scheme of things.

The Evren chairman said the company is keen to speed up these investments and observed that every MW can create one job, hinting at the employment potential.

Further, Reddy pointed out that the company has already harvested four years worth of wind data to assess the viability and intensity of wind energy in the southern state.

Evren is a brand of ABC Clean Tech Company, which is 51 per cent owned by Brookfield and 49 per cent by Axis Energy Group.

Tata Motors ties up with two firms to expand charging infra for electric CVs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Wednesday said it has tied up with Delta Electronics India and Thunderplus Solutions to set up charging infrastructure for its range of electric commercial vehicles (CVs).

As part of the MoU inked between the parties, 250 new fast-charging stations for electric commercial vehicles would be set up across the country.

Strategically located in and around over 50 cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, and Kochi, among others, these new charging stations

will significantly increase the existing network of 540 commercial vehicle charging points, Tata Motors said in a statement.

Basis its understanding of the commercial EV movement, the commercial vehicle major will recommend optimal locations and nearest dealerships for setting up the fast-charging stations, the company said.

While Delta Electronics will supply the necessary hardware, Thunderplus Solutions will install and operate them, it added. E-commerce companies, parcel and courier service providers, among other industries, are increasing the

adoption of commercial EVs for last-mile deliveries.

"Expanding the available charging infrastructure on high-use routes will encourage more customers to opt for electric commercial vehicles and improve vehicle uptime, resulting in higher revenues and better profitability, while contributing towards a cleaner, greener environment," Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles Vice President and Business Head — SCV & PU — Vinay Pathak said.

Currently, Tata Motors sells Ace EVs to cater to various last-mile delivery requirements.

India allows export of 2 lakh tonne of non-basmati white rice to Malaysia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has permitted exports of two lakh tonne of non-basmati white rice to Malaysia, through National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL).

Though exports of non-basmati white rice have been banned since July 20, 2023, to boost domestic supply, exports are allowed on the basis of permission granted by the government to certain countries to meet their food security needs on request.

"Exports of 2,00,000 MT of non-basmati white rice... To Malaysia is permitted through NCEL," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade

(DGFT) has said in a notification.

India has earlier also allowed these exports to countries like Nepal, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Seychelles.

NCEL is a multi-state cooperative society. It is jointly promoted by some of the leading cooperative societies in the country, namely, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) popularly known as AMUL, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd (KRIBHCO) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

INDIAN PARA-ATHLETES EYE 12 MEDALS AT PARALYMPICS



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Eyeing an unprecedented five gold and a dozen medals in total, the first batch of the Indian contingent, including star javelin thrower Sumit Antil, left for the Paris Paralympics in advance to get acclimatised to the conditions. The 16 para athletes will stay at hotels in Paris for a few days before entering the Games Village on August 25, three days before the Opening Ceremony. The likes of Antil, who is bidding to become the first Indian to defend his Paralympics gold, will train at facilities near the French capital to acclimatise with the weather conditions there. Para athletics events will be held from August 30 to September 8, the closing day of the Paralympics, at Stade de France, the same venue where the able-bodied athletes competed during the Paris

Olympics. "Sumit Antil and some other para athletes will train at Nelson Mandela Sports Complex for a few days before entering the Games Village," para-athletics head coach Satyanarayana told PTI. Nelson Mandela Sports Complex is around 5km from Stade de France. It has state-of-the-art training facilities for athletics, rugby, tennis, wheelchair tennis and swimming. "Some will stay at hotels near the Games Village and they can use the training facilities there during day time," he added. Asked about Indian para-athletics team's medal prospects at the Paris Games, he said, "We are aiming for at least five gold and 12 medals in total. This will be our best performance in the Paralympics." Satyanarayana's hopes stem from the unprecedented success at the 2024 World Para

Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan, in May where India had finished sixth in the medal tally with six gold, five silver and six bronze. Antil (men's javelin F64), Deepthi Jeevanji (women's 400m T20), Sachin Khilari (men's shot put F46), Ekta Bhan (women's club throw F51), Simran Sharma (women's 200m T12) and Mariyappan Thangavelu (men's high jump T42) won gold. In the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021, India had won a record 19 medals (5 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze). India is sending its biggest ever team of 84 athletes across 12 sports to the Paralympics, with 38 from the para-athletics team. Paralympic Committee of India President Devendra Jhajarhia has predicted at least 25 medals from the Paris Games. Antil and Bhagyashree Jadhav, who won a silver in Hangzhou Asian Para Games in women's shot put F34, will be the joint flag bearers for India during the Opening Ceremony, which will be held outside a stadium for the first time. The ceremony will be held from Champs-Elysees to Place de la Concorde in the heart of Paris. The Opening Ceremony of the Paris Olympics was also held outside a stadium, on the banks of the Seine river, a first in the games' history.

India's Ronak wins bronze in 110kg

U17 WORLD WRESTLING C'SHIP



PTI ■ AMMAN (JORDAN)

India's Ronak Dahiya bagged the bronze medal in the 110kg Greco-Roman category

at the U17 World Wrestling Championship here. In the bronze medal play-off, Ronak, currently ranked two in the world in his age-group

weight category, comfortably disposed the challenge of Turkey's Emrullah Capkan 6-1 to claim India's first medal from the championship on Tuesday. Earlier, Ronak had lost to eventual silver medallist Zoltan Czako of Hungary in the semi-final. The gold in this category was won by Ukraine's Ivan Yankovskiy, who beat Czako 13-4 by virtue of technical superiority. India have a chance of a second medal in the 51 kg repechage if Sainath Pardhi wins two bouts. He is first pitted against Dominic Michael Munaretto of the United States and if he wins the bout then he will fight the bronze medal play off with either Kazakhstan's Mussan Yerasyl or Iran's Abolfazl Mehrdad Karamiegaei.

Gukesh draws with Nepomniachtchi

PTI ■ ST LOUIS (USA)

World championship challenger Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh played out a thrilling draw with Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi to be tied second after the second round of the Sinquefeld Cup, the final event on the Grand Chess Tour this year. After a relatively easy draw with reigning world champion Ding Liren of China, Gukesh had an exciting match against Nepomniachtchi out of a Catalan opening game on Tuesday. The Indian stood marginally better for the major part as white pieces but Nepomniachtchi, who has won the Candidates' tournament twice, stayed put with some fine defense and counter-attacks to steer the game to a draw in the knight and pawns endgame. The game lasted 60 moves. R Pragganandhaa also stayed in the hunt after a draw with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France. It was another Italian opening game as black for the Indian who did not get any chance against a solid Vachier-Lagrave. The pieces got traded at regular intervals and the players arrived at a rook and pawns endgame that offered no chances.



After a lone decisive game in the opening round wherein Alireza Firouzja of France defeated Fabiano Caruana of United States, the second round witnessed an all-draws day. Firouzja drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Dutchman Anish Giri signed peace with Ding Liren. In the other game of the USD 3,50,000 prize money tournament, the all American duel between Wesley So and Caruana was also drawn. Firouzja remained in front with 1.5 points in his bag leaving eight players behind

him on one point each. With a half point in his kitty, Caruana is currently at the bottom with seven rounds still remaining in the 10-player round-robin tournament. RESULTS ROUND 2: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1) drew with R Pragganandhaa (Ind, 1); Anish Giri (Ned, 1) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 1); Wesley So (Usa, 1) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 0.5); D Gukesh (Ind, 1) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID, 1); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 1.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1).

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gurdeep Singh s/o Balwinder Singh r/o #1033, Gali no.4, Shiv Colony, Kaithal Road Karnal, Haryana have changed my minor daughter name from Yashleen to Yashleen Kaur. In future she should be known as Yashleen Kaur.

I, Joginder S/o Babu Ram R/o Village Aibli PO Aibla, District Karnal, have changed my name from Joginder to Joginder Singh.

I, Sudha W/o Joginder Singh R/o Village Aibli PO Aibla, District Karnal, have changed my name from Sudha to Sudha Devi.

I, Beena Devi W/o Surjeet Singh R/o Village Sunehari Khalsa, Postoffice Salarpur, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Beena Devi to Bina Rani.

I, Harbans Devi W/o Darshan Singh R/o Village Thandran, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Harbans Devi to Harbans Kaur.

I, Geetanjali Sidhu W/o Mukesh Chander R/o 3114, Mohalla Guru Nanak Pura Nakodar Distt Jalandhar have changed my name from Geetanjali to Geetanjali Sidhu after my marriage.

I, Om Parkash Arora S/o Lal Chand Arora R/o Near Civil Hospital H.No. B-37777/a Moh Paramjit Gunj Kapurthala 144601-punjab have changed my name from Om Parkash to Om Parkash Arora. All concerned please note.

(For Change of Name of Widows of Deceased Soldiers and Change of Name of Wives of Veterans and Serving Soldiers) **I, Vennila Govindaraj** spouse of Govindaraj V resident of 4/5, Meenatchi thotta street, Mamsapuram (Village), Mamsapuram (Post), Srivilliputhur (TK), Virudhunagar (DT), Tamilnadu (State) PIN- 626110 have changed my name from Vennila Govindaraj to Vennila R vide affidavit dated 21-08-2024 before District Court Pattiala.

I, Sapura Sayad Is Mother Of Sayyed Nadimuddin Of 23 Mech Inf Regt C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Dadmahal Ward, Kohinoor Talav, Huf Pentar District Chandrapur, State Maharashtra Pin 442401 Have Changed My Name From Sapura Sayad To Safura Bi Sayyed Vide Affidavit Dated 22 August 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sahodara Is Mother Of Vidyandan Of Unit 307 Field Hospital C/O 56 Apo Residing At Village Balco, P.S. Balco, District Korba, State Chhattisgarh, Pin 495684 Have Changed My Name From Sahodara To Sahodra Bai Jaiswal Vide Affidavit Dated 09 August 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Rohit Bansal s/o Rattan Lal Bansal R/o Hno- 280/15, shakti Nagar Hisar have changed my minor daughter name from Prerana to Prerana Bansal.

I, Aparna Mittal c/o Ashok Mittal R/o flat no- 107 Block-U, Zirakpur Distt - SAS Nagar Mohali have changed name from Aparna Bansal to Aparna Mittal for all future purposes.

I, Nazari Singh S/o Singara Singh Vill Chhajpur, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Najar Singh

I, Veena Rani W/o Om Parkash Vill.Dhand Distt.Kaithal have Changed My Name Veena Devi

I, Veerpal Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o Village Wariana, Po. Nagra, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Veerpal Singh to Singh Veerpal. (Singh is my Surname).

I, hitherto known as Kamaljit S/o Chanan Singh R/o Village Daulatpur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab- 144301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kamaljit Singh Bassi.

I, Army No. 15322887W, Hav, Kadappa Khanapuri of Unit 22 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Resident of VTC. U Khanapur P.o. Utlagaddi, Khanapur Tehsil Hukkeri Dist. Belagavi State Karnataka Pin-591221 have changed my Daughter Name in all documents From Kirti K to Kirti Kadappa Khanapuri Vide Affidavit Dated 22 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Army No. 15322887W Hav Kadappa Khanapuri of Unit 22 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Resident of VTC. U Khanapur P.o Utlagaddi Khanapur Tehsil- Hukkeri Dist-Belagavi, State Karnataka Pin-591221 have changed my Daughter Name in all documents From Sahana K to Sahana Kadappa Khanapuri Vide Affidavit Dated 22 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Service No 16112396Y Rank HAV Name Vikram Hundre of 5 Engineer Regiment, C/o 56 APO. Today camping at Ferozepur, have changed my Son name from Daksh to Daksh Vikram Hundre.

I, Kamalawwa Gurupad Biradar is mother of Army No. 16117435W, NK, Ravasab Gurupad Biradar of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Kamalawwa G Biradar to Kamalawwa Gurupad Biradar due to erroneous mistake in my son's service record. My true and exact date of birth is 01.01.1958 but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned as 01.07.1964, which is wrong.

I, Madasamy is father of Army No. 16123830A, NK, Chinnna Thambi M of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Mada Samy to Madasamy due to erroneous mistake in my son's service record. My true and exact date of birth is 08.06.1971 but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned as 07.04.1968, which is wrong.

I, Indhira is mother of Army No. 16123830A, NK, Chinnna Thambi M of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Indira M to Indhira due to erroneous mistake in my son's service record. My true and exact date of birth is 01.01.1978 but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned as 05.02.1972, which is wrong.

I, K Venkata Ramana is mother of Army No. 16127912A, NK, K Shreekanth of Unit 05 Engineer Regt c/o 56 APO, have changed my name from Komarolu Venkataramana to K Venkata Ramana Vide Affidavit Dated 21 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, K Ankamma is mother of Army No. 16127912A, NK, K Shreekanth of Unit 05 Engineer Regt c/o 56 APO, have changed my name from Komarolu Ankamma to K Ankamma Vide Affidavit Dated 21 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sumathy S is spouse of JC-311886F, Sub Maj, C Suresh Kumar of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from S Sumathy to Sumathy S Vide Affidavit Dated 21 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Aakash Dhayal S/o Sh. Ashok R/o Vill. Kittana, Tehsil & Distt. Bhiwani. I have passed the 10th examination from Delhi Public School under CBSE Board and 12th examination from Delhi World Public School Bhiwani, under CBSE Board. I want to change the name of my father in my above said both DMC from Ashok Kumar to Ashok as per my father Aadhar card etc

I, Rohit Bansal s/o Rattan Lal Bansal R/o Hno- 280/15, shakti Nagar Hisar have changed my minor daughter name from Prerana to Prerana Bansal.

I, Saurabh Gupta S/O Ram Kumar Gupta Permanent Address: Ke-84, Kaveri Kunj-1, Kamla Nagar, Agra, Dayal Bagh, Uttar Pradesh-282005 Declare That I Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Trisha Gupta To Tvisha Gupta.V Ide Affidavit No-54aa 510889, Dated- 21/08/24

I, Megha Rani W/o No.04007158K Sep.Varinder Singh of (Unit) 02DS C PL C/O 56 APO R/o Village Saidawal, PO. Chashma, Tehsil and District Pathankot, Punjab declare that my actual and correct date of birth is 08/10/1981 and the same is written in my Aadhar Card, School Certificate, PANCard etc. My DOB 08/10/1988 is incorrectly mentioned in service document of my husband No. 04007158K Sep.Varinder Singh. In all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding, dealing with transaction private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as Megha Rani and D.O.Birth is 08/10/1981.

I, Service No. 3997116W Rank NK(MACPS HAV) Name-Rakesh Kumar Unit 6 Dogra/ Dogra Regt Centre Faizabad(UP) S/o Sh. Onkar Singh R/o VPO-VPO-Gharota, Tehsil & Distt- Pathankot, Punjab declare that My Mother actual name is Parveen Rani as per my Mother Pan Card, Adhar Card and Voter Card and Mother date of Birth is 01-01-1953 as per Aadhar Card and Pan Card.Due to inadvertently my Mother name and DOB has wrongly been entered in service record as Parvina Rana instead of Parveen Rani and DOB as 01-08-1957 instead of 01-01-1953. The deponent wants to correct the Name of her Mother Parveen Rani instead of Parvina Rana and mother date of birth 01-01-1953 instead of 01-08-1957 in his service record.

I, hitherto known as Raj Kumari alias Raj Kumari Verma D/o Hira Lal and W/o Sudarshan Kumar Verma, R/O H. No. 25, Sector - 17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, 135003 (Haryana), India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raj Kumari Verma.

I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Kulbhusan Vpo Bhadaur Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala have changed my name Ashwani Kumar Rishi.

I, Kiranjit Kaur W/o Rajinder Singh R/o H.No. 316 Dasmesh Nagar Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Kiranjit Kaur.

I, Tarsem Singh Pannu S/o Gurcharn Singh R/o Lohke Kalan (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Tarsem Singh.

I, Daljit Singh Pessi S/o Darshan Singh Pessi R/o Boparai Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Daljit Singh.

I, Nirmala Devi Bansal W/o Ram Lal R/o Mohalla Mallian Zira Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Nirmala Devi.

I, Gurkirat Kaur Gir W/o Harjinder Singh Gir R/o Kamiana (Faridkot) have changed my name to Gurkirat Kaur.

I, Gurkirat Kaur W/o Harjinder Singh Gir R/o Kamiana (Faridkot) have changed my minor son name from Fatehdeep Singh Gir to Fatehdeep Singh.

I, Tajinder Singh Sandhu son of Sulakhn Singh Resident of Village Maujewala, Ghubaya, Jalalabad, District Fazilka have changed my name to Tajinder Singh.

I, Jaspal Kaur Brar wife of Kuldeep Singh Resident of Jore Jand urf Chimnewala District Fazilka have changed my name to Jaspal Kaur.

I, Rajveer Kaur Brar wife of Bhupinder Singh Resident of Jore Jand urf Chimnewala District Fazilka have changed my name to Rajveer Kaur.

I, Kuldeep Singh Brar son of Labh Singh Resident of Jore Jand urf Chimnewala District Fazilka have changed my name to Kuldeep Singh.

I, Labh Singh Brar son of Karnal Singh Resident of Jore Jand urf Chimnewala District Fazilka have changed my name to Labh Singh.

I, Paramjit Singh S/o Pritpal Singh Bakshi Resident of 33/3 Vikram Batra Enclave Ferozepur Cantt Punjab have changed my name to Paramjit Singh Bakshi.

I, Armaandeeep Singh S/o Satnam Singh R/o village Banwalpur tehsil & district Tarn Taran have changed my given name to Armaandeeep and Surname to Singh.

I, Harjit Singh S/o Nirvail Singh R/o VPO Lauha district Tarn Taran have changed my name Harjit Singh to Harjeet Singh.

I, Amarjit Kaur W/o Gurmali Singh Brar R/o Dwareana Road, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Amarjeet Kaur.

I, Shavinder Kaur Dhaliwal W/o Roshan Singh R/o Aman Nagar, Moga Road, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Shavinder Kaur.

I, Mohan Lal Kataria S/o Ram Chand R/o Prem Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Mohan Lal.

I, Avtar Singh S/o Shiv Singh R/o Patti Gau ki, VPO Rurka Kalan, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar, Punjab (India)144031 have changed my name Avtar Singh to Avtar Singh Sandhu.

I, Charanjit Kaur W/o Dilver Khan R/o H.No.32/1508, Adarsh Colony, Ablowal Road, Patiala have changed my name to Manisha.

I, Navneet Kaur Ghuman W/o Inderpal Singh Ghuman R/o Near Dr Naveen Sethi hospital, Hanumangarh Road, Abohar, Fazilka, Punjab have changed my name from Navneet Kaur to Navneet Kaur Ghuman.

I, Dolly W/o Dinesh kalra R/o # 37-B, W.No. 5, Mohalla Wastian, VPO Sadhaura, Sub-Tehsil Sadhaura have changed my name from Dolly Sahni to Dolly.

I, Manprit Kaur W/o Kulwant Singh R/o Patti Gobind Nagar, Malsian, Jalandhar, Punjab-144701, have changed my name to Kulwant Kaur.

I, Gurleen Kaur D/o Mandeep Singh R/o Vill:Andlu (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Gurleen Kaur Toor.

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BORDER GAVASKAR TROPHY ON PAR WITH ASHES FOR AUSTRALIA: STARC

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia pace ace Mitchell Starc believes that with the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India becoming a five-Test affair for the first time in over three decades, it would be "right on par" with the esteemed Ashes series for his team.

The marquee series between India and Australia, set to begin in November, was extended by a match this year for the first time since the 1991-92 season.

"Being five matches now it's probably right on par with an Ashes series," Starc told Wide World of Sports.

Since 2014-15, Australia have failed to lay their hands on the Border Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive series including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Starc is not only intent on reversing this trend but also harbours aspirations of a clean sweep, particularly as the series forms a crucial part of the World Test Championship.

"We always want to win every



game at home and we know India are a very strong team," he said.

Currently, India leads the World Test Championships table with Australia in second place.

"As we're placed at the minute we're the top two teams on the Test ladder... So a very exciting series coming up for the fans and certainly the players.

"Hopefully when we're sitting there on the 8th of January we have that trophy back on our shores."

The 34-year-old is just 11 matches shy of reaching a milestone 100 Tests and has no plans to quit red-ball cricket. The left-armed said he is scaling back his white-ball commitments to prolong his

Test career for as long as possible.

"...Every time I get to wear the baggy green cap it feels very special. Hopefully it's five times through the summer with five wins and we can sing that song five times, then we move on from there.

"If it does come to a point where I'm lucky enough to get

past that 100 number then it's obviously going to be pretty special as well," he said.

Starc is scheduled to fly to England next month for a white-ball series following which the left-armed intends to play domestic cricket for New South Wales ahead of the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

"The Tests will always be taking precedence for me," he said.

"We've got seven Tests on the bounce with five against India and then two in Sri Lanka, so they sit top of the tree with what's coming up."

Alongside, Test and ODI skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, Starc will shoulder the pace duties across three formats.

"Pat is resting for this UK tour... We love playing all three formats but that could look different at different times over 12 months."

"There is certainly no end date on (our bowling careers). That will be an ongoing one. We'll see where (our) bodies are and the want to keep going, but at this stage it's all guns blazing for five Tests against India."

Arya leads South Delhi Superstarz to six-wicket win over Central Delhi Kings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Priyansh Arya's scintillating 82 off 51 balls powered South Delhi Superstarz to a six-wicket win over Central Delhi Kings in the Delhi Premier League here.

Fifties from Dhruv Kaushik (56) and Yash Dhull (52) guided Central Delhi Kings to 176/7 after they were asked to bat on Tuesday.

However, South Delhi Superstarz chased down the target with five balls to spare, courtesy a solid 101-run partnership between Arya and Ayush Badoni (42). After the early loss of Sarthak Ray (0 off 1) in the first over, Badoni and Arya approached the run chase with composed batting.

By the end of the powerplay, they took the score to 45/1 and went on to consistently score more than 10 runs per over. Arya brought up his fifty in 32 balls, while Badoni contributed a vital 42 off 36 balls before being caught at mid-wicket, thus missing out on his half-century.

By the strategic timeout, SDS were firmly in control, thanks to the free-flowing stroke play of Arya and Tejaswi Dahiya.



Arya, who smashed seven sixes and three fours, was dismissed in the 17th over. Tejaswi followed in the next over, contributing 22 off 14.

Despite these quick wickets, the South Delhi Superstarz were still in a commanding position, needing just 17 runs from 16 balls.

Vision Panchal and Dhruv Singh then sealed the victory with two sixes and a four in the 19th over, securing the South Delhi Superstarz' second consecutive win of the tournament.

Earlier in the contest, Hiten Dalal (10 off 9) fell cheaply to

Divij Mehra in the third over. However, skipper Yash Dhull led from the front, keeping the scoreboard ticking alongside Dhruv Kaushik as they stitched together a solid 91-run partnership off 65 balls.

Kaushik was then dismissed in the following over after scoring 56 off 33 balls.

Brief Scores:
Central Delhi Kings: 176/7 in 20 overs (Dhruv Kaushik 56 off 34, Yash Dhull 52 off 44, Kuldip Yadav 2/37)

South Delhi Superstarz: 177/4 in 19.1 overs (Priyansh Arya 82 off 51, Ayush Badoni 42 off 36, Money Grewal 2/22).

Conor joins Atletico Madrid from Chelsea as Joao moves in opposite direction

AP ■ MADRID

England midfielder Conor Gallagher finally completed his move to Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, ending a weeks-long saga that required a move by Joao Felix in the opposite direction to facilitate the deal.

Gallagher joined Atletico for a reported 36 million pounds (\$47 million) on a five-year deal. Hours later, Chelsea announced the signing of Felix, the Portugal forward, for a reported 45 million pounds (\$59 million).

Chelsea wanted to sell Gallagher, an academy product and the team's vice-captain last season, to help the club meet the Premier League's financial requirements that are being more strictly applied in recent seasons.

Chelsea and Atletico reached an agreement on his transfer but it was in jeopardy last week, reportedly because of



the collapse of a deal that would have seen Atletico striker Samu Omorodion move in the opposite direction.

That meant Gallagher had to return to Chelsea and train alone but a solution was reached, with Felix instead making the switch from Atletico to Chelsea.

Felix spent the second half of the 2022-23 season on loan at Chelsea, having previously become the third most expensive player of all time when Atletico triggered the 126 million euro (around \$140 million) buyout clause in

his contract in 2019 to sign him from Benfica.

"I'm really happy to be back at Chelsea and I can't wait to get started," he said. "I can see some familiar faces from the last time I was here, which is always nice."

"I loved my time here before and I told my friends and family that I'd love to return to the Premier League one day. To do that with Chelsea is a great feeling and I'm excited to be back."

Felix was on loan at Barcelona last season.

Gallagher played for England at the recent European Championship and was one of Chelsea's best players last season. He has played 95 times for a club he joined as a 6-year-old, scoring 10 goals in total.

It continues a frenzied summer of transfer activity for Chelsea, which continues to overhaul its squad under its American owners.

Can see growth, especially in women's table tennis in India: Manika on UTT

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian table tennis is headed in the right direction thanks to the advent of the UTT tournament which attracts top players from across the world, feels Manika Batra, who is the most prominent face of the women's game in the country.

Manika and Sreeja Akula recently made history by becoming the first Indian table tennis players to reach the Olympics singles pre-quarterfinals in Paris.

Next, the 29-year-old Manika will represent Bengaluru Smashers in the eight-team Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) competition, which gets underway here on Thursday.

"Personally, it has helped me because the players come for UTT from different countries, and we play against them, we play with them," Manika told reporters here on Wednesday.

"It's really fun, and we enjoy this. I can see the growth that's happening, especially in women's table tennis in India, how we all are performing internationally. We have improved a lot from UTT," Manika lost to Miu Hirano of Japan 0-3 in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals in Paris. In the team event, India, who were represented by Manika, Sreeja and Archana Kamath, lost to Germany 1-3 in the quarterfinals.

In the UTT, one of Manika's most anticipated contests will be against world No. 13, Bernadette Szocs of Romania, who will play for Ahmedabad SG Pipers.

The two players also clashed during the pre-quarterfinals of the team event in Paris

Olympics, with India winning the tie 3-2.

Bernadette said, "I love to play here. I love all the fans who are very big supporters of table tennis. And, of course, always when I come here, everything is perfect with good organisation."

Veteran Sharath Kamal, who will lead Chennai Lions in UTT, feels the performance graph of Indian players is going up gradually.

"This is the first time both Indian teams, men and women, qualified for the Olympic Games in the team event. The girls went further; they went on to play in the quarterfinals in the team event, and especially Manika and Sreeja got into the last 16 in the individual event," Sharath pointed out.

"So, performances like this have been constantly coming up, and India has been constantly growing in the international arena, and we look forward to more growth," Nigerian legend Quadri Aruna returns to the tournament, and his clash against Sharath is expected to be one of the highlights of the tournament. "With huge spending on the sport of table tennis in India, we have seen huge growth. Indian players are already title contenders in most of the tournaments in the world. So, I think table tennis has improved a lot in India," expressed Aruna, who will be representing U Mumbai TT.

UTT 2024 SQUADS:

Ahmedabad SG Pipers: Manush Shah, Bernadette Szocs (Romania), Lilian Bardet (France), Reeth Tannison, Pritha Vartikar, Jash Modi.

Chennai Lions: Achanta Sharath Kamal, Sakura Mori

(Japan), Jules Rolland (France), Poymante Baisya, Mouma Das, Abhinandh PB.

Dabang Delhi TTC: Sathiyam G, Orawan Parangam (Thailand), Diya Chitale, Andreas Levenko (Austria), Yashansh Malik, Lakshita Narang.

Athlead Go Challengers: Harmeet Desai, Yangzi Liu (Australia), Yashaswini Ghorpade, Sudhanshu Grover,

Sayali Wani, Mihai Bobocica (Italy).

Jaipur Patriots: Cho Seungmin (South Korea), Suthasini Sawettabut (Thailand), Snehit SFR, Ronit Bhanja, Mounita Dutta, Nithyashree Mani.

PBG Bengaluru Smashers: Manika Batra, Alvaro Robles (Spain), Lily Zhang (USA), Jeet Chandra, Taneesha Kotecha, Amalraj Anthony.

Unlucky to lose to Germany; back-to-back bronze a huge achievement: Harmanpreet

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

India hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh on Wednesday said that his side was unlucky to lose to Germany in the Paris Olympics semifinal despite creating several chances before calling the back-to-back bronze winning performance a "huge achievement".

India repeated their 2021 Tokyo Games performance in Paris, defeating Spain to win consecutive bronze medals

for the first time in 52 years. The keenly-contested semifinal earlier saw India going down to reigning world champions Germany 2-3 to set up a bronze-medal match with Spain.

"It (semifinal vs Germany) was a very close match. I think we created a lot of chances but you can say we were not lucky that day and some chances were off target," Harmanpreet told PTI.

Videos during a felicitation ceremony organised by the Odisha

government.

"But I think the bronze medal was very important. It was the last match of the tournament and feeling very happy after winning the match. Our effort was that we should fulfil our dream (of winning gold) but somehow we were unlucky."

"But, still, we had the bronze medal to play for. So, went into the match with that mindset that we will win. We've won back-to-back medals in hockey; it's a very big thing for us," he added.

Harmanpreet was left speechless with the reception given to the players, saying the team gets the same affection every time it comes to Odisha.

"And, this time, we are getting all the more affection. Whenever the team comes here, be it to play in a tournament or after winning a medal, it always feels nice... We get a lot of respect," added Harmanpreet.

Harmanpreet also thanked the state government for sponsoring hockey.

After silver at Olympics, Chopra takes field in Lausanne in bid for Diamond League title

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

Two weeks after winning his historic silver medal at the Paris Olympics, star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will resume action at the Lausanne Diamond League meeting on Thursday, seeking to reclaim the DL trophy at the season-ending finale next month.

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra claimed a silver in the Paris Olympics on August 8 with a 89.45m throw, having won a historic gold in the Tokyo edition of the Games three years ago.

The 26-year-old double Olympic medallist Indian on Saturday confirmed his participation at the Diamond League meeting in Lausanne, leaving a decision on a possible surgery after the end of the season.

Chopra was the Diamond League champion in 2022 and finished second behind Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic in the winner-takes-all DL final in Eugene, USA, last year. This season's DL finals will be held in Brussels on September 14. He needs to finish in the top-six of the Diamond League meetings series standings to qualify for the season finale.



There is another DL meeting — in Zurich on September 5 — which has men's javelin throw event in its roster.

He is currently at fourth spot with seven points he has garnered after finishing second behind Vadlejch in the Doha Diamond League on May 10. After a busy couple of days

post the Olympic final on August 8, Chopra started training in Switzerland and is determined to finish the season on a high despite being restricted by the injury.

"I came to Switzerland for training ahead of the Diamond League. Luckily, I did not aggravate my injury as I took

extra care of that. "I thought of continuing my season like most other athletes. There is one month to go until the season ends. I will go to the doctors in my free time," he had said last week.

Chopra will be up against a top-class field in Lausanne with five of the top-six

finishers in Paris Olympics final competing. Only Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who stunned the athletics world by winning the gold with an Olympic record throw of 92.97m, is missing.

Nadeem had finished fourth in the Paris Diamond League on July 7 with a throw of 84.21m.

That was the only DL meeting — as well as the lone event apart from the Olympics — he had taken part this season.

He is currently at sixth spot in the standings with five points. Having pushed to the fourth spot with a throw of 88.50m in Paris after winning a silver in Tokyo, Vadlejch would be looking to maintain his form in his bid to defend the DL title.

Two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who took the bronze in the Paris Olympics with 88.54m, has been on the ascendancy after a poor last season, and he is capable of pulling off big throws, having already gone past the 90m mark in his career.

Chopra has been the most consistent javelin thrower in the last couple of seasons, before Nadeem pulled off the heist in Paris, and the Indian will start as favourite in Lausanne on Thursday.

He has been managing his groin injury since winning the gold in the Budapest World Championships last year. "The final treatment will be after the season ends. I will try to take care of it as much as possible and consult the doctors later," he said.

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान खड़गपुर
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AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)
Regd. Office - 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, (CIN : L38911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV (SEE RULE 8(i) POSSESSION NOTICE)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 16-Apr-24 Calling upon the Borrower Sandeep Kumar (Borrower), Smt. Reema Devi (Co-Borrower) (Loan Account No. 19001070134795992) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for Rs. 2331187/- Rs. Twenty-Three Lac Thirty-One Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven Only within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 16 Day of August of the Year 2024.

The borrower/ co-borrower/ mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for an amount of for Rs. 2331187/- Rs. Twenty-Three Lac Thirty-One Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven Only as on 12-Apr-24 and interest and expenses thereon until full payment.

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

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At:Khwat No.157/110, Khatoni No.165, Kharsa No. 14/4(3-10), Waka Before Narayana Road Phata, Narayan Road, Samalkha, Dist- Panipat, Haryana Admeasuring 2 Marla 8 Sersal owned by Smt. Reema Devi, Gd.

Date : 16-Aug-24 Authorised Officer
Place : Panipat, Haryana Au Small Finance Bank Limited

USP

Chandigarh Branch Office conducted Capsule Course on PVC Pipes for Quality Control Personnel of licenses on 20th to 21st August 2024 at Swan Birdz Hotel, Sangrur Road, Near Singla Palace, Dhuri, Punjab.

Shri Ajay Maurya, Scientist-D/Joint Director welcomed the participants and highlighted the programme objectives and apprised about the programme schedule. Presentation on overview of the activities of BIS was made by Shri Ajay Maurya, Joint Director/Scientist-D, during which significance of standardization and certification of products was deliberated upon. Shri Abhishek Kumar, Scientist-C/Dy. Director apprised the participants about the importance of QCI in maintaining the quality of PVC products. More than 15 Quality control personnel from different firms attended this programme. On the first day, standards, testing methods and product manuals on PVC were discussed with participants. Their queries/doubts regarding testing methods and manufacturing practices were listened and resolved. Also, various suggestion needed to be incorporated in the standard are informed by the QCI.