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KARTIK TO
LEAD INDIAN
CHALLENGE
12 SPORTS

Supreme Court extremely disturbed over delay in Kolkata FIR

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the delay by the Kolkata Police in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor raped and killed at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital as 'extremely disturbing', the Supreme Court on Thursday came down heavily on the West Bengal Government about the "14-hour delay" in filing the First Information Report (FIR). The SC flagged discrepancies in police status report questioning the sequence and timing of legal formalities conducted by the police.

During the hearing, Justice JB Pardiwala, who is part of the three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Manoj Misra, said he has not come across the kind of procedure followed by the State Government of West Bengal in his 30 years of legal career life.

Expressing surprise that the post-mortem of the victim was conducted on August 9 between 6.10 pm and 7.10 pm before the registration of case as unnatural death, the top court pulled up the Kolkata police over "unexplained" delay of 14 hours in lodging of the FIR in the case.

"How come the post-mortem was conducted at 6.10 pm on August 9 and yet the unnatural death information is sent to Tala police station at

THE NATION WAITS FOR JUSTICE ON RAPE AND MURDER HORROR



Doctor sitting on protest against the death of a doctor of RG Kar Hospital, at RML hospital on Thursday

11.30 pm on August 9 after post-mortem and the FIR is recorded at 11.45 pm. This is extremely disturbing," the bench, also comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said. Questioning the sequence and timing of the legal formalities conducted by police, Justice Pardiwala said, "The entire procedure followed by your State (West Bengal) is something which I have not come across in the 30 years of my professional life.

"The first thing is, is it true that the UD (unnatural death) was recorded at 10.30 hours (10.30 am)? Second, who is this assistant superintendent non-medical (person), her conduct is also very doubtful. Why did she act in this manner?"

It directed the Kolkata Police officer, who registered the first entry about the incident that shocked the country, to appear in the next hearing and disclose the time of the entry. The court also observed that there seemed to be an attempt to pass off the murder as a suicide.

Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) while sharing a status report on the matter claimed that the crime scene was altered and tampered with which has hindered the further probe in the case. The CBI also informed the court that the FIR was lodged after and murder of a woman doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.



Security personnel outside the residence of a man allegedly linked to Al Qaeda, in Lohardaga, on Thursday. Seven people allegedly linked to Al Qaeda were detained by Jharkhand Anti-Terrorist Squad in raids in different parts of the State on Thursday PTI

Delhi Police deals death blow to Al Qaeda terrorists

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Thursday claimed to have busted an Al Qaeda-inspired terror module after arresting 11 people and detaining three others from Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

A senior police official said the operation by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police was conducted, along with the police forces of the States after receiving intelligence inputs. "In a coordinated, intelligence based operation, conducted by the Special Cell of Delhi Police in association with State Police forces of Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, an Al Qaeda (AQ) inspired module has been busted," a Delhi Police statement said. The terror module was aiming to declare 'khilafat' in the country and was planning for carrying out terrorist activities across India.

Five more people were arrested from Ranchi in Jharkhand. They have been identified as Dr Ishtiyaq Ahmed, Motiur, Rizwan, Mufti Rahmatullah and Faizan, he added.

Delhi Doctors resume work

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Resident doctors at AIIMS, Delhi RML Hospital and Federation of All India Medical Association announced that they were withdrawing their 11-day long strike following assurance from the Supreme Court on Thursday.

"We are resuming duty following the SC's appeal and assurances and intervention in the RG Kar incident and the safety of doctors. We commend the court's action and call for adherence to its directives. Patient care remains our top priority," the Resident Doctors' Association, AIIMS, New Delhi, said in a post on X.

The resident doctors' association of RML Hospital said in a similar statement that they would resume duty from 8 am on Friday. The SC on Thursday directed doctors protesting over the Kolkata rape and murder incident, to resume work and assured them that no adverse action would be taken after they rejoin.

The court said judges and doctors cannot go on a strike since they deal with matters involving life and liberty. "Justice and medicine cannot afford to

be stopped. Can we (judges) go and sit outside the Supreme Court now?" the bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud asked.

The bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, was hearing the matter of the progress of the investigations by the two separate agencies — Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Kolkata police in the alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

National Capital brought to a halt

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites face major transportation problem as taxi and autorickshaw drivers began their two-day strike on Thursday demanding better compensation from cab aggregator services with commuters in the national Capital and its adjoining areas are to have a tough time.

Meanwhile, drivers who didn't participate in the ongoing strike were threatened and asked to deboard passengers.

Taxi and auto unions said inadequate compensation coupled with aggregators launching bike taxi services has hit their livelihood. Delhi Auto Taxi Transport Congress Union (DATTCU) president Kishan Verma claimed that 80 per cent of autorickshaws and taxis are off the road in the city as around 14 unions are participating in the protest.

Anil Pradhan, a cab driver, demanded a ban on bike taxis that offer services using non-commercial number plates. "The Government should step in and ban the commercial plying of vehicles with non-commercial numberplates. It is becoming difficult to make ends meet," he said.

Amid the autos and taxis not operating, commuters expressed their frustrations as they took to social media to complain about delay in getting cabs and cancellations.

Congress, National Conference shake hands for Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Former alliance partners Congress and National Conference on Thursday decided to 'unitedly' contest the upcoming Assembly polls by forging a pre-poll alliance in Jammu and Kashmir.

By finally stitching the deal, the National Conference has also put to rest all the speculations about the possibility of the post-poll alliance by the Kashmir-based mainstream regional parties with the ruling dispensation in New Delhi.

The alliance partners have decided to contest all 90 seats as per the terms and conditions of the pre-poll alliance.

The deal was struck between the two parties at the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar. Omar Abdullah also attended the crucial meeting.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge after addressing the workers meeting at a private hotel in Srinagar visited the Gupkar Road residence of Dr Abdullah where they held a closed-door meeting with the top brass of the National Conference discussing the contours of the pre-poll alliance.

Soon after the meeting, the National Conference president Dr Farooq formally announced that the pre-poll alliance with Congress is final, and will be approved by this evening.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leader Rahul Gandhi meets J&K National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah, in Srinagar, on Thursday PTI

"The alliance is on track and it will go on well with God's grace. It is final and will be approved by this evening."

The NC president said Congress, NC and CPI(M) are on the same page and will fight Assembly elections together. He hoped that with the collective efforts of the alliance, the Statehood of Jammu and Kashmir would be restored.

However, he maintained that doors are still open for everyone to join the alliance and give a befitting reply to those who damaged the country's institutions and its secular fabric.

To a query, he replied that the meeting with Kharge and Rahul took place in a very cordial atmosphere. The leaders from both parties have been entrusted with the responsibility of

deciding how many seats NC was willing to leave for Congress in the Valley and how many seats Congress was ready to concede for the National Conference after the Jammu region.

Meanwhile, addressing a workers' meeting in Srinagar, Rahul said it is our priority in the Congress party and also in the INDIA Block to restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as soon as possible.

He said Congress is expecting the region gets Statehood before Assembly polls but "polls were announced which is a step forward." "We hope to see democracy restored," he said and reiterated that it was for the first time since Independence that a State was reduced to a Union Territory.

PM MODI WALKS THE TALK IN WARSAW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk during his ceremonial welcome at the Chancellery, in Warsaw, Poland, on Thursday



PTI

Assam Bill to register Muslim Marriages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Government on Thursday introduced a Bill to repeal a law to register marriages and divorces of Muslims, stating that it had scope to allow marriages of minors from the community.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan tabled The Assam Repealing Bill, 2024 in the Assembly to abolish The Assam Moslem Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1935 and the Assam Repealing Ordinance 2024.

"There remains a scope of registering marriages of intended persons below 21 years (in case of male) and 18 years (in case of female)," he said in the Statement of Object and Reasons of the Repealing Bill.

It hardly had any provisions for



monitoring the implementation of the Act throughout the State and it attracted huge amounts of litigation courts, he added.

"There is a scope of misuse by both authorised licensee (Muslim marriage Registrars) as well as by citizens for underage/minor

marriages and forcibly arranged marriages without the consent of the parties," Mohan said.

Besides, the registration of marriages and divorces were not mandatory, and the registration mechanism was informal that left a lot of scope for non-compliance with the norms, he added.

"It is a pre-Independence Act adopted by the British India Government for the then Province of Assam for Muslim religious and social arrangements," the Minister said. On Wednesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said the Assam Government would introduce a Bill in the ongoing Assembly Session for compulsory Government registration of marriage and divorce of Muslim people.

India refutes Bangladesh's accusation of Tripura Dam breach

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday described as factually incorrect reports floating in Bangladesh that the current flood situation in certain parts of the country has been caused by the opening of the floodgates of the dam on the Gumti river in Tripura. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said floods in the rivers flowing through both the countries are a "shared" problem inflicting sufferings on the people on both sides, and require close mutual cooperation for resolution.

"We have seen concerns being expressed in Bangladesh that the current situation of flood in districts on the eastern borders of Bangladesh has been caused by opening of the Dumbur Dam upstream of the Gumti river in Tripura. This is



Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha inspects a flood-affected area after heavy rains, on the outskirts of Agartala, on Thursday PTI

actually not correct," the Ministry clarified. "We would like to point out that the catchment areas of the

Gumti river that flows through India and Bangladesh have witnessed heaviest rains of this year over the last

few days," it added. The MEA said the flood in Bangladesh has been caused

primarily by the heavy flow of waters from these large catchments downstream of the dam.

The Dumbur dam is located quite far from the border — more than 120 km upstream of Bangladesh — the Ministry said in a statement.

"It is a low-height (about 30 metres) dam that generates power to feed into a grid, and Bangladesh also draws 40MW power from Tripura," the MEA noted. "Along the about 120-km river course, we have three water-level observation sites at Amarpur, Sonamura and Sonamura 2," it said. Heavy rainfall has been continuing since August 21 in the whole of Tripura and the adjoining districts of Bangladesh.

In the event of heavy inflow, automatic release of water has been observed, said the MEA, adding that the Amarpur station is part of a bilateral protocol under which

India transmits real-time flood data to Bangladesh. "Data showing rising trend has been supplied to Bangladesh up to 1500 hours on August 21. At 1800 hours, due to flooding, there was power outage, leading to problems of communication," it said. "Still, we have tried to maintain communication through other means created for urgent transmission of data," it noted.

The MEA said the two countries share 54 common cross-border rivers and river-water cooperation is an important part of the bilateral engagement. "We remain committed to resolving issues and addressing mutual concerns in water resources and river water management through bilateral consultations and technical discussions," the Ministry statement said.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

I inform Arun Kumar S/o Prem Nath residence of Vpo Bhadaur District Barnala. That my son Madhav Singla is a student of 12 class in, Secret Heart Convent School; Barnala (CBSE Board) standard whose 10th class original Certificate and statement of Marks is lost if any person found it can contact 98725 00761.

BEDAKHLI NOTICE

I, Balwanti widow of Bikhuram s/o Prabhu Ram r/o Ward No.9, Dinod, Tehsil & District Bhiwani, Haryana declare that my daughter Komal is out of my control. So I disinherit her from my moveable & immovable properties. If anybody deals with her in any manner, they will deal on his own responsibility.

I, Shakuntla Devi W/o Shyam Lal R/o # 581, Gali No- 10, Village Haripur, Sector- 4 Panchkula Haryana my son Rahul Sharma and his wife Kirli Sharma and their son Satvik are out of my Control. I disown them from my all moveable/ immovable Properties. anybody dealing with them at His / Her own risk.

I, Sushila W/o Mange Ram R/o 672/19 New Jeewan nagar, Sonipat, Haryana has disowned my son Rohit, his wife Aarti, their Son Vishal & daughter Divya from my all moveable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Sushila W/o Mange Ram R/o 672/19 New Jeewan nagar, Sonipat, Haryana has disowned my son Mohit, his wife Pinki & their Sons daksh & Mukul from my all moveable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Jagdish Kumar S/o Pyarelal R/o Gali No.4 near Palu ka Tuble, Back side of Indian School, Indian Colony, Sonipat, Haryana has disowned my son Devender Kumar from my all moveable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him, he/she will do at their own risk.

We, Mewa Singh S/o Gurdev Singh and Balwant Kaur W/o Mewa Singh R/o Village Khanat, Distt. Fathgarh Sahib declare that our son Barinder Pal Singh and his wife Harjinder Kaur are out of our control. We disown them from our moveable / Immoveable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk & responsibility.

I Sarup Singh S/o Raml Dass R/o New Jwan Nagar, ward no. 19 near ram mandir, sonipat, haryana has disowned my son Darambir Saini, his wife usha devi & their son gaurav from my all moveable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Amrik Singh S/o Raghbir Singh R/o House no 147, Block C, Sukhna Enclave, Kansal, Naya Gaon, Mohali inform that my son Rupinder Singh and his wife Amanpreet Kaur are out of my control. I Disown them from my all moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them at their own risk.

I, Basba Nand S/o Sh. Biraj Chand R/o CE N-947, Near Tubewell No- 8, Khudda Alisher, Chandigarh my son Vivek is out of my Control. I disown him from all my moveable/ Immoveable Properties. anybody dealing with him at His / Her own risk.

I, Surender Kumar S/o Padam nath R/o Salolia wala Mohalla Shahzadpur Sub Tehsil Shahzadpur Tehsil naraingarh Distt Ambala inform that my Son Dimple 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, Sanjeev Kumar S/o Luxman Dass R/o House no.157, near Chota kheda Village & P.O. Barwala Tehsil & Distt - Panchkula Haryana my son Himanshu and his wife Mohini Gupta are out of my Control. I disown them from my all moveable/Immoveable Properties. anybody dealing with them at His / Her own risk.

I, Maha Singh S/o Late. Gurcharan Singh R/o Vill. Kishangarh, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra, declare that my Son Navjot Singh are out of my control. and do not even behave well with us. So I disinherit them from my all moveable/immovable Properties. If anybody deals with them at His / Her own risk.

I Ravinder Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Chander R/o H. No. 12, Mamta Vihar, Babyal, Ambala Cantt, Distt. Ambala declare that my Son Sandeep Kumar and his wife Himani are out of my Control. So I disown them from my all Movable Immoveable Properties.

I, Darshan Kumar s/o sh. Ji Ram #2, Babyal, Ambala cant declared that my son Navjot Singh and his wife Bipal Kaur is out of my control so I disown them from my moveable and immovable properties. Please Note.

I, Arjan Singh S/o Prem Singh, R/O Bass Jhungian Lodipur, Tehsil Anandpur Sahib, (Rupnagar), disown my son Sukhjinder Singh, from movable/ immovable property, as he is out of my control. If anybody deals him do at own risk/ responsibility, I shall not be responsible.

I, Parshotam Bansal S/O Ram Kumar R/O 16/14 Near Vaish Girls College Old GuDr Mandi Gandhi Nagar, Samalkha Tehsil Samalkha Distt Panipat Declare That My Son Pancham Bansal Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Him From All My Movable And Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Him On Their Own Risk.

I, Pushpa w/o Suraj Kumar R/o Village Nagar, Gohana, Sonipat declare that my son Punjit & his wife Sushma is out of my control. So I disown them from my all moveable/ immovable property. Any body deal with them at own risk.

We Satish S/o late. Sh. Satpal and Nachtro Devi W/o Satish Kumar both R/o Village Tapriana District Panchkula declare that our daughter Anjali is out of our control. We disown her from our all moveable and immovable properties. Any person who deals with her will do so at his/her own risk and responsibility.

We, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Raghbir Singh and Renu Bala W/o Anil Kumar R/o H. No. 2837 Urban Estate Jind Teh. & Distt. Jind (Hr.) declare that our Son Rahul and his wife Monika are out of our control. So, we disown both of them from our moveable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk. We and our family members are not responsible.

मै बुध राम पुत्र तिलक राम निवासी वार्ड नंबर 11 टिब्बा कालीनी रतिगा, तहसील रतिगा जिला फतेहवाद हल्कन ब्यान करता हूँ कि मेरा पुत्र रोहित कुमार व पुत्रवधु सुशी कुमारी मेरे व मेरे परिवार के कहने-सुनने से बाहर है। मैं इन्हें अपनी चल, अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ। भविष्य में मैं तथा मेरा परिवार इनके किसी भी कार्य-लेन-देन का जिम्मेवार नहीं होगा। सभी संबंधित नोट करें।

मै मुरारी पुत्र सुलतान निवासी म. न.412, स्याम कालीनी, रोहतक बयान करता हूँ कि मेरा लड़का उमद मेरे कड़े सुने से सम्हर है, इसलिए मैं इसे अपनी चल-अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ। आज के बाद जो कोई भी इससे लेन-देन व व्यवहार रखेगा तो वह स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा। मेरी व मेरे परिवार की कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Pramjit Kaur W/O Baljinder Singh R/O warshal check distt gurdaspur My Husband No.4478768N Hav. Baljinder Singh 18 Sikhi My Name pramjit Kaur And Date Of Birth 12-04-1986 In My Husband's Army Record. Which Is Wrong. My Correct Name pramjit Kaur And Date Of Birth 01-01-1986. Please Correct My Name pramjit Kaur And Date Of Birth 01-01-1986 In My Husband's Army Record.

I, Ashwani D/o Buta Singh R/o H.No. 663/B, Guru Nanakpura West, Jalandhar declare that name of my Father has been wrongly written as Boota Singh in my 10th Certificate. The actual name of my Father is Buta Singh, That Names of Boota Singh and Buta Singh is one and the same person.

I, Pratap Singh s/o Dharinder Singh R/o H. No. 38, Kailash Nagar, Basti Peer Dad, Leather Complex Road, Jalandhar City, Punjab declare that in Matriculation certificate my DOB is written as 25.05.2004 in instead of 30.12.2005. Correct DOB is 30.12.2005.

I, Trishla Devi mother of No. 2486971M Hav (MACP-1, Nb Sub) Manjit Singh (Retd) R/o Vill: Bungal Po. Badhani Teh & Distt. Pathankot (Pb) have changed my name from Trishla Devi to Tarshila Devi. My correct Date of Birth is 01-01-1929. Concerned note.

I, Rekha W/o Madan Mohan S/o Piara Lal R/O Khem Kaur W/o Gurbinder Singh R/O Village & PO Chogawan Sadhpur, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Chranjit Kaur to Chranjit Kaur.

I, Chranjit Kaur Widow of Gurbinder Singh R/O Village & PO Chogawan Sadhpur, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Chranjit Kaur to Chranjit Kaur.

I, Vinod Kumar S/O Ramesh Kumar R/O H.No. 21, Gali No. 11, Singh Sabha Gurudwara, Fateh Singh Colony, Bhabariwal, Amritsar, Punjab- 143001 have changed my minor son's name from Archit to Archit Kumar.

I, Himanshu D/O Vikrant Address # 2069 Sector-23-C Chandigarh, 160023 Have Changed My Name From Himanshu To Himanshi

I, Padavattuammal Mother Of Army No.15325089n, Rank Hav Name G. Venkattasamy Unit 422 (I) Engr Sqn C/O 56 Apo Have Change Name From Patavattammal & Dob 01/07/1963 To Padavattuammal & Dob 05/06/1961 Through Vide Document No. In-Pb4489999162266w Dated 22-08-2024.

I, M Anasuya (Old Name) Wife Of Kesava Narayana Matcha Resident Of 1-252, Dhanupuram Colony, Vtc : Tampa, Po : Dhaupuram, Sub Distt : Hiramandalam, District : Srikakulam, State : Andhra Pradesh, Pin Code – 532214, Have Changed My Name From M Anasuya (Old Name) To Matcha Anasuya (New Name), Vide Affidavit Dated 22 Aug 2024 Sworn Before Notary Satpal, Pathankot. Please Correct It.

I, Kesava Narayana Matcha Father Of M Jaswanth (Old Name) Resident Of 1-252, Dhanupuram Colony, Vtc: Tampa, Po : Dhaupuram, Sub Distt : Hiramandalam, District : Srikakulam, State : Andhra Pradesh, Pin Code – 532214, Have Changed Name Of My Son Jaswanth (Old Name) To Matcha Anasuya (New Name), Vide Affidavit Dated 22 Aug 2024 Sworn Before Notary Satpal, Pathankot. Please Correct It.

I, Deepak Gulati S/O Mohinder Pal R/O W.No. 5 Shivaji Mohalla Urmar Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Punjab, declare that in my Passport No. E4259361 in my name wrongly written as Deepok Gulati. But my correct name is Deepak Gulati. Please correct the name in my Passport.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Meenakshi Kapoor W/O Parmod Kapoor R/O 30, Opp. Invite Printing, Preet Nagar, Ambala Cantt, Distt. Ambala. Have Changed My Name From Meenakshi To Meenakshi

I, Surender Sharma S/o Sh. Rishikesh Sharma R/o H.No-121, NandVihar Colony, Jattal Road, Panipat, declare that I have change my name from Surinder Sharma to Surender Sharma, for all future purposes.

I, Ronak Singh S/o Sh. Pritpal Singh R/o H.No-02, Prahlad Colony, Behind PNB Bank, Panipat, declare that I have change my name from Ronak Singh/Kamraro Ronak Singh, for all future purposes.

I, Satish Nagrath S/o Sh. Prithvi Pal R/o H.No. 426, Ward No.10, Tehsil Gharuanda, Distt. Karnal, I have changed my name from Satish Nagrath to Satish Chander for all purpose.

We Ram Singh S/o Sh Roop Chand & Seema Hari W/o Ram Singh R/O Lajpat Nagar Singhwala Ambala have changed our Daughter's name from Jasmine to Jasmine Hari

I, Parminder Jeet S/O Gobind Singh R/O 47, Vishal Nagar, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Parminder Jeet to Parminder Jeet Singh.

I, Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Darshan. Ram resident of Village & P.O. Phuglana Tehsil & Distt: Hoshiarpur-146001, Punjab, have changed the name of my Son name from Vishal to Vishal Mehmi. Concerned note.

I, Gulshan S/o Madan Lal R/o DL-526, Ward No. 12, Punjabi Chowk, Narwana, Distt-Jind have changed my name from Gulshan to Gulshan Kumar.

I, Surender Singh S/O Raghbir Singh H.No.21, Near Khadi Ashram, Patel Nagar, Tehsil Camp, Panipat(Hr) Declare That I Have Change My Name Surinder Singh To Surender Singh For All Purposes.

I, Raj Kumar S/O Sh. Raghbir Singh R/O Village Adyana, Matlouda Distt Panipat Have Changed The Name Of My Son Robin Dahiya To Robin For All Future Purposes.

I, Gurdjinder W/o Gurnam Singh R/O House No. 62, Kariwala, P.O. Kariwala, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana have changed my name from Gurdjinder to Gurjinder Kaur.

I, Pratishta D/o Amit Bansal R/O 949C, Press Wali Gali, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Pratishta to Pratishta Bansal.

I, Ritu W/o Amit Bansal R/o 949C, Press Wali Gali, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Ritu to Ritu Bansal.

I, Shama alias Shammil W/o Pawan Kumar R/o H.No.137, Gali No.11, New Pawan Nagar, Batala Road, Amritsar, Punjab- 143001 have changed my name from Shama alias Shammil to Shama.

I, Yasika D/o (No 2699375H Ex.-Sep.) Rakesh Kumar R/o Vill & PO Nilothi, Tehsil, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar (Haryana) have changed my name for all future purposes from Yasika to Yashika (DOB-11 June 2006)

I, Balvir Singh S/o Mehar Singh R/o V.P.O Basiala, Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb.) have changed my name from Balvir Singh to Balbir Singh. Concerned note.

I, no. 4473289H Ex-Hav Ashok Kumar S/O Chander Bhan R/O 129/591, Gali no. 2, Raj nagar panipat declared that in my service record my daughter,s name was mentioned as Sagun & my son's name mentioned as Harish Kumar which is wrong. My daughter's actual name is Shagun and My Son's actual name is Harsh for all future purposes.

I, Shakuntala W/o Naib singh R/O Budhan panna, near PHC, vill. Atta, Samalkha distt. Panipat declare that I have change my name shakuntala to shakuntala devi in future for all purpose.

I, Surender Sharma S/o Sh. Rishikesh Sharma R/o H.No-121, NandVihar Colony, Jattal Road, Panipat, declare that I have change my name from Surinder Sharma to Surender Sharma, for all future purposes.

I, Ronak Singh S/o Sh. Pritpal Singh R/o H.No-02, Prahlad Colony, Behind PNB Bank, Panipat, declare that I have change my name from Ronak Singh/Kamraro Ronak Singh, for all future purposes.

I, Satish Nagrath S/o Sh. Prithvi Pal R/o H.No. 426, Ward No.10, Tehsil Gharuanda, Distt. Karnal, I have changed my name from Satish Nagrath to Satish Chander for all purpose.

We Ram Singh S/o Sh Roop Chand & Seema Hari W/o Ram Singh R/O Lajpat Nagar Singhwala Ambala have changed our Daughter's name from Jasmine to Jasmine Hari

I, Rakesh S/o Shyam Sunder R/o H.No-30 Friends Colony Near Saggi Motor Tehsil & Distt Ambala have changed my name form Rakesh to Rakesh Kumar.

I Preeti Singh W/o Service No. 14843947A Rank Hav Name Somprakash Singh R/o H. No. 24, Gaura Devi, Nai Basti, Hamirpur Distt. Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh 210301. have changed my Name from Prity Singh To Preeti Singh.

I Pinky Walia W/o JC 270535P Ex Sub Ramesh Singh R/O H. No. 04, Pooja Vihar, P/O Industrial Area, Ambala Cantt, Distt. Ambala. have changed my Name from Pinky To Pinky Walia & Changed my DOB from 12. July, 1972 To 23. July, 1971.

I No. 4454299X Ex Nk Manjit Singh R/O H. No. 147, VPO Jandli, Ambala City, Distt. Ambala. have changed my Son Name from Kulwinder Singh To Kuljinder Singh

I No. 15574391A Ex Spr Baljinder Singh R/O Vill Chhanni, P/O Kesri, Tehsil Ambala Cantt , Distt. Ambala. have changed my Daughter Jasleen Kaur To Jasleen Kaur Sodhi.

I Service No. 23005869K Rank LNK (Clk SD), Name Chougule Kedarnath Tarkeshwar S/O Chougule Tarkeshwar Birudore R/O Flat no. 202, Shravi Empire, Vinayak Nagar, Village Pimple Nilakh, P/O Aundh, Tehsil Haveli, Distt. Pune, 411027 and Presently Residing at Unit Address 151 AD Regt (SP), Chhamb, Ambala Cantt. have changed my Mother Name from Suman To Chougule Suman Tarkeshwar.

I Kuldeep Singh S/o Sucha Ram R/O Village Rollon, P/O Sarsehri, Tehsil Ambala Cantt, Distt. Ambala. have changed my Father Name from Suchcha Singh To Sucha Ram.

I, Murti Devi mother of No 26943411 Ex NK Jasrat resident of Vill-Konkpur, PO - Baroula, Teh - Ambala City, Distt – Ambala (Haryana) have changed my Name and Date of Birth from Murti Devi DOB 01-07-1952 to Smt Murti (Proposed/ adopted new Name and Date of Birth) Date of Birth DOB 01-01-1951 vide Affidavit dated 22-08-2024 before Ambala City

I No. Jc-380303y Sub Maj Gaikwad Ganesh Mahadu Unit 2 Csr (A), C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Father Name From Mahadu To Mahadu Bala Gaikwad & Changed His Dob From 01.07.1948 To 01.01.1950

I Ramesh Chandra F/o Service No. 15345896K Rank Hav Name Ved Prakash R/O Vill Haripur, Post Asepur, Tehsil Handia, Distt. Prayagraj (UP) , Pin 221508. have changed my DOB from 01.01.1953 To 04.08.1956.

I Ramshreshth Singh F/o Service No. 18002398N Rank Hav Name Ranjeet Kumar R/O Near Statet Tubeel, Ward No. 25, Ibrahimpur, Begusarai, Bihar, 851135. have changed my Name from Ram Shreshtha Singh To Ramshreshth Singh.

I Tetari Devi M/o Service No. 18002398N Rank Hav Name Ranjeet Kumar R/O Near Statet Tubeel, Ward No. 25, Ibrahimpur, Begusarai, Bihar, 851135. have changed my DOB from 03/02/1963 To 01/01/1957.

I Ramshreshth Singh F/o Service No. 18002398N Rank Hav Name Ranjeet Kumar R/O Near Statet Tubeel, Ward No. 25, Ibrahimpur, Begusarai, Bihar, 851135. have changed my DOB from 15.05.1958 To 01.01.1950

I Piara Singh S/o Karam Singh R/O 10/143, Ajit Nagar, Ambala Cantt. have changed my Wife Name from Jeet Kaur Bal To Jeet Kaur.

I Piara Singh Bal S/o Karam Singh R/O 10/143, Ajit Nagar, Ambala Cantt. have changed my Name from Piara Singh Bal To Piara Singh.

I Santosh Kumari W/o Raj Kumar R/O Vill Sapehra, Ambala Cantt. have changed my Name from Santosh Kumari To Santosh Devi.

I Service No. JC 304814P Rank Sub Name Srinivasa Rao Angirekula of Unit 47 AD Regt C/o 56 APO. have changed my Daughter Name from Angirekula Ashwini To Angirekula Aswini.

I, Udami Devi w/o Late Sh. Roshan Lal, R/O Village Jhanda, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt. Yamunanagar have changed my name to Permi Devi.

I, Daljit Singh Walia son of Shri Gurdarshan Singh Walia, R/O Flat No. 1010- The Rajdhani Apartment, Sector 49-A, Chandigarh declare that Daljit Singh Walia and Daljeet Singh Walia is the one and the same person. In future I may be known as Daljit Singh Walia.

I No. 2897929F NK (TS) Amardeep (Retd.) S/o Sh. Kiran Pal R/O V.P.O. Sudhpur, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra declare that in my service record my mother's name & D.O.B. is wrongly written as Anita Devi instead of Anita & D.O.B. 01.07.1963 instead of 05.09.1963. Note all concerns.

I am Pushpa Mittal wife of Vineet Singh, resident of House No. DB. 180, Ward No. 2, Padav Mohalla, Tehsil Samalkha, District Panipat. My name was earlier Pushpa Mittal, now I have changed my name from Pushpa Mittal to Pushpa. In future, I should be known as Pushpa in all government and non-government places.

I, Abhishek S/o Sh. Vimal Kumar Saini have changed my name to Abhishek Saini S/o Sh. Vimal Kumar Saini for all future purposes.

I, Anmol S/o Vinod Parshad, R/O #1472, Progressive Enclave, Sector 50-B, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Anmol to Anmol Thapar. Concerned Note.

I, Parshotam Arora S/O Banarsi Lal, R/O Banarsi Di Hatti, Tehsil & District Pathankot, My Son Manav Arora Died on 04-11-2000. In The Death Certificate of My Son His Name and My Name is Wrongly Written as Manav & Parshotam Lal, instead of Manav Arora & Parshotam Arora & Also Address Wrongly Entered As Banarsi Lal Sweet Pathankot, Instead of Banarsi Di Hatti Pathankot, So Kindly Correct All This.

I, Mandavi Singh Is Legally Wedded Spouse of No.JC-481645N, Rank Subedar Clerk (SD) Pramod Kumar Singh Presently R/O Village Kishori Balampur, Post Office Kurylo Budhkar, Tehsil Dalmou, Distt. Raebareli, State-UP, Pin No-229204, Have Changed My Name From Mandvi Singh To Mandavi Singh, Kindly Note.

I, Pinki, Daughter of JC-733310X Sub Gena Ram Resident at Vill- Jhalamaliya, Post-Artiyakalla, Teh-Bhopalgarh, Distt-Jodhpur, State-Rajasthan, Pin-342606 have Changed My Name From Pinki Saran to Pinki, Vide Affidavit 20-08-2024 Dated, All Concerned Note it.

I, Vidayarthi S/o Vakil Chand R/O Bharoli Kalan, Tehsil & District Pathankot, Have Changed My Name From Vidayarthi To Vidayarthi Kumar, Kindly Note.

I, Vineet Singh S/O Than Singh R/O 1493-A, Sector-29-B, Chandigarh Sector-30 Po Chd, Chandigarh-160030 have changed name of my minor son Yuvraj Singh aged 14 years to Yuvraj S Chaudhary.

I, Rameshwar S/o Sh. Amarnath R/O Vill. Dalla Majra, Teh. Shahabad Markanda, district Kurukshetra, declare that both Rameshwar and Rameshwar Dass are my names of the same person and I am the same person related to both the names. In future, I should be known and recognized by both the names.

I, Vishav Jyoti Mohey D/O Ramesh Pal R/O H.NO. B1/779, Ram Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab- 144008 have changed my name to Vishav Jyoti.

I, Jasbir Singh S/O Lachhman Singh R/O Vill- Mirzapur, Po-Garhdiwala, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144207 have changed my name to Jasvir Singh.

I, Reeta Rani W/O Vikas Madaan R/O House No. 1451, Housing Board Colony, M.I.G. Ground Floor Flat, Sector 6, Karnal, Haryana-132001 have changed my name to Ridhi Madaan.

I, Neeraj Kumar S/o Sh. Surender alias Sunender Kumar R/O Naiyon wala Chowk, Hansi, Distt. Hisar declare that my father is known as Surender Kumar and Sunender Kumar, both are his names. In future he will be known as Surender Kumar for all purposes.

I, Meenakashi Saini D/o Chhahil Saini R/O H. No. 124A, Friends Colony, Hisar, Tehsil and Distt. Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Meenakashi Saini to Meenakashi Saini for all future purposes. - Deponent

I, Narender Mehta S/o Sh. Hari Chand Mehta R/O House No. 1563, Sector 13, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Narender Kumar Mehta to Narender Mehta for all future purpose.

I, Archana Devi W/o Jai Hind R/O H. No. 509A, W. No. 11, Tiba Danaser, Hisar, Distt. Hisar, Haryana 125001 declare that I have changed my name from Archana Devi to Archana for all future purpose.

I, Vikash S/o Sh. Rajender Singh R/O VPO Sipper, Tehsil Bawani Khera, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana declare that my father name is known by two names Rajender Kumar and Rajender Singh. Both names are same person. I have changed my father name from Rajender Kumar to Rajender Singh. I have abandon my father old name and now fix new name as Rajender Singh for future purpose.

I, Mahabeer Father of No. 10515697W Rank HAV name Devial Presently Serving in Unit 152 INF BN (TA) Sikh C/o 56 APO, Pin 934352 R/O Village Kairti Tehsil and District Hisar, Haryana, 125001 have changed my name in my son's service record from Mahabir Singh to Mahabeer before vide affidavit dated 20.08.2024 before Executive Magistrate, Hisar.

I, Pradeep, S/o Shishpal, R/O Devighar Punia, District Hisar, declare that in my child Nitika's matriculation certificate from H.V.S. Roll no 10 21 23 8056, in 2021 from board bhiwani, mother's name is as Muni Devi for all future purposes.

I, Mange Ram S/o Bachna Ram R/O Dhoda Kheri, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Mange Ram to Manga Ram.

I, Kuldeep Singh S/o Late Shri Har Nath R/O Village Utheri (342), Kurukshetra Haryana-136131, inform that in my passport number K9007910, my late father's name is wrongly written as Harnadh. Whereas in all my documents, my late father's actual name is written as Har Nath, which is absolutely correct. Concern Note.

I, Madan Lal S/o Anant Ram R/O 50 Feeta Road, Hargobind Nagar, Opp. Balaji Mandir, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Madan Lal to Madan Lal Bansal.

I, Deepika W/o Sh. Sandeep Kumar resident of Veena Nagar. Near Shiv Mandir, Camp, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, I have change my name from Deepika Rani to Deepika All concerned note.

I, Kashish D/o Sh. Sandeep Kumar resident of Veena Nagar. Near Shiv Mandir, Camp, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, I have change my name from Kashish Chhabra to Kashish All concerned note.

I, Vidayarthi S/o Vakil Chand R/O Bharoli Kalan, Tehsil & District Pathankot, Have Changed My Name From Vidayarthi To Vidayarthi Kumar, Kindly Note.

I, Vineet Singh S/O Than Singh R/O 1493-A, Sector-29-B, Chandigarh Sector-30 Po Chd, Chandigarh-160030 have changed name of my minor son Yuvraj Singh aged 14 years to Yuvraj S Chaudhary.

I, Gurjit Kaur Bhinder D/o Gareeb Singh W/o Hardip Singh R/O Village Delawal PO Allowal Tehsil Khadoor Sahib District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Gurjit Kaur Bhinder to Gurjit Kaur

I, Sunita W/o Gagandip R/o 761, Ward No.05, Near Guru Dwara Chowk VPO Rayya Tehsil Baba Bakala District Amritsar have changed my name from Sunita to Sunita Rani

I, Manjeet Singh Bedi S/O Santokh Singh R/O J-10/20, Rajouri Garden New Delhi have changed my name from Manjeet

ECI asks Poll Observers to remain accessible for timely redressal of their grievances

Haryana Assembly Election
PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To ensure the smooth conduct of the Assembly Elections in Haryana, the Election Commission of India on Thursday organised a briefing for Observers to be deployed in the State. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with ECs Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu briefed the observers on their critical and important role in their allotted constituencies.

The Observers were strictly directed to remain accessible to all parties, candidates and voters for the timely redressal of their grievances. They were told that any complaints in this regard will be viewed seriously by the Commission.

Senior officers drawn from IAS, IPS officers as well as officers from Indian Revenue Service and other Central Services attended the briefing meeting at Rang Bhawan Auditorium, New Delhi.

Reminding the Observers of their crucial role, CEC Rajiv Kumar emphasised that the Observers as representatives of the Commission are expected to conduct themselves professionally and be accessible to all stakeholders including candidates and public at large. He

also advised them to overcome language barriers and ensure that there are no gaps in communication. Stating that the Observers will also be observed by the watchful gaze of the parties, candidates, voters and the Commission alike, CEC added that their inputs will be critical in ensuring the smooth conduct of the elections. He also advised observers to be vigilant towards false narratives trying to derail the election process, for timely action.

He further said that the observers will be responsible for monitoring the election process, maintaining the integrity of the electoral process, and ensuring the fair, impartial, and credible conduct of the elections.

Observers' details like mobile/ landline numbers/ email addresses/ places of stay etc. to be widely publicised on CEO/ District websites; through electronic/ print media and the same must be circulated among Candidates/ recognised political parties by DEOs/ ROs on the day of arrival of Observers in their respective Constituencies.

EC Gyanesh Kumar in his address emphasised that Observers should observe the complete election ecosystem for a free and fair elections. Noting that the Assembly elections are keenly contested, he

said that the role of Observers becomes all the more critical in these elections. EC Sandhu stressed on three points in his address to the Observers in light of their role as the eyes and ears of the Commission. Dr. Sandhu stated that accessibility, visibility and responsiveness are essential to develop a virtuous spiral enhancing the conduct of the elections.

Hry Police sets up an Election cell to oversee law & order and monitor several other activities

To conduct Assembly Elections-2024 in a free, fair and peaceful manner, Director General of Police (DGP) Shatruej Kapur on Thursday said that the State Police has set up an election cell at Police Headquarters, Sector-6, Panchkula. This cell will manage the election process across the state, enabling citizens to exercise their right to vote without any fear, he added.

Kapur said that the Election Cell will oversee law and order in the state and monitor several other crucial election-related activities. The overall in-charge of the cell is Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Law and Order, Sanjay Kumar, while State Police Nodal Officer, Inspector General of Police (IGP)

Security, Saurabh Singh, has been assigned for supervision. IGP Law and Order, Hardeep Doon, has been appointed as the nodal officer for monitoring election expenses and law and order reports. Additionally, DSP and ACP level officers in all districts have been designated as nodal officers, responsible for sending daily reports on specified points from their respective districts to the Election Cell at Police Headquarters.

The DGP said that through this cell, the implementation of guidelines issued under the Model Code of Conduct will be ensured across the state. The Election Cell will coordinate with districts regarding the availability and deployment of police forces and address related issues. It will also identify critical polling booths in different assembly constituencies and decide on the deployment of additional police personnel at these locations. Districts will send daily seizure reports, election-related complaints, and reports on the adherence to the Model Code of Conduct to the Election Cell. The Election Cell will operate 24/7, including on public holidays and weekends. He further stated that monitoring at various levels is being carried out to ensure the peaceful conduct of the Assembly elections.

Two JJP MLAs resign from Haryana Assembly, set to join BJP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Two JJP rebel MLAs -- Ramniwas Surjakhera and Jogi Ram Sihag on Thursday tendered their resignation from the state Assembly and are likely to join the ruling BJP. So far, six of the 10 JJP MLAs have quit the party.

Surjakhera and Sihag, MLAs from Narwana and Barwala respectively, sent their resignation letters to the Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta. The development has come along expected lines as both the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) MLAs had openly supported the BJP in the recently held Lok Sabha polls.

In a jolt to the JJP last week, party rebel MLAs Anoop Dhanak, Ram Karan Kala, Devender Babli and Ishwar Singh quit the party citing personal reasons. Kala, MLA from Shahabad, joined the Congress in New Delhi on Wednesday in the presence of former chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda.

Surjakhera had campaigned in Narwana while Sihag in Hisar for the BJP despite the JJP having fielded its candidates on all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana. The JJP had in May moved a petition before the Haryana Assembly Speaker seeking disqualification of Surjakhera and Sihag under the anti-defection law for allegedly indulging in anti-party activities. The JJP suffered a humiliating defeat in the parliamentary polls.

The development came a day after Sihag, Surjakhera, Ram Kumar Gautam and Anoop Dhanak extended sup-

port to BJP leader Kiran Choudhry's candidature after she filed her nomination for the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana.

Surjakhera claimed that he and the three other legislators will be joining the BJP in the next few days. Hitting out at former deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, he said, "The JJP is being run like a family-based party where the voice of MLAs is not being heard. On many occasions in the past, many decisions were taken unilaterally and we were not consulted."

"So much so, when senior leaders of the party used to hold a rally or big function, we were not kept in the loop," he complained. Surjakhera claimed that the BJP will form government for a third time in Haryana. "Contrary to what the opposition may claim, people are happy with the BJP government's performance. Today, citizens are getting various services at their doorsteps. "The government is procuring all crops at MSP (minimum support price) and farmers are happy... Haryana is making rapid progress in all fields," he said.

After a vertical split in the INLD owing to a family feud, Ajay Singh Chautala and Dushyant Chautala had formed the JJP in December 2018. Having won 10 of the 90 seats in the 2019 Assembly elections, the JJP forged a post-poll alliance with the BJP after the saffron party failed to secure a majority on its own. However, in March 2024, after Nayab Singh Saini replaced M L Khattar as the chief minister, the BJP's four-and-a-half-year-old alliance with the JJP ended.

Punjab Police arrests 4 members of an inter-state gang looting temples

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Four members of an inter-state gang involved in robbing temples have been arrested by Punjab Police with the cooperation of police from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Those arrested have been identified as Resham Singh alias Rinku of Udhham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand; Ravi Kumar and Honey of Mehndipur in Punjab's Rupnagar; and Rajeev Kumar alias Soni of Kumarapuram in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Police said.

Punjab Police learnt about the gang while probing a theft at a temple in Khanna. On August 15, some unidentified persons entered the Shivpuri Temple in Khanna through window panes on the roof and stole gold and silver ornaments from the idol. The robbers also desecrated the idol in the temple, police said.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said four accused involved in this case were nabbed and 3.63 kg of silver was recovered from their possession. Preliminary investigations revealed that the gang was also planning robberies in temples of Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Giving details of the investigation, Senior Superintendent of Police Khanna Ashwini Goyal said inputs were received that an interstate gang of robbers carry out thefts in temples and other religious places. Special teams conducted raids in different districts of Punjab and other states and with the help of Uttarakhand Police, managed to trace and arrest the first accused identified as Resham Singh alias Rinku from Delhi, she said. The SSP said apart from this, with the help of Chandigarh Police, Ravi Kumar was arrested from Chandigarh and Honey from Rupnagar. She said the police have identified one more accused Mohit of Utawal in Aligarh of UP, an associate of this gang, who is yet to be arrested.

During the investigation, it also came to light that this gang of thieves used to sell the stolen silver and gold ornaments to a jeweller, Soni, who was booked as accused in this case and arrested from Lucknow. The stolen jewellery was recovered from his possession, she said, while adding that the accused is being interrogated, from which more theft incidents are likely to be revealed. The jeweller is already facing 12 criminal cases of theft.

Goyal said from the investigation conducted so far in this case, it has come to light that this gang of thieves has committed theft at many religious places in different states and there are various cases registered against these persons in different states for stealing from religious places. The operation was accomplished with the cooperation of Chandigarh Police, Udhham Singh Nagar Police in Uttarakhand and Lucknow Police in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab DGP Yadav said.

PGI Chandigarh resident doctors call off strike, OPD to resume today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After 11 days of strike, resident doctors at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, have decided to call off their strike following a Supreme Court hearing on Thursday. The doctors will resume duties from Friday and symbolic protests will continue during off-duty hours.

Starting from Friday, they will hold a candlelight march at 9:30 PM each night, showing solidarity with the victim of a brutal rape and murder in Kolkata and with their fellow doctors at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. "We will hold marches, meetings, and candlelight walks to show our support for the victim and to continue our demand for CPA," said Smriti Thakur, Vice President of the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) at PGIMER.

In a statement, PGIMER officials said that following the calling off of the ongoing strike by the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), PGIMER will resume all elective services with immediate effect. The registration of old and new patients in all the outpatient departments (OPDs) will be done from 8 AM to 11 AM from Friday i.e. August 23 onwards.

Punjab Hikes Vehicle Taxes, Introduces Green Tax on Diesel Cars

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bid to boost revenue and address environmental concerns, the Punjab Government has introduced a dual taxation strategy that has made vehicles significantly more expensive for residents. Effective from July 22, the new Motor Vehicle (MV) tax slabs have increased costs for purchasing new cars and motorcycles, while a newly-imposed 'Green Tax' aims to curb pollution by targeting older, diesel-powered vehicles.

These measures, rolled out by the Aam Aadmi Party led State Government, marked a significant shift in policy, with far-reaching implications for both consumers and the environment.

The latest MV tax revision has particularly hit the luxury vehicle market. Under the new rules, buyers of personalized four-wheelers priced up to Rs 15 lakh will now be charged 9.5 percent of the vehicle's actual price (excluding other taxes) as MV tax.

Vehicles priced between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 25 lakh are now subject to a 12 percent MV tax, while those exceeding Rs 25 lakh will attract a hefty 13 percent tax — marking a sharp increase from the previous rates of nine percent, 11 percent, and no specific category for vehicles over Rs 25 lakh, respectively.

For two-wheelers, the MV tax has also seen a significant

hike. Vehicles priced below Rs one lakh will now incur a 7.5 percent tax, up from seven percent, while those between Rs one lakh and Rs two lakh will be taxed at 10 percent, an increase from the previous nine percent. A new tax slab has been introduced for two-wheelers costing more than Rs two lakh, which will now attract an 11 percent MV tax.

Green Tax

In addition to these revisions, the Government has also implemented a Green Tax on vehicle registration renewals. This tax is designed to discourage the use of older, more polluting vehicles, particularly diesel-powered ones, which are now subject to double the Green Tax compared to their petrol counterparts.

The Green Tax will be levied annually on commercial vehicles older than eight years, ranging from Rs 250 to Rs 2,500, depending on the type and age of the vehicle. However, vehicles running on LPG, CNG, battery, or solar power have been exempted from this tax.

The Green Tax is expected to generate an additional Rs 87.03 crore in revenue for the State, which will be earmarked for environmental conservation projects, including efforts to increase green cover across Punjab. The State Government, which has made environmental sustainability a key focus, sees this tax as a crucial step

toward reducing pollution and promoting cleaner energy sources.

These tax measures have sparked a debate among consumers and industry experts alike. While the increased MV tax is seen as a burden on those purchasing new vehicles, especially in the luxury segment, the Green Tax has been welcomed by environmental advocates who see it as a necessary step to combat pollution. However, the differential tax rates for diesel vehicles have raised concerns among those who rely on these vehicles for their efficiency and power.

PSDM Partners with Indian Army to Empower War Widows and Defence Families

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To uplift the families of defense personnel, Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army's Panther Infantry Division, Amritsar. The collaboration aimed at providing free skill and vocational training to war widows, veer naries, and the families of serving and retired Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and other defence employees.

The MoU was inked in the presence of Punjab's Minister of Employment Generation, Skill Development and

Training Aman Arora. The first phase of this partnership will see 240 dependents of Army personnel trained in various vocational skills, including Beauty Therapy, Domestic Data Entry, Tailoring, and Child Care, under the SANKALP scheme.

Arora emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating that it aligned with Punjab's mission to prepare its youth for industry demands while supporting the families of those who serve the nation. PSDM's Mission Director Amrit Singh highlighted that the training programs are designed to enhance employability, thereby improving the livelihoods of the participants.

Nabha jailbreak mastermind extradited from Hong Kong arrested on landing in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

In a meticulous operation, the mastermind behind the 2016 Nabha jailbreak Ramanjit Singh was arrested on Thursday after his extradition by authorities in Hong Kong in an operation coordinated by the CBI and the Punjab Police, officials said. Singh, also known as Romi, who was facing an INTERPOL Red Notice, was flown in by a Punjab Police team and arrested on arrival in Delhi, they said.

The officials said Romi was the key conspirator in the Nabha jailbreak incident in which six hardcore criminals, including two terrorists, managed to escape. "The Global Operations Centre of Central Bureau of Investigation has coordinated with Punjab Police and INTERPOL NCB- Hong Kong for the return of a Red Notice Subject Ramanjit Singh from Hong Kong to India on August 22," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. He said the CBI got a Red Notice issued against Singh from the INTERPOL General Secretariat on March 22, 2017, at the request of the Punjab Police.

"The subject was geolocated in Hong Kong in 2018 through INTERPOL and loca-



tion was informed to Punjab police. A provisional arrest request was transmitted through INTERPOL in 2018. Subsequently, Extradition request was forwarded by Punjab Police. The subject has been returned to India on August 22," the statement said.

Earlier in the day, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav announced on 'X' that Ramanjit Singh has been extradited to India. "After tireless efforts by

@PunjabPoliceInd, Romi, the key conspirator, is being brought back today to face justice. He was in touch with #ISI and other escaped prisoners, including Harminder Singh Mintu and Kashmir Singh Galwaddi of the Khalistan Liberation Force (#KLF)," he said in a post.

"Anti Gangster Task Force (#AGTF) Punjab is en route to bring Romy back. We thank the Hong Kong authorities, the CBI, Ministry of Home Affairs,

the Ministry of External Affairs and all other central agencies as part of this international cooperation," he added.

"Our relentless pursuit of justice led to: 1. Issuance of Look Out Circular (LOC) & Red Corner Notice (RCN) 2. Extradition process initiated in 2018 under MLAT with Hong Kong government 3. Robust presentation to Hong Kong's Department of Justice and Hon'ble Courts," Yadav said.

The extradition proceedings against Singh, a resident of Bangi Rudlu village of Bathinda, were initiated in 2018. The Punjab Police's Assistant Inspector General H S Virk and Deputy Superintendent of Police Bikramjit Singh Brar accompanied Romi (35) on the flight.

On November 27, 2016, 16 criminals launched an attack on the prison and opened indiscriminate fire, managing to engineer the escape of six most-wanted criminals, including Harjinder Singh alias Vicky Gounder, Neeta Deol, Gurpreet Sekhon, Aman Dhotian and the terrorists Harminder Mintoo and Kashmir Singh Galwaddi. While Gounder was killed in a police encounter in January 2018 in Rajasthan, the others were arrested.

Commending the efforts

that marked the culmination of an extraordinary international operation with the cooperation of the Ministry of External Affairs, Yadav said, "The extradition process was set in motion in 2018 as per the mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) with the Government of Special Administrative Region (SAR) Hong Kong, where the case was robustly presented to the Department of Justice and the Hon'ble Courts of Hong Kong."

According to police, Romi coordinated the attack on the maximum security Nabha jail by providing financial and logistical support to the escapees. He had provided weapons and fake IDs to gain access to the prison and funded the gangsters' preparations to execute the jailbreak, they said.

Romi, who was arrested in June 2016 in a weapons recovery and fake credit cards case, got bail in August 2016 and fled to Hong Kong. He was held in Hong Kong in February 2018 following accusations of his involvement in a robbery there.

A Punjab Police team visited Hong Kong in June 2018 and secured his provisional arrest. He had been in judicial custody there since then. (With agency inputs)

PUNJAB STATE DEAR RAKHI BUMPER 2024

1st Prize Amount for Winner **DRAW ON 24.08.2024**

TICKET ₹500 **8PM onwards**

₹ 2.50 CRORES GUARANTEED

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER : ₹ 20 LAKHS*
PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST : ₹ 5 LAKHS*

TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT ₹ 2.75 CRORES

1st PRIZE WILL BE DRAWN OUT OF SOLD TICKETS ONLY

2nd Prize Amount for Winners

₹ 1 CRORE
(₹10 Lakhs x 10 Prizes)

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER

₹ 1,00,000*

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST

₹ 50,000*

TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT

₹ 1.15 CRORE

3rd Prize Amount for Winners

₹ 50 LAKHS
(₹5 Lakhs x 10 Prizes)

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER

₹ 50,000*

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST

₹ 20,000*

TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT

₹ 57 LAKHS

WIN MANY OTHER ATTRACTIVE PRIZES

*Prize Amount for Sellers & Sub-Stockists above ₹ 10,000 should be claimed from Government only

Contact Stockists for Tickets :

ARE YOU THE NEXT CROREPATI?

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL LOTTERY COUNTERS

♦ Amritsar : Narang Agency Ph : 99155 68568 ; P.N.Sharma Lottery Agency Ph : 98142 60060 ; Sahil Agency Ph : 98768 11664 ♦ Batala : Sanjay Lottery Agency Ph : 82888 18536 ♦ Bhatinda : Bhagwati Enterprises Ph : 98728 70805 ; Rattan Lottery Agency Ph : 91507 91506 ♦ Ferozepur City : N.K. Agency Ph : 98553 99777 ; M.S. & Company Ph : 94176 73400 ♦ Hoshiarpur : Alka Lottery Agency Ph : 95014 20125 ♦ Jalandhar : Brahmala Lottery Agency Ph : 98144 32770 ; Lucky Enterprises (TTS show room) Ph : 70092 15251 ; Luthra Lottery Agency Ph : 98140 60575 ; Shree Ganesh Agency Ph : 98726 36794 ♦ Killianwali : City Lottery Agency Ph : 94668 77311 ♦ Ludhiana : Bhanot Enterprises Ph : 78887 27176 ; Chander Parkash Trehan Lottery Agency Ph : 98150 25323 ; Ekomkar Lottery Ph : 98883 49494 ; Gandhi Brothers Lot Ph : 70090 43433 ; Pooja Lottery Agency Ph : 98887 22222 ; R.P.Agency Ph : 98151 42727 ; Sanjay Agency Ph : 99152 97675 ; 0161-4662976 ; Som Agency Ph : 92169 03031 ; S.S. Lottery Agency Ph : 98728 16044 ; Sunny Associates Ph : 95010 01114 ♦ Mansa : Sumit Enterprises, Sardulgarh. Ph : 90562 31764 ♦ Moga : Hansika Lottery Agency Ph : 90410 01791 ♦ Mohali : Baweja Lottery Agency Ph : 98151 67722 ♦ Morinda : Mehta Lottery Agencies Ph : 99148 50498 ♦ Muktsar : Rajesh Lottery Agency Ph : 81465 00943 ♦ Nabha : Pawan Kumar Lottery Ph : 96532 21518 ♦ Pathankot : Billa Lottery Agency Ph : 98143 05724 ♦ Patiala : J.M.D. Agency Ph : 88378 90286 ; Punjab Trading Co. Ph : 98143 21975 ♦ Rajpura : Sandeep Lottery Ph : 99884 66584 ♦ Ropar : J.P. Enterprises Ph : 94638 20992 ♦ Zirakpur : Anshu Lottery Agency Ph : 99150 83333 ; Lohsh Lottery Agency Ph : 98157 88878 ; Rattan Lottery Ph : 98557 33571

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Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sushil Kumar S/O Sh. Krishan Lal Sharma R/O H.No-1035, B-1 Rattpur Colony Pinjore Distt Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Sushil Kumar To Sushil Kumar Sharma.

I, Bakshinder Kaur W/O Gurdip Singh R/O Village Kasoli Tehsil Guhla District Kathal Haryana Have Changed My Name From Bakshinder Kaur To Bakshinder Kaur.

I Amarjit Kaur Virdi W/O Sarmukh Singh R/O House No. 1240, Ext. 5, Sunny Enclave Sector 125, Kharar, Distt. Sas Nagar Mohali Punjab. I Have Change My Name Amarjit Kaur Virdi To Amarjit Kaur

I Lucky S/O Albert Masih R/O House No. 59, Shayam Nagar, Baltana, Zirakpur Sas Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name From Lucky To Lucky Masih

I Naveen Choudhary S/O Sh. Dayal Singh Choudhary Perseint Resident Of 18 Fad Unchi Bassi Has Changed My Minor Son's Name From Prateek To Prateek Choudhary.

I, Jagtar Singh S/O Mr Mohan Singh Currently Residing At 29 CONINGSBY DRIVE, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV2 2RN, UNITED KINGDOM And Whose Address In India Is Village Malla Sodhian, Vpo Bisla, SBS Nagar, Pin: 144514, Punjab, India Have Changed My Name From Jagtar Singh To Jagtar Singh Bisla Subject To The Approval Of The High Commission Of India, Birmingham. All Note

I Rashal Devi Mother Of No 15578370f, Rank: Srd, Name: Anjref Singh (Ret), Resident Of H.No.31, Gali No. 25b, Karan Vihar, Tehsil Karnal & Distt-Karnal (Haryana)-132001 Have Changed My Name From Rashal Devi To Roshani Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 21 August 2024 Sworn In Before Notary, Karnal.

I, Yallavva Bhimappa Gadivaddar is legally Mother of Service No. JC 314591W Rank: NB SUB Name: Bharama Gadivaddar residing at Village Gudaganahatti Post Daddi, Taluk Hukkeri, Distt. Belagavi (State) Karnataka Pin- 591254, have changed my name from Yallavva to Yallavva Bhimappa Gadivaddar.

I, Vidyashree Bharama Gadivaddar is legally Wife of Service No. JC 314591W Rank: NB SUB Name: Bharama Gadivaddar residing at Village Gudaganahatti Post Daddi, Taluk Hukkeri, Distt. Belagavi (State) Karnataka Pin- 591254, have changed my name from Vidhyashri Bharama Gadivaddar to Vidvyashree Bharama Gadivaddar.

I, Service No. JC 314591W Rank: NB SUB Name: Bharama Gadivaddar residing at Village Gudaganahatti Post Daddi, Taluk Hukkeri, Distt. Belagavi (State) Karnataka Pin- 591254, have changed my Son's name from Pranav to Pranav Bharama Gadivaddar.

I, Chandra Pal is legally Father of Service No. 15332189F Rank HAV. Name: Jay Singh residing at Village Khahrehanpurva, Post Meoli, Taluk Fatehpur, Distt. Fatehpur (State) Uttar Pradesh Pin - 212601, have changed my name from Chandrapal to Chandra Pal.

I, Munni Devi is legally Mother of Service No. 15332189F Rank HAV. Name: Jay Singh residing at Village Khahrehanpurva, Post Meoli, Taluk Fatehpur, Distt. Fatehpur (State) Uttar Pradesh Pin - 212601, have changed my name from Munidevi to Munni Devi.

I, Vicky S/O Hari Chand # 9 Gurdev Enclave Behind Jattan Wala Chountra Patiala. I Have Changed My Name Vicky to Vicky Pahwa.

I, Malvinder Kaur, wife of No. 1432002Y Rank: Sepoy L/NK (DSV) Kulbir Singh R/o Village Chhoti Pateri (Zaffar Nagar) PO Bordpur, Tehsil and Distt. Patiala, Pb-147021 declare that in my husband's service record my name is mentioned as Malwinderjit but my correct name is Malvinder Kaur.

I, Dharam Pal S/o Ram Sarup R/o # 506, Lor mall, Dhuru ki Basti, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Ekam Jot Kaur to Ekamjot Kaur.

I, Ekamjit Kaur D/o Devinder Pal Singh R/o H.No. 150, Street No. 5, Teg Colony, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Ekam Jot Kaur to Ekamjot Kaur.

I, Gous Mammulal Mulla is legally Father of Service No. 16120614F Rank HAV Name: Mulla Najir Gous residing at Village Pattankudi Post Pattankudi, Taluk Chikodi, Distt. Belgaum (State) Karnataka Pin- 591238, have changed my Name from Gous to Gous Mammulal Mulla.

I, Sahirabanu Mulla is legally Mother of Service No. 16120614F Rank HAV Name: Mulla Najir Gous residing at Village Pattankudi Post Pattankudi, Taluk Chikodi, Distt. Belgaum (State) Karnataka Pin-591238, have changed my Name from Shayarabanu to Sahirabanu Mulla.

I, Phool Kumar S/o No. 2650628P, Ex Honey Nb Sub Raj Mal R/O H.No. 844/14, Braham Colony - Sonipat, Teh. & District - Sonipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Ful Kumar to Phool Kumar vide affidavit dated 22 Aug 2024 before Sonipat (Haryana) Court. In future I should be known as only Phool Kumar.

I, Monika W/o Sh. Ajay Kumar R/o VPO - Gaddi Kheri, District - Rohtak (Haryana) and legal daughter of No. JC-255186Y, Ex Sub Randhir Singh have changed my name from Monika Kumari to Monika vide affidavit dated 22 Aug 2024 before Sonipat (Haryana) Court. In future I should be known as only Monika.

I, Nidhi Kharb W/o Sh. Ankit lathwal R/O H.No. - C 7, Polytechnic Staff Colony, Arya Chowk, Ambala City, District - Ambala (Haryana) and legal daughter of No. 2680964K, Ex Naik Jagbir Singh have changed my name from Nidhi to Nidhi Kharb vide affidavit dated 22 Aug 2024 before Sonipat (Haryana) Court. In future I should be known as only Nidhi Kharb.

I, Ranwati W/o No. 1288811L, Ex Naik Ram Narayan R/O VPO - Rukhi, Teh. - Gohana, District - Sonipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Ranpali to Ranwati vide affidavit dated 22 Aug 2024 before Sonipat (Haryana) Court. In future I should be known as only Ranwati.

I, Sarda W/o No. 6480170, Ex Sep Hardev Singh R/O VPO - Kathura, District - Sonipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Sarti Devi to Sarda vide affidavit dated 22 Aug 2024 before Sonipat (Haryana) Court. In future I should be known as only Sarda.

I, Kanti Devi, Mother of No. 15511218F, SWR, Krishna Kumar Pandey, Resident of Village & Post Manihari Tehsil Manihari District Kathihar State Bihar Pin 854113 have changed my name from Kanti Devi to Kunti Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 22 August 2024 before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sangeetha Kumari, Wife Of 14661096x, Hav, Mohan Kumar Unit Of 161 (I) Fd Wksp Coy (Recco & Sp) (Wh), C/O 56 Apo, Ferozepur Cantt Resident Of Vill. Chhapra Dhi, Post Kuadh, Teh. Khajauli, Distt. Madhubani Narar, (Bihar) 847226 Have Changed My Name & Date Of Birth In My Husband Service Record Is From Sangeetha Kumari To Sangeeta Devi & D.O.B From 05/06/1985 To 30/06/1985.

I, No. Jc-422815p, Sub, Borde Kailas Punjaram Unit Of 23 Mech Inf (Recco & Sp) (Wh) C/O 56 Apo Ferozepur Cantt, Resident Of Vill. Waghrul, Po, Chikhalli, Teh. Badnapur, Distt. Jalna, (Mh) 431203, Have Changed My Son Name From Master Anand Kailas Borde To Anand Kailas Borde Vide Affidavit Dated 22 August 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Parmesh Victoria Wife Of Army No 13874685a Ex Nk Sabastian S/O I B Francis Resident Of H No 273, Lal Kurli Ferozepur Cantt Tehsil And Distt Ferozepur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Parmesh Victoria To Parmesh And Also My Date Of Birth From 24 Dec 1961 To 23 Mar 1959 In My Husband Army Service Records As Per Affidavit Dated 22 Aug 2024.

I, Parkash Kaur Wife Of Gurdial Singh And Mother Of Army No 3405677I Ex Hav Karamjit Singh Village Kotwal P O Sbs Engineer College Tehsil And Distt Ferozepur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Parkash Kaur To Prakash Kaur And Also My Date Of Birth From 17 May 1954 To 01 Jan 1958 In My Son Army Service Records As Per Affidavit Dated 22 Aug 2024.

I, Savitri Devi Mother Of No. 3003861K, Hav, Dinesh Kumar Unit 17 Rajput C/O 56 Apo And Resident At Village Barahar, Po Samthar, Tehsil Bharthana, District Etawah, State U.P, Pin 206242 Have Changed My Name From Savitri Devi To Savitri Devi And Change Date Of Birth From 10-09-1946 To 01-01-1954.

I, Jc-314973A Rank Nb Sub Name Shrawan Kumar Gurjar Of Unit 03 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo, Pin-914003, Yoi Cantt Have Changed My Mother Name From Sara Devi To Shrwani Devi & Date Of Birth From 01.07.1968 To 01.01.1963 Vide Affidavit 22 August 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Kasthuri S. Wife Of No 16115711p Rank Hav Name Arul Raj R Of5 Engineer Regiment, C/O 56 Apo. Today Camping At Belgaum (State) Karnataka Pin- 591238, have changed my Name from Gous to Gous Mammulal Mulla.

I, Basavannevva Ningappa Katagi is mother of Army No. 16128148M, L/NK, Suresh Katagi of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Basavannevva Katagi to Basavannevva Ningappa Katagi Vide Affidavit Dated 22 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Nagarathinam R is mother of Army No. 15332977L, L/HAV, R Saravanan of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Nagalakshmi to Nagarathinam R due to erroneous mistake in my son's service record. My true and correct date of birth is 03.05.1966, but on my son's service record it is mentioned is 01.07.1968, which is wrong.

I, Army No. 16127080K, L/HAV, K Krishna of Unit 5 engr regiment c/o 56 Apo have changed my daughter's name from Kodupugotla Chytra to Kadupugotla Chytra Vide Affidavit Dated 22 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Kadupugotla Ravanamma is mother of Army No. 16127080K, L/HAV, K Krishna of Unit 05 Engr Regt Declare That my true and correct date of birth is 17.11.1973 as per my Aadhaar Card, but on my son's service record my date of birth is not mentioned.

I, Simranjit Singh Pannu S/o Gurinder Pal Singh R/o Village Mathola Po Bharath Teh Batala Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Simranjit Singh Pannu to Simranjit Singh. Concerned note.

I, Satwinder Kaur W/o Prem Singh R/o Jail Road, Babawal Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Satwinder Kaur to Satinder Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Janak Raj S/o Tarsem Lal R/o H.No.46, Badli Colony, Phase-2 Basti Danishmandia, Jalandhar (Punjab) have changed my minor son's name from Shourya to Shourya Attri. Concerned note.

I, Priyanka Mittal W/o Piyush Mittal R/O H.No. 163/N, Model Town, Gurudwara, Hisar (Hry) have changed my name from Priyanka Rani to Priyanka Mittal for all future purposes.

I Baljit Singh Gill S/O Mukand Singh R/O Vpo. Lohgarh Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Baljit Singh.

I Paramjit Kaur Gill W/O Baljit Singh R/O Vpo. Lohgarh Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Paramjit Kaur.

I, Amandeep W/o Sonu Banger R/o H.No.64, Rameshwar Colony, P.O. Model Town, Jalandhar, Punjab 144003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amandeep Kaur. (Kaur as Surname)

I, Sanjiv Kumar S/o Lekh Raj R/O H.No.463, New Jawahar Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Sanjiv Kumar to Sanjeev Kumar.

I, Bamrah Gopal Singh S/o Tarlok Singh R/o VPO. Aliwai Araian, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab- 143507 have changed my name as Gopal Singh.

I, Navdeep Kaur W/o Ravinder Pal Singh R/O H.No.86, New Gurm Aram Dass Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Navdeep Kaur Bajwa to Navdeep Kaur, after marriage.

I, Krashna Devi mother of No 15346731X Hav Pavan Kumar serving in unit 52 Engrs c/o 56 APO have change my name from Krishna Devi to Krashna Devi.

I, Omchandra Sharma father of No 15346731X Hav Pavan Kumar serving in unit 52 Engrs c/o 56 APO have change my name from Om Chand Sharma to Omchandra Sharma.

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Jasvir Ram R/o H.No. 191, Village Biring, Po. Jalandhar Cantt., Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed the name of my minor son Amandeep Ram Age 13 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Ram Amandeep.

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Jasvir Ram R/o H.No. 191, Village Biring, Po. Jalandhar Cantt., Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed the name of my minor son Lakhvir Ram Age 13 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Ram Lakhvir.

I, hitherto Known as Seema W/o Keemti Lal R/O H.No. 99, Street No. 6, Near S P Prime School, New Deol Nagar, Jalandhar-144003, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Seema Rani.

I, hitherto Known as Kimti Lal S/o Hans Raj R/O H.No. 99, Street No. 6, Near S P Prime School, New Deol Nagar, Jalandhar-144003, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Keemti Lal.

I, Kanshika Talwar D/o Gulshan Talwar r/o 1051 to 1056 Dada Colony, Near Fire Brigade Office, Industrial Area, jalandhar have changed my name from Kanshika Talwar to Kanishika Talwar.

I, Radha Rani D/o Late Sh. Chaman Lal R/O B-15, Dera Baba Jaimal Singh, Beas, District Amritsar, Punjab-143204 have changed my name from Radha Rani to Radha Bajaj. Please note.

I, Sushil Saxena S/o Harsavrup R/o Kheri Shishgran Pehowa, distt. Kurukshetra, have change d my name Sushil Kumar

I, Rajwinder Kaur W/o Sandeep Kumar Vill.Barouli Ambala have changed my Minor Son Name Sumit to given name Sumit Surname Kumar

I, Ekampreet Singh S/o Jasvir Singh Vill. Galedwa, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my name Singh Ekampreet

I, Khushleen Kaur D/o Jasvir Singh Vill. Galedwa, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my name Kaur Khushleen.

I Gurwinder Singh S/o Rashpal Singh R/o H.No.374, Qadian Road, Ranjit Nagar, Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Gurwinder Singh to Singh Gurwinder using Singh is my Surname and Gurwinder as my given name.

I, Kuljit Singh S/O Balwinder Singh Vill. Shimbhatti, P.O. Ghorewah Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Kuljit Singh to Kuljeet Singh. Please Concerned note.

I, Simranjit Singh Pannu S/o Gurinder Pal Singh R/o Village Mathola Po Bharath Teh Batala Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Simranjit Singh Pannu to Simranjit Singh. Concerned note.

I, Satwinder Kaur W/o Prem Singh R/o Jail Road, Babawal Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Satwinder Kaur to Satinder Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Janak Raj S/o Tarsem Lal R/o H.No.46, Badli Colony, Phase-2 Basti Danishmandia, Jalandhar (Punjab) have changed my minor son's name from Shourya to Shourya Attri. Concerned note.

I, Priyanka Mittal W/o Piyush Mittal R/O H.No. 163/N, Model Town, Gurudwara, Hisar (Hry) have changed my name from Priyanka Rani to Priyanka Mittal for all future purposes.

I Baljit Singh Gill S/O Mukand Singh R/O Vpo. Lohgarh Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Baljit Singh.

I Paramjit Kaur Gill W/O Baljit Singh R/O Vpo. Lohgarh Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Paramjit Kaur.

I, Amandeep W/o Sonu Banger R/o H.No.64, Rameshwar Colony, P.O. Model Town, Jalandhar, Punjab 144003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amandeep Kaur. (Kaur as Surname)

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I, Navdeep Kaur W/o Ravinder Pal Singh R/O H.No.86, New Gurm Aram Dass Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Navdeep Kaur Bajwa to Navdeep Kaur, after marriage.

I, Krashna Devi mother of No 15346731X Hav Pavan Kumar serving in unit 52 Engrs c/o 56 APO have change my name from Krishna Devi to Krashna Devi.

I, Omchandra Sharma father of No 15346731X Hav Pavan Kumar serving in unit 52 Engrs c/o 56 APO have change my name from Om Chand Sharma to Omchandra Sharma.

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Jasvir Ram R/o H.No. 191, Village Biring, Po. Jalandhar Cantt., Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed the name of my minor son Amandeep Ram Age 13 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Ram Amandeep.

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Jasvir Ram R/o H.No. 191, Village Biring, Po. Jalandhar Cantt., Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed the name of my minor son Lakhvir Ram Age 13 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Ram Lakhvir.

I, hitherto Known as Seema W/o Keemti Lal R/O H.No. 99, Street No. 6, Near S P Prime School, New Deol Nagar, Jalandhar-144003, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Seema Rani.

I, hitherto Known as Kimti Lal S/o Hans Raj R/O H.No. 99, Street No. 6, Near S P Prime School, New Deol Nagar, Jalandhar-144003, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Keemti Lal.

I, Kanshika Talwar D/o Gulshan Talwar r/o 1051 to 1056 Dada Colony, Near Fire Brigade Office, Industrial Area, jalandhar have changed my name from Kanshika Talwar to Kanishika Talwar.

I, Radha Rani D/o Late Sh. Chaman Lal R/O B-15, Dera Baba Jaimal Singh, Beas, District Amritsar, Punjab-143204 have changed my name from Radha Rani to Radha Bajaj. Please note.

I, Lalita mother of No. JC-304159F Rank SUB (OPR) Name Zunja Vilas Shivashankar presently residing at Village – Main Drgi, PO – Main Drgi, PS – Main Drgi, Teh - Akalkot, Dist - Solapur, State Maharashtra, have changed my name from Kiran Kunwar To Kiran Kanwar Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48269196785874w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Dipali Spouse Of No.2809269p L/Nk Pathankar Ravindra Runza Resident Of Village- Patoda, Post- Patoda, Tehsil- Yeola, District- Nashik, State- Maharashtra, Pin-423401, Have Changed My Name From Dipali To Dipali Ravindra Pathankar Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb47590681342705w Dated 17 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Shivashankar Basappa Zunja father of No. JC-304159F Rank SUB (OPR) Name Zunja Vilas Shivashankar presently residing at Village – Main Drgi, PO – Main Drgi, PS – Main Drgi, Teh - Akalkot, Dist - Solapur, State Maharashtra, have changed my name from Shivashankar Basappa Zunja to Shivashankar Basavanppa Zunja vide Affidavit No IN-PB48743630427363W Dated 22-08-2024 before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Kimti Lal Verma, S/O Late Shri Omprakash Verma, r/o Bhapra Road, Samalkha District Panipat, declare that I have changed my name from Kimti Lal to Kimti Lal Verma for all future purposes.

I, Janigala Swapna Spouse Of No.15188145m Hav (Gnr) Janigela Murali Resident Of Village- Upparapalle, Post- Upparapalle, Tehsil- Kesamudram, District- Mahabubabad, State- Telangana, Pin-506112, Have Changed My Name From Janigala Swapna To Janigela Swapna Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb47594449363859w Dated 20 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, No.15188145m Hav (Gnr) Janigela Murali Resident Of Village- Upparapalle, Post- Upparapalle, Tehsil- Kesamudram, District- Mahabubabad, State- Telangana, Pin-506112, Have Changed My Name From Janigala Swapna To Janigela Swapna Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb47594449363859w Dated 20 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, No.15188145m Hav (Gnr) Janigela Murali Resident Of Village- Upparapalle, Post- Upparapalle, Tehsil- Kesamudram, District- Mahabubabad, State- Telangana, Pin-506112, Have Changed My Daughter Name From Janigela Harika To Janigela Harika Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb47594969911543w Dated 20 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Poddukuri Asha Reddy Father Of No.4491201w Nk/Hk Poddutoori Rajasekar, Resident Of Village- Bhoraj, Post- Gimma, Tehsil- Jainad, District- Adilabad, Pin-504309, Have Changed My Name From Poddutoori Ashareddy To Poddukuri Asha Reddy Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb47588620340013w Dated 20 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Sonia Wife Of Sh. Rajinder Kumar Resident Of Mohalla Jogian Da Baroi Uppari, Post- Ranipur, Tehsil & District- Pathankot, State- Punjab, Pin-145001, Have Changed My Name From Vimmi Kumari To Sonia Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48621780648233w Dated 22 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, No.15728630p Nk Pramod Kumar Resident Of Village- Gauspur, Post- Ekma, Tehsil- Ekma, District- Chhapra (Saran) State- Bihar, Pin-841208, Have Changed My Name From Prtyansh Kumar To Pratyansh Kumar Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48062725559754w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, No.15728630p Nk Pramod Kumar Resident Of Village- Gauspur, Post- Ekma, Tehsil- Ekma, District- Chhapra (Saran) State- Bihar, Pin-841208, Have Changed My Son Name From Prtyansh Kumar To Pratyansh Kumar Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48062725559754w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Seema Yadav Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Army No: 65002991 Rank-Nk Name: Jitendra Kumar Yadav Presently Residing At Unit: 603 Ac. Bn (Am) C/O 56 Apo Pin-905603, Chandigarh Declare In My Husband Service Record My Date Of Birth Wrongly Mentioned As 10/03/1994 But My Correct Date Of Birth Is 20/07/1999. Vide Affidavit No-54aa 510886, Dated: 21.08.2024

I, Azad Ahmed S/O Ikramudin Ahmed R/O HNo-2613/8 Bangali Mohalla Ambala Cantt Have Changed My Name Azad Ahmed To Azad Ahmed And Surname To Ahmed . Concerned Note

I, Heer Kanwar Mother Of Pargag Singh Resident Of Village- Tepu, Post- Tepu, Tehsil- Bap, District- Phalodi, State- Rajasthan, Pin-342301, Have Changed My Name From Heer Kanwar To Hira Kanwar Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48268133848784w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Megh Singh Father Of Pargag Singh Resident Of Village- Tepu, Post- Tepu, Tehsil- Bap, District- Phalodi, State- Rajasthan, Pin-342301, Have Changed My Name From Megh Singh To Meg Singh Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb4826849060338w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Manju Mother Of Himanshu Resident Of Village- Kumpur Bazar Lalkurti, Post- Ranikhet, Tehsil- Ranikhet, District- Almora, State- Uttarakhand, Pin-263645, Have Changed My Name From Manju To Manju Devi Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48267583220630w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Dhapu Bai Mother Of Rahul Kumar Resident Of Village- Dhamanda, Post- Dhamanda, Tehsil- Ichhawar, District- Sehore, State- Madhya Pradesh, Pin-466113, Have Changed My Name From Dhapu Bai To Dhapoo Bai Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48267583220630w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Kiran Kunwar Spouse Of Amar Singh Rathore Resident Of Plot No.340 Prabhath Nagar Banar Road Jodhpur, State- Rajasthan, Pin- 340227, Have Changed My Name From Kiran Kunwar To Kiran Kanwar Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb48269196785874w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Parveen Resident Of Village- Bighar, Post- Bighar, Tehsil- Fatehabad, District- Fatehabad, State- Haryana, Pin-125050, Have Changed My Mother Name From Roshni Devi To Roshni Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb47594057709711w Dated 21 Aug 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Amarjot S/o Bhupinder Singh R/O H.No. 98 Kailash Nagar Janta Colony W.No.7 Ludhiana (now at Gobind Nagar Vill: Dharaur (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Amarjot to Amarjot Singh.

I, Balraj Singh and Balraj Singh Ghuman S/o Sawinder Singh R/O Near Garg Petrol Pump, New Vishkarma Colony Village Nial Teh Patran Distt Patiala Punjab both names are mine, one and the same person.

I, Jaspreet Kaur Dhaliwal D/o Hardev Singh R/O Patti Lehna Pakhowal Teh-Raikot Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Jaspreet Kaur.

I Kuldeep Kaur Bhanu w/o Jagseer Singh Gill, R/o H.No-2079/5, Johlan Road, Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Kuldeep Kaur.

I, Harish Kumar S/o Ramesh Chand R/O W.No. 5 Machhi Hatta Samana (Patiala) have changed my name to Harish Sharma.

I, Suman Devi W/o Chaman Lal R/O Vill: Nighi Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) have changed my minor daughter name from Madhvi to Madhvi Chaudhary.

I, Manjit Singh S/o Sant Singh R/o Malla (Faridkot) have changed my name to Manjeet Singh.

I Amardeep Singh S/O Ragbir Singh Bedi R/O H.No 134 Kazian Wala Mohalla Ward No 6 Patti District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Amardeep Singh Bedi.

I, Jagmohan Singh S/o Virsa Singh R/o Vill



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Witaj Poland!

PM Narendra Modi arrives in Poland for the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 45 Years

In a significant diplomatic milestone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Poland on August 21, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 45 years. This historic visit underscores the growing importance of India-Poland relations, which have evolved considerably since their establishment over 70 years ago. India and Poland share a rich history of diplomatic engagement that dates back to the early 1950s, soon after India gained independence and Poland emerged from the devastations of World War II. The two nations established formal diplomatic relations in 1954, laying the foundation for a partnership based on mutual respect, shared values, and common interests. During the Cold War era, India and Poland maintained cordial relations, bolstered by their shared membership in the Non-Aligned Movement. This period saw steady growth in bilateral trade, cultural exchanges, and political dialogue. However, the relationship experienced a slowdown in the post-Cold War era as both countries



focused on domestic reforms and economic transitions. Despite this, the underlying warmth between the two nations remained intact. In recent years, the India-Poland relationship has witnessed a resurgence, driven by mutual economic interests, shared concerns about global security, and a commitment to multilateralism. Poland, as a member of the European Union and a key player in Central Europe, has become an important partner for India in its engagement with the region. Meanwhile, India's rapid economic growth and its strategic position in Asia have made it an attractive partner for Poland.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Poland is a significant step in revitalising and deepening bilateral ties. It is particularly noteworthy as it marks the first time an Indian Prime Minister has visited Poland since 1979. The visit is expected to enhance cooperation in several key areas, including trade and investment, defence, technology, and cultural exchanges. Trade between India and Poland has been steadily increasing, with bilateral trade reaching approximately \$3 billion in recent years. Polish companies have shown keen interest in the Indian market, particularly in sectors such as defence, energy, and infrastructure. Likewise, Indian businesses are exploring opportunities in Poland, particularly in the fields of information technology, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing. Defence cooperation is another area of mutual interest. India, with its growing defence industry, can be a valuable partner for Poland in this endeavour. Cultural ties between the two nations are also set to receive a boost during PM Modi's visit. Poland has a vibrant Indian diaspora, and cultural exchanges between the two countries have been on the rise. Indian films, cuisine, and festivals are increasingly popular in Poland, reflecting the deepening people-to-people connections. As India and Poland work together to address common challenges, from global security to climate change, this visit could mark the beginning of a more dynamic and mutually beneficial partnership.

PICTALK



Visitors at the Taj Mahal in Agra

PTI

The catalyst for corporate success

Ambition is an incredibly powerful force. When properly harnessed, it has the potential to unlock remarkable outcomes

In the realm of corporate success, there is a fundamental truth: the sky is not your limit, but merely the starting point. With a powerful drive and unwavering determination, ambition propels you to surpass all perceived boundaries. Just like a high-performance engine, achieving your dreams requires proper focus and direction.

Today, we all have unique goals and dreams, both in our personal lives and careers. Nevertheless, the journey from having a vision to making it a reality can be challenging and draining. It calls for unwavering dedication, relentless effort, and occasionally, the need to ignore those who doubt you. In our business environment, having a strong drive and unwavering determination is not just a cliché, but a crucial factor in setting ambitious goals and relentlessly striving for excellence. We must connect these grand aspirations to careful planning, unwavering commitment, and consistent hard work. Only then will the aspiration reveal its magic. Many times, the biggest obstacles we face



are a result of the actions of others. There will always be those who view our dreams as unattainable or doubt our abilities. It's crucial to remember that our potentials are not defined by external voices. Throughout history, countless individuals have faced ridicule and scepticism, only to ultimately prove their doubters wrong.

The proper environment can truly make a difference in our pursuit of success. It is an environment that fosters growth by providing opportunities to use our skills and allowing for energetic and unwelcome ambition, which drives change and advancement. Surround yourself with

mentors and peers who share your vision and are there to support you on your journey. Embrace growth opportunities and always value the feedback of others to refine your approach. Equally crucial is the art of expressing our goals. Make sure to communicate your goals and progress with both supervisors and colleagues. It's important to keep everyone in the loop and stay motivated. When you openly express your aspirations and the steps you're taking to achieve them, not only do you attract valuable encouragement, but you also establish a sense of personal responsibility. However, the

true basis of ambition stems from the constant trust within oneself.

It is important to have a strong belief in your abilities and to acknowledge the unique qualities that you bring to the table. Recognising and celebrating the small victories along your journey to greater success is crucial. Embrace challenges as chances to grow and learn. Stay resilient in the face of setbacks.

Ambition is an incredibly powerful force. When properly harnessed, it has the potential to unlock remarkable outcomes. Despite facing obstacles and encountering negativity, you will always choose to embrace a positive mindset. And getting encouragement from prominent individuals will help you hugely achieve your goals. After all, everyone deserves a chance to shine. So set the bar high, work, and let the ambition catapult you to new heights. The sky is not the limit in the corporate world; it is just the beginning of your journey toward success.

(The author is a freelance writer, views are personal)



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

Madam — The long-awaited Justice Hema Committee report, commissioned by the Kerala government to investigate the challenges faced by women in the Malayalam film industry, has sent shockwaves through the community. The report, which was released to the media under the RTI Act five years after its submission, uncovers disturbing accounts of sexual exploitation, harassment, and mistreatment endured by women in the industry. Revealing the dark underbelly of the film world, the report underscores the truth behind what were once dismissed as mere rumors—casting couch practices, "adjustments," and compromises that are now exposed as grim realities. It's especially jarring to learn that even some of the most "popular" and "reputed" actors are implicated in these unethical practices, likely leading to the downfall of stars once idolized on the silver screen, now unmasked as villains behind the scenes. Additionally, the report highlights the dire working conditions faced by junior artists and other industry workers.

DARKNESS BEHIND THE SILVER SCREEN

This report serves as both a wake-up call and a rallying cry, urging those within the film industry, along with the concerned ministry and stakeholders across the country, to take immediate and serious action to ensure the safety and well-being of female professionals in the industry.

M Pradyu | Kannur

A BELLWEATHER ACT

Madam — This happened in a temple in a remote village, somewhere in a remote district of MP. A temple priest wanted his temple to be a serene place, free from the constant jangle of temple bells that were hung from several places in and around the temple. He wished to be left in silence while offering his prayers and doing his daily "pooja" before the temple deity. At the same time, he did not wish to do

The shadow games of Pakistan's ISI

Often accused of overstepping its professional bounds, ISI has become a player in domestic politics, international intrigue, and personal vendettas



BHOPINDER SINGH

Spy novelist John Le Carre describes spies as complicated and lonely beings, living double lives. Such seclusion makes deception, intrigue and unrequited ambition, their default mode. The fact that they know the deep and dark secrets but are still expected to comply by restrains occasionally leads them to flex their 'privilege' (read, confidential information) towards reckless ends. Because they are dangerously privy to so much dirt, they fear their ambition.

Like the proverbial Caesar's wife, must always be above suspicion — but often aren't. Pakistan's notorious spy agency Inter-Services-Intelligence (ISI) is infamous for going beyond its professional remit and dabbling in domestic politics, commercial interests or even partaking in cross-border dalliances, beyond their approved mandate. If the Pakistani Army Chief is the real power (pretence of civil politicians, notwithstanding), arguably the second most powerful person is the DG-ISI. Supposed loyalty to the Army Chief or to the PM (in times when the Army takes a backseat and politicians have an upper hand) is implicit, though, in the Pakistani narrative, backstabbing is common.

Ironically for such a powerful 'number two' post, there have been 29 DG-ISIs so far, and only one has ascended to the post of Army Chief i.e., the current Army Chief, General Asim Munir. It is reflective of the slippery slope that the post entails which invariably ends up making some power centres in Pakistan unhappy about their conduct e.g., Clergy, Politicians, Americans/Chinese or even their alma mater, the Pakistani 'establishment'. Even the current Army Chief, General Asim Munir was abruptly moved out as the DG-ISI as the then PM Imran Khan felt uncomfortable with his conduct (karma later evened out the equation as Imran finds himself languishing in the jail today). Seemingly the profile is for a loyal, unquestioning and low-key DG-ISI who does the job is satisfied with obscurity (shouldn't be overambitious) and effectively rides into



the sunset after retirement, without much fuss. Given the opportunity, lure and access, many do try to take their chances.

There is a curious case of one DG-ISI who did get appointed as the Army Chief, but his tenure was only for a few hours and the same does not go in official records as having become the Pakistani Army Chief. Lt Gen Ziauddin Butt was a typical DG-ISI who went across the Afghan border to meet the dreaded leader of the Taliban, Mullah Omar, to negotiate — he was in the thick of the dark corridors and machinations of the Pakistani State. Ziauddin had direct access to the other competing power centre i.e., PM Nawaz Sharif, and was a willing accomplice in Sharif's attempt to remove Pervez Musharraf as the Army Chief. Before the coup (or counter-coup as Musharraf calls it), 'General' Ziauddin was hastily appointed the Army Chief and then immediately dumped by the Pakistani Army which refused to back their DG-ISI's ambition. Spymaster's gambit failed. Ziauddin was not the first or the last of DG-ISIs to harbour personal ambition beyond what was warranted constitutionally. The shadowy likes of Lt Gen Akhtar Rahman,



WHEREAS THE UNHINGED POLITICIANS LIKE IMRAN KHAN WHO ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAVE THEIR SKINS AND INGRATIATE THEMSELVES TO THE PAKISTANI 'ESTABLISHMENT' HAVE DISOWNED AND THROWN LT GEN FAIZ HAMEED UNDER THE PROVERBIAL BUS!

Hamid Gul, Shamsur Kallu, Zaheerul Islam etc., operated with questionable interests. Yet another one who is in the news for harbouring extraconstitutional ambitions and paying the price for the same is the former DG-ISI, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed. Forced into premature retirement over his dubious role amid the recent turf war between the Pakistani 'establishment' (led by previous and current Army Chiefs i.e. Qamar Bajwa and Asim Munir, respectively) against the Imran Khan dispensation — he has been brought back to public news for having misused his then powerful position and arm-twisting people in some really deal.

While he was earlier afforded a relatively face-saving 'early retirement' (though everyone knew better), he could be embarrassingly court-martialed to score fresh brownie points against the deposed Imran Khan dispensation (which Lt Gen Faiz Hameed is popularly believed to be identified with). Many acts of Lt Gen Faiz Hameed did suggest a rather megalomaniac, cavalier and overreaching conduct that did not behave the role of spymasters, but perhaps the personal ambition had got the better of him. As the roll of the dice played out, the narrative changed and with it, he too

was ousted. Only he is back for a possible second round of infamy and disrepute if the current dispensation has its ways. Whereas the unhinged politicians like Imran Khan who are desperately trying to save their skins and ingratiate themselves to the Pakistani 'establishment' (after realising that they are not going anywhere) have disowned and thrown Lt Gen Faiz Hameed under the proverbial bus! Instead of backing their henchman who did their bidding, Imran said, "if Faiz Hameed was involved, it should be investigated" and he welcomed the enquiry!

The whole saga says a lot about the unprofessionalism and complete absence of loyalty in overall governance, as exemplified by Lt Gen Faiz Hameed or by Imran Khan — the former was disloyal to his institution, and the latter to his word. As Israeli Michael Bar-Zohar notes in Mossad: The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service, "Dirtiest actions should be carried out by the most honest men", perhaps former DG-ISI Faiz Hameed wasn't one and will pay the price, again.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ensuring safety of health workers



It's good to learn that the apex court has taken up the issue of Kolkata doctor's rape and murder case Suo Motu and formed a National Task force to examine the broader issue of doctors' safety at work places. The

failure of the hospital authorities and state as well even after the gory incident is glaringly evident, forcing the court to go to the underlying deep malaise. The hospitals and other public healthcare services are working under unsafe circumstances. The security angle of health care providers is not addressed effectively.

The junior doctors are being forced to undertake backbreaking schedules with inadequate facilities, thanks to the poor doctor patient ratio. India is not spending even two percent of its GDP. Where six percent is needed on health causing more pressure on limited resources. Apart from a stringent law against attacks on health personnel, the working conditions should be improved. Though the health and law and order are state subjects, there seems to be a need for a strong central act.

DVG Sankara Rao | Vizianagaram

away with the bells. They had always been a part and parcel of the temple. He struck upon an idea. He installed a call bell (sans the electrical connection) with a huge and prominent sign "Ring this bell only. Only this bell is connected to God."

People pressed it again and again to their heart's content, ignoring all the other bells of the temple. This smart gadget brought the much desired peace and calm, delighting in its wake, the priest as well as the deities. I hope that someday all our temples — noisy and crowded as they usually are — will realise the home truth that noise, even if it emanates from a temple bell or a loudspeaker, ought to be eliminated. If our gods and goddesses reside in temple idols, don't they deserve an environment that is free from noise pollution?

Avinash Godbole | Devwas

SC TURNS DOWN HC VERDICT

Madam — Calcutta HC's act in advising an adolescent girl to restrain from sexual urge and not to give in, as right-

ly observed by the SC is not only an act unbecoming of an HC judge but also a trespass into the modesty of an adolescent. On top of preaching to the victim the acquittal of the delinquent is an act of a Kangaroo court and not a High Court of the country.

Judges should understand and realise that they are guardians of constitutional morality and the way deal in the matters in their court and their verdicts should reflect this. The SC's reprimand of the Calcutta HC highlights the need for judges to uphold constitutional morality.

The HC's inappropriate advice and the acquittal of the delinquent were unjust, reflecting a failure to protect the victim's dignity. The SC's intervention rightly restored justice and reaffirmed judicial integrity.

Kudos to SC in rapping the Calcutta HC and preserving justice in the matter!!

Gopalaswamy | Chennai

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FIRST COLUMN

THAW IN INDO-MALDIVES TIES

The Maldives after a break is now trying to mend fences with India



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India's recent outreach to Maldives, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting the island nation, a couple of weeks back signifies a reset in the currently stressed bilateral relationship between the neighbours. After new President Mohammed Muizzu took charge, there has been a spate of anti-India voices, which has derailed decades of carefully curated strategic defence partnerships. Mr Muizzu's PNC-PPM coalition came to power last year, largely driven by India's campaign. Soon after Indian defence forces manning some critical equipment for the Maldives, were given marching orders and it seemed relations with India's nearest maritime neighbour were on a downward spiral without any checks. However, things began to change somewhere towards the beginning of this year and President Muizzu was invited to PM Modi's third swearing-in ceremony in June.

In his speech at the inauguration of the India-assisted projects to hand over water and sewerage projects across 28 islands of the Maldives President was all praise for the Indian PM. He said "The Government and people of Maldives extend our deep gratitude to Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi, the Government, and the friendly people of India for their generous and continued assistance to the Maldives and discuss strengthening our bilateral relations."

The speech highlighted a rethink regarding India relations and perhaps a silent acknowledgement that the Maldives needs India, to come out of financial stress. Maldives needs nearly millions of dollars in budgetary support for which the President has already reached out to China, Türkiye



and some Middle Eastern nations. However, any bailout by the lending countries has stiff collaterals attached, which could have risky consequences in future. Meanwhile India despite getting a bloodied nose, has been committed to rolling over nearly \$100 million in payments due from the Maldives, to ease off its financial burden. Maldives has also realised that beyond the India Out rhetoric, a recalibration of the bilateral in terms of economic and security ties would be a great midway for a stronger partnership with India. It was no coincidence that several critical India-assisted infrastructure projects inaugurated pre-President Muizzu's tenure were an important peg during S Jaishankar's visit to Male.

The press release issued by the ministry highlighted "EAM visited the India-assisted Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) site and jointly reviewed the progress of this flagship development project that will connect Male with the adjoining islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi...EAM also visited Addu city on 11 August 2024, during which he, along with Foreign Minister and Minister of Construction and Infrastructure, jointly inaugurated the Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project and Addu Detour Link Bridge Project. The visit highlights the importance of Maldives, India's maritime neighbour, as a key partner in the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and India's Vision 'SAGAR' i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region.

Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. "India and Maldives are dependent on each other for their respective economic, security and climate change-related issues. However, the resentment in the Maldives relationship is also a greater message to the new government in Bangladesh, which in the past has not been a great sympathiser with India's concerns. While the interim government in Bangladesh has so far maintained a moderate line of continuity on India bilateral, the political parties in power may not be too kind in future. Like many of India's neighbours, Bangladesh too is under severe economic crisis, and sooner or later the realisation would dawn that the best bet for the country is to have a good neighbour.

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

Monsoon mayhem: Tackling urban flooding



B K SINGH

There is urgent need for comprehensive disaster management and infrastructure reforms to protect lives and property from future monsoon fury



In the warming world Sea surface temperature is rising followed by excessive evaporation and deposition of moisture laden vapours in the form of clouds. When conditions are favourable, incessant rainfall occurs. Many times, half the annual rainfall occurs in 24 to 48 hours. Urban infrastructures are unable to take the challenge; flooding on roads, public places, ground floors and the basement of buildings is quite common leading to disruption of rail, road and air traffic as well as businesses. Rural areas face the brunt of the mayhem; loss of crops, landslides, and landslids in hilly terrain can claim lives and livelihoods and can throw the economy out of gear.

It can put additional stress on the budget as the public fund (taxpayers' money) has to be diverted for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructures and also for compensating the losses for the private properties. The disaster that hit Wayanad on 30th July claimed more than 400 human lives and injured an equal number has been one of the worst of its kind in living memory.

Big boulders and stones from an 8.26 ha (82600 sq meter) area on the top of the hill located at 1550 meters above the mean Sea level have rolled for 7 km on a downward slope and smashed buildings, damaged roads and bridges etc in three-four villages at 650 meters above the mean Sea level. One ton boulder has attained the energy of 9 mega Joule, which is enough to destabilize and knock down an RCC building in a rural area. Monsoon mayhem has caused damage in many other places in Western Ghats as well as in the Himalayas. Landslides and damage to roads and bridges have posed a challenge to people and tourists in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

In this column let me confine to the issues faced by metropolitan cities and make some suggestions to deal with it. The death of three civil service aspirants in the basement flooding of Rau's coaching centre in Rajendranagar Delhi last month and also another aspirant dying

MANY TIMES, HALF THE ANNUAL RAINFALL OCCURS IN 24 TO 48 HOURS. URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE S ARE UNABLE TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE; FLOODING ON ROADS, PUBLIC PLACES, GROUND FLOORS AND THE BASEMENT OF BUILDINGS IS QUITE COMMON LEADING TO DISRUPTION OF RAIL, ROAD AND AIR TRAFFIC AS WELL AS BUSINESSES

of electrocution are chilling reminders of the apathy of the civic body. We must know the precautions that must be undertaken by the agencies and the building occupants to make sure that such incidents are not repeated. Civic Body of Mumbai had earlier designed stormwater drains and related infrastructure to take care of 25 mm of rain in an hour.

Severe flooding repeatedly occurring during the past several years has forced them to remodel their drainage system to take care of more intense rains up to 50 mm per hour. However, in places like Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Satara, Mahabaleshwar and many other locations 80 to 100 mm of rain per hour has been recorded. Similarly, places in some other regions of the country are also experiencing frequent cloud bursts resulting in 80 to 100 mm of rainfall per hour for three to four hours. Wayanad tragedy was the result of 570 mm of rain in 48 hours.

All Civic authorities in cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Gurugram etc should remodel the drainage system to take care of at least 100 mm of rain per hour. The encroachments on storm water drains as well as on lake beds should be removed.

Further, the drains should be regularly de-silted and cleaned up so that plastics, polythene bags silts etc are removed and disposed of at far-off places. The lakes in the cities are balancing reservoirs where the water level should be regulated by opening the sluice gates. De-weeding and de-siltation of lakes are also required to be done periodically to ensure that the water reservoirs are kept clean up to maximum flood level. All the inlets of the lakes are

monitored to ensure that none carry untreated sewage into them. There is the possibility that lake water may enter people's houses at the time of flash floods; it must be ensured that sewage water does not enter houses. Stormwater drains in metropolitan cities are often found partly encroached and occupied for living by erecting small huts. Such occupants must be rehabilitated elsewhere and drains must be fully opened for flow of water. Let us not forget that the existing stormwater drain is insufficient to take the load of more than 25 mm of rainfall per hour.

Beds of many urban lakes have also been encroached. Lake beds up to high flood levels are meant for storage of water. The reduction in volume for storage indicates that the water flows in the basement and ground floor of the buildings, causing undue hardship for the people. Incessant rains in November 2015 (approximately 483 mm in 24 hours) led to one of the biggest catastrophes in Chennai. 500 people were killed and nearly 10 lakh houses were submerged resulting in the displacement of 1.8 million people. Two reasons were attributed to the disaster.

One was the encroachments on lake beds in Chennai and the other was the delay in regulating the water level in the Chembaram Bakkam reservoir. The situation came under control only when 1.5 lakh cusecs water from this reservoir was released into the Adiyar river.

Many wetlands in Chennai have been occupied by communities. Pallikarnai wetland used to have an extent of over 5000 ha has shrunk to 10% and only 500 ha is remaining as wetland at present. Unless the encroachments are cleared, we are likely to face

a similar tragedy in future. Civic bodies while working on drainage systems for stormwater as well as sewer lines must take enough precautions and keep the drains and man-hole covered, so that no person accidentally falls into them and perishes.

When the road is flooded and becomes a flowing river, uncovered drains and sewer lines cannot be identified by people wading through. People in Mumbai, Delhi, Gurugram and many other metropolitan cities find flood water trapped in the basements of their houses. Often they resort to pumping it out, which requires time and energy. It is advisable to construct a sump underneath so that the rainwater can be effectively harvested and later used for various purposes.

If the basement is kept clean, then flood water collected would be of drinkable quality. Several Civic Bodies mandate water harvesting structures along with new constructions while approving Plans. At the implementation stage, however, such structures generally take care of harvesting water from the rooftop and ignore basements, prone to flooding during cloud bursts.

Water harvesting for basements should be made compulsory and must be seriously implemented. Building by-laws if necessary be amended by respective civic agencies to make sure that the basement of the buildings is used for parking vehicles, storing unserviceable items and water harvesting/ storage only. In no circumstances should people be permitted to use it for housing, hotels and businesses.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests, Head of forest force, Karnataka; views are personal)

Prime Minister Modi's Ukraine visit: A strategic balancing act

PM's visit underscores India's evolving role on the world stage, where it seeks to navigate complex alliances and assert its national interests

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kyiv marks a significant moment in international diplomacy, reflecting India's strategic balancing act between Russia and the West amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. As the first leader from a nation that maintains strong relations with both Russia and Western countries, Modi's visit sends a nuanced message to global powers, particularly Russia.



AKHILESH SUMAN

comes at a critical time, coinciding with Ukraine's recent military successes against Russian forces, adding weight to the message Modi intends to deliver.

India's historical relationship with Ukraine has been far from warm, yet the scale of suffering in Ukraine has stirred sympathy within India. This sentiment is reflected in Modi's earlier statements, emphasizing that this is not an era of war

and advocating for peaceful resolutions. Despite this, India has refrained from condemning Russia's actions, continuing to purchase oil from Moscow, which has been crucial for Russia during the conflict.

However, Russia's increasingly close ties with China have become a point of concern for India, particularly regarding China's aggressive behavior along the Indian border. The 2020 Galwan Valley clash and subsequent military tensions have strained India-China relations, making Russia's perceived indifference to India's security concerns troubling. The frequent meetings between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping have heightened these concerns,

prompting India to reassess its foreign policy strategy.

Modi's visit to Ukraine can be seen as a diplomatic effort to subtly pressure Russia into reconsidering its relationship with China. By engaging with Ukraine, India signals to Moscow that its close ties with Beijing cannot be taken for granted without potential consequences. Historically, India has enjoyed a strong relationship with Russia, especially in defense, but the evolving geopolitical landscape requires India to prioritize its national interests.

Modi's visit also underscores India's independent foreign policy, a principle that has guided the country since the Cold War era. India has long prided itself on its non-aligned stance, making decisions based



on strategic interests rather than aligning with any particular bloc. This approach remains relevant in the 21st century, as India navigates the complexities of global politics. India's refusal to outright condemn Russia at the United Nations has caused friction with Western capitals. However, Modi's visit to Ukraine demonstrates that India's neutrality does not imply inaction or tacit approval of Russian aggression.

Instead, it reflects a nuanced approach, balancing relationships and interests while encouraging Russia to reconsider its military strategy.

As India seeks to strengthen its ties with Western nations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region where China's assertiveness is a growing concern, Modi's visit to Ukraine reaffirms India's commitment to a multipolar world. India values its strategic autonomy, making decisions based on its national interests—a stance that has occasionally drawn criticism from its allies.

Another important aspect of Modi's visit is India's interest in contributing to Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. The war has left Ukraine in ruins, and India sees an opportunity to play a role in its rebuilding process.

This involvement would not only be a humanitarian gesture but also a strategic investment that could benefit the Indian economy. India has already provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and Modi's visit could pave the way for more substantial support, including infrastructure projects and logistical assistance, which would also benefit related Indian industries.

Furthermore, India's involvement in Ukraine's reconstruction could serve as a counterbalance to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). By offering an alternative model of development cooperation that respects the sovereignty of partner countries, India positions itself as a more favorable partner for nations in need. This approach aligns with

India's broader goal of positioning itself as a global leader and a moral force in international diplomacy.

As the world closely watches Modi's visit to Ukraine, the potential outcomes could have far-reaching implications for global power dynamics. Should Modi's diplomacy contribute to a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, India could emerge as a significant peacemaker and problem solver on the world stage. This would enhance India's reputation as a nation capable of navigating complex geopolitical landscapes while maintaining its principles and strategic autonomy.

(The writer is a senior journalist who has been covering foreign affairs for many years; views are personal)

Clinton: Harris is clear choice over 'other guy'

PTI ■ CHICAGO

Americans in 2024 have a clear choice between "for the people" versus "me, myself, and I", former president Bill Clinton has said, as he rooted for Kamala Harris in the race for the White House and said she will be the "president of joy". Clinton on Wednesday took the crowd at the National Democratic Convention through Harris' life story and said he believes that her candidacy represents for the country. Her story is that of an America they all know is possible, he said, referring to the 59-year-old Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage.

America faces a "clear choice" between Harris and Donald Trump in November, Clinton said. "In 2024, we gotta pretty clear choice, it seems to me," Clinton said. "Kamala Harris, for the people, and the other guy, who has proved even more than the first go-around that he's about me, myself and I."

"Kamala Harris will work to solve our problems, seize our opportunities, ease our fears, and make sure every single American, however they vote, has a chance to chase their dreams," Clinton, 78, said. Clinton's wife, Hillary Clinton, lost the 2016 election to former President Trump, the current Republican presidential nominee. Clinton said he wants America that more joyful, inclusive, and future-focused.

"Where we weather the storms and earn the benefits together. That's the America Kamala Harris will lead. She's already made her first presidential decision, picking a running mate," Clinton, who served two terms in the White House until January 2001, said. Clinton riffed on the famous "place called Hope" line he gave at the 1992 Democratic convention to encourage Americans to vote the "president of joy," Harris, into the White House. Clinton, who is from Hope, Arkansas, famously said in the 1992 convention, "I still believe in a place called Hope." On Wednesday, the for-

'Trump will divide America'

Chicago (PTI): Top Democratic leaders have hammered Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump for being an agent of chaos and that his failed policies would take America backwards. Democrats used their national convention in Chicago on Wednesday to cast the former president as an existential danger and project Vice President Kamala Harris as the best person to lead the nation.

Harris, 59, will take on former president Trump, 78, in the November 5 election. Former president Bill Clinton in his address to the Democratic National Convention said Trump - a paragon of consistency - is dividing, blaming, and belittling.

"He creates and curates chaos. It's showmanship, but it's not leadership," he said. On the other hand, he said Harris is the only candidate in this race with the vision, the experience, the temperament and the will. "Now, how does Donald Trump use his voice? Mostly to talk about himself, his vengeance, vendettas, complaints, and conspiracies. The next time you hear him, don't count the lies-count the

mer president said: "From a man who once had the honour to be called in this Convention, a man from Hope, we need Kamala Harris - the president of joy - to lead us." "Kamala Harris is the only candidate in this race who has the vision, the experience, the temperament, the will, and yes, the sheer joy, to get something done. I mean, look, what does her opponent do with his voice? He mostly talks about himself. So, the next time you hear him, don't count the lies, count the 'I's. Clinton went on to criticise Trump's "vendettas, his vengeance, his complaints, his conspiracies." "He is like the tenors opening

up before he goes on stage, like I did, by saying, 'me, me, me, me, me.' When Kamala Harris is president, every day will begin with you, you, you, you," Clinton said. Clinton took a jab at Trump's age. "Two days ago, I turned 78, the oldest man in my family for four generations. And the only personal vanity I want to assert is I'm still younger than Donald Trump," he said. Clinton is just a few months younger than Trump, who turned 78 in June this year. If Trump wins in November, he would be the oldest president at his swearing-in at 78 years and 219 days, surpassing President Joe Biden's previous record of 78 years and 61 days.

"Never before had a president of the United States so brazenly assaulted the bedrock of our democracy, so gleefully embraced political violence, so willfully betrayed his oath of office," she said. "Let us not forget who assaulted democracy on January 6. He (Trump) did. But let us not forget who saved democracy that day. We did," Pelosi said. Senator Chris Coons said hate and division are the oxygen of Trump.

Brazil to limit entry for some Asians

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil will begin imposing restrictions on the entry of some foreigners from Asia who use the country as a launching point to migrate to the United States and Canada, the justice ministry's press office said Wednesday. More than 70% of requests for refuge at the airport come from people with either Indian, Nepalese or Vietnamese nationalities, an official document says. The African nations of Somalia, Cameroon, Ghana and Ethiopia are among the remaining 30% of refugee seekers. The move, which starts on Monday, will affect migrants from Asian countries who require visas to remain in Brazil. It does not apply to people from Asian countries currently exempt from visas to Brazil. US citizens and many European nationals also do not require visas for Brazil. A Federal Police investigation has shown these migrants often

buy flights with layovers in Sao Paulo's international airport, en route to other destinations, but stay in Brazil as a place from where they then begin their journey north, according to official documents provided to The Associated Press. Starting next week, travellers without visas will either have to continue their journey by plane or return to their country of origin, the ministry said. A report signed by federal police investigator Marinho da Silva Rezende Junior informs the justice ministry that since the beginning of last year there has been "great turmoil" due to the influx of migrants at the airport in Guarulhos, a city located in the Sao Paulo metropolitan area. "Evidence suggests that those migrants, for the most part, are making use of the known - and extremely dangerous - route that goes from Sao Paulo to the western state of Acre, so they can access Peru and go toward Central America and then,

finally, reach the U.S. from its southern border," one of the documents says. An AP investigation in July found migrants passing through the Amazon, including some from Vietnam and India. Many returned to Acre state, on the border with Peru, as U.S. border policies triggered a wait-and-see attitude among them. Brazil's justice ministry said that the new guidelines will not apply to the almost 500 migrants currently staying camping out at a Sao Paulo's international airport. Remullo Diniz, the coordinator of border with Peru, as U.S. border policies triggered a wait-and-see attitude among them. Brazil's justice ministry said that the new guidelines will not apply to the almost 500 migrants currently staying camping out at a Sao Paulo's international airport. Remullo Diniz, the coordinator of border operations, told the AP the government's move comes after local authorities spoke to U.S. diplomats about the situation with many Asian and undocumented migrants in the region. "We have seen growth both in the number of migrants coming here and in the number of nations they come from," Diniz told the AP over the phone.

"Bangladesh, Indonesia also send a lot of people here. They come either with no documents or with fake documents from other nations." "That is a concern for us, they could be running from police," he added. "And there are also the coyote networks, taking unaccompanied children, trafficking drugs." Earlier on Wednesday, Brazil's federal prosecutors' office said in a statement that Sao Paulo's international airport "is once again counting a high number of foreigners who arrive on flights of the airline LATAM and do not exit quickly due to the overload on the Brazilian migration system." The prosecutors' office added that it will put pressure on airlines to give migrants some basic supplies as they wait for their concession of refuge. The term refers to an application for refugee status, regardless of the reason. LATAM did not immediately respond an AP request for comment.

"It is important that we quickly decide on these refugee requests so that the growing arrival of foreigners does not impact the operation of the airport itself," federal prosecutor Guilherme Rocha Göpfert said after a meeting at Sao Paulo's international airport Wednesday. One of the documents says Brazil's federal police received 9,082 requests for refuge this year through July 15. That is more than the double the amount for the entire 2023, and the most in over a decade, according to the figures. However, federal police said that just a few hundred of those sought to get documents to remain in Brazil. The same document says federal police are convinced there is "a consolidated route of irregular migration in Brazil, with a strong presence of people who are involved in migrant smuggling and human trafficking, with an evident fraudulent use of the application for refugee status."

French destroyer rescues 29 mariners from stricken Red sea oil tanker

AP ■ DUBAI

A French destroyer rescued 29 mariners from an oil tanker that came under repeated attack in the Red Sea, officials said Thursday, while also destroying a bomb-carrying drone boat in the area. Yemen's Houthi rebels are suspected to have carried out the assault on the Sounion. The attack, the most serious in the Red Sea in weeks, comes during a monthslong campaign by Houthi targeting ships over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip that has disrupted a trade route through which \$1 trillion in cargo typically passes each year. The Sounion is now at anchor in the Red Sea and no longer drifting, the European Union's Operation Aspid said. However, it wasn't clear if the vessel was still ablaze. The vessel had been staffed by a crew of Filipinos and Russians. Military officials did not name the French



destroyer involved in the rescue. In the attack Wednesday, men on small boats first opened fire with small arms about 140 km (90 miles) west of the rebel-held Yemeni port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said. Four projectiles also hit the ship, it added. It wasn't immediately clear if that meant drones or missiles. The Houthi did not immediately claim responsibility for the attacks, though it can take them hours or even days before

they acknowledge their assaults. However, they did acknowledge US airstrikes in Hodeida that the American military's Central Command said destroyed a Houthi surface-to-air missile and radar system. The Houthi have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a US-led coalition in

'British tech magnate Mike Lynch's body found in yacht wreckage'

Porticello (AP): The Italian coast guard said Thursday the body of British tech magnate Mike Lynch is among those recovered off the coast of Sicily from the wreckage of a superyacht whose builders had called it unsinkable.

One woman remains missing. The bodies of Lynch, who had been celebrating his recent acquittal on fraud charges with his family and the people who had defended him at trial in the United States, and five others were recovered by rescue crews following Monday's tragedy. The Bayesian, a 56-metre (184-foot) British-flagged yacht, went down in a storm early Monday as it was moored about a kilometre (half-a-mile) offshore. Civil protection officials said they believe the ship was struck by a tornado over the water, known as a waterspout, and sank quickly.

The chief executive of The Italian Sea Group, which owns the Bayesian's manufacturer, said superyachts like these are "the safest in the most absolute sense".

"First of all, because they have very little surface compared to a yacht facing into the wind," CEO Giovanni Costantino told Sky News on Wednesday. "Second, with the structure, the drift keel, they become unsinkable bodies."

Investigators are now looking at why the Bayesian sank, killing at least six people. A seventh remains missing. Fifteen of the 22 people aboard survived, including a mother who reported holding her 1-year-old baby over the waves to save her.

Divers have struggled to find the bodies in the yacht's hull on the seabed 50 metres (164 feet) underwater.

"We would need a crystal ball to know when we'll be able to find the next body," said Luca Cari, spokesperson for the fire rescue service.

"It's very difficult to move inside the wreckage. Moving just one meter can take up to 24 hours," Cari said.

America faces many elevated threats all at once: FBI Director

AP ■ BROOKLYN CENTRE

The country is facing heightened threats from many corners at a time when law enforcement agencies are struggling, FBI Director Christopher Wray said in an exclusive interview, adding that he is "hard pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once."

Wray spoke Wednesday with The Associated Press while visiting the Minneapolis field office to talk about partnerships between law enforcement agencies and also with other entities. His remarks come as the FBI confronts heightened concerns over terrorism, both domestic and international, as well as Chinese espionage and intellectual property theft and foreign election interference.

"I worry about the combination of that many threats being elevated at once, with the chal-



lenges facing the men and women in law enforcement more generally," Wray said at the office in the suburb of Brooklyn Center. "And the one thing that I think helps bridge those two challenges is partnerships. That's how we get through. It is by all working together."

Wray's assessment of an elevated threat landscape is consistent with alarm bells he has

sounded for months. Soon after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas in Israel, Wray began warning that the rampage could serve as an inspiration to militants, "the likes of which we haven't seen since ISIS launched its so-called caliphate years ago." The FBI has also scrambled to deal with security concerns related to the United States' southern border, with officials revealing in June that eight people from Tajikistan with suspected ties to the Islamic State group were arrested and were being held on immigration violations. Officials are also dealing with the specter of foreign election interference.

The FBI and other federal agencies announced Monday that Iran was responsible for a hack targeting the Trump campaign and for an attempted breach of the Biden-Harris campaign, part of what officials portrayed as a brazen and

aggressive effort to interfere in American politics. Wray declined to talk about any specific investigation or threat but said investigations into cyberattacks, including against election infrastructure, candidates or campaigns, require help from the private sector. "One of the things that we have been doubling down on with every passing day is, is on partnerships, because ultimately you're talking about the ability to connect the dots, whether it's against some kind of election influence threat or some other kind of threat," Wray said. "You need to have partners sharing information with each other to put the two pieces together to see the bigger picture." Law enforcement officers are being killed in the line of duty at a rate of about one every five days, Wray said, noting that four first responders have died in Minnesota alone in 2024.

Visa data shows Indian students hesitant to apply to UK universities

London (PTI): Indians may continue to top the tally of student visa grants but they are beginning to show signs of being put off applying to UK universities amid greater migration curbs, the latest Home Office statistics revealed on Thursday. The Home Office data for the past year until June 2024 shows a 23 per cent fall in Indian students coming to the UK for higher studies, even as they continue to represent the largest group granted leave to remain on the Graduate Route visa which allows foreign students to work in Britain for two years after their degree. This fall in Indian student numbers is the first indication of the impact of tighter curbs on the right of most student visa holders to bring along dependent family members, which came into effect earlier this year. "There were 110,000 sponsored study visa grants to main

applicants who were Indian nationals in the year ending June 2024 (25 per cent of the total), 32,687 fewer than the previous year," the Home Office statistics reveal. "Most of the increase in foreign students between 2019 and 2023 were from Indian and Nigerian nationals, but numbers for these nationalities have fallen in the latest year (by 23 per cent and 46 per cent respectively)," it notes. The India-UK Young Professionals Scheme, which involves a two-way flow of young graduates to live and work in either country for up to two years, brought in 2,234 Indian nationals since the first ballot was held in February last year - well below the annual 3,000 visa cap. "In the year ending June 2024, Indian nationals represented the largest group of students granted leave to remain on the Graduate Route (67,529), representing almost half (46 per

cent) of grants of Graduate Route extensions to main applicants," the data reveals. However, a gradual decline in student numbers will cause concern among UK universities as they struggle through financial pressures and rely on the much higher fees paid by overseas students. The National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK fears a review launched into the Graduate Route visa last year, which concluded only in May to confirm it would not be abandoned, put many Indians off applying. "It is critical that we ensure that the chaos and uncertainty that the review of the Graduate Route had led to is now fully put to rest. NISAU has engaged with millions of students in India to spread the message that the UK remains a warm and welcoming destination for Indian students," said NISAU UK chair Sanam Arora.

Man opens plane door, walks on wing at Australian airport

Melbourne (AP): A passenger was arrested at an Australian airport after he left a stationary airliner through an emergency exit, walked along a wing, and then climbed down a jet engine to the tarmac on Thursday, officials said. Jetstar Flight JQ507 had arrived at Melbourne Airport from Sydney and had parked at a terminal gate when the man left the plane by the right-side exit, officials said. Opening the exit automatically deployed a slide from the back of the wing at the fuselage to the ground, a Jetstar statement said. But the man instead walked along the wing and climbed down one of the Airbus A320's two engines, an official said. Passenger Audrey Varghese said passengers screamed and shrieked as the man began "erratic" behaviour shortly before he opened the

hatch. "The man was exhibiting some quite strange behaviour," Varghese told Melbourne Radio 3AW. "As soon as the plane had started coming to a stop, he immediately got up and basically charged to where the emergency exit row is, and in the process showing people, causing a bit of commotion, (and) ripped open the emergency door," Varghese said. Another passenger, identified as Maddison, told Nine News television the man had been vaping, which is not allowed, during the 90-minute mid-morning flight and had unsuccessfully demanded the air crew provide him with alcohol. Australian Federal Police officers had been alerted by Jetstar staff and arrested the man for "alleged aggressive behaviour and breaching aircraft safety protocols", a police statement said.

Pressure mounts on Mexico's judicial overhaul amid market concerns

Mexico City (AP) President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is facing mounting pressure against his controversial proposal to overhaul the Mexican judicial system, which would have judges be elected. Judges and magistrates on Wednesday joined a strike begun early this week by federal court employees to oppose the proposal, while Morgan Stanley and other financial institutions warned that the overhaul could pose serious market consequences and risks for potential investors in Mexico. In a response to rising criticism, President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum joined her political ally López Obrador in defending the proposal Wednesday. "Investors shouldn't be worried. On the contrary, we will have a better justice system in Mexico," Sheinbaum said. López Obrador, a populist leader who is nearing the end of his six-year term, has long been

at odds with Mexican courts. He contends judges are part of a "mafia" against him, and says the proposal is meant to clean up corruption. He has gone on winding rants against the judicial system, ignored court orders and publicly sparred with judges whose rulings he has disagreed with. Among the changes sought by the López Obrador it to have judges be elected and allow virtually anyone with a law degree with a few years experience as a lawyer to become a judge through popular vote. Given major electoral wins by López Obrador's party Morena in June elections, many academics have voiced concerns that selecting judges by popular vote would put politically biased judges on the bench and deal a blow to checks and balances. The striking court employees also fear that the measure could put their careers in danger. Since Monday, thousands of employees have camped outside

federal court buildings, and the rallies grew Wednesday with judges and magistrates joining in. The demonstrators gathered under tents chanting and holding protest signs, with Mexicans with court appointments turned away. "It could do damage to society," said Fernando Rangel Ramirez, a federal judge on strike. He said the judicial branch "is an institution that historically, and in its nature, should not be politicized. There should be people in it that have enough experience." The National Association of Circuit Magistrates and District Judges said the strike will go on indefinitely, until the president's proposal with "its many imperfections" is blocked. The group said it hopes to redirect "public discussion toward a well-considered comprehensive reform to address the structural causes that have been steadily weakening the quality of justice" in Mexico.

90-foot-tall Hanuman statue in Texas becomes new landmark

Houston (PTI): A 90-foot-tall bronze murti of Lord Hanuman, unveiled near here, symbolising "a new milestone in the cultural and spiritual landscape of America," has become the latest landmark in Texas visible from miles away, and the third tallest sculpture in the US. The Statue of Union, as it has been named, is one of the tallest statues in the world and holds several other distinctions: it is the tallest Hanuman murti outside India, the tallest in Texas, and the third tallest statue in the United States, surpassed only by the Statue of Liberty in New York (151 feet) and the Pegasus and Dragon in Hallandale Beach, Florida (110 feet), the organisers said. "The 'Statue of Union' Hanuman murti, which was unveiled at the Sri Ashtalakshmi Temple in Sugar Land, about 35-odd km from here, during a grand Prana Prathishtha Mahotsavam ceremony from August 15 to 18, symbolises "selflessness, devo-



tion, and unity," the organisers said, adding, the murti is named so to "honour Hanuman's pivotal role in reuniting Lord Ram and Sita." "This awe-inspiring structure is the result of the visionary efforts of His Holiness Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, a Padma Bhushan awardee, and a renowned Vedic scholar, who envisioned the project as a spiritual epicentre for North America," the organiser said in a statement.

The festivities commenced on August 15, coinciding with India's Independence Day and the core of the celebrations unfolded on August 18, with the grand Prana Prathishtha ceremony. "The rituals, led by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji and overseen by a multitude of Vedic priests and scholars, were a powerful display of devotion and spirituality," the statement said. The ceremony featured a helicopter showering flowers upon the murti, sprinkling of sacred water, and placing of a 72-foot-long garland around Hanuman's neck amid thousands of devotees chanting the names of Shri Ram and Hanuman in unison. The statue stands tall not only as a symbol of Hanuman's indomitable spirit but also as a new milestone in the cultural and spiritual landscape of America, embodying the principles of devotion, strength, and unity for all who come to witness its grandeur, the organisers added.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy visits border area

AP ■ KYIV

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy toured the northeastern Ukrainian region of Sumy on Thursday in his first visit to the border area since his forces entered Russian territory more than two weeks ago.

After a meeting with Ukraine's military commander, Zelenskyy said Ukrainian forces have claimed control of another settlement in the Russian region of Kursk and taken more Russian prisoners of war whom he hopes to exchange for captured Ukrainians. He referred to that as Ukraine's "exchange fund."

"Another settlement in the Kursk region is now under Ukrainian control, and we have replenished the exchange fund," Zelenskyy wrote on the social media platform X after hearing a report from the military commander, Col Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi.

But the gains there come as Ukraine continues to lose ground in its eastern Donetsk region. The Russian Defence Ministry announced Thursday that its military has claimed control of the village of Mezhevo.

Ukraine's push into Russia marks the first capture of Russian territory since World War II. It comes as both sides in the war use drones to attack far within enemy lines.

A Ukrainian drone attack Thursday sparked a fire at a military facility in southern Russia as Kyiv pushes its offensive in the Kursk region and struck key infrastructure including bridges.

Andrei Bocharov, governor of the Volgograd region, said Thursday that a "defence ministry facility" was on fire after being attacked by drones in the area of Marinovka, in a sign that Ukraine is not letting up on its attacks. He did not specify what was damaged.

Ukraine attacked Russia overnight with 28 drones, Russia's Ministry of Defence said. Thirteen were shot down over the Volgograd region, seven over the Rostov region, four over the Belgorod region, two over the Voronezh region, and one each over the Bryansk and Kursk regions, the ministry said. Russian Telegram channels said drones attempt-

'Poorly trained recruits contribute to loss of Ukrainian territory on eastern front'

AP ■ KYIV

Some new Ukrainian soldiers refuse to fire at the enemy. Others, according to commanders and fellow fighters, struggle to assemble weapons or to coordinate basic combat movements. A few have even walked away from their posts, abandoning the battlefield altogether.

While Ukraine presses on with its incursion into Russia's Kursk region, its troops are still losing precious ground along the country's eastern front — a grim erosion that military commanders blame in part on poorly trained recruits drawn from a recent mobilization drive, as well as Russia's clear superiority in ammunition and air power.

"Some people don't want to shoot. They see the enemy in the firing position in trenches but don't open fire. ... That is why our men are dying," said a frustrated battalion commander in Ukraine's 47th Brigade. "When they don't use the weapon, they are ineffective."

The accounts come from commanders and soldiers who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to speak freely about sensitive military matters. Others spoke on the condition that they be identified only by their call signs in keeping with Ukrainian military protocol.

Commanders say the recruits have contributed to a string of territorial losses that enabled Russia's army to advance, including near the city of Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub. If it falls, the defeat would imperil Ukraine's defenses and bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the Donetsk region. Russian soldiers are now just 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) away.

ed to attack a military air base near Marinovka in the village of Oktyabrsky. Videos shared on Russian social media showed an explosion in the night sky, reportedly near the base. Marinovka is about 300

Adding to Ukraine's woes are Russia's huge advantage in manpower and its willingness to accept staggering losses in return for capturing small objectives.

The recently conscripted Ukrainians are a far cry from the battle-hardened fighters who flocked to join the war in the first year of the full-scale invasion. The new troops lack even a minimal level of training, commanders and soldiers from four brigades defending the Pokrovsk area said.

They described having to plan operations with infantry who are unable to shoot targets and uninformed about basic topography. Some recruits simply lacked faith in the battle plans of their superiors and walked away from prepared positions.

Frustrated with the quality of the new conscripts sent to the front line by territorial recruitment centers, commanders are now seeking to conduct their own mobilization drives to better screen and train new fighters, multiple commanders and soldiers said.

"The main problem is the survival instinct of newcomers. Before, people could stand until the last moment to hold the position. Now, even when there is light shelling of firing positions, they are retreating," said a soldier with the 110th Brigade.

Not everyone is turning around and running away from battle, he added.

"No, there are motivated people, but they are just very, very few," he said. "The position is held as far as there are these people who are motivated and committed."

Following the implementation of a controversial mobilization law in May that established clearer regulations for territorial recruitment centers, Ukraine is reportedly

drafting tens of thousands of fighters per month. Demand is highest in the infantry. But there are logistical hurdles to train, equip and pay so many incoming people, and commanders constantly demand new soldiers. To ease that pressure, military leaders have had to take units from brigades in one region and transfer them to different areas to stabilize weak spots.

Some point the finger back at commanders who single out recent recruits for losses. Viktor Kevliuk, a military expert with the Ukraine-based Center for Defense Strategies think tank, said the training offered to recruits is adequate. He said brigade commanders "are looking for an explanation for tactical failures."

"Likewise, the brigade commander has the appropriate tools to influence morale. If all these processes are established in the brigade, there will be no significant problems. If these mechanisms fail, we read about the negativity in social networks," he added.

And in intense fights such as the one in Pokrovsk, "it is the timely tactical decisions of commanders that make the difference, Kevliuk said. In some instances, terrified new recruits have fled from the fight. "This fear creates panic and chaos," said the battalion commander in the 47th Brigade. "This is also the reason we have lost."

The loss of the village of Prohres last month in the Pokrovsk region is the most recent example of territorial loss blamed on new recruits, commanders said. Units from the 31st Brigade left in a poorly coordinated frenzy, prompting the 47th Brigade to enter the battle and attempt to stabilize the line. A similar scenario unfolded in the village of Ocheretyne in May.

the Special Operation Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine conducted the drone attack Wednesday night striking the Marinovka airfield in Russia, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The offi-

Drone attacks on military facility in southern Russia spark fire

Kyiv (AP) — A drone attack sparked a fire at a military facility in the Volgograd region of southern Russia on Thursday, regional officials and the country's Ministry of Defence said.

Regional Volgograd Governor Andrei Bocharov said on Telegram that a "defence ministry facility" was on fire after being attacked with drones in the area of Marinovka. There were no casualties, he said.

Bocharov did not specify what was damaged but Russian Telegram channels said that drones attempted to attack a military air base near Marinovka in the village of Oktyabrsky. Ukraine did not acknowledge the attack but it comes as Ukraine has intensified its attacks on Russia, with a ground offensive into the Russian region of Kursk and drone attacks that targeted Moscow on Wednesday in what the capital's mayor called one of the largest done attacks to date since Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Videos shared on Russian social media channels showed thick black smoke rising from the air base and an explosion in the night sky reportedly near the base.

Marinovka is about 300 kilometers (185 miles) east of the Ukrainian border and about the same distance west from the border with Kazakhstan.

cial spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak publicly. The attack came as the ground offensive in Russia's Kursk region rattles the Kremlin. The daring operation could involve as many as 10,000 Ukrainian troops backed by armour and artillery, military analysts say.

The Baza Telegram channel, which is close to Russian law enforcement, said one drone was taken down several km (miles) from the airfield near Marinovka and that wreckage from another fell on a trailer near the air base, causing it to catch fire.

Putin meets Li as Moscow, Beijing deepen their ties

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Chinese premier Li Qiang Wednesday, hailing growing trade relations as Moscow becomes increasingly dependent on Beijing for political and economic support.

"Our trade relations are developing, developing successfully ... The attention that the governments of the two countries on both sides are paying to trade and economic ties is yielding results," Putin said at the meeting in the Kremlin. He also said that Russia and China have developed "large-scale plans" for economic and other projects.

"Chinese-Russian relations are at an unprecedentedly high level," said Li, who earlier had met with his Russian counterpart, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

The meeting took place as Russia struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion into the Kursk region now in its third week. And overnight, Moscow experienced one of the largest



waves of drone attacks on the Russian capital since the start of the Ukraine conflict. Russian news reports did not indicate whether Putin and Li discussed Ukraine. China has tried to position itself as neutral in the Ukraine conflict, but it shares with Russia high animosity toward the West.

After Western countries imposed heavy sanctions on Russia in response to Russia sending troops into Ukraine in February 2022, China strongly stepped up its

purchase of Russian oil, increasing its influence in Russia. Putin underlined the importance of China by meeting in Beijing with Chinese leader Xi Jinping soon after being inaugurated for a fifth term in the Kremlin. A U.S. intelligence assessment released this year indicates that China has significantly increased sales to Russia of machine tools, microelectronics and other technology Moscow uses to produce missiles, tanks, aircraft and other weaponry.

Another case filed against Hasina, aides in B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

A case was filed on Thursday against Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 46 others over the killing of a hawker in the national capital during the recent mass protests, taking the number of cases against her after her ouster to 45.

The case was filed in Ashulia Police Station following a court order, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

Md Mojibul Hossain, a relative of the victim, Shaon, filed the complaint with the court of Dhaka Senior Judicial Magistrate Rabeya Sultana. The court, after recording the statement of the complainant, asked the officer in charge of Ashulia Police Station to accept the matter as a first information report (FIR), the report said. According to the case docu-



for crimes against humanity and genocide, and one for abduction. Besides, she is also facing seven other cases filed against her with the International Crimes Tribunal. 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.

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.

Former ISI chief's close aide flees Pakistan amid probe

Lahore (PTI) — A close aide of Pakistan's former ISI chief Lt General (Retd) Faiz Hameed, who has been in the Pakistan Army's custody on corruption and other charges, has fled the country to evade arrest, according to a media report.

Mohsin Habib Warriach, who is said to have managed major business deals for Gen Hameed in Pakistan and abroad, has reportedly fled to the UK, Samaa TV reported.

Several military officers and some civilians have been taken into custody in connection with the alleged links with Hameed. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi didn't confirm nor deny reports about Warriach's leaving the country. Gen Hameed is facing court-martial proceedings for misusing his position to extort money from a private housing society and his role in May 9 attacks on military installations and his close ties with jailed former prime minister Imran Khan are also being probed. Khan feared that Gen Hameed might be used against him as an approver

so that he could be tried at a military court. Warriach, son of former federal minister retired Maj Habibullah Warriach, reportedly left the country for the UK before the arrest of Hameed. According to the report, Warriach, a central figure in the multi-billion rupees scam at the National Insurance Company Limited, has been managing major business deals for Hameed since 2014. He was the frontman of Hameed in securing business deals for the former spymaster.

Gen Hameed led the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) during Khan's administration from 2019 to 2021 before taking early retirement in December 2022. Hameed was arrested following action in the complaint of a private property developer over alleged misuse of official authority. According to the report, Warriach travelled the world on behalf of Hameed, acting as his de facto representative, negotiating and executing deals, often introducing himself as an arms dealer working for the Pakistan Army.

Imran's party defers power show in Islamabad till next month

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on Thursday postponed its planned rally in the capital here until next month on the direction of its founder and jailed former premier Imran Khan after the government refused to permit the demonstration.

Party leader Azam Swati said while talking to the media outside the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi where he along with party leader Gohar Khan met Khan. "The rally has been rescheduled and now will be held on September 8 as directed by Imran Khan," Swati made the announcement, adding that the government also agreed to the new date.

He also quoted Khan as saying that the party workers, who were already out on the road to reach the venue, should go back. The announcement comes as the capital city was tense due to the threat by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) leaders to go ahead with its plan



to hold the rally in Islamabad despite the government's refusal to give permission. The government closed all schools in Islamabad and also blocked all main entries to the city by placing shipping containers on roads to stop the movement of the PTI workers. There were reports of traffic jams and long queues of vehicles on the inter-city roads which were still open. PTI had sought to hold a power show after months of political wrangling over the cases against its party chief and former premier Khan and other leaders. However, the government can-

celled its no-objection certificate (NOC) at the last minute.

Islamabad Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Wednesday issued an order, stating that he was immediately suspending the NOC issued on July 31 by the deputy commissioner to hold a rally, elaborating that it was unsafe to allow the PTI rally given the current situation. Separately, the Punjab Home Department imposed Section 144 across the province in light of "the prevailing law and order situation and security threats" and it prohibited gatherings, sits-in, rallies, demonstrations, protests and similar activities across Punjab with effect from Thursday to Saturday.

Officials feared violence and possible sit-ins if the PTI was allowed to bring thousands of supporters to the capital because it has a history of such protests. It staged a 126-day-long sit-in in Islamabad in 2014, while on May 9, 2023, the party held a violent protest when Khan was arrested.

Pakistani man to remain in officers' custody over misinformation that sparked riots in UK

AP ■ LAHORE

A court in Pakistan on Thursday allowed investigators to question a man in their custody for four more days about his role in spreading misinformation that sparked widespread rioting in the UK earlier this month, officials said.

The court's decision came a day after authorities charged the suspect Farhan Asif, 32, with cyber terrorism following his arrest from his home in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province.

Asif, who is a freelance web developer, was produced before the court amid tight security. He was not allowed to talk to the media. Kiran Muqem, a prosecutor for the Federal Investigation Agency, told the court that Asif did not cooperate with officers after the same court the previous day allowed them to question him for a day. They demanded his custody for two weeks but the court said it would only allow it for four more days.

Muqem later told reporters that Asif disseminated fake news and caused riots in England. Asif was handcuffed and wearing blue shalwar kameez garments when brought to the court. His lawyer Rana Rizwan told reporters that the court remanded his client into the custody of the federal agency in a hurry and without hearing him. "We were informed by the court that the case of Asif would be taken up after lunch break. But the court took up the matter before the lunch break, and allowed FIA to keep him in their custody," Rizwan said. Asif 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 on July 29 at a dance class in Northwest England.

Lanka SC orders govt to hold postponed local election soon

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Slamming the Sri Lankan government for violating the fundamental rights of citizens, the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered it to hold the long-postponed local council elections as soon as possible.

The ruling by a five-member bench of the apex court came in response to four fundamental rights petitions filed by the Opposition and civil society groups. Elections for over 340 local councils were postponed since early last year.

The court found that the members of the independent election commission and President Ranil Wickremesinghe, in his capacity as finance minister, had violated the fundamental rights of citizens by failing to hold the elections.

The local elections, initially scheduled for March 9 last year, were not held due to the

Treasury's claim that it couldn't fund the election expenditure amidst the ongoing economic crisis. However, the court rejected the argument, stating that the Treasury had not provided sufficient evidence to support its claim of a total inability to hold the election. "Other than referring to the economic crisis and difficulties faced, the affidavit of the secretary to the Treasury and Ministry of Finance has not averred sufficient material to indicate a total inability to hold the election," the court said. In an interim order, the court directed the Treasury to allocate the necessary funds for the local council election, which had already been budgeted for. The court emphasised that the local council election must be conducted by the elections commission without disrupting the preparations for other elections, including the presidential election scheduled for September 21.

Thousands of Indonesians attempt to storm parl

AP ■ JAKARTA

Thousands of protesters attempted to storm Indonesia's parliament Thursday, tearing down a section of fence and throwing stones at police, and forcing the legislature to delay a vote on controversial changes to election laws that could further enhance the political influence of outgoing President Joko Widodo.

Parliament was to meet in an emergency session in order to overturn one decision made by the country's Constitutional Court on election procedures, while amending another. Protesters held banners and signs, while others started a fire and burned tires. The Constitutional Court court on Tuesday dismissed a challenge to an age limit that prevents people younger than 30



for running for regional governorships, which would prevent the Widodo's 29-year-old youngest son, Kaesang Pangarep, from running in a regional contest in Central Java. The court also made it easier for political parties to nominate

Wednesday, and planned to ratify the vote in a plenary session on Thursday.

The moves triggered widespread condemnation on local social media and raised concerns about a potential constitutional crisis. The legislature was forced to delay the vote after failing to achieve a quorum. Widodo's eldest son, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, is the incoming vice-president after the same court created an exception to the age limit for the post for former regional leaders, while Widodo's brother-in-law was serving as chief justice. He was criticised for participating in a case involving a close relative and later dismissed. Activists, students, workers, and a number of Indonesian celebrities and musicians also joined the protest, voicing concerns about democracy in Indonesia.

Protests were also reported in other big cities, including Bandung, Yogyakarta, Surabaya and Makassar. In Yogyakarta, at least 1,000 protesters including students and workers rallied in front of Yogyakarta's Parliament building, the state palace and the city's ceremonial centre. Their demands included voting down the regional election bill, respecting the Constitutional Court's ruling and rejecting political dynasties. The simultaneous protests in the major cities showed anger at Parliament's efforts to overrule the Constitutional Court decision to allow more candidates to compete in the regional elections, said Yoes Kenawas, a political analyst at Atma Jaya Catholic University. "They also opposed the dynastic politics carried out by President Jokowi," Kenawas said.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot

Vacancies BFU-24/19

Online applications are invited w.e.f. 23-08-2024 to 04-09-2024 from eligible candidates through university website i.e. www.bfuh.ac.in for the recruitment of 400 Medical Officer (General) under Deptt. of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Punjab. Computer Based Test (CBT) will be conducted on 08-09-2024. For eligibility, terms & conditions & other information visit University website: www.bfuh.ac.in

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E-Tender Enq. No. 555/P-3/EMPVW-12687 dated 21-08-24
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_125891_1 for annual overhauling of Coal Pipe for 1 no. units of 210 MW at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 21.08.24/ 05.00 PM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP-95/24
76155/12/3332/2023/36938 Dated CHD :- 8/22/2024

India sustains growth momentum

Set to achieve 6.5-7% growth: FinMin Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic momentum remains intact despite a somewhat erratic monsoon, and real GDP growth of 6.5-7 per cent projected in the Economic Survey seems appropriate, a finance ministry report said on Thursday.

According to the Monthly Economic Review for July, the Indian economy has sustained its momentum in the first four months of FY25.

Goods and Services Tax collections in the first four months of FY25 underwent a level shift pushed up by the widening of the tax base and heightened economic activity, the report released by the finance ministry said.

"The resilience of domestic activity is also reflected in the strong performance of the manufacturing and services sector purchasing managers' indices. The manufacturing growth has been driven by expansion in demand conditions, a rise in new export orders and growth in output prices," it said.

On the fiscal front, it said, the Union



Budget FY25 has laid out a glide path of fiscal consolidation. Supported by strong revenue collection, discipline in revenue expenditure, and robust economic performance, the fiscal deficit is projected to decline. At the same time, it said, capital

expenditure is maintained at high levels, supporting the fledgling private investment cycle. Retail inflation decreased to 3.5 per cent in July 2024, the lowest since September 2019, driven by moderation in food inflation, it said, adding that steady progress in the

southwest monsoon has supported kharif sowing.

Replenishing water levels in the reservoir bodies well for the current kharif and upcoming rabi crop production and this will further aid in reducing food inflation in the coming months, it said.

"On balance, India's economic momentum remains intact. Despite a somewhat erratic monsoon, reservoirs have been replenished. Manufacturing and services sectors are expanding, according to the Purchasing Managers' indices," it said. Tax collections, especially indirect taxes, which reflect transactions, are growing healthily, and so is bank credit, it said.

"Inflation is moderating, and exports of both goods and services are doing better than they did last year. Stock markets are holding on to their levels. Foreign direct investment is looking up as gross inflows are rising," it said.

As of now, it said, the projection of real GDP growth of 6.5-7.0 per cent for FY25, made in the Economic Survey for 2023-24, seems appropriate.

India's steel sector tech investment likely to hit USD 2.7 bn by 2030: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The investments in process and digital technologies across the steel value chain in the country are expected to grow up to USD 2.7 billion by 2030, according to a report.

These investments will advance technological capabilities and drive progress toward a more efficient and sustainable mining and steel industry, the FICCI-Deloitte Report said on Thursday. "The investment in process and digital technologies across the steel value chain in India is projected to increase from USD 1-1.2 billion in 2024 to USD 2.3-2.7 billion by 2030, excluding ERP upgrades," said the report on 'Automation, Digitalisation and Technology Integration for the Indian Mining and Steel sector'.

The year 2030 is significant for the domestic steel industry as the government's National Steel Policy 2017 aims to scale up India's installed steel-making capacity to 300 million tonne by 2030.



As per the report, the per capita steel consumption is anticipated to reach 160 kg by 2030 and around 220 kg by 2047.

Digital tools can help to enhance compliance with environmental regulations through better energy efficiency and emission monitoring, it said. Furthermore, digital technologies offer the flexibility and scalability necessary to adapt to market changes, drive innovation, and improve worker safety, the report noted.

Integrating digital technologies across the value chain can thus unlock transformative capabilities, it

said. Rajib Maitra, Partner, Deloitte India, said, "The Indian mining and steel sector is on a transformative path, spurred by innovations in AI and digital technologies. The operators, on the ground, face practical challenges like integrating new systems with legacy infrastructures and managing the costs associated with technological upgrades." Gajraj Singh Rathore, Co-Chair, FICCI Steel Committee said "By fostering a culture of innovation, tech adoption, digitalisation and partnerships, we can collectively shape a resilient, prosperous and sustainable future for all."

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 83.94 against US dollar

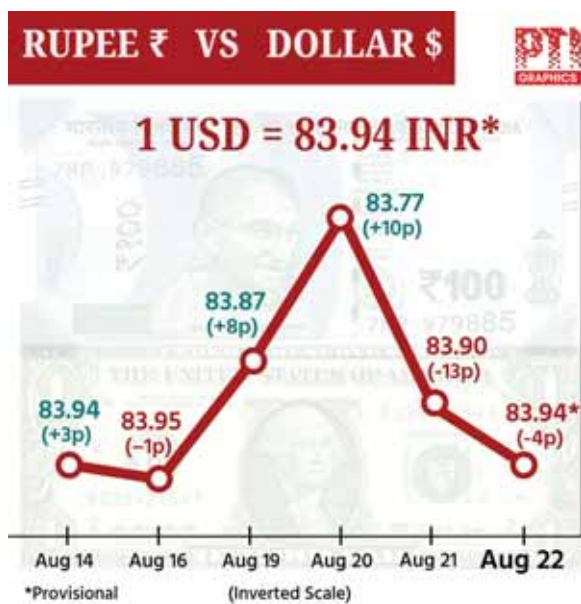
PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee traded in a narrow range and settled lower by 4 paise at 83.94 (provisional) against the American currency on Thursday, as relentless dollar demand from importers and relentless foreign fund outflows dampened investor sentiments.

However, a positive trend in domestic equities and lower global crude oil prices supported the domestic currency and restricted its fall, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.93 and touched an intraday low of 83.97 against the US dollar. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.94 (provisional), 4 paise lower from its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee fell 13 paise to 83.90 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on outflows by foreign investors and demand for the greenback by importers. However, a positive tone in the domestic markets and



declining global crude oil prices may support the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Traders will now take cues from the weekly unemployment claims, existing home sales and PMI data from the US. "Investors may remain cautious ahead of Fed Chair

Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium for any cues on rate cuts by the central bank. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.20," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.19 per cent higher at 101.23.

Expect scooter segment to account for over 40% of two-wheeler sales, says TVS Motor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

TVS Motor Company expects the scooter segment to grow further and account for around 40 per cent of the overall two-wheeler sales, its CEO KN Radhakrishnan said on Thursday.

The company, which on Thursday introduced the new Jupiter 110, said it has outpaced the industry in scooter sales with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12 per cent compared with the industry's 8 per cent.

"Scooter category share is currently around 32 per cent. I am a firm believer that the scooter segment will substantially expand, it may even go to 40 per cent and above, that's my expectation," Radhakrishnan told reporters.

He noted that the share of the scooter segment is witnessing growth in both urban and rural regions.

"We are confident that the Jupiter 110 with its many first-in-segment features will further build our position in the two-wheeler market," Radhakrishnan stated.

Sensex rises 147 points, Nifty ends above 24,800 on firm global trend

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 147 points to settle above 81,000 level while Nifty closed above 24,800 following buying in commodity, telecom and consumer stocks amid a firm trend in global markets.

Rising for the third straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 147.89 points or 0.18 per cent to close at 81,053.19, registering gains for the third day in a row. During the day, it climbed 331.15 points to hit an intra-day high of 81,236.45.

Extending gains to a sixth session in a row, the NSE Nifty went up by 41.30 points or 0.17 per cent to end at a two-week high of 24,811.50.

Bharti Airtel was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 1.63 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Titan, Asian Paints and Ultratech Cements.

On the other hand, M&M, NTPC, Tata Motors, TCS and PowerGrid were the major losers.

"The domestic market witnessed modest gains owing to the positive global



sentiments. Particularly, the recent signs of weakness in the US non-farm payroll data have strengthened the case for potential interest rate cuts in September," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.47 per cent, and the midcap index climbed 0.67 per cent.

"Markets are closely monitoring global indices for direction, and the recent pause in US markets ahead of the Jackson Hole Symposium is leading to some caution locally also," Ajit Mishra SVP, Research, Religare

Utilities, Power, Oil & Gas, Energy and IT were the laggards

In the broader market, Awfis Space Solutions jumped 9.54 per cent to close at Rs 863.25 apiece. In the intraday trade, it advanced 19.99 per cent to hit its 52-week high of Rs 945.70 after the company expanded its footprint in Bengaluru.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd shares rallied more than 7 per cent after the company said its board will consider a proposal to raise up to Rs 4,500 crore through issuance of shares.

On the other hand, scrip of Adani Power fell a little over 3 per cent amid media reports that the promoters of the company may sell stakes in Adani Power and Ambuja Cements to trim debt.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong closed with gains, while Shanghai ended in the negative territory on Thursday.

European markets were trading with significant gains in the mid-session deals. The US stock markets gained in overnight trade on Wednesday.

Gold loan market projected to double in 5 years to ₹14.19 lakh crore: PwC India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's organised gold loan market is projected to double in next five years to Rs 14.19 lakh crore despite expected moderation in growth due to stricter regulations, said a PwC India report.

In fiscal 2023-24, the organised gold loan market demonstrated substantial growth, reaching a valuation of Rs 7.1 lakh crore, according to the report titled 'Striking gold: The rise of India's gold loan market'.

"It is expected to reach around Rs 14.19 lakh crore by FY 2029 at a five-year CAGR of 14.85 per cent," it said. Indian families own massive



quantities of gold, estimated at 25,000 tonne. Existing gold holdings with Indian households are valued at roughly Rs 126 lakh crore, the report said.

It further said the gold loan market is poised to see moderate growth over the next two years, as gold lenders are facing increased scrutiny from regulatory authorities

regarding loan-to-value (LTV) maintenance and auction-related procedures.

"The second-largest player in the gold loan market being inactive would have an impact on market growth in FY25," the report said.

Also, the RBI's advisory to NBFCs on cash disbursement, which limits the amount of cash disbursal to Rs 20,000, could push customers to rely on the unorganised sector.

The regulator has also raised concerns about the evaluation process for lending activities through fintech startups.

The increased regulatory scrutiny and revised guidelines have led to a dip in the share prices of leading NBFCs, PwC said.

GoM on GST rate rationalisation discusses tax cut for some items

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ministerial panel on GST rate rationalisation on Thursday broadly converged towards retaining a 4-tier slab structure and asked the committee of tax officers to analyse the implication of tinkering rates on some items and present it before the GST council.

The issue of GST on health and life insurance was also raised by some states in the meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation and referred to the fitment committee, comprising central and state tax officers, for further data analysis.

The suggestions of the GoM will be taken up on the September 9 meeting of the GST Council headed by Union Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state counterparts.

Talking to reporters after the first meeting of the GoM under his convensorship, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary said, "Some GoM members are demanding that there should be no change in tax slabs under GST".

"More discussions will happen, and then only a final decision will be taken," Chaudhary said, adding the GoM has received representations from restaurants, beverages and online gaming sectors, which will be reviewed and some of them will be sent to the Fitment committee.

West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya stated, "I have said there should be no changes in the



GST slab. A presentation will be made before the Council".

The next GoM meeting will be held after the September 9 Council meeting, she added.

Asked if the GoM deliberated on reducing 4 slabs to 3, Bhattacharya said, "That will not happen for now. Slabs will be retained at 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent. This will be

that we will discuss it (reducing slabs)," she added. On health and life insurance taxation, Byre Gowda said, "We have asked for further report (from fitment committee). We are not sure if it's part of the agenda".

The Opposition has been demanding the removal of GST on health and life insurance premiums, which attract an 18 per cent rate. Sitharaman had earlier this month said that tax was levied on insurance premiums even before the imposition of GST, and GST revenues are shared between the Centre and states.

Gowda said the GoM had asked for a break up of changes in tax rates on some items. "What will be the implication of tax rates going up or down on those items," he said.

We said in the next meeting reviewed by the Council now". Asked if there was discussion on tinkering with slabs, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that Goods and Services Tax (GST) has broadly stabilised. "So why disturb it.. What do you achieve by disturbing it? We said in the next meeting

POWERGRID acquires STL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) - a Maharashtra CPSU under Ministry of Power has acquired two Project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) viz Sirohi Transmission Limited and Be a w a r - M a n d s a u r Transmission Limited on August 22, 2024. The purpose is for the Transmission System Projects for evacuation of power from Rajasthan REZ Phase IV (Part 2: 5.5 GW) (Jaisalmer/ Barmer Complex); Part B and Part D respectively from the Bid Process Coordinator PFC Consulting Limited (PFCCL) after competing with various private



sector players and emerging as successful bidder in Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process.

Sirohi Transmission Limited shall implement a Transmission System comprising establishment of new 765/400 kV sub-station near Sirohi in Rajasthan, 765kV & 400kV D/C Transmission Lines and associated bays extension works at existing substation in the state of Rajasthan.

Adopt more supportive, empathetic approach towards MSMEs, lenders told

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Swaminathan J has asked financial institutions to adopt a more sensitive and empathetic approach towards MSMEs, and deploy supportive measures like restructuring options for loans, to support the sector which plays a key role in the economy.

In a speech at the Annual Day of the Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India (FEDA) here, the deputy governor said MSMEs face challenges like access to affordable finance, delayed payments, infrastructure bottlenecks, and

requirements of compliance, among others.

The journey of India's economic transformation cannot be complete without the robust development of the MSME sector.

"MSMEs are not just the backbone of our economy, they are the engines of growth, innovation, and employment," he said at the event held on Wednesday.

However, for these enterprises to truly thrive and scale up, the financial sector must step up with innovative solutions, sensitivity, and a forward-looking approach, Swaminathan said.

"This is not just about



providing credit; it's about enabling these enterprises compete globally, drive exports, and contribute to

the nation's goal of becoming a developed economy by 2047. While financial instruments and support

mechanisms are crucial, the way we engage with the MSME sector, our sensitivity to their challenges and our commitment to their success, will ultimately determine the strength and sustainability of this partnership," he said.

The deputy governor also emphasised that considering the key role that MSMEs play in the economy, the financial sector should adopt a more sensitive and empathetic approach towards them.

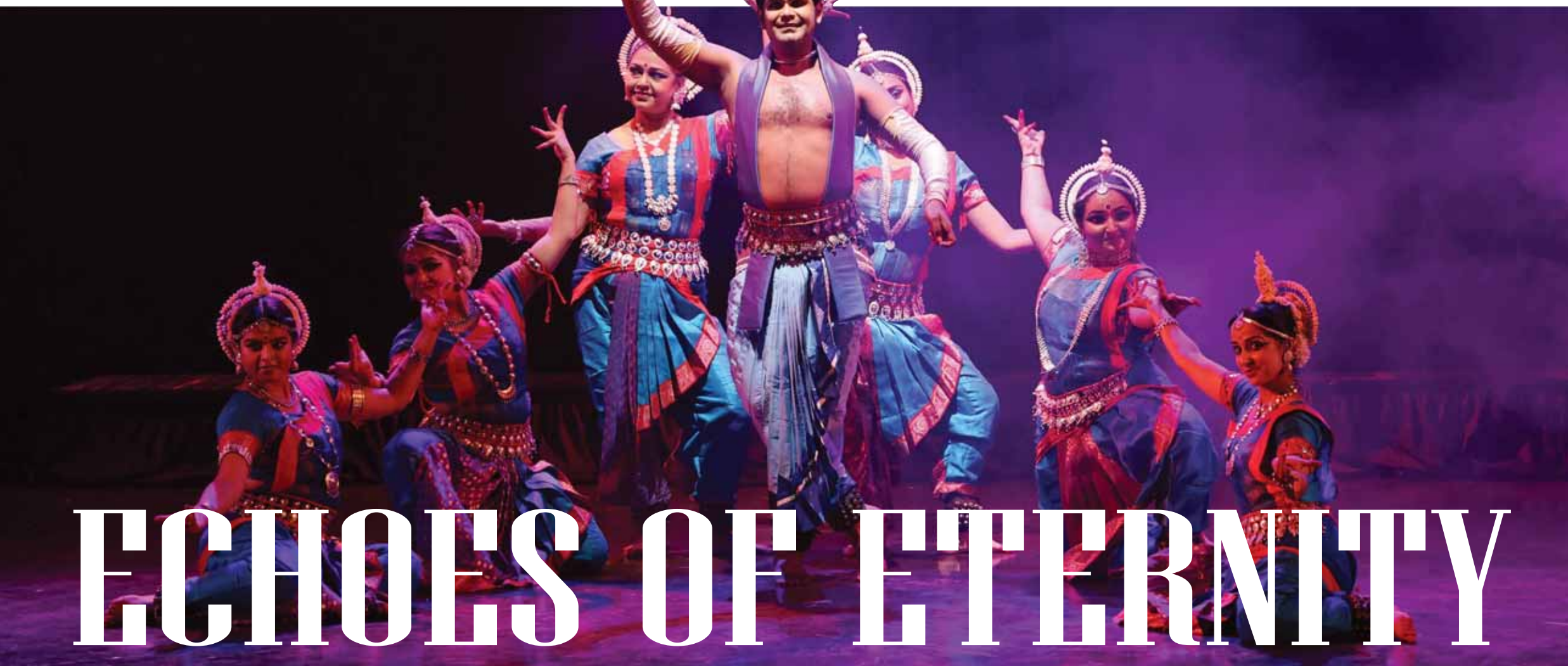
"While financial discipline is crucial, the unique challenges faced by MSMEs, such as low capital base, lack of scale, cash flow constraints from delayed payments, fluctuating market

conditions, and external economic pressures, necessitate a more nuanced approach to assessment as well as follow-up," he said.

While timely repayment of dues is crucial to maintain the health of the financial system, financial institutions should focus on deploying supportive measures such as restructuring options, grace periods, and tailored repayment plans that give MSMEs the breathing space they need to recover and get back on track while

encountering difficult situations, the senior official said at the event attended by representatives of financial sector, among others.

representatives of financial sector, among others.



ECHOES OF ETERNITY

Utsav's dance festival weaves timeless tales of India's soul

PIONEER CULTURE DESK

In a grand celebration of India's rich cultural heritage, the Utsav Educational and Cultural Society, led by the illustrious Ranjana Gauhar, marked its 37th anniversary with the 19th edition of the 'Saare Jahan Se Accha' Classical Dance Festival. The festival brought to life the timeless beauty of classical dance, enchanting audiences with performances that were both a tribute to tradition and a call to preserve the cultural legacy for future generations. The Utsav Educational and Cultural Society, renowned for its unwavering dedication to preserving and promoting India's classical dance and music traditions, particularly Odissi, celebrated its 37th anniversary with the 19th edition of the 'Saare Jahan Se Accha' Classical Dance Festival. The festival offered a rich tapestry of performances that paid homage to the nation's cultural heritage. Over the years, Utsav Educational and Cultural Society has become synonymous with excellence in the promotion of Indian classical arts. Beyond the 'Saare Jahan Se Accha' festival, Utsav organises several major annual dance festivals, including Unbound Beats of India, Su-Tarang, and World Dance Day, each offering a platform for artists to showcase their talent and celebrate the beauty of dance.



Through these festivals, Utsav continues to foster a deeper appreciation for India's cultural heritage, ensuring that the traditions of classical dance are passed on to future generations. As Utsav marks its 37th year, the legacy of Smt. Ranjana Gauhar and her unwavering commitment to the arts remains as vibrant as ever, inspiring artists and audiences alike. Ranjana Gauhar, the visionary founder of Utsav Educational and Cultural Society, is a distinguished figure in the Indian classical dance community. A recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) Award, Gauhar has dedicated her life to the art of Odissi. Her contributions to Indian classical dance are profound, extending

THE UTSAV EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY, RENOWNED FOR ITS UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING INDIA'S CLASSICAL DANCE AND MUSIC TRADITIONS, PARTICULARLY ODISSI, CELEBRATED ITS 37TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE 19TH EDITION OF THE 'SAARE JAHAN SE ACCHA' CLASSICAL DANCE FESTIVAL.



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

beyond performances to include teaching, choreographing, and organising cultural festivals that showcase the richness of India's dance traditions. Under her leadership, Utsav has become a beacon of cultural preservation, offering a platform for both seasoned and emerging artists. The 'Saare Jahan Se Accha' Classical Dance Festival, one of Utsav's flagship events, is a testament to her commitment to keeping the flame of Indian classical dance burning bright.

A TWO-DAY CELEBRATION OF DANCE AND CULTURE

The highlight of the first evening was an enchanting Odissi dance drama titled "Ksheer Sagar," choreographed and performed by Utsav's Repertory

under the artistic direction of Guru Ranjana Gauhar. The dance drama, which depicted the mythological narratives of Chandrabhaga and Matsya Avatar, captivated the audience. Through intricate choreography and evocative storytelling, the performance underscored the timeless relevance of ancient tales, particularly emphasizing the importance of water conservation and environmental preservation. The second day of the festival continued to enthrall audiences with solo performances by senior disciples of renowned dance gurus. The event was inaugurated in the presence of distinguished guests, including Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee and Shri Sunit Tandon. Esteemed artists such as Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant, Smt. Geeta Chandran, and Smt. Shobhana Pillai were among those honored for their outstanding contributions to Indian classical dance. The one of a kind cultural event featured a diverse range of classical dance forms, including Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kathak, and Manipuri, performed by the disciples of illustrious gurus. Each performance was a testament to the depth and diversity of India's classical dance heritage, leaving the audience spellbound.

EMBRACING SHADOWS THE ENDURING LEGACY OF LEATHER PUPPETS

Shadow Puppetry, an ancient art that uses leather figures and light to tell stories, continues to captivate with its unique charm. The exhibition "Chhaya, The Shadow of Leather Puppets and Storytelling," presented by MATI, invites visitors to explore this fascinating tradition from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, says SAKSHI PRIYA



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

Shadow puppetry, a captivating and ancient form of storytelling, has charmed audiences across the world for centuries. This remarkable art form uses intricately crafted leather puppets cast against a translucent screen, illuminated from behind to create dramatic shadows that bring age-old tales to life. Originating in India and spreading to various parts of Asia, shadow puppetry is more than just a visual spectacle, it is a profound method of passing down cultural values and traditions through generations. The exhibition *Chhaya, The Shadow of Leather Puppets and Storytelling*, presented by the

Management of Art Treasures of India (MATI), offers a rare opportunity to explore the rich heritage of this timeless art form. The exhibition showcases a stunning collection of shadow puppets from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Each puppet is a tribute to the skill and artistry of the creators, adhering to traditional iconography and narrative styles rooted in classical texts. As visitors stroll through the exhibition, they encounter a diverse array of puppets, including revered figures like Lord Ram, Lakshman, Maa Sita, Hanuman and the formidable demon Ravana. The display also features depictions of Lord Shiva and Mata

Parvati, complete with their vahanas, Nandi and Tiger. These puppets, adorned with vibrant colours and intricate details, provide a vivid glimpse into the epic stories of the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The exhibition thoughtfully highlights the differences between the shadow puppets of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Andhra puppets, known as Tholu Bommalata, are celebrated for their grandeur and elaborate design, while the Karnataka puppets or Togalu Gombeyata, are distinguished by their bold outlines and dramatic expressions. This side-by-side presentation allows visitors to appreciate the



unique characteristics of each regional style and understand the cultural significance behind them. One of the most striking aspects of Chhaya is its emphasis on the ongoing evolution of shadow puppetry. While deeply rooted in tradition, the art form is not static.

Contemporary artists and performers are reimagining shadow puppetry, infusing it with modern themes and innovative techniques to reach new audiences. This dynamic approach ensures that shadow puppetry remains relevant in the modern

era, bridging the gap between ancient traditions and contemporary artistic expression. The success of this exhibition is an attestation to the vision and dedication of Siddhartha Tagore, the Founder-Trustee of MATI. Tagore, who established MATI in 2012, has long been a champion of Indian art. His earlier venture, 'Art Konsult,' aimed to promote Indian contemporary art globally. Through MATI, he has continued to broaden perspectives and highlight the importance of preserving India's fading traditional and folk arts. His commitment is evident in the meticulous curation and presentation of Chhaya, reflecting

a deep respect for both historical preservation and modern relevance. In reflecting on the exhibition, it is clear that *Chhaya, The Shadow of Leather Puppets and Storytelling* is not just a showcase but a celebration of shadow puppetry's enduring allure. It offers a profound opportunity to wonder at the beauty and complexity of this ancient art form while underscoring the critical need to safeguard and cherish our cultural legacy. The exhibition leaves a lasting impression, illustrating how tradition and innovation can harmoniously coexist and continue to enchant new generations.

LORDS TO HOST ITS FIRST-EVER WOMEN'S TEST BETWEEN INDIA AND ENGLAND



PTI ■ LONDON
The 'home of cricket' Lord's will host its first-ever women's Test to be played between India and England in 2026, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Thursday. The ECB said on its website that after a three-match ODI

series between India and England in July 2025, the former will return in 2026 for a one-off Test. "I'm also delighted we can confirm that India Women will return in 2026 to take on England Women in the first-ever women's Test match at Lord's. It will be a truly special occasion, and one of real significance," ECB CEO

Richard Gould said. India and England will play three ODIs on September 2, 4 and 7 at Headingley, Lord's and Southampton respectively. "It has also been confirmed that India Women will return in 2026 for a one-off Test match at Lord's - the first-ever Women's Test to be staged at the Home of Cricket," the ECB added.

"England Women have played white-ball matches at Lord's for the past three years, with another scheduled next year, but it will be the first time the ground has hosted a Women's Test match." India have played nine Tests so far against England in their backyard from June 1986 with their last clash at Bristol in June 2021 ending in a draw.

Teen prodigy Kartik to lead Indian challenge at Asia Pacific Amateur golf

PTI ■ GOTEMLA (JAPAN)
A year after becoming the youngest golfer to make the cut at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, 14-year-old Kartik Singh will spearhead the Indian challenge at the 15th AAC to be held here from October 3-6. Kartik is the highest ranked Indian at 199 while the other three players to have received the invitation for this prestigious event are Krishnav Nikhil Chopra, Vedant Sirohi and Rakshit Dahiya. Krishnav and Vedant have earlier participated in the tournament.



A regular winner in junior and amateur events, Kartik has also been named in the 2024 Junior Presidents Cup team. Apart from Kartik, seven others have been named in the 2024 Junior Presidents Cup International Team. They are Joshua Bai, Warut Boonrod, Xihuan Chang, Rayhan Latief, Khanh Hung Le, Thangwin Lee, Anh Minh Ngyuyen. As many as 113 players have been confirmed for the Championship, which will be held at Taiheyo Club in Gotemba, Japan. The field will have 120 players with a few more names to be added by the organisers. India's best ever performance has been the second-place finish by Rayhan Thomas in Sentosa, Singapore in 2018. The Dubai-based Indian has since turned professional, and last week won his first pro title on India's Professional Tour of India Tour. Krishnav, who plays college golf in the US, is the son of former India cricketer turned commentator Nikhil Chopra, who often takes the role of a caddy for his son. Created in 2009, the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship was established by the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC),

The R&A and the Masters Tournament to further develop amateur golf in the Asia-Pacific region. The champion will receive an invitation to compete in the 2025 Masters Tournament and The 153rd Open, while the runner(s)-up will gain a place in Final Qualifying for The Open. The confirmed list which has players from 38 APGC member organizations is highlighted by defending champion Jasper Stubbs of Australia and four players representing China inside the top 100 of the World Amateur Golf Ranking: Wenyi Ding

(No. 4), Xihuan Chang (No. 36), Xiangyun Bai (No. 61) and Paul Chang (No. 97). Ding finished runner-up to Stubbs in the 2023 Asia-Pacific Amateur while Xihuan Chang reached the semi-finals of the U.S. Junior Amateur in July. Other top-100 participants include Vietnam's Anh Minh Nguyen (No. 68) and Japan's Rintaro Nakano (No. 78). Notable past competitors include 2021 Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama, a two-time winner of the Asia-Pacific Amateur, and 2022 Open champion Cameron Smith.

Cash-strapped Barcelona sheds players one year after their arrival

AP ■ BARCELONA (SPAIN)
If trying to compete with Real Madrid and newly arrived Kylian Mbappé wasn't daunting enough, now Hansi Flick's Barcelona squad is being thinned out by departures. Barcelona looks set to lose both Ilkay Gundogan and Vitor Roque in the coming days - or even hours - with both players reportedly close to exits. Gundogan appears set on returning to Manchester City a year after the midfielder left the serial winners to start a new chapter in Spain. That could be cut short because of Barcelona's need to trim its salary burden, leaving the team without one of its top playmakers from last season. Roque is also reportedly close to leaving on loan for Real Betis, although Portugal's Sporting has made inquiries. The young Brazilian forward cost Barcelona a 30-million-euro (USD 33-million) transfer last summer. He arrived in the winter transfer market but never earned

consistent playing minutes despite the significant investment made to sign him. When their exits are made official, it will confirm that the club's efforts last summer to strengthen the squad turned out to be makeshift moves. Last summer, Barcelona maintained the quality of a squad that lost veteran leaders Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba without spending much money. Gundogan and former Athletic Bilbao defender Inigo Martinez arrived as free agents, Oriol Romeu's move from Girona cost a reported 4 million euros, and João Félix and João Cancelo both arrived on loan deals from Atletico Madrid and Manchester City, respectively. But a year later, only Martinez appears set to continue with the team that finished last season without a title and the departure of coach Xavi Hernández, who was pushed out after he publicly complained that the club's lack of money would make it hard to compete with Madrid or the other top European clubs. Barcelona has locked up the arrival of Spain midfielder

Dani Olmo from Leipzig. But, it has yet to meet the financial requirements of the Spanish league necessary to register him to play. Flick is also without key players Gavi Páez and Ronald Araújo, who are recovering from leg injuries. With players hurt or leaving, Flick has not hesitated in relying heavily on the products of Barcelona's famed La Masia youth academy. He gave debuts to midfielders Gerard Martin and Marc Bernal at the always demanding outing at Valencia in their Spanish league opener when Robert Lewandowski scored a brace for a 2-1 victory. In total Flick aligned three 17-year-olds in his starting 11 between Lamine Yamal, Bernal and Pau Cubarsí. As Lewandowski said after the victory, "We can win games with these youngsters."

Lamine Yamal helped lead Spain to the European Championship title this summer. Barcelona had been rumoured to be interested in securing Williams' transfer from Athletic, but right now that looks like wishful thinking given the Catalan club's ongoing financial struggles. Coached by former Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde, Athletic will look for its first victory at Barcelona since the 2001-2002 season. Since then, it has gone 22 visits without a victory, with Barcelona winning 19 times. Athletic, which won the Copa del Rey last campaign, will likely have to use its youth-team goalkeeper, Alex Padilla, after minor injuries to Spain's keeper Unai Simón and backup Julen Agirrezabala. Madrid hosts Valladolid on Sunday after the defending champions were held 1-1 at Mallorca in their league opener. Atletico Madrid hosts Girona on the same day in a matchup of the respective fourth- and third-place finishers from last campaign.

'Future economist' Archana bids farewell to TT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Archana Kamath will dearly miss donning the Indian jersey, but the table tennis player is determined to serve the country in a "different way" in future, helping to shape its public policies as an economist. Days after recording India's only success in the quarterfinal loss to Germany in the recent Paris Olympics, the 24-year-old from Bengaluru has re-entered student life in the USA where she is studying for a Masters in Public Policy at the University of Michigan. Having started her professional career as a teenager, Archana's decision to move away from table tennis has been quite emotional. But she has equally enjoyed studying since her school days where she was a topper, securing 98.7 and 97 percent in her 10th and 12th exams. Now, she is pursuing her second masters degree in Michigan, having already completed her post graduation in International Relations. Archana obtained her bachelor's degree in economics and she wants to return to India after two years and serve



the nation, probably as an economist. Her role models range from well-known economist Sanjeev Sanyal to the likes of tennis stars Carlos Alcaraz and Rafael Nadal whom she met at the Games Village in Paris earlier this month. Speaking to PTI from Ann Arbor in Michigan, Archana explained her decision to leave elite sport right after the Olympics. She categorically stated that "she is not in it" for a better financial future as she has been taken care of by her employers Indian Oil, OGQ and the government. "I have always liked studying,

a study leave with her employer. She comes from a financially secure family of doctors with both her parents being ophthalmologists. Her brother is currently pursuing a PHD in aerospace engineering in the USA. But her memories cannot be ripped away from table tennis as it was the first time that both Indian men and women had qualified for the team event of the Olympics. Archana hopes to continue playing table tennis in the USA and will miss the team environment the most. "The best thing about the Olympics was being with seniors like Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra. The environment was so good. I also got to meet Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz. I made memories for life there. "I have also loved fighting for my country and that is something I will miss the most. I hope to keep playing here (in the US)," she said. Archana is certain about being a public servant in India after her course in Michigan but she is yet to work out the finer details.

Berge joins Fulham and Liverpool sells teenager Clark

AP ■ LONDON
Fulham completed the signing of Sander Berge from relegated Burnley for a reported 25 million pounds (\$32.8 million) on a five-year contract on Thursday, with the Norway international set to

replace the departed Joao Palhinha as the club's holding midfielder. Palhinha left for Bayern Munich in the transfer window. "It's been a little bit back and forth the last few weeks," Berge said, "but I'm finally sitting

here in the shirt in this beautiful stadium, knowing that my future is here, which feels great." Berge, who has also played for Sheffield United in the Premier League, could be in contention to make his debut for Fulham against Leicester

on Saturday. Liverpool sold 19-year-old midfielder Bobby Clark to Salzburg for a reported 10 million pounds (\$13 million). Clark was one of the youngsters who helped Liverpool win the English League Cup last season.

Guys like Pant have muscle memory and thirst for victory: Hayden

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Batting great Matthew Hayden feels Rishabh Pant will be a key player for India when they travel to Australia for a five-Test series later this year owing to his "muscle memory and thirst for victory" that made him such a sensation during the team's previous tour Down Under. The eagerly-anticipated five-Test series starts on November 22 at Perth. "Guys like Rishabh Pant have got a muscle memory and the thirst for victory. He was such a key player last time he played there and the Australian public loved him as well, because of the nature of the way he played his game," Hayden told media on the sidelines of CEAT Cricket Rating Awards' here on Wednesday. "It was exciting. It was innovative. It was just fresh and good. Then you have got your old stewards, like Virat Kohli, (he) will want to make an impression again. From a batting point of view, I'm excited to see how India have that strategy to take on the Australian conditions," the Australian added. Pant, who has made a successful return to cricket after a life-threatening accident in 2022, was an outstanding performer for India in the

2020-21 tour, notching up brilliant knocks of 97 and 89 not out in the landmark trip. India outgunned a full-strength Australia despite missing several frontline players in one of the most dramatic turnarounds in the history Test cricket. The visitors bounced back from the ignominy of 36 all out in the opening Adelaide Test to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1 for a second consecutive time. Kohli had to return home after the Adelaide game due to personal reasons and five other players, including key pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, were forced out due to injuries and fitness issues. "The great thing from an Indian perspective is that when you look

at the last victory, there was no Virat Kohli. There was a very much a second team bowling line-up that won at the Gabba," Hayden said. "That's the kind of confidence

that you can expect this Indian unit to go to our shores (with) and go, 'guys, we've done this before, and we've done it in a way that's second to none, even without our key players,'" he said.

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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 on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee/Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(A/c No.) L9001060122573220 Ravinder Kumar (Borrower), Satbir Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt.Bhanmati Devi (Co-Borrower)	16-Nov-23 Rs. 564442/- Rs. Five Lac Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Two Only 15-Nov-23	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures PROPERTY SITUATED AT- KHEWAT NO- 112, KHATONI NO- 126, KHASRA NO- 105(3-0), VILLAGE- SARFABAD, TEHSIL- SAFIDON, DIST- JIND, HARYANA. Admeasuring 117 Sq.Yds, East : GALLI, West : H/O SUBHASH, North : H/O SURESH, South : SADAK GOHANA ROAD	17-Aug-24
(A/c No.) L9001060127173301 Jai Durga Dairy Farm (Borrower), Smt.Meena (Co-Borrower), Sachin (Co-Borrower), Dalbir (Co-Borrower)	12-Jan-24 Rs. 496575/- Rs. Four Lac Ninety-Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Five Only 10-Jan-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Land Measuring 127 Sq.Yds, i.e. 4.41M, 11943/48700 share out of total land 18M comprised in Khevat No. 74, Khata No. 92, Khasara No. 173, situated at waka Rakha Bagru kalan, Tehsil-Safidon, Distt-Jind, Haryana Owned by Smt Meena W/O Dalbir Singh vide sale Deed no. 1015 dated 16-09-2020 Admeasuring 127 Sq. Yds. East : Vacant Plot of other, West : House of Kuldeep, North : Street, South : House of Pardeep	17-Aug-24
(A/c No.) L9001060125472530 Shree Shyam Nishika Garments (Borrower), Sunil Kumar (Co-Borrower), Karnal (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-24 Rs. 636772/- Rs. Six Lac Thirty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Two Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khevat No 825/688 Khatoni No 944, Plot No 573 0-8, Village Rohad, Tehsil- Bahadurgarh, Dist- Jhajjar, Haryana Admeasuring 80 Sqyds	17-Aug-24
(A/c No.) L9001060123734171 Jai Bhimeswari Enterprises (Borrower), Neeraj (Co-Borrower), Mahender (Co-Borrower), Sudesh (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-24 Rs. 2322525/- Rs. Twenty-Three Lac Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Five Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Kharsa No 703 (1-13), Khevat No- 447/Min, Khatoni No-453 Min, Waka Village- Badsa, Tehsil- Badli, Dist- Jhajjar, Haryana Admeasuring 0 Kanal 15 Marle, East : P/O Roshani, West : Road, North : P/O Roshani, South : P/O Mahendra	17-Aug-24
(A/c No.) L9001060128979973 Hemraj Hardware (Borrower), Smt.Kamla Devi (Co-Borrower), Hemraj (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-24 Rs. 1349412/- Rs. Thirteen Lac Forty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Ward No 10 & Ward No 6, Near-Shani Mandir, Vill-Nangal Chaudhary, Tehsil- Narnaul, District- Mahendragarh, Haryana Admeasuring 188 Sq.Yrd East : Land of Panchayat, West : H/O Babu Lal, North : Rasta, South : H/O Lakhmi Chand	20-Aug-24
(A/c No.) L9001060126317612 Akangsha Cosmetic & Parfuri (Borrower), Smt.Pahlvi Devi (Co-Borrower), Krishan Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Sumitra Devi (Co-Borrower), Rattan Lal (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-24 Rs. 2372978/- Rs. Twenty-Three Lac Seventy-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Shop House Tax Unit No. 286, Khasra Town Plan No. 8632, Ward No. 6, Mohalla -Nalaur, Dist -Nrnaul, Haryana Admeasuring 22.75 Sq.Yrds.	20-Aug-24

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act-2002) read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "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." The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

Place: HARYANA Date: 22-AUG-2024 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited