



OPINION 6 RELIGION AND POLITICS IN MODERN INDIA

WORLD 8 STARMER BEGINS POST-BREXIT 'RESET' WITH EU

MONEY 10 CYBERSECURITY PLAYERS SEEK DIGITAL SECURITY PUSH IN BUDGET

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F1 DRIVER MAGNUSSEN TO LEAVE HAAS AT END OF THIS SEASON 11 SPORTS

SC directs NTA to upload NEET UG results on its portal by July 20th



Students display placards in the precinct of the Supreme Court during a hearing on the NEET paper leak case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to publish the city and centre-wise results of this year's NEET-UG exam on their website, masking the identity of the candidates, by 12 noon of July 20 (Saturday). The top court will resume hearing the arguments on July 22 on a batch of pleas seeking cancellation, re-test and a court-monitored probe into

the allegations of large-scale malpractices in the prestigious test held on May 5. "We direct the NTA to publish the marks obtained by students at the UG-2024 NEET examination, while, at the same time, without disclosing the identity of the students. The result should be declared city and centre wise by 12 noon on July 20, 2024 and shall be uploaded on the website of the NTA," the bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said in its

order. "We want the identity of students be masked. You can have dummy roll numbers. But let us see it centre-wise what is the marks pattern," the bench said.

The call for city-and centre-wise results underlines the focus this hearing has taken a deep-dive into data about the precise number of students who sat for the exam and passed, as well as the number who have asked for a re-test or for results to be scrapped, and those opposing any intervention. The bench noted the counsel for the petitioners have submitted that it would be appropriate if the result of NEET-UG 2024 examination was published on the NTA website so as to bring about transparency with regard to centre-wise marks obtained by candidates.

It also said material collected by the Bihar Police and the report of its Economic Offences Wing (EOW), before the investigation was taken over by the CBI, shall be filed in the court by 5 pm on July 20. At the outset, the bench said it has prioritised the hearing on the pleas over other cases as these have "social ramifications" and lakhs of students are waiting for the outcome.



Local residents gather after Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derails in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday

Express coach derailment in UP leaves two dead

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GONDA/NEW DELHI

Two passengers were killed and 20 injured when eight coaches of the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailed near Gonda in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. A railway bulletin said in the wake of the accident, three trains were being run on diverted route. The diverted trains are 15707 Katihar-Amritsar Amrapali Express, 15603 Guwahati-Jammu Tawi Amarnath Express and 15910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh Avadh Assam Express.

Gonda District Magistrate Neha Sharma, who reached the spot, said eight coaches of the train got derailed. He said the injured are being rushed to hospital and relief operations are on at the site. A 40-member medical team and 15 ambulances are at the spot and more medical teams and ambulances are being

rushed there, Relief Commissioner Kumar said. Eyewitnesses said the loud noise of the coaches leaving the track and toppling over to the left was followed by loud cries of the passengers, especially children. The passengers started coming out of the emergency windows and doors of the tilted sleeper coaches, and some went back to pull out their belongings. In the AC coaches, passengers helped each other break the window panes and pull out those injured or stuck. Passengers had to wade through knee-deep water in the fields on either side of the track to reach the nearby approach road. Others, shocked by the accident or injured, sat on the track itself, waiting to be rescued. When police teams reached the spot, officials made announcements asking people to stay away from the damaged coaches.

Army prepares for long haul in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU/NEW DELHI

While gradually inducting more troops on ground zero, the Indian Army is preparing for the long haul ahead of flushing out Pakistani terrorists occupying 'Jammu Heights'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reviewed the current security situation in Jammu in the wake of number of terrorist attacks in the past weeks. He chaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which includes Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Adopting offensive posturing the Indian Army has already rushed additional troops to be deployed along the higher reaches of the Kathua district bordering Himachal Pradesh to plug the gaps and block the escape routes of infiltrating terrorists. Troop deployment is also being reviewed across the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch as the region has witnessed repeated ambushes on army trucks and patrol parties since October 2021. The security forces are also contemplating setting up additional posts in the upper reaches of the Doda and Kishtwar districts to block the traditional routes of crossing into the Kashmir valley. As per the preliminary assessment made by the different agencies, part of the multi-layered security grid in Jammu and Kashmir, the involvement of ex-Pak army



Army personnel during an encounter with terrorists in a forest village in Doda district on Thursday

regulars along with a well-trained cadre of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit cannot be ruled out behind these attacks. Most of these ambushes were planned and executed under the same command structure and the desired objective was to inflict maximum casualties on the Indian security forces to spread the 'Arc of terror' across the peaceful Jammu region. Before the four soldiers were martyred in the Dessa forest area of Doda, five soldiers were ambushed by Pakistani terrorists in the Badnota area of Machhedri in the Billawar tehsil of Kathua on July 8. The security grid along the International border has been kept in a state of high alert to prevent fresh infiltration attempts from across the border. Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed as security forces foiled a fresh infiltration bid

along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday. In a post on X, the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said, "An infiltration attempt has been successfully prevented with the elimination of two terrorists today on the LoC in Keran Sector, Kupwara. Anti Infiltration Operations are continuing". In Doda, two Army personnel were injured when a group of terrorists lobbed a grenade and opened indiscriminate firing on the Government school building where these soldiers had taken a temporary shelter during the night. According to official sources, the information about the presence of soldiers in the school complex may have been shared by the local associates of the terrorists in the Kastigarh area of Doda.

India issues advisory after shocking Bangladesh quota protests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/DHAKA

India on Thursday issued an advisory to its nationals and students in Bangladesh, urging them to restrict movement outside their living premises. The advisory comes in the wake of the ongoing quota violence across parts of the country claiming six lives. India also issued some 24-hour emergency numbers.

"In view of the ongoing situation in Bangladesh, the Indian community members and the Indian students residing in Bangladesh are advised to avoid travel and minimise their movement outside their living premises," the advisory read.

"In case of any urgency or need for assistance, please reach out to the High Commission and our Assistant High



Commissions," it stated. There were approximately 7,000 Indians in Bangladesh, according to the High Commission's website.

On Wednesday, student protesters demanding reforms in the quota system in government jobs announced plans to enforce a complete nationwide shutdown on Thursday in response to the actions of the security forces. The clashes left at least six people, including four students, dead across the country.

A key coordinator of the movement, Asif Mahmud, in a Facebook post, said all establishments, barring hospitals and emergency services, will remain closed, and only ambulance services will be permitted to operate. The movement urges students from all educational institutions to participate and calls on guardians to support their cause, a newspaper reported. Meanwhile, authorities called out the paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) troops in four major cities after hundreds of policemen in riot gear fanned out in public university campuses across the country.

PM Modi boosts Party cadre confidence post elections



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Union Minister and BJP President JP Nadda as he arrives to meet party workers at the BJP headquarters, in New Delhi, on Thursday

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A day after political activities were reported from Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reached out to the party workers to boost the sagging morale after not so good performance in the just concluded general elections in which BJP could not secure majority on its own to form the Government just like it did comfortably in 2014 and then in 2019.

Sources said Modi reached the BJP headquarters in the evening and moved around the party's huge complex on DDU Marg and chatted impromptu with many of the workers. The

PM also visited a few offices of party workers and then moved on to interact with the party workers and volunteers in a conference hall.

Modi interacted with them in what is being seen as his appreciation for their work following his return to power for a third straight term. Hailing their contributions, Modi said he will continue to meet them in future. Modi was greeted by BJP president J P Nadda as he arrived at its headquarters.

"He was too glad to meet us and personally identified many of us to whom he said he has been knowing several of the dedicated workers for more than five decades now. He

reminded some of the chit chats and also cracked jokes while recalling some of the events that happened in the closed premises of the party headquarters which was earlier at Ashoka Road in Lutyens," said a worker attached to a party General Secretary while quoting the PM.

He mentioned that Modi told them to continue working with the same zeal as it is their sole contribution for making BJP the largest political party of the world, another worker said, quoting the PM.

This gesture is not unprecedented, as Modi has similarly met and thanked party workers following the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, aiming to boost morale and recognise their contributions. The BJP, known for its robust cadre-based structure, upholds a tradition of top leadership engaging directly with ground-level workers to bolster their efforts.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the party lost its parliamentary majority, securing 240 seats, a decrease of 63 seats compared to their 2019 performance. Notably, in the crucial State of Uttar Pradesh, the party's seat count dropped from 61 in the previous term to 33 in this election.



Religion display on stalls on UP highways to help Kanwars eat right

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/MUZZAFFARNAGAR

After drawing fire from various quarters, including politicians, over display of owners' names over the eateries enroute Kanwar Yatra, the Muzaffarnagar Police on Thursday issued fresh advisory making it a "voluntary" measure to put a board of names of their owners. The Muzaffarnagar Police said its intention was not to create any kind of religious discrimination but only to facilitate the devotees passing through Muzaffarnagar district and prevent any untoward situation. "During the holy month of Shrawan, many people, especially Kanwariyas, abstain from certain food items in their diet," the Muzaffarnagar Police stated through its

social media posts.

"In the past, such instances have come to light where some shopkeepers selling all types of food items on Kanwar Marg named their shops in such a way that it created confusion among the Kanwariyas and created a law and order situation.

To prevent such a recurrence, hotels, dhabas and shopkeepers selling food items on Kanwar Marg have been requested to voluntarily display the names of their owners and employees... This system has been prevalent in the past, too," the advisory further said.

The fresh advisory came after the administration's earlier order asking eateries, including roadside carts, to display the names of their owners in front of their shops faced severe criticism. Police personnel had also started to enforce the order.

Disgraced daughter Puja Khedkar leads mother into remand, father on the run

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within days after controversial probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar was shunted back to her Mussoorie-based alma mater on disciplinary grounds, the police arrested her mother Manorama Khedkar on Thursday for allegedly threatening some farmers at gunpoint to grab their land at Mulshi taluka in Pune district.

Manorama — who had been absconding for nearly a week after a video showing her threatening farmers at Mulshi in a bid to usurp their land went viral — was traced to a small lodge, Parvati Niwas, near Mahad town in Raigad district where the visiting Pune rural police reached and arrested her.

Manorama was later brought back to Pune where a court Judicial Magistrate First Class SG Barde remanded her in police custody till July 20. A former Sarpanch (village headwoman) of Bhalgaon in Pune district, Manorama had been staying at the lodge under a fake name of 'Indu Dnyandev Dhakane' with another person identified as 'Dadasaheb Dnyandev Dhakane'. Acting on a complaint lodged by farmer Pandharinath Pasalkar (65), the Paud police had registered a complaint against Manorama and her husband Diliprao Khedkar, both residents of National Housing Society in Baner, and one Ambadas Khedkar of Ambi village in Haveli, and other unidentified persons.



Insult to India's dhoti kurta forces a Mall to shut shop in Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

In an interesting development, the Karnataka Government on Thursday ordered closure of a mall for seven days after a farmer was allegedly denied entry owing to his attire — a 'dhoti' and a white shirt — an incident which drew strong condemnation from members cutting across party lines in the Legislative Assembly. The Government also termed the alleged insult to the farmer as an infringement on "dignity and self respect", and said it cannot be tolerated.

"I checked with the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) commissioner as to what can be done. The Government has the powers. Action will be taken against the (G T World)

mall in accordance with law immediately and we will ensure that the mall is closed for seven days," Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh told the House.

Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa said the incident is condemnable. "For every individual self respect and dignity are important, this has been violated, and the Government will take action," said the Minister. The incident reportedly happened on Tuesday when septuagenarian Fakeerappa from Haveri district visited the mall, along with his wife and son to watch a movie at a multiplex. Fakeerappa was reportedly wearing white shirt and 'panche' (dhoti), and the security staffer at the mall allegedly told him and his son that he won't be allowed



Photo: Screengrab

inside in a 'panche', and asked him to "wear trousers and come." Earlier, Assembly Speaker U T Khader raised the issue and asked the Government to take action. "I saw in the media that a youth from the rural area, who is

studying here in Bengaluru, when he took his father wearing 'panche' — which is the traditional attire of Karnataka — to show him the mall, he was not let in because of the attire. This is highly condemnable and strict

action should be taken by the government, which becomes a lesson for all malls," he said.

"Merciless action should be taken, however big the mall owner or management is," the Speaker said. "We have nothing to do with them, we have to show that the super rich owning malls are not important for us, and it is the common man, poor and last person of the society who are leading a life with self esteem are important," he said.

Congress MLA Laxman Savadi, stating that mere condemnation won't help, urged the Government to at least cut the power supply to the mall for a week. Ranabennur Congress MLA Prakash Koliwad, noting that the farmer belongs to a village in his constituency, said, "The farmer

has given education to all his nine children, one of his son is studying MBA here in Bengaluru and the son wanted to take his father to show him the mall. The farmer was disrespected for his attire and the mall should be closed down."

Congress MLA and chief whip from the ruling side Ashok Pattan suggested that action should also be taken on private clubs in Bengaluru, which impose dress code.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said such issues have been discussed in the House earlier too, "but what's the result?" The Speaker or the Government will have to issue some orders, which should be implemented strictly by the secretaries and bureaucrats.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

We, Sanjeev Joshi, S/o Baldev Krishan and Komal Joshi, W/o Sanjeev Joshi, R/o Professor Colony Tehsil Pehowa, District Kurukshetra Our Son Dipesh Joshi are Out Of Our Control. We,Disown Them From All My Moveable And Immoveable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Him At Their Own Risk.

BEDAKHLI NOTICE

I, Vinod Antil S/o Haushiya Singh R/o Pana Mudada, Murthal, Sonapat, Haryana has disowned my daughter Anu Rani from my all movable-immovable property as she is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with her, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Premo W/o Late Sh. Maha Singh R/o Mohana, Teh. & Distt. Sonapat has disowned my son Harish from my all movable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Parhalad Singh S/o Madan Lal R/o H. No. 231, Virat Nagar, Azad Nagar, Hisar (Haryana) declare that my son Sourabh Niraniya is out of my & my family's control. So I disown my son Sourabh Niraniya from all my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk I & my family are not responsible.

I, Kamlesh W/o Late Jaswant Singh R/o Vill. Dhantori, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra I declare that my son Parveen Kumar and his wife Ruby 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 in any manner, they will deal on his own responsibility.

I, Vidya Devi W/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar R/o House No. 172, Sector 6, Panchkula Haryana inform that my son Rajinder Kumar Kasrija and his wife Ritu Kasrija are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and Immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them at their own Risk.

I, Sultan Singh S/o Sh. Kidara Ram R/o House No. 961 Sector 38 Dadamajra colony Chandigarh inform that my son Baljeet Singh and his wife Kumari Anjali are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them they will do so at their own risk.

We Rajneesh Sharma S/o Ram Naryan Sharma & Santosh Sharma W/o Rajneesh Sharma R/o H.No. 20, New Luxmi Nagar, Near Shiv Mandir, Jandli Ambala City inform that our son Manish Sharma & his wife Himanshi Sharma are out of our control . So we disown both of them from our movable and immovable properties. if anybody deals with them they will do so at their own risk.

We, Suresh Kumar Addhar No.52165742472. S/o Sh. Jageer. Jagwanti Addhar No. 885650138942. W/o Sh. Suresh Kumar VPO. Samlehri. Sub. Tehsil -Saha, Distt. Ambala. Declare that our son Amarjeet & his wife Pooja are out of our control. So we disown them from our movable and immovable property. If anybody dealing with them will do so at his /her own risk. In Future we and our Entire Family will be not responsible.

I, Meena Devi w/o Late Sh. Rampal R/o Village Ballu District Karnal declare that my son Rahul is out of our control, so I disown him from our movable and immovable property. If anybody deals with him, they will be responsible themselves.

I, Ramphal S/o Chandgi Ram R/o Village Kanoh, Distt. Hisar (Haryana) declare that my son Kaptan is out of my & my family's control. So I disown my son Kaptan from all my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing / court cases with them will do so at his/her own risk I & my family are not responsible.

I, Kanti Devi W/o late Sh. Madan Lal, H.No.416/2, Sector 40-A Chandigarh inform that my husband Late Madan Lal had disowned my son Vinod Kumar from all Moveable and Immoveable Properties. Now my son Vinod Kumar is under my control. so I cancelled his disowned own behalf of my husband. In Future he has full rights in our all properties.

I, Roshni Devi W/o late Dharampal, R/o village Bir Amin, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have evicted my son Jaswant Singh, his wife Mamta Devi and his son Arav Kumar from all my movable-immovable properties, as they are out of my control. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, JC 430409K, Sub Maj (Hony Capt), Harbhajan Singh (Retd) (UIDAI No-380310396894) resident of Vill-Bhangewala, PO- Seerwali, Teh & Distt-Sri Muktsar Sahib (Pb-151212), Declared That in my Army service record, name of my wife is wrongly written as Kulvinder Kaur whereas her correct name is Kulwinder Kaur and her date of birth is wrongly written as 19 Feb 1971 whereas her correct date of birth is 02 May 1972. All concerned please note.

I, Kulvinder Kaur W/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o 146/1,Gandhi Nagar Tehsil Pehowa, Distt Kurukshetra, My Son Harmanjeet Singh And His Wife Neera Is Out Of My Control. I,Disown Them From All My Moveable And Immoveable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Him At Their Own Risk.

I, Puran Singh age 42 year s/o Hardayal Singh R/O H.No.2959, Mauli Jagran, U.T Chandigarh, declare that my son Kishan Singh is out of my control. I disown him from all my movable and immovable properties including Bank accounts. Any person who deals with him will do so at his/her own risks and responsibilities.

I, Karamjit Singh S/o Late sh. Avtar Singh R/O House No. 218/4, Aceme Heights, kharar, district Mohali declare that My son Amandeep Singh s/o Karamjit Singh and his wife Ritika Pathak are out of my control. I disown both of them from my all moveable and immovable properties. Any person who deals with them will do so at his/her own risk and responsibility.

I, Karam Singh S/o Balwant Singh R/o Vill Urdan Teh Rajpura Distt Patiala declare that my Nephew Amandeep Singh is out of my control so I will end all my relationship with him, anyone dealing with him at their own risk, I and my family will not be responsible.

I, Nashib Singh S/o Santa Singh H N 264 Village Girda Distt.Panchkula delear that my adopt son Bittu and his wife Sona kaur are out of my control I disown them from my movable and immovable property anybody dealing with them at their on risk

I, Tari W/o Late. Nafe Singh R/o New Krishna Colony Behind District Jail Jind Teh. and Distt. Jind (Hr.) declare that my son Parveen Kumar and his wife Kiran are out of my control. So, I disown both of them from my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk. Me and my family members are not responsible.

I, Amarjeet Singh S/o Foja Singh R/o Vill. Tepla sub tehsil Saha distt. Ambala that my daughter Simranjeet Kaur is out of my control so I disown her from all my moveable immovable properties. In future anybody dealing with her at their own risk , me and my family members will not be responsible.

I, Kulwinder Singh S/O Diwan Singh R/O Village Lang, Teh. & Distt. Patiala, Inform That My Wife's Name Wrongly Written As Kamaljit Kaur In My Army Service Record, Her Correct And Real Name Is Kamaljeet Kaur. Above Both Names Kamaljit Kaur & Kamaljeet Kaur Are Belong To The Single Person.

I, Service No. 2498844K, Rank Hav Jaswinder Singh S/O Kashmir Singh. R/O Village Naushera, Post Office Gahlri, Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Pin - 143526, Punjab, India. Declare That In My Army Service Record My Mother Name Salwinder Kaur And Date Of Birth 01-07-1968 Is Wrong. But My Mother Name Surinder Kaur And Date Of Birth 01-01-1958 Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No. In-PB36754977957003W Dated 18-07-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab.

I, Raj Kumar Father Of Service No. 14938979N Rank Hav Vineet Sharma. R/O Village Kanol, Post Office Chanour, Tehsil Dada Siba Panol. (484), Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, Pin-177113, India. Declare That In My Son's Army Service Record My Dob 01-July- 1957 Is Wrong . But My Son's Army Service Record My Dob 15-May-1957 Is Correct Vide Affidavit No. In-PB36921944694754W, Dated 18-07-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab.

I, Service No. 2498844K, Rank Hav Jaswinder Singh S/O Kashmir Singh. R/O Village Naushera, Post Office Gahlri, Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Pin - 143526,Punjab,India.Declare That In My Army Service Record My Father Kashmir Singh Date Of Birth 01-7-1963 Is Wrong. But My Father Date Of Birth 15-01-1958 Is Correct Vide Affidavit No. In-PB36767242387131W Dated 18-07-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur Punjab.

I, Pooja Aggarwal (Adahar No. 3084 5155 5442) W/o Ravi Aggarwal R/o H. No. 6, Ravi Sadan, D.N. College Road, Hisar (Haryana) declare that in the birth certificate of my son Kiyansh Aggarwal my name is recorded as Pooja. In all other documents my name is recorded as Pooja Aggarwal. The above both names Pooja Aggarwal and Pooja are same and one person.

I, No. 15187686F Hav (DS) Yalling Ittapananavar S/O Kallappa Ittapananav C/o 8 R&O FLT/661 Army Aviation Sqn. Jalandhar Cantt, declare that in my service record, my father's name is mentioned as Kallappa instead of Kallappa Ittapananavar & mother's name is mentioned as Laxmava instead of Lakshmvava Ittapananavar and date of birth of my father is written as 02-06-1945 instead of 03-05-1949 and date of birth of my mother is written as 08-07-1956 instead of 01-01-1963 respectively.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hasrat Pathan W/o Mehndi Pathan R/o # 6462, Sector-56, Palsora, Chandigarh have changed my name to Hasrat for all intents & purposes.

I, Poonam Devi W/o Sanjeev Kumar R/O Village Chintpur, Po Lalhari Kalan, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Poonam Devi to Poonam Rani.

I, Prateek Mehta S/o Jajmohan Mehta R/o 31, Brij Puri Colony, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor son's name from Namish to Namish Mehta.

I, Sarvjeet Singh Son of Balkar Singh, R/o VPO Bapa, Tehsil Radaur, District Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135133, India declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Gogi in my 10th Class educational documents. The actual name of my mother is Gurjeet Kaur.

I, Sujata W/o Amit Sethi R/O 2439, ward no. 18/C/2, Buri Chowk, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Meenu Sethi to Sujata. In future I shall be known Sujata.

I, No. 16015082N TS NK Tej Pal Singh (Retd.) R/O Village Malikpur Bangar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar declare that in my service record my son name / date of birth mentioned as Samer Chauhan / 25-10-2012. His actual name / date of birth is Samar Chouhan / 25-10-2011.

I, Pritam Singh, S/o Hari Ram, R/o Bharnol Bhoj Kudana, sub-tehsil Morni, district Panchkula, Haryana, declare that my name is Pritam Chand Sharma registered in the documents of Post-office Morni. Pritam Singh and Pritam Chand Sharma, both are my names. My correct name is Pritam Singh.

I, Deepa W/o Dharmender Sachdeva R/O H. No.213, Sector -14, Part 2, Karnal, Haryana have changed my name to Deepa Sachdeva for all future purposes.

I, Ananya D/o Jatinder Sachdeva R/O H. No.228, Sector -14, Part 2, Karnal, Haryana have changed my name to Ananya Sachdeva for all future purposes.

I, Alka Kumari W/o Ravi Kumar R/O W.No 4 New Abadi, Dhariwal, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143519 have changed my name to Alka.

I, No. 15698809L, HAV Mishra Shailesh M S/O Late Manmohan Mishra R/O WCSR C/o 56 APO, Chandimandir Cantt., Panchkula, Haryana declare that in my army Service record my Son's name has been wrongly mentioned is Purvansh whereas his correct name is Purvansh Shailesh Mishra.

I, Sandeep Kumar Singla S/O Pawan Kumar R/O House No. 03, New Grain Market, Pundri, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Sandeep Kumar Singla to Sandeep Kumar. In future, I will be known by the name of Sandeep Kumar. All concerned please note.

I, Nirmala Devi W/o Krishan Kumar R/O Village Chausala, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Nirmala Devi to Nirmala. In future, I will be known by the name of Nirmala. All concerned please note.

I, Shree Bhagwan Kaushik S/O Sh. Suraj Bhan R/O V.P.O. Baland, Distt. Rohtak declare that I have changed my name Bhagwan to Shree Bhagwan Kaushik. Shree Bhagwan Kaushik and Bhagwan are the same and one person. That know me as Shree Bhagwan Kaushik in future.

I, Kavita Gupta w/o Sh. Aryan Gupta R/O 89, Sector 11, Huda, Panipat have changed my name from Kavita Rani to Kavita Gupta.

I, No. 3973827X Ex- Nk Amar Chand S/O Mangat Ram residence of Village Baroti PO Chohal Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb) has changed my wife's name from Sukhwinder Kaur to Sukhwinder Kaur whose date of birth is 19/05/1958. Concern Note

I, Smt. Rakshya Devi W/o No. 1258528H Ex Nk Sukhchain Singh R/o Vill. Makkolw PO Koi Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Rakshya Devi to Raksha Devi. Concerned note.

I, Mahinder Kumar S/o Sh. Norang Lal R/o Bhuna, District Fatehabad have changed my name from Mahinder Kumar S/O Norang Lal to Mahender Goyal S/O Norang Rai Goyal. In future, I will be known as Mahender Goyal.

I, Saroj Rani W/O Sh. Balwant R/O village Hatho Teh. Narwana Distt. Jind, have changed my name from Saroj Rani to Saroj.

I, Mukesh Rani w/o sh Desh Deepak R/O 634, Model town, Narwana Distt.Jind (Haryana) have changed my name from Mukesh Rani to Mukesh.

I, Jagdish Sharma S/o Jaishi Ram, # 2130, GF, Sector 45C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Jagdish Chand.

I, Amit Bawa Saini S/O. Sh. Jaswant Rai Bawa R/O. Villa No. 92, Ats Gof Meadows-II, Derabassi, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali-Punjab. I Have Changed My Name From Amit Bawa To Amit Bawa Saini.

I, Radhey Shyam S/o Sh. Ved Parkash R/o V.P.O. Mehlanwli, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar I have change my name from Radhey Sham to Radhey Shyam All concerned note.

I, Birpal S/o Sri Gangalal R/O Vill Mitrol, P.O.Aurangabad, Tehsil Palwal, Distt. Faridabad. have changed my Son DOB from 17/07/2007 To 15/07/2007.

I, Birpal S/o Sri Gangalal R/O Vill Mitrol, P.O.Aurangabad, Tehsil Palwal, Distt. Faridabad. have changed my Wife Name from Kavita Chauhan To Kavita.

I, Poonam W/o Pankaj Bansal R/o H. No. 9, Devi Bhawan Colony, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Bansal for future purpose.

I, Hitherto Known As Parminder Kaur Wife Of Harpartap Singh Residing At H.No.498 A, Ranjit Avenue, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Anjali Kaur.

I, Hitherto Known As Sukhwinder Singh Maan Son Of Jagir Singh Residing At Pishori Ahata, Old Naraingardh Near By Pass Road, Chheharta, District Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sukhwinder Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Shrikrishan Yadav Son Of Shankar Yadav Residing At Q.No.323-B, B-Block, Railway Colony District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Anjali Kaur.

I, Hitherto Known As Sharanjit Kaur Daughter Of Guralp Singh Wife Of Biswajit Ghosh Residing At Gali No.2, New Ranjit Pura, Chheharta, District Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sharanjit Ghosh

I, Hitherto Known As Mukhtar Singh Nagi Son Of Sawaran Singh Residing At Village Mokol, Po Dhapai, Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur-143516 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Mukhtar Singh.

I, Amardeep Kaur W/o Kulbir Singh R/O Village Tola Nangal, Sub Tehsil Rajasansi, Tehsil Ajnala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab- 143101 have changed my name from Amardeep Kaur to Amarbir Kaur.

I, Seema Puri W/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar R/o Saraswati Colony, Rania Chungi, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Seema to Seema Puri , in future my name is to be called as Seema Puri.

I, Hem Raj Nota alias Hem Raj S/o Ram Lok Nota R/O Village Raipur, PO Bandlehri, Tehsil Nangal, Distt Ropar, declare that Hem Raj and Hem Raj Nota is one and the same person.

I Anil Kumar S/o Madan Lal R/O Village Jodhpur Post office Chiken Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Anil Kumar Sharma to Anil Kumar. Concern Please Note.

I, Parabhjot Singh S/o Balwant Singh R/O Village Bains. PO Bhaowal, Tehsil Anandur Sahib Distt Ropar, have changed my name Parbhjot Singh. Be Noted Please.

I, Dinesh Kumar Jain S/O Late Sh. Satpal Jain R/O H.No-485, Sec-7 Ambala City have changed my name from Dinesh Jain to Dinesh Kumar Jain.

I, Prem Sagar S/o Permanand R/O H.No- 1095/2 Hari Mandir, Kaziwara, Ambala City 134003 have changed my name from Prem Sagar to Prem Sagar Sekhri.

I, Tanmay S/o Sumit Chahal R/O H. No. 32, Defence Colony, Opposite Sectriat, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Tanmay to Tanmay Chahal for future purposes.

I, Nirmala Devi W/o Lekh Raj R/O Bachhdo Bhoj Nayita, sub-tehsil Morni, district Panchkula, Haryana, declare that my name is Nima Devi registered in the documents of PNB Morni & PAN Card. Nima Devi and Nirmala Devi, both are my names. My correct name is Nirmala Devi.

I, Prabh Jot Kaur W/o Satnam Singh R/O.VPO - Jhander, Tehsil Ajnala Distt Amritsar punjab Have Changed my name from Prabhjot Kaur to Prabh Jot Kaur.

I, Amanatbir Kaur Daughter Of Harinderjit Singh Dhillon Resident of House No.711, Guru Ram Dass Nagar Kot Khalsa Amritsar state that My Actual name is Amanatbir Kaur Instead of Amanat Bir Kaur. All Concerned Please note.

I, Poonam W/o Pankaj Bansal R/o H. No. 9, Devi Bhawan Colony, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Bansal for future purpose.

I, Hitherto Known As Parminder Kaur Wife Of Harpartap Singh Residing At H.No.498 A, Ranjit Avenue, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Anjali Kaur.

I, Hitherto Known As Sukhwinder Singh Maan Son Of Jagir Singh Residing At Pishori Ahata, Old Naraingardh Near By Pass Road, Chheharta, District Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sukhwinder Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Shrikrishan Yadav Son Of Shankar Yadav Residing At Q.No.323-B, B-Block, Railway Colony District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Anjali Kaur.

I, Hitherto Known As Sharanjit Kaur Daughter Of Guralp Singh Wife Of Biswajit Ghosh Residing At Gali No.2, New Ranjit Pura, Chheharta, District Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sharanjit Ghosh

I, Hitherto Known As Mukhtar Singh Nagi Son Of Sawaran Singh Residing At Village Mokol, Po Dhapai, Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur-143516 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Mukhtar Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Sharanjit Kaur Daughter Of Guralp Singh Wife Of Biswajit Ghosh Residing At Gali No.2, New Ranjit Pura, Chheharta, District Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sharanjit Ghosh

I, Hitherto Known As Mukhtar Singh Nagi Son Of Sawaran Singh Residing At Village Mokol, Po Dhapai, Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur-143516 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Mukhtar Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Sharanjit Kaur Wife Of Manjit Singh Residing At Vpo Harchowal District Gurdaspur-143527 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kamaljit Kaur

I, Hitherto Known As Parmar Ashvin Kumar Son Of Parshotam Bhai Parmar Residing At Jivapur, District Jammnagar-361006 Gujarat Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Parmar Ashvinkumar Parsotombhai

I, Hitherto Known As Chanchal Wife Of Ashok Kumar Residing At Hm-163, Roop Nagar, Near Harkrishan Public School, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Chanchal Kalra.

I, Manjit Kaur Wife Of Jagga Residing At Vpo Shahpur Jajan, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, District Gurdaspur-143604 Punjab Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son Pooja Aged 13 Years And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Vishwas Mahla.

I, Sukhdeep Singh Son Of Balwant Singh Residing At H.No.30, Partap Nagar, G.T Road, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son Amandeep Singh Aged 17 Years And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Amandeep Singh Josan.

I, Hitherto Known As Reena Wife Of Pawan Kumar Residing At H.No.220, B/S Gurudwara Baba Shri Chand, Laxmi Vihar, Majitha Bye Pass, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Maninder Kaur.

I Kanwaljeet W/O Bua Singh Resident Of Ward No. 4, Christian Colony, Fatehgarh Churian, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143602. I Have Changed My Name From Kanwaljeet To Kamaljit Kaur.

I, Prince Kumar S/O Narinder Kumar Arora R/O H.No.225, Gali No.9, Pawan Nagar, Batala Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Prince Kumar To Prince Kumar Arora

I, Sanjeev S/O Chaman Lal R/O H.No.2104/9, Gali Hatim Tai, Gate Hakima District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sanjeev To Sanjeev Kumar

I, Neetu W/O Sanjeev Kumar R/O H.No.2104/9, Gali Hatim Tai, Gate Hakima District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Neetu To Neetu Uppal

I, Mandip Kaur D/O Kirpal Singh R/O Village Wala, Tehsil Zira District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name From Mandip Kaur To Mandeep Kaur

I, Priyanka D/O Jagdish Chand Thakur R/O H.No. 09, Gulmohtar City Extension Near Ats Apartment, Dera Bassi SAS Nagar Mohali Have Changed My Name From Priyanka Thakur

I, Priya Sehgal W/O Amit Singh R/O H.No.153, Gali Central Gurudwara Ward No.3, Ajnala Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Priya Sehgal To Priya

I Upreet Sabharwal D/O Paramjit Singh W/O Ishamjot Singh Sahni Resident Of 30, Gopal Das Road, Near Dental Hospital, Amritsar-I, Amritsar, G.P.O, Amritsar Punjab 143001. I Have Changed My Name From Upreet Sabharwal To Upreet Sabharwal Sahni.

I, Raj Pal Kaur Spouse Of No.Jc-90443a Sub Hony Lt Late Rattan Singh R/O 3/72, Krishna Nagar, Chheharta, Amritsar-143105 Have Changed My Name From Raj Pal Kaur To Raj Paul Kaur And Date Of Birth From 11.04.1944 To 23.03.1946 Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb37004194060980w Dated 18.07.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Savita Is Legally Wedded Wife Of No. 14948453p Sep Yogesh Chatter Resident Of Murkiya, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-283102 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Savita To Savita Choudhary Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb37005966956672w Dated 18-07-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar

I, Ram Kali Gangwar Is Mother Of No. 14934073i Hav Harish Kumar Gangwar Presently Residing At Village Faridapur Nawada, Po Bijamaw, Tehsil Nawabganj, District Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh-262406 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Ram Kali Gangwar To Ram Kali And Date Of Birth From 16 Aug 1963 To 01 Jan 1955 Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb37006665214736w Dated 18-07-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar

I, Hitherto Known As Ramesh Kumar Residing At H.No.14/99, Patti Bahniwal Di, Daburji Khba Pasa, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ishpreet.

I, Hitherto Known As Kamaljit Kaur Wife Of Manjit Singh Residing At Vpo Harchowal District Gurdaspur-143527 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kamaljit Kaur

I, Hitherto Known As Kamaljit Kaur Wife Of Manjit Singh Residing At Vpo Harchowal District Gurdaspur-143527 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kamaljit Kaur

I, Hitherto Known As Kamaljit Kaur Wife Of Manjit Singh Residing At Vpo Harchowal District Gurdaspur-143527 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kamaljit Kaur

I, Raj Rani Is Mother Of No. 14936417x Hav Satinder Kumar Presently Residing At House No. 471/, 6643/1, Street No. 15, Maid Colony, New Shimlapuri, Ludhiana-141003 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Raj Rani To Ram Sakhi And Date Of Birth From 01 Jul 1959 To 01 Jan 1959 Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb37007314132515w Dated 18-07-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar

I Sidhi W/O Navneet Sethi R/O H.No.6 Anand Avenue Backside Manav Public School Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Siddhi Bharti

I Gurmeet Kaur W/O Joginder Singh R/O Village Thathian Po. Bundala Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurmeet Kaur To Gurmit Kaur

I Kasmir Singh S/O Nirmal Singh R/O 447, Mohalla Shekhpura, Jandiala Guru Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kasmir Singh To Kashmir Singh

I, Kanika Vij W/O Amit Mehra R/O 59b, Phase No. 2,Green Field, Majitha Road Amritsar I Have Changed My Name Kanika Vij To Kanika.

I, Kasmiri Lal S/o Buta Singh R/O VPO Rohati District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Kasmiri Lal to Kasmiri Lal.

I, Sarbjeet Kaur W/o Late Karamjeet Singh R/O House No. 359, Jindal Global City, Sector 29, Thanesar, Kurukshetra, have changed my minor son's name from Aniket Singh Mavi to Aniket Singh.

I Sanjeev kumar s/o Ved Parkash R/O Preet Colony, Mukerian distt Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Sanjeev sharma to Sanjeev kumar

I, Jobanpreet Singh S/o Saroop Singh R/O VPO Gaggar Bhana, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, I have changed my name to Jobanpreet as given name and singh as surname.

Punjab CM advocates for 'elected' university chancellors amidst tussle with Governor

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bold move that has reignited political tensions, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday called for the chancellor of state-run universities to be an "elected chief minister" rather than a "selected" figure — a direct reference to the current practice involving the state Governor. Mann's declaration comes just days after the President Droupadi Murmu returned a Punjab Bill seeking to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the state's universities' chancellor, without giving her assent.

Taking a pointed jab at Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Mann criticized the Governor's habit of sending contentious bills to the President without his assent, who then returns them after several months. "If the Governor does not want to give assent to any bill, he sends it to the President, who returns it after a couple of months," Mann remarked, underscoring his frustration with the current

bureaucratic process. The controversy centers around the Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which aims to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the chancellor of state-run universities. Mann, stressing the need for democratic representation, said: "We want that democracy should not be of selected but of elected." Mann highlighted similar legislative efforts by the governments of West Bengal and Kerala, which also sought to ensure that elected officials, rather than appointed ones, hold significant university positions. He questioned the current process for appointing vice-chancellors, arguing that it should reflect the culture and needs of the state. "One should know the culture. What is Punjabi University's culture, what is the culture of Punjab Agricultural University and other universities," Mann asserted.

"If we want to appoint the VC of Punjabi University, then we will have to give three

names to the Governor. He will select one of them of his choice. Then who chooses? Is it elected or selected," he asked. The Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, alongside other bills, was passed by the Punjab Assembly in June last year. However, the Governor had deemed the session "patently illegal." The Supreme Court later upheld the session's validity, directing the Governor to decide on the bills. Despite this, Governor Purohit reserved the bill, along with the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023, for the President's consideration. The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023 aimed to ensure free-to-air telecasts of 'Gurbani' from the Golden Temple in Amritsar; while the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023, sought to establish an independent mechanism for selecting the state's Director General of Police. Both bills, along with the Punjab Universities

(Amendment) Bill, 2023, were sent to the President and subsequently returned without assent. The ongoing conflict between Mann and Governor Purohit has also seen clashes over the appointment of the vice-chancellor of Ludhiana-based Punjab Agricultural University. Despite these tensions, the Governor did grant assent to the Punjab Affiliated Colleges (Security of Service) Amendment Bill, 2023, which aims to streamline the functioning of the Punjab Educational Tribunal for government-aided private colleges. Mann will be holding a meeting to discuss the further course of action regarding the Bill which has been returned by the President without her assent. As Mann prepares to hold a meeting to address the returned bill, his call for an "elected" chancellor underscored a broader push for greater democratic control over educational institutions in Punjab.

2,405 NDPS cases registered in Hry with 3,562 arrests in 15 months

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Secretary H.T.V.S.N. Prasad on Thursday said that the State Government has intensified its campaign against drug abuse through effective law enforcement, comprehensive awareness campaigns, and continuous public support for de-addiction initiatives. While participating in the seventh high-level Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah through video conference, the Chief Secretary said that from January 2023 to March 2024, as many as 2,405 NDPS cases were registered, resulting in the arrest of 3,562 persons. Additionally, 24 preventive detention orders were issued under the PIT-NDPS Act, and property worth Rs 9.59 crore was seized. The anti-drug campaign was also conducted in 10 vulnerable districts, and 35 narco dog checks were carried out at inter-state and inter-district borders to curb drug trafficking, he added. Prasad said that 96 aware-

ness activities were conducted across 91 villages and 27 wards from January 2023 to March 2024, with 38,973 participants. To strengthen de-addiction efforts in prisons, de-addiction centres have been established in 15 jails. He further said that the State Government has taken a significant step in combating addiction at the grassroots level through the Prahari initiative. At the village and ward levels, a total of 7,523 addicts have been identified and encouraged to seek de-addiction. The Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau, dedicated to addressing substance abuse issues, has provided professional help to 550 individuals, supporting them in their journey towards a drug-free life. The Chief Secretary said that Haryana has 105 de-addiction centres, 21 counseling-centre-rehabilitation centres, and 12 psychiatric nursing homes, all of which are regularly checked for compliance with operational norms. During the 7th SLC NCORD meeting, the Health Department was directed to establish de-addiction treatment facilities in every district hospital. The Education Department and all Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to implement the 'Nav Chetna Modules' to sensitize high school and college students about the dangers of drug abuse. Additionally, 971 investigating officers have been trained in NDPS case investigations, he added. Haryana Home Secretary Anurag Rastogi, Director General Police Shatruej Kapur, Director General Prisons Mohammad Akil, and ADGP OP Singh attended the meeting.

BRIEFS

HIMACHAL CM MEETS J P NADDA SEEKS ADDITIONAL AID FOR BULK DRUG PARK

Shimla: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has urged Union Health Minister J P Nadda to provide additional financial aid for the Bulk Drug Park being developed in Himachal Pradesh's Una. Sukhu called on Nadda in New Delhi during which he highlighted the Congress-led state government's commitment to enhancing the health sector through improved infrastructure and services, an official release issued here on Thursday said. The chief minister requested him for additional financial assistance for the Bulk Drug Park, citing its critical role in the state's economic development and its potential to generate local employment opportunities. He emphasised the need for state-of-the-art medical technology in hospitals to reduce the need for residents to seek advanced medical care outside the state. The Bulk Drug Park is proposed to come up on 570 hectares of land at an estimated cost of Rs 1,923 crore. He also demanded funds for completing the infrastructure and other pending works at medical colleges in Nahan, Chamba and Hamirpur. Sukhu said quality medical education is being imparted to students in Himachal Pradesh and urged him to support graduating medical students, especially nurses, in finding placements within the country and abroad. The Union minister assured of all possible assistance to the state from the Centre.

HIMACHAL MET WARNS OF HEAVY SHOWERS IN 4 DISTRICTS ON JUL 21

Shimla: The weather office in Shimla Thursday issued an 'orange' alert warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning in isolated areas of Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra and Mandi districts on July 21. It also issued a 'yellow' alert of heavy rains across the state on July 19, 20 and 22, and cautioned of damage to plantations, horticulture and standing crops, vulnerable structures, kutcha houses and huts, besides disruption in traffic and waterlogging in the low-lying areas. The state has witnessed heavy rains since Wednesday. Dharamshala recorded the highest down-pour at 143 mm, followed by Ghamroor with 53 mm, Baijnath with 36 mm, Olanda with 32.2 mm, Palampur with 22.4 mm and Kangra with 19.5 mm, according to the meteorological office. Since the onset of the monsoon on June 27, the state has suffered losses to the tune of Rs 186 crore and 31 people have died in rain-related incidents, according to the state emergency operation centre. Kukumseri in Lahaul and Spiti recorded a minimum temperature of 10.4 degrees Celsius, the lowest in the state, while Bilaspur was hottest during the day at 37.9 degrees Celsius.

PHYSICAL MEASUREMENT TEST FOR MALE CONSTABLES IN HRY TO CONTINUE UNTIL JULY 23

Chandigarh: Haryana Staff Selection Commission Chairman Himmat Singh on Thursday said that for the 5,000 male constable (general duty) posts in Haryana Police, a total of eight times the number of candidates will undergo the Physical Measurement Test (PMT). Following this, a PMT schedule for 1,000 posts of female constable (general duty) will also be released. Eight times the number of candidates relative to the number of posts will be called for the PMT, he added.

RS 17 CRORES ALLOCATED FOR RENOVATION OF 1000 ANGANWADI CENTRES IN HARYANA: ASEEM GOEL

Chandigarh: Haryana Women and Child Development Minister Aseem Goel on Thursday announced that the buildings of Anganwadis will be repaired as needed, and new buildings will be constructed in several villages. In the first phase, Rs. 17 crore have been released for the repair and renovation of 1000 Anganwadi buildings. He mentioned that in the future, while the existing infrastructure of Anganwadis will be strengthened, new buildings for Anganwadis and the establishment of Panjiri plants will also be undertaken. Besides this, a multipurpose departmental building will be constructed in Ambala.

KHATTAR UNVEILS BOOK 'WIRED FOR SUCCESS'

New Delhi/Chandigarh: At New Maharashtra Sadan, Union Minister for Power and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday unveiled the book 'Wired for Success' authored by Haryana Director General of Police Shatruej Kapur. The book chronicles the transformation of Haryana Power Distribution Corporations from substantial losses to robust profitability. Reflecting on his tenure beginning in 2014 as Chief Minister, Khattar described the dire state of Haryana's power companies, with only 105 villages receiving 24-hour electricity and outstanding bills exceeding Rs. 7,000 crore. He emphasised that not paying electricity bills had almost become a norm in rural areas. However, under his administration, this situation was addressed comprehensively.

BJP GOVT IN HRY HAS BECOME A GOVT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONG

Jind/Chandigarh: Senior Congress leader and Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda on Thursday alleged that the BJP government in Haryana has become a government of announcements. Instead of making empty statements, the BJP should talk about its work in the last 10 years, and seek votes from the people on the basis of the work done, he added. Deepender carried out a padyatra in Julana assembly constituency from the old grain market to the old bus stand via the market under the 'Haryana Mange Hissab' campaign. He said the BJP's central leaders are coming to the state, but instead of listening 11 works of their government, the Chief Minister of the state is asking 11 questions to Congress and Hooda ji. Deepender said that the state government's works are worth 25 paise, and the announcements are worth 10 Rupees, he alleged.

WORKSHOP ON 'THREE NEW CRIMINAL LAWS' IN MODEL JAIL, CHANDIGARH ON NELSON MANDELA DAY

Chandigarh: An event in honour of Nelson Mandela Day, 2024, a step towards inmate's reformation was organized in the Model Jail, Chandigarh in collaboration with the Institute of Correctional Administration, Sector 26. Activities such as Poster Making Competition, Note on Best use of Time in Prison were organized in the jail for the inmates. A workshop on Mental Health: Problems & solutions with Special Reference to Drug De-addiction and Three New Criminal Laws Awareness camp was organized by the District Legal Services Authority. Navjeet Klair, CJM-Cum-Secretary, DLSA, UT Chandigarh, Dr. Rahul Chakravarty, Consultant Psychiatrist & Assistant Professor Department of Psychiatry PGI and Professor (Dr.) Jyoti Rattan Legal Aid Clinic & Pro-Bono Club Incharge, Department of Laws, P.U., Chandigarh provided awareness regarding three New Criminal Laws, Mental Health: Problems & solutions with Special Reference to Drug De-addiction.

PUNJAB POLICE ARRESTS OPERATIVE OF BKI-MODULE; ONE PISTOL RECOVERED

Chandigarh/Amritsar: A member of Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)-backed terror module has been arrested. Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said on Thursday, adding that the module is being operated by USA-based wanted terrorist Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passian—a close aide of designated terrorist Harwinder Singh alias Rinda, along with his Italy-based associate Resham Singh. The arrested accused has been identified as Vikramjit Singh, a resident of Ghanyee Ke Kangar in Batala. Police teams have also recovered one .32 bore pistol along with two magazines, nine live cartridges and one empty bullet shell from his possession, besides impounding his Royal Enfield Motorcycle. Yadav said that State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) Amritsar had received an intel input that Happy Passian along with his associate Resham Singh is planning a major criminal activity in Punjab and for this purpose, they have tasked their foot soldier Vikramjit Singh, who was travelling towards Chamrang Road, Amritsar on his Royal Enfield motorcycle. Acting swiftly, the team of SSOC Amritsar cordoned off the specified area and apprehended accused Vikramjit Singh, he said, while adding that during search, police teams have recovered a pistol along with ammunition from his possession.

Aam Aadmi Party to contest all 90 seats in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the Assembly elections in Haryana, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday said it would contest all 90 seats in the state and is fully prepared for the electoral battle.

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, flanked by Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann and National General Secretary (Organization) Dr Sandeep Pathak, said that AAP will fight the Haryana Assembly polls strongly.

The AAP had contested the recent Lok Sabha elections in alliance with its INDIA bloc partner Congress. While the Congress won five of the nine Lok Sabha seats it contested, the AAP unsuccessfully contested the Kurukshetra seat.

Haryana Congress leaders, including Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Udai Bhan, have hinted that the party might go solo in the assembly polls, with both saying that it is capable of contesting all 90 seats on its own.

Addressing a press conference, Singh targeted the BJP government in Haryana over the issues of unemployment, law and order, and the Agnipath scheme. "Today, there is an industry of extortion in Haryana. We saw how farmers were crushed during their agitation. Unemployment is also a big problem in Haryana," he said. "Terming the Agnipath scheme an 'insult to the Army', he said, "Will the Army run on contract?" The scheme should be rolled back and the AAP will raise this issue ahead of the polls.

Singh further said, "In



Haryana, they replaced (former chief minister) Manohar Lal Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini. But people are wise, they will not be fooled and will give them (BJP) a reply in the polls." Sandeep Pathak, who is the AAP's national general secretary (organisation), asserted that the AAP will come to power in Haryana. "If anyone has any doubt about how the AAP will fight the Haryana polls, I want to make it clear once and for all that we will fight the upcoming elections in such a manner that the world will see. We will contest all seats and form the government," he said. He said the AAP held "Badlav Jansamvad" meetings in 6,500 villages and in these meetings, people talked of only one thing -- change. "On July 20, we will hold a town hall meeting in which Kejriwal's guarantees will be announced," Pathak said. Asked if the AAP will fight the Haryana polls in alliance with its INDIA bloc partners, he said, "We will contest all 90 seats." Chief Minister Mann said during AAP leaders' visits to different parts of Haryana like Rohtak, Sonapat and Jind, people said they wanted 'badlav' in

Pb Agri Minister bats for early approval to next-Gen BG cotton seed to tackle pest attacks

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Expressing deep concern over pest attacks, especially pink bollworm and whitefly attack on cotton crop, Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian on Thursday sought Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's personal intervention in speeding research and approval to the Next Generation BG-3 cotton seeds. Khudian, who called on the Union Agriculture Minister Chouhan at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi, apprised that current generation BG-2 cotton need to be changed by an advanced seed to make this crop resistant to pest attacks. Meanwhile, Khudian thanked Chouhan for granting approval to the State Agricultural Statistics Authority (SASA) as this Authority would be a boon to strengthen the planning, monitoring, evaluating, research, and development in the field of agriculture in the state.

Punjab Agriculture Minister also apprised the Union Minister about the state's agrarian concerns, including implementation of Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme, release of funds under RKVY, incentives to manage paddy straw and consistent and continuous supply of fertilizers and subsidy on wheat seed replacement scheme. Raising the state's major concern regarding the CRM

scheme, Khudian said that the Central Government has changed the funding pattern of CRM scheme to 60:40 (Centre:State) in FY 2023-24, which was earlier 100 per cent centrally sponsored. He urged the Union Minister to reinstate the 100 per cent central funding for the CRM scheme keeping in view the contribution of Punjab to national food security. He also sought incentive on a per acre basis as compensation to farmers in lieu of the additional cost to be incurred on management of paddy straw.

Also bringing into his notice that shortage of phosphatic fertilizers generally occurs during the Rabi season, Khudian appealed him to direct the concerned authorities to ensure the continuous supply of the same in this season.

Adding further, Khudian said that about Rs 20 crore are being invested annually under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme as per the ICAR policy to replace 33 per cent seed every year. "However, the GoI has stopped this assistance on wheat seed, which need to be continued for the larger interest of feeding the ever-increasing population of the country," he Punjab Agriculture Minister, who was accompanied by the state's Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture) KAP Sinha, Agriculture Director Jaswant Singh, and other senior officials of the department.

Pb Vigilance Bureau arrests Assistant Sub Inspector for taking Rs 10,000 bribe

Chandigarh: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) on Thursday arrested Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Gurmeh Singh, posted at police station Ferozepur city for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000. An official spokesperson of the state VB said he was arrested based on a complaint lodged by Raj Kumar, a resident of Balluana, district Ferozepur. The complainant approached the VB and informed that a police case was registered against his brother Madan Lal, ASI, in the Ferozepur city police station in July 2023 and the aforementioned ASI Gurmeh Singh was investigating officer (IO) in this case. He further alleged that Gurmeh Singh had taken Rs 10,000 at the time of filing this case against his brother. Afterwards his brother died in an accident and the said IO Gurmeh Singh has to submit a report in the court about the demise of his brother so that the family could apply for government job on compassionate basis.

Punjab Police unveils 'Behind the Badge' initiative to bridge community gap

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In a groundbreaking initiative to demystify the lives of the men in uniform and bring people closer to them, the Punjab Police is set to unveil the personal stories of its officers and grassroots personnel. This new series, aptly titled "Behind the Badge: Punjab Police Stories," aims to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community by showcasing the human side of those who protect and serve.

With a focus on humanizing the force, this initiative presents officers not just as enforcers of the law but as everyday heroes navigating challenges with honesty and dedication. The series attempts to shift the narrative from the perceived image of ruthless officers to highlighting their roles as honest, dedicated individuals living lives similar to those who protect and serve.

The state Director General of Police, Gaurav Yadav, unveiled the teaser of this initiative on his official Twitter handle on Thursday, stating, "Ever wondered what drives your local police officer? Our 'Behind the Badge' initiative shares inspiring stories of #courage, #commitment & #compassion....We're more than just uniforms! Get to know us better & let's build a stronger community together! An initiative by @PathankotPolice."



This out-of-the-box initiative seeks to portray officers not just as law enforcers, but as individuals with families, dreams, and everyday struggles. Through heartfelt accounts, the public will witness the sacrifices, triumphs, and unwavering commitment that define their service. "Our main focus will be to show the basic stories... Obviously, we will also be showing the stories of our officers, but primarily we will be telling the stories about the police personnel at the grassroots," Pathankot Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Suhail Qasim Mir told The Pioneer. SSP Mir elaborated that the series will begin with narratives from Pathankot, but will eventually showcase stories from the

entire police force as the name says, "Punjab Police stories." "Through this, we want to tell people that the police is one among us... and not some other," he added. The series will feature short videos published on official social media platforms, each providing insights into the lives of officers, their journey to joining the police force, and their motivations. It will also offer an inside look at the daily challenges and risks they face, highlight significant accomplishments and moments of pride in their careers, and share stories of perseverance, resilience, and overcoming adversities. "Through these personal stories, we want to humanize the police force, showcasing their dedication and the chal-

lenges faced by personnel on duty and at home in their family life, besides highlighting the sense of duty and compassion that drives them," SSP Mir said. By leveraging the power of social media, especially among young people, the initiative seeks to increase community engagement and support for the police force. Creating a platform for officers and personnel to share their experiences will help promote a positive image and encourage empathy and understanding from the public. Furthermore, stories of courage, commitment, and compassion will serve as inspiration not only to the community but also to other officers within the force. This initiative aims to foster empathy and understanding among the public by sharing these stories on social media platforms. It will serve as a window into the lives of those who serve, encouraging mutual respect and community support. "Behind the Badge promises to be a compelling series that brings the community closer to the police force by highlighting the human side of law enforcement. Through this initiative, we hope to build stronger community ties and foster a deeper appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices of our police force," said SSP Mir, crediting the entire Pathankot Police team as the creative force behind this initiative.

Youth in Haryana getting Govt jobs through transparent process: CM Saini



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that youth in Haryana are getting government jobs through a transparent process. An environment has been created in the State where children from poor backgrounds are now being appointed to positions such as HCS Officer and Inspector in the police department. This changed environment in the state has instilled hope in the youth that they can now get government jobs based on their hard work and merits, he added. Speaking as the chief guest at the Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh in the auditorium of Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College, Karnal, the Chief Minister said that the government has also taken strict action against corruption. Even senior officers involved in corruption are not being

spared. The Chief Minister also honored around 300 meritorious students who secured first, second and third positions at the state and district levels in the Class X and Class XII of the Haryana Education Board, Bhiwani, by giving them medals and certificates of appreciation, and wished them a bright future. Saini said that the State Government has not only strengthened the basic infrastructure of education but has also brought significant changes to schools. He mentioned that good teachers are present in government schools as they pass several tests to become teachers. The government is continuously improving the quality of education, and a new education policy has been formulated by the central government. The State Government is also making radical changes in the education sector in line with the new education policy.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I. No.14941730M Rank: Hav/Clk (SD) Name Jayanta Saikia R/o village Gedarbori No.1 Post office Chakalaghat Distt. Nagaon (Assam), PIN 782142, Unit HQ SQN 98 Armed Bde (2 MECH INF) C/o 56 APO, have changed Date of Birth of my Father Suneswar Saikia from 25-11-1946 to 09-12-1952 due to wrongly entered in my service record.

I. No.14941730M Rank: Hav/Clk (SD) Name: Jayanta Saikia R/O Village Gedarbori No.1 Post office Chakalaghat Distt. Nagaon (Assam), PIN 782142, Unit HQ SQN 98 Armed Bde (2 MECH INF) C/o 56 APO, have changed Date of Birth of my mother Bhanu Saikia from 11-03-1960 to 30-12-1961 due to wrongly entered in my service record.

I. Nagammal Amaresan is Mother of No. JC-820682Y Rank Sub Name Dhanasekaran A Unit of 7 INF Div PRO Unit C/o 56 APO Residing of 42, old Street, Arcot, Taluk, Tirimi, vellore State Tamil Nadu PIN 632512 Declare That my Nagammal Wrongly written in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Nagammal Amaresan in my Aadhar Card.

I. M Anjali, Spouse of No. JC 286419W Rank NB SUB (AIG) Name Movva Venkateswara Rao, Unit of 330 FD Regt C/o 99 APO Pin 926330 Resident of Village Puttavariapalem Post & Tehsil Santhamagalur District Prakasham State Andhra Pradesh PIN 523302 have changed my name from MAnjali to Movva Anjali Vide Affidavit Dated 17 July 2024 before At Notary Ferozepur.

I. Seema Spouse of No. 14656139X, Rank Hav Name Baidyanath Kumar, Unit of 806 FWC, 607 EME BN Resident of Village Korat Post Sundar Patti, Tehsil Pakaridayal District East Champaran State Bihar Pin 845414 have changed my name from Seema to Seema Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 17 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I. Sunil Kumar Gurjar Son Of No. JC-482343N, Sub, Makhan Lal Unit 17 Rajput C/O 56 APO, And Resident At Village And Post Dalpatpura Tehsil Neemkathana, District Sikar, State Rajasthan, Pin 332718, India, Have Changed My Name From Sunil Kumar To Sunil Kumar Gurjar Vide Affidavit Dated 18 July 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I. No. JC-482343N, Sub, Makhan Lal Unit 17 Rajput C/O 56 APO, And Resident At Village And Post Dalpatpura Tehsil Neemkathana, District Sikar, State Rajasthan, Pin 332718, India, Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Rahul To Rahul Kumar Vide Affidavit Dated 18 July 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I. Army No. 2611865W, Hav M. Ajai Sharma Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO PIN-911428 Ferozepur Cantt, Resident at H.No. 4/15, Vinayagar 5th Cross Street, Rajaji Nagar, Villivakkam, Chennai, (TN) PIN 600049, declare that my Son A Pranav date of birth in my service record is 22 July 2012 which is wrong & my son correct date of birth is 22 June 2012. Hereafter, my son date of birth will be 22 June 2012 for all purpose.

I. Army No. 2608181P, Hav, L Vasantha Babu Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt, Resident at Vpo. M Kallupatti, Elumalai RF, Madurai, (Tamil Nadu) Pin 625535 have changed my Daughter Name in all documents From Heera to Heera V Vide Affidavit Dated 18 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur Hereafter, my daughter name will be Heera V for all purpose

I. Rupali Kengar, Spouse of No. 14677250P Rank Hav Name Kengar Raju Ambadas, Unit of 607 EME BN Resident at Post Neknor Tehsil & District Beed State Maharashtra Pin 431125 Declare that in my Husband Army Service Records my name Rupali Kengar & Date of birth 04 March 1993 is Wrongly mentioned. But Actual and Correct my name Kengar Rupali & Date of birth 11 January 1993.

I. Renu Sharma W/O Aman Sharma R/O H.No.:29 Street No:02 Left Kundan Nagar Sharma Shuttering Wali Street Ferozepur City have changed my name to Reenu Bala.

I. Lakhwinder Kaur Sidhu Wife of Gurpreet Singh R/o Village Khilchi Qadim Tehsil & Distt Ferozepur have a changed my name to Lakhwinder Kaur.

I. Gurpreet Singh Son of Boota Singh R/o Village Khilchi Qadim Tehsil & Distt Ferozepur have a changed my minor Daughter name from Shubpreet Kaur Sidhu to Shubpreet Kaur.

I. Sukhwinder Pal Puri s/o Satpal Puri R/o Betu Qadim Distt. Ferozepur have Changed my name from Sukhwinder pal Puri to Sukhwinder Pal.

I. Bhupinder Pal Singh Sachdeva S/o Satwath Singh R/O H.No. 48, Street No. 14, Gobind Pura, PO Rayon and Silk Mills, Amritsar, Punjab-143104 have changed my name from Bhupinder Pal Singh Sachdeva to Bhupinder Pal Singh.

I. Ishandeep Singh Sachdeva S/o Bhupinder Pal Singh R/O H.No. 48, Street No. 14, Gobind Pura, PO Rayon and Silk Mills, Amritsar, Punjab-143104 have changed my name from Ishandeep Singh Sachdeva to Ishandeep Singh.

I. Balbir Singh S/o Karam Singh Vill.Mohanpur, Karah Sahib, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my given name Balbir Surname Singh.

I. Amar Jeet Singh S/o Karnail Singh Vill.Jurasik Khurd, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my name Amarjit Singh to Amar Jeet Singh.

I. Bhajan Singh S/o Gurmakh Singh R/o Hariagarh Bhorakhs tehsil Pehowa Kurukshetra, Have Changed My Given Name Bhajan Surname Singh

I. Din Mohammed S/O Sahajiyah Mallick R/O 28/07, Gadharia Mohalla, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed My Name Din Mohammed Mallick.

I. Simerjeet Kaur And Simerjeet Kaur W/o Jagir Singh R/O Mangna Thana,Kurukshetra Both Are Same Name And Person.

I. Yashpal Singh S/o Surat Singh Vill. Kalsa, Tehsil Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed My name Yaspal Singh.

I. Lakhwinder Singh S/o Mukhtiar Singh Vill. Julmat, Tehsil Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed My name Lakhwinder Singh.

I. Purnima Dev is mother of No 15791269K Nk Sukanta Deb, serving in unit 128 AD MSL Regt. c/o 56 APO have change my name from Purnima Dev to Purnima Deb.

I. Sukdhamoy Dev is father of No 15791269K Nk Sukanta Deb, serving in unit 128 AD MSL Regt. c/o 56 APO have change my name from Sukdhamoy Dev to Sudhamoy Deb.

I. Daljit Kaur mother of No 2503063H Nk Jagdeep Singh R/O Santu Wala, Tehsil Zira, Ferozepur, PB, my name wrongly entered as Daljeet Kaur in my son service record my correct name is Daljit Kaur.

I. Aman S/o Mehfouz R/O H.No.80 B, Janak Nagar, Basti Sheikh, Jalandhar, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Aman To Aman Salmani (Salmani as Surname)

I. Tamanna Bagga w/o Rohit Bagga r/o H.No. 59/A, New Deol Nagar, Near SP Prime School Jalandhar have changed my name from Tamanna to Tamanna Bagga, after marriage.

I. Arshdeep d/o Ishwar Singh R/o VPO Phindla, Patti Sahani ki, Tehsil Phindla, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Arshdeep to Arshdeep Thapar, all concerned note.

I. Rimpy W/o Sukhdeep Singh R/O Vill. Chakrala, Po. Mustfapur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Rimpy to Rimpy Sahota.

I. Manoj Kumar Batra S/o Ashok Kumar Batra R/O H.No.747, Guru Hargobind Nagar, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala have changed my name from Manoj Kumar Batra to Manoj Batra.

I. Rachhpal Singh S/O Balkar Singh R/O Village Virak, PO Athwal, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Gurdaspur. Have changed my name from Rachhpal Singh to Rachhpal Singh. Concerned note.

I. Bali Masih S/o Samma Masih Vill: Panwan Tehsil Kalanaur Distt: Gurdaspur have changed my Minor Son Name Vishal to Vishal Masih.

I. Naresh Siwach S/o Satbir R/O VPO Gorakhpur Distt Fatehabad (Haryana) PIN-125047 have changed my mother's name from Maya Devi to Maya due to wrong name recorded in my Army service vide affidavit before Notary Public, Gurdaspur dated 18.07.24.

I. Jasbeer Kaur w/o Baldev Singh r/o VPO Dorangla Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab)-143526 have changed my name from Jasbeer Kaur to Jasbir Kaur. Concerned note.

I. Sukhjinder Singh S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O Jalal Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Sukhjinder Singh.

I. Udha Singh S/O Budh Ram R/O H.No.1048, Block-A, St.No.4, Bhai Himmat Singh Nagar Dugri Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Udhe Singh.

I. Romita W/O Jatinder Mahajan R/O H.No.24, Dhandra Road Khanna Colony Dugri Basant Avenue Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Romita Mahajan.

I. Jatinder S/O Darshan Lal R/O H.No.24, Dhandra Road Khanna Colony Dugri Basant Avenue Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Jatinder Mahajan.

I. Manav S/O Jatinder Mahajan R/O H.No.24 Dhandra Road Khanna Colony Dugri Basant Avenue Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Manav Mahajan.

I. Rahul S/O Krishan Chand R/O H.No.226, Street No.3 Near Basti Jodewal Kailash Nagar Janta Colony Ludhiana Have Changed My Name As Rahul Masih.

I. Narinderjeet Kaur W/O Gurmeet Singh R/O Dhanal Khurd Dhanal District Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Narinderjeet Kaur To Ninderjit Kaur.

I. Ravinder Kaur Rajput W/O Balwinder Singh Rajput R/O Ward No.12, Agwar Sidhuan Da Dharamkot Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Rajwant Kaur Rajput.

I. Jasvir Lal S/O Pritu Ram R/O Vpo. Madhopur District Kapurthala Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Jasvir And My Surname As Lal.

I. Deepak S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O H.No.476 St.No.4 Subhash Nagar, Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name To Deepak Singh.

I. Ranjit Singh Alias Randhir Singh S/O Gurjit Singh R/O Vpo. Ajnoha Tehsil Garhshankar District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Ranjit Singh.

I. Sanjana Munger W/O Rajinder Kumar R/O Vpo. Nangal Shahidan District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Sanjna Saini.

I. Pammi W/o Veer Chand R/O Vill: Chahal Teh-Balachaour (SBS Nagar) have changed my name from Pammi to Pammi Rani.

I. Amritpal Singh S/o Amrik Singh R/o VPO Wadala Kalan, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, I have changed my name to Amritpal as given name and Singh as surname.

I. Bhupinder Singh Dhaliwal S/O Bhola Singh Village Behnival ,Tehsil And District Samna Changed My Name To Bhupinder Singh.

I. Mamta Rani W/O Jaipal Vill.Nardru, Post Office Kauli Distt Patiala Have Changed My Name From Mamta Rani To Mamta.

I. Mohini W/o Mastan Singh R/O B-22, MCH-357, Street No. 20, Moh. Tibba Sahib Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Mohani Saini.

I. Lakhwinder Singh Dhillon S/o Gurdev Singh R/O H.No. 166 Jhal Nagari Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Lakhwinder Singh.

I. Jaswinder Singh Bhuhi S/O Avtar Singh R/O Jatpura (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jaswinder Singh.

I. Swarn Singh R/O Mohan Singh R/O Gondwal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Swaran Singh.

I. Naseeb Kaur W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Jhandiana Garbi (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Nasib Kaur.

I. Sarabjeet Kaur W/O Avtar Singh R/O Chandbhan (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Sarbjeet Kaur.

I. Anmol Singh S/O Jagdish Singh Dhillon R/O Jaitu (Faridkot) Have Changed My Given Name To Anmol And Surname To Singh.

I. Hoshiar Singh S/O Sarwan Singh R/O Kalgidhar Colony Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my minor son name from Shivam to Shivam Choudhary.

I. Binder Singh S/o Lal Singh R/o Village Faizgarh, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Balwinder Singh.

I. Hardamnan Singh Aujla S/o Kehar Singh R/O H.No.49, Sunny Enclave, Amloh Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Hardamnan Singh.

I. Jasdeep Singh S/O Paramjit Singh R/o Village Shamashpur (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Jasdeep Singh Dhaliwal.

I. Navnish Kumar S/o Amar Singh R/O 414, Neroi District Etah (Uttar Pradesh) have Changed my name to Shiv Kumar.

I. Sayyam S/O Pawan Kumar R/O Ho. No. 15 Mohalla Jadrion Pathankot Tehsil and Distt Pathankot have changed my name from Sayyam to Sayyam Seotra.

I. Amrik Singh Saini S/O Kulwant Singh R/O #169-F Seona Chowk Ranjit Nagar Patiala Have Changed My Name To Amrik Singh.

I. Seema Rani W/O Rajinder Kumar R/O House No. 281, St. No. 5, New Bishan Nagar, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Sima Rani.

I. Ankit S/O Gurprek R/O Village- Namoli (Har), Namoli, Datarpur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144222, Have Changed My Name To Ankit Pathania.

I. Neetu D/O Jatinder Kumar And W/O Varinder Kumar Lekhi R/O House No-176, Salem Tabri, Lakshmi Puri, Ludhiana, Central Post Office, Ludhiana Punjab - 141008, Have Changed My Name To Namita Lekhi.

I. Km. Shalini Patel @ Shalini Patel W/O Rohit Chadha R/O #611 Harinder Nagar Patiala Have Changed My Name To Shalini Chadha.

I. Jagdish Kaur Lally W/O Piara Singh Lally Resident Of Village Barwa, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab-144516, India Have Changed My Name From Jagdish Kaur To Jagdish Kaur Lally.

I. Piara Singh Lally S/O Darshan Singh Resident Of Village Barwa, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab-144516, India Have Changed My Name From Piara Singh To Piara Singh Lally.

I. Gurdinder Kaur Brar W/O Jaspal Singh R/O VPO-Ittan Wali Distt- Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Gurdinder Kaur.

I. Jaspal Singh Brar S/O Gursewak Singh R/O VPO-Ittan Wali Distt- Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Jaspal Singh.

I. Jaya Singla Wife Of Nitish Gupta Resident Of House No. 184 Street No. 02, Ferozepur Cantt Have Changed My Name To Jaya Gupta.

I. Kuldip Kumar S/O Jagdish Rai Resident Of Bura Gujjar Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Kulddeep Kumar.

I. Manju Setia W/O Kuldeep Kumar Resident Of Bura Gujjar Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Manju Bala.

I. Trivinder Kaur W/O Kulddeep Singh R/O Vill. Kalpi sub tehsil Mullana distt. Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Trivinder Kaur to Tarvinder Kaur. Concerned note

I. Sukhjit Singh S/o Kulddeep Singh R/o Vill. Kalpi sub tehsil Mullana distt. Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Sukhjiet Singh to Sukhjiet Singh . Concerned note

I. Ved Pal S/o Rajveer Singh R/o 541 Defence Colony Sector A Tundla , Tundla (46) Ambala Kalarehri that I have changed my name from Ved Pal to Ved Pal Singh surname to Singh . Concerned note

I. Pinki Rani W/o Gulshan Kumar R/O H.no. 90 VPO Derasalimpur tehsil Barara Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Pinki Rani to Rani Pinki and surname to Rani. Concerned note

I. Sheela Devi W/o No. 3170821K Ex Hav Dharam Pal Singh resident of VPO Bhaiansru Khurd, District Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my son name & date of birth in my husband's Army records from Sonu Sehrawat (Existing Name) To Sonu (Proposed New Name) My son correct/actual DOB is 20.08.1997 instead of 21.05.1997 as per my son Matric Certificate, Aadhaar Card. In future my SON shall may be known/written and called as Sonu (DOB : 20.08.1997) for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated July 2024 before 1st class magistrate district. Rohtak

I. Vikra Devi is Mother of Army No -18023039N Rank-Spr Name- Ishwar Singh, Presently Posted At Unit:57 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address New Khalsi, New Khalsi, Khalsi, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand-249196 Declare that i have Changed my name From Vikra Devi To Bikra Devi. Vide Affidavit No-54AA 510423, Dated: 18/07/24

I. Balu is Father of Army No -15575071X Rank-Hav Name-Yelpale Janardan Balu, Permanent Address vill-Ajanale, Tehsil-Sangola, Distt-Solapur, Maharashtra 413308 Declare that in my Son's service record my name wrongly Recorded as Balu but my Correct Name is Balu Shamvar Yelpale. Vide Affidavit No-54AA 510421, Dated-18/07/24

I. Reenu, spouse of Naresh Kumar Rana resident of House No 990A, Sector 47A, Chandigarh-160047 have changed my name from Reenu to Reenu Rana vide affidavit dated 18/07/24 before M.S Sangwan District Court Panchkula Haryana

I. Sarubai is Mother of Army No-15575071X Rank-Hav Name- Yelpale Janardan Balu, Permanent Address vill-Ajanale, Tehsil- Sangola, Distt-Solapur, Maharashtra 413308 Declare that in my Son's service record my name wrongly Recorded as Sarubai but my Correct Name is Sarubai Balu Yelpale. Vide Affidavit No-54AA 510420, Dated- 18/07/24

I. Om Parkash Sharma S/O Late Sh Parmanand Sharma R/O EWS 248 A SF, DLF Valley, Sector-3, Pinjore, Panchkula, Haryana-134107 Have Changed My Name From Om Parkash Sharma To Om Prakash.

I. No.15626323K NK Manswarup resident of Village-Lakhasar, Post-Lakhasar,Tehsil-Shri Dungargarh, District-Bikaner, State- Rajasthan, Pin-331811, have changed my son name from Prince to Prince Choudhary Vide affidavit No.IN-PB3693735860715W dated 18 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. Chandrika Devi Mother of No.15614077X Hav Sukeshkumar G resident of Village- Vellarada, Post-Vellarada, Tehsil- Neyattinkara, District- Trivandrum, State-Kerala, Pin-695505, have changed my name from Chandrika Devi to Chandrika S Vide affidavit No.IN-PB36871526062091W dated 18 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. No.JC-405700L Rank Sub Name Satya Prakash resident of Village- Kasampur, Gali No 25 , H. No.140/20 Post office. Kanker Khera, Tehsil-Meerut, District- Meerut, State-U.P, Pin code- 250001, have changed my son name from Yash to Yash Saini Vide affidavit No.IN-PB36871526062091W dated 18 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. Shivnand Yaligar resident of Village- Awaradi, Post-Awaradi, Tehsil- Ramdurg, District- Belgaum, State-Karnataka, Pin-591127, have changed my Mother name from Laxmbai to Laxmbayi Shrishail Yaligar vide affidavit No.IN-PB36869172108003W dated 18 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. Gurmral Kaur Mother of No.4487495X NK Gursangat Singh resident of VPO- Mehlana, Tehsil- Sunan, District- Sangur, State- Punjab, Pin-148001, have changed my name from Gurmral Kaur to Gurmali Kaur Vide affidavit No.IN-PB36869734778585W dated 18 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. No.15812228W Hav Karun Kumar resident of Village-Basant Vihar, Post- Basdeopur, Tehsil-Munger, District- Munger, State- Bihar, Pin-811202, have changed my Daughter name from Kritika Shri to Kritika Shree Vide affidavit No.IN-PB36937789035721W dated 18 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. No.15798149N NK (DMT) Yogendra Kumar resident of Village- Vaina, Post- Vaina, Tehsil- Khair, District- Aligarh, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-202165, have changed my son name & date of birth in my husband's Army records from Sonu Sehrawat (Existing Name) To Sonu (Proposed New Name) My son correct/actual DOB is 20.08.1997 instead of 21.05.1997 as per my son Matric Certificate, Aadhaar Card. In future my SON shall may be known/written and called as Sonu (DOB : 20.08.1997) for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated July 2024 before 1st class magistrate district. Rohtak

I. JC-820312Y Sub (Clk/SD) Sanjay Kumar Pandey resident of Village- Tilahara, Post- Balwarganj, Tehsil-Machhalishahar, District-Jaunpur, Pin-222201, U.P. have changed my mother's name from Tara Devi to Tara and DOB from 01 July 1954 to 01 Jan 1955 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB362036624201W dated 16 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. JC-820312Y Sub (Clk/SD) Sanjay Kumar Pandey resident of Village- Tilahara, Post- Balwarganj, Tehsil-Machhalishahar, District-Jaunpur, Pin-222201, U.P. have changed my mother's name from Tara Devi to Tara and DOB from 01 July 1954 to 01 Jan 1955 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB362036624201W dated 16 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I. Vikra Devi is Mother of Army No -18023039N Rank-Spr Name- Ishwar Singh, Presently Posted At Unit:57 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address New Khalsi, New Khalsi, Khalsi, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand-249196 Declare that i have Changed my name From Vikra Devi To Bikra Devi. Vide Affidavit No-54AA 510423, Dated: 18/07/24

I. Balu is Father of Army No -15575071X Rank-Hav Name-Yelpale Janardan Balu, Permanent Address vill-Ajanale, Tehsil-Sangola, Distt-Solapur, Maharashtra 413308 Declare that in my Son's service record my name wrongly Recorded as Balu but my Correct Name is Balu Shamvar Yelpale. Vide Affidavit No-54AA 510421, Dated-18/07/24

USP



Bank of Baroda donates 164 units of blood on its 117th Foundation Day

Bank of Baroda has been organizing several CSR activities every year on the occasion of its Foundation Day on 20th July. In the same series, this year on the 117th Foundation Day of the Bank, a blood donation camp was organized by the Regional Office Chandigarh in Sector 17B Regional Office premises , in which the bank employees and other customers donated a total of 164 units of blood. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma , Deputy General Manager (Business Development) and Mr. Baljeet Singh , Assistant General Manager from the Zonal Office expressed their appreciation for this initiative of the Bank. Regional Head Mr. Mukhtar Singh (Deputy General Manager) told that the Bank has been organizing such social activities, in this series, this year also Bank of Baroda is organizing many programs on its 117th Foundation Day, out of which a blood donation camp was organized today in which everyone participated enthusiastically, in the coming days , programs like plantation of trees , bicycle rally etc. are being organized.

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Pin: L65191KL1931PLC000368

NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002, (hereinafter referred to as Act) r/w Rule 3(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

- Mr. Ramandeep Sharma S/o Mr. Dharampal Sharma**, Proprietor of M/s Aakar Rolls Manufacturing Industries (formerly known as M/s Global Metals),
a) Sai Mandir Street, Cantt Road, Nabha, Punjab- 147201,
b) House No. 1/315, Street No. 1, Near Patiala Gate, Dasmesh Colony, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201,
c) House No. 315, Vishkarma Colony, Aloahra Gate, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201,
d) Mrs. **Parveen Lata W/o Mr. Ramandeep Sharma**,
e) House No. 1/315, Street No. 1, Near Patiala Gate, Dasmesh Colony, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201,
f) House No. 315, Vishkarma Colony, Aloahra Gate, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201.

The 1st of you as principal borrower and 2nd as guarantor/co-obligant/ mortgagor availed of from our Bank's Nabha branch credit facilities i.e.

- Federal Housing loan (FHS) with number 21757300000023 of ₹29,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Nine Lakh only) on 21.03.2016 for the construction of house/villa/falt,
- Cash Credit (CC) limit with number 21755500000322 of ₹30,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh only) on 31.03.2017 and subsequently renewed/enhanced for various dates and finally for ₹1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore only) on 07.01.2023 for the purpose of working capital requirements,
- General Business Vehicle loan with number 21756900000011 of ₹6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh only) on 04.04.2019 for purchase a brand-new vehicle and
- Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) loan with number 21756900000086 of ₹1,35,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand only) on 21.03.2023 for working capital requirements (to meet any unforeseen business exigencies caused due to Covid-19 pandemic),

for business activities/working capital requirements of the proprietorship of 1st of you carrying on business, in the name and style of M/s Aakar Rolls Manufacturing Industries (formerly known as M/s Global Metals), after executing necessary security agreements/ loan documents in favour of the Bank.

A. Towards the security of the aforesaid credit facilities availed from the Bank, you have created security interest in favour of the Bank by way of hypothecation in respect of the following movable properties.

Description of Hypothecated Movable Properties

- Hypothecation of stocks stored at Nabha/premises / godown/elsewhere and book debts. (Charged to [b] and [c] above)
- Hypothecation of Mahindra Bolero PIK-UP FB PS 1.7T LX, Colour - White, Chassis Number - MA12U2TBKK1C2



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Bill of woes

Karnataka Govt puts local job quota bill on hold after the State's IT industry reacts strongly

The Karnataka government has put on hold a bill requiring reservations for locals in the private sector following significant backlash from the industry. The Government will reconsider the bill before presenting it to the state Assembly. This decision came just hours after the state cabinet approved the bill, which proposed reserving 50 per cent of management positions and 75 per cent of non-management positions for Kannadigas in the private sector. The Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories, and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, was to be presented in the Assembly on Thursday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, along with his ministers, praised the bill, emphasising their "pro-Kannada" stance and stating that their main priority is to "ensure the welfare of Kannadigas." However, the bill met with tough resistance from the IT industry that criticised the bill, arguing that it would hinder the growth of the tech sector in Bengaluru and negatively affect the IT industry in Karnataka. The rationale behind the bill was to address the high unemployment rates among the state's residents and to ensure that local talent is given priority in job opportunities within Karnataka.

But industry leaders felt that a quota system for locals would hinder the ability of companies to hire the best talent available, potentially compromising their competitiveness and productivity. Besides, if implemented this bill would have legal and constitutional issues. The bill could violate the right to equality and freedom of movement, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution and could face significant hurdles in courts, leading to prolonged legal battles. Furthermore, the proposed

bill raised concerns about increasing regionalism and social tensions. It was feared that such a policy could create divisions between locals and non-locals, leading to a less cohesive society and potential conflicts. According to a report by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI), Karnataka's overall unemployment rate is 2.7%, which is lower than the national average of 4.2%. But these figures hide the low employability of the local populace. But to correct it with populist measures is not the best solution. Instead of mandating job reservations, the Government should focus on improving education and skill development programs for locals. Enhancing the quality of education and providing better vocational training could empower local youth to compete effectively in the job market. Now that the bill has been withdrawn it could come back later in a different form. The decision to put the bill on hold has significant political implications. The Karnataka Government has averted a standoff with the IT industry and other businesses but it may disappoint its support base which was expecting job opportunities. Nonetheless, suspending the bill will likely reassure businesses and investors. But the Government will have to focus on providing employable skills to locals, so that they could get employment in Karnataka's IT industry.

PICTALK



Shia Muslim mourners participate in an Ashura (10th Muharram) procession, in Mirzapur

PTI

Religion and politics in modern India

Today, as memories of Partition fade with each passing generation, the intertwining of religion and politics continues to shape the nation's discourse



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

A community is also known for the issues it raises and seeks to debate. The national narrative over the last 100 years or more has been severely overloaded with religious contention. India is probably the only country in the world that got its independence with conditions in which the imperial power worked assiduously to debate/impose decisions in areas that were subjected to be tackled with the investiture of independence. The open threat and use of bloodshed in many parts of the sub-continent while sorting out such issues in the days preceding independence made the matter particularly gory. It was in many ways reminiscent of a civil war instigated for various reasons. Perhaps it will take still more time to coolly reflect on what happened, where and how, and indeed if it was at all avoidable. Interpersonal relationships, intertwined with religious overtones spilt over the streets and private homes in a matter which still makes one wonder how a noble cause of independence could so inextricably get mixed up with pre-disposed religious zeal and interpretation. Experience showed that partition did not solve the problem but only split the problem into two pieces. The two independent states of India and Pakistan are still to rise beyond the echoes of what happened. The price paid at the human level cannot be comprehended through the aid of books, cinematography, or visuals. As the generation that experiences it gradually passes away, the tremors of partition remain. This cannot be done well as a method of problem-solving for contentious issues. One wonders if the realization is sufficiently around to the effect that 'enough is enough'. The hatchet needs to be buried before the agony continues to reign with many real forms of misery. The subject is not just one of emotions, but how it has affected the very concept of nation-building in many ways, big and small. This cannot be the place to hope



for some permanent therapies or solutions. That may well prove to be more than a lifetime and generational effort. However, what can be done is to create certain awareness, which helps to restore a greater sense of balance and strengthen sanity all around. Election after election and contention after contention somehow veers around to undertones of communal issues. This is avoidable if a consensus can be built up not to go public with statements and actions on issues that are essentially communal. Many countries of the Third World broke away from the yoke of imperialism through the 20th century and beyond. In many cases, there was an undertone of violence that persisted. There was violence over race, there was violence over ideology, there was violence over the protagonist of the Cold War, but nowhere in the world was the post-independence issue so intertwined as an undercurrent with communalism as in the case of the sub-continent. Even a casual look at much of the media and listening to much of the media's drumming up of concerns shows how much of communication time is spent on overtones of communal concern. This is



A LEGITIMATE QUESTION THAT NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD IS WHETHER ANYONE GAINING BY BRINGING RELIGION SO WIDELY INTO THE POLITICAL PROCESSES. IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE RELIGION BE A MATTER OF FAITH AND POLITICS A MATTER OF CONTROL OVER GOVERNANCE?

avoidable because it does not help development and it does not strengthen equity. Indians are known to be bright, intelligent, and have long traditions of intellectual excellence, which many parts of the world have not only recognized but gained strength from. To put it simply, a broad question can be asked: is it possible to freeze all talk from communal concerns as a public issue and let the concerns embedded in it be tackled only at the inter-community level? This needs to be done without blowing it up as a regional or national issue which begs support from communities that may not have even understood what was being debated. Whether Faizabad election results were determined by the nature and quantum of compensation to the communities is something on which the jury is still out. This issue needs to be understood in greater depth. However, one can avoid converting these concerns into fanning communally backed political support. In other words, can one simply delink religion from politics so that religion remains a matter of faith and politics deals with the struggle for control of the decision-making process?

A legitimate question that needs to be understood is whether anyone gaining by bringing religion so widely into the political processes. Is it possible to have religion be a matter of faith and politics a matter of control over governance? All political talk needs to avoid reference to religion, if for nothing better than avoiding emotiveness and irrelevant dissipation of energy. Political discourse can deal with economics, sociology, even history, and more, anthropology can be brought in, and so can industrialization and agriculture, but avoid drawing in religious loyalties, and emotions. Attempts to draw upon eschewed fervour with self-defeating orientation need to be stopped. An attempt to eliminate communalized political narratives and contentions may be an option worth considering. Some nations have successfully achieved this, and while they may be experiencing various forms of violence, violence stemming from religious loyalties is not their failing. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A CALL FOR ACTION

Madam — It is disheartening to note that four army personnel sacrificed their lives fighting terrorists in Doda district, Jammu. This cowardly attack must be condemned in the strongest terms. Our intelligence sources seem unable to effectively address the challenges in Jammu & Kashmir, leading to repeated attacks on our army. Despite the brave efforts of the army in counterinsurgency operations, the situation is worsening, with increasing casualties. This raises serious questions about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's abrogation of Article 370, which was intended to bring peace to the valley.

There is a clear lack of coordination between the State and Central governments, and a trust deficit between local people and the army, contributing to these escalating attacks. It is high time for Prime Minister Modi to act decisively rather than relying on empty assurances, as ground realities are more precarious than they appear. This failure is not only an intelligence issue but also deeply demoralizing for our armed forces, who are currently engaged in counterinsurgency operations while also keeping vigil over Ladakh's sovereignty. The increasing attacks are eroding the morale of the troops and causing immense grief to their families. The government must prioritize tangible actions over rhetoric to ensure the safety and security of our soldiers and restore faith among the local population.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Japaiguri

DO NOT IGNORE ENGLISH

Madam — Encouraging the use of one's mother tongue and regional languages is important, but it's equally crucial to ensure that English education is not neglected from childhood. English provides citizens, regardless of age, gender, or profession, with global opportunities in education, employment, business, and services. No state should impose any regional language on

Age-defying sportspersons



If technology is rapidly transforming our lives, can we overlook the role of competitive sports? Uncertainty is the only constant in world-class sporting events. Recent years have shown that age is no barrier to success.

students. Instead, offer alternatives such as arts, computers, and English literature. This approach is especially considerate for students from families frequently relocated due to transfers, sparing them the burden of learning multiple new languages. Prioritizing scientific subjects will benefit both the nation and the world in the future. Moreover, emotional ties to language should not lead to interstate conflicts or frequent changes in the names of streets, villages, towns, cities, and states, as this results in unnecessary expenditures and administrative confusion. Language should serve as a tool for communication, fostering a civilized, scientifically advanced, and happy society characterized by excellent health, peace, prosperity, progress, and success. An inclusive and optimistic outlook, embracing the principle of "live and let live," is essential for universal development. By prioritizing practical education and unity, we can ensure a brighter future for all.

PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secunderabad

Athletes like Serena Williams, Novak Djokovic, MS Dhoni, Tiger Woods, Rohan Bopanna, James Anderson, and recently, Lionel Messi, continue to outperform younger competitors. Their success can be attributed to advancements in medical science, financial support, rest, temperament, a balanced diet, exercise, a positive attitude, and a relentless passion for their sport. Lionel Messi, despite participating in four major tournaments including the 2016 Copa America without victory, finally triumphed in this year's final, proving his skill and defying age. He has recreated the magic that Diego Maradona brought to soccer. We hope he continues to adapt and maintain his enthusiasm and spirit.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

SC'S BENCH FOR MONEY BILLS

Madam — It's good that the Supreme Court has accepted to form a constitutional bench to look into the controversial issue of money bills in parliament. The money bills do not need to get approval of Rajya Sabha as they may be connected to urgent financial affairs of the country. Of late, it has become a practice for the Government which doesn't have majority in Rajya Sabha to introduce and get passed some bills as financial bills in parliament in order to bypass the close vetting by Rajya Sabha. The Aadhaar Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act have been passed in that manner, attracting criticism from many. Now the highest judiciary would step in to clear the air in this regard. The executive should respect the constitutionally mandated role of the legislature in true spirit. This move is essential for maintaining the delicate balance of power.

DVG Sankara Rao | Vizianagaram

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The harsh reality of child labour in rural Bihar



NISHA SAHANI

Despite Government efforts, the economic realities force families to make children work, often resulting in their exploitation

Baiju (name changed), an 11-year-old boy from Telia village in Kudhni block, 22 km from Muzaffarpur in Bihar, wakes up every morning like other children. However, instead of going to school, he heads off to work as a labourer, a burden he has borne for the past three years. Baiju, who belongs to the Mahadalit community, used to attend school. Life changed after his father's death, as he was forced to drop out of school and start working to support his family. He explains that his mother's meagre income is not enough to sustain the six members of their family. Consequently, he had to give up his education and begin working. She does not have enough money to educate her children, forcing her to send Baiju to work.



Children can be found working in domestic services, tea shops, and brick kilns. In India, child labour is more prevalent in rural areas compared to urban ones. Children from socially and economically disadvantaged communities are often compelled to work in these areas, stripping them of their fundamental right to education and perpetuating the cycle of poverty. This not only obstructs their education but also hampers their overall development. Children should be in school and playing, not toiling as labourers. Pinki Devi (name changed), a 45-year-old resident of Telia village, has two children who have left school to work as labourers. She explains that her husband, a daily wage labourer, is often ill. In such a situation, it became impossible to support the family with his income

alone, forcing her to send her children to work. Social worker Phuldev Patel points out that children from the most economically vulnerable Dalit and Mahadalit communities are predominantly involved in child labour. The dire economic conditions of their households compel them to abandon their education and start working. He asserts that the actual number of child labourers is significantly higher than what official statistics reveal.

The government provides free books, notebooks, uniforms, and mid-day meals under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education to encourage children to attend school. However, the harsh economic realities overshadow these provisions, pushing children into labour. He further notes that human traffickers exploit this vulnerability, selling children as labourers in other states. Local journalist Amritanjali observes that, like Telia village, there are numerous remote rural areas in Muzaffarpur where children work as labourers. He notes that the government may not have official statistics

on this issue because it is carried out in a highly systematic manner. Although the strict child labour laws and the vigilance of the local administration have reduced the rate of child labourers in recent years, it has not been entirely eradicated. Even today, children can be seen working in brick kilns, tea shops, grocery stores, construction sites, and as domestic helpers. As in previous years, this year too, the World Day Against Child Labor was observed on June 12 in India and around the world. When children in a society begin working as labourers at a young age instead of attending school, it prompts deep introspection within that nation and its society. They must confront why a child is forced to abandon books for labour. When a child's right to childhood, is denied, and they are thrust into labour, they endure physical, mental, and social exploitation, transforming their childhood into one marred by labour—an ordeal known as child labour.

(The author is a grassroots writer from Bihar. Views expressed are personal. Charkha Features)



FIRST COLUMN

FALLOUT OF TRUMP'S ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

It could have far reaching implications for the US presidential elections and the US politics



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

A week is a long time on the volatile chessboard of global affairs, however, the recent assassination attempt of former United States of America President Donald Trump would leave a deep impact on future courses of action. While several European leaders and some in the Middle East have been subjected to violent life-threatening attempts in the recent past, the bullet grazing past former president Trump's ears has left a shrill range of questions for world leaders. It may be too early to predict whether the assassination attempt would translate into a landslide victory for Donald Trump who is facing a rematch with current President Joe Biden in the November polls.

The Democrats in the US are a divided lot, with many leaders, internally questioning President Joe Biden's pitch for a second shot to the Oval Office, given his several public gaffes related to his age. Most of the public debates in the US and several other think tank zones across the world, have been debating President Biden's mental alertness and, if elected for a second time he would be able to complete his full four-year term. Any midway change due to a severe illness, which is being anticipated, would be a dampener for the US President's bid for a second run. Much like in every significant democracy, including India, the electorate in the US is a divided lot, with a deep gorge running right through the middle of the supporters of Trump and Joe Biden. The Democrat's attack on Trump and his supporters has been on the lines similar to what the opposition parties in India rallied around, during the recently concluded parliamentary elections.

The key message to their voters is to save the country from dictatorial forces (Trump/PM Modi), who will upend the constitution under their larger-than-life cult status leaders. This created a rift in the electorate, in an already ruptured society, constantly fed with an ocean of information primarily on social media, sending conflicting versions of the same events. Politics and rhetoric apart, it would be an interesting prism to watch the social messaging playing out with Trump coming back to the battlefield (election campaigns), after, he left the stage in Pennsylvania, with an iconic raised fist, and the US flag flying in the background. The pic-



ture is likely to define the resilience of the US democracy for a long time to come. Mr Trump in his few interviews, seems to have humbled down from the life-altering event, where he almost ended up being in the coffin rather than the Oval Office. It would be worthwhile to watch out if the former President sobers down on some of his key manifesto items such as immigration and freedom to choose (including the right to possess firearms for self-protection).

Immigration would be a closely watched topic from a global perspective, including India, where the largest chunk of immigrants land on US shores through legal or illegal routes. Donald Trump's Vice President choice JD Vance has a spouse who is a PIO. His wife's parents are immigrants from Andhra Pradesh and in a way, the choice defines the pluralistic nature of American Society. It would be a long shot to assume that if Trump gets a second term, his views and policies on immigration would be sobered due to his VP. Similarly, a Trump comeback could have a far-reaching impact on bilateral trade relations especially with India.

One may argue that India has bipartisan support in Washington DC on several defence and technology partnerships, carefully nurtured over a decade by PM Modi. PM Modi is perhaps the only PM, who has worked with three US Presidents in the last decade and is likely to see one of his former friends either Trump or Biden coming back in November. It may be uncertain times, however, the past relationships and promise for securing the future of the Indo-Pacific should be a super glue to hold India's US relationship under a new regime.

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

Rising political violence and struggles in the US



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

The attack on Donald Trump underscores the nation's turbulent political climate raising concerns about the stability of American democracy and society.

Is the United States hurtling towards an internal civil war? Alex Garland's recent film 'Civil War', which premiered earlier this year, depicts a fictional yet chillingly plausible scenario of such a conflict. This leads us to consider whether the repercussions of US-initiated wars in recent decades, aimed at maintaining supremacy, now echo ominously at home, haunted by the spectres of those who perished globally. That is the inexorable wheel of karma. The shocking assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, thrusts this issue into stark relief. In the aftermath, numerous conspiracy theories swirled around the incident, casting a spotlight on secret agencies whose heads have publicly voiced criticism against Trump. A police sniper had photographed the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, just half an hour before the 20-year-old opened fire on Trump during the rally, suggesting multiple missed opportunities to prevent the attempted assassination, as reported. Despite the attack, Trump's political stature has only strengthened, evidenced by his selection of Republican Senator JD Vance as his running mate for the 2024 presidential election. Once a vocal critic of Trump, Vance now stands as a staunch ally, vigorously defending him and endorsing his policies. The incident, which reshaped Trump's political narrative—where a bullet grazed his ear—left him wounded but resolute. This assault, though shocking, accentuates a longstanding history of political violence in the United States, a phenomenon entrenched since the nation's inception. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, was the first to be assassinated, shot by John Wilkes Booth in 1865. Lincoln's support for Black rights during the Civil War, marked by the Emancipation Proclamation, has been cited as a motive for his assassination. Subsequent presidents, including James Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy, also fell victim to such violence, with Garfield being shot in 1881, McKinley in 1901, and Kennedy in 1963.

Each of these assassinations profoundly impacted the nation and its political structure. Political violence has not been confined to presidents alone. Presidential candidates like Robert F. Kennedy and George C. Wallace were also targeted, with Kennedy being killed in 1968 and Wallace being left paralyzed in 1972. Presidents like Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan survived assassination attempts, highlighting the persistent threat of violence in American politics. The United States today exemplifies how a state structure can deteriorate when policymakers focus more on external affairs, neglecting internal issues. For instance, the fentanyl crisis devastates U.S. communities, with toddlers and infants increasingly falling victim to the potent opioid, which is 50 times stronger than heroin, according to public health experts. While adults account for the majority of fentanyl-related deaths, more children under 5 are either dying or ending up in emergency rooms after testing positive for the drug, due to accidental ingestion or exposure at home. The number of child overdoses has surged even as overall drug overdose rates in the country have declined recently. California leads in total fentanyl deaths, with 6,473 reported in 2022, while West Virginia has



the highest death rate per capita. This is a prime example to understand how the internal structure is falling apart. This cannot be stopped by exporting ammunition stocks and advanced weaponry to Ukraine and Israel through front channels while to other proxy wars in Africa and elsewhere through back channels. In societies, the root issue often isn't just institutions but the erosion of core values. Without a cohesive value system, managing politics becomes daunting.

This dilemma arises: while progress demands new values, preserving core societal values is crucial for stability and harmony. Neglecting this balance risks societal chaos and moral crisis. The inevitable decline, akin to the setting sun, cannot be halted by force alone. The political climate in the United States reflects the consequences of its global actions, suggesting a looming downfall through unpredictable events. Trump is a product of long-standing policies that have often ignored domestic ramifications.

He represents a symptom, not the cause, of the systemic issues within American politics, stemming from a history of exploiting other nations at the expense of the American public. Needless to say, engaging in political violence is fundamentally misguided and counterproductive. What Americans are slowly leading into what American decision-makers have executed throughout the world in recent history at the expense of unarmed civilians. Taking someone's life, regardless of their role or perceived wrongs, is morally indefensible. Whether it's a political adversary, a troublesome neighbour who's pushed you to the edge, a stranger evoking fear, or anyone else who has crossed your path, resorting to violence only perpetuates harm and suffering without resolution.

However, the Trump assassination attempt raises numerous unanswered questions. There is no indication that gunshot detectors were in use at the rally, although

such detectors can rapidly triangulate and locate a shooter. The shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, used a gun that was legally purchased by his father, which he had access to at a gun range the previous Friday. Questions arise about whether the gun was bought specifically for him, as Pennsylvania law allows 20-year-olds to buy guns. Reports state the shooter was identified by DNA, suggesting family members provided samples. Additionally, the reports suggested that no effort was made to obscure the gun's serial number, and the shooter had recently purchased 50 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition.

Preliminary acoustic evidence suggests the potential involvement of multiple shooters in the incident aimed at Trump. Initial gunfire originated from the shooter's position, with subsequent bursts detected from unidentified sources, as reported by news sources. Despite Secret Service snipers reportedly firing a single shot to neutralise the threat, discrepancies with acoustic evidence persist, necessitating further scrutiny of ballistic recordings for clarity. Questions arise over security failures allowing a 20-year-old to breach measures and reach a rooftop near Trump, firing multiple shots. Thomas Matthew Crooks, identified as the primary shooter, raises speculation about a potential second shooter. Described as a loner without a social media presence, Crooks' unexpected role and the presence of explosives in his vehicle suggest possible exploitation.

Criticism of rally security focuses on inadequate building coverage, allowing the shooter an unimpeded view of Trump, and exposing significant security vulnerabilities. These shortcomings emphasise systemic flaws in pre-event security protocols and the need for rigorous reforms. Political violence, however, has rarely solved the issues it aims to address, often creating a climate of fear and leading to further crackdowns on dissent. Historically, such violence

has only resulted in cycles of disaster, undermining the causes it purported to support. What we can see is that nihilism pervades American culture, dealing a fatal blow to its cultural and spiritual development. This decline in values undermines democracy itself. Democracy, while liberating individuals from traditional constraints, necessitates self-judgement—a task hindered by the erosion of traditional Western values. Without a genuine guiding societal value system, the state structures of any nation inevitably falter in fulfilling their role in shaping individual decisions.

The collapse of collective ideas correlates closely with societal institutions and behaviours. As Wang Huning, a leading Chinese political theorist, argued in his book "America Against America," "The American spirit confronts profound challenges, compounded by the younger generation's unfamiliarity with traditional Western values. This spiritual shift raises critical questions about its impact on societal development and governance." The viability of any social system hinges not solely on legal frameworks but on collective belief in fundamental values guiding behaviour. If these values falter, the sustainability of the social order is called into question. The attempt on Trump's life demands a reevaluation of rhetoric and policies that normalise political violence. The incident calls for a reevaluation of gun laws and the broader societal acceptance of violence as a means to resolve conflicts. All sides of the political divide must recognise the danger of escalating violent rhetoric and its potential to incite further violence. This incident serves as a wake-up call to address the deeper issues within American society and politics, emphasizing the need for a shift towards reasoned discourse and humane policies. Ironically, America has been compelled to a point where it can't afford to lose Trump.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views are personal)



THE ATTEMPT ON TRUMP'S LIFE DEMANDS A REEVALUATION OF RHETORIC AND POLICIES THAT NORMALISE POLITICAL VIOLENCE. THE INCIDENT CALLS FOR A REEVALUATION OF GUN LAWS AND THE BROADER SOCIETAL ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE AS A MEANS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS

RTI implementation faces challenges as the CIC is short of staff

Despite the formation of a new government, vacancies remain unfilled, exacerbating delays and overwhelming the few remaining commissioners

On September 13 last year, the Central Information Commission (CIC) admitted a second appeal from this columnist under Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005. The appeal, apart from seeking imposition of penalty on the CPIO, for denial of information, also contained a few relevant suggestions for better implementation of the Act. However, on November 6, Ms Saroj Punhani, the Information Commissioner who dealt with cases for that particular ministry retired at the end of her tenure. On the same day Uday Mahurkar, another Information Commissioner retired, whereas their colleague Suresh Chandra had retired two days earlier. Several other



PRIYADARSHI DATTA

Information Commissioners like Ms. Vanjana N. Sarna, Neeraj Kumar Gupta and Dr. Amita Pandove had retired earlier last year at the end of their respective tenures. Y. K. Sinha, the Chief Information Commissioner, retired on October 3 whereupon Heeralal Samariya, the Information Commissioner was elevated to the position of Chief Information Commissioner. The total strength of the

Commission plummeted to a mere three by the end of 2023, from the maximum permissible ten at the beginning of the year. Even after the formation of the new government last month, little interest has been shown in filling up the vacancies that exist.

The reduction in the strength of the Commission has led to a proportionate overload of second appeals and complaints at CIC Bhawan. The second appeal of this columnist, already pending for ten months, is likely to see an indefinite waiting period. The outcome could hardly be compared with a long wait in the judiciary. Information is fragile, and prone to obsolescence faster than justice. This is where this columnist's suggestions would have helped. In his

limited experience as an RTI activist since 2010, he has found the CPIOs (Central Public Information Officers) generally share the information dutifully. However, where they do not, the Appellate Authority, who are generally their senior officers in the department/ministry is of little help.

They collude with their juniors to suppress the information, apparently in exchange for favours/obligations in office politics. Uday Mahurkar, as Information Commissioner, reportedly disposed of 5056 RTI appeals in 2021-22, the highest since the year of enactment of the RTI Act, 2005. However, it is equally a reflection of the utter non-performance of the Appellate Authority. Had those cases

been satisfactorily disposed at the stage of the first appeal, within the department itself, there was little need for approaching CIC with a second appeal. Information could be suppressed for a variety of reasons. In rare cases, it could be that the CPIO has committed some action in his substantive capacity (as Section Officer or Under Secretary) which he wants to be probed. In the instant case, a person has been blacklisted, on trumped-up charges, despite not having any financial dealing with the ministry.

The blacklisting order was signed, though with approval of competent authority, by the CPIO in his substantive capacity as Under Secretary. When asked to provide the file notes, complaints if any, rules posi-

tion violated he deflected the matter saying the file was under submission (there is no such ground for denying information under the RTI Act, 2005 even if the file is submitted with the PMO or Rashtrapati Bhawan).

This columnist requested the same information after the lapse of a year (thanks to the appeal pending for months in CIC) only to find that the file was still "under submission"! The conclusions are obvious. On both occasions, the First Appellate Authority, who is an IAS officer, helped the cause of suppression rather than transparency. Under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 there is a provision for a penalty on the CPIO not exceeding Rs.25,000 for unjustified denial of information to the applicant. There

is, however, no penalty for the First Appellate Authority recognizably failing in his duty or acting in a mala fide manner. Endowing a member of the executive with quasi-judicial power without any scope of disciplinary proceedings is bait for misuse of power.

The CIC notice for hearing of appeal is sent only to the CPIO and not the First Appellate Authority. The fear of dressing down by the Information Commissioner, in front of the CPIO, who is a junior officer, will ensure the integrity of action on the part of the First Appellate Authority.

Disciplining the First Appellate Authority is the key to reducing the load of pendency at the Central Information Commission's desk. The gov-

ernment has recently decided to commemorate June 25 as "Samvidhan Hatya Divas", a queer-sounding name, in memory declaration of Emergency in 1975.

Whereas the Emergency might have been anti-democratic, it was in itself not unconstitutional being declared under Article 352. If the government is interested in deepening democracy in the 21st century then rhetoric like "Samvidhan Hatya Divas" or even "India Mother of Democracy" will not work if the CIC's strength is curtailed. The RTI Act, of 2005 was a major tool for transparency, accountability and governance. (The writer is an author, independent researcher and RTI activist based in New Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

Vance promises to fight for working-class Americans

PTI ■ MILWAUKEE

US Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance praised former president Donald Trump and promised to fight for working-class Americans "cast aside and forgotten" by the Democrats, as he made his debut at the Republican National Convention.

Vance, 39, formally accepted the Republican vice-presidential nomination on the third day of the convention on Wednesday, making him among the youngest Americans to ever fill that role.

Introducing himself to millions of Americans, the Ohio Senator channelled his humble roots in the Midwest as he assailed politicians like President Joe Biden.

Trump and his running mate Vance will challenge President Biden and his Vice-President Kamala Harris from the Democratic Party in the November 5 presidential election. Vance said for the last eight years, President Trump has given everything he has to fight for the people of our country.

Trump didn't need politics, but the country needed him, he said.

"Prior to running for president, he was one of the most successful businessmen in the world. He had everything anyone could ever want in life. And yet, instead of choosing the easy

path, he chose to endure abuse, slander, and persecution," he said.

The author of the best-selling memoir *Hillbilly Elegy*, about his impoverished family, said "America's ruling class" had destroyed communities like his hometown with trade agreements and foreign wars. "From Iraq to Afghanistan, from the financial crisis to the Great Recession, from open borders to stagnating wages, the people who govern this country have failed and failed again," he said.

Trump represents America's last best hope to restore what – if lost – may never be found again, he said.

"I pledge to every American, no matter your party, I will give everything I have," Vance said. "To serve you and to make this country a place where every dream you have for yourself, your family and your country will be possible once again."

He accused "career politicians" like President Biden, 81, of destroying communities like his with ill-fated trade policies and foreign wars.

"When I was in the fourth grade, a career politician by the name of Joe Biden supported the North American Free Trade Agreement, a bad trade deal that sent countless good American manufacturing jobs to Mexico. When I was a sophomore in high school, a career politician by the name of Joe Biden gave China a sweet-

heart trade deal that destroyed even more good middle-class jobs. And when I was a senior in high school, Joe Biden supported the disastrous invasion of Iraq," he said.

"And at each step of the way, in small towns like mine in Ohio, or next door in Pennsylvania, or in Michigan and other states across our country, jobs were sent overseas and children were sent to war. Somehow, a real estate developer from New York by the name of Donald Trump was right on all of these issues while Joe Biden was wrong. Donald Trump knew, even then, that we need leaders who would put America First," he said.

Vance said Trump's vision is simple: "We won't cater to Wall Street, we'll commit to the Working man. We won't import foreign labour, we'll fight for American citizens."

The United States under the leadership of Trump will protect the wages of American workers and stop the Chinese Communist Party from building their middle class on the backs of hard-working American citizens.

He said Biden and the other out-of-touch politicians in Washington gave Americans a country that was flooded with cheap Chinese goods, cheap foreign labour and deadly Chineseentanyl.

"Joe Biden screwed up, and my community paid the price," Vance alleged.

'Next American pres has heart of lion'

Milwaukee (PTI): Donald Trump Jr has asserted that his father's instinct in the face of an assassination attempt has shown the world that the "next American president has the heart of a lion".

Addressing the Republican Party's once-in-four-year convention here on Wednesday night, Trump Jr, said that the assassination attempt on his father on Saturday "once seemed unimaginable became a terrifying reality." Trump, 78, survived an assassination attempt at a campaign rally on Saturday in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear. The shooting left one spectator dead and two others critically injured. The 20-year-old male attacker was also shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service. "They say you can't truly know how you'll respond in a moment of danger until you're actually confronted with it," the 46-year-old eldest child of the former president, said.

"So what was my father's instinct, as his life was on the line? Not to cower, not to surrender, but to show for all the world to see that the next American president has the heart of a lion," he said, a day ahead of Donald Trump's acceptance speech as the Republican Party's nominee in



the November 5 presidential election. He said the world saw a spirit that could "never be broken". "In that moment, my father didn't just show his character, he showed America's character when he stood up with blood on his face and the flag at his back. The world saw a spirit that could never be broken," Trump Jr, a businessman said. He said the US came "milles away" from one of its darkest moments.

"A brave firefighter died, others were injured, and as those bullets rained down, we came milles away from one of our nation's history," he said. He said after the assassination attempt, the Republican pres-

idential candidate "may have moved to the ground, but he stood back up." "And when he did, my father raised his fist into the air. He looked out at the crowd, and what did he say?" he asked the audience. "We will fight, we will fight, we will fight with our voices," Trump Jr said, adding that they will fight with their votes in November. The Republican convention on Monday nominated Trump as the party's presidential nominee against incumbent Democratic President Joe Biden. Trump's eldest granddaughter Kai Madison Trump also spoke at the convention in support of her grandfather. In her first public speech, the 17-year-old promised to "share the side of my grandpa that people don't often see." "To me, he's just a normal grandpa. He gets us candy and soda when our parents aren't looking," she said. She described Trump bragging when she had made the honour roll at school and peppering her with questions about her golf game.

Trump's wife, Melania, his daughter Ivanka Trump, son-in-law Jared Kushner and other family members are expected to attend the convention on Thursday in a rare show of public support for the former president as he accepts the

party's nomination for the president's post, CNN reported, citing sources.

Donald Trump takes the stage Thursday at the Republican National Convention to accept his party's nomination again and give his first speech since he was cut off mid-sentence by a flurry of gunfire in an assassination attempt at a rally in Pennsylvania. Trump's address will conclude the four-day convention in Milwaukee. He appeared each of the first three days with a white bandage on his ear, covering a wound he sustained in the Saturday shooting. His moment of survival has shaped the week, even as convention organisers insisted they would continue with their programme as planned less than 48 hours after the shooting. Speakers and delegates have repeatedly chanted "Fight, fight, fight!" in homage to Trump's words as he got to his feet and pumped his fist after Secret Service agents killed the gunman. And some of his supporters have started sporting their own makeshift bandages on the convention floor. Speakers attributed Trump's survival to divine intervention and paid tribute to victim Corey Comperatore, who died after shielding his wife and daughter from gunfire at the rally.

'Biden tests positive for COVID-19'

Milwaukee (PTI): US President Joe Biden has tested positive for COVID-19, halting his campaign at a critical juncture in the presidential election when he was facing increasing pressure about his health and concerns about his viability as a candidate.

"I'm sick," Biden, 81, wrote on X. Biden tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, disrupting a key campaign event in Las Vegas meant to shore up support with Latino voters.

"He is vaccinated and boosted and he is experiencing mild symptoms, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

Biden has returned to his home in Delaware where he will self-isolate and will continue to carry out all of his duties fully during that time. The White House will provide regular updates on the president's status as he continues to carry out the full duties of the office while in isolation, she said.

The president was scheduled to speak at the Unidos event in Las Vegas on Wednesday afternoon.

"His symptoms remain mild, his respiratory rate is normal at 16, his temperature is normal at 97.8 and his pulse oximetry is normal at 97%." The President has received his first dose of Paxlovid. He will be self-isolating at his home in Rehoboth," the White House said.

"I feel good," Biden told reporters, as he boarded Air Force One in Las Vegas to fly back to his beach house in Delaware. He was not wearing a mask, nor were the people closest to him on the tarmac. It's unclear where and when the president contracted COVID-19. But the sudden diagnosis will place him behind closed doors at a time when Democratic lawmakers have been clamouring to see him out front.

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends staying home until the infected person has been without a fever – with no fever-reducing medicine – for at least 24 hours and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours. It then recommends wearing a mask for five days after.

The president's physician, Dr Kevin O'Connor, said that Biden "presented this afternoon with upper respiratory symptoms, to include rhinorrhea (runny nose) and non-productive cough, with general malaise".

The president felt okay for his first event of the day, but given that he was not feeling better, point-of-care testing for COVID-19 was conducted, and the results were positive for the COVID-19 virus, he said.

"Given this, the president will be self-isolating in accordance with CDC guidance for symptomatic individuals. PCR confirmation testing will be pending," the doctor said.

Far-right Israeli minister visits sensitive Jerusalem holy site

AP ■ JERUSALEM/CAIRO

Israel's far-right national security minister visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site on Thursday morning, threatening to disrupt Gaza cease-fire talks. Itamar Ben-Gvir, an ultranationalist settler leader, said he had gone up to the contested Jerusalem hilltop compound of Al Aqsa Mosque to pray for the return of the hostages "but without a reckless deal."

Ben-Gvir said he was pressuring Netanyahu not to give in to international pressure and to continue with the military campaign in Gaza.

The move threatens to disrupt sensitive talks aimed at reaching a cease-fire in the 9-month-old Israel-Hamas war. Israeli negotiators landed in Cairo on Wednesday to continue talks.

Ben-Gvir's visit also came just days before Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leaves for a trip to the United States, where he will address Congress. Ben-Gvir last visited the site in May, to protest countries unilaterally recognizing Palestinian statehood.

Jews and Muslims both claim the Jerusalem hilltop compound, which is considered the

holiest site for Jews. Palestinians consider the mosque a national symbol and view such visits as provocative, though Ben-Gvir has frequently visited the site, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount, during tense periods. Tensions over the compound have fueled past rounds of violence.

Meanwhile, an Israeli delegation has arrived in Egypt to press ahead with cease-fire talks, as Israel and Hamas consider the latest proposal.

That's according to three Egyptian airport officials, who did not provide further details. International mediators are pushing Israel and Hamas toward a phased deal that would halt the fighting and free about 120 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza.

Talks were rattled over the weekend when Israel said it targeted the Hamas military commander in a massive strike. His status remains unclear.

Hamas' Oct. 7 attack sparked the war when militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people – mostly civilians – and abducting about 250. Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 38,600 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry. It does not

distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. Two international courts have accused Israel of war crimes and genocide – charges Israel denies. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people are crammed into squalid tent camps in central and southern Gaza. Israeli restrictions, fighting and the breakdown of law and order have limited humanitarian aid efforts, causing widespread hunger and sparking fears of famine.

Jerusalem — Israel's parliament extended a temporary law which allows the country to shut down foreign media outlets they consider a threat to Israel's security. In a marathon session that lasted until early Thursday morning, the parliament gave final approval to extend the emergency law until Nov. 30.

Israeli officials used the new law on May 5 to close Qatar-based Al Jazeera within Israel, confiscating its equipment, banning its broadcasts and blocking its websites.

Under the law, Israel's Communications Ministry also briefly seized AP broadcasting equipment from southern Israel after accusing it of violating a new media law by providing images to Al Jazeera. The government returned the

equipment to AP several hours later.

A bill that would make the emergency legislation permanent is currently making its way through the Israeli parliament. The draft said a permanent bill is needed because Israel "has faced serious security threats since its establishment and is expected to continue to face them in the future, possibly even more severely." Critics say the measure passed earlier this year is undemocratic and a threat to press freedom.

Israeli strikes kill at least 11 people in central Gaza

Deir Al-Balah — Overnight Israeli strikes Thursday in central Gaza killed at least 11 people, including women and children.

Early Thursday an Israeli strike hit a house in central Gaza, killing at least six people, while another strike later hit a car, killing at least three. The dead were taken to the Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where an Associated Press journalist counted the bodies. Among the six killed in the early strike in Zawaida were two children and two women. The area struck is close to Deir al-Balah, where many Palestinians displaced from across the war-torn Gaza Strip have fled.

Public failed by UK gov't, finds damning COVID inquiry

London (PTI): The British public was failed by the government's planning and processes when the COVID pandemic hit the country in early 2020, a damning independent public inquiry concluded on Thursday and called for "radical reform" for future civil emergencies. In the first of nine reports to be published by the 'UK COVID-10 Inquiry', chair Baroness Heather Hallett said the government prepared for the "wrong pandemic" and called for "radical reform" of the state of the UK's structures and procedures to prepare for future civil emergencies. The UK officially recorded more than 2,35,000 deaths involving COVID-19 up to the end of 2023 and the inquiry report finds that some of that "human cost" may have been avoided had the country been better prepared for the deadly outbreak.

"Never again can a disease be allowed to lead to so many deaths and so much suffering," said Hallett.

"I have no hesitation in concluding the processes, planning and policy of the civil contingency structures across the UK failed the citizens of all four nations.

Court: Closing arguments in espionage trial of WSJ reporter will be Friday

Yekaterinburg (Russia) (AP): Closing arguments in the espionage trial of US journalist Evan Gershkovich will be held Friday, a Russian court said, as the proceedings picked up speed in a case that has seen the reporter held in pre-trial custody for over a year.

Gershkovich attended a trial session for a second day behind closed doors on Thursday, the court said. He faces charges that he, his employer and the US government vehemently deny.

Unlike previous sessions in which reporters were allowed to see Gershkovich briefly before the proceedings began, there was no access to the courtroom and he was not seen, with no explanation given. Espionage cases are typically shrouded in secrecy.

Gershkovich, 32, was arrested on March 29, 2023, while he was on a reporting trip. Authorities claimed, without offering any evidence, that he was gathering secret information for the US. The American-born son of immigrants from the USSR, Gershkovich is the first Western journalist arrested on espionage charges in post-Soviet Russia.

The US State Department has declared him "wrongfully

detained," thereby committing the government to assertively seek his release. Gershkovich faces up to 20 years in prison if found guilty, which is almost a certainty. Russian courts convict more than 99 per cent of defendants, and prosecutors can appeal sentences that they regard as too lenient. They even can appeal acquittals.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Wednesday at the United Nations that Moscow and Washington's intelligence services are discussing an exchange involving Gershkovich, according to Russian state news agency Tass. Russia has previously signalled the possibility of a swap, but it says a verdict would have to come first. Gershkovich's trial began June 26 in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg after he spent about 15 months in in Moscow's notorious Lefortovo Prison.

At the trial's first day, the court said it was adjourning until mid-August. But Gershkovich's lawyers asked for the second hearing to be held earlier, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti and independent news site Mediazona reported Tuesday, citing court officials. The Russian Prosecutor

S Korea's top court recognises some rights for LGBT community

Seoul (AP): South Korea's top court ruled Thursday that same-sex couples are eligible to receive the same health insurance benefits as heterosexual couples, a landmark verdict hailed by human rights groups. The Supreme Court said it ruled that the state health insurance agency's refusal to provide spousal insurance coverage for gay couples was an act of discrimination that violates the constitutional principle of equality. Thursday's ruling is final and cannot be appealed.

"Today's ruling is a historic victory for equality and human rights in South Korea," Amnesty International said in a statement. "The court has taken a significant step towards dismantling systemic discrimination and ensuring inclusivity for all." A legal battle between a gay couple, So Seong-wook and Kim Yong Min, and the National Health Insurance Service began after the insurance agency revoked So's registration as a dependent of Kim, prompting So to file an administrative suit. In 2022, the Seoul Administrative Court ruled in favour of the insurance agency. But in February 2023, the Seoul High Court overturned the earlier verdict, saying that denying So's spousal coverage rights without reasonable grounds was discriminatory because such benefits are given to heterosexual spouses.

Starmer begins post-Brexit 'reset' with EU

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed leaders from the European Union to Oxfordshire in south-east England to initiate a "reset" with the 27-member economic bloc, which the UK is no longer a member of since a referendum in favour of leaving it in 2016. At a meeting of the European Political Community (EPC) in Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Britain's war-time prime minister Winston Churchill, Starmer sought to set a new direction for his Labour Party government's post-Brexit ties with Europe to align on issues such as illegal migration and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Distancing his new government from the previous Conservative Party policies,



the Labour Leader reiterated that the "unworkable" scheme of deporting illegal migrants to Rwanda had been "scrapped" and that the UK will never withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). "The EPC will fire the starting gun on this government's new approach to Europe, one that will not just benefit us now, but for generations to come, from disman-

tlng the people smuggling webs trafficking people across Europe to standing up to [Russian President] Putin's barbaric actions in Ukraine and destabilising activity across Europe," said Starmer. "I take a practical view of how the UK can meet this moment. I'm not driven by ideology – but by what is best for my country. So we will strengthen our existing relationships and we will build new ones. This includes resetting our relationship with the EU... and this summit is an opportunity to set a new path on illegal migration; to transform the way that we work together on border security and law enforcement," he said. Starmer then joined the EPC's Migration Working Group, which included leaders from Italy, Albania, Germany, Malta, Denmark, Hungary, the

Netherlands and Slovakia. Downing Street said the government is redeploying more than 100 Home Office staff from the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) to a new rapid returns unit to take control of the country's borders. This will mean asylum applications from designated "safe" countries, such as India, will be speedily processed and illegal migrants returned to their country of origin.

It comes after the government announced a new Border Security Bill in Parliament on Wednesday to tackle criminal smuggling gangs giving a new Border Security Command counter-terrorism-style powers to disrupt organised immigration crime and ensure smugglers can be prosecuted for preparatory offences such as

supplying materials to facilitate organised immigration crime. "Dangerous small boat crossings are undermining our border security and putting lives at risk. Criminal smuggling gangs are making millions out of small boat crossings. We will work right across Europe to tackle this problem at (the) source, going after those profiting from this awful trade and bringing them to justice," said UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

The EPC is a pan-European meeting of leaders, including the heads of the EU institutions and, for the first time at this EPC, leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have also been included.

Seattle police fire officer who said Indian student killed had 'limited value' fired

New York/Seattle (PTI): A US police officer, whose insensitive comments and laughter following the horrific death of a 23-year-old Indian student had caused outrage, has been fired from the Seattle Police Department.

Jaahnavi Kandula was struck by a speeding police vehicle driven by Seattle Police Officer Kevin Dave as she was crossing a street on January 23 last year. Dave was driving at more than 119 kmph on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. Kandula was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle.

In bodycam footage released by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer was heard laughing after the deadly crash and had remarked: "Uh, I think she went up on the hood, hit the windshield, and then when he hit the brakes, flew off the car... But she is dead." After making these comments, Auderer "laughed hard for four seconds," the department's Disciplinary Action Report said. Auderer's body-worn camera also captured him saying, "Yeah, just write a check. Just, yeah (laughter). USD 11,000. She was 26, anyway. She had limited value."

When asked at an Office of Police Accountability interview about his comments that Kandula had "limited value,"

Auderer claimed he was "ridiculing the city attorneys who would be tasked with litigating a potential wrongful death lawsuit".

Interim Chief Sue Rahr at the Seattle Police Department said in an internal email, seen by PTI Wednesday, that the hurt Auderer's words have inflicted on Kandula's family "cannot be erased. The actions (of) this individual police officer have brought shame on the Seattle Police Department and our entire profession, making the job of every police officer more difficult."

Rahr said that as the leader of the organisation, it is her duty to uphold the high standards necessary to maintain public trust. "For me to allow the officer to remain on our force would only bring further dishonour to the entire department. For that reason, I am going to terminate his employment," she said in the internal email.

Rahr noted that at the root of this case lies an extremely difficult judgment call of how to fairly balance "intent versus impact." "There is no doubt that the named officer's cruel comments and callous laughter about the tragic death caused deep pain to Ms Kandula's family, but also immeasurable damage to the public trust of police in the Seattle community, across the nation, and around the world," she said in the email.

NASA cancels its moon rover mission

Washington (AP): NASA has said that it is cancelling its water-seeking moon rover, citing cost overruns and launch delays.

The Viper rover was supposed to launch in late 2023 aboard a lander provided by Astrobotic Technology, but extra testing and increased costs kept delaying the mission, threatening other projects, the space agency said on Wednesday. The rover had aimed to explore the moon's south pole. About \$450 million had been spent so far on its development,



NASA said. The announcement comes days before the 55th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, which landed Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon on July 20, 1969. NASA said it plans to study the presence of lunar ice through other projects.

Astrobotic still plans to fly its Griffin moon lander — minus a rover — by the end of next year. The company's first moonshot ended in failure in January with a fiery plunge over the South Pacific.

Ursula von der Leyen re-elected as European Commission pres

PTI ■ STRASBOURG



Lawmakers at the European Parliament on Thursday re-elected Ursula von der Leyen to a second 5-year term as president of the European Union's executive commission, giving her a comfortable majority and heading off a possible leadership vacuum. Von der Leyen raised both fists in victory as the Parliament President Roberta Metsola read out the result at the legislature. The re-election ensures leadership continuity for the 27-nation bloc as it wrestles with crises ranging from the war in Ukraine to climate change, migration and housing shortages. A majority in the 720-seat legislature voted for the German Christian Democrat after a speech in which she pledged to be a strong leader for Europe in a time of crisis and polarization. Von der Leyen gained 401 of the 707 votes cast. There were 284 votes against her candidacy, 15 abstentions and seven void ballots. The secret ballot came hot on the heels of strong gains by the far right in last month's election for the European Parliament. "I will never let the extreme polarisation of our societies become accepted. I will never accept that demagogues and extremists destroy our European way of life. And I

stand here today ready to lead the fight with all the Democratic forces in this house," von der Leyen said in her final pitch. If lawmakers had rejected her candidacy, it would leave leaders of the 27-nation bloc scrambling to find a replacement as Europe grapples with crises ranging from the war in Ukraine to climate change. Instead, the continent now has an experienced pair of hands at the helm. In a speech that sought to shore up support from across the political spectrum, von der Leyen pledged to strengthen the EU economy, its police and border agencies, tackle migration and pursue policies tackling climate change while also helping farmers who have staged protests against what they call stifling EU bureaucracy and environmental rules. She also took a swipe at Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and his

recent visit to Russia shortly after his country took over the rotating six-month EU presidency. "This so-called peace mission was nothing but an appeasement mission," von der Leyen said as she vowed that Europe would remain shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine. One radical right lawmaker, Diana Iovanovici-Sosoaca of Romania, was escorted out of the parliament's chamber for heckling a speaker during the debate following von der Leyen's speech. Iovanovici-Sosoaca briefly wore what appeared to be a muzzle and held up religious icons before being led out of the room. Over the past five years, von der Leyen has steered the bloc through a series of crises, including Britain's exit from the EU, the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. She has also pushed a Green Deal aiming to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050. As the debate ended, she told lawmakers: "I hope to have your trust and confidence for the next years. Long live Europe." Von der Leyen's election came as newly elected UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer was welcoming some 45 heads of government to discuss migration, energy security and the threat from Russia as he seeks to restore relations between the UK and its European neighbours. The lead-

ers signed off on the conservative German von der Leyen at a summit meeting late last month. The 65-year-old von der Leyen's bid was boosted when the European People's Party, which includes von der Leyen's Christian Democratic Union, remained the largest group at the EU Parliament after the elections. The German politician has been praised for her leading role during the coronavirus crisis, when the EU bought vaccines collectively for its citizens. But she also found herself receiving sharp criticism for the opacity of the negotiations with vaccine makers. The EU general court ruled Wednesday that the commission did not allow the public enough access to information about COVID-19 vaccine purchase agreements it secured with pharmaceutical companies during the pandemic. Before voting got underway, a majority of lawmakers rejected a motion from a leftist bloc in parliament calling for the election to be delayed until September in light of the court ruling. Following the elections for EU Parliament, European Union leaders agreed on the officials who will hold the key positions in the world's biggest trading bloc in the coming years for issues ranging from antitrust investigations to foreign policy.

Bangladesh govt says ready to hold talks with quota protesters; Army deployed

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh government on Thursday expressed willingness to hold talks with the students protesting against the quota system in jobs after fresh violence erupted across the country as they attempted to enforce a nationwide shutdown over the issue. Authorities deployed Border Guard Bangladesh personnel across the country including the capital, to maintain law and order, the official BSS news agency reported. Addressing a press conference, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government decided to sit in for a dialogue with protesting students and entrusted him and Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury with the task of the discussion. "Whenever they agree, we will sit...it could be held this (Thursday) afternoon even," he said. "Government has agreed to hold talks with the quota reformists," he told journalists at a press briefing. He also said Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the law minister to take the initiative to hold an early hearing of the quota-related case pending with the Supreme Court. He said he has already instructed the Attorney General to take

the initiative on this, and the AG will file an appeal with the Supreme Court on Sunday seeking an early hearing of the case. The government has decided to form a judicial probe committee led by High Court Justice Khandaker Diluruzzaman to investigate the violent incidents that have claimed at least seven lives, including four students. The committee will be formed upon receiving approval from the chief justice. The law minister also requested the protesters to either end or suspend their protest as the government is ready to hold talks with them. Fresh violence erupted in Bangladesh on Thursday after an overnight lull as thousands of students attempted to enforce a nationwide shutdown. Mainstream media and witnesses said the protesters clashed with police, leaving many people injured and prompting people to stay indoors. Owners preferred to keep many shopping malls shut. According to TV footage, riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas canisters to disperse protesters while students aligned with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Awami League confronted them on the

streets with bricks and bamboo sticks. Witnesses said the protesters laid a siege on the state-run Bangladesh Television Bhawan in the Rampura area in Dhaka and damaged its front side while some 1,200 staff, including journalists, were stranded inside. The protesters overnight vowed to enforce a "complete shutdown" after days of demonstrations and violent clashes that left at least seven dead. The seventh death was reported on Thursday in Dhaka. Government offices and banks were open as paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), riot police and elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) patrolled streets in Dhaka and other major cities, but the attendance appeared thin because of limited transport. Many offices asked their staff to work from home. Bus services between Dhaka and the rest of the country were also cut off, with people staying at home. Staff members at different bus counters in Dhaka's Gabtoli and Sayedabad Bus Terminal told The Daily Star that bus owners have asked them not to run any buses on the roads. Many bus counters at the terminal were closed. Additionally, buses were

seen standing idle in queues at the terminal, our correspondent reports from the spot. Local markets and shopping malls had limited entry points open. Some roadside shops were open, while others remained closed. The clashes erupted on Monday as activists of ruling Awami League's student front confronted the protesters who insist the existing quota system was largely debarring the enrolment of meritorious students in government services. Demonstrators accused the ruling party's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League of attacking their "peaceful protests" with backing from the police. Fifty-six per cent of government jobs are reserved under the current quota system, with 30 being for the descendants of the 1971 Liberation War freedom fighters, 10 per cent for backward administrative districts, 10 per cent for women, five per cent for ethnic minority groups and one per cent for the handicapped people. Every year some 3,000 government jobs open up to nearly 400,000 graduates. The protesters waged the campaign for the reform of the system, saying it was debarring meritorious students' recruitment in first-class and second-class government jobs.

CCP endorses reforms to halt economic slowdown; emphasizes Xi's leadership

PTI ■ BEIJING



A crucial meeting of China's ruling Communist Party on Thursday adopted a resolution for comprehensive reforms to lift the sluggish growth of the world's second-largest economy by achieving socialist modernisation by 2035 and re-emphasised President Xi Jinping's "core" leadership position. Stated to be a defining moment of Xi's leadership of the party, the third plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee discussed and adopted a report, presented by Xi, 71, an official communique said here at the end of the four-day meet. The plenum took place at a time when China, beset by a slowdown affected by COVID lockdowns, is struggling with various curbs and sanctions from the US and the EU, especially for its high-tech products. It is also trying to assure both foreign business and the private sector at home about the country's economic prospects to attract investments as the economic growth, in the April to June quarter, slowed to 4.7 per cent on an annual basis. Xi delivered explanatory remarks on the draft version of the resolution proposing reforms to revitalise broad sections of the economy at the meeting attended by 364 members of the CPC Central Committee, which is the top policy body of the party. Although details of the reform package presented by Xi are yet to be released, the commu-

nique said he mostly focussed on building a high-standard socialist market economy. "The overall objectives of further deepening reform comprehensively are to continue improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernise China's system and capacity for governance," the communique said. "By 2035, we will have finished building a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernised our system and capacity for governance, and basically realised socialist modernisation," it said. The reform tasks laid out in the resolution shall be completed by the time the country celebrates its 80th founding anniversary in 2029, it added. The Plenum also highlighted the "core" leadership

position of Xi, who is in his unprecedented third five-year term in power and called for improving national security institutions and the CPC's control over the military "to effectively safeguard the country's stability and security over the long term," the communique said. Aiming to achieve basic modernisation of national defence and the armed forces, the communique further urged maintaining the Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces and fully strengthening the military through reforms for a strong guarantee for realising the goals for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army in 2027. In improving the Party's leadership "we must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era," it said. In building a high-standard socialist market economy, the role of the market must be better leveraged, with a fairer and more dynamic market environment to be fostered and resource allocation to be made as efficient and productive as possible. Restrictions on the market will be lifted while effective regulation will be ensured to better maintain order in the market and remedy market failures, the communique said.

Shopping mall fire in China kills 16 people

Beijing (PTI): At least 16 people were killed after a fire broke out at a shopping mall in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The incident occurred on Wednesday around 6 pm at the 14-story building, located in a high-tech zone in the city of Zigong, Sichuan province, according to Chinese state media.

Dramatic images and videos showed a huge column of black smoke billowing from the building. Several people were also seen gathered on a balcony. The rescue operation was completed on Thursday. Around 75 people who were trapped inside the building were evacuated, the local fire department said. A total of 16 people have been killed, and the rest were evacuated from the building, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. According to the preliminary investigations, the fire was caused by construction work, the report added. China's Ministry of Emergency Management and National Fire and Rescue Administration said it has dispatched a working team to investigate the incident. Fire experts from across the country will also be sent to participate in the accident investigation, the ministry said. China continues to witness major fire accidents despite the directives from President Xi Jinping to implement strict preventive measures for provincial governments.

North Korea launches balloons likely carrying trash toward South Korea

AP ■ SEOUL



North Korea resumed flying balloons likely carrying trash toward South Korea on Thursday, the South's military said, days after it vowed to respond to what it called repeated South Korean civilian leafleting campaigns in the North. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the balloons were flying north of Seoul, which is about an hour's drive from the border, on Thursday afternoon. It warned the South Korea public to be cautious of falling objects and report to authori-

ties if they spot balloons on the ground. Beginning in late May, North Korea has floated numerous balloons carrying newspaper, scraps of cloth, cigarette butts

and even manure toward South Korea, saying they were in response to South Korean activists sending political leaflets to the North via their own balloons. No hazardous materials were found. In response, South Korea suspended a 2018 tension-reduction deal with North Korea, resuming propaganda broadcasts briefly and front-line live-fire military drills at border areas. Earlier this week, the powerful sister of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un vowed to respond to what she called new South Korean civilian leafleting activities. She said South

Korean balloons have been found frequently at the North Korea border and other areas. In her statement Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong threatened new retaliatory steps, saying South Korean "scum" must be ready to pay "a gruesome and dear price." That raised concerns that North Korea could stage physical provocations, rather than balloon launches. South Korea's military said Wednesday it has boosted its readiness to brace for any provocation by North Korea. It said North Korea may fire at incoming South Korean balloons across the border.

Nepal's future is bright: Oli

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Newly-appointed Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Thursday said that Nepal's future is "bright," but its current scenario needs to be changed, amidst frequent political turmoil in the Himalayan nation. Oli, who was sworn in on Monday as the Himalayan nation's prime minister for the fourth time, said the country's current scenario is not good. The Rising Nepal newspaper reported. Addressing the Engineer Day event here, the 72-year-old veteran Communist leader said that though the country is praiseworthy, its situation does not match it. Nepal has faced frequent political turmoil as the country has seen 14 governments in the past 16 years after the Republican system was introduced. "There is an issue in the country. If a body is unwell, then it cannot be said that hands are fine. Just like when the fever comes, the whole body suffers; the situation of the country is not good overall, at least not praiseworthy," Oli was quoted as saying. "The history of our country is glorious and worth praising, just like the country is. There is no doubt that the future of our country is good, but it is, at present, not in a place of satisfaction. Therefore, it needs to

be changed," he said. He underscored that the need of the hour was to take the country towards betterment from the present deteriorated condition, Nepal's state-run RSS news agency reported. Asserting that the government was involved in resolving the country's existing problems, Oli said, "There is no condition of being satisfied. We have to change this condition. There is no doubt that the future of the country is bright." He expressed commitment that the government would advance, resolving problems surfacing in every sector. Oli, who needs to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment, will take a vote of confidence on Sunday. PTI Meanwhile, Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Thursday expressed his desire to implement the understanding reached between the top leaders and the two countries in the past to collaborate under the China-Nepal Belt and Road Cooperation and also to promote collaboration in other areas as well. Nepal and China signed a memorandum of understanding on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a flagship initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Under this, the two countries are expected to focus on connectivity, trade, development strategies, and policy dialogue for cooperation in the fields of economy, environment, technology and culture, among others. Li said that he is always willing to see new progress in Nepal-China-friendly strategic partnership for attaining development and prosperity. Li also said the relations between the two countries are based on peaceful coexistence, equality and collaboration in a win-win situation. During Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Nepal in 2019, the existing bilateral relations between Nepal and China were elevated to a strategic level. It was agreed by both countries to transform the Nepal-China relationship from a "comprehensive partnership of cooperation featuring everlasting friendship" to a "strategic partnership for development and prosperity."

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Pak govt targets more social media platforms; FB, Insta restricted across multiple service providers

Lahore (PTI): After successfully blocking X for over six months, the Pakistan government has targeted more social media platforms — Facebook and Instagram — and restricted their access to the people, a step seen as a plan to impose a complete ban on social media. Since Wednesday, Facebook and Instagram have been restricted in Pakistan, causing users to experience difficulties accessing the social media platforms across various internet service providers (ISPs). Some users are also experiencing issues with other Meta-owned apps, such as WhatsApp. There has been no official word so far from the Pakistani government regarding restrictions placed on access to Facebook and Instagram. The ban comes amid an ongoing tussle between the superior judiciary, former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and the powerful military establishment which is apparently running the government. The Punjab government led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz earlier had asked the federal government to ban all social media platforms — YouTube, X, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc — from 6 to 11 Muharram (July 13 to 18) in Punjab, a province of over 120 million people, to "control hate

material, misinformation to avoid sectarian violence" during the holy month. Nayatel, a telecommunication company, said on X on Thursday: "Facebook and Instagram services have been disrupted with all service providers across the country for the last two days. This blockage is in addition to the already blocked Twitter/X. We are waiting for a reply from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority for the reasons for this blockage and when this ban will be lifted." Downdetector which tracks outages by collating status reports from several sources including users showed that user reports indicated problems in accessing Facebook. According to NetBlocks, a global internet tracking agency, "Restrictions on Facebook are in effect on multiple providers in Pakistan." X (formerly Twitter) has been banned in Pakistan since February 17, 2024, following outrage on the "stolen mandate" of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) backed candidates in the February 8 general election. Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asim Munir has already declared social media a "vicious media" and underscored the need to fight against this "digital terrorism."

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar who also has the portfolio of foreign minister has also called for placing a complete ban on social media. Both the military and the government have been receiving backlash on social media since the ouster of former prime minister Imran Khan through a no-confidence motion in April 2022. The government has arrested dozens of social media activities of Khan's party since then. After keeping mum on the ban on X for about five months, the Ministry of Interior recently told a higher court that it had taken the step as "X is a threat to peace and national security as it spreads 'misinformation and incites violence.'" The Shehbaz government also said that the ban was imposed on X "on the basis of reports from the intelligence agencies." Khan's PTI on Thursday lambasted placing restrictions on more social media apps like Facebook, saying: "After Twitter, Facebook and Instagram were also banned in Pakistan. Freedom of speech and access to information is not just a concept of the inherent human right to voice one's opinion publicly without fear of censorship or punishment, but also a right everyone's born with." The PTI further said that times like these when all tactics are

being employed to blindsides the most popular party of the country, thwarting freedom of speech even after oppression, now sounds like freedom to discriminate, by the power hub. PTI

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No. MD/SHS/TECH-27/2024/786 Date: 10.07.2024
e-Tender Call Notice (e-TCN)
Name of the Work: Maintenance dredging of S.O Larkis M' quantity from Mahanadi River Channel for one year i.e. for the year 2024-25 including Mobilization / De-mobilization. Estimated cost : Rs. 9,35,00,000/- . Last date of submission of tender on-line bidding till 17:00 hours on 02.08/2024. The technical bids shall be opened at 16:30 hours on 30/08/2024. For further details, please log on to the website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Sd/- Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/22/2024-2025 dttd. 10.07.2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
(Contact No. 96461-17606)
E-Tender Enquiry No.: 200/MM-ITGM-336(VIII)O&M/GHTP/2024 Dated 17-07-2024
Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites e-tender for "Cleaning of tubes of Turbine condenser of 210 MW (KWU) Unit-II and 250 MW Unit-III of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat with Hydro Jet and water powered bullet cleaners".
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 17-07-2024 at 18:00 Hrs. onwards
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> GHTP-58/24
76155/12/3132/2023/35805 Dated CHD :- 7/18/2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
(Contact No. 9646117609 E-mail: sefet-ghtp@pspcpl.in)
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Enquiry No.: 03/CE-28/FE&T/GHTP/2024 Dated: 19-07-24
Dy. Chief Engineer / FE&T Circle GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work to conduct Energy Audit of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat Unit No.1 to IV having capacities of 2x210 MW + 2x250 MW for the year 2024-25. Detailed NIT and tender specification can be downloaded from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated 19-07-2024 at 17:00 hrs. onwards.
Note: No corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum will be seen on official website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> GHTP-59/24
76155/12/3134/2023/35810 Dated CHD :- 7/18/2024

FTA to boost India-Russia commerce

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Steps such as increasing exports, making local currency trading workable and a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union will help boost trade between India and Russia, think tank GTRI said on Thursday.

India should not worry over the trade deficit, as it is getting crude petroleum oil at cheaper than market rates from Russia and it is also cutting India's overall oil import bill, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

Since the Ukraine war began in February 2022 and the US imposed sanctions on Russia, the trade relationship between India and Russia has shifted significantly.

Exports during the financial year 2020-21 and 2023-24 grew by 59 per cent, while imports surged by about 8,300 per cent, the report said, adding the trade deficit rose from USD 2.8 billion before the war in 2020-21 to USD 57.2 billion at present. It said that the import surge is solely due to India's



strategic procurement of crude oil from Russia influenced by favourable trade terms and Russia's need to find new markets amidst Western sanctions. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Russia visit on July 8-9, India and Russia have set an ambitious bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.

With current bilateral trade at USD 65.7 billion in 2023-24, the target seems achievable, GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said. In 2023-24, India's exports to Russia were 4.3 billion, while imports driven by crude oil stood at USD 61.4

billion. Share of crude oil and petroleum products in imports was 88 per cent. India exports a diverse range of products to Russia including smartphones, shrimp, medicine, meat, tiles, coffee, parts of airplanes and helicopters, chemicals, computers, and fruits. "India has competitive advantage in these products and hence the potential to export more to Russia. India should prepare a product-level strategy to promote exports," Srivastava said. On local currency trade, the report said that trade

cannot be settled in rupee due to limited international use of the Indian rupee and Russia's reluctance to accumulate it beyond a limit.

After the Ukraine war, the US put sanctions on Russia, not allowing it to use SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) pipeline for dollar transactions.

The key question for India is finding the best way to pay Russia the amount equal to USD 60 billion in trade deficit.

"Local currency trading would be the best solution. To facilitate this, India needs to establish a transparent and open currency exchange. This exchange would provide clear, market-determined exchange rates between local currencies like Indian rupee and other currencies such as the Russian rouble, Malaysian ringgit, Thai baht, or Chinese yuan," it said.

It added that this would not only give banks a reliable reference for issuing letters of credit but also help businesses understand currency volatility better. "Countries with currency surpluses, like Russia with

its Indian rupee surplus from oil exports to India, could exchange their surplus for other currencies more efficiently in such a multi-currency exchange platform," it said.

It also suggested making the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) functional. The INSTC is a 7,200-kilometer multi-modal route linking India with Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe. "When functional, it would reduce transit time between India and western Russian ports from 45 to 25 days and cut freight costs by 30 per cent compared to the Suez Canal route. INSTC, despite these advantages, has limited use due to underinvestment in infrastructure," it said.

The frequent loading and unloading of cargo along the INSTC and the involvement of sanctioned Iran also pose logistical challenges. Chabahar is a key part of this corridor. India is negotiating the 'India-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Trade Agreement' with Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and Belarus. Formal talks for the agreement have not yet started.

Toshiba Group to invest 10 billion Japanese yen in India to expand capacity

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Toshiba Group on Thursday said it will invest 10 billion Japanese yen (over Rs 500 crore) to increase the capacity of producing power transmission and distribution equipment in India.

Toshiba Transmission & Distribution Systems (India) Pvt Ltd (TTDI) will increase its capacity of manufacturing power transformers and distribution transformers by about 1.5 times compared to FY2023, over a three-year period from FY2024 to FY2026, it stated.

Toshiba Group has positioned power T&D as a focus business and will invest about JPY 10 billion (over Rs 500 crore) in TTDI to expand its capacity. Hiroshi Furuta, Chairperson and Managing Director, TTDI, said in the statement, "Furthering our commitment to make-in-India and export-from-India, the new investment will improve operational efficiency, increase speed-to-market, and support in expanding our business in India and overseas." With this investment, TTDI will increase its assembly and test line capacity for distribution transformers and



power transformers for the transmission grids and distribution networks.

Enhanced testing capacity for power transformers will represent a significant upgrade, specifically geared towards expanding exports as well as meeting the high demand for 400kV/765kV transformers in the Indian market. Distribution transformer expansion is aimed at creating a dedicated facility for CRGO (Cold Rolled Grain Oriented) steel processing centre in order to enhance the vertical integration facility, which would help the company reduce the process lead time and enhance quality and safety, the company said. Besides, TTDI will also build a new manufacturing facility

for surge arresters during the first half of FY24 and the products will be commercially available in the market by the second half of the year.

TTDI offers a range of innovative and reliable technologies for the renewable energy sector, including photovoltaic (PV) inverters, power transformers, gas-insulated switchgear (GIS), and inverter duty transformers. TTDI is also focusing on enhancement of GIS, transformers, control relay & substation automation system solutions to applications in energy (renewable sector), data centre for smart cities, and for industry segments like petro chemical plants, refineries and railway.

Cybersecurity players seek digital security push in Budget for Viksit Bharat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With India looking to embrace artificial intelligence rapidly, cybersecurity players expect that the upcoming Union Budget will include measures to boost safety of the country's digital space through further allocation of funds and incentives.

Innefu Labs, CEO and Co-founder Tarun Wig said the global focus on AI presents a critical juncture for India. "The AI and ML (machine learning) models can be trained to identify and prevent 'zero-day' attacks. But this will require support from the government (in) nurturing and retaining top cyber talent, and empowering companies to invest in training AI models for cybersecurity," Wig said. He added that while other nations are busy building their AI infrastructure, India must prioritise on optimum use of AI which could include training AI and ML models for improving our defence and intelligence posture, and to reduce cyber crimes which are on the rise, to identify money laundering networks or using AI to take governance to the far flung villages of the country. "Adding government support for research and development



initiatives to proven companies in the private sector and not just academia would create a win-win situation. It would attract and retain talent while enabling companies, large and small, to innovate. This, in turn, would foster a digital environment that can support future advancements in AI and other emerging technologies," Wig said. The government had announced a fund worth Rs 1 lakh crore for R&D in sunrise technologies in the interim budget for financial year 2024-25.

IIT Kanpur's Artificial Intelligence and Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship Centre of Excellence (AIIDE-CoE) incubated Future Crime Research Foundation (FCRF), Co-Founder Shashank Shekhar said investment on cybersecurity is similar to

insurance for digital economies. He said India faces one of the highest number of cyber attacks globally every year. "While the government is making an effort to digitally empower every citizen of the country, it becomes imperative to secure them as well. We request the government to consider building Indian champions in the cybersecurity space to meet the aspiration of Viksit Bharat by 2047," Shekhar said. Futurex, South Asia-Vice President, Ruchin Kumar said it is important to increase funding for cybersecurity training programs to address the workforce skill gap. "To achieve this, collaborations with educational institutions to develop specialized cybersecurity courses and certifications must be

fostered. We strongly recommend fund allocation specifically for protecting critical infrastructure, such as power grids, transportation networks, and healthcare systems, from cyber threats," he said.

He said that the government should also mandate and fund regular security audits and vulnerability assessments for critical infrastructure sectors. Zeron, Founder, Sanket Sarkar said the government has consistently demonstrated its commitment to this critical industry through strategic investments and supportive policies.

"Reflecting on the past years, it's clear that our digital defenses have been significantly strengthened. I am optimistic that this year's budget will further amplify this focus, with substantial allocations to enhance our cybersecurity infrastructure," he said.

Sarkar said continued prioritisation of cyber resilience and innovation is crucial for defending against evolving threats and driving economic growth. "This budget will not be merely a financial planning; it'll be a bold declaration of India's intent to become a global cybersecurity leader," he said.

Markets turn negative after hitting fresh record-high levels

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices turned negative soon after hitting new record-high levels in a highly volatile trade on Thursday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note, but bounced back later and climbed 193.9 points to hit a new record peak of 80,910.45. However, the benchmark failed to hold on to the gains and traded 151.38 points lower at 80,550.97 at 11:22 hours. Similarly, the NSE Nifty after a weak beginning recovered the early lost ground and climbed 65.9 points to hit a fresh lifetime high of 24,678.90. The Nifty also gave up all the gains and quoted 66.35 points down at 24,546.65.

Among the Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, NTPC, Power Grid and UltraTech Cement were the biggest laggards. On the contrary, Tata Consultancy Services, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra and State Bank of India were trading in the positive territory.



In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai were trading lower, while Hong Kong quoted higher. The US markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.45 per cent to USD 85.45 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,271.45 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Stock markets were closed on Wednesday on account of Muharram. The BSE benchmark climbed 51.69 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at a new lifetime high of 80,716.55 on Tuesday. The NSE Nifty went up by 26.30 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,613.

Nokia sees double-digit fall in Q2 profit, sales in weak 5G market but sees improved 2nd half

AP ■ HELSINKI

Wireless and fixed-network equipment maker Nokia Thursday reported a double-digit fall in profit and sales in the second quarter due to a continuing weak market as clients are holding off investments in 5G technology.

The Espoo, Finland-based company reported a net profit of 328 million euros (USD 359 million) for the April-June period, down 20 per cent from 409 million euros (USD 447 million) a year earlier. Net income attributable to shareholders was 325 million euros (USD 355 million), down from 410 million euros a year earlier. Similarly to its Nordic rival Ericsson of Sweden, Nokia has suffered in the past year from operators cutting back on investments into 5G and other telecom technology because of economic uncertainty and high financing costs. "Our financial performance in the second quarter continued to be impacted by the ongoing market weakness with net sales declining 18 per cent year-on-year in constant currency," Nokia CEO Pekka Lundmark said in a statement. Nokia's sales were down 18 per cent at 4.5 billion euros (USD 4.9 billion)



compared with 5.4 billion euros (USD 5.9 billion) a year earlier.

The Finnish company is one of the world's main suppliers of 5G, the latest generation of broadband technology along with Ericsson, China's Huawei and South Korea's Samsung. Lundmark said that the company's sales would improve in the second half of this year, particularly in its network infrastructure business unit. "Looking forward, we believe the industry is stabilizing and given the order intake seen in recent quarters we expect a significant acceleration in net sales growth in the second half," he said.

However, in Nokia's mobile network unit, the biggest business entity during the quarter by sales, "the market dynamic remains challenging as operators continue to be cautious" of spending in 5G technology and equipment, Lundmark said.

Recycling industry body demands zero duty on aluminium scrap imports

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the budget, recycling industry body MRAI has urged the government to remove the import duty on aluminium scrap, saying it will help promote sustainability in the industry.

According to the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI), the recycling process of aluminium scrap emits only 0.3 million tonnes (MT) of Co2 on per tonne of production compared to 14 tonnes of carbon emissions on the production of 1 MT of aluminium through smelters route which involves maintaining of coal-based capacities for power supply. "Among the key challenges faced by the Indian aluminium recycling industry is 2.5 per cent import duty on aluminium scrap. It is a key raw material for aluminium recycling and the government should make it to zero until the quality material (scrap) is available in sufficient quantity in the domestic market," AI said in a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the full Union Budget for the



financial year 2024-25 in Parliament on July 23. Many countries have realized the importance of scrap that it is sustainable because of recyclable in nature. The demand driver for aluminium in the next few years is going to be substantially higher due to India's projected higher growth of GDP and ambitious infrastructure development. The production of primary aluminium metal is also associated with the consumption of large volumes of natural resources, bauxite ore and coal and the generation of large quantities of solid wastes, it noted. "Aluminium recycling has become an important part of aluminium production in India because it is much less energy intensive than the production of primary aluminium," AI said. Lower per capita aluminium consumption of 2.5 kg in India is also a challenge against a world average of 11

kg, as the recycling industry has to rely more on imports for quality aluminium scrap to meet the shortfall. "India's aluminium recycling industry plays a pivotal role in harmonising efforts to combat climate change and bolster environmental sustainability. Recycling helps to combat the climate crisis by limiting the use of raw materials, protecting natural resources like bauxite and reducing the waste going into landfills," AI President Sanjay Mehta said. "We need to take decisive steps here when it comes to its goals towards sustainability and low carbon ecosystem. World over metal scrap, especially Aluminium is considered as the greenest raw material to be used for metal production. "Having import duties on Aluminium scrap could be retrograde and would decelerate our efforts in reaching sustainability goals," said Dhawal Shah, Senior Vice President, of AI. The association has also sought zero duty on copper scrap and brass scrap which attract 2.5 per cent duty at present, and zinc and lead which have 5 per cent import duty.

Sales of luxury homes up 27% to 8,500 units in 7 cities in January-June: CBRE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sales of luxury housing units, each costing Rs 4 crore and above, rose 27 per cent to around 8,500 units during the January-June period across seven major cities in high demand, according to real estate consultant CBRE.

In its report 'India Market Monitor Q2 2024' released on Thursday, CBRE said that India's luxury housing (units priced Rs 4 crore and above) segment maintained strong sales momentum, registering a 27 per cent annual increase in January-June 2024. "Total sales of luxury units during the January-June period stood at around 8,500 units compared to about 6,700 units during the same period last year," the consultant said. Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and Hyderabad emerged as prominent markets, accounting for nearly 84 per cent of the total luxury housing sales across the top seven cities. Further, Pune recorded a noteworthy increase in luxury sales activity with demand growing nearly six-fold on an annual basis to touch around 1,100



units. Sales in Delhi-NCR rose 14 per cent annually to 3,300 units. Mumbai saw a growth of 14 per cent to 2,500 units. Housing sales in Hyderabad stood at 1,300 units, up 44 per cent annually. Pune registered sales of 1,100 units, marking a 450 per cent year-on-year increase during this period. In Chennai and Kolkata, sales of luxury housing units, each priced at Rs 4 crore and above, remained flat at 100 units and 200 units, respectively.

CBRE data showed that Bengaluru did not witness any sale in this price category during the January-June 2024 period as against 200 units in the year-ago period. Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, the Middle East & Africa at CBRE, said, "We foresee a strong momentum in the housing market for the remainder of the year. This optimism is driven by favourable home buying sentiments, festive season promotions, and

significant land acquisitions by developers." These elements are expected to balance supply and demand dynamics and invigorate market activity, he added. "The luxury housing segment, particularly for properties priced at INR 4 crore and above, is set to thrive as buyers seek homes that align with their affluent lifestyles. Capital value growth in this segment is projected to stabilise, with an increasing focus on core project fundamentals such as quality, location, and access to essential infrastructure," Magazine said. Moreover, he said the ongoing mega infrastructure projects across the country, including transportation networks, highways, airports and metro systems, are poised to bolster real estate growth. "These developments are likely to unlock new markets, establish satellite cities, and stimulate growth in peripheral areas, making luxury housing an attractive investment," Magazine said.

Ceat net profit rises 7% in Q1; revenue increases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tyre maker Ceat on Thursday said its consolidated net profit increased by 7 per cent to Rs 154 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024. The company had reported a net profit of Rs 144 crore in the April-June period of last fiscal. Revenue increased to Rs 3,193 crore in the first quarter as against Rs 2,935 crore in the year-ago period. Ceat Ltd said in a regulatory filing. "We are encouraged by the strong growth we've had in the replacement and export segments across all categories during the quarter," Ceat MD & CEO Arnab Banerjee said. Despite facing margin pressure from significant increases in raw material costs and ocean freight, the company is actively mitigating these challenges through strategic price adjustments, he added. "Our strategic focus on premiumising passenger car tyres has begun to yield positive results. Looking ahead, we anticipate continued momentum in volume throughout Q2 and beyond," Banerjee stated.

FROM EXHAUSTION TO EXUBERANCE: SWIMMER NATARAJ EYES SEMIFINALS IN PARIS OLYMPICS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Standing on the 2023 National Games podium adorned with 10 medals, eight of them gold, ace Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj was utterly exhausted.

After all, he had been competing non-stop at major events since 2017 when he was just 16, and the relentless competitive grind, coupled with the rigours of training had finally taken a toll on his body.

"I just needed time off to rest because my 2023 season was crazy and so hectic with so many races. I think if I didn't take any time off, my body would have broken down by now," Nataraj told PTI in an interview.

"And it could have led to an injury or I would have lost the drive to train. My body was under so much stress. I kind of just needed a few weeks off just to let my body rest," he added. Refreshed after the much-needed break, the 23-year-old is ready for his second Olympics, where he will compete in the 100m backstroke event. Nataraj qualified for the Paris Games via the Universality Quota, which allows countries to recommend their two highest-ranked swimmers for the showcase if no one makes the cut through the regulation process.

Having secured direct qualification for the previous Tokyo Olympics, the entry to the Paris Games through the Universality Quota was not ideal by Nataraj's own admission. But he has opted not to dwell on the disappointment.

"It was annoying and disappointing that I didn't get the qualifying time because I had been training really well. But I'm not really bothered about what happened," he asserted.

"I got the quota spot. It might be a step back, but I still got the spot. And now I can spend the coming weeks either



thinking 'oh, this is not the way I wanted it'. Or I can focus on what I want to do in Paris. So, I'm taking it as motivation."

Since returning from the break, Nataraj has been training better, which resulted in two silver medals at the Mare Nostrum meet in Spain and France in May.

"This season, the training's been so much better than last season. It's so good. I think it's all because of that break," he said.

There have been times when Nataraj has come close to a podium finish but missed out by a fraction of a second. Some other times, his best

performance has not come at the right time. "I think it just hasn't clicked on race day yet," he conceded.

Nataraj has not been able to improve his best time in the 100m backstroke since 2021, when he clocked 53.77s. However, he and his coach Nihar Ameen have been able to identify where exactly the Bengaluru swimmer has been lacking.

"I think it's just race execution. I am working on having a little more speed - front end speed and a little more natural speed so that I don't have to put in as much effort on the first 50," he explained. He has been able to improve

his first 50m and claims to have gone "fastest I've ever been" in training. "We're doing a lot more high intensity explosive short sprints. And we're just hoping that it converts in time and I can open the first 50 a little more effortlessly."

"I've always had good capacity in good second 50m." Nataraj, who has a season's best of 54.68s, aims to better his personal best time which would put him in semifinal contention at the Paris Games.

"I just have a goal towards trying to get a personal best. And I think if I make a personal best, it puts me in a good spot to be in the semifinals."

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002

As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 had issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Thereafter you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire amount along with right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/Secured assets as given below.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower /Mortgagor/Guarantor/ Loan A/c No.	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged Property
[A/c No.] L9001060119837591 & L900106023862747 Deep Wood Works (Borrower), Jasvinder Singh (Co-Borrower), Gurpreet Kaur (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 187375/- Rs. One Lac Eighty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five Only & Rs. 213658/- Rs. Two Lac Ten Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Eight Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Sq No 42 Kheawat No 1297, Killa No 10 1 3 1 16, Vill- Shahpur Begu, Dist- Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 114.89 Sq.Yds.
[A/c No.] L9001060119924593 Vishwakarma Engg Works (Borrower), Anil Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Rani (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 174000/- Rs. One Lac Seventy-Four Thousand Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Kheawat No 22/13, H B No 97, Khatoni No 32 To 38 Kitta 26, Village Dhantori, Dist- Kurukshetra, Haryana Admeasuring 270 Sqft.
[A/c No.] L9001060123252042 Baba Pet Products (Borrower), Anand Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Sunita Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Jun-24 Rs. 1785301/- Rs. Seventeen Lac Eighty-Five Thousand Three Hundred One Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Teacher Colony, Nagar Palika Bahadurgarh, Th- Bahadurgarh, Dist- Jhajjar, Haryana Admeasuring 75 Square Yard
[A/c No.] L9001071024762598 Harbans Lal (Borrower), Smt.Vanita (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 1212080/- Rs. Twelve Lac Twelve Thousand Eighty Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Kheawat No 528 Khatoni No 633 Kharsa No 194, H.No- 249, Mahadev Colony Patti Afgan Municipal, Dist- Kaithal, Haryana Admeasuring 96 Sq.Yds
[A/c No.] L9001060127185596 Beer Singh Shattering Store (Borrower), Beer Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt.Sona Rani (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 818396/- Rs. Eight Lac Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Six Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Kheawat No 471 And 645, Kharsa No 206 1 27 15 3, Near Bnrl Tower Vpo Sadhanwasi, Th- Dist- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 90.75 Square Yard
[A/c No.] L9001060127837430 Tamanna Electronics (Borrower), Ajay (Co-Borrower), Hansraj (Co-Borrower), Abhishek (Co-Borrower), Smt.Usha Rani (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 502704/- Rs. Five Lac Two Thousand Seven Hundred Four Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Kharsa No 172 1 8-0 2 1 6-0 9 8-10 10-8-0-11 2-2-0-12-8-0-11 1-6-0 18Min 7-6 19 1 Min 5-12 19-2 20 8-0-21 1-7-16 22 2 Min 3-14 26 Min 1-5 28 1 Min 3-19 2 2 Min 0-19 8-0 13-8 14-8-0-20 2 Min 0-9 171 5 8-0 6 8-0, Tohana Mukul Gas Agency, Vill- Sunder Nagar, Dist- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 77.77 Sq.Yds
[A/c No.] L9001060128794562 Gulab Singh Dairy Farm (Borrower), Smt. Babli Devi (Co-Borrower), Gulab Singh (Co-Borrower), Mohit (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 538230/- Rs. Five Lac Thirty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Kheawat No 443 Khata No 461 Mustli No 80 Killa No 26 0 18, Vill- Ahri, Dist- Jhajjar, Haryana Admeasuring 559 Sq. Yrd
[A/c No.] L9001070629443834 Anant Mahto (Borrower), Smt.Simpi Devi (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 1189806/- Rs. Eleven Lac Eighty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Six Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Kheawat No 22 Khata No 22 Rect Killa No 8 1 2 7 8, Waka Rakha Mauja Kabipur, Abadi New Jeevan Nagar, Teh Sonapat, Dist- Sonapat, Haryana Admeasuring 42.34 Sq.Yds
[A/c No.] L9001060131595691 Smt.Rina Maniyari (Borrower), Mangat Rani (Co-Borrower), Smt.Rani Bai (Co-Borrower)	14-Jun-24 Rs. 374050/- Rs. Three Lac Seventy-Four Thousand Fifty Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Kharsa No 171/78-0, 201/14/8-0, Village Bighar, Tehsil & District- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 242 Square Yard

Place: HARYANA Date : 18-07-2024 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited



F1 driver Magnussen to leave Haas at end of this season

AP ■ KANNAPOLIS (US)

Formula 1 driver Kevin Magnussen will leave Haas at the end of the season when his contract expires, the team said on Thursday. The 31-year-old Magnussen is competing in his seventh season with the American team, starting 135 grand prix across two spells, from 2017-20 and 2022-24.

The former McLaren and Renault driver achieved a career-high ninth in the drivers' standings for Haas in 2018. He has five points this season.

Haas did not say who is going to replace Magnussen. "I'm proud to have raced for such a great team of people these last few years," he said. "While I'm looking forward to the next chapter of my racing career, I remain fully focused on giving everything I've got for the rest of 2024." On the eve of the Hungarian Grand Prix, team principal Ayao Komatsu said he hopes they can "find a way to keep working together in some capacity."

News of Magnussen's departure came after Oliver Bearman signed a multiyear deal with Haas from 2025 onward. The 19-year-old British driver will take the seat vacated by German driver Nico Hulkenberg, who is joining Sauber at the end of the year ahead of its rebranding to Audi for 2026.

Odisha FC pitted against Jordan and Singapore clubs

AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian club Odisha FC were drawn alongside Etihad Club (Jordan) and Lion City Sailors FC (Singapore) in Group B of the preliminary stage of the 2024-25 AFC Women's Champions League, following the draw conducted in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Odisha FC, the champions of the 2023-24 Indian Women's League, will travel to Jordan to play in the preliminary stage, which will be held in a centralised league format from August 25 to 31. Thirteen sides will contest the preliminary stage, which features four groups - one group of four teams and three groups of three. The four

group winners will qualify for the 12-team group stage, joining the other eight clubs that have qualified directly. Should Odisha FC top their preliminary stage group and qualify for the next group stage, they will be placed in Group C alongside Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies (Japan), Taichung Blue Whale Women's Football Team (Chinese Taipei), and hosts Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC (Vietnam). The group stage comprises three groups of four teams and will also be contested in a centralised league format from October 6 to 12. Clubs were seeded and placed in pots for the draw according to their respective member

association rankings, based on the FIFA women's world ranking (as of March 15, 2024). The top two finishers of each group and the two best third-placed sides will progress to the quarterfinals, to be played on March 22 and 23, 2025. A knockout stage draw will be conducted prior to the quarterfinals to determine the four pairings, which will be contested in a single-leg format, with the higher-ranked team of each tie to serve as the home side. This will be followed by a centralised finals, which will see the semi-finals and final - all single-leg ties - being played out from May 21 to 24, 2025, to determine the first ever champions of the tournament.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED (A State Govt. Undertaking)

Detailed Tender Notice (E-Tendering Mode Only)

1) Online tender (having two part bid) are invited for the following work, on the prescribed form (Tender Documents) The dates of Sale / Receipt and opening of tenders is as per detail given below. The detailed tender notice can also be downloaded from website <http://www.hptenders.gov.in>

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated amount (Rs. in Lac)	Earnest money (Rs. in lac)	Price of Tender documents including GST (Non-refundable) (Rs.)
1.	(SEOP-02/2024-25)	Tender for supply, erection, testing, commissioning of 33kV Lightning Arrestors/ Surge Arrestor (30KV, 10KA, Station class, Porcelain Type) at various locations of Divisions under Operation Circle, HPSEB Ltd., Kangra complete in all respect. (SEOP 02/2024-25)	Rs. 8,90,108/-	Rs. 8901/-	Rs. 590/- [500+90(GST)]
2.	(SEOP-03/2024-25)	Tender for Supply erection, testing, commissioning of 11 kV Lightning Arrestors/ Surge Arrestor (9KV, 10KA Station, Polymeric Type) with housing at various locations of Divisions under Operation Circle, HPSEB Ltd., Kangra complete in all respect. (SEOP 03/2024-25)	Rs. 8,64,657/-	Rs. 8647/-	Rs. 590/- [500+90(GST)]
3.	(SEOP-04/2024-25)	Tender for supply, erection, testing, commissioning for SOP to LIS Lunj at Samleeta (2x250 KVA Sub-Station HT Line and LT Line) under Electrical sub Division HPSEBL, Shahpur under Electrical Division, HPEB Ltd., Shahpur. (SEOP 04/2024-25)	Rs. 23,39,518/-	Rs. 23395/-	Rs. 1000/- [1000+180(GST)]

Key Dates:-
 1. Date of issue of online tender 19.07.2024 at 11:30 AM
 2. Last date of online submission of bid 26.07.2024 at 11:30 AM
 3. Date of opening of Technical & Commercial bid 26.07.2024 at 03:00 PM
 4. Tender processing fee (Non-refundable)(Rs.) As per Web Site
 Price of tender, in advance, shall be deposited online in HPSEBL Account. For other terms and conditions, see tender Documents.
 Superintending Engineer, (OP), Circle HPSEB Ltd. Kangra (HP)

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as Au HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297)

Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

AUCTION NOTICE

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "Au HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED") Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis. The details of the cases are as under:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Mortgagors	Dues As on	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price For Property	Earnest Money For Property	Date & Time of Auction	Place of Tender Submission, Tender Open & Auction at Avas Financiers Ltd.
KRISHNA DEVI, Mr. Sunil Kumar (Ac No.) LNSIR01018-190104480 & LNSIR03718-190096839	Rs. 1,521,188.67/- & Rs. 1,566,985.60/- Dues as on 17 July 2024	11 Oct 21 Rs. 728184.67/- & Rs. 759321.6/- Dues as on 8 Oct 21	16- Jun-22	HOUSING BEARING PROPERTY TAX ID NO. SRS/B20/4911, GALI NO. 3, PREET SAGAR, BEGU ROAD, NEAR PETROL PUMP, SIRSA, HARYANA, Admeasuring, 99 Sq. Yards	Rs. 900800/-	Rs. 90080/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 06 Aug 2024	1ST FLOOR, DABWALI ROAD, NEAR PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, SIRSA-125055, HARYANA-INDIA

Terms & Conditions: 1). The person, taking part in the tender, will have to deposit his offer in the tender form provided by the AFL which is to be collected from the above branch offices during working hours of any working day, super scribing "Tender Offer for name of the property" on the sealed envelope along with the Cheque/DD/pay order of 10% of the Reserve Price as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED payable at Jaipur on/before time of auction during office hours at the above mentioned offices. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of the available interested parties at above mentioned office of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "Au HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED") The inter-bidding, if necessary will also take place among the available bidders. The EMD is refundable if the bid is not successful. 2). The successful bidder will deposit 25% of the bidding amount adjusting the EMD amount as initial deposit immediately or within 24hrs after the fall of the hammer towards the purchase of the asset. The successful bidder failing to deposit the said 25% towards initial payment, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 15 days after the confirmation of the sale by the secured creditor; otherwise his initial payment deposited amount will be forfeited. 3). The Authorised officer has absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale process without assigning any reason therefor. If the date of tender depositing or the date of tender opening is declared as holiday by Government, then the auction will be held on next working day. 4). For inspection and interested parties who want to know about the procedure of tender or mortgage they can contact AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "Au HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED") 201, 202, 1Ind Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur-302020 or Manoj Kumar - 8130291423 or respective branch during office hours. Note: This is also a 15/30 days notice under Rule 9(1)(8) of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor of the above said loan accounts about tender inter se bidding sale on the above mentioned date. The property will be sold, if their out standing dues are not repaid in full.

Place : Jaipur Date : 19-07-2024 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan (India) CIN: L36911RJ1996PLC011381

APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank), the same shall be referred herein after as AUSFB. The Secured Assets, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction for recovery of amount mentioned in the table below along with further interest, cost, charges and expenses being due to AUSFB viz. Secured Creditor. It is hereby informed you that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>

Account No. and Name of borrower/ Co-borrower/ Mortgagors/ Guarantor	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2) & Date of Symbolic Possession and amount as on (Date)	Descriptions of the Property/Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (Amount in Rs.)	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Place of Submission of Bids and Documents, Inspection Date
2121211732357523 & 9001220323846953	13(2) Notice Issue Date 25-Jan-2024 For Loan Account No. 2121211732357523 is Rs. 52,42,087/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Forty Two Thousand Eighty Seven Only) as on date 25-Jan-2024 For Loan Account No. 9001220323846953 is Rs. 33,26,880/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Only) as on date 25-Jan-2024 Total collectively amount Rs. 85,68,967/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Seven Only) as on date 25-Jan-24 Symbolic Possession done on 09 April 2024	Property No. 1 All That Part and Parcel of Property, Southern-Western Corner Part of Plot No. 26 Now Constructed House No. C-4/1891, Bearing Property ID No. 140C9U199, measuring 90 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Kharsa No. 163/2/2 (Declared as Abadi Deh) Situated at Mouja Jagadhri, Musamma Civil Lines, Jagadhri, Within the Limits of Municipal Corporation Yamuna Nagar-Jagadhri, Tehsil- Jagadhri, Distrrict Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, Owned by Mr. Bhushan Lal S/O Bhagwan Dass. Boundaries as follows:- East: Part of Property, West: Gali, North: Part of Property, South: Rasta. Total Built-up area 1,335 Sq. ft. approx.	FOR PROPERTY NO. 1 RESERVE PRICE Rs. 1,60,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Lakh Only) EMD Rs. 1,60,00,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Only) FOR PROPERTY NO. 2 RESERVE PRICE Rs. 21,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Only) EMD Rs. 2,10,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ten Thousand Only) FOR PROPERTY NO. 1 Bid Incremental Amount Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) FOR PROPERTY NO. 2 Bid Incremental Amount Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)	22-August-2024 From 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM With unlimited extension of Five Minutes Last Date of Bid Submission 21-August-2024 Upto 06:00 PM Email ID: rakesh.jain1@aubank.in Inspection Date 13-14 August-2024
M/S. M S TRADERS THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR MR. MAYANK KHURANA (Borrower)	2121211732357523 is Rs. 53,38,890/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Only) as on date 14-June-2024 For Loan Account No. 9001220323846953 is Rs. 34,94,885/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five Only) as on date 14-June-2024 Total collectively amount Rs. 88,33,775/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five Only) as on date 14-June-2024 plus Future interest & charges extra.	Property No. 2 All That Part and Parcel of Property, Commercial Shop No. 28, Bearing Part of Property No. C-4-513, Bearing Municipal Permanent Property ID No. 128C298U303P, measuring 30.6 Sq. Yards, Situated at Loharan Mohalla, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, District-Yamuna Nagar, Within the Limits of Municipal Corporation Yamuna Nagar-Jagadhri, Haryana. Owned by Mrs. Poonam Khurana, Boundaries as follows:- East:Rasta, West: House of Dhoom Singh etc., North: Shop of Naveena Goel.South: Shop no. 29 8 30. Actual Built-up area 275 Sq. ft. approx. Note:- Above Properties are Cross Collateralized with M/S. M S Trading Co. Loan Account No. 2121211736497379, total outstanding amount Rs. 57,78,371/- was on dated 12 Feb 2024. 13(2) notice was issued on 12 Feb 2024, after selling aforesaid properties the excess amount will be adjusted in this Loan account.	FOR PROPERTY NO. 1 Bid Incremental Amount Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) FOR PROPERTY NO. 2 Bid Incremental Amount Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)	

Note:- Securitization application has been filed before DRT-II CHANDIGARH bearing SA No. 361/2024 having Case title as M S M S TRADERS U/S A U SMALL FINANCE BANK and the same is pending. There is no stay as on date.

All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> & <https://www.aubank.in/bank-auction> for further details including Terms & Conditions, to take part in e-auction sale proceeding and are also advised to contact Mr. Rakesh Jain, Contact Number 9116181827 and e-mail of rakesh.jain1@aubank.in.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER / MORTGAGORS

The terms and conditions of e-auction sale:-
 1. The E-Auction sale of Secured Asset is on "as is where is", "as is what is", and "whatever there is" and "no recourse" basis for and on behalf of the Secured Creditor viz. AUSFB and there is no known encumbrance which exists on the said property. 2. For participating in online e-auction sale, Bid document, copies of PAN Card, Board Resolution in case of Company and photo ID, address proof are required to be submitted along with EMD, which is payable by way of RTGS/NEFT in the name of MSME AUCTION POOL ACCOUNT OF AU Small Finance Bank Limited. Current account no. IFSC20112111599AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED Fifth and Sixth Floor Sunny Big Junction STC Kharsa No. 64 to 67, Gram Sukhaiyura New Atsh Market Jaipur 302020. Branch Code: AUBI0002111. Once an Online Bid is submitted, same cannot be withdrawn. Further any EMD submitted by bidder will be required to send the UTR/Ref no of the RTGS/NEFT with a copy of cancelled cheque on the following email IDs i.e. rakesh.jain1@aubank.in & 3. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> & <https://www.aubank.in/bank-auction> for further details including Terms & Conditions, to take part in e-auction sale proceeding and are also advised to contact Mr. Rakesh Jain, Contact Number 9116181827 and e-mail of rakesh.jain1@aubank.in
 Place : Haryana Date : 18.07.2024 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

INDIA BEGIN WOMEN'S ASIA CUP DEFENCE WITH CLASH AGAINST PAK

PTI ■ DAMBULLA

The Women's Asia Cup is set for a blockbuster start when defending champions India take on arch-foes Pakistan in a prime-time clash here on Friday, with the eight competing teams hoping to firm up their combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup in October. Harmanpreet Kaur's India are the team to beat going into this iteration of the Asia Cup, having won the competition three out of four times in the T20 version and each of the four times in 50-overs format. Additionally, India are also the most successful team in the Women's Asia Cup T20 with 17 wins in 20 matches. They beat Bangladesh in the final of the last edition in 2022. India's record against Pakistan has also been stellar in the shortest format with 11 wins against three defeats in 14 matches so far and Kaur's team will lean on it in addition to the rich form shown in recent outings to

clinch the Group A clash here. While India are coming off a 1-1 draw against South Africa earlier this month with the second of the three T20s being washed out, Pakistan will be short on game-time as well as confidence since their last outing was in England in May when the hosts blanked them 3-0. Smriti Mandhana's rich form with the bat will be India's greatest weapon at the top of the order but the biggest gain from recent all-format outings has been the way their bowling has shaped up, with pacers and spinners putting on a combined show. India pacer Pooja Vastrakar's eight wickets across three outings against South Africa indicate her form but additionally, Radha Yadav's successful return to the mix of spinners has been encouraging. The spin attack also includes Deepti Sharma, Sajeevan Sajana and the sprightly Shreyanka Patil. Even though Pakistan retained Nida Dar as skipper for the Asia Cup, the squad



has undergone significant overhaul since the debacle in England. Three players, Iram Javed, Omaira Sohail, Syeda Aroob Shah, who have not played any matches so far this year, were included with the uncapped Tasmia Rubab while six others were dropped.

Nepal, UAE look to make their mark

Also placed in Group A are Nepal and the United Arab Emirates who will face off here earlier in the day at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium. The top two teams from the group will play in the semifinals. While Nepal are returning to the competition for the first time since 2016, UAE are set for their second consecutive appearance and will be high on confidence having won more than half of their matches this year.

The lack of game-time will be a concern for Nepal whose last outing was in mid February when they lost to Malaysia in the Asian Cricket Council's Women's Premier Cup. UAE were last seen in action in May when they lost in the T20 World Cup Qualifier semifinal to Sri Lanka.

Teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Uma Chetry (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Deepti Sharma, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, D Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Sajeevan Sajana.

Pakistan: Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Gull Feroza, Iram Javed, Muneeba Ali, Najjha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sandhu, Omaira Sohail, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/12/2024-25, Dtd: 17-07-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SI.No.:1; Tender No.: 60/23/5065A/OT/91/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 26-07-2024.

Brief Description: (1) Bogie Load Testing Machine as per specification No. COFMOW/BLT-50T/2021 (Rev-01) [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 650304340012. (2) Cost of concomitant accessories according to the tender specification. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65030435. (3) Cost of comprehensive AMC for 5 years after the warranty as per clause 17. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65030434. (4) Cost of any other accessory which in the opinion of the supplier is essentially required for making the machine fully functional. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65030436. (5) Cost of turnkey charges viz. Foundation, installation & commissioning etc. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65030437. (6) Cost of preventive maintenance during 1st and 2nd year of warranty period. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65030438. (7) Optional accessories with breakup of individual items as specified in clause 4.3 of section IV. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65030439. (8) Consumables as per clause 6 of section V with break up of individual items as applicable. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65030440. (9) Spares for two years normal operation and maintenance as per clause 5 of section V. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-65030441

SI.No.:2; Tender No.: 60/23/5051A/OT/92/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 12-08-2024.

Brief Description: (1)Grit/Shot Blasting Plant for Bogie frame (Airless Rotor Type) Machine. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-654401420014. (2) Cost of the concomitant accessories according to the tender specifications. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65440143. (3) Cost of any other accessory which in the opinion of supplier is essentially required for making the machine fully functional. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65440144. (4) Cost of Turnkey Charges viz. Foundation, installation & commissioning, covered shed for the machine etc. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.:No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65440145. (5) Cost of preventive Maintenance during 1st and 2nd year of warranty period. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65440147. (6) Spares of two years normal operation and maintenance with breakup of individual items as per clause 5 of section-V. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 65440149.

SI.No.:3; Tender No.: 62/24/5013C/OT/93/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 05-08-2024.

Brief Description: HYDRAULICALLY OPERATED KNUCKLE BOOM CRANE FOR UTV with installation and commissioning in Utility vehicle-36 Machine, specification as per Annexure-A, Make: PALFINGER or its equivalent, Warranty: 12 months of full Warranty and 36 months on all Load Bearing parts. [Warranty Period:36 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Nos for SSE/TM/Maligaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 603203835818.

SI.No.:4; Tender No.: 79/24/0985/OT/94/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 05-08-2024.

Brief Description: Pillow cover Polyvastra 65 cm x 38cm(white), Specification as per Annexure - A. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 67200 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 16757 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 15594 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 79336644.

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM, Maligaon

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