



OPINION 6 INORDINATE DELAY IN NAMING NEW ARMY CHIEF

WORLD 8 NASA CALLS OFF SPACEWALK AFTER SPACESUIT WATER LEAK

MONEY 10 RUPEE SETTLES 3 PAISE HIGHER AT 83.44 AGAINST US DOLLAR

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A LOT OF CREDIT FOR MY WICKETS GOES TO BUMRAH: ARSHDEEP 11 SPORTS

Historic clash over Speaker post

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The ruling BJP-led NDA and Congress-led Opposition failed to reach a consensus on the candidature of Lok Sabha Speaker post with the sides pitching for their members making it a first ever contest for the crucial post in Parliament. The NDA fielded its previous Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for the Speaker's post, while the Opposition forced an election by nominating Congress leader Kodikunnil Suresh as its candidate.

The Opposition's last-minute decision to go for a rare contest came after senior BJP leaders did not agree to its precondition that the INDIA Bloc must be offered the post of Deputy Speaker in lieu of supporting Birla, who is the clear favourites in case of an election. The scheduled day for picking the Speaker is Wednesday and if an election occurs, it will be only the third time in Lok Sabha's history, official sources said.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju urged the Congress not to force a contest for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker as the presiding officer does not belong to any party.

"I appeal again that they should think about keeping in mind the dignity of the post of Speaker. We have the numbers but still, we are requesting that there should be no election for the post of Speaker because this post does not belong to any party," the



BJP MP Om Birla takes oath as a member of the House during the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. Congress MP Kodikunnil Suresh (R) takes oath as a member of the House on Monday

Parliamentary Affairs Minister said.

He said the Government had contacted major Opposition parties over the last two days for consensus on the post of the Speaker.

"We want the Speaker to be elected unanimously and unopposed, so we contacted and appealed to them. Today, we had a meeting with Congress leaders. We appealed to them for support for the Speaker. They said they will support but they want the post of Deputy Speaker," Rijiju said.

Leaders of the INDIA Bloc met on Tuesday night to evolve a strategy for the Speaker's election even as the Congress said the ball is in the Government's court to bring about a consensus on the

Rift surfaces, Mamata faults Congress move

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee is not happy with the Congress "domineering ways," for which her 29-member strong Trinamool Congress may abstain from the Speaker's election, sources said.

According to TMC sources, the Bengal Chief Minister is unhappy that the Congress leadership did not consult her on the Opposition candidate for the Speaker's post and "announced the name of K Suresh unilaterally."

Mamata, who spoke at length to senior leaders Sudip Bandopadhyay, Kalyan Banerjee, Abhishek Banerjee, Saugata Roy, and Derek O'Brien via video conferencing, will make the final decision on the issue, sources said, adding, "the TMC has its own opinion and reservations and will not like to be dictated on issues."

Abhishek, who met with other senior leaders in Parliament after his talks with Mamata, said, "Unfortunately, we have not been consulted."

issue by offering the Opposition the Deputy Speaker's post according to convention.

Sources said earlier in the day a brief interaction involving Congress leader KC Venugopal and DMK's TR Bалу from the Opposition side and Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and JP Nadda, who is also the BJP president, at Singh's office in Parliament to evolve a consensus ended in acrimony as both sides stuck to their position.

Both Opposition leaders walked out, with Venugopal accusing the Government of not following the "convention" of an Opposition candidate for the Deputy Speaker's position and announcing the decision to field a candidate against Birla.

HC stays Kejriwal bail order

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a blow to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday stayed the trial court order granting him bail in the money-laundering case arising from the alleged excise scam, holding that the trial court failed to appreciate the material placed before it by the Enforcement Directorate and did not apply its mind while deciding the AAP leader's bail plea.

The Court passed the order on a plea by the ED seeking stay of the trial court order passed on June 20 granting bail to Kejriwal.

A vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said the ED's contentions assailing the bail order required serious consideration. Kejriwal's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's stay order will come up for hearing on Wednesday in the Supreme Court.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

Accordingly, the present application is allowed and the Impugned Order is stayed. It is made clear that nothing in this order shall be taken as any opinion or observation on the merits of the petition under section 439(2) of the Code," the vacation judge said in the order.

Justice Jain said voluminous material cannot be considered is totally unjustified and it shows that the trial court has not applied its mind to the material.

In the 34-page order on the ED's application seeking a stay on the operation of the bail order, Justice Jain asserted that every court is under an obligation to give sufficient opportunity to the parties to present their respective case and, in the instant case as well, the ED ought to have been given adequate opportunity to advance arguments on Kejriwal's bail application.

Reacting to this, the AAP said it disagrees with the Delhi High Court order staying the bail granted to Kejriwal by the trial court and will challenge it in the Supreme Court. "They will approach the apex court," the AAP said.

Sensex hits new all-time high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex breached its historic 78,000 level for the first time while Nifty settled at a new record high on Tuesday on buying in blue-chip bank stocks and Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 712.44 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 78,053.52.

During the day, the benchmark soared 823.63 points or 1 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime high of 78,164.71. The Sensex breached the 77,000 mark for the first time on June 10.

Detailed report on Page 10

Panel moots outreach plan in NEET/NET row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, like NEET and NET conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA), the recently formed Education Ministry's panel on competitive examination reforms has decided to reach out to parents and students to understand their concerns and challenges about the examination process.

The decision was taken by

the seven-member panel headed by former ISRO chief R Radhakrishnan in its first meeting late on Monday evening. The committee has also been tasked with examining the existing security protocols related to the setting of the papers and other processes for different examinations and making recommendations to enhance the robustness of the system.

According to sources present in the meeting, the committee took stock of the current situation and



Police personnel detain Samajwadi Party workers protesting over the alleged irregularities in NEET 2024 results, near party chief Akhilesh Yadav's residence, in Lucknow, on Tuesday

challenges faced by the (NTA). National Testing Agency "The panel was appraised

of the current processes and functioning of the agency. The panel also looked into the statistics provided by the NTA about the multiple exams conducted by it and the number of candidates appearing for each exam," a source said.

The panel also looked into which exams are conducted in pen-and-paper mode and which are conducted as computer-based tests (CBT), and the nuances of both modes.

"The first priority for us is to elicit from the students

and parents in the country their concerns and suggestions. We are going to engage with them as far as possible in person, or through electronic media. And in the next fortnight, we would like to consolidate this," Radhakrishnan briefed the media on Tuesday.

"The next priority for us is to quickly build a robust system for starting the tests. We are also looking at the future, especially to develop in this country a robust system, a tamper-proof system," he said.

Four of a family die in Delhi blaze

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A couple and their two sons suffocated to death in a tragic incident on Tuesday morning after a fire broke out at their home in Dwarka's Prem Nagar area. Meanwhile, a fire broke out in a storeroom in the old emergency building of the Safdarjung Hospital where a nurse was rescued from the third floor of the building after breaking a window.

The Delhi Fire Service Chief Atul Garg said the fire department was informed about the fire around 3.30 am and two fire tenders were sent to the spot. The deceased were identified as 48-year-old Heera Singh Kakkur, his 40-year-old wife Neetu and their sons, 22-year-old Robin and 21-year-old Lakshay. Kakkur was a photographer by profession and the house was owned by the family. According to the DFS official, the fire was caused by an inverter and it spread to an adjacent sofa on the first floor of the two-storey building, leading to the four victims inhaling smoke.

The Delhi Police has also conducted an inquiry into the case. DCP Dwarka Ankit Singh said the main iron gate was locked from inside. "The gate was broken. Incident took place on the first floor of the said house," he said.

Modi's 100 smart cities plan incubator of new India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Smart Cities Mission developed during the two tenures of Narendra Modi Government boasts of 'nurturing' over 100 smart cities across the country with ultra modern and sophisticated Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC), mobility solutions and transportation based on artificial intelligence, installation of CCTV cameras, streetlights, and many more worth whopping ₹1,43,778 crore. Notably, Modi's three flagship programmes — the Smart Cities Mission, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana — Urban (PMAY-U) that transformed urban infrastructure and improved the quality of life for millions of

residents across India, completed nine year on Tuesday. Some of cities tagged as Smart Cities are Indore, New Delhi, Surat, Ahmedabad, Bhagalpur, Patna, Mumbai, Pakinada, Amaravati, Muzzafarpur, Bihar Sharif, Naya Raipur, Karnal, Shivamogga, Satna, Haldia, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Saharanpur, Rampur, Bareilly among others.

According to the Ministry of Urban Affairs' data, a total 7,160 projects worth ₹1,43,778 crore has been completed and another 854 projects worth ₹20,392 crore are in advanced stages of completion under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) projects which completed nine year on Tuesday. The data shows the Centre has released ₹46,387 crore to 100 cities to develop as smart cities mission and 93 per cent of released funds



Representational image

have been utilised. The data shows 51 cities have successfully developed 200 projects with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) worth around ₹10,000 crore.

The data shows all 100 smart cities have operationalised ICCC, leveraging Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, and data analytics to enhance city operations

such as transport management, water supply, and solid waste management.

Under the public safety and security, over 76,000 CCTV surveillance cameras have been installed across 100 cities, bolstering city-wide crime monitoring efforts.

More than 50 lakhs solar/LED streetlights have been installed under the project and over 89,000 kms of underground electricity cabling constructed. Besides, 9,754 number of WiFi hotspot locations created.

Under the scheme, 12,300 kms roads have been developed as smart roads and 2500+ kms of cycle tracks was constructed, alongside the Intelligent Transport Management System (ITMS), to streamlined traffic operations and journey times in smart cities.

PM to visit Russia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Russia for a day on July 8 to hold wide ranging parleys with Russian President Vladimir Putin. It will be his first visit there in nearly five years, it was learnt here on Tuesday.

Modi last visited Russia in 2019 when he attended an economic conclave in the Far East city of Vladivostok. Though there is no confirmation from the Indian side on Modi's possible visit, a Kremlin official in Moscow said active preparations are underway for the trip. "I can confirm that we are



File Photo

preparing for a visit by the PM of India. We cannot (say) the dates as yet, because the dates are announced by the parties in agreement," Yuri Ushakov, an assistant to the Russian President, said.

India behind Afghan fairytale feat in T20 WC

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Afghanistan scripted a history on Tuesday when it stormed into the semi-finals of T20 World Cup by beating Bangladesh in Kingstown, West Indies. While the team deserves kudos for this maiden feat, India's role in shaping cricket environment in strife-torn Afghanistan needs to be underlined.

Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, former Australia all-rounder Tom Moody, almost all Indian Premier League (IPL) teams and former India cricketers Yuvraj Singh,



After scripting history on Tuesday by storming into the semi-finals of T20 World Cup, Afghanistan players celebrate

Harbhajan Singh, Suresh Raina and S Badrinath bigger than its circumstances. Afghan players, undoubtedly, have become darlings of

cricket loving patrons all over the world, but they may be thanking in their heart of hearts Shaheed Vijay Singh Sports Complex, Greater Noida. Also, the role of Indian coaches to hone the Afghan talent and unlock it to enable the Afghans to compete at the highest level has to be acknowledged.

This sports complex became the temporary home ground or nursery for Afghanistan team in 2015, and credit for this goes to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). It provided all facilities to Afghanistan to come up to the international

levels. Afghanistan shifted their base to Noida from Sharjah and even played international matches against Ireland in Greater Noida in 2017.

Greater Noida was not only the 'home ground' for Afghan players, it had also "hosted" a Twenty20 series against Bangladesh in Dehradun. Former India players Lalchand Rajput, Manoj Prabhakar and Ajay Jadeja have coached the Afghanistan team in the past. In fact, Jadeja was their mentor till as recently as the ODI World Cup 2023.

Relocation turns tragic for 2 cubs

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The tragic death of two tiger cubs on Tuesday in Uttarakhand, which were moved from Corbett Tiger Reserve to Rajaji Tiger Reserve (RTR) along with their mother highlights the challenges of predator relocation, experts have warned as they pointed out that conflicts between the two top predators can arise when their territories overlap. The cubs, a male and a female, were killed by leopards in the Beriawada range of Rajaji. The mother tigress had given birth to four



Representational image

cubs in May, but now only two survive, said RTR Director Saket Badola. The translocated tigress had given birth to four cubs in the Chillawali range on May 24, he informed.

While stressing that normally leopards killing the tiger litters as happened in the RTR case should not be

seen in isolation, the experts have called for better management to protect young cubs, who are vulnerable to attacks by leopards and other predators like jackals, hyenas, and pythons. Cubs also face dangers from fires and other natural threats, added a former PCCF from the North Indian State on the condition of anonymity.

He said ensuring the safety of translocated predators and their offspring is crucial. This requires careful planning and monitoring to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Prem Singh S/o Dev Raj R/o House no. 666, Sector 40-A, Chandigarh declares that my son Gagandeep Singh is out of my control. I disown him from my movable immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Anita Rani W/o Neelkanth R/o # 121, VPO Khatauli, District Panchkula declare that our son Anil Kumar and his wife Raj Kiran are out of our control. So we disown them from our movable and immovable property. Anybody deals with them in future will be responsible himself.

I, Naresh Sharma S/o Om Parkash, R/o House No. 1537 Shivaji Colony, Hansi Road Karnal Haryana inform that my daughter Aashtha out of my control. I disown her from my moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with her at their own Risk. Any of my family members and me will not be responsible for any of her acts in future.

I, Bant Kaur W/o Gurcharan Singh, R/o House No. 446, Balmiki Mohalla, Burail, Chandigarh inform that my son Ravi Singh and his wife Manpreet Kaur and Grand daughter Kirat Kaur out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them at their own Risk.

I, Damanjeet Kaur D/o Late Manjeet Singh R/o H.No. 1356, 3rd Gate University Kurukshetra, have breaks all relations with my brother Upkar Singh, as he is out of my control. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Radha W/o Late Sh. Mahesh Kori resident of Mohalla Gulabnag, District Budaun, (U.P), now residing at Village Sohana, Tehsil & District SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab declare that my son Sumit is out of my control. I disown him from all my moveable/immovable property. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his/her own risk.

I, Jasso Devi W/o Late Pawan Kumar R/o Village Dayalpur Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have evicted my son Rakesh Kumar, his wife Priyanka from all my movable-immovable properties and legal rights as they are out of my control. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Giani Gautam S/o Baljor Singh, # 96/6, Sector 25-D, Chandigarh declare that I had disown my son Deepak and his wife Sushma and their children through newspaper dated. 01.06.2022. Now they are under my control. So, I cancelled them disown and now in future he is having his full right in my all properties.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Saleena legally mother of No. 16133709A Rank L/NK Name Midlaj K Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Kuttasseri House, Pavanna, VTC : Urangattiri, PO : Poovathikkal, Distt. Malappuram, State Kerala-673639 declare that I have changed my date of birth from 10.05.1975 to 01.01.1977

I, Govindhammal D legally mother of No. 16122412Y Rank NK Name Lokraj Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of 4/2, Guttur, Krishnagiri, Samanthamalai, Distt. Krishnagiri, State Tamil Nadu-635115 have changed my name from Govindammal to Govindhammal D and DOB from 10.03.1960 to 01.01.1959 vide Affidavit date 25.06.2024

I, Santha Rajan legally mother of No. JC-311480N Rank SUB Name Shivaprasad R Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Alamparutha, Elavampadam, Kizhakkencheri-II, Distt. Palakkad, State Kerala-678684 have changed my name from Santha to Santha Rajan and DOB from 01.07.1959 to 17.03.1957 vide Affidavit date 24.06.2024

I, Malliga Vedyappan legally mother of No. 16120725Y Rank L/NK Name Siva Kumar V Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Palakkad, State Kerala-678684 have changed my name from V Malliga to Malliga Vedyappan and DOB from 09.01.1964 to 05.07.1968 vide Affidavit date 24.06.2024

I, Parvesh Kumar s/o Jai Kishan r/o flat no. 2, Professor colony, Kakroi road Sonipat have changed my son's name from Shaurya to Shaurya Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Davneet Singh Kalra S/O. Davinder Parkash Singh Narpuri. R/O. #1033, Old Sunny Enclave Sector 125, Kharar. Sas Nagar, Mohali, Punjab. I Have Changed My Name From Davneet Singh Kalra To Davneet Singh.

I, Sukhdeep Kaur W/o Jasbir Singh R/o VPO Chhajal Waddi, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab- 143115 have changed my name from Sukhdeep Kaur to Sukhdeep Kaur.

I, Riya Sharma W/o Shivam Kapoor R/O H.No.744, Gali Bagh Choudhary I/s Gate Khazana, Amritsar declare that i have changed my name from Riya Sharma to Riya Kapoor after marriage. Concerned Note.

I, Service No. 15794039F NK (GNR) Anil Bhimappa Kamble, Present Unit 105 Ad Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Mother Name From Lakshmbai Kamble To Padma Urf Lakshmbiyai Bhimappa Kamble Date Of Birth From 01-07-1968 To 01-05-1970 Vide Affidavit Dated 25-06-2024 Before Ambala Cantt

I, Service No. 15794039F NK (GNR) Anil Bhimappa Kamble, Present Unit 105 Ad Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Mother Padma Urf Lakshmbiyai Bhimappa Kamble Date Of Birth From 01-07-1968 To 01-05-1970 Vide Affidavit Dated 25-06-2024. Before Ambala Cantt

I, Renuka W/o Dr Kuldeep Singh R/O H.No- 256 Sector-14, Rohtak Distt Rohtak, Haryana have changed my name from Renu Singh to Renuka. All concerned please note.

I, Renu Wadhawan W/o Sh. Ajay Wadhawan R/O #34/13 Patel Nagar Kurukshetra, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Renu Chawla to Renu Wadhawan. In future I should be known as Renu Wadhawan.

I, Hitherto Known As Jaswinder Kaur Wife Of Vikrampreet Singh Employed As R.S-II In The Northern Railway At Reservation Office At Amritsar Railway Station Residing At H.No.87, Guru Har Rai Avenue, Opp Khalsa College, District Amritsar-143002 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Jaswinder Kaur Dhillo.

I, Hitherto Known As Ranjit Singh Son Of Jaswant Singh Residing At H.No.215, Medical Enclave, Circular Road, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ranjit Singh Buttar.

I, Hitherto Known As Inderjit Daughter Of Ragbir Singh Wife Of Ranjit Singh Buttar Residing At H.No.215, Medical Enclave, Circular Road, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Roshani Arora

I, Hitherto Known As Sneh Wife Of Gurleen Singh Luthra Residing At H.No.188, Street No.1, Upkar Nagar, Civil Lines, Ludhiana-141001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sneeroop Kaur Luthra

I, Hitherto Known As Nimrat Kaur Randhawa Daughter Of Palwinder Singh Residing At Vpo Bhangali Kalan Tehsil And District Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Nimrat Kaur

I, Hitherto Known As Kanwalpreet Kaur Wife Of Sarabjit Singh Residing At D-7/3367, Dasmesh Nagar, Block-B, Guru Nanakpura Road, Kot Khalsa, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kawalpreet Kaur

I, Hitherto Known As Sandeep Singh Residing At Ward No.1, Gopal Nagar, Ajnala Road, Amritsar, Punjab-143102 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sandeep Singh

I, Hitherto Known As Seema Wife Of Paramjit Singh Residing At Dasmesh Colony, Opp Power House, Amritsar Road, Po Tarn Taran Tehsil And District Tarn Taran-143401 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Seema Sharma

I, Hitherto Known As Hema D/o Kishan Lal Sidana, Ex. W/O Gian Chand R/O H.No. E.E-27, Krishna Gali, Bhagat Singh Chowk, Div No. 3, Jalandhar, Punjab- 144001, declare that I got divorce from my Ex-Husband Gian Chand, Vide Court Decree Case No. 316/2017 dated 11/09/2017. Further I, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sapna Sidana respectively in future for all purposes.

I, hitherto known as Hema D/o Kishan Lal Sidana, Ex. W/O Gian Chand R/O H.No. E.E-27, Krishna Gali, Bhagat Singh Chowk, Div No. 3, Jalandhar, Punjab- 144001, declare that I got divorce from my Ex-Husband Gian Chand, Vide Court Decree Case No. 316/2017 dated 11/09/2017. Further I, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sapna Sidana respectively in future for all purposes.

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I, Hitherto Known As Gurpreet Singh Bhatti Son Of Gora Singh Residing At Shani Dev Mandir Wali Gali, Vpo Talwandi Bhai District Ferozepur-142050 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurpreet Singh.

I, Baljit Kaur W/O Maninder Singh R/O Vill Dhotian Tarn Taran Have Change Name To Baljit Kaur To Baljeet Kaur.

I, Kuldip Singh S/O Tarsem Singh R/O Vill Dhotian Distt Tarn Taran Have Change Name Kuldip Singh To Kuldeep Singh

I, Bhupinder Singh Ahuja S/O Sham Singh R/O 71, Lawrence Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Bhupinder Singh Ahuja To Bhupinder Singh

I, Harkiran Sandhu W/O Daljit Singh Residing At H.No.12/2-A, College Lane Rani Ka Bagh, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Harkiran Kaur.

I, Dyal Singh S/O Mota Singh R/O Vpo Banian Tehsil Khadur Sahib Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Gurdial Singh

I, Simranjit Kaur W/O Gurdial Singh R/O Vpo Banian Tehsil Khadur Sahib Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Simarjeet Kaur

I, Sandeep Singh S/O Balkar Singh R/O Vpo. Basarke Gillan, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar Have Declare That Singh Is My Surname And Sandeep Is My Given Name

I, Isha W/O Gundeep Singh R/O A-26, Green Valley, New Ranjit Pura, Chheharta, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Isha To Isha Arora.

I, Sumal Singh S/O Ranjit Singh R/O Vpo Jodhe Tehsil Baba Bakala District Amritsar Have Changed My Name Sumal Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

I, Sarabjit Singh Bawa S/O Parminder Singh R/O H.No.L-3/864, Namdev Colony Near Tot Sahib Gurudwara Sultanwind Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sarabjit Singh Bawa To Sarabjeet Singh.

I, Bhavna W/o Sh. Mahender Mongia R/O H. No. 1542, Sector 16-17, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Bhavna to Bhavna Mongia for all future purpose.

I, Rita Rani W/o Sh. Ramesh R/o H.No. 1138/11, Jagdish Colony, Hansi, Tehsil Hansi, Distt. Hisar declare that I am known by Rita and Rita Rani, both are my names i.e. same person.

I, Shanker S/o Wazir Singh Maharia R/O H. No. 110, Azad Nagar, Rajgarh Road, Hisar Haryana do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shanker to Shanker Maharia for all future purpose.

I, Gursahib Singh S/o Sukhdev Singh R/O E 10/309, Gali Mangal Puri, Khandwala, Chheharta, Amritsar, Punjab-143105 have changed my name from Gursahib Singh to Singh is my surname and Gursahib is my given name.

I, Baljit Kaur W/O. Rajan Malhotra R/O. #401, Meera Bai Chowk Ropar, Tehsil & Distt. Ropar, Punjab. I Have Changed My Name From Baljit Kaur To Krisha Malhotra.

I, Suman Devi W/o Sandeep Kumar R/O H.No.65, Khere Wali Gali, Ward No.4, Near J.C College, Assandh, Distt. Karnal, declare that I have changed my name from Suman to Suman Devi for all purposes.

I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Inder Singh R/O H.No.65, Khere Wali Gali, Ward No.4, Near J.C College, Assandh, Distt. Karnal, declare that I have changed my name from Sandeep to Sandeep Kumar for all purposes.

I, Tarunpreet Singh S/O Surjit Singh R/O 1045, Sector 12, Huda, Panipat, declare that I have changed my name from Tarunpreet to Tarunpreet Singh for all purpose.

I, Vikas S/O Vijaypal Singh R/O G-152, Gohana Road, One City, Sec-37, Rohtak, Haryana-124001 have changed my name to Vikas Tomar.

I, Anil Thapa S/O Deepak Kumar Thapa R/O Vill-Jalaha, Pathankot, Dhar Khurd, Gurdaspur, Punjab-145001 have changed my name to Neil Gurung.

I, Ishaan S/o Jatinder Singh R/O Near Gurur Nanak Gurudawara, H No.206 Vill Maloya, Ward No.7 Sector 39, Chandigarh-160025 have changed my name to Ishaan Bhardwaj.

I, Preeti W/o Ashish Gupta R/O 126, Urban Estate, Sector-10, Ambala, Haryana-134003 have changed my name to Preeti Goyal.

I, Kabul Singh S/o Gurdip Singh R/O Village Jauneke, PO: Hari Ke, Distt: Tarn Taran, Punjab-143412 have changed my name to Kabal Singh.

I, Neha Kathuria W/o Aman Kathuria R/O H. No. 135, Sirsa Road, Housing Board Colony, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Neha Maggu to Neha Kathuria for all future purpose.

I, Kazal Daughter of No. 1483151Y NK Budh Ram (Retd.) resident of Village Swar, PO Hajipur, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Kazal to Kajal. Concerned note.

I, Smt. Kartar Kaur W/o No. 4437762 Late Hav Faqir Singh R/O VPO Daganla Kalan Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Kartar Kaur to Avtar Kaur.

I, Smt. Gurdip Kaur W/o No. 13742126N Late Sep Ram Lal R/O Vill. Jamsheer Chhathial PO Garhiwala Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Gurdip Kaur to Gurdeep Kaur and my date of birth from 10-04-1963 to 17-11-1962.

I, Rattan Chand S/o Punjab Singh, House No. 1119, Sector 19-B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Rattan Chand to R.C.Thakur.

I, Pushpa W/o Sukhdev Singh R/o V.P.O. Landi, Tehsil Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name Pushpa to Pushpa Devi. All Concerned please note.

I, Varsha Rani W/o Manoj Kumar R/o Village Landora, Jairampur, District Karnal have changed my name from Warsha Rani to Varsha.

I, Amarjeet Singh Sto Sh. Mohinder Singh R/o VPO Kharwan Tehsil Jagadhri Distt. Yamunanagar I have change my name from Amarjit Singh to Amarjeet Singh. All concerned note.

I, Jagjeet Kaur W/o Amarjeet Singh R/o VPO Kharwan Tehsil Jagadhri Distt. Yamunanagar I have change my name from Jagjit Kaur to Jagjeet Kaur. All concerned note.

I, Rajender Kumar Sharma S/O Late Sh. Paras Ram R/O Flat No 2856/C, Sector 49D, Chandigarh have changed my name to Rajender Sharma.

I, Madhu Sharma w/o Ravi Gautam #1345/6, rev Aggarwal dharmshala, ambala city have changed my name from Madhu Gautam to Madhu Sharma. Please Note.

Vikram S/O Gajinder Sharma, Holder Of Indian Passport No. M8351108, Issued At Chandigarh On 29/04/2015, Permanent Resident Of House No. 145/2 Shankar Nagar, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar, Pin Code - 135003 Haryana, India Do Hereby Changr My Name From Vikram To Vikram Sharma With Immediate Effect.

I, Anju Sharma W/o Rajender Sharma R/O Flat No 2856/C, Sector 49D, Chandigarh have changed my name to Anjana Kumari Sharma.

मैं वरुणा रानी (Varsha Rani) पत्नी श्री मनोज कुमार निवासी गाँव अंबाला जयरायपुर, जिला करनाल ने अपना नाम वरुणा रानी (Varsha Rani) से बदलकर वरुणा रानी (Varsha Rani) रख लिया है।

I, Lakhvinder Singh S/o Sh. Bhupinder Singh R/O Village Damdama, Tehsil Rania, District Sirsa have changed my name from Lakhvinder Singh to Lakhvir Singh. Concerned note.

I, Gurmeet Singh S/O Arjan Singh R/O H.No.202, Gali No.8, Satguru Ram Singh Avenue, New Mohini park, Amritsar have Changed my name to Gurmeet is my given name and singh is my surname.

I, Inderjit Singh S/O Lakhwinder Singh R/O Vill.Tut, Tehsil Ajnala, Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Inderjit As Given Name And Singh As Surname All Concerned Note.

I, Gursimranjeet Singh Pannu S/O Jaswant Singh Vpo Kot Mehtab, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gursimranjeet Singh Pannu To Gursimranjeet Singh. All Concerned Noted.

I, Baljit Kaur W/o Jaimal Singh Gill R/O 29, Modren Colony, Near OCM Mill Khandwala Chheharta, Amritsar have changed my name from Baljit Kaur to Baljit Kaur Gill

I, Rajbir Kaur W/o Paramjit Singh R/O VPO Vairowal Bawian Tehsil Khadoor Sahib District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Rajbir Kaur to Rajwinder Kaur

I, Balwinder Kaur Wife Of Gurdev Singh Village Bhirdana (Fatehabad) Declare That My Son Chandler Pal Singh Serving In Army No 4494 231 Y Rank Sep, In Army Record My Name Written Balvinder Kaur Which Is Wrong And In My Adhar Card My Name Written As Balwinder Kaur Which Is Correct. Name Should Be Corrected In Army Record.

I, Dinesh Tiwari S/o Bhagwat Tiwari, # 153 Near Tubewell, AKS Colony-2, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar Mohali, have changed my name to Dinesh Kumar Tiwari.

I, Kamni Sharma W/o Rakesh Kumar, 9936/3A, New Shimlapur, Ludhiana, have changed spelling of my name as Kamini Sharma

I, Hemant Kumar S/o Gian Chand Sharma R/O C2/403, Nirmal Chhaya Tower, Lohgarh, Zirakpur (SAS Nagar), have changed my name to Hemant Sharma.

I, Rajbir Kaur W/o Harpal Singh Aulakh R/O Model Town Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Rajbir Kaur Aulakh.

I, Jashanpreet Kaur Urf Rajni Rani W/O Sarabjeet Singh R/O H.N. 84, VPO Rasidan Tehsil Narwana Distt Jind 126116 Haryana, have change my name Jashanpreet Kaur Urf Rajni Rani to Rajni Rani.

I, Harmandeep Singh Ghuman S/o Jaswinder singh R/O VPO Kandila Teh. Batala Distt Gurdaspur has changed my name from Harmandeep Singh Ghuman To Harmandeep Singh. All concerned please Note.

I, Suman Chaudhary W/o Harvendra Singh R/O VPO Entera Tehsil Laxmangarh District Alwar (Rajasthan) - 301021 have changed my name Suman Chaudhary to Suman Chaudhary due to wrong name record in Army Service record of my husband vide Notary Public, Gurdaspur affidavit dated 21.06.24.

I, Kuldeep Kaur Dhadial W/o Kuldeep Singh R/O Gobind Nagar, Bhullar Road, Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Kuldeep Kaur Dhadial to Kuldeep Kaur. Concerned Note.

I, Rajani Jamwal w/o No.10362612W Ex LNK Joginder Singh R/O Village - Upparla Manwal, PO-Pathankot, Teh & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) - 145001 have changed my name from Rajani Jamwal to Rajni Jamwal being wrongly mentioned in Army Record of my husband.

I, Rajni Bala w/o Prem Kumar R/O Village Bal Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Rajni Devi to Rajni Bala. Concerned note.

I, Army No 19005749Y NK Gurtej Singh UNIT 24 SIKH C/O 56 APO Permanent Resident of Village Khere Wala (Fatehabad) have changed my mother name from Sukhwinder Kaur To Sukhwinder Kaur Vide Affidavit No. FO-2024 F127 Dated 18-06-2024.

I, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal S/O Joginder Singh Dhaliwal R/O Patti, Tarn Taran -143416 Punjab have changed my Name to Andysingh Dhaliwal for all Future Purpose.

I, Balwinder Kaur w/o Balwinder Singh Village Theh Tikha Distt Gurdaspur, All Concerned inform my real name is Balwinder Kaur.

I, Shanker Lal S/O Mewa Ram R/O Village Kaluasi SAS Nagar, Declare That Shanker Lal And Buli Ram Both Name Is One And The Same Person.

I, Satvir Singh S/O Chatter Singh R/O #4966, Sector 11, Urban Estate Jind I Have Declared That My Name Changed From Satvir Singh To Satbir Singh. In Future Known Me For All Purposes.

I, Hemant Kumar S/O Dharampal Sharma R/O H. No. 2452, Sec-13, Bhiwani Have Changed My Son Name From Shivansh To Shivansh Sharma For All Future Purposes.

I, Gursimranjeet Singh Pannu S/O Jaswant Singh Vpo Kot Mehtab, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gursimranjeet Singh Pannu To Gursimranjeet Singh. All Concerned Noted.

I, Dheeraj S/O Mukesh Kumar R/O Hno. 915, Vikas Nagar, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh, Pincode-160102, Declare That I Have Change My Name From Dheeraj Kumar To Dheeraj.

I, Harvinder Singh S/O Hari Singh R/O Chak Alla Baksh Mukerian Po & Tehsil Mukerian Distt Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From HarvinderTo Harvinder Singh.

I, Lalit Kalra Principal Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Odhan S/O Sh.Nand Lal R/O H. No. 253 Mishwara Narnul Distt. Mohinderghar (Haryana) Have Changed My Name Lalit Kalra To Lalit Kumar Kalra. All Concern Please Note It. Deponent

I, Satish Chander S/O Des Raj, R/O House No. 3230, Sector 27D, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Satish Chander To Satish Chander Kharbanda

I, Aarti Pandit Girdhar W/O Sh. Bobby Girdhar R/O R-1, E 315, Dif Hyde Park, New Chandigarh, District Mohali Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Aarti Pandit To Aarti Pandit Girdhar

I, Aayush S/O Sh. Pawan Aggarwal R/O E-601, Exotic Grandeur, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Aayush To Ayush Aggarwal.

I, Purshotam Lal S/O Amer Nath R/O H.No- 730, Sector-4 Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Purshotam Lal To Purshotam Lal Aneza.

I, Suman W/O Shri Parvesh R/O H No 170a Dc Office Colony Distt Sonipat Hereby Declare That In All Documents Of My Son His Name Is Aryan Singh. Aryan & Aryan Singh Is Same & One Person. My Son Real & Correct Name Is Aryan Singh.

I, Mohinder singh s/o Ujagar Singh, R/o Gobind Nagar, Dera Fateh Singh, Pehowa (kurukshetra) changed my name to Mahinder Singh.

I, Raghubir Singh S/o Shingara Singh, 352/2 Majri Mohalla Shahabad Markanda (Kurukshetra) have changed my name Raghvira Singh.

I, Tarleen Sharma S/O Terslem Lal R/O Vpo Paniar, Po-Gandhian. Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab -143531, India. Have Changed My Name From Tarleen To Tarleen Sharma.

I, Amrendra Prasad Singh Father Of No. 15435066P RANK HAV/NA Name Rajesh Kumar Presently Residing At Vpo - Chechar, Tehsil - Hajipur, Distt - Vaishali, State - Bihar, Have Changed My Name From Amrendra Prasad Singh To Amrendra Singh Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb28520948205312w Dated 24-06-2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I, NO 13990574F EX NK Kulbhushan Singh Resident Of Village And Post Office Gharota Kalan, Tehsil And Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Have Changed Name Of My Wife From Geeta To Geeta Kumari Vide Affidavit No In-Pb28827118719325w Dated 25 Jun 2024 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, NO JC 430449L EX Sh Gulshan Kumar S/O Sh Hans Raj R/O Village- Kishanpur, P.O. Gurdaspur Tehsil And Distt- Gurdaspur State- Punjab. Have Changed My Daughter Name From Shivani To Vaishali And Date Of Birth Is 02-01-1997 To 21-12-1997.

I, Wassan Singh F/O Service No.15140131P Ex Hav Malkit Singh R/O Village - Khehra Kotali, Po- Bhikhariwal Tehsil And Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Changed My Name From Wassan Singh To Wassan Singh And Date Of Birth From 01/07/1953 To 01/01/1942 In My Son Army Record.

I, Raman Kumar S/O Sawran Singh R/O Village - Bhaini Miwan, Po- Saidowal Kalan, Distt- Gurdaspur, Pin Code - 143530, Punjab, India. Declare That My Given Name As Raman And My Surname As Kumar.

I, Devinder Kaur W/O Kulwant Singh R/O Vill/PO- Ghot Poker Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab

Revolt within SAD: Senior leaders demand leadership change; Ask Sukhbir to step down

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), once a prominent political force in Punjab, is facing internal turmoil as a fraction of senior leaders has openly revolted against the current party leadership under Sukhbir Singh Badal. The unprecedented revolt has come in the wake of significant electoral setbacks suffered by the party in recent Lok Sabha, besides the assembly, municipal, and panchayat elections over the past decade — signaling a deep-seated discontent within its ranks.

The revolt unfolded through parallel meetings held in Chandigarh and Jalandhar, showcasing a gulf within the party's leadership. In Chandigarh, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal convened a crucial gathering amidst growing dissent, attempting to address concerns raised by senior members regarding the party's direction and performance.

Meanwhile, in Jalandhar, a separate assembly of dissenting leaders, including prominent figures like Prem Singh Chandumajra, Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Bibi Jagir Kaur, Surjit Singh Rakhra, Sikandar Singh Maluka, Gurpartap Wadala, Charanjit Brar, Harinder Pal Singh Tohra, Gaganjit Singh Barnala, Paramjit Kaur Landran, Sucha Singh Chhotepur, Sarwan Singh Phillaar, and others, articulated their grievances and demands for change.

Chandumajra, a former minister, former MP, and a central figure in the dissent, emphasized the urgent need for introspection within the party. He pointed out that the Akali Dal has witnessed a decline in its electoral fortunes and influence since 2017, necessitating immediate corrective measures.

He also announced plans for a visit to Sri Akal Takht Sahib on July 1, where a section of Akali leaders intend to seek forgiveness and renew commitment to the core principles and values that define the Akali Dal's legacy.

The dissenting leaders cited several reasons for their discontent, prominently highlighting strategic missteps and

alleged conspiracies by external forces, including the BJP, aimed at weakening and fragmenting the Akali Dal. They accused the current leadership of disconnecting from the sentiments and aspirations of grassroots workers, which they argue has contributed significantly to recent electoral setbacks.

The meeting in Jalandhar lasted for more than five hours, during which senior leaders deliberated extensively on the path forward. They reaffirmed their commitment to reclaiming the party's historical prominence and influence in Punjab's political landscape. The leaders stressed that their actions were motivated by a desire to restore the pride and dignity of the Akali Dal, which has been a cornerstone of Punjab's political identity for decades.

Lamenting the party's decline, Chandumajra said: "Saadi party arsh tonh farsh ta aad diggi (Our party has fallen from grace). We have discussed ways to improve the graph of the party."

He announced plans to seek forgiveness at the Akal Takht on July 1, marking the formal launch of the "SAD Bachao Lehar". Chandumajra emphasized the need for a new leader who would listen to the people's mandate and reinvestigate the party.

The meeting concluded with a resolution to form a 15-21 member committee tasked with steering the party out of its current crisis. The meeting also saw discussions on various critical issues, including human rights concerns surrounding Amritpal Singh and the need to review the National Security Act (NSA). The leaders also addressed the long-standing issue of Bandi Singhs (Sikh prisoners), urging both the state and central governments to take appropriate actions.

Voicing the collective sentiment, Maluka said that Sukhbir Badal should step down without any hesitation. "Sukhbir should not have had any second thoughts on stepping down," he added. The rebel leaders proposed Giani Harpreet Singh as a potential candidate for the party's presidency, indicating that a final decision on the new leader would be made within a week

or two.

The internal revolt follows a significant decline in the party's influence from 2017 to 2024, as acknowledged by Chandumajra. The rebellion gained momentum after a series of defeats in the recent elections, which many attributed to ineffective leadership and disconnect with the grassroots.

"All (present in the meeting) are, in consensus, of the view that SAD is weakening and there is a need to strengthen it...We have been asking the party president since long to take concrete steps to revitalize the Akali Dal...but the same was ignored...So we decided to come together, discuss, panthic issues, Punjab issues...We have decided that the people, who are upset with Akali leadership, for the mistakes done by them and also our fault in maintaining silence for the same...to seek forgiveness from the people, from the Akal Takht Sahib on July 1," said former minister and former SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur.

Senior Leaders, District, Halqa Heads Reaffirm Faith In Sukhbir's Leadership

SAD leaders, including former MPs, former Ministers, district unit heads, halqa in-charges, among others, have strongly denounced what they describe as "deep-rooted conspiracies" orchestrated by external forces to undermine the unity and leadership of Punjab and the Sikh community. In a unified voice, district presidents and constituency in-charges of SAD condemned attempts allegedly backed by the BJP and government agencies to destabilize the party.

SAD leaders, including former MP Balwinder Singh Bhunder, former Ministers Daljit Singh Cheema, and Maheshinder Singh Grewal, emphasized that these efforts were aimed at rendering the panth and Punjab leaderless. They accused certain opportunistic elements of acting as puppets of external forces, jeopardizing the interests of the Sikh community and Punjab.

During separate meetings, resolutions were unanimously passed expressing unwavering support for SAD president Sukhbir Badal. The resolutions

commended Sukhbir's steadfast leadership, describing him as clear-headed, far-sighted, and resolute in upholding panthic principles and the interests of Punjab.

"As representatives of the Sikh community, we stand united against these malicious attempts to weaken the Shiromani Akali Dal," stated the resolutions. They highlighted concerns over BJP-backed initiatives to create dissent within the party and underscored the importance of maintaining party discipline to thwart such divisive efforts.

Sukhbir, addressing the gatherings, reaffirmed his commitment to principled politics and reiterated his refusal to engage in alliances that compromise panthic values or the welfare of Punjab's farmers and marginalized sections. "I cannot allow the SAD to be manipulated for anti-Panthic agendas," he asserted, urging party members to uphold integrity and unity in the face of adversity.

He also called upon frustrated politicians within the party ranks to take heed from recent political developments in Maharashtra, emphasizing the need for solidarity and adherence to panthic principles above personal ambitions.

In conclusion, the resolutions demanded strict disciplinary action against individuals perceived as colluding with anti-panthic forces and stressed the party's readiness to confront challenges for the greater good of Punjab and the Sikh community.

Bhunder, addressing the meeting following Jalandhar meeting of rebels at Chandigarh, said that differences in democracy are normal and this is not rebellion. Grewal supported Sukhbir's decision, saying that those, whose resignation is being asked for, have won by a difference of 50,000 votes, while those who have rebelled, they have been losing three times in a row, and thus the resignation is required for them.

"There was a wave in the state in favour and against Modi. The Akali Dal's fault is that it could not make the people understand where it would stand after winning the elections," said Bhunder.

Punjab 12 newly-elected MPs Take Oath; Amritpal Absent

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's 12 of the total 13 newly-elected parliamentarians on Tuesday took oath at the members of the Lok Sabha, as the pro-Khalistan Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh — who is currently lodged at Assam's Dibrugarh jail and elected MP from Khadoor Sahib — remained absent owing to legal hurdles.

In the current House, Congress has seven MPs from Punjab, with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) represented by three members, with Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) having just one MP, besides two independent MPs.

The oath-taking ceremony began with former Deputy Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, elected MP from Gurdaspur, taking oath; followed by Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla, who took his oath holding a copy of the Constitution in hand and concluded with the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Samvidhan".

Subsequently, former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, elected MP from Jalandhar, took oath; followed

by AAP's Hoshiarpur MP Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal, AAP's Sri Anandpur Sahib MP Malwinder Singh Kang, Punjab Congress president and Ludhiana MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Fatehgarh Sahib MP and Congress leader Dr Amar Singh, Independent MP from Faridkot Sarabjit Singh Khalsa, Congress' Ferozepur MP Sher Singh Ghubaya, SAD's Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, former Minister and AAP MP Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, and Congress' Patiala MP Dr Dharamvir Gandhi.

After Amritsar MP Aujla took his oath, the name of Amritpal Singh was announced. However, due to his incarceration, he was not present in the House and thus did not take his oath. Following this, former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, the MP from Jalandhar, took his oath.

Amritpal Singh is currently held under the National Security Act (NSA) in Dibrugarh Jail, Assam. His lawyer Gurpreet Singh Sandhu said that an application was submitted to the District Magistrate in Amritsar requesting arrangements for Amritpal to take his oath as an MP, but

no response has been received. Sandhu mentioned that if Amritpal is not allowed to take his oath during the ongoing Parliament session, they will approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

AAP MPs Meet with CM Mann

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who ensured his presence in the Parliament during the oath-taking ceremony of AAP MPs, congratulated the newly elected parliamentarians on social media, expressing his optimism for their future contributions. "I have arrived in Parliament today, and the three AAP MPs have taken their oaths. Congratulations and best wishes for the future. They will robustly voice Punjab's rights and issues. Inquilab Zindabad!" he posted on X.

Following the oath ceremony, the three AAP MPs — Dr Chabbewal, Meet Hayer, and Kang — met with Chief Minister Mann. He extended his congratulations and emphasized that they would effectively raise Punjab's voice in the Parliament and help resolve the state's issues.

"All our three MPs are very experienced and intelli-

gent. They are well aware of the issues of Punjab. They know how to get things done. Meet Hayer has been an MLA twice and a Minister of many departments in the Punjab government...Kang has been active in politics for a long time. He has been involved in social work since his time in student politics and has been working as the chief spokesperson of AAP Punjab for the last two years. Dr Chabbewal has also been an MLA twice. He has done a lot of work for the common and poor people in his area. His experience will also come in handy in the Parliament," he said.

Mann said that AAP's all three MPs will raise the voice for Punjab's rights in Parliament and will put the issues of the common people of the state in Parliament. "Our MPs will also raise the issue of Punjab's pending funds in Parliament and will put pressure on the central government to get them released as soon as possible," he said, adding that Rs 10,000 crore of Punjab's Rural Development Fund (RDF), National Health Mission (NHM), and many other schemes are pending with the Central Government.

Farmers demand arrests over alleged conspiracy to defame protest at Shambhu border

PNS ■ PATIALA

Farmers protesting at the Shambhu border in Patiala district on Tuesday demanded the arrest of individuals, they allege, attempted to create chaos at their protest site. The farmers, led by prominent farm union leaders, did not mince a word to claim that these miscreants are backed by the Punjab and Haryana Governments in a deliberate attempt to undermine their ongoing agitation.

The protesters, who have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points since February 13, accused some miscreants of trying to disrupt their peaceful demonstration. The 'Delhi Chal' andolan, orga-

nized by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), was halted by Haryana security forces, leading to the current standoff.

KMM leader Dilbagh Singh Harigarh, during a press conference at the Shambhu border, spoke vehemently against the alleged conspiracy. "We have not blocked any road. It is the Centre which has created obstacles on the highway," Harigarh said. He accused the Punjab and Haryana Governments, along with the Centre, of backing the disruptive elements. "We demand that those who tried to create a ruckus at the protest site should be booked and arrested," he asserted.

The controversy began on

Sunday when a group of people allegedly tried to seize the stage at the protest site. The farmers claimed that these actions were orchestrated to defame their movement. However, the accused group, including traders from Ambala, refuted these allegations, arguing that they were there to highlight the economic losses they were suffering due to the blockade of the Ambala-Ludhiana national highway and to request the farmers to lift the blockade.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Sidhupur) leader Kaka Singh emphasized that the blockades on the national highway were imposed by the Haryana Government, not the farmers. "If the government clears the blockades today, we will go to Delhi,"

he said, while noting the support from local villagers, reinforcing the farmers' resolve to continue their protest until their demands are met. The farmers' primary demands include a legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) for crops. The protest, led by various farm unions, is part of a broader struggle against what they perceive as government policies detrimental to their livelihoods.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) president Amarjit Singh Mohri accused the State Governments of conspiring to weaken the farmers' agitation. He reiterated the farmers' commitment to their cause, despite what he described as efforts to defame and delegitimize their protest.

PSPCL increases renewable energy capacity with 50MW solar power project commissioning

PNS ■ MALOUT

In a significant advancement for Punjab's renewable energy initiatives, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has successfully commissioned a new 50 megawatt (MW) solar power project. The project, installed by M/s SAEL Limited at Karamgarh village in Malout, has been synchronized with the 220 KV grid substation in Katorewala, marking a major milestone in the state's green energy efforts.

The state Power Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO on Tuesday announced the commissioning, highlighting that the solar power from this new project has begun flowing into the grid. Alongside this, four additional four MW solar power projects within Punjab, allocated to the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA)

at a tariff of Rs 2.748/kWh, are in various stages of completion.

Notably, the four MW project at Tarkhanwala village in Bathinda has already been synchronized with the PSPCL 66 KV Grid substation at Sekhon.

With these new additions, Punjab's cumulative installed solar power capacity has now reached 2081 MW. The Minister also revealed that solar power projects, totaling 2850 MW, are currently under commissioning, indicating a robust pipeline of renewable energy developments in the State.

The newly-commissioned 54 MW of solar power projects are expected to generate approximately three lakh units of green energy daily. This solar power will be particularly beneficial during the daytime, supplying agricultural power to farmers across the State, thus supporting Punjab's

vital agricultural sector with sustainable energy.

PSPCL's initiatives align with Punjab's broader strategy to meet growing power demands through sustainable sources. In June 2022, PSPCL finalized agreements with solar power developers to procure 250 MW of solar power at a competitive rate of Rs 2.65/kWh, reflecting the state's commitment to affordable and clean energy.

Minister Harbhajan Singh reiterated the Punjab Government's dedication to increasing the share of clean, green, and low-tariff renewable power. "These new solar power projects represent a significant step towards our goal of a greener Punjab," he stated, adding, "We are addressing our power needs and contributing to the national objective of reducing carbon emissions."

Policy to be framed for religious places, furniture market, UT Administrator assures BJP delegation

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In connection with the notices issued by the UT Chandigarh Administration regarding the removal of Furniture Market and illegal religious places from government acquired land by June 28, a BJP delegation led by Chandigarh BJP President Jatinder Pal Malhotra on Tuesday met the Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit at Punjab Raj Bhawan.

In a statement, Malhotra said that the Governor assured them of considering all the issues while stating that no coercive measures to be taken in this regard. It should be mentioned here that the UT Administration had recently served a notice to several "illegal" religious places asking them to remove encroachment

or the authorities will do it. Besides, the administration has also issued a notice to the shop owners of furniture market for demolition as they too are constructed on government land.

"The Governor gave us a patient hearing and said the interests of all these people will be taken care of. A proper policy will be framed in this regard till then they will not be demolished. We have told him that the sentiments of people are attached to these worship places as they are very old. Secondly, furniture shops are also there for a long time," said Malhotra.

Moreover, over these issues, a delegation from the

Furniture Market situated in Sector-53 on Tuesday also met the UT Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh at his office. In the statement, the UT official said that the Deputy Commissioner heard their issues and asked them to file their individual replies to the Land Acquisition Officer before June 28, failing which demolition will be preceded with ex-parte.

In the meeting, the delegation requested to offer them an opportunity to buy shops in upcoming Bulk Material Market on open auction and till the auction is conducted, they offered to pay rent of the area encroached upon by them, as assessed by Administration.

AAP accuses BJP of withholding Punjab's funds

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday strongly criticized the BJP-led Central Government for allegedly withholding funds meant for Punjab's development.

Accusing the Modi Government of also stopping the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) funds for Punjab, AAP spokesperson Neel Garg claimed that this is in addition to already withheld National Health Mission (NHM) and Rural Development Fund (RDF) money.

Garg emphasized that these funds are critical for the state's development, particularly for the education of children in primary schools. "The Modi government is deliberately trying to obstruct Punjab's progress," he asserted, urging Punjab's MPs and BJP leaders to take up the issue with the central government, highlighting the urgent need for the funds.

Addressing reporters alongside AAP spokespersons Babbi Badal and Jasman Gill, Garg said: "The step-motherly treatment of the BJP towards Punjab is not new. What's more shameful is that they are now putting children's education at stake." He pointed out that India's federal

structure mandates cooperation between the Central and State Governments for the people's development, but the Modi government is instead creating obstacles.

Garg disclosed that the Modi Government has withheld Rs 380 crores of SSA funds meant for the education of young children, affecting their books, clothing, and overall schooling. He noted that 3,929 employees under SSA in Punjab are also impacted. Furthermore, Garg alleged that the Central Government is coercing Punjab to adopt the PM Shri scheme, undermining Punjab's successful education model.

He also highlighted that the Central Government has withheld Rs 600 crores of NHM funds, affecting Punjab's revolutionary Aam Aadmi clinics, and Rs 7,000 crores of RDF, essential for maintaining rural infrastructure. Garg urged all Punjab MPs to strongly raise this issue with the central government, and called on BJP Punjab President Sunil Jakhar to advocate against this discrimination.

"The people of Punjab pay taxes; this money belongs to them. The Modi government has no right to stop funds meant for education, health, and development," Garg concluded.

Hry CM approves works worth Rs 825 crore in HPWPC meeting

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday presided over the High Powered Works Purchase Committee (HPWPC) and gave approval for works worth about Rs 825 crore. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar, Industry and Commerce Minister Mool Chand Sharma, Energy Minister Ranjit Singh, Minister of State for Development and Panchayats Mahipal Dhand and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Government official spokesperson said that in this meeting, final approval was given for the tender of 96 houses to be built for police personnel in Ambala at a cost of about Rs 19 crore. Apart from this, approval was given for construction work worth Rs 9.47 crore in Regional Research Station of Maharana Pratap



Horticulture University in village Kharkhari, Bhiwani district and Rs 358 crore in Karnal of the same university.

Similarly, approval was granted to a proposal regarding spending of Rs 111 crore for replacing high capacity conductor in electricity department, Rs 19.32 crore for laying sewerage pipeline in village Dhau of Faridabad district, Rs 28.60 crore for upgradation of water supply capacity in village Dhand of Kaithal district, Rs 23 crore for construction of 2

lane ROB on Sadulpur railway line in Rewari district, Rs 15.80 crore for making Panipat-Dahar road 4-lane in Panipat district and Rs 41.50 crore for recharging Krishnawati river from Narnaul branch.

Besides this, approval was also given to the, works worth Rs 14.30 crore for construction of Government Women College in village Ladana Chakku of Kaithal district, Rs 13.60 crore for construction of new building of Government College in Rajound and Rs 17

crore for construction of Government Women College in village Datta of Hisar district. Approval was given for construction of 100-bed additional hospital in the campus of LNJP hospital in Kurukshetra at a cost of Rs 32 crore, Rs 12.15 crore for strengthening of Palwal Hasanpur road, Rs 21.11 crore for widening and strengthening of Jhakhaldharul-Bhuna-Pabra-Sarsod road in Fatehabad district, Rs 16.40 crore for improvement of Saharanpur-Kurukshetra road and other works in Kurukshetra district, Rs 16.60 crore for special repair of Assandh-Rajound-Kaithal-Patiala road, Rs 12.50 crore for strengthening of Toshambhal-Sodhiwara road, Rs 13.75 crore for special repair of Hansi-Umra-Sultanpur-Kanwari road and Rs 23.62 crore for construction works of Yamunanagar-Khajuri-Jathlana road, said the spokesperson.

BRIEFS

COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT WORKS RELATED TO CITIZEN AMENITIES ON PRIORITY: RAO INDERJIT

Gurugram: Union Minister of State, Rao Inderjit Singh on Tuesday reviewed developmental works of Gurugram, including cleanliness and arrangements being made for drainage of rainwater during monsoon with the administrative officers. In the meeting, the Union Minister also sought reports on the progress of various ongoing development projects in Gurugram from CEO GMDA, A Sreenivas, Gurugram, Municipal Commissioner Narhari Singh Bangar and Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav and Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Chand Bidhan. The Minister emphasised that Gurugram is a global city therefore, officers must ensure a clean environment for the residents by making persistent efforts to resolve the issues of garbage and water logging. He directed that garbage in the city should be promptly lifted. Apart from this, he also directed to prepare an action plan to improve the cleanliness and sewer systems in extended areas.

HRY GOVT INCREASES EX-GRATIA TO MARTYR'S KIN FROM RS 50 LAKH TO RS 1 CRORE

Chandigarh: Haryana Minister of State for Sainik and Ardh Sainik Welfare Abhe Singh Yadav on Tuesday said that the state government has increased the amount of ex-gratia given to the families of Haryana's Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel who sacrifice their lives in the line of duty, from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore. He mentioned that these personnel include those from the Army, Navy, and Air Force who have been martyred while performing their duties during wars, operations, operational areas, militants/terrorist attacks, border skirmishes, United Nations peace-keeping forces. Yadav expressed happiness that the demand he had raised in the Assembly during his previous tenure as a legislator is now being fulfilled while he is the Minister of the department. Dr Yadav said that he had raised the demand in the august House to increase the amount given to the families of martyrs from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The ex-gratia amount was increased from Rs 20 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for casualties occurring in wars, IED blasts, and actions against militants/terrorists or border skirmishes on or after March 24, 2016, he added.

27,000 PEOPLE REGISTERED ON PORTAL AS VAN MITRA IN HRY

Chandigarh: Haryana Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Wildlife, Sanjay Singh said that successful programs such as 'Har Gaon Pedon Ki Chhaon', 'Har ghar Haryali', and 'Plantation Drive (Paudagiri)' are being run to make the state more greener. In the same series, a new scheme will be implemented to plant a tree in the name of mothers (Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam) to honor them by planting trees. He emphasized that trees are crucial in protecting the environment from pollution and providing oxygen. "Therefore, we should plant as many trees as possible. With the monsoon season approaching, the Forest Department will raise awareness among the public to plant maximum saplings to make the environment more clean and green and to achieve the department's plantation targets. Along with planting trees, it is also essential to take care of them. Van Mitra will prove effective in accomplishing the plantation campaign, which will make the state more greener. So far, 27,000 people have registered on the portal as Van Mitra.

1621 CASES REGISTERED UNDER NDPS ACT IN HRY IN LAST SIX MONTHS; 2245 DRUG PEDDLERS ARRESTED

Chandigarh: Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau (HSNCB) registered 1621 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, including 167 cases of commercial quantity, 915 of intermediate quantity, and 541 of small quantity in the first half of 2024. 2245 drug peddlers were arrested during the same period, said the official spokesperson on Tuesday. He further said that among the confiscated items were 13.39 kg of heroin, 73.73 kg of charas, 3745 kg of ganja, and 139 kg of opium.

classifieds

NOTICE INVITING TENDER H.P.PWD KANGRA

Sealed percentage rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Division, HP: PWD, Kangra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in HPPWD in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below on 03.07.2024 up to 11-00 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11-30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be obtained from his office on cash payment (non refundable) on any working day from 01.07.2024 to 02.07.2024. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter/ or renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HPPWD, Kangra. The conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 20 days.

- Work No.1:- Special Repair of Kangra Gahallian via Rajal Bohar Kawaloo road km. 0/000 to 30/850)(SH:-P/L Mastic Asphaltting wearing course on bridge at RD 3/970 and 8/765) Estimated cost: Rs. 497988/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.2:- Special Repair of Kangra Shamipur road km. 0/000 to 4/500)(SH:-P/L Mastic Asphaltting wearing course on bridge at RD 2/150) Estimated cost: Rs. 499029/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.3:- C/O link road to Village Natehar km. 0/00 to 0/750)(SH:-C/O edge wall at RD 0/215 to 0/245 and P/L of interlocking paver block pavement at RD 0/00 to 0/115 and 0/196 to 0/245.50) Estimated cost: Rs. 483797/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Two Months Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.4:- A/R & M/O Thakurdwara to Badi Road from km. 0/00 to 3/00)(SH:-C/O R/Wall in CC 1:4:8 at RD 2/760 to 2/780) Estimated cost: Rs. 470463/- Earnest Money Rs. 9450/- Time Limit Three Months Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.5:- C/O Community /Public Toilet Block Near Rest House at Lunj)(SH:-C/O Drinking water Trough & Washing area)(Deposit work) Estimated cost: Rs. 131599/- Earnest Money Rs. 2650/- Time Limit Three Months Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.6:- C/O link road to Village Mihal from km. 0/00 to 0/360)(SH:-C/O R/Wall at RD 0/193 to 0/200)(Right side) Estimated cost: Rs. 431072/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.7:- Restoration of Rain Damages on G.T.L.N.S. road km. 0/00 to 28/00)(SH:-Balance work of R/Wall with wire grate at RD 27/930 to 27/988 with PCC 1:4:8 & 1:3:6 over existing wire grate for protection of private house) Estimated cost: Rs. 124671/- Earnest Money Rs. 3800/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.8:- AMP to Kahlian to Tiara Dhugiyari road km. 22/000 to 24/000)(SH:-Providing and applying 2.5mm thick road marking strips in km. 22/000 to 24/000) Estimated cost: Rs. 441600/- Earnest Money Rs. 8900/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.9:- C/O link road Sanar Lahar to Tarkhanar road km. 0/00 to 3/360 (Under SCSP) (SH:-Filling/Maintenance of earthen shoulder & clearance of drain both side of road at various RD.s 0/000 to 1/000) Estimated cost: Rs. 151160/- Earnest Money Rs. 2500/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.10:- Link road from NH-88 to Bhangwar km. 0/00 to 1/500) (SH:-C/O wire grate work at RD 0/801 to 0/836) Estimated cost: Rs. 497625/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.11:- Repair of CHC Building Tiara Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:-P/L C.C. Pavement length 80 mtrs.) Estimated cost: Rs. 380723/- Earnest Money Rs. 8000/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.12:- C/O link road Ranital to Rajour from km. 0/0 to 2/400)(SH:-C/O R/Wall at RD 1/650 to 1/685) Estimated cost: Rs. 499190/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Two Months Cost of tender 350/-
Work No.13:- C/O road Rait to Salol km. 7/200 to 11/500)(SH:-C/O Edge wall with U-Shape drain at RD 11/375 to 11/450 and C.C. Pavement at RD 11/480 to 11/500) Estimated cost: Rs. 447459/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Three Months Cost of tender 350/-

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-
1. The contractors/firms should be registered as or/dealer under GST Act 2017.
2. The intending contractors/firms shall have to produce the copy of latest enlistment and renewal enlisted in HPPWD
3. If any of the date mentioned above happened to be Gazetted Holiday the same shall be processed on next working day.
4. The contractor should quote the rates of all the items in the tender both in figures and in words failing which tender is likely to be rejected.
5. The Contractor/firms can obtain the tenders form without application, if they submit the copy of enlistment and earnest money in shape of FDR at the time sale of tender forms.
6. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

RO NO. 0363/2024-2025 Dated: 25-06-2024

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. Corporate Office: Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 028. DEMAND NOTICE Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002...

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132, 133, 134, Sector - 9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160017. PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET [See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor/ Loan Account No./Branch, Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.), Date of Demand Notice, Description of secured asset (Immovable property). Includes details for Naveen Sharma/Kamlesh/Rewari.

The online auction will be conducted on the website https://www.bankeuctions.com of our auction agency C.I India Private limited. The Mortgage/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by July 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 93780139915/ 7304914763. Please note that the Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexGen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augoe Assets Management Private Limited 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

Bank of Baroda Branch : Jawa Complex, Panipat. POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property/ies) [Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction and Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 15/04/2024 Calling upon the Borrowers Mrs. Yukti Jindal W/o Mr. Balram Jindal to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 61,44,757.48/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Forty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Seven and Paise Forty Eight Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 21st Day of June of the year 2024.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of the property consisting of flat no. D-91, 2nd floor, block D, Jindal W/O Mr. Gururam, Haryana ad measuring 1285 Sq Ft. within MC Limit of Gururam in the of Mrs. Yukti Jindal W/o Mr. Balram Jindal vide sale deed wasika No. 3230 dated 24.05.2019 registered with sub registrar Wazirabad, New Delhi. The property is Bounded as under: North: Plot No. D-90, On the South by : Plot No. D-92, On the East by : Road, On the West by : Plot No. D-86.

Place : Panipat + Date : 21.06.2024 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

- I, Naveen W/O Lovelish Kumar Menra R/O H.No. 45, 14-E, Near Allpur Road, Darshan Singh Nagar, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Naveen Menra.
I, Amritpal Singh Gill S/o Harbans Singh R/O Village Hariapur, Po. Noorpur (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Amrit Pal Singh Gill.
I, Gurpreet Singh S/o Harbans Singh R/O Village Hariapur, Po. Noorpur (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh Gill.
I, Anjali legally spouse of Himanshu Satyal resident of Vill - Satyal Gaon, PO - Thal, Distt - Pithoragarh (UK) - 262554 have changed my name from Anjali to Anjali vide Affidavit dated 25/06/2024 before Executive Magistrate Jalandhar. (PB).
I, Madhur Walia S/O Charanjit Ahluwalia R/O H.No. 354, Venus Valley Near Kalia Colony Ph-2, Gadaiapur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Madhur Walia to Madhur Ahluwalia. All concerned please note.
I, Shivani Walia W/o Madhur Ahluwalia R/O H.No. 354, Venus Valley Near Kalia Colony Ph-2, Gadaiapur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Shivani Walia to Shivani Ahluwalia. All concerned please note.
I, Pooja D/o Mangal Singh and W/o Dajit Singh R/O Village Bhattian, Rajputtan, P/O Purika, Tehsil - Mukerian, Hoshiarpur,, Punjab - 144211, have changed my name to Pooja Kaur
I, Gulam Ali Alias Garib Niwaz S/o Parkash R/O Vpo.Kanian Kalan, Tehsil Shakhok, Distt Jalandhar, Punjab - 144703, have changed my name to Garib Niwaz.
I, Lata alias Raminderjeet Kaur D/o Chander Parkash and W/o Barjeshwar Singh R/O H.No-218, Deol Nagar, Jalandhar-1, PO-Model Town, (Jalandhar), Distt-Jalandhar, Punjab - 144003, have changed my name to Raminderjeet Kaur.
I, Sunita Rani Singla W/o Arvind Kumar Singla R/O Maur Mandi Tehsil Maur Distt Bathinda have changed my name from Sunita Rani to Sunita Rani Singla.

Union Bank Faridkot Branch (38630), Circular Road, Julie Cinema Market, Faridkot, Punjab-151203. Possession Notice (Rule -8(1)) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Union Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned there under with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Cooperative Bank H.O.: FEROZPUR CITY. THE FEROZPUR CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of The Ferozpur Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned against accounts calling upon the borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the NPA Account / Branch, Description of the Immovable Properties, Date of the Demand Notice, Date of the Possession, Amount Outstanding. Includes details for M/s Shivam Provisional Store, M/s Bajjan Wala Cold Store, and M/s Bajjan Wala Cold Store.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., First Floor, MC International, The Mall, Mall road Amritsar- 143001. PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET [See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable asset(s) E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) 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.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No., Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any, Amount Outstanding, Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit, Date and Time of Property Inspection, Date & Time of E-Auction. Includes details for Shanti Dheer Trading Co.

The online auction will be conducted on the website https://www.bankeuctions.com. of our auction agency C.I India Pvt Ltd. The Mortgage/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by July 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, MC International, The Mall, Mall Road Amritsar- 143001 on or before July 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before July 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, First Floor, MC International, The Mall, Mall Road Amritsar- 143001 on or before July 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Amritsar.

CHANGE OF NAME

- I, Chinta Nuka Raju is Father Of No. 2616346X, Sep, Chinnamaindu Chinta, Unit Of 28 Madras Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing Of 2-37. Pedda Veedhi, Village Ravichandri P.O. Pusham Mandal L.N.Peta District. Srikalakum State Andhra Pradesh Pin 532458 Declare That My Date Of Birth 15.04.1967 Wrongly Written In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Date Of Birth Is 01.01.1958.
I Army No. Jc-389988K, Sub, Sukhbir Singh Presently Serving Unit Of 7 Idr Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing Of Village Toba (20) Post Office Mehmoondpur District Ambala State Haryana Pin-133104 Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name In All Documents From Vasundhara To Vasundhara Vide Affidavit Dated 25 June 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.
I Meenakshi Devi Is Wife Of Army No. Jc-389988K, Sub, Sukhbir Singh Presently Serving Unit Of 7 Idr Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing At Village Toba (20) Post Office Mehmoondpur District Ambala State Haryana Pin 133104 Have Changed My Name In All Documents From Minakshi Devi To Meenakshi Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 25 June 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.
I, No.6495197H, Hav, Dharamendra Kumar Resident Of Village Mawaiya, Post Korsam, Tahsil Binkdi, Distt Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh Pin 212665, Declare That In My Minor Son's Army Records My Minor Son Name Parsun Kushwaha. But Actual Correct My Minor Son Name Prasun Kushwaha.
I, No.6495197H, Hav Dharamendra Kumar , Resident Of Village Mawaiya, Post Korsam, Tahsil Binkdi, District Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh Pin 212665, Declare That In My Minor Daughter Army Records My Minor Daughter Name Khushboo. But Actual Correct My Minor Daughter Name Khushboo Kushwaha.
I, Noora Mother Of Rehmat Ali, And Resident At Village And Post Bham, Tehsil Garshankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, State Punjab, India, Pin 146103 Have Changed My Name From Noora Bibi To Noora Vide Affidavit Dated 25 June 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.
I, Abul Kalam Samsuddin Ahmed Father Of No. 3001379K Hav, Moimuddin Ahmed Unit 17 Rajput, Purabgram, Po Salar, Tehsil Kandri District Murshidabad, State West Bengal, Pin 742401 Have Changed My Name From Noora Bibi To Noora Vide Affidavit Dated 25 June 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.
I, Dharanveer S/O Lehmer Ram R/O Near Sant Bawa Public School, Gopinapura, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Punjab India 144401 Have Changed My Name As Anju Joshi After Marriage.
I Manisha W/O Madan Lal R/O 96, Pal House, Mohalla Rampura, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Known By Two Names I.E. Manisha And Manisha Pal.
I Surinder Kaur @ Shindo W/O Shadi Ram R/O Vpo. Nangal Majia, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name To Shindo Virdi.
I Harjit Kaur W/O Harvinder Singh R/O H.No.-465, St.No.-17, Ward No.-18, Roop Nagar, Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Harjeet Kaur To Harjit Kaur.
I Balvir Singh S/O Sadhu Singh R/O Village Bulhawal, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur, 146001, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Balveer Singh To Balvir Singh.
I Sanjeev Kumar Bangar S/O Joginder Ram R/O Vill. Mana, P.O. Dhakowal Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name Sanjeev Kumar Bangar To Sanjeev Kumar.
I Raja Babu S/O Bikau Jha R/O Vpo. Purihar, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Raja Babu To Babu Raja.
I, Gurmeet Kaur W/o Lakhwinder Singh R/o Araj Sabhra (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Kulwinder Kaur after marriage.
I, Lakhvir Singh Giri S/o Kuldeep Singh R/o (W.No. 4 Prem Nagar) Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Lakhvir Singh.
I, Beanti Devi Singla W/o Janak Raj Singla R/o Maur Mandi Teh-Maur (Bathinda) have changed my name from Beanti Devi to Beanti Devi Singla.
I, Janak Raj Singla S/o Babu Ram Singla R/o Maur Mandi Teh-Maur (Bathinda) have changed my name from Janak Raj to Janak Raj Singla.
I, Rajwinder Kaur W/o Santokh Singh Taggar D/o Kashmir Singh R/o Vill: Taggar Po. Pasla Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) have changed my name from Rajwinder Kaur to Rajwinder Kaur Taggar.
I, Inderjeet Kaur W/o Bikkar Singh, R/o Patti Gill Khota, VPO Shina, Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala, have changed my name as Inderjeet Kaur.
I, Paramjit Kaur W/O Tarsem Singh, R/O Burj Fatehgarh, Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala, Have Changed My Name As Parmjit Kaur.
I, Kuldeep Singh Gill S/O Tarsem Singh, R/O Burj Fatehgarh, Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala, Have Changed My Name As Kuldeep Singh.
I Paramjit Kaur Buttar W/O Bhupinder Singh R/O Bassian (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name Paramjit Kaur.
I Buta Singh Deol S/O Chand Singh Vpo.Talwandi Rai (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Buta Singh.
I, Baltej Singh Warshaway S/o Ram Singh R/o Vill: Acharwal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Baltej Singh.
I, Geeta Rani W/o Balvinder Kumar R/o H.No. B-8/0335 BM School Green City Raikot (Ludhiana) is my name Geeta Rani and Geeta Devi is same person.
I, Jashmeet Kaur W/o Jaswant Singh R/O Fatehgarh Teh-Lehra (Sangrur) declare that my correct name is Jashmeet Kaur instead of Jaswant Kaur.
I Baso Bai W/o Jagseer Singh R/O W.C.70 Mankhera Teh. Sardulgarh (Mansa) Changed my name Harbans Kaur.
I, Brij Nath Singh Yadav is father of No. JC343909L Sub Prasad Singh Yadav, serving in unit 52 Engr Regiment C/o 56 APO have change my name from Brij Nath Singh Yadav to Bijnath Singh.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A new leaf

The 18th Lok Sabha begins on a promising note amid Opposition challenges to the Government

The much-awaited inaugural session of 18th Lok Sabha started on June 24th. This marks a pivotal moment in India's democratic journey. With the NDA returning to power albeit with lesser seats would make it a much-balanced house than the 17th Lok Sabha in which NDA had brute majority. However, the political landscape has undergone significant shifts which will reflect in the functioning of the new Lok Sabha. Indeed, the priorities set in this session will shape India's trajectory for the next five years. The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha hit the controversy on its very first day. The leaders of the INDIA bloc staged a protest outside Parliament on Monday, coinciding with the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected Members of Parliament. Key figures, including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader Sonia Gandhi, and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, held copies of the Constitution as they demonstrated against the BJP-led NDA government. The swearing-in process for other Union ministers and newly elected MPs was conducted by Pro-tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab. Members of the Congress and the INDIA bloc, who are part of parliamentary panels, opted out of assisting with the oath-taking process for the newly elected MPs. They expressed their dissatisfaction over the appointment of BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab as pro-tem Speaker instead of their preferred candidate, eight-time Congress MP K Suresh. This is a first indication that the functioning of this Lok Sabha would not be smooth.



The 18th Lok Sabha's first session will continue until July 3. The election for the Lok Sabha Speaker is set for June 26, and President Murmu will address a joint session of both houses on June 27. Interestingly this session will see the appointment of a Leader of the Opposition for the first time in a decade. The session is expected to be contentious, with the opposition poised to challenge the BJP-led NDA on various issues, including the Speaker election on June 26, paper leaks in NEET-UG and UGC-NET exams, and disputes over the pro-tem Speaker's appointment. The opposition aims to address rising prices, food inflation, fatalities due to extreme heatwaves, and recent 'irregularities' in exam administrations. The 18th Lok Sabha is expected to prioritize measures to boost economic growth, tackle inflation, and create employment opportunities. The new session is also expected to focus on social justice, addressing issues related to inequality and ensuring that the benefits of economic growth reach all sections of society. Besides India's strategic interests and security concerns are expected to be prominent in the 18th Lok Sabha's deliberations in the wake of terrorist attacks in Jammu. Beefing up security and restoring law and order in various parts of the country should be taken up on priority. This session not only sets the legislative framework but also reflects the aspirations of a diverse and dynamic nation, eager to carve out a resilient and equitable path forward in a rapidly changing global landscape.

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PICTALK



An Indian cricket fan blows into a shell horn prior to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match

AP/PTI

Inordinate delay in naming new army chief



ASHOK K MEHTA

The Govt's decision to extend the tenure of Chief of Army Staff by 30 days, instead of announcing the new appointee has sparked controversy and conjecture

It is intriguing why the appointment of Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi was not announced on 26 May but on 11 June which would have obviated a 30-day extension to COAS Gen Manoj Pande and the unnecessary speculation that followed. Government would not have been deterred by Model Code of Conduct for election as it had already appointed VAdm Dinesh Tripathi as Chief of Naval Staff on 19 April. That a supersession was contemplated but not implemented as the '400 paar' goal, even 272 mark were missed probably led to discretion superseding valour. Further NDA allies had already flagged the Agniveer issue!

Strange are the ways of the government. Just six days before Pande's superannuation-bringing the appointment down to wire-it ordered an extension after he had been feted out by his successor on 21 May. The extension was quite baffling. Government officials like Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary and others (including Director ED) who run government for politicians get extensions as a matter of routine. In the case of ED's Sanjay Mishra, Supreme Court had to intervene to issue a deadline. But bureaucrats have made themselves indispensable like the repetition of NSA shows. The extension to COAS triggered extensive speculation:

The last extension was given to COAS Gen Gopal Bewoor who succeeded Field Marshal Manekshaw. This extension ensured that Lt Gen PS Bhagat, a Victoria Cross winner was denied the post of COAS, opening the path for Lt Gen Tappy Raina, a Kashmiri, to get the coveted job. Incidentally, both Bewoor and Bhagat were Rimcollians (studied at RIMC Dehradun) and good friends. Appointments of CDS and COAS have got highly politicised - as their stature diminishing - as their most conspicuous relegation in the seating plan during PM's oath taking ceremony demonstrated. No one but they are to blame. Equally unusual was Defence Minister Minister Rajnath Singh being welcomed back to MOD by CDS Gen Anil Chauhan holding



a bouquet. A soldier's salute is the highest tribute.

A month's extension in the armed forces is a first, though in one case, extension was given for one day. The extension will affect the line of succession beyond the present contenders. VCOAS Lt Gen Dwivedi was the seniormost followed by Lt Gen Ajai Singh GoC-in-C Southern Command. Both were batch-mates but the tyranny of 'order of merit' while graduating from IMA dictates seniority. Both were to retire on 30 June.

Next senior was Northern Army Commander. Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar followed by Lt Gen Raja Subramani of Central Command. Interestingly all the Generals named except the outgoing COAS who is an Engineer officer are Infanteers. Pande is the first Sapper officer to break the glass ceiling. On 1 July the new Army Commanders will be Lt Gens Raja Subramani VCOAS, Devu Sharma AARTRAC, Dhiraj Seth Southern, Sengupta South Western and Manjinder Singh Central.

Traditionalists hold that extensions in the military are not par for the course as they disrupt the line of succession and officers should refuse to accept extension. It is the government's prerogative to choose a Service Chief by seniority, merit and deep selection



GOVERNMENTS MUST NOT BE SEEN BREACHING THE SACROSANCT SERVICE RULE BOOK OR INVENTING NEW RULES. INSTANCES OF SUPERSESSION ARE RARE: THE MOST RECENT BEING THE APPOINTMENT OF LATE GEN BIPIN RAWAT AS COAS WHO OVERTOOK TWO SENIOR GENERALS

superseding officers or even recalling the selected from retirement. But service rules should not be tweaked whimsically.

In 2014 after BJP won the elections it tried to prevent the ruling UPA from appointing the seniormost Gen Dalbir Suhag as COAS.

The thing is, Governments must not be seen breaching the sacrosanct service rule book or inventing new rules. Instances of supersession are rare: the most recent being the appointment of late Gen Bipin Rawat as COAS who overtook two senior Generals. Supersessions have happened in the Navy and Air Force also. Admiral Robin Dhawan in 2014 and Admiral Karambir Singh in 2019 superseded their senior VADM's Shekhar Sinha and Bimal Verma. Superseded officers have generally resigned but some continued to serve. So why the one-month extension to Gen Pande.

The government wanted to be back in power (as it was on 9 June) before taking any unusual step like deviating from seniority principle. Remember all three - Incumbent Pande, next senior Dwivedi followed by Singh - were all to retire on 30 June. If government had wanted to appoint seniormost Lt Gen Dwivedi as COAS, his name could have been announced on 26 May as it had announced appointment of

VAdm Tripathi as CNS on 19 April while moral code of conduct was on. Instead, the government preoccupied with election extended service of Gen Pande giving itself more leeway in naming new COAS. Choices were A) appoint the seniormost Dwivedi. B) retire both Dwivedi and Singh and appoint either Suchindra Kumar or Raja Subramani or And C) Supersede Dwivedi and appoint Singh by tweaking the rulebook (one day extension for Singh) or deep-select from other eligible Army Commanders.

In the Air Force, service rules were tweaked by MoD in 1988. Air Chief Marshal Polly Mehra retired on 31 July. Air Marshal Nimmi Suri who was to retire on 31 July was given one day extension and appointed Air Chief Marshal and Chief of Air Staff, superseding Air Marshal MM Singh. In another case I believe the forenoon/afternoon tweak was applied which is being replicated now - retiring Gen Pande F/N and appointing Gen Dwivedi in A/N. The extension merely created a storm in a tea cup, the El Nino effect!

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMBATING LONELINESS

Madam — The World Health Organization (WHO) declared loneliness a "global health threat" in November 2023 and should be commended for launching the WHO Commission on Social Connection to address this issue. Connecting with others has become easier in our modern era of smartphones and the internet. Here are a few practical suggestions to help older individuals combat loneliness: Each apartment complex or neighborhood should have a common room for social gatherings and reading, where people can read newspapers and magazines, chat, discuss general topics, and stay until family members return home from work. Employ a coordinator for the social room to attend to the needs of the elderly, such as running errands, engaging in conversations, and providing a cheerful atmosphere.

A written understanding should be established that discussions in the common room remain private to prevent controversies. Allow lonely individuals from nearby homes to join. Provide cots for naps and encourage bringing lunch boxes. Encourage keeping pets. Promote hobbies such as gardening, puzzle-solving, and reading. Participate in social platforms. Create quiz groups on WhatsApp and other social platforms for daily quizzes, with participants taking turns to pose questions and answers. Make humor and laughter sessions mandatory in every apartment complex, educational institution, and workplace, at least for 10 minutes each morning and evening. The internet offers an endless supply of jokes that are considerate of others' feelings.

PVS Sreelekha | Secunderabad

OPPOSITION TAKES ON GOVT

Madam — The parliamentary session starting on June 24 promises to be significant, as it marks the first time in a decade that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not govern alone. New mem-

Monetary compensation to housewives



Housewives are just as valuable as their employed male counterparts in families. From managing household chores to planning family events, housewives possess a range of skills that many working men cannot match. Years ago, the Supreme Court challenged the census for categorizing homemakers as 'non-workers' and called for laws to recognize their economic contribution. A woman's

role as a mother, wife, and homemaker should itself be regarded as productive work, transcending mere monetary value. She brings emotional attachment and selfless service to the family.

Society often views housewives solely as nurturers, failing to respect them as individuals independent of their familial roles. It took insightful minds and the efforts of many women to rebrand the term 'housewife' to the more respectful 'homemaker.' Unpaid household work by women must be recognized as productive labor, not just as tasks done for the family's welfare. The reality is that in most cases, women have little choice when it comes to housework. It's high time the contributions of homemakers are acknowledged through appropriate monetary compensation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

bers of Parliament will take the oath of secrecy, overseen by temporary speaker Bhartruhari Mehtab. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), including the BJP's 240 members, now totals 294 members, highlighting a shift in the political landscape.

The Congress party, with 100 seats, alongside its allies totaling 234 seats, will have a strengthened position, allowing it to assume the role of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha for the first time in ten years. This change amplifies the opposition's ability to hold the government accountable on issues like inflation, unemployment, and the ongoing violence in Manipur. This 18th Lok Sabha stands out for its strong opposition, and how the ruling party navigates this dynamic will be closely observed in the coming days.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

INDO-BANGLADESH TIES GET A BOOST

Madam — This has with reference to your editorial "Friend in need" published on June 24. Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina's two-day visit to India highlighted the tight relationship between the two countries. The two countries signed ten agreements and memoranda of understanding, but the agreement struck on India's plan to send a technical team to conserve and manage the Teesta River garnered special notice.

The distribution of Teesta River water has been viewed as a problematic issue between the two countries. Considering this, China began to express interest in the management and conservation of the Teesta River in 2020. All parties were aware of the sensitivity of the situation, given India's reservations about it. Looking at countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Maldives, we can see that China's approach was not new. However, given India's good relations with Bangladesh, the issue over Teesta water sharing did not raise suspicions and animosity between the two countries.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Lessons from the life of lord Rama!

Our experiences, coupled with the wisdom imparted through stories told by our elders or discovered in books, often shape us in profound ways

Our experiences, and even the stories narrated by our elders or those read by us, impart a certain wisdom. Many of these get so deeply ingrained in our minds that often we develop characteristics unknown to our conscious self. My mother always kept a copy of Ramcharitmanas in her prayer corner. We would listen wide-eyed to her recitation of the chaupais (a quatrain verse of Indian poetry), my imagination running wild with the story of Lord Rama, and his victory over evil. It remained a story to me in my growing up years, till I joined my railway job.

I was the head of my department in a division, sandwiched between two other divisions. My location required me to have smooth coordination with my neighbours. One day I complained to our mutual boss in the headquarters about the non-cooperation of my colleagues from the adjoining divisions, to be snubbed by him, "You are now a senior officer. You should handle these minor issues at your level." I was 29, with a working experience of only 5 years. It did not mat-



ter that I did not consider myself senior enough. It was the position that I held that imparted me the authority and consequently responsibility. The observation had gone home. I was a leader and had to act like one taking every-one with me to attain my goals.

As a branch head, I was also responsible for allotting government accommodation to the staff under my control. It was a routine exercise following the waitlist; however, the branch head had the discretionary authority to make an out-of-turn allotment. A few days into my posting, I was approached by the widow of

one staff, supported by a few union leaders, for an out-of-turn allotment on compassionate grounds. I passed the orders. Then I started having doubts, knowing that I would now also be approached by the rival union for favour. I refused the approach several weeks later despite their polite requests to follow the precedence I had set. I learned that it was important to be fair while making decisions.

One day a few union leaders came to me quite agitated. They complained about the disrespectful communication by one of my junior officers. The officer had used the Hindi tum (you), instead of the more respectable aap (you), when addressing a staff. I tried to assuage their hurt sentiments by pointing out the north Indian origins of the junior officer, where, in some regions, even the parents are addressed as tum. I learned to respect the local sentiments.

I also learned the importance of nurturing relations. Armed with bookish knowledge, I was a novice in the practical professional life. The staff had been dealing with these issues far before I had

joined the engineering college and many even from before I was born. I had no hesitation to sit with them without any biases and learn. I took strength from the stories of Nishad, Shabri, Sugriva, and many others.

It was only after I faced difficult situations in my professional life, I understood that the life of Lord Rama as a prince and then king was tough. He had to uphold integrity in his public life even at the cost of personal suffering. He also had to build and nurture new relationships without pre-conceived notions to fight for the good.

I had learned important lessons from the stories narrated by my mother. Ramcharitmanas was not just a story, it was a way of life! Following the principles that He lived and fought for on this earth was the true devotion that I could offer. I did not need the sanctuary of a temple to pray!

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



SANJAY CHANDRA



FIRST COLUMN

WE ARE PLAYING THE SCRIPT OF LIFE

The world is a stage where we each have a unique, pre-scripted part to play



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Recently a veteran actor from the Indian film industry was given the Highest Civilian Award for his contribution towards spreading cultural values across the Globe through his acting career. While he was given the award, everyone in the audience stood up to give him a standing ovation with so much love and respect to the legend, who brought so many characters to life on celluloid screen. We all have experienced this euphoria in theatres, while a heroic character makes an entry on screen, there are loud cheers, whistles, applause and more. And at the end of the film, the hero wins the audience's hearts and steals the show. Whether he plays a prince or a pauper, it does not matter as his fans through the theatres to catch a glimpse of him.

The beauty of his performance lies in his ability to internalize the character to the extent that he and his role seem one to his fans. But even while doing it, he is very much conscious of the fact that he is merely an actor in a particular drama, his role is carved, his dialogues are scripted and the costumes are designed for that particular character. Hence, his greatness lies only in playing the role to the best of his capability. On his long journey to stardom, every actor often turns a spectator and critiques his own work so that he can improve upon his act. It is this element of detachment from the different roles he plays that allows him to progress, play multiple roles simultaneously with clarity and then return to his personal life at the end of the day.

Not many of us know that the world cycle is very much similar to this drama in which all of us are actors with unique parts. Everyone is the protagonist in his life and can become a hero who draws applause. However, today we hardly find anyone cheering for the other person. Because, there is great dissatisfaction either with each other's performance or the script. As a result the drama appears to have become a tragedy. There is widespread chaos with actors criticizing each others' performances instead of theirs. The reason for this trouble is that most of us act without the knowledge that the earth is a stage and we have all come here to play our individual roles. Secondly, each actor's role is unique and pre-scripted and hence trying to match it with anybody else's



is futile. Thirdly, the biggest law of the world drama is that it is ever beneficial for everyone. In the absence of this understanding or its consciousness, we get attached to our roles, forget to change our costumes and make-up and lose the flexibility to adapt to each part. Take a simple example of a person who plays a son, a husband, a father, a friend and several other roles at the same time. If he is in the consciousness of being a male, he could dominate his wife at home or look down upon his female staff at office. At work, he would stick to his role of being a boss so much so that he forgets to become their colleague. On the other hand, if he is conscious that he is an actor and must like a hero win everyone's hearts, then he would understand the requirements of his role and become active, accurate and attractive at whatever he does.

Living the peaks and troughs of each character we play, we drain ourselves and are unable to muster enough strength to meet the demands of each role or take well the twists in the scenes, as a result of which there are emotional upheavals and sorrow becomes a regular visitor when the purpose of the drama is to help the actors experience joy and happiness. On the other hand, if we become detached to the roles we play and keep faith in the eternal law that the drama has been scripted for universal benefit, the feeling of loss and gain, comfort and pain would begin to dissolve and our mind would stop to question the developments in every scene. So, the moral of the story is that we should be detached and yet be involved in the part we are playing. That's the quality to be a superstar in this World Drama.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Water crisis in Delhi is entirely man-made



UTTAM GUPTA

The ruthless exploitation of natural endowments and that too when resources are being put to misuse is unconscionable

The gravity of water crisis facing Delhiites has forced the Delhi government to approach the Supreme Court (SC) seeking its intervention to direct neighboring states Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh (HP) to provide additional raw water supply to the national capital. Initially, the SC directed HP to release 137 cusecs of raw water which translates to 70 million gallons per day (MGD) of more water for the city. It also asked Haryana to make arrangements for ensuring its free flow to Delhi.

But, now with HP claiming that it can't release more than what it is already giving (70 MGD), the top court has directed the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) to convene a meeting with all parties and take a decision expeditiously. The mandate of UYRB is to inter alia regulate the allocation of available water flows amongst the beneficiary States and also monitoring the return flows. Is Delhi really short of water?

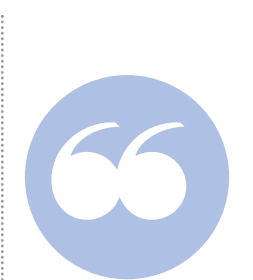
According to Delhi's Economic Survey Report 2023, the overall water requirement of the city is 1,290 MGD, with an increase in the summer months. Against this, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) which has the mandate to manage the water supply in the city (including procurement of raw water from various sources, its processing in water treatment plants or WTPs and its distribution) had said on April 3, 2024 in a written statement that water production in the capital stood at around 990 MGD on average between March end and start of April. The DJB actually produced 1,002 MGD on June 7, 2024.

Further, the Economic Survey of Delhi, 2023-24, says, "As per Outcome Budget (Q2 of 2023-24) of DJB, the total distribution losses are at about 52.35 percent". Distribution losses is a sophisticated nomenclature for pilferage of water supplies by tanker mafia and industries. The pilferage is happening at all stages of the water supply chain viz. the WTPs, conveyance systems and distribution systems. This couldn't have happened without the connivance of the authorities.

Deduct 52 percent pilferage or 520 MGD from production of around 1000 MGD, the quantity available for consumption by households in Delhi would be 480 MGD. This is barely 37 percent of the demand estimated at 1290 MGD. It sounds bizarre! If, that were the case, nearly 2/3rd of Delhiites would have been without drinking water; a complete disaster. That hasn't happened even as we see people chasing water tankers in several parts of Delhi.

So, what are we missing? There is something fundamentally wrong with the way mandarins in the government estimate the requirement. Ideally, this should be done from the demand side which involves conducting household survey, collecting data on how much each unit needs, aggregating and so on. Instead, they look at the total supply in the past say 2023-24, presume that that much quantity was consumed and apply an incremental factor/percentage increase to arrive at the requirement for 2024-25.

In this process, they end up including even the pilfered quantity in the requirement. It means that 1290 MGD also includes 520 MGD of water plundered by dubious operators from the system



A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO DELHI WATER WOES REQUIRES THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT ADDRESSES PILFERAGE ON A WAR FOOTING. YET, ITS OVERWHELMING FOCUS HAS BEEN ON GETTING MORE RAW WATER FROM HARYANA, UTTAR PRADESH, HP ETC.

(assuming that 52 per cent pilferage has continued in the current year). Minus this, the requirement of households was 770 MGD. This being higher than the net availability of 480 MGD, Delhiites are feeling the stress.

Unambiguously, plunder of water by tanker mafia is at the root of Delhi's water woes (last year, Delhiites were spared as the HH demand being muted, the net supply after accounting for the greed of the tanker mafia was sufficient to meet it). But, for this, the entire production of 1000 MGD would have been available for HH consumption resulting in a surplus of 230 MGD (1000-770) forget any shortage that we are experiencing today.

A sustainable solution to Delhi water woes requires that the State government addresses pilferage on a war footing. Yet, its overwhelming focus has been on getting more raw water from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, HP etc. While, making the demand it is oblivious of the fact that all its nine WTPs are already operating above their installed capacities (yielding a total of around 1000 MGD which is around 47 MGD more than the combined capacity of all nine WTPs) and that the DJB won't be able to deliver more even if it gets more raw water from the neighboring states.

As for addition to the processing capacity, last year, the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had approved an action plan to increase water production by 131 MGD in the short-term and by 380 MGD in the long-term. It

involved construction of a new plant at Chandrawal, with a capacity of 105 MGD and completion of another plant at Dwarka, which has the potential to increase production by 50 MGD. That plan hasn't made much headway. While, work on Chandrawal plant is yet to start, even the Dwarka project which was to come up by March 2024 is running behind schedule.

Unable to manage water supplies from the rivers viz. Yamuna, Ravi-Beas, Ganga and so on, the Delhi government is now increasing its dependence on groundwater which currently contributes a little more than 10 percent - almost 100 percent increase over the level five years ago. According to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), over 41 percent of Delhi's total area is overexploited even as it has been drawing more groundwater than it recharges. The total annual groundwater recharge decreased from 0.41 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2022 to 0.38 bcm in 2023, while the annual extractable groundwater resource available decreased from 0.37 bcm to 0.34 bcm.

This is not a healthy trend. The ruthless exploitation of natural endowments and that too when resources are being put to misuse (read: diversion of water meant for HH consumption to industrial use) is unconscionable.

Apart from the huge imbalance between the demand and supply, the gross mismanagement and irregularities in running Delhi's water supply systems is also push-

ing DJB to the brink of financial bankruptcy. Pilferage of more than half of water supply means the Board doesn't get any revenue on that much quantity. Then, you have Kejriwal's free scheme that involves no payment for consumption up to 20,000 litres a month per household. Even for HHs who get the bills and haven't paid for years, the Chief Minister has been trying to get a one time settlement package cleared by the Lieutenant Governor which will tantamount to the State exchequer foregoing thousands of crore. Finally, there are reports of payments having been made by the households albeit to private entities (authorized to collect the money) but never reached the revenue department.

All this has led to a pathetic situation whereby DJB which until a decade back was making profit today has an accumulated debt of over Rs 70,000 crore. The Board is able to run its operations solely because it can borrow money from banks and other financial institutions (FIs) backed by sovereign State guarantee. Left to fend for itself, it would have collapsed long ago. One shudders to think of what this would entail for water supply to the capital city. The water crisis as also seriousness of problems on other infrastructure fronts such as electricity etc and overall governance issues in Delhi calls for some drastic action by the Centre.

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

Navigating the complexities of drug abuse and illicit trafficking

With a strong emphasis on prevention, awareness, and eliminating stigma, the UN champions a holistic approach to tackling drug abuse

Annually observed on June 26, 'The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987 to combat drug abuse globally. The day serves to highlight the challenges posed by drug abuse and illicit trafficking, stressing the need for international cooperation. The 2024 campaign, "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention", focuses on raising awareness about the importance of providing help and treatment to individuals struggling with drug use. It advocates for a compassionate approach, emphasizing empathy and care over punitive measures. This shift, aims to promote understanding of the negative impacts of drugs on



RAJDEEP PATHAK

personal, social, and spiritual well-being.

The campaign also calls for treating people who use drugs with respect and without judgment, aiming to change societal attitudes. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) underscores the significance of eliminating stigma and adopting a people-centered approach based on human rights and evidence-based practices to effectively

combat drug abuse globally. Besides, the primary objective is to address the multifaceted issues of drug abuse and trafficking by raising public awareness, promoting preventive measures, and advocating for robust policies and programs. Educating communities about the severe dangers and consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking is essential. Fostering international cooperation is crucial for a comprehensive approach, emphasizing global partnerships and collaboration among law enforcement agencies to dismantle drug trafficking networks. Addressing these objectives will create a more informed, prepared, and united front against the global drug crisis. Going by the 2024 theme -

"The evidence is clear: invest in prevention", the message of the Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres is pertinent in which he reiterated that drugs inflict profound suffering, deteriorating health and wellbeing, with overdoses claiming countless lives annually. To him, the rise of more lethal synthetic drugs and record-breaking illicit drug production fuels crime and violence globally, impacting the most vulnerable, especially youth.

Those struggling with substance abuse face repeated victimization from the drugs, societal stigma, and harsh responses. To break this cycle, 'we must invest in evidence-based prevention programs that safeguard individuals and communities, disrupt illicit

economies, and prioritize rehabilitation, education, and harm reduction'. He cited the example of Portugal saying that prevention is effective. António Guterres said, "As this year's theme reminds us, breaking the cycle of suffering means starting at the beginning, before drugs take hold, by investing in prevention." But what does 'Drug Abuse' actually mean? Drug abuse can be defined as the improper or excessive consumption of illegal drugs or prescription medications for non-therapeutic purposes.

Drug abuse severely impacts physical health, manifesting in serious conditions. Reports point that chronic cocaine or methamphetamine abuse leads to cardiovascular issues, including heart disease and

stroke. Smoking drugs like crack cocaine can cause lung cancer, while intravenous drug use increases HIV risk. Other risks, as medical reports point, include nasal damage from snorting, liver and kidney disease from prolonged substance use, and oral cancer from smokeless tobacco. Contaminants in illicit drugs are linked to leukemia, and severe weight loss is common among stimulant addicts. Besides, mental health issues include depression, anxiety, memory and learning problems, insomnia, violent behaviour, delusions, paranoia, confusion, extreme mood swings, and substance dependence. Some report also suggests that the relationships between drug-related crime, crimes that affect the environment,

and convergent crimes are complex and evolving. Drug cultivation and trafficking and crimes that affect the environment are surging in the Amazon Basin. Also, the 'UNODC World Drug Report 2023' highlights social and economic inequalities driving drug problems and their environmental and human rights impacts and rising conflicts. Treatment coverage remains low, with only one in five affected receiving help, notably lacking in some regions. Recent data from the Government of India reveals alarming statistics: more than 10% of the population grapples with psychiatric disorders such as depression, neurosis, and psychosis. A substantial segment, comprising 15 individuals per 1000, engages in drug

use, while chronic alcohol addiction affects 25 per 1000 people. The availability of psychiatric and de-addiction beds starkly contrasts with demand, with only 20% of the required facilities accessible nationwide, leaving an alarming 80% shortfall in inpatient care capacity.

Following a tailored treatment plan involving detoxification, counseling, and possibly medication is crucial. Lifestyle adjustments such as adopting healthy habits and avoiding triggers support recovery. The way out is, facing the problem, discussing and treating it with experts' guidance, but not being the escapist.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

Israeli SC says ultra-Orthodox men must serve in military

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled unanimously that the military must begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men for military service, a decision that could lead to the collapse of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition as Israel continues to wage war in Gaza. The court ruled that in the absence of a law that distinguishes between Jewish seminary students and other draftees, Israel's compulsory military service system applies to the ultra-Orthodox like any other citizens. Under longstanding arrangements, ultra-Orthodox men have been exempt from the draft, which is compulsory for most Jewish men and women. These exemptions have long been a source of anger among

the secular public, a divide that has widened during the eight-month-old war, as the military has called up tens of thousands of soldiers and says it needs all the manpower it can get. Over 600 soldiers have been killed. Politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties, key partners in Netanyahu's governing coalition, oppose any change in the current system. If the exemptions are ended, they could bolt the coalition, causing the government to collapse and leading to new elections. During arguments, government lawyers told the court that forcing ultra-Orthodox men to enlist would "tear Israeli society apart." The court decision comes at a sensitive time, as the war in Gaza drags on into its ninth month and the number of

dead soldiers continues to mount. The court found that the state was carrying out "invalid selective enforcement, which represents a serious violation of the rule of law, and the principle according to which all individuals are equal before the law." It did not say how many ultra-Orthodox should be drafted. The court also ruled that state subsidies for seminaries where exempted ultra-Orthodox men study should remain suspended. The court temporarily froze the seminary budgets earlier this year. In a post on the social media platform X, cabinet minister Yitzhak Goldknopf, who heads one of the ultra-Orthodox parties in the coalition, called the ruling "very unfortunate and disappoint-

ing." He did not say whether his party would bolt the government. "The state of Israel was established in order to be a home for the Jewish people whose Torah is the bedrock of its existence. The Holy Torah will prevail," he wrote. The ultra-Orthodox see their full-time religious study as their part in protecting the state of Israel. Many fear that greater contact with secular society through the military will distance adherents from strict observance of the faith. Ultra-Orthodox men attend special seminaries that focus on religious studies, with little attention on secular topics like math, English or science. Critics have said they are ill-prepared to serve in the military or enter the secular work force.

Sunak withdraws party support from 2 over betting scandal

PTI ■ LONDON

Adding to the turmoil for an embattled Rishi Sunak, the British Prime Minister on Tuesday decided to withdraw his party's backing from two of his Conservative colleagues embroiled in a betting scandal over the date of the general election. The move comes just over a week before the July 4 polls after days of the row dominating the campaign headlines, with the Opposition demanding the suspension of those accused. A Conservative Party spokesperson confirmed that Tory candidates Craig Williams and Laura Saunders will no longer have the party's backing to contest as MPs from Montgomeryshire and Gwynwr in Wales and Bristol North West in England

respectively. "As a result of ongoing internal enquiries, we have concluded that we can no longer support Craig Williams or Laura Saunders as parliamentary candidates at the forthcoming general election," a Conservative Party spokesperson said. "We have checked with the Gambling Commission that this decision does not compromise the investigation that they are conducting, which is rightly independent and ongoing," the spokesperson said. Sunak had come under intense pressure to take action following the revelations over the past couple of weeks, including from some members of his own party. Saunders is the wife of the Tory director of campaigns, Tony Lee, and Williams a

close parliamentary aide to the Prime Minister. Sunak had previously admitted being "incredibly angry" when the revelations that members of his close circle were embroiled in betting on the election date but insisted he did not want to interfere with the Gambling Commission's independent probe. However, that position has now changed implying some evidence of impropriety. While betting is legal in the UK, any bets placed with the advantage of insider information could fall within the purview of illegality. When Sunak stepped out onto the steps of 10 Downing Street amid pouring rain on May 22 to announce July 4 as the date of the general election, he took the country by surprise with a summer election as opposed to the wide-

ly speculated September-October timeline. The date was therefore considered a very closely guarded secret, with only a handful of close party aides expected to have been in the know. Under Section 42 of the UK's Gambling Act 2005, it is an offence to cheat at gambling or to do anything that allows someone else to cheat. It could come with a jail term attached if it leads to a prosecution. The Gambling Commission has only admitted "investigating the possibility of offences concerning the date of the election" and declined to provide any details on the "ongoing investigation." "We are not confirming or denying the identity of any individuals involved in this investigation," a spokesperson said.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange freed from UK prison

AP ■ BANGKOK



A plane carrying Julian Assange landed Tuesday in Bangkok for refuelling, as the WikiLeaks founder was on his way to enter a plea deal with the US government that will free him and resolve the legal case that spanned years and continents over the publication of a trove of classified documents. A chartered flight from London that Assange's wife, Stella, confirmed was carrying her husband landed at Don Mueang International Airport. Officials there told The Associated Press the plane was scheduled to continue on to Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the Pacific, where Assange is expected to appear in court on Wednesday. He's expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national

defence information, according to the US Justice Department in a letter filed in court. Assange is expected to return to his home country of Australia after his plea and sentencing. The hearing is taking place in Saipan because of Assange's opposition to travelling to the continental US and the court's proximity to Australia, prosecutors said. The guilty plea, which must be approved by a judge, brings an abrupt conclusion to a criminal case of international intrigue and to the US govern-

ment's yearslong pursuit of a publisher whose hugely popular secret-sharing website made him a cause celebre among many press freedom advocates who said he acted as a journalist to expose US military wrongdoing. Investigators, in contrast, have repeatedly asserted that his actions broke laws meant to protect sensitive information and put the country's national security at risk. Stella Assange told the BBC from Australia that it had been "touch and go" over the past 72 hours whether the deal would go ahead but she felt "elated" at the news. A lawyer who married the WikiLeaks founder in prison in 2022, she said details of the agreement would be made public once the judge had signed off on it. "He will be a free man once it is signed off by a judge," she said, adding that she still didn't think it was real. She told Britain's PA news agency that the flight was cost-

ing Assange USD 500,000 and they would start a fundraising campaign to help pay for it. Kristinn Hrafnsson, editor-in-chief of WikiLeaks, said the deal for Assange came about after the growing involvement of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. "This is the result of a long, long process which has been going on for some time. It has been a tough battle, but the focus now is on Julian being reunited with his family," Hrafnsson told the PA news agency. "The most important thing is that Julian is free and he is finally able to enjoy the big blue sky." In a statement posted on the social media platform X, WikiLeaks said Assange boarded a plane and departed Monday after leaving the British prison where he has spent the last five years. WikiLeaks applauded the announcement of the deal, saying it was grateful for "all who stood by us, fought for us,

and remained utterly committed in the fight for his freedom." Albanese told Parliament that an Australian envoy had flown with Assange from London. "Regardless of the views that people have about Mr. Assange's activities, the case has dragged on for too long," Albanese said. "There's nothing to be gained by his continued incarceration and we want him brought home to Australia." The deal ensures that Assange will admit guilt while also sparing him from additional prison time. He had spent years hiding in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London after Swedish authorities sought his arrest on rape allegations before being locked up in the United Kingdom. Assange is expected to be sentenced to the five years he has already spent in the British prison while fighting extradition to the US to face charges, a process that has played out in a series of hearings in London.

Last month, he won the right to appeal an extradition order after his lawyers argued that the US government provided "blatantly inadequate" assurances that he would have the same free speech protections as an American citizen if extradited from Britain. Assange has been heralded by many around the world as a hero who brought to light military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Among the files published by WikiLeaks was a video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists. But his reputation was also tarnished by rape allegations, which he has denied. The Justice Department's indictment unsealed in 2019 accused Assange of encouraging and helping US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks published in 2010.

Prosecutors had accused Assange of damaging national security by publishing documents that harmed the US and its allies and aided its adversaries. The case was lambasted by press advocates and Assange supporters. Federal prosecutors defended it as targeting conduct that went way beyond that of a journalist gathering information, amounting to an attempt to solicit, steal and indiscriminately publish classified government documents. The plea agreement comes months after President Joe Biden said he was considering a request from Australia to drop the US push to prosecute Assange. The White House was not involved in the decision to resolve Assange's case, according to a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly about the case and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Aus leaders welcome expected plea that could bring Assange home

Melbourne (AP): Australian leaders cautiously welcomed an expected plea agreement that could set free Julian Assange, who was pursued for years over WikiLeaks' publication of a trove of classified documents. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday there was nothing to be gained by keeping the Australian incarcerated. A plane thought to be carrying Assange landed Tuesday in Bangkok as he heads to the Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the Pacific midway between Australia and Japan, where he is expected to appear in a US federal court Wednesday local time. He is expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defense information, the US Justice Department said in a letter filed in court. Assange is expected to return to Australia if a judge accepts the plea agreement. Public support for Assange has grown in Australia during the seven years he has spent avoiding extradition to the United States by hiding in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London and later during his five years in Belmarsh Prison. Albanese has been lobbying since his government was elected in 2022 for the United States to end its prosecution of Assange, and his plight was seen as a test of the prime minister's leverage with President Joe Biden. Albanese had been a senior minister in a center-left Labor Party government that in 2010 staunchly backed US criticisms of WikiLeaks' classified information dumps. But Assange has breached no Australian law. Albanese told Parliament that Australian High Commissioner to the UK Stephen Smith had flown with Assange from London. "The government is certainly aware that Australian citizen Mr Julian Assange has legal proceedings scheduled in the United States.

Canada's Liberals suffer major upset in Toronto special election

Toronto (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal party has suffered a major upset in a special election for a Toronto district it has held for three decades, raising doubts about Trudeau's leadership ahead of next year's general election. Elections Canada reported the opposition Conservative candidate winning the Toronto-St. Paul's district by almost 600 votes, 42.1% over the Liberal candidate's 40.5% with all 192 polling stations reporting. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation declared Conservative Don Stewart the winner early Tuesday. The Liberals had held Toronto-St. Paul's since 1993. It is one of 338 seats in Canada's House of Commons. Losing in Canada's largest city, a traditional Liberal stronghold, does not bode well for Trudeau ahead of the election expected in the fall of 2025.

Prosecutor in classified documents case clashes with judge over request to restrict Trump's speech

AP ■ FORT PIERCE

A federal prosecutor in the classified documents case of Donald Trump clashed with the judge Monday as the judge was questioning a request to bar the former president from threatening comments about law enforcement agents involved in the investigation. Special counsel Jack Smith's team is seeking to make as a condition of Trump's freedom pending trial a prohibition on remarks that could endanger agents participating in the case. Prosecutors say those restrictions are necessary after Trump falsely claimed last month that the FBI was prepared to kill him when it searched his Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, for classified documents two years ago. But prosecutor David Harbach, a member of Smith's team, encountered immediate pushback from U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, whose handling of the case has generated intense

scrutiny. The judge questioned Harbach about how she could fashion an order that did not run afoul of Trump's First Amendment rights and whether prosecutors could prove a direct link between Trump's comments and actions that might then follow. "There still needs to be a correlation between the alleged, dangerous comments and the risk" to public safety, she said. At one point, as Harbach tried despite frequent interruptions from Cannon to rattle off the multiple rationales that he said existed for speech restrictions on Trump, the visibly exasperated prosecutor noted acerbically that "I've got one reason out so far." The comment drew a rebuke from Cannon, who said, "Mr. Harbach, I don't appreciate your tone." She said that if he could not behave in a more professional manner, one of his colleagues could take over. Harbach completed his arguments and later apologized to

the judge, saying he hadn't meant to be unprofessional. Defense lawyer Todd Blanche disputed the idea that Trump's comments posed an imminent threat to anyone in law enforcement and said prosecutors' request would have a "chilling" effect. Trump is the presumptive Republican presidential nominee and is set to debate President Joe Biden on Thursday. Trump was not required to be present for the hearing and was not in attendance. Trump's often-inflammatory rhetoric has carried legal consequences in other cases. The New York judge presiding over Trump's hush money trial, in which he was convicted of 34 felony counts last week, fined him a total of \$10,000 for violating a gag order that barred him from verbal attacks on witnesses and jurors. A federal judge in Washington handling his election subversion case imposed a similar gag order last year that an appeals court later upheld.

It was not immediately clear when Cannon might rule. The arguments were part of a three-day hearing that began Friday to deal with several of the many unresolved legal issues that have piled up in a case that had been set for trial last month but has been snarled by delays and a plodding pace. Cannon indefinitely postponed the trial, and it's all but guaranteed that it will not take place before the November presidential election. Trump faces dozens of felony charges accusing him of illegally hoarding top-secret records at Mar-a-Lago and obstructing the FBI's efforts to get them back. Given the breadth of evidence that prosecutors have put forward, many legal experts have regarded the case as the most straightforward of the four prosecutions against Trump, who has pleaded not guilty. But Cannon has been slow to rule on numerous motions and has proved willing to entertain defense requests that prosecutors say

Part of Kenya parliament set on fire amid protest

Nairobi (Kenya) (AP): Thousands of Kenyan anti-tax protesters have entered parliament, and part of the building is on fire. Legislators are evacuating. Police earlier Tuesday fired live ammunition at the protesters in the capital, Nairobi, as thousands continued to rally and demand that legislators vote against new taxes proposed in a controversial finance bill. Two people died in protests last week but there were no immediate reports of any fresh casualties Tuesday. Medics set up emergency response temporary shelters in different cities with supplies donated by Kenyans. The third round of protests took place as lawmakers vote on the finance bill that would introduce new taxes, including an eco-levy that would raise the price of goods like sanitary towels and diapers. A proposal to tax bread was removed after public outcry but demonstrators are still calling on Parliament not to pass the bill.

The Kenya Human Rights Commission on Tuesday shared a video of officers shooting at protesters and said they would be held to account. The commission wrote on X addressing President William Ruto: "The world is watching your descent into tyranny! Your regime's actions are an assault on democracy. All those involved in the shooting - actively or passively - must be held to account." The Kenya Law Society President Faith Odhiambo on Tuesday said 50 Kenyans, including her personal assistant, had been "abducted" by people believed to be police officers. She said there were instances of extrajudicial killings, police abductions, torture and people kept incommunicado for several days. Some of those missing included those who were vocal in the ongoing demonstrations and were taken away from their homes, workplaces and public spaces in the run-up to the Tuesday protests, according to civil society groups.

Chang'e-6 probe brings back first-ever samples from Moon's far side

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe module returned to Earth on Tuesday, completing its historic mission to collect the first-ever samples from the Moon's unexplored far side, in a major step forward for the country's ambitious space program. The return capsule landed precisely in the designated area in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 2:07 pm (Beijing Time), operating normally, and "the mission is a complete success," China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced. Chinese President Xi Jinping extended congratulations on the complete success of the Chang'e-6 mission, said state-run Xinhua news agency. China's probe was the first to reach and collect samples from the far side of the moon.

The development came after India in August 2023 became the first country to land near the little-explored lunar South Pole region when its Chandrayaan-3's lander, carrying the Pragyaan rover, successfully landed there. China is the only country to have landed on the far side of the Moon, having done so before in 2019. The far side - which faces away from Earth - is technically challenging to reach due to its distance, giant craters and few flat surfaces. In his congratulatory message, Xi noted that Chang'e-6, for the first time in human history, collected samples from the moon's far side and returned to Earth, marking another landmark achievement in China's endeavour to build a strong country in space as well as in science and technology. He called for meticulous

research on the lunar samples, the continued implementation of the country's major space projects, including deep space exploration, and the enhancement of international exchanges and cooperation. He also urged efforts to make new contributions to revealing the mysteries of the universe, to promoting the well-being of humanity, and to building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernisation. The re-entry module will be airlifted to Beijing for opening, and the lunar samples will be transferred to a team of scientists for subsequent storage, analysis and study, said the CNSA. The Chang'e-6 probe is expected to have returned to Earth with up to two kilograms of moon dust and rocks from the lunar far side, which will be analysed by

Chinese researchers before being opened for access by international scientists, it said. The Chang'e lunar exploration probe is named after the Chinese mythical moon goddess. Consisting of an orbiter, a returner, a lander and an ascender, Chang'e-6 was launched on May 3 this year. Supported by the Queqiao-2 relay satellite, placed earlier, the lander-ascender combination landed at the designated landing area in the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) Basin on the far side of the moon on June 2 and carried out sampling work. On June 4, the ascender took off from the moon with samples and entered the lunar orbit while on June 6, it completed rendezvous and docking with the orbiter-returner combination and transferred samples to the returner.

NASA calls off spacewalk after spacesuit water leak

Washington (AP): NASA on Monday canceled a spacewalk at the International Space Station after water leaked from an astronaut's spacesuit. Astronauts Tracy Dyson and Mike Barratt opened the hatch to the space station's airlock when Dyson reported water leaking from her spacesuit's cooling system. The leak occurred when Dyson switched her spacesuit to battery power. The astronauts hadn't floated outside yet. "There's literally water everywhere here now," Barratt said. The duo were not in danger, according to NASA. The astronauts were supposed to remove a faulty communications box and collect microbe samples from outside the orbiting laboratory.

King Charles III welcomes visiting Japanese emperor and empress

AP ■ LONDON

King Charles III welcomed the Japanese emperor and empress for a state visit that began on Tuesday, offering the best in pomp and circumstance as the UK seeks to bolster its role as the most influential European nation in the Indo-Pacific region. Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako are to attend a banquet hosted by the king, lay a wreath at Westminster Abbey and tour one of Britain's premier biomedical research institutes. But the emperor began this week's trip by visiting a site that has special meaning: The Thames Barrier. The retractable flood control gates on the River Thames seemed a natural destination for a royal long interested in the waterway that runs through the heart of London. Naruhito studied 18th-centu-



ry commerce on the river as a graduate student at the University of Oxford some 40 years ago. He chronicled the interest in his memoir "The Thames and I," together with his fondness for Britain and its people. The future emperor got a chance to experience life outside the palace walls, including doing his own ironing, going to the bank and taking part in pub

crawls. Tuesday's ceremonial welcome seemed warm. Charles and Naruhito, who have known each other for years, settled into the back of a carriage and chatted like old chums. Both countries look to each other as a source of stability and mutual reassurance at a time of potentially destabilizing global political change.

Ukraine, Moldova all set to launch EU membership talks

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Ukraine is set to officially launch membership talks with the European Union on Tuesday in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has described as a dream come true for his country's citizens more than two years into a war with Russia.

Deputy prime minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration Olga Stefanishyna will lead Ukraine's delegation at an intergovernmental conference in Luxembourg marking the official opening of talks to align the country's laws and standards with those of the 27-nation bloc.

A few hours later, Moldova, which applied to join the EU after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and was granted candidate status four months later, will take part in a separate intergovernmental conference to officially launch its own accession process.

Ukraine, too, sought candidate status in the days after Russia invaded. By June 2022, EU

leaders had quickly made it official. But things have moved more slowly since then and membership, if it comes, might be years away.

Turkey's accession talks have lasted almost two decades without result.

Still, starting the talks process is sending another strong signal of solidarity with Ukraine beyond the billions in financial support the EU has provided. It's also a show of support for Moldova, which has faced its own challenges with Russia.

"Generations of our people are realizing their European dream. Ukraine is returning to Europe," Zelenskyy said in an online post after EU member states agreed on Friday to open the talks.

Tuesday's intergovernmental conference marks the launch of talks but the negotiations themselves are unlikely to begin for a few months.

Candidate countries must bring their laws and standards into line with those of the EU in 35 policy areas, known as chapters, ranging from the free movement of goods through

fisheries, taxation, energy and the environment to judicial rights and security.

Unanimous agreement must be given by all 27 member countries to open or close chapters, providing ample opportunity for EU nations to demand more work or to delay proceedings.

Hungary, which takes over the EU's rotating presidency from Belgium in July, has routinely put the brakes on EU and NATO support for Ukraine.

"We are still at the beginning of the screening process. It's very difficult to say at what stage Ukraine is in. From what I see here, as we speak, they are very far from meeting the accession criteria," Hungarian Minister for European Affairs Janos Bokai said as he arrived at the venue.

Bordering EU members Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, Ukraine would overtake France to become the largest member of the bloc if it joined, shifting its center of gravity further eastward. As a top grain producer its entry would have a huge impact on

EU agriculture policy.

Together with Moldova, Ukraine stands in a long line of EU hopefuls — Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey — with yearslong membership aspirations and which have felt left behind by Kyiv's rapid progress.

Spanish State Secretary for European Affairs Fernando Sampedro Marcos praised both countries for their preparatory work, saying they have made "a tremendous effort in very difficult circumstances in the last months."

"Of course, this requires reforms and it's a merit-based process," he noted, and paid tribute to the countries of the Western Balkans which also want to join. "We will not leave them behind."

Ukraine wants to join by 2030, but it must carry out dozens of institutional and legal reforms first. That daunting list is led by steps to combat corruption and includes broad reforms to public administration and judiciary.

Death toll from attack in Russia's Dagestan reaches 21

Moscow (AP): The death toll in the attack by Islamic militants in Russia's southern region of Dagestan has risen to 21 after a wounded police officer has died in a hospital, officials said on Tuesday.

Sunday's attack, in which militants attacked Christian and Jewish houses of worship and fired at police in the cities of Derbent and Makhachkala in the predominantly Muslim region in the North Caucasus, was the deadliest in Russia since March, when gunmen opened fire at a concert in suburban Moscow, killing 145 people.

An affiliate of the Islamic State group in Afghanistan, which claimed responsibility for March's raid, was quick to praise the attack in Dagestan, saying it was conducted by "brothers in the Caucasus who showed that they are still strong."

The Investigative Committee, Russia's top state criminal investigation agency, said all five attackers were killed.

Mavsum Ragimov, head of the Derbent region, said Tuesday that a police sergeant died of his wounds in a hospital, bringing the total number of victims to 21, 16 of them police.

Medical authorities in Dagestan said Monday at least 46 people were injured, 13 of them police. Among the dead was the Rev. Nikolai Kotelnikov, a 66-year-old Russian Orthodox priest at a church in Derbent. The attack came as the Orthodox faithful celebrated Pentecost, also known as Trinity Sunday.

In the early 2000s, Dagestan saw near-daily attacks on police and other authorities that were blamed on militant extremists.

After the emergence of the Islamic State group, many residents of the region joined it in Syria and Iraq.

The violence in Dagestan has abated in recent years, but in a sign that extremist sentiments still run high in the region, mobs rioted at an airport there in October, targeting a flight from Israel. More than 20 people were hurt — none of them Israelis — when hundreds of men, some carrying banners with antisemitic slogans, rushed onto the tarmac, chased passengers and threw stones at police.



Christian F Nunes, president of National Organization for Women speaks as abortion rights activists and Women's March leaders protest as part of a national day of strike actions outside the Supreme Court in Washington on Monday. AP/PTI

Russia keeps up frontline pressure before Ukraine receives a boost from Western military aid

AP ■ DONETSK REGION

Relentless Russian attacks on Ukrainian positions defending the strategically important eastern city of Chasiv Yar are disrupting troop rotations and the delivery of some supplies, soldiers in the area say.

The Kremlin's army is seeking to press its advantages in troop numbers and weaponry before Ukrainian forces are bulked up by promised new Western military aid that is already trickling to the front line, analysts say.

It has been hitting civilian targets just as hard, using powerful glide bombs that obliterate buildings and leave huge craters. Its monthslong campaign to cripple Ukraine's electricity supply aims to sap public morale and deny energy to Ukraine's burgeoning arms industry.

Attacks on such civilian targets brought arrest warrants from the International Criminal

Court on Tuesday for former Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and military chief of staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov for alleged war crimes. Judges said there is evidence they "intentionally caused great suffering or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health" of Ukrainian civilians.

For Ukrainian soldiers defending the eastern Donetsk region, the Russian ground assaults and aerial barrages allow little respite after more than two years of war.

"We work, you could say, without rest," said a platoon commander who, in line with his brigade's rules, identified himself only by his first name, Oleksandr.

"So no two days are alike. You always need to be ready to work day and night," he told The Associated Press on Monday.

His platoon is part of Ukraine's 43rd Artillery Brigade. It dashes to positions and without

delay fires a Soviet-era Pion self-propelled howitzer at Russian positions before it can be targeted itself.

Holding Chasiv Yar is crucial. The town, highly sought-after due to its strategic location and elevated position but now largely in ruins, lies to the west of neighbouring Bakhmut, which was captured by Russia last year after a 10-month battle.

Ukraine is racing to stabilize parts of the about 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line after badly needed military assistance was approved by the United States in April. A six-month delay in US aid threw Ukraine's military onto the defensive. Members of the artillery brigade in Chasiv Yar reported that supplies of American ammunition have started to arrive. The US is expected to announce Tuesday it is sending an additional USD 150 million in critically needed munitions to Ukraine, and

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said Tuesday that the first shipment of ammunition under a Czech initiative has been delivered to Ukraine.

The Czechs are looking to acquire from countries outside the European Union at least 800,000 artillery shells that Ukraine badly needs. The war has drained stockpiles in Europe, the United States and Russia.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said it will take time for the effects of the new Western weaponry to be felt on the front line.

Meantime, it said, "Russian forces are attempting to make tactical and operationally significant gains" before it arrives.

Elsewhere, the Kremlin's forces kept up their barrages of civilian infrastructure with three aerial strikes in the northeastern Kharkiv region Tuesday, local officials said, though nobody was injured.

Pak: New counter-terror op won't be large-scale military campaign

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Amidst criticism over a newly announced counterterrorism operation without consulting Parliament, the Pakistan government has said that it would not be a kinetic large-scale military campaign, nor would it entail the mass displacement of the people.

"Operation Azm-i-Istehkam," announced by the government on Saturday, is the latest in a series of counter-terrorism operations launched by the Pakistan Army since the mid-2000s. The announcement came after the Central Apex Committee of National Action Plan meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The Opposition parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl and Awami National Party have refused to support the new counterterrorism operation. They demanded that Parliament be taken into confidence before any offensive against militancy was launched.

Prime Minister Sharif on Tuesday clarified that the planned counterterrorism campaign "Vision Azm-i-Istehkam" would entail intensifying ongoing intelligence-based operations (IBOs) rather than a "new and organised" military offensive, Dawn newspaper reported. The clarification comes after the PM's Office (PMO) late Monday night said that "Operation Azm-i-Istehkam" would not be a kinetic large-scale military operation, nor would it entail the mass displacement of the local population.

"The prime minister took the cabinet members into confidence regarding the misunderstandings and speculation regarding 'Vision Azm-i-Istehkam,'" state-run PTV News quoted the PMO as saying during a meeting of the federal cabinet. The statement quoted Sharif as saying that the new operation is an overall national vision of a multifaceted cooperation of various security agencies and the entire state system.

"For this purpose, already ongoing IBOs will be intensified rather than [launching] a new and organised armed operation," he added.

The PMO said that "previous kinetic operations were conducted to physically dislodge terrorists from their known locations which [became] no-go areas and compromised the writ of the state. These operations required mass displacement of the local population and systematic clearance of affected areas."

"As there are no such areas in the country anymore and terrorists' ability to carry out large-scale organised operations inside Pakistan had been 'decisively degraded by earlier kinetic operations... no large-scale military operation is being contemplated where displacement of population will be required,'" the statement said.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has assured opposition parties that their reservations regarding the newly announced counterterrorism campaign would be addressed.

Hong Kong court inches closer to sentencing democracy activists

AP ■ HONG KONG

A Hong Kong court began mitigation hearings for prominent pro-democracy activists who were convicted under a national security law and now face up to life in prison. The activists were among 47 democracy advocates who were charged with conspiracy to commit subversion in 2021 for their involvement in an unofficial primary, in the biggest case brought under the Beijing-imposed national security law.

They were accused of attempting to paralyze Hong Kong's government and topple the city's leader by securing a legislative majority and using it to block city budgets.

Forty-five of the defendants either pled guilty or were convicted by a three-judge panel whose membership was approved by the government. The judges said their plans to effect change through the election would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis, in a verdict that critics said raised doubt about judicial independence.

The first batch of defendants to plead for lenient sentences contains legal scholar Benny Tai and activists Au Nok-hin, Andrew Chiu, Ben Chung and Gordon Ng. The mitigation hearings are expected to continue until early August.

Barrister Stewart Wong, representing Tai, told the judges that his client should be jailed for two years. He's expected to continue laying out his argument Tuesday on.

Hours before the hearing began, dozens of people were queuing up outside the court building tightly guarded by police. Some of them, including retiree William Wong, arrived at about 6 p.m. on Monday despite summer heat.

Wong said he voted in the primary and shared the defendants' hopes for democracy. "It's a normal election. Why do people have to be jailed for this? I can't accept this," he said.

Tai, a former law professor at the University of Hong Kong, nodded and smiled at people sitting in the public gallery after he walked into the courtroom. Wearing a black blazer, he appeared to be relaxed during the hearing.

Tai is best known as a co-founder of the city's 2014 Occupy Movement, during which demonstrators occupied streets for 79 days and brought traffic in some areas to a standstill, demanding direct elections for the city's leader.

The judges wrote in their verdict last month that Tai had laid out plans to block city budgets by acquiring a legislative majority, calling it a "constitutional weapon of mass destruction." They said Tai's aim was to use the plans to "undermine, destroy or overthrow the existing political system and structure" of Hong Kong. Tai, Au, Chiu and Chung were among 31 activists who pled guilty. They have a better chance of receiving shorter prison terms.

The law authorizes a range of sentences depending on the seriousness of the offense and the defendant's role in it, going from under three years for the least serious to 10 years to life for people convicted of "grave" offenses. The convictions have drawn concern from foreign governments. The United States has said it plans to impose new visa restrictions on both Chinese and Hong Kong officials responsible for implementing the security law.

A British judge also said the verdict "is symptomatic of a growing malaise in the Hong Kong judiciary," days after resigning from a post on the city's top court.

Pak court reserves verdict on suspension of Imran, wife's sentence in 'iddat' case

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on petitions requesting suspension of sentences handed out to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the 'iddat' case, a judgment that was widely criticised by civil society and women activists.

Khan, 71, and Bushra, 49, were sentenced to seven years in prison each on February 3 by a trial court for contracting their marriage during iddat, a mandatory period for a woman in Islam to wait before a second marriage after the death of her husband or divorce.

Islamabad district and ses-

sions court on Saturday, while resuming the hearing for pleas seeking suspension of sentences, asked the counsel for Bushra Bibi's ex-husband, Khawar Fareed Maneka, to conclude his arguments by June 25 as the court would then take up the main appeals against their convictions, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Khan and his wife had challenged the conviction before district and sessions judge Shahrukh Arjumand, who recused himself at a time when the hearing had been concluded and the court was supposed to announce the verdict, the report said.

Subsequently, the case was transferred to Additional District and Sessions Judge

Mohammad Afzal Majoka. However, the counsel for Bushra Bibi had filed a petition before the Islamabad High Court seeking her release on bail and suspension of her sentence.

Separately, the Islamabad High Court had ordered the sessions court to decide in 10 days on pleas by the PTI founder and his wife. The judgment was widely criticised by civil society and women activists for being a "blow to women's right to dignity and privacy". There were protests by activists in Islamabad against the verdict and a demonstration in Karachi against the "state's intrusion into people's private lives" had also denounced it,

the Dawn reported. Judge Majoka reserved the verdict after hearing the arguments from both sides. The verdict will be announced on June 27 at 3 pm, the report said.

On Monday, the 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician moved the Supreme Court, seeking an expedited hearing of his appeal against his disqualification by the election commission in the Toshakhana corruption case. In December last year, the PTI founder challenged in the Lahore High Court the Election Commission of Pakistan's ruling of disqualifying him for five years for not declaring Toshakhana gifts in his statement of assets and liabilities.

Knife attack at school bus stop in China wounds 3

Beijing (AP): A suspect has been detained in China after a knife attack at a school bus stop that injured three people, including a Japanese woman and her child, a spokesperson for the Japanese Embassy confirmed on Tuesday.

A man stabbed the woman and her child at a bus stop for a Japanese school, and then seriously injured a Chinese woman on the bus who tried to block him when he tried to get on, the spokesperson said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of embassy policy.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the man was arrested at the scene after the Monday afternoon attack in Suzhou, a tech centre and historic canal city outside Shanghai. "It is a regrettable incident," she said. "China

will continue to take effective measures to earnestly protect the safety of all foreigners in China." The motive for the attack was unclear, the Japanese Embassy spokesperson said. An investigation is ongoing.

The Chinese woman was being treated at a hospital, Mao said. The injuries to the Japanese mother and child were not serious. In an email sent to Japanese nationals living in China, the Japanese Embassy warned them to take precautions as stabbing incidents have occurred in various parts of China in public places including parks, schools and subways. Earlier this month, a Chinese man stabbed four US university instructors at a public park in Jilin in the northeast, as well as a Chinese person who tried to intervene.

US, allies clash with Tehran, Moscow over Iranian N-programme

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United States and its key European allies clashed with Iran and Russia over Tehran's expanding nuclear programme, with the US vowing "to use all means necessary to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran" in a UN Security Council meeting on Monday.

The US, France, Britain and Germany accused Iran of escalating its nuclear activities far beyond limits it agreed to in a 2015 deal aimed at preventing Tehran from developing nuclear weapons, and of failing to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran and Russia accused the US and its allies of continuing to apply economic sanctions that were supposed to be lifted under the deal, and insisted that Tehran's nuclear programme remains under constant oversight by the IAEA.

The clashes came at a semi-annual meeting on implementation of the nuclear deal between Iran and six

major countries — the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Under the accord, Tehran agreed to limit enrichment of uranium to levels necessary for the peaceful use of nuclear power in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Then-President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the deal in 2018. Trump said he would negotiate a stronger deal, but that didn't happen.

The council meeting followed an IAEA report in late May that Iran has more than 142 kilograms (313 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60 per cent purity, a technical step away from weapons-grade level of 90 per cent. The IAEA said this was an increase of over 20 kilograms (45 pounds) from February.

The IAEA also reported on June 13 that its inspectors verified that Iran has started up new cascades of advanced centrifuges more quickly enrich uranium and planned to install more.

US deputy ambassador Robert Wood

told the council that the IAEA reports "show that Iran is determined to expand its nuclear programme in ways that have no credible civilian purpose."

Wood said the US is prepared to use all means to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, but said it remains "fully committed to resolving international concerns surrounding Iran's nuclear programme through diplomacy."

The three Western countries that remain in the JCPOA — France, Germany and the United Kingdom — issued a joint statement after the council meeting also leaving the door open for diplomatic efforts "that ensure Iran never develops a nuclear weapon." They said Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium is now 30 times the JCPOA limit, and stressed that Iran committed not to install or operate any centrifuges for enrichment under the JCPOA.

Their joint statement also noted that "Iranian officials have issued statements about its capacity to assemble a nuclear weapon."

Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saeed Iravani blamed "the unilateral and unlawful US withdrawal from the JCPOA" and the failure of the three European parties to the deal "to honour their commitments," saying it is "crystal clear" they are responsible for the current non-functioning of the agreement.

In the face of US and European sanctions, he said, Iran has the right to halt its commitments under the JCPOA.

Iravani reiterated Iran's rejection of nuclear weapons, and insisted its nuclear activities including enrichment are "for peaceful purposes" and are subject to "robust verification and monitoring" by the IAEA.

The Iranian ambassador strongly endorsed the JCPOA, calling it a hard-won diplomatic achievement "that effectively averted an undue crisis."

"It remains the best option, has no alternative, and its revival is indeed in the interest of all of its participants," he said. "Our remedial measures are reversible if all sanctions are

lifted fully and verifiably." But France, Germany and the UK said some of Iran's nuclear advances are irreversible.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said US promises "to abandon the policy of maximum pressure on Tehran and to return to the nuclear deal remained empty words." He accused some other JCPOA parties, which he didn't name, of "doing everything possible to continuously rock the boat, jettisoning opportunities for the implementation of the nuclear deal."

Nebenzia urged the European parties to the agreement and the United States to return to the negotiating table in Vienna and "demonstrate their commitment to the objective of restoration of the nuclear deal."

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the coordinator of the JCPOA, said the compromise text he put forward two years ago for the US to return to the JCPOA and for Iran to resume full implementation of the agreement remains on the table.

Sensex breaches 78,000 level for first time

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex breached the historic 78,000 level for the first time while Nifty settled at a new record high on Tuesday on buying in blue-chip bank stocks and Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 712.44 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 78,053.52. During the day, the benchmark soared 823.63 points or 1 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime high of 78,164.71.

The Sensex breached the 77,000 mark for the first time on June 10.

The Nifty went up by 183.45 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a fresh record high of 23,721.30. During the day, it climbed 216.3 points or 0.91 per cent to hit an intraday lifetime high of 23,754.15.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Larsen &



Toubr, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries and Infosys were the biggest gainers. Power Grid, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Nestle, Maruti and JSW Steel were among the laggards.

"A rally in the banking stocks pushed Nifty to hit another record - 34th time this year though a host of

surplus in Q4 FY24. This will take away the pressure on the rupee and pave the way for FII inflows when clarity emerges on the Fed rate cuts," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

India recorded a current account surplus of USD 5.7 billion or 0.6 per cent of GDP in the March quarter, the Reserve Bank of India said on Monday.

This is the first time in ten quarters that the crucial metric of the country's external strength has turned into surplus mode.

mong indices, bankex jumped 1.87 per cent, financial services climbed 1.45 per cent, IT by 0.53 per cent, capital goods by 0.28 per cent and teck by 0.43 per cent. Realty declined 1.82 per cent. Power (1.05 per cent), utilities (0.95 per cent), metal (0.84 per cent) and telecommunication (0.28 per cent) also dropped. "The markets edged higher

signaling a resumption of the uptrend after a brief pause. Nifty traded within a range during the first half, but selective buying in heavyweight stocks, particularly from the banking sector, spurred a sharp surge," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

"We believe the current buoyancy in banking, coupled with notable strength in IT, will dictate the trend, while other sectors may contribute on a rotational basis," Mishra added.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled higher while Shanghai ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. US markets ended on a mixed note on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.44 per cent to USD 85.63 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 653.97 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Rupee settles 3 paise higher at 83.44 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 3 paise against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking a firm trend in domestic equities amid stable global crude oil prices.

However, a strengthening American currency in the overseas market weighed on the local unit and restricted the up move, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.46 and hit the intraday high of 83.41 and a low of 83.48 against the greenback during the session. It finally settled at 83.44 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 3 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee appreciated 10 paise to settle at 83.47 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias as positive domestic markets and a soft US dollar may support



the rupee. However, a rise in crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions may cap a sharp upside.

"Investors may remain cautious ahead of core PCE data from the US this week. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 83.65," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.03 per cent higher at 105.50. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading

0.48 per cent lower at USD 85.60 per barrel.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 712.44 points, or 0.92 per cent, to close at a new peak of 78,053.52. The broader NSE Nifty settled 183.45 points, or 0.78 per cent, higher at a record 23,721.30.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 653.97 crore, according to exchange data.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, S&P Global Ratings on Monday retained India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year at 6.8 per cent and said high interest rates and lower fiscal spur would temper demand.

Moreover, India recorded a current account surplus of USD 5.7 billion or 0.6 per cent of GDP in the March quarter, the Reserve Bank of India said on Monday.

Industry pitches for tax reduction, rationalisation of duty structure in Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to boost the economy, representatives of various industries on Tuesday urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reduce the incidence of indirect taxes and rationalise duty structure wherever required.

In a pre-budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, FIEO president Ashwani Kumar made a case for an extension of the Interest Equalisation Scheme for the next five years.

"We request the scheme which is valid till 30th June, 2024 may be extended for a period of 5 years. Looking into the rates in interest rates consequent to the increase in Repo rate from 4.4 per cent to 6.5 per cent in the last 2 years, the subvention rates may be restored back from 3 per cent to 5 per cent for manufacturers in MSMEs," Kumar said.

Kumar also urged for the establishment of an Indian shipping line of global repute to reduce foreign shipping line dependency and save foreign exchange. Emerging from the nearly two-hour meeting, Ajay



Sardana, President & Head of Petchem-Industry Affairs, at Reliance Industries, said there is a need for a review of tariffs on imported goods from China related to the petrochem industry. "China has created a lot of overcapacity...They are putting a lot of products in India at a very cheaper price and a lot of dumping is happening. So, what we

requested is a review of the tariffs regime so that the domestic capacity can be increased," Sardana said. Shree Cement Chairman HM Bangur said the government should spend more on capital expenditure so that the cement industry benefits. "We sought faster and simultaneous environmental clearances and no hindrance in capex," he added.

Representing the services sector, Nasscom Vice President and Head of Public Policy Ashish Aggarwal said, "From the Budget perspective, we are looking for easing the transfer pricing regime as a lot of our industry is not able to benefit from transfer pricing provision."

Nasscom also made a case for enhancing the scope of the safe harbour regime by increasing the threshold limit from Rs 200 crore in international transactions to Rs 2,000 crore so that global capability centres can take benefit from the safe harbour, he said. "We also suggested for strengthening of advance pricing agreement mechanism for promoting ease of doing business," he added.

Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Sandeep Engineer said, "We represented small and medium industries. The 45-day payment window is positive but have sought some relaxation in the time cycles." He also made a case for changing the definition of MSME and rationalisation of taxes for Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) and high net-worth individuals.

Leather, footwear exporters seek PLI scheme in Budget to boost jobs, manufacturing, shipments

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leather and footwear exporters body CLE on Tuesday sought an extension of the Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the sector with a view to boost job creation, domestic manufacturing and shipments.

In a pre-budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Council for Leather Exports Chairman Rajendra Kumar Jalan also urged the government to provide import duty exemption on wet blue, crust and finished leather.

"Implementation of PLI will lead to structural transformation of the industry and will make the country a major manufacturing hub," Jalan said.

He added that the PLI will provide a major fillip to the domestic and overseas investments in not only capacity modernisation and expansion of existing units but also in start-ups, thereby leading to expansion of the overall production base. "The benefits of PLI will include an incremental investment of Rs 6,000 crore



and an additional employment generation of about 2 million labour workforce, both directly and indirectly," he said.

He added that the import of wet blue, crust and finished leathers during 2022-23 was USD 450.73 million, but the export of value-added products was USD 5.26 billion, which is more than 10 times the value of import.

"Hence, it is requested that the 10 per cent import duty now being levied on wet blue, crust and finished leathers may kindly be removed to increase the price

competitiveness of the value-added products segment," Jalan urged.

Jalan also requested the government to allow the export of all value-added leathers including crust leathers without any export duty.

"This will lead to a quantum jump in the export of value-added leathers by at least USD 1 billion in the next 2-3 years," he said.

Presently, there is a 40 per cent export duty on raw and pickled hides, crust and wet blue leather and 30 per cent on raw buffalo hides.

Stanley Lifestyles IPO subscribed over 96 times

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of luxury furniture brand Stanley Lifestyles got subscribed a whopping 96.25 times on the last day of subscription on Tuesday.

The Rs 537 crore initial share-sale received bids for 98,56,97,520 shares against 1,02,41,507 shares on offer, according to NSE data.

The portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) fetched 222.10 times subscription while the quota for non-institutional investors got subscribed 118.65 times.

The quota for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) attracted 18.13 times subscription.

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) has a fresh issue of up to Rs 200 crore and an offer for sale of up to 91,33,454 equity shares.

The initial share-sale has a price range of Rs 351-369 per share.

The IPO of Stanley Lifestyles got subscribed 1.43 times on the first day of subscription on Friday.

Telcos eye four spectrum bands

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operators showed interest in four spectrum bands -- 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, and 2,500 MHz -- as the auction entered the fourth round around 3pm on Tuesday, sources said.

Spectrum auction for over 10,500 Mhz mobile services worth over Rs 96,238 crore started at 10 am, an official statement said.

"There was activity in four spectrum rounds initially -- 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, and 2,500 MHz band. Spectrum auction entered the

fourth round around 3pm," a source told PTI.

It is the 10th spectrum auction since the process for sale of radiowaves started through an online bidding process in 2010.

The last spectrum auction was held in August 2022, which, for the first time, included radio waves for 5G services.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has initiated the spectrum auction and notice inviting applications was issued on March 8.

"The Ministry of

Communications announced that the following spectrum bands will go up for bidding in the upcoming auction -- 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, 2,300 MHz, 2,500 MHz, 3,300 MHz and 26 GHz.

"Total quantum of spectrum being auctioned is 10,522.35 Mhz in various bands valuing Rs 96,238.45 crores at reserve prices," the statement said.

The 3,300 Mhz band and 26 Mhz band are seen as suitable bands for 5G services. Reliance Jio has deposited the highest earnest money of Rs 3,000 crore for the auction,

which provides the company with the potential to bid for maximum radio waves.

According to pre-qualified bidder details released by the Department of Telecommunications, Bharti Airtel has submitted the earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs 1,050 crore and Vodafone Idea (VIL) of Rs 300 crore.

Telecom industry body Cellular Operators' Association of India Director General SP Kochhar said the 5G auctions will catalyze the rapid rollout of 5G services across the country, leading to

enhanced coverage and vastly improved connectivity.

"By bridging the digital divide, the 5G spectrum auctions will ensure that even the most remote areas of our country gain access to high-speed internet, thereby fostering greater economic opportunities and social advancement.

"The auctions also symbolize our commitment to 'Viksit Bharat' and we are confident that the outcomes of these auctions will lay a strong foundation for a prosperous and digitally empowered India," Kochhar said.

Tata Motors partners Bajaj Finance for commercial vehicle finance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Tuesday said it has partnered with Bajaj Finance Ltd for offering financing solutions across its entire commercial vehicle portfolio.

The company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Finance Ltd, part of Bajaj Finserv Ltd, for the same and customers will benefit from the latter's wide reach, competitive interest rates, flexi loan and

digitally-enabled loan processing, Tata Motors said in a statement.

"We are confident that their (Bajaj Finance) inaugural venture into commercial vehicle financing will allow them to tap the immense potential that the transportation sector brings in, and this partnership will benefit entrepreneurs across the country," Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles Vice President & Business Head - Trucks, Rajesh Kaul said.

With Bajaj Finance's wide network in rural and urban areas, customers will have easy access to financing solutions as per their requirements, he added. Bajaj Finance Deputy Managing Director Anup Saha said, "... We aim to make the process of purchasing a commercial vehicle accessible and hassle-free. We are confident that the partnership will empower more commercial vehicle owners with financing solutions."

Bank holds blood donation camp in G'gram



Gurugram: As part of its ongoing commitment to community welfare and to commemorate its 117th foundation day on Monday Punjab and Sind Bank Zonal Office Gurugram hosted a series of impactful initiatives starting from plantation drive on June 19, blood donation camp on June 20 and donation of water coolers to schools and hospitals on June 21.

Darpan Agarwal, Zonal Manager Zone Gurugram expressed the enthusiasm for these initiatives, emphasising their importance in fostering a positive impact and strengthening community bonds. PNS

Tenth spectrum auction for radiowaves worth ₹96,238 crore begins

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Auction for Rs 96,238 crore worth spectrum began on Tuesday that is expected to see firms like Airtel and Reliance Jio bidding to acquire airwaves that will help augment their 5G services.

It is the 10th spectrum auction since the process for sale of radiowaves started through an online bidding process in 2010.

"The government begins the auction of Spectrum for Telecom Services today at 10:00 AM," an official statement said on Tuesday.

The last spectrum auction was held in August 2022, which, for the first time, included radio waves for 5G services. "To augment existing telecom services and maintain continuity of services, the



government will hold the spectrum auction on Tuesday, 25 June 2024. This is in line with the government's commitment to facilitate affordable, state-of-art high quality telecom services to all the citizens," the statement said.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has initiated the spectrum Auction and notice inviting applications (NIA) was issued

on March 8. "The Ministry of Communications announced that the following spectrum bands will go up for bidding in the upcoming auction - 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, 2,300 MHz, 2,500 MHz, 3,300 MHz and 26 GHz. Total quantum of spectrum being auctioned is 10,522.35 Mhz in various bands valuing Rs 96,238.45 crores at reserve prices," the statement said.

The 3300 Mhz band and 26 Mhz band are seen as suitable bands for 5G services.

Reliance Jio has deposited the highest earnest money of Rs 3,000 crore for the spectrum auction, which provides the company with the potential to bid for maximum radio waves.

According to pre-qualified bidder details released by the Department of Telecommunications, Bharti Airtel has submitted the earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs 1,050 crore and Vodafone Idea (VIL) of Rs 300 crore.

Telecom industry body Cellular Operators' Association of India Director General SP Kochhar said the 5G auctions will catalyze the rapid rollout of 5G services across the country, leading to enhanced coverage and vastly

improved connectivity.

According to telecom expert Parag Kar, Reliance Jio can bid for 37.36 per cent of the total spectrum value based on EMD, Bharti 13.07 per cent and Vodafone Idea 3.73 per cent.

As per Kar's analysis, Jio may be keen on bidding for 800 Mhz band only, which may lead to an estimated cash flow of Rs 18,000 crore.

"Bharti's targeted approach in the upcoming auction is aimed at consolidating and enhancing its spectrum efficiency. The total outflow for Bharti will be Rs 11,512 crore at the Reserve Price," Kar said in his blog.

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea (VIL) is likely to focus on strategic acquisitions, particularly in the 26 GHz band, to bring down its spectrum usage charge.

Gold rises ₹70, silver plunges ₹400

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose Rs 70 to Rs 72,550 per 10 grams in the local market on Tuesday in line with firm global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,480 per 10 grams on Monday. However, silver prices plunged by Rs 400 to Rs 91,500 per kg. In the previous session, it had settled at Rs 91,900 per kg.

"In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at Rs 72,550 per 10 grams, slightly up by Rs 70 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said.

In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,324 per ounce, up USD 6 from the previous close.

Gold traded in a narrow range on Tuesday under gloomy market sentiment, Gandhi said.

"... Traders' focus is turning to macroeconomic data due at the end of this week, including US GDP and the Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of consumer inflation, which could offer clues on when the central bank will pivot to monetary policy easing," he added. However, silver was down at USD 29.40 per ounce. It had ended at USD 29.47 per ounce in the previous session. According to Praveen Singh, Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the yellow metal is expected to range trade ahead of the US GDP and Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation data.

A lot of credit for my wickets goes to Bumrah: Arshdeep

PTI ■ GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)
The pinpoint accuracy of Jasprit Bumrah allows other bowlers in the Indian team to go for wickets even in extreme pressure situations, said pacer Arshdeep Singh. The 25-year-old left-arm pacer is among the leading wicket-takers in the T20 World Cup with 15 scalps in six games at an average of 11.86 and economy rate of 7.41 runs per over. Bumrah, on the other hand, has taken 11 wickets in the same number of games, conceding just 4.08 runs per over, a rarity in the shortest format. "I guess a lot of credit goes to Jasprit because he puts a lot of pressure on the batters. He gives what, three or four runs

in and over," Arshdeep said after the 24-run win over Australia in Saint Lucia on Monday. "So, batsmen are coming hard against me and when they are trying, I just have to try and bowl my best ball and there are a lot of chances of getting wickets there because on the other hand they see the runs are not coming and the asking rate is going high. "So, they take more risk against me and there's a chance always of getting a wicket there. So there's a lot of credit of my wickets that goes to Jasprit," he said. Spinner Kuldeep Yadav once again provided the wickets when the team was in need and only three games into the tournament, he has taken his tally to seven scalps. "Kuldeep is a champion



spinner. Whenever he gets a chance, he delivers and he's always been in the wickets and today as well he was bowling from the tough end and even against the wind, he managed to bowl at around 6 an over and took crucial wickets. "He is a really important player in our team and we are looking forward to take all from him and we hope he takes a lot of wickets," said Arshdeep, who had David Warner caught in the slips on Monday. India face England in the second semi-final here on Thursday and they will have last edition's crushing semifinal loss to the defending champions in mind before taking the field at the Providence Stadium. Asked about his plans for the semifinals, Arshdeep added: "Right now, I'm not expecting anything out of that game, just we'll have a little celebration after this game and a long travel day ahead. And then we'll see what conditions there are and how we can do our best there." Australia's best bowler on the day, Josh Hazlewood, also gave due credit to Kuldeep and Bumrah, saying they made the difference. "I thought the wicket was - a pretty good wicket it was probably a 190-par score and they got the other side of it and we went underneath. "I thought the chase was well on target for quite a lot of the time there and probably till Kuldeep and Jasprit, their eight overs, probably proved the difference again as they usually," said Hazlewood.

Fifties and hundreds do not matter, I want to bat with tempo: Rohit



PTI ■ GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)
He fell short of a potentially record-shattering hundred, but milestones "don't matter" to India skipper Rohit Sharma, whose sole aim while batting is to "put bowlers under pressure" by hitting them all over the field. Rohit's 92-run knock that came off 41 deliveries steered India to a 24-run win over former champions Australia in their final Super 8 outing of the ongoing T20 World Cup on Monday. The record for the fastest T20 World Cup hundred belongs to West Indian swashbuckler Chris Gayle, who pulled it off in 47 deliveries in the 2016 edition. Expectedly adjudged player of the match for the memorable effort, which was punctuated by eight sixes and seven fours, the 37-year-old said his focus was only on maintaining the "tempo" of the match. India will take on England in the second semifinal on June 27.

"It was a good wicket, and you want to try and back yourself to play those kinds of shots. I've been trying to do that for a few years now, and I'm glad it came off today. The fifties and hundreds don't matter, I wanted to bat with the same tempo and carry on. "You want to make big scores, yes, but at the same time you want to make the bowlers think where the next shot is coming, and I think I managed to do that today," he added. "You need to put the bowlers under pressure, and you need big scores for that. I tried to access all sides of the field, not just one side." Winning was not a 'breeze' for India and Rohit said he had to tweak his batting style to take the wind out of the 2021 champions' sails. Rohit played some delectable strokes on the off side after his opening partner Virat Kohli departed for a duck. With wind a perpetual hindrance, Rohit said he had to play more

strokes on the off side to negate the impact. "I thought right from over number one, there was a strong breeze blowing across. They (Australia) changed their plan, bowling against the breeze, so I realised I had to open up the off side as well," he said. "You've got to factor in the breeze and understand that the bowlers are smart as well and open up all sides of the field. When you keep an open mind and not just think of one shot, you can access all areas of the field," said the India skipper after the match. "...When you're playing on grounds like this where wind is a factor, anything is possible, but I thought we used the conditions very well. It was very pleasing to see how we were getting through those overs and getting the wickets at the same time." Rohit also said he knew wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav would be at his potent best in the West Indies after encountering seamer-friendly conditions in the US. Kuldeep repaid his faith with excellent figures of 2/24 in his four overs on Monday. "Kuldeep, we understand the strengths he has, but you have to use it when you need it. The pitches in New York were seamer-friendly, but we knew he would play a big role later." The skipper added that he would like India to continue playing the same way in the knockouts as well. "We don't want to do anything different (in the knockouts). We want to play the same way,

understand what the individuals need to do in a given situation, and play freely. "So far we've been doing that consistently, and semifinals, we have to try and do the same thing. It'll be nice (to play England in the semifinal). Nothing changes for us, we want to focus on what we can do as a team, and take the game on."

MARSH RUES MISSED CHANCES
Australian skipper Mitchell Marsh, who was guilty of grassing a sitter and also failed to build on his good start with the bat, conceded that India were better on the day. "It's disappointing...Today India got the better of us. I think over the course of 40 overs there's a lot of small margins, but honestly, India were the better team," he admitted. "We've seen for 15 years what Rohit Sharma can do in that kind of mood, and he got off to an absolute flier. In a run chase like that, you're in it if you can keep it at tens (10 runs per over) for as long as possible, but India were too good for us."

Afghanistan's run to semifinals will inspire youth back home, says Rashid



PTI ■ KINGSTOWN
Skipper Rashid Khan believes that Afghanistan's maiden T20 World Cup semifinal qualification, following spectacular wins over New Zealand and Australia along the way, is a momentous feat that will inspire the youth of the strife-torn nation. Afghanistan, who became a full ICC member only in 2017, scripted history by qualifying for their maiden T20 World Cup semifinal with a win over Bangladesh here. "I think the semi-final is going to be a massive, massive live inspiration for the youngsters back home in Afghanistan. That Afghanistan team get into the semis for the first time," Rashid said at the post match press conference. "And we have done it under 19 level, but this level we haven't done that. Even Super Eight was first time for us and then in semis," he added. Moments after the win, visuals of jubilant fans back home celebrating Afghanistan's historic achievement started doing the rounds on social media. With the feat, Afghanistan have showed how much they

have progressed in the white ball formats. At last year's ODI World Cup, they upset defending champions England and former winners Sri Lanka and Pakistan. They are continuing their giant slaying run at the T20 World Cup having beaten heavyweights New Zealand and Australia. "The cricket we have played in the whole tournament so far - I think we deserve to be in the semis. The way everyone took the responsibility of getting into the game and performing best for the team," said Rashid. "So, I don't know how I can describe my feeling but it's a massive achievement for us as a team and as a nation to be in the semis and now looking forward to the semis." The Afghanistan cricket team is a group of individuals who have honed their skills by plying their trade in T20 leagues around the world. But when they come together to play for their country, it's hard to find a more passionate bunch. Afghanistan have found the perfect head coach in former England cricketer Jonathan Trott, who balances things out with his calm and composed demeanour. The result is a side high on self belief.

"To me, there is no good team and bad team. Every team is equal to each other. As long as a day, we took the right decision the right time, and that's where the difference comes when you're a loser. So other than that, skill-wise, everyone is equal, I think," Rashid said. An unbeaten South African team awaits them in the semifinal. But the Proteas were stretched a few times in the tournament, especially by minnows Nepal, who stumbled at the final juncture, losing by a run. "Well, it's always you get that kind of inspiration for any team you watch on TV and those small totals when team defend that it gives you lots of things to learn from and definitely the way Nepal performed in the whole competition was something pleasing to see." "They have played great cricket against all the sides they have played. And that's how T20 is all about. You need to have that kind of self-belief that we are capable of beating any side as long as we do the right thing in the right time and we're making sure we keep the thing simple." There was a moment during the game against Bangladesh when Gulbadin Naib dramatically fell on his back, clutching his thigh after Trott signalled his players to slow things down. But minutes later, not only was the all-rounder back on the field but he also went on to take Tanzim Hasan's wicket, causing several former players and commentators to question the genuineness of his discomfort.

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911R1996PLC011381)

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" has issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/ Mortgagees/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. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from 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.

Borrowers to note that after receipt of this notice, in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor. Borrowers attention are attracted towards Section 13(8) r/w Rule 3(5) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Act that the borrowers shall be entitled to redeem their secured asset upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.

Loan A/c No./ Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Mortgage/ Guarantor	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged Property
(A/c No.) 21211732061264 & 9001220323627009 M/S. NISHA METAL THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR LATE MR. RAHUL VERMA AND LEGAL HEIR MRS. NISHA VERMA, MRS. TETRA DEVI, MISS. PARUL & MR. CHETAN (Borrower)	15-Jun-24 Rs. 9,41,813.00 + 5,80,266.00 = Rs. 15,22,079/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Seventy Nine Only) As on 13-Jun-24	SCHEDULE OF HYPOTHECATION Exclusive charge by way of hypothecation on current assets and movable fixed assets both present and future. SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED:- All that part and parcel of property, House constructed measuring 163 sq. yards i.e., 00K - 05M - 04S being 1/70 share out of land measuring 18K-18M comprised in khatwa no. 584/579, khatuni no. 747, khasra no. 112/35 bearing property ID No. 113C62U30A. Situated at Mouja Jagadhri, H.No. 400, Known has Rajawala Talab, Matka Chowk to Aggarasain Chowk, within the limits of municipal corporation Yamuna Nagar-Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. Owned by Mrs. Nisha Verma. Bounded as under:- Sst: Plot of Mrs. Kavita Agarwal, West: Plot of Mr. Nand Lal, North: Plot of Mrs. Kavita, South: Road.
(A/c No.) 19001060126845364 Indera Singh (Borrower), Smt.Ramwati (Co-Borrower)	14-May-24 Rs. 472232/- Rs. Four Lac Seventy-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At: Khatwa / Khata No. 67/81, Mu. No. 020, Killa No. 24/2, Waka Mauja Bhulawana Tehsil-Hodal, Dist-Palwal, Haryana Admeasuring 200 Sq.Yrd
(A/c No.) 19001060127077727 Ganga Saran (Borrower), Tej Singh (Co-Borrower)	14-May-24 Rs. 1137539/- Rs. Eleven Lac Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Nine Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At Khata No / Khatwa No 83/103, Must No 166, Killa No 2, 8/2, 9/1, Mauja - Bhiduka, Tehsil - Hodal, Dist- Palwal, Haryana. Admeasuring 1 Kanal 1/2 Marla
(A/c No.) 19001060833909599 Shree Balaji Shikya Nursery (Borrower), Amarjeet (Co-Borrower), Rajat Kumar (Co-Borrower)	15-May-24 Rs. 217558/- Rs. Two Lac Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Eight Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At-Khewat No 93, Kitta 5, Village Nathwan, Ratia, District- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 151.25, Square Yard
(A/c No.) 19001060726446267 Baba Di Hutti (Borrower), Smt.Deepa Rani (Co-Borrower), Sandeep (Co-Borrower), Balwinder Singh (Co-Borrower)	15-May-24 Rs. 1839794/- Rs. Eighteen Lac Thirty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Four Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At- Khewat No 08 And 18, Khatoni No 18 And 29, Khasra No 131/17/2-3, 7, Kittas No 2, Village- Gulha, District- Kaithal, Haryana Admeasuring 57.13 Square Yard
(A/c No.) 19001060127731592 Shree Balaji Shikya Nursery (Borrower), Amarjeet (Co-Borrower), Rajat Kumar (Co-Borrower)	15-May-24 Rs. 455516/- Rs. Four Lac Fifty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At- Khewat No 93 Kitta 5, Village Nathwan, Tehsil- Ratia, Dist- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 151.25 Sq. Yds.
(A/c No.) 19001060127049817 Sardar Flour Mill (Borrower), Labh Singh (Co-Borrower), Bali Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt.Kulwant Kaur (Co-Borrower)	15-May-24 Rs. 1230490/- Rs. Twelve Lac Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At- Sq.No.36 Killa No.1 2 2 1, Ellenabad, Distt- Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 302 Sq. Yds.
(A/c No.) 19001060129426280 Shiv Shankar Sweets (Borrower), Rajesh Kumar (Co-Borrower), Sandeep (Co-Borrower), Smt.Sapna (Co-Borrower)	15-May-24 Rs. 735802/- Rs. Seven Lac Thirty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Two Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At- Khewat No 379,380 Khata No 488,489, Gram Julana, Julana Jind, Distt- Jind, Haryana Admeasuring 100 Sq. Yds.
(A/c No.) 19001060730481604 Tanuli ParLOUR & Cosmetics (Borrower), Smt.Bala Devi (Co-Borrower), Sandeep (Co-Borrower), Darshan (Co-Borrower), Smt.Nadeem (Co-Borrower)	15-May-24 Rs. 754041/- Rs. Seven Lac Fifty-Four Thousand Forty-One Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At- Khasra No 5227/493 1-8, Khewat No 490/453, Khata No 640, Dist- Sonapat, Haryana Admeasuring 60 Square Yard
(A/c No.) 19001060134352897 Pal Dairy (Borrower), Rajeev Kumar (Co-Borrower), Jasvir Kaur (Co-Borrower)	15-May-24 Rs. 1266173/- Rs. Twelve Lac Sixty-Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Three Only As on 13-May-24	(1) Property Situated At- Khasra No 44/18/2/4-0 19/2/3-2 22/7-19 23/1/4-0 46/2/3-18 3/1/4-0 8-2/2-10, Khewat 243, Khatoni No 317, H B No 60, Village Majra, Sub-Tehsil Shazadpur, Tehsil Naraingarh, District- Ambala, Haryana Admeasuring 151.5 Square Yard (2) Property Situated At- Khasra No 44/18/2/4-0 19/2/3-2 22/7-19 23/1/4-0 46/2/3-18 3/1/4-0 8-2/2-10, Khewat 243, Khatoni No 317, H B No 60, Sub-Tehsil Shazadpur, Tehsil Naraingarh, District- Ambala, Haryana Admeasuring 90.75 Square Yard
(A/c No.) 19001060134367141 Sarthi Dhaba (Borrower), Smt.Anita (Co-Borrower), Raj Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Pattasi (Co-Borrower)	16-May-24 Rs. 839444/- Rs. Eight Lac Thirty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Four Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At- P Lgd No 9117610069, Chowk Lal Dora Of Village Dhani Majra, Tehsil Fatehabad, Dist- Fatehabad, Haryana. Admeasuring 184.13 Sq.Mtr
(A/c No.) 19001060738942804 Jiya Lal Ram Kumar (Borrower), Smt.Neena (Co-Borrower), Vijay (Co-Borrower)	17-May-24 Rs. 2857620/- Rs. Twenty-Eight Lac Fifty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Only As on 13-May-24	Property Situated At- Old Ppid No 0842/6, Now New Ppid No 30ae7Ud9, Old Gain Market Narwana, Dist - Jind, Haryana Admeasuring 70 SqYard

Place: Haryana Date : 25-06-2024 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No. : S/66/06/24-25; Dated: 22-06-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-
SN. 1; Tender No. KT245307; Closing/Opening Date: 08-07-2024

Brief Description & Qty: Supply of Transceiver Handheld 5 Watt Digital Mobile Radio VHF Set without keypad and without display as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/TC/107/2018 version 2.1 along with One set of OEM approved rechargeable Ni-MH/Li-ion battery of 2300mAh or Superior, battery charger, Helical antenna and bell clip with each set. Additional accessories:- (1) Tuning kit with software to program and connecting cables 2 sets. (2) One no. additional spare battery of above to VHF set as per RDSO/SPN/TC/107/2018 version 2.1 with each set. Model offered should have satisfactorily qualified PoC as per RDSO guidelines. Bidder should submit documentary evidence in support of PoC. Bidder shall be OEM or authorized Dealer of OEM. (Warranty Period: Minimum 30 months from the date of supply); Consignee: - SSE/Tele/Kathiar, NFR; Qty: 453 Set.

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.

Dy. CMM/New Jalpaiguri

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STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No. : S/08/2024-25, Dtd: 25-06-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-
SI.No.:1; Tender No. : 40/24/0583A/OT/58/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 01-07-2024.

Brief Description: Self-priming mono block pump assembly with Microprocessor based controller for LHB as per RCF Specification No. EDTS186, Rev-A, Amdt-2, Corr. 2 as per Drg. No. RCF Specification No. EDTS186, Rev-A, Amdt-2 or later spec; RCF Specification No. EDTS186, Rev-A, Amdt-2 or later. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty-30 Set for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 10 Set for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 3) Qty-55 Set for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 50 Set for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-45215844.

SI.No.:2; Tender No. : 83/24/1049/OT/59/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 10-07-2024.

Brief Description: PRE-PRINTED TICKET PAPER ROLLS for printing UTS tickets without advertisement, [500 tickets per roll] with sprocket holes on both sides and size of ticket 103 mm length and 64 mm wide made of 130 GSM(+/-5%) Good quality virgin pulp white paper with Indian Railway water mark as per detail specification and other terms and conditions as per Annexure 'A' enclosed. Spec. no. IS: 1848/1991 or latest. As per Drg. No. Specn no. IS: 1848/1991 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty-13329 THSND for Guwahati/FORMS/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 3760 THSND for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 8203 THSND for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 4) Qty-8886 THSND for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No-83040407.

SI.No.:3; Tender No. : 10/24/4902/OT/60/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 12-07-2024.

Brief Description: Kit, Gasket and sealing parts (Each kit consists of 15 items as per annexure-B) for P.L.No.14162866, for 1400 HP & 1600 HP DEMU [Warranty period :30 Months after the date of delivery].Qty-25 Sets for DEMU, NFR (West Bengal). P.L.No-14162866.

SI.No.:4; Tender No. : 81/24/4110A/OT/61/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 12-07-2024.

Brief Description: Gas Acetylene Dissolved as per specn, BIS specification No. : IS:308/88 [Warranty period : 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. i)Qty- 2400 Cum for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), ii) 15000 Cum for Dibrugarh Town Workshop, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty-33000 cum for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR(Assam). P.L. No-81040015.

SI.No.:5; Tender No. : 61/24/5135/OT/62/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 16-07-2024.

Brief Description: Combination Metal Liners for 52kg UIC rails on 60 kg PSC Sleepers conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T-3741 & T-3742 with latest alterations and as per IRS specification for Metal Liners for use with Electric Rail clips (provisional) 2020 with latest alterations as on date of opening of Tender. [Warranty period : 30Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty:1328000 Set for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR(Assam). P.L.No-60110510.

SI.No.:6; Tender No. : 61/24/5137/OT/63/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 16-07-2024.

Brief Description: Glued joint for 60 kg Rail on PSC sleeper conforming to RDSO Drg.No. T-2572 (latest alteration) as per specification IRS/Manual of Glued Insulated Rail joints (1998) Corrigendum No 6 of Sep 2016 (latest alteration) The alteration in drawing and specifications issued by RDSO up to one month of prior to tender opening date shall be applicable to this tender. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty-1600 Nos for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon,NFR(Assam).P.L. No-60110685.

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

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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Govt. of Haryana



“हमारा लक्ष्य है कि प्रदेश के हर वंचित और जरूरतमंद को घर जैसी मूलभूत सुविधा वरीयता के आधार पर उपलब्ध हो सके। इसी कड़ी में हरियाणा सरकार पात्र लाभार्थियों को प्लॉट वितरण कर सहायता प्रदान कर रही है।”

- नायब सिंह



“हमारी सरकार ने गरीबों के लिए आवास की समुचित सुविधाएं सुनिश्चित की हैं। तेज गति से पक्के मकान बनाए जा रहे हैं।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

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State Level Programme

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh

Chief Minister, Haryana

August Presence

Sh. Subhash Sudha

Minister of State

Housing for All (Independent Charge), Haryana

Date - June 26, 2024 | Time - 10 AM

Venue - Tagore Auditorium, M. D. University, Rohtak

For more information

Contact : **0172-3520001**

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