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CHANDIGARH, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹2



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PAK TEAM
WEAKER THAN
INDIA: WAQAR
12 SPORT

SHOOTERS ADD TO GOLD HAUL

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The men's 10m air pistol team continued India's success story at the Asian Games here, winning gold but two of the marksmen, who made it to the individual finals on Thursday, missed a medal.

The team of Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal narrowly beat the Chinese team to take the top podium and earn India its fourth gold medal from the shooting ranges.

With Thursday's success, Indian shooters have so far won four gold, four silver and five bronze medals.

The Indian trio's aggregate score of 1734 was just one better than the Chinese team, which settled for the silver medal, while Vietnam, with a score of 1730, bagged the bronze.

Sarabjot and Arjun also made it to the eight-shooter individual finals but finished fourth and eighth, respectively. Vietnam's Pham Quang Huy won gold with a score of 240.5, while South Korea's Lee Wonho (239.4) and Uzbekistan's Vladimir Svechnikov (219.9) took the silver and bronze, respectively.

Sarabjot, 21, finished fourth, scoring 199, while Arjun ended up eighth and last, exiting on the second elimination shot.

It was another fruitful day for Indian shooters, with Sarabjot, who will be celebrating his 22nd birthday on Saturday, giving himself an



Gold medal winning Indian team shooters Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal during the presentation ceremony of the men's 10m air pistol event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou in China on Thursday

PTI

early birthday gift as he led the air pistol trio to team gold, scoring 580 in the qualification round, while Cheema shot 578 and Narwal amassed 576 to aggregate 1734.

In the qualification round, whose aggregate score decides the team medallists, Sarabjot shot cards of 95, 95, 97, 98, 97 and 98 to aggregate 580 and entered the finals at fifth place.

Team-mate Arjun Cheema shot series of 97, 96, 97, 97, 96 and 95 for his 578 to also make the eight-shooter finals, placed eighth.

Shiva Narwal, the younger

brother of 2020 Tokyo Paralympic gold medallist in mixed 50m pistol Manish, came out of his elder sibling's shadow as the third member of the gold-winning team here, but he could not make it to the individual finals, finishing 14th.

Narwal shot series of 92, 96, 97, 99, 97 and 95 for his 576.

This was the third team gold at the shooting ranges here after the 10m air rifle top-podium finish and women's 25-metre pistol gold.

Sarabjot had won his first individual senior gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in Bhopal

earlier this year, and was gunning for more success today in the individual category after being placed fifth among the eight finalists at the end of the qualification round.

But a string of below-par scores in the finals, undid his efforts in the qualification round. He managed just 9.8 and 9.4 on the third and fourth shots in the finals and another rank bad shot of 8.9 on the seventh shot pegged him further back from where he could not recover.

Sarabjot, whose success story started in 2021 when he



won the junior air pistol team and mixed team gold at the ISSF World Championships in Lima, Peru in 2021, has been performing consistently ever since, bagging the mixed team gold at the recently-concluded World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He would now be aiming to seal a 2024 Paris Olympics quota place at the Asian Championships in Changwon (South Korea) later this year.

Meanwhile, Indian men's and women's teams assured themselves of medals at the Asian Games after progressing to the semifinals of the squash events here on Thursday.

While the men's team blanked Nepal 3-0 in its final pool tie, the women were handed a 0-3 loss by Malaysia in their last pool B fixture. Both teams sealed top two spots in their respective pools to make the semifinals which guarantees them at least a bronze.

The Indian women's team began the day with veteran Joshna Chinappa enduring a 6-11, 2-11, 8-11 defeat to Subramaniam Sivasangari in 21 minutes. In the second match, Tanvi Khanna squandered a 2-1 lead before going down to Commonwealth Games gold medallist Aifa Binti Azman 9-11, 11-1, 7-11, 13-11, 11-5.

MP Bidhuri faces Privileges Committee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has referred the complaints lodged by several MPs on the issue involving BJP member Ramesh Bidhuri's use of objectionable words against BSP's Danish Ali to the Privileges Committee, sources said on Thursday.

While Ali and several other Opposition MPs, including Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and DMK's Kanimozhi, wrote to the Speaker seeking action against Bidhuri, some BJP parliamentarians like Nishikant Dubey said the BSP member "incited" the South Delhi MP when he was speaking in the House and urged the Chair to look into this as well.

Sources said Birla has sent all these complaints to the Privileges Committee headed by BJP MP Sunil Kumar Singh.

Bidhuri had made certain derogatory remarks, later expunged from records, targeted at BSP member Danish Ali on September 22 when he was speaking in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was present in the House, expressed his regret at the ruling party MP's conduct.

As opposition parties rallied around Ali after a video of Bidhuri's remarks went viral triggering an outrage, the Lok

Sabha Speaker took "serious note" and warned him of "strict action" if such behaviour is repeated in the future.

The BJP also issued him a show-cause notice.

Ali wrote to the Speaker, seeking an enquiry by the Privileges Committee, describing Bidhuri's comments as "hate speech".

Almost all Opposition parties also wrote to Birla, seeking action against him.

However, a few BJP MPs, including Dubey, asserted that Ali incited Bidhuri with highly objectionable remarks against the Prime Minister.

While Dubey condemned Bidhuri's conduct, he urged the Speaker to look into Ali's behaviour as well. Other BJP MPs echoed the view.

In a post on X on Thursday, Dubey thanked the Speaker for referring the matter to the committee.

"It was possible because the BJP has a majority in Lok Sabha," he said, as he cited several previous incidents to assert that no committee was formed to probe these issues and nor was anyone punished.

In this context, Dubey alleged that the RJD-JD(U)-Congress members were engaged in a fight involving shoes and microphones in 2006, Sonia Gandhi was involved in an incident in 2012 besides the commotion and injuries to parliamentarians in

2014 during the creation of Telangana as a separate state.

Opposition leaders have slammed the BJP over Bidhuri being given poll responsibility by the party in Rajasthan's Tonk district.

In a post on X, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal said the BJP has "rewarded" Bidhuri for attacking Ali with the "unspeakable words" in Parliament.

"BJP rewards 'hate' Bidhuri rewarded for attacking Danish Ali (BSP) for the unspeakable words he used in the Special Session of Parliament. Made BJP in-charge of Tonk District in Rajasthan."

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X last night, said, "Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas" yeh sab hai inka bakwaas."

TMC MP Mahua Moitra also slammed the BJP and said Bidhuri had been "rewarded" for his remarks against a Muslim MP. "How does a showcaused person be given a new role by BJP? Narendra Modi ji, is this your Sneha Yatra for minorities, your love outreach?" she said on X.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said, "So much for the #BhajaParty's show cause notice! The foul-mouthed MP is now in charge of Tonk, where no doubt he will have plenty of opportunities to polarise the electorate even further with his divisive rhetoric!"

Khalistanis at it again

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Operatives of Khalistani terrorist outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) painted pro-Khalistan graffiti in North Delhi on Wednesday, a month after defacing several Delhi Metro stations with similar slogans.

According to the police, "Delhi banega Khalistan" and "Khalistan Zindabad SFJ" slogans were found painted on both sides of the Kashmiri Gate flyover connecting North Delhi and North East Delhi and at some other places. The Delhi Police removed the graffiti soon after they spotted it.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the US-based Khalistani terrorist and chief of the SFJ, claimed responsibility for the illegal act and threatened to storm the "Modi Stadium" in Ahmedabad on October 5.

"Khalistanis from Canada are in Delhi to avenge assassination of Nijjar," Pannun said in a statement.

"A case has been lodged under Section 153 of the IPC (Indian Penal Code) and the Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Public Property Act against unidentified miscreants and an investigation has been launched in this connection," an official said on the condition of anonymity.

In a statement, the Delhi Police said, "A video came to notice on September 27, where in certain visuals showed defacement through graffiti. According to the signage boards visible in the video, an extensive search was conducted in the North District area, and graffiti was discovered on Yudhister Setu flyover, heading from Seelampur towards Kashmere Gate.

"An FIR has been filed under the relevant sections of the IPC and Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Public Property Act, and it is currently under investigation."

It is being said the defacement of walls in the national Capital was in response to the raids conducted by the National Investigation Agency on Wednesday across Punjab, Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in three separate cases linked to the terror-gangster-smuggler nexus.

The incident comes a month after similar pro-Khalistan slogans were sprayed on the walls of more than five Metro stations in the national Capital. "Delhi Banega Khalistan and Khalistan Zindabad" slogans were written on the walls.

Similar slogans were also

found on the walls of a Government school in Nangloi.

The crackdown on Khalistan elements came amid diplomatic tensions between India and Canada over the killing of Khalistan terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Tensions escalated between India and Canada after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a serious allegation regarding the potential involvement of Indian agents in the murder of Nijjar, a Khalistani extremist, in British Columbia on June 18.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India has, however, strongly rejected Trudeau's allegations terming it as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.



Devotees celebrate during the procession of Lalbaugha Raja idol of Lord Ganesha before its immersion in Mumbai on Thursday

PTI

Green Revolution Icon passes away

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The new generation may not be aware of it but India had a recent past when the then Prime Minister of the country himself had asked the people to skip a meal daily so that the country's hunger could be satisfied to a certain extent.

The Prime Minister was none other than Lal Bahadur Shastri and the country was undergoing severe drought caused by deficient Monsoon and low productivity of the seeds and soil.

"We were leading a ship to mouth existence. Every day ships laden with wheat given by the USA under its PL-480 programme would arrive in Indian ports to feed the crores. Those were the days when India was dependent on the wheat offered by the USA," Professor MS Swaminathan, who breathed his last on Thursday morning, used to recall.

Kumbakonam-born Swaminathan was 98 and is survived by three daughters, Soumya, Mathura and Nitya. His wife Mina predeceased him.

It was the time when

Swaminathan, a plant geneticist by training, returned to India to work for the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and he had a dream of developing high yield varieties of rice and wheat, the staple food of the sub-continent's population.

Along with Dr Norman Borlaug, the Nobel Laureate and with the political patronage extended by C Subramaniam, the then food and Agricultural Minister of India, Professor Swaminathan launched the Green Revolution, which was the foundation stone of India's self-reliance in food production.

Within a decade, India became a food surplus State from a food deficient country. Having resolved the issue of food shortage, Professor Swaminathan turned his attention to other areas about which the then political leadership was ignorant. He drew the attention of the policy makers towards the poor mortality rate of women and children because of the shortage of nutritious food.

Professor Swaminathan also alerted the Government of the day about LBW, the low



August 7, 1925 — September 28, 2023

birth weight, of the newborn.

"Every third child born in India and several South Asian countries is characterised by low birth weight. The LBW children, resulting from maternal and foetal undernutrition, suffer setbacks in brain development and several serious health problems in adult life. Such enforced handicaps at birth represent the cruelest form of inequity in the emerging knowledge age," he had warned in 1999.

Had the Governments of the day listened to his words, India would have experienced the Amrit Kaal long back. For Professor Swaminathan, agricultural research was not something to be confined to the laboratory. He was at home interacting with farmers, fishermen and agricultural workers to get first hand information about their grievances and problems.

He travelled to Orissa and Wayand in Kerala to study the traditional style of farming operations. The credit for informing the world about the vast collection of conventional rice seeds under the possession of tribals in Orissa should

go to him only.

It was his vision to set up pulse and cereal villages across the country to address the malnutrition faced by the rural and urban folks. Professor Swaminathan stands out because of his strong views on sustained development. He was of the view that development and urbanisation were unavoidable, it could be done with minimum damage to the environment and ecology.

"The coming decades will prove that whoever controls the genes and seeds would control the world. The days of nuclear warheads and conventional wars are over," he had said in his speeches.

The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation at Taramani in Chennai is a standing monument to the Father of India's Green Revolution. When he was awarded the first ever World Food Prize in 1987, he used the prize money of \$250,000 for setting up the MSSRF, a world class research institute and think tank on agricultural research.

Though he was for inter-linking of Indian rivers and

genetically modified seeds, Professor Swaminathan stayed away from all controversies.

He held the view that "if there are reservations against the GM foods and inter linking of rivers, we should try to address the apprehension in the minds of the people".

Since 2000, he has been asking the authorities to include millets as a staple food in the food basket. The National Farmers Commission recommendations (which he headed) had asked the Government of India in 2005 itself that procurement price of farm products produced by them should be given twice the amount they spent on cultivation.

The recommendations are yet to be implemented in full. "Anything can wait but not agriculture," was his catchword till the end.

Professor Swaminathan had been honoured with Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Sri in addition to nearly 90 honorary doctorates.

Condolences poured in with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister

Narendra Modi hailing Swaminathan's yeoman service to the nation.

Murmu said Swaminathan left behind a rich legacy which would serve as a "guiding light to steer the world towards a safer and hunger-free future for humanity".

Modi said his groundbreaking work transformed the lives of millions, ensured India's food security.

Modi said on X: "Deeply saddened by the demise of Dr MS Swaminathan Ji. At a very critical period in our nation's history, his groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation."

"I will always cherish my conversations with Dr Swaminathan. His passion to see India progress was exemplary. His life and work will inspire generations to come. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

The Congress party described him as the key scientific architect of the Green Revolution and hailed his contribution to the agriculture sector.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Narender Kumar S/o Sh. Hukumchand R/o Vill. Tajpur Tihad Khurd, Teh. & Distt. Sonipat has disowned my daughter Khushi from my all movable-immovable property. In future, if anybody deals with her, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Krishan S/o Sh. Jaipal, R/o Balmiki Basti, Model Town, Karnal, declare that my wife Pinky has been living separately from me for last 5 years. I have severed all relations with her . She will be responsible for her own transactions, good and bad, legal and illegal activities.

I, Gurwinder Singh S/o Gopal Singh VPO Babri Nangal Tehsil/ Distt Gurdaspur declare that in my 10th certificate my mother's Name Spelling wrongly written as Gurmit Kaur. My mother Correct Name is Gurmeet Kaur. Concerned Note.

I, Mohd. Safik S/o Sakur Khan, House 238, Hallomajra, Chandigarh. My daughter shayda Parvin out of my control. I Disown her from my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody deal with her at their own Risk.

We, Rakesh Kumar Garg S/O Dev Raj Garg And Nishi Garg W/O Rakesh Kumar Garg, R/O- H.No- 1062 Sector- 15, Panchkula, Declare That Our Son Mohit Garg Is Out Of Our Control, So We Disown Him From Our Movable- Immovable Property. Anybody Dealing With Her At Their Own Risk.

I Fula Singh S/O Chanan Singh R/o Goindwal Bye-pass, Tarn Taran Tehsil & Distt., Tarn Taran Nariyan Singh is my son he is studying in 9th class at Shri Guru Harkrishan Senior Secondary Public School, Tarn Taran in the records of school his name mentioned as Narayan Singh and her mother name written is Gurmeet kaur which is incorrect please change his name to Nariyan singh and mother name to Gurmit kaur in the record of school.

I, Jaswant Singh, S/o Fakir Chand, R/o Village Akbarpur Post Office Hafizpur Tehsil Radaur District Yamunanagar, declare that I have disown both my son Baldev Singh and his wife Surennder Kaur from all my movable- immovable property because both are out of my control. In future, anyone deals with them or has any kind of relationship will be responsible for himself. There will be no responsibility for me or any other member of my family. All Concerned Note.

I, No- 3402239-X, Rank-Nk (Macp-Hav)Name- Malkiat Singh. Residence Of Vpo-Gohlani, Tehsil- Nangal, Districtrupnagar, State- Punjab, Declare That I Change My Wife's Name Amrjeet Kaur To Amrajit Kaur Due To Erroneously Recorded In My Service Record.

I, No-3402239-X, Rank- Nk (Macp-Hav) Malkiat Singh. Residence Of Vill- Gohlani, PO-Gohlani, Tehsil- Nangal, District- Rupnagar, State- Punjab- 140126, Declare That I Amend My Name (Malkit Singh To Malkiat Singh) Due To Erroneously Recorded In My Army Record.

I, Palwinder Kaur W/O No.15141662y Nk Late Gurjeet Pal Singh R/O Village Jandoli Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That In My Husband Army Record My Name Is Wrongly Recorded As Palvinder Kaur And My Date Of Birth As 04.07.1990. My Correct Name Is Palwinder Kaur And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 04.07.1992 Vide Affidavit Dated 28.9.2023 Before Judicial Courts Rajpura.

I Shally W/O Pawan Kumar VPOAlampur Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that in My Husband's Passport No J6788067 My Name Written is Shelly Actually My Name is Shally as per My aadhar Card School certificates and various records.

I, No 15318788w Rank Hav Name Pimple Nandkumar Motiram S/O Motiram Sonaji Pimple Resident Of Village – Keshav Shivani, Post Office – Dusarbid, Taluk – Shindkhed Raja, Distt - Buldhana, State – Maharashtra, Pin - 443308, Declared Vide Affidavit No In-Pb45237606117478v That Correct Name Of My Daughter Is Samiksha Nandkumar Pimple Instead Of Samiksha As Per Her Birth Certificate & Aadhar Card. Please Correct It.

It Is For General Information That I, Binaypartap Singh S/O Balwinder Singh R/O Village Bahmana, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala, Punjab-147101, India Declare That The Name Of My Mother Has Been Wrongly Written As Paramjeet Kaur In My 10+2 Certificate And Mark Sheet. The Actual Name Of My Mother Is Paramjit Kaur, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

It Is For General Information That I, Gurjant Singh Gill S/O Balwinder Singh, R/O Patti Gill, Sada Singhwala, District Moga, Punjab-142048, India Declare That The Name Of My And My Wife Has Been Wrongly Written As Gurjant Singh And Parmjeet Kaur In My Daughter Jasleen Gill Aged 17 Years 10+2 Certificate Cum Mark Sheet Respectively. The Actual Name Of My And My Wife Are Gurjant Singh Gill And Paramjit Kaur Gill Respectively, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

It Is For General Information That I, Saneha W/O Rajesh Kumar, R/o # 100/77, Ward 10, Krishna Basti, Samana, District Patiala, Punjab-147101, India Declare That The Name Of Mine Wrongly Written As Sneha In My Daughter Navisha's 10th Class Certificate Cum Mark Sheet. The Actual Name Of My Is Saneha, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

मेरा अविवाहित पुत्र सूरज मेरे व परिवार के कहने से बाहर हो गया है। मेने इसे अपनी चल अचल सम्पत्ति व रिश्ते से काटई बेदखल कर दिया है। अब इसकी किसी भी कारागुजारी अथवा लेनदेन से मैं, मेरे परिवार जिम्मेवार नहीं होगा। पिता उदयवीर सप्टर हरदयाल सिंह निवासी नन्ददीक शिव मंदिर टार्रा हसुवा कांका, तहसील कालका, जिला पंचकुला (हरियाणा)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Laxman Genu Thete S/O Genu Thete Qtr.No 808/2 Sector C Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula. Declear That Sanskruti Laxman Thete And Sanskruti Both Are My Daughter Nare.

I, Laxman Genu Thete S/O Genu Thete Qtr.No 808/2 Sector C Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula. Declear That Krishna Laxman Thete And Krishna Both Are My Son Name.

I, Swati Laxman Thete W/O Laxman Thete Qtr.No 808/2 Sector C Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula. Declear That Swati Laxman Thete And Swati Both Are My Wife Name.

I, Banshika D/o Surjit Singh Village Galowal, P.O. Garhiwala, Tehsil. Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Declare that I have changed my name from Banshika to Banshika Kaur all concern please note.

I Ashwani S/o Sh.Manoj R/o Village Brah Khurd, Jind (Haryana) have changed my name from Ashwani to Ashwani Attri for all future purposes.

I, No. JC-468844H Ex Sub Maj/Hony Capt Mange Ram S/o Sh. Hem Raj R/o H. No. 131, Sainik Adrash Colony TCP-2, Hisar Cantt Hisar (Hry.) have changed my wife's name from Santos to Santosh Devi & her correct date of birth is 28.10.1966

I Sarabjit Kaur W/O Paramjit Singh, House No. 3526, Sector 35-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Sarvjit Kaur to Sarabjit Kaur.

I, Sukhdev Khan R/O # 850, Hissar Road, Near PNB Bank, Nasirpur, Ambala City have changed my name from Sukhdev Singh to Sukhdev Khan.

I, Ramakant Sharma S/o Rakesh Sharma R/o H.No. L-3, New Kailash Nagar, Model Town Ambala City, Tehsil & Distt. Ambala have changed my name from Ramakant to Ramakant Distt. Sharma for all future purpose. All concerned please note.

I, Anoop Kumar Alias Anoop Kumar Kothiyal S/o Tika Ram R/o Khasra No. 557, Jyoti Nagar, Opp. Sacred Heart Convent School, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar declares Anoop Kumar, Anoop Kumar Kothiyal and Anoop Kothiyal, all are my name, one and the same person.

I, Anubha Kothiyal W/O Anoop Kothiyal R/O Khasra No. 557, Jyoti Nagar, Opp. Sacred Heart Convent School, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Neenu to Anubha Kothiyal.

I, Divya Matta W/O Rishab Sachdeva R/o Flat No. 2, Vivekanand Apartment, Tejji Road, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Divya Matta to Divya Sachdeva.

I, No JC-490187K Sub Dalbir R/o VPO Anchera Kalan, Safidon Jind Haryana have changed my daughter name from Ritu to Ritu Rani and also Changed her date of birth 30.06.2000 to 15.11.1998.

I, Sunita Devi W/O Army No. 14469133-L.Rank NK Late Satvir Singh R/o Ghaso Kalan Tehsil Uchana Jind Haryana have changed my son name from Sumit Kumar to Sumit.

I, No 14381184-W Rank NK Raj kishan R/o VPO Shahpur, Jind Haryana have changed my son name from Pradeep Kumar to Pardeep Kumar and also changed DOB from 27.11.1988 to 07.11.1989.

I Am Jasmine Kaur D/o Harbhajan Singh (mother Name Rajwinder Kaur) H.no. 111 Village Dakoha, Jalandhar Have Change My Name Jasmine To Jasmine Kaur

I Komal Khatri D/o Dharmvir Singh R/o H.No. 343, Sersa (54), Sonipat, Haryana-131028 declares that Komal & Khatri both are my names. In future, I shall be known as Komal Khatri.

I, Vivek Kumar S/o Sh. Rajinder Kumar R/o House No 755, Near GST Building, Sector 25, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name to Vivek Verma

I Amita W/o Vivek Verma R/o House No 755, Facing park, near GST Building Sector 25 Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name to Amita Verma.

I Vikas Dhulia s/O Sh Pratap Singh R/O vpo harsi (931) Teh Jaisinghpur distt kangra hp 176091. I have change my name from Vikash Dhulia to Vikas Dhulia. Please concerned note.

I Balwinder Kaur D/O. Sh. Surinder Singh R/O. # 2056, Pipli Wala Town, Manimajra, Chandigarh Changed My Name From Balwinder Kaur To Ivreet Kaur.

I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Bhaj F/o Varsha R/o Flat no. D7/17, 2nd floor DLF Valley, Near Amravati Enclave Pinjore Teh. Kalka Distt. Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my minor daughter name from Varsha Sharma to Varsha. All Concerned note.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Peshar Dass, Village Mithapur, Post Office Tapla, Ambala Haryana inform that Anil Kumar to Anil Kumar Sharma is the name of one and same person.

I, Savita Rani W/o Anil Kumar, Village Mithapur, Post Office Tapla, Ambala Haryana inform Savita Rani and Sunita is the name of one and same person.

I Raju Kumar Singh S/o Lalan Singh R/o VPO Ghuapli, Banpura, Saran, Bihar-841212 Presently R/o Guru Nanak Colony, Daffarpur, Zirakpur SAS Nagar Punjab declare that My Son's Raj Kumar Singh, his date of birth 09-05-2008 and Raja Babu Singh his date of birth 01-01-2010 in School record my name mentioned incorrectly Raju Singh instead of Raju Kumar Singh and their mother's name mentioned incorrectly Prem Mala Devi instead of Prem Mala

I, Geeta Rani W/o Sh. Ashwani Kumar R/o Vill. Dayal Nagar, Teh.Shababad (M.) Distt, Kurukshetra do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Avinash Rani to Geeta Rani. All Concerned please note.

I, Parmjeet Kaur Gill W/o Sh. Ankush R/o H.No. 240A, Ward No. 21, Khatikan Wala Mohalla, Nohria Gate, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Parmjeet Kaur Gill to Parmjeet Kaur, in future my name is to be called as Parmjeet Kaur.

I Manjeet kaur w/o Jaspal Singh R/o Bhagwan Pura Distt.Tarn-Taran, have changed my name from Manjeet Kaur to Manjit Kaur. concerned note.

I, Poonam Bakshi W/o Anil Bakshi R/o House No. 510, Gobind Nagar, Naya Gaon, Distt. S.A.S.Nagar (Mohali), have changed my name to Poonam.

I, Manjit Kaur Bagga w/o Siddharth Tripathi r/o # 1424, Sector 15, Panchkula declare that Amisha Tripathi & Prisha Tripathi are real daughters. In their school Record my name has been written as Manjit Tripathi although my correct name is Manjit Kaur Bagga. All concerned please note that Manjit Tripathi, Manjit Kaur, Manjit Kaur Bagga is the same person.

I, Mehak Luthra D/o Ashwani Luthra R/o H.No- 7A Jain Nagar, Ambala City have Changed my daughter's Name from Jayesha Makhija to Jayesha.

I, Mehak Luthra D/o Ashwani Luthra R/o H.No- 7A Jain Nagar, Ambala City have Changed my Name from Mehak Makhija to Mehak Luthra.

I, Monty Gupta W/o Anish Gupta R/o H.No- 455 New Model Colony Ambala City have changed my name from Monty Sharma to Monty Gupta after marriage.

I Mamta W/o Sh. Sandeep Kumar R/o VPO Adiyana Tehsil Madlauda, Distt Panipat, Mamta & Mama Devi both name are of same person. in future known as Mama for all purposes.

I, Suresh Verma S/o Lakhmi Chand Verma R/o House no. 1506-A, Sector 06, Housing Board Colony, Karnal 132001 (Haryana) have changed my name from Suresh Kumar Verma to Suresh Verma for all future purposes.

Classifieds

I, Tarnjeet Singh alias Bablu S/o Amrjeet Singh R/o L1/763, Gurnam Nagar, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Tarnjeet Singh alias Bablu to Tarnjeet Singh.

I, Vinod Kumar s/o Dina Nath r/o #99, Gali no.3, Gandhi Nagar, Karnal, Haryana have changed my name from Vinod Kumar to Vinod Kumar Gandhi. In future I should be known as Vinod Kumar Gandhi.

I, Hitherto Known As Komalpreet Kaur Daughter Of Baljit Singh Residing At H.No.211 B, Gali No.5, G.T Road, Sant Avenue, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Komalpreet Kaur Butter

I, Hitherto Known As Rahul Son Of Mahesh Kumar Residing At H.No.680/6, Onkar Nagar, District Gurdaspur-143521 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Rahul Kaila

I, Hitherto Known As Ankita Vohra Daughter Of Ashwani Vohra Wife Of Sahil Sharma Residing At 11, Lane No.1/A, Jujhar Singh Avenue, Ajnala Road, Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ankita Sharma

I, Hitherto Known As Ravinder Kumar Arora Son Of Gurdev Ram Residing At Street No.1, Talwandhi Bhai, District Ferozepur-142050 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ravinder Kumar

I, Hitherto Known As Santosh Rani Kalia Wife Of Shivnandan Kalia Residing At H.No.200, Street No.2, Talwandhi Bhai, District Ferozepur-142050 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Santosh Rani

I, Hitherto Known As Rajwinder Singh Sidhu Son Of Kuldeep Singh Residing At Machhi Bugra, District Ferozepur-142052 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Rajwinder Singh

I, Hitherto Known As Gursimran Singh Pahwa Son Of Paramjit Singh Pahwa Residing At H.No.E-310, Ranjit Avenue Tehsil And District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gursimran Singh

I, Hitherto Known As Gunjeet Kaur Pahwa Wife Of Gursimran Singh Residing At H.No.E-310, Ranjit Avenue Tehsil And District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gunjeet Kaur

I, Sukhjitt Singh S/O Lakhwinder Singh R/O Village Bal Po Dharival Tehsil And District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Gurshialparteek Singh To Gursahilpartik Singh Bajwa

I Gurdip Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O Vpo Mallu Nangal Teh Ajnala Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Gurdeep Singh

I, Pardeep Kaur Khehra W/O Dilbag Singh R/O. Village Rasulpur, Distt. Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Pardeep Kaur Khehra To Pardeep Kaur

I, Monika W/O Jaswinder Singh R/O H.No.52, Near Sandhu Dairy, Baba Darshan Singh Nagar, Kale Ghanupur, Chheharta, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Monika To Menka

I, Guljar Singh S/O Umrao Singh R/O Village Dhand Ps Sarai Amant Khan District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Guljar Singh To Gulzar Singh

I, Pushpalata Spouse Of 15490985K Ld Sanjay Kumar R/O Sqn Hq 46 Armd Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name To Pushplata Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb45078662048712v Dt.28.09.2023 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Harpreet Kaur D/O Dalip Singh W/O Sukhmanjeet Singh R/O H.No.B-10, East Mohan Nagar Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Harpreet Kaur To Jasleen Kaur

I, Harjit Kaur Alias Rajwant Kaur W/O Balwinder Singh R/O H.No.59-A, Tirath Nagar, 100ft Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Harjit Kaur Alias Rajwant Kaur To Harjit Kaur

I, Bikramjit Singh Arri S/O Manohar Singh R/O H.No.10-B, Lane No.1, Guru Amardass Avenue, Behind Harjas Towers Ajnala Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Sumer Singh Arri To Sumair Singh Arri

I, Lovepreet Singh S/O Sukhwinder Singh R/O Village Mian Wind Tehsil Khadur Sahib District Tarn Taran Have Declare That Singh Is My Surname And Lovepreet Is My Given Name

I, Sandip Kumar S/O Raj Kumar R/O E-1/410, Wadali Road, Hargobind Pura Chheharta Amritsar Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Sohamb To Sohamb Kumar

I, Chanan Singh S/O Jag Singh R/O Vpo. Shabbazpur, Tehsil & Distt. Tarn Taran, Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Palak Deep Kaur To Palakdeep Kaur

I, Ranjana Vig W/O Sanjay Chopra R/O 545, New Model Town, Chheharta, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Ranjana Vig To Ranjana Chopra.

I, Akmlsh Kaur W/O Harbans Singh R/O H.No.12-A, Guru Amardas Avenue, Gumtala, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Akmlsh To Kamlesh Kaur

I, Sujeet Kour Mother Of No.15494533y Ld Ramail Singh R/O 67 Armd Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name To Surjeet Kaur Vide Affidvit No.In-Pb4378508595835v Dt.25.09.2023 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Happy S/O Mukhtar Singh R/O H.No.276, Gali No.1, Sandhu Colony Near Sikka Gas Godam Batala Road, Amritsar Have Declare That Singh Is My Surname And Happy Is My Given Name.

I, Vishal s/o Rakesh Kumar r/o Chrischan Mohalla Kahnuwan Distt. Gurdaspur declare that I have changed my name Vishal to Vishal Masih. All concerned note.

I, Mehak Mahajan d/o Ashok Kumar Mahajan, r/o House No. 112, Ward No. 21, Sundar Nagar, Dhangu Road, Pathankot, have changed my name from Mehak Mahajan to Mehak. Concerned note.

I Kishan Chand Sharma, s/o Shri Bhagat Ram, resident of H. No. 1, Gandhi Nagar Sharma Sweet House Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamuna Nagar I declare that my name in my son's passport should be changed from Kishan Chand to Kishan Chand Sharma.

I am Ranjan Sharma, son of Shri Kishan Chand Sharma, resident of Mr. No. 1, Gandhi Nagar Sharma Sweet House Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamuna Nagar I state that I want to change my name from Ranjan to Ranjan Sharma and my father's name from Kishan Chand to Kishan Chand Sharma in my passport number L 3733945.

I, Neelam W/o Ravinder Hooda R/O 2939/9, Gali No.8, Near Sukhpura Chowk, Chotu Ram Nagar, Tehsil & Distt.Rohtak, have changed my name from Neelam to Neelam Hooda.

I Vipasha D/o Late Varinder Kumar, House 2754/3, Sector 49-C, Chandigarh have changed my name from Vipasha to Vipasha Hans.

I, Dhanna Ram S/o Jagdish Chand R/o Bhagwan Nagar Colony, Pipli, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra (Haryana) India, have changed my name from Dhanna Ram Sharma to Dhanna Ram, for all purposes.

I, Rahul Soni S/o Sh. Joginder Kumar R/o H.No. 488/12, Multan Nagar Colony,Tehsil Hansi, Distt. Hisar declare that my name in my 10th certificate is Rahul, in other documents Rahul Soni. Both names are same person i.e. me.

I, Madhavi Wife of JC-676403L Rank NB SUB Name Subba Reddy Yannam R/O VPO Santhagudipadu, Teh. Narasaraopet, Distt. Guntur, A.P.- 522615 have changed my name in my husband army record from Madhavi to Madhavi Yannam vide affidavit dated 28-09-2023 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Dhnee Devi Mother of No. 15487933H Rank DFR Name Ashok Kumar R/o VPO Dhingrya, Teh. Chirawa, Distt. Jhunjunu, Rajasthan-333033 have changed my name in my son army record from Dhnee Devi to Dhani vide affidavit dated 28-09-2023 before Session Court Hisar.

I, No.070325851 Rank Constable (GD) Rohit R/o Village Juglal, PO Shahpurkandi, Tehsil & District Pathankot (I.T.B.P), Declare That My Service Record My Son Name is Vivaan, Please Change The Name of My Son Vivaan to Vivaan Malpotra, So Old Name And New Name of Child Are One And Same Person.

I, Parul Kaushik W/o Vikrant Kaushik R/o H.No. 29,Gobind Colony, Outside Jundla Gate Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Parul Kaushik to Parul Sharma.

I Tarlok Singh s/o Malkteet Singh r/o Village Cheema distt Jalandhar declare that my name has been wrongly entered as Shinder Singh in the fard of land in the name of my son Gurpal Singh instead of Gurpal singh s/o Tarlok Singh.

I No 151053356Y Ex NK (TS) Harmam Singh S/o Jagga Singh Residence of Vill Basti Sethan Wala PO Mamdot Tehsil and Distt Ferozepur (Punjab), I want to change the name of my son from Ramesh Kumar to Harmesh Singh.

I, K. Shaheen Banu, Spouse Of No.15493911a, Dfr, Kalaigar Unus Basha Of Unit 90 Armd Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From K. Shaheen Banu To Kalaigar Shaheen Banu Vide Affidavit Dated 28 September 2023 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, No.15493911A, Dfr, Kalaigar Unus Basha Of Unit 90 Armd Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From K. Mohammed Abdul To Kalaigar Mohammed Abdul Vide Affidavit Dated 28 September 2023 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I Ravneet Kaur W/O Johnny R/O Near Post Office Dappar Tehsil Derabassi Distt Sas Nagar Mohali Have Changed My Name From Rekha To Ravneet Kaur.

I, Anuj Khatri S/O Dhruv Khatri, R/O House No. 63 Amravati Enclave, Tehsil Kalka, District Panchkula, Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Tupender Singh Thakur To Deepak Khatri.

I, Raj Bala, W/O Sh. Mahavir Mittal R/O H.No. 282 Sector-25 Panchkula Haryana Have Changed My Name From Raj Bala To Raj Bala Mittal

I Rakesh Kumar Garg S/O Dev Raj Garg R/O 1062/ 15 Panchkula, Declare That Rakesh Kumar Garg And Rakesh Garg Are The Names Of One And Same Person.

I, Usha Rani Dhiman,W/O Sh.Jagmohan Dhiman. R/O H.No. 421,Himshikha Colony Pinjore Distt Panchkula Haryana Have Changed My Name From Usha Rani Dhiman To Usha Rani

I Parvesh W/O Rajesh Kumar, R/O Vill. Tejli Tehsil Jagadhri, Yamunanagar.That I Have Change My Name From Parvesh To Parvesh Kumari.

I, Rishita D/o Naveen Kumar R/o H.No. B-1 25, Shakti Nagar, Dhobi Ghat Bahadurpur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 146001. have changed my name as Rishita Meet.

I, D Virmani S/o Khillu Ram Virmani R/o H.No-74, Sector-37, Amarnagar PO, Faridabad, Haryana- 121003, have changed that My Daughter Name Is Wrongly Entered As Puja Devi Instead Of Pooja Sharma And Her Dob Is Wrongly Entered As 15/8/1991 Instead Of 13/08/1991 In My Army Record. Note It.

I, Saara Modi Sandhu W/o Arozepal Sandhu R/O Ratta Khera, Punjab Singhwala, Ferozepur, Ratta Khera, Pb. Singh, Punjab - 142052. have changed my name as Saarah Sandhu.

I, Surya Pratap Singh S/o Raju Singh R/O H.No- 99, Street no -01, 33 Futta Road, New Sunder Nagar, Mundian Kalan, Ludhaina, Punjab- 141015 Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Satendra Singh in my 10th Class Certificate and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Father is Raju Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Jai Parkash S/o Vijay Pal R/o Jawa(183), Bhiwani, Haryana- 127310, have changed the name of my minor Son Subham aged about 17 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Subham Yadav.

I, Harvinder Kaur W/o Joginder Singh R/o H.No.40 Anand Nagar, Maqsudand, Jalandhar-144008, have changed my name from Harvinder Kaur to Rajwant Kaur. (same person).

I, Tarlok Nath S/o Veero Ram R/O Mohalla Kazibagh, Sultanpur Lodhi, Kapurthala, have changed my name from Tarlok Nath to Nath Tarlok (Surname as Nath).

I, Veer Kaur W/o Tarlok Nath R/O H.No.5 Sultanpur Lodhi, Kapurthala, have changed my name from Veer Kaur to Kaur Veer (Surname as Kaur).

I, Pakher Singh S/o Karnail Singh R/O Vill. Butala, Po. Dhilwan, Distt.Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name spelling from Pakher Singh to Pakhar Singh.

I, Jeet Singh W/o Sh. Avtar Singh, R/o Village Hamidpur, Tehsil Naraingarh, Distt. Ambala, have changed the name of my son from Aarav Singh to Aarav Singh Multani.

I Pritam Singh S/o Bant Singh R/o H.No. 32 Dashmesh Nagar Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Pritam Singh Sandhra.

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Kuldeep Singh Hayer R/o Vill: Gogoani Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur Hayer.

I Manpreet Kaur D/O Surinder Singh R/O House No.30/12 New Jagatpura Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Manpreet Kaur To Kaur Manpreet.

I Parmjeet Kaur W/O Daljit Singh R/O Vpo. Daudhar Garbi District Moga Punjab 142053 Have Changed My Name To Parmjit Kaur.

I Baljinder Singh S/O Nachhtar Singh R/O Bhagta Bhai Ka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Minor Son's Name Manroop Singh Sidhu To Manroop Singh.

I Raja Singh S/O Kewal Singh R/O Vpo. Kalie Wala, District. Moga Have Changed My Name To Raja Singh Sidhu.

I Sukhjett Kaur W/O Gurdarshan Singh R/O Vill. Mothanwali Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Sukhjitt Kaur.

I, No.20000653W NK Bikram Singh resident of Village- Thal Kote, Post- Sangli Kote, Tehsil- Chassana, District- Reasi, State- J&K Pin- 182315, have changed my Son name from Yougash Singh to Yogesh Thakur Vide affidavit No. IN-PB44782342409634V dated 27 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.14835421Y Hav Prasad S of Unit 529 ASC BN C/O 56 APO, have changed my Mother & Father name from Savithri to Savithri T N and Father name from Sudhakaran to Sudhakaran N Vide affidavit No.IN-PB44358230251891 V dated 26 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, Meena Kumari W/o Shri.Kuldeep Kumar R/O Vill.Jaini,PO Madhopur Tehsil & Distt.Pathankot,State Punjab (India) declare that my actual and original name is Meena Kumari which exists in my Aadhaar Card,Pan Card,and educational certificates,but differently my name in my son birth certificate written as Meena Devi.That my name is Meena

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has categorically labeled Khaira's detention as "a political vendetta" and an attempt to "intimidate the opposition." The Congress has rallied around Khaira, offering unwavering support in this matter.

As these political skirmishes play out on Punjab's stage, Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge made it abundantly clear that the party will not countenance injustice. Kharge, though yet to delve into the specifics of Khaira's arrest due to his travel schedule, has affirmed that those who perpetrate injustices are not destined for longevity. He has asserted that the Congress will not bow or yield in the face of adversity and will

Much of the recent deliberation within the INDIA bloc has centered on seat-sharing arrangements in Punjab, a state boasting 13 Lok Sabha seats. However, regional leaders from both parties have exhibited steadfast resistance to dividing

Bajwa asserted that forging

Khaira's arrest, stemming from a 2015 drug case, raises concerns about the abuse of power and a quest for vengeance. As these events continue to unfold, the unity of the I.N.D.I.A alliance, both regionally and nationally, hangs precariously in the balance, with the 2024 Lok Sabha elections looming large. The ability of these parties to surmount their differences and present a united front against the BJP is pivotal for the opposition's electoral prospects. However, the ongoing discord threatens to derail their alliance and potentially pave the way for the BJP's resurgence in multiple states.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Khaira's arrest has also set the stage for a legal battle. After being taken into custody, he was produced before Fazlika's Jalalabad court, which granted Khaira's police custody until September 30 — a decision that has raised eyebrows and further fueled the political controversy.

Punjab Congress leaders held a crucial meeting in Chandigarh, hours after Khaira was sent to two-day police remand in a 2015 drugs smuggling case. Punjab Congress pres-

The drugs case was registered at Jallalabad in Fazila and nine people, including a close aide of Khairi, were booked and later convicted under the NDPS Act. Police had recovered 10 kg heroin, 24 gold biscuits, one country-made pistol, a 315-watt pistol and two Pakistani SIM cards from them. Khairani's name emerged later during police investigation. However, in 2017 the Supreme Court stayed the trial court proceedings against him. A Congress leader who was summoned as an additional accused in the matter. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in 2021 on the charge of money laundering linked to the 2015 drugs case. He was granted bail in 2022. In February 2023, the Apex Court quashed the summoning order against Khairi in the 2015 drugs case.

The primary accusations against Khaira include supporting an international gang of smugglers, having sheltered them, receiving financial benefits from drug traffickers, and enjoying the proceeds of crime. It was alleged that between 2014 and 2020, Khaira reportedly spent over Rs 6.5 crore on himself and family members, with expenses exceeding his declared income. Investigations also revealed substantial unexplained cash deposits in Khaira and his family members' bank accounts over the years.

Chandigarh: Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday demanded the State government to take cognizance of the disease in the cotton crop. In districts like Bhiwani, Rohtak, Kaithal, Fatehabad, Rewari and Sirsa, there has been a loss of 5-6 quintals per acre due to bollworm. In Sirsa, 85 percent of the crop has been ruined. "In most districts, there is a loss of more than 50 percent.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

PNS ■ SHIMLA

PNS ■ SHIMLA

During a virtual interaction with the Himachalis residing in the UAE from Shimla, the Chief Minister emphasized the crucial role that the Himachali Diaspora plays in the state's progress and assured them of government support for their investment in these sectors. Terming the Himachali community in the UAE as "ambassadors of the State's rich culture", Sukhu stated that Himachal

Expressing his condolences, Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said he played a pivotal role in intro-

Congress leader and former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the demise of Swaminathan, the pioneer of the Green Revolution, is an irreparable loss for the agriculture sector. Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian and senior Congress leaders Partap Singh Bajwa and Kumari Selja also expressed grief at Swaminathan's demise.

Sukhu said that the State Government is committed to make Himachal self-reliant in the next four years and one of the country's most prosperous states in the next 10 years. He added that the education and healthcare sectors are also undergoing transformation, with the introduction of robot-

He added that Chief Minister Sukhvirinder Singh Sukhu effectively placed the issue of repair of roads leading to Kullu-Manali before the Union Transport Minister, Nitin Gadkari during his visit to the flood-hit areas and taking up the issue with other Union Ministers as well. The MLAs also thanked the district administration and the NHAI officials for the early refurbishment of the highway and expressed hope that the road will soon be metalled and will be completed before the Dussehra festival season.

PNS ■ SHIMLA

In a display of solidarity with the people of the state, the Himachali community in the UAE, in collaboration with Team Ek Prayas, presented a cheque of Rs. 11 lakh to the Chief Minister towards Aapda Rahat Kosh-2023, which is being utilized for aiding disaster relief efforts across the state. Sukhu also accepted an invitation from Himachalis in the UAE to visit Dubai in the near future.



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2	10,00,000	1,00,000	50,000
3	5,00,000	50,000	20,000
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Make vegetable farming employable, says Mishra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister (PM) Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra called upon the agricultural scientists to make vegetable farming employable and research on important topics like climate change, artificial intelligence, higher product value and processing is the need of the hour. He was speaking as the chief guest at the 33rd Foundation Day function of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Vegetable Research Institute (IVR) here on Thursday.

Dr Mishra praised the research work of the ICAR-IIVR (Varanasi) and said that the IIVR has played an important role in the vegetable production scenario of India. “The farmers can increase and double their income by diversifying agriculture through vegetables,” he said, expressing hope that planting material will be easily available to the farmers through hi-tech vegetable nurseries which will benefit lakhs of farmers of Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking as a special guest Additional Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh government Dr Devesh Chaturvedi said in his address that UP is a leading state in vegetable production and farmers of Purvanchal (eastern UP) are now earning more income by exporting vegetables abroad. Deputy Director General (Crop Science



PS to PM Dr PK Mishra addressing Foundation Day function at IIVR in Varanasi on Thursday.

and Horticulture Science), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr Tilak Raj Sharma said that India is setting new dimensions every day in vegetable production and last year vegetables worth more than Rs 7,000 crore were exported.

The programme started with the inauguration of hi-tech vegetable nursery and plantation of trees in the institute campus. In his welcome address, IIVR Director Dr Tushar Kanti Behera highlighted the achievements of the institute so far and gave details of the action plan to double vegetable production by 2047.

On the occasion, various publications of the institute were released and for the best work after the year, Pradeep Karmakar in the scientific category, Sudhir Kumar in the technical category and Dr Manoj Kumar Pandey in the Agricultural Science Centre were given citations. The awards were also distributed to the school students. An agricultural exhibition was also organised on this occasion. In this ceremony, PMO officials, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, Director General, Uttar

Pradesh Agricultural Research Council, Lucknow, Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, officers of agriculture and horticulture departments of the state, the scientists, technical and administrative officers, support staff, research students, and senior officers of the institute apart from a large number of farmers and school students were also present.

The programme was conducted by Dr Dhananjay Pratap Singh, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director General (Horticulture), ICAR.

BHU tops among central varsities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has received the top position in the category of central universities in the 9th edition of ‘Clarivate India Research Excellence Citation Awards-2023’ for its excellent research work. This award is given to all the universities in the country. It is given for the excellent research work of one of the central universities, Dr Devendra Kumar Singh, Librarian of BHU, received the award in a function organised by Web of Science in New Delhi recently.

The Clarivate India Research Excellence Citation Awards-2023 is a unique award given to recognise excellence in education research in India. This award is organised once every two or three years and honours individuals and institutions who have made outstanding education research contributions in various categories and whose research



BHU Librarian Dr DK Singh receiving an award in New Delhi recently.

makes a significant impact in their chosen field.

In the direction of research excellence, the Central Library (BHU) is making available all

the important books and research journals of the world for the research work being done in the university, as a result of which this year the

Central Library of BHU was also given the Best Library Award by the Indian Library Association.

Varanasi first in UP in health ranking dashboard

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In the health ranking dashboard, Varanasi has once again secured the first position in the state by securing an 85 per cent score. The district has come first for the fifth time in the Health Ranking Dashboard. District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal praised the Health department for this achievement and encouraged them to provide quality services in future.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that recently the ranking of all the districts has been displayed in the state's health ranking dashboard (August). By continuously working as per the guidelines given by the DM, the district has secured the first position in the state for the fifth consecutive time. The health facilities being provided in the district are being supervised by the CDO. He said that according to the monthly dashboard, the district has achieved first place in the state in achieving 100 per cent HIV testing in relation to expected pregnancies and 100 per cent achievement in complete vaccination of children (BCG, Penta first, second and third, measles-rubella).

“Along with this, it stood second in the state in temporary means of family planning (Antara, Chhaya, Copper-T,



Arazilines CHC best in Varanasi as per UP Health-Ranking Dashboard.

PPIUCD and IUCD), second in cesarean delivery in relation to delivery at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and fourth place in institutional delivery in relation to estimated delivery,” he said, adding that apart from this, it has performed better on 16 indicators including complete vaccination.

According to the CMO, this time Arazilines CHC has got the first position while Garhua PHC, Pindra PHC, Chiraigaon PHC, Misirpur (Kashi Vidyapeeth) CHC, Baragaon PHC, Cholaipur CHC and Sewapuri PHC secured from second to eighth places respectively and the district headquarters is at ninth position. The CMO congratulated the officers and health workers of the primary and community health centres (PHCs/CHCs) which were performing well and encouraged them to maintain the quality of services.

“Quality medical and health services of maternal-child health and family welfare programmes are being provided in all the government hospitals, CHC/ PHCs, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) of the district,” he said, informing that for this, good performance has been achieved under the collaborative supervision of Additional Chief Medical Officer (RCH) Dr HC Maurya and District Programme Manager (DPM) of National Health Mission Santosh Kumar Singh. “ASHA workers and ANMs have an important role in improving the indicators. ASHA workers mobilise beneficiaries from the community and bring them to the medical units,” he said.

The CMO further said that the ranking of Varanasi is an honour to the front line workers. He directed all the health workers that the quality of

activities related to maternal health, child health, newborn health and nutrition should be maintained. The department is making continuous efforts to provide medical and health benefits to the last person of the community. This is the aim of the government and the department, he remarked.

Dr Chaudhary also said that the achievement of Varanasi should continue. “For this, all programme nodal officers, block programme managers, block community process managers, data operators, ANMs and other health workers have been directed to visit the regular blocks as well as VHSND, vaccination sessions, intervals and happy family days etc. Take people's feedback about the facilities provided there and ensure to improve it by taking appropriate action and ensuring 100 per cent data of all indicators on time,” he said.

Poster hints at Priyanka contesting Lok Sabha poll from Phulpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Congress in Prayagraj is known for ‘poster revolution’. Though demoralised the workers themselves, most of the times, issue posters to prove that they are still in the picture.

Now a new poster has been floated suggesting that Priyanka Gandhi will be contesting the Lok Sabha election from Phulpur in Prayagraj, the seat of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, which was later represented by several parties and politicians, including mafia don Atiq Ahmed.

The poster terms Priyanka as ‘aandhi’ (storm) and by the side of his picture a milestone is shown reading ‘Phulpur 0

km’.

It may be mentioned here that some overenthusiastic office-bearers of the Congress had been expelled from the office for issuing posters without the knowledge of the leaders, but it has become a part of their life, so posters are released by the local Congress leaders from time to time to let the leaders recognise them.

Phulpur of Nehru is not that Phulpur now. Earlier it was a rural constituency, but after delimitation of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies, a huge urban area of Prayagraj city has become the part of Phulpur constituency.

Though nothing has been suggested by the party leaders, hundreds of posters of Priyanka Gandhi can be seen,

particularly in the urban areas of the Phulpur constituency, as if her name has been announced for this seat.

BEATEN TO DEATH: One person was beaten to death in a fight between two groups in a dispute over road in Jamua village of Meja. The family members took him to the hospital, where doctors declared him as brought dead. On getting information the police reached the spot and reviewed the situation.

A fight broke out between the two groups on Thursday afternoon. Lal Chandra Dubey, Bablu Dubey and a woman from one side were injured. However, Lalchandra was seriously injured. The family members took him to the hospital. But Lal Chandra (65) was

declared as brought dead there.

On information SHO Major Rajesh Upadhyay arrived with force and started investigation.

The women of the family of the deceased Lal Chandra said there was an altercation with neighbours Bunty Dubey, Bablu Dubey and Alok Dubey in connection with the dispute over road. The altercation turned into a fight and the opposite party allegedly thrashed Lal Chandra with bricks, stones and sticks killing him on the spot.

Police station in-charge Rajesh Upadhyay said the elderly man injured during the fight died. All the accused are still absconding. The body has been taken sent for the post-mortem examination.

New V-C of Dr Rajendra Prasad NLU takes charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor of Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University (NLU) Prof Usha Tandon took charge on Thursday. On the very first day she held a meeting with subordinates and discussed how academic and administrative activities could be started as soon as possible.

She said a registrar will also be appointed in the university soon. Chief Revenue Officer Kunwar Pankaj has been given the responsibility of special officer of the university.

Prof Tandon said “our aim is to produce world class law professionals from this city of justice. Such an academic environment can be created in which students can prepare themselves for global competition. There is a need for good and knowledgeable professionals in the field of law not only in India but also abroad. One can also earn good money



Prof Usha Tandon

abroad”.

The construction work of Law University campus is going on in Jhalwa here. Now it may take another 6 to 8 months. Till the completion of the construction, the university will operate from the BBS Engineering College campus. Right now

the V-C will sit there.

Prof Tandon, who is originally from Delhi, received her law education from Delhi University. She has over 30 years of academic experience in the field of law. She has written six books on various aspects of law related to environmental

protection and women's rights.

ARRESTED: A coaching operator sexually exploited a minor student for one and a half months in Dhoomanganj area and threatened to fail her if she opened her mouth. As a result the student remained silent. Seeing her daughter upset, when the mother asked her she narrated her ordeal. The police has arrested him and sent him to jail.

According to the police, the victim is a resident of Bamhrauli area and a student of class X. She had joined the class to study mathematics and science. When she returned from coaching on September 21, her mother became suspicious on seeing her condition. When the mother asked her forcefully, the daughter told her the reason.

The police have registered a case against the accused under POCSO Act and molestation. The accused has been arrested and sent to jail.

Ramlila to focus on creating lively experience for audience

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The authorities of Pajawa Ramlila Committee have decided to set up a two-storey stage for performing Ramlila. Interestingly, entry of a 20-feet Lord Hanuman and demon queen Surpanakha will be shown flying in different parts of Ramlila. Besides, the episode of ‘Sita haran’ (kidnapping of Goddess Sita) will also be staged using latest technology. The committee has also planned to showcase the flying of ‘Pushpak Viman’ during the

Ramlila episode. The fight between Lord Ram and demon king Ravan will be showcased with the help of laser technology.

The students pursuing management, graduation and post-graduation courses are being imparted training to do justice with their assigned roles. Pajawa Ramlila will begin from October 15 and culminate on October 22.

There will be eight light and sound based episodes for the entire Ramlila from birth of Lord Ram to victory over

Lanka.

Sachin Kumar Gupta, director and finance secretary of Pajawa Ramlila committee told mediapersons, “A special ropeway is being made to help different characters to move from one end to another. However, after introduction of light and sound system, majority of Ramlila episodes are being staged more precisely and lively.”

Management students here are taking on prominent roles such as Lord Ram, brother Laxman, and Goddess Sita in

the Pajawa Ramlila committee. This year's Ramlila will feature light and sound effects to enhance the storytelling, including scenes such as Sita Haran and Hanuman bringing Sanjivani.

Students from various colleges and universities will be playing the prime characters, while a team of technical experts will create visual effects. The Ramlila will run from October 15 to 22, with a focus on creating a more lively and impactful experience for the audience.

Man’s body found hanging from tree

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of one person was found hanging from a tree in the jungle under the Rajgarh police station on Thursday. Giving details, Circle Officer (CO)/ Operation Anil Kumar Pandey said after the Rajgarh police was informed that the body was hanging in the jungle near Raikara village he and the police team reached the spot. According to the police the deceased was later identified as Mahendra alias Rannu (37) of Perh village under Ghorawal police station, Sonbhadra. After taking the body into possession the police is busy in completing the legal formalities, the CO added.

INSPECTED: District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan has decided to recover fine if anyone was found spitting in the Parikrama area of Vindhychal. Such decision was taken by her while inspecting the ongoing construction works under Vindhya Corridor project at Vindhychal along with MLA city Ratnakar Mishra on Wednesday. She has warned shopkeepers to maintain the area as no-tobacco zone and directed the police as well as other officials to follow the direction in view of the sanctity of the area.

The official concerned was taken to task for not comply-



ing with the direction of the earlier meeting in which the clear direction had been given to set up a borewell. She directed the EE Power Corporation to complete the work of underground cable within this month. The working agency concerned was warned to complete the work within stipulated time otherwise action will be taken because Navratra Mela was to start in a few days.

The working agencies were directed to complete roads, streets along with other works timely and cover drains. Later the DM inspected the repair work at Shastri Bridge and directed the working agency to complete the work till October 15. During the inspection she was accompanied by City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh and others.

REVIEWED: Divisional Commissioner (DC) Dr Muthukumarasamy Bhas while reviewing the progress in division's works costing more than Rs 50 lakh on Wednesday

directed the officials to complete them within the stipulated time and with quality.

Reviewing the works of Sonbhadra, especially under DMD Trust the DC became aware about the ongoing works, including roads and bridges. On the road from Babhanahva Tola to ITI school the working agency was directed to examine the quality of the entire work. Reviewing progress in other works, including roads and canals, the DC asked the working agencies to complete them within the stipulated time. The EO Nagar Palika Parishad Bhadohi was directed to maintain roads of the area along with other works maintaining the quality.

Reviewing the ongoing works under AMRUT project the DC was apprised by the working agency that most of the works, including laying of pipeline for potable water, overhead tanks, connection of water pipeline to the houses etc had been completed. About sewage

system the authority concerned stated that the work had been divided into different zones and most of the works, including laying of sewage pipeline and chambers for houses were at the verge of the completion. The DC said proper repair of roads which have become dilapidated due to the pipeline work was the responsibility of the working agency. The meeting was conducted by Joint Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mishra and was attended by Additional District Magistrate (ADM/Finance and Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla, Additional Commissioner Abhay Pandey, EO NPP Mirzapur Angad Gupta and other officials concerned.

ARRESTED: The Jigna police arrested an accused of illegal mining on Wednesday. During the inspection of sand mining sites the then mines officer had found illegal mining in Khaira village under Jigna police station. The officer had filed a case on April 8, 2022. During investigation the name of Dinesh Kumar Yadav of Saray Rahchanda village under Mungarabadshahpur police station, Jaunpur, had come to light but he was still at large. Station Officer of Jigna handed over the case to sub-inspector Abhay Narain Tiwari and the accused was nabbed from his residence.

FIRST COLUMN

RESPECT INDIA’S SOVEREIGNTY

Canada must not allow its soil to be used for anti-India activities



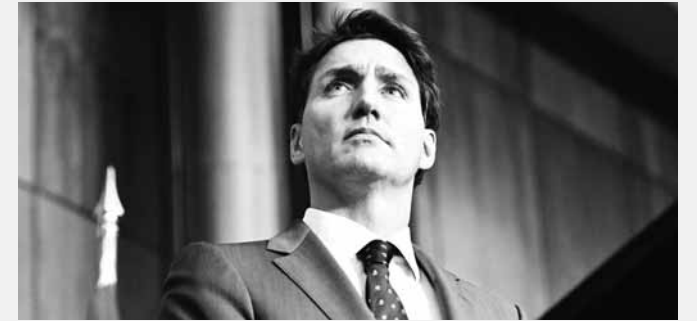
KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A story of agents executing transnational operations, intelligence agencies sharing crucial information, backchannel diplomatic conversations, political instability and every chapter from a racy spy thriller is playing out for the world audience, with Canada and India in the lead for the past few weeks. In a hurried and perhaps half-baked allegation Canadian PM Justine Trudeau blamed Indian agencies for carrying out extra-territorial executions of Canadian citizens.

India was quick to retort with a terse statement, which instead pointed out the long-standing issue of concern between the two countries in the form of Canada allowing Indian separatist groups to operate out of their country. The Indian statement said unequivocally “We have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister. Allegations of the Government of India’s involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated. Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister and were completely rejected. Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistan terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We reject any attempts to connect the Government of India to such developments. We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil.”

What is happening in the bilateral relationship is not a recent development but has been brewing for decades. Nearly forty years back India had demanded the extradition of a terrorist from Canada, responsible for one of the worst plane bombings in history, killing everyone on board an Air India flight. The several convicts responsible for the act of terror were never convicted by Canada, despite repeated inputs from India abandoning victims’ families chasing long winding court cases for decades.

The reason Canada allows or even nurtures these anti-India forces



on its soil leads through the corridors of domestic politics. Millions of Indians particularly from Punjab make a substantial chunk of the Canadian demography. While most of them earn an honest living and are peace-loving, some notorious elements have managed to sneak into Canada, working through well-oiled semi-government machinery. Over some time, these criminals and terrorists wanted by India, have managed to control important real estate through the Gurudwaras committees. These mafia-controlled gurudwaras also serve as a conduit for fulfilling the immigration dream of thousands of Punjab youth, working with their India handlers across Punjab and several other states of north India. The modus operandi for getting ground force for staging anti-India acts from Canadian soil starts with a letter issued by Indian handlers, about the youth facing discrimination, and persecution due to his religion, in India. This sets the ball rolling for the youth to get an easy Canadian citizenship, on mercy grounds and feeds into domestic political narratives. In the present case too, the trigger was PM Trudeau’s falling political popularity. A few months back he accused China of meddling with domestic politics even as he was trying to warm up the India bilateral, through a trade deal.

Canada understands the rising importance of India in the new global order, especially with China and Russia facing flak. It understands that a powerful, resilient, democratic India is important for a prosperous Indo-Pacific region, which indirectly translates to bringing more prosperity to its citizens. However, the domestic political concerns rise above geopolitics, and retaining the chair as PM seems more important for Trudeau at the moment. It may be argued that several news reports have pointed to US intelligence aid in Canadian allegations against India, however, the US knows which way the wind is blowing.

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

Regulatory boost to self-sufficiency in energy

Modi Government is giving considerable policy support for the exploration of hydrocarbons so that investors can earn assured return on their investments

Delivering the 75th Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the country a target to achieve self-reliance in energy production by boosting the gas-based economy (besides giving a push to electric mobility and hydrogen production). Modi wants the share of natural gas (NG) in the total energy mix to go up from the current around 6 per cent to 15 per cent.

Currently, India imports 50 per cent of its NG requirement. This is because domestic production is hovering around a low of 28.6 - 34 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2020-21 to 2021-22 (down from a peak of 52 bcm in 2010-11). There is a dire need to give a massive push to domestic output to meet the target. India has 26 sedimentary basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.4 million sq km that could be searched for hydrocarbon resources. Only six of the SBs are under commercial exploitation; these too are sub-optimally utilized.

Hydrocarbon exploration is a highly capital-intensive and technology-intensive business involving a long-gestation period. It is risk-prone especially when it comes to drilling in deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature (D/UD/HP/HT) fields in offshore areas such as the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin. However, these areas offer maximum promise in terms of reserves.

Multinational companies (MNCs) such as ExxonMobil, Chevron Total etc. which have the technology and resources can be enthused to take long-term bets in the Indian hydrocarbon sector provided the government offers them an opportunity to earn an attractive return on their investment in a ‘sustained’ basis. This in turn, requires that their efforts in the discovery and development of NG fields don’t face regulatory hurdles leading to the commencement of production within a reasonable time frame and that they can sell the gas ‘freely’ at a ‘remunerative’ price. In all three areas, the MNCs faced impediments in the past. In recent years, the Modi – government has made significant progress in removing these though, a lot more ground remains to be covered. Let us look at the regulatory landscape.

Nearly 50 percent of SB area or 1.73 million sq km lies offshore. Out of this, until recently 0.69 million sq km lay in the prohibited zone (fondly referred to as ‘No go’ area) due to security reasons. Now, the incumbent government has released a 0.67 million sq km sedimentary basin lying offshore. This should give a big boost to exploration and production (E&P) activity.

Until hitherto, E&P firms were getting lease rights for short tenure though extendable by 10 years for gas/oil & gas fields and by five years for oil fields. They had to go to the bureaucrats to seek approval for an extension of the lease which came in the way of undertaking long-term investment commitment.

Now, the government has granted E&P rights over the entire economic life of the allotted fields (this could extend up to 30 years, even beyond depending on the available reserves and the pace of their exploitation) instead of the extant system of allowing extensions. This will enthrone global firms to undertake long-term investment bets as they know for sure in



TEAM MODI HAS IDENTIFIED 22 PROCESSES FOR WHICH SELF-CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS BY CONTRACTORS IS ACCEPTED

(The writer is a Policy Analyst, views are personal)

advance that they will get to operate the field for their entire economic life

The government has passed the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, which says that seismic surveys (it is done in the initial stage to determine evidence of economically viable hydrocarbon resources below the ground) won’t be treated as a non-forest activity. This implies that explorers would be granted prompt access to forest areas, thereby saving time spent on seeking permits.

Under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), also known as the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) launched in 2017, E&P firms are allowed to pick up a block of their choice unlike the earlier New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) (launched in 1999) wherein they had to accept what the government offered. Besides, under OALP, an operator gets a composite license to search for hydrocarbon in whatever form; for instance, if it is ‘shale gas’, she won’t need a separate license for extracting it.

For long, E&P efforts were hamstrung by cumbersome procedures, multiple approvals and bureaucratic red tape. Approvals were needed at every stage viz. preparation of field development plans (FDP) including its revision, and extension of the contract, drilling wells, conducting tests to determine the commercial viability of the field, annual work program (AWP), laying the pipeline, reviewing production and so on. As many as 37 processes and procedures were required to be followed by a firm-awarded block under NELP.

Team Modi has substantially liberalised and de-bureaucratized the approvals. It has identified 22 processes for which self-certification of documents by contractors is accepted. Besides, it has provided for pre-approved clearance of blocks which will substantially cut the time lost in taking approvals. The government is also keen to opt for globally recognised and accepted dispute resolution mechanisms and play-based exploration.

Moreover, the ‘revenue sharing’ model under the OALP (currently in vogue) allows the operator to share an agreed percentage of the revenue with the Government of India (GOI) unlike the production sharing contracts (PSC) under erstwhile NELP wherein she could fully recover the cost incurred in exploration and development of the field before sharing profits with the GOI. The former does away with an additional layer of approval which was intrinsic to the latter wherein the costs incurred at every stage were subject to official scrutiny.

Coming to the selling of NG and realisation therefrom, in respect of gas from fields given under HELP/OALP, the operators are allowed freedom of pricing and marketing. This is a big positive for E&P firms that are being allotted fields under this policy. Furthermore, supplies from the so-called marginal fields (there are a total of 149) previously with the central PSUs viz. ONGC and OIL auctioned to private entities during 2020/21 are also eligible for freedom of pricing.

However, supplies from the so-called Legacy fields which account

for the bulk of the current gas supply are subject to government control over price as well as the marketing of the produce. The Legacy staff includes fields given to ONGC/OIL on a ‘nomination’ basis, those given under NELP and pre-NELP blocks. There are two price ceilings.

One, call it ‘normal’ price. Based on the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee and in force from April 1, 2023, this price expressed on a per million British thermal units (Btu) basis is arrived at by taking 10 per cent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket in the preceding month and notified every month. The price thus calculated is subject to a price band of US\$4-6.50 per Btu.

Second, there is a ‘premium’ price applicable to the difficult fields. These are deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields (the high-profile KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries and neighbouring KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC fall in this category). Technically though the price of NG flowing from these fields is market-determined, this is subject to a ceiling linked to the prices of alternate fuels, viz., fuel oil, naphtha and imported LNG.

Even as the committee has recommended de-regulation of difficult gas fields’ price by January 1, 2026, and that of normal price by January 1, 2027, the government is silent on this. Having substantially liberalized the regulatory space, besides removing the remaining hurdles, Modi needs to take the next logical step of unshackling marketing and pricing for supplies from the Legacy fields.



UTTAM GUPTA

Save that beating heart with positive vibes

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is one of the major causes of mortality. On this World Heart Day let us resolve to correct our lifestyle, and adopt positivity to be from heart ailments

Roughly more than 17 Million people die each year from cardiovascular diseases, an estimated 32% of all deaths worldwide. Heart Attack is rising rather steeply in our country especially among young people in their 20s & 30s. To a very large extent, heart attack is self-inflicted by our faulty lifestyle, which we adopt right from childhood. Genetics definitely play a role but it can be modified by lifestyle optimisation.

The prevalence of Coronary Artery Disease in adults in India in the urban population is 14 per cent, while in the rural population, it is 8 per cent. One should not have a heart attack, especially when he or she is in their prime years. In fact, we are the cause and we are the cure of



HK CHOPRA

(The writer is chief cardiologist, Medanta Moolchand heart Institute, New Delhi; views are personal)

this malady of a premature heart attack at a young age. A healthy heart is an expression of our own perceptions, thoughts, interpretations and choice-making. Enhancing awareness about prevention and timely prediction and treatment of heart attack is the only solution to reducing the rising menace of heart attack in our country. Women are fortunate to have a lower prevalence of coronary artery disease before the age of 45 i.e. menopause. After menopause, the prevalence of CAD is the same as in men. Over 25 million people die of Heart Attacks in our country every year. Out of these, 16 lakh die within an hour of a Heart Attack before even medical aid is available.

While the mortality rate

from cardiovascular disease (CVD) has decreased by 60% in Japan and Finland, 50% in the USA, Canada and Australia and 25% in Europe, according to WHO projections, there will be a significant rise in mortality from CVD in India. The female population is at greater risk because metabolic syndrome The risk is significantly high in India.

Prevention of coronary artery disease must begin earlier especially at a young age before being victimised by a faulty lifestyle including erratic eating habits, drinking, smoking, high levels of stressful life with lack of sleep and burning both ends of the candle at the same time, coupled with a sedentary lifestyle, uncontrolled hypertension, dyslipidemia and diabetes

which harden the arteries of the heart with increase tendency for clotting all of which establish the bedrock of heart disease.

The theme of World Heart Day this year is:

- Use your Heart to Beat CVD (Cardiovascular Disease)
- Work with your Heart, Know your risk factors
- Have Coordinated Efforts to improve your own Lifestyle and Diet
- Motivate yourself and others to reduce CVD Risks
- One Heart, One Home, One World
- Use your Heart to “Make Perfect Choices for a Healthy Heart for ourselves, our family, our community, our corporate, our society, our nation and the

world

The four sutras for an optimal Healthy Heart are love, compassion, peace and harmony” to make perfect choices for a healthy heart and beat CVD. These sutras (Suture or stitch) are possible through the regular practice of yoga, meditation and perfect lifestyle optimization, they connect the heart with the consciousness through a network of nerve fibres of the autonomic nervous system (Heart Plexuses) which are chemically mediated, nurtured with human values release natural opiates: endorphins, serotonin, dopamine acetylcholine, oxytocin and nitric oxide which preserve the endothelial functions, thereby maintaining the patency of coronary arteries and the har-

monious friendly biochemical environment within the blood vessel the heart thus remains healthy.

If kindness, compassion, love, peace and harmony are missing with cynical behaviour and hostility, then the heart is undernourished and stressed and the physiology changes to pathology. Fear, jealousy, hatred, anger, greed, lurking grief, vengeance, vindictiveness, bigotry, arrogance, greed, lust, ego and other negative emotions release jittery molecules (Chemicals) which comprise epinephrine, norepinephrine and cortisol which produce coronary artery diseases, alter the endothelial functions, agitate the platelets, oxidise Low-Density Lipoproteins (LDL). They may enhance the tendency of a vulnerable

plaque in the coronary artery to rupture, erode and ulcerate, thereby enhancing aggregation of platelets and enhancing thrombus (clot) formation thus leading to angina, acute Coronary Syndrome, Heart Attack, and even sudden Cardiac Death and Brain Attack. Just one fit of anger or negative stress can produce a massive heart attack

Emotions of love, compassion, peace and harmony are the most powerful sutras to have a healthy heart and may help in the prevention, regression and reversal of coronary artery diseases. This is possible by practicing perfect choices, and regular practice of meditation and yoga. Thus, the “Health of the Heart” is a matter of your own choice, and not a matter of chance.

4 graft cases against Nawaz Sharif set to be reopened

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan’s anti-graft body is reopening at least four corruption cases against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif as he is scheduled to return to the country next month, ending four years of self-exile in the United Kingdom, an official said on Thursday.

The 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo is scheduled to return to Pakistan from London on October 21 to lead the party’s election campaign. Nawaz left the country in November 2019 on medical grounds after the Lahore High Court granted him bail for four weeks. He was serving a seven-year imprisonment in the Al-Azizia Mills corruption case at Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

On arrival in Lahore, his party says he will address a rally at Minar-i-Pakistan where he will give a road map to steer the country out of the economic crisis, governance problems and other issues the country is facing today. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the light of a Supreme Court

ruling which struck down amendments made to the accountability laws by the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government led by Nawaz’s younger brother Shehbaz Sharif, is reopening the four pending probes against Nawaz. The cases are related to illegal plots and land allotment, dubious transfer of shares of his sugar mills and Toshakhana (national treasury gifts).

“Nawaz Sharif being chief minister of Punjab province in 1986 had allotted plots in Lahore to several people by misusing his authority. He is accused of illegal construction of several kilometres of road to his house in Jati Umra Raiwind, Lahore, in 1998 when he was prime minister in violation of rules. “The third case is related to the transfer of shares in ‘illegal’ manners in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case which is owned by Nawaz Sharif and his family members. In this case, his daughter Maryam Nawaz is also accused of being a major beneficiary,” an official privy to the development told PTI on Thursday.

The fourth is related to the



Toshakhana case in which he is accused of taking luxurious vehicles from the national treasury in violation of rules, he said. Besides these cases, Nawaz will have to face the case related to his conviction.

Meanwhile, Nawaz’s close aide and senior PML-N leader Mian Javed Latif said the party has stopped “demanding accountability of former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and former ISI head Gen Faiz Hameed” for conspiring against Nawaz to topple his government in 2017.

“The PML-N doesn’t want accountability of Gen Bajwa and Gen Hameed but only those characters and facilitators involved in May 9 events and

mutiny against the head (Army Chief Gen Asim Munir) of the institution,” he said.

Latif was referring to attacks on military installations following the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in May.

On September 18, Nawaz demanded “strict accountability” of Gen Bajwa, Gen Hameed and chief justices — Asif Khosa and Saqib Nisar — while addressing the party’s ticket holders in Lahore via video link from London.

He had hinted at trying them under treason charges if his party returned to power in the upcoming elections, scheduled early next year.

Nawaz’s demand for strict accountability left many in the party in a precarious position as the leaders became wary of a possible backlash from the military establishment if he continued with such statements. Sources told PTI that Nawaz backtracked from demanding accountability of army generals after a “strong message” was conveyed to him through his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan CJ: If Faizabad verdict was implemented, serious incidents would not have happened later

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa Thursday said if his verdict against a radical Islamist group and others for involvement in the Faizabad sit-in was implemented, the serious incidents could have been prevented, as he adjourned the hearing on a set of pleas challenging the judgment in the case till November 1.

A three-member bench led by Chief Justice Isa and comprising Justices Aminuddin Khan and Athar Minallah was hearing a set of pleas challenging the Supreme Court’s verdict in the Faizabad sit-in case, wherein intelligence agencies were directed not to exceed their constitutional mandates.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others had heavily criticized the judgment and subsequently review pleas were filed against the verdict by

the PTI, the Ministry of Defence, the Intelligence Bureau, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement party, ex-interior minister Sheikh Rashid and Ijazul Haq, son of former military dictator Zia-ul Haq.

Isa, who was a member of the three-member bench that issued the 2019 verdict, expressed annoyance after multiple petitioners seeking a review of the apex court’s 2019 verdict against the Faizabad sit-in decided to withdraw their pleas.

The chief justice observed that the challengers in their pleas had stated that the verdict was full of flaws, wondering why they were withdrawing pleas, and asked “why is everyone so afraid to speak the truth?”

Attorney-General Mansoor

Usman Awan, who was representing the federal government, assured the court that the decisions of the Faizabad judgement would be implemented but the chief justice was not amused.

“If this verdict was implemented at that time, then serious incidents would not have taken place later,” the chief justice said, in an apparent reference to the Jaranwala incident where a mob of radical Islamists vandalised 22 churches and set scores of Christian houses on fire over allegations of blasphemy. There were no casualties but it was one of the most destructive attacks on Christians in the Muslim-majority country.

Apparently, unable to satisfy the queries by the bench, Sheikh Rashid’s counsel urged the court to adjourn the hearing, which was accepted and the case adjourned till

November 1. However, the court directed the respondents’ counsels to submit a written response by October 27.

The original judgement was authored by Justice Isa, instructing the defence ministry and the tri-services chiefs to penalise personnel under their command who were found to have violated their oath. It had also directed the federal government to monitor those advocating hate, extremism and terrorism and prosecute them in accordance with the law.

The TLP sit-it went for about 20 days and had paralysed life in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The government and the powerful establishment were so angry due to the decision that a case of alleged corruption was launched against Justice Isa and effort were made to remove him from office.

SL to focus on IMF recommendations to secure second tranche of bailout package

Colombo (PTI): With the IMF saying that Sri Lanka’s full economic recovery is not yet assured, the government on Thursday said it will focus on the recommendations of the global lender and will continue discussions with it to reach a staff-level agreement for the second tranche of the bailout package.

In March this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a 48-month, USD 2.9 billion extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to support Sri Lanka’s economic policies and reforms.

“We have to take note of points made on tax administration, granting of tax relief and eliminating tax evasion,” said State Minister of Finance, Ranjith Siyambalapitiya.

We are working with a contracted economy and a population hit by economic hardships,” Siyambalapitiya said. Sri Lanka was hit by its worst economic crisis in history when its foreign exchange reserves fell to a critical low and the public came out on the streets to protest the shortage of fuel, fertilisers and essential commodities. On Wednesday, it emerged that Lanka’s second tranche of the bailout package will likely be delayed given the inconclusive nature of the cash-strapped nation’s external debt restructuring.

The debt-ridden nation was banking on the release of the second tranche of around USD 330 million at the end of the review as stated by Siyambalapitiya last week.

However, the IMF in the review said more discussions were needed to reach the next staff-level agreement on the external debt restructuring. The Washington-based global lender, while noting Sri Lanka’s commendable progress in implementing difficult reforms, said “the full recovery of the economy was not yet assured.” It stressed the need to strengthen tax administration, remove tax exemptions, and actively eliminate tax evasion.

The IMF had originally set a September deadline for Sri Lanka to restructure its external debt. The completion of negotiations with external creditors was to culminate with the first review.

American soldier who crossed into N Korea returns to US

AP ■ SAN ANTONIO

The American soldier who sprinted into North Korea across the heavily fortified border between the Koreas more than two months ago arrived back in the US early Thursday, video appeared to show.

North Korea abruptly announced Wednesday that it would expel Pvt Travis King. His return was organised with the help of ally Sweden and rival China, according to the White House.

While officials have said King, 23, is in good health and the immediate focus will be on caring for him and reintegrating him into US society, his troubles are likely far from over. King, who had served in South Korea, ran into the North while on a civilian tour of a border village on July 18, becoming the first American confirmed to be detained in the isolated country in nearly five years. At the time, he was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

He has been declared AWOL from the Army. In

many cases, someone who is AWOL for more than a month can automatically be considered a deserter.

Punishment for going AWOL or desertion can vary, and it depends in part on whether the service member voluntarily returned or was apprehended. King’s handover by the North Koreans makes that more complicated.

Video aired Thursday by a Texas news station appeared to show King walking off a plane in San Antonio. Dressed in a dark top and pants, he could be seen speaking briefly with people waiting on the tarmac. He shook hands with one before being led into a building.

Emails seeking comment were sent to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, the Air Force and the Army.

Officials earlier said he would be taken to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston. He is expected to undergo psychological assessments and debriefings, and he will also get a chance to meet with family.

He will be in military custody throughout the process since his legal situation is com-

plicated.

Many questions remain about King’s case, including why he fled in the first place and why the North — which has tense relations with Washington over Pyongyang’s nuclear programme, support for Russia’s war in Ukraine and other issues — agreed to turn him over.

The White House has not addressed North Korean state media reports that King fled because of his dismay about racial discrimination and inequality in the military and US society.

The North’s official Korean Central News Agency reported that King made such complaints but verifying that is impossible. On Wednesday, Swedish officials took King to the Chinese border, where he was met by US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, the Swedish ambassador to China, and at least one US Defence Department official.

He was then flown to a US military base in South Korea before heading to the US.

His detention was relatively short by North Korean standards.

China’s defence min missing in action for a month

AP ■ BEIJING

A Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson said Thursday that he was “not aware of the situation” in the ministry’s first public comments on the disappearance of the defence minister from public view about one month ago.

Senior Col Wu Qian, the director of the ministry’s information office, gave only a one-sentence response when asked at a monthly news conference whether Li Shangfu is under investigation for corruption and if he is still the defence minister. “I’m not aware of the situation you mentioned,” Wu said in response to a question from a foreign news outlet.

Li, who became defence minister when a new Cabinet was named in March, hasn’t been seen since giving a speech on August 29. He is the second senior official to disappear this year, following former Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who was removed from office in July.

The Chinese government has given no reason for his removal, or why both he and Li suddenly stopped making public appearances. There is no indication, at least so far, that their disappearances signal a change in China’s foreign or defence policies.

The disappearance of officials and other people without explanation is not uncommon in China and often followed months later by the announcement of criminal charges against the person. The disappearance of two sitting ministers in rapid succession, though, is unusual.

The American ambassador to Japan, Rahm Emanuel, tweeted earlier this month that Chinese President Xi Jinping’s Cabinet lineup “is now resembling Agatha Christie’s novel *And Then There Were None*”.

Wu, the defence ministry spokesperson, played down concerns expressed by US officials that the two countries don’t have clear military-to-

military communications channels. He said the problem is not a lack of communication but a need for the US to change its ways to get relations between the two militaries back on track.

“The US always wants to tie somebody’s hands and feet, so they can do whatever they want,” he said.

He also said that Taiwan is “heading down the path of its own destruction” with the self-governing island’s launch of its first domestically made submarine on Thursday.

Wu, who opened the news conference with an announcement about a global security conference to be held in Beijing next month, ducked a question about Li from another foreign media reporter, who asked whether the defence minister would attend the conference.

“We will release information about the Beijing Xiangshan Forum in due course,” he said.

Taiwan launches its first domestically made submarine for testing

AP ■ KAOHSIUNG

Taiwan’s president launched the island’s first domestically made submarine for testing Thursday at a port in Kaohsiung.

The submarine, if successful in its tests, will be a major breakthrough for Taiwan in shipbuilding and design.

“In the past, a domestic-made submarine was considered impossible, but today a submarine designed and built by our countrymen is in front of you,” President Tsai Ing-wen said at the launch ceremony.

“Building a submarine is the concrete realization of our resolution to protect our country. Submarines are an important piece of equipment for the Taiwan navy to develop asymmetric combat power in terms of strategy and tactics,” she said. The US has been pushing Taiwan to develop asymmetric warfare strategies by investing

in smaller and lighter weapons such as the reduced-size submarine. The process was “torturous,” said Cheng Wen-lon, head of Taiwan’s CSBC Corp, which led the construction of the submarine. “Although we have worked quietly during the past several years, it doesn’t mean the process was very smooth,” he said at the ceremony held in CSBC’s shipyard.

After seven years of design and construction, the prototype will begin tests in the harbour before heading to the ocean. The submarine is named Hai Kun after a fish in Chinese mythology called kun with legendary proportions.

It will only be handed over to the military after passing both its harbour and ocean-faring tests. Taiwan plans to build another submarine if successful, with both to be deployed by 2027, according to the semi-official Central News Agency.

N Korean leader urges greater nuclear weapons production in response to a ‘new Cold War’

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a “new Cold War,” state media said Thursday.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim made the comments during a two-day session of the country’s rubber-stamp parliament which amended the constitution to include his policy of expanding the country’s nuclear weapons programme. The Supreme People’s Assembly’s session on Tuesday and Wednesday came after Kim travelled to Russia’s Far East this month to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and visit military and technology sites.

The trip sparked Western concerns about a possible arms alliance in which North Korea

would supply Putin with badly needed munitions to fuel his war on Ukraine in exchange for economic aid and advanced Russian technologies to enhance North Korea’s nuclear and missile systems.

As North Korea slowly ends its pandemic lockdown, Kim has been actively boosting his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation and join a united front against Washington. He has described the world as entering a “new Cold War” and that North Korea should advance its nuclear capabilities in response.

KCNA’s reports on Kim’s comments came a day after North Korea confirmed the release of US Army Pvt Travis King, who is now being flown back to America, two months after he sprinted across the heavily fortified border into the North. King’s relatively swift expulsion defied speculation that North Korea might drag

out his detention to squeeze concessions from the United States, and possibly reflected the North’s disinterest in diplomacy with Washington.

KCNA said members of the assembly gave unanimous approval to a new clause in the constitution to “ensure the country’s right to existence and development, deter war and protect regional and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher level.”

North Korea’s “nuclear force-building policy has been made permanent as the basic law of the state, which no one is allowed to flout with anything,” Kim said in a speech at the assembly. He stressed the need to “push ahead with the work for exponentially boosting the production of nuclear weapons and diversifying the nuclear strike means,” KCNA said. Kim pointed to what he described as a growing threat posed by a hostile United States and its expanding mili-

tary cooperation with South Korea and Japan, accusing them of creating the “Asian version of NATO, the root cause of war and aggression.”

“This is just the worst actual threat, not threatening rhetoric or an imaginary entity,” he said. Kim urged his diplomats to “further promote solidarity with the nations standing against the US and the West’s strategy for hegemony.” South Korea’s Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, said the North Korean constitutional amendment confirms Kim’s unwillingness to relinquish his nuclear weapons program and his unwavering commitment to advancing that arsenal.

It said in a statement that South Korea will continue to expand its military cooperation with the US and Japan and work closer with other international partners to increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions.



Living god Ganesh is carried on a chariot during Indra Jatra, a festival that marks the end of the rainy season, in Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023. According to a local myth, the god of rain Indra once disguised himself as a human to collect night jasmine for his mother but was captured by locals. In exchange for his release, it was agreed that the rain would be stopped and the souls of those departed in that year ascend to heaven.

AP/PTI

Israel SC hears challenge to law that makes it harder to remove Netanyahu

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel’s Supreme Court on Thursday was hearing a challenge to a law that makes it harder to remove a sitting prime minister, which critics say is designed to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has been working to reshape the justice system while he is on trial for alleged corruption.

The hearing is part of several pivotal court challenges against a proposed package of legislation and government steps meant to alter the country’s justice system. It comes after months of turmoil in Israel over the plan and deepens a rift between Netanyahu’s government and the judiciary, which

it wants to weaken despite unprecedented opposition.

Thursday’s hearing on the law took place in front of an expanded 11-judge panel, underscoring the importance of the deliberations.

Netanyahu’s governing coalition - Israel’s most religious and nationalist ever - passed an amendment known as the “incapacitation law” in March which allows a prime minister to be deemed unfit to rule only for medical or mental health reasons. Under the amendment, only the prime minister or the government has the power to determine a leader’s unfitness.

The previous version of the law was vague about both the circumstances in which a prime minister could be

deemed unfit, as well as who had the authority to declare it. But experts say the amendment expressly strips the attorney general, who historically wields the power to declare a prime minister unfit for office, of the ability to do so. Critics say the law protects Netanyahu from being deemed unfit for office over claims that he violated a conflict of interest agreement by dealing with the legal overhaul while on trial for corruption charges. They also say the law is tailor-made for Netanyahu and encourages corruption.

Based on those criticisms, Thursday’s hearing is focusing on whether the law should come into effect after the next national elections and

not immediately, so that it isn’t interpreted as a personalised law. A ruling is expected by January.

“We are trying to repeal the undemocratic and unconstitutional statute which allowed an unfit and improper prime minister to remain in his position. Actually, they built him a kind of a golden cage (so) that he will be protected from justice,” said Eliad Shraga, chairman of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, one of the groups that is challenging the amendment.

Ahead of the hearing, dozens of protesters gathered outside Netanyahu’s private residence in Jerusalem, chanting “democracy,” while his allies defended the law.

Simcha Rothman, a main driver of the overhaul, told Israeli Army Radio that the court’s decision to hear the case was harmful to Israeli democracy and challenging the law was akin to throwing out the results of a legitimate election.

“The moment the court determines the laws, then it is also the legislative branch, the judiciary and the executive branch,” he said. “This is an undemocratic reality.”

The government wants to weaken the Supreme Court and limit judicial oversight on its decisions, saying it wants to return power to elected lawmakers and away from what it sees as a liberal-leaning, interventionist justice system. The first major piece

of the overhaul was passed in July and an unprecedented 15-judge panel began hearing arguments against it earlier this month.

The drive to reshape Israel’s justice system comes as Netanyahu’s trial for alleged corruption is ongoing. He is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases involving influential media moguls and wealthy associates. He denies wrongdoing, seeing the charges as part of a “witch-hunt” against him orchestrated by a hostile media and a biased justice system.

Experts and legal officials say a conflict of interest arrangement struck after Netanyahu was indicted is

meant to limit his involvement in judicial changes. After the incapacitation law was passed, Netanyahu said his hands were no longer tied and that he was taking a more active role in the legal changes underway.

That sparked a rebuke from Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, who said Netanyahu’s remarks and any further actions were “completely illegal and in conflict of interest.”

Critics say Netanyahu and his government are working to upend the country’s delicate system of checks and balances and setting Israel on a path toward autocracy.

The overhaul has plunged Israel into one of its worst domestic crises, deepening

longstanding societal divisions between those who want Israel to be a Western-facing liberal democracy and those who want to emphasize the country’s more conservative Jewish character.

Netanyahu has moved forward with the overhaul despite a wave of opposition from a broad swath of Israeli society. Top legal officials, leading economists and the country’s booming tech sector have all spoken out against the judicial changes, which have sparked opposition from hundreds of military reservists, who have said they will not serve so long as the overhaul remains on the table. Tens of thousands of people have protested every Saturday for the last nine months.

Ramaswamy calls for ending birthright citizenship in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Continuing his proposals of harsh policy changes, Indian-American presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy, in his second Republican presidential debate, has said he would favour ending birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants in the US. The second Republican debate of the 2024 election cycle which was held at Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California on Wednesday, saw Ramaswamy sharing the stage with six other candidates including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley.

When asked “what legal premise” he would use to expel undocumented immigrants and their American-born children from the country, Ramaswamy, the son of Indian immigrants, resurrected a 2015 proposal of ending birthright citizenship from then-candidate Donald Trump, reported the Washington Post on Wednesday.

The first section of the citizenship clause of the US Constitution’s 14th Amendment says, “All persons born or naturalised in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

Although most agree with the long-held tradition that it grants citizenship to those born on US soil, some legal scholars argue that the phrase “and subject to the jurisdiction thereof” seems to give the government some leeway to restrict the right, just as other constitutional principles can be limited, the report said.

Because of this, he argued, children of undocumented immigrants born in the United States should not be granted citizenship, because their parents “broke the law” to be in the country.

Ramaswamy, 38, also supported his opponents onstage and acknowledged other mea-

sures such as militarisation of the southern border, defunding “sanctuary cities,” and an end to foreign aid to Mexico and Central America.

He said he would go a “step further” by ending “birthright citizenship for the kids of illegal immigrants in this country.”

A second-generation Indian-American, Ramaswamy, had earlier criticised the H-1B visa programme saying the current “lottery” system needs to be “gutted” and replaced with a “meritocratic” skill-based immigration scheme to match the needs of the US.

The H-1B visa, much sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

His stance on H-1B visas is also reminiscent of the 2016 Trump campaign, when then-candidate Donald Trump, who has also hired a number of foreign workers under H-1B visas for his businesses, took a headline stance on these foreign workers before later softening his rhetoric.

It is to be noted that Ramaswamy himself has used the H-1B visa programme 29 times.

According to Politico, from 2018 through 2023, US Citizenship and Immigration Services approved 29 applications for Ramaswamy’s former company, Roivant Sciences, to hire employees under H-1B visas.

Ramaswamy, who was addressed as “Trump’s heir apparent” by Time Magazine has garnered quite an attention after his maiden Republican presidential primary debate held on August 23.

The first poll after the debate said that 28 per cent of the 504 respondents said that Ramaswamy performed the best. Ramaswamy’s harsh proposals have helped him stand out in the crowded primary field, according to US media reports.

Haley slams Vivek



Washington (PTI): Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has slammed her fellow Indian-American rival in the Republican primary race Vivek Ramaswamy for joining Chinese-owned TikTok, saying “every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber.”

Haley, the former two-term Governor from South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the UN, was very critical of the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur Ramaswamy and the two entered into a war of words during the second Republican presidential primary debate at Reagan Library in Simi Valley in California on Wednesday.

“Every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber. This is infuriating because TikTok is one of the most dangerous social media apps that we could have,” Haley told Ramaswamy during the debate as the two entered into verbal duels multiple times during the two-hour-long debate boycotted by former US president Donald Trump and the current frontrunner.

Haley, 51, jumped in when Ramaswamy was responding to a question about him joining TikTok, a social media site that has been banned by many countries, including India.

Asked about his move to join the video-sharing app TikTok, despite it being banned on government-issued devices due to concerns about its parent company’s ties to the Chinese government, Ramaswamy said, “Part of how we win elections is reaching the next generation of young Americans where we are.”

Kids under 16 should not be on “addictive social media,” Ramaswamy said, but “we’re only going to ever get to declaring independence from China, which I favour if we actually win.”

“This is infuriating because TikTok is one of the most dangerous social media apps that we could have. And..honestly, every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber for what you say,” Haley said.

“One hundred and fifty million people are on TikTok. That means they can get your contacts, they can get your financial information, they can get your emails, they can get your text messages, they can get all of these things. China knows exactly what they’re doing,” she said.

In February, Haley said under her leadership, “Communist China will end up on the ash heap of history.” “We can’t trust you. We can’t have TikTok in our kids’ lives,” Haley told Ramaswamy.

Ramaswamy fought back. “I think we will be better served as a Republican party if we are not sitting here hurling personal insults and actually have a legitimate debate about policy following Reagan’s example and in his honour,” he said.

NATO’s secy-gen meets with Zelenskyy

AP ■ KYIV

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the status of the war and needs of troops on Thursday, the day after Russia accused Ukraine’s Western allies of helping plan and conduct last week’s missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet’s headquarters on the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

Zelenskyy said Stoltenberg agreed to make efforts to get NATO members to help provide additional air defense systems to protect Ukraine’s power plants and energy infrastructure that were badly damaged in relentless and deadly attacks by Russia last winter. He also reminded the secretary-general of the persistent attacks that often strike civilian areas, including 40 drone attacks overnight. “In the face of such intense attacks against Ukrainians, against our cities, our ports, which are crucial for



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy talk during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday. AP/PTI

global food security, we need a corresponding intensity of pressure on Russia and a strengthening of our air defense,” Zelenskyy said. “The world must see how Russia is losing dearly so that our shared values ultimately prevail.”

Stoltenberg said that NATO has contracts for 2.4 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) in

ammunition for Ukraine, including 155 mm Howitzer shells, anti-tank guided missiles and tank ammunition.

“The stronger Ukraine becomes, the closer we become to ending Russia’s aggression,” Stoltenberg said. “Russia could lay down arms and end its war today. Ukraine doesn’t have that option. Ukraine’s surren-

der would not mean peace. It would mean brutal Russian occupation. Peace at any price would be no peace at all.”

On Wednesday, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova had said the attack on the Black Sea Fleet headquarters in Crimea had been coordinated with the help of US and UK security agencies, and that NATO satellites and reconnaissance planes also played a role.

Ukraine said without providing supporting evidence that the attack had killed 34 officers and wounded 105 others. But it also claimed to have killed the fleet’s commander, Adm Viktor Sokolov, who was shown on Russian state television on Wednesday speaking with reporters in the Black Sea city of Sevastopol.

Unconfirmed news reports said Storm Shadow missiles provided to Ukraine by the UK and France were used in the attack on the Russian navy installation.

Half of Nagorno-Karabakh’s population has fled: Officials

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

The separatist government of Nagorno-Karabakh announced Thursday that it will dissolve itself and the unrecognized republic will cease to exist by the end of the year, and Armenian officials said more than half of the population has already fled.

That is after Azerbaijan carried out a lightning offensive to reclaim full control over its breakaway region and demanded that Armenian troops in Nagorno-Karabakh lay down their weapons and the separatist government dissolve itself.

A decree to that effect was signed by the region’s separatist President Samvel Shakhramanyan. The document cited an agreement reached last week to end the fighting under which Azerbaijan will allow the “free, voluntary and unhindered movement” of Nagorno-Karabakh residents and disarm troops in Armenia in exchange.

according to Armenian officials.

The massive exodus began on Sunday evening, and the only road linking Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia quickly filled up with cars that created an hourslong traffic jam.

On Monday night, a fuel reservoir exploded at a gas station where people seeking to leave were lining up for gas that due to the blockade had been in short supply. At least 68 people were killed and nearly 300 injured, with over 100 more still considered missing.

It isn’t immediately clear if any of the ethnic Armenians that have populated the region will remain there. Shakhramanyan’s decree on Thursday urged Nagorno-Karabakh’s population - including those who left - “to familiarize themselves with the conditions of reintegration offered by the Republic of Azerbaijan, in order to then make an individual decision about the possibility of staying in (or returning to) Nagorno-Karabakh.”

‘Australian lawmakers being utilized by separatists’

Canberra (AP): China’s ambassador to Australia on Thursday criticised Australian politicians who visit Taiwan, saying they are being utilized by separatists on the self-governing island.

Ambassador Xiao Qian was commenting in Sydney after an Australian parliamentary delegation visited Taiwan this week, and as a former prime minister plans to deliver a speech in Taipei next month. China considers Taiwan to be part of its territory.

Xiao said Australian parliamentarians and former prime ministers who visit Taiwan “carry political significance.”

“It might be easily utilized by the political forces in Taiwan for their independent forces movement, for their secession movement, and I don’t want to see that happen,” Xiao told reporters.

“I hope they will stick to the one-China policy” in words and indeed, refrain from engaging with Taiwan in whichever form or capacity so that they will not be politically utilized by people in the island with political motives,” Xiao said. The “one-China policy” holds that the Communist Party is the government of China and Taiwan is a part of the country. The Chinese government on Wednesday accused Taiwan’s governing party of seeking independence, a day after President Tsai Ing-wen lobbied for Australia’s support in joining a regional trade pact during a meeting with six visiting Australian lawmakers. Former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison plans to speak at the Yushan Forum in Taipei from Oct. 11 to 12, which focuses on Taiwan’s cooperation with neighboring countries.

Australia’s relationship with China plummeted under Morrison’s four-year rule, which ended when his conservative coalition government was defeated by the center-left Labor Party in elections last year.

Trudeau apologises for recognition of Nazi war veteran

Toronto (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologised Wednesday for Parliament’s recognition of a man who fought alongside the Nazis during last week’s address by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Trudeau said the speaker of the House of Commons, who resigned Tuesday, was “solely responsible” for the invitation and recognition of the man but said it was a mistake that has deeply embarrassed Parliament and Canada. “All of us who were in the House on Friday regret deeply having stood and clapped, even though we did so unaware of the context,” Trudeau said before he entering the House of Commons. “It was a horrendous violation of the memory of the millions of people who died in the Holocaust, and was deeply, deeply painful for Jewish people.” Trudeau repeated the apology in Parliament.

Just after Zelenskyy delivered an address in the House of Commons on Friday, Canadian lawmakers gave 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka a standing ovation when Speaker Anthony Rota drew attention to him. Rota introduced Hunka as a war hero who fought for the First Ukrainian Division.

Observers over the weekend began to publicize the fact that the First Ukrainian Division also was known as the Waffen-SS Galicia Division, or the SS 14th Waffen Division, a voluntary unit that was under the command of the Nazis.

“It is extremely troubling to think that this egregious error is being politicised by Russia, and its supporters, to provide false propaganda about what Ukraine is fighting for,” Trudeau said. In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said earlier this week that the standing ovation for Hunka was “outrageous,” and he called it the result of a “sloppy attitude” toward remembering the Nazi regime. Russian President Vladimir Putin has painted his enemies in Ukraine as “neo-Nazis,” although Zelenskyy is Jewish and lost relatives in the Holocaust.

Violence continues in Sweden, 3 killed

Stockholm (AP): Three people were killed overnight in separate incidents in Sweden as deadly violence linked to a feud between criminal gangs escalated. Late Wednesday, an 18-year-old man was shot dead in a Stockholm suburb.

Hours later, a man was killed and another was wounded in a shooting in Jordbro, south of the Swedish capital. Early Thursday a woman in her 20s died in an explosion in Uppsala, west of Stockholm. The blast, which damaged five houses, is being treated by the police as a murder. Swedish media said the woman who died likely was not the target.

Swedish broadcaster SVT noted that the two fatal shootings brings the death toll from gun violence in September to

11, making it the deadliest month for shootings since police started keeping statistics in 2016.

It was not known whether the shootings or the blast were related to each other but Swedish media said at least two of the three events were somehow connected to a feud between criminal gangs, a growing problem in Sweden with drive-by shootings and bombings.

Two gangs — one led by a Swedish-Turkish dual national who lives in Turkey, the other by his former lieutenant — are reportedly fighting over drugs and weapons.

Three people have been detained, suspected of complicity in the fatal shooting in Jordbro.

Russia accuses US of promoting ties between Israel and Arabs

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Russia accused the United States on Wednesday of promoting Israel’s normalisation of relations with Arab nations and circumventing the Arab Peace Initiative launched by Saudi Arabia in 2002, which calls for a settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict before any diplomatic recognition of Israel.

The statement by Russia’s UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia at the UN Security Council’s monthly meeting on the Mideast also implicitly criticised Saudi Arabia — without naming it — for moving toward establishing diplomatic relations with Israel while taking “aggressive illegal actions”

including an “unprecedented” expansion of settlements on territory that is supposed to be part of an independent Palestinian state.

Nebenzia said US efforts to normalize Arab-Israeli relations at a time that the “de facto” international legal framework for an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement is being dismantled not only circumvents the “logic” of the Arab Peace Initiative, but it stymies “any prospects for reviving direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis” to achieve peace and a long-sought two-state solution to their decades-old conflict.

The council meeting took place a day after Saudi Arabia’s newly appointed envoy to the Palestinian Authority, Nayef al-

Sudairi, made a first trip to the Israeli-occupied West Bank since the 1967 Mideast war. At the same time, Israel’s Tourism Minister Haim Katz led an Israeli delegation to the Saudi capital Riyadh to take part in a conference hosted by the U.N. World Tourism Organization.

Both visits were clearly linked to the recent American efforts to normalize ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Al-Sudairi’s visit was widely seen as an attempt by the kingdom to address the key sticking point in the Saudi-Israeli normalization deal: Saudi Arabia’s stance toward Palestinians.

The Saudi government has said it will only normalize ties with Israel if there is major

progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state. Before presenting his credentials to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, al-Sudairi sought to assure the Palestinians that Saudi Arabia was “working to establish a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital,” without elaborating.

Nebenzia and virtually all Security Council members — including the United States — reiterated support for a two-state solution where Israel and Palestine live side-by-side in peace.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield expressed continuing US support for efforts to normalize relations between Israel, its neighbors and other countries in the region.

‘Most Pakistanis fly to Saudi on Umrah visas only to indulge in begging’

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistani beggars travel to the Middle East under the guise of pilgrimage and indulge in begging-related activities, leading to complaints of prison overcrowding in countries like Saudi Arabia, an official has told lawmakers. “Pakistani beggars travel to the Middle East under the guise of ziarat (pilgrimage). Most people visit Saudi Arabia on Umrah visas and then indulge in begging-related activities,” Secretary Overseas Pakistanis, Zeeshan Khanzada told a meeting of the Senate’s standing committee for Overseas Pakistanis on Wednesday.

A majority of the pickpockets arrested from within Makkah’s grand mosque are Pakistani nationals, daily The International News quoted Khanzada as saying.

Pakistan is facing an unprecedented economic crisis with skyrocketing inflation

amid price rise on fuel and food fronts.

“Ambassadors of Iraq and Saudi Arabia complain to us that their prison facilities have been overrun (due to Pakistani beggars that enter the country via unauthorised channels), Khanzada was quoted as saying.

“This issue now befalls within the category of human trafficking,” he added.

There are 1.6 million and 2,00,000 Pakistanis residing in the UAE and Qatar respectively, the official said.

“People are ready to pay (as much as) Rs 5 million to go abroad in search of jobs,” he said.

The media report further quoted Rana Mahmoodul Hassan Kakar, who was the chair, as saying that only 200 Pakistanis travelled to Japan after the island country had floated a requirement of 3,40,000 skilled people.



ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ
ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਕੋਯੋਗ ਵਿਖੇ ਵਹੀਗਲ ਸਟੈਂਡ (ਮੇਨ ਗੇਟ ਅਤੇ ਬੈਕ ਸਟੈਂਡ ਗੇਟ) ਦੀ ਆਲਟਮੇਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਮਿਲੀ 16-10-2023 ਤੱਕ ਮੰਗੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਆਲਟਮੇਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵੇਰਵਾ, Terms & Conditions ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ www.gnuu.ac.in—(Tenders) ਤੋਂ download ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਆਫਿਸ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ।

ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ

LOST AND FOUND

This is to inform public at large that Relinquishment Deed dated 16-12-2021 was executed by SMT. ARTI JAIN (DAUGHTER), SMT. POOJA JAIN (DAUGHTER) & SMT. PARVESH BHANDARI (WIFE) in favor of SH. DEEPAK BHANDARI, for relinquishing all their share of their father/husband (LT. SH. BHUSHAN BHANDARI), in Residential Unit No. C-2301, Tower 3(C), admeasuring area of 929.03 square meter (equivalent to 10000 square feet), on the Twenty Third Floor of Tower No. 3 (C) together with Three covered car parking space(s) in the residential scheme known as "Providence Estate", situated in Village Gwal Pahari, Sector-02, Tehsil Wazirabad, District Gurugram, Haryana, Duty Registered at SR-WAZIRABAD, Vide Registration no.13905, dated 16/12/2021.

This relinquishment deed was part of the chain documents of Residential Unit No. C-2301 sale deed between Mr. Deepak Bhandari & M/s. We Serve Prop Management LLP (Sellers) AND Mr. Mohd. Abdullah Masood & Mr. Kunal Seth (Buyers)

The aforesaid relinquishment deed got lost in transit and to ensure no misuse can be done of the aforesaid deed, the undersigned has lodged F.I.R vide Complaint No. 923336/2023 dated 22.09.2023 with E- Portal of P.S. Crime branch, Delhi, stating that the aforesaid deed has been lost. The public at large is advised that if they found they should return or have any interest, they may lodge their claim within 15 days from date given of this publication to "Mr. Rajiv Khurana, A-2/3, F.F., Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi-110029".

Sd/-
Rajiv Khurana
On behalf of Mr. Mohd. Abdullah Masood & Mr. Kunal Seth



NAND LAL SHARMA
Chairman & Managing Director

Glorious Year of Success, Growth & Achievements



CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AT 35TH AGM OF SJVN

Dear Shareholders & Friends,

I consider it my privilege and honor to address our valued shareholders and present the Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2022-23.

As I look back and recollect the achievements of the Company ever since I was entrusted with the task of leading this esteemed organization, I am filled with overwhelming feelings of pride and joy with the progress, performance, and position of the Company over the last few years. I also find myself optimistic and energized by the golden future that lies ahead.

Cruising ahead towards our cherished Shared Vision for achieving 5,000 MW by 2023-24, 25,000 MW by 2030 and 50,000 MW by 2040, your Company continues to expand, grow and diversify its Project Portfolio exponentially Pan India and abroad.

On completion of yet another exemplary year, the Audited Financial Statements of the company along with the Reports of the Auditors and Directors for the year 2022-23 are presented for your approval. Also, I take this opportunity to share with you the company's achievements and future plans.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2022-23

Keeping in mind the economic challenges being faced across the globe, it gives me great satisfaction and pride to announce that the company has achieved excellent results not just financially but also on operational as well as business expansion fronts. Financial Year 2022-23 would be remembered as one of the most momentous year in the history of the Company as SJVN created numerous records and has achieved a number of significant milestones during this period. Our decisive actions, innovative measures, pro-active management and sustained efforts over the past few years have started yielding the visible results.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Our Power Stations are catalyst of our growth and have consistently delivered exceptional performance. This is the result of unparalleled efforts of our employees and best-in-class O&M practices that we have emerged as a record-setter in power generation year after year. They are the engines that propel our growth plans and generate revenues & profits which in turn sustain and mobilize other resources of the Company contributing towards the attainment of "24 X 7 Power for All" vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi.

Despite significantly low water discharge and below-normal wind flow during the financial year 2022-23, our Power Stations have been able to perform reasonably well. The Plant Availability Factor remained at an optimum level in all our operational Power Stations. Surpassing the total Design Energy of 8705 Million Units, our Power Stations generated 9335 Million Units of energy which is Third Highest Generation ever achieved by the Company.

Continuing the record-breaking spree, our Power Stations created many milestones and records during the year. Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station achieved the Highest ever PAF of 106.653%. Nathpa Jhakri and Rampur Hydro Power Stations have achieved the Highest ever Single Day Generation of 39,526 MU and 10,9082 MU respectively during the year. The total generation recorded from all operational Power Stations for September month of FY 2022-23 is 1338.5 MU which is the Highest ever Generation achieved in September month. Charanka SPS has achieved the Highest ever Yearly Generation of 8.75 MU. The total earning from Deviation Settlement Mechanism during the year is ₹43.63 crores, which is the Second Highest in the last 5 years. The total generation recorded from all operational Power Stations for the Q4 and Q3 of FY 2022-23 is 863 MU and 1407 MU respectively which is the Second Highest for the respective Quarter.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Your Company has clocked the Highest ever Income from Operations of ₹2935.41 crores during the financial year 2022-23 which is an increase of ₹513.45 crores over the earnings of previous fiscal. The Total Revenue of the Company has touched a Record High of ₹3298.84 crores which is an increase of ₹673.30 crores compared to ₹2625.54 crores earned during the previous year. The standalone Profit After Tax (PAT) increased by ₹385.93 crores to ₹1363.45 crores against ₹977.52 crores for the previous year.

An Interim dividend of ₹115 per share was paid in the month of February 2023. In addition, your Board has recommended a Final dividend of ₹0.62 per share. Thus, subject to your approval, a total dividend of ₹177 per share is proposed to be paid for the financial year 2022-23.

Trade receivables during the FY 2022-23 is 35 days against the MOU target of 45 days which is the Best ever performance of the Company till date.

BUSINESS EXPANSION

From the Business Expansion perspective, Financial Year 2022-23 has cast its place as the Most Significant year in the History of the Company during which our Project Portfolio took a quantum leap and scaled astronomical heights.

Since the last annual report, 24 Projects aggregating 23,909 MW have been added to the portfolio of the company. This is the Highest Portfolio addition since the incorporation of the Company.

The Project Portfolio of SJVN & its associate Companies now stands at an All-time High with 79 Projects aggregating 55814 MW & 3 Transmission lines totaling 340 Kms spread across 13 States and 2 countries of Indian sub-continent.

The complete details of the Project Portfolio is provided in the Annual Report, hence I would only like to summarize for our shareholders that as on date:-

- 2 Hydro Plants of 1912 MW & 5 Renewable Plants of 179.5 MW and 1 Transmission line of 86 kms are Operational;
- 5 Hydro Projects of 1618 MW, 1 Thermal Project of 1320 MW, 8 Renewable Projects of 1500 MW and 2 Transmission lines of 254 kms are under Construction;
- 2 Hydro Projects of 713 MW and 10 Renewable Projects of 2478 MW are in the Pre-Construction stage;
- 16 Hydro Projects of 8231.9 MW, 1 Thermal Unit of 660 MW and 4 Renewable Projects of 505 MW are under Survey and Investigation.

For the current financial year, projects of 1455 MW and a Transmission Line of 37 km are in pipeline for commissioning. In the next three fiscals, annual revenue of more than ₹10,000 crores are expected to be generated from the operational Power Stations.

In addition, as a part of its long-term Corporate Strategy, SJVN and its associate Companies have entered into a series of Memorandums of Understanding with various Government and Non-Governmental agencies for allotment of the projects. Such Projects under Allotment include 10 Hydro Projects of 2507 MW, 5 Renewable Projects of 21,000 MW and 10 Pumped Storage Projects of 13,190 MW.

It gives me great satisfaction to share with our shareholders that, the complete blue-print for accomplishing our Shared Vision of achieving 5,000 MW by 2023-24, 25,000 MW by 2030 and 50,000 MW by 2040 has been elaborately charted out. I take great pride in stating that my Vision for this Company which was once thought to be unrealistic by some skeptics is now being translated into a tangible reality. It is all due to the relentless efforts of my team of extremely competent people, unwavering faith and co-operation of my colleagues on the Board and trust of our Shareholders & Investors.

PROJECT EXECUTION

Displaying remarkable perseverance, the progress of our under-construction projects is on track despite some geographical and climatic challenges & surprises. The detailed status and progress of the Power Stations and Projects have been amply covered in the Directors' Report. Hence, I am only highlighting some noteworthy accomplishments.

In 2022-23, we were given the mammoth CAPEX target of ₹8000 crores which was the third highest amongst all the power CPSEs. However, it is a matter of great pride that your Company has not just attained but surpassed the assigned target with flying colors and has achieved Record CAPEX of ₹8,240 crores during the year.

75 MW Parasana SPP was commissioned on 22.11.2022 and is under commercial operation. The installed capacity of the Company has been enhanced to 2091.5 MW (OT Power Stations). Hon'ble President of India has laid the foundation stone of 1000 MW Bikaner SPP on 03.01.2023. Investment approval for 382 MW Sunni Dam HEP was accorded by Government of India in January 2023 and award of major works (Civil & HM) was completed in the same month. Investment approval for pre-construction activities of 234 MW Pirthi HEP & 456 MW Reoli Dugli HEP was accorded by Ministry of Power in December 2022. Financial closures of the 66 MW Dhulaishid HEP, 70 MW Bagodara SPP and 1000 MW Bikaner SPP were achieved during the year. Company has also secured green finance of ₹915 crores from Japan Bank for International Cooperation to fund 90 MW Omkareshwar Floating SPP and 100 MW Raghnesda SPP.

SJVN's advocacy for 'One Basin, One Developer' approach for Integrated River Basis Development for optimum utilization of resources has found widespread acceptance and support not only within the country but also internationally and is now part of hydro development policies of many State Governments & Government of India as well as Government of Nepal. In this sequence, MoU for 490 MW Arun-4 HEP was signed in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Nepal on 16th May 2022. Investment approval for pre-construction activities of Arun 4 HEP, Nepal has been accorded by Ministry of Power, Government of India in December 2022.

SJVN is re-writing the rules of the game by focusing on the completion of its projects without time & cost overruns. Riding on the strength of the dedicated team, we aspire to set the benchmark by completing the projects within scheduled timelines. We are cruising ahead and demonstrating our mettle & competitive edge in the domestic and international markets amongst the toughest of the competitors.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

SJVN has been selected as 4th Renewable Energy Implementing Agency in addition to SECI, NTPC and NHPC by Government of India.

The excellence and accomplishments of your Company and Management have been recognized and rewarded by different institutions at various forums. Some of the major awards

conferred upon the Company during the reporting period include - CBIP Award for Best Performing Utility in Hydro Power Sector; Achievement Award for creating Social Development and Impact and CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy at 14th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards, 2023; Greentech International Environment, Health & Safety Best Practices Award, 2023; Most Progressive Growth Oriented Company in the Midcap Category by Dalal Street Investment Journal for the year 2022; Greentech Award for Outstanding Achievements in Environment Protection; Gold Awards in 12th Exceed Environment, HR & CSR Awards, 2022 for Mobile Health Van services and for extensive efforts in the preservation of Environment etc.

“Highest ever single day power generation with 50,534 MU.
Highest portfolio addition- 24 projects aggregating 23,909 MW.
Highest ever income from operations of ₹2935.41 crores.”

RISK MANAGEMENT

It is a matter of pride for us that your Company has obtained ISO 31000:2018 certification for implementation of Risk Management System in November 2022 and it has become the First CPSE to implement ISO 31000:2018 for Risk Management System.

The Company has upgraded and implemented a robust Risk Management Framework as per ISO 31000:2018 comprising of elaborate Risk Management Policy, Plans and Procedures for Risk Identification, assessment, mitigation, review, reporting, preventive actions & continuous improvement, training and awareness programmes etc.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SJVN has always been at the forefront of its role as a responsible corporate citizen and has been pioneering Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities for its stakeholders and society. SJVN has formulated and adopted a dynamic CSR & Sustainability Policy, which is in consonance with the Companies Act, 2013 and CSR guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India. Time to time, the policy is revisited to include revised governing guidelines and provisions. Till now, the policy has been updated four times, latest being in December 2022.

During financial year 2022-23, the Company has spent a total amount of ₹59.84 crores on CSR activities which is ₹23.38 crores more than the statutory obligation of ₹36.46 crores. Since inception, SJVN has spent more than ₹340 crores on various CSR activities in the verticals of health & hygiene, education & skill development, women empowerment, infrastructure development, community development, promotion of culture, sustainable development, assistance during natural disasters, protection of heritage etc.

The particulars of our CSR initiatives & impact assessment thereof are detailed in the Annual Report.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Your company believes in the importance of developing a robust governance framework and embracing best governance practices. As a listed company, SJVN has been complying with the requirements of Corporate Governance under the SEBI LODR Regulations and also Guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India.

Your Company takes pride in its consistent record of achieving "Excellent" ratings every year ever since its listing, for Compliance with 'DPE Guidelines on Corporate Governance' under the 'Corporate Governance Grading System' prescribed by DPE.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2023-24

We have embarked on a new financial year to take the Company to greater heights by drawing strength from cooperation of the stakeholders and commitment of the employees.

Due to abnormal climatic factors, company's flagship hydro Power Stations had to deal with exceptionally low water flows during FY 2023-24. Notwithstanding the conditions beyond our

control, we have ensured the best plant availability which is in our hands. In the first quarter of the Financial Year 2023-24, our Power Stations have generated 2107 MU out of which, NJHPS generated 1564 MU, RHPS generated 442 MU and Renewable Power Stations have generated a total of 101 MU till 30th June 2023.

A new all-time high record of 50,534 MU in Single-Day power generation has been set by our two flagship hydro Power Stations in Himachal Pradesh. 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station has set a new record with 39,570 MU and 412 MW Rampur Hydro Power Station with 10,971 MU energy generation in a single day. Also, 50 MW Sadla Wind Power Station has achieved the Highest ever June month's generation of 15,039 MU breaking the previous record of 11,119 MU in fiscal 2021-22.

Amongst other major developments during the current fiscal, Government of Arunachal Pradesh has allotted five hydro projects totalling 5097 MW namely 3097 MW Etalin, 680 MW Atunli, 500 MW Emini, 420 MW Amulin and 400 MW Mihundon Hydro Electric Projects to SJVN.

Public Investment Board meeting for investment approval of 669 MW Lower Arun HEP was held in May 2023. The Project Development Agreement for the project has been signed with Investment Board of Nepal, Government of Nepal in the benign presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Nepal, Sh. Pushpa Kamal Dahal on 1st June 2023.

Power Purchase Agreements have been signed for 200 MW Solar Power Project Capacity with Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited and with Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited for 100 MW Wind Power Capacity. Power Usage Agreement for supply of 500 MW Solar power from ongoing 1000 MW Bikaner SPP has been signed with Punjab State Power Corporation Limited.

The Company has signed key MOUs during current financial year including MoU with REC Limited for financing the projects of the Company and its Subsidiaries & Joint Ventures to the extent of ₹50,000 crores; and with Government of Goa for development of Renewable Energy, Hydro Power Projects, PSPs and Ocean floating Solar Projects in the state.

Letter of Intent for 100 MW Grid connected Wind Power Project in Gujarat has been received from Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited on 4th June 2023. The Company has bagged another 200 MW Grid connected Wind Power Project from SECI. Letter of Intent has also been received from the PSPCL for procurement of 1200 MW of solar power.

MACRO ECONOMIC SCENARIO AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

India's growth continues to be resilient as it was rated as the fastest-growing major economy during FY 2022-23. The country's GDP has reached \$3.75 trillion in 2023, from around \$2 trillion in 2014; moving from 10th largest to 5th largest economy in the world. India is now being called a Bright Spot in the global economy. Indian economy in FY23 has nearly "recovered" what was lost, "renewed" what had paused, and "re-energized" what had slowed during the pandemic and since the conflict in Europe. A range of pragmatic and transformational policies of the government, which continued through the pandemic helped catalyze a sharp economic recovery. The growth that India is witnessing, apart from the CAPEX push by the government, is coming from healthy balance sheets of the corporates and a well-capitalized financial system.

Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022 gave relief to the DISCOMs, as well as electricity consumers and at the same time generating companies are also benefiting from assured monthly payments, which will help the whole power sector to become financially viable.

For removing the barriers in availability and utilization of renewable energy and to address the issues that have hindered the growth of open access for a long time, Green Open Access Rules, 2022 have been issued. The Rules reduce the Open Access limit from 1 MW to 100 MW, which paved the way for small consumers to purchase renewable energy and there is no limit for captive consumers.

Revised scheme for flexibility in generation and scheduling of Thermal/Hydro Power Station through bundling with renewable energy and storage power is showing its positive impact.

Dispute Avoidance Mechanism for avoidance/ resolution of contractual disputes at initial stage by engagement of an Independent Engineer and Dispute Resolution Mechanism for resolution of disputes through Conciliation Committees have been devised by Ministry of Power.

These transformative reforms and initiatives in recent years have propelled forward the nation on its journey to achieve its twin goals of universal access to affordable power and acceleration of clean energy transition.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The GDP growth figures in 2022-23 reflect the resilience of the Indian economy amidst global challenges. In global scenario, the inflation has begun to slow down in both developed and emerging economies. In FY 2023-24 this growth will be supported by solid domestic demand and pickup of capital investment. Compensating for private sector's caution in capital expenditure, government has substantially raised the capital

expenditure.

The CAPEX target for SJVN for FY 2023-24 has been set once again to a historic high of ₹10,000 crore and the Company is geared up to accomplish the same.

FY 2023-24 shall be especially significant as Projects totaling 1455 MW are lined up for commissioning and commencement of commercial operations during the year which include - 60 MW Naitwar Mori HEP, one unit of 660 MW of Buxar TPP, 250 MW (Phase-I) of Bikaner SPP, 100 MW Raghnesda SPP, 100 MW Pojwal & Rurki SPP, 90 MW Omkareshwar Floating SPP, 75 MW Gurhah SPP, 70 MW Bagodara SPP and 50 MW Gujrai SPP. In addition, Double Circuit 220 kV Mori Snail Transmission Line in Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh is also expected to be commissioned during the year.

As a premier power utility, SJVN is spearheading the current transformative paradigm shift of Indian Power Sector from fossil fuel energy base to renewable energy base. As at SJVN are performing our duty towards the nation by strengthening the energy sector.

Under the Paris Agreement - 2015 for carbon neutralization, Government of India has committed to reduce the Greenhouse gases emissions intensity by 45% below 2005 levels. For this, 50% of installed electric power capacity is planned to be generated from non-fossil sources by 2030. Government has also permitted 100% FDI under automatic approval in renewable energy sector.

In the Union Budget 2023, some path breaking announcements have been made towards net-zero emission by 2070. The government intends to reduce the country's estimated total carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by the end of the current decade. ₹35,000 crores have been earmarked for energy transition and net-zero carbon emission. Also, ₹19,700 crores have been earmarked for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. By 2030, India is committed to reduce carbon intensity of its GDP by 45% of 2005 level.

All these policy decisions are bound to drive up the growth of renewable sector which in turn will open new vistas for the Company.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As my present tenure as CMD of this esteemed Company nears completion, it gives me tremendous satisfaction to report to our shareholders that all key parameters of the Company be it Project Portfolio, Network, CAPEX, Share Price, Market Capitalization, Revenue, Book Value, etc. have scaled their All-Time Highs during recent months. Nothing is more gratifying than to see the Company scale the lofty peaks of success and accomplishments each day. I consider myself fortunate to have witnessed and participated first-hand in the dawn of this Golden Era of the Company.

On this occasion, I would like to remember the contribution and express my deep gratitude for all the founding fathers and architects who conceived and built this Company and laid a strong foundation of which we are reaping the benefits today. I would also like to place on record my deepest appreciation for my colleagues on the Board - past & present. My fellow Board Members have always stood by me and extended their unfaltering trust and co-operation.

A tree's beauty lies in its branches but its strength lies in its roots. Similarly, the strength of SJVN lies in its employees. Our grit combined with our attitude has brought us where we are today - Strong and Proud with a 55814 MW Portfolio. I feel highly privileged to be leading the Company that is breaking barriers and conquering new frontiers.

I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere gratitude for the guidance and cooperation extended by Ministry of Power, Government of India. Your support has motivated us to exceed the expectations and to set our sight high on bigger goals.

I also express my thanks to various Ministries / Departments of Government of India - Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Central Electricity Authority, Central Water Commission, Geological Survey of India; State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Mizoram; Government of Nepal; other Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies; Statutory, Cost, Secretariat and Internal Auditors; our Customers; Business associates; various Financial Institutions & Bankers and Regulatory authorities.

Above all, I thank all our Shareholders & Investors for placing faith in the Company. I look forward to your continued support, trust and cooperation.

I look forward to further raising the bar and setting standards even higher for ourselves. I expect my team to commit their untiring efforts and unflinching commitment to achieve the goals we have aspired for ourselves. I believe our well-poised strategy, combined with our relentless execution, will continue to create long-term sustained value for our shareholders and stakeholders.

Thanking you all.

(Nand Lal Sharma)

Date: 28th September, 2023 Chairman & Managing Director
Place: Shimla DIN: 03495554

(This does not purport to be a record to the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting)



एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
मिनी रत्न एवं शेड्यूल "ए" पीएसयू
Visit us at: www.sjvn.nic.in
Regd. Off.: Shakti Sadan, SJVN Corporate Office Complex, Shanan, Shimla - 171006, Himachal Pradesh (India)

SJVN LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Himachal Pradesh)
A Mini Ratna & Schedule "A" PSU
CIN : L40101HP1988G01008409
(India)

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Kindly download the formats/terms and conditions from the website <http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in> or collect the same from Central Bank of India, Regional Office at Shimla during office hours.

The last date for submission of offers is 18.10.2023 up to 05:00 p.m.

For Central Bank of India, (Mukesh Kumar Choudhary) Regional Head
Regional Office, Shimla

Dated : 28.09.2023

सार्वजनिक सूचना

इस सूचना के माध्यम से हर आम व खास को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय में श्री राजवत सिंह पुत्र स. महल सिंह निवासी मकान नं. 2234 करनाल द्वारा संपत्ति कर आई.डी. नं. 1E4NNUN9 स्थित मकान नं. 2234 पुराना रमेश नगर करनाल में नाम दर्ज करने बारे आवेदन किया है। संपत्ति कर रिकार्ड अनुसार उपरोक्त संपत्ति कर आई.डी. नं. 1E4NNUN9 में बिना नाम के दर्ज है तथा स. महल सिंह पुत्र जीवन सिंह को मृत्यु दिनांक 03.06.2000 को हो चुकी है। प्राप्ति द्वारा इस कार्यालय में नाम तब्दील करने हेतु एक प्रलेख/ वसीयत न. 122 दिनांक 26.02.1959 तथा शपथ पत्र को प्रति प्रस्तुत की है। अतः यदि किसी आमजन या खासजन को उक्त वसीयत अनुसार संपत्ति कर आई.डी. 1E4NNUN9 स्थित मकान नं. 2234 पुराना रमेश नगर में श्री राजवत सिंह पुत्र स. महल सिंह निवासी मकान नं. 2234 पुराना रमेश नगर करनाल का नाम तब्दील करने हेतु किसी प्रकार की आपत्ति हो तो इस कार्यालय में नोटिस प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिनों के अंदर-2 अपनी आपत्ति/ एतराज दर्ज करवा सकते हैं। अन्यथा समयावधि परचात्त माना जायेगा कि उपरोक्त तब्दील बारे किसी को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। परिणाम स्वरूप इस कार्यालय के संपत्ति कर में संबंधित युनिक संपत्ति कर आई.डी. नं. 1E4NNUN9 में आवेदक का नाम दर्ज/तब्दील कर दिया जायेगा। समयावधि परचात्त कोई भी क्लेम मान्य नहीं होगा।

क्षेत्रीय करायान अधिकारी, नगर निगम करनाल।

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Offers are invited for the public auction of the gold ornaments, pledged in favour of the Bank, for the purpose of recovering the dues owed by the Borrower(s) to the Bank, as detailed below. The auction will be conducted at 10:00 A.M. onwards on 04.10.2023 in the Bank's premises at Kharar.

Account No.	Name of the Borrower & Address	Description of Gold Ornaments pledged	Gross Weight in Grams	EMD in Rs.	Reserve price in Rs.
1668671100008068	Gopal Pralhad Pawar	1 Chain	7.19	2720/-	27,200/-

The auction shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the sale stipulated by the Bank, a copy of which shall be displayed in the notice board of Kharar Branch from 27.09.2023 to 03.10.2023 and interested parties may refer the same. A bidder Participating in the auction shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the aforesaid terms and conditions of sale. Last date of submission of the Bid is 03.10.2023. Sd/-

Date: 29.09.2023 Place: Kharar AUTHORIZED OFFICER

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For Central Bank of India, (Mukesh Kumar Choudhary) Regional Head
Regional Office, Shimla

Dated : 28.09.2023

MAN CITY OUT OF LEAGUE CUP

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

Manchester City crashed out of the League Cup with a 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Wednesday as Arsenal, Chelsea and Liverpool booked their places in the last 16. Alexander Isak scored the only goal at St. James' Park in a clash between two much-changed sides.

City won the treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season, but any dream of surpassing that feat with an unprecedented quadruple was swiftly brought to an end.

Erling Haaland was left on the bench by City coach Pep Guardiola for the full 90 minutes and his presence was missed in a toothless display.

Eddie Howe also rang the changes from an 8-0 thrashing of Sheffield United at the weekend.

But it was not until the Newcastle boss introduced Anthony Gordon and Bruno Guimaraes at half-time that the hosts took control.

Isak had the simple task of slotting home at the far post after a burst from Joelinton opened up the City defence.

"A win like this can elevate us," said Howe.

"First-half we tried to rotate the squad and keep our players fresh. Second-half we were better for sure, but when you bring

on players like Anthony Gordon and Bruno, they're high level players."

Newcastle's reward is a fourth-round trip to Manchester United in a repeat of last season's final.

CHELSEA BOUNCE BACK

Chelsea prevented the crisis at Stamford Bridge deepening as Nicolas Jackson's goal beat Brighton 1-0.

The Senegalese's wastefulness in front of goal has been partly to blame for the Blues' return of one win in their opening six Premier League games under Mauricio Pochettino.

But Jackson coolly slotted home from the impressive Cole Palmer's pass on 50 minutes.

Chelsea will face Blackburn in the last 16.

Arsenal were also 1-0 winners at Brentford as Aaron Ramsdale responded to being controversially dropped by Mikel Arteta.

Reiss Nelson's eighth-minute goal separated the sides despite a Brentford onslaught after the break.

Arteta has preferred David Raya to Ramsdale in goal for the past three games.

But the England international was needed for the Gunners to progress as he produced a brilliant stop to deny Yoane Wissa an equaliser.

Arsenal will travel to West Ham in the next round after the



Hammers were 1-0 winners at third-tier Lincoln.

Liverpool trailed to Championship leaders Leicester after just three minutes before fighting back to win 3-1.

Kasey McAteer rounded off a rapid counter-attack to give the Foxes a flying start.

Jurgen Klopp's men laid seige to the visitors' goal but were made to wait until after the break to draw level.

The equaliser was made in the Netherlands as Ryan Gravenberch set up Cody Gakpo to find the far corner.

Klopp then turned to his bench to find a winner and found it through a stunning strike from Dominik Szoboszlai.

The Hungarian captain took aim from outside the box and smashed the ball into the top corner 20 minutes from time.

"Dom was a surprise with how fast he has fitted in, it was pretty much from the first minute," said Klopp on Szoboszlai's fast start to his Liverpool career.

"Top-class player with a lot of quality. He never stops."

Diogo Jota's backheel in off the far post then made the tie safe.

Klopp's men will travel to Bournemouth in round four.

Everton built on their first Premier League win of the season at Brentford on Saturday with an impressive 2-1 victory at Aston Villa.

Inter crash to first defeat

AP ■ MILAN

Inter Milan crashed to their first defeat of the Serie A season on Wednesday, going down 2-1 at home to Sassuolo as controversial striker Victor Osimhen starred for Napoli despite an apparent rift with the champions.

Inter went into the game with a perfect record of five wins in five and looked in control at 1-0 ahead thanks to a Denzel Dumfries goal on the stroke of half-time at the San Siro.

Sassuolo levelled in the 54th minute when Nedim Bajrami scored with a long-range effort which caught out goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

Domenico Berardi hit the winner 10 minutes later as Sassuolo claimed all three points to follow up last week's win over Juventus.

Inter remain top of the table on goal difference ahead of AC Milan who earlier defeated Cagliari 3-1.

"After a good first period where we should have scored more than one goal, but we lost our focus especially after the equaliser," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi.

"Losing in front of our home crowd hurts us, we have to understand what happened, even if the schedule, with our next match on Saturday, doesn't really give us time to take a step back."

After a defeat and two draws, champions Napoli returned to winning ways with Osimhen playing a starring role in a 4-1 win over Udinese.

The Nigerian striker scored his fourth goal of the season after 39 minutes with



Khvicha Kvaratskhelia ending a long goal drought by finding the net in the second half.

Osimhen, top scorer in Serie A last season, had cut a controversial figure at the weekend when he showed his displeasure at being taken off by coach Rudy Garcia in the 0-0 draw with Bologna.

On Tuesday, his agent threatened Napoli with legal action for having published a video on the club's TikTok account, since deleted, mocking the striker for missing a penalty in that game.

Osimhen removed photos of himself in Napoli colours from his own social media, fuelling speculation that he will demand a move in the

next transfer window. "I have a very good relationship with Victor," insisted Garcia.

"I am happy for him because he scored tonight. After the match in Bologna, we were all frustrated, angry, Victor in particular, because he missed the penalty.

"On the sporting aspect and on other levels, especially on TikTok, there have been a lot of things to manage in recent days," smiled Garcia.

"But I can assure you that Victor loves this jersey and that he is invested in 100% in our project."

Napoli are now fifth in the table with 11 points, four points behind the two Milan clubs.

Real beat Las Palmas but Girona move top of La Liga

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid eased to a 2-0 win over Las Palmas on Wednesday to overtake Barcelona and move second, but Catalan minnows Girona are the surprise La Liga leaders after after a 2-1 win at Villarreal.

Barcelona started the week top of the league but a 2-2 draw at Real Mallorca on Tuesday left the door open for their rivals to overtake them.

Madrid produced a comfortable victory with goals from Brahim Diaz and Joselu, while Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior also made his return from injury as a second half substitute, following a month out.

Real coach Carlo Ancelotti rested Jude Bellingham, who has been Madrid's

best player so far, starting Diaz in attacking midfield in the England international's stead.

The Italian coach also swapped out both full-backs after the painful derby defeat by Atletico Madrid on Sunday, with Ferland Mendy and Nacho starting in place of Fran Garcia and Lucas Vazquez.

Real Madrid were on the front foot from the start against their promoted visitors from the Canary Islands, but lacked the killer finishing touch that Karim Benzema brought in recent years, and Bellingham has in recent weeks.

Vazquez replaced the injured David Alaba and the substitute played a part in the opening goal.

Valles stopped another Joselu drive before Diaz broke the deadlock, taking



a touch to control Vazquez's cross and then firing into the top corner with the aid of a slight deflection.

Joselu made amends for his first half profligacy to pounce early in the second with a well-placed header from Rodrygo's cross that this time left Valles no chance.

Vinicius made his return with over half an hour remaining as Ancelotti reverted to a 4-3-3 system, having begun with the midfield diamond he has favoured this season.

Aurelien Tchouameni came close with a long-range effort and Madrid saw out the game without incident to move one point ahead of Barcelona.

Michel's Girona came from behind to beat Villarreal, with on-loan Barcelona defender Eric Garcia netting the winner.

Ramkumar-Myneni pair one win away from gold

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian tennis camp had something to cheer on Thursday with Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni reaching the men's doubles gold medal round and the mixed doubles pair of Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale assuring itself of a medal.

The second-seeded team of Ramkumar and Myneni downed the gutsy Korean pair of Seongchan Hong and Soonwoo Kwon 6-1, 6-7(8), 10-0 to move to the title clash.

Myneni will now gun for his second Asian Games gold, having won a mixed doubles yellow metal with Sania Mirza in the 2014 edition.

It will be a maiden Games medal for Ramkumar.

The Koreans fought back after losing the opening set in a rather sedate manner but Myneni and Ramkumar held their nerves to outplay their rivals in the Super Tie break.



The Indian team will now take on Chinese Taipei, that ousted Thailand, in the gold medal match on Friday.

India had won the men's doubles title in the last edition in Indonesia with Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan emerging victorious in the final.

The second-seeded Bopanna-Bhosale pair moved to the mixed doubles semifinals with a fluent 7-5, 6-3 win over Kazakhstan's Zhibek Kulambayeva and Grigoriy Lomakin.

The first set seemed going into a tie-break as Kulambayeva was serving at 40-0 in the 12th game but she lost her serve from that strong position.

There was hardly any fight in the second set.

Bopanna, who is playing his last Asian Games at 43, will not go without a medal.

He has already been ousted from the men's doubles with partner Yuki Bhambri.

Lingard training with Al Ettifaq

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Former Manchester United player Jesse Lingard could be the next Premier League star to join the Saudi Arabian league.

The England international, who is a free agent, is training with Saudi club Al-Ettifaq after leaving Nottingham Forest at the end of the last season.

Al-Ettifaq is coached by Liverpool great Steven Gerrard and signed England midfielder Jordan Henderson in the off-season. "I've watched him for many years, so I'm aware of the talent," Gerrard told Al Arabiya's sports program FilMarma.

Miami fall short without Messi

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE

The Houston Dynamo defeated Inter Miami 2-1 to win the US Open Cup on Wednesday with an injured Lionel Messi watching from the stands at DRV PNK Stadium.

Without Messi and his former Barcelona team-mate Jordi Alba, Miami struggled to compete with an enterprising Houston and could have little to complain about the outcome.

Miami co-owner David Beckham, who watched the game with his former Real Madrid team-mate Zinedine Zidane, had hoped for another night of celebration after the team's Leagues Cup triumph last month.

But Miami lacked intensity and ideas as they were given the runaround by Ben Olsen's impressive Houston team.

No clear explanation has been given for Messi's injury



with references to "muscle fatigue" followed by talk from coach Gerardo Martino of "scars" from an old injury.

With no Messi to worry about, Houston were on top from the outset, moving the ball around with confidence and purpose while Miami struggled to get a foothold.

Houston grabbed the lead in the 24th minute with a perfect counter-attack ending with Brazilian Artur feeding the overlapping Griffin Dorsey who blasted in at the near post.

Houston were utterly dominant, passing the ball with a swiftness that left Miami chasing shadows and it wasn't long before they had doubled their advantage.

Colombian winger Quinones cut into the box from the left flank and Miami right-back DeAndre Yedlin's desperate lunge brought him crashing to the ground. French forward Amine Bassi made no mistake from the spot to make it 2-0.

Men's & women's squash teams assure India of medals

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian men's and women's teams assured themselves of medals at the Asian Games after progressing to the semifinals of the squash events here on Thursday.

While the men's team blanked Nepal 3-0 in its final pool tie, the women were handed a 0-3 loss by Malaysia in their last pool B fixture.

Both teams sealed top two spots in their respective pools to make the semifinals which guarantees them at least a bronze. The Indian women's team began the day with veteran Joshua Chinappa enduring a 6-11, 2-11, 8-11 defeat to Subramanian Sivasangari in 21 minutes.

In the second match, Tanvi Khanna squandered a 2-1 lead before going down to Commonwealth Games gold medalist Aifa Binti Azman 9-11, 11-1, 7-11, 13-11, 11-5.

Manika, Sharath, Sathiyan storm into last 16

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Star Indian paddlers Manika S Batra, Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan dominated their opponents en route their pre-quarterfinals entry in the table tennis competition at the Asian Games here on Thursday.

Sharath, a team bronze winner in 2018 Asian Games, never gave a chance to Mohammed Shaffan Ismail, his opponent from Maldives before winning 11-9, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7.

Sathiyan, who had won a bronze medal in the team event in Jakarta Games 2018, too was equally overwhelming against Turki Lafi Almutairi of Saudi Arabia while registering a 11-5, 11-6, 11-9, 11-2 victory.

Manika, a 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medalist and a bronze winner in mixed doubles at the Jakarta Asian Games, blanked Nabita Shrestha of Nepal 4-0 (11-5, 11-4, 11-3, 11-2) in just 20 minutes to set up a clash with Thailand's



Suthasini Sawettabut.

However, Sreeja Akula faced a humiliating defeat to North Korea's Songgyong Pyon 0-4 (6-11, 4-11, 13-15, 9-11) to bow out of the competition.

India fared better in the women's doubles. Sreeja and Diya Chitale defeated Vietnam's Ngoc Tran Mai and Nga Nguyen Thi 3-0 (11-8, 15-13, 11-6).

Sutirtha Mukherjee teamed up with Aihika Mukherjee to seal their place in the pre-quarters after defeating Kazakhstan 3-0. Sutirtha and Aihika moved past Anastassiya Lavrova and

Zauresh Akasheva 11-7, 11-4, 11-7.

In the men's doubles, Indian duo of Manav Vikash Thakkar and Manush Utpalbhai Shah defeated Mohamed Shaffan Ismail and Moosa Munsif Ahmed of the Maldives 3-1 (11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 11-2) to enter the round of 16.

Another Indian pair Sathiyan and Sharath outplayed Mangolian combination of Ser-Od Gankhuyag and Manlaijargal Munkh-Ochir 3-0 (11-5, 11-3, 11-3) in just 13 minutes.

