



OPINION 6
THE ESCALATING PERILS
OF GLOBAL TERRORISM

WORLD 8
BIDEN, TRUMP WIN PRESIDENTIAL
PRIMARIES IN FOUR MORE STATES

MONEY 10
RBI PANEL STARTS DISCUSSION
ON MONETARY POLICY

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY APRIL 4, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

Established 1864

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



RAYUDU BLAMES
RCB TITLE DROUGHT
TO SENIOR PLAYERS
12 SPORTS

Modi lauds BJP workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Calling upon Uttar Pradesh BJP and West Bengal booth workers to focus on young voters and women, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said Opposition leaders develop cold feet seeing the enthusiasm of BJP workers, and asked them to work with a resolve to break all old poll records. While virtually interacting with BJP workers from West Bengal through the NaMo app, Modi said the entire country has witnessed how the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has resorted to violence to stop BJP workers, but the saffron workers fearlessly stood their ground. Modi said he remains committed to taking action against corruption, emphasising that those engaged in corruption have two options left — jail or bail. Addressing a digital rally of Uttar Pradesh BJP workers at 22,648 booths in 10 Lok Sabha seats, Modi said new records are being made in polls due to the hard work of BJP workers. “The soul of victory in elections lies in the victory of the polling booth,” he said while stressing that they “will have to work with a resolve to break all old records of the polling booths”. The Prime Minister also advised BJP booth workers to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

File Photo: PTI

remain active on social media and make reels of beneficiaries as this would help fetch votes. Modi also personally spoke to some of the party workers and sought information about the activities of the party. The Prime Minister emphasised the role of

BJP karyakartas as canvassers, urging them to enlighten people about financial transactions and apprise them of the Government's welfare schemes. He asked the workers to inform farmers that the Modi Government had sent enough money in their bank accounts which earlier

used to be siphoned off by middlemen. In his 44-minute interaction with booth in-charges, panna pramukhs and workers, the Prime Minister instructed booth in-charges and workers to visit villages and interact with voters. Just distributing pamphlets will be of no use, he cautioned. The Prime Minister directed them to inform voters while visiting their homes about the

Government schemes and their benefits. “If they are not getting the benefits, tell them about Modi's guarantee of ensuring benefits to them. “Our target is to add 370 votes per booth compared to previous elections, with focus on women and first-time voters,” he said. Modi asked the BJP workers to focus on youth voters, particularly first-time voters, and make them aware of the corruption and other misdeeds of the previous Governments. Referring to the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said now Ramlalla is seated in the temple, Article 370 has been abolished and law against triple talaq is in place. “He said the law against triple talaq has given security to Muslim families. Earlier, elderly persons in families remained worried that after marriage their daughters might return home due to triple talaq,” he said, adding, “when intentions are clear, good results come”. This time voters are saying “Phir ek baar Modi sarkar” (Modi Government once again), the Prime Minister said. During the programme, the PM spoke to booth heads of Etah, Agra, Hathras and Bareilly and directed them to involve party supporters as campaigners to achieve the target.



Congress candidate Rahul Gandhi files his nomination papers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, in Wayanad district, on Wednesday PTI

Congress launches Ghar Ghar Guarantee campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

To woo the voters particularly unemployed youth and women, the Congress on Wednesday launched the party's 'Ghar Ghar Guarantee' campaign, an outreach programme that aims reaching the doorsteps of eight crore families over the next few weeks with a message about what the party would do for the people if it comes to power. Among the guarantees is guaranteed apprenticeship with stipend of Rs one lakh per annum for every educated youth, Rs one lakh every year to the woman head of every poor family, loan waiver and legal guarantee of MSP in accordance with the Swaminathan formula for farmers, Rs 400 minimum wage

which would apply to MNREGA, too, and caste census. The guarantee card represents the Congress's main election plank for the coming Lok Sabha polls. It seeks to set a narrative that the people are in great distress and facing injustice in various ways, and how the Congress and the INDIA Bloc would seek to alleviate their problems. It also runs counter to the BJP's 'Modi ki Guarantee' campaign. The Congress's poll pitch is centred around “Paanch Nyay” or five pillars of justice — “Yuva Nyay”, “Naari Nyay”, “Kisaan Nyay”, “Shramik Nyay” and “Hissedari Nyay” — as well as the guarantees it has given to people under these heads. The grand old party is scheduled to release its Lok Sabha poll manifesto on Friday, with its top leaders addressing mega rallies in Jaipur and Hyderabad the next day.



NEWS BRIEFS

HC reserves order on plea by Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a petition by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. “I am going to reserve judgement,” said Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma after hearing the senior counsel appearing for the AAP leader as well as the agency. The AAP national convener, who arrested by the ED on March 21, questioned the “timing” of his arrest and said it was in contravention of the basic structure of the Constitution, including free and fair elections and level playing field.

Cloudy skies likely in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 17.3 degrees Celsius on Wednesday morning, with the weather office predicting light rain in parts of the city. Gusty winds with a speed of 30-40 kmph are likely in the city and the maximum temperature will touch 35 degrees Celsius. For Thursday, the weather office has forecast generally cloudy skies with the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to settle at 35 and 18 degrees Celsius, respectively. The humidity level was recorded at 63 per cent. The air quality in the city stood in the moderate category with an AQI reading of 155. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 and 500 severe.

EC bolsters border security ahead of Lok Sabha elections



RAJESH KUMAR ■
NEW DELHI

With the first round of Lok Sabha elections due within a fortnight time, the Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday directed the State authorities to initiate strict vigil along international borders like India-China, India-Nepal, India-Pakistan in close coordination with security agencies like Border Security Force (BSF), Assam Rifles (AR), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Coast Guard and intelligence wings of Intelligence Bureau and external intelligence agency. The Commission has directed Central agencies to strict vigil along Indo-Myanmar border by Assam Rifles; Indo Nepal Border by SSB especially in areas having porous border with Nepal; Indo-Bangladesh border and western

borders by BSF; Indo-China border by ITBP, and in States with coastal area by Indian Coast Guard. These directions came after the EC meeting with all States/Union Territories (UTs) to review and assess the law and order situation, prevention of illicit activities, seizures and strict vigil across inter-State and international borders in the ongoing Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies polls for a free, fair, peaceful and inducement free elections. India shares borders with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and China. Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian States — Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Myanmar border shares a border of 1,643 km in length and runs from the tripoint with China in the north to the tripoint with Bangladesh in the south.

Bangladesh shares a 4,096-kilometre-long (2,545 mi) international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world. India and China share a 3,800 km (2,400 mile) border — much of it poorly demarcated — over which they also fought a bloody war in 1962 while Pakistan shares 3,323 km. Recent violence and turmoil in Manipur and its ramifications for the conduct of a peaceful election were also addressed, with the EC urging for swift action to assist internally-displaced persons and ensure their participation in the electoral process, the EC said. “The purpose of the combined review was to bring all concerned stakeholders together on the same platform for a seamless coordination and cooperation amongst officials of the neighbouring States/UTs along with central agencies guarding the borders. The Commission, in detail, reviewed critical issues pertaining to each State/UT,” the EC said in a statement. The commission has directed SSB to keep strict watch over international borders with Nepal and Bangladesh for any illicit activity, especially before 72 hours of the poll. The poll body has also directed Assam Rifles to hold regular joint security coordination meetings with State Police, Central Armed Police Force “Ensure area familiarisation for newly inducted CAPF companies in coordination with civil administration and establish Joint Check Posts in coordination with State Police,” it said.

Strongest earthquake in 25 years rocks Taiwan

The strongest earthquake in a quarter-century rocked Taiwan during the morning rush hour on Wednesday, killing nine people, stranding dozens of workers at quarries. The quake, which also injured more than 1,000, was centred off the coast of rural, mountainous Hualien County



Witty cartoon by BJP on the Gandhis injects humour in UP poll battle

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
LUCKNOW

As the electoral battle heats up in Uttar Pradesh, political adversaries are resorting to unconventional means to target each other, with social media emerging as a new battleground. In a recent development, the Uttar Pradesh BJP launched a satirical attack on the Congress leadership through caricatures shared on its social media platform ‘X’, targeting Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. One of the cartoons portrayed the Gandhi siblings with the caption, “Aa Ab bhag chaley” (come on, let's run!), accompanied by



the names of Raebareli and Amethi. The cartoon shows that the sister-brother duo is walking away from Amethi and Raebareli with a trolley bag. There was a mixed reaction as some netizens hailed this cartoon while some criticised it. Some said, “They are going on a tour to

Italy” while one questioned the cartoon and wrote, “sharafat bhi ghol ke pee gaye”. These constituencies have historically been strongholds of the Gandhi family. The move stirred a flurry of reactions on social media, with opinions divided between support for the BJP's tactic and criticism of its approach. The timing of these cartoons is noteworthy, especially amidst speculation regarding Rahul's candidacy from Amethi and Priyanka's potential contest from Raebareli. While Sonia Gandhi has opted out of the electoral fray in favour of a Rajya Sabha seat, the Congress is yet to officially announce the candidacies for these key constituencies.



Vote from home initiative for citizens aged 85 and above

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission's initiative to introduce the ‘Vote From Home’ scheme, specifically targeting citizens aged 85 and above and those with more than 40 per cent disabilities, has sparked a diverse array of opinions and experiences among eligible voters. Take the case of Preeti Monga, a 60-year-old totally visually impaired person and

the CEO of Silver Linings - an organisation dedicated to advocating for inclusive education — who acknowledges the intrinsic value of physically visiting the polling booth as an act of inclusion within mainstream society. “As far as I am concerned, I would prefer to visit the booth and vote because that is what is called inclusion. I want to be a part of mainstream society as much as possible. However people with disabilities (PwDs) who



File Photo: PTI

have difficulty in reaching the polling booth can be due to anything, so I think postal ballots are wonderful. It shows that they are not excluded from very important activities. That will be wonderful,” she said. For Monga, the opportunity to exercise one's voting rights with complete dignity, regardless of physical limitations, is paramount. Also, searing heat as predicted by the IMD may restrict many PwDs and old people to visit the polling booths, she said. However, she appreciated the

EC for promotion of the scheme among those for whom it is meant. Samuel Mani, a 47-year-old with Cerebral Palsy shares his enthusiasm for the ‘Vote From Home’ option. “This means my old mother who is bed-ridden can also participate in the world's largest democratic exercise. By bringing the voting process directly to their doorstep, the scheme ensures that even those confined to their homes due to disabilities can contribute to shaping the nation's future,” he said in broken words.

However, as far as he is concerned, he would prefer to be at the ‘happening venue’ on the D-Day along with his old father (83) and his wife Meenu Mani. The founders of an NGO ‘Yes, We Can’, the couple have similar neurological conditions and rely on wheelchairs for mobility. Rajesh Singh, an 87-year-old retired teacher residing in Mumbai too was equally enthusiastic at the ‘Vote From Home’ scheme. He cited age-related health challenges that render visiting polling booths as a daunting task.



Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Joy son of Indryas Masih resident of Ludhiana Mohalla Dharawal, Gurdspur that in my passport my father's name is Indryas and mother's name is Sunita which is wrong. My father's correct name is Indryas Masih and mother's name is Sunita Gill. To note.

I, Savitri Devi W/o Late Sh. Gori Shankar R/o H.No- 1176/6, Jain Gunj Kila Ambala City inform that my Son Ram, Gopal, his Wife Neha are out of my control. So I disown both of them from my moveable/ immovable properties. If anybody deals with them at their own risk.

We Hermesh Singh S/o Bachan Singh & Kuldeep Kaur W/o Hermesh Singh R/o Village Raiwali Tehsil Narainagar Distt Ambala inform that our Son Gurcharan Singh, his Wife Jasvir Kaur are out of our control. So we disown both of them from our moveable/ immovable properties. If anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Anita Sachdeva W/o Late Sh. Rajesh Sachdeva R/o H.No-40 Preet Colony Jandli Ambala city inform that my Son Vipul Sachdeva, his Wife Rachna Sachdeva are out of my control. So I disown both of them from my moveable/ immovable properties. If anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I Malket Singh Son of Sher Singh resident of Village Chuhar Majra, Landran, SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab Pin Code 140307, India have changed the name of my minor son Mantaj Singh, aged 7 Year and he shall hereafter be known as to Ekamveer Singh. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Santosh Devi (Existing Name Of Spouse As Per Nok In Record), Spouse Of Randhir Singh (Name Of Husband) Resident Of Malik Colony, Gali No.3 Sonapat (Hr) Have Changed My Name From Santosh Devi &Dob 30 Years(Existing Name &Dob Of Spouse) To Santosh Kumari And Dob 20-11-1962 (Proposed Name And Dob Of Spouse) Vide Affidavit Dated 03-04-2024 At Sonapat.

I, No.Jc511749m Rank Nb/Sub Sohan Singh S/O Late Mel Ram Village Munne Po Takhatgarh Tehsil Anandpur Sahib Distt Roopnagar (Punjab) Pin Code 140119 Declare That In Army Record My Wife's Name Written As Gurbakash Kaur Mistakenly. Whereas Her Correct Name Is Gurbaksh Kaur Vide Affidvit No In Pb0262341487856w Dated 3 April 2024 issued By Executive Magistrate Nurpurbdi

I, Rajbir Singh S/O Shamsher Singh R/O Village Kalwa Teh. Safidon Distt. Jind Have Declared That My Son Gaurav Document Wrongly Mentioned Rajbir But My Actual & Correct Name Rajbir Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 03.04.2024 Attested By Notary Public.

I No-4461657-A, Rank- Hony Nb Sub, Name- Manjit Singh, Residence Of Vpo- Lutheri, Tehsil - Morinda, District- Rupnagar, State – Punjab Declare That I Change My Wife's Name (Gurmit Kaur To Gurmeet Kaur)

I Shri Devi W/O Dinesh R/O Jhuggi, Near Dharamshala, Vill Ramgarh (232), Panchkula Haryana, Declared That My Son Parmod Kumar Is Out Of My Control, So I Disown Him From My Moveable/ Immovable Property Anybody Dealing With Him At Their Own Risk.

I Reena W/O Late Kulwant Singh R/O #148, Gate No. 3, Khadak Mangoli, Panchkula Haryana That My Son Kunal Is Out Of My Control, I Disown Him My All Moveable/Immoveable Properties. Anybody Deals With Him Will Do Their Own Risk/Responsibility

I Rajdharr Dube S/O Amrika Parshad Dube R/O #191, Near Gupta Material, Village Kasabad Tehsil And Distt Ludhiana Declare That My Son Parkash Dube Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Him From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Him On Their Own Risk.

I, Pushpanjali Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Army No- 14852429f Rank-Nk/Sht Name Pardeep Kumar Presently Posted At Unit: 603 Asn (Bn) C/O 56 Apo Permanent Address: Chak Sardar Desa Singh Jammu And Kashmir-180003 Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Pushpanjali To Pushpanjali Shrivats. Vide Affidavit No-Rd 0021649909, Dated-03/04/24

I, Jc No-341441K Rank-Sub Name Amit Kumar Presently Posted At Unit: 57 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Permanent Address: Lalpur Tibra, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201204 Declare That I Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Anvasha To Anvesha .Vide Affidavit No-Rd 0021649907, Dated-03/04/24

I, Retu Kumar Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Jc No-341441K Rank-Sub Name Amit Kumar Presently Posted At Unit: 57 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Permanent Address: Lalpur Tibra, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201204 Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Retu Kumar To Ritv. Vide Affidavit No-Rd 0021649908, Dated-03/04/24.

I, Sukhbir Singh S/o Net Ram, R/o Suraja Khara Urf Sheogarh, Jind, Haryana-126116, Declare that name of Mine and My Wife has been wrongly written as Sukhbir and Urmila in my minor Son Krish, aged about 16 Years, In his 10th Class Certificate and School Records. The actual name of Mine and My Wife is Sukhbir Singh and Urmila Devi, which may be amended accordingly.

We, Manjeet Singh S/o Gurcharan Singh And Paramjeet Kaur W/o Manjeet Singh Vill.Guldehra Tehsil Pehowa Distt.Kurukshetra Our son Davinder Arora and his wife Suman Rani are out of our control. We, disown them from all my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Davinder Arora s/o Manjeet Singh Vill.Guldehra Tehsil Pehowa Distt.Kurukshetra my wife Suman Rani is out of our control. I, disown them from all my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Surjeet Kaur w/o Late Balbir Singh Vill.Toriya Plot Adhoya Tehsil Pehowa Distt.Kurukshetra My Son Nand Lal is out of my control. I, disown them from all my moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at Their Own risk.

We, Kulwinder Singh S/O Kirpal Singh And Narinder Kaur W/O Kulwinder Singh Both R/ O H.No. 532, J.P. Nagar, Jalandhar, 144001, Declare That Our Son Arsheep Singh, His Wife Manpreet Kaur And Their Children Named Ishpreet Kaur (Daughter) And Rehmat Kaur (Daughter) Are Out Of Our Control/At Present. That We Have Disowned And Disinherited Them, From My Movable And Immoveable Property With Immediate Effect. Whosoever Shall Deal With Them Of Any Kind He/She Shall Be Held Responsible For It. All Concerned Please Note.

I, hitherto Known as Kuljit Singh Sran S/o Uday Singh R/o Village Kabbar Wachha, Tehsil & District Ferozepur, Punjab-142060 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kuljeet Singh Sran. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Babita Singh Legally Wedded Wife Of Army No 14835297H, Rank Hav/Mt. Name Sandip Singh Resident Of Vill – Salahpur, Po – Andar, Ps – Andar, Tehsil & District-Siwan, State – Bihar, Pin - 841231, I Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 24/06/1984 To 05/02/1984, Vide Affidvit Dated 03 Apr 2024 Sworn Before Notary Public Sat Pal, Pathankot. Please Correct It.

I, Sunanda Pal Mandal Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 15437604w Rank Hav Amit Mandal Unit Address Sho (L) Panagarh Pin 901321 C/O 99apo Have Declare That In My Husband Army Records My Name Wrongly Mentioned Sunanda Mandal, But My Correct Name Is Sunanda Pal Mandal.

I, Sukhjith Singh Alias Sukhjith Singh Rangli Alias Surjit Singh Rangli S/O Niranjan Singh R/O House No 172, Ward No 11, Kurali, S.A.S Nagar Declare As Under That I Am Known By The Names Of Sukhjith Singh Alias Sukhjith Singh Rangli Alias Surjit Singh Rangli In My Government Documents. All The Names Mentioned Above Pertain To One And The Same Person And All The Three Names Are My Name Only.

ਮੈਂ ਏਸ਼ ਰਾਜ਼ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਲਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਮੁਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਐਚ ਈ-119, ਐਨ ਐਵੀਨਿਊ ਕਰੀਮੀ ਗੇਟ ਐਮਿਤਸਰ ਪੰਜਾਬ 143001 ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸੰਜੀਵ ਕੁਮਾਰ (ਸ਼ਾਹੀਦ) ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੇ ਬਚਾਰ ਹੋ, ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਰੀ ਚੌਲ੍ਹ-ਛੱਲ੍ਹ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੇ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pinky Devi w/o Sh. Naresh Kumar, R/o Village Gugaheri, District Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my name to Pinki.

I, Ruby Mattu w/o Anthony, Jail Road, Backside Yash Hospital, Begampura Enclave, Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Ruby Mattu to Ruby. Concerned note.

I, Baby Kumari W/o Rajinder Singh R/o H.No. 2394, Sector 64, Phase 10, SAS Nagar, Punjab, have changed my name to Bebi Kumari.

I Aabhay Jain s/p Santosh Kumar Jain R/o # 510, Main Bazar, Kalka (Panchkula) have changed my name from Abhay Jain, Abhey Jain to Aabhay Jain.

I, Gurpreet Kaur Sandhu W/o Pargat Singh Sandhu R/o Vill. Nauneetpur PO Barian Kalan Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb.) have changed my name to Gurpreet. Concerned note.

I, Taseem Kosser W/O Army Number 9114821h L/Hav Mohd Bisharat Khan S/O Abdul Majeed Khan Presently Posted At 2 Jaki (Sherwani) Military Station Solan (H.P.) Permanent Resident Of Vill Dharati Post Dharglood Tehsil Mendhar Distt. Poonch (J&K) Declare That In My Husband Army Record My Name Is Wrongly Written As Tasim Kousar Where As My Correct Name Is Taseem Kosser.

I, Kirti D/o Kapitan Mohan R/o H. No. 15 E, Gali No. 10, Jawahar Nagar, Hisar-125001 have changed my name from Kirti (Old Name) to Kirti Chaudhary (New Name)

I Mahinder Kaur W/O Joginder Singh R/O Patti Ramu ki VPO dhilwan district Kapurthala Punjab declare that have changed my name from Mahinder Kaur to Mohinder Kaur. Please note.

I, Sneh w/o Tarsem Lal R/O 437 Sector-16 Panchkula, have changed my name to Sneh Jindal.

I Natasha D/o Sandeep R/o h.no 43-B sawan park new model town panipat declared change my name from Natasha to Natasha Malhotra and in future my name is Natasha Malhotra.

I, Vishruti Dutta w/o Shivam Chibber r/o #57, Prem Nagar, Opp. Govt. Girls School, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Vishruti Dutta to Vishruti Dutta Chibber. In future I should be known as Vishruti Dutta Chibber.

I, Ravi S/O Ram Mehar R/o H.No-87, Kharkhri Sohan (39), Bhiwani, Haryana-127040 have changed my name to Ravi Ram Mehar Panghal.

I, Priyanka W/O Ravi Ram Mehar Panghal R/o H.No-87, Kharkhri Sohan (39), Bhiwani, Haryana-127040 have changed my name to Priyanka Kaliraman.

I, Saroj W/O Ram Mehar Singh R/o H.No-87, Kharkhri Sohan (39), Bhiwani, Haryana-127040 have changed my name to Saroj Panghal.

I Subhash Chander Singla s/o Shri madan Lal r/o house number 43, sector 26, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Subhash Chander Singla to Subhash Chander.

I Saroj Rani Singla w/O Shri Subhash Chander r/o house number 43, sector 26 Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Saroj Rani Singla to Saroj Rani

I, Vipran Kumar S/O Roshan Lal R/O # 76, Amolak Enclave, Bishangarh, Mc Zirakpur Declared That Vipran Tandon And Vipran Kumar Is One And Same Person.

I, Veena Rani W/O Vipran Kumar R/O # 76, Amolak Enclave, Bishangarh, Mc Zirakpur Declared That Veena Tandon And Veena Rani Is One And Same Person.

I, Pardeep Kumar S/o Sh. Harkishan Lal R/O Village Ward No.14, Rania Tehsil Rania, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana) have declare that Kumar is my surname and Pardeep is my given name.

I, Bhupesh S/o Sh. Gian Chand R/o H.No. 152 A, Near Shiv Mandir, Multani Colony, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Bhupesh to Bhupesh Mehta , in future my name is to be called as Bhupesh Mehta.

I, Jiten S/o S R Kapil, BSF Campus 3BRD, Industrial Area, Phase 2 Near Airforce Station Chandigarh 160003 have changed my name from Jiten to Jiten Kumar.

I, Hemant Kumar S/O Balbir Singh R/O Hno. 80b, Laxmi Nagar, Ambala City I Have Changed My Name Hemant Kumar To Hemant Kumar Surname Sharma.

I, Ankush Kumar, son of Shri Narinder Pal, resident of village Barnala, Ho.No. 43A, Raja Gargah, Ambala City, inform that my two names are Ankush and Ankush Kumar and I am the same person with both the names.

I, B.G. Giri Maharaj (Aadhar No. 247579801455) disciple Shri Bhagti Shri Bhagwat Maharaj R/O H.No. 931/24 Vyas Gaudiya Math Brahmasarovar Kurukshetra Haryana 136118 had changed my name from Prabir Baran Mandal to Prappana Krishna Das. Now again, I have changed my name to B.G. Giri Maharaj. This is in accordance with the initiation of Gaudiya Mission.

I Shahid Akhtar S/o Sh.Fazal Hak R/O House No 1125 Friends colony near Masjid Kalka District Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Sahid Akhtar to Shahid Akhtar.

I, Balraj Singh S/O Pal Singh R/O H.N 463 Fatta Patti Village Harigarh Kingan Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Balraj to Balraj Singh.

I, Kamlesh Devi W/O Balraj Singh R/O H.N 463 Fatta Patti Village Harigarh Kingan Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Kamlesh to Kamlesh Devi.

I Sajjan Kumar S/o nafe Singh R/o village Baroda mor, tehsil gohana, dist Sonipat have changed my name from sajjan kumar to Sajjan Singh for all future purposes.

I, Krishan Lal Nandwani S/O Thakar Dass R/O C6/9, Eldeco Estate, Sector-4, Nizampur, Panipat Haryana- 132103 have changed my name from Krishan Lal to Krishan Lal Nandwani.

I, Sarbjit Singh S/o Gurdarshan Singh R/O H.No. 196, Heaven City, Manawala Khurd, PO Manawala, Amritsar, Punjab 143501 have changed my name from Sarbjit Singh to Sarabjit Singh.

I, Saurabh Sharma S/o Manoj Kumar R/o Ujhana, Tehsil-Narwana, Distt-Jind have changed my name from Saurabh to Saurabh Sharma.

I, Vishal Sharma (03.02.1997) S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o Ghaso Kalan, Tehsil- Uchana, Distt-Jind have changed my name from Vishal to Vishal Sharma.

I, Manpreet Badhan S/o Jai Karan R/O H.No. 489, Ward No. 11 Salwara Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that my name is Manpreet Badhan. Badhan is my Surname. Concerned note.

I, Smt. Harjit Kaur Mann W/o No 277672F Ex JWO Malkit Singh Mann R/o VPO Tuto Mazara Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Harjit Kaur Mann to Harjit Kaur.

I, Anil Bindal S/o Sh. Rajinder Kumar Bindal R/o Dosarka Tehsil Barara Distt Ambala have changed my name from Anil Kumar Bindal to Anil Bindal.

I, Davinder Kumar son of Late Laxmi Narain resident of House No.307/28, Subhash Nagar, Rohtak-124001 declare that I have changed my name Devender Kumar to Davinder Kumar.

I, Vijay Kumar Taneja S/o Sh. Sadanan Taneja R/o H.No. 113, Hari Bagh Colony, Panipat have changed my name from Vijay to Vijay Kumar Taneja for all future purposes.

I, Ajit Kumar S/o Bhim Singh R/o Mahoti (89), PO: Mahoti, Dist- Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Ajit Kumar to Ajit Singh. In future I should be known as Ajit Singh.

I Jaswinder Kumar S/O Soni Ram R/O Village Nahal, PO Basti Gujan, Jalandhar Punjab 144002 declare that I am the holder of Passport no.L1053731. In my passport my father name written as Sony Ram instead of correct name Soni Ram. Concerned note.

I Rahul Kumar S/o Ram Dulare R/o H.no.103 Gurdial Enclave VPO Sansarpur, Post office Sansarpur District Jalandhar Punjab 144024 declare that I am the holder of passport no.U8401382. In my Passport my father name written Ram Dulara instead of correct name Ram Dulare, concerned note.

I, Suman Devi W/o Rampal Singh R/O V.P.O. Nangal Bihalan, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Sumna Devi to Suman Devi.

I, Jagdev Singh S/o Sh. Raghubir Singh Bhatti R/O Village - Khoo Amritsar, PO Sant Nagar, Tehsil Rania, District Sirsa have changed my name to Jagdev Singh Bhatti.

I, Kuldeep Singh Rinwa S/o Sh. Indar Sain R/o H.No.- 180, Sector -20, Part -1, HUDA, Sirsa have changed my name to Kuldeep Singh Rinwa. Concerned note.

I, Abay s/o Kewal Masih r/o Vill & PO Kaler Kalan (Gurdaspur) have changed my name to Abay Masih. Concerned note.

I, Rekha Devi W/O Satnam Singh R/O Vill.Bhagwanpur P.O.Narot Jaimal Singh Teh.&Distt.Pathankot (PB) Declare that Have Changed My Name from Rekha Devi to Gurleen Kaur through Vide Document NO.IN-PB99558687713082W Dated.26.03.2024

I, Balkar Singh S/o Sh. Partap Singh R/o VPO Kirori, Tehsil & Distt. Hisar declare that I am known by four names i.e. Balkar Singh, Balkar Singh Poonia, Dr. B.S. Poonia and Balkar Poonia. All the above four names pertain to myself i.e. one and the same person.

I, Meena W/o Gaurav Aggarwal R/O House No. 1586, Sector-13, Hisar-125005 declare that I have changed my name from Meena to Meena Aggarwal for all future purposes.

I, Pardeep Kumar Khurana S/o Sh. Harbans Lal R/o #1206-C, UE-II, Hisar hereby declare that I have changed my name from Pardeep Khurana to Pardeep Kumar Khurana for future purpose.

I, Harshit Khurana S/o Sh. Pardeep Kumar Khurana R/o #1206-C, UE-II, Hisar hereby declare that I have changed my name from Harshit to Harshit Khurana for future purpose.

I, Neetu Rani W/o Mr. Pardeep Kumar Khurana R/o #1206-C, UE-II, Hisar hereby declare that I have changed my name from Neetu to Neetu Rani for future purpose.

I, Nirmala Devi W/o Sh. Jaswant Singh R/O House No. 1208, Village Arya Nagar, Pin Code 125001, Distt Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Nirmala Devi to Nirmala for future purpose.

I, Mandeep Kumar S/o Sh. Jaswant Singh R/O House No. 11, Near Jat Chopal, Village Khokha, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Mandeep Kumar to Mandeep Kumar Hooda for future purpose.

I Mohammad Danish Kassana S/O Gaphoor Deen R/O Village Kalyanpur Antari, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt. Yamuna nagar declare that my DOB 4/8/2005 in matric certificate. This is wrong. My DOB 15/07/2005 in my Birth Certificate is Correct. For all future purpose.

I, Hitherto Known As Sudhir Kumar Son Of Om Parkash Residing At H.No.224, Majitha Road, Gopal Nagar, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sudhir Mahajan.

I, Hitherto Known As Ramandeep Singh Lobana Son Of Balwinder Singh Residing At H.No.129, Baba Budha Ji Avenue, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ramandeep Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Kaptaan Singh Son Of Gurjit Singh Residing At Village Athwal, Po. Ladha Munda, District Gurdaspur-143514 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Captain Singh.

I, Rosy W/O Jagjit Singh R/O H.No.537/4, Gali Bhakhnia Chowk Lachhmansar Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Rosy To Rosy Tuckkar

I, Jagjeet Singh S/O Pritam Singh R/O H.No.537/4, Gali Bhakhnia Chowk Lachhmansar Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Jagjeet Singh To Jagjit Singh

I, Prabsirat Kaur D/O Harkirat Singh R/O Vpo Mahal Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Prabsirat Kaur To Prabhsirat Kaur

I Gurbhje Singh S/O Hardeep Singh R/O Vill New Abadi Po Bundala Teh And Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name Gurbhje Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

I Karanjot Kaur Wife Of Yodhbir Singh Mahi R/O Vill. Frandipur P.O. Bhikhiwind Distt. Tarn Taran Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Karanjot Kaur Malhi.

I Hitherto Known As Sukhbir Kaur Thind Wife Of Khushwant Singh Thind Residing At Vpo Meharbanpura, Amritsar-143115 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sukhbir Kaur.

I Hitherto Known As Khushwant Singh Thind Son Of Puran Singh Residing At Vpo Meharbanpura, Amritsar-143115 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Khushwant Singh.

I, Deepak Kumar And Deepak Sharma S/O Chander Shekhar Sharma R/O 37, Krishna Square-I, Shivala Road, District Amritsar Have Certified That Above Both Name's Are Mine One And Same Person

I, Subh Kiran D/O Bua Datt W/O Bharat Bhushan R/O H.No.518, Lane No.1, Green Field Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Subh Kiran To Shub Kiran

I, Sarabjit Singh S/O Ravinder Singh, R/O Village Bhoma, Po. Wadala Viram, Tehsil Majitha, District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sarabjit Singh To Sarbjit Singh

I, Himani Sharma W/o Ajay Kumar R/O Gali No. 4, Near Jali Wali Factory, Patel Nagar, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Heemani Kaushik for all future purposes.

I, Sawaroop Singh S/o Sh. Raml Dass R/O New Jiwan Nagar, Ward No. 19, Near Ram Mandir, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Sarup Singh for all future purposes.

I, Jagat Pal F/o No. JC-291614X Naib Subedar (Gunner) Satish R/o Village-Bass, District-Hisar (Haryana) My date of birth is recorded as 1 July 1961 in the service record of my son which is wrong. Whereas in my Aadhar card and PAN card, my date of birth is recorded as 20 November 1960, which is correct. Which should be corrected in my son's service record.

I, Mohinder Singh S/o Balbir Singh R/o Ward No. 12, Pundri, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Mohinder Singh to Mahender Singh. In future, I will be known by the name of Mahender Singh. All concerned please note.

I, Rajender Prasad Dhaka S/o Sh. Ramji Lal Dhaka R/O H.No. 63, Gali No. 4, Ganesh Vihar Colony, Near KV 2 School, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Rajender Prasad Dhaka to Rajender Prasad , in future my name is to be called as Rajender Prasad.

I, Sumtra Dev Is Mother Of No. 15621541y Rank Nk Name Dharamender Singh R/O Vpo - Pranpura, Tehsil - Bawal, District - Rewari, State - Haryana - 123501, Have Changed My Name From Sumtra Dev To Sumitra In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Jugal Kishore Is Father Of No. 15613104k Rank Hav Name Chhote Lal R/O Village - Doodhwa Nangliya, Po - Doodhwa, Tehsil - Khetri, District - Jhunjhunun, State - Rajasthan - 333036, Have Changed My Name From Jugal Kishore To Juglal Kishor In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidvit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Ranganath Is Father Of Jc-424286m Rank Nb Sub Name Kale Bharat Ranganath R/O Vpo - Aradgaon, District - Ahmednagar, State - Mh - 413705, Have Changed My Name From Ranganath To Rangnath Bhaurav Kale And Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1960 To 01/06/1954 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Puja Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Jc-424286m Rank Nb Sub Name Kale Bharat Ranganath R/O Vpo - Aradgaon, District - Ahmednagar, State - Mh - 413705, Have Changed My Name From Puja To Puja Kale And Changed My Date Of Birth From 25/12/1987 To 25/12/1986 In My Spouse Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Pusapa Is Mother Of Jc-424286m Rank Nb Sub Name Kale Bharat Ranganath R/O Vpo - Aradgaon, District - Ahmednagar, State - Mh - 413705, Have Changed My Name From Pusapa To Pushpabai Rangnath Kale And Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1965 To 01/03/1963 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, No. 14679698n Rank Nk Name Prashant Kumar Rai R/O Bramharshi Colony, Sumeshwar Sathan, District - Buxar, State - Bihar - 802102, In My Army Service Record My Daughter's Name Wrongly Mentioned As Anshika Kumari While Her Correct Name Is Anshika Rai As Per Her All Government Documents. Now, I Am Going To Make It Correct As Anshika Rai In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Jc-780081h Rank Nb Sub Name Beer Pal R/O Village - Phulwari, Po - Asoata, District - Palwal, State - Haryana - 121102, In My Army Service Record My Daughter's Name Wrongly Mentioned As Pirynka While Her Correct Name Is Priyanka As Per Her All Government Documents. Now, I Am Going To Make It Correct As Priyanka In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Kshyeerandri Is Mother Of No. 14939286h Rank Nk Name Ganesh Ram Meher R/O Village - Sinapali, Po - Sinapali, Tehsil - Sinapali, District - Nuapada, State - Odisha - 766108, Have Changed My Name From Kshyeerandri To Kshyeerandri Meher And Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1946 To 27/03/1950 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Jc-424286m Rank Nb Sub Name Kale Bharat Ranganath R/O Vpo - Aradgaon, District - Ahmednagar, State - Mh - 413705, In My Army Service Record My Son's Name Wrongly Mentioned As Soham While His Correct Name Is Soham Kale As Per His All Government Documents. Now, I Am Going To Make It Correct As Soham Kale In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Harish Chandra Meher Is Father Of No. 14939286h Rank Nk Name - Ganesh Ram Meher R/O Village - Sinapali, Po - Sinapali, Tehsil - Sinapali, District - Nuapada, State - Odisha - 766108, Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1941 To 15/07/1932 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, No. 3200903k Rank Hav Name Omprakash Jat R/O Village - Mandija Basai, Tehsil - Bansur, District - Alwar, State - Rajasthan - 301402, In My Army Service Record My Father's (Banshidhar) Date Of Birth Wrongly Mentioned As 20/07/1952 While His Correct Date Of Birth Is 01-01-1940 As Per His Aadhar Card. Now, I Am Going To Make It Correct As 01-01-1940 In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Kitab Devi Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 3200903k Rank Hav Name Omprakash Jat R/O Village - Bansur, District - Alwar, State - Rajasthan - 301402, Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/02/1987 To 01/01/1987 In My Spouse Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, No. 3200903k Rank Hav Name Omprakash Jat R/O Village - Mandija Basai, Tehsil - Bansur, District - Alwar, State - Rajasthan - 301402, In My Army Service Record My Father's Name Wrongly Mentioned As Bansheedhar Jat While His Correct Name Is Banshidhar As Per His Aadhar Card. Now, I Am Going To Make It Correct As Banshidhar In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 03

Highlight AAP Govt’s Achievements: Punjab CM to party leaders

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Already taking charge of leading the party's election campaign, Punjab Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) state unit president Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday spearheaded a strategic meeting for the Sangrur Lok Sabha constituency — which he had represented twice. During the meeting, Mann asked the party leaders and workers to seek votes based on the AAP Government's performance during its two-year tenure in the State. He particularly stressed on the fulfillment of four out of the five main guarantees made by AAP before the 2022 state assembly polls, including zero bills, better health and education facilities.

Notably, Mann is holding a series of meetings with the party nominees, leaders, MLAs, and office bearers of each Lok Sabha segment. A day before, he held meetings for the Faridkot and Patiala constituencies.

Attending the meeting for Sangrur constituency were key party leaders and workers, including party candidate and Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Cabinet Minister Aman

Arora, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, and MLAs representing assembly segments under the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat.

Cheema, speaking to the media after the meeting, revealed that it was decided to take the achievements of the party's government directly to the people. He highlighted that AAP has successfully fulfilled four out of the five guarantees made to the public. Moreover, he expressed confidence in the party's prospects, asserting that they are poised to win all 13 seats in the upcoming elections.

Regarding the BJP's focus on Punjab, Cheema said that the people in Punjab are also focusing on the saffron party's actions, particularly criticizing the Central Government for withholding funds due to the State. He reiterated AAP's commitment to combat corruption and emphasized the positive agenda that the party aims to present to the electorate.

Echoing Cheema's sentiments, Meet Hayer said that there is a positive atmosphere favouring the AAP in the constituency. Hayer emphasized

that the unprecedented work done by the Mann Government has garnered widespread appreciation from the people. He highlighted the increase in state revenue during AAP's tenure while affirming that their campaign will be centered on the positive achievements of the government.

Addressing concerns about recent incidents of deaths due to consumption of spurious liquor in Sangrur, Hayer assured that necessary actions are being taken against the culprits.

Regarding the arrest of AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, he maintained that Delhi Chief Minister was "trapped", while expressing confidence that the people would respond fittingly to the BJP.

Sangrur Lok Sabha seat, considered an AAP stronghold, will be closely contested in the upcoming elections scheduled for June 1. With Mann leading the charge and the party's strong track record in the region, AAP aims to maintain its dominance and secure victory once again.

The constituency is currently represented by Khalistan

Punjab CMO writes to Tihar; Seeks Time to Meet Kejriwal

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has sought time from the Tihar Jail to meet his Delhi counterpart and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, who has been sent to police custody till April 15 in Delhi excise policy scam matter. Punjab Chief Minister's office (CMO) has written to Delhi's Tihar Jail authorities regarding Mann's visit.

ideologue and SAD (Amritsar) president Simranjit Singh Mann, who won the bypolls in 2022 necessitated after Bhagwant Mann gave up Sangrur seat after his election to Vidhan Sabha from Dhuri, which also falls under Sangrur segment. Mann had won Sangrur seat twice — in 2014 and 2019. Winning back the seat will be a battle of prestige for Mann and also the three Cabinet Ministers — Hayer, Cheema, and Aman Arora — who also represent assembly segments under Sangrur Lok Sabha constituency.

SAD nears finalization of candidates for all 13 seats; Announcement likely this week

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Prepared to embark on its solo electoral journey in Punjab for the first time since 1996, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has reached the final stages of selecting candidates for all 13 Lok Sabha seats in the State. After thorough consultations and deliberations involving party seniors and grassroots workers, the candidates' names have been meticulously vetted and are now poised for formal announcement by the party leadership, anticipated to occur by the end of this week.

To strategically position itself for the upcoming elections, the Akali Dal has carefully assessed each constituency to nominate candidates with strong potential for victory. The party's leadership, led by its president Sukhbir Singh Badal, has ensured thorough scrutiny and consideration of various factors before finalizing the list of candidates.

It would be for the first time when the Akali Dal will be contesting on all 13 seats. Earlier, SAD used to field its candidates for 10 seats, while its ally, BJP, contested on three seats — Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, and Gurdaspur. Against the earlier practice of being the first one to announce the candidates, SAD

lagged behind this time as it was hoping to stitch an alliance with the BJP for 2024 polls. However, the talks between the old allies failed and both are contesting the elections independently making it a four-cornered contest this time.

Among the key constituencies, Sukhbir's wife and former Union Minister Harismrat Kaur Badal's name has been finalized for Bathinda Lok Sabha seat, given her consistent electoral success and strong presence in the region. Similarly, former Finance Minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa, son of Akali patron and Sangrur's former MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, has been finalized for Sangrur constituency, leveraging his family's political legacy and his own rapport with the electorate. For the Patiala seat, senior Akali leader and former minister Surjit Singh Rakhra is being considered, though discussions also revolve around the potential candidacy of Dera Bassi's former MLA NK Sharma. Additionally, there are speculations regarding the nomination of a young party leader and spokesperson Arshdeep Singh Kalra indicating the party's commitment to nurturing the fresh talent and eyeing the young voters.

In Ferozepur constituency, the party is considering nominating Nardev Singh Bobby Mann, the son of late MP Jora Singh Mann, carrying forward his family's political legacy. Currently, the constituency is represented by Sukhbir Badal, who has already declared against contesting the parliamentary polls this time.

In a notable departure from tradition, the party is considering fielding Hindu candidate in the key constituency of Amritsar. The name of former BJP minister Anil Joshi has been put forward for the Amritsar seat, signaling a strategic move to tap into the Hindu electorate while leveraging his political experience and appeal. Earlier, BJP leaders Hardeep Puri and Arun Jaitely had unsuccessfully contested from Amritsar in 2019 and 2014 as the seat fell in the share of saffron party as per seat sharing arrangement with SAD.

For the Anandpur Sahib seat, the party is deliberating between the names of former

MP Prem Singh Chandumajra and former Minister Daljit Singh Cheema — both seasoned leaders with significant political acumen and grassroots connect. Here Chandumajra may outsmart Cheema considering his seniority and experience.

The name of Sukhbir's brother-in-law Bikram Singh Majithia is also being considered for the panthic seat of Khadoor Sahib along with senior party leader Virsa Singh Valtho, who is known as Sukhbir's loyal soldier and has always been vocal on panthic issues.

Even though Majithia, who has been made constituency's in-charge, emerged as the frontrunner for the party ticket from Khadoor Sahib, fielding him may put the Akali Dal in dock for promoting dynasty politics as his sister Harsimrat is set to contest from Bathinda for the fourth time in row.

Securing victory in the Khadoor Sahib constituency holds significant importance for the SAD, as the party emphasizes its commitment to the panthic agenda. It is vigorously pursuing the Sikh electorate, which has shown reluctance since the unfortunate incidents surrounding the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in 2015. In the 2019 elections, the seat was claimed by Congress candidate Jasbir Singh Dimpa, prompting the SAD to make concerted efforts to regain control of the constituency, prioritizing its retrieval regardless of the challenges.

In Fatehgarh Sahib, the name of Vikramjit Singh Khalsa, SAD's halqa in-charge, is almost confirmed. However, the party has also not ruled out the name of bureaucrat-turned-politician Darbara Singh Guru, who has unsuccessfully contested 2019 polls from this constituency.

For the Faridkot seat, former MP Gulshan Kaur and Harpreet Singh Kothhai could be potential contenders. In Ludhiana, the party is considering to give another opportunity to senior leader Maheshinder Singh Grewal. Additionally, there is speculation that a youth face may also be given a ticket from this Lok Sabha constituency.

In Gurdaspur, the party might field a businessman as a candidate. There are also dis-

cussions about inducting BJP's disgruntled leader Kavita Khanna, the widow of former MP and Bollywood superstar Vinod Khanna, in Akali Dal and nominating her from the seat.

In the Doaba region, the party is struggling to zero in on a candidate for Hoshiarpur, from where BJP used to field its candidate. The party may choose between former Minister Sohan Singh Thandal and a former health official Lakhbir Singh. However, from Jalandhar, SAD may again lay its bet on former MLA Pawan Kumar Tinu.

The forthcoming Lok Sabha elections will serve as a litmus test for the SAD's electoral prospects, particularly amidst shifting political dynamics and evolving voter preferences. With the candidate selection process nearing completion, all eyes are now on the party's campaign strategy and its ability to resonate with the electorate across Punjab's diverse constituencies.

SAD's decision to field Hindu candidates in select constituencies reflects its pragmatic approach to expand its support base and appeal to a broader spectrum of voters.

Sukhbir Constitutes Manifesto Committee

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, gearing up for the upcoming elections, formed a robust 15-member manifesto committee, to led by senior leader Balwinder Singh Bhunder. In addition to Bhunder serving as the chairman, Daljit Singh Cheema will take on the role of member secretary. The committee includes prominent figures such as Maheshinder Singh Grewal, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Jagir Kaur, Bikram Singh Majithia, Sikander Singh Maluka, Gulzar Inder Singh Ranike, Anil Joshi, Hira Singh Gabriela, Pawan Kumar Teenu, Harcharan Singh Bains, Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Sukhwinder Kumar Sukhi, and Iqbal Singh Jhundan.

The committee also includes Youth Akali Dal president Sarbjot Singh Jhinjher, Istari Akali Dal chief Hargobind Kaur, Legal Cell head Arshdeep Singh Kler, Malerktha halqa in-charge Zahida Suleman, Christian leaders Bunty Masih and Aman Supariwind as special invitees.

BJP has delivered on what it promised, asserts Haryana CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Campaigning for the BJP, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday attacked the Congress, saying when it was in power its leaders used to give mere slogans and make hollow promises whereas the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in the state have delivered on its promises.

Addressing a rally in Chhachhrauli in Yamunanagar in favour of the BJP's Ambala parliamentary seat candidate Banto Kataria, the chief minister said, "The works done by our double-engine government during the past 10 years have taken the country and state ahead." Targeting the Congress, he said earlier when it was in power, its leaders used to give mere slogans and make hollow promises to befool the public in the run-up to elections.

"What the (BJP's) double-engine government promises, it delivers. We have taken steps to make the lives of people better. We have improved road connectivity," he said. The BJP's policy is right, intentions are right and leadership is also right, he

said.

Taking on the opposition INDIA bloc, he said, "if you look at the 'ghamandiya gathbandhan', neither its policy is right nor its intent and till today no one knows what kind of leadership it has." He said India's prestige is up globally under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Appealing to people to re-elect the BJP, he said, "In 2014 and 2019 you brought the BJP-led government to power and now we have a new India, a secure and strong India under Modi's leadership." Prime Minister Modi says India has to be made a developed nation by 2047 and in this all people of the country have to contribute, Saini said.

He appealed to people to make Banto Kataria, the BJP candidate and wife of the late Union minister Rattan Lal Kataria, victorious from the Ambala Lok Sabha seat.

When Kataria was MP from Ambala, he used to raise people's voice and issues connected with the public in Parliament and he was always concerned about the region's development, the chief minister said.

Act tough on illegal flow of liquor, cash, drug smuggling: ECI tells Punjab DCs, CPs, SSPs

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A visiting delegation of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday asked all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Commissioners of Police (CPs), and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of Punjab to enhance their campaigns to prevent the smuggling of drugs, liquor, and cash into the state given the June 1 Lok Sabha elections.

ECI team, led by Deputy Election Commissioner Hirdesh Kumar, asked the officials to make all required arrangements at polling stations to ensure ease of voting to increase voter turnout in the upcoming election.

The team also told the officials to ensure adequate arrangements for central forces deputed in the State on security duty during polling.

Detailed information was sought from all the districts regarding liquor and drug seizures after the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct. Information was

also obtained about the steps taken by various districts to increase voter turnout, web-casting arrangements and make all preparations at polling stations.

Likewise, the ECI team also shared crucial suggestions and information related to the election process with all the DCs, CPs and SSPs.

Punjab CEO Sibin C assured the Commission that the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab would be conducted without any pressure and in a fair and free manner. At the same time, he assured the ECI team that all officials have been categorically directed to strictly enforce the Model Code of Conduct and various measures have been taken to curb illegal smuggling of drugs as well as liquor in Punjab.

He also said that special attention is being given this time to increase the number of model polling stations by emulating the state's cultural themes to attract maximum voters and making entire experience of voting pleasant and enriching experience. The ECI

team appreciated this initiative of the State.

The CEO added that directions have been issued to further enhance facilities at each polling station, including drinking water, adequate furniture, proper lighting, proper signage, help desks, and toilets.

Meanwhile, the ECI and CEO appreciated Malerkotla Deputy Commissioner for taking a unique initiative and designing a special application called 'Booth Raabta' to provide information related to elections, including the nearest police station, hospital, ambulance service, knowing your BLO, contacting school principal/building in-charge, and providing PwD voter assistance.

The ECI team also launched three books including Turnout Implementation Plan (TIP) for increasing voter turnout, meeting the target of more than 70 per cent voter turnout; Booklet on Poll preparedness along with State and District profile and Booklet on legal provisions in Elections.

Himachal Chief secretary assures CEC of conducting free-and-fair polls in state

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena assured Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Wednesday that the hill state will witness peaceful, fair and inducement-free Lok Sabha election and Assembly bypolls. The assurance was given in an interaction with Kumar through a video conference.

The Election Commission (EC) held a meeting with the chief secretaries and directors general of police of all states

and Union territories as well as the heads of central agencies to ensure peaceful and inducement-free Lok Sabha polls.

Kumar stressed for a level-playing field in the upcoming polls. While briefing the CEC, Saxena said adequate security measures have been put in place to seal the entry points to the state and the porous inter-state border in order to prevent bogus voting and the entry of illegal liquor and drugs. He also said a strict vigil is being maintained to prevent distri-

bution of freebies and the movement of cash and narcotics.

He said the overall law-and-order situation in the hill state is peaceful and a first round of meetings with the neighbouring states have taken place at the deputy commissioner level. Social media platforms are being monitored to identify fake news or hate speeches, Saxena said.

Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu briefed the CEC about the law-and-order preparedness and fool-

proof security arrangements being made to ensure smooth and violence-free elections. He said patrolling and checking in the inter-state border areas have been undertaken for area dominance. The field functionaries have been directed to keep a watch over suspicious activities of criminal elements and nab the proclaimed offenders.

The DGP said correspondence with other states has been made, with a request to arrest the proclaimed offenders. Awareness is being generated among people to share

information related to suspicious or illegal activities in and around them.

Twenty-five meetings at the superintendent of police level, 17 meetings at the level of DSPs and one meeting at the IG (inspector general) level have been held with the neighbouring states to curb the illicit flow of narcotics, liquor and money.

Chief Electoral Officer Maneesh Garg said all arrangements have been made to ensure free, fair and inducement-free elections in Himachal Pradesh.

Punjab and Haryana HC dismisses petition challenging EC notification for Karnal bypoll

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition that had sought directions to set aside the Election Commission's March 16 notification announcing the bypoll for the Karnal assembly seat.

On Tuesday, a division bench comprising Justices Sudhir Singh and Harsh Bunger had reserved its verdict on a plea seeking directions to set aside the notification.

The BJP has fielded Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who is also an MP from Kurukshetra in the outgoing Lok Sabha, for the bypoll for the Karnal assembly seat, vacated by his predecessor Manohar Lal Khattar. The bypoll is scheduled to be held on May 25 along with the

polling for the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana.

According to the submission of the petitioner, the EC failed to consider section 151 (A) of the Representation of People's Act, which includes a proviso (a) that if the remainder of the member's term in relation to the vacancy is less than one year, the bypoll need not be held.

The section stipulates that a by-election for filling vacancies must be held within six months from the date of vacancy, except when the remaining term of the member is less than one year. The new member will effectively have only about two months in office after the bypoll, the petitioner, a Karnal resident, submitted. "The petition has been dismissed. The

copy of the order is awaited," Advocate Simarpal Singh, the counsel for the petitioner, said.

The BJP had last month replaced Khattar, 69, with OBC leader Saini, 54, as Haryana's chief minister in a swift switch in the state. Khattar is contesting the Lok Sabha polls and is BJP's candidate from Karnal parliamentary seat. Resigning as MLA on March 13, Khattar had said, "from today, our chief minister (Saini) will look after the Karnal assembly constituency." Saini, who was sworn in as the chief minister on March 12, needs to get elected as an MLA within six months.

According to the petition filed by Kunal Chanana, 29, the Haryana assembly was formed on November 4, 2019, and its

term is lapsing on November 3, 2024. Haryana Assembly polls are due in October 2024.

Since the incoming elected member would scarcely have a period of approximately two months, there is no justification for a significant financial outlay for a truncated tenure, the petitioner argued. The high court was also informed that Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench had last month set aside an Election Commission notification announcing the bypoll for Maharashtra's Akola West assembly constituency on April 26.

In that case too, the petitioner, an Akola resident, argued that the remaining tenure of the new MLA will be less than one year. (Agencies)

Poll Buzz

Pathak Alleges Fabricated Cases, Pressure Tactics ahead of polls

Jalandhar: Political dynamics in Jalandhar have intensified ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Dozens of AAP leaders have switched allegiance to the BJP, led by Jalandhar MP Sushil Kumar Rinku and MLA Sheetal Angural, causing a stir within the state's ruling party. In the wake of the same, AAP's poll strategist and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sandeep Pathak on Wednesday held a crucial meeting at Jalandhar's Jamsheer Khas on Wednesday with the party workers regarding Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency. Claiming that BJP was afraid of AAP and its leadership, Pathak alleged: "Arvind Kejriwal has been trapped by the BJP through fabricated cases. Initially, there was extensive lobbying for the case, following which a false liquor scam case was framed against Kejriwal. Due to this fabricated case, all senior leaders of AAP have suffered losses." He claimed that Satendra Jain and Manish Sisodia were also arrested because of the same reason. Declaring that AAP leaders were not afraid even from jail, Pathak said: "The people of the country love Kejriwal. We will win all 13 seats in Punjab and place them in Kejriwal's lap. Today, Punjab's MLAs are being pressured to join BJP with offers of Rs 50-50 crores."

Sukhbir Appeals to Strengthen Regional Party to Save Punjab

Patiala: SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday made a fervent appeal to the people of Punjab to stand by Shiromani Akali Dal to safeguard the state from external influences. Sukhbir, addressing gatherings in Sanaur and Ghanur constituencies during the last leg of his ongoing Punjab Bachao Yatra, emphasized that Delhi-based parties were not focused on winning hearts but rather on subjugating Punjab. Underscoring SAD's commitment to the principles of the Guru Sahiban and the ethos of 'sarbat da bhal' (welfare of all), he urged the Punjabis to strengthen the regional party to protect the state's interests. At the same time, he criticized the alliance between Congress and AAP at the national level, while they maintained a facade of opposition in Punjab. "I am sure that the Punjabis would see through this alliance and deliver a strong message to both parties," he said.

ence. During this, there will also be a detailed discussion on making the policemen physically and mentally strong. In this conference, the officers will present their views on the national security landscape and brainstorm on it. Besides, brainstorming will be held on the impact of international terrorist organizations on national security and their assessment, the spokesperson added.

505 FIRs lodged against offenders under Operation ‘Akarman’ in Hry, 982 held

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To crack down on criminals, criminal elements, and drug traffickers, Haryana Police launched Operation 'Akarman-8' on March 31 and during this operation, a total of 1403 teams comprising 6737 police personnel conducted simultaneous

April 4 at Surajkund in Faridabad, a spokesperson for the Police department, said on Wednesday.

The spokesperson further said that all ADGPs, IGs, DIGs, SPs and other senior police officers of Haryana will participate in this three-day conference. To motivate the police officers for fitness, different types of physical health activities and yoga activities will be organized daily in the confer-

raids across the state, resulting in the registration of 505 FIRs under IPC, NDPS, Excise, and Arms Acts and the arrest of 982 accused.

A spokesperson of the Police Department said that under the leadership of SPs and DSPs, 505 teams of 6737 police personnel initiated raids on offenders and criminals from

the early morning of March 31, which continued until late evening. Conducting raids simultaneously at different locations yielded excellent results in targeting criminals. During this period, 27 FIRs were registered under the Arms Act, and 27 pistols were seized. In this case, 10 people were arrested. Similarly, 17 kg 625 grams of cannabis, 95.72 grams of heroin, 102.68 grams of smack, and 2,216 kilograms of charas were seized across the state, leading to the arrest of 17 accused.

During this campaign, teams apprehended 1 notorious criminal, and 5 wanted criminals were captured. Additionally, police successfully apprehended 11 cyber-criminals, 78 proclaimed offenders, and 70 bail jumpers. These criminals were wanted in several cases and were evading arrest. Furthermore, during the special campaign, police successfully seized 761 bottles of English liquor, 4879 bottles of country liquor, 643 bottles of beer, 436 bottles of illicit liquor, and 1810 liters of lahan under the Excise Act, leading to crackdowns on liquor traffickers. From the possession of 28 accused arrested under the Gambling Act, the police also seized Rs 185,265 in cash. During this campaign, fines were imposed on 3952 vehicles for violating traffic rules, the spokesperson added.

Olympian boxer Vijender quits Congress, joins BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Vijender Singh, India's first Olympic medallist in boxing who took a plunge in politics in April 2019 by joining the Congress, switched to the BJP on Wednesday. Addressing a joint press conference with BJP leaders at the party headquarters here, he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said the respect for Indian sportspersons has increased in the country and abroad since the BJP came to power at the Centre "I am the same old Vijender. Whatever I would feel wrong, I would call it wrong. I will call it right if I feel it is right," said Singh who had been a vocal critic of the BJP and had come out in support of farmers' protests and wrestlers' stir, often expressing his views on social media. A number of leaders have switched their parties ahead of Lok Sabha elections though Singh's entry into the BJP is among those that may have surprised many. Vijender joined the BJP in the presence of party national general secretary Vinod Tawde and other senior leaders of the party at its headquarters here. "I am joining the BJP today under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda. In a way it is my 'ghar wapas' (homecoming)," he said, adding "There is a saying in English- 'Good to be back'. I am feeling very good". Singh contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election unsuccessfully from the South Delhi constituency on a Congress

ticket. His name was doing the rounds for the last few days as the party's nominee from Mathura, from where actor and incumbent MP Hema Malini has been fielded again by the BJP. He comes from the Jat community, which has political influence in a large number of seats in Haryana, his home state, western Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. "When we travelled abroad to fight (participate in matches) in the UK, Dubai, Ireland and other places, many times there used to be so many things at the airport. Since the BJP came at the helm under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it has become easier for us to go anywhere," Singh said. The 38-year-old trailblazing boxer had delivered India's first Olympic and men's world championship medals back in

2008 and 2009 and joined professional boxing in 2015. Vijender said he would work for the welfare of the people. Tawde said it was a matter of great joy that Vijender, who has brought glory to the country, has joined the BJP family. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government has taken many meaningful steps for the welfare of youth and sportspersons in the last 10 years due to which Vijender ji has joined us," he said, adding it would add strength to the resolve of making 'viksit Bharat (developed India). "The BJP will certainly utilise his (Singh's) strength in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and all other regions. I am confident that the BJP will succeed in achieving its target more firmly with his joining the party," he said.



Boxer and former Congress leader Vijender Singh being greeted by BJP leader Ramvir Singh Bidhuri as he joins the party ahead of LS polls at BJP HQ in New Delhi on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Home Ministry cancels registration of five NGOs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Home Ministry has cancelled the registration of five NGOs for alleged violation of various provisions of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The NGOs whose registrations have been cancelled are CNI Synodical Board of Social Service, Voluntary Health Association of India, Indo-Global Social Service Society, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, and Evangelical Fellowship of India, it was learnt. With the cancellation of their Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration, these NGOs will no longer be able to receive foreign contributions nor utilise the existing available funds. Sources said the home ministry cancelled the FCRA registration of the NGOs for allegedly utilising funds for works that were not in their mandate. The NGOs violated the laws by being involved in activities that are contrary to the provisions of the FCRA, they said. There were 16,301 NGOs with valid FCRA licences as on July 17, 2023. The Centre has cancelled the FCRA licences of more than 6,600 NGOs in the last five years for violation of the law. Overall, FCRA licences of 20,693 NGOs have been cancelled in the last decade. According to data disclosed in Parliament last year, Rs 55,741.51 crore was received in



foreign contributions by 13,520 FCRA-registered associations or NGOs between the 2019-2020 and the 2021-2022 financial years. The Centre has tightened the FCRA since 2020 by making several amendments and even cancelling licences of various NGOs, including Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF), Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT), and Centre for Policy Research (CPR), in the last few years accusing them of violating the law. The FCRA unit of the MHA carried out inspections or audits of at least 335 NGOs and associations registered or granted prior permission under FCRA between 2019 and 2022 to see if foreign funding rules were being followed by them. The FCRA Act, which was amended in September 2020, barred public servants from receiving foreign funding and made Aadhaar mandatory for every office-bearer of the NGOs. The amended law also bars organisations from using more than 20% of foreign funds for administrative purposes. The limit was hitherto 50%.

Bihar BJP leader Sushil Modi reveals he has cancer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/PATNA

Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednesday revealed that he was diagnosed with cancer six months ago, and would not take part in the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign. Modi, 72, was named by the BJP as one of its star campaigners for the state and a member of its election manifesto committee. "I have been battling cancer for the last six months. Now, I feel that the time has come to inform people about it. I will not be able to do anything for the Lok Sabha elections," he posted on X. "I have told everything to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I will always remain



grateful and dedicated to the country, Bihar and the party," he added. During his political career spanning over three decades, Modi was an MLA, an MLC, a member of Lok Sabha, and a Rajya Sabha MP. He was the deputy Chief Minister of the state from 2005 to 2013,

and from 2017 to 2020. He joined students' politics while studying at Patna University, and became the general secretary of its students' union in 1973. He became an MLA for the first time in 1990 from the Patna Central constituency and was made the chief whip of the BJP legislature party. From 1996 to 2004, he was the leader of the opposition in the state assembly. He became a member of Lok Sabha in 2004 from Bhagalpur. He gave up his Lok Sabha membership in 2005 and became a member of the legislative council, following which he was made the deputy chief minister with Nitish Kumar as the Chief Minister. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2020, and retired earlier this year.

India, Australia review bilateral maritime ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India and Australia on Wednesday here reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral maritime ties during talks between Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and his Australian counterpart Vice Admiral Mark Hammond. He is on a visit to India from April 2-6. Giving details of parleys between the two chiefs, Navy officials said discussions focused on avenues to strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation, including increased operational engagements, training exchanges, and information sharing. India and Australia share commonality of perspective on several contemporary maritime security issues in the Indo-Pacific and have been working together closely in several bilateral and multilateral fora such



Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar with Chief of the Royal Australian Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond during a meeting, in New Delhi
PTI

as Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) and ASEAN Defence Minister's

Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and QUAD. Coming on the heels of successful participation of Royal Australian Ship HMAS Warramunga during MILAN 24

and recently conducted maritime exercises, the visit by the Chief of Royal Australian Navy further consolidates the strong and long lasting bilateral relations between both navies. Meanwhile, the visiting chief laid a ceremonial wreath at the National War Memorial and was thereafter welcomed with the customary Guard of Honour presented by the Indian Navy at the South Block, New Delhi. He later called on Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane. Vice Admiral Mark Hammond will also be visiting the Southern Naval Command (at Kochi) and Western Naval Command (at Mumbai) wherein he would interact with the respective Commanders-in-Chief, visit INS Vikrant, Integrated Simulator Complex, Naval Dockyard (Mumbai) and M/S MDL.



Young girl from Bihar village aims to conquer Everest

PNS ■ PATNA/NEW DELHI

Born to a fisherman in Chapra district, Bihar, Sabita Mahato faced discouragement from her family, aimed at confining her to a conventional life, even as her dreams soared as high as the peaks she aspired to conquer Mount Everest. Breaking free from expectations, she evolved from being a volleyball enthusiast to a mountaineer with ambitions that reached the sky. Her journey from Manali to Ladakh's zenith, the world's highest motorable road, was not just a run but a leap towards her ultimate dream, backed by the late Dr. Bindeswar Pathak of Sulabh International. His generous support set Sabita on a path that a girl from such a humble background from Bihar is scaling Mount Everest. 28 years old Sabita is the first civilian girl from Bihar

to start journey to climb Mount Everest. Sulabh International, a beacon for women's economic empowerment and social transformation, sees in Sabita not just an athlete but a symbol of potential against marginalization and hence supported her initiative. Kumar Dilip, the president of Sulabh International said, "it was our founder's vision to send a daughter from Bihar to the highest peak in the world. Under founder's leadership and vision, Sulabh has been known transforming lives of women from manual scavenging to respected citizens, recognizes Sabita's spirit as embodying its mission." Sabita's story, from the banks of Bihar to the summit of dreams, is powered by Sulabh's commitment to uplift those who dare to dream beyond their circumstances, championing the cause of the unheard and the unseen.

12 newly elected RS members take oath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday administered oath to 12 newly elected members of the Upper House of Parliament. The oath was administered in Parliament House, where Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariwansh and Secretary General P K Mody were present. Those who were administered oath are Dharmshila Gupta, Manoj Kumar Jha, Sanjay Yadav, Govindbhai Laljibhai



Dholakia, Subhash Chander, Harsh Mahajan, G C Chandrashekhar, L Murugan, Ashok Singh, Chandrakant Handore, Medha Vishram Kulkarni and

Sadhna Singh. Their tenure starts from April 3. Of the 12 MPs who took oath, seven are from the Bharatiya Janata Party, three from the

Congress and two from the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said. Three of the 12 MPs are from Bihar, two each from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, and one each from Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. As many as 54 members of the Rajya Sabha retired on April 2 and 3. While 49 completed their tenure on Tuesday, five, including former prime minister Manmohan Singh, will end their stint in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Two days coastal security exercise held in Lakshadweep

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A two-day Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach 01/24' involving all maritime security agencies was conducted in Union Territory of Lakshadweep from April 01-02, navy said here on Wednesday. Giving details, officials said assets of Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police,

Fisheries, Customs and other security agencies were engaged in the exercise. Validation of effectiveness of coastal security mechanism while dealing with asymmetric threat emanating from the sea were undertaken. The exercise witnessed enhanced preparedness, response mechanism, surveillance capabilities and coordination between the coastal security stake holders.

Two variants of lumpy skin disease virus caused outbreak: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two distinct virulent variants of the Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV) were responsible for the catastrophic outbreak of lumpy skin disease that swept among the livestock in India, claiming approximately 1,00,000 cows across the country in 2022, scientists from the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have revealed in a study. The outbreak had severely affected India's agricultural sector, leading to staggering economic losses. "It was a calamity in some ways ... a national emergency," said Utpal Tatu, Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) who was part of the multi-institutional team that decided to probe the cause of

the outbreak. These variants, characterized by a high number of genetic variations, are associated with increased disease severity, said the study, underscoring the critical role of genomic analysis in understanding and combating emerging infectious diseases affecting livestock. The study is published in BMC Genomics. A viral infection caused by the Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV), the disease is transmitted by insects like flies and mosquitoes. It causes fever and skin nodules, and can be fatal for cattle. There have been two major outbreaks of this disease in India, the first in 2019 and a more severe outbreak in 2022, infecting more than two million cows. To investigate the current outbreak, the team collected



skin nodules, blood and nasal swabs from infected cattle in various states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka, in collaboration with veterinary institutes. They performed advanced whole-genome

sequencing of DNA extracted from 22 samples. "The biggest challenge was the lack of an established LSDV genome sequencing and analysis pipeline. We had to adapt techniques from COVID-19 research,"

explained Ankeet Kumar, from IISc and co-lead author. "Data was also limited, so we compiled all available global LSDV genome sequences to make our analysis robust." The genomic analysis revealed two distinct LSDV variants circulating in India, one with a low number of genetic variations and another with a high number of variations, similar to strains from a 2015 Russian outbreak. Kumar noted the surprising finding of highly varied LSDV strains in India, given the generally stable nature of DNA viruses like LSDV. The team identified over 1,800 genetic variations, including deletions, insertions, and single-letter changes in DNA. The samples with high variations, however, turned out to be similar to LSDV strains from an outbreak in Russia in 2015.

Kumar said that there are no previous reports of such highly varied LSDV strains in India. Viruses that have DNA as the genetic material - like LSDV - are generally more stable than RNA viruses. Therefore, finding so many genetic variations was quite surprising, and could explain the severity of the disease, he added. The variation was as high as 1,800. Importantly, the scientists also found a large number of genetic variations in viral genes critical for binding to host cells, evading immune response, and replicating efficiently. This likely enhanced the virus's ability to cause disease. "Cattle developed more severe symptoms in areas where we found highly diverse strains. This suggests that the genetic variations could elevate virulence," warned Kumar.



wrecking on their health and ultimately their lives," the former Indian football team captain said. He also praised the efforts of Mothers Against Vaping in raising awareness, calling it "truly commendable." According to Mothers Against Vaping, rising addiction among children to new-age tobacco devices is fuelled by the aggressive efforts of big tobacco companies to establish a new market and cultivate future consumers. "Despite a nationwide ban, international manufacturers are leaving no stone unturned to promote these new-age tobacco devices with a specific focus on Indian children and youngsters as they desperately seek out new markets against the backdrop of tightening regulations," said the Group. "As a responsible mother, I wholeheartedly support the cause. The issue is deeply alarming and all mothers should be concerned as it directly impacts the health of our children," Dhupia said. The use of vaping and e-cigarette devices has been linked to various harmful effects, ranging from extensive lung damage to environmental harm through improper disposal, the group said.

COLOR
BLACK AND WHITE ADS
CONTACT: 9417419351

FIRST COLUMN

ADHERE TO DHARMA AND SATYA

Dharma and Satya have profound implications on our actions and beliefs



These two words sometimes confuse about what they convey. What is the relationship between these two? Don't they sound similar? They do. Then, there is 'kartavya' (duty). This word also is inter-linked with these two. I will try to unravel their mystery in this article. Beginning with their definitions, dharma is what applies to everyone. For example, the nature of fire is to burn and cause it to burn. Similarly, dharma sustains life, virtue and moral duties on the planet Earth. The word Satya simply means facts like the Sun rising in the East. Some examples will shed more light on these two words. Starting with dharma, what is our svadharma or duty (kartavya)? Lord Krishna has explained that when we are born we have certain qualities due to which we are suitable naturally to do certain activities. (4.13) This is our svadharma, i.e. our dharma. Some children are naturally inclined to play sports, and if allowed to do so excel. This is his dharma by which he entertains others and also earns his livelihood. Arjuna, who was a Kshatriya had a specific dharma due to his birth, which he was supposed to uphold. He spoke about protecting family dharma (values). If not practised, it could have caused many horrible consequences. (1.38-1.45) Svadharma defines an individual's duties. Dhrtarashtra was born blind. Therefore, he was unfit to rule even though he was the elder brother. His younger brother Pandu was enthroned by the king. Upon his untimely death, Dhrtarashtra was made a stopgap



king till the eldest son of Pandu gained adulthood. This was a factual position, ie. Satya. Dhrtarashtra's lineage was not entitled to be made king. But he refused to accept this fact, which was against dharma even though his eldest son Duryodhana was unfit to be made king. This resulted in the Mahabharata War, and his family was justly punished for trying to undo dharma. Dharma is worth practising for our good. It is meant for everyone to honour; one should follow it as far as feasible. Dharma is supreme; it is above everything. Satya has also many dimensions. It is a fact that all are similar souls. Satya should be used for correct behaviour, i.e. our activities should be based on it. For example, God should be worshipped by one and all. Satya is frequently situational. For example, children should study in school, but once at home should play. It changes or appears to change in our eyes or vis-à-vis our resources. For example, how much to eat? If not so hungry eat less and if quite hungry more. Similarly, if there is scarcity, the use of resources should be restricted. We have to always see what suits us and is appropriate. Our behaviour should match with the prototype in this matter. Truth is also what we perceive. Because we are too small to know the truth in its entirety, reality or essence. Truth can be known from scriptures like the Bhagavad-Geeta. Still, truth is limited; knowledge takes us to the level of humility, to be modest – a high quality. Now let us turn to the relationship between dharma and Satya. Truth is an instrument; dharma is the system. Truth should always support dharma because truth is the basis of dharma. Earlier, i.e. in Sattvayuga and Treta yuga, truth and dharma were synonymous. Lord Krishna changed it in Dwaparyuga and made dharma superior to truth because truth is not habitually spoken in this yuga. That is the reason Yudishthir was asked to speak the confusing truth – "Ashavatham hatha it; narova kunjaro-va". Because dharma was at stake. The same rule applies today. We must always go by dharma; truth can be sacrificed for it. Let's, therefore, make dharma the basis of all our acts. What is the conclusion? Both dharma and truth are important, but dharma is more important. Truth can be sacrificed for the sake of dharma, but only temporarily, not permanently. *(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)*

Curb malpractices within private banks

Reports reveal widespread irregularities and malpractices, including gross misuse of public funds by top management, highlighting the urgent need for banking reforms

Several private banks in India are indulging in massive irregularities and malpractices with some of these irregularities highlighted in the Inspection-Reports of these banks ever since the Supreme Court ordered the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to make such Inspection-Reports of banks public under the RTI Act. But now even RBI is reluctant to disclose these Inspection Reports public under the RTI Act RBI should remove all confusion by complying original Supreme Court verdict in letter and spirit by making of Inspection Reports of all banks public on the RBI website. Moreover, it should be mandatory for all banks to put their respective Inspection Reports on their websites including all the previous ones. Considering the vast participation of public money in private sector banks, all private sector banks must be under the purview of the RTI Act. Already all employees up to the highest post of CMD are public servants according to section 46A of the Banking Regulation Act. RBI had to impose restrictions on the withdrawal of money for some time on a prominent private sector bank. The former CMD of another prominent private sector Bank is under arrest for serious charges of misappropriation of public money in the Bank. Inspection Reports of private banks revealed under the RTI Act by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reveal gross misuse of public money by top management. Another private sector bank is renowned for a large number of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Heavy fluctuation in share prices of certain private sector banks tends to doubt regarding safety of public money in private sector banks. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (a subsidiary of RBI) has to pay a maximum rupees five lakhs from state funds to each depositor of the bank including those in the private sector that collapse due to massive irregularities, which is public funding to declare private sector banks as "public-authorities" under section 2(h) of RTI Act. An example is the closure of a private PMC Bank in Maharashtra which even caused the fatalities of several depositors. Many banks to boost their business provide excessively secured loans more than the real market value of the mortgaged property even though rules allow only some portion of the assessed value of the property for loan purposes. This can and must be effectively checked by formulating a rule with retrospective effect where-by banks may be required to close the loan account in case the borrower surrenders vacant possession of the mortgaged property unconditionally. Strict action under section 46A of the Banking Regulation Act should be taken against officers sanctioning excessive loans higher than the recovered amount by the sale of a mortgaged property when the concerned bank is already in the advantage of having sufficient margin money. A study may be made if some ban can be imposed on giving loans on self-occupied residential properties because, in case of default, the family of the loan-taker is the sufferer for fault/default of the loan-taker. It is quite usual that many private banks often get blank papers, loan kits and cheques signed by the borrower and his family members as guarantors to misuse as per their convenience in case of default of loans. Borrowers generally sign such



ERRING BANKS EVEN DO NOT GIVE CONSUMER COPIES OF THE LOAN KIT TO THE BORROWERS, WHO ARE THUS ALWAYS PRACTICALLY FINANCIAL SLAVES OF SUCH BANKS

blank documents without realising the consequences in a hurry to get loans. Erring banks do not give consumer copies of the loan kit to the borrowers who are thus always practically financial slaves of such banks. The system should be that a copy of the duly filled loan kit and cheques may be compulsorily sent by Registered Post to the borrowers, guarantors and a specially set-up section of RBI within seven days of loan disbursement to ensure that banks may not be able to misuse any other paper earlier got signed blank in case of default. The same should be applicable for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). The rule should be that all bank accounts of Government offices, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and state-run corporations (both central and state Governments) must be compulsorily only in public sector banks. Rather their employees should also have their salary accounts in any of the branches of the same public-sector bank for getting salaries through simple bank transfers. Government employees thereafter may shift funds to any bank of their choice. There were serious allegations of favouritism with a particular private bank for having salary accounts of employees of a Government department in Maharashtra because the wife of a heavyweight political ruler was a senior executive in that private bank. Maharashtra has otherwise also the unique facility of having the smallest public-sector bank having a widespread network of branches all over Maharashtra. Bank of Maharashtra was not merged with any larger public-sector bank only to retain its identity as a state-specific bank in Maharashtra state. Governments

both central and state should be duty-bound to promote public sector banks. Using public-sector banks will increase deposits and profitability of public-sector banks and ensure the safety of public money. RBI bonds issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should be issued only through public-sector banks and companies. Once there was a news item that China Central Bank had tried to raise its stake in HDFC Bank from 8 per cent to 1.1 percent with China Central Bank already holding about 17.5 million shares in HDFC Bank. Even though the Indian Government subsequently tightened rules for increasing such stakes by neighbouring companies, the episode developed a feeling of uncertainty amongst investors in RBI bonds made through HDFC Bank. There should be provision of auto-renewal in RBI bonds at the interest rate prevailing at the time of maturity. Frauds are reported through some bank employees misappropriating funds in such inoperative accounts where the amount is large. RBI should direct all banks to inform account holders about their existing balance and to approach banks either to make accounts operative or close these in a time-bound period after which all such balances may be transferred to Depositor-Educative-Awareness-Fund (DEAF). With the private sector dominating the banking sector, public money lying in inoperative accounts must not be retained by banks. Frequent changes of account numbers by banks should be prevented by making it mandatory for all banks to allot 15-digit account numbers. Confusing and frequently changing account numbers

result in the bouncing of electronic fund transfers. Rather such a 15-digit account number should be a unique one with banks being recognised by the first two digits of the account number. Such 15-digit account numbers should also be for Public-Provident-Fund (PPF) and Senior Citizens Savings Schemes (SCSS) and other such deposit accounts under Government schemes. Cover-page of pass-books of all banks should compulsorily have all details submitted in account-opening forms including nominee details. The inclusion of nominee details on pass-books will allow nominees to claim rights on the death of the account holder by going through left-out important documents including pass-books after the death of the account holder. All banks especially public-sector ones should have a common and uniform style of forms used for various banking purposes with provision to download the same after filling on the computer like is a facility available for application forms for passports. Additional facility to email computer-filled forms with necessary enclosures like copies of ID proof, PAN-card etc to the Bank can save huge man-hours of bank staff in re-filling all details on the computer apart from eliminating any chance of wrong/incomplete entry in computers. Customers can go to banks just to put signatures on such emailed computer-filled forms. A system should be formulated whereby all requirements like Minimum Balance, interest rates, bank charges and other procedures may be uniform for all public-sector banks. *(The writer is a Guinness Record Holder and RTI Consultant; views are personal)*

The rise of 'water aunties' and sustainable solutions

There is a critical correlation between clean water access, conflict, cooperation and climate change; water for all is imperative

This year, the theme for World Water Day is "Water for Peace". It renews the world's focus on clean, safe, and affordable drinking water and its complex relationship with conflict, cooperation, and climate change. About 2 billion people still lack access to safe water worldwide.

India, too, has been addressing the water needs of its citizens with the promise of tap water in each home, especially in the last decade, where nearly piped water access has reached 75% of India's homes. Community-based water treatment plants help purify groundwater to serve such civilian needs. Decentralised Safe Water Enterprises (SWEs), popularly called Water ATMs, have provided low-cost, 24x7, safe



drinking water access solutions for quality-affected communities and consumers on the go. In 2018, Haryana became the first state to develop a policy to put a water ATM every 400 m in public places in its cities. The Delhi Government also announced 500 similar water ATMs in slums and other densely populated areas in 2023. **The Water Aunties** Safe Water Network India

(SWN), through its Water ATMs called ijal Stations, helps provide safe water access to over 1.3 million people in India across Telangana, Maharashtra and Western Uttar Pradesh. In 2023, consumers bought over 350 million litres of water from its ijal stations, which had an uptime above 98 per cent around the year. Nearly 56 per cent of these 350 Water ATMs are managed and operated by women affectionately called Water Aunties by their communities. The consumers collect safe water in their 20-litre cans from these ijal Stations. This prevents the scourge of single-use plastic bottled water, provides freedom and livelihood to low-income communities, negates the endless wait for the

water tankers, and serves localities with contamination-free potable water. "The stations have proven to be an oasis, especially in the scorching heat and severe drought conditions," said Sinduja, a Water Aunty in Telangana. India is now home to around 65,000 Water ATMs set up by 30 national-level implementers and State Governments. **The Cost Burden** The buck does not stop just with the provision, access, or management of safe drinking water. For instance, the revenue from these Water ATMs is turning out to be unsustainable for many of the implementers at the grassroots level, according to a report of the three-year project named Sustainable Enterprises for

Water and Health (SEWAH) carried out by SWN in collaboration with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and data from ten other implementers. The study found that the water revenue in these water ATMs, priced affordably at Rs 1 per litre and Rs 5 per 20 litre, barely met the current local operating costs, such as raw water, electricity, and operator salaries. The field service costs, such as the technician's fee and high-value spare parts, overburden the operator's expenditure. The implementers also do not cover expenses relating to cluster supervision, quality monitoring, equipment or facility upgrades, etc. Time For An Uptime Model The SWNT's report, called

Financial and Operating Performance of Water ATMs in 2023, warranted a relook at the sustainability of Water ATMs in India. This time, through a new lens, that would shift the total cost burden away from the operators and onto the taxpayers' rupee for govt-funded systems or CSR grants of willing companies for grant-funded systems. The report specifically proposed a result-based funding model in which SWEs received funding depending on the volume of water sold, facility up-time or revenue collected, and quality compliance. A global result-based funding organisation, Uptime Catalyst Facility, selected SWN's ijal Stations for a sustainable performance-based incentive model for the implementers.

The ideal Stations proved to be apt differentiators because their remote monitoring system and water metres provide real-time data on plant performance, the volume of water produced and sold, and the revenue collected. The revenue collected is easily monitored since the water is purchased using pre-paid RFID cards, digital QR codes, or coin dispensing. Looking at over a decade of operating experience, the Government of Karnataka selected SWN to help operationalize more than 18,000 Community Water Treatment Plants (or Water ATMs) in the state by training the village Panchayat, operators, contractors, and the Rural Stations for a sustainable performance-based incentive model for the implementers. The project brought in the best

practices of training, monitoring, and operating the plant for four years during the peak of COVID, starting in 2019. A Digital Platform is now tested across states, and hundreds of systems are now export-ready on parameters that include physical and training components and Information Education and Communication campaigns to train at the grassroots level where semi-skilled operators. It is poised for replication in 17 countries, West Africa and five South Asian countries. SWN also has vast experience and training materials for training last-mile operating professionals for Water ATMs. *(The writer is vp of programmes & Partnerships, Safe Water Network India; views are personal)*

Bodies of aid workers slain in Israeli strikes transported out

AP ■ RAFAH

The bodies of six foreign aid workers killed in a series of Israeli strikes were transported out of the Gaza Strip and into Egypt on Wednesday ahead of their repatriation, Egypt's state-run Qahera TV reported.

The deadly strikes have renewed criticism of Israel's conduct in the nearly six-monthlong war with Hamas, and highlighted the perilous conditions aid workers face in trying to deliver food to the besieged enclave, where experts say nearly a third of the population is on the brink of starvation.

The three British citizens, a Polish citizen, an Australian and a Canadian American dual citizen worked for World Central Kitchen, an international charity founded by celebrity chef José Andrés.

Their Palestinian driver was also killed, and his remains were handed over to his family for burial in Gaza.

The other bodies were dri-

Joe Biden: Not enough done to protect civilians

Washington: US President Joe Biden has criticised Israel, saying it has not “has not done enough” to protect civilians as he expressed “outrage” over the deadly strike that killed seven aid workers, including one American, in Gaza. Seven aid workers who were working for the World Central Kitchen, a charity delivering food to besieged Palestinians, were killed in the Israeli airstrike in Gaza on Tuesday. The victims comprised three British nationals, an Australian, a Polish national, an American-Canadian dual citizen and a Palestinian.

In a statement on Tuesday, Biden said he is “outraged and heartbroken” by the tragic incident.

ven into Egypt through the Rafah crossing.

The seven were distributing food that had been brought into Gaza through a newly established maritime corridor late Monday when Israeli airstrikes targeted their three vehicles, killing everyone inside.

Israel said it carried out the strikes by mistake and that it has launched an independent investigation into how it happened.

Some of Israel's closest allies, including the United States, condemned the deaths, which led the World Central Kitchen and other charities to suspend food deliveries, citing the dire security situation.

Cyprus, which has played a key role in setting up the maritime corridor, said the ships that had arrived Monday were returning to the Mediterranean island nation with some 240 tonnes of undelivered aid.

But it also said the sea deliveries would continue.

Israel faces growing isolation as international criticism

of its Gaza assault has mounted.

RISHI SUNAK DEMANDS 'TRANSPARENT' PROBE

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu to demand a “thorough and transparent” investigation into the circumstances around the killing of three British aid workers, the latest victims of the raging Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza.

According to a Downing Street statement on Tuesday, Sunak told the Israeli leader that the situation in the region is becoming “increasingly intolerable” as he stressed immediate action to ensure better aid flow into Gaza. It came as John Chapman, James Henderson and James Kirby were named as the British nationals part of the security team for the World Central Kitchen charity and among seven international aid workers killed after a convoy they were travelling in was hit earlier this week.

Strongest quake in 25 yrs rocks Taiwan

9 killed, 70 workers trapped in quarries

AP ■ HUALEIN

The strongest earthquake in a quarter-century rocked Taiwan during the morning rush hour Wednesday, killing nine people, trapping dozens in quarries and sending some residents scrambling out the windows of damaged buildings. A tsunami warning was triggered but later lifted.

The quake, which also injured hundreds, was centred off the coast of rural, mountainous Hualien County, where some buildings leaned at severe angles, their ground floors crushed.

Just over 150 kilometres away in the capital of Taipei, tiles fell from older buildings, and schools evacuated their students to sports fields, equipping them with yellow safety helmets.

Some children covered themselves with textbooks to guard against falling objects as aftershocks continued.

Television images showed neighbours and rescue workers lifting residents, including a toddler, through windows and



In this image taken from a video footage run by TVBS, residents rescue a child from a partially collapsed building in Hualien, eastern Taiwan on Wednesday

AP/PTI

onto the street, after doors fused shut in the shaking. All appeared mobile, in shock but without serious injuries.

Taiwan is regularly jolted by

quakes and its population is among the best prepared for them, but authorities said they had expected a relatively mild earthquake and accordingly

did not send out alerts.

The eventual temblor was strong enough to scare even people who are used to such shaking. “I’ve grown accustomed to (earthquakes). But today was the first time I was scared to tears by an earthquake,” said Hsien-hsuen Keng, a resident who lives in a fifth-floor apartment in Taipei. “I was awakened by the earthquake. I had never felt such intense shaking before.” Nine people died in the quake, which struck just before 8 a.m., according to Taiwan's national fire agency. The local United Daily News reported that three were hikers killed in rock-slides in Taroko National Park, which is in Hualien, and that a van driver died in the same area when boulders hit the vehicle.

Another 934 people were injured. Meanwhile, authorities said they had lost contact with 50 people in minibuses in the national park after the quake downed phone networks. In addition, 64 people were trapped in one rock quarry, and six in another, the fire agency said.

Finland shooting suspect told police he was bullied

AP ■ HELSINKI

A 12-year-old student suspected of fatally shooting a classmate and wounding two others in Finland told police that he was bullied at school, officials said on Wednesday, as a nation shocked by the attack held a day of mourning.

The suspect, a sixth grader who attended the school in the city of Vantaa, just outside Helsinki, was apprehended less than an hour following the shooting on Tuesday morning. The shooter and the victims were all classmates, police said.

“The motive for the act has been found to be bullying,” the Eastern Uusimaa Police Department, which is in charge of the investigation, said in a statement.

“The suspect has said during interrogations that he was the target of bullying, and this information has also been con-

firmed in the preliminary investigation by the police. The suspect had transferred to Viertola school at the beginning of this year.”

The minimum age of criminal liability in Finland is 15 years, which means the suspect cannot be formally arrested. A suspect younger than 15 can only be questioned by the police before they are handed over to child welfare authorities. On Wednesday, Finnish blue-and-white flags were hoisted at half-staff and scores of people including parents, teachers and fellow students laid flowers and lit candles in the snowy landscape near the school building where the shooting occurred.

Police said one of the wounded girls has a dual Finland-Kosovo citizenship. The deceased boy died instantly after being shot, police said. The suspect was detained in the Helsinki area less than an hour

after the shooting with a “a revolver-like handgun” in his possession.

The gun was licensed to a relative of the suspect who was not immediately identified. Police said he admitted to the shooting in an initial police hearing.

Finland has witnessed two major deadly school shootings in 2007 and 2008. In their wake, the country tightened its gun laws, raising the minimum age for firearms ownership and giving police greater powers to perform background checks on individuals applying for a gun license. The nation of 5.6 million has more than 1.5 million licensed firearms, and about 430,000 license holders, according to the Finnish Interior Ministry. Hunting and gun-ownership are deeply rooted traditions in this sparsely-populated northern European country, where target practice is also a widespread hobby.

Biden and Trump win presidential primaries in four more states

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden and his Republican rival and predecessor Donald Trump have easily won their presidential primaries in four more states as they are set for a 2020 rematch in November.

On Tuesday, hundreds of delegates were up for grabs in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and the crucial battleground state of Wisconsin. Multiple names remained on the presidential ballots in the four states, though neither Trump, 77, nor Biden, 81, faced any major challenger.

In all the four states where the primaries were held Tuesday, Trump bagged more than 75 per cent of the votes, while Biden, a Democrat, received more than 80 per cent of the votes.

Trump with four wins now has 1,860 delegates. Biden has so



far won 3,030 delegates as against the minimum requirement of 1,968 delegates.

Biden and Trump have already amassed enough delegates to win their respective nominations. But the turnout could provide more clues about the election on November 5.

Their rematch is expected to mirror the 2020 campaign, though Trump will run this time under the spectre of 91 felony charges.

Their nominations will be confirmed at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July and the

Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August.

Connecticut and Rhode Island allowed voters to vote “uncommitted” in the primary, while Wisconsin offered a similar option of “uninstructed delegation”. There was an effort in Wisconsin on Tuesday by anti-Biden protesters to encourage people in the Democratic primary to pick the “uninstructed” option in opposition to Biden's policies on the Israel-Hamas war.

Pressure has been growing on Biden especially, to push harder for a ceasefire in Gaza, with some states, including Michigan, fostering similar campaigns for residents to submit “uncommitted votes” for the president.

These victories offer insights into base voter enthusiasm for the upcoming 2020 rematch, particularly in Wisconsin, a

crucial November battleground.

Biden and the Democratic National Committee have outpaced Trump and the Republicans in fundraising. Biden claimed the largest single-event fundraising record last week when he received USD 26 million at a star-studded New York event. Trump hopes to bring in USD 33 million at a Palm Beach, Florida fundraiser.

Meanwhile, CNN reported that Democrats have been growing increasingly anxious about public polls showing Trump making unprecedented inroads among Black and Hispanic voters. “But there may be reasons for Republicans to feel uneasy about these polls too,” it said, adding that surveys now consistently show Trump leading President Joe Biden nationally and in almost all of the key swing states.

‘3 suspects of Iranian journo stabbing fled UK after attack’

London (AP): British counterterrorism police investigating the stabbing of a journalist who works for a TV channel critical of the Iranian government said that three suspects had fled the country within hours of the attack.

Pouria Zeraati, a presenter at London-based Iran International, was stabbed in the leg Friday afternoon outside his home in London. Police said Zeraati, who has been released from a hospital, was attacked by two men who fled in a car driven by a third man.

“We have established that after abandoning the vehicle, the suspects travelled to Heathrow Airport and have left the UK,” Commander Dominic Murphy, head of the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command, said in a statement late Tuesday. “We are now working with international partners to establish further details.”

Police said that while the motivation for the attack is still unclear, Zeraati's occupation, together with recent threats to UK-based Iranian journalists, triggered a counterterrorism investigation.

Iran International, a satellite news channel that broadcasts in Farsi, has previously received threats due to its coverage of Iran.

Mehdi Hosseini Matin, Iran's charge d'affaires in the UK, has said “we deny any link” to the incident.

Police say they have disrupted “a number” of plots to kill or kidnap people in the UK who were seen as enemies of the Iranian government. Officers are working with intelligence agencies to disrupt future plots and provide protection for the targeted organisations and individuals, police said.

Early last year, Iran International temporarily shut down its operations in London and moved to studios in Washington, D.C., after what it described as an escalation of “state-backed threats from Iran.”

‘North Korea tests new missile with hypersonic warhead’

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said Wednesday it tested a new hypersonic intermediate-range missile powered with solid propellants, extending a run in weapons demonstrations that's deepening a nuclear standoff with neighbours and the United States.

With the supposed success of the test, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared his country had acquired the ability to build solid-fuel, nuclear-capable systems for missiles of all ranges as he pursues an arsenal that could viably threaten rivals in Asia and the United States.

The report by North Korean state media came a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries detected the North launching a missile from near its capital toward its eastern sea.

North Korean state media said the test was supervised by Kim, who described the Hwasong-16B missile as a key piece of his nuclear war deterrent he vowed to further build up to counter his “enemies,” a reference to the United States, South Korea and Japan.

Kim said the North has now developed nuclear-capable, solid-fuel systems for “all the tactical, operational and strategic missiles with various ranges,” the Korean Central News Agency said.

In recent years, North Korea has been focusing on developing more weapons with built-in solid propellants. Those weapons are easier to move and hide and can be made to launch quicker than liquid-propellant missiles, which need to be fuelled before launch and cannot stay fuelled for long periods of time.

North Korea last year tested a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time, adding to its arsenal of long-range weapons targeting the US mainland. The country also has an extensive lineup of short-

range and mid-range solid-fuel missiles that can be fired from land vehicles, ships and submarines and are potentially capable of reaching targets throughout South Korea and Japan.

The North in recent months demonstrated some of these missiles in drills it described as simulated nuclear strikes while issuing provocative threats of nuclear conflict.

The North has since 2021 also been testing hypersonic weapons designed to exceed five times the speed of sound. If perfected, such systems could potentially pose a challenge to regional missile defence systems because of their speed and maneuverability. However, it's unclear whether the North's hypersonic vehicles consistently maintained a desired speed exceeding Mach 5 during tests in 2021 and 2022.

During Tuesday's test, the missile's hypersonic glide warhead after being separated from the launch rocket reached a peak altitude of 101 km (62 miles) and flew about 1,000 km (621 miles) while performing various flight maneuvers before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, the KCNA said.

The South Korean and Japanese militaries had assessed that the missile flew around 600 (372 miles) although Japan's Defence Ministry announced a similar apogee with the North Korean report.

The North had also tested a purported hypersonic IRBM in January, which came years after it flight-tested liquid-fuel IRBMs. Experts say such weapons if perfected is potentially capable of reaching remote US targets in the Pacific, including the military hub of Guam.

Kim Dong-yub, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said the missile tested on Tuesday was likely different from the system tested in January, which state media didn't name but would likely be the Hwasong-16A.

Prosecutors chide judge over ‘fundamentally flawed’ order

AP ■ WASHINGTON


Federal prosecutors chided the judge presiding over former President Donald Trump's classified documents case in Florida, warning her off potential jury instructions that they said rest on a “fundamentally flawed legal premise.”

In an unusual order, US District Judge Aileen Cannon had asked prosecutors and defense lawyers to file proposed jury instructions for most of the charges even though it remains unclear when the case might reach trial.

She asked the lawyers to respond to competing interpretations of the law that appeared to accept the Republican ex-president's argument that he was entitled under a statute known as the Presidential Records Act to retain the sensitive documents he is now charged with possessing.

The order surprised legal experts and alarmed special counsel Jack Smith's team, which said in a filing late

TRUMP'S CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CASE



Tuesday that the 1978 law — which requires presidents to return presidential records to the government upon leaving office but permits them to retain purely personal ones —

has no relevance in a case concerning highly classified documents.

Those records, prosecutors said, were clearly not personal and there is no evidence Trump



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows the test-fire of what they call an intermediate-range ballistic missile on the outskirts of Pyongyang, North Korea Tuesday.

AP/PTI

Istanbul nightclub fire was likely caused by welding sparks: Turkish media

AP ■ ISTANBUL

A fire that spread through an Istanbul nightclub during renovations, killing 29 people, was likely caused by welding sparks igniting combustible material, a newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing fire department officials.

The fire engulfed the popular Masquerade nightclub on Tuesday, trapping workers and club employees inside. It left 29 people dead and another person with serious injuries.

Authorities have detained nine people for questioning, including club managers and people in charge of the renovation work.

The club, which was closed for renovations during the holy month of Ramadan, was located on the ground and basement floors of a 16-story residential building in the Besiktas district on the European side of the city

bisected by the Bosphorus Strait. It had planned to reopen on April 10.

Gov. Davut Gul told reporters that the cause of the fire was under investigation. The government assigned prosecutors and investigators to probe the incident.

The Yeni Safak newspaper, which is close to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, said the fire is believed to have been caused by sparks from a welding machine being used to install sound insulation and decoration material. It reportedly set off an explosion which in turn set other construction material ablaze.

The newspaper cited unidentified fire department officials in its report. The Sabah newspaper published a similar report. Officials have not publicly commented on the fire's cause. Haber Turk television reported

that the area where the renovation work was taking place was like a “labyrinth,” making it difficult for the victims to find their way out.

The victims included Gokhan Tevlek, a club DJ, Atanur Aladag, who was employed as a cook, and Akin and Yilmaz Kihri, a father-and-son team of welders, according to Turkish media reports.

Video from the scene showed flames billowing from the side of the building, firefighters dousing an entrance to the club and people carrying a victim on a stretcher toward an ambulance.

“After the fire brigade arrived, bodies started to come out of the nightclub,” state-run Anadolu quoted witness Sema Soganci as saying. “People were screaming, everything happened so suddenly. The flames were like crazy.”

“I started to cry, I was nervous,” she said.

Another witness, Mehmet Cengiz, told Anadolu, “We saw firefighters entering and coming out all blackened.”

The nightclub had a capacity of 4,000 guests, according to its website. The manager of the residential building told reporters on Wednesday that the premise was originally designed as a cinema.

Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu said the club had not obtained the required permits to conduct renovations.

A fire that spread through an Istanbul nightclub during renovations, killing 29 people, was likely caused by welding sparks igniting combustible material, a newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing fire department officials.

The fire engulfed the popular Masquerade nightclub on Tuesday, trapping workers and club employees inside.

‘US shares blame for deadly concert hall attack’

AP ■ TALLINN

The head of Russia's national security council on Wednesday contended that the United States shares blame for the attack by gunmen on a Moscow concert hall that killed 145 people, even though a branch of the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility. Since the March 22 attack at the Crocus City Hall, the deadliest on Russian soil in two decades, Russian officials including President Vladimir Putin have repeatedly claimed, without presenting evidence, that it was organised by Ukraine, which has been fighting a Russian invasion for more than two years.

An affiliate of the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack and Kyiv has consistently denied involvement. “They are trying to impose on us that the terrorist act was committed not by the Kyiv regime, but by sup-



porters of radical Islamic ideology, perhaps members of the Afghan branch of IS,” security council head Nikolai Patrushev said at a meeting in

the Kazakhstan capital Astana of security councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The SCO is a nine-country

regional security and economic bloc that includes China, India and Iran. “However, it is much more important to quickly establish

who is the customer and sponsor of this monstrous crime. Its traces lead to the Ukrainian special services. But everyone knows that the Kyiv regime is not independent and is completely controlled by the United States,” Patrushev said. Four suspected gunmen were captured the day after the attack in the Bryansk region, which borders Ukraine. Putin and other officials claim that the gunmen had arranged for passage into Ukraine. Six other suspected accomplices have also been arrested. Russia's emergencies ministry gave the death toll in the attack as 144, but children's rights ombudsman Maria Lvova-Belova said on Wednesday that a sixth child injured in the attack had died. The attack came two weeks after the United States Embassy in Russia issued a warning that it was monitoring reports of planned terrorist attacks on public targets. The US State Department said

information about the planned attacks was passed on to Russian officials. Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Wednesday declined comment in a conference call on a report in the Washington Post that US officials had specifically identified Crocus City Hall as a potential target, saying that was a matter for security services. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova disdained the report, telling journalists at a briefing that “I would really like to ask you to receive factual material on this topic from the American side. That is, when and to whom did they transmit this information.” Also Wednesday, the Russian prosecutor-general's office sent information requests to the US, Germany, France and Cyprus over Western countries' potential involvement in terrorist attacks on Russia, state news agency Tass reported.

Ukraine lowers military conscription age to 25

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine on Wednesday lowered the military conscription age from 27 to 25 in an effort to replenish its depleted ranks after more than two years of war following Russia's full-scale invasion. The new mobilisation law came into force a day after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed it. Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, passed it last year.

It was not immediately clear why Zelenskyy took so long to sign the measure into law. He didn't make any public comment about it, and officials did not say how many new soldiers the country expected to gain or for which units. Conscription has been a sensitive matter in Ukraine for

many months amid a growing shortage of infantry on top of a severe ammunition shortfall that has handed Russia the battlefield initiative. Russia's own problems with manpower and planning have so far prevented it from taking full advantage of its edge. The average age of Ukrainian soldiers, like those on the Russian side, is around 40, military analysts say. Some Ukrainians worry that taking young adults out of the workforce will backfire by further harming the war-ravaged economy, but the problem reportedly has become acute as Kyiv girds for an expected summer offensive by the Kremlin's forces. Zelenskyy has rarely mentioned the mobilisation issue, and parliament has held long and inconclusive debates about it in recent months.

‘About 10 mn at risk of slipping into poverty in Pak’

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The World Bank has painted a grim economic picture of Pakistan in its biannual report, cautioning that over 10 million more people are at risk of descending into poverty in the cash-strapped country. The Washington-based lender's apprehension comes from a sluggish economic growth rate of 1.8 per cent, coupled with soaring inflation, a staggering 26 per cent in the current fiscal year. The World Bank's biannual Pakistan Development Outlook report painted a grim economic picture, indicating that the country is set to miss almost all major macroeconomic targets. The international lender said the country is anticipated to fall short of its primary budget target, remaining in deficit for three consecutive years, contrary to the International Monetary Fund's stipulations mandating a surplus.

Sayed Murtaza Muzaffari, lead author of the report, said despite a board-based yet nascent economic recovery,

poverty alleviation efforts remain insufficient. The economic growth is projected to stagnate at a paltry 1.8 per cent while maintaining the poverty rate at around 40 per cent, with approximately 98 million Pakistanis already grappling with poverty, the World Bank report said. The report underlined the vulnerability of those hovering just above the poverty line, with 10 million individuals at risk of slipping into poverty. The report said that the poor and vulnerable are likely to have benefited from the windfall gain in agricultural output, but these gains were offset by continued high inflation and limited wage growth in other sectors that employ many of the poor, such as construction, trade, and transportation. The wages of daily labourers increased only five per cent in nominal terms during the first quarter of this fiscal year when the inflation was above 30 per cent, it said. The persisting cost-of-living crisis, coupled with rising transportation costs, could poten-

tially lead to an increase in out-of-school children and delayed medical treatments, particularly for worse-off families, warned the World Bank. At the same time, it added that food security remains a concern in parts of the country. Among 43 rural districts across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan, many of which were impacted by the 2022 floods, the prevalence of acute food insecurity is also projected to increase from 29 per cent to 32 per cent in the third quarter of this fiscal year, the report said. “Poverty reduction is projected to stall in the medium term due to weak growth, low real labour incomes, and persistently high inflation,” said the World Bank. Chronic inflation in the absence of substantial growth, along with policy uncertainty, could cause social discontent and have negative welfare impacts, warned the global lender. “Despite some recovery, Pakistan's economy remains under stress with low foreign reserves and high inflation.

Policy uncertainty remains elevated, and economic activity is subdued, reflecting tight fiscal and monetary policy and import controls,” the World Bank said. The Washington-based lender said growth is projected to remain below potential with heightened social vulnerability and limited poverty reduction in the medium term. “Financial sector risks, policy uncertainty, and stronger external headwinds pose significant risks to the outlook,” it added. Pakistan's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to USD 0.8 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year from USD 3.6 billion in the first half of the last fiscal year, on import controls, reduced domestic demand, and lower global commodity prices, the report said. Meanwhile, official remittances fell by 6.8 per cent year-on-year in the first half of the current fiscal year due to exchange rate rigidities earlier in the year. For the next fiscal year too, the World Bank projected a 15 per cent inflation rate.

“Inflation is projected to remain elevated at 26 per cent in FY24 due to higher domestic energy prices, with little respite for poor and vulnerable households with depleted savings and lower real incomes,” it said. The World Bank said the fiscal deficit is projected to increase to 8 per cent of GDP or Rs 8.5 trillion in this fiscal year due to higher interest payments, which is far higher than the official target of 6.5 per cent. It said that the deficit will only gradually decline over the medium term as interest payments decrease and fiscal consolidation measures take hold. As against the IMF target of a primary budget surplus of Rs 400 billion, the World Bank said there will be a primary deficit of 0.1 per cent of GDP in this fiscal year. It has projected the deficit for the next two fiscal years as well. Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by only 1.8 per cent in the current fiscal year ending June 2024, whereas the official target is 3.5 per cent, the World Bank said.

Three judges of Lahore HC receive threatening white-powder letters

PTI ■ LAHORE

After the Islamabad High Court judges, three judges of Pakistan's Lahore High Court on Wednesday received threatening white-powder letters, said the court's Registrar Office. The judges who received the letters are Justice Shujaat Ali Khan, Justice Shahid Bilal Hasan and Justice Alia Neelum. Lahore police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) senior officers reached the LHC and took the letters into custody and launched an investigation. Security of the LHC judges has been enhanced following the incident. The police took the employee of the courier company who delivered the letter into custody and shifted him to an undisclosed location for interrogation. The white powder is suspected to be anthrax. “The powder has been sent to a laboratory

for examination whether it is anthrax,” a Punjab police spokesperson said. A day earlier, all eight judges of IHC, including Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, received “suspected anthrax-laced letters.” The threatening letters to high court judges surfaced after the Supreme Court took suo motu notice and formed a seven-member bench chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa to hear the case of six IHC justices who accused spy agencies, including ISI, of meddling in judicial matters. The IHC judges had alleged that their bedrooms were bugged, and their relatives were abducted and tortured by the intelligence agencies' personnel to get desired verdicts. Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded a thorough and immediate investigation into the threatening letters with white powder sent to IHC and LHC judges. A PTI

spokesperson said that prima facie, the letters containing deadly and poisonous substances were intended to intimidate the judges. He said that after these letters, the decisive investigation and action in the matter of interference in judicial affairs increased manifold. “Special measures should be taken for the safety and security of the judges and their families,” he said. He urged the chief justice of Pakistan to refer the six judges' letter to the full court sans any further delay to take the matter to its logical conclusion through open proceedings to ensure judicial independence and protect judges from bullying and threats. Meanwhile, Chief Justice Isa on Wednesday vowed to thwart any attack on the judiciary's independence as he indicated that a full court would hear the case about alleged interference in the judicial affairs by the powerful intelligence agencies.

Indonesian president-elect vows to further strengthen ties with Japan

AP ■ TOKYO

Indonesian President-elect Prabowo Subianto said he wants to “further strengthen” relations with Japan as he met with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday on the heels of a visit to China.

Subianto, who's currently defence minister, told Kishida that the two countries are longtime friends who have built a cooperative relationship, and that he hoped to further strengthen the relationship. Japan has been seeking closer ties with Southeast Asian countries, especially in maritime security and defence, in the face of China's increasingly assertive military presence.



Indonesian President-elect and current Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, left, and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, right, meet at the prime minister's office Wednesday, in Tokyo. AP/PTI

his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Subianto pledged a continued friendly policy toward China. China is Indonesia's largest trading partner, with Beijing investing in major infrastructure projects, and Indonesia has maintained a relatively neutral stance amid rising

tensions between China and the Philippines over rival territorial claims in the South China Sea. Kishida welcomed Subianto's early visit to Tokyo, telling his future counterpart that the two countries are longtime friends that share basic values and principles, and that Japan hoped to fur-

ther strengthen cooperation in regional and global issues as “comprehensive and strategic partners.” Kishida said Japan hopes to contribute to Indonesia's development in areas including infrastructure and energy, while stepping up cooperation in security and defense.

Senegal swears in youngest elected president, rising from prison to palace

AP ■ DAKAR

Senegal inaugurated Africa's youngest elected leader as president on Tuesday, as the 44-year-old and previously little-known Bassirou Diomaye Faye completed a dramatic ascent from prison to palace within weeks.

Hours later, Ousmane Sonko, the popular opposition figure who helped catapult him to victory, was named as the country's new prime minister. Last month's election tested Senegal's reputation as a stable democracy in West Africa, a region rocked in recent years by coups and attempted coups. Both Faye and Sonko were released from prison less than two weeks before the vote following a political amnesty announced by outgoing President Macky Sall. Their arrests had sparked months of protests and concerns that Sall would seek a third term in office despite term limits. Rights groups said dozens were killed and about 1,000 were jailed. In his first speech as president, Faye



remembered those killed and arrested during the protests and promised to deliver greater sovereignty for Senegal while working to build prosperity. “I am aware that the results of the elections express a profound desire for systemic change,” he said. “Through my election, the Senegalese people have committed to building a sovereign, just and prosperous Senegal in a progressing Africa.” This is the first elected office for Faye, a former tax inspector. His rise has reflected widespread frustration among Senegal's youth with the country's direction — a common sentiment across Africa, which

has the world's youngest population and a number of leaders widely accused of clinging to power for decades. “It's the culmination of a long struggle for democracy and the rule of law,” said Aissata Sagna, a 39-year-old factory worker who worked on Faye's campaign. “This is a day of celebration for us, even if we have lost young people killed during the demonstrations.” Unemployment rates are high. The war in Ukraine has helped drive up the price of food and energy. Like residents of other former French colonies, Senegalese are increasingly disaffected with France, often accused of exploiting its longstanding ties with West Africa. Faye campaigned on promises to clean up corruption. Ahead of the election, he released a declaration of his assets and called on other candidates to do the same. It listed a home in Dakar and land outside the capital and in his small hometown. His bank accounts totaled roughly \$6,600. A practicing Muslim, Faye has two wives, both of whom were present on Tuesday.

“I think the first challenge is the formation of his (Faye's) government,” said Alioune Tine, founder of the Senegalese think tank Afrikajom Center. “This will be the first concrete message he sends to the Senegalese people. The size, diversity and profiles will be analyzed with a fine-tooth comb to see if they meet the demand for a break with the past.” Allies are closely watching Faye's economic policies following his promise to improve the management of natural resources. Senegal has made new oil and gas discoveries in recent years, but the population has yet to see any real benefit. Analysts warn, however, that renegotiating deals could turn investors off. Faye on Tuesday offered reassurance that change would not come at the expense of Senegal's reputation as a stable democracy in a troubled region. “In this work of building a new Senegal, I shall work tirelessly to preserve peace and national cohesion,” he said. “I bear in mind that our most precious resource remains our country's political stability.”

Over 3.5 lakh devotees visited first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Over 3.5 lakh devotees visited the first stone Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi within a month of its opening for the public, according to temple authorities. The iconic temple which was inaugurated in February by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was opened for visitors on March 1. “In the first month, there were approximately 350,000 devotees and visitors, 50,000 of whom visited each weekend (Saturday—Sunday). It's important to note that on Mondays the Mandir conducts private prayers and is closed to visitors, meaning the complex was accessible for only 27 out of the 31 days in March,” a temple spokesperson told PTI.

“Every evening from Tuesday to Sunday, Ganga aarti is performed at 7.30 pm on the

banks of the Swaminarayan ghat, which has been created using holy water from Ganga and Yamuna transported from India,” he added. The grand temple was inaugurated during a dedication ceremony attended by over 5,000 invitees on February 14. The temple has been built by the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha on a 27-acre site in Abu Mureikhah, near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway, at a cost of around Rs 700 crore. Constructed with 18 lakh bricks and 1.8 lakh cubic metres of sandstone sourced directly from Rajasthan Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple has been made in the Nagara style of architecture, just like the Ram Temple in Ayodhya which was inaugurated earlier this year. The BAPS Hindu Mandir is the largest in all of the Gulf region.

The UAE has three other Hindu temples in Dubai. “Since the temple is little on the outskirts and in the middle of a desert, public bus service from the city has been started for weekends to allow visitors to easily come to the temple,” the spokesperson said. During Prime Minister Modi's two-day visit to the Gulf nation in 2015, the UAE allocated land for constructing a temple in Abu Dhabi. This visit held significant diplomatic importance, as Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister since Indira Gandhi to visit this strategically vital Gulf nation in 34 years. The construction of the temple began in 2019. The UAE has at least 3.5 million Indians who are part of the Indian workforce in the Gulf. The land for the temple was donated by the UAE government. Seven spires representing seven emirates of the UAE, carvings

of camels, and national bird falcon, are part of the architecture of the first Hindu stone temple in Abu Dhabi, to give equal representation to the host country. To give equal representation to the host country, along with animals that occupy an important place in Indian mythology like elephants, camels and lions, the UAE's national bird, the falcon, has also been included in the design. Apart from 15 tales from India, including the Ramayana and Mahabharata, stories from Mayan, Aztec, Egyptian, Arabic, European, Chinese and African civilizations have also been depicted in the temple. While the outer walls of the temple are made using sandstone from India, the interior, made of white Italian marble, is adorned with intricately designed and carved columns and walls.

Other Noteworthy architectural elements include two ghumats (domes), 12 samrans (dome-like structures) and 402 pillars. The two ghumats are the “Dome of Peace” and “Dome of Harmony.” Over 300 high-tech sensors to measure temperature and monitor seismic activity, fly ash in the foundation to reduce carbon footprint, 18 million bricks, nano heat resistant tiles and no usage of iron and steel—the temple has been built using ancient architectural methods clubbed with scientific techniques. The temple's facade features exquisite marble carvings set against a sandstone backdrop, crafted from more than 25,000 pieces of stone by skilled artisans from Rajasthan and Gujarat. A substantial number of pink sandstone were transported from northern Rajasthan to Abu Dhabi for the temple.

Haiti's surge in violence led more than 53,000 to flee

AP ■ PORTAU-PRINCE

More than 53,000 people have fled Haiti's capital in less than three weeks, the vast majority to escape unrelenting gang violence, according to a United Nations report released Tuesday. More than 60 per cent are headed to Haiti's rural southern region, which worries UN officials. Our humanitarian colleagues emphasised that these departments do not have sufficient infrastructure, and host communities do not have sufficient resources, to cope with the large number of people fleeing Port-au-Prince,” said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric. The southern region already hosts more than 116,000 Haitians who previously left Port-au-Prince, according to the report by the UN's

International Organisation for Migration. The exodus from the capital of some 3 million people began shortly after powerful gangs launched a series of attacks on government institutions at the end of February. Gunmen have burned police stations, opened fire on the main international airport that remains closed and stormed Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates. More than 1,500 people have been reported killed up to March 22, and another 17,000 have been left homeless, according to the UN. Among the rare travellers trying to head north instead of south from the capital were Marjorie Michelle-Jean, a 42-year-old street vendor, and her two children, ages 4 and 7. “I want to see them alive,” she said, explaining that stray bullets

keep hitting the tin roof of their home. Last week, they tried twice to travel to her hometown of Mirebalais in central Haiti but were forced to turn back because of roadblocks. “I will definitely try again,” she said. “It's absolutely not safe in Port-au-Prince.” Of the 53,125 people who fled Port-au-Prince from March 8-27, nearly 70 per cent already had been forced to abandon their homes and were living with relatives or in crowded and unsanitary makeshift shelters across the capital, the UN found. More than 90 per cent of Haitians leaving the capital have been crowding into buses, risking travel through gang-controlled territory where gang rapes have been reported and gunmen have been known to open fire on public transport.

RBI panel starts discussion on monetary policy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Wednesday started its three-day deliberations on the next set of monetary policy amid expectations that the central bank would once again keep the key interest rate unchanged and focus more on inflation control as concerns over economic growth is abating.

The decision taken at the meeting of the Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on Friday (April 5).

It is the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2024-25. A total of six MPC meetings are scheduled for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then it has held the rate at the same level in its last six bi-monthly policies.

Experts said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) may take cues from the central banks of some major economies, such as the US and the UK, which are apparently in wait-and-watch mode on interest rate cuts.

Switzerland has become the first major economy to cut interest rates, while Japan, the world's third-largest economy, ended its eight-year period of negative interest rates regime.

"We believe the (monetary policy) stance should continue to be



withdrawal of accommodation," said research report of the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI).

It further said there is strong evidence of central banks in emerging economies rate actions are predicated by such actions by central banks in advanced economies.

"India is an exception... First RBI (rate) cut in Q3FY25," it added.

On expectations from the RBI, Group CEO of Housing.Com Dhruv Agarwala said the central bank is likely to maintain a status quo on key policy rate in its April 5 policy amid strong economic growth.

"Even though the year-long

downward trend in core inflation is encouraging, inflation is still close to the upper band of the apex bank's 2-6 per cent target, leaving little room for any rate cut during this policy cycle," he said, adding considering interest rates are likely to remain stable, the demand for housing in the country would continue to get a

boost.

On the other hand, Vivek Singhal, CEO, Smartworld Developers an interest rate cut in the upcoming RBI meeting will augur well for India's real estate market.

A rate cut will lower borrowing costs, stimulate demand, and foster investor confidence.

"Such a move has the potential to unleash a wave of growth and revitalisation in the sector. As consumers prioritise stability and security in their investment decisions, a lower interest rate environment would greatly enhance homebuyer sentiment and bolster affordability — a critical determinant within the housing market landscape," he said.

India posted an 8.4 per cent economic growth in the December quarter of the previous fiscal year. The National Statistical Office (NSO) has revised GDP estimates for the first and second quarters of this fiscal to 8.2 and 8.1 per cent from 7.8 per cent and 7.6 per cent, respectively.

Other members of Governor Das headed MPC are Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma, Rajiv Ranjan, and Michael Debabrata Patra.

The government has mandated the RBI to ensure retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side.

The retail inflation was 5.1 per cent in February.



Vistara cancels 26 flights, holds meeting with pilots

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Amid flight cancellations due to non-availability of crew, Vistara's top officials on Wednesday held a meeting with pilots where discussions were held on new contracts and rostering issues, according to sources.

The Tata Group airline cancelled around 26 flights on Wednesday, the sources in the know said.

With a section of pilots reporting sick to protest against the revised pay structure, Vistara cancelled over 100 flights in the last two days and aviation regulator DGCA has asked the carrier to submit a daily report on the cancellations and delays.

The sources said top officials of Vistara, including CEO Vinod Kannan, held a virtual meeting with pilots to discuss their problems. Officials of human

resources among other departments attended the meeting.

There was no official statement from Vistara on the meeting with the pilots. Flight operations are returning to normalcy and the number of flights cancellations has come down, the sources said.

On issues related to rostering and stretched working hours, the airline officials have assured the pilots that they will be sorted out by May, the sources said.

They also claimed that the current situation was mainly due to higher utilisation of the available pool of pilots.

Vistara, which is in the process of getting merged with Air India, has around 1,000 pilots, including about 200 who are at various stages of training.

In the summer schedule that started from March 31, the airline is to operate a little over 300 flights daily.



HCLTech, Google Cloud team up to scale Gemini

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT services firm HCL Technologies (HCLTech) on Wednesday said it has expanded alliance with Google Cloud to create industry solutions by using the US tech giant's multimodal large language AI model, Gemini.

HCLTech will familiarise and train its 25,000 engineers on Gemini for Google Cloud to help mutual clients innovate and optimise their businesses with GenAI (generative AI), according to a release.

With this, HCLTech can offer expertise and technical skill sets that customers require for deploying and managing GenAI projects.

HCLTech will enable 25,000 engineers on Google Cloud's latest GenAI technology to support clients at various stage of their AI projects, including the development of new use cases and capabilities for HCLTech platforms and product offerings.

The focus initially will be on bringing GenAI capabilities to clients in manufacturing, healthcare, and telecom, the company said.

HCLTech recently launched HCLTech AI Force, a pre-built GenAI platform that optimises engineering lifecycle processes from planning through development, testing and maintenance.

The Noida-headquartered IT

services company will now enhance the HCLTech AI Force platform with Gemini's advanced code completion and summarisation capabilities, which in turn will allow engineers to generate code, remediate issues and accelerate the delivery time and quality of software projects for clients.

HCLTech will also use Gemini models to expand the portfolio of industry solutions built out of its dedicated Cloud Native Labs and AI Labs, which focus on accelerating client innovation and are staffed by leading AI experts and engineers, the company said.

Both labs will enable clients to better scope, manage and refine GenAI projects on Google Cloud's infrastructure.

HCLTech Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director C Vijayakumar said, "This collaboration will bring to market HCLTech's innovative GenAI solutions using Google's most capable and scalable Gemini models. We believe this helps us to bring even more value to global enterprises through HCLTech's differentiated portfolio."

Gemini for Google Cloud can enhance many areas of enterprise work, such as helping developers build applications more quickly and improving how financial analysts report on their businesses, Thomas Kurian, CEO of Google Cloud, said.

Sensex, Nifty close lower amid profit booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled lower for the second straight session on Wednesday due to profit-booking in select banking and auto stocks amid mixed trends from the global markets and outflow of foreign funds.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 27.09 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 73,876.82 in a volatile trade. During the day, the index oscillated between the high of 74,151.21 and the low of 73,757.23.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 18.65 points or 0.08 per cent to 22,434.65, with 30 components of the 50-share benchmark ending with losses.

"Nifty remained volatile throughout the day after an initial weak start due to negative global cues," said Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst, LKP Securities.

He further said that the index may trend towards 22,650. "Support is positioned at 22,350 on the lower end."

Among the Sensex constituents, as many as 16 stocks closed with losses with Nestle India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserve,



Titan and JSW Steel being the major laggards.

Index major Reliance, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti and Tata Steel also declined due to selling pressure.

In contrast, NTPC, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance bucked the trend and ended the day in green. Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors also defied the trend.

"Market is focused on the US FED chair's speech, later today, for more hints. A statement in-line with the last policy is predicted to bring back a respite to the global market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Wednesday started its three-day

deliberations on the next set of monetary policy amid expectations that the central bank would once again keep the key interest rate unchanged and focus more on inflation control as concerns over economic growth is abating.

BSE MidCap rose 0.61 per cent, while smallcap index gained 1.18 per cent and largecap fell marginally by 0.05 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Realty fell the most by 2.45 per cent, followed by auto sector benchmark which declined by 0.37 per cent. While FMCG sector index went down by 0.27 per cent, consumer durables slipped 0.23 per cent.

On the other hand, utilities rose 1.45 per cent and power gained 1.20 per

cent. The IT sector rose 0.78 per cent, teck climbed 0.73 per cent, while BSE Industrials and BSE Financial Services inched up by 0.48 per cent and 0.45 per cent, respectively.

Oil and gas rose 0.43 per cent and bankex gained marginally by 0.07 per cent.

Asian markets were trading in negative with Hong Kong's Hang Seng and Japan's Nikkei 225 losing sharply by 1.22 per cent and 0.97 per cent, respectively.

China's Shanghai Composite was trading at a loss of 0.18 per cent.

In European markets, CAC 40 of France and DAX of Germany were trading in the green, while London's FTSE 100 was losing. The US markets ended in red on Tuesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,622.69 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.31 per cent to USD 88.20 a barrel.

On Tuesday, the BSE benchmark Sensex declined by 110.64 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 73,903.91. The NSE Nifty closed 8.70 points or 0.04 per cent lower at 22,453.30.



Coal blocks output surged 27 per cent in FY24: Joshi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Captive and commercial coal blocks produced 147 million tonne coal in financial year 2023-24, registering a year-on-year growth of 27 per cent, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday.

The mines had produced 116 MT coal during 2022-23.

Out of 147.2 MT, power sector captive mines produced around 121.3 MT, non-power sector mines produced 8.4 MT and the production from commercial mines was 17.5 MT, Joshi said in a post on X.

The production from power sector captive mines in FY24 rose 19 per cent as compared to the previous year. In non-power captive mines, the production growth was 63 per cent year-on-year.

Output from commercial coal mines registered the highest year-on-year growth of 93 per cent in FY24.

Dispatch from the mines during FY24 was 143 MT as against 110 MT in FY23. A total of 9 new coal mines commenced production during FY24 which includes 4 captive mines and 5 commercial mines.

"The Ministry extends its appreciation to all stakeholders for their dedication and efforts in achieving these milestones. The increased coal production not only reinforces India's energy security but also fosters economic growth and industrial development across sectors," Joshi said.

Gold hits new peak of ₹69,200 per 10 gram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices jumped by Rs 830 to reach a new peak of Rs 69,200 per 10 grams on Wednesday amid a rally in precious metal rates in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

This is the second time that yellow metal prices have hit an all-time high in this week. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 68,370 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also surged by Rs 1,700 to Rs 80,700 per kg. It had finished at Rs 79,000 per kg in the previous close.

"Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 69,200 per 10 grams, up by Rs 830, taking a bullish trend in the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.



In the international markets, spot gold at COMEX was trading at USD 2,275 per ounce, up by USD 20 from the previous close.

"Gold up at yet another all-time high with prices breaching past USD 2,300 per ounce in early trade, while futures on MCX rose close to all-time around Rs 69,500, as demand for safe-haven metal continues to grow, amid possibility of escalation in the Middle-East tensions.

Planters oppose notification to sell 100 per cent tea through auction

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

An association of tea planters in the north-east region has opposed the central government's directive to sell 100 per cent of dust tea and 50 per cent of other grades produced in a calendar year through auction as it will be "detrimental" to the survival of the industry.

In a liberalised and globalised economy, there is "no need for the government to issue a notification to compulsorily sell a certain percentage of tea through a public auction", North East Tea Association Advisor Bidyanand Barkakoty said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The government should not try to regulate one particular segment of the trade, and in this case, tea producers have no control over the market forces. We earnestly request that the notification should be withdrawn in the best interests of the tea industry," he said.

A gazette notification, Tea (Marketing) Control (Amendment) Order, 2024, issued on February 26, directed that not less than 50 per cent of the total tea manufactured in a calendar year and 100 per cent of dust grades tea manufactured in



a calendar year in units located in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal must be sold through public tea auctions but it does not apply to a mini tea factory.

"The basic principle of our objection is that since the government cannot guarantee the price realisation and the time taken for sale through auction, it should not intervene but leave it to producers to sell their produce in whatever way they feel comfortable", Barkakoty said.

Tea producers have a "huge risk and responsibility of paying wages to workers on time and also to small tea growers who sell their green leaf to factories", he said.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Toyota Kirloskar Motor is looking to drive in more premium models in the country with customers gradually moving towards bigger-sized vehicles in the market, according to a senior company executive.

The company, which sells models like Innova and Fortuner, on Wednesday expanded its range in the country with the introduction of entry-level SUV Urban Cruiser Taisor.

In an interaction with PTI, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Deputy Managing Director Tadashi Asazuma (Sales and Marketing) said the company aims to cater to the diverse customer requirements in the market.

He noted that the company also plans to have models with diverse powertrains, including hybrid and battery electric vehicles in its portfolio in the country.

Asazuma said customers are shifting from small cars to bigger cars gradually and that is one reason the company is even expanding its production capacity with a new manufacturing plant to offer new models.

Toyota looks to introduce more premium models in India

When asked if the company would look at bringing in more premium cars in the market, he noted, "We think it should be necessary".

He further said: "Last year, we announced (plans) to build a new plant in Bidadi. That is a preparation for meeting with the customer demand."

The new plant is expected to commence production in 2026, Asazuma noted.

The share of sports utility vehicles has risen to 50 per cent of overall wholesales in FY24 while the share of entry-level and sedans has reduced in the same period.

On being asked if the company would focus on hybrid technology or battery electric vehicles in the market, he stated that the company has all kinds of technologies and the strategy is to "meet customer requirements".



He said, "As of now, in the case of India, we believe that strong hybrid vehicles are a practical solution. But of course, with more and more customer requirements coming in we will think about it (BEVs)."

On the timeframe for introducing its first BEV in the country, he declined to

share details.

Asazuma said the Indian market is very important for Toyota globally and that the automaker aims to grow along with the auto market which has now become the third largest globally.

On the introduction of Urban Cruiser Taisor, Asazuma said the model would help the company to bring in more customers to its fold.

The Urban Cruiser Taisor is TKM's version of Maruti Suzuki's Fronx.

The automaker, a joint venture between Toyota Motor Company and Kirloskar Group, has also introduced a new scheme for online sales.

"We are now piloting it in Bangalore. If it is successful, it can be introduced at other locations as well. We do not have a detailed plan yet," Asazuma said.

TKM currently has around 647 touchpoints across the country.

Shareholders nod to Vodafone Idea to raise ₹20,000 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) on Wednesday said its shareholders have approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 20,000 crore by issuance of securities.

An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) seeking shareholders' nod for raising capital was held on Tuesday.

VIL in a BSE filing informed about the voting results of the EGM, where 99.01 per cent of the overall votes were cast in favour of the resolution pertaining to "issuance of securities up to an aggregate amount of Rs 20,000 crore".

The approval comes at a time when the debt-laden firm is planning to raise Rs 45,000



crore through a mix of equity and debt with hopes of matching services offered by rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, and arresting an alarming and prolonged subscriber churn.

The fundraise will arm VIL to

improve competitive positioning in the Indian telecom market, where it trails Jio and Bharti Airtel, by a wide margin.

In February this year, the company's board had approved raising up to Rs 20,000 crore in equity from promoters and other investors by June, as it looked to shore up finances for the much-delayed 5G rollout and strengthening 4G services.

Vodafone Idea — where the government now also holds just over 33 per cent equity stake — has been fighting a desperate battle for survival. It has a debt of Rs 2.1 lakh crore, is reporting quarterly losses, and haemorrhaging subscribers month after month.

AT 96, OLDEST RUNNER DATTATREYA TAKES ON NEW CHALLENGE

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Age is just a number for 96-year-old NS Dattatreya who will be participating in the 'TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024' as the meet's oldest runner. Dattatreya is an avid distance-runner and had previously participated in this Gold Label race scheduled to be held on April 28. Having begun his distance running journey in January 2019, the nonagenarian has taken part in dozens of marathons and walkathons. "After I ran my first marathon, I knew this was something I wanted to continue doing. It started with just wanting to keep fit and soon it turned into a lifestyle," he said. "There's no point in having a lot of money if you aren't able to enjoy it," he added, underlining the need to pay



attention to one's health and lifestyle. "The first thing a friend asks

you when they meet you is about your health and not the money you have,"

In an age where the virtual world is slowly taking over, Dattatreya believes it is

important to indulge in some form of physical activity, so as to not become a burden on one's family. His day begins at 5.30am with a bit of warm-ups followed by cycling for about an hour. In the evening, he is on his treadmill, joined by his son Murali after getting home from his work. "I used to play football when I was much younger. Now I run. I have always ensured that I maintained a healthy lifestyle. "I believe there are two things that parents can give their children — quality education and preventing themselves from becoming a burden on their family by taking care of their health through physical exercise of some form or the other." Dattatreya has been a part of this event for the past few years and loves every bit of it.

Hardik credits uncle Jugraj for shaping his career

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

If it was not for a timely advice from his uncle and former India drag-flicker Jugraj Singh, men's team vice captain Hardik Singh would have shifted to the Netherlands back in 2017 when he was striving hard to kick open the door of national camp for himself without success. Hardik, a star mid-fielder from Khusrupur village near Jalandhar in Punjab, says he was on the verge of giving up his dream of playing for India if his maternal uncle Jugraj had not motivated him to stay focussed. "I progressed from the sub-junior level to the senior level at a good pace after I joined the Mohali Hockey Academy as a 14-year-old. But after a few years, I found myself in a situation where I had lost confidence after being ignored for the national camp. "At that time, way back in 2017, I thought of shifting base to the Netherlands to play club

hockey there. I gave up hope of representing India. If he (Jugraj) had not guided me at that time, I wouldn't be here now. When you are doing well, you need good guidance," Hardik told PTI in an exclusive chat. "He advised me to explore hockey in the country more and improve my game. That time I was 18-19 year old. So I thought let me give me some more time and explore my hockey in India," he added. "He (Jugraj) told me you have age on your side. You have the game, you can shine even by staying back in India. Play for domestic teams and show your skills so that people can know about you," he said. "If not for his guidance I wouldn't have been here today because I didn't have so much patience." Hardik's decision to stay back yielded desired results as he went on to become the mainstay in the Indian team's midfield and was also a part of the Tokyo Olympics bronze

medal-winning squad besides being a member of the Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal-winning side. He was also part of the silver medal-winning side of 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Recently, Hardik was named FIH Player of the Year as well Hockey India Player of the Year. "As an individual I am happy about the awards, but our greater focus is on the team as hockey is a team game. If one player out of the 16-member squad doesn't play well, it will harm the team," he said. Jugraj said as an athlete, Hardik too had his setbacks but he just reminded him about the significance of representing the national flag and that motivated the star midfielder. "It is a proud feeling for the entire family about what he has achieved so far but the journey is not over yet. So I advised him to work hard and he will get the results. He also did a lot of hardwork," Jugraj told PTI.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sucheta Rani D/o Rajender Kumar R/o Nuhayan Wale (249), Sirsa, Haryana-125077, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sucheta Saharan.

I, hitherto known as Paramvir Kaur Uppal Daughter of Hardeep Singh residing at VPO. Chamliara, Jalandhar-144002, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Paramvir Kaur.

I, hitherto known as Jagmit Kaur Wife of Dilbag Singh residing at Vill. Awan, Ghore Shah, Rani Plnd, Hoshiarpur-144304, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surjit Kaur.

I, hitherto known as Sarinder Kaur Alias Sinder Kaur Wife of Gurcharan Gholra residing at VPO. Lamme, Tehsil Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala-144621, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sinder Kaur.

I, hitherto known as Yograj Son of Kuldeep Singh residing at H.No.85, Kapurthala Road, New Goutam Nagar, Basti Bawa Khel, Jalandhar-144021, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yograj Kaushal.

I, hitherto Known as Poonam Sood Daughter of Amar Singh Sood Wife of Gagandeep residing at Village Jalal, Po. Bholana, Distt. Kapurthala-144620, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Poonam.

I, Ajay Kumar S/o Rashed residing at Rasulpur Kalan, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Ajay Kumar to Arshdeep Singh Gill.

I, Tarlok Singh S/O Dalbir Singh R/O House No.02, Baba Jiwan Singh, Passi Road, Patiala (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Tarlok Singh Bhatti To Tarlok Singh.

I, Dilbag Masih Resident Of Parbodd Chander Nagar, Near Ili Boys, G.T. Road, Gurdaspur, Post Office And District Gurdaspur-143521 (Punjab) Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Joshua To Joshua Masih.All Concerned Noted

I, Ishita Masih D/O Dilbag Masih Resident Of Parbodd Chander Nagar, Near Ili Boys, G.T.Road, Gurdaspur, Post Office And District Gurdaspur-143521 (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Ishita To Ishita Masih. All Concerned Noted

I, Service No. 16113823w Rank: Hav. Mahantesh Tubakad Residing At Vill & Post Sutagatti Tehsil: Bailhongal Distt. Belagavi State: Karnataka Pin Code: 591147 Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Vaishnavi To Vaishnavi M Tubakad For All Future Purposes.

I, Jayshree Gopal Raut Legally Wedded Wife Of Army No.14839778M, Rank: Hav/MI, Name: Raut Goptal Sriram Unit: 665 Coy Asc (Tkptr) Type-C, C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From Jayshri To Jayshree Gopal Raut And Changed My Date Of Birth From 20 April 1989 To 20 February 1989.

I, Sathyabhama H S Is Legally Wife Of Service No. Jc Nya 15321253n Rank: Nbsub Name: Shabari V S, Unit: 1 Aer C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Village Baichanahalli Post Kushalanagara, Distt. Kodagu (State) Karnataka Pin Code-571234, Have Changed My Name From Sathyabhama Hs To Sathyabhama H.S.

I, Service No. Jc Nya 15321253n Rank: Nbsub Name: Shabari V S, Unit: 1 Aer C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Village Baichanahalli Post Kushalanagara, Distt. Kodagu (State) Karnataka Pin Code-571234, Have Changed My Name From Shabari Vs To Shabari V S.

I, Service No. Jc Nya 15321253n Rank: Nbsub Name: Shabari V S, Unit: 1 Aer C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Village Baichanahalli Post Kushalanagara, Distt. Kodagu (State) Karnataka Pin Code-571234, Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Shreya Vs To Shreya V S.

I, Laxmi P V Is Legally Mother Of Service No. Jc Nya 15321253n Rank: Nbsub Name: Shabari V S, Unit: 1 Aer C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Village Baichanahalli Post Kushalanagara, Distt. Kodagu (State) Karnataka Pin Code-571234, Have Changed My Name From Pv Laxmi To Laxmi P V.

I, Service No. Jc Nya 15321253n Rank: Nbsub Name: Shabari V S, Unit: 1 Aer C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Village Baichanahalli Post Kushalanagara, Distt. Kodagu (State) Karnataka Pin Code-571234, Have Changed My Son's Name From Aneesh Vs To Aneesh V S.

I, Gurcharan Singh S/O Anoop Singh R/O V&Po. Ajrawar, Tehsil & District Patiala (Punjab) Declare That In My Matriculation Certificate Inadvertently My Name Has Been Entered As Gurcharn Singh S/O Anup Singh Instead Of Gurcharan Singh S/O Anoop Singh.

I, Tasrifun Nisha Legally Mother Of Md Ayyub Ahmad Residing At Village Sonari Post Machhati, Tehsil Mohamabad District Ghazipur State U P Pin Code 233227 Have Changed My Name From Tusrifun Khatun To Tasrifun Nisha Vide Affidavit Dated 03 April 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, Mamta Devi, Spouse Of Bhanwar Lal Yadav Resident At Village And Post Sudrashan, Tehsil Didwana, District Nagaur, State Rajasthan, Pin 341551, Have Changed My Name From Mamtha Yadav To Mamta Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 03 April 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, Gholave Pushpa P Spouse Of Army No.14669212K, Nk, Gholave Pruthviraj Dattatray Unit 113fd Wksp Coy (656emebn) C/O 99 Apo, Resident Of Village Gholavevadi Dist- Solapur Pin Code-413404 (Mh) Have Changed My Name Gholave Pushpa P To Gholave Pushpa Pruthviraj Vide Affidavit Dated 01 April 2024 Before At Executive Magistrate Barsli.

I, Honnakatti Hema, Spouse Of No. Jc-769270M, Sub/M Tech B Veh, Yallappa Of Unit 218 Fd Wksp Coy Eme, C/O 56 Apo, Pin-906218, Residing At City Jamkhandi, Post Office Jamkhandi, Tehsil Jamkhandi, District Bagalkot, State Karnataka, Pin-587301 Declare That, In My All Civil Documents My Date Of Birth Mentioned As 04.04.1980, But As Per My Husband's Service Records It Is Erroneously Mentioned As 01.07.1980.

I, No. Jc510440k Rank Sub Name Surinder Singh Presently Residing At Vpo Lakho Ke Behram Distt Ferozepur Now At H.No. 175. Mallan Wala Road, Gobind Enclave, Phase 2, Ferozepur City, Punjab, India, 152002, Declare That In My Army Service Record My Minor Daughter Indrpreet Kaur Date Of Birth Is Wrongly Mentioned As 25-05-2006 But Actual And Correct My Minor Daughter Indrpreet Kaur Date Of Birth Is 25-04-2006.

I, Rulai Sk Is Legally Father Of Army No. 15225555H, L/NK (Opr), Asrof Sk Of Unit 627 Sata Bty C/O 56 Apo Resident Of Village Kharera Post Office Kharera P S Salar Tehsil Kandl Distt Murshidabad State West Bengal 724201 Have Change My Name From Rulay Sk To Rulai Sk Vide Affidavit Dated 03 April 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, Kirti Ranout Is Spouse Of No. 2497412H, Hav, Viveka Nand Of Unit 21 Aer C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Village Dehra, Post Office Hatwar, Tehsil Ghumarwin, District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, Pin-174028 Have Changed My Name From Kirti Ranaut To Kirti Ranaut Vide Affidavit Dated 03 April 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, Shaktipada Mandal Is Father Of No. 15798376n, Hav, Dipak Mondal, Of Unit 408 Gun Msl Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing Of Porachingra, East Midnapore State West Bengal Pin 721655 Have Change My Name In All Documents From Saktipada Mondal To Shaktipada Mandal And Date Of Birth 04/05/1962 To 01.01.1962.

I, Prabhati Mandal Is Mother Of No. 15798376n, Hav, Dipak Mondal Of Unit 408 Gun Msl Regt C/O 56 Apo Resident Of Porachingra, East Midnapore State West Bengal Pin 721655 Have Change My Name In All Documents From Pravatl Mondal To Prabhati Mandal And Date Of Birth 12/12/1967 To 01.01.1967

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/o Pritam singh R/o Diwan Colony, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my Given name Jaswinder Surname Kaur

I, Abhimanyu S/o Krishan Vpo Pai District.kailthal have Changed My Given name Abhimanyu Surname Dhull.

I, Satish Babber S/o Tilak Raj R/o H.No.140, Ward No.5, Near Girl School, Mohalla Julakhri, Sujanpur (Rural) Pathankot (Punjab)-145023, Have Changed My Name And Shall Here After Be Known As Satish Babbar, All Concerned May Note.

I, Sandhaya Babber W/o Satish Babbar R/o. 140, Ward No.5, Near Girl School, Mohalla Julakhri, Sujanpur (Rural) Pathankot (Punjab)-145023, Have Changed My Name And Shall Here After Be Known As Sandhaya Babbar, All Concerned May Note.

I, Rajinder Kaur W/o Sukhjeet Singh Brar R/o #1658 fort Manimajra Main Bazar Manimajra Chandigarh have changed my name to Rajinder Kaur Brar.

I, Pooja Kumari W/O Deepak Kumar Pandey R/O H.No.4, Near Govt. Primary School, Taru Ka Wara, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name As Pooja Pandey.

I, Sarabjit W/O Dilbag Ram R/O Katpalon, Kat Palon, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Jasmeet To Jasmeet Kaur.

I Ramandip Singh S/O Joginder Singh R/O Vpo. Ajaibwali District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Ramandip Singh To Ramandeep Singh.

I Seema Rani W/O Harpal Singh R/O Vpo. Patti, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Preebha To Preebha Gindha.

I B Sahadev S/O B Rajeya R/O Rangailunda Ganjam Odisha 760007 India Declare That My Wife's Incorrect Name Is T Bharati Reddy And Her Correct Name Is Smt. B Bharati Reddy, My Wife's Incorrect Date Of Birth 06-02-1983 And Her Correct Date Of Birth Is 08-03-1983.

I B Sahadev S/O B Rajeya R/O Rangailunda Ganjam Odisha 760007 India Declare That My Mother's Incorrect Name Is B Sitamma And Her Correct Name Is Smt. B Sittamma And My Mother's Incorrect Date Of Birth Is 1964. But Her Correct Date Of Birth 31-12-1964.

I Maradana Suneetha Wife Of Army No.14678659H Rank NK Name Bhaskara Rao Maradana R/O 1-8 New Colony Komarada Vizianagaram Andhra Pradesh 535521 Have Changed My Name From Marada Suneetha To Maradana Suneetha Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB00799282517025W, Dated 28-03-2024 Before (Judicial Magistrate).

I Krishana Kumari W/O Krishan Kumar Sharma R/O B-12/334/4 New Jagatpura Shiv Mandir Back Side Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Krishna Kumari.

I Jasmin Kaur W/O Jagjeet Singh R/O Village Bassi Maroof Hussainpur, P.O. Baghpur Tehsil And Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Jasmeen Kaur To Jasmin Kaur.

I Balhar Singh S/O Satnam Singh R/O Village Khojkipur, P.O. Saiala, District Jalandhar, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Balhar Singh.

I Ganesh Dass Alias Ganesh Kumar Chabbra S/O Jodha Ram R/O H.No.408, St.No.6, Kamalpur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Ganesh Kumar Chabbra.

I Kuldeep Singh Saini S/O Bawa Singh R/O Quarter No.77, Police Lines, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Singh.

I Parvinder Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Village Dalamwal, P.O. Bulhawal Tehsil And Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Parvinder Singh To Parvinder Singh.

I Prabhjot Singh S/O Palwinder Kumar R/O Village Chak Shakur P.O. Patial, District Jalandhar Punjab Have Changed My Name To Singh Prabhjot.

I Karanbir Singh S/O Sukhchain Singh R/O Vill. Jhanda Bagga Purana Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Karanbeer Singh.

I Dollpreet Kaur Sidhu D/O Gurwinder Singh R/O Vill. Ahingran P.O. Tihara Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Dollpreet Kaur.

I Gurdeep Singh Virk S/O Harbans Singh R/O Vpo. Birk Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Gurdeep Singh.

I Joginder Singh S/O Savinder Singh Vpo Naranjanpur, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt Amritsar have changed my name from Joginder Singh to Joginder Singh Bal.

I Rajwinder Singh Bhullar S/o Jarnail Singh R/o Vpo Doda Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my name to Rajwinder Singh.

I Poonam W/O Vishal Sahni Ho.No.259.10 Mohalla Joshlian Patti Dist: Tarn Taran. I Have Changed My Name Poonam To Divya Sahni.

I, Ikmander Singh S/o Maninder Pal Singh Sandhu R/o # 7295/5, State College Road, Lehla Colony, Patiala have changed my name to Ikmander Singh Sandhu.

I Sandeep Kaur Randhawa W/o Baljinder Singh Sidhu Vpo Bhadaur Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Sandeep Kaur Sidhu.

I Smt Satbir Kaur Wd/o No 15467283Y Late LD Baljit Singh R/O Vill Burj Rai Ke Tehsil Patti Distt. Tam Taran (Pb) I have changed the name of my son from Sharanpreet Singh to Shampreet Singh.

I Sarabjit Kaur W/o Gurdev Singh R/o Balkhandi (Moga) have changed my name to Sarbjit Kaur.

I Rajwinder Kaur Bisla W/o Inderjit Singh Kharbharh, Vill-Chak Phullu, Tehsil Garhsankar Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab (India). I Have Changed My Name Rajwinder Kaur Bisla Kharbharh.

I Partap Singh S/o Pritam Singh R/o Gali No 1, Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Tarn Taran Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran have changed my name to Partap Singh Gill.

I Balwinder Kaur W/o Partap Singh Gill R/o Gali No 1, Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Tarn Taran Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran have changed my given name to Balwinder Kaur Gill.

I, Gurjant Singh S/o Maan Singh R/o Machhiwara (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Gurjant Singh Manes.

I, Neeru Bala W/o Amandeep R/o House No. 112, Ghor Mohalla Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Neeru (After Marriage)

I, Varun S/o Parveen Kumar R/o Vill: Swar Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Varun to Varun Kumar.

I, Ranjeet Kaur W/o Sukhmander Singh Muhar R/o Madhak (Faridkot) have changed my name to Ranjeet Kaur Muhar.

I, Harwinder Singh S/o Gurdour Singh R/o Kauni (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name to Harwinder Singh Dhalwal.

I, Simran Singh S/o Harjinder Singh R/o Shri Guru Arjan Dev Nagar Goindwal Road (Tarn Taran) have changed my name from Simran Singh to Singh Simran.

I, Kuldeep Singh S/o Makhan R/o Vpo. Daraj (Barnala) have changed my minor son's name from Japnoor Singh to Japnoor Singh Dhalwal.

I, Kuldeep Singh S/o Makhan R/o Vpo. Daraj (Barnala) have changed my minor son's name from Ekamnoor Singh to Ekamnoor Singh Dhalwal.

I, Rajni W/o Sahil Garg R/o Factory Road Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Rajni Garg.

I, Baldev Singh S/o Ajaib Singh R/o Moga Road St.No. 6 Nanak Nagri Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my minor son's name from Gursewak Singh to Gursewak Singh Aulakh S/o Baldev Singh Aulakh.

I, Devinder Kumar S/o Omkar Nath R/o Village Salani, Tehsil Amloh (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Davinder Kumar.

I, Sanjay Jindal S/o Sheela Devi W/o Bhagwan Dass R/o H.No.66, Country Homes, Samrala Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar Jindal.

I, Raj Singh Son Of Shri Jaswant Singh, Resident Of Village Dupedi, Tehsil Assandh, District Karnal, Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Rajpal To Raj Singh. Rajpal And Raj Singh Both Are My Names. In Future I Should Be Known As Raj Singh.

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Sh. Devdutt Shastri R/O Vill. Shahpur, Post Office Nagla, Rodan, Distt. Kamal, Declare That I Have Changed The Name Of My Son From Sarvesh To Sarvesh Kamboj.

I Baljit Kaur W/O Surinder Singh R/O Village Dulba P.O Panjola Distt. Patiala Have Changed My Name To Baljeet Kaur.

I Navita Goyal W/O Lukesh Goel R/O H.No. 4016 B/25 Soot Batta Mohalla, Patiala Have Changed My Name Navita Goyal To Navita Goel.

I Nishu Malik W/O Virender R/O H.No 196, Vpo Kurlan Tehsil Assandh Distt Karnal Have Changed My Name From Nishu Joon To Nishu Malik.

I Virender S/O Karan Singh R/O H.No 196, Vpo Kurlan Tehsil Assandh Distt Karnal Have Changed My Name From Virender Singh To Virender.

I Krishna Devi W/O Sunder Lal R/O H.No 84,Gali No 4, Rajiv Puram Phosgarh Road Karnal Declare That Krishna And Krishna Devi Both Are My Names.I Am Known With Both Names.

I Sapna Kumari D/O Abhimnyu R/O Katgarh, Kathgarh, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar Punjab - 144522, Have Changed My Name To Jasmeen Parashar.

I Karishan Lal S/O Ishar Dass R/O 5-B, Udharn Singh Nagar, Ludhiana, Central Post Office, Ludhiana (West) Ludhiana Punjab- 141008, Have Changed My Name To Krishan Lal Sareen.

I Rummy Jain W/O Ajay Sareen R/O House No- 2, Aggar Nagar Ext, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001, Have Changed My Name To Rummy Sareen.

I Akshay S/O Ajay Sareen R/O House No- 2, Aggar Nagar Ext, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141001, Have Changed My Name To Akshay Sareen.

I Jaspreet Singh alias Laljeet Singh S/o Daljeet Singh R/O Vill-Dulchi Ke Teh & Distt Ferozepur I Am Known By Both Names As Above One And Is Same Person.

I, Sonia W/o Surjit Singh R/o H.No. 3, Chopra Complex, Malwal Road, Ferozepur City have Changed My Name To Sonia Chopra.

I Rajbeer Kaur W/o Bohar Singh R/o Malwal Qadim Tehsil And District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name From Rajbeer Kaur To Rajbir Kaur.

I Anandeep Kaur W/o Avtar Singh R/o Pir Khan Sheikh District Ferozepur Have Changed Name To Amandeep Kaur.

I Santosh Kaur W/o Narinder Singh R/o Village Lakho Ke Behram PO. Lakho Ke Behram District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Sandeep Kaur.

I Amrik Singh Dhalwal S/o Gobind Singh R/o Vill-Ugoke Distt-Ferozepur have changed my minor son name Charnjot Singh Dhalwal to Charanjot Singh Dhalwal.

I Ranjit kaur W/O Satwant singh R/O Vill & P.o Daun Kalan Patiala have changed my name from Ranjit Kaur to Ranjeet kaur

I Vishwasjeet Singh S/O Sukhpal singh vpo. Mianwind teh. Khadoor sahib distt. Tarn taran have changed my name from Viswasheet singh to Vishwasjeet singh vide date 14 feb 2024, aff. No. IN-PB85723114359649W

I Shardpreet kaur D/O Sukhpal singh VPO. Mianwind, Teh. Khadoor Sahib. Distt. Tarn Taran have changed my name from Sharadpreet to Shardpreet kaur vide date 14 feb 2024, aff. No. IN -PB85721956912655W

I, Bhandari Tiwari resident of Mohalla- Adarsh Nagar, Post-Anith, Tehsil- Ara, District-Bhojpur, State- Bihar, Pin-802302, have changed my Father name from Srikrishna Tiwari to Shrikrishna Tiwari vide affidavit No.IN-PB96021185190609W dated 14 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Pooja spouse of Sathe Dnyaneshwar resident of Village-Deolali, Post- Deolali, Tehsil-Kallam, District- Osmanabad, State-Maharashtra, Pin-413508, have changed my name from Pooja to Pooja Dnyaneshwar Sathe vide affidavit No.IN-PBW dated 02 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Mahendra Kumar Shrivras resident of Village- Matadeen Ka Pura, Post- Bhind, Tehsil- Bhind, District- Bhind, State- Madhya Pradesh, Pin- 477001, have changed my Daughter Pragati Shrivras DOB from 08 May 2005 to 08 May 2008 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB02335978989271W dated 02 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sushma spouse of Bhede Santosh Saharsam resident of Village- Khmatla, Post-Kothurna, Tehsil- Bhandara, District- Bhandara, State-Maharashtra, Pin- 441905, have changed my name from Sushma to Sushma Santosh Bhede vide affidavit No.IN-PB02357779966265W dated 02 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Pranita spouse of Deshmukh Rahul Gambhirrao resident of Village- Kendra (KH) Post- Kendra (KH) Tehsil-Shengaoan, District- Hingoli, State-Maharashtra, Pin- 431703, have changed my name from Pranita to Pranita Rahul Deshmukh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB02327444926276W dated 02 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sharda spouse of Marathe Mahendra Natthu resident of Village- Thalner, Post- Thalner, Tehsil- Shirpur, District- Dhule, State-Maharashtra, Pin- 425421, have changed my name from Sharda to Sharda Mahendra Marathe vide affidavit No.IN-PB02353531743806W dated 02 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Tejashree spouse of Suryawanshi Pradeep Yashwant resident of Village- Kanchanpur, Post- Kanchanpur, Tehsil- Miraj, District- Sangli, State-Maharashtra, Pin- 416306, have changed my name from Tejashree to Tejashree Pradeep Suryawanshi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB02318739063780W dated 02 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Pinkey Shekhawat spouse of Pooran Singh resident of Village- Chatarpura, Post-Chatarpura, Tehsil- Bansur, District-Alwar, State-Rajasthan, Pin- 301024, have changed my name from Pinkey Shekhawat to Pinki Vide affidavit No.IN-PB01565316670476W dated 30 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sangeeta spouse of More Uttam resident of Village-Bijagamri, Post- Bijagamri, Tehsil-Belgavi, District- Belgavi, State-Karnataka, Pin- 591108, have changed my name from Sangeeta to Sangeeta Uttam More Vide affidavit No.IN-PB01560681595615W dated 30 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Pooran Singh resident of Village- Chatarpura, Post-Chatarpura, Tehsil- Bansur, District-Alwar, State-Rajasthan, Pin- 301024, have changed my Daughter name from Mann Kanwar to Man Kanwar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB01564510862534W dated 30 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Kamlesh Kumari W/o Raj Singh Dhanda R/O H.No. 1140A New Housing Board Colony Jind Tehsil and Distt. Jind Have Changed My Name From Kamlesh Kumari To Kamlesh Kumari Dhanda.

I Jaswinder Kaur W/o Harsharan Singh R/o Vill Nahra P O Dera Salimpur Tehsil Barara Ambala that I have changed my name from Jaswinder Kaur to Kaur Jaswinder and surname to Kaur . Concerned note

I Surinder Pal s/o Sh.Om Parkash Duggal R/O #165-A Sector 51-A Chandigarh have changed my name Surinder Pal to Surinder Pal Duggal .

I Upkar Kaur Mavi w/o Sh.Devinder Singh



are back in the dressing room," Rayudu said. He was referring Mahipal Lomror, who has come in as Impact Sub in a few games and scored at a strike-rate of 230 plus and Karthik, whose cameo was instrumental in their only win of the season so far against Punjab Kings. Rayudu termed it as a convenient option for senior batters, who are consuming all the Powerplay overs, where scoring runs is easy with field restrictions in place.

"Sixteen years. This is the same story of RCB, when there is pressure, no big name is ever found standing. All youngsters are playing at the back-end and all the big guns bat at the top of the order and they whip off the cream from the cake and that is the reason this team has never won IPL," said the 38-year-old firebrand batter, who played 55 ODLs and six T20Is for India between 2013 and 2019.

stated. Mavi, on his part, vowed to come back stronger. "I thought I will play matches and do well for my team but unfortunately I have to go because of injury. "A player needs to be mentally strong and also know what are the areas one needs to focus on during rehabilitation. We have a good team here," he said in a video posted on LSG's official 'X' handle.

able to play the Mumbaiers home game on April 7 against Delhi Capitals, the source said: "The clearer picture will emerge after tomorrow's tests. There's still three days before the next game but since it's a comeback, it could after a long time, it could also be April 11 at home against RCB."

The swashbuckling batter has been MI's most prolific performer for the past four to five seasons and his absence felt by the team that has lost its

first three matches this season. His replacement Naman Dhir, the player from Punjab, is yet to measure up and beleaguered skipper Hardik Pandya would certainly need 'Mr 360 degree' to stem the rot. As far as the BCCI's medical team is concerned, the clear mandate was to ensure that India's premier T20 batter is completely fit for the T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies, and also make sure that there are no premature breakdowns during the IPL.

Rohit Sharma,' or 'He was treated badly,' and all the things that are coming out in social media," he added.

Shastry expects the tide to turn once Mumbai Indians start winning. The team is currently on a three-match losing streak.

"So, my advice to Hardik would be to be calm, patient, ignore, and just focus on your game. Get a couple of performances going. Mumbai Indians is a terrific side. If they get on a roll, they win three or four matches on the trot, everything will subside," he said.

"At the end of the day, nothing beats

results. You win matches, and things will change. There's a lot of bull crap out there as well. You know, and some of the stories are just planted. A lot of it is just planted on other people's names, including my name," he added.

Former Australia batter Matthew Hayden also felt that fans' affection for Rohit is understandable given his 11-year tenure as MI captain.

"See the fans are the biggest stakeholders in this and they often don't have the politics, the insights, but they want to understand this, they love Rohit Sharma."

happen to lose their key enforcer during the death overs.

Punjab will also have to deal with the accuracy of the incomparable Rashid Khan and the guile of Noor Ahmed, former's left-arm alter-ego.

The third Afghan in the line-up, Azmatullah Omarzai's all-round skills will also be a challenge for the team.

More than Punjab's batting, it is their bowling, especially at the death, that has been a cause for concern.

Harshal Patel, one of their million dollar buys, has had a pathetic season so far going for an economy rate of 11.41 runs per over, having bowled his quota in all three games. Equally disappointing has been leg-spinner Rahul

Chahar, who has conceded runs at an economy rate of 11.37, and hasn't been able to complete his quota of overs. Arshdeep Singh, India's designated death overs yorker specialist, has also been profligate to a certain extent and it has once again compounded Kings' worries. For Titans, the performance against defending champions Chennai Super Kings could be termed an aberration as they have executed their plans pretty well.

The batting is yet to fire in unison but the bowling unit has shown its wares by defending well in opening game and restricting a rampaging SRH to a manageable score in the last game.

remains focused on the collective goal of winning matches for his team, highlighting his maturity and dedication to the sport. Speaking about his favourite wicket, Mayank recalled the dismissal of Cameron Green, where a lightning-fast delivery rattled the stumps and cleared the boundary on the first bounce, showcasing the sheer pace and power of his bowling.

Mayank attributed his ability to bowl at such high speeds to a combination of factors, including his disciplined diet, sleep, and his training regimen. He emphasised the importance of maintaining perfection in every aspect of his preparation, including post-match recovery routines such as ice baths.

KL Rahul, captain of the Lucknow Super Giants, has praised Mayank for his remarkable perseverance and dedication. He highlighted Mayank's resilience in overcoming previous injuries and his continuous pursuit of self-improvement.

Fellow teammate Quinton de Kock praised Mayank's express pace and simplicity in approach, highlighting his ability to remain focused and deliver under pressure.

Despite his youthful age, Mayank has shown maturity beyond his years, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and opponents alike.

RCB captain Faf du Plessis acknowledged the challenge of facing a young fast bowler with a unique action, noting the difficulty for batsmen to judge and adjust quickly.



AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office :- 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, (CIN : L38911RJ19980601011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I) POSSESSION NOTICE]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)** under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 12-Dec-23 Calling upon the Borrower **Star Fabricators And Engineers Through It's Proprietor Irshad Khan (Borrower), Irshad Khan (Co-Borrower), Lukman Khan (Co-Borrower)** (Loan Account No. - L9001060121587922) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for **Rs. 2117538/- (Rs. Twenty-One Lac Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Eight Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/ mortgage holder having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this **30 Day of March of the Year 2024**.

The borrower/ co-borrower/ mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for an amount of for **Rs. 2117538/- (Rs. Twenty-One Lac Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Eight Only)** as on **11-Dec-23** and interest and expenses thereon until full payment.

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

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Pragti Nagar, Near Eidgah Colony, Patt Jattana, Under M.C. Sonipat, Plot Comprised Under Kh No. 819/1M, Te & Dist.-Sonipat, Haryana, Bounded as East - Plot Of Digar, West - Baki Mukin, North House Of Balbir, South - Way Admeasuring 75 Sqyds. owned by **Lukman Khan**.

Date : 30-Mar-24
Place : HARYANA

-Sd-
Authorised Officer
Au Small Finance Bank Limited



**पावरग्रिड
POWERGRID**

NOTICE

- The applicant above-named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of Transmission Tariff from DOCO to 31.03.2024 for **Petition-1**: Transmission Tariff from DOCO to 31.03.2024 for Seven No. of Assets under "**Scheme to Control Fault level in Northern region (Phase-II)**". **Petition-2**: Transmission Tariff from DOCO to 31-03-2024 for Seven No. of Assets under "**Provision of Spare ICT's in Northern region**".
- The beneficiaries for Combined Assets of the above-mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Ajmer Vidyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (2) Jaipur Vidyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (3) Jodhpur Vidyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (4) Punjab State Electricity Corporation Limited (5) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (6) Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd. (7) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (8) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (9) BSES Rajghani Power Ltd. (10) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (11) Chandigarh Electricity department (12) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (13) North Central Railway (14) New Delhi Municipal Corporation. (15) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Petition-1	Petition-2
1	Approved apportioned capital cost of the project. (Rs. In Cr)	124.20	96.13
2	Authority which has approved the Capital Cost	Board of Directors	
3	Scheduled date of commercial operation	18.06.2021	05.07.2022
4	Date of commercial operation	03.04.2022, 22.05.2022, 07.06.2022, 05.01.2023, 20.01.2023, 25.05.2023 & 03.11.2023	26.02.2022, 05.07.2022, 05.07.2022, 25.08.2022, 01.10.2022, 02.02.2023 & 16.12.2023
5	Capital cost on DOCO (Rs. In Crs)	66.89	118.31

3. Details of tariff: **₹ in lakhs**

Petition	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	-	-	-	1000.81	1331.77
Petition-2	-	-	28.26	979.31	1810.98

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd and 4th Floor, Chandelerik Bhawan, 36, Janpath, New Delhi-110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram
Date: 28-03-2024

Senior General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Sauramini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI036121

A Maharashtra PSU