

Classifieds

BEDAKHLI NOTICE

It is notified for the information that my original documents Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Pan Card, and Post Office agency Certificate has been actually Lost. if anybody found please contact Rekha w/o Sanjeev Kumar Bahadurpur Road, Shiv street PSOC City Hoshiarpur Mobile No. 9592572972

I, Paramjit Singh S/o S. Inder Singh S/o S. Singha Mal R/o Village Lambhra, PO Lambhra Kangri Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that my son Amandeep Singh is out of my control. I so disown all of them from our Moveable and Immoveable Properties anybody dealing with them his/ her own risk Concerned Note.

I, Misharaf wd/o Mohammad Talim R/O H.No.7, East Enclave, Kot Sadik, Kala Singha Road, Jalandhar hereby inform that my bachelor son Mohammad Subhan is out of my control. I have disinherited him from my movable and immovable property. He is responsible for all his acts and deeds.

We Varinder Rehal S/O Late R.P. Rehal and Puja Rehal W/O Varinder Rehal R/O H.No. 522, Sector- 4, Panchkula (Haryana), declare that Our Son Nitin Rehal and his wife Pooja are out of our control so we disown them from our moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk.

We Chetan Singh S/O Raja Ram & Jeeto W/o Chetan Singh R/o H.No. 140, Nasirpur, Durga Nagar, Ambala City inform that our Youngster son Bhupinder Singh & his wife Manjeet Kaur are out of our control . So we disown both of them from our movable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with them they will do so at their own risk.

I, Mukesh Kumar S/O Jal Singh # 3743, Sector 25-D, Chandigarh declare that my son Nitin and his wife Hema are out of my control. I disown them from all my immovable/ immovable properties. anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Islamudin S/o Ali Momad R/o H.No. 962/11, Peer Colony, Jind Road Rohtak Haryana - 124001 declare that my married daughter Parveen is out of my control. So I disown her from my all moveable/immovable properties. Any body dealing with her at their own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal or illegal acts.

I, Bagh Singh S/O Hajara Singh R/o Madanpur Teh Rajpura Distt declare that my son Lovepreet Singh Is out of my control so I evict him all my Moveable immoveable property anyone dealing with him at their own risk.

मैं रानी पत्नी श्री बाबुराम निवासी म. न.594, नांगल खेड़ी तह० व जिला पानीपत ब्यान करती हूँ कि मेरा लड़का गुरुशरण उर्फ गोरव व उसकी पत्नी सोनिया दोनों मेरे कहने सुनने से बाहर हैं। मैं इनको व इनके बच्चों को अपनी चल अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करती हूँ। भविष्य में इनके साथ लेन देने व अन्य व्यवहार करने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा। मेरी व मेरे परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य को कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

मैं बिक्की अधार न.7033 8865 9690 पुत्र श्री रामहेर निवासी गांव चहल पाना, महमूदपुर ,तहसील गोहाना,जिला सोनीपत हरियाणा ब्यान करता हूँ कि मेरी सगी लड़की शीतल मेरे व मेरे परिवार के कहने सुनने से बाहर हैं। मैं इसको अपनी चल अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करती हूँ। भविष्य में इसके साथ लेन देने व अन्य व्यवहार करने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा। मेरी व मेरे परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य को कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Raj Rani Mother of NO-15577806P HAV. Chanan Singh R/O Vill.Darshopur, P.O. Naushera Nal Bandon Teh.& Distt. Pathankot (Punjab)-145025 Declare that in My Son's Service Record My Date of Birth is Wrongly Written in 14.12.1959 But My Actual & Correct DOB is 01.01.1951 Kindly Correct it. Vide affidavit NO-IN-PB22498330542841W Dated 05.06.2024 Before Notary Public, Pathankot (PB)

I No.14428797K, Ex-NK Pardeep Singh Sidhu R/O VPO Khokhar Tehsil & Distt, Sri Muktsar Sahib Declare that name of my father is wrongly given in my army records as Ajmer Singh, but his correct name is Ajmer Singh Sidhu, Aadhar-966881165973

I, Panchavarnam legally mother of No. 16123518X Rank NK Name Anand P Unit 4 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt (Punjab) permanent resident of Rajamudi Puthuval, Vandiperiyar, Manjumala, PO Vandiperiyar, Distt. Idukki State Kerala-685533 have changed my name from Panchavarnam N to Panchavarnam and DOB from 10.10.1961 to 12.12.1971

I, Dayana R spouse of No. JC-315169L Rank Nb/Sub Name Anil Kumar V unit 4 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt (Punjab) resident of Anil Bhavan, Pavumba South, Thazhava, Karunagappally VTC : Pavumba, PO Pavumba, Karunagappally, Distt. Kollam, State Kerala-690574 have changed my name from Dayana to Dayana R vide Affidavit date 12.07.2024

I, Krishnakumari G legally mother of No. 16134065X Rank Spr Name Akhil Krishnan U unit 4 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt (Punjab) resident of Kinaruvila Vadakkathil, Kanimelcherry, Kavanadu PO, Kollam, Distt. Kollam State Kerala-691003 have changed my name from Krishnakumari to Krishnakumari G vide Affidavit date 12.07.2024.

I, Ramesh Chander S/O Dalip Singh R/o Village Bhag Khera Teh. Safidon Distt. Jind I have declared that my services record mentioned my son name Rahul Singh but his all documents Mentioned Name Rahul both name are my son. Now his correct & Actual name Rahul alias Rahul Singh. Vide affidavit dated 12.07.2024 attested by notary Public Safidon.

I, Divanshu Arora Son Of Shri Prem Sagar Arora , Resident of house number 1148,Sector 43-B, Chandigarh declare that my correct date of birth is 3 January 1982, as per my birth certificate which was incorrectly mentioned as 3 Jan 1983 in my ICSE 10th standard mark sheet.

I, Poonam Chib W/o Jaipal Singh (GS No.-176554F, CH/MECH) serving at Unit 410 RMPL Care 82 RCC (GREF) permanently residing at Ward No 41 Village Dhiira P.O. Pathankot Tehsil and District Pathankot declare that in my husband's service record my name is wrongly entered as Poonam Devi instead of Poonam Chib vide Affidavit dated 10-07-2024

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Ramesh Kumar (GS173604W Driver MT SPL GD) serving at Unit HQ 35 BRTF (GREF) permanently residing at H No. B 14/35 Ward No 17 Shiv Sundar Nagar, Dhangu Road Pathankot Tehsil and District Pathankot declare that in my husband's service record my name and D.O.B is wrongly entered as Paramjeet and 09-04-1974 instead of Paramjeet Kaur and 07-04-1974 vide Affidavit dated 10-07-2024

I, No 4091928N Rank HAV/CLK Name Pardeep Kumar R/O Village Subhri PO Rajokheri , Tehsil Barara, District Ambala State Haryana pincode - 133201 in MY Service record my son name is wrongly written Riansh but It's correct name is Riansh Saini.

I, Harsh Sharma S/o Kashmiri Lal R/o Vpo. Bilaspur, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar Have Changed My Name From Harsh To Harsh Sharma. In Future, Let Me Be Known, Called And Addressed As Harsh Sharma.

It is for general information that I, Manjit Kaur W/o Sukhwinder Singh residing at VPO. Miani, Ward No. 3, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur-144202, Punjab, India declare that name of my Husband has been wrongly written as Mukhwinder Singh in my Passport No-G 6119875. The actual name of my Husband is Sukhwinder Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Naresh s/o Kailash, R/o # 1081, Small Flats, Dhanas, Chandigarh have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Balmiki s/o Kalan Balmiki.

I, Jasminster Kaur W/o Baldev Singh Saini R/o House No.246, Milk Colony, Dhanas, Chandigarh have changed my name from Jasminster Kaur to Jasminster Kaur Saini.

I, Deepak S/o Sh. Rajkumar R/o House No. 112/19, Vivekanand Nagar, Jind have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Garg for all future purposes.

I, Surya Sajith am daughter of Army No JC-312779M Rank SUB Name Sajith Kumar K present residing at 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my Name from Surya K (DOB – 04 OCT 2005) to Surya Sajith vide Affidavit dt 11 Jul 2024 before Surendra Singh, Notary Regd No. 3881, Panchkula, Haryana.

I, Mahabir S/O Sh. Sumer Singh R/O Naguran, tehsil Alewa, district Jind, declare that in the school records of my son Sahil, the DOB is 31.07.2006, his mother's name is Asha Devi, my name is Mahabir, which is wrong. The correct DOB of my son Sahil is 31.07.2005, his mother's name is Asha, my name is Mahavir, which is correct.

I, Kamlesh Kumar S/O Late Sh. Om Prakash Gupta R/O Tower 11, Flat No. 302, Sunshine County, Sector 63, PS Rai, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Kamlesh Kumar Gupta for all future purposes.

I, Tarvinder Pal Singh s/o Darshan Singh R/O #3302 Sector 50D (Sargodha House Society) Chandigarh have changed my name to Tarvinder Pal (Given Name) and Singh (Surname).

I, Narinder Kaur w/o Tarvinder Pal Singh R/O #3302 Sector 50-D (Sargodha House Society) Chandigarh having name Narinder Kaur Batra before Marriage and Narinder Kaur after marriage have changed my name to Narinder (Given Name) and Kaur (Surname)

I, Dhruva Kumar S/o Anandswarup Palmist R/O House No. 737, Sector 7B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Dhruva Kumar to Dhruva Kumar Palmist.

I, Dhruvakumar Anandswarup Palmist S/o Anandswarup Palmist R/O House No. 737, Sector 7B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Dhruvakumar Anandswarup Palmist to Dhruva Kumar Palmist.

I, Zankhna D/o Dhruva Kumar Palmist R/o House No. 737, Sector 7B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Zankhna to Zankhna Palmist.

I, Gursewak Singh S/o Sinder Singh R/o Village Mahmaddpur, Tehsil & Distt. Panipat declares that I have changed my name from Gursewak Singh to Gursewak, for all future purposes.

I, Mandar Sharma S/o Basanto R/o House No. 5793, Maloya Colony, Chandigarh have changed my name from Mandar Sharma to Mandar.

I, Dharam Raj Garg S/o Nihal Chand R/o H. No. B-7, Prem Nagar, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Dharam Raj Garg to Dharam Raj for future purposes.

I, Neetu Goyal W/o Anil Kumar Goyal R/o 326, Model Town, Mandi Adampur, Distt. Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Neetu Goyal to Nitu Goyal for future purposes.

I, Asha Rani W/o Shiya Nand Tyagi R/o Gali no. 0B, Choudhary Colony, Azad Nagar, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Asha Rani to Asha Tyagi.

I, Raju S/o Luxmi Prashad R/o 39, Bishan Dass Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Raju to Raju Prashad.

I, Subhash Chander Virmani S/o Veer Bhan R/o 152, Model Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Subhash Virmani to Subhash Chander Virmani.

I, Makwana Aman Sachin son of Sh Makwana Sachin Natvarlal, resident of Raiya Road Rajkot Gujarat, presently residing at IIT Mandi declare that I have changed my name from Makwana Aman Sachinbhai to Makwana Aman Sachin. I will not use my name as Makwana Aman Sachinbhai in future. All concerned please may note.

I, Sat Parkash Bansal s/o Shri Shiv Narain R/O H.NO.541 Sector 8 Panchkula have changed my name from Sat Parkash Bansal to Sat Parkash Aggarwal.

I, Sunita Rani D/o Sh. Maman Chand and W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Jain R/o 185-186 Scheme No. 5, Gandhi Nagar, Jind, Haryana, inform that after marriage I have changed my name from Sunita Rani to Manisha Jain.

I, Gyanti Devi W/o Hari Lal Gupta R/o 62, Near Sharma Dairy, Krishana Nagar, Yamuna Nagar declare that Suman and Gyanti Devi both are my name, one and the same lady.

I, Anita Rani w/o Surender Singh Duhan R/O #570 Sector 11, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Anita Rani to Anita Duhan.

I, Pooja Rani wife Mr. Ajay Kumar resident of Village Kunda P.O Chasma Tehsil & District Pathankot regarding my son Abhishek declare that his mother knows that my real name is Pooja Rani and his father's real name is Ajay Kumar plz all concerned note it.

I, Bhup Singh Son Of Amar Singh Resident Of 589, Village Bangram, Post Office Bangoan, Tehsil And District Fatehabad, Haryana - 125050 Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Nawal To Nawal Singla.

I, No.15567200X Spr (ACP Hav) Yashpal Singh (Retd) son of Darshan Singh resident of Village Dharampur, PO & Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Manvi to Manvi Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Suneh Lata Kumari wife of JC-520445W Sub (Hony Lt) Darshan Singh (Retd), Village Khizarpur, PO Sipprian, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Suneh Lata Kumari to Sunita Devi. Concerned note.

I, Gagandip Kaur W/o Jagdeep Singh R/o VPO Mallian, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar Rural Punjab-143149 have changed my name from Gagandip Kaur to Gagandeep Kaur.

I, Jagdip Singh S/o Balkar Singh R/o VPO Mallian, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar Rural Punjab-143149 have changed my name from Jagdip Singh to Jagdeep Singh.

I, Tripat Kaur W/o Kuljinder Singh Bhullar R/o Mannohan Mansion, 97, Preet Vihar, VTC Amritsar, PO Rayon & Silk Mill, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab- 143104 have changed my name from Tripat Kaur to Tripat Kaur Bhullar.

I, Arun Batra S/o Madan Lal R/o 855/10, Gali Sudhan Wali, Beri Gate, Amritsar, Punjab- 143001 have changed my name from Arun Batra to Arun Kumar.

I, Anmol Singh S/o Jiwan Singh R/o Abadi Rorri, Majitha, Amritsar, Punjab-143601 have changed my name from Anmol Singh to Singh is my surname and Anmol is my given name.

I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Asha Ram R/o village Nangla tehsil Tohana district Fatehabad, declares that in my passport number H9971928, my name has been wrongly mentioned as Sanjay Kumar Bains whereas my correct name is Sanjay Kumar as per my Aadhar Card, Voter Card, PAN Card etc. Now I want to cutmy surname Bains and want to register my correct name as Sanjay Kumar in my said passport.

I, Roshney Devi, wife of late Krishan Chand Army No. 1240031H, resident of Brahman Majra, Tehsil and District Panipat, declare that in my husband's army documents my name is Roshni Devi and date of birth is 01.02.1948 which is wrong. My actual name is Roshney Devi and date of birth is 21.04.1948.

I, Gaurav Singla S/o Davinder Kumar Singla R/o house 1692,1st floor block - D, Ansal sushant city, panipat have changed my name from Gaurav Singla to Gaurrav Singla for all future purposes.

I, Geeta Devi W/o Baldev Raj R/o Village painsal, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my name from Geeta to Geeta Devi.

I, Baldev Raj S/o Daya chand R/o Village Painsal, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my name from Baldev to Baldev Raj.

I, Pooja Rani D/o Charanjeet singh R/o Village Haibatpur, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my name from Pooja Sharma to Pooja Rani.

I, Uma Maheswari Kadambala W/o Service No. 14933103L Rank L/Hav Rajesh Kadambala R/O Village Peddasana P/O Parasaram Puram Tehsil Tekkali Distt Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh) PIN- 532201 have changed my name from Uma Maheswari Kadambala to Kadambala Umamaheswari due to mistakenly entered in Army record Vide affidavit No PB19011835245852W dated 25.05.24.

I, Surender Kumar S/O Gurnam Singh R/O Village Gadhi Kotaha Distt. Panchkula I Have Changed My Name Surinder Kumar

I, Maya Rani W/O Surinder Kumar R/O Village Gadhi Kotaha Distt Panchkula I Have Changed My Name Maya Devi.

I, Rajinder Pal Gupta S/O Sh. Om Parkash Gupta R/O H.No-97, Talyr Nursing Home, Ward No-11, Tehsil Naraingarh, Distt Ambala Have Changed My Name From Rajinder Gupta To Rajinder Pal Gupta.

I Ali Hussain S/o Mouj Deen R/o Gopalia Po Jangal tehsil Dinanagar, distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Ali Hussain to Ali Husain. All concerned note.

I, Sukhvinder Singh S/O Bachan Singh R/o Vill. Phero Chechi, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name Sukhvinder Singh to Sukhwinder Singh. Please note down My New Name.

I Shakti Aggarwal S/o Sh. Shiv Baksh Rai R/o H.No. 47, Sector 9-11, Hisar declare and affirm that I have changed my name from Shakti Aggarwal to Shakti Kumar Aggarwal for all future purposes.

I, Kiran Bala w/o Inder Singh r/o #1117, Sector-24, Urban Estate, Panipat has changed its name from Kiran to Kiran Bala. In future I should be known as Kiran Bala.

I, Inder Singh s/o Kidar Singh r/o #1117, Sector-24, Urban Estate, Panipat declare that my father name in my passport should be changed from Kedar Singh to Kidar Singh.

मैं रोहित उर्फ रोहित रूहल पुत्र श्री सतीश कुमार पुत्र श्री सुभाष निवासी गांव सरसोद, तहसील बरवाल, जिला हिसार घोषणा करता हूँ कि मेरा नाम आधार कार्ड, पैन कार्ड व बैंक पास बुक में रोहित रूहल (Rohit Ruhla) और दसवीं, बारहवीं कक्षा प्रमाण पत्र में रोहित है। उपरोक्त दोनों नाम मेरे ही हैं। मुझे दोनों नामों से ही जाना व पहचाना जाता है।

I, Gagandeep Singh S/o Gurdip Singh R/o H.No. 7, New Jawala Nagar, Maqsudana, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Gagandeep Singh to Gurpreet Singh. All concerned please note.

I, No. 729714R SGT Ranbir Singh (Retd.) S/o Sh. Ratti Ram R/o Village Narkatari, P.O. Gurukul, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra declare that in my service record my son's name is wrongly written as Garvit instead of Garvit Kadian. Note all concerns.

I, No. 3384222Y NK Dilbag Singh (Retd.) S/O Late Sh. Banta Singh R/o Village Bakana, P.O. Sharifgarh, Tehsil Shahabad (M) District Kurukshetra declare that in my service record my wife's name is wrongly written as Bimaljit Kaur instead of Bimaljeet Kaur & D.O.B. 12.05.1969 instead of 12.05.1968. Note all concerns.

I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Ramdiya R/o Village Kakaut, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my minor son's name from Siddharth to Siddharth Singh. In future, he will be known by the name of Siddharth Singh. All concerned please note.

I, hitherto known as Archna Singh alias Archna D/o Sher Singh W/o Naveen Kumar R/o House No-597/35, Near Old Power House, Krishna Nagar, Hisar, Haryana- 125001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Archna.

I, Rajkulvinder Kaur W/o Komal Singh R/o Village salpani kalan, salpani kalan (300), Kurukshetra, Haryana-136130, have changed my name from Rajkulvinder Kaur to Daljeet Kaur.

I, Kusam Rani W/o Dalbir Singh R/o Village and Postoffice Busthala, Tehsil Pehowa, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Kusam Rani to Kusum Lata.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Late Sh. Vilayati Ram R/o Village Siwan Majra, Tehsil Barara, District Ambala, declare that the name of my father is wrongly mentioned as Walati Ram in my passport No H7820976. While my father's actual name is Vilayati Ram, which has to be amended.

It is for general information that I, Arun S/o Kaptan Singh R/o Mangoli Jattan (131), Kurukshetra Haryana -136156, declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Kaptan and Veena in my 10th educational documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are Kaptan Singh and Veena Devi respectively which may be amended accordingly.

I, Sonia (Aadhaar No 3690 0652 4177) W/o Ajay Kataria Resident of H.No. 1117/viii, Gali Gandan Wali, Nimak Mandi, Amritsar-1, Amritsar, Punjab-143001 Declares That I have changed my Name from Sonia to Sonia Kataria all concerned please note.

I, Phool Kumari Mother of Army No.1518862GY rank Hav name Pramod Mishra, Unit 173med regmet, Resident of Village Kandipur, Tehsil - Jalandpur, P/o Katghar Musa, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 224186, have changed my Name from Fool Devi to Phool Kumari, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB35043293867136W, Dated 12-07-2024 Distt. Court, Place Amritsar.

I, Phool Kumari Mother of Army No.1518862GY rank Hav name Pramod Mishra, Unit 173med regmet, Resident of Village Kandipur, Tehsil - Jalandpur, P/o Katghar Musa, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 224186, have changed my Date of Birth from 05-08-1960 to 01-01-1960, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB35071692067283W, Dated 12-07-2024 Distt. Court, Place Amritsar

I, Dayashankar Mishra Father of Army No.15188626Y rank HAV name Pramod Mishra, Unit 173med regmet, Resident of Village Kandipur, Tehsil Jalandpur, P/o Katghar Musa, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 224186, have changed my date of Birth from 10-07-1956 to 02-07-1956, Vide Affidavit No.PB35043893491605W, Dated 12-07-2024 Distt. Court, Place IN-Amritsar.

I, Nishanthi Wife of No. JC735428X Rank: Nb./Sub. Name Babu P Unit: 115 Arm'd. Wksp C/o 56 Apo Pin- 906115 declare that in my husband's service record my name wrongly mentioned Nishanthi but my correct name is Nishanthi Babu

I, Sahildeep Singh s/o Army No. 15576243N RANK HAV. Manpreet Singh R/O Vill. Jago Chanarthal Teh. & Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib declare that my actual name is Sahildeep Singh. But in Army Record of my father it is Sahilpreet Singh. Which is wrong. I want to correct my name as Sahildeep Singh in my father's Army Record.

I, Gangishwari w/o Ajay Kumar R/o H.No 65, Sector 21B, Gandhi Nagar, Mandi Gobindgarh, Tehsil Amloh, District Fatehgarh Sahib. Have Changed my name from Gangishwari to Gangishwari Garg.

I, Hitherto Known As Balkam Singh Buttar Son Of Gurdev Singh R/O Vpo Assa Buttar Tehsil Gidderbaha District Sri Muktsar Sahib 152025 Punjab (India) Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Balkam Singh.

I Km Krishna Kumari Spouse of Sumant Kumar Resident of Village Inda Nagla PO Budha Gaon Tehsil Atrouli District Aligarh State Uttar Pradesh Pin 202134 have changed my name from Km Krishna Kumari to Krishna Kumari Vide Affidavit Dated 11 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I Army No. 15329698P Rank Hav Name Pujari Appalasuri Naidu of Unit 41 Task Force C/O 56 APO Residing of 3-1-6, Laxmudu Peta, Amadalavalasa, Srikakulam State Andhra Pradesh PIN 532185 have change my Name in all documents From Appalasuri Naidu Pujari to Pujari Appalasuri Naidu Vide Affidavit Dated 11 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I Pujari Syamala Devi is Wife of No. 15329698P Rank Hav Name Pujari Appalasuri Naidu of Unit 41 Task Force C/O 56 APO Residing of 3-1-6, Laxmudu Peta, Amadalavalasa, Srikakulam State Andhra Pradesh PIN 532185 have Changed my Name From P. Syamala Devi to Pujari Syamala Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 11 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Jasveer Singh S/o Mohan Singh R/o SAS Nagar, Old Tanda Road, St. No. 02, Near Jai Kisan Cold Store Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter from Vaani to Vaani Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Vani D/o Rajeev Bassi, # 458, Sector -9, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name to Vani Bassi.

I, Hitherto Known As Balvinder Kaur Wife Of Ranjit Singh Residing At Majitha, Budha Theh District Amritsar-143601 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Baljinder Kaur

I, Hitherto Known As Gurpreet Monga Wife Of Mandeep Singh Residing At H.No.2309, C-Block Ranjit Avenue, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurpreet Monga Khurana.

I, Heera Singh Randhawa S/O Puran Singh R/O H.No.212, Silver Estate Madhuban Estate Ram Tirath Road, Wadala Bhitewadhi, Amritsar Have Chagend My Name From Heera Singh Randhawa To Hira Singh

I, Swinder Singh S/O Gurmjei Singh R/O Vpo Harse Chhina Vichala Qila Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Swinder Singh To Sawinder Singh

I, Kulwinder Jit Kaur W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Vpo Singh Pura Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Kulwinder Jit Kaur To Kulwinder Kaur

I, Pushpinder Kaur W/O Gurlal Singh R/O Village Patti Puran Po Chak Banwala District Fazilka Have Changed My Name From Pushpinder Kaur To Sukhpinder Kaur

I, Mandip Singh Gotra S/O Chanan Singh R/O Vpo Mari Tanda Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Mandip Sinhg Gotra To Mandip Singh

I, Jagtar Singh Dhariwal S/O Santa Singh R/O Vpo Takhtupura Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala District Moga Have Changed My Name From Jagtar Singh Dhariwal To Jagtar Singh

I, Hitherto Known As Kamal Sharma Son Of Bharam Dass Sharma Residing At H.No.60-A, New Kangra Colony District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kamal Kishore Sharma

I, Ravinderjeet Singh S/O Major Singh R/O Vpo Bolewal Teh Batala Distt Gurdaspur 143514 Have Changed My Name From Ravinderjeet Singh To Ravinderjit Singh

I Varinder Kaur W/O Ravinderjit Singh R/O Vpo Bolewal Teh Batala Distt Gurdaspur 143514. I Have Changed My Name Varinder Kaur To Gurwinder Kaur

I, Davindrepal Singh S/O Jatinder Pal Singh R/O H.No.389, Gali No.2, Azad Nagar, 100ft Road, Amrisar Have Changed My Name From Davindrepal Singh To Davinderpal Singh

I Veena Pawa W/O Girdhari Lal R/O Hno.130 Shakti Nagar Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Veena Pawa To Veena Pahwa.

Continuity Pg. No. 10

Amritpal’s brother arrested for possessing drugs; family alleges political conspiracy

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/JALANDHAR

In a startling development that has rocked Punjab’s political scene, Harpreet Singh — the brother of pro-Khalistan ideologue and ‘jailed’ Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh — was apprehended at a check-point in Phillaur, Jalandhar, on the charges of drug possession. The arrest has ignited a fierce debate, with accusations of political conspiracy flying from the family and supporters of Amritpal Singh, who is known for his controversial and radical stance.

The dramatic arrest unfolded during a routine check when Harpreet Singh, accompanied by his associate Lovepreet Singh from Cheema Bath village, was found in possession of four grams of methamphetamine, commonly referred to as ‘ice’.

Jalandhar Rural Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ankur Gupta, confirming the

arrests, revealed that both individuals tested positive for drugs and had allegedly procured the substance from Sandeep Arora — a Ludhiana resident — who was also taken into custody.

The immediate aftermath of the arrest saw a vehement denial from Tarsem Singh, father of Amritpal and Harpreet Singh, who condemned the charges as ‘a deliberate attempt to smear their family’s reputation’.

“The Government is trying to tarnish our image because of our anti-drug campaign in Punjab,” alleged Tarsem Singh, while further accusing the authorities of targeting Harpreet to stifle their efforts against drug abuse in the State.

Amritpal Singh, currently lodged in Assam’s Dibrugarh jail facing the stringent National Security Act (NSA), first rose to prominence for his strong anti-drug stance under his outfit ‘Waris Punjab De’. He opened a de-addiction center

in his village, Jallupur Khera, and launched several initiatives against substance abuse. However, his activities took a controversial turn when he began making provocative pro-Khalistan statements, which escalated tensions with the state authorities.

Last year, Amritpal and his supporters clashed with police at the Ajnala police station while attempting to free an associate from custody. This incident led to his arrest and the filing of multiple charges, including anti-national activities. Currently, Amritpal is detained Assam’s Dibrugarh jail under the NSA. Despite his incarceration, he won the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate from Khadoor Sahib, defeating Congress candidate Kulbir Singh Zira by a significant margin.

The legal proceedings following Harpreet’s arrest have added fuel to the controversy. During a court hearing, the

Phillaur court denied the police’s request for a three-day remand and instead sent Harpreet, Lovepreet, and Sandeep Arora to 14-day judicial custody. This decision has further bolstered claims of a political conspiracy, with many questioning the motives behind the arrests.

Amritpal’s lawyer, Imaan Singh, has been vocal about the alleged political pressure behind the case. “The ruling Aam Aadmi Party is engaging in vindictive politics to undermine Amritpal’s influence in Punjab,” he said, while criticizing the police’s focus on what he described as a minor drug seizure, highlighting that the case against Harpreet Singh was built on just four grams of methamphetamine.

The implications of Harpreet Singh’s arrest are far-reaching, especially given Amritpal’s contentious position in Punjab’s political arena. Known for his radical pro-Khalistan rhetoric, Amritpal’s

actions have often placed him at odds with the authorities. His anti-drug campaigns, which gained significant traction among the youth, have now come under scrutiny due to his brother’s arrest on drug charges.

SSP Gupta said that at the time of arrest, the accused were found preparing to consume the drugs in a vehicle with tinted windows, and the seizure included paraphernalia such as lighters and foil.

Adding to the controversy, Amritpal’s family has publicly decried the arrest as a “government stunt”. They argued that the timing and circumstances of Harpreet’s detention are suspicious, pointing out that Harpreet was supposed to attend a protest march for the release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh prisoners) in Moga on the day of his arrest. They question how he ended up in Phillaur and suggest that the arrest was orchestrated to prevent his participation in the march.

HP Cabinet approves Kangra airport expansion compensation, Rationalizes zero electricity bill scheme

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh State Cabinet, chaired by the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, on Friday approved the land acquisition and compensation plan for families affected by the Kangra airport expansion on Friday. At the same time, the Cabinet sanctioned the state’s share of capital costs for constructing the Bulk Drug Park in Haroli, Una district, and greenlit the tender process.

The Cabinet also rationalized the Zero Electricity Bill scheme, limiting subsidies to ‘One Family One Meter’, and excluding high-ranking officials and income tax payers, emphasizing equitable resource distribution.

The Cabinet also extended the Shimla Development Plan to encompass additional green areas, including Retreat, Mashobra, Band Tukda Andri, and others, reinforcing environmental conservation efforts. In a nod to administrative efficiency, the pending results for Junior Office Assistant posts (post codes 903 and 939) were delegated to HP Rajya Chayan Aayog Hamirpur for final declaration.

Significant strides were made in education and public safety. The Cabinet approved the creation and filling of 486 Lecturer Physical Education posts and 157 Principal School Cadre posts. Additionally, 245

Special Educator positions were sanctioned to support children with special needs, demonstrating a commitment to inclusive education. The Home Department saw a boost with the creation of 53 fire officer posts and 60 police personnel posts for heliport deployment, enhancing emergency response capabilities.

To ensure smooth functioning, the Cabinet approved 30 new posts for HP Rajya Chayan Aayog Hamirpur and 30 JOA (IT) posts in the Public Works Department. The cadre strength for Block Development Officers was increased to 123 with 27 new posts.

Education received further attention with the regularization of 18 Grameen Vidya Upasaks as Junior Basic Teachers, honouring their dedication and compliance with the National Council for Teachers Education norms. A new Department of Cardiology was established at Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College, Hamirpur, with key medical positions created for its operation.

The Cabinet also prioritized consumer affairs and revenue departments, approving direct recruitment for two District Controller posts and restructuring the cadre system for Patwari, Kanunago, and Naib Tehsildar roles.

Employee welfare was addressed with the introduc-

tion of a three percent annual emolument enhancement for staff at Aryabhata Geo-Informatics and Space Application Centre and the provision of up to 730 days of child care leave for female government servants caring for children with significant disabilities.

Recognizing the contributions of educators, the ‘Himachal Pradesh State Award for School Teachers Scheme, 2024’ was launched. A State Fund for the welfare of persons with disabilities was also established, reflecting the government’s inclusive policy approach. Additionally, the premature release of 16 life-term prisoners was recommended to the Governor.

In transport, the HP Motor Vehicles Rules, 1999, were amended to mandate the submission of purchase receipts for BIS-certified protective headgear when registering two-wheelers. A ropeway from taxi parking to Baba Balak Nath Temple in Hamirpur was approved to aid pilgrims, and the procurement of advanced medical equipment, including PET and Spect Scan Machines for IGMCI Shimla and Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda, was sanctioned.

The MoU for operating daily flights between Shimla and Dharamshala was also extended, ensuring consistent air connectivity.

Prioritize FIR Registration in All Crimes: Punjab DGP directs SSPs

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a strong push towards ensuring law and order in Punjab, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Friday directed all the district police chiefs to prioritize the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) for all crimes, including petty offenses like snatching and theft.

“It has come to my notice that field officers usually show reluctance in registering FIR, especially in petty crimes. There should be a free registration of FIRs in all the districts which will help in maintaining law and order in the state,” said the DGP, while chairing a state-level crime review meeting via video conference.

He emphasized the importance of free FIR registration to maintain law and order. “It has come to my notice that field officers usually show reluctance in registering FIRs, especially in petty crimes. There should be free registration of FIRs in all districts to help maintain law and order in the state,” he stated.

The meeting, held at Punjab Police Headquarters (PPHQ), included senior field officers and heads of operational wings to assess the performance of all 28 police districts and review efforts against organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism. Among the attendees were Special DGP, Special Task Force

(STF), Kuldeep Singh; Special DGP, Internal Security, RN Dhoke, ADGP Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Promod Ban, Commissioners of Police (CPs), Range IGPs/DIGs, and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs).

Among the key directives and focus areas were FIR registration and crime arrests; performance review; anti-drug campaign; and village level defense committees (VLDCs).

DGP Yadav urged all the CPs and SSPs to ensure timely arrests in heinous crimes and the swift production of challans in the court. He emphasized the importance of holding weekly meetings to review under trial cases and improve the conviction rate.

The DGP also lauded districts performing well and urged underperforming districts to improve. He stressed the need to arrest proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders, highlighting the importance of reducing pending investigations and enhancing investigation quality.

DGP Yadav also instructed the district police chiefs to focus on drug suppliers and peddlers to reduce street-level drug availability. He emphasized the need for sustained follow-ups and establishing forward and backward linkages in all drug cases to catch major offenders. He also directed the freezing of illegally

acquired properties under section 68F of the NDPS Act.

The state police chief also highlighted the formation of VLDCs, setting a target of establishing at least 12,000 committees statewide. Currently, there are 6,500 VLDCs aiding security forces by providing real-time information to disrupt drug networks.

Special DGP STF Kuldeep Singh commended the ongoing anti-drug drive and encouraged district officers to maintain momentum by increasing public meetings and awareness activities. He emphasized the importance of qualitative public feedback.

Special DGP Internal Security RN Dhoke reported that Punjab Police had arrested 35 terrorists and busted five terror modules this year, underscoring the success of ongoing operations.

ADGP AGTF Promod Ban advised field officers to monitor activities of bailed-out criminals and gangsters to prevent potential criminal activities in their districts.

DGP Yadav concluded the meeting by soliciting feedback from CPs and SSPs to understand ground-level challenges. He directed them to hold weekly crime review meetings with sub-divisional DSPs and station house officers (SHOs) and ensure frequent inspections of police stations.

Punjab inks MoU with IIT Ropar to impart training in emerging drone technologies to youth

Drone Centre of Excellence to be established with assistance of IIT Ropar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab on Friday took a significant stride towards fostering technological education and employment opportunities with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Punjab Government and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar. The collaboration aimed to train youth in cutting-edge drone technologies, paving the way for careers in sectors such as aerial cinematography, photography, mapping, surveillance, and agriculture.

The MoU, signed by C-PYTE director-general Major General Rambir Mann and IIT Ropar director Prof Rajeev Ahuja, was graced by the presence of Punjab’s Employment Generation, Skill Development, and Training Minister Aman Arora, along with Director of Employment Generation Amrit Singh. This initiative is poised to meet the increasing

demand for skilled drone pilots within India’s burgeoning drone ecosystem.

The Minister emphasized the strategic importance of the partnership, stating, “This collaboration not only addresses the critical need for indigenous drone pilots but also strengthens our capabilities in drone-based research, development, and manufacturing.” The training program is expected to create more than 29,000 job opportunities in Punjab, with an initial batch of 150 youths set to undergo rigorous training as certified drone pilots through C-PYTE and IIT Ropar.

Additionally, IIT Ropar will assist in establishing a Drone Centre of Excellence, focusing on training, research, and development at one of its campuses, where in addition to drone operator training, drone repair and assembly is to be carried out, he added.

Director of Employment Generation Amrit Singh highlighted the program’s comprehensive approach, stating, “Beyond training, we are committed to supporting job placements for our trained youth, ensuring they contribute effectively to various sectors.”

Hry Cabinet approves scheme to provide affordable housing for EWSs

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To provide affordable housing to the economically weaker sections (EWS) of the society, Haryana Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday, approved the ‘Mukhya Mantri Shehri Awas Yojana’ policy. Under this policy, housing facilities will be extended to all poor families in the state who either lack their own house in urban areas or currently reside in kutcha houses. Initially, this initiative plans to provide housing to one lakh EWS families.

The government official spokesperson said that to be eligible, beneficiaries must have a verified annual family income of up to Rs 1.80 lakh as per the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) and should not own a pucca house in any urban area of Haryana. The policy includes provisions for a 1 Marla (30 square yard) plot for each eligible family, allowing them to construct their own pucca houses. The state government, through the Department of Housing for All, will provide the necessary land.

The scheme, primarily state-sponsored, will integrate with the beneficiary-led construction (BLC) vertical of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U). It targets families with an annual income of up to Rs 1.80 lakh who registered in the demand survey conducted via the Department of Housing For All’s web portal from September 13, 2023, to October 19, 2023, and January 5, 2024, to January 19, 2024. Preference will be given to



beneficiaries in the following order: Ghumantu Jati, Widows, Scheduled Castes, and others.

Approves scheme to provide affordable, quality rural housing

The Cabinet also decided to implement Mukhya Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (MMGAY) on the lines of Mukhya Mantri Shehri Awas Yojana to ensure that all rural residents of Haryana have access to a habitable and affordable dwelling unit.

Spokesperson said that Mukhya Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana aimed to provide affordable, quality rural housing, fostering sustainable development and vibrant communities. Through strategic planning and transparent governance, MMGAY aimed to make homeownership a reality for every rural resident, enhancing overall well-being and prosperity.

Under the scheme, financial assistance of maximum of Rs one lakh or actual price of the plot whichever is less, for the purchase of his own residential plot of up to 100 square yards will be provided to those beneficiaries whom possession

of plot cannot be delivered under Mahatma Gandhi Gramin Basti Yojana (MGGBY).

MMGAY will be implemented for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Rural Development Department will provide the list of beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi Gramin Basti Yojana to whom possession of 100 square yards plot cannot be delivered.

Village Badanpur, Sunderpura shifted from Tehsil Uchana to Narwana

The Cabinet also approved a proposal to shift villages Badanpur and Sunderpura from Tehsil Uchana to Tehsil Narwana in Jind district. Now, the tehsil and sub-division headquarters of these villages will be Narwana.

Approves Ordinance to further amend 1961 Village Common Lands Act

The Cabinet accorded approval to bring an ordinance to further amend the Haryana Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act 1961. According to the proposed amendment, ownership of land

in shamlat deh, which were allotted on lease basis for a period of 20 years under the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949, and the said land has been in cultivating possession of the original allottee, transferee or their legal heir is slated to be excluded from the ambit of shamlat deh with immediate effect.

Nod to amendment HSGMC (Delimitation of Wards and Election) Rules, 2023

The Cabinet has also approved amendment in Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras Management Committee (Delimitation of Wards and Election) Rules, 2023. Earlier, there was a provision of paying Rs 100 and Rs 500 for inclusion of name in the electoral roll, which has now been removed. The Cabinet also accorded approval for the amendment in Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Act, 2014, to enhance the qualifications for the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Judicial Commission’s chairman to ensure more effective and authoritative supervision of Sikh Gurdwaras and Gurdwara properties within the state.

Haryana Launches IT Saksham Yuva Scheme, Aims to Employ 5000 Youth

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday unveiled the ambitious IT Saksham Yuva Scheme-2024, aimed at providing employment to 5000 youth in its inaugural phase. The scheme, aligned with the ‘Mission 60,000’ initiative announced in the 2024-25 budget, targets to empower 60,000 economically disadvantaged young individuals with job opportunities.

Under the scheme, eligible candidates, including graduates and post-graduates from IT backgrounds, will undergo specialized short-term courses through institutions like Haryana State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (HARTRON), Haryana Knowledge Corporation Limited (HKCL), and Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU).

Upon completion of a minimum three-month training period, participants will be deployed across various government departments, boards, corporations, districts, registered societies, or private entities within Haryana. Initially, IT Saksham Yuva will receive a monthly remuneration of Rs 20,000 for the first six months, which will increase to Rs 25,000 from the seventh month onwards, sponsored by the hiring entities. In cases where deployment is delayed, the government will provide an unemployment allowance of Rs 10,000 per month to the IT Saksham Yuva.

The scheme aims not only to equip youth with essential digital skills but also to bolster Haryana’s position as a frontrunner in IT prowess and e-governance. By fostering a skilled workforce, the initiative seeks to enhance economic growth and facilitate a seamless transition into 21st-century workplaces.

In addition to SVSU’s role in certification, the Haryana Skill Development Mission (HSDM) will oversee the training and skilling process, ensuring that candidates meet industry standards and are well-prepared for the digital job market.

This strategic initiative underscores the state government’s commitment to harnessing human capital potential, fostering technological advancement, and creating a conducive environment for sustainable development in Haryana.

Cong MLA Kotli denied Entry at Secretariat because of “CM’s Presence”

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Congress MLA from Adampur Sukhwinder Kotli on Friday encountered an unexpected obstacle at the Punjab Civil Secretariat. He was denied entry by the police personnel citing the presence of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann inside for the same.

As he attempted to enter

for official business, MLA Kotli was stopped at the gates, which were closed off to all visitors due to the “Chief Minister’s presence”. Expressing his dismay, Kotli questioned the rationale behind barring an elected representative from accessing the Secretariat, even to meet with officials or the Chief Minister himself.

“This incident reflects the

Chief Minister’s disregard for democratic norms and his penchant for VIP culture,” remarked Kotli. “The power seems to have gone to Bhagwant Mann’s head, leading to the misuse of authority to suppress opposition voices like mine,” he added.

Kotli emphasized that as an MLA, he should have unrestricted access to government

offices for fulfilling his responsibilities and addressing public concerns. He criticized Mann for straying from the ‘Aam Aadmi’ principles his party claims to uphold. “This is a concerning trend towards authoritarianism,” Kotli added, urging for respect of democratic values and equitable treatment of all elected representatives.

BRIEFS

GOVT CLAIMS TOURISM ACCESSIBLE IN HP DESPITE HEAVY RAINS

Shimla: A spokesperson from Himachal Pradesh’s Tourism and Civil Aviation Department reassured on Friday that recent reports of extensive road blockages due to heavy rains and landslides are overstated. While some areas have been affected, most roads across the state remain open for tourists and the public. The government remains committed to ensuring safe travel and enjoyable holidays in popular destinations like Shimla, Manali, and Dharamshala, with ongoing efforts to clear any disruptions promptly, added the official.

PU RESERVES 25% SUPERNUMERARY SEATS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Chandigarh: Panjab University, Chandigarh, has revised its seat reservation policy in line with UGC guidelines, replacing the previous five percent quota for Foreign National students with 25 percent supernumerary seats in all undergraduate and postgraduate courses (except BDS/MDs course or any other course governed by a regulatory body which does not allow additional seats) from the academic session 2024-25. These seats are exclusively for students holding foreign passports, aimed at enhancing international diversity and the university’s global stature.

HP CM DIRECTS IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF LANDSLIDE-HIT AREA NEAR DDU HOSPITAL

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, after conducting an on-site inspection of the landslide-affected area near Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital Shimla on late Thursday night, directed the authorities to expedite restoration work and ensure the smooth flow of vehicular movement in the area. He said that the circular road was the lifeline of Shimla city and adequate police personnel should be deployed to facilitate both local residents and tourists.

Do Democrats have a Plan B?

With Biden increasingly under attack for his lacklustre performance, Democrats must be exploring alternatives

The Democratic Party have to take a make-or-break decision— to continue with Joe Biden as presidential candidate or find an alternative. Both choices are difficult and have their pros and cons. Biden's age and performance might push the party to consider a Plan B. But the time is running out for Democrats and so are the options. It all began much earlier but the presidential debate was the proverbial last straw when Biden performed below par. However, Despite the challenges, there are strong arguments for sticking with Biden. He has overseen a period of significant legislative achievements, including the passage of a massive infrastructure bill, ambitious climate change initiatives, and a robust COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Biden's administration has also navigated complex international relations, working to rebuild alliances and address global threats, especially China and Russia. His centrist approach has aimed to unify a deeply divided nation, seeking to appeal to both progressive and moderate Democrats, as well



as independents and even some Republicans. However, concerns about Biden's age and cognitive abilities persist. At 81, he is the oldest president in US history, and questions about his stamina and mental acuity have been fodder for both political opponents and media speculation. Polls indicate a significant portion of the electorate is uneasy about his capacity to serve another four-year term. Furthermore, his handling of certain issues, such as the withdrawal from Afghanistan and ongoing economic challenges, has drawn criticism from both sides of the political spectrum.

These controversies have fueled speculation about whether Biden is the best candidate to lead the Democrats to victory in 2024. But with elections barely four months away Democrats would find a replacement rather hard. Even invoking the 25th Amendment, which allows for the removal of a president deemed unfit to serve, remains an extreme and unlikely scenario. Given the potential political fallout and the necessity for clear, indisputable evidence of incapacity, this route is rather a precarious one. If the Democrats decide to explore alternatives, several high-profile figures could emerge as potential contenders. As the sitting vice president, Kamala Harris is the most obvious choice. Her historic candidacy as the first female, first Black, and first South Asian vice president offers a compelling narrative, but her leadership and policy effectiveness will be under intense scrutiny. Next in line would be Pete Buttigieg, the Secretary of Transportation and former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. His youth, eloquence, and policy acumen make him a viable candidate. Then of course you have Gavin Newsom, the governor of California has been a vocal advocate for progressive policies and has shown resilience in the face of political challenges. The Democrats are caught between the devil and the deep sea. Ultimately, the decision will hinge on the party's assessment of Biden's ability to lead effectively and win re-election.

PICTALK



Priests of Shiva Temple perform 'pooja' at the reception of container ship San Fernando, in Thiruvananthapuram

Young philanthropists ushering in new age of giving in India

With a burgeoning startup ecosystem, India is witnessing a new generation of wealth creators who are passionate about funding impactful projects

Young philanthropists are playing a catalytic role in ushering in a new age of giving that underscores the need for scalable change and long-term impact. Having the third-largest startup ecosystem, and being home to 100 unicorns, India has given rise to a new generation of wealth creators who are young, tech-driven, and passionate about change. These 'new-age' philanthropists are transforming the country's infrastructure and bringing about long-lasting growth. Their efforts are not just about giving back; they are about driving systemic and sustainable impact across communities. For instance, initiatives like the Karnataka Model School Pathways Programme are redefining India's education system. In a world where socioeconomic challenges are pervasive, these young change-makers are bringing fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to philanthropy, making it not only a trend but also a powerful force for social change. Moving away from the traditional approach of philanthropy being seen as a post-retirement task, this genera-



tion of philanthropists is starting early, leveraging their wealth, influence, and technological savvy to drive meaningful change within their lifetime. Instead of adhering to traditional models of charity, young philanthropists are adopting a more entrepreneurial approach, seeking out innovative solutions and investing in new focus areas like climate change, mental health, sports for development, etc. The India Philanthropy Report 2024 shows how emerging issues like climate change and Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) have become the top three areas of interest apart from traditional causes for this new cohort of young entrepreneurs. Nikhil Kamath, CEO of Zerodha and one of the

youngest philanthropists is a strong advocate of climate change. A founder of YIPP which brings together young entrepreneurs to address pressing societal issues collectively, Kamath had started investing in environmental problems way back in 2019 with the launch of Rainmatter Foundation and recently invested in a charity that combats climate change in India. These new age givers are using technology to tackle some of India's most pressing problems, combining data-driven insights with a deep understanding of social issues to create long-term, scalable impact. Their approach has been guided by a blend of head and heart making their philanthropy more strategic and forward-thinking. Their willingness to collaborate and pool time, talent and treasure for collective impact is another characteristic of this new generation of philanthropists. Recognizing the complexity of social challenges and the need for coordinated action, they are forging partnerships with like-minded individuals and organizations to amplify their efforts. Collective philan-

thropy presents a dynamic approach to otherwise traditional models of philanthropy, opening avenues for innovative solutions to India's unique problems. This spirit of collaboration is exemplified by initiatives such as the YIPP which was started in 2021 to bring together young change makers below the age of 45 to create new-age solutions collectively. With a clear focus on accountability and scalability, this 15-member group aims to make their giving more structured, bold and innovative. Hailing from diverse backgrounds, experiences and philanthropic aspirations, they are collectively a motivated force keen to showcase the power of collaboration and strength in working together towards a set common goal. With their entrepreneurial spirit, technological acumen, and commitment to collective action, they are leading the charge towards a brighter tomorrow for India and the world.

(The writer is founding member, Young India Philanthropic Pledge and chief inspiration officer, Yuva Unstoppable; views are personal)



AMITABH SHAH

The Taliban's war on Afghan women

Despite denials by Taliban officials, the bravery of Afghan women coming forward underscores the severe and dehumanising treatment they endure

A piece in *The Guardian*, bylined Zahra Joya, Chris McGreal, Khodadad Poladi, Annie Kelly and Tom Levitt, datelined July 6, 2024, and published under the heading "Video appears to show gang-rape of Afghan woman in Taliban jail," makes horrifying reading. According to the report, the video recording, seen by *The Guardian* and Rukhsana Media, an online news agency focused on covering issues affecting women in Afghanistan, shows a young woman, a human rights activist, being gang-raped and tortured in a Taliban jail by armed men. It shows her being told to take off her clothes and then raped multiple times by two men. She is seen as standing naked, her face visible, and is identifiable during the attacks. The report cites the woman as saying that she was arrested for participating in a public protest against the Taliban and was raped in a Taliban prison.

The video was sent to her after she had fled Afghanistan and spoken out against the Taliban, with the threat that it would be shown to her family and released on social media if she spoke against the Islamic Emirate in public. It also cites other examples of sexual abuse, beatings, and torture, including by electric shocks, of not only those protesting against the Taliban's squelching of women's rights but of young women and teenagers accused of violating hijab rules. Zabihullah Mujahid, Chief Spokesman and Deputy Minister of Information and Culture of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has, according to *The Guardian* report, denied the allegations of widespread sexual assaults on incarcerated women. While he could not have done otherwise, one can hardly doubt the women's versions, given the stigma attached to victims of sexual violence in countries like Afghanistan. It takes a massive amount of courage and resolve for a woman, or her relatives, to state that she had been raped or molested in custody. Even the UN has commented on the arrests and detentions. Under the heading "Permanent Darkness," Ajit



Kumar Singh has written in the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATPOR, Volume 22, Number 18) dated March 11, 2024, that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) had expressed grave concern over the arrest and detention of women and girls for alleged non-compliance with the Islamic dress code. He has quoted Roza Otunbayeva, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of UNAMA, as observing that enforcement measures and physical violence were "especially demeaning and dangerous for Afghan women." Detention, she continued, carried "an enormous stigma that put Afghan women at even greater risk." The Taliban's war on women—perhaps the most diabolical feature of their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001—continues in their second innings with rape and molestation as a part of it. The process started in September 2021 when the Taliban removed the signboard of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Kabul and replaced it with that of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the earlier incarnation of which had



IT TAKES A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF COURAGE AND RESOLVE FOR A WOMAN, OR HER RELATIVES, TO STATE THAT SHE HAD BEEN RAPED OR MOLESTED IN CUSTODY

earned widespread notoriety during their first stint in power, for arbitrary and savage enforcement—with particular harshness towards women—of the government's obscurantist diktats. A series of measures has followed. Women are not allowed to travel more than 70 kilometres without a male escort who is her husband or a mahram, a close blood relative—father, son brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, nephew with whom marriage is prohibited and, in whose presence, she need not wear a hijab. They are to wear "proper" hijabs, loose black garments, covering their bodies and faces, in public places and their male relatives have been made responsible under pain of punishment. They are excluded from education above the primary level and virtually every kind of employment. Worse, in a voice message broadcast by Afghanistan's state television on March 23, 2024, the Taliban's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, had said, "We will flog the women ... we will stone them to death in public [for adultery]." The Taliban had started flogging women even before the announcement, administering at least 30 strokes for

"offences" like using cell phones, talking to men or being in love or relationships. All this was not unexpected given the Taliban's obscurantist beliefs and record in power during its first coming from 1996 to 2001. What is surprising is the silence—to say nothing of the absence of effective action—of the rest of the world, even the Western democracies, in the matter. The UN too seems to be falling in line. This is suggested by its surrender in the case of the recent conference of global envoys, held in Doha, Qatar, and attended by envoys of 25 countries including the US, Russia, China and the European Union. The conference, to promote engagement with the Taliban on a variety of issues, was the third of its kind. The Taliban, which had not attended the earlier two, attended it only after the organisers accepted their condition that women would not attend it. The UN's capitulation has been widely condemned by human rights organisations which rightly believe it would encourage the Taliban to further trample on women's rights. But who cares? (The author is Consulting Editor, *The Pioneer*. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FARMERS TO REIGNITE PROTESTS

Madam — The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), India's largest farmers' organization that led the historic 2020-21 protests, has announced plans to resume their agitation against the BJP-led NDA government to push for their pending demands. These demands include a guaranteed MSP law, loan waivers, and pensions for farmers and farmworkers. The General Body has decided to restart the agitation, demanding the implementation of the agreement signed on December 9, 2021, by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and other key demands affecting farmers' livelihoods. The SKM plans to campaign against the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections and intends to expose, oppose, and punish the party. The farmers' movement has significantly impacted Lok Sabha elections, defeating the BJP in 38 rural seats across Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. Clearly, all is not well for the BJP.

Bhagwan Thadani| Mumbai

PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam — Madam, This is in reference to the report, "Namami Ganga: Rs211 Crore Splash to Keep Maha Kumbh Eco-Friendly" (July 10). Whether the state government spends money on the Maha Kumbh Mela (MKM) at Prayag or not, the Modi government at the Centre is ready to pour money into the coffers of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government months ahead of the function. The Government of India, which delayed the payment of flood relief money to Tamil Nadu for many months and finally released a small amount with great reluctance coinciding with the Lok Sabha elections, has now 'splashed' Rs211 crore to the UP government quickly for the Mela scheduled for January-February 2025. This money is intended for preserving the purity of the Ganga river and ensuring cleanliness throughout the mega event. Just a week ago, another annual global event, the Puri Jagannath Rath Yatra, was celebrated by the

World Population Day



World Population Day is observed with various programs aimed at achieving overall population control worldwide, and India is no exception. The focal theme

emphasises family planning to significantly improve the health of mothers and children. However, in India, discussions about controlling the population of over 1.35 billion people often meet with resistance from both the public and political leaders. Given the current growth rate, India is expected to surpass China's population by 2025, ahead of the earlier projection for 2028. This year's World Population Day on July 11 coincides with the anticipated birth of the Earth's eight billionth inhabitant. While this milestone celebrates our diversity and advancements in health that have extended lifespans and reduced maternal and child mortality rates, the uncontrolled population increase poses a significant threat. The situation demands urgent attention and action to avoid potential dangers.

Jayanthi Subramaniam| Mumbai

ISKCON organization in Odisha. It was also a mega Hindu festival, but the Centre did not choose to fund this festival. However, the core issue I wish to point out is the fate of the Clean Ganga project introduced by the BJP government in its first tenure, for which Rs 5,000 crore was allocated. It is not known if the cleaning project was completed, as no report was presented in Parliament. It is unclear whether sustained maintenance is regularly done by the UP government, whether a system has been put in place to guard against the misuse and overcrowding of the Ganga river, and whether steps are taken to prohibit the immersion and floating of dead bodies in the river. Protecting the holiness and purity of the Ganga river is the foremost duty of both the Centre and the UP government.

Manoharan Muthuswamy| Ramnad

SUPREME COURT'S ALIMONY VERDICT

Madam — The Supreme Court's decision on alimony for divorced Muslim women is significant. The court determined that every woman, regardless of faith, has the

right to alimony. Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Augustin George Masih, though making independent decisions, ultimately reached the same conclusion. Both indicated that a divorced Muslim woman could file a lawsuit against her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC to receive alimony. The Supreme Court's ruling is admirable and consistent with the duties of a welfare state. This verdict mirrors the one handed down in the Shah Bano case on April 23, 1985. Previously, alimony for divorced women was determined by Muslim Personal Law, which allowed alimony only during the Iddat period. However, the Supreme Court declared that Section 125 of the Indian Penal Code is equally applicable to all women, allowing them to claim alimony even after Iddat. Many divorced Muslim women do not remarry, and receiving alimony only during the Iddat period does not resolve their issues.

Abhijit Roy| Jamshedpur

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FIRST COLUMN

BALANCING EMPATHY AND PROFESSIONALISM

While layoffs are challenging, there is room for improving how they are managed



RACHNA LAKHPATI

Layoffs are never easy. The impact on the affected employees will be deep and most often devastating; it is a turning point in their professional and personal lives—a stressful one, of course. But what the majority of people are not aware of is that those tasked to deliver the message—the HR professionals—also carry an emotional burden. It may be the senior leadership making tough decisions, but HR bears the heart-wrenching job of communicating them. HR professionals are often the stoic face of the company during these times. But behind the professionalism of that stone exterior is a very real understanding of the weight of their actions. They, too, are humans.

They also carry the burden of those decisions. The difference lies in their need to balance empathy with the requirement of upholding company policies and procedures, often concealing their feelings in the process. When an HR professional sits down with an employee to discuss a layoff, how complicated the emotions in that moment can be is beyond measure. They know they are delivering news that will change a life. However, how that news is conveyed does indeed have an impact.

There are no ideal words to cushion the blow, but compassion can help ease the transition. Difficult situations present an opportunity for HR professionals to think of effective strategies. They can understand and relate to the challenges faced by their staff, while also providing a positive outlook and potential for growth. They could say, "I do appreciate that this job may be a priority to you, but on the other hand, this could be one of those opportunities for upskilling to do something you are passionate about." I mean, such words, though they don't diminish the hardship—can usher in a glimmer of positivity.

This compassionate attitude toward the situation epitomises how such initiatives can give hope and dignity to the employees during this painful process of transition. It is important to keep in mind that neither the employee nor the organisation wants to end their



relationship on a sour note. By approaching layoffs with professionalism laced with humanity, HR can help ensure a transition to be as respectful and supportive as possible, even while it remains painful.

That being said, while layoffs can be one of the more challenging aspects of corporate life, there is certainly room for improvement in how these transitions are handled. Showing empathy, fostering clear communication, and providing support can greatly improve the experience for those undergoing layoffs. In times of uncertainty and change, it's important to remember that even small acts of kindness can make a difference.

Moreover, providing outplacement services, career counseling, and job search assistance can help laid-off employees find new opportunities more quickly. Encouraging networking and offering workshops on resume writing and interview skills can also make a significant difference. HR departments can collaborate with local businesses and employment agencies to create a support network for those affected.

By taking these extra steps, companies can demonstrate a genuine commitment to the well-being of their employees, even in difficult times. This holistic approach not only aids in the immediate transition but also helps maintain a positive company reputation in the long term.

(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

NATO: A legacy of conflict and controversy



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

As the alliance celebrates its 75th milestone, it faces scrutiny for its violations of international law and its failure to protect civilians in numerous conflicts

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), widely regarded as the most notorious and venomous military alliance in history, celebrated its 75th anniversary in Washington this week, amidst claims of establishing global peace. However, NATO's actions have often spread war across continents in pursuit of supremacy. Following a disastrous performance in the presidential debate, President Joe Biden unsurprisingly announced increased military aid to Ukraine, targeting their 'designated enemy' at the expense of this small European nation. NATO's ambitions are clear: to weaken Russia through proxy wars and to provoke China into potential conflict in Asia.

However, finding examples where NATO has truly ensured peaceful lives for ordinary people, rather than pursuing its broader goal of supremacy through alliances with enemies of its enemies, remains challenging. NATO must be held accountable for its violations of international law and its failure to protect unarmed civilians in nearly every conflict it has engaged in since its inception. While NATO celebrated its 75th anniversary, mainstream media barely acknowledged the 25th anniversary of NATO's intervention in Yugoslavia—a glaring failure of this war-oriented alliance. June 10 marks the 25th anniversary of the end of NATO's bombing campaign in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, initiated without UN Security Council approval and lasting 78 days. NATO dropped 22,000 tonnes of bombs, including 15 tonnes of depleted uranium, resulting in over 2,500 deaths, including 79 children, and displacing over a million residents. The aftermath included long-term health and environmental impacts from depleted uranium munitions. In the decade following the bombing, approximately 30,000 people in Serbia developed cancer, with over 10,000 deaths. Studies indicate increased cancer rates and other serious health issues among children born after 1999. Three thousand victims have filed lawsuits against NATO, despite the alliance claiming immunity based on agreements with Serbia and Montenegro.

Serbian experts dispute this, stating that no agreements grant NATO immunity for past war crimes. NATO's attempts to evade accountability only accentuate its war crimes and the suffering it caused. Since its establishment, NATO's military operations have frequently resulted in chaos and trauma rather than peace and stability. From April 1992 to December 1995, the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina erupted among its three main ethnic groups over their future and territorial divisions. Shortly before the outbreak of war in Bosnia, NATO hastily recognised Bosnia and Herzegovina's independence, exacerbating ethnic conflicts in the region. NATO launched extensive airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs, eventually compelling the three ethnic groups to sign the Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a consequence, 278,000 civilians perished, over 2 million people became refugees, and the war inflicted more than \$5.1 billion in direct economic losses, with the majority of economic facilities destroyed. The Kosovo War, ignited by ethnic tensions and led by the US-backed NATO without UN authorisation, lasted from March 24, 1999, to June 10, 1999. The three-month bombing campaign caused 1,800 civilian deaths, 6,000 injuries, and sub-



stantial infrastructure damage, amounting to economic losses of \$150 billion. This marked NATO's first offensive war against a sovereign state without UN approval, marking a shift towards interventionism and expansionism. NATO's actions violated international law, including the UN Charter and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, through the use of force against Belgrade. Despite this, no NATO member has been fully held accountable for their actions, in stark contrast to incidents involving their erstwhile 'puppets', such as the swift hanging of Saddam Hussein of Iraq by Western forces or the extrajudicial killing of Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, famously remarked on by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with, 'We came, we saw, he died.' In Afghanistan, the US-led NATO coalition launched a war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban on October 7, 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks. The two-decade-long conflict ended abruptly with the withdrawal of US and NATO forces in May 2021, resulting in 241,000 deaths, including 71,000 civilians, and displacing millions.

The war generated significant economic losses, averaging approximately \$45 million per day, and led to social disorder in Afghanistan, with 72% of the population living below the poverty line and 3.5 million children deprived of education. A new report issued this Monday by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) revealed shocking statistics: over 24% of Afghan children aged 5-17 experience anxiety, while 15% suffer from depression in this war-torn country.

This is the legacy left behind by those who claimed they could guarantee a peaceful life under a rule-based system founded on democratic norms. During this period, terrorist networks such as the East Turkestan Islamic Movement and Al-Qaeda expanded, worsening regional instability. This pattern of devastation persisted in Iraq and Libya, where NATO interventions

resulted in substantial civilian casualties and prolonged instability. NATO's actions consistently undermined peace and security, earning it a reputation as a war machine rather than a force for peace. However, in Ukraine, NATO finds itself in disarray, having underestimated Russia's determination to defend its interests while overestimating its ability to expand its military alliance to Moscow's doorstep. The strategy of flooding Ukraine with weaponry for swift victory has backfired, with Russia proving resilient in defence.

As the conflict drags on, NATO member states face escalating costs and inflationary debt, while Ukraine depletes its fighting-age soldiers. Western leaders, deeply invested in the conflict, encounter diminishing confidence in Ukraine's capacity to reclaim territories without escalating the conflict and potentially involving NATO troops—a move that lacks public support. In recent months, Russia has made incremental territorial gains, advancing in the Kharkiv Oblast and compelling Ukrainian forces to retreat from a neighbourhood in Chasiv Yar, Donetsk.

However, the lack of significant progress has raised doubts about Russia's capabilities. While struggling to maintain the frontline, Ukraine has targeted Russian ships, energy depots, and border regions with drones, resulting in casualties. Two and a half years into the conflict, neither side appears capable of achieving a military solution. Ukraine faces substantial challenges in reclaiming captured territories, while Russia's aggression has bolstered NATO's resolve, which now pledges long-term support for Kyiv. A viable resolution entails bringing both parties to the negotiating table. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed support for dialogue. Russia's allies should urge President Vladimir Putin to cease hostilities and engage earnestly in negotiations, while Ukraine's supporters should encourage Kyiv to consider peace talks—although NATO vehement-

ly opposes this idea. With American elections looming, a Trump victory could pave the way for a negotiated settlement, whereas a Biden re-election might prolong the conflict, potentially transforming Ukraine into another Afghanistan or Vietnam. Meanwhile, Russia's economy has strengthened despite sanctions, buoyed by trade partnerships with China and India.

Historians might view the US-led NATO expansion as a strategic failure that catalysed the formation of an alliance among BRICS nations to counter NATO. President Xi Jinping perceives Putin as pivotal in opposing the United States and its allies, although a new Trump administration could potentially avert broader conflict and repair relations with adversaries. The summit's news report highlighted NATO and its Indo-Pacific partners—Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand—launching four joint projects aimed at deepening cooperation, announced by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the NATO Defence Industry Forum. Amidst the celebration of this military alliance, Asia faces the daunting task of safeguarding its position against a coalition adept at leveraging proxies to achieve its objectives. This historical pattern resonates with poignant examples throughout history.

Asia's imperative now is to cultivate robust trade relationships and settle territorial disputes through constructive dialogue, preempting external interference. History presents a stark choice: yield to foreign ambitions, akin to the post-World War II tragedies and subsequent killing fields from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and West Asia to present-day conflicts in Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria, or thrive together in dignified coexistence. The path to a peaceful future hinges on a unified commitment to peace and saying no to NATO and its proxies. Better the devil you know than the angel you don't.


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

Modi-Putin summit revives India-Russia relations amid global tensions

The meeting underscored India's strategic balancing act between global powers while prioritising its own economic and security needs

Just when there was a growing perception that ties between India and Russia were losing momentum, even stagnating, the summit-level meeting between PM Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin should help impart a fresh impetus to bilateral relations.

Held after a gap of over two years, amid the ongoing geopolitical churn, the 22nd summit saw the two sides resolve to unlock the full potential of their strategic partnership. The summit's outcomes conveyed New Delhi's intent to continue to forge closer ties with Moscow, notwithstanding the widespread Western opprobrium Putin has drawn after Russia invaded Ukraine and the consequent sanctions slapped on



PARUL CHANDRA

his country. With Putin preoccupied with the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, now into its third year, the summit-level meetings had fallen by the wayside. The last summit was held in New Delhi in December 2021. The summit indicated eagerness on the part of both sides to not just reinvigorate the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership', but also make economic cooperation

the lynchpin of the relationship. This was reflected in a separate joint statement spelling out nine key areas for economic cooperation, with a new bilateral trade target of \$100 billion being set for 2030. While the Modi-Putin Summit left Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressing "disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal", it's unlikely to hurt New Delhi's close ties with Kyiv. India may not have condemned the invasion, but Modi did tell Putin "there is no peace on the battlefield" while reiterating India's position on the need for dialogue. While Washington also expressed its displeasure over the Modi-

Putin meeting, it is unlikely that will allow this to impact the trajectory of its ties with Moscow, propelled as they are by India's strategic imperatives. One of them, of course, is the tightening Russia-China embrace. The thrust on closer ties with Russia will also help address Moscow's concerns over New Delhi's decidedly pronounced tilt towards Washington. India has so far managed to do a fine balancing act between the two geopolitical rivals and should continue to do so.

India sees Russia as a time-tested trusted partner. Much as the Western world would like to keep a sanctions-hit Russia isolated over the Ukraine war, India's push for broader and deeper economic linkages reflects its own strategic



needs. India's purchase of Russian oil despite the sanctions will not just continue but is expected to increase further. Crude imports from Russia have increased from 2.5 million tonnes in 2021 to 90 million tonnes in 2023, with India being clear this is vital for its energy security. Investments in the energy sector by both sides also remain a top priority.

Fertilizer imports from Russia, too, are seen as vital for India's agriculture sector. Russian oil imports have helped push the bilateral trade figures to \$65.70 billion. But while Indian imports were worth \$61.44 billion, its exports accounted for a mere \$4.26 billion.

While happy to import Russian oil at discounted rates, New Delhi will need to address this trade imbalance by widening the trade basket with Russia. Among the major export items from India are pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, iron and steel and electrical machinery.

That the two sides agreed to look at the possibility of eliminating non-tariff trade barriers and the setting up of a Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)-India Free Trade Area shows the seriousness of intent to promote bilateral trade. The nudge to begin full negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the EAEU too should lend a fillip to trade ties.

Connectivity too remains a priority for both sides. It would mean access for Indian goods to the Eurasian markets. However, the proposed INSTC (International North-South Transport) Corridor is still a long way away from becoming a reality. While there is renewed interest between the two sides to establish a Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor, which was first mooted in 2019, it also remains to be seen whether it will fructify. The summit, of course, also emphasized

the importance of robust cooperation in the defence sector, which is an important element of India's security paradigm. Russia remains India's biggest arms supplier despite New Delhi's continuing efforts to diversify by turning to others like the US, France and Israel to meet its requirements. India would have undoubtedly sought to address its concerns over the delays in the supply of Russian military hardware and spares owing to the Ukraine war. The Modi-Putin Summit may have left the West fulminating, but it's fairly obvious New Delhi will plough its furrow so long as it serves its strategic priorities. The writer is a senior journalist who writes on foreign affairs.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

‘Determined to run in re-election, will defeat Trump’

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Defiant US President Joe Biden has insisted that he is “determined” and fit to seek re-election and defeat his Republican rival Donald Trump in November, even as two excruciating gaffes marred his efforts to dismiss concerns over his age and fitness. During a high-stakes solo news conference on Thursday at the conclusion of the NATO Summit here, Biden said that no poll or person is telling him that he can't win reelection currently. That is the only way he would consider ending his presidential bid.

“I’m determined to run,” 81-year-old Biden, the oldest sitting US President, said. “The fact is that the consideration is that I think I’m the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him (Trump) once, and I will beat him again. Secondly.. the idea that senators and congressmen are running for office worrying about the ticket is not unusual and I



might add, there were at least five presidents running or incumbent presidents who had lower numbers than I have now later in a campaign,” Biden said. “So there’s a long way to go in this campaign, and so I’m just going to keep moving, keep moving,” he said. Toward the beginning of the question-and-answer session, Biden mistakenly referred to Vice President Kamala Harris as former President Trump amid mounting questions surrounding his mental acuity.

He said Harris was qualified to be president as well, although he misnamed her in the endorsement. “I wouldn’t have picked vice-president Trump to be vice-president if she’s not qualified to be president,” Biden said. He made a similar mistake earlier in the day, accidentally calling Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky “President Putin” while introducing him during a NATO event. He continued to defy the pleas from a growing number of Democrats to step down from the Democratic ticket. Asked if he was determined to stay in the race despite the fears of some Democratic lawmakers, Biden said, “I’m determined on running, but I think it’s important that I realise allay fears by seeing - let them see me out there. Let them see me out.” He said his campaign was strong and working hard in “toss-up states.” “..look, I got more work to do. We’ve got more work to finish.

We made so much progress. Think about where we are economically relative to the rest of the world. Name me a world leader who wouldn’t want to trade places with our economy. We created over 800,000 manufacturing jobs, ...so things are moving. We’ve got more to go,” the president said. “Working-class people still need help. Corporate greed is still at large. Corporate profits have doubled since the pandemic. They’re coming down and so I’m optimistic about where things are going,” he asserted. Biden added that he is seeking his re-election not for his legacy. “I’m in this to complete the job I started. As you recall, understandably, many of you and many economists thought my initial initiatives that I put forward can’t do that because it’s going to cause inflation. Things are going to skyrocket. The debt’s going to go up. What are you hearing now from mainstream econo-

mists?” “Sixteen economic Nobel laureates said I’ve done a hell of a job, that under my plan so far and what’s going to happen in the future if I’m reelected, that things are going to get much better. Our economy is growing. I was determined when I got elected to stop the trickle-down economic theory that if the wealthy did very well, everybody else would do well,” the president said. Biden refuted reports that he told his aides that he needed to go to bed earlier and end meetings around eight in the evening. “That’s not true... what I said was, instead of my every day starting at seven and going to bed at midnight, it’d be smarter for me to pace myself a little more. And I said, for example, the 8:00, 7:00, 6:00 stuff, instead of starting the fundraiser at 9:00, start at 8:00. People get to go home by 10:00. That’s what I’m talking about,” he said. When asked about what

changed his mind when in 2020 he said that he would be the bridge candidacy for a younger, fresher generation of Democratic leaders, Biden said: “What changed was the gravity of the situation I inherited in terms of the economy, our foreign policy and domestic division.” Biden also offered extensive remarks on thorny foreign policy issues, including competition with China and the Israel-Hamas war. He said he had warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu away from an occupation of the Gaza Strip. He said he was directly in contact with Chinese President Xi Jinping to warn him not to offer further support for Russia’s war in Ukraine, but not with Vladimir Putin, whom he said: “I have no reason to speak to him right now.” Biden said he was totally opposed to the occupation and trying to unite Afghanistan. He said that the US should have left the coun-

try after killing Osama bin Laden. “There’s no need to occupy anywhere. Go after the people who did the job. You may recall I still get criticized for it, but I was totally opposed to the occupation and trying to unite Afghanistan,” he told reporters at a news conference. “Once we got bin Laden, we should have moved on because it was not in our — and no one’s ever going to unite that country,” he said. “I’ve been over every inch of that — not every inch, the entirety from the poppy fields all the way to the north. I said don’t make the same mistake we made. Don’t think that’s what you should be doing is doubling down,” he said. Meanwhile, three House Democrats — Representative Jim Himes of Connecticut, Scott Peters of California and Eric Sorensen of Illinois — on Thursday joined others to call on President Biden to step aside from the 2024 race following the news conference.

‘Kamala Harris is qualified to be president’

Washington (PTI): US President Joe Biden on Thursday said his deputy, Vice President Kamala Harris, is “qualified” to lead the country. At a high-stake press conference here on Thursday, Biden said, “From the very beginning, I made no bones about that. She is qualified to be the president. That’s why I picked her.” When asked about the reasons for this, he said “Firstly because of the way she’s handled the issue of freedom of women’s bodies, to have control of their bodies and secondly, her ability to handle almost any issue on the board.”

“This was a hell of a prosecutor. She was a first-rate person and in the Senate, she was really good. I wouldn’t have picked her unless I thought she was qualified to be the president,” Biden said.

Harris, 59, is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected as US Vice President in 2020.

Biden’s remarks on Harris came amidst growing calls for the 81-year-old to step aside from the race for the White House in November since he stumbled through a TV debate with his Republican rival Donald Trump last month. The president mistakenly referred to Kamala Harris as former president Trump during the press conference. He said, “I wouldn’t have picked Trump to be the vice president, did I think she was not qualified to be president...” “The fact is that the consideration is that I think I’m the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him once and I will beat him again,” Biden said.

“The idea that senators and congressmen are running for office worrying about the ticket is not unusual. And I might add, there were at least five presidents running or incumbent presidents who had lower numbers than I have now later in a campaign,” he said. So, there’s a long way to go in this campaign and so I’m just going to keep moving, Biden, the presumptive candidate of the Democratic Party, said.

Emergency crews recover bodies in Gaza City as negotiations continue

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH

Dozens of bodies collected throughout Gaza City’s Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood arrived at Al-Ahli Hospital on Friday morning while civil defence workers said they continued to recover the dead from destroyed streets and buildings. Hospital director Fadel Naem told The Associated Press that people both dead and wounded had been brought from Tel al-Hawa to the hospital less than a day after it resumed operations following the evacuation earlier in the week due to the fighting in the area. About 60 bodies have been recovered, including entire families who appeared to have been killed by artillery fire and aerial bombardment, Mahmoud Basal, the director of Civil Defense in Gaza said. “There are homes that we cannot reach, and there are those

who were burned inside their homes,” he said, noting many of those who were killed had left nearby shelters after being ordered to evacuate. The Israeli military said it could not comment on Tel al-Hawa. The scenes mirror those in another Gaza City neighbourhood, Shuja’iyyah, from which Israel’s military has withdrawn in recent days. On Thursday, civil defence workers found an additional 60 bodies in Shuja’iyyah under similar circumstances, with more believed to be buried under rubble. Basal said bodies in Tel al-Hawa were found decomposing or partially mauled by dogs. The latest announcements of casualties comes as the United Nations estimates that about 300,000 Palestinians were still in northern Gaza, as of earlier this week, despite being ordered to evacuate. Much of the population left earlier in the war. Most of Gaza’s 2.3 million

people are now experiencing widespread hunger while crammed into squalid tent camps. Israel launched the war in Gaza after Hamas’ Oct 7 attack in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted about 250. Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 38,300 people in Gaza, according to the territory’s Health Ministry. It does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. Meanwhile in Cairo, mediators continue to push to narrow gaps between Israel and Hamas over a proposal deal that would include a cease-fire and hostage release in Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said on Thursday that Israel would send a delegation for further talks as US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators attempt to seal an agreement. Obstacles remain, however as

Hamas insists that talks continue until a permanent cease-fire is reached while Netanyahu says Israel won’t agree to any deal that would stop its military campaign before Hamas is eliminated. Netanyahu is under growing pressure both domestically and internationally. Large segments of the Israeli population are demanding an agreement to release the hostages after nine months of war, though Netanyahu has insisted that the offensive won’t end until Israel achieves its goal of eliminating Hamas. Relatives of hostages are marching to Jerusalem to demand a deal and the release of their loved ones as Israeli politicians, including Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, call for a broad government investigation into the conduct of Israel’s leaders. A risk of regional escalation remains. Israel’s military said Friday one of its soldiers was killed in combat in northern Israel as the country’s army and

Hungary’s Orban faces backlash over his rogue ‘peace mission’ meetings

Budapest (AP): Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has made a Trumpian vow to “Make Europe Great Again” during his country’s six-month presidency of the European Union. As a first step last week, he astonished his allies by making a surprise trip to Ukraine — his first since Moscow invaded the country — followed by similarly unannounced visits to Russia and China for talks with two of the EU’s primary adversaries. The EU’s longest-serving leader — who has endorsed former President Donald Trump and is known as having the warmest relations with Vladimir Putin in the bloc — wrapped up a NATO summit in Washington on Thursday before travelling to Trump’s Mar-a-Lago compound — his latest stop on what he calls a “peace mission” aimed at brokering an end to Russia’s war in Ukraine.



Orban shared a photo of himself and Trump on social media with the caption: “We discussed ways to make peace. The good news of the day: he’s going to solve it!” On his own social media site, Trump posted: “Thank you Viktor. There must be PEACE, and quickly.” But Orban’s talks with Putin last week in Moscow, the first such visit by any EU leader since 2022, and his meeting with Xi Jinping in Beijing,

have angered the bloc’s leaders and prompted attempts to contain Hungary during the next six months of its EU presidency. “As the president country, one must act as an honest broker and not give the impression that you are speaking for other countries,” Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson told reporters at the NATO summit on Thursday. “(Orban) in reality is abusing the EU presidency and hijacking it for his own purposes,” Peter Kreko, an analyst with the Budapest-based think tank Political Capital, said that Hungary’s rotating presidency has thus far been an exercise in “troll diplomacy,” and that Oban’s self-declared “peace mission” will only isolate him further from his Western partners who increasingly regard him as working against EU and NATO interests and undermining their efforts to assist Ukraine.

Teen held after UK gurdwara attack with ‘bladed weapon’

London (PTI): A 17-year-old boy remains in custody after two women were injured in a suspected religiously aggravated incident involving a “bladed weapon” at a gurdwara in Kent, south-east England, local police said on Friday. Kent Police said its officers were called to the Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara on Thursday evening to investigate reports that a male had entered the place of worship and attempted to assault members of the gathering. The gurdwara, among the largest in Europe, said that ‘Guru Granth Sahib Ji’ was not present in the Darbar Hall at the time of the incident. “It was reported that a male had entered the location and attempted to assault those in attendance whilst armed with a bladed weapon. Nobody was seriously injured during the incident but two women required medical attention for cuts and bruises,” Kent Police said in a statement. The officers arrested the teenage boy on suspicion of attempted murder and a religiously aggravated public order offence and also recovered the bladed weapon from the scene. The police have described it as an “isolated incident” and nobody else is currently being sought in connection with the attack. “We understand the community’s concerns in relation to the events at the gurdwara, however we are treating it as an isolated incident,” said Detective Superintendent Ian Dyball of Kent Police. “Patrols will remain in the area for reassurance and we thank the community for their ongoing support and assistance,” he said. According to the gurdwara’s management team, the suspect was spotted by its security team and police were called immediately. “A person has been arrested by Kent Police on suspicion of attempted murder, after entering the gurdwara and creating an incident in one of the Darbar Halls. We can confirm that the incident happened after Sukhasan and ‘Guru Granth Sahib Ji’ was not present in the Darbar Hall,” read a gurdwara statement.

4 migrants die while attempting to cross English Channel

Paris (AP): Four migrants have died while trying to cross the English Channel on an inflatable boat from France to the UK, French authorities said on Friday. The migrants’ vessel capsized and punctured off the coast of Boulogne-sur-Mer, in northern France, the prefecture responsible for the region said in a statement. Sixty-three people were rescued by the French coast guard. A French navy patrol boat spotted the overcrowded vessel early Friday as it deflated off the French coast. Several people were “drifting in the water while others were still clinging to the broken rubber dingy,” the statement said. Navy vessels, a fishing boat and a Navy helicopter joined the effort. Survivors were brought to the shore in Boulogne to receive medical attention and temporary shelter, the statement also said. Migrants trying to reach the UK risk drowning as they

try to cross the busy English Channel, often aboard crowded, unseaworthy boats. French maritime officials responsible for the Channel and the North Sea warned anyone who plans to cross the Channel to reconsider due to the many risks involved in the perilous journey. The channel is one of the busiest waterways in the world, with more than 600 commercial ships sailing through it daily, and weather conditions are often difficult due to strong winds that prevail 120 days a year, their Friday statement said. “It’s dangerous even when the sea seems calm,” they said. Friday’s tragedy in the channel comes amid a continuing flow of people making the journey to the UK. The latest figures from Britain’s Home Office, which deals with immigration issues, show that 62 people travelled across the Channel in one boat on Thursday, taking

X’s blue checks deceptive, transparency falls short under social media law

AP ■ LONDON

The European Union said Friday that blue checkmarks from Elon Musk’s X are deceptive and that the online platform falls short on transparency and accountability requirements, the first charges against a tech company since the bloc’s new social media regulations took effect. The European Commission outlined the preliminary findings from its investigation into X, formerly known as Twitter, under the 27-nation bloc’s Digital Services Act. The rulebook, also known as the DSA, is a sweeping set of regulations that requires platforms to take more responsibility for protecting users and cleaning up their sites, under threat of hefty fines. Regulators took aim at X’s blue checks, saying they constitute “dark patterns” that are not in line with industry best practice



and can be used by malicious actors to deceive users. After Musk bought the site in 2022, it started issuing the verification marks to anyone who paid \$8 per month for one. Before Musk’s acquisition, they mirrored verification badges common on social media and were largely reserved for celebrities, politicians and other influential accounts. An email request for comment to X resulted in an automated response that said “Busy now, please check back later.” Its main spokesman reportedly

left the company in June. “Back in the day, BlueChecks used to mean trustworthy sources of information,” European Commissioner Thierry Breton said in a statement. “Now with X, our preliminary view is that they deceive users and infringe the DSA.” The commission also charged X with failing to comply with requirements on ad transparency. Under the DSA platforms must publish a database of all digital advertisements that they’ve carried, with details including who paid for them and the intended audience. But X’s ad database has “design features and access barriers” that make it “unfit for its transparency purpose,” the commission said. The company also falls short when it comes to giving researchers access to public data, as required by the DSA, the commission said.

Trump lawyers press judge to overturn hush money conviction after SC immunity ruling

New York (AP): Donald Trump’s lawyers are urging the judge in his New York hush money case to overturn his conviction and dismiss the case in the wake of the Supreme Court’s recent ruling on presidential immunity. The former president’s lawyers wrote in papers made public Thursday that prosecutors rushed to try Trump in April and May while the high court was still considering his immunity claims. “Rather than wait for the Supreme Court’s guidance, the prosecutors scoffed with hubris at President Trump’s immunity motions and insisted on rushing to trial,” Trump’s lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove wrote. “Your Honor now has the authority to address these injustices, and the court is duty-bound to do so in light of the Supreme Court’s decision.” Trump was originally scheduled to be sentenced Thursday,



but that’s on hold until the trial judge, Juan M. Merchan, rules on whether to set aside Trump’s felony conviction for falsifying records to cover up a potential sex scandal. Merchan has said he’ll rule on the defense’s request on Sept. 6 and will sentence Trump on Sept. 18, “if such is still necessary.” Prosecutors have until July 24 to respond to the defense’s arguments.

US, S Korea sign joint nuclear deterrence guidelines in face of N Korean threats

AP ■ SEOUL

The US and South Korea signed joint nuclear deterrence guidelines for the first time, a basic yet important step in their efforts to improve deterrence toward North Korea’s evolving nuclear threats. Meeting Thursday on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Washington, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol commended what they called “the tremendous progress” that their countries’ alliance have made a year after creating a joint Nuclear Consultative Group. The two leaders authorized “the US-ROK Guidelines for Nuclear Deterrence and Nuclear Operations on the Korean Peninsula” that was signed by their defense officials earlier Thursday, according to South Korea’s presidential office. ROK stands for the Republic of Korea, South Korea’s official name.

Last year, the US and South Korea launched the consultative body to strengthen communication on nuclear operations and discuss how to integrate US nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons in various contingencies. The US has long promised to use all its capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to defend South Korea if it is attacked, but faced suspicions that it lacks plans on how it would exercise its extended deterrence for its Asian ally. The consultative body was established as North Korea has sharply accelerated its missile testing activities and openly threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts. South Korea has no nuclear weapons. “The presidents underscored that the Guidelines document provides a solid foundation for enhancing US-ROK extended deterrence cooperation in an integrated manner,” said a joint

statement by Biden and Yoon. Du Hyeon Cha, an analyst at Seoul’s Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said the guidelines mark substantial progress in deterrence plans, but the allies will still need to fill in the details and conduct military exercises to test them. Kim Tae-hyo, a deputy national security director in South Korea, told reporters that South Korea and the US will conduct joint military exercises to help implement the deterrence guidelines. He said the US would commit specific nuclear assets to a role in deterrence plans, but experts added that this does not mean it would place nuclear weapons in South Korea. Specifics of the guidelines, which Seoul called confidential, were not available, though the US will certainly retain control of its nuclear weapons. “The key is how to integrate South Korea’s conventional

weapons and America’s nuclear weapons to launch joint, massive retaliation to North Korea, when it carries out nuclear strikes on South Korea,” said Kim Yeol Soo, an expert at South Korea’s Korea Institute for Military Affairs. He said prospects for South Korea-US coordination are bright if Biden is re-elected in the November election, but could suffer a setback if former President Donald Trump returns to the White House. North Korea is expected to respond angrily to the announcement, as it has previously accused its rivals of using the consultation group to plot a nuclear attack on the North. Worries about North Korea have further deepened since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin in June signed a deal requiring each country to provide aid to the other if it is attacked, and vowed to boost other cooperation.

Sudan’s warring parties arrive in Geneva for UN-hosted talks on local cease-fires

AP ■ GENEVA

Sudan’s warring parties have arrived in Geneva at the invitation of the United Nations to discuss the protection of civilians through possible local cease-fires. U.N. officials said Thursday. But one side did not show up for the talks on the first day. Senior representatives from the Sudanese army and rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces accepted invitations to meet separately with the U.N. secretary-general’s personal envoy, Ramtane Lamamra, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman at U.N. headquarters in New York, told reporters. Lamamra invited both parties to separate “proximity talks” on Thursday morning but “regrettably one of the delegations did not come to the session,” he said. Dujarric would not say which delegation showed up, but he

said Lamamra and his team met with those representatives, and invited both delegations to continue discussions on Friday. “We urge the Sudanese delegations to rise to the challenge and engage in constructive discussions with the personal envoy for the sake of the Sudanese people,” he said. Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023 when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to other regions including Darfur. The U.N. says over 14,000 people have been killed and 33,000 injured. Rights activists say the toll could be much higher. The war has also created the world’s largest displacement crisis with over 11 million people forced to flee their homes as well as allegations of rampant sexual violence and possible crimes against humanity, and international experts

recently warned that 755,000 people are facing famine in the coming months. Talks in Saudi Arabia’s port city of Jeddah between the Sudanese military and the Rapid Support Forces broke down at the end of last year. After months of failed efforts to restart talks, Dujarric said the United Nations didn’t publicize the meeting because it doesn’t want to raise expectations. “We and others have been trying to move this process forward,” he said. “We need to give it a little bit of breathing room and that’s why we’re not trumpeting all of this.” Alessandra Vellucci, the U.N. spokeswoman in Geneva, said in an email that “The discussions seek to identify avenues for the advancement of the identified humanitarian and protection of civilian measures through possible local cease-fires, as requested by the Security Council.”

PTI eligible for reserved seats in Parl, provincial assemblies: Pak SC

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a major legal victory for Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party, the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats for women and minorities in Parliament and in the provincial assemblies. The Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) had filed a plea challenging the Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) move to deny its share in reserved seats in the National Assembly and provincial assemblies. A 13-member full bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case and the ruling in the keenly awaited judgment is viewed as a major set-back to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition. Candidates backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, who had contested and won the

February 8 elections as independents after their party was stripped of its election symbol, had joined the SIC to form a coalition of convenience. The apex court on Friday annulled the decision of the PHC and also declared the decision of the election commission "null and void", terming it "against the Constitution of Pakistan". "[The] withdrawal of election symbol cannot disqualify a political party from elections," the court declared, referring to the election commission not allowing the PTI to use the cricket bat as its election symbol. "The PTI was and is a political party," the bench ruled. Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, founded the PTI in 1996. The decision, announced by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, was made based on a majority of eight judges. Meanwhile, reacting to the apex court's verdict, PTI said that the party "has been hopeful that the justice will be served in the end, given there



Chairman of Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party Gohar Khan talks to the media while party supporters react after a Supreme Court decision in a case of reserved seats for women and minorities in parliament, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Friday

AP/PTI

was no provision in the constitution of Pakistan, that could strip a party off its proportionate quota neither the quota could be allotted to other parties". A post from the PTI's official X

account also demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja for "violating [the] Constitution of Pakistan". Imran Khan's former aide

Fawad Chaudhry echoed the party account's sentiments, also demanding the resignation of the chief election commissioner in a post on X. He said the PTI should "demand ECP resignation after SCP has now

official charge-sheeted ECP". The party spokesman Raouf Hassan also extended his "hearty congratulations" to the PTI on X, lauding the Supreme Court for "breaking the barriers of intimidation". "This is only the beginning of a long haul till we reach the final destination when Imran Khan shall take over as the Prime Minister of Pakistan," he said. "Soon, very soon." Earlier, after concluding the hearing on Tuesday, the 13 judges spent two days in mutual consultations before announcing the verdict. The court initially announced that a three-member regular bench headed by the chief justice would announce the verdict at 9 am, but shortly after that, the timing was changed and the bench announcing the verdict was changed when it was announced that the original 13-member bench would issue the judgment at noon. The dispute about the reserved seats was related to the rejection of a SIC plea by the ECP

to award its share in the 70 reserved seats in the National Assembly and another 156 in the four provincial assemblies. The PTI party could not contest the February 8 elections as the ECP rejected its intra-party elections and deprived it of the bat symbol for contesting the elections as a party. Hence it was not eligible to claim the seats reserved for women and minorities that are awarded to the winning parties based on proportional representation. So its candidates, who had won independently but with the support of PTI, were asked by the PTI leadership to join a SIC to form a parliamentary party to claim reserved seats. The joining of PTI lawmakers made the SIC prominent, which otherwise was a dormant entity. The ECP had rejected the SIC plea for reserved seats on the pretext that it had not contested the elections as a party and only got strength when the PTI-backed independently

elected candidates joined its ranks after winning the elections. Its appeal against the ECP decision in the Peshawar High Court was also turned down in March, forcing the party to file a challenge in the Supreme Court. In a rare move, a 13-member full bench presided over the hearing and announced the verdict on the insistence of the SIC lawyers. Earlier, the Supreme Court on May 6 in a major relief to the PTI suspended the Peshawar High Court's decision about rejecting the SIC plea. Following the ruling, the ECP on May 14 suspended the victory notifications of 77 candidates, who belonged to other parties and were declared successful on the reserved seats. The final ruling by the top court in the case decided the fate of those 77 reserved seats. Though it may not change the current power structure, the changes in the overall number game in the assemblies may impact the law-making in the country.

Japan punishes defence officials for mishandling classified data

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's defence ministry announced disciplinary action on Friday against more than 200 senior officials and service members over mishandling of classified materials and other misconduct, an embarrassment that could undermine Tokyo's efforts to work more closely with United States and other partners in the face of China's growing threat. The Ministry and its Self Defence Forces have been under scrutiny over allegations that members of the navy violated the sensitive information protection law, as well as other misconduct such as falsely claiming allowances for special assignments, or wrongfully claiming free meals at base cafeterias. Ministerial staff were also accused of abuses of power. Defence Minister Minoru

Kihara apologized, saying the problems "significantly damaging to the public trust" for the ministry and Japan's defense forces. "I'm keenly aware of my responsibility." He blamed a lack of discipline across the organization. Kihara said the ministry's investigation found that classified information was mishandled on 38 destroyers and submarines, but said no sensitive information leaked outside of military or caused any harm. People without appropriate clearances were routinely assigned to duties that involved sensitive information. But the issue is an embarrassment and could undermine Japan's reputation as a trusted defense partner at a time Japan accelerates its military cooperation with the United States, Australia, UK and other western partners, in hopes of playing greater roles

in areas that involve intelligence. "Ensuring intelligence protection is extremely important for our cooperation with the ally and other like-minded countries, and we should never let this kind of problem happen again," Kihara said. He pledged to quickly and thoroughly carry out preventive measures "so that we will not breach trust with other countries." Earlier this year, Japan passed a new security law that tightened rules on handling sensitive information. Japan also plans to enact legislation to bolster its cyber security defenses. Kihara said he is giving up his salary for a month, but that his responsibility is to stay on and continue on the reform of the organization instead of stepping down. "At a time when we cannot let our guard down even for a sec-

ond ... it is my responsibility to do everything to rebuild the Defense Ministry and the Self Defense Force under my leadership as quickly as possible and regain the public trust," Kihara said. On Friday, the 548-page Defense White Paper warned of a worsening security environment, citing threats such as China's growing tension with the self-governed island of Taiwan, as well as North Korea's advancing missile and nuclear capabilities and its ballistic missile shipments to Russia to aide the country's war on Ukraine. Japan particularly worries about rising tensions between Beijing and Taipei because any conflict on Taiwan could quickly spill over to the southwestern Japanese islands. Japan's westernmost island of Yonaguni sits only 110 kilometers (68 miles) east of Taiwan.

Russian passenger jet crashes flying empty crashes near moscow; crew of 3 killed

AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian passenger jet crashed Friday while flying empty, killing its crew of three, officials said. The Sukhoi Superjet went down in the Moscow region, according to Russian emergency officials. The authorities said the plane belonged to Gazprom Avia, a carrier owned by the Russian state-controlled natural gas giant Gazprom. They said the plane was heading to Moscow's Vnukovo airport following repairs when it crashed. The Investigative Committee, the country's top state criminal investigation agency, has launched a probe into the crash.



A woman and children wade through a flood road during heavy rainfall in Lahore, Pakistan, on Friday

AP/PTI

Prachanda loses trust vote, Oli set to be new PM

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Friday lost a vote of confidence in Parliament after coalition partner CPN-UML withdrew its support to him, a development that will lead to the formation of a new government led by ex-premier K P Sharma Oli.

Prachanda received only 63 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives (HoR) and there were 194 votes against the motion. At least 138 votes are needed to win the vote of trust. A total of 258 HoR members participated in the voting while one member abstained.

Prachanda, 69, chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre (CPN-MC), had survived four trust votes since he assumed the prime minister's post on December 25, 2022. He faced the same predicament yet another time because former prime minister Oli-led Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after

inking a power-sharing deal with the largest party in the House – the Nepali Congress (NC). Earlier, Speaker of the HoR Dev Raj Ghimire put Prachanda's Vote of Trust for voting according to Article 100 Clause 2 of the Constitution. After voting was completed, he announced that the Vote of Trust proposed by Prime Minister Prachanda was defeated with a majority vote.

Speaker Ghimire will now inform President Ram Chandra Paudel, who in turn, will invite two or more political parties to stake a claim for the new government according to Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution. This paves the way for the NC and the CPN-UML to form a new coalition government. The NC has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Nepali Congress (NC) President Sher Bahadur Deuba has already endorsed Oli as the next prime minister. NC president Deuba and CPN-UML chairman Oli inked a 7-point deal on Monday to form a new coalition toppling Prachanda-

led government. According to the agreement, Oli and Deuba will share the premiership during the remaining period of the House of Representatives; in the first phase Oli will become the Prime Minister for one and a half years and then, Deuba will take the seat for the rest of the period.

Prachanda, whose party had 32 seats in the HoR, was elected the Prime Minister for the third time on December 25, 2022, with the backing of CPN-UML. Prachanda was elected the Prime Minister as per Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution of Nepal, which has a provision for electing a Prime Minister with the support of two or more parties.

As the HoR session began in the early afternoon, embattled Prachanda sharply criticised the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML for striking an alliance "out of fear" rather than shared principles and accused them of pushing the nation toward regression. Prachanda voiced concerns about potential regression and autocracy, asserting that the NC and the CPN-UML had joined forces as good governance began to take root in the country.

China's iSpace rocket fails soon after launch, losing three weather satellites

PTI ■ BEIJING

A Chinese rocket start-up has suffered yet another launch failure, resulting in the loss of three satellites as part of a commercial constellation being assembled for global weather forecasting and earthquake prediction. Hyperbola-1 – a 24-metre (79ft) high solid-fuel rocket produced by iSpace – lifted off on Thursday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China's Gobi Desert. "The rocket's first, second and third stages flew normally, but the fourth stage suffered an anomaly and the launch mission ended in failure," the company said, adding that the specific reasons for the failure would be announced as soon as possible after detailed investigations, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Friday. The relatively small Hyperbola-1, which can deliver a 300 kg (661 pounds) payload into a 500 km (311 miles) sun-synchronous orbit, was carrying Yunyao-1 weather satellites 15, 16 and 17 for the Tianjin-based

Yunyao Aerospace Technology company. The satellites did not reach orbit. Yunyao Aerospace Technology had planned to launch nearly 40 satellites this year to complete its 90-satellite Yunyao-1 constellation by next year, according to the Post report. "Our constellation will break a foreign monopoly and provide high-resolution, high-precision, and all-scale weather monitoring and earthquake early warning services to Belt and Road Initiative countries," a Yunyao Aerospace representative told Tianjin Daily in January. In 2019, iSpace became the first private rocket company in China to reach Earth orbit with Hyperbola-1. But since then, the rocket has failed on three consecutive occasions. Problems have ranged from a first-stage steering fin being damaged by falling insulation foam to a fuel leak in the altitude control system of the second stage. Early this month a powerful Chinese rocket crashed after an "accidental launch" during a ground test due to structural failure, its company Space Pioneer said.

7 Indians among 65 missing after landslide in Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

At least 65 people, including seven Indian nationals, are believed to be missing after two buses were swept away by a landslide in Nepal and pushed into a swollen river on Friday, according to media reports.

The two buses carrying 65 passengers went missing in the Trishuli River in the landslides at Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district, myRepublica news portal reported quoting officials. Chief District Officer of Chitwan, Indradev Yadav, confirmed the incident. According to Yadav, the Kathmandu-bound Angel bus and Ganpati Deluxe, en route to Gaur from the Capital, met with the accident at around 3:30 am.

Twenty-four people were onboard the bus travelling to Kathmandu and 41 on the bus travelling to Gaur, police said. Three of the passengers on the Ganpati Deluxe bus managed to escape after jumping out of the vehicle, The Kathmandu

Post reported. Details have been received of 21 passengers travelling from Birgunj to Kathmandu on Angel Deluxe. According to the latest information, police have said that there were seven Indian nationals among the passengers on the bus, myRepublica reported.

Yadav said that the rescue workers have started clearing the landslide debris. Expressing grief over the disappearance of the bus in the Trishuli River, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has issued directives for immediate search and rescue operations. "I am deeply saddened by the loss of nearly five dozen passengers and the loss of property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country when a bus was washed away by a landslide on the Narayangadh-Mugling road section. I direct all agencies of the government, including the home administration, to search and effectively rescue the passengers," Prachanda posted on X.

The prime minister also expressed grief over the loss of life and property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country. He urged citizens to take necessary precautions. Nepal Police and Armed Police Force personnel are heading towards the incident sites for rescue operations, Superintendent of Police Bhawesh Rimal said.

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Tender Notice Reference No. GNDU/Gen/53/2024
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:
Sr. No. 1
Item: Hiring of Fully managed dedicated secure Server
Quantity: 02
Closing date & time: 22-07-2024 at 5:00 P.M.
For details log onto
www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
Assistant Registrar (General)
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
NA/12/24086/2023/35582
Dated CHD :- 7/12/2024

UAE names road after 84-yr-old doc with Indian roots

PTI ■ DUBAI

A road in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi has been named after an 84-year-old doctor with Indian roots as a tribute to his significant contributions to the country's health sector. The Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) has named a road in Abu Dhabi after Dr George Matthew to recognise his contributions as part of its "Honouring UAE's Visionaries: Commemorative Streets" project, which aims to honour individuals who have greatly contributed to the nation's development. The road near Sheikh Shakbooth Medical City in Al Mafraq will now be known as George Matthew Street.

Reflecting on his journey, Dr Matthew said, "When I first arrived in the UAE, the infrastructure was still evolving. Inspired by the late HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Father of the Nation, I dedicated myself to helping the people. I am deeply grateful that my efforts have been recognised." Dr Matthew arrived in the UAE in 1967 at the age of 26. Initially preparing to move to the US, he was persuaded by a missionary friend's description of Al Ain's beauty to stay. His application for a position as Al Ain's first government doctor was successful, leading to the opening of the first clinic under Sheikh Zayed's blessing. Starting his service as a General Practitioner, Dr Matthew, affectionately called Matyous



(Emirati pronunciation of Mathew) by the locals, witnessed and contributed to the growth of modern medicine in the UAE. He held several key positions, including Medical Director of Al Ain Region in 1972 and

Health Authority Consultant in 2001. His contributions significantly advanced healthcare services in the emirate and promoted a modern medical culture in the country. Dr Matthew went to England to learn management of tropical diseases, and later to Harvard for specialised studies in hospital management. His commitment to education and professional development has been instrumental in shaping the healthcare landscape of the UAE. He played a vital role in educating and training healthcare workers, and his dedication earned him the trust and admiration of his colleagues and the community. Known for his dedication and expertise, Dr Matthew has been a valuable source of medical knowledge for the Al Ain

community. In recognition of his service, the UAE granted Dr Matthew and his family citizenship 10 years ago. Dr Matthew continues to work in the Private Health department alongside Dr Abdul Rahim Jaafar, another leading healthcare expert in the country. Expressing his gratitude, Dr Matthew said, "I am ready to do whatever I can for the country and its citizens as long as I live. I pray that God will give me more time to serve." Dr Matthew grew up in Thumpamon, Pathanamthitta, in Kerala, and graduated with an MBBS in 1965 from Trivandrum Medical College. He moved to the UAE with his wife, Valsa, after their marriage. Their daughter also works in the government sector.

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Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Regarding water proofing treatment of roofs of various sections at Verka Mohali Dairy.	03 Months
2.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Thermoforming Machine for Vacuum Packing of Paneer.	01 No.
3.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy Hiring of commercial insulated/ refrigerated vehicles for transportation of packed milk and fresh milk products.	1.7 Ton- 2 No's 3.0 Ton- 6 No's 4.0 Ton- 4 No's
4.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy Outsourcing of various activities of city supply dispatch dock.	One Year
5.	For Verka Patiala Dairy Hiring of :- a) 03 MT., 4.5 MT, 7.5 MT, 09 MT vehicles for transportation of Plo, Ghee and cheese etc for different stations. b) 1.5 MT Insulated vehicle for transportation of fresh milk and fresh milk products at Mandi Gobindgarh Area. c) 04 MT insulated vehicle for transportation of fresh Milk and Milk products at Army Area Patiala. d) 7.5 MT and 09 MT Refrigerator vehicle for Ahmedabad and Delhi area.	Annual

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1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. **www.verka.coop** & e Tendering portal i.e. **eproc.punjab.gov.in**.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/24088/2023/35586 Dated CHD :- 7/12/2024
Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

SPAIN MEET ENGLAND IN EURO FINAL

AP ■ BERLIN

One is the best team in the tournament, on the brink potentially of a new era of success because of a teenage wonderkid, an outstanding midfielder and a tweak in philosophy. The other is a survivor, limping to the end with big moments, resilience and an oft-criticized coach who has another chance to end his country's long wait for a major men's title. The European Championship final between Spain and England on Sunday is dripping with narrative - with one arguably standing out above the rest. Inside Olympiastadion, the historic venue in Berlin built by the Nazis for the 1936 Olympic Games, Lamine Yamal - a day after his 17th birthday - will look to crown his breakthrough as soccer's newest superstar by leading Spain to a first major men's

trophy since the 2008-12 era, when it won back-to-back Euros either side of the World Cup in 2010. Yamal has been the shining light in a tournament where many of the high-profile figures - Cristiano Ronaldo, Kylian Mbappé, even England's Harry Kane - have underwhelmed. If his three assists before the semifinals hinted at his undoubted promise, Yamal's spectacular curling shot that propelled Spain to a 2-1 win over France in the last four signaled a new star had arrived. While Yamal and fellow winger Nico Williams now offer their national team a hitherto-lacking directness out wide, it's the central midfield that has given Spain the edge over all of its rivals. Rodri, perhaps pound-for-pound the world's most effective player, and Fabian Ruiz are the axis from which Spain thrives. Dani Olmo has joined them as the most

IT'S THE BEST TEAM AGAINST THE MOST RESILIENT



attacking of pretty much a complete central-midfield three that England will struggle to contain. Spain topped a group containing defending champion Italy and 2022 World Cup semifinalist Croatia, before eliminating host nation Germany and Mbappé's France, for many the pre-tournament favorite. It's six straight wins for La Roja. No wonder they are being so heavily backed ahead of the final. "They have been the best team," England coach Gareth Southgate said of Spain. "... But we are there and from what we have shown to this point, we have as good a chance as they do." Indeed, Spain should not underestimate England, whose tenacity and character have stood out way above its quality of play at Euro 2024. The nation's most talented squad for 20 years has underperformed, looking unbalanced, short of ideas

and in some cases fatigued, but has somehow scrapped through to a second straight European Championship final. Three years ago, England lost to Italy in a penalty shootout on home soil at Wembley Stadium, extending the birthplace of soccer's painful wait for a major men's title since its one and only at the 1966 World Cup. Southgate's team is back in the title match - its first ever outside England - and is an increasingly confident underdog, with potential matchwinners dotted throughout the team in Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka and Kane. Someone has always popped up with a crucial goal - Bellingham with the stoppage-time equalizer against Slovakia in the last 16, Saka with the 80th-minute equalizer against Switzerland in the quarterfinals, even backup striker Ollie Watkins pretty much exactly on 90

minutes against the Netherlands in the semifinals. Who will come to Southgate's rescue on Sunday - if indeed someone does? "They are able to inflict a lot of damage, even without playing in a very fluid way," Spain defender Dani Vivian said. "But they have that quality that makes them able to produce those sparks." The smart money, though, is on Spain winning a seventh straight game to clinch a record fourth European Championship title. It would be a just end to a tournament where few teams really clicked apart from the Spanish, who have dovetailed a more ruthless attacking edge with their longstanding possession game that perhaps peaked in the Euro 2012 final when a team of midfielders - notably Xavi Hernandez, Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets, Xabi Alonso and David Silva - ran over Italy in Spain's 4-0 win.

Rodríguez enjoying stunning revival with Colombia at Copa América

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Luis Díaz was unable to control his excitement - and tears - when talking about James Rodríguez, the key player in Colombia's journey to the Copa America final against Argentina on Sunday. "From the moment I arrived at the national team, I let him know that he has always been my idol," Liverpool winger Díaz said. "I grew up watching him." Such is the admiration that the midfielder, who turns 33 on Friday, attracts within the Colombian camp. The 27-year-old Díaz was a teenager when James proved a sensation at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where he won the Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer and moved from Monaco to Real Madrid. But for this Copa América, little was expected of James. He arrived in the United States after a poor season at Brazilian club Sao Paulo, where he ended up being an afterthought and appeared to be on his way out of there. Colombia's aspirations of a second Copa title were placed on the shoulders of Díaz, along with Jefferson Lerma and Daniel Muñoz, another couple of players in England's top flight. Few expected that James, despite his prodigious left foot and craftsmanship on the field, would once again be the stepping stone for Colombia in a major tournament after disappointing stints with Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Everton, among other European clubs. But Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo put his faith in him and James has rewarded that by reemerging as, arguably,



the best player at the tournament, establishing himself as the main focus of a team that will play defending champion Argentina at Miami Gardens, Florida, in the championship match. It will be Colombia's first Copa final since winning the title as host in 2001. "I have been here for almost 13 years, wanting this very much," said James, recalling an international career that began in September 2011. "We are happy." James has a goal (a penalty) and six assists at this edition of the Copa América. The sixth - in the 1-0 victory against Uruguay in the semifinals - helped him surpass Lionel Messi's record (5 in 2021) for the most goal assists in a single edition of the tournament since records began to be kept in 2011. James will meet Messi in Sunday's final. "I want to be champion. We

know that they are a super complicated opponent, that they have experience playing in finals," James said. With his superlative performances in the past few weeks, a question has again been raised: What makes James shine so much when wearing the yellow jersey of Colombia? Brazil coach Dorival Júnior, who managed him in Sao Paulo, said that the transformation is because James feels comfortable in a known environment. "He really feels so good wearing the Colombian national team jersey... It's impressive in every aspect," Dorival said ahead of Colombia's 1-1 draw with Brazil at Copa America. "This is very interesting, because some players play well in their clubs and do not perform well on their national teams, the opposite happens with James. He feels

very good and integrated into a group that respects him, embraces him and make him feel more important." Since he took over as Colombia's coach in 2022, Lorenzo has not hesitated to make James an important piece of his project. "With me he has nothing, simply that he has continuity and has a great commitment," Lorenzo said before the semifinal against Uruguay. "With the national team it has always been the same, when a great player has minutes, it gives him the opportunity to show what he can do. If you give him just a few minutes you have little chance." The result? Colombia has just broken its unbeaten record that had lasted three decades by going 28 straight games without a loss. James is aiming for more. "The most important thing is still missing, which is to play that grand final," he said.



Swimmer Ryan longs to reclaim top spot on medal podium at Olympics

AP ■ INDIANAPOLIS (USA)

Ryan Murphy longs to reclaim the top spot on the medal podium at the Paris Olympics. America's backstroke star was relegated to silver and bronze in his individual races at Tokyo - a performance that still irks him. "There's definitely no shortage of motivation from my end," said Murphy, who will be competing in the men's 100 and 200-meter back for the third Olympics in row. "I feel like I've always got a fire under my butt." The 29-year-old Floridian, who trains at Cal-Berkeley, has been a worthy successor to the long run of backstroke success in the U.S. Picking up the baton from giants such as John Nabor, Rick Carey, Lenny Krayzelburg, Aaron Peirsol and Matt Grevers, Murphy has left his own impressive mark. At the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016, he swept the men's backstroke events and added a third gold as part of the 4x100 medley relay. He followed up at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games with a runner-up finish in the 200 and a third-place showing in the 100, to go along with another gold in the medley relay. Murphy motivated to train harder To win any medal at the Olympics is quite an achievement, but it wasn't good enough for the demanding Murphy.

Surprise, surprise! Unlikely Wimbledon contenders Krejčíková and Paolini meet in women's final

AP ■ LONDON

Barbora Krejčíková had a bad back and just a handful of wins this season before Wimbledon. So, yeah, she's pretty surprised to have reached the final at the All England Club on Saturday against No. 7 Jasmine Paolini, who is equally amazed to be one step away from the title. Neither has played in a Wimbledon singles final before - Paolini was 0-3 at the grass-court major before this tournament started - and their meeting ensures there will be yet another new champion. Wimbledon has seen seven women win the past seven singles titles, dating to when Serena Williams won her seventh in 2016. "I have had many difficult periods. I never really imagined that ... I could reach a Wimbledon final, that I can be a different player," said Krejčíková, who won the 2021 French Open for her only Grand Slam singles title. Both Krejčíková and Paolini dropped their first set in the semifinals before fighting back


to reach the final. Krejčíková, the No. 31 seed, ousted 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Centre Court after Paolini outlasted Donna Vekić 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (10-8) in the longest Wimbledon women's semifinal on record. For both winners, the momentum turned when they started playing more aggressively, which they'll likely need to do again on Saturday. The 28-year-old Krejčíková dropped her first three service games, though she also broke the hard-serving Rybakina twice in the first set to at least give her something to build on as she mounted her comeback. Krejčíková likes to come to the net - she's won seven Grand Slam doubles titles, including two at Wimbledon - and after just one approach in the first set, she won 11 points on 14 trips forward. "I felt that I had to maybe put a little bit more pressure on her. I was just looking first for some options. One of the options that I have is to serve and volley," she said.



Before the semifinal, Krejčíková acknowledged: "I didn't really expect to get this far." She reached the quarterfinals of the Australian Open in January but was then slowed by a back injury and what she described as a series of illnesses. After Melbourne Park, she played only nine matches - winning three - before coming to the All England Club. Two of the victories came at a

grass-court tuneup tournament at Birmingham. The 28-year-old Paolini, who is Italian and has family ties to Poland and Ghana, is the first woman representing Italy to reach the Wimbledon final in the Open era, which began in 1968. She is also the first woman to get to the title matches at the French Open and Wimbledon in the same season since Williams in 2016. "The finals, Paris and here -

these are things I didn't expect. It's all special," said Paolini, who lost to Iga Świątek in the Roland Garros final. After getting some rest, both Paolini and Krejčíková have plenty to work on. Krejčíková committed six double-faults against Rybakina. Paolini wasted two match points before putting away Vekić and said afterward: "I was drowning, but I managed to swim." The finalists have only faced each other once before, back in Australian Open qualifying in 2018. Krejčíková won in straight sets but that surely won't factor into Saturday's final - neither woman even recalled the match. The 5-foot-4 (1.63-meter) Paolini tries to control rallies with early strikes and frustrates opponents by seemingly getting to every spot on the court defensively. Emma Navarro, who eliminated Coco Gauff and Naomi Osaka before losing to Paolini in the quarterfinals, said the Italian was "on top of me from the very first point."

STORES E-PROCUREMENT	
Tender Notice No.: S/11/2024-25, Dtd: 10-07-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.	
SI.No.:1; Tender No. : 81/24/4110B/OT/80/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 05-08-2024.	
Brief Description: Dissolved Acetylenes Gas. Mat. Spec: BIS, IS: 308/1988(Reaffirmed 2010). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 2400 CUM for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 2) Qty- 15000 CUM for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 33000 CUM for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-81040015.	
SI.No.:2; Tender No. : 61/24/5198/OT/81/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 27-08-2024.	
Brief Description: Manufacturing and Supply of Metal Liner for use with ERC MK-III flat toe on concrete sleeper for 52 Kg. Rail to Drg. No. RDSO/T-3738 Alt-3 with latest alterations. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: Yes, Stages:1]. Qty- 268000 Nos for SSE/P.WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 60110119.	
SI.No.:3; Tender No. : 61/24/5199/OT/82/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 27-08-2024.	
Brief Description: Manufacture and supply of Thick Web Switch Expansion Joint(TWSEJ) as per RDSO's Drg. No. T-8822 (Alt-2) [All conditions applicable as per RDSO's letter No. CT/JW/3 dt. 04/07/2023]. List of fittings as per RDSO's Drg. No. T-8822 (Alt-2) excluding ERC MK V, GFN Liner and PSC Sleeper. (The Alt in Drawings and Specifications issued by RDSO upto one month prior to tender closing date shall be applicable in this tender. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: Yes, Stages:1]. Qty- 130 Set for SSE/P.WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-602591350171.	
SI.No.:4; Tender No. : 60/24/5023A/OT/83/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 25-07-2024.	
Brief Description: 1) EOT Crane of 65/10 TON. [Warranty Period :24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH/ Malda Town, NFR(West Bengal). P.L.No-664505720038. 2) Cost of any additional concomitant accessories items suggested by bidders. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH/Malda Town, NFR(West Bengal). P.L. No-66450573. 3) Cost of comprehensive AMC for 5 year after the warranty as per clause 17 of section -V. [Inspection Agency :CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal). P.L.No-66450572. 4) Cost of DSL (type and length of DSL as specified in schedule-1) [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH/Malda Town, NFR(West Bengal). P.L.No-66450574. 5) Cost of Spares as per schedule-IV and additional spares and items viz. slings/lifting tackles as specified in schedule-1. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH, Malda Town, NFR(West Bengal). P.L. No-66450575. 6) Cost of maintenance tools as per schedule-V. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal). P.L.No-66450576. 7) cost of any other accessory treated as concomitant accessory. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages :0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal). P.L.No- 66450577. 8) Cost of installation & Commissioning of crane and DSL (Lenght of DSL as specified in schedule-1). [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/ MECH/Malda Town, NFR(West Bengal). P.L.No-66450578. 9) Cost of preventive maintenance during 1st & 2nd year of warranty period. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.No, Stages: 0]. Qty-3 Nos for SSE/D/MECH/Malda Town, NFR(West Bengal). P.L.No-66450579.	
SI.No.:5; Tender No. : 30/24/0863/OT/84/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 31-07-2024.	
Brief Description: WATER TANK ASSEMBLY L.H. (390 LITRES) LG63105, alt-g. Spec: As per Drg. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 10 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 90 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 33554663.	
SI.No.:6; Tender No. : 30/24/1121/OT/85/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 31-07-2024.	
Brief Description: Set of Flex Ball Cable with end connector for LHB Bogie consisting of Flexible Remote Control G-2333mm & G-4024mm to Knorr Bremse Part No. I.P. 1605 & I.P. 1606 or FTRTIPL Part no. 0267.05.00.00, 0267.06.00.00 or M/S Escorts 3EB8066 & 3EB8065. Quantity - 01 no each per Set in one Power Car. Mat. Spec. - RDSO/2011/CG-04 Rev- 03. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 6 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 20 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 196 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 3 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty- 12 Nos for Katihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 33502638.	
SI.No.:7; Tender No. : 30/24/0864/OT/86/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 31-07-2024.	
Brief Description: WATER TANK ASSEMBLY L.H. (390 LITRES) LG63106, alt-f. Mat Spec: As per Drg. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 8 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty-80 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 33550300.	
SI.No.:8; Tender No. : 61/24/5213/OT/87/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 01-08-2024.	
Brief Description: Hand push Tribometer (Rail Surface Friction Meter) as per Attached RDSO specification No. IS/RDSO-TMM/0001:2023 Revision: 00 Dated 20.06.2023. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 12 Nos for SSE/P.Way/N/New Jalpaiguri, NFR (West Bengal). P.L.No- 81722712093.	
SI.No.:9; Tender No. : 30/24/1357/OT/88/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 05-08-2024.	
Brief Description: AXLE BOX PIVOT BUSH TO DRG NO. 1247488 ALT 'aR1' Mat. Spec.: T.S 17.359.100.03, T.S 17.617.100.02 AND MDTs 148. REV. 01. & MDTs-122 REV. 03. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 6340 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 6002 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 96 Nos for Katihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No-33500060.	
SI.No.:10; Tender No. : 30/24/1126B/OT/89/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 06-08-2024.	
Brief Description: Secondary Spring (outer) for power car (LWLRRM) side -2. AC Three Tier Sleeper/EOG (LWACCN) to Drg. No. 1268836 Ver-01. Mat. Spec. RDSO/2017/CG-01 (Rec.-2). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 209 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 5 Nos for Katihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), 3) Qty- 25 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 6 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty- 145 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 33502640.	
SI.No.:11; Tender No. : 30/24/1095/OT/90/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 07-08-2024.	
Brief Description: BRAKE PAD half 200cm*2 made of organic materials to RDSO Spec:-RDSO/ 2013/CG-01 (Rev-2)amendment-1. Warranty:-The composite brake pad will have warranty against any manufacturing defect noticed during the service before the condemning limit is reached or 24 months from the date of supply whichever is earlier. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 8820 Pairs for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty-10730 Pairs for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 4320 Pairs for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 2000 Pairs for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty- 2000 Pairs for Katihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 33510350.	
Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS . In case they are not registered with IREPS , they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.	
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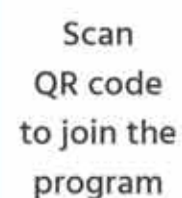
A target has also been set to plant 1.60 crore saplings in Haryana this year.

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