



## MAHAKUMBH OF SPORTS IN PUNJAB



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## DIAN-2024

(Season-3)



On the occasion of National Sports Day  
on **August 29, 2024**

Chief Minister  
**Bhagwant Singh Mann**

will formally inaugurate the games  
during the inauguration ceremony at

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October 11 - Nov. 9, 2024



**Bhagwant Singh Mann**  
Chief Minister, Punjab



# Punjab Govt Intensifies Crackdown on Drugs with New Anti-Narcotics Task Force

PNS ■ MOHALI

In a determined push to curb the menace of drug trafficking in the State, the Punjab Government on Wednesday launched a new initiative aimed at strengthening its ongoing battle against narcotics. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann inaugurated the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), which replaces the existing Special Task Force (STF) — marking a significant escalation in the state's efforts to combat the drug crisis that has plagued Punjab for years.



"This helpline will provide ordinary citizens and drug addicts an opportunity to inform about the drug traffickers and ensure medical help for the addicts who intend to undergo de-addiction. This will help in curbing the drug trafficking at grass root level and identifying the big fishes involved in this heinous crime," he said.

Given Punjab's 553-kilometer border with Pakistan, the state is particularly vulnerable to cross-border drug smuggling. In response, the Government has launched a Rs 40 crore project to install surveillance cameras along strategic points within a 500-kilometer stretch of the border. These cameras, coupled with an additional Rs 20 crore allocated for mobility improvements and infrastructure enhancement, aim to tighten security and prevent the inflow of narcotics.

"Though the Police is combating new challenges in the form of drones and smuggling from across the border, Punjab Police is discharging its duty efficiently. Special law officers have been attached along with every Police Station to ensure that the drug cases sustain legal proceedings," he said, adding that since day one, the State Government has ensured that there is no political patronization of the drug peddlers in the state.

The ANTF will see a substantial increase in manpower, with the force's strength nearly doubled from 400 to 800 personnel. This expansion is part of

a broader recruitment drive within the Punjab Police, which includes the creation of 10,000 new posts. The task force will also benefit from the addition of 14 new Mahindra Scorpio vehicles, funded by the Rs 12 crore allocation from the current financial year's budget.

Moreover, the government has earmarked Rs 10 crore from the Punjab State Cancer and Drug Addiction Treatment Infrastructure Fund (CADA Fund) to support the task force's operations, including the implementation of the Enforcement-De-Addiction-Prevention (EDP) strategy.

In a clear message to drug traffickers, Chief Minister Mann highlighted the recent confiscation of properties from drug smugglers. The government's zero-tolerance policy has led to the arrest of several high-profile individuals involved in the drug trade, with legal proceedings initiated against them. "Many big fishes involved in drug peddling have been put behind the bars and FIRs have been launched against them... Properties worth Rs 173 crore belonging to 379 drug smugglers have been confiscated and more are in process," he added.

The Government's efforts have already begun to yield results, with a noticeable increase in school enrollments and a reverse trend in youth migration abroad, as young people choose to stay and contribute to Punjab's development.

The Chief Minister announced the transfer of

numerous police officials at the lower levels who have held their positions for an extended period. These transfers, occurring across various divisions, aim to dismantle any existing connections with drug smugglers. Reports had surfaced that some officers were involved with drug peddlers, prompting this decisive action.

In a significant move, the State Government will offer special grants to villages in Punjab that have successfully eradicated drug use. These grants will fund the promotion of sports and development of sports infrastructure, channeling the youth's energy in a constructive direction. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that Punjab's young athletes will soon bring even more international honors to the nation.

Addressing concerns about land acquisition for highway projects, the Chief Minister called on the Union Government and NHAI to treat Punjab's fertile land with due consideration. He clarified that the issue is not about law and order but rather about settling fair compensation rates. The Chief Minister assured that the land acquisition process in Punjab is proceeding smoothly, with the Union Government fully briefed on the situation.

The Chief Minister also addressed the recent controversial statements made by BJP MP Kangana Ranaut, urging the party to control its members to prevent the spread of misinformation and unrest. Mann criticized the BJP's tendency to dismiss such statements as personal views, insisting that they reflect on the party as a whole. "They are vitiating the country's atmosphere by their venomous statements. Rather than concentrating on the welfare of people of Mandi segment, which has elected Kangana, she is repeatedly hurting the sentiments of Punjabis through her baseless statements," he said.

"Merely stating that these are personal views of the MPs doesn't absolve the saffron party from its responsibility," he added.

# Political Parties in Haryana trying to woo 46.86 lakh young voters

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

The mood and decision of the young voters will be decisive in all the 90 Vidhan Sabha Seats of the Haryana Assembly Elections that go for poll on October 1. Of the 2.02 crore Electors eligible to exercise their franchise in the State Assembly elections, about 46.86 lakh are young voters and of them, about 5.01 lakh are in the age group of 18-19, according to the State Electoral rolls.

In such a situation, all major political parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Indian National Congress (INC), Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and others have intensified efforts to bring young voters into their fold.

Besides door-to-door campaigns and activity on social media, the focus of the political parties is on issues concerning youngsters, especially those in the 20-29 age group. The number of young voters aged 20 to 29 years is about 41.86 lakhs in the State. The Political Parties in the State have made a strategy to include youth in the election campaign too.

Talking to 'The Pioneer' Punit Arora, in-charge, BJP IT Cell, said, "We are focusing on work done by State and Central Governments for the youths." He further said that youths of the State have supported the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the previous Lok Sabha elections and the BJP-led State Government in the last two Vidhan Sabha elections. They would again vote for their favorite leader this time too. The youth of Haryana will once again support BJP and PM Modi in the upcoming Assembly Election.

"We are focusing on the engagement of young voters, who were instrumental in the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) victories in 2014 and 2019 Vidhan Sabha Elections. Campaigns and manifestos are

increasingly tailored to address the concerns and aspirations of this dynamic group. We are banking on a slew of schemes, ranging from providing education loans to imparting skills, launched by the State Government for the youth. Youths would be one of the major focus areas in the election manifesto of the party," Arora added.

Another leader of the Youth Wing of BJP said that youths have been the focus area of PM Narendra Modi. Hordes of programmes such as Start-up India, Stand-up India and entrepre-

## Haryana Assembly Election

neurship promotion were launched, targeting young citizens of the Country. For higher education, the number of institutes like IITs, IIMs and AIIMS and others has increased during the last 10 years, he added.

Congress Media In-charge Kewal Dhingra said, "Young voters are important to us. Congress Youth Wing Cell is active in the State. Through social networking sites, we are raising issues pertaining to flaws in the Agniveer Scheme, unemployment, vacancies in different government departments and lack of job opportunities." He further said, "During the past 10 years, the PM Modi led Central Government and the BJP led Government in the State have betrayed the youth on every promise, including on providing jobs, they had made to them. The time has come for the youth of the State to avenge this betrayal." Dhingra further said, "The Congress party has not

only fought against the Modi government's injustices to our youth, the Congress has now come out with credible schemes that will provide jobs and other facilities for our youth once the party forms the government after the election." Dhingra further said that focus on the youths will also be reflected in the party's upcoming poll manifesto. "Job creation would be our prime focus if we come to power. Vacancies in the government sector would be filled up and job security to the people working in the unorganised sector would be ensured, he added.

Ravinder Sangwan, State president of Youth Wing, JJP said, "Our leader, former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, is a youth and he will serve the State for the next 40-50 years." He further said that a large number of youths have joined the party through membership drive and these youths are the solid vote bank. Youth leaders of the Party have been told to carry out personal contact campaigns across the State in favour of JJP candidates. Some youth leaders have been given specific duties by the party leadership. Youth leaders have also been asked to prevail upon their close links and relatives to vote in favour of the JJP, Sangwan added.

He further said that youth leaders have been asked to visit villages and inform the people about the works done by Dushyant Chautala being a deputy chief minister of the State over the last 4.5 years. Additionally, they will also inform the people about our party's alliance with Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram). "We

are committed to fight for the rights of the poor, farmers, and laborers, fulfilling the dreams of Jananayak Chaudhary Devi Lal and Kanshi Ram," he added.

Arvind Goswami, State president of Indian National Lok Dal Students Organization (ISO) said that the first-time voters in the State are excited but determined to exercise their franchise sensibly as they are prioritizing employment and job opportunities. Corruption in Government jobs and examination irregularities, mainly paper leaks are major issues in the State. BJP-led Government has failed to address the issues related to youth including unemployment. "Employment is the biggest issue for the youth. We would work to create job opportunities for them. Whenever INLD is voted to power, it would ensure that every youth gets employment according to their qualification," he added. Goswami further said, "Our party is allotted office bearers in all the districts. All the members of ISO are putting hard work for strengthening the party in the State."

Political analysts said that young voters play a pivotal role in deciding the fate of candidates in every election. Number of young voters has increased due to various awareness programmes by the Election Commission of India (ECI). "We think the sizable young voters will put pressure on political parties as they are vocal towards their issues such as employment. Employment opportunities in the government sector have shrunk. The Centre, as well as, state governments should work to create government jobs. So, political parties will not dare to take youth lightly," he said.

# No sitting MPs will be given permission to contest Assembly election in Hry: Cong

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Congress party on Wednesday made it clear that its sitting MPs from Haryana will not be fielded in the Assembly elections. "No sitting MPs will be permitted to contest," Congress General Secretary and Haryana in-charge Deepak Babaria told reporters.

Babaria was responding to a question about whether sitting MPs like Selja and Surjewala would be given tickets to fight the Assembly elec-

tions. Both the leaders are perceived to be part of a faction against former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Hooda. The announcement also nixed any plans to field Deepender Hooda, Rohtak MP and Bhupinder Hooda's son. The Hooda faction has been subtly projecting Deepender as the face of the campaign and potential Chief Minister.

Selja, who won the Lok Sabha elections from Sirsa, had earlier indicated her willingness to fight the Assembly election several times. She had also indicated that she is in the

race for chief ministership though Hooda is dominating the Haryana Congress.

Meanwhile, the Congress Screening Committee is holding extensive discussions with Haryana leaders, who are providing their choices of candidates for particular seats. The exercise is expected to be completed in a couple of days.

The Screening Committee may start shortlisting candidates by the weekend to place their names before a meeting of Congress' Central Election Committee headed by party president Mallikarjun Kharge.

# Employees are not satisfied with new pension scheme, Cong will give OPS: Hooda

**Chandigarh:** Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Wednesday asserted that the employees are not satisfied with the 'Unified Pension Scheme' brought by the Central Government. The Congress will implement the OPS for the welfare of the employees, he added.

"As soon as the Congress government is formed in Haryana, the old pension scheme will be implemented for the employees. Congress will also include this demand in its manifesto and it will be fulfilled on a priority basis," he said.

The delegation of Pension Bahali Sangharsh Samiti, which met regarding the demand of OPS, said that in the new scheme, neither a lump sum amount is given nor old age support pension. Hooda said this is why, in view of the demand of the employees, Congress-ruled states started giving them the benefit of OPS. He said the Congress government is now going to give the benefit of OPS to the employees of Haryana too.

# 419 Himachal govt schools having low enrolment merged with nearby schools

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Thakur on Wednesday informed the Vidhan Sabha that 419 government schools in the state with five or less students have been merged with nearby schools.

The move was taken to rationalize the deployment of teachers, Thakur said while responding to a question of BJP member Vipin Parmar, which was asked by his party colleague Rakesh Jamwal in his absence during the 'Question Hour'.

A total of 361 primary schools with less than five students have been merged with other schools within a 2 km radius, while 58 middle section schools have been merged with schools within a 3 km distance, the minister said. The enrolment of students in government schools dropped in the last two decades, Thakur said, citing parents' inclination towards private schools and the opening of private schools in the vicinity of existing government schools.

Further, the rising migration of people from rural to urban areas is also a factor for low enrolment in government schools located in rural areas, he added. Sharing figures on the declining trend, the education

minister said the number of students in primary schools (up to Class 5) was 90 lakh in 2003, but it dropped to 2.99 lakhs in 2023, while the strength in middle schools (Classes 6 to 8) reduced from 3.81 lakhs to 2.50 lakh in the same period.

In government senior secondary schools, the number of students dipped from 1.84 lakh to 1.34 lakh from 2003 to 2023, Thakur said, adding that the situation could turn worse in the next ten years. He said that as per the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), Himachal Pradesh has slipped to 21st position and students of Class 8 are now unable to read the books of Class 2.

In a cabinet meeting on July 25, the state cabinet decided to close 89 government primary schools (GPS) and 10 government middle schools (GMS) with zero enrolments and approved the merger of GPS and GMS with five or fewer students within two and three-kilometer radius.

**OVER 1400 PEOPLE TO GET JOB ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS IN 9 MONTHS: CM SUKHU**

Dependents of more than

1,400 government employees who died in harness would be given jobs on compassionate grounds in the next nine months, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu told the state assembly on Wednesday. Replying to a query in the House, Sukhu said 1,415 cases of job on compassionate grounds are pending before the government. He also said his government gave jobs to 180 people on compassionate grounds in the past 20 months.

The government would also consider giving class III jobs on compassionate grounds and a cabinet sub-committee headed by Education Minister Rohit Thakur would submit its report to the government in the next six months. During the BJP government tenure, only class IV jobs were given on compassionate grounds, the CM added. Intervening in the reply, Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur said his government gave jobs to 4,500 people on compassionate grounds.

**COMPENSATION TO FAMILIES OF SNAKEBITE VICTIMS TO BE CONSIDERED: CM**

Himachal government

would consider compensation to the families of people who die due to snakebites, Chief Minister Sukhu announced in the state assembly on Wednesday. He also said the government will make necessary amendments in the Relief Manual. Intervening in the reply to a calling attention motion of Kewal Singh Pathania (Congress), Sukhu said the cases of snakebites rise during rains in areas along rivers and khuds and he has asked the revenue minister to study the issue.

Replying to the calling attention motion, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dhani Ram Shandil said the patients of snakebites would be given immediate treatment and anti-venom injections provided to the Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. Besides, these injections would also be available in ambulances, Shandil said. At present, 473 anti-venom vials are available in the district store in Dharamshala and doctors, nurses and pharmacists have been trained for anti-venom vaccination, he added. Pointing at the shortage of doctors, Pathania raised the issue of two snakebite deaths at Lanj and Harchakian villages in Shahpur and demanded compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the affected families.

# SAD's Dimpy Dhillon Joins AAP, may get ticket for Gidderbaha bypoll

PNS ■ MUKTSAR SAHIB/ CHANDIGARH

In a significant political development, Hardeep Singh 'Dimpy' Dhillon — a prominent leader from Gidderbaha and close aide of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal — joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday, ending his 38 years long association with the party. The move, seen as a major blow to the Akali Dal, was formalized in the presence of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who personally welcomed Dhillon into the party during a public gathering in Gidderbaha.

Chief Minister Mann did not hold back in his critique of Sukhbir Badal and his cousin Manpreet Badal, accusing them of neglecting the party members and the people of Punjab. He highlighted that while Sukhbir dreams of ruling for 25 years, he can't even gather 25 loyal supporters. Mann further challenged Sukhbir to contest the upcoming elections from Gidderbaha, daring him to prove his leadership strength. He also vowed to take strict action against those responsible for sacrilege cases, emphasizing that his government will not spare anyone guilty of such offenses.

Dhillon's political journey with the Akali Dal spans near-

ly four decades, during which he contested elections twice from Gidderbaha. Despite his dedication, he lost both times, including a narrow defeat by just 1,349 votes in the 2022 assembly elections against Amarinder Singh Raja Warring. The Gidderbaha seat has been a stronghold for the Congress, but Dhillon's influence in the region remains substantial.

Dhillon, a transporter-cum-politician, cited Manpreet Badal's actions as a key reason for his departure from SAD. He accused Manpreet of causing confusion among party cadres and fostering ambiguity about future candidates. Dhillon expressed disappointment over Sukhbir Badal's silence on these matters, which eventually led him to consider joining AAP. His decision was solidified after a discussion with CM Mann's OSD, Rajbir Singh.

Dimpy Dhillon's inclusion in AAP is expected to bolster the party's position in the upcoming Gidderbaha by-election. Mann assured Dhillon of significant responsibilities within AAP, reflecting the party's confidence in his leadership. The Chief Minister reiterated that the AAP is committed to the development of Punjab and welcomes those who are dedicated to serving the people.

## FORMER MINISTER SUNDER SHAM ARORA REJOINS CONG AFTER LEAVING BJP

Punjab's former Cabinet Minister Sunder Sham Arora on Wednesday rejoined the Congress, ending a short-lived association of two years with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Arora announced his return on Wednesday, sharing images with Punjab Congress in-charge Devender Yadav, signaling his recommitment to the party. Arora, a two-time MLA from Hoshiarpur, previously served as the Industries and Commerce Minister in Capt Amarinder Singh's government. His switch to the BJP followed the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections, a short-lived move due to various controversies surrounding his tenure.

Arora's political career faced significant turbulence due to legal issues. He was arrested by the Vigilance Bureau for allegedly attempting to bribe an Assistant Inspector General in a case related to disproportionate assets and an industrial plot transfer scam. Although he was granted bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the charges have tainted his reputation and contributed to his decision to return to Congress.

The speculation around Arora's return gained momen-

tum after recent visits from senior Congress leaders, including Partap Singh Bajwa and former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. Despite his brief stint with the BJP, Arora maintained connections with Congress leaders and was frequently seen alongside his mentor Sunil Jakhar during BJP events.

His absence from crucial BJP rallies, such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's event in Hoshiarpur, indicated his growing dissatisfaction with the party. Arora's decision to rejoin Congress is also seen as a response to the party's ongoing leadership crisis, exacerbated by the defection of Chabbawal MLA Raj Kumar to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Arora expressed regret over his previous decision to join the BJP, stating, "I believed the BJP would benefit Punjab, but I was mistaken. Only Congress can efficiently manage the state." He pledged to work under Rahul Gandhi's leadership to strengthen the Congress party and contribute positively to Punjab's development.

Arora's return is expected to bolster Congress's position in Hoshiarpur, especially in the wake of impending assembly bypoll in Chabbawal segment, and potentially influence the party's prospects in upcoming electoral contests.



OPINION 6

THE RISE OF  
SUNITA KEJRIWAL

WORLD 8

ISRAEL'S WEST BANK OPERATION  
KILLS NINE PALESTINIANS

MONEY 10

NIFTY GAINS marginally  
TO HIT LIFETIME HIGH

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY AUGUST 29, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

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INDIA GOALKEEPER  
IN TROPHY SQUAD  
11 SPORTS

# PRESIDENT MURMU READS THE RIOT ACT TO MEN: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu has voiced her dismay and horror in her first public remarks regarding the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata earlier this month and said "enough is enough." She urged society to confront the chronic issue of violence against women and should force honest self-inspection to uncover the roots of the malaise. In a statement, President Murmu said the gruesome incident of rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata has left the nation shocked. "I was dismayed and horrified when I came to hear of it. What is more depressing is the fact that it was not the only incident of its kind; it is part of a series of crimes

against women. Even as students, doctors and citizens were protesting in Kolkata, criminals remained on the prowl elsewhere. The victims include even kindergarten girls. No civilised society can allow daughters and sisters to be subjected to such atrocities. The nation is bound to be outraged, and so am I," she said. "On the occasion of Women's Day last year, I had shared my thoughts and hopes about women's empowerment in the form of a newspaper article. I remain an optimist, thanks to our past achievements in empowering women. I consider myself as an example of that spectacular journey of women empowerment in India. But I myself feel deeply anguished when I hear about brutality against women in any

part of the country," President Murmu said. "More recently, I was in a unique predicament when some schoolchildren who had come to celebrate Rakhi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan asked me innocently if they could be assured that there would be no recurrence of the Nirbhaya-type incident in future. I told them that though the State is committed to protect every citizen, training in self-defence and martial arts is essential for all, particularly girls, to make them stronger. But that's not a guarantee for their security as women's vulnerability is influenced by many factors. Obviously, the full answer to that question can only come from our society." President Murmu said, "For that to happen, what is needed first of all



is honest, unbiased self-inspection. The time has come when we as a society need to ask ourselves some difficult questions. Where have we erred? And what can we do to remove the errors? Without finding out the answer to that question, the half of our population cannot live as freely as the other half. "To answer it, let me explain it right at the beginning. Our Constitution granted equality to all, including women, when it was only an ideal in many parts of the world. The State then created institutions to establish this equality, wherever needed, and promoted it with a series of schemes and initiatives. Civil society came forward and supplemented the State's outreach in this regard. Visionary leaders in

all spheres of society pushed for gender equality. Finally, there were exceptional, feisty women who made it possible for their less fortunate sisters to benefit from this social revolution. That has been the saga of women's empowerment." She said, "Yet, this journey has not been without its obstacles. Women have had to fight for every inch of ground they have won. Social prejudices as well as some customs and practices have always opposed the expansion of women's rights. This is a rather deplorable mindset. I won't call it a male mindset, because it has little to do with the gender of the person: there are many, many men who don't have it. This mindset sees the female as a lesser human being, less powerful, less capable, less intelligent. Those

who share such views then go further and see the female as an object. "It is this objectification of women by a few that is behind the crimes against women. It is ingrained deeply in the minds of such people. Let me also note here that, regrettably, this is the case not only in India, but across the world. Difference between one place and the next is more of a degree than kind." President Murmu said "Countering this mindset is a task for both the State and the society. In India, over the years, the two have fought hard to change the wrong attitude. There have been laws and there have been social campaigns. Yet, there is something that continues to come in the way to torment us.

# Cabinet approves massive boost to manufacturing horizons Bangla Bandh call by BJP unsettles West Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

In a determined effort to boost domestic industry and create jobs, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved establishment of 12 new industrial cities in 10 States with an estimated investment of ₹28,602 crore. More than one million direct jobs will be created in these projects. Spanning 10 States and strategically located along six major corridors, these projects represent a significant leap forward in India's quest for enhanced manufacturing capabilities and rapid economic growth. These industrial areas will be located at Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in UP, Gaya in Bihar, Zaaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Kopparthi in AP, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan. The Union Cabinet has approved 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefs the media over Cabinet decisions in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

investment of ₹28,602 crore, said Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw after the Cabinet meeting. The move will transform the industrial landscape of the country, creating a robust network of industrial nodes and cities that will significantly boost economic growth and global competitiveness. They will be developed as green field smart cities of global standards. The approach ensures that the cities are equipped with advanced infrastructure that

supports sustainable and efficient industrial operations. The NICDP is expected to generate significant employment opportunities, with an estimated 1 million direct jobs and up to 3 million indirect jobs being created through planned industrialisation. These projects will create an investment potential of about ₹1.52 lakh crore. The NICDP is designed to foster a vibrant industrial ecosystem by facilitating investments by large anchor

industries and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). These industrial nodes will act as catalysts for achieving \$2 trillion exports by 2030, reflecting the Government's vision of a self-reliant and globally competitive India, a Government statement said. It also said India will soon wear a grand necklace of industrial smart cities and termed the decision as landmark. The new industrial cities will be developed as green field smart cities of global standards, built "ahead of demand" on the "plug-n-play" and 'walk-to-work' concepts. This approach ensures that the cities are equipped with advanced infrastructure that supports sustainable and efficient industrial operations. Aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the projects will feature multi-mode connectivity infrastructure, ensuring seamless movement of people, goods, and services. The industrial cities are envisioned to be growth centers for transformation of the whole region.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
KOLKATA

Violent clashes marred the BJP-sponsored 12-hour shutdown in West Bengal on Wednesday, disrupting road and train services, and sparking scuffles between the police-ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers and bandh supporters at several pockets of the State. The BJP claimed the bandh was successful while the TMC said it has failed to evoke overwhelming response. Several BJP leaders, including former MPs Roopa Ganguly and Locket Chatterjee, Rajya Sabha MP Samik Bhattacharya and MLA Agnimitra Paul, were detained for blocking roads and urging people to enforce the bandh since morning. The most significant of these clashes was reported from Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas district where, the BJP alleged, TMC goons fired multiple rounds on its local leader Priyangu Pandey's car and shared a purported video of the crime on social media platforms. He claimed that the Trinamool workers opened fire at him and hurled bombs



BJP leader Rahul Sinha (sitting, 3rd from left) along with party workers raises slogans as security personnel stand guard during the party's 12-hour general strike in Bengal to protest the police action against participants of Tuesday's 'Nabanna Abhijan' rally which was held against the RG Kar incident, in Kolkata, on Wednesday PTI

when he was travelling in a car in Bhatpara. Four people have been arrested, the Kolkata Police said. The shutdown affected daily

life in the State with many people choosing to remain indoors apprehending trouble on the roads. In Kolkata, the usual weekday flurry was

missing with a lesser number of buses, auto-rickshaws and taxis plying. Private vehicles were also significantly fewer, even as markets and shops remained open as usual. Schools and colleges were open, though the number of students was less. In many private offices, attendance was low with employees asked to work from home. However, attendance was as usual in Government offices. An Eastern Railway official said bandh supporters blocked tracks at 49 places under its jurisdiction in the State in both Sealdah and Howrah divisions. While the blockades were lifted at most places, it continued for longer durations in nine stations, mostly in the Sealdah South section, he said.

# Bail for laundering funds remains the rule, says SC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a judgment having significant implications, the Supreme Court on Wednesday reiterated that the principle of bail is the rule and jail is the exception applied even to money laundering cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) while granting bail to one Prem Prakash, an alleged aide of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money laundering case. This comes a day after the Supreme Court granted relief to Bharat Rashtira Samithi leader K Kavitha, who was arrested in March in a money laundering case linked to Delhi's now-scraped liquor policy. Earlier this month, AAP leader Manish Sisodia was also granted bail in the same case.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan held that liberty of individual is always the rule and deprivation of the same by procedure established by law, is the exception. The Bench made it clear that the stringent conditions for bail under PMLA will override this principle. "The appeal is allowed and impugned order dated 22.03.2024 of the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi is quashed and set aside," the Bench said in its 44-page

order. "...the appellant has satisfied the twin conditions under Section 45. Inasmuch as from the material on record, this Court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the appellant is not guilty of the offence of money laundering as alleged under Sections 3 and 4 of the PMLA and the Court is further satisfied that the appellant is not likely to commit any offence if enlarged on bail," it said. The Bench referred to the August 9 verdict in the money laundering and corruption cases involving former Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia to say that liberty of the individual is always the rule and deprivation of it by procedure established by law is the exception. The Bench said, "Relying on the judgment in Manish Sisodia case, we have said that even in PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act), bail is a rule and jail the exception." The Bench referred to Section 45 of the PMLA that mentions twin conditions for bail — there should be prima facie satisfaction that the accused has not committed the offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail. All that Section 45 specifies,



File photo: Ranjan Dimri

the court said, is the conditions to be met for bail. "Liberty of the individual is always the rule and deprivation, by procedure established by law, the exception. Twin test does not take away this principle," it added. The bench clarified that any incriminating statement made by an accused in custody in a PMLA case before an investigating officer will not be admissible in court. "It will be extremely unfair to make such statements admissible as it will be against all canons of justice." In a 13-page judgement on BRS leader K Kavitha, uploaded on the apex court website on Wednesday, a bench

comprising Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan reiterated the well-established principle that "bail is the rule and refusal is an exception". Referring to various judgements, including in the case of Manish Sisodia, a former Delhi deputy chief minister and a co-accused, the verdict said, "The prolonged incarceration before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not be permitted to become punishment without trial." "We had further observed that the fundamental right of liberty provided under Article 21 of the Constitution is superior to the statutory restrictions (of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act)," the judgement said. The 'bail is the rule, and jail is the exception' principle was first used in the 1977 landmark judgment of the 'State of Rajasthan vs Balchand alias Baliya' case. In 2019, the court granted bail to P Chidambaram in the INX Media case, despite the seriousness of economic offenses, affirming that the fundamental jurisprudence of bail remained unchanged. In November 2020, the Supreme Court extended interim bail to journalist Arnab Goswami, highlighting the critical nature of personal liberty and the principle of bail as the norm.

# Medal winning hockey player at Paris Olympics humiliated by Kerala Government

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The legendary hockey star of India PR Sreejesh (member of the Indian hockey team that won the bronze medal in Paris Olympics) and his family were humiliated by the Government of Kerala which has shocked the sporting fraternity in the State. The CPI (M)-led Kerala Government had invited Sreejesh to Thiruvananthapuram to felicitate him in a State function for his feat in the hockey field. The hockey star reached Thiruvananthapuram

accompanied by his family members. But what happened unknown to Sreejesh was the last-hour cancellation of the felicitation programme. It seems Sreejesh's act of speaking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attending the reception hosted by the latter had not gone down well with the Marxists and Muslim members in the Council of Ministers that may have led to the ungainly treatment meted out to the hockey icon. The reason why the reception was cancelled, according to sources in the State Secretariat,



was the differences between Education Minister V Sivankutty and Sports Minister V Abdul Rehman over who should foot the bill. While Sivankutty is a CPI (M) ideologue, Abdul Rehman is an erstwhile Congress leader who

switched sides and joined the CPI (M) hours before the announcement of the 2021 election schedule. A business baron, Rehman wields enormous influence in the CPI (M). The sources would have us believe that both the ministers wanted to teach Sreejesh an unforgettable lesson, and hence the last-minute cancellation of the programme. It was only on Tuesday morning that an unwary Sreejesh was informed that the felicitation stood cancelled and that he would be "summoned" to the capital city

later on. Left in the lurch, Sreejesh and family decided to turn an unpleasant incident into a spiritually uplifting experience. They visited for "darshan" Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple and Lord Ganapathy Temple at Pazhavangadi where the hockey wizard came across Union Minister Suresh Gopi. Gopi was taken aback to hear about the sudden cancellation of the felicitation, and took Sreejesh and family to the former's residence and treated them to a sumptuous Onam lunch.

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# Classifieds

## BEDAKHLI NOTICE

**I, Churia Ram S/o Ranjit Singh** R/o H. No. 6, Phase-2, BDC, Sector 26, Chandigarh declare that my son Rohit out of my control. I disown him from my movable & immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

**I, Ramesh Kumar S/o** Har Chander R/o Vpo Bhalout, Tehsil & Distt Rhotak declare that my son Ravinder Kumar and his wife Rekha are out of my control, so I disown them from my all movable and immovable properties. In future, the person dealing with them will himself be responsible, me and my family will not have any responsibility.

**I, Jarnail Singh S/o** Malghar Singh, House 231, Khuda Lahora, Chandigarh. I disown my son Hardeep Singh daughter-in-law Mohanjir Kaur, their children Ekamjit Singh, Akshvir Kaur from my all moveable/immovable properties. Anybody deal with them at their own risk.

**I, Harvinder Singh S/o** Amar Singh R/o H.No 1106A, Sector 8, Ambala. City inform that my Daughter Harpreet Kaur Alias Pretty is out of my control. So I disown her from my movable and immovable properties. I and my family will not be responsible for any kind of transaction or legal or illegal work done by her.

**I Ashok Kumar S/o** Sh. Sant Ram R/O 275, Lal Kuri Bajar, Ambala Cantt declare that my son Pratham is out of my Control. So I Disown him from my all Moveable Immovable Properties.

**We, Narinder Kumar S/o** Chamam Lal R/o Suman W/O Chamam Lal R/O T 12/781 Gali Jawahar I/s Hathi Gate Katra Parja Amritsar have declare that our son Panjkaj Kumar and his wife Manjinder Kaur Alias Megha are out of our control we disinherit them from our all movable and immovable properties any body deal with them is his own risk and responsibility.

**I, Surjeet Singh S/o** Sh. Shersingh R/o Village Nihokka Teshl Kharar, Distt. Mohali declare that my son parvinder Singh is out of my control. I disown him from my all movable/ immovable properties, Anybody deal with him at his own risk

**I, Aas Mohammad S/o** Islamdun R/O House No. 25 First floor gali no. 2, Maheshpur sector - 21Panchkula Haryana. I Break my Relationship with my wife Farjana and my Son's Aakil, Shoab, and Aadil and his wife Rohil they are out of my control. So, I disown them from my all moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their Own risk and responsibility.

**I, Chandrakanta,** wife of late Ramesh Kumar Gandhi, R/O 945, Shamsbad Bagh, Sabzi Mandi Char Chamam, Karnal, My son Panjkaj Kumar and his wife, Pooja Gandhi, are beyond my reach. I hereby evict my son and his wife from my movable and immovable property. In future, whoever transacts with him, he will himself be responsible for that. From today onwards, I and my family will have no relation with these two.

**We, Bhupinder Singh S/o** Sh. Gurdial Singh & Ravinder Kaur W/o Sh. Bhupinder Singh both Resident of H.No. 551, Sector-11, Panchkula (Haryana) Declare that our Son Karan Partap Singh and his wife Sandeep Kaur both out of our control. Therefore, We Disown our Son and his wife from our All Moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with themselves will do at his own risk and cost. We will have nothing to do with it.

**I, Joginder Prasad S/o** Sh. Milku Prasad R/O Prem Nagar Kaithal Road Jind Teh. Distt. Jind (Hr.) declare that my son Lakshay is out of my control. So, I disown him from my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with himself will do at his own risk and cost. We will have nothing to do with it.

**I, Sunita Sharma W/o** Late Ashok Kumar R/O Ward No. 8, Ghana, Tehl Rajpura Distt. Patiala declare that my daughter Bharti Sharma are out of my control so I evict her all my Moveable immovable property anyone dealing with her at their own risk.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Jasjit Kaur W/o** Manpreet Singh R/O H.No. 10324/40, Kot Harnam Dass, Gali No. 7, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar declare that in my daughter's Sukhleen Kaur 10th certificate her date of birth was wrongly mentioned as 23-12-2008 instead of her real date of birth is 23-12-2007.

**I, Priti Sharma W/o** Om Parkash R/o Nr. Kothi Mela Ram, Nr. Gali No. 8, Opp. SBI Bank, Batala Road, Amritsar, Punjab- 143001 declare that Priti Sharma and Primita Devi is one and the same person.

**I, Sangeeta** legally spouse of No. 14682836Y Rank Hav Name Sunder Singh Unit 138H/Wksp EME (Sig GP) C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Vill Javan (59), Distt. Faridabad State Haryana-211004 declare that I have changed my DOB from 26.12.1984 to 26.12.1983

**I, K. Sujatha** legally mother of No. 16124903N Rank NK Name Ketham Tulasi Prasad Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of 10-596, Kakkalappalli, Praja Shakti Nagar, Distt. Anantapur State Andhra Pradesh- 515002 declare That I have changed my name from K Sujatha to Ketham Sujathamma and DOB from 20.09.1972 to 01.01.1972

**I, JC 806471A,** Nb Sub Naveen Kumar S/o Sukhvir Singh R/O Vill Chandwas, Teh Badhra & Distt Charkhi Dadri declare that in my service record my mother name is Kamla Devi and DOB is 03-04-1964 and my father name is Sukhvir and DOB is 10-12-1960 which is wrong. My mother correct name is Kamla and correct DOB is 13-05-1960 and my father correct name is Sukhvir Singh and correct DOB is 14-09-1959 which should be corrected in my service record.

**I, Sita Devi** is legally mother of Ranjit Kumar Pandey R/O Village Bakhour, Post Office- Bishunpura, Tehsil- Jalalpur, kala, District- Gopalgang, State- Bihar, Pin code 841407 have changed my DOB 01 July 1963 to 27 August 1967 vide affidavit No. IN-PB50489290462767W Dated 28-08-2024 before district court Gurdaspur (Punjab)

**I, Vijay Kumar** Pandey is legally father of Ranjit Kumar Pandey R/O Village Bakhour, Post Office- Bishunpura, Tehsil- Jalalpur, kala, District- Gopalgang, State- Bihar, Pin code 841407 have changed my DOB 01 July 1958 to 09 June 1966 vide affidavit No. IN-PB50487435986257W Dated 28-08-2024 before district court Gurdaspur (Punjab)

**I, Kuldeep Singh S/o** Charanjit Singh alias Charanjit Dass resident of Sahana Tehsil Tapa District Barnala inform that in my document my father's name is Charanjit Singh while in my father's document Charanjit Dass is running. While both these names belong to my father and the same person.

**I, Gurdeep Singh S/o** Hazara Singh Village Badhupur, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur Declare that in My Passport My name wrongly Recorded as Gurdeep Singh. But My Correct name is Gurdeep Singh.

**I, Simachalam** (Old Name) Father Of Chiranjeevi Narapinni Resident Of 6-43, Akkiredipalem Village, Near Grama Sachivalayam, Gopalapuram Post, Anakapalli Mandalam, Gopalapuram, Anakapalli, Andhra Pradesh, 531001, Have Changed My Name And Dob From Simachalam & Dob 01/07/1959 (Old Name & Dob) To Naraini Simachalam & Dob 10/12/1948 (New Name & Dob) Vide Affidavit Dated 28 Aug 2024 Sworn Before Notary Neelkamal, Pathankot. Please Correct It.

**I, Appala Konda** (Old Name) Mother Of Chiranjeevi Narapinni Resident Of 6-43, Akkiredipalem Village, Near Grama Sachivalayam, Gopalapuram Post, Anakapalli Mandalam, Gopalapuram, Anakapalli, Andhra Pradesh, 531001, Have Changed My Name And Dob From Appala Konda & Dob 01/01/1964 (New Name & Dob) Vide Affidavit Dated 28 Aug 2024 Sworn Before Notary Neelkamal, Pathankot. Please Correct It.

**I, Kashava Rudrayya** Hugar Mother Of Army No. Jc315083M, Rank Nb/Sub Name Mahantesh Unit 422 (I) Engr Sqn C/O 56 Apo Have Change My Name From Keshawa & 1/07/1960 & Kashava Rudrayya Hugar & 1/07/1962 Through Vide Document No. IN-PB50486961345699W Dated 28-08-2024.

**I, Allirani** Mother Of Army No. Jc-315450M, Rank Nb/Sub Name Raja K Unit 422 (I) Engr Sqn C/O 56 Apo Have Change Name From K.Allirani & 1/07/1957 To Allirani Through Vide Document No. IN-PB50484117527567w Dated 28-08-2024.

**I, Kamlesh Rani W/o** Ashwani Bhatia R/O House No 1014, Sector 13, Hisar -125001 have changed my name from Kamlesh Rani to Kamlesh Bhatia for all purposes.

**I, Sunil Kumar** s/o Babu ram r/o h.no.1366/23 near Anand pur kutiya Krishan pura Panipat change my name from Sunil to Sunil Kumar and in future my name is Sunil Kumar

**I, kunti W/o** Late Sh. Dinesh R/o Village Bhaiansr Kahan, Teh. Sampla Distt. Rhotak, Haryana declare that in all the documents my name is Kalpana . But now I have changed my name from kalpana to kunti. In future I will be known as kunti

**I, Prince Kumar S/o** Vijay chaurasiya R/O BR2/44 block B near TDI Club, Sec-58, nanggal Kalan, Sonipat, Haryana has changed my name to Prince chaurasiya for all purposes.

**I, Prince S/o** Sh.Ramesh Kumar R/O House no 1996, Sector 25-D Chandigarh have changed my name from Prince to Prince Kumar

**I, Ashok Chauhan S/o** Late Sh. Ram Chander House No. 2964/1, Sector 42-C, Chandigarh 160036 have changed my name from Ashok Chauhan to Ashok Kumar Chauhan.

**I, No. 15310554X** Ex Hav Krishna Singh S/o Sh. Charan Das residence of Village Sherpur Bhatian PO Dada Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur (PB) has changed my son's name from K Karan Chadda to Karan Chadda. Concerned Note.

**I, No. 15310554X** Ex Hav Krishna Singh S/o Sh. Charan Das residence of Village Sherpur Bhatian PO Dada Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur (PB) has changed my daughter's name from Sapna Rani to Kajal Rani. Concerned Note.

**I, Jyoti Bala W/o** Jatinder Kataria R/O H.No. 166, St. No. 14 Moh. Kamalpur Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Jyoti Bala to Jyoti Kataria. Concerned Note.

**I, Arvind Singh** Sachdeva S/o Bakhshish Singh R/O House No. 3, Gokothi No. 2, Ward No. 9, Una Road, Near Little Flower School, Distt. Hoshiarpur 146001 Punjab have changed my name from Chinnpu Chipu to Arvind Singh Sachdeva. Concerned note.

**I, Mayank Gupta** s/o sh. Ved Parkash Gupta R/O 439-A, Model Town, Panipat declared that My Daughter's Right name is Aniya Gupta and DOB 18.12.2016. Please Correct My Daughter's name Anya Gupta in his Passport.

**I, Ved Prakash** Mehta S/O Chanan Dass R/O Near Sanatan Duram Mandir Tosham Distt Bhiwani I/ve Changed My Name From Ved Prakash Mehta To Ved Prakash

**I, No. 3375554F** Hav Baljit Singh (Retd) R/O C5-281A Saraswati Colony, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar declare that in my Service record my name recorded as Baljit Singh. My actual name is Baljit Singh Gill. Vide affidavit dt 28.08.2024 before Notary, Distt Court Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar.

**I, Mohanjit Singh** (old name) S/o Gurdarshan Singh Rekhi R/O H. No. 1293, Urban Estate Phase 2, Patiala have changed my name from Mohanjit Singh to Mohanjit Singh Rekhi.

**I, Ram Prasad S/o** Ram Swarup Yadav R/O #1590 First Floor, Housing block Sector- 26, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name to Ram Prasad Ranjan.

I hitherto known as Chhano Kori W/O Surender residing at Village-Kithana, Kaitthal, Haryana-136044 have changed my name and I shall hereafter be known as Nirmal. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**I, Rameshar S/o** Sh. Amar Nath R/O Vill. Dallah Majra, Teh. Shahabad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra I declare that I have changed my name Rameshar Dass to Ramesharw. All Concerned please note.

**I, Radhika Garg** D/O Kamal Garg R/O H.No 37,Huda part-3, Ward no.8 Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaitthal (Haryana) have changed my name from Radhika Garg to Radhika.

**I, Jashanpreet Singh** s/o Nirmal, r/o Village Daba Tehsil Guhla District Kaitthal Haryana inform that my father's name is Nirmal. His name has been incorrectly mentioned as Nirmal Singh in my passport no. V5982045. The correct name should be entered as Nirmal in my passport.

**I, Tarsem Chand S/o** Ram Murti R/O # 690 Sector 10, Panchkula have changed my name from Tarsem Chand to Tarsem Garg.

**I, Surinder Kumar S/o** Sh. Madan Lal Kataria R/O # 1114, Sector 15, Panchkula have changed my name from Surinder Kumar To Surinder Kumar Kataria.

**I, Sumit S/o** Sh. Vijay Kumar R/O H.No. 47, Uttam Nagar Hisar (Hr) have changed my name from Sumit to Sumit Kumar for future purposes.

**I, Kamlesh Rani W/o** Ashwani Bhatia R/O House No 1014, Sector 13, Hisar -125001 have changed my name from Kamlesh Rani to Kamlesh Bhatia for all purposes.

**I, Service No. 15788158f,** Rank Hav, Bhosale Bhagwan Vagrasen, R/O 131 Ad Regt C/O 56 Apo, Have Change My Wife Name For Sonam Bhagwan Bhosle To Sonam Bhagwan Bhosale & Change My Daughter Name From Aavni Bhagwan Bhosle To Aavni Bhagwan Bhosale

**I, Service No. 15769105n** Rank Hav Ramesh M Of Unit 47 Ad Regt C/O 56 Apo.Have Changed My Wife Name From M. Abirami To Abirami Ramesh

**I, Service No. 15774845m** Rank Hav (Occ) Name D Subash Of Unit 47 Ad Regt C/O 56 Apo.Have Changed My Deepakaran.

**I, Pinky Wife Of** Shri Jitender Kumar R/O House No. 122, Village Mumudi, P.O. Aurangabad Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt, Yamuna Nagar I Have Change My Name From Pinky To Pinki Devi. All Concerned Note.

**I, Harjinder Kaur W/O** Sh. Daljeet Singh R/O Vpo Mandhar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt, Yamuna Nagar I Declare That. Rajinder Kaur And Harjinder Kaur Is One And The Same Person. All Concerned Note.

**I, Balvinder Kaur** Is Mother Of Army No. 2514053Y Rank Sep Gunwinder Singh Unit 22r C/O 56 Apo (Sheopur) Village Daulana Post Office Dhanaura Teh. Barara. District Ambala (Haryana) Pin 133203 Declare That My Date Of Birth 1976 Wrongly Written In My Son Army Records But My Correct Date Of Birt Is 04-12-1978.

**I, Jagir Kaur** Is Mother Of Army No. Jc287109x Rank Nb/ Sub. Parminder Singh Village Tamnauil Post Office Nahoni Teh. Barara .District Ambala (Haryana) Pin 133204 Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Jogir Kaur To Jagir Kaur. Kindly So Correct It Vide Affidavit No. Abv2024h20120444137 Dated 22-08-2024

**I, Mamta W/o** Himanshu Pahwa R/O H.No.C.84, TDI City, C Block, Panipat declare that I have changed my name after marriage from Mamta to Mamta Pahwa. In future I should be known as Mamta Pahwa.

**I, Himanshu Pahwa S/o** Anand Sagar Pahwa R/O H.No.C-84, Tdi City, Panipat declare that Jiyanshi is my son name changed his name Jiyansh to Jiyansh Pahwa. In future he should be known as Jiyansh Pahwa.

**I, Harjinder Kaur W/O** Sh. Daljeet Singh R/O VPO Mandhar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt, Yamuna Nagar I declare that rajinder Kaur and harjinder Kaur is one and the same person. All concerned note.

**I, Sanjukta Rana W/o** Rabinder Rana R/O #951, Sector-4, Haripur, Panchkula (Haryana) declare that Sanjukta Rani & Sanjukta Rana Both name belongs to same person.

I hitherto known as Rupinder Kaur D/O Charan Singh W/o Manjit Singh, residing at House No.62, Village Kaur, Tehsil Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab-141401, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajpinder Kaur. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**I, Beena Chand W/o** Pritam Malik R/O H.No.952, Arjun Nagar Ladowal Road Jalandhar have changed my name Beena Chand to Bina Malik

**I, Pritam Chand S/o** Sardari Lal R/O H.No.952, Arjun Nagar Ladowal Road Jalandhar have changed my name Pritam Chand to Pritam Malik

**I, Satnam Singh S/o** Gurwinder Singh R/O 93, Baba Deep Singh Colony, Ward No.41, Amritsar have changed my name Satnam is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

**I, Ramanpreet Kaur D/o** Sukhchain Singh R/O Village Kirtawal Kalan, Tarn Taran have changed my name from Ramanpreet Kaur to Kaur is my surname and given name is Ramanpreet

In my son No. 4202237Y NK Sandeep Kumar, 21 KUAMOAN services documents my name wrongly written as Sardha Nand, which needs to be corrected as Shardha Nand. Shardha Nand resident of Gulawala (115), Mahendragarh, Haryana-123001

**I, No. 15128258X** HAV (DMT) R Narayanareddy of 311 MED REGT resident of -1-17, Kadavakal, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh-515445 C/o 56 APO, have amended my mother's name from R Aswatham to Ramireddy Gari Aswathamma vide affidavit no. IN-PB4972594369606W dated 27-08-2024, before Executive Magistrate, Amritsar

**I, Charnjit Kaur** Mother of No.14938630W Nk Manjit Singh R/O Vill. Dialpur PO Dialpur, Teh Dhillwan, Distt Kapurthala, State Punjab-144803 now at 15 Mech Inf C/o 56 Apo have changed my name to Charanjit Kaur and Date of Birth from 02.06.1960 to 21.01.1959 Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB50179063454115W Dt.28.08.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

**I, Gurwinder Kaur** and Gurwinder Kaur W/o Rattan Singh R/O Gehri Mandi Jandiala Guru District Amritsar have declare that above both names are mine one and same person.

**I, Sunil Kadyan S/o** Sh. Ved Singh R/O H.No. 1341, Rudine Pana, Ward No. 6, Village Sewah, Tehsil and Distt. Panipat dealers Sunil Kadyan and Sunil Kumar Both are in the name of one person of mine. In future I will be known as Sunil Kadyan.

**I, Randhir Singh S/o** Sh. Mansharan Vill.Atela Naya, Tehsil and Distt. Charakhi Dadri declare that in my army record my daughter's name is Khushboo, but in my all documents her name is Khushboo, which is correct. In future she will be known as Khushboo for all purposes.

**I, Abhishek S/o** Ashok Kumar R/O House No. 78-B, W. No. 2, G. No. 4, New Rishi Nagar, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Abhishek to Abhishek Kumar for all purpose. In future I will be known as Abhishek Kumar.

**I, Malika D/O** Parvesh Kumar R/O House No. 10-11, Surender Colony, Jawahar Nagar, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Malika to Malika Kumari for all purpose. In future I will be known as Malika Kumari.

**I, Daljit Singh S/o** Sh. Pritam Singh R/O H.No. 1501, Ward No. 2, Shyam Colony, Thanesar Kurukshetra have changed my name from Daljit Singh to Daljeet Singh.

**I, Kuldeep Kaur W/o** Sh. Daljeet Singh R/O H.No. 1501, Ward No. 2, Shyam Colony, Thanesar Kurukshetra have changed my name from Kuldeep Kaur to Kuldeep Kaur.

**I, Sandeep Kaur W/o** Deepinderpal Singh Khaira R/O H.No. 585-F, Housefed Complex, New Amritsar, Amritsar, Punjab-143001 have changed my name from Sandeep Kaur to Sandeep Kaur Khaira.

**I, Dheeraj S/o** Tegh Bahadur R/O H.No. 2587/2, Ram Gali Chowk, Chint Purni Jaura Pali, Amritsar, Punjab- 143001 have changed my name from Dheeraj to Dheeraj Kumar Neb.

**I, Rattandeep W/o** Dharminder Singh R/O 6333/20, Nawan Kot, Main Road, Amritsar, Punjab-143001 have changed my name after marriage from Rattandeep to Rattandeep Kaur.

**I, Vidhya Devi W/o** Ram Avtar R/O Mahna Singh Gate, Pakki Gali, H.No. 1646/2, Amritsar, Punjab-143001 have changed my name from Vidhya Devi to Vidya Devi.

**I, Pranav S/o** Raj Kumar Godara R/O House No. 468-C, Gali No. 01, Chandler Lane Opposite Water Works-2 Kaimrai Road, Hisar, Tehsil & Distt. Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Pranav (Old Name) to Pranav Godara (New Name).

**I, Surila/Surila Devi W/o** Sh. Ashok Jain R/O H.No. 1195, Sector 14 P. Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Surila/Surila Devi to Surila Jain for all purpose. In future I will be known as Surila Jain.

**I, Darshana W/o** Jagmander Singh R/O #2420 A, Adarsh Colony, Street-1, Azad Nagar, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Darshana to Darshana Singh for all purpose. In future I will be known as Darshana Singh.

**I, Sukhdeep singh** s/o Manohar Singh R/O PP217, sector 108, Emaar Mohali Hills, Mohali Punjab have changed name to Sukhdeep Singh Jhaji

**I, Maina Kumari S/o** Suresh Kumar No. 15578418K, Rank NK Spouse of Sen Unit 474/Engr. Brig. Camp R/O Dhunwalia, Tehsil Jhajpur Distt. Sahapur, Rajasthan have changed my name from Maina Kumari to Meena Sain

**I, Deepa CV** legally mother of No. 16133696N Rank L/NK Name Gokul Krishnan C V Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Gokulam, Kodolipam, Pattannur PO Pattannur, Distt. Kannur State Kerala- 670595 declare That I have changed my name from Deepa CV to Deepa C V

**I, Satyawan S/o** Chanderbhan R/O H.No.2388, Sec-13, Huda, Bhiwani have changed my name from Satyawat to Satyawan Singh and my father name from Chanderbhan to Chander Singh for all future purposes. In future I will be known by Satyawan Singh S/O Chander Singh.

**I, Narendarkumar Yadav S/o** Ramchandrar R/O village Sisoth Teh & Distt. Mahendragarh (HR) have changed my name from Narendarkumar Ramchander to Narendarkumar Yadav for all future purposes.

**I, Satinder Mohan** Sarin S/O Pritam Nath Sarin R/O 1236, Sector-7, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name to Satinder Mohan.

**I, Ex Hav Shamsher** Singh Army No. 14564653F S/O Ram Kal R/O Village Dhunwda, Tehsil Kalayat, Distt. Kaitthal (Haryana) declares that in my service record my wife's name is written as Reshma Devi and date of birth 11.09.1968 which is incorrect. My wife's correct name is Reshma and the correct date of birth is 01.01.1960 which is written in her all civil documents.

**I, Anju Rani W/o** Surinder Kumar R/O Ward No. 05, Pal Gate, Pundri, Tehsil Pundri, Distt. Kaitthal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Anju Kumari to Anju Rani. In future, I will be known by the name of Anju Rani. All concerned please note.

**I, Kusum W/o** Pankaj Kumar R/O H.No.72, kartar shah Nagar, Model Town, Panipat 132103 declares that Kusum & kusum Sachdeva both are my names. In future, I shall be known as kusum.

**I, Lakhwinder Singh S/o** Kandhara Singh Virk, H.No. 379, Ward No. 10, Lohgarh, Dashmesh Colony, Zirakpur (SAS Nagar), have changed my name to Lakhwinder Singh Virk.

**I, Nishank S/o** Sanju , H.No. 199, Mowjal, Nangal, Tehsil Nangal (Roopnagar), have changed my name from Nishank to Nishank Kumar.

**I, Asha Rani** Adhar Card No. 665629718776 W/O Rajinder Kumar, R/O H. No. 15, Poultry Area, Niohkeri, District Karnal, Informs That, I Have Changed My Name From Asha Gaba To Asha Rani. Call Me Asha Rani In Future.

**I, Gurmeet Kaur w/o** Sarbjit Singh village Bhaiani Paswal PO Jagowal bet Tehsil and District Gurdaspur, Punjab 143528. I have changed my name Gurmeet Kaur to Gurmit kaur.All Concerned note.

**I, Baljinder Singh** Ghuman S/O Lakhwinder Singh R/O Vill. Qila Darshan Singh, Teh. Batala Distt. Gurdaspur have Changed my name from Baljinder Singh Ghuman to Baljinder Singh. Concerned Note.

**I, Ravinder** is legally father of Rajmohan R/O Village- Kho Tehsil-Rewari District- Rewari, State-Haryana Pincode -123103 have changed my name from Ravinder to Ravinder Singh and have changed my DOB 01 January 1967 to 01 January 1966 vide affidavit No. IN-PB50486044860147W Dated 28 August 2024 Before District Court, Gurdaspur (Punjab)

**I, Mandeep Kaur W/o** Gurmukh Singh VPO Kot Santok Rai (Gurdaspur) have changed my name to Mandeip Kaur. Concerned note.

**I, Suleman Masih S/o** Jaspal R/O VPO Kaler Kalan (Gurdaspur) have changed my name to Vishal Kaler S/O Jaspal. Concerned note.

**I, Gurwall Singh S/o** Gurmeet Singh R/O Village Bishankot, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Gurdaspur, declare that in my Aadhar card, Pan Card and passport No. T3063034, my name written as Gurwall Singh but Now I have changed my name from Gurwall Singh to Singh Gurwall. In future Singh is my given name and Gurwall is my given name. Concerned Note.

**I, Om Parkas R/o** Bhaiyasar PO Udasar, Bhidhawan Tehsil Sardarshahr Distt Churu (Rajasthan) PIN-331402 India, have changed my father's name from Chunnilal Poonia to Chunnilal due to wrong name record in my Army Service record.

**I, Sankaran** Sankaralingam Father of Service No. JC-423513P Rank SUB, Name -S Mariappan R/O Ward No. 10/93-1, West Street, Ramachandrapuram, Kumargiri , Pudukottai Thoothukkudi, Tamil Nadu, PIN- 628103 at present Unit 25 MEC Inf (R&SP) WH REGT C/O 56 APO INRIA, have changed my name from Sankaram Pillai to Sankaran Sankaralingam due to wrong name record in my Son's Army service record.

**I, Devender Kumar** Popli S/O Munshi Ram Popli R/O House No. 794/5, Mohan Nagar, Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Devender Kumar Popali to Devender Kumar Popli. And My father's name is wrongly mentioned as Munshi Ram Popali, in some document of mine, while my father's actual name is Munshi Ram Popli.

It is for general information that I, Man Singh Saini s/o Sh. Ram Prasad Saini resident of House No 629, Sector -02, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, Distt- Kurukshetra (Haryana) -136118, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Man Singh in my PPO No. S1/6830/88 and Discharge Book No. 8427. The actual name of mine is Man Singh Saini, which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Babita Rani W/o** Gulzar Malik R/O H.No. 182, Vashisti Colony, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Babita Rani to Babita Malik.

**I, Balvaint Singh S/o** Sunder Ram R/O Village Deru Majra Postoffice Urnhi, Tehsil Thanesar Distt Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Balvaint Singh to Balwant Singh

**I, Anita Devi W/o** Subhash Chander R/O Village & Postoffice Charkhan Jaitan, Tehsil Shahabad Markanda, Distt Kurukshetra, have changed my minor daughter's name from Anushka to Anushka Chander.

**I, Sushma Devi W/o** Mohan Lal R/O Village Ajrani, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have changed my minor son's name from Satbir to Satbir (Given Name) & Saini (Surname).

**I, Mehak Preet**









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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Best of luck!

### India sends largest ever contingent of 84 para-athletes for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

The 2024 Paralympic Games opened in Paris yesterday where differently abled athletes from 164 countries would be participating. India has sent its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes this year. This year's event is a testament to the unyielding spirit of athletes who continue to inspire the world with their incredible stories of perseverance and triumph over adversity. India's participation in the 2024 Paris Paralympics is a landmark moment for the nation. With 84 athletes across various disciplines, India is fielding its largest and most diverse contingent ever. This reflects the growing recognition and support for para-sports in India, as well as the increasing number of athletes who are challenging stereotypes and redefining excellence. The Paralympic Games have a rich history, dating back to 1948, when Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sports competition for World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries in Stoke Mandeville, England. This event is widely regarded as the precursor to the modern Paralympic Games. Over the decades, the Paralympics have grown exponentially, becoming a global platform for athletes with disabilities to showcase their extraordinary talents and push the boundaries of what is possible.



Among the Indian athletes, one name that stands out is that of Sheetal Devi, a young archer who has defied all odds to compete at the highest level despite being born without hands. Sheetal's journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Using her feet to handle the bow and arrow, she has developed a unique technique that has made her one of the most promising archers in the world. Her story is a powerful reminder that limitations are often only in the mind, and with determination and innovation, they can be overcome.

Sheetal Devi's participation in the 2024 Paralympics is more than just a personal achievement; it symbolizes hope and resilience for millions of people around the world. Her ability to turn her perceived limitations into strengths has captivated audiences and earned her recognition as a true champion of the human spirit. The 2024 Paris Paralympics continue the tradition of celebrating the incredible capabilities of athletes with disabilities. The Games are not just about winning medals; they are about breaking barriers, challenging societal perceptions, and inspiring future generations. The inclusion of more sports and the increasing participation of countries like India signify a broader acceptance and encouragement of para-sports worldwide. As the athletes compete in Paris, their stories of courage, like that of Sheetal Devi, remind us of the power of sport to transcend physical limitations and bring people together in a shared pursuit of excellence. The Paralympic Games serve as a global stage where athletes demonstrate that with perseverance, anything is possible. India's largest-ever contingent and the inspiring story of Sheetal Devi exemplify the spirit of the Paralympic movement. As these athletes compete, they continue to inspire millions, proving that no obstacle is insurmountable when met with determination and heart.

### PICTALK



A beautifully painted bus at display in the Heritage Transport Museum, in Gurugram **PANKAJ KUMAR**

# The rise of Sunita Kejriwal

As Arvind Kejriwal remains behind bars, Sunita Kejriwal steps up to bridge the gap between her husband and the party, taking on the mantle of leadership in his absence



KALYANI SHANKAR

Whoever thought the low-profile Sunita, wife of Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal, would emerge as an acceptable leader in the Aam Admi Party? Her increasing involvement is particularly significant after her husband has been jailed for a liquor scam since March. She has become a crucial link between her husband and the Party.

The recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections provided her an opportunity to demonstrate her potential. It is still unclear whether she will continue working for the Party after Kejriwal is released on bail.

Women from political families often enter politics as substitutes for their relatives. One successful example is Sonia Gandhi. She was the power behind the throne. Rabri Devi, the wife of former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, served as the Chief Minister of Bihar from 2000 to 2005. Lalu had to resign due to his alleged involvement in a scam. Rabri was merely a rubber stamp while her husband was the de facto chief minister. She may be a novice in politics, but Sunita brings a wealth of experience and a solid professional background. Her 22-year tenure in the income tax department, ending as I-T commissioner at the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), showcases her competence.

Sunita supported her husband, Kejriwal, keeping a low profile, even during India Against Corruption, when he became a political leader and activist. Kejriwal projected himself as a family man and campaigned with Sunita during the polls. Sunita's increasing involvement in the Aam Admi Party, particularly after Kejriwal's imprisonment, demonstrates her commitment and determination. Kejriwal is the only incumbent chief minister in Indian history who refused to resign his chief ministership even after his arrest. Speculations about her possibly succeeding Kejriwal if he resigns have been doing the rounds. Secondly, Sunita's leadership is



crucial. She has arrived at a when the Aam Admi Party grapples with a crisis. The Assembly elections in Haryana will be held next month, and Delhi polls are due in January 2025. Many senior leaders are facing allegations of corruption charges. The recent arrest of Kejriwal has added to the Party's challenges. The Centre gave him a long rope and did not dismiss his government based on a constitutional breakdown. Manish Sisodia, Kejriwal's deputy, says Sunita's role in the Party will end when Kejriwal is out of jail. Sisodia was also arrested last year in connection with an excise policy case. AAP MP Sanjay Singh claims Sunita's role as Kejriwal's messenger is growing. Still, Kejriwal says Sunita has no interest in politics. While Sunita may be seen as a stop-gap replacement, her growing influence in the Party makes it challenging to sideline her. Sunita's role in the Party will remain significant even if Kejriwal returns. Fourthly, the Party faces a crisis of leadership. With the upcoming Haryana and Delhi polls, AAP needs a credible leader and a good campaigner. Sunita's role as a morale



SUNITA HAS LAUNCHED HER CAMPAIGN WITH FIVE "KEJRIWAL'S GUARANTEES" FOR THE UPCOMING HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLLS

booster is to fill the gap and give pep talk. Fifthly, the AAP members have accepted Sunita as the link, though Sunita holds no official position in AAP. She has campaigned during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and has just begun campaigning in Haryana. She has been hard-hitting on the Modi government and the BJP. Her line of defence was that some political forces were involved in discrediting her husband. The opposition coalition INDIA has acknowledged Sunita's increasing involvement and acceptability. She was seated in a prominent position alongside Sonia Gandhi at a recent rally in Ramliha Maidan. Sunita has launched her campaign with five "Kejriwal's Guarantees" for the upcoming Haryana Assembly polls. They include free electricity, medical treatment, education, \$1,000 monthly aid for women, and youth employment. She lauded the AAP government for its initiatives and urged people to vote for AAP. Sunita has some downsides. Despite Kejriwal's political success, she is untested. Whether she can keep the Party intact is still being determined. Her limit-

ed purpose is to convey Kejriwal's message from prison and campaign for the upcoming elections. Sunita is in talks with other parties like the Nationalist Congress Party and has gained access to top opposition leaders. Her strategy for selecting candidates and forming coalitions depends on the Aam Admi Party's future alliances. Overcoming anti-incumbency as AAP seeks a third term in Delhi is challenging. When Kejriwal returns, he must ensure that the Party is under control. And that his image in public is not tarnished. He must also keep an eye on Punjab, where AAP is ruling. He must ensure a chain of command between the Party and the government. He must develop a second line of leadership, as he has not allowed any leader to emerge. He needs to keep his team united and realistically evaluate his promises of benefits. The results of the upcoming elections in Haryana and Delhi could significantly shape Delhi's future political landscape. The results will show whether Sunita succeeds.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remember the Hippocratic Oath!



Kudos to Mr. Sujit De for the letter titled 'Don't make patients suffer' (August 26). Based upon professional fraternity (not human fraternity), the Doctors of the government hospitals are in strike in West Bengal! May it be asked what is the fault of the poorest of poor patients who have no option but to visit government hospitals during medical emergency! Why are they being denied medical treatment prolonging their suffering! Is providing treatment to patients and protesting against the murder mutually exclusive to each

other! Can't the two coexist together! What compensation would the Doctors provide to a family if their member passes away due to lack of treatment! How can the hypocrite Doctors make a cruel mockery of the Hippocratic oath! Hasn't any Doctor indulged in sexual atrocities in India previously! What about that horrific incident (almost a decade ago) revolving around the poor mentally-retarded innocent Korpan Shah who was lynched to death by the trainee Doctors right within the campus of NRS Hospital Kolkata just on the baseless apprehension of stealing a cell phone! Will today's 'revolutionary' Doctors dare to have a look at the mirror and indulge in a bit of self introspection! Of course Doctors must enjoy rights as entitled to human beings; but perhaps the last person in the queue like Korpan Shah was also entitled to the same human rights!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

about 90 nautical miles south of Sagar Island. With an immediate response, the Maritime Search & Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Chennai received a distress signal late on August 25. The ICG immediately dispatched two of its ships, Sarang and Amogh, and also a Dornier aircraft outfitted with enhanced night-capable sensors, to locate and rescue the stranded crew. The Dornier aircraft was crucial in spotting drifting life rafts and identifying the crew's survival red flares. The aircraft guided the ICG ships to the coordinates where two life rafts had been found tied together, sheltering the survivors.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

### MIDDLE PATH ON PENSION

Madam — Government seems to have adopted the mid way approach amid the growing demand for the rollback of the OPS, the government has filled the gap between market returns and a 50% assured pension. Under the Unified Pension Scheme government contribu-

tion will increase from 14% to 18.5%. And it will take a stock of the situation after three years whether to increase this or not. What is really beneficial for the government employees who joined after 1st January 2004 is that UPS will provide them assured pension, inflation indexation and family pension. At the moment it looks like that employees will be content with the new rolled out scheme but they may come on to the streets to demand the difference between OPS and UPS. With life expectancy going higher and higher, how the government will be able to fund these expenses for such long durations would be a million dollar question. Employees should not forget that NPS has the unique advantage of having the equity exposure over a long period of time and invariably it will fetch far better returns over any other product or Pension scheme.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Dealing with the eternal conflicts

Conflicts have been an inevitable part of human experience throughout history. Each of us faces them in our own unique way at different points in life



SANJAY CHANDRA

We face conflicts and dilemmas many times in our lives. We resolve a few of those, avoiding others to avoid confrontation. We went through some fascinating times recently. We cast our votes to elect the next central government. The excitement of the crowd at the polling booth was palpable even early in the morning. There was another major event, which was at our society level. We also had elections for the governing body of our residents' welfare association. I realised that the two elections mirrored each other. New alliances were formed, and old ones were discarded. Sworn foes smiled at each other with a warmth not unlike the hot Delhi summers. There were many heartbreaks too if friends vied for the same position. Two of the prospective candidates for a position went about venting their frustration when told by well-meaning friends about the intent of the other. I suggested a mutual tete-a-tete. The conflict was resolved. I faced a dilemma as an ado-



lescent half a century back. One afternoon, I had an argument with a friend, which went a little overboard, and I punched him. He was taller than me and did not take kindly to my aggression. He punched me back. It did not erupt into a full-blown fist fight only because I had already rationalised his punch a little before it had connected with my soft abdomen. After all, I had started the battles; he was entitled to retaliate. Many of us hesitate to ask for personal favour, apprehensive of facing rejection. It is also a dilemma, albeit in our minds. I had no say in the allotment of the zonal

railways after the completion of our railway probation training. I did get an opportunity to express my heart's desire, when my senior asked me if I had any preference for the place of posting. I was diffident and I gave a convoluted reply, "Anywhere, though my preference would be Mughalsarai." This was a small town in my native state. He took the first part of my statement at face value. I was posted at Sealdah, the other end, and a long way from my hometown — physically, linguistically, and culturally. I understood much later in life the importance of plain speaking, however unpalatable it might be. It may cause initial bitterness, but the relationship would be stronger eventually. The self-realisation still did not give me the courage to upbraid a junior colleague for his tardiness. I chose to walk away from confrontation by not allocating him any responsibilities. I envy those who have mastered sugar-coating the bitter pill. It softens the blow, yet hits the person equally

hard. But it might even convey a wrong meaning. During a recent conversation, my wife and her friend contemplated conveying a rather difficult sentiment to another friend through a message. A small phrase was added to be polite. I felt that this changed the intent to something entirely different. They did not agree and chose not to send the message. Yet, the friend had not hesitated to upbraid another friend a few days earlier over a trivial issue. I saw conflict in the two situations, she did not. Conflicts have been a part of our lives since ages. I would not like to be the Arjun who faced the biggest challenge of his life. I am a mere mortal. I have my follies. It is not for me to preach to be perfect. I would look at the words of author Jo Coudert to give me strength, "Every life is a dilemma that must be solved by the person living it." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

### WORLD NEEDS STATESMEN

Madam — The editorial, 'Give peace a chance' (27-8-24) is timely. But war is an essential factor to keep the economy of a few nations alive. Weapon trading being a flourishing trade the countries engaged in manufacturing weapons long for wars somewhere between some countries.

With these countries craving for wars the world is longing for a leader who can play a genuinely mediating role and ensure peace. The U.S and the members of NATO want war between Ukraine and Russia to go on for long to make Ukraine a good market for their weapons. Countries like India may not have weapons to sell but finds war between Ukraine and Russia a good opportunity to buy oil at a lesser cost to benefit a few Indian monopolists if not the public.

With such vested interest in the ongoing war India cannot play any mediation to bring peace. Similarly the war in the Gulf having religion as its base has no scope to ensure peace there till either of the group loses in the war. Institutions like the UNO stand abjectly exposed for their emptiness and helplessness. Besides religion the rich resource of oil makes this region more vulnerable for undue exploitation and war. We have witnessed an unnecessary war that destroyed nations like Iraq, Libya. In the present global economic order everything is a commodity including Peace. But peace is proved to be such a costlier product there is no means to buy it. The world needs a charismatic selfless statesman who can interfere with confidence and boldness to establish peace anywhere. But still one should reach this problem with an open mind and positive attitude to find a solution.

A.G.Rajmohan | Anantpur

### SAFETY FIRST

Madam — The cargo ship was routed from Kolkata to Port Blair when it reportedly sank due to rough seas





## FIRST COLUMN

## CHOOSE DIALOGUE NOT DEBATE

By fostering a mindset of dialogue over argument, we contribute to a more harmonious society



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

There is a famous saying: "Two wrongs don't make a right," meaning it is not right to do something bad to someone just because they did something bad to you. In our day-to-day life, we end up doing many things that are wrong, but we still justify them as right by arguing well. Argument has always been a very powerful self-defense tool for people since ages. But one must know an important fact: behind every argument that we engage in, lies our ignorance towards truth and sometimes deceiving ourselves by knowing the truth. Hence, the best way to sort things out is through dialogues and healthy discussions. The beautiful part of a dialogue is that it's a mutual exploration for reaching an amicable resolution with an open exchange of views, as compared to an argument, which leads to a battle of opinions. In dialogue, there is much more listening than talking, and in an argument, there is war! A dialogue is possible only when two parties collaborate to uncover deeper wisdom and co-create a new understanding with a positive attitude.

We all argue in our day-to-day life because we have an opinion on almost everything, based on our beliefs. More so, when we see the beliefs of others as a personal threat, we either start defending or attacking, creating an environment of fear and aggression. There are many who are always armed with their opinions, prepared to defend their beliefs, and ready to do battle. The best way to avoid an argument with such people is first to support their beliefs positively to make them feel happy



from inside, and then after some time, make them realize their mistake with utmost love and care.

Many of us have experienced that if we do not have an opinion about important issues, then we are considered to be weak and conciliatory. But we must not forget that if our opinion is in defense of a position or against someone else's opinion, then it might result in a huge conflict that could lead to a war-like situation. History has shown that, at the root of the majority of wars fought were differences of opinion and clash of beliefs. Hence, it takes a lot of courage to have a point of view and yet be receptive to others' to the extent that you are prepared to shift your contention. This shows that you are flexible and acknowledge there are many other ways of looking at a situation. It also demonstrates that you have the humility to learn from others' points of view. However, to possess such courage, one needs to be enlightened with spiritual powers, for it is an enlightened soul that moves from an argument to a discussion to a dialogue, a process that is driven not just by the need, but by genuine curiosity and the intention to understand others to create a peaceful and harmonious environment.

In today's fast-paced world, arguments often arise from misunderstandings, impatience, and a lack of willingness to understand the other side. Technology, while connecting us globally, has also distanced us from face-to-face interactions where emotions and intentions are better understood. This digital age has made it easy to voice opinions without accountability, often leading to heated debates rather than constructive discussions. Moreover, the culture of instant gratification has diminished our capacity for patience, making us less tolerant of differing viewpoints. We must realize that true progress, both personally and collectively, comes from understanding and empathy. When we take the time to engage in dialogues rather than arguments, we open doors to new perspectives and solutions that we might not have considered otherwise. In doing so, we not only resolve conflicts but also build stronger, more meaningful relationships. Therefore, it is essential to cultivate the habit of active listening, where we fully engage with the speaker, seeking to understand before being understood. This approach can transform potential conflicts into opportunities for growth and learning.

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

## A saga of violence and betrayal in Afghanistan



NILANTHA LLANGAMUWA

Kabul has long stood as a symbol of Afghanistan's resilience but conduct of many of its leaders like Hafizullah Amin remains shrouded in mystery and contention

Kabul, situated over a mile above sea level, is complemented by the Paghman Hills to the west, traditionally a retreat for Kabul's elite. Paghman, known for its pleasant climate and historical significance, was also the site of significant events, including King Amanullah's struggle for independence and the 1920 asylum of the Amir of Bukhara. The town symbolises Afghanistan's resistance to foreign dominance.

Hafizullah Amin, born in Paghman in 1929, rose to prominence as a staunch opponent of superpower influence. His brief tenure as leader, lasting only 104 days, ended with his assassination in 1979, marking a pivotal moment in Afghan politics. Amin's early education in Kabul and further studies at Columbia University, interrupted by political turmoil, solidified his political engagement. His relationship with Nour Mohammad Taraki and his subsequent return to Afghanistan via Moscow shaped his radical stance and political trajectory.

However, the accusation that Amin was a CIA agent, levied with equal fervour from the left, has been eagerly embraced by Babrak Karmal as a means to legitimise his own rule. Despite Karmal's claims of having known about Amin's alleged CIA ties since the 1950s and his assertion of possessing documentary proof, he has yet to present any credible evidence. Some foreign socialists privately dismiss this claim, suggesting that the new regime's intent was to tarnish Amin's reputation, particularly among the unassuming Afghan peasantry, by branding him as an American agent. A more nuanced explanation from a Karmal sympathiser posits that the Afghan populace, repelled by Amin's policies which they viewed as detrimental to the revolution, resorted to the CIA agent narrative as a simplistic justification. Although the USSR propagated this narrative domestically in an early 1980 film on Afghanistan, it has been notably cautious in its international communications.

An article on CIA interference in the Third World, published in International Affairs, notably omits any reference to Amin. As one commentator noted, "The uncomfortable reality for both Russians and Americans is that Amin resisted manipulation from either side." If Amin's portrayal as a genocidal dictator, a Soviet puppet, or a CIA operative is unsupported by evidence, what then is the truth? What was Amin's actual role in the Afghan revolution, and why did the Soviet Union deem it so crucial to eliminate him?

In August 1978, Nour Mohammad Taraki addressed the Islamic protest movement with a defiant stance, denouncing capitalist and reactionary forces for using religion to undermine his progressive agenda. He believed these tactics, driven by imperialistic ambitions, were outdated and doomed to fail. Despite his confidence, Taraki faced significant internal strife, particularly with Hafizullah Amin, whose ambitions threatened his leadership. Taraki's reliance on Soviet support proved insufficient as his political blindness and failure to address social realities created



HAFIZULLAH AMIN WAS WIDELY SUSPECTED OF USING MARXISM AS A POLITICAL TOOL RATHER THAN ADHERING TO ITS PRINCIPLES, WHILE PUBLICLY PRESENTING HIMSELF AS A STRICT RELIGIOUS PERSON

opportunities for extremist groups.

Taraki's plan to correct his previous mistakes and form a new government with Babrak was thwarted by Amin's swift action. Despite Taraki's efforts to arrest Amin and align with Babrak for national reconciliation, the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan necessitated external military intervention. Amin's quick consolidation of power and Taraki's subsequent political struggles illustrate the volatile and precarious nature of Afghan politics during this tumultuous period.

Hafizullah Amin was widely suspected of using Marxism as a political tool rather than adhering to its principles, while publicly presenting himself as a strict religious person. Despite his significant position as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, he faced substantial opposition, particularly from the Parcham faction. This internal discord delayed his rise to a full member of the PDPA's political committee. Amin's ability to navigate these challenges and become a prominent figure in Afghan politics, including his role in the Moscow friendship treaty, marked his personal success amidst a turbulent environment.

In September 1979, Taraki's visit to Cuba and subsequent meeting with his rival Babrak Karmal in Moscow remains enigmatic. There is speculation that Taraki sought to reconcile with Babrak to remove Amin and redistribute power, though Soviet influence likely played a crucial role in these negotiations. The depth of the animosity between Taraki and Babrak suggests that Soviet intervention was necessary to facilitate

any form of political reconciliation, particularly given Taraki's longstanding hatred for Babrak and Amin's role as a significant obstacle to his power.

The political instability within the Khalq and Parcham factions weakened Afghanistan's administration, making it vulnerable to extremist support. With the security situation deteriorating and the Afghan army struggling, Taraki saw the need for Soviet intervention to restore order. Despite plans to arrest Amin and form a new government with Babrak, Taraki's efforts faltered, and Amin swiftly resolved his political predicament. The complexities of this period highlight the challenging dynamics of Afghan politics and external influences shaping its trajectory.

In early December 1979, Yuri Andropov alerted Leonid Brezhnev to Amin's covert activities, his pro-Western inclinations, and the potential end of communist rule in Afghanistan, which could threaten Soviet influence. Andropov emphasized the need for military aid to support Babrak Karmal and his allies, though he did not explicitly propose a full-scale Soviet invasion. However, Andropov's primary goal was to finalize plans for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Following this, key figures including Andropov, Dmitriy Ustinov, Andrei Gromyko, and Boris Ponomarev, convened with Brezhnev and secured approval for Soviet military action. The Politburo authorized these officials to manage the invasion's execution in utmost secrecy. The documents related to the plan were handwritten by Politburo mem-

bers, and even typists were excluded from the process. Marshal Akhromeyev and the General Staff Operations Group established their base near the Afghan border, while KGB operatives traveled to Kabul to oversee Amin's removal, marking the commencement of Operation Agate.

The KGB's secrecy surrounding the assassination plan was intense. A covert team, including a chef planted in Amin's palace, was tasked with administering poison. The same toxicology laboratory that had been involved in previous assassinations, like that of Georgi Markov, handled the preparation of the poison. Talebov, an Azerbaijani operative, infiltrated Amin's kitchen and poisoned the food, ensuring the execution of the assassination plan without arousing suspicion.

On December 13, 1979, Babrak Karmal and key members of his future government secretly flew from Moscow to Bagram Air Base, positioning themselves to take control of Afghanistan immediately after Amin's removal. Meanwhile, on December 17, Asadullah Amin, Hafizullah Amin's son-in-law and head of the security service, fell gravely ill from food poisoning and was rushed to Moscow for treatment. The meal that led to his illness had been prepared for Hafizullah Amin, indicating that the poisoning attempt, orchestrated by Talebov, had not gone as planned. Despite Talebov's efforts, Amin's cautious behavior, including frequent changes in his food and drink, thwarted the poisoning plot.

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

## The impact of CHETNA: Saving lives and empowering communities

'CHETNA@40-Nurturing Dreams, Empowering Destinies,' chronicles four decades of transformative work in women's health and community empowerment across India

When Julkiben, a dai or a traditional birth attendant (TBA), received a call from a pregnant woman, she immediately swung into action. First, she dialled 108, the number of the state government emergency ambulance. After she reached the pregnant woman's house, she cut a clean cloth into pieces to be used at the hospital and kept an empty lota (water container) ready to fetch and store water. But when the woman's labour pains increased and it became impossible for her to climb down the hill to reach the ambulance, Julkiben summoned young men from the neighbourhood to make a sling from a bed sheet and carry the pregnant woman to the ambulance. They had bare-



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

ly reached the hospital labour room when the woman delivered. Julkiben's presence of mind and timely action helped to save the lives of mother and child.

It was not just TBAs like Julkiben but women, their families and community members in 60 villages in Vansada and Chikhali, two tribal blocks of Gujarat's Navsari district, who learnt that maternal deaths could be

prevented by accessing the public health system's maternal healthcare services. In fact, the three-year initiative in these two blocks by the Centre for Health Education Training Nutrition and Adolescents (CHETNA), the Ahmedabad-based not-for-profit working to empower women, adolescents and children, led to remarkable changes. There was an increase in institutional deliveries from 58% to 82% in Vansada block. More importantly, of the 776 deliveries that took place during the last phase of the intervention, not a single maternal death was registered in the area.

How was this achieved? What was done differently that brought about behavioural change? Could this success be replicated in other districts

with poor health indicators for women?

Answers to all these questions and more have been given in the recently published coffee table book to mark their milestone of turning forty. Titled 'CHETNA@40-Nurturing Dreams, Empowering Destinies', the book chronicles the organization's four decades of collective efforts, its distinctive approaches and the impact made by its innovative communication strategies that transformed countless lives and communities in 78 districts, 124 blocks and 439 villages in seven states.

One of the biggest reasons behind its ability to make a difference has been its focus on incorporating a gender lens to all its work, says Pallavi Patel, co-founder and Director,



CHETNA. Being the country's first all-women health initiative helped make CHETNA a trendsetter in women's health, nutrition and gender. It's pioneering approaches and impactful communications material gave it an edge over others. The popularity of their resources can be gauged by the fact that in 2022-2023 alone, over 2,77,981 copies of CHETNA's materials were sought by various government and NGOs based in 11 states.

The book unpacks their hands on, people-centred strategies to tackle not just the challenges in dealing with child birth complications in remote tribal areas with minimal health facilities in Rajasthan and Gujarat, but widespread nutritional anaemia in Gujarat, Rajasthan and MP. It also reveals how CHETNA fostered a change in behaviour in getting 70 schools certified tobacco free in Ahmedabad as well as in mindsets especially in Mehsana, Gujarat, one of the districts with the worst child sex ratio (CSR) in the eighties and nineties. The deeply entrenched son preference psyche and practice of placing the blame on the woman when a girl was born was addressed through saas-bahu meetings, engaging with caste panchayat leaders

and innovative dal-chawal games to explain the role of the X and Y chromosomes in determining the sex of the child. At the centre of these efforts has been CHETNA's ability to be adaptable, flexible and, creative. Besides out of the box thinking, health messages have been tweaked according to local needs, traditions and practices. Their innovative anaemia kit has undergone several adaptations as has their unique and highly popular cloth aprons with several flaps that are worn by male and female trainers to show the reproductive organs in the two sexes. Songs, games and animation films have been created to share knowledge on child care, nutrition, puberty, menstruation, adolescent

health, anaemia and contraception.

The book details how CHETNA, which works under the symbiotic umbrella of the Nehru Foundation for Development set up in 1966 by the eminent scientist Vikram Sarabhai, strategically used their scientific and inventive health communications to make a lasting impact. Whether it has been to break the silence on menstruation, or creating an enabling environment for girls, CHETNA has shown that the dream it began with 40 years ago, of making women the mistress of their own destinies, was not an impossible one.

(The writer is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views are expressed are personal)



# Israel's West Bank major operation kills 9 Palestinians

AP ■ AL FARAA

Israel launched a large-scale military operation in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, with its forces killing at least nine Palestinians and sealing off the volatile city of Jenin, according to Palestinian officials. Israel has carried out nearly daily raids across the West Bank since Hamas' October 7 attack out of Gaza triggered the ongoing war there. Israel says it is routing out militants to prevent attacks on its citizens, while Palestinians in the West Bank fear it intends to broaden the war and forcibly displace more of them. Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said "large forces" had entered Jenin, long a militant stronghold, as well as Tulkarim and the Al-Faraa refugee camp dating back to the 1948 Mideast war, all in the northern West Bank. He said the nine dead were all militants, including three killed in an airstrike in Tulkarim and four in an airstrike in Al-Faraa. He said another five suspected militants were arrested, and that the



Israeli police officers scuffle with ultra-Orthodox Jewish men during a protest against a potential new draft law which could end their exemptions from military service in Jerusalem, Wednesday. AP/PTI

raids were the first stage of an even larger operation. Palestinian militant groups said they were exchanging fire with Israeli troops. The governor of Jenin, Kamal Abu al-Rub, said on Palestinian radio that Israeli forces had surrounded the city, blocking exit and entry points

and access to hospitals, and ripping up infrastructure in the camp. The Palestinian Health Ministry in the West Bank said Israeli forces had blocked the roads leading to a hospital with dirt barriers and surrounded other medical facilities

in Jenin. Shoshani said the military was trying to prevent militants from taking shelter in hospitals. An Associated Press reporter saw army vehicles blocking all the entrances to Al-Faraa camp. Military jeeps and bulldozers entered the camp and soldiers were seen

patrolling its alleyways by foot. Water leaked onto the damaged streets from houses where fighting had damaged tanks and pipes. Shots rang out every few minutes. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz drew comparisons with Gaza and called for similar measures in the West Bank. "We must deal with the threat just as we deal with the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza, including the temporary evacuation of Palestinian residents and whatever steps might be required. This is a war in every respect, and we must win it," he wrote on the platform X. Shoshani said there was no plan to evacuate civilians. Hamas called on Palestinians in the West Bank to rise up, calling the raids part of a larger plan to expand the war in Gaza and blaming the escalation on US support for Israel. The militant group called on security forces loyal to the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, which cooperate with Israel, to "join the sacred battle of our people". Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud

Abbas, condemned the raids as a "serious escalation" and called on the United States to intervene. Abbas later announced he was cutting short a visit to Saudi Arabia and returning to the West Bank, where his government is based. At least 652 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli fire since the war in Gaza began over 10 months ago, according to the Palestinian ministry. Most have died during raids, which often trigger gunbattles with militants. Israel says the operations are required to dismantle Hamas and other militant groups. Attacks on Israelis have risen since the start of the war. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the bodies of seven people were brought to the hospital in Tubas, another West Bank city, and another two were brought to the hospital in Jenin. The ministry identified two killed in Jenin as Qassam Jabarin, 25, and Asem Balout, 39. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three for a future state. Israel has built

scores of settlements across the West Bank, which are home to over 500,000 Jewish settlers. They have Israeli citizenship, while the 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli military rule, with the Palestinian Authority exercising limited control over population centers. The war in Gaza erupted when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel and rampaged through army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. The militants are still holding some 110 hostages, around a third of whom are believed to be dead, after most of the rest were released during a November cease-fire. Israel responded with an offensive that has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were militants. Around 90 per cent of Gaza's population has been displaced, often multiple times, and Israeli bombardment and ground operations have caused vast destruction. Israeli strikes in Gaza overnight and into Wednesday killed at

least 24 people, including five women and five children, according to Palestinian health officials. AP reporters at two hospitals confirmed the toll. One strike hit tents housing displaced people near the central town of Deir al-Balah, killing eight including two brothers, 6 and 17 years old. "He's alive!" their mother shouted as the teenager's body was carried to the morgue. She later sobbed and cradled both of them. Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas because the militants fight in dense residential areas. The military rarely comments on individual strikes in Gaza, which often kill women and children. The US, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to mediate a cease-fire that would see the remaining hostages released. But the talks have repeatedly bogged down as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed "total victory" over Hamas and the militant group has demanded a lasting cease-fire and a full withdrawal from the territory.

## Germany, UK seek new bilateral treaty as Starmer pursues 'reset' with EU

AP ■ BERLIN

The leaders of Germany and the United Kingdom announced plans on Wednesday to draw up a treaty meant to deepen the two nations' trade, defence and other ties. The move comes as new UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer moves ahead with plans for a "reset" of relations with the European Union. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that he welcomes fellow centre-left leader Starmer's desire for a new beginning in relations with the EU, and "we want to take this outstretched hand". Starmer took office in early July after the previous Conservative government was trounced in an election. Four years after the UK left the EU, he says he wants to rebuild ties strained by years of ill-tempered wrangling over Brexit terms. He said that he hopes to conclude the bilateral agreement with Germany,



which has Europe's biggest economy, by the end of this year. "That will be ambitious, it will be wide-ranging, covering trade, the economy, defence and many other issues," he told reporters. The two leaders are among Ukraine's biggest military backers and stressed their commitment to keeping up that support. Starmer said that the two countries also plan to draw up a "joint action plan to tackle illegal migration". His government still faces pressure to stop migrants cross-

ing the English Channel in small boats, though it scrapped the Conservatives' contentious plan to send them on a one-way trip to Rwanda. Migration is also an issue on which Scholz's government has long been under heavy pressure, even more so since Friday's attack in Solingen in which a suspected extremist from Syria who had avoided being deported is accused of killing three people. The proposed UK-Germany treaty is modelled in part on

agreements that Britain struck in recent years with France on defense, security and closer law enforcement cooperation against people-smuggling gangs. Starmer sent a signal by visiting Berlin early in his term — unlike predecessor Rishi Sunak, who took 18 months. But his talk of starting anew with the EU has its limits. He has ruled out many of the major possible steps to closer ties and has been cool to the idea of a youth mobility agreement with the 27-nation bloc. "I'm absolutely clear that we do want a reset ... with Europe, a reset with the EU," Starmer said in Berlin. However, "that does not mean reversing Brexit or reentering the single market or the customs union, but it does mean a closer relation on a number of fronts — including the economy, including defence, including exchanges, but we do not have plans for the youth mobility scheme".

## Feds refine indictment in Trump Jan 6 case, charges unchanged

Washington (AP)

Special counsel Jack Smith filed a new indictment Tuesday against Donald Trump over his efforts to undo the 2020 presidential election that keeps the same criminal charges but narrows the allegations against him following a Supreme Court opinion that conferred broad immunity on former presidents. The new indictment removes a section of the indictment that had accused Trump of trying to use the law enforcement powers of the Justice Department to overturn his election loss, an area of conduct for which the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 opinion last month, said that Trump was absolutely immune from prosecution. The stripped-down criminal case represents a first effort by prosecutors to comply with a Supreme Court opinion likely to result in a significant revision of the allegations against Trump over his efforts to block the peaceful transfer of power. It was filed three days ahead of a deadline for prosecutors and defense lawyers to tell the judge in the case how they wanted to proceed in light of that opinion, which said former presidents are presumptively immune from prosecution for official White House acts. The two sides will be back in court for a status hearing next week, the first such appearance in months given that the case had been effectively frozen since last December as Trump's immunity appeal worked its way through the justice system. In a statement on his Truth Social platform, Trump called the new indictment "an act of desperation" and an "effort to resurrect a dead Witch Hunt."

## Far right's rise in eastern Germany hinders skilled worker recruitment

AP ■ JENA

When electrical engineer Preetam Gaikwad first moved to Jena in 2013, she was smitten by what the eastern German city had to offer: a prestigious university, top research institutions, and cutting-edge technology companies, global leaders in their field. Eleven years later, the Indian native takes a more sober view. "I'm really worried about the development of the political situation here," Gaikwad, 43 said. Jena is in the eastern German state of Thuringia, which has elections on September 1. The far-right Alternative for Germany party, or AfD, is currently leading the polls with about 30 per cent support, far ahead of the centre-right Christian Democrats (21 per cent) and the centre-left Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf



Scholz (7 per cent). The AfD's anti-foreigner stance is the cornerstone of its campaign, raising concern among businesses like Jenoptik, Gaikwad's employer. The company, which supplied lens assemblies for Perseverance, the NASA remote vehicle on Mars, employs 1,680 people in Jena and more than 4,600 glob-

ally. Jenoptik, one of the few internationally successful businesses in Jena, depends on being able to attract and retain a highly skilled workforce, much of it from outside Germany. The rise of the AfD is making that more difficult, says Jenoptik CEO Stefan Traeger. More and more prospective employees tell Traeger that while they would love to work for Jenoptik, they won't take a job there because they don't want to live in a state dominated by a hard-right party that ostracizes migrants or other minorities such as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Traeger, a Jena native who studied in the US, told the AP he hopes that after the election "we will still be as open, free and democratic a country as we are now. That's what we need in order to move the company forward".

## Bdesh's interim govt lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government Wednesday revoked a ban on the rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, less than a month after it was imposed on the Islamist party by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was forced to resign following massive protests against her government. "It (lifting the ban) will come under effect immediately," the Home Ministry said in a gazette notification, noting that there was no particular evidence against the organisation. The erstwhile Awami League government led by Hasina had imposed a ban on Jamaat on August 1, 2024, accusing the Islamist party as a "militant and terrorist" organisation. The government blamed Jamaat's student wing for inciting chaos over a quota system for government jobs. The notification said the ban under the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009 has been lifted as there was no particular evidence against the organisation. The government believed that Jamaat and its associate bodies, including its student front Chhatra Shibir, were not involved in terrorist activities and violence. The decision, formally published in a gazette notification on Wednesday, represents a significant change from the decision taken by the erstwhile Awami League government earlier this month, just days before its ouster. The development came a day after Attorney General Mohammad Asaduzzaman urged the High Court to summarily reject a writ petition seeking an order on the government to ban Hasina's Awami League as a political party and scrap its registration. "The current (interim) government has no intention to ban any political organisation," the government's top law officer told a two-judge High Court bench, which set August 29 for its decision on the writ filed by one Sarda Society as a public interest litigation. The interim government's law adviser, equivalent to a minister, Asif Nazrul

## Jamaat-e-Islami leader denies party's role in attacks on Hindus

Dhaka (PTI): Jamaat-e-Islami supreme Shafiqur Rahman has said that his party was not involved in attacks on the Hindu community in Bangladesh and attributed the negative portrayal of the party to a "malicious" media campaign. He also refuted allegations that the party was involved in anti-India activities in Bangladesh and asked India to provide proof if any. Replying to a query on allegations of attack on Hindus in Bangladesh by Jamaat activists, Rahman refuted the allegations as "baseless". The minority Hindu population has faced vandalism of their business and properties and devastation of Hindu tem-

ples in the students' violence that ensued for days following the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India on August 5. "We don't believe in the concept of minority and majority, we believe in unity. We don't consider Hindus as minorities, they are our brothers and friends in Bangladesh. We are with our Hindu brothers and we will stand by them," Rahman said. Refuting allegations of attack on Hindu properties by the Jamaat cadres, Rahman said: "The activists and workers of Jamaat guarded the temples and houses of Hindus after August 5 so that no untoward incident takes place."

## Woman TV journalist's body recovered from lake in Dhaka

Dhaka (PTI): The body of a 32-year-old woman TV journalist in Bangladesh was recovered from a lake here in the capital on Wednesday, according to media reports. The deceased was identified as Sarah Rahanuma, a newsroom editor at Gazi TV, a Bengali-language satellite and cable television channel owned by Gazi Group. Her body was found floating in Hatirjheel Lake in Dhaka, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. Inspector Bachchu Mia, in charge of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police outpost, confirmed the recovery of her body. Forensic pulled the body from the lake and took it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where the doctor declared her dead around 2:00 am. A man named Sagar, who brought Sarah to the hospital, said: "I saw the woman floating in Hatirjheel Lake. Later, she was brought to DMCH, where doctors declared her dead." Before her death, Sarah posted a status on her Facebook on Tuesday night tagging one Fahim Faysal. "It was nice having a friend like you. God bless you always. Hope, you'll fulfil all your dreams soon. I know we had a lot of planning together. Sorry, can't fulfil our plans. May god bless you in every aspect of your life," she wrote. In an earlier post, she wrote: "It is better to die than to live a life akin to death." Inspector Bachchu Mia said the body was kept in the DMCH morgue. Police have stated that an investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of her death. However, deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's US-based son, Sajeb Wazed, gave a political colour to the journalist's death, saying that it was "another brutal attack" on the freedom of expression in the country.

## Maduro taps hardline loyalist to oversee police forces, prompting fears of deepening crackdown

Caracas (AP)

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Tuesday appointed a ruling socialist party boss to oversee the country's police forces, empowering a hardline loyalist who has vowed to pursue government opponents as part of an ongoing crackdown that has alarmed human rights groups. Maduro named Diosdado Cabello Interior Minister as part of a Cabinet shuffle following last month's contested presidential election. Along with Maduro, Cabello is one of the most fervent stalwarts of the so-called Bolivarian revolution started by the late Hugo Chávez and has long been considered the second most powerful person

in Venezuela after Maduro. A retired army lieutenant, he fought alongside Chávez in a failed military uprising in 1992 and later served as acting president when Chávez himself was removed in a brief coup a decade later. However, Chávez passed him over when he picked Maduro — a civilian with no military pedigree — as his successor shortly before he died of cancer in 2013. Since then, he's served in a number of roles, including National Assembly president and head of the ruling socialist party. Until now, he never served in Maduro's Cabinet, an omission that has long fuelled speculation of an unspoken rivalry between the two.

Human rights groups fear that Cabello's appointment to Interior Minister, with oversight of Venezuela's police forces, will intensify the government's heavy handed response to protests that erupted after last month's presidential election, when Maduro was declared the winner despite strong evidence presented by the opposition that its candidate prevailed by a 2-to-1 margin. More than 2,000 people — including journalists, politicians and aid workers — have been arrested since the July 28 election. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Wednesday is expected to deliver a report in Washington at a special meet-

ing of the Organization of American States to discuss the crackdown. "If the new Cabinet is a bellwether of what Maduro intends to do, Cabello's appointment is an indication of even more repression to come," said Juanita Goebertus, director for the Americas at Human Rights Watch. Cabello, 61, has been among key insiders calling for a forceful response to those casting doubt on Maduro's victory. With deep roots in the security forces, he's seen his influence expand as Venezuelans have tired of Maduro, blaming him for wrecking the oil-rich economy.

## Denmark creates three new ministers in govt reshuffle

Copenhagen (AP)

Denmark's three-party centrist government said on Wednesday it will create three new ministries, including a government office in charge of emergency preparedness. The government wants a minister in charge of European Union affairs ahead of Denmark's rotating EU presidency in the second half of 2025. The shuffle means Denmark, like Sweden, will have a minister in charge of emergencies and preparedness for climate change or cyberattacks. The third new minister will be in charge of carrying out and coordinating Denmark's green policy. "I hope this can inspire the rest of the world," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen



said of the new green policy ministry. The Scandinavian country has a goal of 70 per cent emissions reductions by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2050. Frederiksen did not give any names nor say whether any of the current government's 23 ministries would be made redundant. She said the changes will be announced on

Thursday when the new government is formally presented to King Frederik X. Also Wednesday, Frederiksen named 49-year-old Dan Jørgensen as Denmark's candidate for the new commissioner to the European Union's powerful executive arm which polices EU laws and negotiates trade on behalf of member countries.



# Traders observe strike across Pak to protest new taxes

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Traders in Pakistan went on strike on Wednesday, shutting down their businesses in all major cities and urban areas to protest a rise in electricity costs and new taxes imposed on shop owners. The government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has steadily raised electricity prices since Pakistan last month struck a deal with the International Monetary Fund for a new USD 7 billion loan. The higher cost of living and price hikes have triggered widespread discontent and drawn protests. Most of the public markets across Pakistan were closed on Wednesday, though pharmacies and grocery stores selling basic food items



remained open. Kashif Chaudhry, a strike leader, said those were not closed so as not to inconvenience the general public. Stores were shuttered in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi, as well as in

associations. However, traders in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the southwestern Balochistan provinces observed a partial strike, keeping some stores open while closing others. The strike is aimed at forcing the government to reverse the recent hikes in power bills and the controversial tax that followed the recent talks with the IMF, which wants to see Pakistan broaden its tax base. The July deal was Pakistan's latest turn to the global lender for help in propping up its economy and dealing with its debts through big bailouts. Earlier this year, the IMF approved the immediate release of the final USD 1.1 billion tranche of a \$3 billion bailout to Pakistan.

# 'Working on identifying culprits in alleged financial coup'

PTI ■ MALE

Maldivian police on Wednesday said that they are working on identifying the possible culprits in an alleged 'financial coup', two days after President Mohamed Muizzu accused the opposition of plotting to topple his government using a decision by the national bank to suspend foreign transactions from Rufiyaa cards. On Sunday, the Bank of Maldives (BML) suspended foreign transactions for existing debit cards, as well as new debit and credit cards linked to MVR (the Maldivian rufiyaa) accounts. It also lowered the monthly standard and gold credit card limit to USD 100. However, it reversed the decision within hours, saying it was based on instructions

from its regulator, the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA). The police opened a criminal investigation on Monday, citing there's room to believe the opposition had attempted to topple President Muizzu's administration by stoking up fears of a financial crisis and inciting people to take to the streets. In a statement on Wednesday, the police said they are working on "collecting all necessary information and conducting a detailed review of everything that needs looking into" in their investigation, the Sun news portal reported. "We are also identifying the people who possibly need to be taken action against and all other works pertaining to the investigation," said the police. Speaking at a party meeting of the ruling People's National

Congress (PNC) on Monday night, President Muizzu said that he had worked to find a resolution for the Bank issue alongside his ministers as soon as he had become aware of the situation. He asserted that the bank's decision had been against his advice. Muizzu said that many had raised questions as to why a government-majority holding bank had made such a decision against government advice. However, most people were unaware that BML's Board of Directors does not have a government majority at this time, he said. Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, was sworn in as the President in November last year. "As of now, there's only four government directors there. The remaining five directors

are not government-aligned. So we don't have a majority yet. We have nominated two directors, but it will take a couple of weeks for them to be appointed through the existing procedures there. Even though the Chairman has not been appointed yet, the name has been sent," he said. Muizzu, who also heads the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) party, alleged that this was a calculated coup attempt by a select group of people and added that the Police have now commenced investigations into the matter. The main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) chairperson Fayyaz Ismail, however, said that the events show a coup brewing within President Muizzu's administration and not one instigated by outside forces.

# Two killed in sectarian violence in Pak's Punjab province

Lahore (PTI): At least two Shia men were killed and over 30 others injured in a deadly sectarian clash in Pakistan's Punjab province, forcing authorities to deploy paramilitary forces in the area, police said on Wednesday. The clash between two sects — Shia and Sunni — took place in Kalabagh Town Mianwali district, some 400 km from Lahore starting on Monday evening and continuing through Tuesday till late evening. Tension was simmering between the two sects over taking out a procession in connection with the Chehlum of Imam Hussain, grandson of Prophet Muhammad, in Kalabagh Town through a certain route. A senior police officer told PTI on Wednesday that the Sunnis had objected that the Shias should not be allowed to take out a procession on a route which had their mosques. However, the Shias insisted that they would take out the procession in the town without caring about any restrictions.

The officer said that the Shias took out the procession on the 'certain route' that caused the sectarian clash. "The crossfire between the two sects started on Monday evening and lasted till late on Tuesday night. Some 33 people with bullet wounds were shifted to hospital where two Shia men succumbed to their injuries while the condition of three to four others is critical," he said. Some armed Sunni men first opened fire on the Shia procession which led to the armed clash. Besides the dead, most of the injured belong to the Shia sect.

The police officer further said elements of the banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), an anti-Shai outfit, could be behind this incident. Punjab Inspector General Police Dr Usman Anwar rushed to the troubled town and imposed a ban on the assembling of four people, in the whole district of Mianwali.

Following the deadly clash, Pakistan Rangers were deputed to the area to maintain law and order and both rangers and police personnel deployed in Mianwali held patrolling in the town on Wednesday.

# Ukraine seeks more US weapons support for Russia offensive

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Ukraine's daring ground offensive has taken the fight to Russia, but not nearly as much as its leaders would like because, they say, the United States won't let them. The U.S. restricts the use of long-range ballistic missiles it provides to Ukraine, which wants to aim them at military targets inside Russia. Ukraine's offensive, along with a barrage of drones and missiles that Moscow launched this week, has intensified pressure on the Biden administration to ease its cautious approach to the use of Western weapons in escalating Ukrainian attacks. The Biden administration says its careful deliberations, including which advanced weapons it supplies to Ukraine and when, are necessary to avoid provoking retaliation from Russian President Vladimir Putin. Some analysts agree Putin would take a Ukrainian strike by an American long-range ballistic

missile within Russia as an attack by the U.S. itself. But many other American and European supporters of Ukraine say the White House should see that Putin's threats of attacking the West, including with nuclear weapons, are bluster. Their fear is the U.S. support that has allowed Ukraine to withstand Russia's 2022 invasion comes with delays and caveats that could ultimately contribute to its defeat. "This war is going to end exactly how Western policymakers decide it will end," said Philip Breedlove, a retired U.S. general who led NATO in Europe from 2013 to 2016 and is among the retired U.S. military leaders and diplomats, Republican lawmakers, security analysts and others pushing for a loosening of restrictions on how Ukraine uses Western-provided weapons. "If we keep doing what we're doing, Ukraine will eventually lose," Breedlove said. "Because right now... we are purposely not giving Ukraine what they

need to win." Lifting such restrictions "would strengthen Ukrainian self-defense, save lives and reduce destruction in Ukraine," European Union foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell wrote Monday on the social platform X after Russia launched more than 200 missiles and drones at Ukraine. The next day, Russia launched 91 more. The push and pull is playing out during Ukraine's surprise offensive into Russia's southern Kursk region, the first ground invasion of Russia since World War II. Throughout the war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has balanced copious thanks for U.S. support with frustrated appeals for more arms and ammunition. Upping the pressure this month, he again said Ukraine must fight the war as it sees fit with all the weapons at its disposal and appealed for the U.S. to drop a ban on using American long-range ATACMS missiles to strike deeper into Russia.

"A sick old man from the Red Square, who constantly threatens everyone with the red button, will not dictate any of his red lines to us," Zelenskyy said recently of Putin. The Biden administration this year allowed Ukraine to fire shorter-range U.S.-provided munitions across the border in self-defense, but not ATACMS. Security analysts say Ukraine is using U.S.-provided HIMARS rocket systems in its offensive. Ukraine also announced it has used a U.S.-supplied glide bomb against Russian forces and deployed its own prototype of a long-range drone-missile hybrid. Zelenskyy's military appeared to have launched the ground offensive on Aug. 6 without consulting American leaders. As Ukraine has claimed nearly 500 square miles (1,300 square kilometers) of Russian territory, it has taken a message from another U.S. ally that receives military support, said Roman Kostenko, a Ukrainian lawmaker and military commander.

# 'US military may escort Philippine ships in SCS'

AP ■ MANILA

The US military is open to consultations about escorting Philippine ships in the disputed South China Sea, the head of US Indo-Pacific Command said Tuesday amid a spike in hostilities between Beijing and Manila in the disputed waters. Adm. Samuel Paparo's remarks, which he made in response to a question during a news conference in Manila with Philippine Armed Forces chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., provided a glimpse of the mindset of one of the highest American military commanders outside the U.S. mainland on a prospective operation that would risk putting U.S. Navy ships in direct collisions with those of China. Chinese coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships regularly clash with Philippine vessels during attempts to resupply Filipino sailors stationed in parts of the South China Sea claimed by both countries. As these clashes grow increasingly hostile, resulting in injuries to Filipino sailors and damage to their ships, the Philippine government has faced questions about invoking a treaty alliance with Washington. Paparo and Brawner spoke to reporters after an international military conference in Manila organized by the US Indo-Pacific Command, at which China's increasingly assertive actions in the South China Sea were spotlighted. Military and defense officials and diplomats from the US and allied countries attended but there were no Chinese representatives. Asked if the US military would consider escorting Philippine ships delivering food and other supplies to Filipino forces in the South China Sea, Paparo replied, "Certainly, within the context of consultations."



"Every option between the two sovereign nations in terms of our mutual defense, escort of one vessel to the other, is an entirely reasonable option within our Mutual Defense Treaty, among this close alliance between the two of us," Paparo said without elaborating. Brawner responded cautiously to the suggestion, which could run afoul of Philippine laws including a constitutional ban on foreign forces directly joining local combat operations. "The attitude of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as dictated by the Philippine laws, is for us to first rely on ourselves," Brawner said. "We are going to try all options, all avenues that are available to us in order for us to achieve the mission... in this case, the resupply and rotation of our troops." "We will then seek for other options when we are already constrained from doing it ourselves," Brawner said. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has said there has been no situation so far that would warrant activating the treaty, which requires the allies to come to each other's aid if they come under external attack. President Joe Biden and his administration have repeatedly renewed their "ironclad" commitment to help defend the Philippines under the 1951 treaty if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea. Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said at the conference that China is "the biggest disruptor" of peace in Southeast Asia and called for stronger international censure over its aggression in the South China Sea, a day after China blocked Philippine vessels from delivering food to a coast guard ship at the disput-

ed Sabina Shoal in the contested waters. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said that "the label of undermining peace can never be pinned on China," blaming unspecified other actors for "making infringements and provocations in the South China Sea and introducing external forces to undermine the large picture of regional peace and stability." Teodoro later told reporters on the sidelines of the conference that international statements of concern against China's increasingly assertive actions in the disputed waters and elsewhere were "not enough." "The antidote is a stronger collective multilateral action against China," Teodoro said, adding that a UN Security Council resolution would be a strong step, but unlikely given China's security council veto. He also called for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to do more. The 10-nation Southeast Asian bloc includes the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, which have South China Sea claims that overlap with each other, as well as China's and Taiwan's. "ASEAN, to remain relevant and credible, cannot continue to ignore what China is doing in the South China Sea," Teodoro said. In the latest incident in the South China Sea, Philippine officials said China deployed "an excessive force" of 40 ships that blocked two Philippine vessels from delivering food and other supplies to Manila's largest coast guard ship in Sabina Shoal on Monday.

# Ukraine first lady wants country's kids to see themselves as 'generation of winners'

Uzhhorod (Ukraine)(AP): Ukraine's first lady wants her country's children to view themselves not as a generation enduring a grinding war, but rather as "a generation of winners." On the sidelines of a day spent at a rehabilitation camp for Ukrainian children in the relatively safe western city of Uzhhorod, Olena Zelenska said Tuesday that working with the next generation was both a moral obligation and a "strategic priority" for Ukraine's future. Many of the children will return to front-line cities after spending a few weeks at the camp, barely enough time to overcome the trauma they face over and over. "This issue needs to be addressed immediately, as soon as it arises, before it grows into something more," Zelenska told The Associated Press in a brief interview at the camp.



The foundation that bears her name, which is funded entirely by foreign donations, created the camp along with the Voices of the Children charity. A study by the Olena Zelenska Foundation and the Kyiv School of Economics this year found that 44% of Ukrainian children show signs of post-traumatic stress disorder. Dressed casually with white sneakers, black pants, a white

T-shirt and pearls around her neck, Zelenska blended into the camp's activities with the children. Since the start of the war, she has emerged as an unofficial ambassador for Ukraine globally. She was the first from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's family to leave the country after Russia invaded in February 2022 to promote Ukraine's cause. But she is

equally active within Ukraine, and easily recognizable to the displaced families and wounded soldiers she visits. At the camp, she joined an art therapy session midway, sitting beside a boy whose home was struck by an aerial bomb and who was later forced to evacuate from his hometown ahead of the Russian advance this summer. Zelenska smiled and engaged with the children, examining each watercolor they presented. She even joined in, drawing a pink flower, a star and a heart. The conversation stayed away from the war. "To ensure our children do not become a lost generation, we as adults must be not just active but also swift," Zelenska said. "It's difficult, but there is still the ongoing defense of the country. However, I am confident that political will combined with international cooperation can work wonders."

# UN resolution on Myanmar condemns military attacks on civilians, urge peace

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Renewed peace efforts, condemning attacks on civilians — especially by the Myanmar military — and calling for a halt to illicit arms transfers. The draft resolution obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press expresses "alarm at the increased violence across Myanmar," which is engulfed in civil war between the military-led regime and resistance forces. It calls for "safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access at scale," expressing "grave concern" at the deteriorating humanitarian situation and restrictions on humanitarian access in the country that led to rising food insecurity and hunger. The proposed resolution warns that the current situation has the potential to further exacerbate discrimination, ethnically motivated violence, violations of international humanitarian law, human rights abuses, and con-

flict-related sexual violence. Myanmar's military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021. It was the day Parliament was to reconvene following November 2020 elections, which her National League for Democracy party won overwhelmingly — an outcome the military claims without evidence was based on fraud. Suu Kyi and party members remain under arrest. The takeover was met with massive public opposition, which has since turned into armed resistance and civil war. The military regime now faces its greatest challenge from the ethnic minority militias and people's defense forces who support the main opposition and have captured wide swaths of territory in fierce fighting in recent months. The draft resolution stresses the central role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the 10-country bloc whose 2021 peace plan has so far

been rejected by Myanmar's generals. It calls for an immediate end to the violence and dialogue among contending parties brokered through an ASEAN envoy. The draft resolution urges renewed efforts by the ASEAN special envoy to Myanmar, Alounkeo Kittikhoun, and new U.N. special envoy, Julie Bishop, "to engage all relevant stakeholders to seek a peaceful, inclusive solution to the crisis in Myanmar." Security Council negotiations on the draft resolution are expected to be tough. The 15-member council approved its first-ever resolution on Myanmar in December 2022 by a vote of 12-0 with three abstentions — Russia, China and India, who all have ties to the Myanmar regime. India's two-year term on the council ended that month, but Russia and China are veto-wielding permanent members of the council.

# 24 missing after floods in Yemen

Cairo (AP): Floodwaters swept through a village in northern Yemen, inundating homes and shops and leaving at least 24 people missing, authorities said Wednesday. Heavy rains over the past few days pounded the Melhan district in Al-Mahwit province, triggering floods that caved in seven homes and four shops, according to a statement. Yemen is already the poorest Arab nation before it was plunged into civil war in 2014, when Iran-backed Houthis rebels took control of the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia. Seasonal monsoon rains in the late summer often turn into flooding in Yemen, but there are indications that the country is experiencing more extreme weather events due to climate change.

# Haiti's army wants recruits to fight gangs, and youths jump at rare job offer

Port-Au-Prince (Haiti) (AP): The announcement that Haiti's military wanted recruits crackled through a small radio perched on a street stall in downtown Port-Au-Prince where Maurenceley Clerge repairs and sells smart-phones. It was early morning, and the 21-year-old paused, eager to hear the details. He envisioned earning enough to afford his own food and rent. Two weeks later, he completed the required paperwork and stood in line with hundreds of other Haitians under a brutal sun for the chance to join up. "It's the moment I have been waiting for," said Clerge, who stays with a friend who also provides him with food. "I want to serve as a citizen of this country and also to move up and upgrade my life." Thousands of young Haitians are jumping at the chance to become soldiers as widespread gang violence creates a rare job opportunity in a deeply impoverished country where work is scarce.

Brushing aside the possibility they could be kidnapped, tortured or killed, Haiti's youngest generation is answering the call of a government seeking to rebuild a once-reviled military, reinstated just years ago with the aim to crush gangs. "I thought about it a lot because I know that being a soldier requires a lot of sacrifice," said Samuel Delmas, who recently applied. "Everything that you're doing is risky." The 20-year-old is taking computer repair courses but doesn't have a job. He heard about the recruitment via a Facebook group. "I have always wanted to be useful to my country," he said. Gangs forced Delmas and his family to flee their home two years ago, with only enough time to grab a handful of clothes amid a barrage of gunfire. "I want to protect citizens who are on the run like me," he said. Haiti's government has not said how many soldiers it aims to hire nor how many have applied so far, but documents published

online by the Defense Ministry show that at least 3,000 people were selected in mid-August and asked to submit documents as they await physical and mental tests. If all were hired, that would more than double the force strength of 2,000 of early last year. About 60% of Haiti's population of nearly 12 million people earn less than \$2 a day, with inflation soaring to double digits in recent years. "Most young kids are not working," said Emerson Celadon, a 25-year-old mechanic who applied and was selected for the next round. "I was making some money, but... that is still not enough for a family of four." It's not clear how much soldiers earn. Defense Minister Jean-Marc Bernier Antoine did not return messages for comment. However, Celadon said friends in the army told him they make about \$300 a month. On a recent afternoon, Celadon joined hundreds of mostly young men lined up outside a former U.N. base, a yellow envelope under his arm,

waiting to take the first of several required tests to join the army. Haiti's armed forces were once widely feared and hated, with soldiers accused of horrific human rights abuses. The military organized several coups in the second half of the 20th century, even after so-called "dictator for life" François Duvalier diluted its strength. After the last coup in 1991, to oust former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the government disbanded the armed forces in 1995. At the time, there were some 7,000 soldiers. "The decision to demobilize the army... proved to be one of the most catastrophic decisions in the country's history," said Michael Deibert, the author of two books about Haiti. He noted that, as a result, the first generation of politically-aligned gangs took root in the late 1990s and early 2000s. "They stepped into a security void left by what would have been a security force, one whose role the Haitian police have never been fully able to assume," Deibert said.



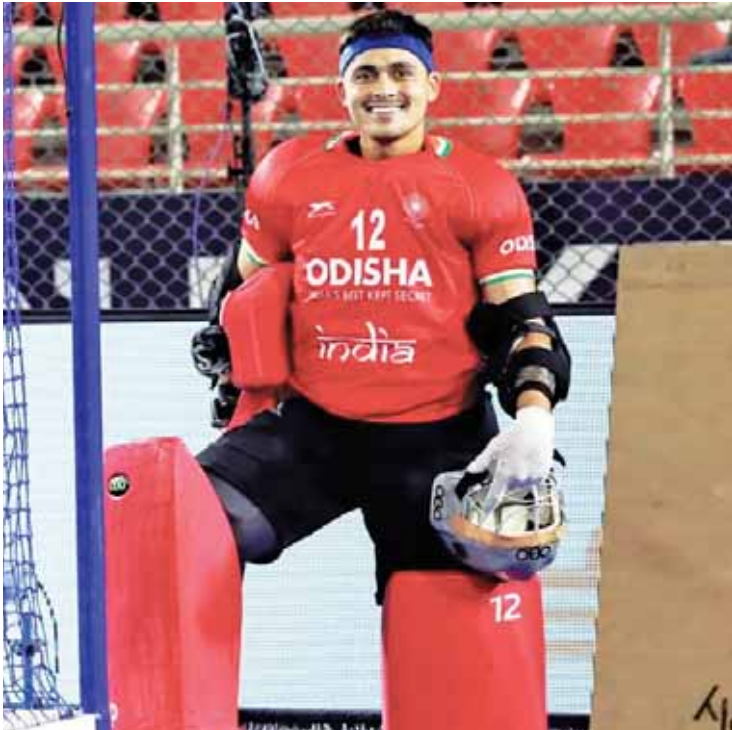




# PATHAK NAMED INDIA GOALKEEPER IN ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY SQUAD

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Krishan Bahadur Pathak, on expected lines, was on Wednesday named the main goalkeeper after the retirement of PR Sreejesh in the Harmanpreet Singh-led 18-member Indian team for the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy.  
The tournament will see defending champions India vie for top honours alongside Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and hosts China at Hulunbuir from September 8-17.  
Sreejesh announced his retirement after India won a second successive Olympic bronze medal in Paris earlier this month.  
Pathak, who was India's standby goalkeeper at the Paris Olympics and in many tournaments prior to that, will now be the man in charge at the post, while Suraj Karkera will be the reserve custodian.  
Experienced midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad has been made the vice-captain in place of Hardik Singh who has been rested along with Mandeep Singh, Lalit Upadhyay, Shamsher Singh and Gurjant Singh.  
The tournament will also be a big opportunity for India's promising drag-flicker Jugraj Singh who travelled to Paris Olympics as

standby and will look to prove his credentials alongside the brilliant Harmanpreet.  
A power-packed drag-flicker, Jugraj has proven his worth in the limited opportunities he got in the Pro League, and it will be up to him to cement his place in the side. Arajjeet Singh Hundal is the third drag-flicker in the team.  
The defence will be manned by Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay and Sumit.  
Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Manpreet Singh, and Mohammed Raheel will form the midfield, while a young forwardline featuring Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Hundal, junior India captain Uttam Singh, and debutant Gurjot Singh will lead the attack.  
Ten players from the Paris Olympics bronze medal-winning squad are part of this team.  
"This is an important campaign for us to ensure we build on our ranking points. The team has just returned to the camp after all the celebrations following our performance in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games," chief coach Craig Fulton said in a Hockey India statement.  
"The past few weeks have truly been incredible with all the love and



adulation for the team and we hope this support will continue all through our future campaigns. "The new Olympic cycle for us

from the squad that played in Paris, we have brought in a few youngsters who have done well in training and have earned the opportunity to play in Asian Champions Trophy.  
"We will have Gurjot making his international debut, and I believe this is a great opportunity for youngsters who have received a call-up to shine," Fulton added.  
The Indian team will begin its campaign against China on September 8, followed by a match against Japan the next day.  
After a day's rest, India will take on Malaysia on September 11 and play Korea the next day.  
Then, the Indian side will take on arch-rivals Pakistan on September 14.  
The semi-finals and final are slated on September 16 and 17 respectively.

## SQUAD:

**Goalkeepers:** Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Suraj Karkera; **Defenders:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh (c), Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit; **Midfielders:** Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad (VC), Manpreet Singh, Mohammed. Raheel Moussej; **Forwards:** Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Arajjeet Singh Hundal, Uttam Singh, Gurjot Singh.



# Gukesh draws with Giri; Praggnanandhaa holds Caruana

**PTI ■ SAINT LOUIS (USA)**

India's Grandmasters D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa played out their eighth draw in as many games at the Sinquefeld Cup, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour.  
While World Championship challenger Gukesh signed peace with Anish Giri of Holland in just 23 moves, Praggnanandhaa too followed suit and drew with local favourite Fabiano Caruana in 28 moves.  
With all the games ending in draws in the eighth round, Alireza Firouzja of France won the Grand Chess Tour with one round to spare here and became entitled to a USD 100,000 bonus after his successful stint throughout.  
In the eighth round, Firouzja played out the longest game that also ended peacefully after 80 moves against Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi.  
In the two other games of the day in the ten-player double round-robin tournament, Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan split the point with Ding Liren of China and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France drew with Wesley So of United States.  
Alireza took his tally to an unassailable 5.5 points out of eight games and Caruana is the only player who can catch him on points table provided Alireza loses his final bout against Praggnanandhaa and the American himself beats Giri.  
Even if he loses, Alireza will win the tour for the first time thanks to his superior points tally overall.  
"It's very tough to win a tour. Any tour is tough to win, but this is the strongest tour in the world. Very happy, but it's very tiring and feeling exhausted but, I'm very happy," Alireza noted.  
The third place is still shared by five players on four points apiece. They are Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Vachier-Lagrave, So and Abdusattorov. Nepomniachtchi and Liren come in next on 3.5 points, a half point clear of Anish Giri who is at the last spot.  
Gukesh had to work quite less out of a routine Ruy Lopez as black as Giri went for a couple of pawn grabs in the early middle game to shake hands wide repetition of moves.  
Praggnanandhaa started off with the English opening and faced one of Caruana's pet variations. The result here was a draw also through repetition of moves.  
Results round 8: Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fid, 3.5) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 5.5); Ding Liren (Chn, 3.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Usa, 4); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 4.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 4) drew with Wesley So (Usa, 4); Anish Giri (Ned, 3) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 4).

**AP ■ SAO PAULO (BRAZIL)**

Uruguayan soccer player Juan Izquierdo died Tuesday at a hospital in Brazil five days after collapsing during a game at Sao Paulo. He was 27.  
Hospital Albert Einstein in Sao Paulo said in a statement that the National defender died at 9:38 p.M. Local time following "cardiorespiratory arrest associated with his cardiac arrhythmia."  
Izquierdo was taken to the hospital after he collapsed late in a Copa Libertadores soccer match between Nacional and Sao Paulo at the Brazilian city's Morumbi Stadium last Thursday.  
The Uruguayan club posted a statement on social media saying Izquierdo's death is felt "in deep pain and impact in our hearts" and "all Nacional is in grief for his irreplaceable loss."  
South American soccer's governing body also posted a tribute.  
CONMEBOL president Alejandro Dominguez said he's "deeply sorry about the early departure of Juan Izquierdo."  
"South American soccer is in mourning," he said. Other federations, including Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina, also expressed their condolences.  
In a statement Monday, doctors at the hospital said Izquierdo was put into neurological critical care because of increased intracranial pressure. He had been on a ventilator since Sunday.  
Uruguayan media said Izquierdo's parents and Nacional executives were at the hospital in Sao Paulo. Izquierdo was married and had two children - the youngest, a boy, was born earlier in August.

# Uruguayan soccer player Juan has died, days after collapsing during a game in Brazil

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Uruguayan national team players were among those expressing their condolences. "Pain, sadness, it is hard to explain," Inter Miami striker Luis Suárez said. "May he rest

in peace. I wish a lot of strength for his family and friends." Uruguay's first- and second-division soccer leagues were postponed last weekend due to concerns over Izquierdo's health. Sao Paulo players wore a shirt in support of the Uruguayan footballer before the team's 2-1 Brazilian league win against Vitoria on Sunday. The Brazilian club also posted a message after Izquierdo's death.  
"We had days of prayers, union and hope, and today we are in deep sadness with the news of the death of Juan Izquierdo," Sao Paulo's club statement said. "Our condolences to family, friends, teammates, Nacional fans and all the Uruguayan people in this moment of grief."  
Izquierdo's professional career began in 2018 at local club Cerro. He joined Peñarol the following year, but didn't get much playing time.  
"Peñarol is deeply sorry about the passing of Juan Manuel

Izquierdo. We express our heartfelt condolences and we embrace his family, his friends and Nacional in this moment of so much pain," Peñarol said in its social media channels.  
After leaving Peñarol, Izquierdo moved to Montevideo Wanderers. His athletic form and sharp tackles caught the attention of Mexico's San Luis in 2021, but he quickly returned to the Montevideo Wanderers. Izquierdo was signed by Nacional in 2022, played one match and then was transferred to the local Liverpool club.  
The defender was one of Liverpool's best players in the campaign that led to Uruguayan league title in 2023, the club's first in more than a century.  
Izquierdo returned to Nacional this year and was vying for a position in the starting lineup with veteran Sebastián Coates, who played for Uruguay's national team. He played 23 matches this year and scored one goal.

# US OPEN 2024

## Naomi gets her first top 10 win in more than four years by defeating Ostapenko

**AP ■ NEW YORK**  
A year ago, still on maternity leave and still unsure when she would play elite tennis again, Naomi Osaka visited the U.S. Open to appear with Michael Phelps for a discussion about mental health. While at the site, she sat in the stands to watch one of Coco Gauff's matches.  
Osaka also already was thinking about being back on a court at Flushing Meadows, so much so that she was pondering what she might want to wear to compete. And there she was Tuesday at Louis Armstrong Stadium, overpowering No. 10 seed Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-2 while decked out in the bows on her back and attached to her shoes, in lime green - the color of this "Brat" summer, as it happens (IYKYK) - and playing very much like a two-time champion at the place and a former No. 1-ranked star.  
"I feel like being able to be a part of (designing) my tennis outfits gives me, I would say, a different strength, especially the U.S. Open outfits. I feel like they are a little bit more flamboyant. When I was putting on my outfit today, I was, like, Ah, I hope this isn't too much," Osaka said with a smile. "Because I had the tutu, and then I had the bow jacket and it was green. I feel like everyone was staring at me."  
Another player asked for a photo, Osaka said, adding: "I hope it was a positive picture (and) it wasn't, like, Oh, my God, look at her." For me, when I put on the outfit, it's almost like a super suit, so I try to channel that.  
Did that well enough Tuesday to register her first victory against a top-10 opponent in more than four years. Osaka claimed titles in New



York in 2018 and 2020, along with a pair of trophies at the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021, and her matchup against 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko marked the first time two past major champs faced off in the opening round at the U.S. Open since Serena Williams defeated Maria Sharapova five years ago. Another such contest came Tuesday night, when 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin beat 2021 U.S. Open winner Emma Raducanu 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.  
"Having two wins here means a lot, and I think for me, I've been struggling with confidence throughout the year," said Osaka, who returned to action at the Australian Open in January, her first Grand Slam appearance in nearly 1 1/2 years because of mental health breaks and time away to have a baby. "This time now forces me to look in the mirror and say, Hey, you've done really well here. There's no reason why you can't do well again."  
How's that going well? Osaka did not make a single unforced error in the first set and finished with only five, 16 fewer than Ostapenko.  
"I do remember thinking, I need to win this match so I can wear my other color. That was very important to me," said Osaka, who is ranked 88th and

## 2021 champion Emma loses in first round to Sofia



**AP ■ NEW YORK**  
Emma Raducanu wiped away tears at her post-match news conference after losing to Sofia Kenin 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 in the first round of the U.S. Open, keeping the 2021 champion winless at the tournament since her title. "I feel down. I feel sad," Raducanu said, pausing to find her words. "Obviously this is a tournament I really want to do well in." Three years ago, Britain's Raducanu was 18 at the U.S. Open when she became the first qualifier to claim any Grand Slam singles championship. She was eliminated in the first round by Alizé Cornet in 2022, then missed the trip to Flushing Meadows last year after having surgery on both wrists and an ankle.  
This time, Raducanu was outplayed down the stretch by Kenin, an American who won the Australian Open in 2020. "I'm mentally super tough, and I feel like that's something that I've always had," said Kenin, who had lost six of her past seven matches heading into the U.S. Open. "I had confidence going into the match today, and of course I believed I could win." Kenin finished with 45 winners, nearly twice as many as Raducanu's 24.  
"She's a Slam champion for a reason. ... Credit to her," said Raducanu, who hadn't played a match on tour since a loss in Washington on Aug. 2. The lack of action might have

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below. The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
<b>SURINDER SURINDER, MRS. SAVITA DEVI (A/C NO.) LNYMN02922-230259632 &amp; LNYMN03722-230259288 &amp; LNYMN09822-230274298</b>	21 JUN 24 Rs. 752176/- & Rs. 548939/- Rs. 102573/- 21 JUN 24	COMMERCIAL SHOP, MEASURING 01 MARLA 03 SARSAI I.E. 38.75 SQ. YARDS, COMPRISING IN KHEWAT/KHATONI NO. 112/196, KHASRA NO. 37/3/2 (3-18) BEING 8/702 SHARE I.E. 08 SARSAI AND KHEWAT/KHATONI NO. 113/197 (NOW KHEWAT/KHATONI NO. 122/206), KHASRA NO. 35/23/2/2 BEING 37/3/1 KITA 2 RAKBA (4-4) MARLA KA 4/756 PART 4 SARSI, TOTAL LAND MEASURING 01 MARLA 03 SARSAI, SITUATED AT MOUJA NAGAL, H.B. NO. 158, TEHSIL- JAGADHRI, DISTRICT- YAMUNA NAGAR. HARYANA ADMEASURING 38.75 SQ. YARDS & PLOTS/HOUSE, BEARING U.D.I. NO. 57/8355383000R0378A, NEAR BUS STOP NAGAL, INSIDE LAL DORA VILLAGE, KHAJURI, TEHSIL JAGADHRI, DISTRICT YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA, PIN CODE-135001 ADMEASURING 75.669 SQ. MTRS	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 27-AUG-24

Place: Jaipur Date: 29-08-2024 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

**AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED**  
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)  
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

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

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)** under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002 (54 of 2002))" and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
<b>(A/c No.) L9001060119496308 Radha Krishna Industries Through It's Proprietor Smt. Anita (Borrower), Smt. Anita (Co-Borrower), Gajanan Yadav (Co-Borrower), Devender Kumar (Co-Borrower)</b>	12-Apr-24 Rs. 1518806/- Rs. Fifteen Lac Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Six Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Khatuani No. 86/1, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, Khevat No. 82, Mauja- Seka, Te- Narnaul, Dist- Mahendragarh, Haryana Admeasuring 605 Sqyds, East: LAND OF LALA RAM, West: LAND OF DARIYAV SINGH, North: STREET, South: LAND OF GAJANAND	23-Aug-24
<b>(A/c No.) L9001060127241782 Veera Piza Cafe (Borrower), Smt. Savitri Devi (Co-Borrower), Praveen Kumar (Co-Borrower), Naveen Saini (Co-Borrower)</b>	15-Apr-24 Rs. 696640/- Rs. Six Lac Ninety-Six Thousand Six Hundred Forty Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures PROPERTY SITUATED AT- Killa No 22 2-4-0 And 23 7-8 Killa No 12 1-14 And 3 7-9 11 4-0 9 2-4-0 And 12 2-4-12, Khevat No 150 And 40 Khatuani No 164 And 45, Mustakil No 9, Near Mata Mandir, Narnaul, Distt: Mahendragarh, Haryana Admeasuring 356.66 Sq. Yds., East: H/O Prem Chand, West: H/O Jagdish Prasad, North: Rasta, South: land of Ram Pratap	23-Aug-24
<b>(A/c No.) L9001060131685962 Sharma Electronic (Borrower), Surender Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower), Shashi Kant (Co-Borrower), Smt.Sunita Rani (Co-Borrower)</b>	13-Mar-24 Rs. 657322/- Rs. Six Lac Fifty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Two Only 11-Mar-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At: Khasra No 495 Min 3 7 496 4-19 498 Min 0-5, Near Sidarath Nagar, Dist- Panipat, Haryana Admeasuring 27 Sqyds., East: 10 FEET, West: GALLI, North: GALLI, South: 25 FEET	24-Aug-24
<b>(A/c No.) L9001060827833022 Durga Trading Company Through It's Proprietor Narender (Borrower), Narender (Co-Borrower), Ajay Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt.Anju (Co-Borrower)</b>	12-Apr-24 Rs. 1507558/- Rs. Fifteen Lac Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Eight Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At KHEWAT NO 1325/1274 , KHATA NO 1538, MUSTAIL NO 62, KILLA NO 12/2(2)-6, MAUJA- BHAKLI , TEHSIL- KOSLI , Dist- Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 40.5 Sqyds, East: SHOP /OF /BALJEET, West: OTHER PROPERTY, North: ROAD, South: OTHER PROPERTY	24-Aug-24
<b>(A/c No.) L900106012446685 Durga Trading Company (Borrower), Ajay Singh (Co-Borrower), Narender (Co-Borrower), Smt.Anju (Co-Borrower)</b>	12-Apr-24 Rs. 1714626/- Rs. Seventeen Lac Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Six Only 12-Apr-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Gram Panchayat Kh1198 Kh1410 M62 K12 2 Bhakli Kanina Road Kosli, Dist-Rewari ,Haryana Admeasuring 40 Sqyds	24-Aug-24

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act-2002) read with Rule 3 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)** for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table. -sd-  
Place: HARYANA Date: 28-AUG-2024 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited



# KOHLI, JAISWAL MOVE UP IN TEST RANKINGS, ROHIT DROPS TO 6TH



PTI ■ DUBAI

Senior India batter Virat Kohli moved up two rungs to eighth place while his captain Rohit Sharma dropped a spot to sixth in the latest ICC Test rankings released here on Wednesday. Joining Rohit and Kohli in the top 10 is young Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has moved up a spot to seventh. Veteran England batter Joe Root maintained his place as the top ranked Test batter in the world following their success in the opening Test against Sri Lanka in Manchester. But Root's teammate Harry Brook has made a massive jump on the back of scores of 56 and 32 during that Old Trafford contest. The 25-year-old has risen three places to fourth overall, leaping past Pakistan's Babar Azam,

Australia's Steve Smith and Rohit. Babar has dropped a whopping six places to fall from shared third to ninth following a rare failure in the first innings of Pakistan's Test against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi. But teammate Mohammad Rizwan gained seven spots, achieving a new career-high rating by moving inside the top 10 at a shared 10th following his century in the same match. Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim has achieved a career-high rating as he climbed seven spots to move to 17th. Seasoned India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin continues to hold the top spot among bowlers while pacer Jasprit Bumrah and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja have maintained their third and seventh spots respectively. England seamer Chris Woakes,

who is up four rungs to 16th, and Sri Lanka's Asitha Fernando (up 10 spots to 17th) have gained some ground while Pakistan's right-arm pacer Naseem Shah (up four spots to 33rd) and England's Gus Atkinson (up four places to

42nd) have attained career-best ratings following good returns from their recent appearances. Among all-rounders, Jadeja and Ashwin continue to occupy the top two spots while Axar Patel is ranked sixth.

# LLC returns with Season 3 Takes legendary cricketers to Kashmir after nearly 40 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Legends League Cricket, featuring retired swashbucklers like Shikhar Dawan and Dinesh Karthik among others, will return for a third season on September 20, criss-crossing Jodhpur, Surat, and Jammu before finally bringing the high-profile cricketers to Srinagar after close to 40 years. The league will kick off at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium in Jodhpur on September 20. A total of 25 matches will be played among six teams and the last two sides standing will play the final on October 16. The franchise-based tournament, which features a pool of over 200 players, will have its final at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar. "Legends League Cricket is back for another season and we are very excited to also be playing in Kashmir this season. This is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricketing action for the first time in almost 40 years," said Raman Raheja, Co-Founder, Legends League Cricket. "It also presents a unique opportunity for the cricketers to experience the beauty of Kashmir and enjoy the hospitality and love of the wonderful people of Srinagar." The organisers stated that the league attracted a massive audience of 180



million across India during the previous season, spanning 19 matches. "With an extended schedule and a star-studded lineup, including the recently retired Dhawan and Karthik, the upcoming season is poised to surpass previous records," the organisers stated. In the previous edition held in India, former international stalwarts such as Suresh Raina, Aaron Finch, Martin Guptill, current India head coach Gautam Gambhir, Chris Gayle, Hashim Amla, Ross Taylor, and many others played alongside 110 other legendary cricketers. The league will kick off in Jodhpur and then make its way to the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat. The third leg will be played at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu. The players' auction for the event will be held here on Thursday.

## USP Union Cabinet approves Central Financial Assistance towards equity participation by State Governments for Development of Hydro Projects in North Eastern Region.

SHIMLA: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments of North Eastern Region (NER) towards their equity participation for development of Hydro Electric Projects in NER through Joint Venture collaboration between State entities and CPSEs. SJVN Limited, has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Government of Arunachal Pradesh for executing five run-of-the-river scheme hydro projects of 5097 MW in the state through Joint Venture mode. These projects are 3097 MW Etalin, 680 MW Attunli, 500 MW Emini, 420 MW Amulin and 400 MW Mihumdon Hydro Electric Projects. Out of these five projects, Etalin and Attunli HEPs are in advanced stages of clearances. Construction of these two projects shall involve total investment of around Rs 44,000 crores and would add about 15,787 million units of electricity generation annually.



**On sports day Bank of India FGM pledges all staff to stay fit**  
Chandigarh: Celebrating the spirit of National Sports Day, Bank of India Field General Manager Chandigarh Anil Kumar Verma, administered pledge taking ceremony under 'FIT India Pledge' amongst all the staff members of Zonal Office and FGMO Chandigarh. Going the theme of the pledge, he emphasized the importance of healthy lifestyle and encouraged all the participants to adopt a fit and active daily routine. Shri Verma also encouraged the staff members to participate in sports activities to foster a spirit of bonding, unity and inclusiveness amongst all the team members.

## Himachal Pradesh University, Gyan Path, Summerhill, Shimla-5

Shimla: The University Institute of Technology, Himachal Pradesh University organized an Expert lecture on the "Indian Knowledge System" on 28.08.2024. The Invited speaker of this program was Dr. Kiran Seth Ex Professor and Professor Emeritus at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. Dr. Kiran Seth is a distinguished educator, founder of SPIC MACAY, and who has been honored with the Padma Shri delivered a compelling session at UIT, HPU Shimla. His presentation highlighted the crucial role of Indian culture and values in shaping educational experiences. Seth, who established SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) to promote traditional Indian arts and values, stressed the importance of incorporating these cultural elements into the educational environment. He emphasized the need to integrate cultural wisdom into modern education to support holistic development. Seth argued that education should extend beyond traditional academic learning to include the cultural and ethical values rooted in Indian heritage.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

# 10 GLORIOUS YEARS OF PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA

# 530000000+

JAN DHAN BANK ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN OPENED WHERE

₹23,12,35,00,00,000

HAVE BEEN SAFELY DEPOSITED BY THE POOR

JAN DHAN ACCOUNTS HAVE ALSO:

Increased savings

Increased access to credit

Bridged the gender gap in access to financial services

Ensured positive social impact with drop in crime rate, reduced alcohol and tobacco consumption