

**OPINION 6**  
INDIANS DYING ON THE  
RUSSIAN FRONTLINE

**WORLD 8**  
SUNAK MAKES APOLOGY  
CALLS TO EX-MPS

**MONEY 10**  
MARKETS SETTLE ON FLAT  
NOTE IN MUTED TRADE

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 19 Issue 188  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY JULY 9, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

Established 1864

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www.dailypioneer.com



MENTOR YUVRAJ  
MUST BE PROUD  
NOW: ABHISHEK  
12 SPORTS

## THE ARC OF TERROR IS COMPLETE: FROM KASHMIR TO JAMMU, INDIA BLEEDS

**FOUR ARMY JAWANS MARTYRED IN MERCILESS MURDER BY TERRORISTS**

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

At least four Indian Army soldiers were martyred and five others were grievously injured in yet another provocative terror strike on an Army vehicle near Badnota village of Machhedi under the jurisdiction of Lohal Malhar block in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district on Monday. The area falls under the 9 Corps of the Indian Army.

The attack took place a month after a group of foreign terrorists targeted a pilgrim bus in which nine civilians were killed and 41 others were injured in the Reasi district on June 9. A similar attack was attempted on an Army post by another group of terrorists in the frontier Rajouri district early on Sunday morning. However, the same was repulsed by one of the alert troopers manning the periphery of the Army installation.

According to preliminary reports, a group of terrorists pitched atop a prominent hill feature targeted the Army vehicle by first hurling a grenade and later opening indiscriminate firing to inflict

maximum casualties.

The terrorists also took advantage of the foggy weather and poor road conditions before targeting the Army vehicle. During the heavy exchange of firing several soldiers were badly hit. The fate of terrorists could not be known immediately as the anti-terrorist operation was still going on in the thickly forested area.

Confirming the firing incident, a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police in a brief statement said, "Exchange of fire between terrorists and security forces going on in the Machhedi area of Kathua district. Two Army personnel were injured in the initial round of firing. A massive search operation has been launched". Meanwhile, additional troops have been rushed to the spot to plug the escape routes and neutralise the terrorists.

Senior police and Army officers were supervising the ongoing operation. The Army authorities have issued an advisory to the residents in the area to remain indoors and not to venture out to prevent injuries in the heavy



File photo: PTI

exchange of gunfire. A day after gunning down six terrorists in two back-to-back encounters in the South Kashmir district of Kulgam Brigadier Prithviraj Chauhan, Commander 1 sec RR, on Monday claimed the security forces have inflicted a big blow to the Pro-Pakistan

terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen in the Valley. The killing of six terrorists in South Kashmir is a significant blow to Hizbul Mujahideen," he said. The security forces are also investigating the role of the locals in sheltering the terrorists inside their homes.

During the routine searches, the security forces stumbled upon a well-fortified concrete hideout concealed behind a wardrobe in a civilian residence situated in the Chinnigam Frisal area of Kulgam. The senior Army officer also paid tributes to the martyred

soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during the twin encounters.

Briefing media persons, Brigadier Chauhan said after concluding the operation, we found and promptly destroyed an IED weighing approximately 6 kilogram, keeping collateral damage in mind.

Speaking on the Modergam encounter, Javed Ahmad Matoo, DIG South Kashmir, said two terrorists were killed in the second operation. "Adil, who had multiple FIRs against him in different police stations, was killed in one operation. The second encounter took place in the Chinnigam area based on specific information, resulting in the killing of four terrorists.

Among them was Yavar Bashir Dar, a Category 'A' terrorist. The others were identified as Tauheed Ahmed, Shakeel Ahmed Wani, and Zahir Ahmad Dar. A significant cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the encounter site. Both locations had hideouts that the terrorists had been using for a considerable time," Matoo said.



Students at the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi, on Monday. The apex court has begun the hearing for a number of petitions regarding the alleged irregularities in the NEET UG 2024 exams

Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

## NEET re-test if exam sanctity lost, says SC

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**

Directing the National Testing Agency (NTA) for full disclosures on three major aspects of the NEET-UG paper leak case, the Supreme Court on Monday said the fact there was a paper leak in the NEET-UG exam cannot be denied and it has to be ascertained if the nature of the leak was widespread or isolated to decide on ordering a re-test.

Referring to legal position on ordering re-test, the bench said it will have to be "scrutinised whether the alleged breach has taken place at systemic level, whether the breach has affected integrity of the entire exam process and whether it is possible to segregate the beneficiaries of fraud from

the untainted students". "In a situation where breach affects the entirety of process and it is not possible to segregate the beneficiaries from others, it may be necessary to order a re-test," the bench said. The court said if the sanctity of NEET-UG 2024 is "lost" and if the leak of its question paper has been propagated through social media, then a re-test has to be ordered. The bench said the extent of question paper leak and the beneficiaries across geographical boundaries have to be ascertained before the top court may order a re-test in the controversy-ridden exam which was taken up by 23.33 lakh students at 4,750 centres in 571 cities including in 14 cities overseas.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a guard of honour upon his arrival at the airport in Moscow on Monday

PTI

## Modi embarks on Mission Moscow

**AGENCIES/PNS ■ MOSCOW/NEW DELHI**

In his first trip since the start of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday began a two-day high-profile visit to Russia to hold summit talks with President Vladimir Putin with a focus on boosting bilateral ties in areas of energy, trade and defence.

Modi was received at the airport by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. The Russian First Deputy Minister also accompanied the Indian Prime Minister to his hotel from the airport in the same car, officials said. Manturov had received Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Russia as well.

It is Modi's first trip to Russia since 2019, the first after the start of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022 and first in Modi's third term as the Prime Minister. Russian President Putin is set to host a private dinner for Modi tonight ahead of Tuesday's talks at the 22nd India-Russia summit in Moscow.

"The PM is set to hold substantive discussions with Putin to take forward the special partnership between the two countries. He will also interact with the Indian community in Russia," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media. In his departure statement, Modi said India seeks to play a supportive role for a peaceful and stable region. After

concluding his engagements in Russia on July 9, Modi will leave for Austria in the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to that country in over 40 years.

The focus of the Modi-Putin summit talks are expected to be on further boosting bilateral cooperation in trade, energy and defence. The Ukraine conflict is set to figure in the discussions.

"The special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia has advanced over the past 10 years, including in the areas of energy, security, trade, investment, health, education, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges," Modi said in his departure statement.

## Mumbai keeps its tryst with Monsoon

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The heavy downpour being witnessed in the metropolis and surrounding areas since the weekend — resulted in massive inundation in low-lying areas — threw suburban train services and air traffic out of gear, while the traffic on the Mumbai-Goa Highway remained badly affected for the second consecutive day on Monday.

Heavy rains continued to batter Mumbai and adjoining areas of Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan, Palghar and neighbouring coastal Konkan region. Such was the high intensity of rains that during the six-hour period between 1 am and 7 am on Monday, several of the rain catchment areas like Powari received 300 mm of rainfall.

The Powai Lake — one of the major water-supplying lakes of Mumbai — started overflowing during the day. Considered the lifelines of Mumbai, the suburban train services of Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR) were badly hit as the railway track remained thick sheets of water, affecting the operation for the better part of the day. The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) deployed pumps at several places to clear flood water in low-lying areas in the metropolis. More than 50 flights were cancelled, while 27 were



Passengers wait for trains at a waterlogged railway station during rain in Mumbai on Monday

PTI

diverted from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. "Heavy traffic congestion and slow vehicle movement are expected en route to Mumbai airport today due to weather conditions. Customers are advised to allow more time for their journey to the airport," airline Vistara said in an announcement made earlier in the day.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for coastal Ranagiri district, while it has sounded an orange alert for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Sindhudurg district. Heavy to very heavy rains have been predicted in Mumbai, Thane and adjoining

coastal Konkan region. Meanwhile, the country's commercial capital has been reeling under very heavy rains since 1 am on Monday. "Mumbai has recorded over 300 mm rainfall at various places during the hour period from 1 am to 7 am today. Heavy rains resulted in severe inundation in low-lying areas. Since there was flooding on tracks at several places, suburban train services were badly affected," a senior BMC official said.

Amid pouring rains, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visited the State Disaster Control Room and BMC's Disaster Management office to make a first-hand assessment of the

situation. "Unlike in the past, it has rained a lot in less time which is more than the city's carrying capacity. As a result, there was a water-logging on railway tracks and roads. Traffic has now resumed on all roads. Senior officials are present at all water-logging-prone spots in the city. The State Disaster Management Authority, NDRF, BMC are on alert," Shinde said.

"There is movement of vehicles on Eastern and Western express highways and all railway lines. NDRF teams have reached all three coastal districts in the state. Army, Navy and Air Force are also on alert," Shinde said.



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren speaks during a Special Session of the State Legislative Assembly, held in Ranchi on Monday

PTI

## Hemant Soren wins trust vote in Jharkhand

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RANCHI/NEW DELHI**

The JMM-led Government in Jharkhand headed by Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday won the vote of confidence in the Assembly amid a walkout by Opposition members. A total of 45 MLAs, including nominated member Glen Joseph Galstaun, voted in favour of the confidence motion. The BJP and AJSU legislators walked out of the House as the headcount for voting started.

The BJP-led Opposition has 24 legislators of the saffron party and three of the AJSU Party. After winning the trust vote, Soren said, "Today, everyone again got to witness the unity and strength of the ruling alliance. I thank the Speaker and all the alliance MLAs."

## A touch of spirituality mooted in DU syllabi

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

In a bid to expand its course curriculum and provide a wide range of choices to students, the Delhi University is scheduled to introduce Vedic Literature, Upanishad Parichaya, Dharma and Religion among the options at Delhi University's Centre for Hindu Studies which shall be offered to its students as minor electives.

Sources said the department has proposed to introduce six new elective papers for students, who wish to specialise in Hindu Studies and awaits their approval from the Academic Council of the university. A meeting of

the Academic Council of Delhi University is slated for July 12. These additions are based on the recommendations of the Governing Body of the Centre for Hindu Studies. The Bhagavad Gita for Humanity elective will acquaint students with foundational Indian spirituality as depicted in the Bhagavad Gita, and the Purana Parichaya paper will cover Hindu history, culture, geography, architecture and other knowledge systems.

The Centre also plans to introduce two general electives for students who are not majoring in Hindu Studies but have chosen Commerce, Political Science



or Computer Science as their main subjects. These students will be offered papers on Hindu Jivana Drishti and Manovijnana to familiarise them with Hindu studies. In addition to the UGC-approved syllabus, the Centre

for Hindu Studies now plans to introduce more choices for students by offering papers on various aspects of Hinduism, said an official. These will also include papers on Bhagavad Gita for Humanity, Hindu Thinkers and Purana

Parichaya. The students who don't wish to study Commerce, Political Science or Computer Science as minor electives along with the major subject can avail these choices. "We have proposed these electives to make our course curriculum more comprehensive and aligned with students' needs. As a relatively new establishment, our effort is to make our programmes well-rounded," the official said. Under Introduction to Vedic Literature, students will learn about the literary works of prominent Vedic and Upanishadic commentators, from the Rigveda to Vedangas.

## Sandeshkhali setback for Mamata

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

There was yet another judicial reverse suffered by the Mamata Banerjee Government with the Supreme Court on Monday asking the State counsel why the administration should want to shield an accused before dismissing the State plea to scrap the ongoing probe into the Sandeshkhali incident conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation. The State Government had approached the Apex Court to get the CBI investigation ordered earlier by the Calcutta High Court quashed. "Why should the State be interested in protecting someone?" the Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV

Viswanathan wondered before dismissing the State plea. The Calcutta High Court had on April 10 ordered a CBI investigation into the incidents of Sandeshkhali where villagers complained en masse of large-scale land grab and sexual exploitation of women allegedly at the behest of Trinamool Congress strongmen Sheikh Shahjahan, Uttam Sardar and others. All were presently in jail. Moving the Apex Court, the State Government had earlier said the High Court order directing CBI investigation into the case had demoralised the police administration. It also said it was the State police which had arrested Shahjahan before handing it over to the

CBI. However the opposite side contended that the State had not only tried to stall CBI investigation but also it had handed arrested the main accused after several weeks of the incident apparently because he was a powerful TMC leader. The CBI has been investigating three separate cases with Sandeshkhali appearing in all of them. While the agency is investigating the case of multi-crore public distribution system scam that has seen former State Minister and powerful TMC leader Jyotipriya Mallick going to jail.

# Classifieds

### LOST AND FOUND

**I, Barnaditiya Sidhu** D/o Sh. Wilson Sidhu resident of VPO. Kahlwan, Kartarpur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India declare that I have lost/ misplaced my original 10th class certificate somewhere and I tried my best efforts to trace out the same but all in vain and I could not find the same. If anyone gets the above certificate then please contact me at my address.

### BEDAKHLI NOTICE

**I, Usha Rani** W/o Late Sh. Balraj R/o Village Humayunpur, Teh. & Distt. Rohtak has disowned my son Sandeep & his wife Bhateri from my all movable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

**I, Suresh** S/o Babu Lal R/o House No. 1437/21, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh inform that my daughter Bhumi is out of my control. I disown her from my all moveable and Immoveable Properties. Anybody deal with her at their own Risk.

**I, Daljit Kaur** W/o Charanjit Singh R/o Village Saidpura Bhari, Tehsil Khamano, District Fatehgarh Sahib Punjab inform that I had disowned my daughter Kamalpreet Kaur in dated 24.03.2022. Now my daughter Kamalpreet Kaur is under my control. So I cancel her disowned. In future she has full rights in my all moveable and Immoveable Properties.

**I, Manjit Singh** S/o Niranjan Singh R/o House no 1457/25 Sector 29-B Chandigarh inform that my son Gagandeep Singh out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with him at their own risk.

**I, Rakesh Kumar** Arora S/o Late Om Prakash Arora R/o #32, Ground floor, Swami Enclave, Dhakoli Zirakpur Mohali Punjab, My brother Rinku is out of my control. Anybody dealing with him or his any crime at their own risk.

**We, Pal Singh** S/O Harbans Singh And Harjit Kaur W/O Pal Singh R/O Dhingra Colony, Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar Have Declare That Our Son Gurwinder Singh And His Wife Kamni And 2) Harpreet Singh Are Out Of Our Control We Disinherit Them From Our All Movable And Immoveable Properties Any Body Deal With Them Is His Own Risk And Responsibility.

**I, Sumitra Devi** W/o Satbir Singh # 46, Ganesh Vihar, Baltana, Tehsil Derabassi, District SAS Nagar (Punjab), have disown my son Sohan Singh daughter-in-law Aarti Devi from movable/ immovable properties as both are beyond my control. Anybody deals them do at own risk/ responsibility.

**I, Jaspal,** S/O Shri Picha Ram, Resident Of Village Khatauli Tehsil And District Panchkula, Declare That My Son Mohit Kumar Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Him From My Movable- Immoveable Properties, Anybody Dealing With Him At Their Own Risk.

**I, Jagmohan Garg** S/O Sh. Ramkishan Garg R/O H.No. 63/34 Janta Colony Rohtak Declare That My Son Tushar Garg And His Wife Srishthi Gandhi Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Them From My All Moveable/Immoveable Properties. Any Body Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk.

**I, Suresh** S/O Sh. Ram Kishan R/O Village Balam, Distt. Rohtak Haryana Declare That My Married Son Sunil @ Billu Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Him From My All Moveable/ Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Him At Their Own Risk. I Or My Family Are Not Responsible For Any Type Of Their Acts.

**I Harinder Singh** S/O Jagir Singh R/O Arniwala Sheikh Subhan Tehsil And Distt Fazilka My Son Jatinder Pal Singh Grewal (Canada) Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Him From All My Movable And Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Him On Their Own Risk. I And My Family And My Daughter Arshdeep Kaur Who Lives In Canada Have No Relation With Him.

**I Leela Devi** W/O Late Jai Shankar R/O #20 Sheelat Colony, Rajpura Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That My Son Monu And His Wife Kajal Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Both Of Them From All My Movable And Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

**I, Kuldeep Singh** S/o Sadhu Singh R/o Vill Baghora Teh Rajpura Distt Patiala declare that my son Major Singh is out of my control so I evict him all my Moveable immovable property anyone dealing with him at their own risk.

**I, Bishna** S/o Sh Kishori R/o VPO Jhimri Khera Tehsil Assandh Distt Karnal declared my son Sandeep And his wife Bateri and my grand son Akhilesh, Lavilesh and Minakshi are out of my control. So I disown them from my movable or immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them on their own risk.

**मैं प्रबोध शर्मा पुत्र** गुरुदत्त शर्मा गाँव तमोला डाकघर उलहड़िया तहसील इंदौरा जिला कांगड़ा हिमाचल प्रदेश का रहने वाला हूँ और व्यन करता हूँ कि मेरा लड़का रमन विहारी लाल उसकी पत्नी डिम्पल शर्मा व इनके दो लड़के मुकुल शर्मा व आयुष शर्मा मेरे साथ अच्छा व्यवहार नहीं करते है और हमेशा लड़ाई झगडा और गाली गलौच करते रहते है मैं इन चारों को अपनी तमाम संपत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ।इसने कोई भी नुक़ान देना करेगा तो वो खुद जिमेबार होगा। सभी नोट करें

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Santokh Singh** am legally Father of No 4486788W Rank HAV Harpreet Singh R/o #34, Guru Amardas Colony Nilpur Rajpura Distt Patiala that in my son army record my DOB Wrongly Entered 21/4/1963 but my correct DOB is 12/7/1959.

**I, Simranjeet Singh** S/o Kashmir Singh R/o house no. 823, Guru Nanak Mohala, Rajpura, Patiala, pin -140401, Punjab, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under- That name of My Father has been wrongly written as Kasmir Singh in my Passport No.-V8449546, The actual name of My Father Kashmir Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Usha Rani** W/O Bakhshish Singh W/No 08 Near Guru Nanak Rice Mill Keharwali Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Declare That In My Son No 4495633H Sep Gagandeep Singh's Army Documents My Date Of Birth Written 25-10-1967 Wrongly. Actually My Date Of Birth Is 01-01-1967.As Per My Documents Records.

**I, No 4495633H** Sep Gagandeep Singh S/O Bakhshish Singh Village Kala Jhinger PO Berchha Tehsil, Police Station And Railway Station Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Declare That Now I Have Changed My Home Address As W/No 8 Near Guru Nanak Rice Mill Keharwali Dasuya Tehsil, Police Station And Railway Station Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur.

**I, Ravinder Kaur** W/O Rajinder Kumar Village Mahadipur Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur declare that in my Husband's passport no E7740331 My Name Spelling is Written Ravinder Kaur Wrongly. Actually My Name is Ravinder Kaur as per My Aadhaar card record.

**I, Hema Mohanan** is legally Wedded Wife of Army No. 15713715N, Rank Hav Name Anoop KV Unit 16 (1) ABCS have change name from Hema Anoop to Hema Mohanan through Vide document No. IN-PB33236589654882W, dated 08-07-2024

**I, Manish Kumar** S/o Man Chand R/o Vill. Khanpur Rajputan, P.O. Kalawar, Teh. Saraswati Nagar (Mustfabad), Distt Yamunanagar declares that in my Army Record my daughter's name is written as Ghunjin which is incorrect, While my daughter's correct name is Gunjan.

**I, Arti** D/O Dharambir Singh, R/O Q- 30 Extension, Q-Block Extension, New Palam Vihar Phase 1, Star Aviation Academy, Sector 110, Choma (62), Carterpuri, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122017. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Dharamvir Singh in my 10th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Father is Dharambir Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Vijay Sodhi** S/o Yash Paul Sodhi R/o H.No. 140, Ward No. 30, Anand Vihar Colony, Batala, District Gurdaspur declare that Vijay Sodhi and Vijay Kumar Sodhi are one and same person. Concerned Note.

**I, Kasturi Bahusab** Jadhav Legally Mother Of No. 15709790a Rank Nk Name Sunil Jadhav Unit 10 Csr(A) C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of Khilegaon, Distt. Belgaum State Karnataka-591212 Have Changed My Name From Kasturi To Kasturi Bahusab Jadhav And Dob From 01.11.1971 To 01.01.1979 Vide Affidavit Date 08.07.2024

**I, Bahusab Balu** Jadhav Legally Father Of No. 15709790a Rank Nk Name Sunil Jadhav Unit 10 Csr(A) C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of Khilegaon, Distt. Belgaum State Karnataka-591212 Have Changed My Name From Bahusab To Bahusab Balu Jadhav And Dob From 10.06.1966 To 01.01.1965 Vide Affidavit Date 08.07.2024

**I, Jadeja** Ranjanba Karansinh Legally Mother Of No. 16116457h Rank Nk Name Sunil Jadeja L S Unit 15 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of Pipardi, Rajkot, Distt. Jamkandoma, State Gujrat-360405 Have Changed My Name From Ranjan Ba To Jadeja Ranjanba Karansinh And Dob From 01.07.1969 To 01.01.1965 Vide Affidavit Date 08.07.2024

**I Mukesh** S/o Sh. SubuRam R/O Kheri Dahiya tehsil Kharkhoda Distt Sonipat (Haryana) declare that my matriculation marksheet my date of birth wrongly mention is 14-06-2006 but my correct date of birth 14-06-2005 according my birth certificate.

This Is For General Information That I, Joni Jindal, Son Of Subhash Jindal, Resident Of Old Anaj Mandi, Gohana, Sonipat, Haryana-131301, Declare That My Son's Name Has Been Misspelled In The 10th Class Educational Documents It Is Written As Vasu S/O Shri Jony Whereas Real Name Is Vasu S/O Shri Joni Jindal, Which Can Be Modified Accordingly. This Is To Certify That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Regard.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Vikram Singh** Dumolia S/o Sh. Ratiram R/O Village Buteri, Tehsil Bansur, Alwar Rajasthan I have changed my minor daughter's name from Archana to Mahak.

**I, Vikram Singh** Dumolia S/o Sh. Ratiram R/O Village Buteri, Tehsil Bansur, Alwar Rajasthan I have changed my minor son's name from Vishal Dumolia to Vishal Singh Dumolia.

**I, Vinay Kumar** Jain S/o Sh. Prem Sagar Jain, R/O #3225, Sector 15D, Chandigarh have changed my name to Vinay Jain.

**I, No. 15327222k** Rank Hav Name Ramakrishnan N Presently Residing At 16 Engr Br Regt (Pms), Chandimandir Cantt, Panchkula, Haryana. That, I Have Changed My Son Name From R Pratheshwaran To R Pratheshwaran Vide Affidavit Dt 05 Jul 2024 Before Krishan Chander Sahu, Notary Public, Regd No. 15772, Panchkula, Haryana.

**I, Rajwinder Kaur** W/o Late Som Nath V.P.O. Binjon, Tehsil Garshankar, District Hoshiarpur, 144520, (Punjab) have changed my Son's name from Karanjit to Karanjit Karanjit (Given name Karanjit. Surname Karanjit. all concerned note.

**I, Ajay Singh** s/o Bani Singh r/o village kathura tehsil gohana distt sonipat declare my son Gaurav jale in his education record my name is Ajay Singh jale but change my name Ajay Singh s/o Bani Singh and in future my name is Ajay Singh.

**I, Rajni** w/o Ajay Singh s/o Bani Singh r/o village kathura tehsil gohana distt sonipat declare my son Gaurav jale in his education record my name is Rajni jale but change my name Rajni w/o Ajay Singh and in future my name is Rajni.

**I GauravJale** s/o Ajay Singh r/o village kathura tehsil gohana distt sonipat declare my DOB is 10.3.2004 and me have no criminal record and first time apply passport and no visa issue.

**I, Sahil Kumar** S/o Krishna Kumar R/o Gorakhpur, District Fatehabad, declare that my name in my CBSE educational records is Sahil, whereas in all other documents my name is Sahil Kumar. I also want to get my name as Sahil Kumar in my CBSE academic records.

**I, Vandana** w/o Rajesh Kumar, 2057, Sector 52D, Chandigarh declared that in my PAN Card No. CSBPV8078E my father's name is wrongly entered Daya Prashad whereas his correct name is Gaya Prasad.

**I, Vandana** w/o Rajesh Kumar, 2057, Sector 52D, Chandigarh declared that in my PAN Card No. CSBPV8078E my father's name is wrongly entered Daya Prashad whereas his correct name is Gaya Prasad.

**I, Tarsem Singh** Rank NK No 15728744A Village Musa Khera (218), Musa Khera, Fatehabad, Haryana-125106. My Son's name Nishant has been wrongly mentioned in service record. My son's correct name is Nishant Singh and DOB is 24.12.2016 as per aadhar card and Birth certificate. I take my Son's Name Nishant Singh instead of Nishant in my service records.

**I, Rajwinder** D/O Gurnaub Singh w/o Bhupinder Singh # 1290 Sector 28-B Chandigarh have changed my name to Rajwinder Kaur.

**I, Ganga Kumari** D/O Sri Gupta #1517-A Small Flat Dhanas Chandigarh have changed my name to Ganga.

**I, Vanita Bhatia** W/o Inderjeet Bhatia R/o 1038, Sector 12, Huda Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Vinita Devi to Vanita Bhatia, for all future purposes.

**I, Sunil Saini** S/o Bharat Singh R/o H.No.38/21, Near ITI, Shadipur, Tehsil and Distt. Sonipat declares that Sunil and Sunil Saini both are my and one person's name. In future I should be known as Sunil Saini.

**I, Heman Kumar** S/O. Sh. Phool Chand R/O. #896, Bheronath Mandi, Village Shergana Devi, Naya Gaon, Distt. Mohali, Punjab. I Have Changed My Name From Heman Kumar Pawar To Heman Kumar.

**I, No 14236580L** Hav Sewa Singh Sheokand R/O VPO Dumerkha khurd my service record my daughter name Karamjit and date of birth 11.10.90 my daughter correct name is Karamjeet and date of birth to 11.11.1990.

**I, Sukhjeet** W/O Ravinder Puri R/O Hno. 110, Gali No. 3, Rajiv Puram Distt. Kamal I Have Changed My Name Sukhjeet To Sukhjeet Kaur.

**I, Pahlawan Singh** Father of Dharmendra Singh R/O #3407-A, Sector 31-D, Chandigarh have changed my Name from Pahlawan Singh to Pahalwan Singh vide affidavit Dated 06.07.2024 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

**I, Ramakanti** Mother of Dharmendra Singh R/O #3407-A, Sector 31-D, Chandigarh have changed my Name from Ramakanti to Ram kanti vide affidavit Dated 06.07.2024 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

**I, Bhawna Thakur** Spouse of Sahil Thakur R/o #54-B, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh have changed my Name from Bhawna Thakur to Bhawna Sharma vide affidavit dated 05.07.2024 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

**I, Vinod Rana** S/o Dharampal Rana R/o H. No.188, Moti Nagar Karnal have changed my name from Vinod Kumar to Vinod Rana.

**I, Ashok Kumar** S/o Sh. Rajpal R/o 296, Bairagi Mohalla, Village Bhusli Karnal have changed my minor son's name from Aanik to Aanik Kamboj. Passport No.V4163387

**I Reeta Thakur** w/o JC 523485 H Rank Sub Joginder Singh of 1 HP NCC Bn Solan r/o village and PO lowerkoti tehsil Rohru District Shimla HP have changed my name from Rita Thakur to Reeta Thakur vide affidavit no 09AA099825 District Court Solan HP

**I, Daljit Kour** W/o Harbhajan Singh R/o D- 2166, Gali No. 2, Roday Shah Colony, Islamabad, Amritsar, Punjab- 143009 have changed my name from Daljit Kour to Daljit Kaur.

**I, Varun Kumar** S/o Narinder Kumar Mahajan R/o 3-B, Majitha Road, Near Gopal Mandir, Kashmir Avenue, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Varun Kumar to Varun Mahajan.

**I, Ganga Porsad** S/o Ram Pyare, #450, Village-Kajheri, Chandigarh have changed my name to Ganga Prasad.

**I, Reeta Devi** W/o Ganga Prasad, #450, Village-Kajheri, Chandigarh have changed my name to Rita Devi.

**I, Rajinder Kumar** S/o Sh. Ram Diyal R/o H.No. 67, Ward No. 29, Opposite Krishna Kuteer, Civil Lines, Gurdaspur Punjab declare that I have changed my name Rajinder Kumar Sharma to Rajinder Kumar. Concerned note.

**I, Jaspal Singh** Sekhwan S/O Makhan Singh R/O V.P.O: Sekhwan, Teh. & Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Jaspal Singh Sekhwan to Jaspal Singh. Concerned note.

I, hitherto known as Lalit Kumar Gandhi alias Lalit Kumar S/o Jhwar Dass R/o 754, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana-131001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Lalit Kumar Gandhi.

**I, Suraj Dev** S/o Jagdish Chander R/o VPO Juglan Teh. and Distt. Hisar declares that I want to correct my father's name Jagdish to Jagdish Chander and my mother's name Kelo to Kelawati in my 10th (Roll No. 1021260801) Marksheets.

**I, Subash Chander** S/o Mohan Lal R/o Village Allewali PO Bara Sidhpur, Tehsil Nakodar Distt Jalandhar have changed my name from Subash Chander to Subhash Chander.

**I, Sanjiv Kumar** s/o Surinder Mohan Gupta #877-A, Indrapuri, Ambala City Haryana declared that I have changed my name from Sanjeev Kumar Gupta to Sanjiv Kumar. Please Note.

**I, Satya Devi** w/o Chindha Ram r/o Ram Nagar plot no. 4 Bunnha, tehsil Guhla district Kaithal Haryana inform that I have changed my name after marriage from Sukho Devi to Satya Devi.

**I, Meena Devi** wife of Satish Kumar R/O H.No. 78 Village Theh Newal Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal (Haryana) declare that in my daughter's (Anu) original documents my name is wrongly written as Meena but my correct name is Meena Devi.

**I, Kumar Anoop** S/o late Shri Bhim Sain R/O House No. 598/8, Ward No. 8, Sethi Chowk, Near Lal Masjid, Valmiki Basti, Panipat, have changed my name from kumar Anoop to Anoop for all future purposes.

**I, Sakshi Chaddha** W/o Sunny Juneja R/O 596, Sector 25, Part 2, Near PIET school, Panipat have change my name from Sakshi Chaddha to Sakshi Juneja for all future purposes.

**I, Sanjay** S/o Sh. Yad Ram R/o H. No. 314, Sector 16-17, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Sanjay to Sanjay Jangra s/o Sh. Yad Ram for all purposes in future.

**I, Ajay Kumar** Mahajan S/o Narinder Lal Gupta R/o 204/21, Ram Mandir Gali, Geeta Bhawan Road, Gurdaspur (PB) PIN-143521 have changed my name from Ajay Kumar Mahajan to Ajay Mahajan. Concerned note.

**I, Madhusamita** Sahu Wife/Spouse of Service No. 15777256F Rank Hav (DSV) Narendra kumar Sahu R/o VPO Talasara, Distt. Sambalpur, State Odisha, Pin 768228, have changed my date of birth from 25.06.1989 To 28.02.1989.

**I, Anil Kumar** Bansal son of Shri Ram Saroop, resident of Plot No. 30, R K Puram Colony, Behind Tara Feed, Jodion Naka, Yamuna Nagar, Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar, I have changed my name from Anil Bansal to Anil Kumar Bansal All concerned note.

**I, Davinder Kumar** Arora S/o Jaswant Rai R/o H.No.101-R, Model Town, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Davinder Kumar Arora to Devinder Kumar. In future I should be known as Devinder Kumar.

**I, Manjeet Kaur** W/o Sh. Mukhtiar Singh R/O Village Sant Nagar Tehsil Rania Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Manjit Kaur to Manjeet Kaur, in future my name is to be called as Manjeet Kaur.

I Hitherto Known As Rohit S/O Satish Kumar Residing At 603-B, Ashirwad Towers, Opposite Trishla Plus Home, Pir Machhaila, Po-Dhakauli, Dist-Sas Nagar (Mohali), Punjab-140603 Have Changed My Name And I Shall Hereafter Be Known As Rohit Sharma. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

It is for general information that I, Chetan Devi W/O Ram Karan residing at Behind New Anaj Mandi, Dabur Colony, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as Chetna in my minor son Anuj aged 16 years in his CBSE Class 12th Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is chetan Devi which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**I, Vikas Kapoor** S/O Baij Nath Kapoor Residing At #206, Sector-16, Panchkula, District-Panchkula, Haryana-134113 Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Daughter Divyangi Kapoor Aged 14 Years And She Shall Thereafter Be Known As Divyaginni Kapoor. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

**I, Harwant Kaur** wife of No.3358099N Sep Sucha Singh (Retd.) resident of Village Khichian, PO & Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Harwant Kaur to Harbant Kaur. My correct date of birth is 01.01.1961. Concerned note.

**I, Rajinder** S/o Ram Kishan R/O L-2, Bhagat Singh Colony, Gali No. 04, Ward No. 11, Kaithal, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Rajinder to Rajinder Singh. In future, I will be known by the name of Rajinder Singh. All concerned please note.

**I, Divyansh** S/o Sh. Vijay Kumar R/O H.No. 503/19, 4th Floor Ram Raj Shakti Nagar Rohtak declare That I have changed my name from Divyansh to Divyansh Wadhwa. In future I will be called by the name of Divyansh Wadhwa for all purposes.

**I, Subhash Gagat** s/o Arjun Singh r/o ward no 30, Didar nagar, Thanesar Kurukshetra have changed my name from Subhash Gagat to Subhash Kumar.

**I, Ranjeet Singh** S/o Amrik Singh R/O Dera Guniyana Road, Nissing Sub Tehsil Nissing, Distt. Karnal, Haryana have changed my name from Ranjit Singh to Ranjeet Singh.

**I, Aakash** s/o Naresh Kumar r/o Village Rasin Tehsil Gharanda, Distt. Karnal, Haryana have changed my name from Aakash to Aakash Ghangash. In future I should be known as Aakash Ghangash.

**I, Anil Taneja** S/O Sh. Shyam Sunder R/O H. No. 3, Krishna Nagar, Near Old Power House, Hisar have Changed My Name From Anil Kumar S/O Sh. Shyam Sunder To Anil Taneja S/O Sh. Shyam Sunder. In Future, I Shall Be Known As Anil Taneja S/O Shyam Sunder.

**I, Subhash** S/o Sh. Rai Singh R/o VPO Bhuna, Tehsil and District Fatehabad (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Subhash Chander to Subhash for all future purpose.

**I Raminder Deep Gill** W/O Ranjit Singh Chohan R/O Vill.Jand Po Nangal Dayal Singh Tehsil And Distt.Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Raminderdeep Kaur Chohan

**I, Vaman** D/O Sanjay Arora R/O H.No.63, Kennedy Avenue, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Vaman To Vaman Arora

**I Inderjeet Kaur** Surender Singh W/O Surinder Jit Singh R/O Vill. Dehriwal, Po. Bassi Jalal, Tanda, Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Inderjeet Kaur Surender Singh To Inderjit Kaur. All Please Note.

**I, Surinder Jit Singh** S/O Ran Singh Vill. Dehriwal Po.Bassi Jalal Hoshiarpur Have Change Of My Name Is Surinder Jit Singh To Surinder Jit Singh

**I, Armaandeeep Singh** S/O Gagandeep Singh R/O H.No.1060, Main Ajnala Road, Guru Amardas Avenue, D Block Amritsar Have Changed My Name Armaandeeep Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

**I, Happy** S/O Bira Masih R/O Village Mehmud Mandra Wala, Po Ram Dass Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Chagend My Name From Happy To Happy Sahota

**I, Beer Masih** S/O Makbul Masih R/O Village Mahammad Munranwala Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Beer Masih To Bira Masih

**I Ritika Goel** D/O Krishan Kant Goel W/O Nitesh Aggarwal R/O H.No.G-52, Alfa International Near Daburji G.T Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Ritika Goel To Ritika Aggarwal

I Hitherto Known As Simranjit Kaur D/O Sukhdev Singh, Residing At Vill. Chak Khurd, P.O. Chak Kalan, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar-144042, Punjab, India Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Simranjeet Kaur.

**I Paramjit Kaur** W/O Gurwinder Singh R/O Gharika Chohla Sahib Tam Taran Declare That My Father Is Known By Two Name's Dalbir Singh To Jeon Singh One And Same Person

**I, Kabaljit Singh** Maan S/O Chanchal Singh R/O Hno.177 Rishi Vihar Majitha Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kabaljit Singh Maan To Kabaljit Singh

**I, Kuldeep Singh** S/O Surjit Singh R/O 1631/7-11, Gali Mulle Wali, Chowk Moni, District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kuldeep Singh To Kuldip Singh

**I, Sarbjeet Kaur** W/O Sarbjeet Singh R/O H.No.L-10/873, Opp Gali No.6, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sarbjeet Kaur To Sarbjit Kaur

**I, Jarnail Singh** S/O Puran Singh R/O Village Chhidan Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Declare That My Father Was Known By Two Name's One And Same Person

**I, Shamshar Singh** S/O Kabul Singh R/O Village Khawaspur, Fatehabad Po Fatehabad, Disrtict Tam Taran Have Changed My Name From Shamshar Singh To Shamsher Singh

**I, Sunita Devi** Is Legally Wedded Wife Of No. 14939087p Nk Anjani Kumar Gupta Resident Of Village Jaintipah, Po Sahodhi, Tehsil Bansdih, District Ballia, Uttar Pradesh-277210 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Sunita Devi To Sunita Gupta And Date Of Birth From 05 Sep 1986 To 05 Sep 1985 Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb33483384043396W Dated 08-07-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar

**I, Vidhichand** Is Father Of No. 15449267y Nk Vinit Kumar Yadav Resident Of Patijiwa, Kasaila Bela, Mau, Surajpur, Uttar Pradesh-276306 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Vidhichand To Vidhichand Yadav Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb33482109056932w Dated 08-07-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar

**I, Rakhi** W/o Jitin Kharbada R/o #211 Rajgaon Gali Near Arya School Kacha Gher Thanesar Kurukshetra have change my name from Rakhi to Rakhi Kharbada

**I, Kulbhushan** S/O Krishan Lal Kharbada R/O #211 Rajgaon Gali Arya School Kacha Gher Thanesar Kurukshetra have I change my Name Kulbhushan to Kulbhushan Kharbada

**I, Paramjit Kaur** W/o Avtar Singh, R/o Village Mianpur Changar, Tehsil Kharar, District SAS Nagar (Mohali), have changed my name from Paramjit Kaur to Paramjeet Kaur.

**I, Anuradha Singh** W/O Subhash Kumar R/O 1468/1, Sector 30-B Chandigarh, have changed my name from Anuradha to Anuradha Singh.

**I, Mordhwaj Singh** S/O Late Sh. Yogender Singh R/O VPO Padumter Distt. East Champaran, Bihar, have changed my name from Mordhowaz Singh to Mordhwaj Singh.

# All set for bypoll to 3 assembly seats in HP on July 10; Campaigning ends

PNS ■ SHIMLA

With the campaigning for the by-poll to three assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh ending on Monday evening, all eyes are now on polling as both the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP made a last-minute push to reach out to voters through roadshows and rallies.

Polling for the bypoll to Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh assembly segments will be held on July 10. The three seats fell vacant following the resignation of three Independent MLAs who voted for the BJP candidate in Rajya Sabha elections held in February and later joined the party.

Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra), Ashish Sharma (Hamirpur) and K L Thakur (Nalagarh) resigned from the Assembly on March 22 but those were accepted by the House Speaker on June 3.

On the last day of the campaigning, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu addressed rallies in Haripur, Khabli and Dhalira, seeking votes for his wife and Congress nominee for the Dehra seat Kamlesh Thakur. At the rallies, he lashed out at the three Independents who are now contesting the bypolls on BJP tickets, alleging that they are not concerned about the problems of the public.

"Independent legislator and now the BJP candidate from Dehra Hoshiyar Singh sold himself along with two other Independent MLAs to the BJP and betrayed the people," Sukhu alleged. The chief minister said that the next

## Seizures worth Rs. 3.31 crore after implementation of MCC in Himachal

**Shimla:** Illicit liquor, cash, drugs and jewelry worth around Rs. 3.31 crore have been seized since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force in the State after the announcement of by-polls to three Assembly Constituencies --Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh on 10th June, a spokesperson of the State Election Department said on Monday. He said that both the police and the excise department seized 10358 liters of illicit liquor amounting to Rs. 14.12 lakh. Apart from this, the Income Tax Department seized 3.13 kilograms of precious metals like gold, silver etc. worth Rs. 2.13 crore. Police and Income Tax Department have seized cash worth Rs. 93.66 lakh. Till date 1.06 kilograms of charas worth Rs.2.65 lakh, 19 gram of heroine amounting to Rs. 3.82 lakh, 4.59 gram Smack amounting to Rs. 91,800 and 1.32 kilogram Poppy husk worth Rs. 19,890 has been impounded by enforcement agencies, stated spokesperson of the State Election Department here today. He said that during MCC Industries Department has imposed fines amounting to Rs. 2.67 lakh in 74 different cases under Mining Act.

state-level programme will be organized in Dehra on August 15 and the problems of Pong Dam oustees would be resolved. He also said that after the Model Code of Conduct ends, Dehra will get an SP Office and a PWD office. Sukhu accused the BJP, Congress rebels and the Independents of hatching a conspiracy to topple the Congress government in the state by misusing money power. But the people of Himachal Pradesh have given their mandate against the BJP by ensuring the victory of four Congress MLAs out of six in the recently held bypolls, he added.

In February, six assembly seats fell vacant following the disqualification of Congress rebels for defying the whip to vote in favour of the Sukhu government during the budget,

causing a major scare for Congress. The rebels joined the BJP and contested the bypolls to the six Assembly seats held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha election. The Congress won four of the six seats.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, while canvassing for Hoshiyar Singh, questioned the chief minister's "silence" on corruption issues and claimed the people would give a befitting reply to the "dictatorial government" by voting for Singh for the third consecutive time. "Who is the biggest mining mafia in Hamirpur and Kangra districts and what relation does the chief minister have with them? Why was the mining policy changed? Who benefited the most from the mining policy? Who is the kingpin of the most corrupt government of Himachal Pradesh?" he

posed.

The BJP's state unit chief Rajiv Bindal, in a statement, accused Chief Minister Sukhu of misusing the government machinery and alleged that the Congress dispensation has brought development to a standstill in the state. The BJP candidate Ashish Sharma and Congress nominee Pushpinder took out separate road shows in the Hamirpur assembly segment. Former Union minister and BJP MP Anurag Thakur, who accompanied Ashish Sharma in the roadshow accused the Sukhu dispensation of being silent on corruption issues and misusing the government machinery to influence the bypolls.

This is the first time that a government is seeking votes without any achievement, he alleged, adding the Congress dispensation has failed to fulfil its guarantees but increased inflation and debt burden. BJP MLA cum and the party's election in-charge for Hamirpur, Randhir Sharma, targeted the Congress government, alleging that its leaders were the biggest mining mafia in the state.

"The public knows that the chief minister and his family members are the biggest mining mafia in Himachal Pradesh. He gave a huge benefit to his own brother by making changes in the mining policy," he alleged. A spokesperson of the election department here said that 315 polling stations have been set up for the bypolls. As many as 217 polling parties have already been sent to polling stations while the remaining 98 would be sent on Tuesday, the spokesperson added.

# Political Blame Game Escalates as Campaign for Jalandhar West Bypoll Ends

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

On the final day of campaigning for the Jalandhar West bypoll, political parties engaged in intense blame game, with the Congress and BJP vehemently criticizing the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over the law and order situation in Punjab. In response, AAP defended its record, intensifying the already heated political atmosphere.

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Partap Singh Bajwa on Monday chose to hold a joint press conference, where they unleashed a barrage of accusations against the AAP Government. Warring asserted that the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had failed to address the issues faced by employee unions, alleging that roads leading to Mann's events were blocked to prevent employees from voicing their concerns.

Warring highlighted several failures of the Mann administration, including the withholding of Rs 550 crore grant from the Central Government due to issues with a school development scheme's naming. He also noted the disillusionment of moong dal growers, claiming that Punjab had regressed 25 years in just 2.5 years of Mann's rule.

Bajwa appealed to the voters to reject AAP to "save democracy", accusing the party of planning to capture booths on poll day by deploying 25 DSPs across Jalandhar West. He also alleged that AAP intended to distribute 12,000 stitched suits as election incentives to women voters.

Warring did not hold back his criticism, stating, "I have never seen such a bad government in my 45 years of politics. The Punjab government has failed on every front. Even a common rickshaw driver knows that the government is not doing anything for us. The AAP government promised a 'Rangia Punjab', but today, it has turned it into a dirty Punjab."

## BJP's Fierce Critique

Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar also criticized AAP, urging the voters to reject the party's "ineptness and callousness" and save Punjab from what he described as a "Taliban-like grip of violence and apathy". Jakhar emphasized the importance of voting to restore law and order and safeguard Punjab's long-term interests with strong, decisive governance. Jakhar cited recent violent incidents in Ludhiana and Maur as examples of the AAP Government's failure to maintain public safety. He accused the Chief Minister of tarnishing Punjab's social har-

mony and brotherhood, urging the voters to remember these incidents when casting their ballots.

## AAP defends record on law and order

Responding to accusations, AAP strongly defended its track record on law and order in Punjab. AAP's chief spokesperson and MP Malvinder Singh Kang asserted that both leaders have no standing to criticize, as their respective parties' past governments in Punjab had a history of patronizing gangsters.

Kang accused the previous BJP-SAD and Congress Governments of providing government protection to criminals, fostering an environment where gangsters could operate with impunity. He emphasized that under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's administration, there has been a significant crackdown on anti-social elements, with hundreds of criminals arrested and brought to justice in the past two years.

"In the Mann Government, any criminal incident is promptly investigated, and the accused are swiftly arrested," Kang stated. He contrasted this with the previous regimes, where he claimed that those in power selectively encouraged the youth to commit crimes, reassuring them of protection.

## Punjab Concludes Cong Poll

## Campaign with Flag March

Punjab Congress concluded its energetic campaign for the by-election with a spirited flag march, underscoring strong support for party candidate Surinder Kaur.

The event witnessed a robust turnout of supporters lining the streets of Jalandhar West, showcasing solidarity and confidence in Surinder Kaur's dedication to their constituency.

Known for her lifelong commitment to public service in Jalandhar, Kaur has struck a chord with voters who see her as a genuine advocate for their concerns and a symbol of effective governance. The flag march symbolized the widespread backing she has garnered, highlighting her deep-rooted connection with the community and unwavering resolve to address their needs.

Among the prominent figures present was state party chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, who asserted, "The voters have made their choice clear. They recognize that Surinder Kaur Ji is the voice that Jalandhar West needs, committed to ensuring tangible progress. Throughout this campaign, people have expressed their desire for a change after enduring two tumultuous years under the Aam Aadmi Party."

# ECI cancels parole of gangster Bhana after Congress and BJP's complaint

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After both the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) submitted a complaint to the poll panel raising serious concerns about notorious gangster Daljit Singh Bhana's activities and potential influence on the July 10 bypolls in Jalandhar West assembly constituency, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday took a significant step by canceling his parole until the election process is complete.

The BJP had lodged a formal complaint with the ECI, alleging that Bhana, who is convicted of multiple murders, was actively campaigning for the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and intimidating voters. Echoing similar concerns, the Congress highlighted the potential for poll code violations and the threat posed by Bhana's presence in the constituency.

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer Sibir C promptly informed Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner about the ECI's directive, ensuring swift action to mitigate any disruption to the election process. Bhana, previously incarcerated for several murder

charges, had been released on parole and was seen campaigning for AAP, sparking widespread panic and allegations of electoral misconduct.

The Election Commission has directed that in order to carry out the smooth election process and in view of the complaints received, the parole of Daljit Singh Bhana should be canceled till the completion of the Jalandhar West by-election process.

The BJP's complaint emphasized the threat Bhana posed, accusing him of intimidating voters and causing fear in the community. They argued that his release on parole, particularly during the election period, was a blatant violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The BJP feared that Bhana's activities could lead to booth capturing on the day of voting, further compromising the election's integrity.

Former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi had also raised the issue, questioning the motives behind Bhana's parole. Channi suggested that the State Government might have ulterior motives, potentially using Bhana to intimidate or eliminate political opponents. He pointed

ed out that Bhana's release and subsequent movements around the constituency had caused significant distress among Congress workers and the general public. Channi had highlighted that Bhana, an 'A' grade gangster, had committed additional murders while on bail and was currently serving a life sentence. His unexpected release on parole during such a critical election period not only violated the poll code but also raised serious questions about the State Government's intentions. Channi released pictures of Bhana with police officers, suggesting that the gangster had been given undue protection and freedom to operate.

The cancellation of Bhana's parole is seen as a necessary measure to ensure a fair and transparent election process. Both the BJP and the Congress have welcomed the ECI's decision, hoping it will restore confidence among voters and prevent any undue influence on the election outcome.

The Jalandhar West by-election has become a battleground for the AAP, BJP, and Congress, with each party trying to leverage any perceived advantage.

# Union Minister Bittu calls on Punjab Guv, discusses law and order in State

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Raveen Singh Bittu on Monday paid a courtesy call to Punjab Governor Banwari Lal Purohit and shared with him his concerns about the law-and-order situation in the border state.

Bittu said that the Governor was equally worried about deteriorating law and order in Punjab. Bittu added that the Central Government was getting dis-

turbing reports about criminal and terrorist-related activities in the state. "The present AAP government led by Bhagwant Mann was allowing the situation to go from bad to worst. The way criminals are roaming around, the security of common citizens is at high risk," he said.

Citing the incident of attack on Shiv Sena leader Sandeep Thapar at Ludhiana and firing incidents leading to murders in various other cities, the Union Minister said that parole granted to a jailed gangster Daljit Singh Bhana by

AAP Government was testimony of state machinery backing criminals.

Bittu said that AAP Government was not able to control crime, corruption, drugs and illegal mining, "which were the main promises of AAP for seeking votes from people of Punjab. AAP has cheated the people of Punjab with false promises."

"I have also apprised the Governor about central funding for the State. AAP Government was spreading lies about the holding of RDE, NHM, and education funds by

the Center," he added.

Stating that the AAP-led Punjab Government was interested in doing politics over the central funds, Bittu challenged the Chief Minister to tell the people of Punjab how many times he had met the Prime Minister and concerned Union Ministers for release of funds.

"AAP government is just writing letters and issuing press statements to do politics over these issues. If the Centre had raised any objection to release of funds, it is the duty of the Punjab government to remove the objections," he said.

## PGIMER celebrates its 61st foundation day

Chandigarh:

Marking the completion of 61 years of its existence, the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh on Monday celebrated its 61st foundation day. The event, held at Bhargava Auditorium, was attended by former directors, deans & heads of different departments, PGIMER. Medical and non-medical staff of the PGIMER were felicitated on the occasion. The Chief Guest of the event was Institute's alumnus Lt-Gen Daljit Singh, Senior Colonel Commandant AMC. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the event, PGIMER Director Vivek Lal said that the institute has a foothold of 30 lakh patients every year. "The government is committed to increase the personnel strength to serve these patients," said the Director while underlining the strong faith the patients have in the institute which serves as an inspiration for them to serve them even better.

## Ex-Militant's Murder Case: Key assailant injured in escape bid hours after arrest

PNS ■ JALANDHAR

In a high-stakes confrontation, a notorious member of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) Simranjit Singh, alias Bablu, was injured while attempting a daring escape just hours after his arrest. The dramatic incident unfolded on the outskirts of Jalandhar, where Bablu, implicated in the recent murder of former terrorist Rattandeep Singh, made a desperate bid for freedom, only to be stopped by police gunfire.

Bablu, a figure with deep connections to international terror networks, was apprehended by the Counter Intelligence (CI) unit of Jalandhar. His capture was a significant victory in Punjab's ongoing crackdown on organized crime, said the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, recounting the tense moments of the escape attempt.

DGP Yadav, detailing the dramatic events, said: "Simranjit Singh, alias Bablu,

attempted to escape custody, resulting in his injury by police fire on the outskirts of Jalandhar city." Bablu was apprehended by CI Jalandhar following revelations during an interrogation, leading to an operation near Wadala on the Jalandhar-Nakodar road where Bablu had hidden the pistol allegedly used in Rattandeep's murder.

Going into background of the matter, the former militant Rattandeep Singh was assassinated on April 3, 2024, in SBS Nagar by two assailants on a motorcycle. The high-profile murder had raised concerns about the resurgence of organized militant activities in Punjab. The swift arrest of Bablu marks a critical step in resolving the case and preventing further violence.

During the operation, police recovered two sophisticated firearms — a .32 Webley revolver and a .32 pistol, along with a magazine and 19 live cartridges.

"The recovery of these

weapons is a testament to our resolve in disarming criminal elements and ensuring public safety," said DGP Yadav.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Bablu was acting under the instructions of Pakistan-based terrorist Harwinder Rinda and USA-based Gopi Nawansheeria. The duo had orchestrated the target killing of Rattandeep Singh to instill fear and chaos within the community.

Notably, Bablu's accomplice, Jaspreet Singh, alias Jassi Kulam, managed to escape abroad post-assassination, highlighting the international dimensions of this criminal nexus.

The police have invoked sections of the Arms Act and criminal conspiracy in this case. "We are actively investigating to uncover further links and collaborators involved in this conspiracy," said the DGP, adding that the police's aim is to dismantle the network and prevent future crimes orchestrated by these terror modules.

# Hry CM takes significant decision in interest of HSVP allottees

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Stating that the allottees of the Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) are set to receive financial benefits from the Government, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday instructed officials to draft a policy under the 'Vivaadon Ka Samadhan' scheme to resolve pending cases related to the enhancement of plots.

Under this scheme, by depositing the outstanding enhancement amount in a lump sum, more than 4,400 plot owners will receive significant relief from interest, resolving their pending enhancement cases from 2015 to 2019, he added.

Chairing a review meeting of the HSVP here in which Town and Country Planning and Urban Estates Minister JP Dalal was also present, the Chief Minister said that the main objective of the government is to provide relief to the people and an effective policy should be formulated to settle the pending enhancement



cases effectively as soon as possible. He also directed that such disputes should be resolved promptly under the housing schemes being implemented by the Housing for All departments.

He directed that the plots currently being sold by HSVP through e-auction should be properly demarcated to prevent any future disputes between the authority and the allottees. Apart from this, while giving instructions to provide proper place to the street vendors in Mansa Devi Complex Panchkula, he said that HSVP

and Shri Mata Mansa Devi Shrine Board should together prepare a policy in this regard.

The Chief Minister was apprised that since June 2021, HSVP has allotted approximately 25,000 plots through e-auction, generating around Rs.27,000 crores for the authority.

The HSVP still has about 70,000 plots available, out of which approximately 15,000 plots are ready for e-auction in the coming three months. This will generate around Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500 crores per month for the authority.

## Haryana to launch state-wide drive against Drug Menace: CS Prasad

**Chandigarh:** Haryana Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad on Monday directed all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendent of Police (SPs) to launch a month-long state-wide extensive campaign to tighten noose around those involved in drug peddling in the State. While presiding over the 8th State Level Committee Meeting of Narco Coordination Centre (NCCORD), he called for coordinated efforts of Civil and Police administration, Health, Social Welfare and Education Departments for the success of this campaign. All the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police attended the meeting through video conference. He asked senior civil and police functionaries to diligently discharge their duties towards achieving Government's vision of making Haryana, a drug free State. Emphasizing need to further strengthen the system to gather information, he asked DCs to hold regular meetings with the head of educational institutions to protect youth from falling in clutches of drugs.

# Punjab Police busts interstate organized crime syndicate; kingpin among 5 held with firearms

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

In a significant breakthrough amid ongoing efforts to make Punjab a safe and secure state, the Amritsar Commissionerate Police have successfully dismantled an inter-state organized crime syndicate. The operation led to the arrest of the syndicate's kingpin and four accomplices from a flat in Kharar, said the

state Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav on Monday.

The kingpin, identified as Jai Sharma alias Sukha Pistol Ambararya from Prem Nagar, Amritsar, was apprehended along with Nikhil Sharma alias Lala of Sandhu Colony, Moni of Kot Khalsa, and Arpit Thakur and Karan Sharma, both from Sri Naina Devi in district Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. Sukha Pistol has a criminal his-

tory with seven cases under Arms Act, and charges of snatching and theft registered against him. Police teams recovered two .32 bore pistols, three magazines, and eight live cartridges from the arrested individuals. DGP said police teams had been monitoring the movements of Sukha Pistol and his accomplices based on reliable inputs indicating their trip to Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, to procure illicit weapons.

# 40 School children injured as Hry Roadways bus overturns in Pinjore

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

About 40 School Children and six others were injured when an overloaded minibus of Haryana Roadways overturned near Naulata village of Pinjore in Panchkula district on Monday morning. The students were going to the Government school in Dhatogra. Local police were informed and the injured were rushed to the civil hospital in Panchkula Sector 6. Panchkula Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg said that all the children are stable. According to local police, the Haryana Roadways bus was speeding and overloaded, leading to the driver losing control of the vehicle. The actual reason of this accident is yet to be known as the investigation is on.

Police Inspector Somvir Dhaka, said, "This bus which

was mostly carrying students from Dakrog village to their school when the driver lost control due to the sudden inclined turn.

This was when the minibus overturned." He further said, "We have found out the driver was not under the influence of liquor. It was just that he lost control because of overloading in the mini-bus."

Talking to reporters at the Civil Hospital Sector-6, Panchkula DC Yash Garg said, "The minibus overturned near a turn. The reasons behind the accident are under investigation. All children are stable; no one has a threatening or critical injury." He further said that some of the injured were admitted to a hospital in Pinjore. Out of the 46 injured, 22 including three adults and 19 children were taken to the Panchkula civil hospital. The

woman who has been referred to the PGIMER was walking beside the road when the accident occurred. Four adults were also brought to the civil hospital in Panchkula and one of them is a 60-year-old woman, who suffered crush injury on her arm. She has been referred to the PGI, Chandigarh, Garg added.

Mukta Kumar, Chief Medical Officer of the hospital, confirmed that 46 people were injured in the accident. Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta, who is the MLA of Panchkula, reached Civil Hospital Sector 6 to inquire about the well-being of the injured children. Talking to reporters, Gupta said the bus driver and the conductor were suspended. "The bus was overloaded and we have been told that the vehicle's speed was slightly in excess. As it

approached a turn, it overturned. So the driver and the conductor of the bus have been suspended," he said at the hospital.

Kalka MLA Pradeep Chaudhary also reached Civil Hospital Sector 6 to inquire about the well-being of the injured children.

According to a government spokesperson, an order issued by the general manager of Haryana Roadways stated that the two were suspended with immediate effect.

The authorities have launched an investigation into the accident, and the exact cause of the incident is yet to be determined.

However, the overloading of the bus and the bad condition of the road are among the factors that could have led to the accident, according to police, he added.

# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I Gagandeep Singh** S/O Satinderpal Singh R/O # 1746, Gonianna Road, The & Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab-152026 have Changed My Name From Gagandeep Singh To Gagandeep Singh Sandhu. All Concern Note It

**I Vikrant Jaiswal** S/O Satpal Jaiswal R/O Bagh Wali Gali, Sri Muktsar Sahib , Do Hereby Solemnly Affirm And Declare That In The School Record Of My Minor Daughter Arshiya My Name Wrongly Enter As Vikrant Instead Of Our Correct Name Vikrant Jaiswal All Concerned May Kindly Note.

**I Sehdev** S/O Sh Dinesh Bansal R/O H.No- 627 Sector- 6 Panchkula, Have Changed My Name From Sehdev To Sehdev Bansal.

**I Ram Parkash** Mehta S/O Megh Raj R/O #254 Ward No.8, St No.6, Ekta Nagri, Mandi Dabwali Sirsa Have Changed My Name From Ram Parkash Mehta To Ram Parkash

**I Kiran** W/O Nooti Kumar R/O Flat No 301,Block E6, Gh79, Sandeep Vihar, Sector 20, Panchkula Have Changed My Name From Kiran To Kiran Bala Concern Please Note

**I Ujjwala Sunil** Jadhav Spouse Of No. 15709790 Rank Nk Name Sunil Jadhav Unit 10 Csr(A) C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of Khilegaon, Tehsil Athani, Distt. Belgaum State Karnataka-591212 Have Changed My Name From Ujjwala Jadhav To Ujjwala Sunil Jadhav

**I Jayachitra** Spouse Of No. Jc-313459k Rank Sub Name M Raja Unit 4 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Bathinda Cantt (Punjab) Permanent Resident Of B 16, Kali Nagar, Kallipatti Post, Chettinaickenpatti, Po Dindigul Collectorate, Distt. Dindigul, State Tamil Nadu-624004 Have Changed My Name From Jaya Chitra To Jayachitra

**I, Ex No-1080678-P,** Rank-Ld, Name-Sohan Singh Dhani, Residence Of Vill-Bhatton, Po-Takhatgarh, Tehsil-Anandpur Sahib, District- Rupnagar, State-Punjab Declare That In My Army Records My Wife's Name Is Wrongly Recorded As Balwinder Kaur. Her Correct Name Is Balwinder Kaur Dhani

**I, Ex No-1080678-P,** Rank-Ld, Name-Sohan Singh Dhani, Residence Of Vill-Bhatton, Po-Takhatgarh, Tehsil-Anandpur Sahib, District- Rupnagar, State-Punjab Declare That In My Army Records My Name Sohan Singh. It Is Shown Incorrect. That I Want To Amend My Name In My Army Records Sohan Singh To Sohan Singh Dhani

**I, Ex No-1080678-P,** Rank-Ld, Name- Sohan Singh Dhani, Residence Of Vill- Bhatton, Po-Takhatgarh, Tehsil-Anandpur Sahib, District-Rupnagar, Punjab Declare That In My Army Records My Son's Name Lovepreet Singh. It Is Shown Incorrect. His Correct Name Is Lovepreet Singh Dhani

**I Malkit Kaur** W/O Sukhmander Singh R/O Village Dhapali Tahsil Rampura Phul (Bathinda) Punjab, Declare That My Son (No.2503414m) Nk Gurmukh Singh Unit No.7r (Punjab) In His Army Service Record My Name Written Malkeet Kaur But My Correct Name Is Malkit Kaur. Kindly Concern Note This.

**I, Rajni Bala** W/o Vikas Kumar R/O House No. 4824/5 Model Town, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Rajni to Rajni Bala.

**I, Sandeep Suthar** S/o Sarjeet Singh R/o 597/12, near Bijli Ghar, Krishna Nagar, Hisar have changed my name to Sandeep. Concerned note.

**I, No. 15575322W** Hav Surinder Singh S/o Late Sh. Jaginder Singh R/O V.P.O. Sharifgarh, Tehsil Shahabad (M) District Kurukshetra declare that in my service record my son's name is wrongly written as Arshdeep Singh instead of Arshdeep Singh. Note all concerns.

**I, Sarabjeet Singh** S/o Balbir Singh R/o V.P.O Tarisikka, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Sarabjeet Singh to Singh is my surname and Sarabjeet is my given name.

**I, Priya Jindal** W/o Anit Kumar R/O SCF- 5, Model Town, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Priya Singla to Priya Jindal.

**I, Army No. 14928297P** Rank: HAV. Yumlembam Jatishwor Singh Unit: 6 Mech Inf. (1st Garh Rif.) C/o 56 APO, Permanent Resident of Keirao Bitra Awang Leikai, Keirao Bitra, Imphal East, Manipur-795008, have changed my son's name from Y Prince Singh to Yumlembam Prince Singh.

**I, Wahengbam** Usharani Devi Wife of Army No. 14928297P Rank: HAV. Yumlembam Jatishwor Singh Unit: 6 Mech Inf. (1st Garh Rif.) C/o 56 APO, Permanent Resident of Keirao Bitra Awang Leikai, Keirao Bitra, Imphal East, Manipur-795008, have changed my name from W Usharani Devi to Wahengbam Usharani Devi.

**I, Jaydayal Singh** Father of Army No. 14928016N Rank: HAV. Name: Jaypal Singh Yadav, Unit: 6 MECH. C/o 56 APO, Presently Residing at Gandala, PO, Gandala, District Alwar, Rajasthan-301709 have changed my Date of Birth from 01/11/1949 to 07/05/1948.

**I, Maktul Devi** Mother of Army No. 14928016N Rank: HAV. Name: Jaypal Singh Yadav, Unit: 6 MECH. C/o 56 APO, Presently Residing at Gandala, PO, Gandala, District Alwar, Rajasthan-301709 have changed my Date of Birth from 01/11/1954 to 20/05/1950.

**I, Kadari Sulochana** Mother of Army No. 14684396L, Rank: NK Name: C Praveen Kumar, Unit: 2 CZW C/o 56 APO Pin 906302, Resident of House No 4-34, Bhiknoor Mandalam, Rameshwarpalle, Bhiknoor Nizamabad, Telangana-503101, have changed my Name from Sulochana to Kadari Sulochana.

**I, Kadari Devaiah** Father of Army No. 14684396L, Rank: NK Name: C Praveen Kumar, Unit: 2 CZW C/o 56 APO Pin 906302, Resident of House No 4-34, Bhiknoor Mandalam, Rameshwarpalle, Bhiknoor Nizamabad, Telangana- 503101, have changed my Name from Devaiah to Kadari Devaiah.

**I, Nc. Jc499127W** Rank: Ex- Sub (Hy Capt.) Name: Davinder Singh, resident of Village Ajrawar, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala, I had changed my spouse name from Sarabjit Kaur to Sarabjeet Kaur due to wrongly mentioned in my service record.

**I, Anil Kumar** (Aadhar No. 591139058283) S/o Late Sh. Tara Chand Hasija R/O H. No. 44, Nandwani Nagar, Sonipat -131001, Haryana have changed my name from Anil Kumar to Anil Hasija for all future purposes.

**I M Malathy** is legally Wife of No. 16116153L, Rank L/NK Name Pandiyarasan K of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Residing at 1/35, North Street, Veppampatti, Peraiyur Taluk, Pappinaickenpatti, Madurai, Veppampatti State Tamil Nadu Pin 625705 have Changed my Name From Malathy M to M Malathy Vide Affidavit Dated 08 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur

**I Kusum** wife of Surinder Kumar Bansal resident of House No 57, Street No. 2 Ferozepur Cantt have changed my name to Kusum Bansal.

**I, Monika** W/o Kuldeep Singh (D/o Rikhi Ram) R/O Civil Hospital, Fazilka, Distt Fazilka have changed my name from Monika to Mona.

**I, Balbir Kour** W/o Tarsem Singh (D/o Jioon Singh) R/O Guru Har Sahai, Distt Ferozepur have changed my name from Balbir Kour to Balbir Kaur.

**I, Vishal Galhotra** S/o Kewal Krishan R/O Basti Arrian Wali, Guruharsahai, Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Rubani to Rubani Galhotra.

**I, Gurjeet Kaur** W/O Veer Singh R/O Village Kada Bora Po Sodhi Nagar District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Gurjit Kaur

**I, Chanchal Rani** W/O Braham Swaroop R/O H No 133 Sham Nagar Kamal have changed my name to Chanchal

**I, Shashi Gagan** C/o Paras Nath R/O Shiv Dawala Vill Chourmastpur Distt Ambala have changed my name to Dhruv Nath

**I, Balwinder Kaur** W/o Harbhajan Singh Vill.Mohanpur, Karah Sahib, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my Given name Balwinder Surname Kaur.

**I, Surinder Pal Singh** Pahwa S/o Sh. Gurmukh Singh R/O House No. 566-A, Model Colony, Yamuna Nagar, Distt. Yamuna Nagar (Haryana). That I have change my name from Surinder Pal Singh Pahwa to Surinder Pal Singh.

**I, Harman d/o** Sarwan Singh w/o Late Kinder r/o VPO. Jamsheer Khas, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Harman to Harman Gill. All concerned note.

**I, Harman w/o** Late Kinder r/o VPO. Jamsheer Khas, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my minor son's name from Armaan to Armaan Gill. All concerned note.

**I, Harman w/o** Late Kinder r/o VPO. Jamsheer Khas, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my minor daughter's name from Manisha to Manisha Gill. All concerned note.

**I, Bhajan Kaur** W/o Balbir Singh R/O H.No.73, Subhana, The Jalandhar Part-1, Punjab -144022 have changed my name to Harbhajan Kaur for all future purposes.

**I, Gurpreet Kaur** W/o Harpreet Singh Harish R/O H No.271, Kanjli Road, Guru Nanak Nagar, Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Gurpreet Kaur to Gurpreet Kaur Harish.

**I, Kulbir Kaur** W/o Baldev Singh R/O VPO. Sagranwali, PO. Bhatnura Lubana, Distt. Jalandhar have changed the spelling of my name from Kulbir Kaur to Kulvir Kaur.

It is for general information that I, Rishi Singh S/o Baljit Singh R/o Rorian, Po. Bassi Daulat Khan, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146111, India declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Rishi Singh Alias Rishii in my Educational Documents of 10th and 12th. The actual name of mine is Rishi Singh.

**I, Jatinder Kumar** S/o Resham Lal R/O Village Partap Pura, Po. Lohara, Distt. Jalandhar. I declare that name of my father have been wrongly written as Rashem Lala in my passport No. J 1844259. The Actual my father name Resham Lal.

**I, Gurbaksh Kaur** W/o Surinder Kumar Mahi R/O V.P.O. Randhawa Masandan, Tehsil and Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Gurbaksh Kaur to Gurbaksh Kaur Mahi.

**I, Surinder Kumar** S/o Karam Chand R/O V.P.O. Randhawa Masandan, Tehsil and Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Surinder Kumar to Surinder Kumar Mahi.

**I, Harmanpreet Kaur** d/o Davinder Kumar r/o Mohalla Adarsh Colony Hajipur, Po. Hajipur, Teh.Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Harmanpreet Kaur to Harmanpreet.

**I, Sukhpal Singh** Janjua S/o Joga Singh R/O H.No.11, Old Jawahar Nagar, Po.Jalandhar City Jalandhar declare that Sukhpal Singh both name are one and the same person i.e. myself.

**I, Hardeep Singh** S/O Jaspal Singh R/O Village-Gunjian, Po- Saidowal Kalan, Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur, Pin -143530 Punjab India. Declare That My Given Name As Hardeep And My Surname As Singh.

**I, Kavita Rani** W/o Sh. Jang Bahadur R/o VPO Dhani Raipur, Tehsil and Distt. Hisar (Haryana) 125004 declare that my name is Kavita Rani in my Aadhar Card, Ration Card, Voter Card, Record etc. documents. That Kavita Rani and Kavita are the names of one and the same person.

**I, Jang Bahadur** S/o Sh. Rishal Singh R/o VPO Dhani Raipur, Tehsil and Distt. Hisar (Haryana) 125004 declare that my name is Jang Bahadur in my Aadhar Card, Ration Card, Voter Card, Record etc. documents. That Jang Bahadur and Jang Bhadur are the names of one and the same person.

**I Jaswant Singh** Dhalla S/O Inder Singh Dhalla R/O Vpo. Maluka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Jaswant Singh.

**I Charanjit Kaur** Dhalla W/O Jaswant Singh R/O Vpo. Maluka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Charanjit Kaur.

**I Karamjeet Kaur** Gill W/O Harwinder Singh Sandhu R/O Village Manawan District Moga 152028 Have Changed My Name To Karamjeet Kaur.

**I Pawan Kumar** S/O Madan Lal R/O H.No.960 W.No.14 Near Geeta Colony Moga Punjab Have Changed My Name To Pawan Kumar Bansal.

**I Lucky** S/O Lovely R/O H.No.-1041, St.No.-6, Bai Singh Nagar, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Lucky Mainh.

**I Swarn Singh** S/O Resham Singh R/O St.No.-3, Hambran Road Baba Deep Singh Ji Gurudwara, Partap Singh Wala Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Swarn Singh.

**I Kulwinder Singh** Panaich S/O Harchand Singh R/O Vill. Silon Khurd Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Singh.

**I Rakesh S/O** Ashok Kumar R/O H.No.-B-34-10755, New Patel Nagar, Haibowal Kalan Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Rakesh Nanda.

**I Reena W/O** Murari Singh R/O H.No.-669 St.No.-6 Vedant Nagar Moga (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Reena Singla.

**I Ram Tirath** S/O Nathi Ram Singla R/O H.No.-669 St.No.-6 Vedant Nagar Moga (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Ram Tirath Singla.

**I Vinod Kumar** Bhardwaj S/O Gurdas Chand R/O H.No.54/A Smt Nagar Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Vinod Kumar.

**I Gurjit Singh** Toor S/O Pritam Singh R/O Vill. Sowaddi Kalan Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Gurjit Singh.

**I Amit Kumar** S/O Rattan Lal Gupta R/O B-1/210 Gali Khanjor Wali Jatinder Chowk Faridkot Punjab Have Changed My Name To Amit Jain.

**I Manisha** W/O Madan Lal R/O 96, Pal House, Mohalla Rampura, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Manisha Pal To Manisha.

**I Narinder Singh** S/O Sukhwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Dhanoa, District Hoshiarpur Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Narinder And My Surname As Singh.

**I Surjit Kaur** W/O Bhupinder Singh R/O Vill. Sherpur P.O. Bahawal District Hoshiarpur 146105 Have Changed My Name From Surjit Kaur To Surjeet Kaur.

**I Rajni** D/O Baljinder Kumar R/O House No.222, Rahimpur, Ward No.17, Hoshiarpur Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Rajni And My Surname As Kumari.

**I Sonu** W/O Vinod Kumar R/O House No.-721, Street No.-3 Shivalik Enclave Hoshiarpur Punjab Delare That My Given Name As Sonu And My Surname As Jaswal.

**I, Hardeep Singh** S/O Jaspal Singh R/O Village-Gunjian, Po- Saidowal Kalan, Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur, Pin -143530 Punjab India. Declare That My Given Name As Hardeep And My Surname As Singh.

**I, No 2497628k** Ex Nk (Ts) Jaswinder Singh Resident Of Village Datyal, Po. Kathlour, Tehsil And Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Have Changed Name Of My Mother From Radha Saini To Radha Rani Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb3356654248079w Dated 08-07-2024 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I Kanwar Jit Singh** S/o Gurbachan Singh Vill-Behbawal Chhhanian Po Nangal Bihalan Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name Kanwar Jit Singh to Kanwarjit Singh.

**I Balbir Kaur** W/O Kanwarjit Singh Village Behbawal Chhhanian PO Nangal Bihalan Tehsil Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have Changed My Name Balbir Kaur To Balvir Kaur.

**I, Neha** W/o Manjinder Singh R/o Vill: Majara Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) Pb, India, have changed my name from Neha to Neha Sidhu.

**I Dev Singh** S/o Gurmukh Singh Vill Chhana Gulab Singh Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name to Deva Singh.

**I Jasvir Singh** Ladhroe S/o Natha Singh R/O Bhadaur, Distt. Barnala have changed my name to Jasvir Singh.

**I Sandeep Kaur** Dhaliwal W/o Gulinder Singh R/O Deepgarh, Distt. Barnala have changed my name to Sandeep Kaur.

**I Karamjeet Kaur** Dhaliwal W/o Randhir Singh R/O Saidoke, Distt. Moga have changed my name to Karamjeet Kaur.

**I Randhir Singh** Dhaliwal S/o Malkit Singh R/o Saidoke, Distt. Moga have changed my name to Randhir Singh.

**I Harbans Singh** Gill S/o Gurdev Singh R/O Bhadaur, Tehsil Tapa Distt. Barnala have changed my name to Harbans Singh.

**I Sarabjit Kaur** W/O Gurdeep Singh R/O Andlu (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Sarabjit Kaur Grewal.

**I Nahar Singh** S/O Kaka Singh R/O Vpo.Burj Littan (Ludhiana) My Name Nahar Singh And Naher Singh Is Same Person.

**I Navdeep Singh** S/O Harinderjit Singh R/O House Number 119, Andlu (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name To Navdeep Singh Grewal.

**I Satinder Kaur** W/O Navdeep Singh Grewal R/O House Number 119, Andlu (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name To Satinder Kaur Grewal.

**I, Rupinder Kaur** W/o Gurjeet Singh Sekhon R/o Vpo. Bhani Baringan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Rupinder Kaur Sekhon.

**I Hardeep Singh** S/o Rachpal Singh R/o Pherurain (Ludhiana) have changed my name Hardeep Singh Rai.

**I, Kuldeep Rai** Middle S/O Buta Ram R/O Jaitu (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Rai.

**I, Simran Kaur** W/O Kuldeep Rai R/O Jaitu (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Simran.

**I, Sukhmeet Singh** Gumber S/o Gurminder Singh R/O H.No.53/20, Peer Khana Road, W.N.20, Mata Rani Mohala, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sukhmeet Singh.

**I, Kuldip Singh** Cheema S/o Sampuran Singh R/O Dadhahur (Ludhiana) have changed my minor daughter name from Hardeep Kaur to Hardeep Kaur Cheema.

**I Kulbir Kaur** Dhillon W/O Jasjeet Singh Brar R/O H No 6/2,Baghi Hospital Road Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Kulbir Kaur

**I Jaskarn Singh** Sandhu S/O Chanan Singh R/O Vill Nihal Ke Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Jaskaran Singh

**I Khilara Singh** S/O Karaj Singh Resident Of, Village Sadar Dinwala, District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Khalara Singh To Khilara Singh.

**I Army No. 4442699X** L/NK Dhana Singh R/o VPO Sayan Kalan, Tehsil and Distt Ludhiana (Punjab) PIN-141118, declare that I have changed my name from Dhana Singh to Dhanna Singh.

**I Jit Singh** S/O Bholu Singh R/O Village Kothe Sandhuan Wale Ablu (Bathinda) Have Changed My Name To Jeet Singh.

**I Kulwinder Kaur** Brar W/O Balkaran Singh R/O Vpo Sarawan (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Kaur.

**I Gurwinder Singh** S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O Village Phide Khurd (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Gurwinder Singh Brar.

**I, Kirandeep Kaur** Rai W/o Iqbal Singh R/o Vpo. Dhaipal (Faridkot) have changed my name to Kirandeep Kaur after marriage.

**I, Gagan Mittal** S/o Sudarshan Kumar Mittal R/O Ram Basti, Mittal Street, Samana, Tehsil Samana, Distt. Patiala have changed my name from Gagan Mohan Mittal to Gagan Mittal.

**I, Jyoti Mittal** W/o Gagan Mittal R/O Ram Basti, Mittal Street, Samana, Tehsil Samana, Distt. Patiala have changed my name from Jyoti & Jyoti Garg to Jyoti Mittal.

**I Gagandeep** Thaperwal S/O C.R. Chaudhary R/O H.No. 204, Phulkian Enclave, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my minor son's name from Kunwarveer to Kunwarveer Thaperwal.

**I Rajesh** S/o Sh. Kharati Lal R/o # B9/ 728 - G, Luxmi Garden, Near ITI, Yamunanagar have changed my name from Rajesh to Rajesh Kumar.

**I, Kamlesh Rani** w/o Mam Chand R/o Marva Kalan, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar declare that Kamlesh Rani and Kamlawati both are one & same Person.

**I, Neelam Agarwal**, W/O Sushil Dabriwal R/O The Legend, Villa- 15, Sushant Lok- 3, Sector- 57, Gurgaon-122002. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Neelam Dabriwal.

**I, Hitesh** S/O Satyawan, R/O MIG-I 788, Phase 10, Sector 64, Mohali, SAS Nagar, Punjab, 160062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Hitesh Grover.

**I, Kajal** D/O Hoshir Singh, R/O Landmark : Near Nagra Karyana Store, Area/ Sector : Saali Bhadroya, Village/ Town/ City: Pathankot, Punjab- 145001. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Preet Kaur.

**I, Deepak Kajal** S/O Khushdev Singh, R/O House No- 60, Milk Colony Dhanas, Chandigarh- 160015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sunny Singh.

**I, Nisha Bansal**, W/O Kunal Bansal R/O Ward no- 8, Ekta Nagri, Gali No - 6, Nai Dabwali (227), Sirsa, Haryana- 125104. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Nisha Rani.

**I Kamal Jeet Kaur** Uppal Alias Kamaljit Kaur W/o Kanwal Jeet Singh Uppal R/O House No.-169, Phase-2, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali), Chandigarh, Sector-55, S.A.S Nagar(Mohali), Punjab - 160055, have changed my name to Kamaljit Kaur Uppal.

**I Parvinder Kaur** W/o Rajinder Singh Residing at H.No. 292-A, Golden City, Sector 4, Mundi Kharar, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali), Punjab - 140301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Parvinder Kaur.

**I Himant Singh** S/o Kaku Singh Residing at H.No. 292-A, Golden City, Ward No. 5, Sector 4, Mundi Kharar, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali), Punjab - 140301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Himmat Singh.

**I, Gaurav Goel** S/o Rakesh Goel R/o 76, Phase-1, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab-160055, have changed my minor son's name from Yagya Goel aged 13 years to Aayansh Goel forever.

**I Anuradha Sharma** W/o Dhiraj Kumar R/O H.No.1828 MLA Road, Rajpura Town Distt. Patiala have changed my name to Anuradha Grover. Please Note.

**I Harmohan Singh** Thind S/O Surjit Singh R/o Vill Jangpura, Distt SAS Nagar Mohali Changed Name As Harmohan Singh.

**I Gurjeet Kaur** Thind W/o Harmohan Singh R/o Vill Jangpura, Distt SAS Nagar Mohali Changed Name As Gurjeet Kaur.

**I, Gurjant Singh** Father of No.4494292W L/NK Parmatma Singh resident of VPO- Paniwala Ruldu, Tehsil-Dabwali, District- Sirsa, State-Haryana, Pin-125104, have changed my name from Gurjant Singh to Janta Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB33245006989855W dated 08 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Mukhtiar Kaur** Mother of No.4494292W L/NK Parmatma Singh resident of VPO- Paniwala Ruldu, Tehsil-Dabwali, District- Sirsa, State-Haryana, Pin-125104, have changed my name from Mukhtiar Kaur to Mukhtyar Kaur Vide affidavit No.IN-PB33245792394016W dated 08 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Satbir Singh** Father of No.15786135F Hav Satywan resident of Village- Banwasa, Post- Banwasa, Tehsil-Gohana, District- Sonipat, State- Haryana, Pin-131304, have changed my name & DOB from Satbir Singh to Satbir and date of birth from 01 July 1959 to 01Jan 1951 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB32816246858019W dated 06 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Shobha S Yaligar** spouse of Shivanand Yaligar resident of Village- Awaradi, Post- Awaradi, Tehsil-Ramdurg, District- Belgaum, State- Karnataka, Pin-591127, have changed my name from Shobha S Yaligar to Shobha Shivanand Yaligar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB33454889543749W dated 08 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Shivanand** Yaligar resident of Village- Awaradi, Post- Awaradi, Tehsil-Ramdurg, District- Belgaum, State- Karnataka, Pin-591127, have changed my Mother name from Laxmibai Shrishail Yaligar to Laxmibayi Shrishail Yaligar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB33452772434654W dated 08 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Mangali Devi** Mother of No.4488467X NK Tarsem Singh resident of VPO- Kalri Jagir, Tehsil- Indri, District-Karnal, State- Haryana, Pin-132054, have changed my name & DOB from Magli to Mangali Devi and date of birth from 17 Nov 1958 to 01 Jan 1950 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB32816622312366W dated 06 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I Neelam Devi** (existing name) wife of No.3198900P Ex Hav Krishan resident of VPO Kilo, Tehsil Rohtak, District Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my name in my husband Army records from Neelam Devi (existing name) to Neelam (Proposed new name) as per my Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In future I shall may be known/written and called as Neelam for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 08 July 2024 before Ist Class Magistrate Rohtak

**I No. 3198900P** Ex Hav Krishan son of Prithvi Singh resident of Vpo Kilo, Tehsil Rohtak, District Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my son name in my Army records from Sanny (existing name) to Sunny (Proposed new name) as per my son Aadhaar Card/Pan Card.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Macron makes it

From the UK to Iran and now France, progressive voices and inclusive thinking is making a comeback

France has just about managed to keep the ultra-right at bay. ultra rightwingers have lost to the liberals in the snap poll ordered by French President Emmanuel Macron. France has a rich history of liberalism and social progressivism, yet in recent years, the country has seen a rise in far-right nationalism. However recent elections and political movements indicate a resurgence of progressive values. A left-wing alliance secured the most seats in the French parliament after tactical voting in Sunday's second-round election thwarted Marine Le Pen's far-right party. But the victory of the Left is not decisive. France now faces political uncertainty, as no party achieved an absolute majority in the National Assembly. President Emmanuel Macron's gamble seems to have worked as he had ordered a snap poll and decided to go to elections despite his waning popularity. He has championed a centrist approach that blends liberal economic policies with progressive social reforms. His administration has focused on addressing climate change, promoting gender equality, and fostering a more inclusive society. His surprise win, despite predictions to the contrary, suggests that people across the globe are moving towards liberal values and giving them prominence over reactionary forces.



This shift could have far-reaching implications for the European Union and beyond. However, to take a pragmatic approach, France has just about managed to defeat the far right who went on a rampage after the elections did not go in their favour as was widely expected. In the time to come, the challenges for President Macron may multiply as no one has secured a simple majority in the lower house of 577 seats. So now France enters the uncharted waters of coalition politics. The new government would be anything but stable and may give right-wingers a chance to discredit it. President Macron would face several significant challenges. Politically, he would need to navigate a fragmented landscape with diverse parties, address low public trust, and manage frequent protests. Economically, tackling inequality, unemployment, and high public debt while balancing social spending demands would be critical. Right now, France is struggling to pull back its economy from crisis. So far annual growth has been 0.7 per cent in 2024 after a significant slowdown in the second half of 2023 but may gain momentum in 2025 (1.3 per cent). Socially, issues like immigration integration, pension reforms, and the housing crisis would require careful attention. Finally, Macron would have to address sensitive cultural issues, including secularism, religious freedom, and debates around national identity and multiculturalism. To effectively tackle the far right, President Macron would have to focus on reducing socioeconomic disparities to address the economic grievances that fuel extremism.

### PICTALK



The chariots of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra prepared for annual Rath Yatra festival, in Puri

## Paving the way for India's own Green Silicon Valley

Climate change offers an opportunity to create an international market for green products, capital and goods through cooperation and collaboration

Growth, Employment and Climate Change, the trifecta of modern economic challenges, have rekindled the interest of policymakers in bringing back the craft of industrial policymaking right at the centre of the discussion table. Ominous estimates highlight climate change as a critical factor negatively impacting growth and employment, whereby ~18% of GDP and labour productivity equivalent to 72 million jobs might be lost, therefore the argument by Nicholas Stern and Joseph E. Stiglitz that "the only long-run growth trajectory is a green trajectory" echoes loudly for adaptation by industrial policymakers globally. Fashionably rechristened as Green Industrial Policy, the craft embeds within itself a series of government intervention measures (supply and demand focussed subsidies, regulations, incentives and standards) that aim at achieving economic development while simultaneously cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Globally leading nations have com-



combined different elements of the Green Industrial Policy craft for building national competitive advantage towards catalysing economic growth, increasing skilled employment and climate action: **Japan:** Introduced five policy tools of Grant funding, Tax incentive, Guidance policy on transition finance, Regulatory reforms and international collaboration, targeting over 18 trillion yen for fourteen green growth sectors such as wind power, nuclear power, mobility & battery etc. **The US:** manufacturing, strengthening national security through supply chain resilience and accelerating the energy transition by supply and demand side spending and tax cuts of ~\$400 billion that aims to create ~1.5 million jobs.

India has made some formidable moves towards a green future by focusing on domestic market formation and localization of components. Its Long Term-Low Emission Development Strategy submitted at COP27 articulates seven transitions to low-carbon development such as electricity systems, transport systems, sustainable urbanization etc. The production-linked incentive schemes in renewable energy equipment space and technology-focused national missions on hydrogen and energy storage are steps in the right direction that can be aptly followed by a broader green industrialisation policy for India. The broader green industrialisation policy by catalysing investments in manufacturing of decarbonisation technologies which are foundational in the short run can trigger the Schumpeterian process of innovation and discovery in the medium term towards high-carbon growth and employment. In this regard, the thrust on clean energy

entrepreneurship through industrial policy and a green R & D policy can foster breakthrough innovations and patents that can create and monetise new solutions. Japan and Korea have acknowledged this potential of startups as open innovation resources and introduced industrial policy support that encourages them to partner with larger conglomerates to propel the innovativeness of the economy at large and compete with their European, Chinese and American competitors. Green startups with their agility and Conglomerates with their market power and experience can aspire to create our own green Silicon Valley. Climate change offers an opportunity to create an international market for green products, capital and goods through international cooperation and collaboration. These initiatives can catalyse a virtuous cycle of growth, employment and carbon neutrality. (The writer is a Chevening Scholar and an International Development expert; views are personal)



SAIRAM SUBRAMANIAN

# Indians dying on the Russian frontline

The presence of Indian nationals on the Russian side of the Ukraine conflict raises broader questions about the ethics of foreign combatant recruitment.



BHOPINDER SINGH

The issue of Indians fighting along with the Russian forces in the Ukraine War is particularly piquant, given India's historic relations with the Soviet Union earlier and Russia now. The fact that many had claimed to have been 'forced' to fight had forced the Indian Government to intervene. It is a claim that hasn't been conclusively confirmed as the Indian Embassy was aware of many Indians having signed up for support jobs in the Russian Army. Pending confirmation that their terms of service had been unfairly and involuntarily extended to fight on the frontline, the Indian authorities had formally sought their discharge. It further advised Indians to "exercise caution" and "stay away from this conflict" - diplomatese for dissuading Indians from joining any Russian Army, in any capacity, given the situation. But as it routinely happens e.g., as it happened with advisories to Indian students to leave Ukraine before the full-fledged assault, some heeded the call and some didn't, till the situation became desperate and inextricable for them. The Russians have been particularly keen to swell their ranks with foreigners given the heavy loss of lives in the bloody stalemate and the accompanying sense of fatigue and despondency amongst its combatants.

The inclusion of private militias like the 'Wagner Army' is under that impulse. But the inclusion of individual foreigners is a formalized initiative that can be traced back to Law 29 March 1998 'On Military Obligation and Military Service' - which has since then been made increasingly attractive and lenient to attract new intake. Talks of individuals from Central Asian Countries (for the Soviet Union), Cuba, Afghanistan, Nepal, Syria, Somalia etc., have been doing the rounds. For these foreign inductees, besides the relatively lucrative salary (\$2000-\$3000), the additional lure of Russian citizenship is dangled. Estimated to be numbering in thousands, BBC reported that as of last year's end, 254 foreigners had been killed in the conflict. How many of them had enlisted



for support jobs and how many were forcibly taken for active combat, remains a matter of conjecture. The tact of enlisting 'mercenaries' is an old and convenient practice, as besides the relatively low levels of accountability, they also come with the plausible option of deniability. Under the International Criminal Court and the International Humanitarian Law, the status of 'mercenary' does not constitute a specific crime. But they are not entitled to the status of 'prisoner of war' and its necessities. The idea is to discourage mercenaries as material greed-based and amoral entities as opposed to soldiers of the nation who are driven by a sense of national purpose, patriotism, and professional excellence. To qualify as 'mercenaries', six criteria need to be fulfilled. Firstly, the person is specially recruited internally/abroad. Secondly, the belligerent participants in conflict. Thirdly, he/she is motivated by private gain, as promised by one side in the conflict. Fourthly, they are not national, resident or interested party in the said conflict. Fifthly, they do not belong to the militaries of either side. Sixthly and lastly, they have not been sent by a non-interested state on any official duty as a member of their military. Therefore, it could be pre-



THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY KEEN TO SWELL THEIR RANKS WITH FOREIGNERS GIVEN THE HEAVY LOSS OF LIVES IN THE BLOODY STALEMATE AND THE ACCOMPANYING SENSE OF FATIGUE AND DESPONDENCY AMONGST ITS COMBATANTS

sumed some Indians who are unfortunately caught in a form of combat that they probably had not imagined whilst signing up, and may still qualify as 'mercenary'. Such a scenario does not reflect well on the nation as it is suggestive of limited job opportunities domestically and therefore suggests societal desperation which is understandable for broken nations like Somalia or Syria, but not India. Sadly, portents of 'cannon fodder' or even 'human trafficking' are rife, but given the opaqueness that surrounds the Russian reality, nothing can be confirmed. Such times birth human trafficking networks that paint a very different picture to recruit the gullible when the truth is starkly different. There have been gut-wrenching pleas from some Indians beseeching the Indian authorities to secure their release, with some losing their lives, soon after that. The Indian External Affairs Minister is believed to have reiterated his concern to his Russian counterpart during a recent bilateral in Astana, Kazakhstan. To the query, if S Jaishankar had taken up the issue of stranded Indians, he assured, "Very clearly and strongly... several Indians have been pressed into service with the Russian Army. Only when they come back will we know the full cir-

cumstances. But whatever the circumstances are, to us it is unacceptable that Indian citizens find themselves in the army of another country in a warzone. I told him that we seek their cooperation and that they are our friend and partners. We have to find a way so that these people can return to India as quickly and effectively as possible." Thankfully, despite the ostensibly pro-Ukraine position taken by Delhi, it has maintained a parallel and strong relation with Russia, replete with non-linear moves as part of its 'strategic independence'. However, while the government had initiated the needful from Russian authorities, there is a reciprocal expectation of Indians abroad to heed advisories, and not wait for situations to deteriorate. No right-thinking country would encourage its citizens to partake in conflicts given the diversity of complex geopolitical and societal ramifications, amongst which guaranteeing their safety would be paramount. For Russians, foreign recruitment makes practical sense - for Indians to be availing the same, reflects poorly. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### HOPE FOR INDIA'S FUTURE

Madam — Observing Rahul Gandhi's political trajectory reveals his focused objectives: welfare for the poor, social justice, MSME development, and job creation. Once dismissed with derisive labels, he now stands as a pivotal opposition figure and a national benefactor. In Parliament, he champions crucial issues like poverty rights, constitutional protection, and unemployment, spotlighting concerns from the Agniveer scheme to NEET. We trust he will persist in combating corruption for India's bright future. Rahul Gandhi's tenure as Leader of the Opposition has been marked by a transformation from skepticism to significance. Initially dismissed, he has emerged as a pivotal voice, advocating for the marginalized and pressing critical issues in Parliament. His agenda emphasizes welfare for the poor, social justice, MSME development, and job creation. Gandhi's relentless pursuit of transparency and accountability has kept the government accountable on issues ranging from poverty alleviation to constitutional protection. His proactive stance on national challenges like unemployment and inflation underscores his commitment to India's future, positioning him as a proactive and influential leader in the opposition ranks. Masood Ahmad |Barabanki

#### EXPECTATIONS FROM THE BUDGET

Madam — Amidst anticipation of the upcoming budget session, national attention is fixated on its contents. India Inc. hopes to retain production incentives, while salary earners seek raised exemption limits and improved tax slabs. The common man yearns for relief from economic hardships, and farmers seek guaranteed minimum returns. Senior citizens anticipate travel benefits and healthcare subsidies. Supporters are poised, their lists ready, crucial for the government's survival. The budget's essence lies in who gains and by how much from this vul-

#### Implications of Iran's election



The untimely demise of Iran's conservative President Ebrahim Raisi has necessitated an election amidst regional tensions,

exacerbated by the Gaza conflict and disputes over Iran's nuclear program. India anticipates evolving bilateral ties under reformist President-elect Pezeshkian. Despite historical ties spanning language, culture, and commerce, both nations face a crucial juncture. With shared roots and significant strategic interests, India and Iran navigate a relationship poised for new dynamics. The future of Iran under liberal leadership holds promise for significant domestic and international shifts. Potential reforms could ease tensions, particularly regarding Iran's nuclear program, fostering better relations with the West. Internally, liberal policies may encourage socio-economic progress and cultural openness, reshaping Iran's global image and regional dynamics. Dimple Wadhawan Kanpur

Dimple Wadhawan |Kanpur

nerable government. The common man eagerly anticipates budgetary relief through increased exemption limits, revised tax slabs, and measures to alleviate everyday financial burdens. Expectations include provisions for healthcare subsidies, travel benefits for senior citizens, and incentives supporting livelihood stability, reflecting hopes for tangible improvements in quality of life. AG Rajmohan |Anantpur

#### KEIR STARMER'S VISION FOR CHANGE

Madam — Apropos, "Now we get to work, Starmer to cabinet," The Pioneer, July 7. The British election results that led to Labour leader Keir Starmer's entry into 10 Downing Street mark a pivotal moment in the country's politics, promising to steer the nation through the turbulent aftermath of 14 years of Conservative governance. The enormity of Labour's victory cannot be overstated. Achieving a massive majority in Parliament, Labour has been given a clear mandate to implement change. His

acknowledgment of the public's lack of trust in politics is a refreshing departure from the often defensive posture of recent administrations. His promise to heal this mistrust through actions rather than words is a step in the right direction. The British public has grown cynical after enduring repeated scandals, including the infamous Downing Street parties during the Covid-19 lockdowns, which eroded confidence in government integrity. Economically, Mr Starmer inherits a nation grappling with significant challenges. The tax burden is at its highest since the post-World War II era, and public services, particularly the National Health Service, are under immense strain. His government's ability to deliver on ambitious promises, such as green spending initiatives and public service improvements, will be a key measure of success. N Sadhasiva Reddy |Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

Embracing life's challenges with a grateful heart leads to a profound awakening



RAVI VALLURI

Almighty divinity, through the prowess of nature, and the resplendent and ever-mutating cosmos is eternally showering bounties on humans. However, the human mind is not wakeful or grateful to accept this materiality. A question of attitude is primarily and predominantly our attitude which reinforces gratitude within our personalities. The word gratitude strikes its roots in the word the Latin word gratis, meaning to be thankful. It is always sagacious to recite a short prayer before a meal. Language is no trammel. Annadata Sukhi Bhava. By remembrance of these lines (Sanskrit), we express our gratefulness and indebtedness to the agrarian community and the cook for producing and preparing the meal respectively. Body: a divine instrument Nature has gifted us with something incomparable and priceless, the human body. We have been provided with a supercomputer of a brain. Prowess of the breath Next humans are blissfully unmindful of the power of our breath. It can be likened to a cell phone which nature has provided to connect us with divinity. Breath is perhaps the most potent form of effervescence and pizzazz of our personalities. Humans are insensible to the fact that ninety per cent of toxins get expatriated from our bodies through the potency of breath. If we delve deep into the ancient practices like pranayama or the unique rhythmic technique of Sudarshan Kriya (imparted in various bouquets of courses of the Art of Living) the primacy of breath is under-



stood by us. An inestimable nun Aeon ago lived an exalted and celebrated Zen nun. There were far and few like her. It was believed that few women could attain the venerable state like this pious lady. Once she had undertaken an arduous pilgrimage and arrived at a village as the sun sank in the horizon. In all humility, she begged for lodgings for the night. However, the villagers slammed their doors and were unwilling to accommodate her in the village. They were opposed to the tenets of the Zen school of thought. They thought it to be exceedingly revolutionary. Thus, the clichéd and conformist individuals were unwilling to accept the nun into their fold even for a night. The traditionalists banished her from the village and she was compelled to wage the battle against inclement weather out in the cold. At the stroke of midnight, she woke up abruptly, unearthed the cherry tree which fed her ravenous body with sweet fruits, talking to the full moon which lightened up the sky. Immediately she was engulfed with waves of emotions and suffused with love and affection for all those who had exiled and expatriated her from the village. She experienced the quintessential silence of an awakened one. She was extremely grateful to the villagers who had not accommodated her, to the cherry tree that fed her, the meditative silence that encompassed her body, all of which had wily nicely contributed to her awakening, an almost celestial spectacle. "Thus, a stock individual, a savant, a sage or a nun becomes a Buddha the moment he/she accepts all that life brings with its variegated, paradoxical situations. The one who accepts these situations which gratitude and gratefulness, without admonishing anyone or carping verily becomes an awakened one." - The Buddha. "Good men and bad men differ radically. Bad men never appreciate kindness shown them, but wise men appreciate and are grateful. Wise men try to express their appreciation and gratitude by some return of kindness, not only to their benefactor, but to everyone else," said Gautama Buddha.

*(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living)*

# The cost of freebies and the legal quagmire



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite a Supreme Court ruling highlighting the impact of freebies on election fairness, political parties continue to leverage public funds for electoral gain



In the Maharashtra Budget for 2024-25 presented by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, the BJP-led MahaYuti has announced financial assistance of Rs 1,500 per month for eligible women between 21 to 60 years of age, a stipend up to Rs.10,000 per month for youth in industrial and non-industrial sectors, electricity bill waiver for farmers etc. Unambiguously, these are freebies - an acronym for something given by the State free of charge - aimed at garnering votes during the State assembly elections later this year. In a July 2013 order in S Subramaniam Balaji vs Government of Tamil Nadu & Ors, the Supreme Court (SC) had said that the distribution of freebies of any kind influences all people; that "It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree". Yet, it had held that promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as "corrupt practice" under the Representation of People Act (RPA), or any other prevailing law and, hence, distribution of freebies can't be stopped when the ruling party uses public funds for this purpose through the passage of Appropriation Acts in the state assembly. In the same order, it directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) "to frame guidelines that could govern the contents of the election manifesto of all the recognized political parties as when it had acted while framing guidelines for general conduct of the candidates, meetings, processions, polling day, etc". Further "this can also be included in the model code of conduct - under a separate head for guidelines for election manifesto - for guidance of political parties and candidates". The ECI never came out with any such guidelines. Emboldened by ECI inaction, the political parties who in the past, were placing freebies in a corner of their manifestos, have started catapulting them to the centre stage. Now, freebies hold the key to winning elections. In February 2020, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led by Arvind Kejriwal mesmerized Delhi, voters, by promising free or heavily subsidized electricity and free water, free bus rides for women, free Wi-Fi, and so on. In 2022 in Punjab, AAP promised free electrici-



**NOW, FREEBIES HOLD THE KEY TO WINNING ELECTIONS. IN FEBRUARY 2020, THE AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP) LED BY ARVIND KEJRIWAL MESMERISED DELHI, VOTERS, BY PROMISING FREE OR HEAVILY SUBSIDISED ELECTRICITY AND FREE WATER, FREE BUS RIDES FOR WOMEN, FREE WI-FI, AND SO ON**

ty to each household for consumption up to 300 units per month, waiver of all outstanding power bills, Rs 1000 per month to every woman aged 18 or above etc. The party won the state with a thumping majority. In Uttar Pradesh also in 2022, BJP promised 20 million smartphones for poor students, two free LPG cylinders every year, Rs 100,000/- for the marriage of girls from poor families, and so on. Meanwhile, the matter came up before the SC through a public interest litigation (PIL). On January 25, 2022, it observed "This is no doubt a serious issue. Budget for freebies is going above the regular budget". It also reiterated that "this disturbs the level playing field". On August 3, 2022, it gave a sense that it is for Parliament, besides the ECI, to take the initiative to enact a law on curbing freebies. It also sought suggestions on the composition of a committee that could go into the issue "dispassionately" and make recommendations. But, the above decisions haven't been acted upon. Although, on its part, the ECI had sent out questionnaires asking parties to give 'specifics' of what they intend to promise voters, financial impact and how this will be funded, there hasn't been any follow-up. Meanwhile, the freebies continue to proliferate. In Karnataka elections in May 2023, the grand old party (GOP) promised five guarantees viz. Gruha Jyoti, Gruha Lakshmi, Sakhi programme, Yuva Nidhi, and Anna Bhagya. The trend continued during elections in Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana held in November/December 2023. While, in Rajasthan, Congress promised Rs 10,000 every year to the female head of the family under the Gruha Lakshmi Yojana, in MP, BJP increased the grant to Rs 1,250 per month under Ladli

Behna Yojana; the amount to be hiked to Rs 3,000 per month. Additionally, in MP, under Ladli Lakshmi Yojana, the BJP promised girls Rs 200,000/- till they get married. In Chhattisgarh, it promised Rs 12,000 per year to married women under the 'Mahtari Vandan Scheme'. In Telangana, the GOP beat all promising 10 grams of gold besides Rs 100,000/- cash to women getting married. In the run-up to the general elections, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on December 23, 2023 supply of free foodgrain under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to over 800 million persons, Congress gave ten guarantees in its manifesto "Nyay Patra" released in April, 2024. Meanwhile, in Delhi, Kejriwal promised Rs 1000 per month to all women above the age of 18 years under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana (MMSY). For State elections later this year, parties are readying to give another round of big doles. As mentioned earlier, the BJP-led MahaYuti has already announced a bountiful package for Maharashtra. For others viz. Haryana, and Jharkhand, parties will follow suit. The SC assertion on January 25, 2022 "Budget for freebies is going above the regular budget" is confirmed by facts on ground zero. Whereas, in Delhi, these cost the exchequer around Rs 12,500 crore annually, in Punjab the impact is close to Rs 20,000 crore. In Karnataka, at over Rs 60,000 crore, the cost of five guarantees exceeds the existing fiscal deficit. Redeeming the guarantees promised in GOP's "Nyay Patra" could cost the Central Government a mammoth around Rs 46,00,000 crore. In Maharashtra, Rs 1,500 per month to eligible women alone

would cost Rs 46,000 crore a year. When the top court says freebies are bad, why doesn't it ban them? A big deterrent is none other than the SC order of July 2013 which says "... it can't be construed as corrupt practice..." Within the meaning of section 123(1)(A) of the RPA, 1951, the expression 'bribery' has been defined to mean any gift, offer or promise by a candidate or his agent or by any other person with the consent of a candidate or his election agent of any gratification with the object of inducing an elector as a reward to his candidature. The irony is, that when a candidate uses his own pocket money to bribe the voter, it is treated as corrupt practice, but when the party on whose symbol he is seeking election bribes voters using 'public money', the top court doesn't treat it that way. The Union Government's standards of financial propriety lay down inter alia that "no authority shall exercise its powers of sanctioning expenditure to pass an order which will be directly or indirectly, to its advantage; and the expenditure from public moneys should not be incurred for the benefit of a particular person or a section of the people unless a claim for the amount could be enforced in a court of law or the expenditure is in pursuance of a recognized policy or custom". The reckless spending of the taxpayer's money on freebies is neither a recognized policy/custom nor it is sanctioned in a court of law. It is a blatant financial irregularity that amounts to bribing voters using public money solely to gain electoral advantage. The SC should change its stance to recognize this and force the Parliament to enact a law if it feels existing laws don't provide for it. *(The writer is a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)*

# Transforming healthcare with digital technologies

The health-tech sector is poised for exponential growth, reshaping the future of healthcare for all its citizens

Digital technologies are anticipated to offer swift and personalized clinical services to each patient through their handheld devices. New Age Technologies (NATs), including Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), mobile technologies, cloud computing, Big Data, and 5G, are becoming essential tools in the realm of "Smart Health." Smart Health refers to an interconnected healthcare system that utilizes NATs for clinical analysis, treatment, medical setups, and hospital management. Examples of Smart Healthcare systems include surgical robots, RFID-based supply chains, and integrated health management platforms or Health-stacks. These Smart



CHARRU MALHOTRA

Healthcare systems provide real-time connectivity to doctors, reduce treatment costs, and offer predictive, personalized information to patients. For example, IoT-based wearable smart devices can track patients' progress, help manage medical emergencies, and promptly notify healthcare providers. India's National Health Policy 2017 aims to achieve "Universal Health Coverage for all citizens," grad-

ually transitioning from fragmented healthcare systems to a holistic approach using digital technologies. The Ayushman Bharat scheme, launched in September 2018, is a notable nationwide public health insurance program that provides health coverage of up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization through the 'Abha-ID' for each patient. Additionally, the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), launched on August 15, 2020, aims to create an integrated healthcare system linking practitioners and patients digitally, allowing real-time access to health records. Driven by these national initiatives, along with the rise of health startups, increased

healthcare spending, and growing demand for high-quality healthcare services, the health-tech sector in India is experiencing significant growth. According to recent reports, the health-tech industry in India is expected to reach \$6.5 billion by 2024 and \$78.4 billion by 2033, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 28.67% during this period. India has already implemented initiatives such as the National Health Portal and the Health Management Information System (HMIS), with several state-level initiatives as well. Programs like the CoWIN Vaccine Platform, the Aarogya Setu contact tracing app, and the eSanjeevani National Telemedicine Service Platform



deserve special mention. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, private equity firms are increasingly investing in health tech companies. The health startup ecosystem in India primarily consists of six segments: telemedicine, pharmacy, fitness, wellness, IT healthcare, and home healthcare. Leading telemedicine startups such as Practo, 1mg, mFine, iCliniq, Digi-Doctor, and myUpchar are reporting impressive increases in tele-

consultations. These systems provide information on health indicators, identify individuals, verify them, and connect their health records with informed consent. However, the adoption of these technologies presents significant technical, legal, and socio-economic challenges. There is a lack of a cohesive and robust legal and regulatory framework, particularly in the health-tech domain. Security in smart healthcare is crucial, as it is an ecosystem susceptible to attacks or infiltration by individuals or hackers. The privacy of patients' sensitive health data requires an extra layer of protection beyond what is currently available through India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. Data interoperability and dig-

ital connectivity are essential for the seamless exchange of health data. The emerging 5G communication network in India can address this gap, but technological constraints hinder the widespread adoption of in-home health monitoring services. Healthcare specialists also face challenges such as limited access to and adaptability to digital technologies. These issues are further compounded by inadequate logistics support, a shortage of skilled manpower, and a tech-resistant attitude among various stakeholders. Drawing inspiration from the globally recognized Unified Payment Interface (UPI), a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for healthcare should be made accessible to all. Our anganwadi workers, in partic-

ular, should be supported by additional tech-savvy personnel. Capacity building for our healthcare providers and ensuring their access to digital devices and connectivity should be prioritized through common service centers (CSCs) and Public Health Centers (PHCs). Additionally, it is time for India to expand the scope of its Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, by including special provisions for handling the sensitive health data of patients. With these efforts, every Indian will not only have easy access to but also trust the "Digital Doctor in their pocket." *(The writer is a professor at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New-Delhi; views are personal)*

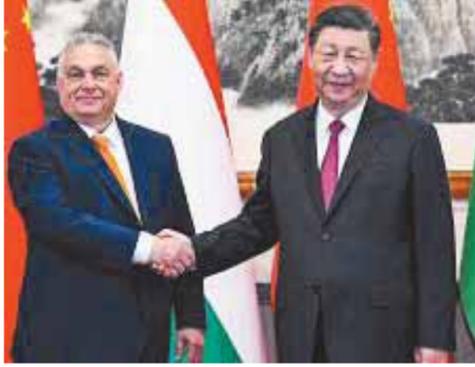
# Xi urges global powers to facilitate direct Russia-Ukraine talks

AP ■ TAIPEI

Chinese President Xi Jinping called on world powers to help Russia and Ukraine resume direct dialogue during a meeting on Monday with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Orban made a surprise visit to China after similar trips last week to Russia and Ukraine to discuss prospects for a peaceful settlement of more than the two-year war. Hungary assumed the rotating presidency of the European Union this month and Orban has since embarked on a peace mission, which, however, lacks the endorsement of other European leaders.

"China is a key power in creating the conditions for peace



in the Russia-Ukraine war," Orban wrote on the social media platform X. "This is why I came to meet with President Xi in Beijing, just two months after his official visit to Budapest." Orban is widely seen as having the warmest relations with Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin among European leaders. His visit to

Moscow last week drew condemnation from Kyiv and EU officials, who insisted Orban was not acting on behalf of the whole European bloc. Their rebuke failed to deter Orban from extending a similar visit to Beijing, which he called "Peace mission 3.0" in a picture posted on X.

During his meeting with Xi, Orban described China as a stabilising force amid global turbulence and praised its "constructive and important" peace initiatives. China has been promoting its own six-point peace plan, which it issued with Brazil in May. Beijing says it is neutral in the conflict, though in practice it supports Moscow through frequent state visits, growing trade and joint military drills. While hosting Orban, Xi called on Russia and Ukraine

to cease fire and on other major powers to create an environment conducive to talks. Only when all major powers project "positive energy rather than negative energy" can a cease-fire occur, Xi said, according to CCTV.

Orban hosted the Chinese leader in Hungary only two months ago as part of a three-country European tour that also included stops in France and Serbia, which unlike the other two is not a member of the EU or NATO.

During the trip, China upgraded its ties with Hungary to an "all-weather, comprehensive strategic partnership", one of its highest designations for foreign relations that in addition to Hungary applies only to Belarus, Pakistan and Venezuela. Hungary under Orban has

built substantial political and economic ties with China. The European nation hosts a number of Chinese electric vehicle battery facilities, and in December it announced that Chinese EV manufacturing giant BYD will open its first European EV production factory in the south of the country.

The Hungarian prime minister broadly opposes Western military aid to Ukraine and has blocked, delayed or watered down EU efforts to assist Kyiv and impose sanctions on Moscow over its invasion. Orban has long argued for a cessation of hostilities in Ukraine but without outlining what that might mean for the country's territorial integrity or future security. That posture has frustrated Hungary's EU and NATO

allies, who have denounced Russia's invasion as a breach of international law and a threat to the security of Eastern Europe.

Standing alongside Orban last week in Moscow, Putin declared that Russia wouldn't accept any cease-fire or temporary break in hostilities that would allow Ukraine "to recoup losses, regroup and reararm".

Putin repeated his demand that Ukraine withdraw its troops from the four regions that Moscow claims to have annexed in 2022 as a condition for any prospective peace talks. Ukraine and its Western allies have rejected that demand, suggesting it is akin to asking Kyiv to withdraw from its own territory.

China meanwhile has spread its influence in Central Asia

and Eastern Europe in recent years beyond its "no limits" partnership with Moscow. Over the weekend, China held "anti-terror" military drills with Belarus — a key ally of Russia — near the border with Poland. The drills came after last week Belarus joined a regional security organisation led by China and Russia.

Orban will next head to Washington, D.C., where NATO leaders are holding a summit to discuss ways to assure Ukraine of the alliance's continued support.

"Next stop: Washington," Orban posted on his social media account Monday. It was not clear whether he would meet separately with President Joe Biden, or Donald Trump, whose presidential candidacy Orban openly supports.

# French vote divides among left, center, and far-right, risking political deadlock

AP ■ PARIS

French voters divided their legislature among left, center and far right, with no single political faction getting even close to the majority needed for form a government. The risk of paralysis loomed Monday for the European Union's second-largest economy.

President Emmanuel Macron gambled that his decision to call snap elections would give France a "moment of clarification," but the outcome showed the opposite, less than three weeks before the start of the Paris Olympics thrusts the country on the international stage. France's main share index opened with a dip in response to the vote.

According to the second-round results tallied early Monday, a leftist coalition surged to take the most seats in parliament. Macron's centrists have the second-largest faction and the unpopular president will have to form alliances to run the government. Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally, which

## Leaders express relief mixed with concern about French election result

Berlin (AP): Leaders across Europe reacted with relief but also some concern to the results of the snap election in France which leave a key EU country facing the prospect of a hung parliament and political paralysis. Relief, because the far-right National Rally did not come out as the strongest party, as many pro-European leaders had feared — but also concern, because no political grouping has a majority in the National Assembly. The government in Germany, which

together with France has long been viewed as the engine of European integration, expressed relief on Monday that the nationalist far right had not topped the polls. "For now, a certain relief prevails that things that we feared have not materialised," Steffen Hebestreit, a spokesperson for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, told reporters in Berlin. "Only time will tell what happens with this election result and France will decide."

led in the first round of voting, came in third after political maneuvering to keep its candidates from power.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said he would present his resignation Monday, but could stay on through the Olympics or longer if needed. Newly elected and returning lawmakers

were expected to arrive at the National Assembly to begin negotiations in earnest. Macron himself will leave later in the week for a NATO summit in Washington. Political deadlock could rattle markets and have far-ranging implications for the war in Ukraine, global diplomacy and

Europe's economic stability. According to official results released early Monday, all three main blocs fell far short of the 289 seats needed to control the 577-seat National Assembly, the more powerful of France's two legislative chambers. The results showed just over 180 seats for the New Popular Front leftist coalition, which placed first, ahead of Macron's centrist alliance, with more than 160 seats. Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally and its allies were restricted to third place, although their more than 140 seats were still way ahead of the party's previous best showing of 89 seats in 2022.

Macron has three years remaining on his presidential term. In announcing his resignation, Attal made clearer than ever his disapproval of Macron's shock decision to call the election, saying "I didn't choose this dissolution" of the outgoing National Assembly, where the president's centrist alliance used to be single biggest group, albeit without an absolute majority.

# NATO summit hosted by Biden to show strong support for Ukraine

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The NATO summit, being hosted by US President Joe Biden here this week, is likely to show a strong demonstration of America and its allies' support for Ukraine and make significant new announcements to increase military, political and financial support for the war-torn European country, according to administration officials.

The three-day NATO summit to be held here from July 9 to 11 will be the first to include Sweden as a member of the alliance. Sweden officially joined the alliance in March.

The historic summit would also mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which is now a strong military alliance of 32 countries.

"It has been truly indispensable to Euro-Atlantic security, deterring threats to the United States and our allies," a senior administration official told reporters ahead of the summit.

On Sunday, President Biden also spoke about the upcoming NATO summit in Washington, DC.



"I'm about to host the NATO nations in Washington. We put them together," Biden said. "The world's looking to us. Not a joke. The world is looking to America not to carry their burden, but to lead their hopes."

Being held in the American capital, soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, the NATO summit, officials said "will send a strong signal to Putin that if he thinks he can outlast the coalition of

countries supporting Ukraine, he is dead wrong."

"We are also going to send an important message to the rest of the world, including through our partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, as we stand together united and in support of democratic values," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Washington summit will kick off on Tuesday, with Biden welcoming NATO leaders, and along with the First Lady, hosting a 75th anniversary commemoration event at the Mellon Auditorium, which is the site of the original signing of the North Atlantic Treaty that established the NATO on April 4, 1949. It is also the site of the 1999 50th anniversary commemorative event hosted by the then president Bill Clinton.

NATO was created to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

On July 10, the president will welcome Sweden as the newest member of the alliance at a meeting of NATO's 32 allies. Later in the evening, the summit would host the NATO leaders for a dinner at the White

House. On July 11, NATO will hold a meeting with the European Union (EU) and NATO's Indo-Pacific partners — Australia, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand — to deepen their cooperation. Officials also said there will be a strong language regarding China.

"We are bringing together some of our closest non-NATO partners to have a discussion around issues like resilience and cyber disinformation, technology and the like. In terms of deterrence and defence, of course, NATO is focused on the Euro-Atlantic area, and that is where its capabilities are being deployed," an official said.

"But the United States has a range of partnerships with countries around the world, which you might call variable geometry, with different partners including in the Indo-Pacific. This particular grouping of the IP4, as we call them in NATO lingo — Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea — these are some of our closest partners that we work within the region," the official added.

# Sunak makes apology calls to ex-MPs

London (PTI): Former British prime minister Rishi Sunak spent the weekend calling the Conservative Party candidates who lost their seats in the general election last week to apologise for the party's worst performance at the ballot box, with just 121 seats in the House of Commons.

Several former members of Parliament told "The Daily Telegraph" about the "very sympathetic call" they received from the British Indian MP, who won his own seat of Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire and then became Leader of the Opposition until the Tories elect his successor.

The 44-year-old had apologised to his party colleagues and the nation in his farewell speech at 10 Downing Street on Friday, when he also announced his resignation as Tory leader after the Labour Party won a landslide victory with 411 MPs in a 650-seat Commons.

# UK's PM Starmer seeks to improve on 'botched' trade deal with EU

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is seeking to reset relations at home and abroad. During a visit on Sunday to Edinburgh, that he billed as an "immediate reset" with the regional governments of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, Starmer said he would also seek to improve the UK's "botched" trade deal with the European Union (EU).

"I do think that we can get a much better deal than the botched deal that (former prime minister) Boris Johnson saddled the UK with," he said in reference to the pact negotiated after Brexit.

Starmer said there were many discussions ahead to strengthen trading, research and defence ties with the EU. But he said those talks had begun as his top diplomat made his first visit abroad to Germany, Poland and Sweden.



From left, Northern Ireland Secretary Hilary Benn, Northern Ireland's First Minister Michelle O'Neill, deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer pose for a photo, at Stormont Castle, during the Prime Minister's tour of the UK following Labour's victory in the 2024 general election, in Belfast, Monday.

With two of Starmer's ministers in Europe ahead of a NATO meeting, the premier made a point of visiting the leaders of the regional govern-

ments in the UK following his party's landslide victory last week.

Starmer, who said he has a "mandate to do politics differently", met with Scottish First Minister John Swinney in an effort to "turn disagreement into cooperation".

"We will serve every single person in Scotland," Starmer told a group of enthusiastic supporters. "Performance, self-interest — they are the politics of the past. The politics of this Labour government of 2024 is about public service, restoring standards of making sure that we always, always have in our mind's eye the people who elected us into government."

While each of the devolved nations in the UK elects members to the House of Commons in London, they also have their own regional parliaments.

Starmer's Labour Party trounced Swinney's Scottish National Party for seats in Parliament. But the SNP, which has pushed for Scottish independence, still holds a majority at Holyrood, the Scottish Parliament.

# 'It's time for party drama to end'

Washington (AP): President Joe Biden, in a letter to congressional Democrats, continued to stand firm against calls for him to drop his candidacy and called for an "end" to the intra-party drama that has torn apart Democrats about whether he should stay in the race.

Biden wrote in the two-page letter Monday that "the question of how to move forward has been well-aired for over a week now. And it's time for it to end."

He stressed that the party has "one job", which is to defeat presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump in November.

"We have 42 days to the Democratic Convention and 119 days to the general election," Biden said in the letter. "Any weakening of resolve or lack of clarity about the task ahead only helps Trump and hurts us. It's time to come together, move forward as a unified party, and defeat Donald Trump."

The letter was sent from the campaign to Democratic lawmakers as they return to Washington following the July

4 recess. Deeply torn over President Joe Biden's candidacy, Democratic lawmakers return to Washington at a pivotal moment as they decide whether to work to revive his campaign or edge out the party leader, a make-or-break time for his reelection and their own political futures.

Anxiety is running high as top-ranking Democratic lawmakers are joining calls for Biden to step aside after his dismal public debate performance and defiant response to the uproar.

At the same time, some of the president's most staunch supporters are redoubling the fight for Biden's presidency, insisting there is no one better to beat Republican Donald Trump in what many see as among the most important elections of a lifetime.

As lawmakers weigh whether Biden should stay or go, there appear to be no easy answers in sight.

It's a tenuous and highly volatile juncture for the president's party. Democrats who have worked alongside Biden for

years — if not decades — and cherished his life's work on policy priorities are now entertaining uncomfortable questions about his political future. And it's unfolding as Biden hosts world leaders for the NATO summit this week in Washington.

Time is not on their side, almost a month from the Democratic National Convention and just a week before Republicans gather in Milwaukee to renominate Trump as their presidential pick.

Many Democrats are arguing the attention needs to be focused instead on the former president's felony conviction in the hush money case and pending federal charges in his effort to overturn the 2020 election. It's what Biden himself might call an inflection point.

As he defiantly says he will only step aside if the Lord almighty comes and tells him to, Democrats in the House and Senate are deciding how hard they want to fight the president to change course, or if they want to change course at all.

# South Korea to cancel plan to suspend licenses of striking doctors

Seoul (AP): South Korea said Monday it'll withdraw its earlier plan to suspend licenses of striking doctors as part of its efforts to resolve the country's months-long medical impasse.

It wasn't immediately known whether and how many of thousands of the striking doctors would return to work in the wake of the government's announcement. Also, the plan could invite criticism that it hurts the principle of fairness over the government's dealing with other previous labour strikes as well as doctors who already returned to work.

Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong said Monday the government has decided not to suspend their licenses of the strikers, regardless of whether they return to their hospitals or not.

He said the government's decision is meant to address a shortage of doctors treating



emergency and serious patients and restore a training system to add more professional doctors. More than 13,000 junior doctors, who are medical interns and residents, walked off the job in February in protest of the government's plan to sharply boost school admissions. Their walkouts have significantly burdened operations of university

hospitals where they had worked while training. A Seoul court in May ruled in support of the government's plan. The government later withdrew its plan to suspend licenses of doctor who returned to their hospitals but didn't do so on others who remained off the job. Officials have said they want to add up to 10,000 doc-

tors by 2035 to cope with the country's fast-aging population and a shortage of physicians in rural areas and in low-paying yet essential specialties like pediatrics and emergency departments. Doctors say schools aren't ready to handle an abrupt increase in students and that it would ultimately undermine the country's medical services. But critics argue that physicians, one of the best-paid jobs in South Korea, are mainly worried that having more doctors would lower their incomes. The striking doctors are a fraction of all doctors in South Korea, estimated to number between 115,000 and 140,000. But in some major hospitals, they represented about 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the doctors, assisting fully qualified doctors and department chiefs during surgeries and other treatments while training.

# Beryl makes landfall in Texas

AP ■ MATAGORDA

Beryl made landfall on the Texas coast near Matagorda early Monday with a dangerous storm surge and strong winds, knocking out power to more than half a million homes and businesses.

The storm's centre hit land as a Category 1 hurricane around 4 am Central Standard Time about 85 miles southwest of Houston with top sustained winds of 80 mph (128.7 kph) while moving north at 12 mph (19.3 kph), the National Weather Service reported.

High waters quickly began closing roads around Houston, which was again under flood warnings after heavy storms in recent months washed out neighbourhoods and knocked out power across the nation's fourth-largest city.

More than 750,000 customers were without power, many of them around Houston, before daybreak Monday, according to CenterPoint Energy in

Houston. More than 1,000 flights have been canceled at Houston's two airports, according to tracking data from FlightAware.

Beryl dumped soaking rains across Houston after coming ashore and was expected to bring damaging winds into East Texas, near Louisiana, as the storm pushed north after making landfall.

"Beryl's moving inland but this is not the end of the story yet," said Jack Beven, senior hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center. Beryl strengthened and became a hurricane again late Sunday. The storm had weakened after leaving a path of deadly destruction through parts of Mexico and the Caribbean.

A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Texas coast from Mesquite Bay north to Port Bolivar, the center said. Beryl is expected to weaken to a tropical storm Monday and a tropical depression Tuesday,

the weather service said, forecasting a turn to the northeast and increase in speed Monday night and Tuesday.

The storm's center is expected to move over eastern Texas on Monday and then through the lower Mississippi Valley into the Ohio Valley on Tuesday and Wednesday, the weather service said.

People on the Texas coast boarded up windows and left beach towns under an evacuation order. As the storm neared the coast Sunday, Texas officials warned of power outages and flooding but also expressed worry that not enough residents and beach vacationers in Beryl's path had heeded warnings to leave.

"One of the things that kind of trigger our concern a little bit, we've looked at all of the roads leaving the coast and the maps are still green," said Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who is serving as the state's acting governor while Gov. Greg Abbott is travelling overseas. "So we

don't see many people leaving."

Tropical storm winds extended 115 miles (185 kilometers) from the center and the hurricane center warned residents to be prepared for possible flash flooding in parts of middle, upper and eastern Texas as well as Arkansas as the storm gradually turns to the north and then northeast later Monday.

Along the Texas coast, many residents and business owners took the typical storm precautions but also expressed uncertainty about the storm's intensity.

In Port Lavaca, Jimmy May fastened plywood over the windows of his electrical supply company and said he wasn't concerned about the possible storm surge. He recalled his business had escaped flooding in a previous hurricane that brought a 20-foot (6-meter) storm surge. "In town, you know, if you're in the low-lying areas, obviously, you need to get out of there," he said.



# Kyiv children's hospital among buildings bombarded; dozens killed

**AP ■ KYIV**

A major Russian missile attack across Ukraine on Monday killed at least 31 people and injured 154, officials said, with one striking a large children's hospital in the capital of Kyiv, where emergency crews searched the rubble for victims.

The daytime barrage targeted five Ukrainian cities with more than 40 missiles of different types, hitting apartment buildings and public infrastructure, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post. Ukraine's air force said it intercepted 30 missiles. Strikes in Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy's birthplace in central Ukraine, killed 10 people and injured 47 in what the head of city administration, Oleksandr Vilkul, said was a massive missile attack. Seven people were killed in Kyiv, authorities said.

"It is very important that the world should not be silent about it now and that everyone should see what Russia is and what it is doing," Zelenskyy said on social media.

Western leaders who have backed Ukraine will hold a three-day NATO summit in Washington beginning Tuesday. They will look at how they can reassure Kyiv of the alliance's unwavering support and offer Ukrainians hope that their country can come through Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

At the Okhmatdyt children's hospital in Kyiv, rescuers searched for victims under the rubble of a partially collapsed, two-story wing of the facility. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said at least 16 people, seven of them children, were injured. On the hospital's main 10-story building, windows and doors were blown out and walls were blackened. Blood spattered the floor in one room. The intensive care unit, operating theatres and oncology departments all were damaged, officials said.

Rescuers searched for children and medical workers in the rubble. Volunteers formed a line, passing bricks and other debris to each other. Smoke still rose from the building, and volunteers and emergency

crews worked in protective masks. The attack forced the evacuation of the hospital and its temporary closure. Some mothers carried their children away on their backs, while others waited in the courtyard with their children as calls to doctors' phones rang unanswered. A few hours after the initial strike, another air raid siren sent many of them hurrying to the hospital's shelter. Led by a flashlight through the shelter's dark corridors, mothers carried their bandaged children in their arms and medical workers carried them on gurneys. Volunteers handed out candy to try to calm the children. Marina Ploskonos said her 4-year-old son had spinal surgery on Friday.

"My child is terrified," she said. "This shouldn't be happening, it's a children's hospital," she said, bursting into tears.

Ukraine's Security Service said it found wreckage from a Russian Kh-101 cruise missile at the site and had opened proceedings on war crime charges. The Kh-101 is an air-launched



Emergency services work at the site of Okhmatdyt children's hospital hit by Russian missiles, in Kyiv, Ukraine AP/PTI

missile that flies low to avoid detection by radar. Ukraine said it shot down 11 of 13 Kh-101 missiles launched on Monday.

Czech President Petr Pavel said the hospital attack was "inexcusable" and that he expected to see at the NATO summit a consensus that

Russia was "the biggest threat for which we must be thoroughly prepared." The German government also condemned the attacks. A for-

eign office spokesperson called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to "put an immediate end to this war of aggression against so many innocent people." Russia's Defence Ministry said the strikes targeted Ukrainian defence plants and military air bases and were successful. It denied aiming at any civilian facilities and claimed without evidence that pictures from Kyiv indicated the damage was caused by a Ukrainian air defence missile.

Since early in the war that is well into its third year, Russian officials have regularly claimed that Moscow's forces never attack civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, despite what officials in Kyiv say as well as Associated Press reporting. Elsewhere in Kyiv, where seven of the city's 10 districts were hit in the heaviest Russian bombardment of the capital in almost four months, the strikes killed seven people and injured 25, officials said.

About three hours after the first strikes, more missiles hit Kyiv and partially destroyed a private medical centre. Four people were killed there,

Ukraine's Emergency Service said. In the capital's Shevchenkivskiy district, a three-story section of a residential building was destroyed. Emergency crews searched for casualties, and AP reporters saw them remove three bodies. The powerful blast wave scorched nearby buildings, shattered windows and flung a dog into a neighbouring yard, resident Halina Sichivka said. "Now we don't have anything in our apartment, no windows, no doors, nothing. Nothing at all," the 28-year-old said.

The Kinzhal hypersonic missiles used in the attack are among the most advanced Russian weapons, Ukraine's air force said, flying at 10 times the speed of sound and making it hard to intercept. City buildings shook from the blasts. Three electricity substations were damaged or destroyed in two districts of Kyiv, energy company DTEK said. The head of Ukraine's presidential office, Andrii Yermak, said the attack occurred at a time when many people were in the streets.

# Japan, Philippines sign defence agreement

**AP ■ MANILA**

Japan and the Philippines signed a key defence pact on Monday allowing the deployment of Japanese forces for joint drills in the Southeast Asian nation that came under brutal Japanese occupation in World War II but is now building an alliance with Tokyo as both face an increasingly assertive China.

The Reciprocal Access Agreement, which similarly allows Filipino forces to enter Japan for joint combat training, was signed by Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa in a Manila ceremony witnessed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It would take effect after ratification by the countries' legislatures, Philippine and Japanese officials said.

Kamikawa called the signing "a groundbreaking achievement" that should further boost defence cooperation between the countries.

The Japanese and Philippine officials "expressed serious

concern over the dangerous and escalatory actions by China" in Second Thomas Shoal, the scene of a recent confrontation between Chinese and Philippine forces in the South China Sea. The busy sea passage is a key global trade route which has been claimed virtually in its entirety by China but also contested in part by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

They underscored in a joint statement the need "for the international community to speak out on the importance of maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order based on the rule of law" in the disputed waters. In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said "the Asia-Pacific region does not need military blocs, let alone small groupings that instigate bloc confrontations or a new Cold War" and reminded Japan of its atrocities during World War II in Southeast Asian countries including the Philippines.

"Japan should seriously reflect

on its history of aggression and act cautiously in the field of military security," the spokesperson said.

The defense pact with the Philippines, which includes live-fire drills, is the first to be forged by Japan in Asia. Japan signed similar accords with Australia in 2022 and with Britain in 2023.

Under Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Japan has taken steps to boost its security and defensive firepower, including a counterstrike capability that breaks from the country's post-war principle of focusing only on self-defence. It's doubling defence spending in a five-year period to 2027 to bolster its military power and make Japan the world's third-biggest military spender after the United States and China.

Many of Japan's Asian neighbours, including the Philippines, came under Japanese aggression until its defeat in World War II, and Tokyo's efforts to strengthen its military role and spending could be a sensitive issue. Japan and the Philippines,

however, have steadily deepened defence and security ties. Kishida's moves dovetail with Marcos' effort to forge security alliances to bolster the Philippine military's limited ability to defend its territorial interests in the South China Sea. The United States has also been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan, and reassure its Asian allies. Japan and the Philippines are treaty allies of the US and their leaders held three-way talks in April at the White House, where President Joe Biden renewed Washington's "ironclad" commitment to defend Japan and the Philippines.

Japan has had a longstanding territorial dispute with China over islands in the East China Sea. Chinese and Philippine coast guard and navy ships, meanwhile, have been involved in a series of tense confrontations in the South China Sea since last year.

In the worst confrontation so far, Chinese coast guard per-

sonnel armed with knives, spears and an ax aboard motorboats repeatedly rammed and destroyed two Philippine navy supply vessels on June 17 in a chaotic faceoff at disputed Second Thomas Shoal that injured several Filipino sailors. Chinese coast guard personnel seized seven navy rifles.

The Japanese and Philippine officials said China's actions at the shoal "obstructed freedom of navigation and disrupted supply lines, thus, increasing tensions".

Kihara said in a news conference that Japan "has firmly opposed the dangerous and coercive use of maritime security agencies and maritime militia vessels".

The Philippines strongly protested the Chinese coast guard's actions and demanded USD 1 million for the damage and the return of the rifles. China accused the Philippines of instigating the violence, saying the Filipino sailors strayed into what it called Chinese territorial waters despite warnings.

# New offshoot of banned JuD resume political activities

**PTI ■ LAHORE**

After a break of some five months, the political offshoot of banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) of the Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed has resumed its political activities in Pakistan by holding a demonstration here in Punjab province.

The Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), believed to be the new face of the banned groups of Saeed, held a demonstration against inflation and increase in electricity and gas prices against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government in Lahore on Friday. The protest was addressed by Tabiah Qayyum and Muzammil Iqbal Hashmi who were added to the US' list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists in 2018.

Interestingly, the government of Maryam Nawaz in Punjab has imposed a ban on the assembly of four or more people under Section 144 to maintain peace and order in Lahore to stop former prime minister

Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from holding any protest for the release of their jailed leader (Khan). The PMML, believed to be a new face of the banned groups of incarcerated Hafiz Saeed, had taken part in the February 2024 general elections.

Some of the candidates nominated by this organisation from different cities of Pakistan are those who are either relatives of Saeed or have been associated with banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) or Milli Muslim League (MML) in the past.

The protest against inflation last Friday was the first "open political activity" held by the PMML after last February elections. "We will continue holding protests across the country to put pressure on the government to take measures to control mehangai (inflation)," Tabiah Qayyum said during his address.

He said the PML-N government instead of taking austerity measures had put all the

burden on the masses by imposing huge taxes. Qayyum said that on the next stage the PMML might stage a sit-in against the government if it failed to give relief to the masses. As the PMML is the 'new political face' of the JuD, a spokesman of the party denied any affiliation with Saeed's organisations.

Saeed, the mastermind of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, has been sentenced for multiple years by Pakistan's anti-terrorism courts in several cases of financing terrorism and has been imprisoned in Lahore. He was on December 10, 2008, included in the list of 'global terrorists' by the UN.

Pakistan also listed LeT, JuD and its affiliated parties and institutions, including Khair Naas International Trust, Falah Inasaniyat Foundation, Al-Anfal Trust, Khamtab Khalq Institution, Al-Dawwat Al-Arshad, Al-Hamad Trust, Al-Madinah Foundation and Mu'adz bin Jabal Educational Trust, in the list of banned organisations.

# Indonesia landslide triggered by heavy rain leaves 12 dead

**AP ■ JAKARTA**

A landslide triggered by torrential rains crashed onto an unauthorised gold mining operation on Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing at least 12 people, officials said on Monday. Dozens others were reported missing.

More than 100 villagers were digging for grains of gold on Sunday in the remote Bone Bolango district in Gorontalo province when tons of mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried their makeshift camps, said Heriyanto, head of the Search and Rescue Office.

He said 44 people managed to escape from landslide, some of them pulled out alive by rescuers, including six injured, and recovered 12 bodies, including three women and a 4-year-old boy. Some 48 others are missing, he said.

"Relief efforts for the dead and missing were hampered by



heavy rain and blocked roads covered with thick mud and debris," said rescue official Affiduddin Ilahude.

National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said torrential rains that have pounded the area since Saturday also broke an embankment, causing floods of up to 3 metres (10 feet) in five villages in Bone Bolango. Nearly 300 houses were affected and more than 1,000 people have fled for safety.

Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands who labour in conditions with a high risk of serious injury or death. Landslides, flooding and collapses of tunnels are just some of the hazards facing miners. Much of gold ore processing involves highly toxic mercury and cyanide and workers frequently use little or no protection. The country's last major mining-related accident occurred in April 2022 when a landslide crashed onto an illegal traditional gold mine in North Sumatra's Mandailing Natal district, killing 12 women who were looking for gold.

In February 2019, a makeshift wooden structure in an illegal gold mine in North Sulawesi province collapsed due to shifting soil and the large number of mining holes. More than 40 people were buried and died.

# Pak will continue to seek IMF bailouts if it fails to boost tax revenue: Finance minister

**Islamabad (PTI):** Pakistan Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has warned that the cash-strapped country will continue to seek IMF bailouts if it fails to boost tax revenue, according to a media report on Monday. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader in an interview with the UK-based Financial Times newspaper said that he was "relatively confident" of reaching a staff-level agreement with the Washington-based global lender this month for an estimated loan of USD 6-8 billion. Aurangzeb, however, said, "It will not be our last fund programme if we don't bring our tax revenues up."

Last month, the federal government passed the tax-laden Rs 18,877 billion budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, amidst protests from the Opposition which labelled it as an International Monetary Fund-driven document that was harmful to the

public.

Weeks after slashing the fuel prices ahead of the Eid ul Adha festival, the cash-strapped Pakistan government on July 1 sharply hiked their prices for the next fortnight as it began the new fiscal year.

The tax rises will mostly fall on salaried workers, who comprise a relatively small part of Pakistan's mostly informal economy, as well as some retail and export businesses, Geo News reported. The budget also threatened punitive measures for tax avoiders, including restrictions on mobile phones, gas and electricity access and the ability to fly abroad. "We do not have five years for our programme," Aurangzeb warned in the wake of a budget that seeks to reset the country's ailing economy.

# Army to be deployed across Pakistan during Muharram

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**

The Pakistan government on Monday decided to deploy the Army across the country to maintain law and order during Muharram, amidst fear of attacks by militant groups on Shiite rallies. Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, began on Monday.

Shiite Muslims take out rallies during the first ten days of the month to commemorate the martyrdom of Hussein Ibne Ali, the grandson of the Prophet of Islam.

The Ministry of Interior decided to deploy regular army troops following requests by the provinces.

According to a notification issued by the ministry, the details

of troop deployment, which will be enforced indefinitely, will be finalised with the authorities of the provinces concerned, including Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Islamabad.

"The date of de-requisitioning of said deployment will be decided subsequently after mutual consultation among all stakeholders," the notification stated.

According to Islamic traditions, Hussein was killed along with at least 72 family members on the 10th of Muharram in the Karbala area of modern-day Iraq in 680 A.D. by the forces of Muslim ruler Yazid Ibne Muawia, who considered him a threat to his rule.

The Muslims generally observe his martyrdom as a symbol of

resistance to tyranny, and the Shiite Muslims take out rallies culminating in huge processions on the 9th and 10th day of the month. The Sunni Muslims have a historic theological rivalry with the Shiite, and extremist Sunni groups brand them as heretics, and target them through bombings, with Pakistan witnessing numerous such attacks in the past.

The government often deploys regular army troops to help civil law enforcement agencies keep peace during Muharram. To disrupt communication among the militants, governments in Pakistan undertook other security measures during Muharram, including suspension of internet, cell phone and social media services.

# Boeing accepts plea deal to avoid criminal trial over 737 Max crashes

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**

Boeing will plead guilty to a criminal fraud charge stemming from two crashes of 737 Max jetliners that killed 346 people after the government determined the company violated an agreement that had protected it from prosecution for more than three years, the Justice Department said on Sunday night.

Federal prosecutors gave Boeing the choice this week of entering a guilty plea and paying a fine as part of its sentence or facing a trial on the felony criminal charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States. Prosecutors accused the American aerospace giant of deceiving regulators who approved the airplane and pilot-training requirements

for it. The plea deal, which still must receive the approval of a federal judge to take effect, calls for Boeing to pay an additional USD 243.6 million fine. That was the same amount it paid under the 2021 settlement that the Justice Department said the company breached.

An independent monitor would be named to oversee Boeing's safety and quality procedures for three years. The deal also requires Boeing to invest at least USD 455 million in its compliance and safety programs. The plea deal covers only wrongdoing by Boeing before the crashes, which killed all 346 passengers and crew members aboard two new Max jets. It does not give Boeing immunity for other incidents, including a panel that blew off a Max jet-

liner during an Alaska Airlines flight in January, a Justice Department official said. The deal also does not cover any current or former Boeing officials, only the corporation. In a statement, Boeing confirmed it had reached the deal with the Justice Department but had no further comment.

In a court filing Sunday night, the Justice Department said it expected to file the written plea agreement with the court by July 19. Lawyers for some of the relatives of those who died in the two crashes have said they will ask the judge to reject the agreement.

"This sweetheart deal fails to recognise that because of Boeing's conspiracy, 346 people died. Through crafty lawyering between Boeing and DOJ, the deadly consequences

of Boeing's crime are being hidden," said Paul Cassell, a lawyer for some of the families. Federal prosecutors alleged Boeing committed conspiracy to defraud the government by misleading regulators about a flight-control system that was implicated in the crashes, which took place in Indonesia in October 2018 and in Ethiopia less five months later. As part of the January 2021 settlement, the Justice Department said it would not prosecute Boeing on the charge if the company complied with certain conditions for three years. Prosecutors last month alleged Boeing had breached the terms of that agreement.

The company's guilty plea will be entered in US District Court in Texas.

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ  
ਸਿਹਰ ਕੇਂਦਰ

ਸਿਹਰ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਕਲਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਨਾ-ਵੇਰਤ ਡੇਕ/Non E-Waste ਸਮਾਨ ਦੀ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਕਰੀਬੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ 15-07-2024 (ਸੋਮਵਾਰ) ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 11:00 ਵਜੇ ਸਿਹਰ ਕੇਂਦਰ, ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਕੈਂਪਸ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਚੱਠ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਸਮਾਨ ਦਾ ਨਿਰੀਖਣ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਡੇਕੋਰਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪੇਸ਼ਕੀ ਵਜੋਂ 5000/- ਰੁਪਏ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣੇ ਪੈਣਗੇ।

NA/12/23949/2023/35395 Dated CHD :- 7/8/2024

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Notice Inviting e Tender [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)

Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
For Verka Chandigarh Dairy	Annual Rate Contract
Hiring of services for outsourcing activities/ contractor for packaging UHT milk & milk products / beverages at Verka Milk Plant, Ind. Area, Phase-1, Chandigarh.	Annual Rate Contract

**NOTE:**

- For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop) & e Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).
- Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/23971/2023/35420 Dated CHD :- 7/8/2024 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

**MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH PUNJAB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**  
Dabwali Road, Bathinda.  
(Established by Govt. of Punjab vide Punjab Act No. 5 of 2015)

No.E-TENDER/MRSPTU/DPR/PURCHASE/2024/523 Dated: 05-07-2024  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-tender is invited for Purchase of FT-IR Spectrophotometer, UV-Visible Spectrophotometer, Water Purification System and Rotary Vacuum Evaporator. For details visit: [www.mrsptu.ac.in](http://www.mrsptu.ac.in). Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on University website only. Time & Schedule: Start Date: 10-7-2024 (11:00 AM), Last Date of Submission: 21-7-2024 (03:00 PM)

na/12/23966/2023/35415 Dated CHD :- 7/5/2024 Registrar

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**Suppliers Invited**

Inviting e Auction for the purchase of following items through NCDFI Portal.

The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd, Chandigarh procuring Trace Minerals for Cattle Feed Plants Khanna & GKB on annual basis (i.e. MFP Molecule, Formaldehyde Solution (with drum), Ferrus Sulphate/ Iron Sulphate, Zinc Sulphate, Manganese Sulphate, Calcium Chloride, Sodium Thiocyanate, Copper Sulphate, Magnesium Chloride, Sodium Butyrate, Chocolate Feed Flavour with Sweetner, Cattle Feed Grade free flowing Powder, HMTBa based chelates, Saccharohyces, Potassium Iodide, Potassium Carbonate, Choline) through e-Auctions at NCDFI e-Market across Punjab on 13.07.2024. Interested suppliers/vendors are invited to register and participate in above said e-auction through [www.ncdfimarket.com](http://www.ncdfimarket.com) portal.

**For registration:**  
Contact: +91 9998019608; +91 9978601585  
Help Desk: +91-2692-288388  
E Mail: [contracts\\_pack@ncdfimarket.com](mailto:contracts_pack@ncdfimarket.com), [virender.choudhary@neml.in](mailto:virender.choudhary@neml.in), [divakar.juneja@neml.in](mailto:divakar.juneja@neml.in).

NA/12/23975/2023/35425 Dated CHD :- 7/8/2024

# Time to push disinvestment of public sector banks: SBI report

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The government should go ahead with disinvestment of public sector banks (PSBs) as they are in good condition, SBI said in its research report on Monday. The report also pitched for the consolidation of existing government-owned banks.

"As banks are in good condition, the government should take stance on disinvestment of PSBs," the report titled 'Prelude to Union Budget 2024-25' said.

With regard to the privatisation of IDBI Bank, it said the government and Life Insurance Corporation of India are selling an almost 61 per cent stake in the lender. "They invited bids from buyers in October 2022. In January 2023, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) received several expressions of interest for the



IDBI Bank stake on offer. We expect the government to clarify this in the Budget," it said. Presently, the government owns over 45 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, and LIC has a 49.24 per cent shareholding.

The report also recommended that the government should tweak the tax on deposit interest and make flat tax treatment across the maturity ladder in line with mutual fund and equity markets.

"Household net financial savings has declined to 5.3 per

cent of GDP in FY23 and is expected to be 5.4 per cent in FY24. If we make deposit rate attractive in line with MFs, then this could push up household financial savings and CASA," it said.

As this amount will be in the hands of depositors, the report said, it could unleash additional spending and thereby, more GST revenue to the government.

"Increase in bank deposits will bring not only stability in core deposit base and financial

system but also financial stability in household savings as the banking system is better regulated and having a superior trust as compared to other alternatives with high volatility/risk," it said.

Deposits are taxed on an accrual basis and other asset classes only on redemption and there is also a need to remove this treatment, it added.

The report by the Economic Research Department, State Bank of India (SBI), expressed expectation that the government will look into the concerns over the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) that must be improved and expediting cases under the IBC should be a key change.

Recoveries through IBC in FY24 were 32 per cent, and financial creditors lost 68 per cent of their claims. The time taken to reach a resolution is 863 days instead of the stated 330 days, it said.

# Markets settle on flat note in muted trade

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Stock market benchmark Sindices Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Monday in a lacklustre trade as investors opted to book profits after the recent record rally in equities. Weak cues from Asian markets also added to the muted trend in domestic equities.

After beginning the trade on a weak note, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 36.22 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 79,960.38. During the day, it went lower by 264.77 points or 0.33 per cent to 79,731.83. The NSE Nifty dipped 3.30 points or 0.01 per cent to 24,320.55.

Among the Sensex pack, Titan, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints,

Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest laggards.

ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Nestle, HCL Technologies and Tata Motors were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were trading in the positive territory. US markets ended with gains on Friday.

In a volatile session on Friday, the broader NSE Nifty continued its record-breaking run and inched up 21.70 points or 0.09 per cent to close at its lifetime high of 24,323.85. The BSE benchmark, however, dropped 53.07 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,996.60.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.97 per cent to USD 85.70 a barrel.

# Rupee falls 1 paisa to 83.50 against US dollar

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The rupee pared initial gains to settle 1 paisa lower at 83.50 against the US dollar on Monday, as muted domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.45 and hit the intraday high of 83.44 and a low of 83.50 against the American currency during the session.

It finally settled at 83.50 against the dollar, registering a loss of one paisa over the previous close.

On Friday, the rupee settled at 83.49 against the US dollar.

Forex traders said the rupee gained on a weak dollar and decline in crude oil prices. However, weak domestic markets put pressure on the domestic unit.

"The US Dollar declined on disappointing non-farm payrolls report on Friday, which raised expectations that US Federal Reserve may cut

interest rates in its September Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting," said Anuj Choudhary — Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 104.90, higher by 0.03 per cent. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.88 per cent to USD 85.78 per barrel.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on the weak tone in the US Dollar and FII inflows. However, a correction in the domestic markets and political uncertainty in France as the election results indicate a hung parliament may cap the sharp upside," Choudhary added.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day 36.22 points, or 0.05 per cent, lower at 79,960.38 points.

# Mercedes-Benz India posts record half-yearly sales at 9,262 units



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz on Monday reported a 9 per cent growth in sales at 9,262 units in India in the first half of 2024, its highest ever half-yearly sales in the country, riding on strong demand across categories and availability of volume models.

The company had posted sales of 8,528 units in the January-June period of 2023, which was its previous highest half-yearly sales, Mercedes-Benz India said in a statement.

It plans to launch six new products in the second half (H2) of 2024.

SUV penetration was at 55 per cent in H1 2024, while the TEV (top-end vehicle) segment priced above Rs 1.5 crore comprised 25 per cent of total sales, it added.

The SUV segment saw robust performance from the GLA, GLC, GLE and GLS models, while the sedan portfolio comprising the A-Class, C-

Class, outgoing LWB E-Class and S-Class topped customer preference for luxury sedans, it added.

The BEV (battery electric vehicle) portfolio grew by 60 per cent in H1 24, comprising 5 per cent of total sales volumes, Mercedes-Benz India said.

"New and updated products, elevated customer experience at retail and ease of ownership, combined with positive customer sentiments boosted our best-ever H1 sales performance," Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer said.

The company further said availability of volume models also played a part in delivering record sales in the first half of this year.

On the outlook for the rest of the year, Iyer said, "We have new products coming up for the upcoming festive season. So we feel we should be able to close the year with a double-digit growth as projected earlier."

# Tata Consumer Products to accelerate growth of core businesses

**PTI ■ KOLKATA**  
Leading FMCG company Tata Consumer Products Limited (TCPL) will continue to invest in its brands and accelerate the growth momentum of the core businesses, tea, coffee and salt, the company's annual report said.

In the annual report for 2023-24, TCPL said that to strengthen and accelerate core businesses, contribution of modern trade to total sales within the country was 14 per cent driven by the growth of

new businesses.

During 2023-24, the company continued to undertake focused brand-building efforts and launched several products. TCPL said that central to the company's growth strategy was on focusing on the core businesses of tea, coffee and salt.

TCPL (formerly Tata Tea) said the company strengthened the tea and coffee businesses and also created new vectors of growth. The company was also successful in driving profitable growth in the key international markets of UK, USA and



Canada.

The company's focus on innovation lay in its belief that it is a strong strategic pillar and plays a significant role in meeting future ambitions, both on top line (revenue) and bottom line (profit).

TCPL said in the report, "We aspire to be a leading player in the FMCG industry by expanding our play in the existing categories and venturing into new spaces", adding that the company has taken both organic and inorganic routes to capitalise on industry trends and tap new

consumers and markets.

The company clocked a revenue of more than Rs 15,000 crore during the last fiscal. TCPL acquired Capital Foods and Organic India to address the needs of the diverse consumer spectrum.

In the last four years, TCPL's compounded annual growth rate of the tea business in India was nine per cent while revenue from coffee grew 29 per cent year-on-year.

The CAGR of salt during the last four years was 17 per cent, while that of packaged foods in India was 31 per cent.

# Event on integration of AI in digital skills development a hit

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Masterclass, held last week, showcased remarkable global participation, with notable engagement from South African countries.

Interestingly, a few from Pakistan and China also took part under India's flagship skilling platform SIDH.

This significant event on July 4, focusing on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in digital skills development, witnessed substantial turnout from various continents, reflecting growing international interest in AI and digital education.

Organised by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, and UNESCO, the masterclass brought together



global experts and enthusiasts.

It was attended by key dignitaries including Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Dr Haja Ramatulai Wuri — Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Sierra Leone; Ruben Sargsyan, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia; Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, NSDC and MD and others.

# NBCC to execute incubation centre at NIT Patna

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
NBCC (India) Limited has been entrusted with the execution of construction and development of Incubation Centre at NIT Patna (Bihta Campus). The estimated cost for the same is approximately Rs 36 Crore.

The Incubation Centre, spanning in an area of 6,500 sqm, shall be a state-of-the-art facility. The facility is designed as basement + ground + 4 floors structure, accommodating various essential amenities and advanced infrastructure.

As per the scope of work, NBCC shall be responsible for the conceptual planning, detailed architectural & structural design, drafting, including the supervision of construction for buildings, electrical systems, furniture, IT networking, and more.

# Two-wheeler sales volume growth to continue this fiscal: CareEdge Ratings

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The two-wheeler industry is expected to sustain a steady volume growth this fiscal driven by improved domestic sales and good traction in executive and premium segment motorcycles, a report said on Monday.

According to CareEdge Ratings, post-Covid, sales volume of two-wheelers had consistently declined during FY20, FY21 and FY22 before starting to recover from FY23, with sales momentum continuing in FY24 as well.

"CareEdge Ratings anticipates two-wheeler sales volume growth to continue in FY25 and it would be more driven by improved domestic sales, higher EV sales, launch of CNG powered two-wheelers and good traction in executive and premium segment motorcycles," said



Hardik Shah, Director at CareEdge Ratings.

The growth in the two-wheeler segment in FY25 is also expected to be aided by the likely interest rate cuts in the second half of FY25, strong demand for new model launches coupled with recovery in exports from its low base and favourable monsoon which is likely to

improve rural consumer sentiment and income levels, said Arti Roy, Associate Director at CareEdge Ratings.

In FY23, the Indian two-wheeler industry recorded sales of 19.51 million units, an 8 per cent growth compared to the previous fiscal year's 18.01 million units.

In FY24, the industry continued its upward trajectory, achieving 9.8 per cent growth with a total sales volume of 21.43 million units. However, this was still short of the peak sales volume recorded in FY19, when annual sales volume had reached 24.46 million units, it said.

During FY24, the domestic two-wheeler industry witnessed total sales volume of 17.97 million units, reflecting a growth rate of 13 per cent, while the exports volume experienced a decline of 5 per cent.

# High prices of vegetables causing pain to consumers

**PTI ■ KOLKATA**  
Retail prices for vegetables, Reggs, and poultry meat remain high in Kolkata markets, causing suffering for the common man.

Tomato prices have soared to Rs 80-100 per kg from Rs 45-50 a month ago, while Brinjal is selling for Rs 110-140 per kg, a jump of nearly 150 per cent from early June, greengrocers in several markets in the city said.

Prices of several other vegetables such as bitter melon, green chilli and bottle gourd have also increased by an average of 50 per cent. Egg and poultry meat prices have risen by 20-30 per cent in local markets.

"Now tomatoes in Bengal are coming from other states. There is a short supply of tomatoes from Bangalore and Himachal Pradesh due to heat waves and heavy rain. The production was hit due to heat waves and disruptions in logistics due to heavy rain," a source in West Bengal Vendors Association told PTI.

Agriculture Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay



said that people are facing price pain since the Centre reduced support for farmers in fertilisers and transport subsidies, while climatic conditions have also aggravated the situation.

"The West Bengal government continues to support our farmers who are facing a rise in input costs. On the other hand, the Centre is reducing various subsidies. Hence, both farmers and commoners are suffering," said Chattopadhyay, also a Trinamool Congress leader.

He said that the state government has a retail distribution network, 'Sufal

Bangla,' the outlets of which sell vegetables and food articles at reasonable prices.

"In Sufal Bangla, tomatoes are priced at Rs 65 per kg against a minimum of Rs 80 in the retail market. Bitter melon is sold at Rs 72 per kg, and brinjal at Rs 102 per kg, which are 10-20 per cent cheaper. We are planning to increase the number of outlets from 484 now," Chattopadhyay said.

"Over the last three weeks, the prices of vegetables, eggs, and poultry have surged. Tomato prices have doubled, and onion prices are also inching higher. Inflation in essential items continues to cause us

pain in one way or another," Manashi Sanyal, a homemaker, said.

Food inflation likely intensified in June from the 8.7 per cent rate observed in April and May. According to Crisil's food plate cost tracker, the cost of a home-cooked vegetarian meal increased by 10 per cent year-on-year, reaching a six-month high, while the cost of non-vegetarian meals hit a seven-month peak.

The RBI has consistently expressed concerns over rising food prices. Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index moderated to a one-year low of 4.75 per cent in May. However, inflation in the food basket was 8.69 per cent, marginally down from 8.70 per cent in April.

However, fresh harvests from southern states are set to hit markets soon, which should ease prices within days, the consumer affairs ministry officials expect, adding that summer sowing of key vegetables is expanding robustly on the back of good rains.

# Gold rises ₹100; silver rallies ₹870 amid strong global cues

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Gold prices rose Rs 100 to Rs 73,410 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday in line with strong global trend, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal closed at Rs 73,310 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Silver prices also rallied Rs 870 to Rs 94,270 per kg. It had settled at Rs 93,400 per kg in the previous session.

"In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are quoted at Rs 73,410 per 10 grams, up by Rs 100 from the Friday's afternoon price.

"Gold prices at Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) traded lower amid risk-averse sentiment and profit booking after surging in the week gone by," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was USD 2,373 per ounce, up USD 10 per ounce from the previous close.

# Budget FY25 should focus on tax relief to boost consumption: India Inc

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Union Budget FY25 should focus on offering relief to taxpayers, especially in the lower income brackets, to stimulate consumption, industry players suggested.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the full Budget for fiscal 2024-25 on July 23 which will be the first major policy document of the new government.

The industry also urged the finance minister to lower corporate tax, phase out tax exemptions, and broaden tax base to boost economic growth.

"Rationalise and simplify the tax system to improve compliance and promote investment. Consider measures such as reducing corporate tax rates, phasing out tax exemptions, and broadening the tax base to make the tax regime more efficient and equitable," ASSOCHAM said.

Rating agency ICRA said the government is likely to set a fiscal deficit target at 4.9-5 per cent for FY25, as against 5.1 per cent estimated in the Interim Budget on February 1,

without compromising the capital expenditure target of Rs 11.1 lakh crore.

"While favourable developments on the revenue front portend positively for the fiscal dynamics in FY2025, ICRA believes that fiscal consolidation will turn quite challenging beyond the current fiscal," the rating agency said.

Mayank Gupta, co-founder and COO of Zopper Insurtech said the Budget is expected to focus on policies to promote economic growth and offer relief especially for the lower income brackets to stimulate consumption.

"From the point of view of insurance, we suggest amending section 80C of the Income Tax Act to permit a greater limit on insurance premium payments, thereby encouraging more individuals to buy insurance products. Additionally, there should also be an allowance of deduction for term life insurance under the new tax regime," he said.

Anish Mashruwala, partner, JSA Advocates and Solicitors said NBFC sector is expecting some ease of doing business considering the multitude of

regulatory compliances.

"Of course a balance needs to be struck in terms of oversight and hopefully this is something that the government ably considers," Mashruwala said.

Rumki Majumdar, economist, Deloitte India suggested that the government must expand the scope of PLI schemes, especially for sectors that can create more jobs, such as textiles, handicraft and leather.

The schemes must continue in sectors that have seen success, such as electronics, auto and semiconductors, Majumdar added.

On expectations from the finance minister, Vishal Goel, managing director, RX Promellant said the life sciences sector has immense potential and has been drawing global players to not only leverage the strength in contract manufacturing but also establishing global capability centres (GCCs).

"We are optimistic that the upcoming budget announcement will prioritise the life sciences sector, enhancing investment flows and fuelling innovation and success in India," Goel said.

# High-scoring Spain faces Mbappé's France with spot in Euro 2024 final on line

**AP ■ MUNICH**  
Spain and France meet in the semifinals of the European Championship on Tuesday. The match pits one of the highest-scoring teams at the tournament against one of the lowest as France's star forward Kylian Mbappé has struggled to get to grips with his mask. Kickoff is at 9 p.m. Local time (1900 GMT) in Munich. Here's what to know about the match:  
**Match facts:** The winner will play England or the Netherlands in the final on Sunday in Berlin. Their semifinal is on Wednesday.  
■ Spain and France's quarterfinals both went to extra time. Substitute Mikel Merino's game-winning goal in the last minute of extra time handed Spain a 2-1 victory over host nation Germany, while France needed penalties to see off Portugal after the match ended goalless.  
■ No France player has scored from open play at Euro 2024. The French have only scored through two own goals and a penalty from Mbappé. Spain has netted 11 times.  
■ Mbappé, who will be facing several of his new Real Madrid

teammates, will again be wearing a protective mask after sustaining a broken nose in France's group opener against Austria.  
■ Spain, which is chasing a record fourth European Championship title, has been perfect in Germany. It was the only team to win all its group stage matches, while France could only muster draws against Poland and the Netherlands after a narrow win over Austria.  
**Team news:** Spain paid the price for its dramatic win over Germany and a number of players will miss the semifinal - and in some cases the final should La Roja get there - because of suspension or injury.  
■ Midfielder Pedri had to come off in the eighth minute against Germany with a knee injury following a hefty challenge from Toni Kroos and has been ruled out of the rest of Euro 2024. He will again be replaced by Dani Olmo - who came on for the 21-year-old and went on to score the opener as well as set up Merino's winner.  
■ Dani Carvajal was sent off late in extra time for a second yellow card and will be



suspended against France, as will fellow defender Robin le Normand after picking up another booking. Veteran Jesús Navas is likely to be tasked with marking Mbappé.  
■ France coach Didier Deschamps has no injury problems as Marcus Thuram returned to training on Sunday, alleviating concerns he could miss the semifinal after taking a blow to his thigh at the end of the match against Portugal.  
**By the numbers:** Spain and France have only conceded three goals between them. The only time France goalkeeper Mike Maignan had to pick the ball out of his net was Poland's retaken penalty in the group stage, while Spain conceded against Georgia and Germany.  
■ The teams have met 36 times, with Spain winning 16 to France's 13 - including five of the past eight.  
■ This is Spain's sixth European Championship semifinal. It has only once failed to advance to the trophy match, losing on penalties to eventual champion Italy at Euro 2020.  
■ France has reached the semifinals on five previous occasions, winning three.

■ France has reached the final in three of last four major tournaments, losing 1-0 after extra time to Portugal at Euro 2016 and to Argentina on penalties in the 2022 World Cup, but beating Croatia to claim its second world title in 2018.  
"What they're saying 'We're in the semifinals and it's something we shouldn't take for granted, even if we may be used to it recently. Now we go to win it.'" - France coach Didier Deschamps.  
"Very few people gave us a chance and staying under the radar helped us start the tournament with confidence. Spain is a team to respect. I knew we had a great team and that's how it turned out." - Spain defender Marc Cucurella.  
"It's natural for him. He has this gift of carrying the team, the group. He gives ideas, advice to the players. He was born for that. He was born to pull the group up." - France striker Randal Kolo Muani on Mbappé's captaincy.  
"My players are insatiable. There's always room for improvement, of course, but we can't question their pride, quality and commitment."



## India eyeing first win against Myanmar in international women's friendlies

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
India will aim for a first win against Myanmar when they renew their rivalry against their higher-ranked neighbours in two away women's football friendlies beginning at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar on Tuesday.  
The 67th ranked Indians are winless in all five of their meetings with Myanmar (WR 54), losing four and drawing once.  
But it's been five years since they faced Myanmar with the last one being a 3-3 in the AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers in Mandalay in 2019. Sandhiya Ranganathan, Sanju and Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi, all of them part of the current squad as well, scored in that fixture.  
Prior to that, India suffered defeats on each of the four occasions at the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers (2013), AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers (2015, 2018) and the Gold Cup (2019).  
"We've played against them before, so we have an idea about them. Myanmar are strong and physically tough. Their mobility and speed is also good," Indian captain Loitongbam Ashalata Devi said in an AIFF release.  
However, it's been more than five years since India last faced Myanmar, and the captain believes these two games will mark a fresh start in this rivalry.  
"Myanmar's game style has changed a lot since we last played them. In the Asian Games, we watched them play. They have brought in a lot of youngsters, who can generate

more energy on the pitch. Our team has the perfect mixture of senior and young players.  
"I believe we can perform better and the Myanmar tour could be a successful one," said the 31-year-old Indian skipper. This will be India's second consecutive FIFA women's international match window facing a higher-ranked opponent.  
India had previously faced 48th-ranked Uzbekistan in Tashkent on May 31 and June 4, losing 0-3 and drawing 0-0, respectively.  
"Competing against better and higher-ranked opponents is always an advantage. It leaves us with the opportunity to learn more and change strategies according to different situations as we did against Uzbekistan. I'm sure we'll learn a lot from the Myanmar games too," Ashalata said.  
Myanmar have been out of action since the Asian Games in China last September. They were knocked out of the group stage after losing to Korea Republic (0-3) and Philippines (0-3), and their only win came against Hong Kong (1-0).  
Before that, Myanmar finished runners-up to Vietnam in the Southeast Asian Games. Head coach Langam Chaoba Devi feels India can match them.  
"We closely observed Myanmar's style of play when they faced Korea Republic and Philippines," said Chaoba.  
"Physically they are similar to us, with little difference in height and strength. However, they are technically very sound. But again, as I've said, we can surely match them," added the coach.

## Never give up, fight till last moment: Sreejesh's learning from Rohit's men

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**  
Playing in his fourth and probably last Olympics, veteran India hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has learnt a valuable lesson from the T20 World Cup-winning cricket team -- 'never give up and celebrate' early and this is something which will be embedded in his mind in the Paris Olympics.  
The Indian cricket team rose from the ashes in the final of the T20 World Cup, snatching a seven-run victory over South Africa from the jaws of defeat to end an 11-year ICC title drought.  
India's last major ICC title was the Champions Trophy in 2013 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's leadership.  
"I did watch the final. The biggest learning from this World Cup is that don't celebrate before the last ball. South Africa was almost winning till the 15th over but the Indian team did not give up hope and snatched the win from the jaws of defeat," Sreejesh, who has 328 India caps, told PTI Bhasha. "That's what not only us (hockey team) but every Olympic-bound athlete can learn from our cricket team is that never give up, just wait and fight till the last moment, you will achieve it. I will remember



this in the Olympics," he said. Regarded as 'The Wall of Indian hockey', Sreejesh still remembers that one advice he got from "The Wall of Indian cricket", Rahul Dravid. "I met Dravid bhai long back. He told us about the importance of patience and waiting for your moment. That's what I did. I did not become one of the best goalkeepers in the world overnight. I waited for my opportunities. I have also learnt to remain humble from him," he said.  
Sreejesh started playing hockey to get grace marks in the board exams but went on to win an Olympic medal -- bronze in Tokyo -- and also became the only goalkeeper

from the country to feature in four Olympics.  
"It's a great honour, a proud moment but comes with a lot of responsibilities. You need to guide the youngsters, you need to keep the team together and help to achieve the common goal of winning a medal at the Olympics," said the former FIH player of the year.  
"It's a dream journey. I just started playing this game for grace marks in board exams. I never thought that I would play hockey, wear an Indian jersey and participate in the Olympics. I just knew the legendary Dhanraj Pillay, who played 4 Olympics, 4 World Cups, Champions Trophy, Asian Games and today I am

the first goalkeeper going to play my fourth Olympics. It's hard to believe."  
Sreejesh was the hero of India's win over Germany in the bronze medal play-off match in Tokyo and he is very well aware of the expectations from him in Paris.  
"Expectations come with achievements and we don't have to take it negatively. I believe that it will give us the boost to perform even better in Paris. I want to tell the youngsters in the team that expectations and criticism will be there but on the field you are the boss. Stick to your basics, execute your plans and enjoy the game," he said.  
He also acts as a mentor for the youngsters of the team and

loves to throw challenges to get the best out of them.  
"Mentoring is very important as you are the one who played this game, failed, succeeded and when you tell these things to the kids, they understand. I always challenge forwards, make fun of them if they don't score. They accept this and try to do better," he said.  
"The Olympics are too much pressure. It's like a pressure cooker. You are closely followed by the media, there will be social media, coaches, people give you many ideas and these things distract you. I just tell them to play as a team without hearing these noises."  
India are placed in a tough Pool B in the Olympics along side Argentina, Australia, Belgium, New Zealand and Ireland.  
"Argentina have good 3D skills, the Australians are very strong and Belgium have very experienced forward line but I feel that on that particular day, it's all about using your experience and knowledge against them," he said.  
"For me visualization is the key. You play hockey for 365 days and in the Olympics we are also going to play the same but the ground, the audience and the atmosphere put you under pressure. Those who can play their best hockey under that pressure can win."



## Majhi announces ₹15 lakh for two sportspersons from Odisha who will represent India in Olympics

**PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday announced an incentive of Rs 15 lakh each for hockey player Amit Rohidas and ace javelin thrower Kishore Jena who will be representing India in the Paris Olympics.  
The CM expressed hope that the incentive will inspire the two sportspersons from Odisha to excel and bring glory to the country, an official statement said.  
Majhi said Jena and Rohidas have made their native places as well as the entire state proud by qualifying for the Paris Olympics.  
The effort, willpower, hard work, dedication and perseverance displayed by the two sportspersons will inspire young and budding talents in the state, he said.  
"There is no dearth of sports talents in Odisha and the state government is committed to providing the required infrastructure, financial support and all other facilities at the grassroots level for the all-round development of such talents in every corner of the state," he added.  
"The Indian men's hockey team won a Bronze in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics."

## Thomas logs first Top-10 finish in his second start as pro

**PTI ■ RABAT (MOROCCO)**  
India's Rayhan Thomas, playing only his second professional event, got a big boost in his career as he finished in Top-10 at the USD 2 million International Series Morocco golf tournament here.  
The Indian golfer, who is based in Dubai but played college golf in the US, shot 69-73-69-72 to finish 9-under for the week and was tied eighth and the best Indian in the field. Of the 16 India who started only five made the cut. The next best Indian on the final leaderboard was Veer Ahlawat (73) who was T-29, while Olympic bound Gaganjeet Bhullar (79) was T-33 alongside Varun Chopra (74) and Rashid Khan (74) was T-37. Thomas, who played for India

six times at the prestigious Asia Pacific Amateurs with a best of second place, made his pro debut last month at the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open, where he made the cut and finished T-68. Thomas, who got an invite this week to Morocco, will be hoping for another shot at the International Series in England at Foxhills in August and some more on Asian the Tour. Ben Campbell snatched a surprise victory from John Catlin right at the very end to win the title after a sensational finish

## Thomas logs first Top-10 finish in his second start as pro

here on the Red Course at Royal Golf Dar Es Salam. New Zealand's Campbell holed a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-five 18th to win on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off, having been three behind playing partner Catlin with two holes to play. Campbell shot a two-under-par 71, helped by an eagle on the par-four 17th and a birdie on 18th in normal time to tie Catlin with a 72 on 15-under. American Caleb Surratt (71) and Eugenio Chacarra (73) from Spain were tied for third, three behind the top two.

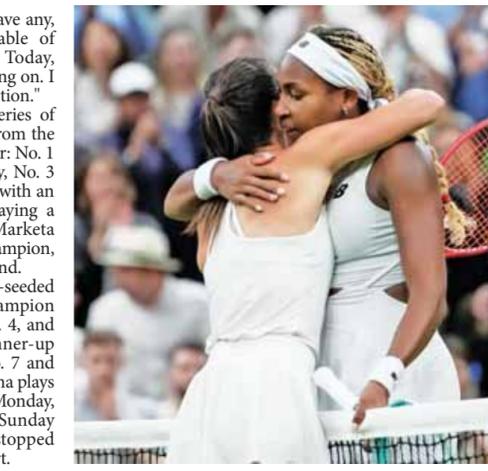


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# Coco Gauff can't get a new game plan at Wimbledon and loses to Emma Navarro

**AP ■ LONDON**  
Things were not going well for Coco Gauff against Emma Navarro at Centre Court, not well at all, and she kept looking at her guest box for help from her coaches. One, Brad Gilbert, would stand up and gesture, and they would talk back and forth, but a fix did not arrive.  
Gauff has yet to make it past the fourth round at Wimbledon, and she exited at that stage again Sunday, eliminated by Navarro 6-4, 6-3 in an all-American matchup.  
"We had a game plan going in, and I felt that it wasn't working. I don't always ask for advice from the box, but today was one of those rare moments where I felt I didn't have solutions," said Gauff, the reigning U.S. Open champion and seeded No. 2 at the All England Club. "I

don't want to say I didn't have any, because I think I'm capable of coming up with some. Today, mentally, there was a lot going on. I felt like I wanted more direction."  
Hers was the latest in a series of departures by top women from the Wimbledon bracket this year: No. 1 Iga Swiatek lost on Saturday, No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka withdrew with an injured shoulder before playing a match and No. 6 Marketa Vondrousova, last year's champion, was defeated in the first round.  
Only two of the 10 highest-seeded women remain: 2022 champion Elena Rybakina, who is No. 4, and recent French Open runner-up Jasmine Paolini, who is No. 7 and meets Navarro next. Rybakina plays her fourth-round match Monday, while Paolini advanced Sunday when Madison Keys stopped playing because she was hurt.



The 19th-seeded Navarro, who writes herself notes in her phone to prepare for matches, reached a major quarterfinal for the first time. She showed exactly the type of tennis she's capable of playing in the second round, when she got past four-time major champion Naomi Osaka.  
"I'm believing that this is possible as it's happening. I'm starting to think, Why not me? Why not? Why can't I make a quarterfinal run? Why can't I go deep in Grand Slams?" said Navarro, 23, who grew up in South Carolina and won the 2021 NCAA championship in her first year at the University of Virginia.  
On Sunday, she noticed the interactions between Gauff and Gilbert - and the player's growing displeasure with her performance. "I don't normally give the other side of the court too much energy. I keep

it on my side of the court. (But) I guess seeing her kind of frustrated and looking at her box, putting her arms up in the air - it's definitely a little bit of a confidence boost," Navarro said. "I guess it maybe gave me a little bit of momentum and just some energy that I needed."  
In addition to Gauff's trophy from New York last September, the 20-year-old from Florida has been the runner-up at the French Open and reached the semifinals at the Australian Open.  
And while her first big breakthrough came at the All England Club at age 15, when she became the youngest qualifier in tournament history and beat Venus Williams in the first round en route to getting to the fourth, Gauff never has bettered that result.  
She also exited in the fourth round in her next appearance, in 2021,

then lost in the third round in 2022 and the first round a year ago. On Sunday, Gauff kept making mistakes, finishing with more than twice as many unforced errors, 25, as winners, 12. Her biggest issue was the shot that opponents know is Gauff's weakness: the forehand. Navarro kept hitting to that side, and it worked.  
"I really wanted to attack her forehand," Navarro said afterward. Gauff made 16 unforced errors with forehands, and another 16 forced errors, accounting for 32 of the 61 total points won by Navarro.  
"I have the ability to raise my level when players play well, and I feel I didn't do that today," Gauff said. She explained that when she's sought a mid-match assist from her coaches in the past, "They usually gave me something," but added: "I don't think we were all in sync."

# INDIA EYE IMPROVED BOWLING SHOW IN FINAL WOMEN'S T20I AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA



PTI ■ CHENNAI

Desperate to level the three-match series after washed out, India would hope weather doesn't play spoilsport, besides eyeing a much-improved bowling effort in the final women's T20I against South Africa here on Tuesday. India are trailing the three-match series 0-1 after losing the opener by 12 runs. Their problems compounded after the second game here on Sunday was washed out midway due to persistent drizzle. And with 30 to 40 per cent of rain forecast for Tuesday, the Indians are left on the mercy of weather gods.

In both the matches, the Indian bowlers cut a sorry figure as South Africa amassed 189 for 9 and 177 for 6 respectively. Barring Pooja Vastrakar, who picked up two wickets each in both the games, and spinner Deepti Sharma, most of the Indian bowlers failed to shine against the Proteas women. Renuka Singh leaked runs in the first game and was subsequently replaced by Sajeevan Sajana in the second T20I but the latter also didn't her cause. Shreyanka Patil and Radha Yadav picked up a wicket each on Sunday but continued to leak runs. India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur would want her bowlers to pull up their socks with the series at stake. On the batting front, it has been a decent show by the Indians in the first game. The

likes of Jemimah Rodrigues (53 not out), Smriti Mandhana (46), Harmanpreet (35), Shafali Verma (18) and Daylan Hemalatha (14) all making double digit scores. Uma Chetry, who made her T20I debut on Sunday, is likely to persisted with as Harmanpreet and the team management would like to see her exploits with the bat. South Africa, on the other hand, has been rock solid with the bat with Tazmin Brits, who hit consecutive half-centuries, leading the charge. Besides Brits, skipper Laura Wolvaardt, Marizanne Kapp and Anneke Bosch have contributed with the bat as well for the visitors. South Africa's only concern is Chloe Tryon, who has scored identical 12 runs in the two games. And with the upcoming T20

World Cup in Bangladesh in mind, Tryon will be desperate to prove her detractors wrong. **TEAMS (FROM):**  
**India Women:** Harmanpreet Kaur(c), Smriti Mandhana(vc), Uma Chetry(wk), Richa Ghosh(w), Dayalan Hemalatha, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Sajeevan Sajana, Deepti Sharma, Asha Sobhana, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Shabnam Shakil, Pooja Vastrakar and Radha Yadav.  
**South Africa Women:** Laura Wolvaardt(c), Tazmin Brits, Mieke de Ridder(wk), Sinalo Jafta(wk), Anneke Bosch, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Marizanne Kapp, Suné Luus, Chloe Tryon, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Eliz-Mari Marx, Nonkululeko Mlaba and Tumi Sekhukhune.

## Mentor Yuvraj was very happy when I got out for duck, he must be proud now: Abhishek Sharma

PTI ■ HARARE

India opener Abhishek Sharma has revealed that his mentor Yuvraj Singh was delighted when he got out for a duck on his T20I debut against Zimbabwe here as the swashbuckling former all-rounder, for reasons best known to him, felt it was a "good start". Making his India debut, Abhishek was out on duck as the Men in Blue lost the first T20I against hosts Zimbabwe by 13 runs on Saturday. But the 23-year-old came back strongly to set the stage ablaze with a blistering maiden century (a 47-ball 100) to fashion India's 100-run win in the second game a day later. "I spoke to him yesterday (Saturday) also, and I don't know why he was very happy when I got out on zero. He said that's a good start but he must be very happy and proud just like my family," Abhishek said in a video posted by BCCI. He credited the hero of India's 2011 World Cup triumph for not only helping him hone his skills on the cricket field but also supporting him in his life away from the field. "It's all because of him as well, the hard work he has put in (shaping) me. (For) two-three years, he has worked really hard not only on my cricket but off the field (life) as well." After Sunday's game, Abhishek added Yuvraj, who couldn't be happier for the youngster. "Well done very proud, you

## NATA 2024

**NATIONAL APTITUDE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE**

Council of Architecture  
(A Statutory Authority of Government of India under the Architects Act, 1972)

Ref. CA/498/2024/MSAR (Regulations)

### IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

#### CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO B.ARCH. COURSE

The Council, with the approval of the Central Government, has amended the Regulation 4(1) of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020 and amended the eligibility for admission to Architecture course as under:

1. "(1) No candidate shall be admitted to architecture course unless she/he has passed 10+2 or equivalent examination with Physics and Mathematics as compulsory subjects along with either Chemistry or Biology or Technical Vocational subject or Computer Science or Information Technology or Informatics Practices or Engineering Graphics or Business Studies with at least 45% marks in aggregate or passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject with at least 45% marks in aggregate."

Relaxation in percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination for admission shall be as per the reservation policy of Central Government or the respective State Governments.

Accordingly, all stakeholders i.e. students, parents, architectural institutions and concerned competent authorities are advised to follow the above eligibility criteria for admission to First Year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course from academic session 2024-25 onwards. For further details please visit NATA website [www.nata.in](http://www.nata.in).

**R. K. Oberoi**  
Registrar

New Delhi  
July 09, 2024

## Jayasuriya named Sri Lanka's interim coach ahead of limited-overs series against India

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya was on Monday named the interim head coach of Sri Lanka's cricket team ahead of this month's white-ball home series against India with the country's board saying that he is "well-positioned" to guide the side till a "permanent solution" is found in the next few months. The Indian team will be touring Sri Lanka for three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs, starting July 27. Jayasuriya, who has also served as a chief selector in the past, will continue in the post till Sri Lanka's Test tour to England in August-September, comprising three games. "Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the appointment of Mr. Sanath Jayasuriya as the Interim Head Coach of the national team. He will function in the position until the completion of Sri Lanka's tour of England in September 2024," the SLC said in a statement. The 55-year-old, a swashbuckling opener in his prime, was named for the interim post after Englishman Chris Silverwood resigned last week as Sri Lanka head coach. Silverwood stepped down in the wake of the country's disastrous T20 World Cup campaign, during which it was ousted from the league stage itself. One of the most attacking batters of his time, Jayasuriya had recently been a consultant for the team during this year's T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean. "Jayasuriya is currently serving as the full-time 'Cricket Consultant' of Sri Lanka Cricket. His new appointment comes into immediate effect." "Sanath with his wealth of international cricketing experience is well positioned to guide the national team, until we find a permanent solution," said SLC CEO Ashley De Silva. Jayasuriya featured in 110 Tests between 1991 and 2007, scoring 6973 runs at an average of 40.07, with the help of 14 centuries and 31 fifties. In the 445 ODIs he played, the left-hander struck 13,430 runs at an average of 32.36, with 28 hundreds and 68 half centuries. He was a key member of the Sri Lankan team that won 1996 ODI World Cup. He also served as Member of Parliament from 2010-15.

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)  
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chennai-600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

### APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

The Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this notice.

LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	BORROWER/S/ CO-BORROWER/S & GUARANTORS NAME	DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTIES	DEMAND NOTICE		DATE AND TYPE OF POSSESSION TAKEN
			DATE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT (RS.)	
68743631	1. SURINDER SINGH, 2. GURDEEP SINGH, 3. GAGANDEEP SINGH, 4. HARJINDER KAUR	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF HOUSE BEARING HOUSE TAX NO 322, ADMEASURING 97 SQ. MTRS., WARD NO. 1, PROPERTY ID NO. HSMCW1700380 SITUATED AT MAJRI MOHALLA, KASBA SHAHABAD, SUB SHAHABAD, KURUKSHETRA, HARYANA- 136135, AND, BOUNDED AS: EAST: 14 FEET 3 INCH THEN TURN TO EAST 26 FEET 10 INCH THEN TURN TO SOUTH 10 FEET 6 INCH AND HOUSE KUNDAN SINGH AND HOUSE REMALDASS, WEST: 29 FEET 7 INCH AND HOUSE CHANNAN LAL, NORTH: 24 FEET 6 INCH THEN TURN TO SOUTH 14 FEET 3 INCH THEN TO EAST 26 FEET 10 INCH AND HOUSE CHANNAN LAL AND HOUSE RAM PYARI AND HOUSE KUNDAN SINGH, SOUTH: 52 FEET 3 INCH AND HOUSE LEGAL HEIR OF DAULAT RAM AND DOOR OF PROPERTY IN QUESTION AND CLOSE GALI	27.01.2024	Rs. 39,54,431.89/-	03-07-2024 Symbolic Possession
18186980	1. PREMO NATHI RAM (IN THE CAPACITY OF AVAILABLE LEGAL HEIR OF LATE NATHI RAM), 2. PREMO NATHI RAM,	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY PART OF PLOT COMPRISED IN KHEWAT NO. 2746, KHATONI NO. 5126 MIN, KHASRA NO. 9779/8020 (1-16), 8024 (1-12), KITTE 2 RAKBA 3 BIGHE 8 BISWE ITS 3-30/50/68 SHARE I.E. 3-30/50 BISWE, SITUATED IN KASBA KARNAL (TOWARDS M.I.T.C. SUGAR MILLS), TESHIL AND DISTRICT KARNAL, HARYANA-132001, MEASURING 3-30/50 BISWA // 20' X 81' // 180 SQ. YARDS., AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: PLOT OF AMAR SINGH WEST: PLOT OF RAMESHWAR NORTH: 20' FT, RASTA SOUTH: PLOT OF RAMESHWAR	04.10.2023	Rs. 23,14,777.49/-	03-07-2024 Symbolic Possession

The Borrower/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors 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 IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

Authorized Officer  
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

Date: 03-JULY-2024  
Place: HARYANA

**AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297)  
Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur, 302020

### POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE 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 (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE 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
RAVINDER SINGH, PANKAJ SINGH, TEJAL SINGH, SANGEETA DEVI (A/c No.) LNMH1.03423-240288560	9 Mar 24 Rs. 1642583/- 9 Mar 24	Property UID No. 571450007 and measuring 265.30931852100002 Sq. Mt. situated in Lal Dora Area of Village Raipur Rani, Tehsil Raipur Rani and District Panchkula, Haryana Admeasuring 265.40 Sq. Mtr.	Physical Possession Taken on 5 Jul 24

Place : Jaipur Date : 09-07-2024 Authorized Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)  
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chennai-600031.  
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

### Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) the loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	9764796 & 33903627	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1. MAZID KHAN 2. JASMIN KHAN	17.06.2024	6,20,002.86/-	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PLOT AREA 50 SQ. YDS., (HOUSE BEARING MUNICIPAL UNIT NO. C-5/166), SITUATED AT BHARAT SEWAK NAGAR, JAGADHARI, TEHSIL: JADADHARI, DISTRICT: YAMUNANAGAR, HARYANA-135001, AND, BOUNDED AS: EAST: HOUSE OF ANEESH AHMED, WEST: HOUSE OF PINKI, NORTH: HOUSE OF NARESH, SOUTH: GALI 10 FT. WIDE

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Authorized Officer  
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

Date : 09.07.2024  
Place : YAMUNANAGAR

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

### Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002

As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/ Mortgagees/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below.

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

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower /Mortgagor/Guarantor/ Loan A/c No.	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged Property
(A/c No.) L9001070221810393 & L900107062362792 Palwinder Kaur (Borrower), Amarjit Kaur (Co-Borrower), Jasmail Singh (Co-Borrower)	13-Jun-24 Rs. 646052/- Rs. Six Lac Forty-Six Thousand Fifty-Two Only & Rs. 976593/- Rs. Nine Lac Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Three Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At - Kheawat/Khatuani No 211/362 To 366, Plot Number 3278, Building Number 14 1049, Village Pana, Tehsil Kalanwali, Dist- Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 417.68 Square Yard
(A/c No.) L9001060121647417 Shri Balaji Engineering Works Through IT'S Proprietor Smt. Ravita Devi (Borrower), Subhash Chand (Co-Borrower), Parkash Vir (Co-Borrower), Smt. Ravita Devi (Co-Borrower)	13-Jun-24 Rs. 2338749/- Rs. Twenty-Three Lac Thirty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Nine Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At Kh No. 629/690, 360(3-4), 15/64, Vill. Alawalpur, Dist.-Palwal, Haryana Admeasuring 450 Sqyds
(A/c No.) L9001060834054345 Beer Singh Shattering Store (Borrower), Beer Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt.Sona Rani (Co-Borrower)	13-Jun-24 Rs. 361630/- Rs. Three Lac Sixty-One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At - Khewat No 471 And 645, Khasra No 206 1 27 15 3, Near Bsnl Tower Vpo Sadhanwas, Th- Dist- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 90.75 Square Yard
(A/c No.) L9001060127198904 Moham Danish (Borrower), Khan Poltary Farm (Borrower), Mohamod Danish (Co-Borrower)	13-Jun-24 Rs. 1037275/- Rs. Ten Lac Thirty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Five Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Property Tax Id No Srs B15 04461, Sq No 73 Killa No 14, Chattergarg Patti, Dadwala Road, Dadwala, Dist- Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 90 Sqyds.
(A/c No.) L9001060127761558 Balli Fruit Shop (Borrower), Kuldeep (Co-Borrower), Balbir Rani (Co-Borrower), Smt.Kiran Devi (Co-Borrower)	13-Jun-24 Rs. 506306/- Rs. Five Lac Six Thousand Three Hundred Six Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Khasra No176, Bansal Lal Park, Vill & Dist- Bhiwani, Haryana Admeasuring 90 Sqyds
(A/c No.) L9001070529802923 Anant Mahto (Borrower), Smt.Simpi Devi (Co-Borrower),	13-Jun-24 Rs. 279411/- Rs. Two Lac Seventy-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eleven Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At- Khewat No 22 Khata No 22 Rect Killa No 8 1 2 7 8, Mauja Kabirpur, Near Jeevan Nagar, Teh & Dist- Sonapat, Haryana Admeasuring 42.34 Sqyds.
(A/c No.) L9001060133911602 Krishna Health Care Centre (Borrower), Smt.Dipa Rani (Co-Borrower), Krishan Kumar (Co-Borrower)	13-Jun-24 Rs. 544549/- Rs. Five Lac Forty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Nine Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At - Khatuni No 167 207M/Min, Sq No 77, Killa No 24 6 4, Vill Shakar Mandori, Tehsil Nathusari Chopta Main Chok, Dist- Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 332.75 Square Yard
(A/c No.) L9001060136602810 Majoka Hair Saloon (Borrower), Sanjay Kaur (Co-Borrower), Smt.Gogga Bai (Co-Borrower)	13-Jun-24 Rs. 244523/- Rs. Two Lac Forty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Three Only As on 11-Jun-24	Property Situated At - Khewat No 1486 Khatoni No 1683 Khasra No 390/1/2 6-12 2-7-11 3-7-11 4-6-18 7/1 2-0 18-8-0 18-8-0 18-8-0 21 8-0 22 8-0 23 8-0 24 8-0, Village Bighar, Th & Dist- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 151.25 Square Yard

Place: HARYANA Date : 08-07-2024 Authorized Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

**STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED**  
Rourkela Steel Plant  
Rourkela - 769 011, Odisha, India

### NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ALLOTMENT OF CANTEN INSIDE ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

REF. NO. - ER&C / 527 DATE: 27-06-2024

The application forms containing of the terms and conditions for allotment of canteen (TRUPTI canteen near old HSM area) on license basis is available in the office of GM (H.R - IR, ER, C, T & M) on payment of Rs.200/- (Rupees two hundred only) including all taxes towards cost of application papers. The application papers can also be downloaded from our website <https://sailtenders.co.in>. In such case, the duly filled in application form shall be treated as valid application and should be sent along with the receipt of Rs.200/- (Online deposit through SB collect).

Applications will be accepted up to 3.00 P.M of 29-07-2024.

**GM (H.R - IR, ER, C, T & M)**

Registered Office: Ispat Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003  
Corporate Identity Number: L27109DL1973GOI006454, Website: [www.sail.co.in](http://www.sail.co.in)

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