

**OPINION 6**

PARLIAMENT: DUTY OVER DISRUPTION

**WORLD 8**

NIKKY HALEY 'STRONGLY ENDORSES' TRUMP

**MONEY 10**

CORPORATE FUNDING IN SOLAR SECTOR GLOBALLY DIPS: MERCOM

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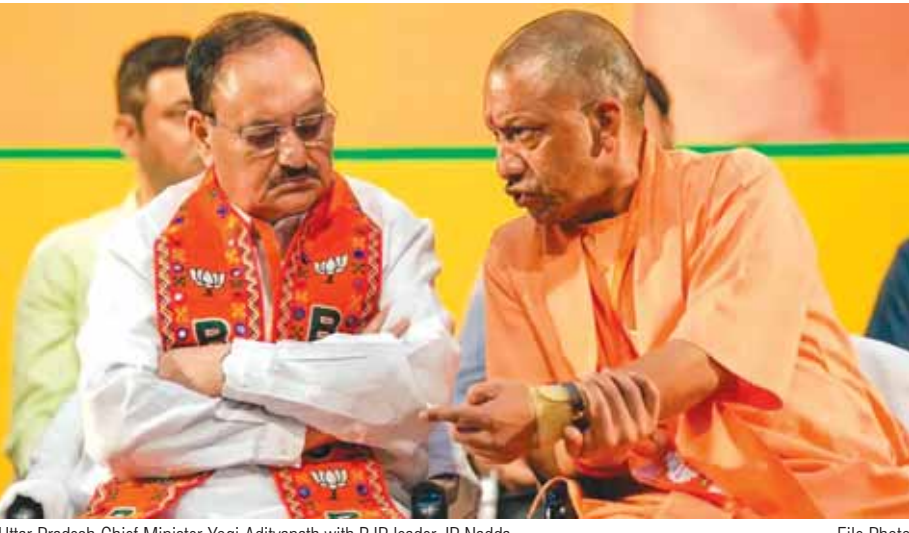
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## UP CM Yogi prepares for critical bypolls



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with BJP leader JP Nadda File Photo

**VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday entrusted Ministers with the responsibility of supervising the bypolls to 10 Assembly seats and to stay for two nights in a week in the respective constituencies. The Chief Minister also asked the Ministers and leaders of party organisations to be active on social media to counter the negative campaign of the Opposition and the false narrative spread by INDIA Bloc parties. The Chief Minister has constituted a team of 30 Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State to supervise

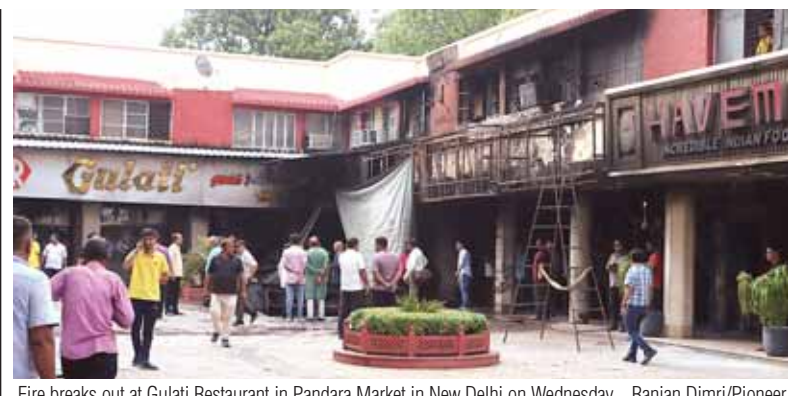
### Deputy CM fends off Akhilesh Yadav

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Amid the buzz over possible changes in the Yogi Adityanath Government, the Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and main Opposition Samajwadi Party's leader Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday engaged in a verbal duel after which the latter said the people of UP are fed up with infighting within the BJP Government. In a sharp response, Maurya stressed that the BJP has strong Governments and organisation at the Centre

and in UP and the Samajwadi Party has no chance of a comeback. "There is infighting in the Government. BJP leaders are fighting among themselves. The people know about the corruption and are fed up with the game of thrones," Yadav said at a party event. Responding to the SP chief, Maurya tweeted this that the BJP's Governments and organisation in the country and the State are strong. "The return of SP's reign of goons in UP is impossible. BJP will repeat 2017 in the 2027 state polls," he posted on X.

the bypolls to 10 UP Assembly seats. The Ministers are from the Bharatiya Janata Party and allies Rashtriya Lok Dal and NISHAD Party. The Chief Minister presided over a meeting of the Ministers and leaders of the party organisation. Three Ministers each have been given the responsibility of supervising the elections in the 10 Assembly seats going to bypolls. Yogi has specifically directed the Ministers to focus the attention on the preparations at the polling booth level and be in constant touch with the cadre and grassroot party workers. He said the party worker was the top priority and asked the Ministers in-charge of the poll bound 10 Assembly seats to meet the party workers, ascertain their problems and facilitate them in discharging their responsibility during the elections. The CM said the party workers should feel assured that both the government and the party organisation was solidly behind them. The meeting also discussed the measures to be taken for busting the false narrative of inflation, unemployment, abrogation of Constitution and caste-based reservation for the SC, ST and OBCs. He said the false narrative of amendment to the Constitution for abrogating the reservations need to be particularly busted.



Fire breaks out at Gulati Restaurant in Pandara Market in New Delhi on Wednesday Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

## Iconic Gulati eatery gutted, Delhiites left heartbroken

**SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI**

A fire in the iconic Gulati restaurant, a favourite haunt of foodies, in the wee hours of Wednesday in the heart of the national Capital left its patrons broken-hearted. Serving the gourmet since 1959, this famous eatery has had among its clients a number of dignitaries regularly visiting the eating joint to savour the delicacies on offer. As the disheartening news of the fire that gutted a good portion of the restaurant spread by word of mouth, many Delhiites got nostalgic reminiscing about their times at the eatery which is etched in their memories forever. The restaurant that had a humble beginning as a small 'dhaba' with simple wooden benches and tables, transformed into a fine dine restaurant in 2013, giving a perfect dining experience to the visitors. The restaurant was also known for its great ambience. The fire broke out at 2.48 am in the sitting area of Veg Gulati restaurant adjacent the

restaurant, and is a vegetarian alternative to the same. The leaping flames soon spread to the first floor and caused extensive damage. Sharing their sense of loss, many fans of the restaurant told *The Pioneer* that the place was part of many family gatherings. Twenty-six-year-old Aditya Ahuja, who works as a content writer at Prasar Bharti, reminisced how he visited the place with his father as a toddler. According to an official of Delhi Fire Services (DFS), it took one hour for four fire tenders to bring the blaze under control. The cause of fire is suspected to be a short circuit. Police has said a probe is underway in the matter. Over the years, the restaurant has emerged as one of the best serving North Indian cuisine in the city. Long queues outside the place are a usual sight. However, this doesn't deter foodies from visiting the restaurant to savour their favourites dishes which include *dal makhni*, *naan* and *dahi kebab*.

## NCP's Ajit Pawar suffers setback



**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Still to recover from the Opposition MahaYuti's poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Ajit Pawar-led ruling NCP suffered another jolt on Wednesday, as its Pimpri unit chief Ajit Gavahane and three other leaders quit the party, ahead of their joining the rival NCP (Sharad Pawar) on July 20. Apart from Gavahane, three other leaders who quit the ruling NCP (AP) and announced their decision to join the rival Sharad Pawar-led NCP are NCP's Pimpri-Chinchwad Students' Wing chief Yash Sane, former corporators Rahul Bhosale and Pankaj Bhalekar. Gavahane, Rahul and Pankaj submitted their resignations to NCP state President Sunil Tatkare. Sane had sent in his papers to the NCP Student Wing President Prashant Kadam earlier this week. The resignations by four NCP (AP) leaders come a year after Ajit Pawar rebelled against Sharad Pawar, brought about a dramatic split in the parent party and joined the BJP-led MahaYuti Government in the State.

## Karnataka Government pushes pause button on job quota Bill

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

The Congress-led Karnataka Government on Wednesday landed in soup after the Cabinet first approved a controversial Bill mandating first 100 per cent reservation in private firms then revising it to two slabs for Kannadigas and finally "put on hold" facing backlash for 48 hours. The reservation in private firms for Group C and Group D posts was made public by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and later he deleted it, sharing another rectified post clarifying that the Cabinet approved the Bill to fix 50 per cent reservation for administrative posts and 75 per cent for non-administrative posts for Kannadigas in private industries and other organisations in the State. The decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting held on Monday. The move, however, did not go down well with industry leaders and late evening Government sources said the Bill which was to be tabled in the Karnataka Assembly on Thursday has been put on hold now. Sources said the Congress high command from New Delhi had to



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with leaders File Photo: PTI

intervene given the "sensitivity" of the matter in the Bill as the State including the silicon city Bengaluru has a population from north India and else part of the country. "The Cabinet meeting held yesterday approved a Bill to make recruitment of 100 per cent Kannadigas mandatory for 'C and D' grade posts in all private industries in the state. We are a pro-Kannada Government. Our priority is to look after the welfare of the Kannadigas," the CM said in a social media post and then deleted it and replaced with another message. "It is our Government's wish that Kannadigas should be given an opportunity to lead

a comfortable life in the motherland. We are a pro-Kannada Government. Our priority is to look after the welfare of Kannadigas," he said. Karnataka's move is similar to a Bill introduced by the Haryana Government, mandating 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs to the residents of the State. It was, however, struck down the Punjab and Haryana High Court on November 17, 2023. According to sources, the 'Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024' will be tabled on Thursday in the Assembly.

## Cowardly terrorists from Pakistan on the run in Jammu

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Security forces have mobilised a large number of troops to pin down the foreign terrorists on the prowl in the Doda forest area of Doda. Four Army personnel, including one Captain, were martyred in the fierce gunfight in the same zone late Monday night following which these searches were launched across the hilly areas. It is learnt the terrorists had fled the area after targeting the Army personnel. According to local reports, while the joint teams were combing the area a brief exchange of fire took place on two occasions within a span of three to four hours late Tuesday night. The alert Village Defence Guards (VDGs) reportedly opened fire on observing suspicious movement outside their village, while two explosive shells were recovered from the Gandoh area. The exchange of fire was first reported at Kalaan Bhata at 10.45 pm on Tuesday and then near Panchan Bhata at 2 am during the ongoing anti-terrorist operation in the Desa forest area. Despite the challenging terrain and weather conditions, efforts are underway to track down and neutralise the terrorists who



Security personnel amid heavy security near the site of a recent encounter with terrorists at Desa village, in Doda district, on Wednesday PTI

have links with the banned Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). Meanwhile, two explosive shells were recovered during a separate search operation in the Sinoo forest area of Gandoh in Doda district. Sinoo Forest witnessed a day-long encounter on June 26, resulting in the killing of three foreign terrorists and the recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including a US-made M4 carbine. In a statement on Tuesday, the Army said it had been conducting a series of joint and coordinated operations with the Jammu and Kashmir Police to eliminate foreign terrorists.

## Stampeding job seekers in Mumbai



A stampede-like situation prevailed near the Mumbai airport where thousands of job aspirants gathered to apply for a limited number of vacancies for the post of loader though the police on Wednesday claimed they had made adequate arrangements to avoid any untoward incident

## Haryana Govt announces quota for Agniveers

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

The Haryana Government on Wednesday announced a ten per cent reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment of constables, forest guards and jail wardens along with quotas in other posts. This decision came ahead of the Assembly polls in the State. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini also said the Government will provide interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh if any Agniveer wishes to set up their own business. "In direct recruitment to posts of constable, mining guard,



forest guard, jail warden and special police officer made by the State Government, there will be a 10 per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers," he said at a press conference in Chandigarh. He said in Group C and D

posts, an age relaxation of three years will also be given. "However, for the first batch of Agniveers, this age relaxation will be five years," Saini added. In direct recruitment for Group C civil posts, there will be a five per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers, the Chief Minister said. He also announced sops for industrial units employing Agniveers. "If any industrial unit employs an Agniveer at a salary of more than ₹30,000 per month, then our government will give that unit an annual subsidy of ₹60,000," Saini said.

## HC reserves order on Kejriwal arrest pleas

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday reserved its order on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas challenging his arrest by the CBI in the excise policy case and seeking interim bail. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Kejriwal, referred the case of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during a hearing at the Delhi High Court. Singhvi pointed out that while Khan was released, he was re-arrested in another case, arguing, "It can't happen in our country."

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, who conducted the proceedings on a holiday on account of Muharram, heard the arguments advanced by the lawyers of Kejriwal and the CBI and reserved its order on the petitions. The HC has listed his regular bail plea for further arguments on July 29. During the hearing, Singhvi criticised the trial court's decision to allow the CBI's application for production warrants despite Kejriwal being interrogated for nearly three hours on June 25. Kejriwal's senior counsel not only assailed his arrest by the CBI but also sought his release on bail in the case.

## Law Ministry advocates sunset clause in key Bills

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of Law and Justice has pitched for the incorporation of a "sunset" clause or automatic repeal provision in certain type of bills to de-clutter statute books and has put it in its 100-day agenda. The sunset clause applies primarily to laws of temporary nature or those dealing with dynamic situations. Once their utility ends, they stand removed from the statute books. Sunset clauses have been widely used in the US, the UK and Germany for more than 20 years now. The legislative department in the Ministry has made "sunset clause" in new legislative



proposal a part of its 100-day agenda, saying steps will be taken in this regard in consultation with concerned ministries. Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had directed all Union Ministries

and departments to draw up a 100-day agenda for the next Government. Former Union Law Secretary P K Malhotra explained that whenever the legislature — Parliament or State legislature — want to restrict the life of a

legislation being passed by it, it may as a matter of policy provide a sunset clause providing that after a lapse of a certain period — five or 10 years depending on the requirement — the law will come to an end. The legislature can pass a fresh law giving the statute, which has become inoperative due to the sunset clause, a fresh lease of life, Malhotra said. According to the legislative department, it seeks to incorporate sunset clause or automatic repealing clause in new legislative proposal in consultation with administrative Ministries and departments concerned. As and when the proposals in this behalf are received by it, necessary action will be taken

up, it noted. "This is a long-pending demand. This practice is prevalent in some other countries also. I think there are many legislations where this kind of clause can be put so that Parliament or State legislature is also vigilant that with the passage of time, if a legislation needs to continue, then they will give it a fresh look. "And if they do not want to continue, then on the day provided in the law, it will automatically come to an end," Malhotra explained. In the recent past, some commissions set up to look into legal reforms have also pressed or such a clause. A sunset clause is a legal element that establishes an expiration date or conditions

for ending a law or agreement. It outlines that the law or agreement will stop being valid after a certain time, unless renewed. In contracts, a sunset clause permits termination if a particular event doesn't occur by a set date. This clause automatically removes legislative sections once a specific date is reached. It requires certain provisions or laws to stop functioning unless renewed. Sunset clauses have been frequently used in India in fiscal and tax laws, such as tax holidays and exchange control regulations. The Constitution itself provides for a 10 year sunset for reservations to Parliament and Legislative Assembly seats (Article 334).

# Classifieds

## BEDAKHLI NOTICE

**I, Vikram Singh** S/o Late Sh. Tara Singh R/O House No. 3248, Sector 22-D, Chandigarh declare that my son Pradeep Singh is out of my control. I disown him from all my moveable / immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his/her own risk and responsibility.

**I, Shakuntla** W/o Mangat Ram R/O #465, Shastri Mandi, Bhuna, Distt. Fatehabad declare that my son Bhpender & his wife Suman are out of my control. So, I disown them from my all moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them shall do their own risk in future.

**I, Sukhbir Singh** S/o Kaka Ram R/O Village Tyora Postoffice Ratangarh, Tehsil Shahabad Markanda District Kurukshetra, have evicted my daughter Heena from all my moveable immovable properties, as she is out of my control. Anybody dealing with her at their own risk.

**I, Shammo Bai** W/O Late Krishan Chand R/O Village Jansua Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That My Daughter-In-Law Jaswinder Kaur Wife Late Harjinder Kumar Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Her From All My Moveable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Her On Their Own Risk.

**I, Gaya Parsad** S/o Sh. Munne Lal R/O House No. 1400/B, Small Flats, Housing Board Complex, Dhanas, Chandigarh declare that my son Satish is out of my control. I disown him from all my moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his/ her own risk.

**I, Ravinder Kumar** Sharma S/o Sh. Ragbir Dass R/O h.no. 475, Phase 3B1, Mohali, Declare that he disown his son Sagar from his inheritance in respect of our all movable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with him that will be at their own risk.

**I, Shyam Lal** S/O Chamela Ram Vill. Bahri Tehsil Thanesar Distt. Kurukshetra My Son Ajay and his wife Seema is out of my control. I disown them from all My moveable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with him at their Own risk.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Sonia Begum** D/o Dilshad Khan R/o #133, VPO- Billa, Distt. Panchkula (Haryana) declare that I have converted my religion from Muslim to Hindu and my name from Sonia Begum to Sonia.

**I, Anita** W/o Sh. Jaipal R/O Village Atail, Teh. Sampal Distt. Rohtak declare that my son Vinay is out of my control. So I disown him from my all moveable/immovable properties. Any body dealing with him at their own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal or illegal acts.

**I, Ritu D/o Sanjay** R/O Vill. Pindara, Teh. & Distt. Jind, declare that in my 12th mark sheet, my father's name is recorded as Late Sanjay Kumar instead of Sanjay, which is wrong. Hence, my father's name in my 12th mark sheet should be corrected to Sanjay instead of Late Sanjay Kumar.

**I, Shinder Pal Sethi** r/o Sri Muktsar Sahib have declare that I have lost my two blank cheque no. 915369, 915370 of State Bank of India branch Malout Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib A/C no. 33920593908. If any one misuse it, will be responsible for any legally action. If any body found it please contact me 9855265620

**I, Sumit Anand Rajdev** s/o Davinder Kumar Rajdev r/o Principal Street, Kotkapura Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my minor daughter Saira's name to Saira Rajdev All concern may not it. Now her change name Saira Rajdev will use for all future purpose

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

**I, Abhilaasha Ghosh** wife of Nepal Singh Son of Prem Narayan Singh No: JC-857957Y; Rank: Naib Subedar (Unit-128 AD MSL Regiment C/o 56 APO) resident of 1903, Patkana, Gursarai, Jhansi, Dehat, 284202, Uttar Pradesh have changed my date of birth from 02-May-1984 to 15-June-1982. My correct date of birth is 15-June-1982. All Please Note.

**I, No. 412268x** Rank Hav/Gd, Amarjit Singh. R/O Village Bhangwan, Po Dalepur, Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Declare That In My Army Record My Son Name Shivnoor Prt Singh Is Wrong. But My Son Name Shivnoorpreet Singh Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb3623583689296W Dated 17-07-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur.

**I, No. 412268x** Rank Hav/Gd, Amarjit Singh. R/O Village Bhangwan, Po Dalepur, Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Declare That In My Army Record My Son Name Hunar Preet Singh And Date Of Birth 20-11-2015 Is Wrong. But My Son Name Hunarpreet Singh And Date Of Birth 20-11-2009 Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb36236397027671w Dated 17-07-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur.

**I No 4471645Y** EX NK Raj Singh R/O Rattan Chand VPO Jhingher Kalan Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that in my Army's Documents My Father's Rattan Chand Date of Birth Written as 18-07-1943 Wrongly. Actually his Date of Birth is 11-02-1944.

**I No 4471645Y** EX NK Raj Singh S/O Rattan Chand VPO Jhingher Kalan Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that in my Army's Documents My Mother's name Kaushalya Devi and Date of Birth 10-11-1946 Written Wrongly. Actually her Name is Kushalya Devi and her Date of Birth is 01-01-1948.

**I, No. JC-583764X** Sub Lakhwinder Singh S/o Dharam Singh R/O Vpo. Sango Katrala Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) declare that in my army record the name of my minor son from Krish to Krish Salhotra.

**I, Satwinder Kour** W/o No. JC-583764X Sub Lakhwinder Singh S/o Dharam Chand R/O Vpo. Sango Katrala Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Satwinder Kour to Satwinder Kaur due to wrong entered in the army record of my husband.

**I, Kiran Bala** W/o No. 164088L SPI MT/Dvr Ramesh Singh R/O Vill. Harse Mansar, Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) declare that my name may be read from Kiran Jamwal to Kiran Bala and Date of Birth from 17-02-1971 to 07-09-1966.

**I, Balu S/O Shankar Tukaram** Parakapra, Father Of Army No 14894222h, Rank Sep Name Sourabh B Parakarpur Resident Of 227, Jyotiling Wadi, Pangeri (B), Belgaum, Karnataka , 591237, I Have Changed My Name From Balu (Old Name) To Balu Shankar Parakarpur (New Name), Vide Affidavit Dated 17 Jul 2024 Sworn Before Notary Public Sat Pal, Pathankot. Please Correct It.

**I, Radhabai** W/O Balu Shankar Parakarpur, Mother Of Army No 14894222h, Rank Sep Name Sourabh B Parakarpur Resident Of 227, Jyotiling Wadi, Pangeri (B), Belgaum, Karnataka , 591237, I Have Changed My Name From Radhabai (Old Name) To Radhabai Balu Parakarpur (New Name), Vide Affidavit Dated 17 Jul 2024 Sworn Before Notary Public Sat Pal, Pathankot. Please Correct It.

**I, Sarabjeet Kaur** W/o Pawan Kumar vill- Gura post office- Bara Pind Tehsil- Phillaur Distt- Jalandhar Punjab India 144418 have changed my name to Pawan Kumar Badhan Currently living in Ireland Pawan Kumar 20 Glebe Square Newcastle glebe Newcastle Dublin Ireland.

**I, Charanjeet Kaur** M/O No.15215561H Rank Hav Sukhray Singh Unit 53 Med Dept C/56 APO Resident Of Vpo. Reon District Bathinda , Teh Bathinda Pin Code 151002 .That My Actual And Correct Date Of Birth 01 - 01 - 1965 As Per Aadhar Card. But In The Army Record My Date Of Birth Is Entered 01- 07- 1960 Which Is Incorrect. Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 01-07-1960 To 01-01-1965 Vide Affidavit No.PB 3672380329698W Dated 09- 07- 2024

**I, Vikram Singh** S/O. Sh. Sabal Singh Rawat R/O #5787, Ground Floor, Sector 38 West, Chandigarh. I Changed My Minor Son Name From Vishvam To Vishvam Rawat.

**I, Service No 16017675Y** Hav/Stew Jadhav Vinod Raman Unit Hq 2 Corps Det & Emp Coy, Ambala Cantt, R/O At + Post- Nagaon Bk, Tehsil Amalner, Distt- Jalgaon, State- Maharashtra, Have Changed My Daughter Name From Lavanyta To Jadhav Lavanya Vinod Vide Affidavit Dated 04-04-2024 Before Ambala Cantt.

**I, Nikhil Gaba** S/o Late Tilak Raj Gaba R/O H.No.1739, New Housing Board Colony, Near Sai Baba Chowk, Sector 11-12, Panipat declare that I have Change my son name from Ronav to Ronav Gaba, for all future purpose.

**I, Veena** w/o Satish Kumar r/o #59-B, Gali no. 6, Bansat Vihar, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Veena to Veena Devi. In future I should be known as Veena Devi.

**I, Navdeep Singh** alias Navpreet Singh S/O Amrit Pal Singh R/O HL- 96, Aman Avenue Colony, O/s Gate Hakima, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Navdeep Singh alias Navpreet Singh to Navdeep Singh.

**I, Vidhi Singla** w/o Harshit Singla R/O House no 34-R-3 Ward no.8, Huda Colony Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaitahl Haryana have changed my name from Vidhi to Vidhi Singla

**I, Miyam Singh** S/O Sher Singh R/O Ward no.2 Peedal Tehsil Guhla District Kaitahl Haryana have changed my name from Mihan Singh to Miyam Singh.

**I, Ninder Kour** W/o Sh. Satpal Singh R/O H.No. 470/A, Ottu(139), Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Ninder Kaur to Ninder Kour , in future my name is to be called as Ninder Kour.

**I, Punet Sharma** S/o P.N. Sharma R/O #495 Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name to Puneet Sharma.

**Service no 14866231-N** Rank NK/MT name Pratap Alagouda Patil residency of village/post office Kerur Tesil Chikkodi Distt Belagavi state Karnataka pin 591213. Presently posted at 957 (I) TK TPTR PL ASC. C/O 56 APO. My father name is asc record in Alagouda correct name Alagouda Rayagouda Patil as per Aadhar and My mother name is asc record in Jaya Shree & date of birth 06/01/1979. correct name is Jayashree Alagouda Patil correct date birth 01/01/1978 as per Aadhar.

**I, Jitender Singh** S/o Om Parkash Dahiya R/O House No. 344, Sector-23, Sonipat, Haryana-131001 have changed my name from Jitender Singh to Jitender Dahiya for all purposes.

**I, Vijay Kumar** Goyal S/O Late Sh. Brij Lal Goyal R/O H.No. 964, Saini Vihar, Phase-3, Baltana., Zirakpur, Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. SAS Nagar (Pb.), have changed my name from Vijay Kumar and Vijay Goyal to Vijay Kumar Goyal.

**I, Gurbinder Kaur** W/o Sh. Onkar Singh R/O Vill. Pakhowal, PO Garhdiwala, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Gurbinder Kaur to Gurvinder Kaur. Concerned note.

**I, Monika Sawai** W/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sawai R/O House No. 859/1, Sector 40A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Monika Sharma to Monika Sawai after my marriage.

**I, Jaspreet Kaur** W/o Sukhinder Singh R/O 3-E, Professor Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Jasbir Kaur to Jaspreet Kaur.

**I, Anu Sharma** D/o Charanjeet Sharma W/O Vineet Chawla R/O 590-E Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar, Near BSNL Exchange, Rajguru Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab-141012 have changed my name to Kavita Chawla.

**I, Anu Sharma** D/o Charanjeet Sharma W/O Vineet Chawla R/O 590-E Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar, Near BSNL Exchange, Rajguru Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab-141012 have changed my name to Kavita Chawla.

**I, Gurdeep Singh** Gill S/O Baldev Singh R/O Near R S Public School, Bughigura, Moga, Punjab-142011 have changed my name to Gurdeep Singh.

**I, Parul W/O Puneet Kumar** Verma R/O H.No. B-17/128, Dana Mandi Nawanshahr, Distt. SBS Nagar, Punjab-144514 have changed my name to Parul Verma.

**I, Manoj Kumar** S/o Tejpal R/O Ward No. 2, Kalwaka, Dhatri (37), Palwal, Haryana-121102 have changed my name to Mahesh.

**I, Satish S/O Lila Dhar** R/O 849/7, Near Amar Bhawan Chowk, Panipat Have Changed My Name From Satish To Satish Kumar For All Future Purposes.

**I, Darshni Devi** W/o Late Sh. Yash Pal Gupta R/O H.No-101 Sethi Nagar, Near Kalka chowk Ambala city inform that in my Post office Pension passbook my name is mentioned as Darshana Devi. but my correct & actual name is Darshni Devi . Darshana Devi & Darshni Devi is one & the same person

**I, Poonam W/O Balvinder** Singh (D/o Ram Swaroop ) R/O Village Khanpur Brahamanan, PO Dhanana, Ambala, 134201 have changed my name after marriage from Poonam to Poonam Sharma.

**I, Jasvinder S/O Sukhbir** R/O Ward No. 9, Phooli Patti, Ajrana Kalan, Kurukshetra I Have Changed My Name From Jasvinder To Jaswinder.

**I, No.15565716F** Hav Mane Anmol Dagadu Unit 439 (I) Engr Sqn C/o 56 APO have changed my Mother's name from Bhama Bai to Bhamabai Dagadu Mane

**I, No.15565716F** Hav Mane Anmol Dagadu Unit 439 (I) Engr Sqn C/o 56 APO have changed my Fahter's name from Dagadu to Dagadu Joti Mane

**I, No.15580511K** Nk Thore Ajay B Unit 439 (I) Engr Sqn C/o 56 Apo have changed my wife's name from Meera Ajay Thore to Mirabai Ajay Thore

**I, Satyen Ashokkumar** Trivedi S/O Ashokkumar Vrajlal Trivedi R/O 4 SF, HIG, Flats Behind Parvati Devi Hospital, A-Block Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar have changed my minor Daughter's name from Harishree Satyennbhai Trivedi to Harishree Trivedi

**I, Bhajan Kaur** W/o Guljar Singh R/O Village Rupowali Kalan, Kathu Nangal Amritsar have changed my name from Harbhajan Kaur to Bhajan Kaur.

**I, Ravi Kant** S/o Raj Kaur R/O H.No.415, East Mohan Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Ravi Kant to Ravi Kant Bhargav

**I, Ram Narain** and Ram Narayan S/O Darbari Lal R/O Abadi R/O Abadi Chartewali, Balharwal Amritsar have Certified that above both name's are mine one and same person

**I, Shaweta Dheer** W/o Vijay Chawla R/O H.No.6231/20, Gali No.17, Nawtan Kot Amrits have changed my name to Shaweta chawla

**I, Shaweta** W/o Vijay Chawla R/O H.No.6231/20, Gali No.17, Nawtan Kot Amrits have changed my name to Shaweta chawla

**I, Rishpal Thakur** S/o Lal Singh R/O 240, Shivpuri-B, Behind ITI, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Rishpal Thakur to Rishpal Thakur. In future I shall be known Rishpal Thakur.

**I, Smt Kamlesh** Behra wife of No.191854-H MCEAR-II Satvinder Singh Behra (Retd), H.No. 537, W.No.1, Behind DK Petrol Pump, Verma Colony Bhogpur, PO Bhogpur, Distt Jalandhar (Pb) have changed my name from Kamlesh Behra to Kamlesh Rani. Concerned note.

**I, No.4469183-Y** Hav Sudagar Singh S/O Jaswant Singh R/O Village Dhailwal, PO Kotla Naudh Singh, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of son from Kulbir Singh to Kulveer Singh. Concerned note.

**I, Vanita** W/O Trilok Singh, House No. 271/E, Shivalki Vihar, Nayagaon Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Vanita to Vinita.

**I, Dipti Mehendiratta** W/o Mukul Gandhi R/O H.no. 126 Gali No. 1 W.No 15, Jodhamal Colony Dhangu Road, Pathankot, Punjab-145001 have changed my name to Dipti Gandhi.

**I, Karamjeet Singh** S/O Suba Singh R/O VPO Wakilan Wala, Tehsil-Zira, Ferozepur, Punjab-142047 have changed my name to Karamjit Singh.

**I, Vikas** S/o Satpal Singh R/O A-0056, Ansal Sushant City, Sector-32, Thanesar, Kurukshetra, Haryana-136118 have changed my name to Vikas Jaglan.

**I, Anu Sharma** D/o Charanjeet Sharma W/O Vineet Chawla R/O 590-E Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar, Near BSNL Exchange, Rajguru Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab-141012 have changed my name to Kavita Chawla.

**I, Ramesh Kumar** S/O Jaswant Rai Sharma R/O 621/10, Hardochanai Road, Mohalla Prem Nagar, Gurdaspur have changed my name from Ramesh Kumar to Ramesh Kumar Sharma. Concerned note.

**I, Sudhanshu** S/O Ramesh Kumar Sharma R/O 621/10, Hardochanai Road, Mohalla Prem Nagar, Gurdaspur have changed my name from Sudhanshu to Sudhanshu Sharma. Concerned note.

**I, Kiran Gupta** w/o Rajesh Gupta (R/o 3, ward no 7 khopri, Teh Rampur, Shimla Himachal Pradesh 172001) declare that I have changed my name from Kiran to Kiran Gupta, All Concerned please may note.

**I, Parveen Kumar** Jain S/O Naresh Chand Jain R/O H. No. 47-A, Green Park, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Parveen Kumar Jain to Parveen Jain for future purpose.

**I, Pankaj Kumar** S/O Hosari Mal Bansal R/O Bansal Bhawan Kohti No. 9, Devi Bhawan Colony, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Pankaj Kumar to Pankaj Bansal for future purpose.

**I, Vishal Galhotra** S/o Raj Paul Galhotra, R/o #100, Baba Farid Nagar, Street No. 5/3C, Bathinda, Punjab, have changed my minor son's name from Sakksham to Sakksham Galhotra. Concerned Note.

**I, Rajni W/O Pardeep Kumar** R/O H.No. 79 Josan Colony Airport Road Amritsar Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Krishna To Rajni.

**I, Kanchan Verma** W/o Vishal Verma R/O 190/5, Central Town, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Kanchan to Kanchan Verma for all intents and purposes.

**I, Harpreet Singh** S/O Mohan Singh, VPO Lang, Lakhna Patti, Patiala, declare that Singh is my surname name is Harpreet

**I, Kamaljit Singh** S/O Malkit Singh R/O H.No.87, Type 1A Sector 2 N.F. L. Nangal, P.O.Fertilizer Factory Nangal (Rupnagar), have changed my name to Kamaljit Singh Bangar.

**I, Jagvir Singh** S/O Hardev Singh R/O Village - Lahenge Wala, Sirsa-125078 , Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Jagseer Singh. All Concerned Note.

**I, Jasveer Singh** Son Of Makhnan Singh Resident Of Village Gurusar Tehsil Gidarbaha District Sri Muktsar Sahib have Changed My Minor Son From Gurmun Singh To Gurmun Singh Sidhu.

**I, Vidouti Devi** W/O Umesh Shah D/O Jangli Lal Shah R/O Guro Angad Dev Colony, Jandouli Road, Rajpura, Distt Patiala Have Changed My Name To Vidyawanti

**I, Manjeet Kaur** W/O Jagtar Gir R/O Village Shampur Mohali Tehsil & Distt Mohali Have Changed My Name From Usha Rani To Manjeet Kaur.

**I, Sandeep Kaur** wife of Rajan Handa resident of House No. 51 Vikas Vihar Ferozepur City declares that my Son's Daksh Handa , Studying in 9nd - D Class, Adm No. KS/14/056 school St Joseph convent school Ferozepur record my name Sanjana Handa is wrongly mentioned in school record but my actual and correct name is Sandeep Kaur.

**I, Meenakshi Saluja** W/o Ramit Saluja Resident of House No. 78, Kucha Khuda Bakash, Basti Balochan wali, Ferozepur City, Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name from Meenakshi to Meenakshi Saluja both of these names belong to me.

**I, Kamaljeet Kaur** Alias Sukhwinder Kaur Kanda W/O Jagseer Singh R/O Gobindpuri, Near Power House, Kotkapura (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Sukhwinder Kaur Kanda.

**I, Gurdipinder Singh** S/O Tarlochan Singh R/O Vill. Kohala (Khajala) P.O. Tarsikka, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Amritsar have changed my Name Ranjeet Kaur Saini To Ranjeet Kaur

**I, Suman** W/O Bhupinder Dev, R/O H.No.1365, Sector 1, Huda, Part -2, Shahabad (M.) Disitt Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Suman To Suman Bala.

**I, Sukhdev Singh** Father Of 4486206I Hav Harjinder Singh Residing At Vill Mitrihi, Mandi Dabwali Distt.Sirsa ( Haryana ) Have Changed My Date Of Birth 01.05.1959 To 01.01.1959 Vide Affidavit No Pb 36284499342855W Date 17.07.2024 Before Notary Public Distt.Court Bathinda(Pb).

**I, Karamjeet Kaur** Mother Of 4486206I Hav Harjinder Singh Residing At Vill Mitrihi, Mandi Dabwali Distt.Sirsa (Haryana) Have Changed My Date Of Birth 02.08.1957 To 01.01.1961 Vide Affidavit No Pb 36284190673137W Date 17.07.2024 Before Notary Public Distt.Court Bathinda(Pb).

**I, Harmik Singh,** S/O Baldev Singh Deol, R/O Near Ggs Public School, Village Mangowal, Sangrur, Has Changed My Name To Harmik Singh Deol.

**I, Dharam Singh** S/O Sh. Sheesh Ram R/O Vill. Shamgarh, Distt Karnal, Haryana Have Changed My Name From Dharam Pal To Dharam Singh. In Future I Should Be Known And Known As Dharam Singh. All Concerned Pls Note.

**I, Sudesh** W/O Sh. Dharam Singh R/O Vill. Shamgarh Distt. Karnal Haryana Have Changed My Name From Sudesh Rani To Sudesh. In Future, I Should Be Known And Known As Sudesh. All Concerned Pls Note.

**I, Naresh Gautam** S/O Bijram # 1360, Village Dahar, Teh Panipat Declare Naresh & Naresh Gautam Is One Person's Name. Now My New Name Is Naresh Gautam.

**I, Satbir** S/O Jai Singh R/O Vill Biran, Teh & Distt Bhiwani, declare that Satbir and Satbir Singh are both my names and the name of same person. In future I should be known and identified by the name of Satbir.

I, 15616902H Hav Jagdeesh Kumar, serving in 4 Guards (1 Rajput) C/o 56 APO have change my son name from Ayush to Ayush Kumar.

**I, Gurdavinder Singh** S/O Diwan Singh R/O VPO. Hamza, Teh.Dasuya, Distt.Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 144205 have changed my name from Gurdvinder Singh to Gurdavinder Singh.

**I, Nepal Singh** S/O Prem Narayan Singh R/O 1903, Patkana, Gursarai, Jhansi, Dehat, 284202, Uttar Pradesh, have changed the name of my minor daughter Harisita aged 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as Harshita.

**I, Kannwaljit Kaur** W/O Sukhinder Singh R/O VPO. Jaid, Tehsil Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala have changed the spelling of my name from Kannwaljit Kaur to Kanwaljit Kaur.

I, hitherto known as Sudarshana Rani W/O Ravi Dutt R/O H.No. 2319, Ward No. 8, Railway Road, Adampur Doaba, Jalandhar-144102, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as

**I, Mimla Devi** W/o Sucha Singh Vill.Dhos, Kaitahl have changed My Name Vimla Devi.

**I, Sirbrinder Singh** Kooner S/O Makhnan Singh R/O 1, 1, Village Manak Dehar Urf Anandgarh, Post office Gharam, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name to Sirbrinder Singh.

**I, Army No. 15329083K** Rank: HAV Name: K Chandra Babu Unit: 1 AER C/o 56 APO, resident of Village H.No. 70/3, Anna Street, Brahmapuram, Distt Vellore, Tamil Nadu, Pin-632014 have changed my Daughter's name from Jeevitha to C Jeevitha.

**I, Army No 2502997 N** Rank Hav Omkar Singh Father's Name Gurmukh Singh Unit 3 Punjab Mother's Name Jasbeer Kaur Has Been Wrongly Entered In My Military Record's Her Correct Name Is Jasbir Kaur.

**I, Sandeep Kaur** wife of Rajan Handa resident of House No. 51 Vikas Vihar Ferozepur City declares that my Son's Daksh Handa , Studying in 9nd - D Class, Adm No. KS/14/056 school St Joseph convent school Ferozepur record my name Sanjana Handa is wrongly mentioned in school record but my actual and correct name is Sandeep Kaur.

**I, Meenakshi Saluja** W/o Ramit Saluja Resident of House No. 78, Kucha Khuda Bakash, Basti Balochan wali, Ferozepur City, Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name from Meenakshi to Meenakshi Saluja both of these names belong to me.

**I, JC/Army No. JC312844F** Rank Sub Name Kasavayya Vavila Palli of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003, Yol Cantt have changed my name from Kasavayya Vavila Palli to Kasavayya Vavilapalli Vide Affidavit Dated 17 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, JC/Army No. JC312844F** Rank Sub Name Kasavayya Vavila Palli of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003, Yol Cantt have changed my Daughter Name from Praveena V to Praveena Vavilapalli Vide Affidavit Dated 17 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, JC/Army No. JC312844F** Rank Sub Name Kasavayya Vavila Palli of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003, Yol Cantt, have changed my Son name from V Ravi Shankar to Ravishankar Vavilapalli Vide Affidavit Dated 17 July 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Jasbir Kaur** w/o Jagtar Singh Resident of Village Sherkhnan wala, District Ferozepur have changed my name to Jasbeer Kaur.

**I, Chand** Son of Ashok Kumar Resident of ITI Bio Quarter House Number 08 Civil Hospital Ferozepur City have Changed my name to Daal Chand Sahota.

**I, Venus** W/O Ashok Kumar R/O H.no: 24, Ashok Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Venus to Venus Kanda.

**I, Dasmjot Singh** Khurana S/O Inderjit Singh Khurana R/O 161B Model Town Extension Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Dasmajot Singh Khurana.

**I, Harpreet Singh** Nahar S/O Sikander Singh R/O Vpo. Ramgarh Bhullar Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Harpreet Singh.

I Hitherto Known As Gurdial S/O Mohinder Ram R/O Village Daulat Pur Raipur Jalandhar Punjab-144402 Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurdial Singh Heer.

**I, Shashi Bala** Alias Shashi Kala W/O Prem Chand R/O H.No.1, Arjuna Colony, Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Shashi Bala.

**I, No. 412268x** Rank Hav/Gd, Amarjit Singh. R/O Village Bhangwan, Po Dalepur, Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Declare That In My Army Record My Wife Name Harjeet Kour And Date Of Birth 08-05-1983 Is Wrong. But My Wife Name Harjit Kaur And Date Of Birth 28-04-1982 Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb36235981263196W Dated 17-07-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur.

**I, No. 3392998 -F,** Ex Hav, Baljit Singh S/O Sh Wassan Singh R/O H. No B4/1898 Street No. 03/14, Ranjit Avenue Prem Nagar Hardochania Road Near Gurudawara Baba Moto Ram Mehra Gurdaspur, Po Gurdaspur Tehsil And Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab, Have Changed My Mother Name From Kasmir Kaur To Kashmir Kaur And Date Of

# 10 pc reservation for Agniveers in Constable, forest guard jobs: CM Saini

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With an eye on the Assembly elections later this year, the Haryana government announced a 10 percent reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment of constables, forest guards and jail wardens, along with quotas in other posts. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini also said that the government will provide interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh if any Agniveer wishes to set up their own business.

"In direct recruitment to posts of constable, mining guard, forest guard, jail warden and special police officer made by the state government, there will be a 10 per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers," He said at a press conference.

He said that in Group C and D posts, an age relaxation of three years will also be given. "However, for the first batch of Agniveers, this age relaxation will be five years," Saini added. In direct recruitment for Group C civil posts, there will be a five per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers, the chief minister said.

He also announced sops for industrial units employing Agniveers. "If any industrial unit employs an Agniveer at a salary of more than Rs 30,000 per month, then our government will give that unit an annual subsidy of Rs 60,000," Saini said. Saini also



Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini addressing a news conference in Chandigarh on Wednesday. *Pioneer Photo*

announced that Agniveers will get arms licences on priority. The Agniveer recruitment scheme, introduced by the BJP government at the Centre in June 2022 for short-term induction of personnel in the armed forces, has faced severe criticism from several quarters, including opposition parties. In the run-up to the recently held Lok Sabha polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had said in Haryana's Mahendragar that the Agniveer scheme would be scrapped and thrown in the dustbin if the opposition INDIA bloc came to power.

### Victims of hit-and-run Accidents to get cashless Treatment in State

To provide assistance to the victims of road accidents in the

State, the Chief Minister said that a new scheme has now been started on the lines of the Central Government. Saini said under this scheme, such victims will be provided free cashless treatment facilities as well as compensation in hit-and-run accident cases. The time limit for the process of application of compensation and payment to the victims has also been fixed. He said under this scheme, the expenditure will be borne from the Haryana Road Safety Fund. Apart from this, a district-level committee will also be formed to properly implement this scheme at the district level. The Chief Minister said an order for payment of compensation will be issued within 15 days of submission of the report by the Inquiry Commissioner. After

this, compensation will also be paid within 15 days.

### Inaugurates first phase of Asia's largest modern apple, fruit, and vegetable market in Pinjore

In another event, Saini inaugurated the first phase of Asia's largest modern apple, fruit, and vegetable market in Pinjore and provided several benefits for the welfare of farmers and traders. To boost business in the modern apple, fruit, and vegetable market in Pinjore, the Chief Minister also announced the reduction of market fees from 1 percent to 0.5 percent. Besides this, he also announced the expansion of the Haryana Mukhyamantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jiwan Suraksha Yojana, 2013, increasing the upper age limit from the current 10 to 65 years to now 10 to 75 years. The Chief Minister said that previously, no compensation was provided for accidents caused by lightning strikes on farmers and farm labourers. Now, such accidents will also be covered under this scheme. He said that under the Atal Kisan Mazdoor Canteen Scheme, government has decided to open 100 canteens in the state to provide subsidised meals at Rs 10 per plate throughout the year to farmers and labourers. So far, 48 canteens have been operational. He further announced that other canteens will also be opened soon.

# Farmer activist Navdeep Singh honoured at Shambhu border after release from jail

PNS ■ AMBALA / CHANDIGARH

After getting bail from the Punjab and Haryana High Court a day before, Farmer activist Navdeep Singh walked out of Ambala Central Jail in a case registered in connection with farmers' February 13 'Delhi Chalo' march and was honoured by various farmers' outfits on Shambhu border in Punjab on Wednesday evening. Earlier in the day, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher claimed that the Haryana Police detained a few farmer leaders who had gone to Ambala to bring Navdeep Singh to the Shambhu border to honour him after his release from jail. However, they were released in the afternoon, he said.

Navdeep Singh, a native of Jalbera village near Ambala, was arrested by the Haryana Police from Mohali on March 28 on various charges, including rioting and attempt to murder. He walked out of jail after almost four months on Tuesday evening.

Navdeep Singh became famous as the "water cannon man" after he climbed atop a police water cannon in November 2020 during the

farmers' agitation against the now-repealed farm laws. On February 13 this year, farmers from Punjab led by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha began a march to Delhi to press their demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops. They were stopped by the Haryana Police, who had set up barricades, including cemented blocks, on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway. The farmers had then clashed with police personnel. They have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri points along the Punjab and Haryana border ever since.

On July 10, the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the Haryana government to open the barricades at the Shambhu border within a week on an "experimental basis". The court also directed the Punjab government to ensure that the protesters gathered in its territory are "duly controlled as and when the situation so requires".

The Haryana government has moved the Supreme Court challenging the high court order. The top court will hear the matter on July 22.

# Mohinder Bhagat Takes Oath as MLA, Expected to Join Punjab Cabinet Soon



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Mohinder Bhagat, the newly-elected Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Jalandhar West, officially took his oath of office on Wednesday, signaling a significant step forward in his political journey. The ceremony took place at Punjab Vidhan Sabha in Chandigarh, where Punjab Assembly Speaker Kulthar Singh Sandhwan administered the oath, marking Bhagat's formal induction as the representative of Jalandhar West.

Prior to the oath-taking ceremony, Bhagat, accompanied by his family, met Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who congratulated him and offered sweets in celebration of his new role. Speculation is rife that Bhagat will soon be inducted into the Punjab Cabinet, a move anticipated since Mann's campaign promise during the by-election. Mann had assured the voters that Bhagat would be made a Minister if he won, a commitment he reiterated from the stage, emphasizing his intent to fulfill this pledge.

The resignation of two-time MLA and Sangrur MP Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer from his ministerial post following his victory in the Lok Sabha elections has left a vacancy in the Cabinet. Mohinder Bhagat is a strong contender to fill this gap, particularly as the Sports Minister — a portfolio handled by Meet Hayer — given Jalandhar's reputation as a hub for sports industries and Bhagat's personal experience in the sector. His background in the sports industry makes him well-suited to address the challenges and opportunities within this portfolio.

Bhagat's political lineage adds weight to his anticipated Cabinet position. His father, Chunni Lal Bhagat, served as a Minister in the Akali-BJP coalition government. Although the senior Bhagat had already announced retirement from active politics, his legacy continues through Mohinder Bhagat, who transitioned from the BJP to AAP and secured a decisive victory in the Jalandhar West by-election recently. Bhagat garnered 55,246 votes, significantly outpacing his competitors from the BJP, Congress, Akali Dal, and independents, who collectively managed 39,363 votes.

Chief Minister Mann's focused efforts during Bhagat's campaign were instrumental in this victory. By promising Bhagat's elevation to the Cabinet, Mann aimed to strengthen support in Jalandhar West, an area currently underrepresented in the AAP Government. While MLA Balkar Singh from Kartarpur holds a ministerial portfolio, Bhagat's inclusion would add an urban Jalandhar representative to the Cabinet.

Sources indicate that Mann does not plan extensive reshuffles in the Cabinet, with Bhagat being the primary new addition. As preparations commence for Bhagat's induction into the Cabinet, the Punjab Government has sought time from the Governor's House for the swearing-in ceremony.

# Punjab met record high electricity demand on Jul 16

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) successfully met a record high electricity demand of 3626 lakh units (LUs) in a single day on July 16 (Tuesday). Sharing the information, the state's Power and Public Works Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO on Wednesday stated that despite the monsoon season, humid conditions and low rainfall have led to a significant increase in power demand across the State. This increase has been observed in domestic consumption, irrigation for paddy crops, and industrial use, he said.

The Minister informed that on June 23, this year, the PSPCL had supplied 3563 LUs in a day, which was a record at that time. This record has now been surpassed on July 16, he added.

He further added that the peak demand of 15,919 megawatt (MW) met on July 16 is also close to all time high peak demand of 16,058 MW met on June 29 this year.

The Minister said that this achievement is the result of strategic planning and efficient resource management. He explained that all available resources within and outside the state were fully utilized to ensure stable and reliable power supply.

"PSPCL has met this increased demand without any interruptions. This is the result of the hard work and dedication of our employees," said Harbhajan Singh ETO, while assuring that the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government is committed to ensuring continuous and quality power supply in the state.

# 2 held with 7 kg heroin, 5 pistols in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Wednesday said it has arrested two persons with 7 kg heroin and five pistols. According to preliminary investigation, the accused were directly in touch with some Pakistan-based smugglers and were supplying consignments of weapons and drugs across the state after they were trafficked from across the border via drones.

A case has been registered against the accused under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Arms Act. Those arrested have been identified as Gurmukh Singh, a resident of Bhura Kona in Tarn Taran and Jagwant Singh of Mehdiপুর in Tarn Taran, said Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav. The police also recovered five live cartridges and five magazines from their possession.

DGP Yadav said the police received a tipoff that two smugglers were going to deliver a weapon consignment near Muhawa village in Amritsar's Gharinda area, acting on which checkpoints were put up in the area. The duo who were coming in a car

were intercepted and arrested after five pistols and ammunition were found in their possession, he added. During questioning, the accused told the police that along with weapons, they had also retrieved heroin, which they had hidden near their house. Following their disclosure, the police raided a location shared by the duo and recovered 7 kg heroin. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amritsar Satinder Singh said investigations are on to establish the backward and forward linkages in this case and identify those whom the arrested persons were to deliver the weapon consignment. The police will also initiate the procedure to forfeit the illegally acquired property of the arrested smugglers under the NDPS Act, he added.

### 3 members of Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar gang held in Punjab

Punjab Police have arrested three associates of the Lawrence Bishnoi and US-based Goldy Brar gang in a joint operation with Rajasthan Police. The police also recovered two pistols along with six cartridges from the accused who have been identified as Gurpreet Singh of Bhikhi in Mansa, Maninder Singh alias

Munshi of Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda and Harcharanjit Singh of Bir Khurd village in Mansa. All the accused have criminal histories with cases pertaining to murder, attempt to murder, and the Arms Act, among others registered against them. DGP Yadav said that acting on reliable inputs, a team of the Anti-Gangster Task Force apprehended Harcharanjit, who was wanted in an attempt to murder case, in a joint operation with Rajasthan Police. During interrogation, Harcharanjit revealed that he was working on the directions of notorious gangster Manpreet Singh alias Manna, who tasked him to help Gurpreet and Maninder to eliminate a member of a rival gang. Gangster Manna, who is currently lodged in Rupnagar jail, is a close associate of Lawrence Bishnoi.

Following Harcharanjit's disclosure, police launched a manhunt to nab both the accused and managed to arrest them from Mansa Road in Bathinda, the DGP said. Further investigations are on to establish forward and backward linkages in this case, he added. DGP Yadav also thanked DGP Rajasthan for the support to Punjab Police in the inter-state operation.

# Punjab all set to conduct 21st livestock census Sept onwards

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab is poised to embark on its 21st Livestock Census this September, marking a significant step forward in the data collection. The census, set to be conducted digitally, will encompass a comprehensive count of livestock, including pet dogs and cats categorized by their breeds for the first time.

Announcing the ambitious project during a state-level meeting held at Kisan Bhawan to review ongoing departmental projects, the state Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian highlighted the advanced methodology for this year's census. "This will be the second time, following the 2019 census, that we will utilize digital tools, specifically tablet computers, for collecting detailed data on animals based on their breed and other characteristics," he stated. According to the latest statistics from the Government of India, the census will cover over 64.75 lakh livestock and poultry in Punjab. "For the first time, we will include pet dogs and cats in our count, distinguishing them by their breeds. Additionally, cattle at gashal (cow sheds) and those reared by nomadic tribes will be separately accounted for," added Khudian, emphasizing the census's broadened scope.

# Himachal CM meets Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari on issues related to state

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and urged him to expedite release of pending funds for effective disaster management in Himachal Pradesh.

Apprising Shah about the vulnerability of Himachal Pradesh to natural disasters, Sukhu requested him to release Rs 9,042 crore as financial assistance, which was recommended by a central team in a post-disaster assessment, a statement issued here said.

The assessment was carried out after the state witnessed one of its worst natural disasters during last year's monsoon, triggered due to excessive rain resulting in flash floods and landslides. He said the funds are pending with the ministry and they are required urgently as the monsoon has already arrived in the state.

The chief minister also informed Shah that Rs 61.07 crore under the State Disaster Response Fund for financial year 2019-20 as per the recommendation of the 14th



Finance Commission was due to the state. He also requested the home minister to grant speedy approval to a project worth Rs 125.84 crore submitted to the Union Ministry under National Disaster Mitigation Fund.

Sukhu underlined the need to set up national disaster response force (NDRF) campuses in the state and urged to begin their construction in Mandi, Rampur and Nalagarh. He also demanded appropriate action against unauthorised possession and encroachment on state government's land in the inter-state boundary between Lahaul Spiti and Ladakh at Sarchu and Shinkula. The requests were made

during a review meeting of National Highway Projects chaired by Gadkari. Highlighting the importance of road transport in Himachal, Sukhu said that no new National Highways have been declared in the state for the past eight years. He said the restoration of these roads is crucial as they ease traffic congestion on National Highways and were vital during the monsoon season when many stretches of the Kullu-Manali Highway were damaged.

### Urges Gadkari to declare two Himachal roads as National Highways

Sukhu also urged Union Minister for Road Transport and National Highways Nitin Gadkari to declare the 39.20 km Ranital-Kotla and 41.50 km Ghumarwin-Jahu-Sarkaghat roads as National Highways. He also requested the release of Rs 172.97 crore for the restoration of various state roads damaged by flash floods and landslides during the last monsoon season. The affected roads include Kullu-Manali, Mandi-Kamand-Katola-Bajaura, and Chail-Gohar-Pandoh.

He stressed the importance of the Shimla-Mataur National Highway, which connects eight districts to the state capital and neighboring states. Sukhu requested uniform upgrades to four-lane standards and also said that 69 National Highways had been declared, with alignment reports for 58 NHs submitted for approval in 2018-19. He urged for a speedy review and approval of these reports.

In response, Gadkari assured appropriate action on the raised issues and directed contractors to ensure timely completion of works. State Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh was also present at the meeting.

## BRIEFS

### NITIN GADKARI REVIEWS ROAD PROJECTS RELATED TO HARYANA IN NEW DELHI

**Chandigarh:** To accelerate the development of highway infrastructure in Haryana, several road projects related to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will now be expedited. A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi regarding road projects related to Haryana. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini attended this meeting. In the meeting, discussions were held on issues related to removing the Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, preparing a new ring road for Kurukshetra, and connecting Jewar International Airport to Faridabad-Ballabgarh Bypass from Mohna. Saini suggested that garbage waste and fly ash from electricity plants could be more effectively utilised for road construction. He said that applications can be made on the portal of the Haryana government for soil-related works in National Highway projects, and efforts will be made to fulfill the availability of soil.

### AGNIVEER SCHEME SHOULD BE COMPLETELY ABOLISHED: HOODA

**Chandigarh:** Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhubinder Singh Hooda on Wednesday said that 10 percent reservation in Group-C and 20 percent reservation in Group-D in the departments of the Central Government is already fixed for ex-servicemen. In such a situation, there is no justification for the announcement of giving 10 percent reservation to Agniveers in the security forces. This seems to be an announcement by the BJP to mislead the people," he said and added that the Agniveer scheme should be completely abolished and 100 percent of the youth recruited should get a chance to serve in the Army.

### THREE-DAY FORENSIC TRAINING PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

**Chandigarh:** Haryana Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad on Wednesday virtually inaugurated the first-of-its-kind three-day training program for the state's public prosecutors (District Attorneys and Additional District Attorneys) today. The program focuses on forensic analysis and other aspects of criminal justice delivery. On June 29, an agreement was signed between the Haryana Government and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gandhinagar, to enhance, facilitate, and strengthen collaborative activities in forensic and prosecutorial training, research, and forensic sample testing. As part of this initiative, the training course was launched today at HIPA, Gurugram. Initially, 26 District Attorneys and Additional District Attorneys participated.

### ACS ANURAG AGARWAL APPOINTED AS IN-CHARGE OF BHIWANI DISTRICT

**Chandigarh:** Haryana Government has assigned Anurag Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary of the PW (B&R), Architecture, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, as the in-charge of Bhiwani district. He will take on this role in addition to his current duties, replacing Pankaj Agarwal, Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana. An order to this effect has been issued by Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad. As per the orders, he will review projects worth Rs 25 Crores and more of the district.

### HRY GOVT RESCHEDULES "HARIYALI TEEJ" RESTRICTED HOLIDAY

**Chandigarh:** The Haryana Government on Wednesday announced a change in the observance date for the restricted holiday of "Hariyali Teej". The holiday will now be observed on August 7 instead of the previously scheduled September 6.

### SRI CHAITANYA LAUNCHES SCORE EXAM IN CHANDIGARH AND PANCHKULA

**Chandigarh:** Sri Chaitanya inaugurated its Outstanding Achiever Reward Examination (SCORE) at its Chandigarh and Panchkula campuses. This exam is recognized as a promising scholarship-cum-talent search examination, providing an extensive platform for students to showcase their abilities and earn rewards. SCORE, on 6th October 2024, aims to identify and nurture young talent by offering scholarships, cash prizes, consolation prizes, and exceptional mentoring and career guidance from subject professionals. With over 7 Lakh students registered for SCORE 2023 across India, this initiative serves as a crucial stepping stone for students aspiring to excel in prestigious exams like JEE Main, JEE Advanced, NEET, and Olympiads. Register at [www.srichaitanyascore.com](http://www.srichaitanyascore.com).

### CM'S INSINCERITY CAUSED FINANCIAL CHAOS IN PUNJAB: BAJWA

**Chandigarh:** The economic condition of Punjab has plunged into chaos under the Aam Aadmi Party regime, charged the Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Partap Singh Bajwa on Wednesday. Bajwa accused the AAP Government of mishandling Punjab's finances with sheer insincerity. Bajwa criticized Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's recent efforts to address the state's financial woes. "CM Mann met with 16th Finance Commission chairman Arvind Panagariya in New Delhi and previously consulted former economic advisor Arvind Subramanian for economic revival strategies," he pointed. "Following the humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, Mann seems to have woken up to the fiscal crisis," Bajwa stated. "Had the CM worked diligently earlier, Punjab wouldn't be in this rush. His arrogance and immaturity have led to this financial crunch," he added.

### PSPCL, MANDI BOARD'S GREEN INITIATIVES AIM TO PRESERVE ENVIRONMENT, REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT

**Chandigarh:** The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has installed innovative "Solar Trees" in Patiala city. These installations are projected to generate 52,000 units of electricity annually, offsetting 41 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, an environmental impact equivalent to planting 1,015 fully matured trees. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to reduce the carbon footprint and promote green energy solutions in Punjab, said the state Power and Public Works Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO, while lauding the efforts of both PSPCL and Punjab Mandi Board at a function organized by the latter to distribute free plant saplings under the second phase of the 'Shaheed Bhagat Singh Haryana Lehar'. "The 'Solar Trees' project and our widespread tree planting efforts are significant strides towards realizing Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's vision of a cleaner and greener Punjab," he said.

### PUNJAB TO SOON START RECRUITMENT OF DISTRICT, TEHSIL SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICERS

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities Department is set to initiate the recruitment process for District and Tehsil Social Justice and Empowerment Officers, aiming to strengthen its operations. Making the announcement during a review meeting, the Minister in-charge Dr Baljit Kaur instructed the officers to organize awareness camps within a month to educate the public on various schemes run by the department. The Minister also directed the officials to coordinate with the Additional Deputy Commissioners to take action under the Adarsh Gram Yojana and to submit reports within 15 days after utilizing the outstanding funds under various schemes.

### न्यायालय तहसीलदार-कम-सब रजिस्ट्रार जीवद

पुनर्पत्रण प्रती श्री सुविंद कुमार सक्का सेन नगर चिट्ठायाला चौक जीवद।

**जनसत पैल्लिक बनाव**

इस इशारेके माध्यम से हम आम च खास को सूचित किया जाता है कि 2500 आरिंमि अतीला देवी पत्नी स्या0 श्री हरीश चन्द कर बहरे वसोका बनमा नम्वर 5243 दिनांक 08-03-2001 दफ्तर सब रजिस्ट्रार साहब जीवद अनुवार के करके को विक्रम / स्थानान्तरण / घसीयत पत्र पंजीकृत हेतु इस कार्यालय में पेश किया है। जिसमे स्पष्ट रूप से बताया गया है कि प्राची को माता स्या0 आरिंमि अतीला देवी को मूल्य दिनांक 04-09-2006 को प पित्त स्या0 श्री हरीश चन्द को मूल्य 19-04-1991 को तो चुकी है। च मेरे दादा व दादी को मूल्य पहले हो चुकी है। इनकी मूल्य उपरान्त उनके निम्न जायत वारिस है - पणवल पुत्री 2-दिप्पाल पुत्री 3-निखिल पुत्र है। इनके इत्याक मूल्यक को अन्य कोई वारिस / उत्तराधिकारी नही है जिसके सम्बन्ध में प्राची ने शपथ पत्र भी प्रस्तुत किया है। इत्यादि हर आम च खास को इस इशारेक / नोटिस के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त मूल्यक के वारिस गये वारिस / उत्तराधिकारी के बाबत कोई शक एवं एतराज हो तो वह स्वयं / अधिकारके माध्यम से इन नोटिस के प्रकाशन के उपरान्त 30 दिन के अन्दर-2 इस कार्यालय में कार्यालयके दिनि अपनी आपसी पत्र कर सकता है। अन्यथा उपरोक्त तथ्यों को आधार पत्र दस्तावेज को पंजीकरण कर दिया जाएगा। यह नोटिस बाबत हस्तक्षेप आज दिनांक 15.07.2024 को मेरे हस्तक्षेप च न्यायालय को मोहर दादा उकी किया गया है।

तहसीलदार-कम-सब-रजिस्ट्रार जीवद।

### यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

**Branch Office : Lidhran**

**Dated : 12.07.2024**

**To**

1. Subash Chander, House No. 249, Near PB Kesari, Pucca Bagh, Jalandhar.
2. Pushpa Rani W/o Subash Chander, House No. 249, Near PB Kesari, Pucca Bagh, Jalandhar.
3. Raman Kumar S/o Subash Chander, House No. 249, Near PB Kesari, Pucca Bagh, Jalandhar.

**Dear Sir/ Madam,**  
**Sub. : Gold Loan A/C No. 19591653000008 for Rs. 1,22,000/-**

You have been granted credit/loan facility by the bank by way of Gold Loan to the extent of Rs. 1,22,000/- in Consideration/securing the said credit facility you have executed the following documents :-

**You have acknowledged your liability under said credit facility by your letter dated 31.01.2021.**

**Now there is due and payable by you to the bank under the credit/loan facility a sum of Rs. 1,32,004/- inclusive of interest upto 31.12.2021. Despite repeated requested you have failed and neglected to pay the said outstanding dues and interest thereof.**

**We hereby finally call upon you to pay to the bank the said sum of Rs. 1,32,004/- with interest at 9.25% compounded quarterly (half yearly from 01.01.2022 till payment OR arrange to pledge the extra gold ornaments) in consultation with the Branch within 15 days from the date of receipt hereof, failing which the Bank will be constrained to sell the gold ornaments pledged by you with the Bank by following due procedure and appropriate sale proceeds to your loan account by conducting auction on the date and place as mentioned under.**

**Date of Auction : 23.08.2024, Place of Auction : Lidhran Branch Manager**

### Registered Office Address:

Unit No. 601, 6th Floor Piramala Amiti Building, Piramala Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai - 400 070.

**CIN: L65910M1984PL032639, Web Site: www.piramalfinance.com**

**Branch Address:** Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West)- 400602.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised officer of Piramala Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
1.	(LC No. 28300000022 of Rohtak Branch) Ranbir Singh Chawla (Borrower) Ravinder Singh (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 15,76,956/- (Rs. Fifteen Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Six Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	House No 433/25 Plot No 4 Southern Part Gandhi Nagar Rohtak Rohtak Haryana - 124001
2.	(LC No. 28300000305 of Rohtak Branch) Ranbir Singh Chawla (Borrower) Ravinder Singh (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 2,41,995/- (Rs. Two Lakh Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	House No 433/25 Plot No 4 Southern Part Gandhi Nagar Rohtak Rohtak Haryana - 124001
3.	(LC No. 13500005693 of Chandigarh Metro Branch) Sunitha Bhukal (Borrower) Shakti Singh (Co Borrower 1) Ramphal Singh (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 2,07,459/- (Rs. Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	1) Khasra No. 247 Shiv Colony, Mouja Bitna Road Pinjore Panchkula Haryana - 134102 2) Khasra No. 664/246 (O-13), 665/246 (I-12), 245 Bitna Road, Near Ravi Dass Mandir Shiv Colony Pinjore Panchkula Haryana - 134102
4.	(LC No. 19700043287 of Gurgaon- Sohna Road Branch) Raj Kumar Kumar (Borrower) Kiran Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 10,02,408/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Two Thousand Four Hundred Eight Rupees) NPA (10-05-2024)	Flat No 608 Tower D2 Delight Residences Alwar Bypass Road Tapukara Bhiwadi Rajasthan Alwar Rajasthan - 301019
5.	(LC No. 19600042571 of Delhi-Safdarjung Branch) Hanuman Sahai Sharma (Borrower) Rajender Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Beena Devi (Co Borrower 2) Pawan Sharma (Guarantor 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 6,69,887/- (Rs. Six Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Unit No 160 Terra City Alwar Bypass Road Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan - 301001
6.	(LC No. 14100001862 of Karnal Branch) Virender Singh (Borrower) Amarjeet Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 1,47,745/- (Rs. One Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five Rupees) NPA (10-03-2024)	Kewat No 311, Khatoni No 4 Vpo Faterpur, Distt Kaithal, Nv Inverter Battery Factory, Kaithal Ambala Haryana - 134003 (10-05-2024)
7.	(LC No. 14100002341 of Karnal Branch) Hawa Singh (Borrower) Jagdish Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Bala Devi (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 51,62,193.98/- (Rs. Fifty One Lakh Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety Three Rupees and Ninety Eight Paise) NPA (09-06-2024)	Khwat No. 31, Khatoni No. 39, Intkal No 781, Shiv Colony, Ward No. 17, Satsung Bhawan, Kaithal Kaithal Haryana - 136027
8.	(LC No. 14100003190 of Karnal Branch) Krishan (Borrower) Geeta (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 13,42,124/- (Rs. Thirteen Lakh Forty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Four Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Killa No. 77/25/1m 27, 6/21/2/2 Kalawati Vihar Rakba, Bandepur, Near Golden Era, Public School, Sonipat Sonipat Haryana - 131001
9.	(LC No. 14100005838 of Karnal Branch) Satyawan So Tara Chand (Borrower) Krishna Devi (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 5,03,390/- (Rs. Five Lakh Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	1) Khewat No. 10, Khatoni No. 10 Village Saidpara Near Baba Balaknath Man Plot No 21 Karnal Gurgaon Haryana - 122001 2) H No 21, Village Saidpara Khewat No 10 Near Baba Balaknath Mandir Saidpara, Karnal Karnal Haryana - 132001
10.	(LC No. 14100004400 of Karnal Branch) Satyawan So Tara Chand (Borrower) Krishna Devi (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 7,93,467/- (Rs. Seven lakh Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Seven Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	1) Khewat No. 10, Khatoni No. 10 Village Saidpara Near Baba Balaknath Man Plot No 21 Karnal Gurgaon Haryana - 122001 2) H No 21, Village Saidpara Khewat No 10 Near Baba Balaknath Mandir Saidpara, Karnal Karnal Haryana - 132001
11.	(LC No. 14100004640 of Karnal Branch) Pardeep P (Borrower) Pooja Jyoti (Co Borrower 1) Rajesh Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 10,26,533/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Three Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Khwat 406, Khtoni 485, Rakbg, 2 Marla 3 Sarsal, Near Govt Primary School, Israha Panipat Haryana - 132103
12.	(LC No. 19600043809 of Delhi-Safdarjung Branch) Hanuman Sahai Sharma (Borrower) Rajender Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Beena Devi (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 9,46,402/- (Rs. Nine Lakh Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred Two Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Pitto No 160, Terra City Phase I Bhiwadi Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan - 301019
13.	(LC No. 14100005324 of Karnal Branch) Soniya (Borrower)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 18,38,910/- (Rs. Eighteen Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Flat No. - 003, Tower - K4, Kingsbury Vill-Nangal Kalan, Td City, Kundli Kingsbury Apartments, Sonipat Sonipat Haryana - 131029
14.	(LC No. 14100006205 of Karnal Branch) Rajiv Gaur (Borrower) Shalini Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 2,24,25,598/- (Rs. Two Crore Twenty Four Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight Rupees) NPA (01-08-2022)	Kalawati Market,mezban Hotel Railway Road, HDFC Bank Kurukshetra Kurukshetra Haryana- 136118
15.	(LC No. 19600044558 of Delhi-Safdarjung Branch) Ripu Sudan Pandey (Borrower) Manisha Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 13,56,070/- (Rs. Thirteen Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Seventy Rupees) NPA (10-05-2024)	RZF 775/ 5, Old Plot No.25, TF Rear Side KH. No-44/1/23, Gali No.15 Raj Nagar II, Palam Colony, New Delhi North West Delhi Delhi - 110077
16.	(LC No. 31300000047 of Panipat Branch) Jogi Ram (Borrower) Kusum Lata (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 69,78,634.44/- (Rs. Sixty Nine Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Four Rupees and Forty Four Paise) NPA (10-05-2024)	Khwat No. 19 Murbba No. 14/22(4-10) & Khewat No.20 Khasra No. 132(1-10) Jhamba, Sanoli, Navda Road Panipat Haryana- 132103
17.	(LC No. 199FB030770 of Faridabad - Sector 19 Branch) Vivek Bhatia (Borrower) Pooja Bhatia (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 25,07,774/- (Rs. Twenty Five Lakh Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Four Rupees) NPA (11-04-2023)	H/ Flat No. HT 91, Floor No. 3rd , Plot No. HT 91, Housing Organisation Kapil, Sector Sec 21C, Vill Lage Faridabad Faridabad Haryana - 121001
18.	(LC No. 19100042590 of Chandigarh- Madhya Margh Branch) Shashwat Dobhal (Borrower) Vandana Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 95,85,844.58/- (Rs. Ninety Five Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Rupees and Fifty Eight Paise) NPA (10-01-2022)	Unit No. C-3, 11th Floor, Tower No. C-3 Vardhman Gardenia, SEC-10 Sonepat Sonepat Sonipat Haryana - 131001
19.	(LC No. M0181410 of Rohtak Branch) Ajmer (Borrower) Santra Devi (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 14,50,170/- (Rs. Fourteen Lakh Fifty Thousand One Hundred Seventy Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khwat No.375 and 373, 312 Khata No. 484 & 432, Khasra No.236, 239, 240, 242/1, 243,244, Mouja Julana Jind, Jind, Haryana- 126101
20.	(LC No. HLSA00001628 of Karnal Branch) Rohtash R (Borrower) Reena Rani (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 5,30,424/- (Rs. Five Lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Four Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khwat No 136 Khatoni No 243, Khasra No 255-4-12 Ritvi 1 Situated At Village Kotda Near Ravi Dass Mandir, Kaithal Haryana- 136027
21.	(LC No. M0122898 of Panipat Branch) Rajesh (Borrower) Neelam (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 17,25,350.02/- (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Rupees and Two Paise) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khwat No. 226, Khatoni No. 279 to 280, Khasra No. 177/8(8-0), 9(8-0), 10(7-8), 14(8-0), 18(2(2-0)), 18(6(2-8)), 19(1(6-12)), 13(8-0), Waka Village Pavati, Teshil Samalkha, Distt. Panipat Haryana - 132101
22.	(LC No. M0155386 of Panipat Branch) Surender (Borrower) Balesh (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 16,26,081/- (Rs. Sixteen Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eighty One Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khasra No,104/28, Min Magrib 3-3, Khatoni No.569, Khasra No.104/28, 0-12 Min Khatoni No.570, Khasra No. 104/28(2-11) Min Khatoni No.571, Khasra No.104/28 Min(3), Samalkha, Near Veterinary Hospital, Haryana, Panipat, Pincode-132101.
23.	(LC No. HLSA000054179 of Karnal Branch) Paramjeet Singh (Borrower) Kuldeep Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 9,78,388/- (Rs. Nine Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Eight Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Vill Kheri Gulam Ali Teshil Ghusa, Khasra No. 77 Kaithal Haryana- 136033

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

**Date: 18-07-2024**  
**Place: Haryana**

**Sd/- (Authorised Officer)**  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

### COURT NOTICE

Y J TxuJ sOuRTJ OvJ

**Sh. Simrandeep Singh Sohni Judicial Magistrate- 1st Class Ludhiana.**

ext J tateV PurposeJ of J caseV Orders and Judgments As well as other J s s\_eJ information J is available bn http J ecourts J ov J n J - Y J ovaJ J cycle J industries J Vs J - Y J aiswal J ycle J Store J s R J OXPBLD03-046537-2021. t atedJ 29-08-2024J

**PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:-** Y J zaiswal J s ycle J Store J qdressed J through Jts J Signatory Ram t u lare J zaiswal J JR Y J - Y J zaiswal J ycle J Store V ghasan J Road W J akhimpur J heri V Uttar J Pradesh W bdbgz J

Whereas J t u lare J proved J to J the satisfaction J of this J court J that J you J t he J above J named J accused J u J t e J accused persons J can J be J served J in J the J ordinary J way J of J service J x e J n J this J proclamation J under J hb J f J bode J b J criminal J procedure J is J hereby J issued J against J you J with J a J direction J that J you J should J appear J personally J before J this J court J on J 29-08-2024 J at J 10:00 a.m J on J J within J 7 J days J from J the J date J of J publication J of J this J proclamation J

Take J notice J that J in J case J of J default J b n J your J part J to J appear J b n J directed J above J said J case J will J be J heard J and J determined J as J per J law J in J your J absence J

vor J details J logon J to [https://highcourthd.gov.in/?tr=s=distric\\_notice&district=Ludhiana](https://highcourthd.gov.in/?tr=s=distric_notice&district=Ludhiana)

**Simrandeep Singh Sohni Judicial Magistrate- 1st Class Ludhiana**

t ated V this J day J b J z J g J w J Z J

### SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd.

(Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.)

Corporate Off: 503 & 504, 5th Floor, G-BLOCK, Inspire BKC, BKC Main Road, Bandra (K) Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051  
Regd. Off: Megh Towers, 3rd Floor, Old No. 307, New No. 165, Poonamallee High Complex, Madurai, Chennai - 600 005

**POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY [(Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)]**

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) a Housing Finance Company (duly registered with National Housing Bank (Fully Owned by RBI)) (hereinafter referred to as "SMFHFC") under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said Notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned herein in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "SMFHFC" for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) LAN	Description of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	LAN- 615338311320185 1. Kirandeep Singh, S/o. Jarnal Singh 2. Navnet Kaur 3. Manjit Kaur	House Measuring 133.33 Sq. yds., Bearing Municipal No. B-Xi-1038(Old) And B-Xi-1026/57 (New) Situated At Street No. 6, Right Dogar Basti, Faridkot Tehsil & Distt. Faridkot Boundaries as Under- East:- 30' Passage 1/2' Wide, West:- 30' Malleek Singh, North:- 40' Sampurn Chand, South:- 40' Kirandeep Singh Now Sarabjeet Singh.	19.04.2024 Rs. 23,56,738/- Twenty Three Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight Only) as on 18.04.2024	16.07.2024

**Place: Faridkot, Punjab**  
**Date: 16.07.2024**

Authorized Officer, SMFG INDIA HOME FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.)

### Registered Office Address:

Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramala Amiti Building, Piramala Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai - 400 070.

**CIN: L65910M1984PL032639, Web Site: www.piramalfinance.com**

**Branch Address:** Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West)- 400602.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised officer of Piramala Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
1.	(LC No. 17800000160 of Patiala Branch) Pardeep Singh (Borrower) Shiama Devi (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 1,32,249/- (Rs. One lakh Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty Nine Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Khasra No. 68//14/2(1-24), 23 Min Namdhari Colony Samana Patiala Punjab- 147101
2.	(LC No. 13600001320 of Ludhiana Metro Branch) Bablu (Borrower) Poonam (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 12,24,250/- (Rs. Twelve lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Mc # B -Xxiv- 8841 A, Street # 1, New Vijay Nagar, Haiwobal Kalan, Ludhiana Punjab:- 141001
3.	(LC No. 19200041732 of Ludhiana - Stock Exchange Branch) Subhash Chander (Borrower) Sunita W Ranvir Singh (Co Borrower 1) Ranvir Singh (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 5,48,578/- (Rs. Five lakh Forty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Eight Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Plot No. 152-A Sai Enclave 33 Foota Road Mundian Kalan Ludhiana Ludhiana Punjab :- 141001
4.	(LC No. 17800000983 of Patiala Branch) Mandeep Singh (Borrower) Baljinder Singh (Co Borrower 1) Paramejeet Kaur (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 17,59,503/- (Rs. Seventeen lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Three Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Khasra No. 21/3/2/1 Village Kulburchha Teh Samana Samana Patiala Punjab :- 147101
5.	(LC No. 24500001260 of Bathinda Branch) Jagbeer Singh (Borrower) Manjeet Kaur (Co Borrower 1) Kulwinder Singh (Co Borrower 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 9,27,049/- (Rs. Nine lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Forty Nine Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Street No. 2, Kirat Nagar, Near Barton Factory & Satnam Palace Backside, Malout Road Distt- Muktsar Muktsar Punjab:- 152026
6.	(LC No. 13600003308 of Ludhiana Metro Branch) Surinder Kumar (Borrower) Kulvinder Kaur (Co Borrower 1) Sanjeev Kumar (Co Borrower 2) Ashok Kumar Rana (Guarantor 1) Ravinder Kumar (Guarantor 2)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 9,98,700.96/- (Rs. Nine lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Rupees and Ninety Six Paise) NPA (09-01-2023)	Rajpara Green City Khasra No-16/11 Ludhiana Ludhiana Punjab :- 141001
7.	(LC No. 24500002318 of Bathinda Branch) Tarnbir Singh (Borrower) Swmeet Singh (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 7,13,416/- (Rs. Seven lakh Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Khasra No 83(0-19), 94/(1-1-10) Opp. Govt. Dispensary, Zira Road Village Sher Khan Wala Distt. Ferozepur Ferozabad Punjab Punjab :- 152005
8.	(LC No. 29000000562 of Amritsar Branch) Amar Pal (Borrower) Sunita W Amar Pal (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 13,55,009/- (Rs. Thirteen lakh Fifty Five Thousand Nine Rupees) NPA (10-05-2024)	Khasra No. 23//7/2 min. Village Balkingher Near Mahindra Palace Balkingher Gurdaspur Gurdaspur Punjab :- 143505
9.	(LC No. 24500002036 of Bathinda Branch) Ranjit Singh (Borrower) Harmeet Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 29,46,703/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Lakh Forty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Three Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Veer Chauhan Palatial, Faridkot Road Vill. Kot Kar, Tehsil & Distt. Ferozepur Ferozpur Firozpur Punjab :- 142050
10.	(LC No. 24500002338 of Bathinda Branch) Sumitra Rani (Borrower) Amandeep Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 6,69,568/- (Rs. Six lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Kuti Road, Mohalla Love Khush Nagar Malerkotla, District: Sangrur Sangrur Sangrur Punjab :- 148023
11.	(LC No. 13600004278 of Ludhiana Metro Branch) M/S.Grewal Immigration Consultants (Borrower) Atamjit Singh Grewal (Co Borrower 1) Manjit Kaur (Co Borrower 2) Baljeet Singh Dhunna (Co Borrower 3) Sukhdeep Singh (Co Borrower 4) Atamjit Singh Huff (Co Borrower 5) Manidejit Singh Grewal (Co Borrower 6)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 1348715/- (Rs. Thirteen lakh Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Khasa No 408(9-15), 22-1/3/1755 Street No. 4, Zira Road, Raj Complex Bishan Mohalla, Modi Nagar Grewal Immigration Moga Moga Punjab - 142001
12.	(LC No. 13600004366 of Ludhiana Metro Branch) M/S.Grewal Immigration Consultants (Borrower) Atamjit Singh Grewal (Co Borrower 1) Manjit Kaur (Co Borrower 2) Baljeet Singh Dhunna (Co Borrower 3) Sukhdeep Singh (Co Borrower 4) Atamjit Singh Huff (Co Borrower 5) Manidejit Singh Grewal (Co Borrower 6)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 21,56,745/- (Rs. Twenty one lakh Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five Rupees) NPA (09-06-2024)	Khasa No. 408(9-15), 22-1/3/1755 Street No. 4, Zira Road, Raj Complex Bishan Mohalla, Modi Nagar Grewal Immigration Moga Moga Punjab - 142001
13.	(LC No. HLSA00004C99 of Pathankot Branch) Balwinder Singh (Borrower) Jasbir Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 14,26,047/- (Rs. Fourteen lakh Twenty Six Thousand Forty Seven Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Vill-Nau Shehra Near Mobile Tower Gurdaspur Punjab- 143521
14.	(LC No. HLSA00004C99TU of Pathankot Branch) Balwinder Singh (Borrower) Jasbir Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 4,48,383/- (Rs. Four lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Three Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Vill-Nau Shehra Near Mobile Tower Gurdaspur Punjab- 143521
15.	(LC No. HLSA000587BD of Bathinda Branch) Tarnbir Singh (Borrower) Surmeet Singh (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 21,19,486/- (Rs. Twenty one lakh Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	Opp. Govt. Dispensary, Zira Road Village Sher Khan Wala Distt. Ferozepur Punjab- 152005
16.	(LC No. BLSA0000349F of Chandigarh - Sector 22 Branch) Shubam Baral (Borrower) Jaitni Baral (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 7,18,359/- (Rs. Seven lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Nine Rupees) NPA (04-06-2024)	House No. 110 Village Madhopur Hadbast No. 11 Teshil Derabassi Districts A S Nagar Mohali Khewat Khatoni No. 305 578 Khasra No. 948 1122 1533 1075945 212 Dera Bassi Mohali Sas Nagar Mohali- 140507
15.	(LC No. M01868496 of Jalandhar Branch) Dinesh Kumar (Borrower) Priyanka (Co Borrower 1)	25-06-2024/ Rs. 1,99,165.92/- (Rs. One lakh Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty Five Rupees and Ninety Two Paise) NPA (05-05-2024)	H. No.567, Paras Colony, Basti Peer Road, Jalandhar, Punjab-144623

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

**Date: 18-07-2024**  
**Place: Punjab**

**Sd/- (Authorised Officer)**  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**HEWO Apartments Owners Welfare Association GH-3 MDC Sector-5 Panchkula (Haryana)**

Late Sh. Ashok Bhalla S/o Late Sh. Charan Dass Bhalla was the owner of HEWO Deluxe Flat No 94 at site GH-3, MDC Sector-5, Panchkula against membership no.162 has expired on 07/11/2020. Now Bhitesh Bhalla S/o Late Sh. Ashok Bhalla R/o House No. 418 Sector-38-A, Chandigarh-160036 has applied for transfer of above mentioned flat/membership in his own name. If anybody has any objection upon the transfer of the said property in his favour

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to put the General Public on notice that...

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that ANKITA D/O PADAM SINGH...

नगर निगम रोहताक
सर्वजनिक सूचना
सर्व सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम...

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sudesh W/o Rameshwar Dutt S/o Sh. Chandgi Ram R/O H.No. 99/26, Near Gaudium School, Jawahar Nagar...

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Prem Chand Sharma @ Prem Chand @ Babi Sharma S/O Sh. Om Parkash R/O Village Sabalpur, Sub-Tehsil Saraswati Nagar, District Yamuna Nagar...

BREAK OUT
We, Satvir Singh S/o Shri Hari Singh & Smt. Raj Kumari W/o Shri Satvir Singh R/o H.No. 454, HUDA Sec-1, Rohtak declare that Rahul is my son and his wife name is Preeti...

CORRIENDUM
In the advertisement of Rajdeep Bhatia published in The Pioneer newspaper on 3.7.2024, Vasika No.1971 dated 03.30.2008 has been recorded...

Piramal Finance
Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramala Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai- 400 070.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
Grain Market Bathinda Branch (69070) Shop No.44, Subji Mandi, Grain Market, Bathinda-151001

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC.13 (2)
To 1. THE BORROWERS: (a) Mr. Manwinder Singh S/o Sh. Kulwant Singh # 250, Police Colony, Lal Singh Basti, Bathinda (b) Mrs. Sarbjit Kaur W/o Sh. Kulwant Singh # 250, Police Colony, Lal Singh Basti, Bathinda.

Dear Sir,
Notice dt. 09.07.2024 issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Grain Market Bathinda Branch, the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan accounts with us at your last known address could not be served...

THE TARN TARAN CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
FULLY COMPUTERIZED BANK HEAD OFFICE : TARN TARAN

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of The Tarn Taran Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act...

Table with 5 columns: Name of the NPA Account / Branch, Description of the Immovable Properties, Date of the Demand Notice, Date of the Possession, Amount Outstanding. Contains details for multiple borrowers and guarantors.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for the information of General Public that following persons Dider Singh (Son), Malkit Singh (Son) and Amarjit Singh (Daughter) has claimed themselves as the Legal Heirs of Deceased late Gural Singh S/o Bachan Singh...

सर्वजनिक सूचना
सर्व सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं नीरु संस (अर्थात: 9379 3350 4143) अपनी ही असेटिंग स्ट्राम निवासी मरान नगर, 706, सैक्टर 14, हरियाणा राज्य कर्तवीर है कि एक प्रोपर्टी बिक्री करार नं. 992/11-21-01 12 जून 12-71, 1918-01, 20 जून 16-41, 2118-01, 2218-01 बाबरका 36 काला 11 मले मरान नगर को बिक्री करार है...

Public Notice
It is informed to General Public that Smt. Beena Devi w/o Sh. Pyarelal has lost her previous Transfer letter memo no. 44 dated 28.08.2019 in favour of Smt. Beena Devi w/o Sh. Pyarelal for Property i.e. House No. 915/LIG, measuring 71.76 Sq. Yards...

सर्वजनिक सूचना
सर्व सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं नीरु संस (अर्थात: 9379 3350 4143) अपनी ही असेटिंग स्ट्राम निवासी मरान नगर, 706, सैक्टर 14, हरियाणा राज्य कर्तवीर है कि एक प्रोपर्टी बिक्री करार नं. 992/11-21-01 12 जून 12-71, 1918-01, 20 जून 16-41, 2118-01, 2218-01 बाबरका 36 काला 11 मले मरान नगर को बिक्री करार है...

Public Notice
This is for general public that Mrs. Tejinder Kaur is seeking loan from Cholamandiam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. vide Appl. No. 10274/18. The original copy of the said loan account is with me...

Public Notice
This is for general public that Mrs. Tejinder Kaur is seeking loan from Cholamandiam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. vide Appl. No. 10274/18. The original copy of the said loan account is with me...

सर्वजनिक सूचना
सर्व सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं नीरु संस (अर्थात: 9379 3350 4143) अपनी ही असेटिंग स्ट्राम निवासी मरान नगर, 706, सैक्टर 14, हरियाणा राज्य कर्तवीर है कि एक प्रोपर्टी बिक्री करार नं. 992/11-21-01 12 जून 12-71, 1918-01, 20 जून 16-41, 2118-01, 2218-01 बाबरका 36 काला 11 मले मरान नगर को बिक्री करार है...

Public Notice
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Piramal Finance
Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramala Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai- 400 070.

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132, 133, 134, Sector- 9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s), Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any, Amount Outstanding, Reserve Price, Date and Time of E-Auction Inspection, Date & Time of E-Auction. Contains details for Ajoy Bir Singh/Ajay Bir Singh.

The online auction will be conducted on the website URL Linkhttps://www.bankauctions.com of our auction agency C1 India Pvt Ltd. The Mortgages/Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by August 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC.13 (2)
To 1. THE BORROWERS: M/s. All Medicose prop. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali S/o. Mohd. Din R/O Saroud Chowk, Ludhiana By-Pass, Distt. Road Malerkotla, Punjab -148023

Notice dt. 10.07.2024 issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Malerkotla Branch, the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan accounts with us at your last known address could not be served...

ICICI Bank
PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No., Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any, Amount Outstanding, Reserve Price, Date and Time of E-Auction Inspection, Date & Time of E-Auction. Contains details for Sanjeev Kumar.

The online auction will be conducted on the website URL Linkhttps://www.bankauctions.com of our auction agency C1 India Pvt Ltd. The Mortgages/Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by August 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

Central Bank of India
Regional Office, S.C.O. 58, 59, Bank Square, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh-160017

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"Interested Bidder may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with E-Auction Portal i.e. https://ebkray.in before the close of E-Auction. Credit of Pre-Bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipt of payment in https://ebkray.in Bank account and update of such information in the E-Auction website https://ebkray.in. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the Pre-Bid amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem."

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Branch & Borrower/Guarantor, Details of the property/ secured assets & owner of the property/ies, Date of Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Date and time of E-Auction. Contains details for Gulshan Nanda/S/o Babu Lal Verma.

The E-Auction is being held on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis". 1. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the property, prior to submitting their bid.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## A new lease of life

The Govt reconstitutes NITI Aayog, inducts union ministers and NDA allies to enhance strategic planning

In a significant move to bolster its policy-making prowess, the Indian Government has reconstituted the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. This reconstitution includes 15 Union Ministers and notable allies from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), marking a strategic shift in the country's planning and development framework. This underscores the Government's commitment to integrating diverse ministerial insights into the policy-making process. These ministers come from various portfolios, ensuring that a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives is brought to the table. This comprehensive approach aims to address multifaceted national challenges more effectively. The reconstitution also sees the induction of key NDA allies, signalling a collaborative effort to drive the nation's development agenda. By involving NDA allies, the Government aims to foster a more inclusive and cooperative environment within the Aayog. Among the notable ministers included are Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Home



Minister Amit Shah, and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. Their presence is anticipated to significantly influence the economic, internal security, and defence policies of the country. The inclusion of ministers from portfolios such as Health, Education, and Rural Development indicates a holistic approach to addressing India's development needs.

This reconstitution is seen as a strategic shift from the traditional Planning Commission model to a more dynamic and inclusive NITI Aayog framework. It reflects the government's intention to leverage the collective wisdom of its senior ministers and allies to drive forward its vision of a 'New India'. The Aayog's reconstitution aims to facilitate better coordination between the central and state governments,

ensuring that policies are effectively implemented at the grassroots level. One of the primary goals of this reconstitution is to enhance the implementation of policies. The government hopes to streamline the execution of key initiatives and programs. This is expected to result in more efficient policy delivery and improved outcomes on the ground. NITI Aayog was established on January 1, 2015, as a replacement for the Planning Commission. Its primary purpose is to promote cooperative federalism by involving state governments in the policymaking process. However gradually it lost its importance. The Indian government has increasingly favoured a centralised approach, leading to reduced involvement of states in planning and decision-making processes, undermining NITI Aayog's role. It lacks financial powers and direct allocation of funds, limiting its influence on actual policy implementation. Besides, there has been a tendency to prioritize immediate economic and political goals over long-term strategic planning, diminishing NITI Aayog's relevance in sustainable development. As the NITI Aayog embarks on this new phase, there is a sense of optimism about its potential to drive substantial progress. It is anticipated that the Government's latest move will lead to more robust policy frameworks.

## PICTALK



Shia mourners participate in the 9th Muharram procession, on boats, at Dal Lake, in Srinagar

## Parliament: Duty over disruption

The opposition can leverage parliament debates to engage with their constituencies but they often waste this opportunity by walkouts and protests



PRAFULL GORADIA

It is difficult to understand, especially since parliamentarians, appeared to overlook an essential of their vocation.

That is, that the legislature usually does not take much time. The rest of the session is the opportunity for the opposition to demonstrate their talent and commitment through television. The ruling party or parties do not need the legislature except to have bills passed and enacted into law. If there are no laws that need to be passed urgently, the government and ruling party can do without the legislature virtually for an entire year. Of course, there remains the presenting and passing of the Budget, which can be legitimized only by the legislature, particularly the Lok Sabha.

What has been stated hitherto has been well demonstrated by the state assemblies in India. They pass the odd bill once in a while, and the annual budget is the other essential item of business during the year. Most state legislative assemblies meet for three or four days at a time. Otherwise, for the few times they have to statutorily meet, each session is seldom for more than three or four days. However, the members of the legislative assemblies (MLAs) draw their pay and perks for the entire term of the legislative body.

This applies to Parliament too, although it has the budget, monsoon and winter sessions, which are long enough. In short, to restate, most of the time the legislatures can work for the benefit of the opposition members, who can display their skills, knowledge, familiarity and touch with their constituencies. With the advent of full-time coverage by television channels—Sansad TV being a prominent one—a great advantage has fallen into the hands of the Opposition. This is a boon for them; it is a free and constant medium to, as it were, communicate with their constituencies.

This institution was introduced under the time I was in Parliament. Back then, most Members who spoke made full



use of the television channels by speaking for as long as possible. During the question hour between 11 am and 12 pm, only five or six questions and their answers could be completed, instead of all twenty. The reason was that those who had asked the questions spent as long a time as possible over asking their supplementary question, which was a privilege to the Member(s).

The ruling party/parties have a better opportunity of exposure than opposition parties generally get. Yet, the opposition mindlessly throws away a lot of the session time by walking out, protesting otherwise, compelling the Speaker to adjourn the House for several hours or even the rest of the day. July 2 was another example when the Prime Minister rose to thank the President for her inaugural speech. For well over two hours, groups of opposition members took turns shouting slogans in an attempt to drown the Prime Minister's address to Parliament, or perhaps even to prevent him from speaking. Little do they realize that most television channels were telecasting his speech live, duly cutting out the sloganeering.



THE OPPOSITION MINDLESSLY THROWS AWAY A LOT OF THE SESSION TIME BY WALKING OUT, PROTESTING OTHERWISE, COMPELLING THE SPEAKER TO ADJOURN THE HOUSE FOR SEVERAL HOURS OR EVEN THE REST OF THE DAY

The only people who could hear the PM's speech being disturbed by slogans were the Members of the Lok Sabha. All that the slogan-shouting Members gained was a reputation of being wasters, as members who cost the taxpayer a lot, merely to put in negative effort to try and prevent the Prime Minister from being heard. Each session and day of Parliament cost several crores of rupees. Each Member of Parliament costs several lakh rupees a year to serve the country and its people, and not to prevent Parliament from functioning. There are many better ways of protesting, such as, such as wearing black bands on one's sleeves, sometimes wearing black caps, or sometimes, dressed fully in black. Members can also refuse to take their seats for the entire day, instead, occupying the adjacent aisles for the duration of the session, as a mark of protest, but let the work go on. This would assure all the people, including their constituents that they are spending money on the functioning of Parliament with its thousands of employees constructively and in the interests of the nation. They should realize that the

British departed from India long ago, and such negative activities have no place in our country anymore. Let it be borne in mind that being elected to Parliament (or the state legislative assemblies) is a national duty more than the privilege it has come to be mistakenly understood. What we have witnessed over the two days of July 2 and 3 portends ill for the institution of democracy, which everyone, from the opposition parties to the media and academia, not to forget their cheerleaders overseas, keeps shouting is "under threat in India". But where is the real threat to democracy coming from? This needs to be clearly understood. No democracy can be threatened because its electorate gives a clear mandate for stable governance for a developed economy and a better future. It is the cavalier fashion in which certain parties—and political families living in a sense of entitlement—treat Parliament and its protocols and rules that are emerging as the real threat to democracy.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## RBI'S NEW GUIDELINES FOR BANKS

Madam — According to a report, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that banks cannot label borrowers as frauds without giving them a hearing. Banks must now issue a 21-day show-cause notice before classifying an account as fraudulent. This decision follows a Supreme Court order. The RBI has instructed banks to develop a fraud risk management policy, approved by at least three board members, including one full-time director and two independent or non-executive directors, to ensure compliance with the principles of natural justice. Additionally, banks are required to update their Early Warning Signal (EWS) systems within six months, integrating data analytics to detect unusual patterns. The RBI has set a threshold of Rs. 1 crore for reporting frauds to the state police, with private banks also reporting to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, while public sector banks report frauds above Rs. 6 crore to the CBI, as usual.

In consortium lending, if separate offenses are committed, each member may file separate complaints; otherwise, one member can file a complaint with support from the others. In summary, the new RBI rule mandating a 21-day notice before classifying borrowers as frauds enhances borrowers' rights by allowing them to present their cases and defend against allegations, ensuring fair treatment. This rule will improve transparency, foster trust between borrowers and financial institutions, strengthen governance through board-approved risk management policies, and regulate and streamline the processes of borrowing and lending.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

## THE PLIGHT OF GIG WORKERS

Madam — This letter addresses the plight of gig workers in our country. Gig workers are a pitiable lot. Regardless of the weather, they must fulfill their cus-

## Defeating global warming



A well-defined quadrilateral encompassing solar, wind, green hydrogen, and nuclear clean energies as its four vertices is essential to effectively combat global warming and related weather catastrophes, which lead to loss of lives, assets, and properties. "Well-defined" means urgently establishing both global and national annual

targets for each of the four clean energy sources. What percentage should be allocated to solar energy? What percentage should be allocated to nuclear energy? And similarly, for wind and green hydrogen? Currently, the world lacks direction, resulting in slow progress towards achieving 100% clean energy and 0% carbon emissions. The "greater capacity" and "economic power" of nuclear energy, compared to the other three clean energies, cannot be ignored. Increasing the capacity of existing nuclear reactors is more economical than constructing new ones. It would be much better and safer if all nations signed a pact to use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, such as generating clean energy and electricity, rather than for making bombs, weapons, and war paraphernalia.

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secunderabad

tomers' demands.

I used to wonder how much they earn by zipping and zapping on their bikes, risking their lives in India's urban jungle. My curiosity was answered when I saw a delivery boy working on a rainy day. The bags on his bike were covered with a plastic sheet, but he was drenched to the bone. Since then, I have made it a point to order via the "Cash on Delivery" mode, so that I can tip gig workers generously. Surprisingly, most of the time my tip is politely declined ("Arre sir, yeh to humara kaam hai") or accepted with reluctant embarrassment.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

## STRENGTHENING INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

Madam — In the neighboring country of Nepal, which borders India to the east, west, and south, KP Sharma Oli's appointment as Prime Minister was met with congratulations from PM Modi. India and Nepal have shared a deep bilateral relationship since early days, but the abolition of the monarchy in

2008 introduced challenges. Enhancing trade, investment, and infrastructure development can provide mutual economic benefits. Joint ventures in hydropower projects and tourism can foster economic interdependence. Promoting cultural and educational exchanges can strengthen people-to-people connections, building a stronger foundation for bilateral ties. Short-sighted and selfish politicians sought to please China, which exploited the situation.

The Modi government must provide aid to Nepal and invigorate the relationship more than ever before, ensuring that Nepal does not feel the need to turn towards China, which would harm India's interests. India must infuse new energy into its relationship with Nepal, ensuring that both nations work together for mutual growth and regional stability.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Defying the Western pressure, India prioritises national interests

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Moscow highlights significant gains for India on strategic, economic, and diplomatic fronts, despite Western reservations

Despite a concerted campaign by the US and Western countries to isolate Russia following its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, several nations, including India, have prioritized their national interests. This has allowed President Putin to bolster Russia's economy, with India's \$65 billion worth of crude oil imports playing a crucial role in mitigating the impact of US-imposed sanctions.

India maintains close strategic ties with the United States, yet it has become the second-largest importer of Russian crude oil after China. This alignment with Russia serves as a counterbalance to US influence. In recognition of this support, President Putin awarded Prime Minister Modi the Order of St. Andrew.

The US, as expected, reacted by urging India to ensure that any resolution to the Ukraine conflict respects the UN charter and Ukraine's territorial integrity. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller emphasised the importance of these principles in international engagements with



Russia.

In this context, experts view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow through multiple lenses, highlighting significant gains for India on strategic, economic, and diplomatic fronts:

India's geopolitical strategy significantly revolves around balancing China's rising influence. Strengthening ties with Russia serves as a counterbalance to China's aggressive posturing in the region. The visit underscored mutual interests in ensuring a multipolar world order, acting as a strategic buffer against unilateral actions by any major power, including China.

## Strategic Gains:

A key highlight of Modi's visit was the reinforcement of India-Russia defense ties. Historically, Russia has been one of India's most reliable defense partners. Discussions around the S-400 missile defense system and potential future collaborations in defense technology were central to the visit, enhancing India's military capabilities and contributing to regional stability.

Western sanctions against Russia have led it to seek stronger ties with non-Western countries, including India. Both India and Russia advocate for a multipolar world order, balancing US influence. Modi's visit reflects India's independent foreign policy, maintaining strong ties with both the US and Russia.

Energy security is a cornerstone of India's economic policy, and Russia plays a critical role with its vast oil and natural gas reserves. Modi's visit focused on long-term supply agreements, investments in energy infrastructure, and collaboration in nuclear energy projects, ensuring a stable and diver-

sified energy supply for India. Boosting bilateral trade and investment was another focal point. Despite historical ties, trade volumes between India and Russia have not reached their full potential. The visit aimed to address this by exploring new trade avenues in sectors like pharmaceuticals, information technology, and agriculture, promising long-term benefits for both economies. Modi's visit signifies a reaffirmation of traditional alliances. Reinforcing ties with Russia offers India a more balanced foreign policy amidst the US's increasingly transactional approach. The visit likely included discussions on expanding cooperation in space exploration and nuclear technology, fostering innovations that benefit both nations. Cybersecurity is crucial in the digital age. Modi's visit likely explored collaboration in these fields, ensuring both nations can safeguard their digital infrastructures and harness economic benefits.

(Writer is a political analyst; views expressed are personal)



K S TOMAR



## FIRST COLUMN TAKE THINGS AS THEY COME

Accepting events as they happen brings a great sense of calmness



RAVI VALLURI

Aeons ago in ancient China lived an old farmer who worked on his land for several years. One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, a group of neighbours came to commiserate with him. "Such misfortune," the agitated group of villagers reacted. "Maybe," the farmer replied nonchalantly. A few days later the horse returned, accompanied by three wild horses. Another group of villagers approached the house of the agriculturist to sympathise. "Maybe," replied the aged farmer.

The following day, the farmer's son tried to mount one of the untamed horses and was thrown off. The strapping youngster broke his leg. The overwrought neighbours once again queued up to offer their sympathies at this misadventure. "Maybe," was the desultory answer yet again. A few days later some military personnel swooped on the village to draft young men. Looking at the incapacitated stripling, he was disqualified from being recruited. The exuberant neighbours congratulated the old grazier on the turn of events. "Maybe," was the laconic reply yet again. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has succinctly elucidated the significance of the aphorism, 'to accept people and situations as they are' in his teachings.

### The 4 Ds of Abnormal Behaviour

Abnormal behaviour can be construed as behaviour that is disturbing (socially unacceptable), distressing, maladaptive (or self-defeating) and often the result of distorted thoughts (cognitions) as per Wikipedia. There are four strains in this abnormal behaviour. These are deviance, dysfunction, distress, and danger. Deviant behaviour is usually different, extreme, and unusual and could even include bizarre behavioural patterns. The second in the series is distressing behaviour.

People who are related to such individuals feel unpleasant and unsettled in their presence. Dysfunctional behaviour discommodates the patient to such an extent that it acts as a deterrent in his day-to-day functioning and behaviour and interferes with his range of activities. Five specific patterns of anxiety disorders fall into this category. The first is termed General Anxiety Disorder. This is a prolonged, vague, quite inexplicable fear having no objective basis, accompanied by hypervigilance, and attached motor tension of the brain. Next is what in quotidian parlance



is called panic disorder. These are none other than perpetual and frequent anxiety attacks which are accompanied by psychological symptoms such as breathlessness, palpitations, a trembling feeling, dizziness and even a sense of total loss of control over the self.

Next in the line of mental disorders are phobias. Humans have irrational phobias such as Acrophobia (fear of heights), Glossophobia (fear of addressing an audience), Claustrophobia (fear of enclosed spaces), and Aviophobia (fear of flying). In such situations, a human being is preoccupied with a wide range of thoughts, which are normally irrational. Last, but not less distressing – on this ill-fated checklist is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These individuals suffer repeated and recurrent nightmares, flashbacks, impaired concentration, and emotional numbing which invariably follows traumatic or stressful events. Our country is plagued by three major issues namely, addictions, women's issues, and psychological disorders. Generally, citizens approach tantriks, babas, and quacks hoping for a miraculous cure. It is paramount to meet a qualified medical practitioner. The first step to recovery is medication under the expert guidance of a doctor. Next, after a period of treatment, it would be prudent to contact self-help groups, which sustain the treatment. For instance, undergoing the Happiness Course of the Art of Living, where one learns the Sudarshan Kriya breathing technique which harmonises the body and thought. "No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again," 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; views are personal)

# Focus on employment, innovation and skill



DINESH SOOD

## The Union Budget 2024 must factor in rising unemployment and need for innovation for boosting the economy and sustaining economic growth



The upcoming Union Budget on July 23 will shed light on initiatives that may reshape economic priorities under the Modi3.0 government. Amid various expectations and commitments, the government's focus on skills, employment, and innovation emerges as a key strategy in addressing current challenges and shaping future opportunities. The decision to rename the Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development to include livelihood emphasizes a shift to provide employable skills to the most vulnerable 67 per cent of the country's underprivileged population.

Placing skill development ahead of employment underscores a proactive approach to addressing the issue of a shortage of skilled workforce, especially in the health & wellness, manufacturing, and technology sectors. This not only recognizes the immediate need for a trained workforce but also positions skill development as a key driver for sustainable employment generation.

As the Budget approaches, stakeholders across sectors eagerly await concrete measures that go beyond mere promises and lead to tangible outcomes. The effectiveness of these initiatives in translating into job creation, technological innovation, and sustainable economic growth will be carefully scrutinized. The government's steadfast commitment to enhancing skills holds the promise of unleashing India's potential as a global economic powerhouse in the years ahead.

The rebranding and revitalization of the 15-year-old National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) as the Skill India Mission under PM Narendra Modi has sparked concerns about the effectiveness of the ambitious Skill India program. This program has received support from two governments over 15 years — first the UPA and then the NDA. India is in the midst of an urgent unemployment crisis due to an employment



SKILL INDIA WAS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT UNSKILLED YOUNG PEOPLE AND EQUIP THEM FOR THE JOB MARKET, BUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES REMAIN HIGH

deficit. Issues such as the delayed implementation of PMKVY 3.0 and lack of placement support are exacerbating this problem. The latest data underlines the severity of India's unemployment crisis, making it crucial to prioritize employment generation to confront the challenges facing the Indian economy, especially with a significant number of young people entering the working age each month.

In July 2015, PM Modi stated that "Skill India aims to build self-confidence among the underprivileged, rather than just providing jobs". However, nearly a decade later, the youth's interest in the program seems to be waning. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has implemented strict attendance monitoring and centralized student information. Unfortunately, this has led to a decline in student retention, with many dropping out due to the rigid attendance requirements. Skill India was designed to attract unskilled young people and equip them for the job market, but unemployment rates remain high. Data from the International Labour Organization reveals that the proportion of educated unemployed individuals has risen sharply from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2023. Established in 2014, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship absorbed the NSDC and other programs to train 300 million people by 2024. Despite partnering with various organizations and raising awareness, the programs have not been as effective as envisioned. Experts argue that even traditional degrees do not guarantee employment, and the education system is outdated and not job-focused. Only a small percentage

of candidates certified by the PMKVY program have found jobs, indicating a fundamental challenge with the current skilling initiatives. Boosting skilling programs and industry partnerships is an urgent necessity to create ongoing skilling avenues and improve employability for school dropouts, and unskilled, or semi-skilled workers who need to secure a livelihood.

Although the announcement of setting up 75 skilling e-labs for simulated learning in the 2022-23 Union Budget is a positive move, we must recognize that our problem is far-reaching. API-based trusted skill credentials and discovery layers to find relevant jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities won't suffice beyond a certain point, necessitating an urgent need to skill the masses and empower the country's youths. We must acknowledge that over 40% of Indians aged 15 to 24 are neither in education, employment, or training, which is significantly higher than the South Asian (30%) and global (24%) averages. Indian firms report substantial skill shortages compared to other countries, and they assess only about 46% of graduates as employable.

The majority of students lack the necessary skills, and the skills they do possess are not aligned with the needs of their employers. Every year, more than 12 million young people in India become employable, yet we are unable to absorb them into the workforce. Many of these individuals hold higher education degrees, but they lack the necessary employable skills. The India Skills Report (ISR) 2024 highlights that only 50.3% of graduates from higher education institutions are deemed employable. A skill gap study conducted

by the NSDC during 2010-14 indicates that by 2025, India will need nearly 109.7 million additional skilled workers across various sectors. While the government's interventions in promoting skill development are commendable, more needs to be done to bridge the skill gaps. Wish List: In the 2024-25 Union Budget, it is crucial to prioritize upskilling initiatives for gig workers, due to the eight-fold increase in young people's participation in the gig economy from 2019 to 2023, the majority of these youth come from Tier-I and Tier-II cities and rural areas.

While the government is working to make employable skills more accessible through public-private partnerships, there is a need to facilitate and incentivize the establishment of more skill development universities to steer the youth, especially undergraduates towards skills. This will help align the skill courses with global standards and significantly enhance the youth's skills, contributing to the nation's workforce development. I strongly urge a significant budget allocation to provide employable skills, particularly to school dropouts on a priority basis. This will not only empower them but also significantly contribute to the growth of the Indian economy, aiming to reach \$7 trillion by 2030 and position India as the world's third-largest economy.

(The writer is Co-Founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill Centres.; Views expressed are personal)

# Kerala: Beyond the well-crafted image of a tidy, literate State

## Behind its progressive facades lies a struggle with industrial stagnation, healthcare shortcomings, and a surprising reliance on superstition

The assumption among the people outside Kerala is that it is the most literate, intelligent and hygienic State in the country. The ruling CPI(M) leaves no stone unturned to portray it as the land of people with a scientific temper and is the numero uno in all spheres of life. There are no countries in the world where you will not find expatriate Malayalees. S.K Pottekkadu, the best travel writer the State has produced in the last 150 years has written articulately about the Keralites whom he met in South Africa and Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) even in the days when there were no diplomatic ties between India and these countries. The modern-day reality of Kerala is entirely different and far from



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

what is projected by the CPI(M). Malayalees are leaving en masse from Kerala to Europe, Australia, the USA, Canada, Latin America, Africa and of course the West Asian countries in search of livelihood and for higher studies. There are no major industries worth their names in the State other than some public sector companies like FACT, Cochin Refineries and Cochin Shipyard. Industrialists and entrepreneurs have translo-

cated their enterprises to neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The claim by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his minister of health Veena George that the State is a role model in health care and well-being for the rest of the country and the world is a great joke. The chief minister boards the first available flight to the USA whenever he is afflicted with the common cold. Recently, a four-year-old girl was admitted to Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode for the removal of her sixth finger. However, the doctor who performed the surgery operated on her tongue while leaving the finger untouched. Though her parents alerted the hospi-

tal authorities, the initial reaction was denial of the faux pas by the latter. Remember, the Kozhikode Medical College and Hospital is a most sought-after institution by prospective medical students! This is not an isolated incident as such things happen quite regularly in the State's government hospitals. The doctors have their justification for such mistakes. Most of them say they are overworked and underpaid. When they work under pressure, such errors are bound to happen, claim the doctors! The aim of this column is not to embarrass the doctors or their minister of health who was a mere news reader in one of the many TV news channels that have mushroomed in the State over the last two decades.

The recent controversy about sorcerers digging out (or mining?) copper plates, miniature artefacts and bones of some birds like hens or ducks from the residence and office of K Sudhakaran MP who is president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee is an issue that shows the large scale obscurantism prevailing among the descendants of Jawaharlal Nehru, the wholesale dealer of scientific temper. According to sources close to Sudhakaran, the sorcery was the handiwork of people in the party itself who wanted to see the KPCC chief remain in bed for the rest of his life. There are black magicians across Kerala who have the "expertise" to neutralize one's enemies or help you to become a minister or even chief min-

ister! This is not an exaggerated statement as this writer himself has spoken to a sorcerer who was into this kind of business for decades. When Oommen Chandi was the chief minister (2011-2016), there was this Congress leader who felt left out during the formation of the UDF Government. When his efforts to become a minister failed, he approached a sorcerer from Malabar who offered the former to make him a minister and that too with a plum portfolio by performing puja. The sorcerer said that witchcraft had to be done and it would cost the politician Rs 12 lakh and the latter accepted the proposal with glee. The magician rang up this writer and said that the puja would begin the next morning

and the politician would become the minister in three months. Presto, in three months, the politician was sworn in as a minister with a coveted portfolio! The story did not end there. The sorcerer was not paid the promised money and he had to warn the politician that he had the know-how to get the minister dismissed from the government. Last heard, the politician (nay, minister) hushed up the issue by paying half the amount he had agreed to pay earlier. Politicians cheating the electorate is quite common but hoodwinking even wizards and warlocks is new information. Sorcery and black magic are not confined to Kerala. They are a global phenomenon with even our Dravidian politi-

cians who swear by rationalism seeking guidance from astrologers, wizards and sorcerers for survival. Some of the countries that played in the World Cup football championship in the 1970s and 1980s used to have an official sorcerer for the team. His mission is to perform witchcraft near the rival team's goalposts to ensure that the ball enters the post without failure! If you feel that sorcery is restricted to politics, business and sports, you are mistaken, Sir. There are many instances of it being used by scientific researchers in the US and Russia. Wait for another occasion.

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

# Nikky Haley 'strongly endorses' Trump

PTI ■ MILWAUKEE

Indian-American Republican leader Nikky Haley has endorsed her former boss Donald Trump as the party's candidate for the presidential election, delivering the message of unity after their bitter rivalry during the primaries.

Haley, 52, unsuccessfully challenged Trump for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination and spent months sparring with the former president. But last week, she instructed her 97 delegates to vote for Trump at the convention as she called for unity in the party.

"I'll start by making one thing perfectly clear: Donald Trump has my strong endorsement, period," Haley said Tuesday as she addressed the Republican National Convention here during which the party will nominate Trump as its presidential candidate.

Haley, who was the only Republican leader to have seriously challenged Trump during the bruising campaign primaries, told thousands of delegates and party leaders that Trump is the best bet for the country and that the Republicans are united to defeat incumbent President Joe Biden.

"Let us join together as a party. Let us come together as a people — as one country — strong and proud. Let us show our children and the world that



even on our worst day, we are blessed to live in America," said the former South Carolina governor and the US Ambassador to the United Nations.

As Trump, 78, watched on from the convention centre's VIP suite, Haley used her speech to defend the former president's foreign policy record and speak directly to voters who disagree with him on certain issues.

"There are some Americans who don't agree with Donald Trump 100% of the time," she said. "My message to them is simple: You don't have to agree with Trump 100% of the time to vote for him."

"Our country is at a critical moment. We have a choice to make. For more than a year, I said a vote for Joe Biden is a vote for President Kamala Harris. After seeing the debate, everyone knows it's true," Haley

indoctrinated to think our country is racist and evil. The Jewish community is facing an obscene rise in antisemitism. Too many minorities are trapped in communities devastated by crime," she said.

She said no president can fix all problems alone.

"We have to do this together. America has an amazing ability to self-correct. At this moment, we have a chance to put aside our differences and focus on what unites us and strengthens our country," Haley said.

"We must not only be a unified party. We must also expand our party. We are so much better when we are bigger. We are stronger when we welcome people into our party who have different backgrounds and experiences. And right now, we need to be strong, to save America. This is a defining moment, not only for our party but for our country," said the popular Indian-American leader.

Haley said under Donald Trump, the US didn't have the border disaster being faced today.

"And we won't when he is president again," she said. "Under Joe Biden, migrants are coming into our country by the thousands every day. We have no idea who they are, where they end up, or what they plan to do," she said.

Biden, she alleged, lifted the sanctions on Iran.

## Iran rejects accusations

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran has rejected accusations regarding plots to assassinate former US President Donald Trump, while citing legal action for the 2020 assassination of a revered general by US drone, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Wednesday.

IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani as saying Iran "strongly rejects any involvement in the recent armed attack on Trump or claims about Iran's intention for such an action."

Kanaani added, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to pursue legal action against Trump for his direct role in the crime of assassinating Martyr General Qassem Soleimani." Soleimani was the commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force and was killed in a U.S. drone attack in Baghdad in January 2020.

A threat on Trump's life from Iran prompted additional security in the days before Saturday's campaign rally, but it was unrelated to the assassination attempt on the Republican presidential nominee, two US officials said Tuesday.

# Traces of cyanide in blood of 6 dead Bangkok hotel guests

AP ■ BANGKOK

Doctors who performed autopsies on the six Bangkok hotel guests who died mysteriously confirmed Wednesday that they had traces of cyanide in their blood.

Dr. Kornkiat Vongpaisarnsin, head of the forensic medicine department at Chulalongkorn University's medical school, said at a news conference that a CAT scan showed no signs of blunt force trauma on the dead, reinforcing the hypothesis that they had been poisoned.

Police found traces of cyanide in the cups of six Vietnamese and American guests at a central Bangkok luxury hotel and one of them is believed to have poisoned the others over a bad investment, Thai authorities said Wednesday.

The bodies were found Tuesday in the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, a landmark at a central intersection in the capital busy with malls, government buildings and public transit.

The six had last been seen alive when food was delivered to the room Monday afternoon. The staff saw one woman receive the food, and security footage showed the rest arriving one by one shortly after. There were no other visitors, no one was seen leaving and the door was locked. A maid found them Tuesday afternoon when they failed to check out of the room.

Lt. Gen. Trairong Piwpan, chief of the Thai police force's forensic division, said there were traces of cyanide in the cups and thermoses that police found in the room, but initial results of an autopsy were expected later Wednesday.

Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen. Thiti Sangsawang identified the dead as two Vietnamese Americans and four Vietnamese nationals, and said they were three men and three women. Their ages ranged from 37 to 56, according to Noppasin Punsawat, Bangkok deputy police chief. He said the case appeared to be personal and would not impact the safety of tourists.

A husband and wife among the dead had invested money with two of the others, suggesting that money could be a motive, said Noppasin, citing information obtained from relatives of the victims. The investment was meant to build a hospital in Japan and the group might have been meeting to settle the matter. Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen. Thiti Sangsawang said Tuesday that four bodies were in the living room and two in the bedroom. He said two of them appeared to try to reach for the door but collapsed before they could.

Noppasin said Wednesday that a seventh person whose name was part of the hotel booking was a sibling of one of the six and left Thailand on July 10. Police believe the seventh person had no involvement in the deaths.

The Vietnamese and United States embassies have been contacted over the deaths, and the American FBI was en route, Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin said.

He said the case would likely not affect a conference with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsiviliev at the hotel later Wednesday. "This wasn't an act of terrorism or a breach in security. Everything is fine," he said.

Trairong said a mass suicide was unlikely because some of the victims had arranged future parts of their trip, such as guides and drivers. He added that the bodies being in different parts of the hotel room suggested they did not knowingly consume poison and wait for their deaths together.

US State Dept. spokesman Matthew Miller in Washington offered condolences to the families of the victims. He said the US is closely monitoring the situation and would communicate with local authorities.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with his Thai counterpart on Tuesday, but Miller said he thought that call happened before the deaths were reported and he didn't know if it came up in their conversation.

# Won't stop telling the truth about Trump: Biden

AP ■ DUBAI

President Joe Biden returned to the campaign trail Tuesday for the first time since the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, continuing his call to calm the divisive rhetoric on both sides, but also arguing that doing so "doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth" as he tore into his Republican rival.

Addressing the NAACP convention in Las Vegas, Biden said addressing political violence in the country should mean curbing all kinds of bloodshed — including better combating police brutality and banning weapons like the AR-style rifle used in the weekend attack on Trump.

"It's time for an important conversation in this country. Our politics have become too heated," Biden said.

That didn't stop him from list-

ing why Trump's administration was "hell" for Black Americans, including the former president's mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic, skyrocketing unemployment amid early lockdowns and attempts to, as Biden put it, erase Black history.

"Just because we must lower the temperature in our politics as it relates to violence doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth," Biden told the crowd that often broke into chants of "Four more years!"

The president is aiming to showcase his administration's support for Black voters who are a tentpole of the Democratic coalition and of his personal political support. As part of his swing in Nevada, he'll also participate in an interview with BET and address the Hispanic advocacy group UnidosUS, another crucial Democratic-leaning bloc.

For the NAACP crowd, Biden



seized on Trump recently referencing "Black jobs," drawing big applause by joking, "I love the phrase."

"I know what a Black job is. It's the vice president of the United States," Biden said of Vice President Kamala Harris, who he added "could be president." He also referenced Barack Obama as the nation's first Black president, and his own appointment to the Supreme Court of its first Black and

female justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Biden's trip comes as Democrats have been engaged in a weeks-long crisis of confidence over his candidacy after his devastating debate with Trump last month. The president's shaky performance inflamed voter concerns about his age, fitness for office and capacity to defeat Trump once again.

Republicans, for their part, are demonstrating that they are more coalesced than ever around Trump amid their national convention in Milwaukee.

The 81-year-old Biden has rejected a flurry of calls from within his party to step aside, restating his belief that he is the best-positioned Democrat to beat Trump. He has relied heavily on his support among Black and Latino elected officials, and was set to appear with many of them in Nevada.

The president made indirect reference to unrest in his own party on Tuesday, recalling President Harry S Truman famously saying, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

"After the last couple of weeks, I know what he means," Biden said. He said later, "hopefully, with age, comes a little bit of wisdom."

Biden also promised that in the first 100 days of a second term he would oversee congressional approval of a dramatic expansion of voting rights — something he's been unable to do as president so far. He also renewed earlier promises to "end medical debt," saying he was working with states to settle outstanding bills for care for "pennies on the dollar."

"I know the good Lord hasn't brought us this far to leave us now," Biden told the convention, offering overtly religious tones.

# Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels strike ships in Red Sea

AP ■ DUBAI

Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted ships in the Red Sea on Monday as a new US aircraft carrier approached the region to provide security for the key international trade route that has been under assault since the Israel-Hamas war erupted nine months ago.

Three small Houthi vessels, two of which were crewed and another uncrewed, attacked the Panama-flagged and Israeli-owned MT Bently I off the coast of Al Hudaydah, Yemen, according to British and American authorities.

The reported unmanned small craft collided with the vessel twice and the 2 manned small craft fired at the vessel, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade

Operations centre reported. "The vessel conducted self-protection measures, after 15 minutes the small craft aborted the attack."

The captain later reported three separate waves of missile attacks that exploded in close proximity to the vessel.

Later on Monday, in a separate incident off the same coast, the MT Chios Lion, a Liberian-flagged and Marshall Islands-owned oil tanker, was attacked by an uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicle, which "impacted on the port side causing some damage and light smoke," the UKMTO said.

Both ships and all crew were reported safe, the UKMTO said in a warning to mariners. Late Monday, the Houthis claimed responsibility for the attacks on Bently I and Chios Lion.

Early Tuesday, the US Central Command confirmed the attacks and identified the names and flags of the ship.

"This continued reckless behaviour by the Iranian-backed Houthis threatens regional stability and endangers the lives of mariners across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden," a Central Command statement said.

"The Houthis claim to be acting on behalf of Palestinians in Gaza and yet they are targeting and threatening the lives of third country nationals who have nothing to do with the conflict in Gaza."

Also on Monday, the Central Command said US forces destroyed five uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicles, three over the Red Sea and two in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

# Israel's military will begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men on Sunday

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military on Tuesday said it would begin sending draft notices to Jewish ultra-Orthodox men on Sunday — a step that could destabilise Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

The announcement followed a landmark Supreme Court order for young religious men to begin enlisting for military service. Under long-standing political arrangements, ultra-Orthodox men had been exempt from the draft, which is compulsory for most Jewish men.

The exemptions created resentment among the general public in Israel, especially

after more than nine months of war against Hamas militants in Gaza. The army summons is the beginning of a months-long enlistment process that could be difficult to enforce if there is large-scale refusal to comply. The army did not say when it expects ultra-Orthodox men to begin serving or how many it expects to enlist.

The court ruled that the system of exemptions, which allow religious men to study in Jewish seminaries while others are forced to serve in the army, was discriminatory. Ultra-Orthodox leaders say religious study is equally important for the country's future and that their generations-old way of life will be

threatened if their followers serve in the army. Netanyahu's government relies on the support of ultra-Orthodox parties that oppose changes to the system. Religious leaders have not said what steps they will take. If they leave the ruling coalition, the government would likely topple and the country would be plunged into early elections two years ahead of schedule. Past attempts to enlist ultra-Orthodox men have triggered mass protests in ultra-Orthodox communities. Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox men blocked a main highway in central Israel for several hours on Tuesday in the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv. Police on horse-

back pushed the crowd back, and officers dragged protesters away. Police said nine people were arrested.

"The army is not an army for fighting. It's an army with indoctrination" against religion, said Yona Kay, a protester. "Therefore our children, our boys — and I have a son over here — will not go to the army, not for one minute."

On Monday night, dozens of ultra-Orthodox surrounded the cars of senior military commanders who were meeting with local rabbis in Bnei Brak to discuss an ultra-Orthodox unit in the army. The crowd threatened the officers, calling them "murderers" and throwing bottles, according to Israeli media.

# Not enough info on Covid-19 vaccine deals shared with public: EU court

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Commission did not allow the public enough access to information about COVID-19 vaccine purchase agreements it secured with pharmaceutical companies during the pandemic, the EU general court said Wednesday.

The decision came a day ahead of a vote at the European Parliament at which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is seeking reelection.

A group of EU lawmakers had taken legal action after the Commission refused to grant them complete access to COVID-19 vaccine contracts secured between the EU's executive arm and manufacturers. The pandemic shed light on the

issue of transparency surrounding the negotiations for vaccines between the EU and big pharmaceutical groups. The EU Commission was mandated by member countries to organize the joint procurement of vaccines during the pandemic and led negotiations with manufacturers.

According to the court, the procurement of vaccines on behalf of all 27 member states allowed the bloc to quickly gather 2.7 billion euros (\$2.95 billion) to place an order for more than a billion doses of vaccines.

In 2021, some members of the European Parliament asked for the full details of the agreements, but the Commission only agreed to provide partial access to certain contracts and documents, which were placed online in redacted versions. It also refused to say how much it paid for the billions of doses it secured, arguing that contracts were protected for confidentiality reasons.

In a statement, the court said that "the Commission did not take sufficient account of all the relevant circumstances in order to weigh up correctly the interests at issue."

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# Post violence, Bangladesh asks all universities to close down

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Authorities in Bangladesh urged all universities to close on Wednesday, after at least six people died in violent protests over the allocation of government jobs.

Some universities quickly moved to comply, but others, including the major university at the center of the violence, were still deciding how to respond.

The University Grants Commission asked all public and private universities to suspend classes and empty their dormitories until further notice, in order to protect students. The country's universities are run autonomously and the request did not have legal force.

Authorities said that at least six people were killed on Tuesday in violence across the country as student protesters clashed with pro-government student activists and with police, and violence was reported around the capital of Dhaka, the southeastern city of Chattogram and the northern city of Rangpur.

On Wednesday, stray protests took place at Dhaka University and elsewhere in the country. Police were deployed on the campus, while paramilitary border forces patrolled the streets in Dhaka and other big cities.

The protests began late last month, demanding an end to a quota that reserves 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans of Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence in 1971, but turned violent on Monday as protesters clashed with counter-protesters and police at Dhaka University, leaving 100 people injured.

# Court voids US Marine's adoption of Afghan orphan

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A Virginia appellate court ruled Tuesday that a US Marine should never have been granted an adoption of an Afghan war orphan and voided the custody order he's relied on to raise the girl for nearly three years. The decision marked a major turning point in a bitter custody battle that has international ramifications far greater than the fate of one child.

The appeals court decision dealt a significant blow in Marine Maj. Joshua Mast's years-long legal quest to keep the child, who was orphaned on the battlefield in Afghanistan in 2019.

Mast and his wife, Stephanie, convinced the courts in his hometown, rural Fluvanna County, Virginia, to grant him an adoption of the child, even

though she remained in Afghanistan as the government there tracked down her extended family and reunited her with them.

The family fled Afghanistan with thousands of other evacuees when the Taliban took over in the summer of 2021. Once she arrived in the United States, Mast used the Fluvanna County documents to convince federal government officials to take the child from her Afghan relatives and give her to him. She turns five years old this month. The Masts have insisted they are her legal parents and "acted admirably" to save a child in a desperate and dangerous situation. The Afghan family, who challenged Mast's adoption, have not seen her for nearly three years.

The child's fate is still in limbo: The decision by the appellate court Tuesday does not clarify

who should ultimately get to raise the girl, and she remains with the Mast family for now. No government agencies involved would clarify Tuesday what the next steps might entail, or what their role might be in determining where the child should live as the remaining legal fight unfolds.

The Masts could appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court and ask that Tuesday's decision not be enforced through that process.

All the parties involved have been forbidden by the court to speak to the press about this case. Attorneys for the Masts and the Afghan couple did not return phone calls. A lawyer appointed by the court to represent the interests of the child, who is referred to in court records as Baby Doe to protect her identity, also did not respond.



Marine Maj. Joshua Mast

Several legal organisations supporting the Afghan couple said they were encouraged. National Centre for Youth Law senior attorney Becky Wolozin said that by "clearly stating that the Masts have no legal rights over Baby Doe, the Court refused to legitimise

their unlawful actions - actions which have led to profound and unnecessary suffering," Charlottesville Circuit Court Judge Claude Worrell last May vacated Mast's adoption order, which was granted by another judge in 2020, but left in place a custody order that allowed the child to stay with the Masts. A three-judge appellate panel heard arguments in the fall, and issued a 23-page order Tuesday that dissolved Mast's legal guardianship over the girl.

Appellate Judge Daniel E Ortiz wrote in Tuesday's order that Mast's adoption "did not fit into any" of the criteria required by state law. He said the "procedural errors" that led to it were "so outside the scope of the adoption code that the circuit court lacked the power" to sign the adoption. He also acknowledged

that Mast failed to inform the court of key developments, including that the government of Afghanistan never gave up its claim to the girl, that she had been given to Afghan relatives and that a federal court had already rebuffed his efforts to stop that reunification.

How exactly the court justified granting the Marine the adoption in the first place remains shrouded in secrecy. The Associated Press filed in court to get the case unsealed. In January 2023, Worrell granted that request, ordering the case opened to the public. But more than 18 months later, the court continues to keep the entire file hidden despite numerous letters sent by lawyers representing The Associated Press.

The appellate panel directed the circuit court to dismiss all

adoption proceedings and conduct a hearing on the Afghan couple's adoption petition, which is currently pending before the court. The Masts may file their own petition as well, Ortiz wrote.

Retired Circuit Court Judge Richard Moore, who issued the original adoption order, declined to comment on the case. The US government has insisted in court that Mast never had any claim to this child, and that she be returned immediately to her Afghan family. Justice Department lawyers have written that allowing the child to remain with the Marine could have broad consequences for American foreign policy: from threatening international security pacts to endangering troops stationed abroad by feeding Islamic extremist propaganda.

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# Pak delivers strong demarche to Afghanistan over terror attack

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday lodged a strong protest with the Afghan interim government over the deadly terrorist attack this week at a key military cantonment, reiterating its call for "decisive action" against militants hiding in the neighbouring nation. The terror attack on the Bannu Cantonment in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday killed eight soldiers and injured many others. Security forces also killed all 10 terrorists who launched the attack at the major military cantonment. The terrorists' failed attempt to attack the facility forced them to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the cantonment, leading to the collapse of a portion of the wall and damaging the adjoining infrastructure. The Deputy Head of Mission of the Afghan embassy, Sardar Muhammad Shakib, was sum-

moned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to "deliver Pakistan's strong demarche over the deadly terrorist attack", the Foreign Office said in a statement on Wednesday. "The Bannu Cantonment attack is yet another reminder of the serious threat posed by terrorism to regional peace and security," it said. "Pakistan reiterates the call for decisive action against terrorism and remains steadfast in its commitment to combat this menace and to uphold its security against all threats," it said. The Foreign Office said the terrorist attack was carried out by the Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group based in Afghanistan, which, along with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of civilians and law enforcement officials in multiple terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. It urged the interim Afghan government to fully investigate and take immediate, robust

and effective action against the perpetrators of the Bannu attack and prevent the recurrence of such attacks against Pakistan using the territory of Afghanistan. The Foreign Office said such incidents also go against the spirit of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. It also reiterated serious concerns over the presence of terrorist outfits inside Afghanistan that continue to threaten Pakistan's security. Pakistan has consistently raised its concerns with the interim Afghan government, asking them to deny the persistent use of Afghan soil by the terrorists and take effective action against such elements. But so far, little has been done as Kabul rejects the presence of terrorists on its soil. Pakistan has witnessed an increase in terrorist activities over the past year, particularly in regions like Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan,

following the cessation of a ceasefire between the government and the banned TTP militant group in November 2022. Last week, Islamabad reiterated its stance against engaging in talks with the TTP and called for Kabul's action against terrorists operating from Afghan territory. According to the Centre for Research and Security Studies' annual security report, violence and casualties in Pakistan saw a notable decline in the second quarter of 2024. The report said there was a 12 per cent reduction in overall violence, with 380 fatalities reported compared to 432 in the preceding quarter. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were identified as the epicentres of violence, accounting for over 90 per cent of fatalities and 84 per cent of all attacks involving both terrorist incidents and security force responses.

# Indian killed in attack on Oman mosque

PTI ■ DUBAI/MUSCAT

An Indian national was among six people killed in a rare shooting attack by Islamic State militant group near a Shia Muslim mosque in Oman's capital. The shooting on Monday night near the Imam Ali Mosque also claimed the lives of one policeman and four Pakistan nationals, while injuring 28 others. "Following the shooting incident reported in Muscat city on July 15, Foreign Ministry of Sultanate of Oman has informed that one Indian national has lost his life & another is injured," Embassy of India in Muscat posted on X Tuesday. "Embassy offers its sincere condolences & stands ready to offer all assistance to the families," it said. The three attackers were also killed by security forces during the incident in the al-Wadi al-Kabir area on Monday night, according to a statement. Pakistan said four Pakistanis were among those killed.

# Nepal PM Oli to seek vote of confidence on Sunday

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's newly appointed Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli will take a vote of confidence in Parliament on July 21, as required by the Constitution, a media report quoted the chief whip of his party as saying on Wednesday. The 72-year-old veteran leader was sworn in on Monday as the Himalayan nation's prime minister for the fourth time. Prime Minister Oli decided to take a vote of confidence on Sunday, MyRepublica news portal reported, quoting Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) Chief Whip Mahesh Bertaula. According to Nepal's Constitution, Oli needs to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment, which he is likely to secure easily, as the minimum number to form a government in the 275-strong House of Representatives



(HoR) is just 138. The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as prime minister on Sunday by President Ram Chandra Paudel to lead the coalition government with the Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, apart from other smaller parties. Oli succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who lost the vote of confidence in the HoR last week, leading to the formation of the new government. The CPN-UML Chairman now leads the new coalition govern-

ment that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation. Nepal has faced frequent political turmoil as the country has seen 14 governments in the past 16 years after the introduction of the Republican system. Within hours of Oli's swearing-in, three advocates — Deepak Adhikari, Khagendra Prasad Chhapagain and Shailendra Kumar Gupta — filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of Nepal challenging his appointment arguing that it was unconstitutional and sought its annulment. The advocates argued that the president should call for forming a new government under Article 76 (3) if a government formed as per Article 76 (2) fails the floor test in the House of Representatives. The apex court has set July 21 as the date for a preliminary hearing in the case — the same day Oli will take the floor test in the Parliament.

# UK's new govt announces legislation for 'national renewal'

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's new Labour Party government promised to calm the country's febrile politics and ease its cost-of-living crisis as it set out its plans for "national renewal" at the grand State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday. Stabilising the UK's public finances and spurring economic growth were at the center of Prime Minister Keir Starmer's legislative agenda, announced in a speech delivered by King Charles III. "My government will seek a new partnership with both business and working people and help the country move on from the recent cost of living challenges by prioritising wealth creation for all communities," the king said in a speech to hundreds of lawmakers and scarlet-robed members of the House of Lords. Starmer campaigned on a promise to bring bold change to Britain at modest cost to taxpayers. He aims to be both pro-worker and pro-business, in favour of vast new construction projects and protective of the

environment. The risk is he may end up pleasing no one. In a written introduction to the speech, Starmer urged patience, saying change would require "determined, patient work and serious solutions" rather than easy answers and "the snake oil charm of populism." The King's Speech is the centrepiece of the State Opening, an occasion where royal pomp meets hard-nosed politics, as the king donned a diamond-studded crown, sat on a gilded throne and announced the laws his government intends to pass in the coming year. Labour won a landslide election victory on July 4 as voters turned on the Conservatives after years of high inflation, ethics scandals and a revolving door of prime ministers. Starmer has promised to patch up the country's aging infrastructure and frayed public services, but says he won't raise personal taxes and insists change must be bound by "unbreakable fiscal rules." Wednesday's speech included 40 bills — the Conservatives' last speech had just 21 — ranging from house-

building to nationalising Britain's railways and decarbonizing the nation's power supply with a publicly-owned green energy firm, Great British Energy. The government said it would "get Britain building," setting up a National Wealth Fund and rewriting planning rules that stop new homes and infrastructure being built. Economic measures included tighter rules governing corporations and a law to ensure all government budgets get advance independent scrutiny. That aims to avoid a repetition of the chaos sparked in 2022 by then-Prime Minister Liz Truss, whose package of uncapped tax cuts rocked the British economy and ended her brief term in office. The government promised stronger protections for workers, with a ban on some "zero-hours" contracts and a higher minimum wage for many employees. Also announced were protections for renters against shoddy housing, sudden eviction and landlords who won't let them have a pet. The government promised more



Britain's King Charles wears the Imperial State Crown on the day of the State Opening of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster in London, on Wednesday. AP/PTI

power for local governments and better bus and railway services — keys to the "levelling up" of Britain's London-centric economy that for-

mer Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised but largely failed to deliver. Though Starmer eschewed large-scale nationalization of industries, the government plans to take the delay-plagued train operators into public ownership. The speech said the government "recognises the urgency of the global climate challenge" — a change in tone from the Conservative government's emphasis on oil and gas exploration. As well as increasing renewable energy, it pledged tougher penalties for water companies that dump sewage into rivers, lakes and seas. The speech included new measures to strengthen border security, creating a beefed-up Border Security Command with counter-terrorism powers to tackle people-smuggling gangs. It follows Starmer's decision to scrap the Conservatives' contentious and unrealised plan to send people arriving in the UK across the English Channel on a one-way trip to Rwanda. The speech also tackled an issue that

has foxed previous governments: reforming the House of Lords. The unelected upper chamber of Parliament is packed with almost 800 members — largely lifetime political appointees, with a smattering of judges, bishops and almost 100 hereditary aristocrats. The government said it would remove the hereditary nobles, though there was no mention of Starmer's past proposal of setting a Lords retirement age of 80. There was no mention of lowering the voting age from 18 to 16, though that was one of Labour's election promises. While much of Starmer's agenda marks a break with the defeated Conservative government of former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Starmer revived Sunak's plan to stop future generations from smoking by gradually raising the minimum age for buying tobacco. The speech confirmed that the government wants to "reset the relationship with European partners" roiled by Britain's exit from the European Union in 2020. It said there would be no change to Britain's strong sup-

port for Ukraine and promised to "play a leading role in providing Ukraine with a clear path to NATO membership." Wednesday's address was the second such speech delivered by Charles since the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, in September 2022. He travelled from Buckingham Palace to Parliament in a horse-drawn carriage — past a small group of anti-monarchy protesters with signs reading "Down with the Crown" — before donning ceremonial robes and the Imperial State Crown to deliver his speech. Police said 10 members of an environmental activist group were arrested near Parliament over alleged plans to disrupt the ceremony. For all its royal trappings, it is the King's Speech in name only. The words are written by government officials, and the monarch betrayed no flicker of emotion as he read them out. "The king has zero agency in this," said Jill Rutter, senior research fellow at the Institute for Government think tank.

# Islamic State attacks on track to double in Iraq and Syria: US

AP ■ BAGHDAD

The US Central Command said Wednesday that the Islamic State group is trying "to reconstitute" as the number of attacks in Syria and Iraq is on track to double those of the previous year. IS has claimed 153 attacks in both countries in the first six months of 2024, CENTCOM said in a statement. According to a US defence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn't allowed to speak publicly on the matter, the group was behind 121 attacks in Syria and Iraq in 2023. "The increase in attacks indicates ISIS is attempting to reconstitute following several years of decreased capability," CENTCOM said. The announcement comes just after the 10-year mark since the militant group declared its caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria. At its peak, the group ruled an area half the size

of the United Kingdom where it attempted to enforce its extreme interpretation of Islam, which included attacks on religious minority groups and harsh punishment of Muslims deemed to be apostates. Militants also killed thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority and kidnapped thousands of women and children, many of whom were subjected to sexual abuse and human trafficking. A coalition of more than 80 countries, led by the United States, was formed to fight IS, which lost its hold on the territory it controlled in Iraq and 2017 and in Syria in 2019, although sleeper cells remain in both countries and abroad. Iraqi officials say that they can keep the IS threat under control with their own forces and have entered into talks with the US aimed at winding down the mission of the US-led military coalition in Iraq. The talks come at a time of increased domestic tensions

over the US military presence. From October to February, an umbrella group of Iran-backed militias calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq launched regular drone attacks on bases housing US troops in Iraq and Syria, which they said was in retaliation for Washington's support of Israel in the ongoing war in Gaza and were aimed at forcing U.S. forces to withdraw from Iraq. Those attacks largely halted after three U.S. soldiers were killed in a strike on a base in Jordan, near the Syrian border in late January, prompting US retaliatory strikes in Iraq. On Tuesday, two Iraqi militia officials said they had launched a new drone attack targeting the Ain al-Asad air base in Iraq. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly. It was unclear whether the attack had hit its target. US officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

# Floods could sweep N Korean landmines across border, warns South Korea

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean landmines could be swept into South Korea by flooding, South Korea's military warned Wednesday, after the North has recently placed tens of thousands of additional deadly explosives along the rivals' heavily fortified border. North Korea's minelaying is part of construction at the border that's been going on since April, which also includes adding anti-tank barriers and reinforcing roads. South Korea officials believe North Korea aims to boost its frontline security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff told local reporters that flooding caused by summer rainfall could wash the mines over the border, adding that North Korea might also deliberately float mines downriver as a provocation. The contents of the briefing

were shared with The Associated Press. Concerns about possible North Korean provocation have deepened after Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, threatened new countermeasures Tuesday against South Korean civilian activists' efforts to drop leaflets over the north by balloon. North Korea has earlier responded by flying trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea, which have not caused major damage. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that North Korea's military has suffered "many casualties" from about 10 mine explosions and heat exposure during the intense border works. An estimated 2 million mines are believed to be strewn in and around the Koreas' 248 kilometer (154 miles)-long and 4 kilometers (2.5 miles)-wide land border. Experts say both Koreas have poorly managed their mines and don't know exactly

how many they have planted or where they are. It's not unusual for wooden North Korean mine boxes to wash downriver in summer, causing deadly incidents in South Korea. A 2015 mine explosion blamed on North Korea maimed two South Korean soldiers and pushed the rivals to the brink of an armed conflict. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it's also looking at other possible provocations by North Korea, such as firing across the border at incoming South Korean balloons. It said the South Korean military is strengthening its readiness to repel any potential aggression by North Korea. North Korea is extremely sensitive to South Korean activists' efforts to scatter anti-Pyongyang leaflets, seeing them as a threat its political system and a challenge to its ban on access to foreign news for most of its 26 million people, experts say.

# Russia, Ukraine swap 95 prisoners of war each

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine and Russia exchanged 95 prisoners of war each, officials in both countries said Wednesday, three weeks after their last swap and as part of what have been occasional agreements to send captured troops home. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the Russian Defence Ministry reported the exchange. The POW swap was the 54th since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022. Officials from the warring countries meet only when they swap their dead and POWs, after lengthy preparation and diplomacy. Neither Ukraine nor Russia discloses how many POWs there are in total. Zelensky said in a post on the Telegram messaging service that the United Arab Emirates had again brokered the agreements. The UAE has said it maintains friendly relations

with both Moscow and Kyiv. Zelensky posted photos of mostly gaunt servicemen with shaven heads and wrapped in Ukrainian flags standing in what appeared to be an open area of countryside. "No matter how difficult it may be, we are looking for everyone who may be in captivity. We have to return everyone," Zelensky wrote in the post. Among the released Ukrainians were some who had spent more than two years in captivity. They were captured in Mariupol, during Russia's early offensive in the Kyiv region and battles in the eastern Luhansk region, the country's Coordination Headquarters for POWs said. It said just over 3,400 people, both civilians and military, have returned from Russian captivity since the outbreak of the war. The Russian Defence Ministry said the freed Russian soldiers will be flown to Moscow for medical treatment and rehabilitation.

# Kin of those killed in MH17 tragedy mark 10th anniversary

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Relatives of passengers killed when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over Ukraine gathered with officials at Australia's Parliament House on Wednesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the tragedy that claimed 298 lives. One of those relatives, Paul Guard, mostly blames the conflict raging in eastern Ukraine a decade ago for the missile attack that killed 38 Australian citizens and permanent residents including his parents, Toowoomba doctors Roger and Jill Guard. "I don't think anyone intended to bring down a passenger plane. So in that sense, I'm heartbroken that the conflict continues," Paul Guard told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "But I think that a lot of families would really have just liked an acknowledgement that what

happened was wrong and that Russia should not have been waging war," the son added. The conflict has since escalated into a full-scale war with Russia's invasion of its smaller neighbour in February 2022. The pro-Russian rebel-held border region from where a Soviet-era Buk surface-to-air missile was fatefully launched and the fields where much of the debris landed after the Boeing 777 disintegrated is now territory controlled by the Russian military. Moscow has repeatedly denied responsibility for MH17's destruction and refused to hand over two Russians and a Ukrainian convicted by a Dutch court in absentia in 2022 of murder. Russia continues to be pursued under international law by the Netherlands through in the European Court of Human Rights and by Australia and the Netherlands jointly through

the International Civil Aviation Organization Council, or ICAO, over its alleged role in bringing down MH17. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told Wednesday's service she was "appalled" that Russia had withdrawn from the ICAO proceedings in June. "The case will continue and we will not be deterred in our commitment to hold Russia to account," Wong told the gathering that included foreign diplomats. "Today, on behalf of the Australian government, I recommit again to our collective pursuit of truth, justice and accountability for the outrages perpetrated on 17th July, 2014," she added. A commemoration is also planned in the Netherlands later Wednesday at a monument near Schiphol Airport, from where MH17 left on its way to the Malaysian city of

Kuala Lumpur. Australian Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus will represent Australia at that monument, where 298 trees were planted to commemorate each victim and sunflowers like those that grew at the crash site. He expected the Netherlands-Australia case against Russia would be back before the ICAO in October despite Moscow's withdrawal. "We won't let this go until we've brought Russia to account," Dreyfus said. The Netherlands was home to 196 victims. As well as Australia, victims also came from Malaysia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, the Philippines, Canada, New Zealand, Vietnam, Israel, Italy, Romania, the United States and South Africa. An international investigation initiated in the UN Security Council by the Netherlands,

Malaysia and Australia concluded that the Buk missile system that destroyed MH17 belonged to the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade. The investigation concluded the missile was driven into Ukraine from a Russian military base near the city of Kursk and returned there after the plane was shot down. Tony Abbott was Australia's prime minister when MH17 was shot down. Abbott recalled on Wednesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin became physically aggressive when the Australian raised MH17 and the Ukraine conflict on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit in Beijing in 2014. Putin said through an interpreter that Ukrainians were all fascists, had brought down MH17 themselves and that Ukraine had no right to exist,

Abbott said. "Then as we were going back into the conference — and this was really quite an extraordinary thing — he suddenly turned, grabbed the elbows and tried to shake me and then pushed me away. And he said in English, where he's quite fluent: Look, you are not a native Australian but I am a native Russian," and pushed me away," Abbott told ABC. "I think what he was trying to say to me in his own rather blunt and brutal way was that how could I as a citizen of a settler society understand the blood and soil and mystical attachment that he had to every last inch of Mother Russia?" Abbott said. "So it was pretty obvious to me right back then what he was on about. I just think it's a pity that more wasn't done to arm up the Ukrainians in the meantime," Abbott added.

# Setback for TikTok

London (AP) TikTok owner ByteDance can't avoid the bloc's crackdown on digital giants, a European Union court said Wednesday in a decision that found the video sharing platform falls under a new law that also covers Apple, Google and Microsoft. The EU's General Court rejected ByteDance's legal challenge against being classed as an online "gatekeeper" that has to comply with extra obligations under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act. The rulebook, also known as the DMA, took effect this year and seeks to counter the dominance of Big Tech companies and make online competition fairer by giving consumers more choice.

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**Tender Enquiry No. 1685/EMC/O&M/PC-2563 Dated: 16-07-2024**  
Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Lighting Spares (Year 2024-2025).  
Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to https://eprocc.punjab.gov.in from 16-07-2024 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.  
**Note:** Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eprocc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-57/24  
76155/12/3123/2023/35762 Dated CHD - 7/17/2024

# ADB retains India's growth forecast at 7% for FY'25

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday maintained India's GDP growth forecast at 7 per cent for the current financial year, citing that a rebound in agriculture is expected given above-normal monsoon projections. The ADB forecast comes a day after the International Monetary Fund revised upward its GDP growth projections for India to 7 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent projected in April. Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised upward its growth forecast to 7.2 per cent, from 7 per cent estimated earlier. The Indian economy is on track to grow by 7 per cent in FY2024 (ending 31 March 2025) and 7.2 per cent in FY2025 (next financial year), as projected in ADO April 2024, said the July edition of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO). The Indian economy logged a growth rate of 8.2 per cent for the financial year ended March 2024, as against 7 per cent in the previous fiscal



Services continued to expand robustly in Q4 of FY24, and the forward-looking services PMI is well above its long-term average, it said, adding, industry is also expected to grow robustly, driven by manufacturing and strong demand for construction led by housing, it said. "After muted growth in FY2023 (previous fiscal), a rebound in agriculture is expected given the above-normal monsoon projections. This is notwithstanding the slower advance of monsoon in June. A rebound in agriculture will be important to sustain growth momentum

weather events and geopolitical shocks. With regard to inflation, ADO has also retained its forecast at 4.6 per cent for the current financial year and expects it to marginally decline to 4.5 per cent next fiscal. With regard to developing Asia's growth forecast, ADO said, it is revised up to 5 per cent in 2024 and maintained at 4.9 per cent in 2025. Growth projections remain broadly unchanged with respect to ADO April 2024, it said, adding, resilient domestic demand along with improved exports and manufacturing will support growth this year. The region's 2024 growth forecast has been marginally adjusted up by 0.1 percentage points due to upward revisions in the Caucasus and Central Asia along with East Asia, it said. Meanwhile, the inflation forecast for the region has fallen to 2.9 per cent in 2024, largely due to downward revisions in China and the Caucasus and Central Asia, which offset a slight increase in South Asia, it said.

# Corporate funding in solar sector globally dips: Mercom

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Total corporate funding in the solar sector globally fell by 10 per cent to USD 16.6 billion in January-June 2024 due to uncertainties in major markets including the US, according to Mercom Capital. In the first half of 2023, the global solar energy sector attracted USD 18.5 billion of investment, the US-based research firm said in a report. "Total corporate funding, including venture capital/private equity (VC) funding, public market, and debt financing, in 1H 2024 totaled USD 16.6 billion compared to USD 18.5 billion raised in 1H 2023. The number of deals increased 9 per cent to 87 deals in 1H 2024 compared to 80 during the same period last year," the "Solar Funding and M&A Report" said. "This has happened because of uncertainties in major markets. The financing activity in the solar sector remains restrained despite tailwinds from the Inflation Reduction Act and favourable global policies," said Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group.



Besides, high interest rates, an uncertain rate trajectory and timeline, increasing trade barriers, supply chain challenges, concerns about the US presidential election's impact on the sector, and constantly evolving trade policies have created an unpredictable and uncertain climate. This has slowed down development, investments, and decision-making, he added. In the first half of 2024, the global VC funding activity decreased 29 per cent with USD 2.7 billion raised in 29 deals compared to USD 3.8 billion from 33 deals in the first half of 2023. In India, independent power producer AMPIN Energy

Transition secured funding of up to USD 35 million from responsAbility. While Ecozen and SolarSquare raised USD 30 million and 4.2 million in funding rounds to accelerate expansion and meet working capital needs. The global debt financing activity in the first half of 2024 reached USD 12.2 billion in 50 deals, a 53 per cent increase compared to 1H 2023 when USD 8 billion was raised in 33 deals. In this space, Jakson Green in India obtained a sustainable trade facility of USD 7.1 million from HSBC India and Husk Power Systems secured a USD 4 million investment in debt financing from Electrifi.

# Cabinet to soon decide on IPEF's clean, fair economy agreements

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet will soon take a decision on the commerce ministry's proposal to seek approval for signing of 14-member IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) bloc's agreements on clean and fair economy, an official said. Last month in Singapore, 13 IPEF bloc members signed these agreements, while India stated that it would ink the deals after getting domestic approval. The official said the commerce ministry has sent both pacts to the cabinet secretariat and soon the cabinet will take it up for approval. Agreement on a clean economy intends to accelerate efforts of IPEF partners' towards energy security and transition, climate resilience and adaptation, GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions mitigation; find/develop innovative ways of reducing dependence on fossil fuel energy; promote technical cooperation, workforce development, capacity building, and research collaborations.

# Exposure to India's infra sector helps LIC, SBI outshine peers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shares of state-owned behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) have outperformed rivals like HDFC Life and ICICI Prudential Life as it placed bets on India's growth sectors, including infrastructure, while the private sector concentrated bet on tech, consumer and consumer-related BFSI companies. LIC's stock has gained nearly 79 per cent from Rs 620 on June 18, 2023, to Rs 1,109.15 at the closing on Tuesday, according to stock exchange data. In contrast, HDFC Life gave a negative return, as Tuesday's closing price of Rs 646.55 on the BSE is compared to Rs 666.55 a year back. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co delivered a return of 12 per cent, considering its stock price rise from Rs 582 on June 18, 2023, to Rs 654.10 on June 16, 2024. Over the past one year, SBI



Life Insurance shares have risen from Rs 1,314 to Rs 1,621.20, delivering a return of 23 per cent. Capital market analysts said insurance companies make money in two ways - charging premiums for policies and then investing the premiums into assets. It is the latter that generates the bigger delta in profits, thus impacting value creation and managing risks. Global majors, including Warren Buffet-owned Berkshire Hathaway, have been successful due to their ability to make superior investments. Most Indian insurance companies are yet to

capitalise on the emergence of the country's infrastructure sector, analysts said. Indian insurance companies have concentrated investments in the BFSI, IT, and consumer sectors - all of which have been underperformers in the recent past. Only 8-10 per cent of their investments are in the infrastructure sector. This is far less when compared to global standards. Large global insurance companies -- such as Allianz, Nippon Life Insurance, and MetLife, and other insurers like Berkshire Hathaway -- have much larger exposure ranging from 15 to 30 per

cent to the infrastructure sector, analysts noted. Over the past few years, global insurers have been increasingly considering infrastructure investments as 'core' investments as the stable and long-term cash flows of infrastructure assets naturally align with the liabilities of insurers. Additionally, infrastructure assets have defensive characteristics of high barriers to entry, strong pricing power, structural growth, and predictive cash flows, and listed infrastructure can provide investors with inflation-protected income and solid capital growth. For India, a strong government focus on the sector with large spending, supporting initiatives and encouraging policies, and improving governance, the infrastructure industry has come off-age. This has helped the infra sector to outperform all other sectors, according to analysts. They said the high focus on retail loans, and the strategic reluctance to look at infrastructure for growth opportunities is proving detrimental for the shareholders of such companies. SBI, with its higher exposure to the infrastructure sector, has seen its stock gain 48 per cent in the year (from Rs 592 to Rs 880.95 on Tuesday), while those of its private counterparts HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have gained only in the range of (-) 3 per cent to 24 per cent. Kotak and HDFC Banks with negligible exposure to the infrastructure sector are the worst performing, with their shares giving a negative return, stock exchange data showed. Kotak Mahindra Bank shares were at Rs 1,895 on June 18, 2023, and closed at Rs 1,805.20 on Tuesday. HDFC Bank closed at Rs 1,619.20 on BSE on Tuesday, down from Rs 1,679 a year back.

# Alphacorp to invest ₹350 cr to develop luxury housing project in Gurugram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Alphacorp will invest Rs 350 crore to develop a luxury housing project in Gurugram as part of its expansion plan amid strong consumer demand. Without divulging the name of the partner, Alphacorp said it has tied up with an entity that owns two land parcels of nearly 2.4 acre each, located in Sector 15, Part 2, Gurugram. "We will develop a total of 200 apartments on these two land parcels," said Santosh Agarwal, Executive Director and CFO of Alphacorp. On one parcel of 2.38 acre, the company has launched luxury high-rise project 'Alphacorp SKY1' comprising 100 units. The price is Rs 5 crore per unit. The project on the second plot will also be launched in the next 2-3 months. When asked about the project cost, Agarwal said the total



investment is estimated at Rs 350 crore excluding land cost. He said the investment will be funded through internal accruals and bank loans, if necessary. "Gurugram, regarded as the Millennium City, exemplifies rapid infrastructure growth and dynamic urban development. This bustling hub attracts a diverse range of residents, businesses, and investors," Agarwal said. The demand for luxury housing has been very strong in Gurugram in the past two years, he said. Since its inception, Alphacorp has developed integrated townships, luxurious condominiums, corporate hubs, retail centers, and industrial parks across the National Capital Region (NCR), Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat. Agarwal said the company has developed around 12 projects so far while six projects are being constructed.

# Sebi's proposal on new asset class for high risk takers looks promising: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi's proposal for introducing a new asset class for high-risk profile investors can help them gain access to a newer set of strategies including long-short equity fund and inverse Exchange-traded Fund (ETF). The new asset class is aimed at bridging the gap between mutual funds and Portfolio Management Services (PMS) in terms of flexibility in portfolio construction. The Sebi's consultation paper floated on Tuesday on 'new asset class' and creating a structure for differentiated, higher risk strategies looks very promising, Radhika Gupta, MD and CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund said. "India is finally opening up to different investment products, styles and approaches. Passive, factor, inverse ETFs, alts and more. There is no single way to invest," she added. In its consultation paper, the regulator said the new asset class will provide a regulated product with features like SIP (Systematic Investment Plan), higher risk-taking capability, and a higher ticket size, to meet the needs of the emerging category of investors. The regulator suggested a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh for the new asset class, which could be permitted to invest in derivatives for purposes beyond just hedging and rebalancing. This higher threshold will deter retail investors from investing in this product, while attracting investors, with investible funds between



Rs 10 lakh and Rs 50 lakh, who are being drawn to unauthorised and unregistered portfolio management service providers," the regulator said. "Sebi's consultation paper for introducing new product classes with higher investment minimum than mutual funds and more freedom to invest can help investors gain access to a newer set of strategies like Long-short equities, inverse ETFs, etc which can help them express specific views on the market," Kaustubh Belapurkar, Director - Manager Research of Morningstar Investment Research India, said. Long-short equity fund seeks to deliver returns by taking long and short positions in equity and equity-related instruments. For example, the fund may be bullish on the automobile sector and bearish on the IT sector and may invest in both these sectors by going long on the automobile sector and short on the IT sector. Inverse ETF aims to generate returns that are negatively correlated to the returns of

# Goa targeting new markets for tourism through global trade fairs, says Minister

PTI ■ PANAJI

Goa is looking forward to tap new and emerging markets through participation in global trade fairs after international tourism was affected due to the Russia-Ukraine war and other problems, minister Rohan Khaunte said on Wednesday. During COVID-19, the international footfall in Goa was only 33,000, which has now increased to 4.5 lakh for this particular year (calendar year), Tourism Minister Khaunte said in the state assembly. Responding to a question raised by Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai in the assembly, he said after the COVID-19 pandemic, the perception about tourism in the state is changing, taking it away from beaches. Sardesai said Goa spent Rs 63 crore in the last four years (on various events), including Rs 29.84 crore to promote the state within the country. Former chief minister late Manohar Parrikar had emphasised on the pre-audit of roadshows and that accountability parameters should be framed, he said. Khaunte said after the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism department in 2022 decided to change the perception of Goa "beyond beaches" as earlier the impression about the coastal state was only about its beaches and party life. "We needed to see that quality people come in. Since 2021-22, Goa tourism board headed by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant discussed



about the emerging markets and tapping of new markets," he said. "Problems with the UK market and the Russia war impacted international tourism to a big extent," the minister said, adding the Israel military campaign (in Gaza) also resulted in a dip in the number of tourists from that country. "We had to ensure that we tap the emerging markets like South East Asia, South Asia, the US, UAE and Germany," he said. The state tourism department participated in the WTM (World Travel Mart) London, ITB, Berlin, IITF and other events, Khaunte said. "We are presenting ourselves to the world through these events where players from the emerging markets also come," he said. Earlier, only Goa used to participate in these events but now Ladakh and states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka are attending the international marts, he noted. "During the events, we have serious B2B and B2C trade meetings. The minutes are placed before an empowered committee before we decide the next course of action," he added.

# Govt should rationalise customs duty in Budget to boost domestic manufacturing, says ICC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has suggested the government to rationalise customs duties in various sectors including steel, solar battery, aluminum, and lithium cells in a bid to boost domestic manufacturing. The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for financial year 2024-25 on July 23. ICC President Aameya Prabhu said protective measures are needed for the growth of domestic industry in sectors including steel, solar battery, aluminum, and lithium cells. "There is a need for rationalization of customs duty in these specific sectors in a holistic manner. Huge potential is there to boost domestic manufacturing and make India a global hub for manufacturing," Prabhu said. He added that levies on raw materials impact domestic players particularly the downstream firms. He also asked for correction in inverted duty structure by cutting down duty on mixed petroleum gas from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent. "To boost domestic manufacturing, there is a need to increase duty on polymers - polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene and polyesters to 10 per cent. This will help in reducing import dependency and will drive India towards self-sufficiency in the

petrochemical manufacturing segment," Prabhu said. Talking about the importance of the aluminium foil sector, the President said the domestic industry has been facing severe losses as there is anti-dumping duty on raw materials whereas the finished goods are not subject to any duties on imports from China. "This dual effect has resulted in extensive net losses to the companies that have made significant investments into this industry," Prabhu noted. On the taxation side, the chamber has suggested setting up a commission to review the Income Tax Act 1961 in its entirety and simplify the provisions. "This is an old Act. Every year in the Budget, amendments are made which has made this Act complex to understand. These amendments have resulted in many anomalies which in turn have given rise to a large number of legal cases," the chamber has said. Prabhu further recommended the government not to impose tax on dividends. He added that during his tenure so far the ICC has spread its wings further nationally and internationally and become a truly world-class chamber. "We have opened 25 chapters globally in countries including New Zealand, the US, Europe, Australia, Korea and Middle East nations," he said.

# PwC for extension of beneficial tax regime for new manufacturing firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tax consultancy firm PwC has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to extend the beneficial tax regime for new manufacturing companies and introduce a comprehensive tax amnesty scheme for cases related to Customs. Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for 2024-25 on July 23. "I think the Make in India is the first thing which comes to mind, and you will recall that in 2019, the government introduced a 15 per cent rate for new manufacturing companies, which lapsed on March 31, 2024. "I think that is one extension, which is being expected, and the expectation is also that instead of giving a year-on-year extension if we can look at the block period, say for the next five years because shifting a manufacturing is a big decision and the corporates may take time before making a decision and make it viable, feasible and that's the first bit," said Sandeep Puri, Partner, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP. Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act offers a concessional tax rate of 15 per cent for new domestic manufacturing companies. Initially, this benefit was available for companies set up and registered after October 1, 2019, and commencing production by March 31, 2023, which was later extended to March 31, 2024, to account for delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# IOA chief PT Usha chides WFI ad-hoc panel for exclusion of Antim's coaches in long list

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

IOA President P.T. Usha on Wednesday came down heavily on the ad-hoc panel that managed the suspended WFI, saying the committee did not do due diligence and missed out on giving the names of wrestler Antim Panghal's coaches in the long list, sent to the Paris Olympic Games organisers.

The Indian Olympic Association's reaction came in the wake of delay in visa clearance for Panghal's preferred coaches for the Games.

The 19-year-old Panghal, who trains in Hisar, was the first Indian wrestler to qualify for the Paris Games when she won a bronze at the World Championship in 2023. She wants her coaches Bhagat Singh and Vikas to travel with her along with physiotherapist Heera. The IOA has cleared all



the names but the support staff members attached with Panghal are still awaiting visa clearance.

"Antim won India an Olympic quota as early as in September 2023 by claiming a bronze medal in the World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade. In its wisdom the Ad Hoc Committee, administering wrestling, chose not to include the names of Antim's coach or physiotherapist in the long list of names sent to the Olympic Games Organising Committee," Usha said in a statement.

The wrestlers are supposed to reach Paris on August 3 and the support staff members have got appointment for biometrics for August 2.

IOA had, in December 2023, named its EC member Bhupendra Singh Bajwa as the head of the ad-hoc panel and made MM Somaya and Manjusha Kanwar as the other members.

The IOA President also took an indirect dig at SAI for not being attentive enough.

"It is strange that the responsible authorities, who approved the long list of athletes, coaching and support staff, did not deem it fit to recommend the inclusion of Bhagat Singh or Heera or Vikas.

"It was only after Antim's father came to IOA a few days ago that I stepped in to have them cleared by the Ministry," Usha said.

Meanwhile, an IOA source told PTI that Panghal instead of going to VFS (Visa Facilitation Services), should have approached IOA for intervention.

"If they had come to us, we would have requested the French Embassy and it would have been done easily since the embassy is very supportive. We would have

# Can Indian wrestlers deliver in Paris or medal-winning trend under risk

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Indian wrestlers have delivered a medal every single time at the Olympics since the 2008 Beijing edition. Success in four consecutive editions has enhanced the status of wrestling as a prime Olympic sport in the country. There was success at junior level too.

The sport also produced U23 world champions. It raised hopes of big success in Paris. It was Sushil Kumar who changed the way wrestling was perceived in the country by winning a bronze in 2008. He bettered his medal four years later in the London Games, where he fetched a silver. While Yogeshwar Dutt also won a bronze in the British capital. Sakshi Malik carried forward the trend by bagging a bronze in Rio in 2016 and Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia made it a double delight in the delayed Tokyo Games (2021). However, the sport which was soaring high and was expected to reach even greater heights, was brought down to earth by



(Left to right): AMAN SEHRAWAT (Men's freestyle 50kg); VINESH PHOGAT (Women's 50kg); ANTIM PANGHAL (Women's 53kg); ANSHU MALIK (Women's 57kg); NISHA DAHIYA (Women's 68kg) and REETIKA HOODA (Women's 76kg)

the prolonged protests against then Wrestling Federation of India chief by the country's elite wrestlers.

National camps and domestic competitions came to a halt. Confusion prevailed. No one knew how or when normalcy would return. There were allegations and counter-arguments. WFI elections were held and the national body got suspended but finally when UWW lifted its suspension, things began moving.

Only one male and five female wrestlers qualified for the upcoming edition. There is hope, but doubts too.

PTI takes a look at the strength and weakness of all the six contenders.

**AMAN SEHRAWAT (Men's freestyle 50kg):** With his steady progress, Aman did what was unthinkable: replacing Olympic silver medalist Ravi Dahiya, the most formidable Indian wrestler, in the men's 57kg weight division. Aman's biggest strength is his stamina and endurance. If the bout lasts six minutes, it will be difficult to beat him. However, what is lacking in his game is limited strategy and technique. It was evident when he was pitted against Rei Higuchi in the Ranking Series event in Hungary. He did not seem to have a plan B. At this stage, planing against each rival is key.

His biggest threats are Higuchi and Uzbekistan's Gulomjon Abdullaev.

**VINESH PHOGAT (Women's 50kg):** Without doubt, Vinesh Phogat is one of the best woman wrestlers that India has produced. A solid defence and equally impressive attack are her strengths. However, what could trouble her is lack of quality mat time against top wrestlers in the last year or so.

Lowering the weight class to 50kg means more stress on her body. Cutting the weight cut ahead of the bout is a painful process, it sucks the energy out of the body and hers is an aging body. She is almost 30. Her natural body weight is about 55-56kg. Much would depend on how Vinesh copes with it.

In the recent Grand Prix of Spain, the weight relaxation was 2kg but that won't be the case in Paris.

**ANTIM PANGHAL (Women's 53kg):** The firebrand wrestler from Hisar was first to lock a Paris Olympics quota. She also challenged Vinesh for a trial with her when the protest controversy was at its peak. Her biggest strength is flexibility that allows her to wriggle out of her rivals' grip pretty easily. It's difficult to trap her. She has the spark and fire.

However, she has not competed since the Asian Games. A back injury forced her to miss the Asian Championship this year. The lack of mat time and competitive action could prove to be her bane.

**ANSHU MALIK (Women's 57kg):** Anshu's career graph has not really taken off the way it was expected after her exploits on the junior circuit and the smooth transition to senior events. Injuries have troubled her and she is one of the best bets in Paris for India.

Quick movement on the mat to go with an aggressive game style is Anshu's biggest strength. She also has the experience of competing at the Olympics. She was not ready for the big stage in Tokyo as a teenager but now has a fair idea what is required in such a highly competitive field.

Her fitness, though, is a worrying aspect as she enters the Olympics with a suspected shoulder injury. She claims it's just a neck spasm but she has not been tested.

**NISHA DAHIYA (Women's 68kg):** Away from the limelight, Nisha Dahiya has quietly made her way into Paris Games. She had shown promise early but injuries has halted her ascent. Reported dead wrongly in 2021, Nisha

has managed to surprise quality rivals with her aggressive game style. She is seasoned and her fearless approach is her biggest strength. Not having the exposure of competing at big events consistently is her weakness apart from losing steam in the fifth-sixth minute of the bout.

She tends to pour out everything in the first four minutes of her bouts and if an up-and-down bout lasts the distance, she gives away points easily. Handling nerves on debut will also be key.

**REETIKA HOODA (Women's 76kg):** Reetika has the capability to surprise her rivals. She is not exactly unknown in the circuit but can prove to be a tough nut to crack even for experienced wrestlers due to her explosive strength.

She has power and technique but has the habit to concede points in the last 30 seconds of the bout. Even if she builds a lead, she can end up losing those points. Probably losing focus in the bag end of bouts is her weakness.

# Chelsea begins disciplinary action after Fernandez's involvement in Argentina player chants

**AP ■ LONDON**

Chelsea has begun disciplinary action after midfielder Enzo Fernandez was involved in a video where members of Argentina's Copa America-winning squad appeared to sing about French players with African heritage.

FIFA also said it was also looking into the incident after the French soccer federation pledged to file a complaint with the sport's world governing body over "racist and discriminatory remarks."

Fernandez said he was "truly sorry" and Chelsea said discriminatory behaviour was "completely unacceptable."

"We are proud to be a diverse, inclusive club where people



from all cultures, communities and identities feel welcome," the Premier League club said in a statement Wednesday. "We acknowledge and appreciate our player's public apology and will use this as an opportunity to educate."

"The Club has instigated an internal disciplinary procedure."

Argentina beat Colombia 1-0 on Sunday at Miami Gardens, Florida. Afterwards a video posted on Instagram appeared to show Fernandez and Argentina players chanting about France's team as they celebrated.

The same chants - by some Argentina fans - emerged before the team beat France in the World Cup final in 2022.

"That video, that moment, those words, do not reflect my beliefs or my character," he said on Instagram. "I am truly sorry."

Fernandez became the most expensive player in British soccer history after joining Chelsea from Benfica for 106.7 million pounds (\$131.4 million) in 2023.

Chelsea's response comes after one of Fernandez's clubmates, France defender Wesley Fofana, posted the video on his social media accounts Tuesday and called it "uninhibited racism."

Fofana has family ties to Ivory Coast and is among several French players who are Black in the Chelsea first-team squad.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has said soccer and its 211 national federations must have a zero tolerance approach to racism and in May committed to relaunching a task force to monitor incidents.

"FIFA is aware of a video circulating on social media and the incident is being looked into," the governing body said Wednesday. "FIFA strongly condemns any form of discrimination by anyone including players, fans and officials." It is unclear what jurisdiction FIFA has over the incident on a team bus after a tournament, but the governing body likely could act if the Argentina federation's handling of the case is considered unsatisfactory.

**Court Notice**  
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (General)-CUM-ADDL. DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, HOSHIARPUR  
Subject: Application for cancellation of License No. 90/MA/Hoshiarpur (IELTS Coaching Institute), 91/MA/Hoshiarpur (Tickling) and 92/MA/Hoshiarpur (Consultancy). Date 28-09-2018 of MIS Vindi Enterprises, Talab Road, Near State Bank of India Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur.  
Versus  
General Public  
Arashpreet Kaur W/o Prabhjot Singh Resident of Talab Road, Near State Bank of India, Dasuya Tehsil Dasuya District Hoshiarpur  
Applicant wants to cancel License No. 90/MA/Hoshiarpur (IELTS Coaching Institute), 91/MA/Hoshiarpur (Tickling) and 92/MA/Hoshiarpur (Consultancy).  
Date 28-09-2018 issued to him by this Office.  
Vide the above mentioned notice, General Public is hereby informed that in case any person has any objection with regard to this matter, he/she should report in writing in the office of the Addl. Deputy Commissioner (General)-Cum-Addl. District Magistrate, Hoshiarpur within (30) Thirty days, from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the stipulated period.  
No. 19048/MA Dated 19-10-2023  
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (General)-Cum-Addl. District Magistrate, Hoshiarpur

**LOST AND FOUND**  
I, RAJINDER SINGH S/O PIARA SINGH R/O VILLAGE SARAI, TEHSIL KALANAU, DISTT GURDASPUR. DECLARE THAT ONE ORIGINAL REGISTRY MY FATHER PIARA SINGH DATE 01-06-1996 VASIKA NO. 169, THE LAND MEASURING 2 KANALS 12 MARLAS TO THE EXTENT OF 1/2 SHARE 1 KANAL 6 MARLA REGISTRY ACTUALLY LOST AT HOME NOT FOUND. G.D. NO-043, G.D DATE 16-07-2024.

**THROUGH BALLAST RENEWAL WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION**  
E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/105 of 2024 Dated: 02-07-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Brief Description of Item:** Guwahati-Chaparmukh Jn. TBR (Loop Lines-30.169 KM), Panikhati (L-1 & 4), Digaru (L-1 & 4), Tetelia (L-1 & 4), Kamrup Khetri (L-1.4 & 5), Barahu (L-1 & 4), Jagirod (L-1.2,5 & 6), Aujari (1 & 4), Dharamtul (1 & 4), Thekeraguri (L-1 & 4), Chaparmukh Jn. (L-1.4, 5 & 6), Kamrup (L-1 & 4) & Chaparmukh Jn.-Lumding Jn. - TBR (Loop line-19.609 KM), Lumding (L-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10 & 16), Lumding (Hill main line, Lumding (Main Line), Lanka (L-4 & 5), Barlongfer (L-3) & Lumding Jn.- Langcholi (SL)-TBR (11.60 KM) from KM 191/0-202/6 (Total = 61.378 KM) & Chaparmukh Jn.- Lumding Jn. ISD (Loop line) at Stations (Habaipur-L/1), (Lanka-L/1), (Dhalpukhuri-L/1), (Hojai-L/1), (Jugjain-L/4), (Jamunamukh-L/4), (Lamsakhang-L/1), (Lumding Jn.-Saloon siding, Good siding), (Bar Longfer-L-1, L-3) (Total=8.576 KM) under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/ILumding. **Tender Value:** ₹10,61,14,679.38. **Earnest Money:** ₹6,80,600/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 06-08-2024 & opening at 10.00 hrs. of 07-08-2024** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 06-08-2024 in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
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# Express yourself in Paris: Kapil's advise to Olympics-bound Indian athletes

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Former India skipper Kapil Dev, on Wednesday, advised Olympics-bound Indian athletes to express themselves fearlessly at the mega-event starting July 26 and hoped that the country would hit double digit mark on the medals tally.

India will be represented by a strong 117-member athlete contingent in Paris and the country hopes to better seven-medal count it logged in Tokyo.

"I can't really say for anybody but I can just wish them all the luck and hope we should win more medals this year and that's important," Kapil, who is also the president of Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) said here on the sidelines of the launch of second edition of the Trinity Golf Champions League (TGCL).

"My advice to all (Indian athletes) would be to go and express yourself. I cross my finger and why not if we believe it (double digit medal haul) will happen."

Kapil, however, refrained from commenting on Indian cricket and newly-appointed head

coach Gautam Gambhir.

"If Gautam Gambhir is taking that position (of head coach of Indian cricket team), I wish good luck to him and the team. I hope they do better than what we have done previously. I want to wish the Indian players all the best."

Kapil, who played a lot of amateur event back in the day, hoped that the sport will continue to grow in the country.

"When I started playing cricket, I never thought golf will reach this height. I hope to see golf reaching the heights of cricket one day," he said.

"We just need good sponsors to promote the game. Without sponsors nothing is possible. In 5 years time we should reach

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You the below mentioned borrower has availed loan by mortgaging the schedule mentioned property and you the below mention has stood as borrower / Co - borrower /Mortgagor for the loan agreement. Consequent to the default committed by you, your loan account has been classified as NPA under the provisions of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (in short SARFAESI Act). We Aditya Birla Finance Limited has issued Demand Notice u/s 13(2) read with section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act to the address furnished by you. The contents of the said notices are that you had committed default in payment of the various loans sanctioned to you. Therefore, the present publication carried out to serve the notice as per the provision of Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act and in terms of provision to the rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Loan Account No. / Name and Address of the account Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice
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Date : 18.07.2024, Place : Ludhiana  
Authorised Officer, Aditya Birla Finance Limited

# Suryakumar holds 2nd spot, Jaiswal make gains in ICC T20I batting rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

The big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav is the highest placed Indian at second spot, while young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal occupies the sixth position in the ICC T20I batting rankings issued on Wednesday.

Ruturaj Gaikwad has dropped a place to the eighth position in the 'T20 batters' list, which was updated following India's recent 4-1 series triumph over Zimbabwe.

Jaiswal was the big winner following his 141 runs in the series as he rose four places, behind No.1 ranked batter Travis Head of Australia and Suryakumar.

Shubman Gill, who led India against Zimbabwe in the absence of senior players and was the leading run-scorer of the series with 170 runs from five innings, moved up a whopping 36 places to 37th.

No Indian features in the top 10 of the T20I bowlers rankings. Axar Patel, who was rested for the Zimbabwe series, dropped four places to 13th spot.

Fast bowler Mukesh Kumar



and spinner Washington Sundar also made upward movements. Mukesh, who scalped eight wickets from three games, has gained 36 places to rise to 46th spot. Washington, who picked up eight wickets in five matches, has risen 21 spots to 73rd rank.

England's Adil Rashid is leading T20I bowlers' chart ahead of South Africa's Anrich Nortje and Wanindu Hasaranga of Sri Lanka.

In the T20I all-rounders' rankings, India's Hardik Pandya dropped four places to sixth while Axar slipped one rung to 13th.

Washington (41st) and Shivam Dube (43rd) have risen by eight and 35 places to 41st and 43rd spots respectively.

Sri Lanka's Hasaranga continues to top the all-rounders' list ahead of Australia's Marcus Stoinis and Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza.



## Roshni scores hat-trick as Hockey Jharkhand wins

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Hockey Jharkhand thrashed Assam Hockey 13-0 in the women's category with the young Roshni Aind (24th, 32nd, 33rd) scoring a hat-trick in the 2nd Hockey India Junior Men & Women East Zone Championship here on Wednesday.

The other goal-scorers for the winners at the Netaji Subhas Eastern Centre were captain Rajni Kerketta (11, 27), Barwa Purnima (31, 46), Mundu Sukarmani (46, 56), Parwati Topno (21), Pinki Kumari (29), Hemrom Leoni (43) and Aupriya Soreng (59).

Hockey Association of Odisha too scored a lopsided 11-0

win against Hockey Bihar with Kachhap Rimjhim (20, 21, 31, 36) scoring four goals. Najiya Khatun (8, 34), Marandi Rajina (38), Khushi Kumari (44), Sugandha Sonam (49, 50), and Kumari Sharda (57) too were on target.

Hockey Bengal defeated Manipur Hockey 8-3 with Lalanchhungi (4, 39, 49, 56), Shanti Horo (6, 33), and Lalpeksangi (23, 24) on target. For Manipur Hockey, Tanu Shorensangbam (26), Devi Mutum Priya (41) and Devi Shaishram Ritto (48) scored the consolation goals.

In the men's section, Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Manipur Hockey 7-0

with Rohit Kullu (14, 60), Sunil Lakra (22), Deepak Pradhan (28, 50), Premdayal Giri (41) and Deonath Nanwar (47) on target.

Hockey Jharkhand crushed Hockey Bihar 9-0 with Abhishek Tigga (6), Jolen Topno (20, 59), Rohit Pradhan (21), Roshan Ekka (37), Ghuran Lohra (38), Adisan Minj (42), Faguwa Horo (44), and Dodayr Sandeep (53) scoring the goals.

Hockey Bengal registered a 5-1 win over Assam Hockey. Karan Shaw (2, 23, 39) led the goal-scoring efforts for the winners while Prince Gabriyal Dhan (28) and Bishnu Paswan (34) too scored a goal each.



## England great Lucy Bronze joins Chelsea from Barcelona

AP ■ LONDON

England defender Lucy Bronze joined Chelsea from Barcelona on Wednesday on a two-year deal.

Five-time Champions League winner Bronze completed her move to the Women's Super League (WSL) champion after two years with Barcelona.

"To know I'm a Chelsea player still feels a little bit surreal. It's obviously a club I know so much about and have done for such a long time," she said. "I'm really excited to be back in England. My family are so excited as well to get to more of my games."

Bronze is one of the most successful players in the history of the women's game after winning major titles with clubs and country.

The 32-year-old right-back won the European Championship with England in 2022 and was a losing finalist at last year's World Cup. She won three Champions League titles with Lyon and two more with Barcelona.

Bronze won eight league titles in England, France and Spain with Liverpool, Manchester City, Lyon and Barcelona. She was runner-up for the Ballon d'Or award in 2019 and named FIFA Best Women's Player of the Year in 2020.

"Lucy will bring leadership to the group. She is a serial winner and a versatile defender. She has lots of experience and a winning mentality which we feel will fit well into the squad," Chelsea general manager Paul Green said.

Chelsea has dominated women's soccer in England and is the five-time defending WSL champion.

It was managed by Emma Hayes before she left for the United States Women's National Team at the end of the season.

# Analysis: Tiger Woods playing all the majors, but for how much longer?

AP ■ TROON (SCOTLAND)

Tiger Woods is playing all four majors for the first time since 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism.

The results paint a different picture. He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the cut.

His performance is starting to raise questions of how much longer he will play - how much longer he should play - to avoid lasting memories of a great champion slapping it around.

Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at one point, "What the hell is he doing?"

The entirety of what Montgomerie told the Times: "I hope people remember Tiger as 'Tiger' was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that

now. At Pinehurst he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, 'What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy it there, either."

Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was asked about Montgomerie's comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a major.

"Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to his time at the British Open. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an Open tradition some 20 years ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press center to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned off the table for charity.

Montgomerie came in one day, saw all the signatures on the table and reached for pen. "I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him. "It's only for Open champions."



Poor Monty.

The questions are fair enough, but there is something to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done. And given all that Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door no matter what numbers he is posting.

His 82 in the third round of the Masters was his highest in a major.

The 78 on the Old Course two years ago in what likely will be his final time at St. Andrews.

He still draws the biggest crowd and generates the loudest buzz. And two numbers worth remembering are four and 15. He had four surgeries on his lower back, the last one to fuse his spine, and two years later he won his 15th major at the Masters.

Another number worth noting is 59

- the age of Tom Watson when he was an 8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. The year before, Greg Norman was 53 when he had the 54-hole lead at Royal Birkdale. Courses for the U.S. Majors might be getting too big for the 48-year-old Woods, whose body is held together by hardware. But there is something about links golf that is timeless.

"The older you get, the less you can carry the golf ball," Woods said. "But over here, you can run the golf ball 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory. ... You can play on the ground. You can burn it on the ground with a 1-iron, 2-iron, 3-wood, whatever."

"I think that's one of the reasons why you see older champions up there on the board because they're not forced to have to carry the ball 320 yards."

Woods always will be linked with Augusta National because of his watershed win at age 21 when he won the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, and it is the major he has won the most times. But for all his power as a younger man, no one hit irons like Woods. The flight of his shots was ideal for the links golf. It still is.

Woods showed up Tuesday wearing shorts, with a black compression

sleeve covering his right leg. That was a clear reminder that age isn't as big an issue as health. Woods has been forthright in explaining his dilemma. His body won't allow him to play a full schedule, and when he shows up at the majors, he has to deal with competitive rust.

He could play more and risk not playing where it matters. That's something he will have to sort out. And it was telling that the PGA Tour created an exemption category exclusively for him to play in the \$20 million signature events by adding him to the field - he wouldn't be taking a spot away from another player. How much he plays next year will be worth watching.

In the meantime, Woods has been at Royal Troon since Sunday. He has high hopes. Maybe they are unrealistic based on the scores he is posting, but they are his hopes.

"There is a time for all sportsmen to say goodbye, but it's very difficult to tell Tiger it's time to go," Montgomerie said. "Obviously, he still feels he can win. We are more realistic."

The truth is probably somewhere in between. But perhaps Woods still feels he can win because unlike Montgomerie, he has done it before.

# Scottie is adjusting to links golf and his role as best player in the world

AP ■ TROON (SCOTLAND)

The first stage of Scottie Scheffler's rise to the top of golf felt like warp speed. He went from No. 15 in the world to No. 1 in the span of five tournaments, and that was before he won the Masters for the first time.

Now he's on a level not seen since Tiger Woods was in his prime.

Scheffler is not the biggest draw at the British Open, not with Woods in the field. Rory McIlroy remains a big attraction, especially in the U.K., and he comes into Royal Troon as a sentimental favorite from his sad collapse in the U.S. Open and going 10 years without a major.

But any conversation at the final major of the year starts with Scheffler, a heavy favorite as he has been in every major this year. And that has taken him time to fully appreciate his status in the game.

"I never really thought of myself as anything but a golfer," Scheffler said Tuesday. "I was never trying to be famous. I didn't want to be a celebrity or whatever. I just wanted to become a good golfer and get the most out of myself. It's brought me this far, so I continue to just try to keep my head down and put in the work that got me here and just continue to practice and hopefully continue to get better."

His six PGA Tour victories before the calendar turned to July are the most since Arnold Palmer in 1962. Someone pointed out to Scheffler that Palmer's seventh victory that year was a claret jug he won at Royal Troon.

He wasn't sure how to react to that except to shrug his



shoulders and say, "Yeah, that would be great."

"I love the history of the game, and there's certain things that I know and certain things that I don't. That was something that for some reason I just never stumbled across," he said, searching for the right answer. "So I had no idea that that was a thing."

The British Open figures to present his biggest test.

Scheffler is still relatively new to links golf - everything about his rise to No. 1 is new - having played this style in 2021 for the first time. He has learned to adjust the flight of his ball since links turf creates a little more spin on certain shots. The greens can be slower. Bunkers are to be avoided.

He is a two-time Masters champion, missed a U.S. Open playoff by one shot at The Country Club and was runner-up in the PGA Championship at Oak Hill. But he has never seriously contended in golf's oldest championship.

Even so, the love of the links is there. He went to the J.P. McManus Pro-Am in Ireland a few years

ago and took side trips to Lahinch and Ballybunion. He began this trip across the Atlantic Ocean by skipping the Scottish Open at The Renaissance Club - links style, but not links turf - and going to Turnberry with Sam Burns for a match with their caddies, both good players.

"A tremendous amount of fun," he said. And then it was time for work at Royal Troon, the links renowned for having the longest hole (the 623-yard sixth) and shortest hole (the 123-yard eighth) in the British Open rotation.

Most peculiar about Troon is that the outward nine - typically with at least a wee breeze at the players' back - has two par 5s and measures 3,539 yards. The inward nine with the wind in the face has one par 5 and is 3,846 yards.

"It's basically a tale of two nines on this course," McIlroy said. "You feel like you have to make your score on the way out and then sort of hang on coming in."

McIlroy has far more experience on links golf - and a

claret jug to show for it from his victory at Royal Liverpool in 2014 - but it still takes time to adjust because "you play 11 months of your golf every year in very different conditions."

Players also are preparing for weather described as "mixed," a gentle way of saying it probably won't be terribly pleasant for most of the week. Sunshine gave way to spells of rain on Tuesday, and that was before lunch was served.

PGA champion Xander Schauffele might be the second-most consistent player in golf behind Scheffler - nothing but top 20s in his last 10 starts and 51 cuts in a row - and has acquired a taste for less-than-pleasant conditions, particularly in the Open.

"If the weather gets really bad, you just have to take the bunkers out of play and really try and plot your way around," he said. "It doesn't have to be super pretty. Just kind of place the ball around the property and really just try and get it in the hole in as few shots as possible."

That's what Scheffler has been doing all year. Along with winning the Masters for the second time and The Players Championship, his other four wins have come in signature events against the strongest fields - on long courses and short, dry conditions and soft. And with that has come a level of notoriety - the bizarre arrest at the PGA Championship certainly contributed - he wasn't expecting but has come to appreciate.

"Being out here playing in front of great crowds and having them scream your name and holler when you make putts and be truly rooting for you is a great feeling," he said.

AP ■ TROON (SCOTLAND)

Jon Rahm felt like one of the most popular players when he arrived at Royal Troon, even if it had nothing to do with him or with his golf.

Spain is on quite the run at the moment. Carlos Alcaraz won Wimbledon on Sunday for his second Grand Slam title of the year, right before Spain defeated England in the European Championship final. It's the latter that made the Scottish fans celebrate the Spaniard.

No one in these parts likes to see England win anything. "Played all 18 holes, and I think I got more congratulations for something that I didn't do than I ever have in my life," Rahm said Tuesday. "I don't know what they've done, but anytime anybody plays against the English national team, every other country in Europe just unifies against them."

"I think because we've heard 'It's Coming Home' so many times the last few years that nobody wants to see it come home at this point."

Throw in Sergio Garcia winning his first LIV Golf event at Valderrama, and Rahm

# Jon hoping to ride Spanish momentum to end drought



would like nothing more than to extend Spain's run of winners.

Mostly, he needs it for himself. The major championship season ends

with the British Open, and Rahm has been a no-show. He was the reigning Masters champion when he left for the Saudi riches of LIV Golf last December and he still hasn't won. His last victory was the Masters some 15 months ago.

He barely made the cut at the Masters. He missed the cut at the PGA Championship. And he didn't even get to play the U.S. Open because of a foot infection.

"Last year from the Masters on I didn't really play my best," Rahm said. "Ryder Cup was the only resemblance to maybe the early part of the year. But Nashville and last week (LIV events), I felt closer to getting to a higher level of golf where maybe there isn't as many thoughts on my process. Maybe I'm playing a little bit more freely and seeing the ball flight that I want to see more often."

"I'm getting much closer to what it might have been early last year."

# US women's soccer team fights the heat, plays to a draw against Costa Rica in final Olympic tune-up

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The heat was on for the U.S. Women's soccer team's final exhibition tune-up game before the Paris Olympics, with sweltering temperatures in the air and plenty of chances to score.

The goals did not come in a 0-0 draw against Costa Rica on Tuesday night, just the second time - and first since 2015 - the U.S. Did not win its last game before a major tournament. But the match showed the Americans could handle the kind of high temperatures that could await later this month.

"The last two games have been insane," defender Casey Krueger said, referring to back-to-back exhibition games before the team's cross-



Atlantic flight. "I feel like this is going to be even hotter, so if we can play in this, it gives us confidence going into France, for sure."

It was 98 degrees Fahrenheit (37 Celsius) at kickoff after Washington tied the hottest day on record in the nation's capital at 104 (40C) hours earlier. It was still 94 (35C)

when the match was over. Coach Emma Hayes figured it would be a nice test for her players, given the forecast for nearly this level of heat during upcoming games in Marseille later this month. "That's added value," Hayes said Monday. "It's perfect preparation. It's pretty hot down there, so this is a great opportunity for us to experience what we're going to face."

It played a role in Rose Lavelle being a precautionary late scratch because of leg tightness in warmups. "No risks," Hayes said afterward. "She was a bit tight in her groin and I took no risks. ... I want to go into the Olympics with everybody available."

Korbin Albert replaced Lavelle

in the starting lineup in the game taking place on a worn down field torn up by recent football, soccer and rugby matches and attended by 18,972 fans. Players either criticized the field or offered up no comment.

"The corners, there's no secret that it was definitely like I was kicking into dirt," forward Mallory Swanson said. "It was fine. Sometimes that's just the way it is going to be, and I think this team has always overcome adversity."

The U.S. generated plenty of chances throughout - 26 shots total and 12 on goal - and was repeatedly denied by Costa Rica goalkeeper Noelia Bermúdez, who was arguably one of the best players on the field.