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Draw 100 days action plan: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a strategic move ahead of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instructed his Council of Ministers to draft an “actionable, measurable, and clearly defined” plan to be presented at the meeting on March 3. During the last Cabinet meeting on February 21, Modi directed his ministerial colleagues to prepare an action plan for the next 100 days. With the Lok Sabha polls expected to be announced after March 13, he has urged them to engage in extensive consultations, including with experienced individuals such as senior bureaucrats, grassroots workers, and domain experts, before finalising their action plans, according to sources. During the meeting, Modi tasked his ministers with outlining key initiatives and deliverables for the next 100 days, along with a comprehensive five-year roadmap. These documents, focusing on the Government’s priorities and strategies, are to be submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat. Sources said Modi has instructed them and their ministries to brainstorm over the agenda for the period, which is also the likely duration before a new government takes office



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the foundation stone laying ceremony of multiple key initiatives for cooperative sector in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

following the Lok Sabha elections expected in April-May. The Prime Minister told the Cabinet that they should draw up these plans without considering who gets what ministerial positions post-elections. Sources said the prime minister wants to ensure that the government’s work continues amid the poll cycle, and his call for preparing the agenda for the next 100 days is part of such an effort.

He has also repeatedly expressed confidence in the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance retaining power at the Centre. He recently asserted that he has already begun preparing a roadmap for his third term and has received suggestions from over 15 lakh people.

During a cabinet meeting held in the first week of February, PM Modi cautioned his Cabinet Ministers against complacency, urging them to work diligently for the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Despite the favorable momentum from the



consecration of the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, Modi emphasised that the BJP should not underestimate the challenge. He referred to the BJP’s casual approach in the 2004 elections, highlighting the need to avoid complacency. Earlier, at the party’s national convention at Bharat Mandapam, Modi urged party workers to dedicate themselves to engaging with new voters over the next 100 days.

BJP nixes Congress Temple tax Bill

PTI ■ BENGALURU

In a setback to the ruling Congress in Karnataka, a Bill that sought to collect funds from temples with over ₹10 lakh annual income was defeated by the Opposition BJP-JD(S) combine in the Legislative Council. The Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed by the Legislative Assembly earlier this week. It was defeated by a voice vote in the Upper House, where the Opposition has a majority, on Friday. The Bill among other things, proposes to collect five per cent from temples whose gross income is between ₹10 lakh and less than ₹1 crore and 10 per cent from temples whose income is above ₹1 crore, to be put into a Common Pool Fund, administered by Rajya Dharmika Parishath, which is proposed to be used for Archakas’ (priests) welfare and upkeep of ‘C’ category temples (State controlled) whose annual income is less than ₹5 lakh. The act that was earlier amended in 2011 had made way for five per cent of the net income of temples with annual income between ₹5



lakh and ₹10 lakh and 10 per cent of the net income of temples with annual income of over ₹10 lakh would come to the fund. The amendment Bill had created a huge controversy, as it angered the Opposition, especially the BJP, which charged the ruling Congress with trying to fill its “empty coffers” with temple money, while, the Congress had sought to turn the tables saying the saffron party had effected an amendment in 2011 to seek funds from high-income Hindu shrines. Leader of the Opposition in Council Kota Srinivas Poojary, who was the Muzrai Minister during the BJP government, while welcoming the move to

provide social security to Archakas, opposed diversion of the revenue earned by temples. He questioned why the government can’t provide funds in the budget for their welfare. The Opposition also opposed the proposal in the Bill for nomination of the temple committee president by the government. Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy, trying to convince the Opposition, assured the House that the government would not interfere in the nomination of the temple committee president and also to reduce the amount proposed to be diverted from the temples to the common pool.

New criminal justice laws from July 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The newly enacted laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Act — to completely overhaul the criminal justice system in the country will come into effect from July 1. However, the provision related to cases of hit and run by vehicle drivers will not be implemented immediately. The three laws got Parliament’s approval on December 21 and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent on December 25. According to three identical notifications issued by the Union Home Ministry, provisions of the new laws will come into force from July 1. The laws will replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian

Evidence Act of 1872 respectively. The three legislations aim at completely overhauling the criminal justice system in the country by giving definitions of various offences and their punishments. The Government, however, has decided not to implement the provision related to cases of hit and run by a vehicle driver as promised to truckers who had protested against it. “In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023), the Central Government hereby appoints the 1st day of July, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the said Sanhita, except the provision of sub-section (2) of section 106, shall come into force,” one of the notifications said.

EC plugs transfer, posting loopholes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Noting violations of transfer and posting instructions for officers ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission has instructed States to ensure that officers transferred out of a district are not posted in any district within the same parliamentary constituency. By adjusting its policy on officer transfers before the elections, the EC aims to close loopholes exploited by State governments. This action follows the Election Commission’s serious concern over instances where officers were transferred to

adjacent districts within the same parliamentary constituency by State governments. In a related development, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced on Saturday that most political parties in Tamil Nadu have urged the EC to conduct the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in a single phase in the State. Following his two-day visit to Tamil Nadu to assess elections preparedness, The CEC emphasised that the Election Commission (EC) would take strict action against officials who fail to ensure a level playing field for all parties, saying that “in a democracy, officials should be absolutely impartial.”



AAP, Congress ink seat sharing ties, but both to go solo in Punjab

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

At a time of challenges within the INDIA bloc, the Congress and the AAP have resolved their differences to finalise a seat-sharing agreement in Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Chandigarh, and Goa for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. But both the parties will go solo in Punjab. This marks the second seat-sharing deal within the INDIA bloc, following a similar agreement between the SP and Congress in Uttar Pradesh recently. In Delhi, the AAP will contest four seats — West Delhi, South Delhi, East Delhi, and New Delhi. The remaining three — North East Delhi, North West Delhi, and Chandni Chowk — will be contested by the Congress. In the 2019 election, the BJP won all seven seats. The announcement came during a joint press conference of the AAP and the Congress.

INDIA Bloc in tatters in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As the TMC has reiterated to go it alone in the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal, the State Congress said it is in talks with the CPI(M) for seat sharing in the State. The Congress, the TMC and the CPI(M) are constituents of the Opposition INDIA bloc. Reacting to a statement by TMC leader Derek O’Brien, who claimed that the TMC’s stance towards the Congress in Bengal remained unchanged, Bengal Congress president Adhir Chowdhury on Saturday said, “I had no information about who said what... I only know that they have decided to go it alone in Bengal... But one thing is for sure: we are proceeding with our talks with the CPI(M).” On Friday, O’Brien had reiterated that his party had not deviated from what the Chief Minister had said a month ago regarding the

alliance talks. “A few weeks ago... Mamata said the TMC is contesting all 42 seats in Bengal. We are also contesting a few seats in Assam and the Tura Lok Sabha seat in Meghalaya. There is no change in this position,” he had said. In Bengal, the Congress has been requesting 6-8 seats, while the TMC has offered only two seats, Behrampore and Malda South, currently held by Adhir Chowdhury and AH Khan Chowdhury. In a sharp attack on the TMC, the PCC president highlighted how Mamata’s party was caught between losing minority votes on one side and facing ED and CBI raids on the other. “Mamata had made it clear that her party will contest the elections alone,” he said, adding, “They (TMC) are in a dilemma because if they leave the INDIA alliance they will lose the minority votes... whereas if they don’t do so

and go ahead with the alliance then the Narendra Modi Government will send ED and CBI to their houses ... this is the reason why the TMC is vertically divided in two groups... while one section wants the alliance to continue, the other is in a dilemma.” Reminding how Mamata had declared that she would go it alone in Bengal, Chowdhury said, “Irrespective of who says what we are going ahead with our talks with the CPI(M) and I am already in the midst of seat-sharing talks with their State secretary Md Salim.” Meanwhile the Congress national leadership, however, continued to go soft on the TMC saying their doors were still open to her. “Our doors are always open for the TMC. Mamata and the TMC have said they want to strengthen INDIA Alliance and the biggest motive is to defeat the BJP... Heated discussions keep taking place between the two parties but we respect Mamata,” senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Kamal Singla S/o Sham Lal and Renu Singla W/o Kamal Singla both R/o House No. 1060, Sector 46-B, Chandigarh, have disown our elder son Vikrant Singla from our all movable and immovable properties, as he is out of control. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I Gagandeep kaur W/o Tejbir Singh R/O Improvement Trust colony Schem No 1 Teh/District Gurdaspur declare that my Passport my Father name wrongly written as Inderjeet Singh, His correct name is Inderjit Singh.

I, Teja Ram S/o Prem Chand R/o #178, Bitna Road, Pinjore, Tehsil-Kalka, Distt.Panchkula declare that my son Ravi Kumar & his wife Kiran Devi are out of my control. So, I disown them from my all movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them shall do their own risk in future.

I, (i) Kishori Lal S/o Sh. Marchu Ram (ii) Krishna Devi W/o Sh. Kishori Lal R/o # 1525, Adarsh Nagar, Block-F, Naya Gaon, S.A.S Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, declare that our son Dhiraj Kumar and his wife Nisha Devi and our grand-son Khavish are all out of our Control so I disowned her from all my moveable / immovable properties. anybody deals with her at their own risk.

I Tara Devi W/O Army No. 15815814k Rank NK Name Dhirender Kumar Singh Unit Of 668 Army Avn Sqn (R&O) C/O 56 Apo Military Cantt. Bathinda Declare That In My Husband Service Records My Date Of Birth Is Written As 17.08.1988 Is Wrong. But My Actual Date Of Birth Is 01.05.1983.

I Mohammad Yusuf S/O Mohammad Saddik.R/O House No.1680, Room No. 6/1, Kumhar Mohalla Burali, Near Dev Samaj College Sector 45 B, Chandigarh Declare That (My Son Sohail Yusuf Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Him From My Moveable/Immoveable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Him They Will Do Their Own Risk/Responsibility.

I Jarnail Singh S/O Pritam Singh R/O Chauke Distt Bathinda Is My Father Name Baru Singh Entered In My Passport Number K 0295908 Which Is Wrong My Father's Correct Name Is Pritam Singh Please My Father Name Is Pritam In My Passport Number K 0295908 Pritam Singh Should Be Corrected.

I, Deepak Dhaunchak S/o Sh. Baljit Singh R/o Village Latha, Teh. Gohana Distt. Sonipat declare that in my Son Deepender's 10th class Marksheet roll no. H22/40821/0048 In the CBSE board records, the child's father's name is Deepak and my real name is Deepak Dhaunchak. I want to get Deepak Dhaunchak registered in place of Deepak in the marksheet/board records of my child.

I Naresh Bala W/O Late Balwinder Kumar R/O #163, Mohala Dadpur, Dera Bassi Tehsil Dera Bassi Distt Mohali Declare That My Son Sumit Kumar And His Wife Anita Rani Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Both Of Them From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

I, Manjit Singh s/o Sulakhan Singh, r/o Village Behbalchack PO Naushahra Majha Singh (Gurdaspur) disiderit my son Gurkarnbir Singh from my movable and immovable property because he is out of my control. Anybody dealing with him will be responsible themselves. Me and my family have no relation with him.

I Gurmit Singh S/O Mehar Singh R/O Gorsian Makhan Distt. Ludhiana Declare That In My Documents My Name Is Mentioned As Gurmit Singh But In My Son's School Certificate my Name Is Mentioned As Gurmeet Singh. Therefore Am Known By Both Names As Gurmit Singh & Gurmeet Singh And One And The Same Person Of These Both Names.

We, Mahesh S/o Mahavir and Pinky W/o Mahesh House No. 561, Ravindra Enclave, Phase-3, Baltana, Zirakpur, District Mohali Punjab, inform that our son Nishat alias Golu is beyond our control. We Disown them from our moveable and immovable properties. He will be responsible for his own transactions and any actions in future.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Seema Kumari W/o Hawa Singh R/o Bamla (15), Bhiwani, Haryana have changed my name to Seema Devi for all future purposes.

I, Kulwinder Singh S/o Ragbir Singh R/o VPO Mahlanwali, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Kulwinder Singh to Kulvinder Singh.

I, Satwinder Kaur W/o Kulvinder Singh Singh R/o VPO Mahlanwali, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Satwinder Kaur to Satvinder Kaur.

I, Devendri Singh Malik S/O Om Parkash Malik R/O 551-B/ 46-A, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name In My Service No. 678220-H / Ppo 60120030480501 To Devender Singh Malik.

I Kanta Devi W/O Devender Singh Malik R/O 551-B/ 46-A, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name To Kanta Malik And Date Of Birth 23-08-1973 Instead Of 31-12-1973.

I, Ruma Devi is mother of No. 14949146K Rank SEP Name Mukul Kumar R/O Vishit Vihar Colony, Kanth Road, District - Moradabad, State - U.P.- 244001, have changed my name from Ruma Devi to Ruma Rani and changed my Date of Birth from 01/07/1974 to 10/01/1976 in my son's army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Aishwarya Das is legally wedded Spouse of No. JC-385039A Rank SUB Name Santosh Kumar Das R/O VPO Jagannath Pur, Tehsil - Basudevpur, District- Bhadrak, State - Odisha - 756046 have changed my name from Aishwarya Das to Aishwarya Mohanty in my spouse army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, No. 15617018W Rank HAV Name Sombir R/O VPO Kharar Alipur, Tehsil & District Hisar, State - Haryana - 125044 declares that in my army service record my daughter's name wrongly mentioned as Aditi Sahrawat while her actual name is Aditi Sehrawat as per all her government documents. Now, I want to make it correct as Aditi Sehrawat in my army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, No. 15617018W Rank HAV Name Sombir R/O VPO Kharar Alipur, Tehsil & District Hisar, State - Haryana - 125044 declares that in my army service record my son's name wrongly mentioned as Dipansu Sehrawat while his actual name is Dipansu Sehrawat as per all his government documents. Now, I want to make it correct as Dipansu Sehrawat in my army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Rayappa is father of No. 14936032A Rank NK Name Basavaraj Kalyani R/O VPO Sullla, Tehsil - Hubli, District - Dharwad, State - Karnataka - 580023 have changed my name from Rayappa to Rayappa Basappa Kalyani in my son's army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Parwati is mother of No. 14936032A Rank NK Name Basavaraj Kalyani R/O VPO Sullla, Tehsil - Hubli, District - Dharwad, State - Karnataka - 580023 have changed my name from Parwati to Paravva R Kalyani in my son's army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Surender S/o Balbir Singh R/O Village-Bass Khurd Bijan, Distt.Hisar I have changed my name from Surender Singh to Surrender. In future, I should be known by this name.

I, Des Raj S/O Sarwan Singh R/O Village - Fougli Tika Mawa,Teh - Dhar Kalan Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Declaire That in My Service Documents My Wife Name Wrongly Mentioned As Ranjana Kumari Instead of Ranjana Devi.

I, Poonam W/o Virender Singh R/O C-25, DCRUST, Murthal, Sonapat have changed my name to Poonam Sheoran for all future purposes.

I, Krishna Devi W/o Sh. Raj Kumar R/O VPO Sadalpur, Distt. Hisar (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Krishna Devi to Krishana Devi , in future my name is to be called as Krishana Devi.

I, Chand Ratan S/o Sh. Sushil Kumar R/o Mitthi Sureran Tehsil Ellenabad District Sirsa (Haryana), have changed my name from Chand Ratan to Mohit Sharma, in future my name is to be called as Mohit Sharma.

I, Sanjay S/o Raj Kumar R/o Gali no. 0C, Chaudhary Colony, Azad Nagar, Munda Majra, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sanjay to Sanjay Kumar. In future I shall be known as Sanjay Kumar.

I, Madhu Ojha, w/o Ajay Kumar Sharma, r/o, # 2483, Sector-19 C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Pooja Sharma.

I Mohinder Singh S/o Sohan Singh R/O H. no. 818/8, Savar Mohalla, Near Jagannath mandir, Panipat have change my name from Mohinder singh to Mahinder singh for all future purposes.

Classifieds

I, Rajat S/o Shanker Lal Atreja R/o H.No.132, sector-12, Huda, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Rajat to Rajat Atreja. In future I should be known as Rajat Atreja.

I, Krishan Singh S/o Sukhbir Singh R/o Village Kairwali, Tehsil Gharaunda, Distt. Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Krishan Singh to Krishan Chand. In future I should be known as Krishan Chand.

I, Seema Rani W/o Sunil Kumar R/o VPO Tangaur, Tehsil Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Sima Rani to Seema Rani.

I, Rajinder Kaur W/o Makhan Singh R/o Village Chammu Kalan, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Rajvinder Kaur.

I, Sukhdev S/o Hans Raj R/o Dera Jhida Wala Umri, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Sukhdev to Sukhdev Singh.

I, Kulwinder Kaur W/o Hardev Singh Gill R/o Village Daburji, Sohian Kalan, PO Majitha, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Kulwinder Kaur to Kulwinder Kaur Gill.

I, Shivani W/o Vishal Khurana R/o H.No- 123 Manav Chowk Ambala city have changed my name from Shivani to Shivani Gaba .

I Sudesh Rani W/o Sandeep Kumar R/o H.No- 302 Luxmi Nagar Jandli Ambala city have changed my name from Sudesh Rani to Sanjana Saini.

I Sneh Lata Gupta W/o late Sh. Parshotam dass Gupta R/o 115 Model Town Ambala City have changed my name to Sneh Gupta. In future I will be known as Sneh Gupta.

I, Jasbir Kaur Is Mother of No. 14933388H Rank HAV Name Gurbhej Singh R/O VPO Biharipur, Tehsil Khadoor Sahib, District Tam Taran, State - Punjab.-143117 declare that I have changed my date of birth from 26/03/1958 to 20/02/1960 in my son's army service record vide affidavit 21.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Mamta Devi is legally wedded Spouse of Army No. 14945573H Rank NK Name Anil Kumar R/O Village Garhi Nehchala, Nagala Aoks, Post Nagala Sanja,Tehsil Mahavan, District Mathura, State -Uttar Pardesh-281301, Unit IT BN MIC&S Ahmadnagar C/O 56 APO declare that I have changed my name from Mamta Devi to Mamta in my spouse army service record vide affidavit 21.02.2024 before Mathura Court.

I, K Venkateswarmma is mother of JC-389930M Rank NB SUB Name Konda Ramesh R/O Village Jaggadiguntapalem, PO Peddaravuru, Tehsil Tenali, District - Guntur, State - A.P.- 522201, have changed my name from K Venkateswarmma to Konda Venkateswarmma and changed my Date of Birth from 01/01/1959 to 25/08/1956 in my son's army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Malleshwari is legally wedded spouse of JC-389930M Rank NB SUB Name Konda Ramesh R/O Village Jaggadiguntapalem, PO Peddaravuru, Tehsil Tenali, District - Guntur, State - A.P.- 522201, have changed my name from Malleshwari to Konda Malleshwari and changed my Date of Birth from 28/07/1983 to 28/07/1982 in my spouse army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, No. 14937503P Rank NK Name Ashok Kumar A R/O 40/1, 1st Main Om Shakti Street, Ashok Nivas, Udayanagar, District Bangalore, State - Karnataka - 560016 declare that in my army service record my daughter's name wrongly mentioned as Thanushka while her actual name is Thanushka A as per all her government documents. Now, I want to make it correct as Thanushka A in my army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Parimala is mother of No. 14937503P Rank NK Name Ashok Kumar A R/O 40/1, 1st Main Om Shakti Street, Ashok Nivas, Udayanagar, District Bangalore, State - Karnataka - 560016 have changed my name from Parimala to Parimala A in my son's army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Renuga V is legally wedded spouse of No. 14931405Y Rank HAV Name Venkatasami N R/O Village Maniyandapalli, PO Kurubarapalli, Tehsil & District - Krishnagiri, State - Tamilnadu - 635115, have changed my name from Renuga V to Renuga G in my spouse army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, Jai Bhagwan S/o Sh. Ram Gopal Mittal, R/o Old Anaj Mandi, Near Gurudwara Road, Jind, Haryana, have changed my name Jai Bhagwan to Jai Bhagwan Mittal.

I, Rajinder Kumar S/O Raj Kumar R/O #172, Sector 6 Panchkula Haryana -134109 Have Changed My Name From Rajinder Kasrija To Rajinder Kumar

I, Kamlesh Kumari W/O Late Sh Chander Kumar Tuli, R/O 625, Sector- 9 Panchkula, Haryana,Have Changed My Name From Kamlesh Kumari To Kamlesh Kumari Tuli.

I, Kamlesh Kumari W/O Late Sh Chander Kumar Tuli, R/O 625, Sector- 9 Panchkula, Haryana,Have Changed My Name From Kamlesh Kumari To Kamlesh Kumari Tuli.

I, Anoop Kaur Sandhu W/O Dilbag Singh Present Living In Australia And My Daughter Komalpreet Kaur (Dob. 15/05/2006 Live In India. My Daughter's Some Documents My Name Enter Is Anoop Kaur, Anoop Kaur And Anoop Kaur Sandhu Both Names Are Mine.

I Veenu W/O Suresh Kumar R/O Village Dugri Rajputtan, Tehsil Mukerian Distt Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Veenu Rani To Veenu

I Swaranjeet Kaur W/O Hardit Singh R/O Vill Gobindpura Jangpura Distt Sas Nager Have Changed My Name From Swaranjit Kaur To Swaranjeet Kaur .

I, Bhawana Anand W/O Kiran Anand R/O # 18-B, Khukrain Apartment, Sector 13 Rohini, North West, Delhi - 110085 Have Changed My Name From Bhawana Kumari Anand To Bhawana Anand.

I, Lachhman Dass S/o Late Kapoor Chand R/O House No. 292, Sector-5, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Lachhman Dass to Lachhman Dass Singla. In future, I will be known by the name of Lachhman Dass Singla. All concerned please note.

I, Sushila W/o Lachhman Dass Singla R/O House No. 292, Sector-5, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Sushila to Sushila Rani. In future, I will be known by the name of Sushila Rani. All concerned please note.

I, Puneet Jain S/o Rajender Kumar Jain R/o H.No.41, K.M.Colony, Bhiwani have changed my name from Puneet Kumar Jain to Puneet Jain for all future purpose.

I Sudesh w/o Mahavir village Nandgarh district. Jind have declared that my all document mention name sudesh but my daughter document mentioned Babil/Sudesh. Both name same person.

I, PP Vasantha (existing Name) Mother of Army No 15723448L Rank: Hav Name: PP Vipin Presently residing at Village Kuttiattoor PO: Chattukappara, Teh.- Taliparamba Distt.- Kannur State - Kerala PIN-670592 have changed my name from PP Vasantha to Vasantha Kumari PP. Vide affidavit No. IN-UK06800825495865W dated 23.02.2024 Notary Public Uttarakhnad.

I, Anita Devi W/O Rakesh Sagar, House Number 739, Sector 10, Panchkula have changed my name from Anita Devi to Anita Sagar.

I, Sonia Alias Sonia Gupta D/o Satya Parkash & W/o Chaman Lal R/O Flat No. 3-A, Astha Homes, Guga Madi Road, Adjoining Gilco Valley, Sector-127, Kharar, Distt. Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) Punjab, declare that both above names are mine and of one same person.

I Yash Pal Kapil s/o Sodi Ram r/o Village Plassi Po Bhanam Tehsil Nangal Distt Rupnagar have changed my name from Yashpal to Yash Pal Kapil.

I Indu Kapil w/o Yash Pal Kapil r/o Village Plassi Po Bhanam Tehsil Nangal Distt Rupnagar have changed my name from Indu to Indu Kapil.

I, Daya Ram S/o Dukhi Ram Pal R/o Bhagwan Din Ka Purwa, Pratapgah, Uttar Pradesh have changed my Name from Daya Ram to Daya Ram Pal.

I, Rupindejeet Kaur w/o Jaswinder Singh r/o Village Wazirpur Afganana Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Rupindejeet Kaur to Rupinderjeet Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Renu W/o Harsh Kumar R/o B VI/1492, Near ITI, Modern Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Renu to Aarti.

I, Pirthi Pal Singh S/O Vir Singh R/O Vpo- Babehali. Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name From Pirthi Pal Singh To Pirthipal Singh.

I, Paramjit S/O Lakhbir Singh R/O Village Joian, Po-Jaura Chattran, Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, Pin-143520. Have Changed My Name From Paramjit To Paramjit Singh.

I, Gurjit Kaur W/O Pirthipal Singh R/O Vpo-Babehali. Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Have Chanchaed My Name From Gurjit Kaur To Gurjeet Kaur.

I, Gagandeep Kaur W/O Tejbir Singh R/O Improvement Trust Colony Schem No 1, The/District Gurdaspur. Declare That My Passport My Father Name Wrongly Written As Inderjeet Singh, His Correct Name Is Inderjit Singh.

I, Hithor To Known As Tirth Singh S/O Nirajan Singh R/O Village Dhariwal Kalan, Po-Pasnawal 143518 Tehsil Batala & Disst Gurdapsur Punjab. Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Knon As Tirath Singh.

I, Bhupati Uppada R/O Vill-Donkraluru, Po- Uppalam, Teh-Sompeta, Distt-Srikakulam, State- Andhra Pradesh, Pin Code-532263, C/O 56 Apo (Tibri Cantt India That My Mother Has Changed Her Name From Papama Uppada To Uppada Papamma Due To Wrong Name Record In My Army Service Record.

Bhupati Uppada R/O Vill-Donkraluru, Po- Uppalam, Teh-Sompeta, Distt- Srikakulam, State Andhra Pradesh Pin Code 532263, C/O 56 Apo (Tibri Cantt) India That My Father Has Changed Her Name From Chinna Rama Rao To Uppada Chinnaramaroo Due To Wrong Name Record In My Army Service Record.

I hitherto Known as Rajni Sharma Bhalla D/o Vijay Kumar Sharma Resident of Flat No. 10, First Floor, Maa Shnilma Homes Part-3, Near Vinod Hospital, Chajju Majra Colony, Kharar, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab- 140301 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajni Sharma.

I, Sukhdev Singh S/o Manjeet Singh R/o Hansala Distt.Kurukshetra has changed My Minor Daughter Name Shaganpreet Kaur to Given Name Shaganpreet And Surname Kaur.

I, Sukhdev Singh S/o Manjeet Singh R/o Hansala Distt.Kurukshetra has changed My Minor Daughter Name Manmeet Kaur to Given Name Manmeet And Surname Kaur.

I, Santosh Kaur W/o Santokh Singh Vill. Bakhli Khurd, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Sukhwinder Kaur.

I, Sudhava Daughter of Umed Singh V.P.O. Surehli Tehsil Kosli Distt.Rewari declares that Sudhava and Sudhava Yadav both are my names. In future, I shall be known by Sudhava Yadav for research related works.

I, Rajiv Popli S/o Madan Lal R/o Vikas Nagar, Near Gurudwara, Ismailabad, Kurukshetra have changed my name Rajeev Kumar.

I, Rajeev Popli S/o Madan Lal R/o Vikas Nagar, Near Gurudwara, Ismailabad, Kurukshetra have changed my name Rajeev Kumar.

I, Patal Chandra Roy is father of No. 14674495A Rank CFN Name Shakti Pad Roy R/O Village Kalapatthar, PO - Chiksia, Tehsil - Chas, District Bokaro, State - Jharkhand - 827013 have changed my Date of Birth from 01/07/1949 to 18/06/1944 in my son's army service record vide affidavit 24.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, No.JC-705656L Sub Parmanand resident of Village-Lukhrara, Post- Sekhpur, Tehsil- Hapur, District- Hapur, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-245101, have changed my Mother & Father name from Sarvesh Devi to Sarvesh and Father name from Charan Singh to Charan Please Note.

I, Sumna Devi Mother of No.4493874K NK (Clerk) Lucky Patyal resident of Village- Batarli Upperli, Post-Batarli Upperli, Tehsil- Barsar, District- Moga, State- Himachal Pradesh, Pin-174312, have changed my name & DOB from Suman Devi to Sumna Devi and date of birth from 08 November 1969 to 15 March 1972 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB89361904314796W dated 24 Feb 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Nachhattar Singh Father of No.JC- 511422N Sub Gurmeet Singh resident of VPO-Sahoke, Tehsil- Bagha Purana, District- Moga, State- Punjab, Pin- 151208, have changed my name from Nachatter Singh to Nachhattar Singh vide affidavit No.IN-PB8936235754249W dated 24 Feb 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I Dhanraj Randhawa D/o Shri Buta Singh R/o # 74 Sector 33-A Chandigarh have changed my name from Dhanraj Randhawa to Dhanraj Kaur.

I, Bhatari Devi W/O Rupinder Singh R/O Touran, Teh- Dudhan Sadhan, Distt. Patiala Have Changed My Name Bhatari Devi To Satinder Kaur Please Noted.

I, Jasbir Singh S/o S. Ajit Singh V.P.O. Alamgir, Kala Sanghian Distt. kapurthala have changed my Name to Jasbir Singh Aytain. Concerned please note.

I Jasveer Kaur W/O Jaswinder Singh Dhaliwal R/O Raoke Kalan (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Jasveer Kaur Dhalawal.

I Gagandeep Kaur W/O Gurlal Singh Brar R/O Vpo. Kotha Guru Ka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Gagandeep Kaur Brar.

I Gurlal Singh S/O Baldev Singh R/O Vpo. Kotha Guru Ka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Gurlal Singh Brar.

I Dharampreet Singh S/O Gurpartap Singh Brar, R/O Vpo. Bhagta Bhai Ka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Dharampreet Singh Brar.

I Gurpartap Singh Brar S/O Balwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Bhagta Bhai Ka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed Minor Son's Name Karampreet Singh To Karampreet Singh Brar.

I Ram Singh S/O Swaran Singh R/O Vpo. Sadda Singh Wala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Ram Singh Gill.

I Sarbjit Kaur W/O Ram Singh Gill R/O Vpo. Sadda Singh Wala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Sarbjit Kaur Gill After Marriage.

I Gurpreet Singh S/O Teja Singh R/O Patti Mehar Ghal Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Gurpreet Singh Sahota.

I Balwinder Kaur W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Patti Mehar Ghal Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Balwinder Kaur Sahota.

I, Sumna Devi Mother of No.4493874K NK (Clerk) Lucky Patyal resident of Village-Batarli Upperli, Post- Batarli Upperli, Tehsil- Barsar, District- Hamirpur, State- Himachal Pradesh, Pin-174312, have changed my name & DOB from Suman Devi to Sumna Devi and date of birth from 08 November 1969 to 15 March 1972 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB89361904314796W dated 24 Feb 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.JC-705656L Sub Parmanand resident of Village-Lukhrara, Post- Sekhpur, Tehsil- Hapur, District- Hapur, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin- 245101, have changed my Mother & Father name from Sarvesh Devi to Sarvesh and Father name from Charan Singh to Charan Please Note.

I, Nachhattar Singh Father of No.JC- 511422N Sub Gurmeet Singh resident of VPO-Sahoke, Tehsil- Bagha Purana, District- Moga, State- Punjab, Pin-151208, have changed my name from Nachatter Singh to Nachhattar Singh vide affidavit No.IN-PB8936235754249W dated 24 Feb 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I Dhanraj Randhawa D/o Shri Buta Singh R/o # 74 Sector 33-A Chandigarh have changed my name from Dhanraj Randhawa to Dhanraj Kaur

I, Nisha Rani spouse of No.14646653N CHM Shibru Narayanan resident of Village- Neelaswaram, Post- Neelaswaram, Tehsil- Kottarakara, District- Kollam, State- Kerala, Pin-691505, have changed my name from Nisha Rani to Nisha Rani S vide affidavit No.IN-PB86375041777774W dated 15 Feb 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Charanjeet Kaur w/o Sh. Bhupender Singh r/o Village Nagoki, Distt. Sirsa declare that my mother name is Sukhvinder Kaur alias Sukhwinder Kaur. She known by both names.

I, Pradeep Mahajan Son Of Janak Raj Mahajan, Resident Of Lane No.4, Airport Road, Ajit Enclave, Gumtala, Bye Pass, Amritsar Has Changed My Name To Pradeep Kumar Mahajan.

I, Prativa Kumari W/O Laxman Dass, R/O House No. 2978, Sector 56, Chandigarh, Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Prativa Kumari To Pratibha.

ESTATE OFFICE, UT., CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE SH. RAJIV TEWARI, ASSTT. ESTATE OFFICER, U.T., CHANDIGARH.



Subject:- Transfer of LEASE HOLD RIGHTS in respect of COMMERCIAL SCO No. 2413-14, Sector 22-C, Chandigarh (CPL 2786) to the extent of 5.00% share on the basis of Registered Will of Late HARDEEP MAHAJAN. It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh/Smt. HARDEEP MAHAJAN is the owner/lessee of COMMERCIAL SCO No. 2413-14, SECTOR 22-C, Chandigarh to the extent of 5.00 % Share.

It has been informed by AMARDEEP MAHAJAN that Sh./Smt. HARDEEP MAHAJAN expired on 21/12/2023 and he/she/they has/have also intimated the following legal heirs of the deceased owner/lessee:-
Name of Legal Heir - Relation with deceased
1. SUDESH MAHAJAN - MOTHER
2. AMITA MAHAJAN - WIFE
3. JASMEEN MAHAJAN - DAUGHTER
4. AKSHAY MAHAJAN - SON

Now, AMARDEEP MAHAJAN has/have applied for the Transfer of Lease Rights in respect of COMMERCIAL SCO No. 2413-14, SECTOR 22-C, Chandigarh, to the extent of 5.00 % Share held by Late HARDEEP MAHAJAN in his/her/their favour on the basis of Registered Will dated 20/10/2022. If anybody has any information about any other legal heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh immediately.

If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/Notary) in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary/ies and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

You shall also remove the building violations and get the notice vacated immediately after the mutation in your favour.

You shall be liable for outcome of the proceedings pending on account of Misuse/Building Violations.

Rajiv Tewari, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh

Won't end agitation until demands met: Farmer leader

DILLI CHALO
PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers participating in the 'Delhi Chalo' call will not end their agitation until their demands are met, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said on Saturday while indicating that their stir may continue even after the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls comes into force.

Farmers have been staying put at Khanauri and Shambhu points on Punjab's border with Haryana along with their tractor-trolleys and trucks after their march to the national capital to press the Centre for various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops, was stopped by security forces.

Last Wednesday, the 'Delhi Chalo' march, spearheaded by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), was put on hold by farmer leaders for two days after a protester was killed and around 12 police personnel were injured in clashes at Khanauri. The incident took place when some protesting farmers were trying to head towards barricades.

Speaking to reporters at the Shambhu border point, KMM leader Pandher said they will announce their next course of action on February 29. "It is certain that this agitation will continue as long as (our) demands are not met. If they (Centre) accept our demands tomorrow, we will take a decision on the agitation," he said.

About the imposition of the model code of conduct when the Election Commission announces the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls, Pandher said, "We do not have to distribute tickets for MPs. So we do not need to worry about the model code of conduct. We are not going to campaign at polling booths." "We are not worried (about the code of conduct). We are thinking that the agitation

may continue even when the model code of conduct is in force," the KMM leader added.

According to farmer leaders, the protesters will continue to camp at the two protest sites till February 29 when the next course of action will be decided. Four rounds of talks between farmer leaders and the Union minister to end the stalemate failed to achieve any breakthrough.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP for crops and farm debt waiver, the Punjab farmers are also demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

Handover injured farmer to us: Punjab chief secretary to Haryana counterpart

Punjab Chief Secretary Anurag Verma on Saturday wrote to his Haryana counterpart demanding that a farmer who was injured in clashes during the 'Delhi Chalo' march is undergoing treatment at PGI Rohtak be handed over to the Punjab authorities.

Verma said that any other farmer from Punjab undergoing treatment in Haryana should also be handed over to the state authorities.

Farmer leaders, who are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march, had alleged that a few farmers were beaten up and taken away by Haryana security personnel on February 21.

A protester was killed and about 12 police personnel were injured in the clashes at Khanauri, one of the two protest sites on the Punjab-Haryana border.

In his communication to Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal, Verma said

Pritpal Singh, hailing from Punjab, should be handed over to the state authorities.

"It has come to our notice that Pritpal Singh from Punjab, who got hurt during the farmers' agitation, is undergoing treatment at PGI (Post Graduate Institute) Rohtak," wrote Verma.

"You are requested to handover Pritpal Singh to Punjab authorities so that his treatment may be... done in Punjab free of cost by the Punjab government," he said.

Further, if any other agitating farmer from Punjab is undergoing treatment in Haryana, he should also be handed over to us, Verma further said.

On Friday, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia had alleged that Singh was "kidnapped" and injured by Haryana Police. He had claimed that Singh was "kidnapped" when he had gone to distribute 'langar' at Khanauri.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march to press the government to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops and a farm loan waiver.

Farmers' protest: Haryana extends mobile internet suspension in seven districts

The Haryana government has further extended the suspension of mobile internet and bulk SMS services in seven districts by a day till Saturday in the wake of the ongoing farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' agitation, according to an official order.

Mobile internet and bulk SMS services were first suspended in Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa on February 11 and the suspension was extended on February 13, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 21.

In the order issued on

Friday, Additional Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad said, "After assessment of the current prevailing law and order situation in the state, the conditions are still critical and tense in the district Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa." "...There is a clear potential of disruption of public utilities, damage to public assets and amenities and disturbance of public law and order in these districts on account of misuse of internet services by way of spread of inflammatory material and false rumours," he said.

The order was issued under Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Rule 2 of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules 2017.

The suspension of mobile internet services, bulk SMS (excluding banking and mobile recharge) and all dogle services, etc., provided on mobile networks except voice calls in the jurisdiction of districts of Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa has been extended till February 24 (2359 hours), the order stated.

Prasad said the order is extended to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order in jurisdictions of Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa, including Dabwali, districts in Haryana.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' agitation to put pressure on the Centre to accept their demands, including a law on minimum support price (MSP) for crops and a farm loan waiver.

Protesting farmers from Punjab taking part in the march have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points of the state's border with Haryana since February 13, when their march was stopped by security personnel.

Gurugram Marathon-2024 to be held on Sunday, around 40,000 people could participate

Gurugram: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will flag off the Gurugram Marathon-2024 on Sunday with around 40,000 people expected to participate in it.

The 42.2 km-long marathon will start at 4.30 am and will be held in four parts, an official said. The marathon track has been set up between Laser Valley to Bakhtawar Chowk, HSBC Bank Road, he said. "Gurugram is going to make a new beginning of its own on the lines of other metropolitan cities. Now every year, a marathon will be organised in Gurugram," DC Nishant Kumar Yadav said on Saturday addressing a press conference.

Haryana CM Inaugurates 5 Projects worth Rs. 821 crores in Karnal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday inaugurated 5 major health sector projects worth Rs 820.92 crore in the auditorium of Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College, Karnal.

The list of five projects inaugurated by the Chief Minister today includes the construction of the second phase of Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College with a cost of Rs 169.58 crore, the construction of a private ward in Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Health Sciences University Kutil with a cost of Rs 33.41 crore, the construction of the third phase of Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College Khanpur Kalan (Sonipat) with a cost of Rs 419.13 crore, the construction of a private ward complex in Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma PGIMS Rohtak with a cost of Rs 155.36 crore, and the construction of Government Nursing College Safidon (Jind) with a cost of Rs 43.44 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that by 2030, a medical college will be started in every district of the state. The government is progressing in terms of strengthening the public healthcare sector. Yoga sahayaks will undergo a short-term dietitian course. Haryana has become the first state in the country to implement Universal Health Coverage for all citizens.

Khattar said that the healthcare sector in Haryana is progressing rapidly. In 2015, the government decided to open



medical colleges in every district to increase the number of doctors. Today, medical colleges have started in 12 districts of the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone of the 22nd AIIMS in Rewari. Medical colleges are under process in nine other districts. The land has been acquired for three colleges, and if possible, the foundation stone will be laid before the implementation of the Code of Conduct. He said that by 2030, medical colleges will be started in every district.

The Chief Minister shared that in 2014, there were 750 MBBS seats in the state, which have now increased to 2,100. After the start of medical colleges in all districts by 2030, there will be 36,000 seats available for admission to MBBS. Today, the state needs 28,000 doctors. This need can increase to 35,000 to 40,000 by 2030. The government aims to fulfill this requirement in the next six years. The government's effort is to provide one or two doctors in every village according

to the population, said Khattar.

He said that the Ayushman Bharat scheme was initially for BPL families, with an income limit of Rs 1.20 lakh, which the government increased to Rs 1.80 lakh. By doing so, 29 lakh families were covered under it. Then the income limit was increased from Rs 1.80 lakh to Rs 3 lakh. Under this, a premium of Rs 1,500 per annum was fixed for those benefiting from the scheme. By doing so, 7 lakh more families were added to the scheme. Now the government has decided to implement the scheme for everyone by removing the income limit. Those with incomes from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 lakh will have to pay an annual premium of Rs. 4,000, and those with incomes above Rs. 6 lakhs will have to pay Rs. 5,000, he added.

The Chief Minister said that the government has increased the health budget by 24 percent to Rs 9,500 crore. Under the Nirogi Haryana scheme, every citizen's health check-up will be done within two years. So far, lab tests have

been conducted for 2 crore 26 lakh people.

He said that the government is also promoting Ayurveda. Wellness centres with three rooms, along with gyms, will be established in villages, and yoga sahayaks will be trained in dietetics.

The Chief Minister said that improper eating habits have a negative impact on the mind, intellect, and brain, therefore we should develop healthy eating habits. He said that meaningful results have been seen in the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign. Not only has the gender ratio improved in the state, but girls are also performing well in education. The percentage of girls in Rohtak Medical College has reached 55 percent.

By inaugurating the healthcare projects today, CM has not only ensured better health services for the people but also provided employment to a large number of youth, Sanjay Bhatia

Earlier speaking on the occasion, Karnal MP, Bhatia said that by inaugurating the healthcare projects today, the Chief Minister has not only ensured better health services for the people but also provided employment to a large number of youth.

He praised the Chief Minister for implementing a merit-based job system and providing provisions for treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh annually for every citizen under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Sh. Sanjay Bhatia said that the decision of the government to give ownership rights to the people living within the Lal Dora is historic.

Punjab CM Presides Over State Level Function to Commemorate Parkash Utsav Of Sri Guru Ravidass

PNS ■ KHURALGARH (HOSHIAURPUR)

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday announced that the state government will celebrate the upcoming 650th parkash utsav of Sri Guru Ravidass in an unprecedented manner.

Addressing the gathering during a state level function to observe the 647th parkash utsav of Sri Guru Ravidass ji after dedicating Sri Guru Ravidass ji memorial here today, the Chief Minister said that he has already asked the officers to ensure foolproof planning for the smooth execution of the event. He said that for this event the entire area around Khuralgarh will be holistically developed in consultation with the devotees. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this is a lifetime opportunity and the state government will leave no stone unturned for making this event a huge success.

He said that the memorial has come up at a cost of nearly Rs 143 crore and is a humble tribute to Sri Guru Ravidass ji by the state government. He

said that the memorial is equipped with a building with tourist facilities, multi level parking, Minar-e-Begumpura, Sangat Hall, state of the art auditorium and others. Bhagwant Singh Mann envisioned that this memorial will go a long way in perpetuating the life and philosophy of Sri Guru Ravidass ji.

Vowing to work tirelessly for ameliorating the woes of weaker and underprivileged sections of society, the Chief Minister said that this is in consonance with teachings of Sri Guru Ravidass ji. He said that the state government is duty bound to ensure the well being of the poorest of poor for which several path breaking initiatives are being taken. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that with the blessings of Sri Guru Ravidass ji his government has been voted to power with a thumping majority.

Mann said that Sri Guru Ravidass Ji gave the message of welfare of the entire humanity, equality of all the sections of the society thus creating a society based on egalitarian values. He said that Sri Guru Ravidass Ji laid out the concept of such an ideal society where nobody undergoes suffering of any kind. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that his government is committed to carve out a society based on the teachings and philosophy of Sri Guru Ravidass ji.

The Chief Minister said that the life and teachings of Sri Guru Ravidass ji continue to guide humanity towards carving an egalitarian society. He said that Sri Guru Ravidass ji was a great spiritual ambassador and messiah of the poor and underprivileged sections of the society taught us to lead a virtuous and noble life. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this

'Parkash Utsav' is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to the task of creating a society where every human being leads a life with self respect and dignity regardless of any discrimination.

He said that as per the ideology of Bharat Ratna Baba Sahib BR Ambedkar the state government is empowering the weaker sections of society by imparting quality education to them. He said that 'Schools of Eminence' established by the state government will realize the dreams of Baba Sahib by grooming the poor but bright students for a prosperous future. Bhagwant Singh Mann also urged the pilgrims to pray for the peace, progress and prosperity of the state adding that with the blessings of Sri Guru Ravidass ji a new, vibrant and progressive Punjab will soon be carved out by the state government.

Journalists' Literature Festival: Before Modi, Indira Gandhi used to do Mann Ki Baat

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The second day of the Journalists' Literature Festival held at the Chandigarh Press Club featured some of the brightest minds in journalism on Saturday.

The day started with a session on the evolution of narrative in Hindi journalism, transitioning from short to long formats. Senior journalists and authors Asha Arpit, Mayank Mishra, Ranju Arey and Arun Naithani were part of the panel, which was moderated by journalist Barinder Singh Rawat.

The second session of the day saw a riveting discussion on 'Sports in India: Cricket vs Others', with seasoned cricket journalist Vijay Lokapally, television presenter Vikrant Gupta, and hockey writer Prabhjot Singh sharing their insights. It was moderated by Umesh Sharma. On being asked by Sharma, why cricket is dominating over other sports, Lokapally credited the BCCI for making cricket glamorous. "Earlier, hockey players were given a great deal of importance, but after the 1983 World Cup Win, things changed. A major credit for it goes to the BCCI".

Gupta, however, differed and insisted that the sport had been popular before '83 as well as around 90,000 people would show up in stadiums, and people would get together to listen to it on the radio too.

The third, and one of the most anticipated sessions was on 'political narratives in state and national elections: BJP versus the opposition', which featured journalists Jagtar Singh,



Manraj Grewal, Jatin Gandhi, and Nidhi Sharma.

Nidhi Sharma said, "It's not over till it's over. Look what happened to the India Shining Campaign. In 2019, even the BJP was not sure whether it would win for a second term, Pulwama was a Godsend. The BJP is looking confident. But if you go state by state and from regional player to regional player you might be surprised. One-month is a very long time in politics. The opposition also has a sense of urgency and the biggest challenge is to get the narrative straight. They cannot afford to look like plucked chickens! As journalists it is our responsibility to look at other factors driving the election."

On the BJP's superior messaging she said, "No matter them winning across states, they have not lost the fire in their belly. Just look at the Chandigarh mayoral election. No election is too small. Messaging is important. While PM Modi was one day seen speaking to a Ujjwala scheme beneficiary about tea, the next day Rahul and Sonia were seen making marmalade, which not

a lot of people are able to relate to."

"INC's messaging is lost, few know that before Modi started Mann Ki Baat, Indira Gandhi also had her own programme on the All India Radio," she said.

Gandhi, however, was of the opinion BJP's narrative is not the Ram Temple, it is Ram Rajya. The BJP is agile when it comes to grasping opportunities. The temple is there, but the shelf life of it is limited, so it is a promise of Ram Rajya. "A newspaper piece analysed how the economy was good both under Modi and Manmohan Singh, but it is better at projecting narratives."

Jagtar Singh said that the freedom of expression is under threat. It is no ordinary election, the content and character of democracy in India is changing very fast. It is a very serious issue. Even innocuous tweets on the farmer protest is being taken down. Where is this country heading to? Are we heading towards dictatorship? Are we free to write, are we free to speak? I see little ray of hope of people standing up?"

Punjab CM Embarks First of its Kind Sarkaar Vpaar Milni at Mukerian

PNS ■ MUKERIAN (HOSHIAURPUR)

Vowing to ensure the holistic development of every strata of the society, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday embarked first of its kind Sarkaar Vpaar Milni to resolve the issues being faced by the trading community of the state.

Addressing the gathering, Mann said that this first of its kind initiative is aimed at ensuring the well being of the trading community. He said that this is a step forward for restoring the pristine glory of the state by giving fillip to its economic development. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the industry and trade is the backbone of the economy of every state due to which it must be given an impetus.

He said that revenue and employment generation is a circle which is pivotal for development of the state. Mann said that he had visited the several big cities like Mumbai, Chennai and others to invite the industrialists for setting up their ventures. He said that gone are the days when those in power used to demand their share in the projects as now the entire focus is on development of the state.

The Chief Minister said that so far investments worth Rs 70,000 crore have been firmed up in the state with leading companies like Tata



Steel, Sanatan Textiles and others making a baseline to invest in the state. He said that like-wise the state government is duty bound to safeguard the interests of the local industry adding that they are the real brand ambassadors of the state. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the state government is committed to ensure that these companies expand their businesses in the state.

Mann said that the state has best law and order situation in the country due to which industries are coming in a big way. He said that this is contrary to the situation when during previous regimes the leaders used to seek shares in the ventures. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that earlier the MoUs were signed with the political families in the power but now these agreements are signed for progress and prosperity of the state.

He said that he is the custodian of all the rights and interests of the Punjabis due to which his every action is aimed at welfare of every section of the society. He said that unfortunately those leaders who had remained in power in the state, earlier, had amassed huge wealth by ruining the state. Mann said that these leaders had interest in transport, education, health and other sectors due to which they ignored the welfare of people adding that there was conflict of interest of these leaders due to which they gave preference to their own vested interests.

The Chief Minister gave a clarion call to the traders to work wholeheartedly for progress and prosperity of the state. He exhorted the traders and industrialists to become partners in the ongoing revolution to usher in a new era of economic prosperity for the

state. Mann said that the state government has already prepared a blueprint of upgrading the infrastructure in the focal points and SEZs besides ensuring security in the industrial areas by setting up special Police posts.

He said that the era of harassment of the industry and traders is over and the state government will now act as a facilitator to them adding that unlike in the past no one will harass the industrialists rather the state government will make every effort to promote and encourage the industry. Mann said that this is being implemented in real zeal to ensure comprehensive development of the industrial sector.

The Chief Minister said that the state government will make concerted efforts for safeguarding, promoting and expanding the existing industrial units in the state. He said that the industrialists have played a key role in the socio-economic growth of the country. He said that these industries have carved a niche for them across the globe and the state government will make every effort to ensure that their interests are safeguarded.

Mann said that the state government has introduced unique colour coded stamp papers, which is a step forward towards ushering a new era of Industrial Revolution in the state. He said that Punjab is the first state to introduce green

colored stamp papers to facilitate the entrepreneurs for setting up their units thereby giving much needed fillip to industrial growth of the state. He described it as a revolutionary step aimed at promoting ease of doing business for the entrepreneurs desirous of setting up their units in the state.

The Chief Minister said that this is not a political rally but it is the next phase of the Sarkaar Sannatkar Milni that was earlier started by the state government. He said that the state government is making concerted efforts for promoting the Food Processing industry in the state adding that traders will be immensely benefitted from the various decisions being made by the state government. Mann said that since this is a national highway, the Mukerian Civil Hospital will be equipped with the facility of trauma centre and other facilities.

He also announced that the state government will soon set up an Industry Advisory Commission with chairman of Cabinet Rank. He said that this commission will have members from various sectors and industries so that the problems of the industry are resolved at the earliest. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it will help a lot in ensuring smooth redressal of all the grievances of the industry and traders.

World leaders stand in solidarity with Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Western leaders descended on Kyiv on Saturday to mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen travelled overnight to Kyiv by train along with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

They arrived shortly after a Russian drone attack struck a residential building in the southern city of Odesa, killing at least one person.

Three women also sustained severe burns in the attack Friday evening on a residential building, regional Governor Oleh Kiper said on his social media account. Rescue services are still combing rubble looking for survivors. The foreign leaders are

TWO YEARS SINCE RUSSIA'S FULL-SCALE INVASION

in Ukraine to express solidarity as Ukrainian forces run low on ammunition and weaponry and Western aid hangs in the balance.

"More than ever we stand firmly by Ukraine. Financially, economically, militarily, morally. Until the country is finally free," von der Leyen said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, after she arrived in Kyiv.

But, at the front line in the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine, Ukrainian soldiers pleaded for ammunition.

"When the enemy comes in, a lot of our guys die. ... We are sitting here with nothing, said Volodymyr, 27, a senior officer in an artillery battery.

"In order to protect our infantry ... we need a high number of shells, which we do not have now," said Oleksandr, 45, commander of artillery unit.

The war has also come to Russia. Drones hit a steel plant in the Lipetsk region in southern Russia Saturday, causing a large fire, regional governor Igor Artamonov said, adding there are no casualties. Independent Russian media said the Novolipetsk Metallurgical Plant is the largest steel plant in Russia. Videos shared on Russian social media showed several fires burning at the plant, and an explosion could be heard.

Independent Russian news outlet Mediazona said Saturday that around 75,000 Russian men died in 2022 and 2023 fighting in the war.

Working with journalists from other outlets, it said the rate of Russia's losses in Ukraine is not slowing and that Moscow is losing around 120 men a day. Based on a statistical analysis of the recorded deaths of soldiers

compared with a Russian inheritance database, the journalists said around 83,000 soldiers are likely to have died by Saturday, the second anniversary of the full scale invasion.

According to Mediazona's analysis, regular Russian troops sustained the heaviest losses in the first months of the war.

But, after prisoners were offered their freedom in exchange for fighting and after President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial mobilization, those groups started to sustain more casualties, particularly in the early months of 2023.

A somber mood hangs over Ukraine as the war against Russia enters its third year and Kyiv's troops face mounting challenges on the front line amid dwindling ammunition supplies and personnel challenges. Its troops recently withdrew from the strategic eastern

city of Avdiivka, handing Moscow one of its biggest victories.

Earlier this month, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fired top military commander Valerii Zaluzhnyi, replacing him with Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyy, marking the most significant shakeup of top brass since the full-scale invasion.

Russia still controls roughly a quarter of the country after Ukraine failed to make any major breakthroughs with its summertime counteroffensive. Meanwhile, millions of Ukrainians continue to live in precarious circumstances in the crossfire of battles, and many others face constant struggles under Russian occupation. Most are waiting for a Ukrainian liberation that hasn't come.

Olena Zelenska, wife of President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy, said Saturday that more than 2 million Ukrainian children have left the country since the war began and that at least 528 have been killed.

"The war started by Russia deliberately targets children," she said.

In the US Congress, Republicans have stalled \$60 billion in military aid for Kyiv, desperately needed in the short term. The EU recently approved a 50 billion-euro (about USD 54 billion) aid package for Ukraine meant to support Ukraine's economy, despite resistance from Hungary.

US President Joe Biden tied the loss of the defensive stronghold of Avdiivka in the Donetsk region after months of grueling battles to the stalled US aid. Fears have since spiked that Ukrainian forces will face similar difficulties across other parts of the 1000-kilometer (620-mile) front line as they come under mounting pressure from Russian assaults.

Putin mocking Christianity, charges Yulia

AP ■ MOSCOW

The widow of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny accused President Vladimir Putin of mocking Christianity by trying to force his mother to agree to a secret funeral after his death in a penal colony.

Yulia Navalnaya said in a video released Saturday that Navalny's mother, who wants her son's body returned to her, is being "literally tortured" by authorities who had threatened to bury Navalny in the Arctic prison. They suggested to his mother that she does not have much time to make a decision because the body is decomposing, Navalnaya said. "Give us the body of my husband," Navalnaya said. "You tortured him alive, and now you keep torturing him dead. You mock the remains of the dead."

Navalny, 47, Russia's most well-known opposition politician, unexpectedly died on February 16 in the penal colony, prompting hundreds of Russians across the country to stream to impromptu memorials with flowers and candles.

Authorities have detained scores of people as they seek to suppress any major outpouring of sympathy for Putin's fiercest foe before the presidential election he is almost certain to win. Russians on social media say officials do not want to return Navalny's body to his family because they fear a public show of support for him.

Navalnaya accused Putin, an Orthodox Christian, of killing Navalny.

"No true Christian could ever do what Putin is now doing with the body of Alexei," she said, asking, "What will you do with his corpse? How low will you sink to mock the man



you murdered?"

Putin is often pictured at church, dunking himself in ice water to celebrate the Epiphany and visiting holy sites in Russia. He has promoted what he has called "traditional values" without which, he once said, "society degenerates."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov rejected allegations that Putin was involved in Navalny's death, calling them "absolutely unfounded, insolent accusations about the head of the Russian state."

Musician Nadya Tolokonnikova, who became widely known after spending nearly two years in prison for taking part in a 2012 protest with her band Pussy Riot inside Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral, released a video in which she also accused Putin of hypocrisy.

"We were imprisoned for allegedly trampling on traditional values. But no one tramples on traditional Russian values more than you, Putin, your officials and your priests who pray for all the murder that you do, year after year, day after day," Tolokonnikova, who lives abroad, said. "Putin, have a conscience, give his mother the body of her son."

WWII-era bomb safely detonated

AP ■ LONDON

A World War II-era bomb whose discovery prompted one of the largest peacetime evacuations in British history has been detonated at sea, the Ministry of Defense said on Saturday.

The 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) explosive was discovered Tuesday in the backyard of a home in Plymouth, a port city on the southwestern coast of Britain.

More than 10,000 residents were evacuated to ensure their safety as a military convoy transported the unexploded bomb through a densely populated residential area to a ferry slipway, from which it was taken out to sea.

"I think it is fair to say that the last few days will go down in history for Plymouth," said Tudor Evans, the leader of Plymouth City Council.

Indian mission raises Jaahnavi case with Seattle officials

Family shocked and disappointed over decision of authorities

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's consulate in Seattle has raised with authorities the case of Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula after the prosecution attorney said an overspeeding Seattle police officer who struck and killed her while responding to a drug overdose call will not face any criminal charges citing lack of "sufficient" evidence.

Kandula, 23, from Andhra Pradesh, was struck by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave when she was crossing a street in Seattle on January 23 last year. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 km/h) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call.

Kandula was thrown 100

feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle.

In bodycam footage released by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and dismissed any implication Dave might be at fault or that a criminal investigation was necessary.

On Wednesday, the King County Prosecutor's Office said they would not move forward with criminal charges against Dave due to a lack of evidence to prove a criminal case beyond a reasonable doubt.

India's consulate in Seattle also said it was monitoring the progress in the case and will extend all possible support in ensuring justice for Kandula and her family.

"On the recently released investigation report of the King County Prosecution Attorney on the unfortunate death of Jaahnavi Kandula, the Consulate has been in regular touch with the designated family representatives and will continue to extend all possible support in ensuring justice for Jaahnavi and her family," the mission said in a post on X.

"We have also raised the matter strongly with local authorities, including Seattle Police for appropriate redress. The case has now been referred to the Seattle City Attorney's office for review," the post said on Friday.



It also said the mission was waiting for the completion of Seattle Police's administrative investigation and will continue monitoring the progress in the case.

Kandula's family in a statement following the announcement said: "We are shocked and disappointed that the King County Prosecutor's office has failed to criminally charge the Seattle police officer whose reckless behaviour killed Jaahnavi Kandula."

"We are pursuing our legal rights to obtain justice for Jaahnavi even though the City of Seattle has failed to do so," the statement added.

Oil slick in Red Sea from Houthis'-hit cargo ship

AP ■ CARGO

An attack by Yemeni Houthi rebels on a Belize-flagged ship earlier this month caused an 18-mile (29-kilometer) oil slick, the US military said on Saturday. It also warned of the danger of a spill from the vessel's cargo of fertilizer.

The Rubymar, a British-registered, Lebanese-operated cargo vessel, was attacked on February 18 while sailing through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait that connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, US Central Command said.

The missile attack forced the crew to abandon the vessel, which had been on its way to Bulgaria after leaving Khorfakkan in the United Arab Emirates. It was transporting more than 41,000 tons of fertiliser, CENTCOM said in a statement.

The vessel suffered significant damage, which led to the slick, said the CENTCOM statement, warning that the ship's cargo "could spill into the Red Sea and worsen this environmental disaster".

"The Houthis continue to demonstrate disregard for the regional impact of their indiscriminate attacks, threatening the fishing industry, coastal communities, and imports of food supplies," it said.

The Associated Press, relying on satellite images from Planet Labs PBC

of the stricken vessel, reported on Tuesday that the vessel was leaking oil in the Red Sea.

Separately, CENTCOM said it launched attacks on Houthi-held areas in Yemen on Friday, destroying seven mobile anti-ship cruise missiles that were prepared to launch toward the Red Sea.

It described the strikes as "self-defence", saying that the missiles "presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and to the US Navy ships in the region".

CENTCOM didn't give further details. Houthi-run media, however, reported strikes by the US and the UK on the district of Durayhimi in the Red Sea province of Hodeida.

The US military has in recent weeks launched waves of strikes on Houthi-held areas inside Yemen in response to the Houthis' attacks on shipping routes in the Red Sea.

Since November, the rebels have repeatedly targeted ships in the Red Sea and surrounding waters. They claim to be acting over Israel's war targeting Hamas in the Gaza Strip, however they have frequently targeted vessels with tenuous or no clear links to Israel, imperiling shipping in a key route for trade among Asia, the Mideast and Europe. The targeted vessels have included at least one with cargo for Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor.

E-chips mandatory for Everest climbers

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal will soon be making it mandatory for all climbers headed to Mount Everest to carry an electronic chip that would be helpful in rescue in case of any emergency at the world's highest peak.

The government will soon be formulating a rule for making such a chip mandatory starting from Spring this year when the climbing season starts for Mt. Everest with the opening of the narrow window available to climb extremely high altitudes.

Thousands of climbers from all over the world, including India and Nepal, are attracted to the 8,849 metres (29,032 feet) high Mt Everest, a.k.a. Sagarmatha in Nepali. While scores of them do reach the summit, some either lose their lives or are seriously injured during the ascent or descent.

Since 1953, 300 persons have lost their lives, according to Nepal government data. In the 2023 Spring season, till May 22, Nepali officials said, as many as 12 climbers, including four Nepalese, one Indian, and one Chinese, died during their respective expeditions to Mt Everest.

The Everest base camp is situated at an altitude of 18,000 feet. Any search and rescue operation from the base camp onwards to the Summit becomes a tedious job because of the snow storms, avalanches, and other extreme weather events.

"All the climbers to Everest would be provided the electronic chip by the government after paying a certain amount. It will be fitted in the climber's jacket," Rakesh Gurung, Director at the Department of Tourism told PTI.

US senator calls on Pak authorities to probe allegations of poll fraud

PTI ■ WASHINGTON / ISLAM-ABAD

A US Senator has urged the Pakistani authorities to fully investigate the claims of vote rigging in the country's elections, emphasising that without a credible investigation, a new government will struggle to bring the Pakistani people together.

Taking to X on Friday, Senator Chris Van Hollen shared photos of a letter he wrote to Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Masood Khan on February 21 in which he praised the millions of Pakistanis who voted on February 8 in the country's elections.

The significant turnout of Pakistani people from around the country and every walk of life speaks to the fundamental role elections play in democracies around the world, he said.

"Unfortunately, these elections were marred by political violence, allegations of unfair restrictions on political expression, and accusations of vote rigging," the Democrat Senator wrote.

The junior senator from Maryland, who was incidentally born in Karachi, further said,

"The State Department agreed with international and local election observers' assessment that 'these elections included undue restrictions on freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly'."

The letter also said Pakistani authorities shut down mobile telecommunications ostensibly as a security measure and the allegations made by a senior administrative official of Punjab province that he participated in fraud "converting losers into winners" and changing the results for 13 national parliament seats. Van Hollen urged Pakistan to "fully investigate the allegations of fraud and electoral interference". "Without a credible investigation, a new government will struggle to bring the Pakistani people together," he said.

Meanwhile, a high-level inquiry committee constituted by Pakistan's top electoral body on Friday said the explosive allegations of election rigging levelled by the former senior bureaucrat were "false and based on lies".

The report of the probe committee came a day after Rawalpindi's former

Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha on Thursday took a U-turn and withdrew his allegations, saying he had made the rigging charges at the behest of former prime minister Imran Khan's party which offered him a "lucrative position".

Khan's Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party on Friday approached the Supreme Court challenging the outcome of the elections alleging widespread rigging.

Khan has already declared the entire process as the 'Mother of All Rigging' and has been insisting that his party's mandate was stolen because of the rigging.

The party has claimed that it won 180 seats in the National Assembly by way of independent candidates backed by the party, however, the rigging ensured that the number was reduced to 92 seats only, thus robbing its chance of coming back to power.

The petition comes two days after the top court disposed of a petition seeking to annul the elections and imposed a fine on a petitioner, a former Army officer, for failing to appear in court after filing the petition.

Iran-Pak gas pipeline gets govt approval

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government has finally approved the commencement of the much-delayed construction work on its segment of the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline which will help address the increasing energy needs of the cash-strapped country.

The approval, which came after a delay of several years, for the first phase of the 80-km segment inside Pakistan was given by the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) of the interim government just days before the new government takes office after the February 8 elections.

"The Pakistan government has approved the start of construction work on its segment of the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline," said an official statement.

To escape conscription, many in Myanmar flee to Thailand

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thwel, a 25-year-old schoolteacher, saw very few options left to her after Myanmar's military announced it is implementing conscription to fill its ranks.

"As a person living in this country, I only have two options: to go abroad illegally or die here," Thwel told The Associated Press by phone while travelling to a border area to try crossing into Thailand with a small group of like-minded people.

Some observers believe a mass exodus of young talent is taking place and could become a social problem, with their exit heightening the instability that followed the military takeover that now amounts to a civil war.

Thwel, whose home in Myanmar's southern Mon state is the scene of occasional com-

bat between the army and resistance forces, spoke on condition she be called by only one name as protection from the military authorities. Like many professionals, she joined the Civil Disobedience Movement that was formed to oppose military rule after the army's 2021 seizure of power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Since then, the army's manpower has been stretched thin by increasing pressure from surprisingly durable pro-democracy resistance forces and ethnic minority armed organisations.

Over the past four months, opposition groups scored significant victories and seized strategically important territory in northern Shan state where Myanmar borders China, and in Rakhine state in the west.

On February 10, Senior

Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, chair of Myanmar's ruling military council, ordered the 2010 conscription law be activated to replenish the ranks that have been depleted by the struggle to quash a nationwide pro-democracy insurgency. All healthy men ages 18-35 and women 18-27 are required to register for two years of military service.

Evading conscription is punishable by three to five years in prison and a fine.

Of Myanmar's 56 million people, about 14 million — 6.3 million men and 7.7 million women — are eligible for military service, according to Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, the spokesperson for the military government. The government will draft 60,000 people a year, with an initial batch of 5,000 to be called up soon after the traditional Thingyan New Year



celebration in mid-April, he said.

After an uproar over the initial announcement, Zaw Min Tun said there is no plan to call women into military service yet — meaning schoolteacher Thwel might actually be in the clear for the time being.

But many people are actively looking for ways to escape.

The street in front of Thailand's embassy in Yangon has been filled with visa applicants queued up to get numbered appointment tickets. Overwhelmed, the embassy announced it would accept

only 400 visa appointments per day, and they must be made online. According to the Thai Foreign Ministry, some 7,000 Myanmar nationals have applied for visas, Thailand's Bangkok Post newspaper reported Thursday.

Each day at the state passport office in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, 4,000-5000 people were lining up to get one of the 200-250 daily appointment tickets. Two women died and one was injured after they fell into a ditch in a pre-dawn rush to get a coveted early place in line.

A 32-year-old news translator from Yangon said he made a snap decision to leave the country after the conscription announcement, and flew to Thailand a few days later. Like almost all persons willing to discuss their plans, he spoke on condition of anonymity for

fear of the legal consequences.

He said he was very concerned because serving in the military is like entering a labyrinth with no way back out, giving the example of his uncle, who joined the army for a five-year enlistment but was not allowed to leave for more than 40 years.

A 26-year-old journalist who has been working covertly in Mandalay, said the conscription law made his situation untenable. He also spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of the legal consequences; more than 150 journalists were arrested after the army sized power, and more than one-third remain locked up, according to the Paris-based press freedom group Reporters Without Borders.

"I tried my best to stay inside the country in the past few years while other journal-

ists were fleeing abroad or to areas controlled by ethnic minority armed groups," he said. "But, this time, we can't hide anywhere. We can't stay out of sight. There is no choice."

He is also planning to flee to Thailand.

The Institute for Strategy and Policy, an independent think tank, said conscription could trigger a mass exodus, more widespread violations of human rights and increase corruption and extortion at all levels. It anticipates that young people close to areas where armed conflict is active could join the ethnic minority armed forces and pro-democracy resistance groups.

There were around 160,000 soldiers before the army takeover, the institute said, and there are now fewer than 100,000 due to casualties, desertions and defection.

Sebi using AI for probe: Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for investigations, its Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney said on Saturday and emphasised that entities should keep track of technological developments. Against the backdrop of instances of manipulations in the stock market, he said the message is that abiding with the law will be more beneficial and violations will cause problems. In response to a question by



PTI on whether Sebi is using AI, Varshney said, "we are using AI for investigations... And also using for a lot of things".

He was speaking on the sidelines of the 13th international convention of the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) in the national capital. As long as the market is transparent and no manipulation is happening, that is fine with the regulator, he noted. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has been taking action against violators as well as measures to enhance transparency and curb misdoings.

Road safety body calls for making seat belts must in passenger buses, heavy vehicles

PTI ■ JAMMU

New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI) International Road Federation (IRF) -- a global road safety body -- has urged the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to make the use of seat belts mandatory in all heavy vehicles, including passenger buses and school buses, to minimise casualties and injuries in road accidents. IRF President Emeritus K K Kapila in a letter to MoRTH said there is an urgent need to provide seats belts in buses, which need to be made mandatory. "There have been heart-wrenching passenger bus accidents resulting in loss of innocent lives. Many of them



would have been saved, had they been wearing seat belts," he said. Kapila pointed out that according to the National

Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2021 data, only 14 individuals lost their lives in bus accidents in the USA. Similarly, based on the analysis of the accident propensity of Chinese bus drivers in 2022, China reported 215 fatalities. He pointed out that both developing and developed countries have achieved remarkable outcomes due to stringent safety standards for public transport like buses. "The contrasting and alarming data in India suggests a lacuna in mandating safety standards in buses, jeopardising the lives of school children, the poor, and the low income strata of the society," Kapila added.



Brazil eyes deeper economic ties with India

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Ambassador of Brazil to India, Kenneth Félix Haczynski da Nóbrega on Saturday said energy, defence and agro-processing are the three key pillars for strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. Speaking at a session on 'India-Brazil Fostering Trade Partnership - Focus West Bengal' organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce here, the diplomat emphasised on business-to-business collaborations in iron and steel, milk production, leather, biofuels, and aquaculture. He also expressed optimism about the evolving defence sector alliance between the two countries. Ambassador Nóbrega said the first Brazil-India Defence Dialogue is expected to begin next week, focusing on strategic partnerships and technological cooperation. The interactive session



explored avenues to deepen economic ties and leverage West Bengal's potential in various sectors. The diplomat expressed interest in exploring partnerships and technological exchange in food processing and aquaculture sectors, highlighting West Bengal's potential in these areas. The two countries have been strategic partners since 2006. In 2022, the bilateral trade between the two countries expanded by 32 per cent to USD 15.2 billion.

Sitharaman inaugurates new campus of BITS Pilani

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday inaugurated the fifth campus of the Birla group-run engineering institute BITS Pilani, with which the national institute of eminence also diversifies into law, management and design. Located in the nearby Kalayan area of the megapolis, the Rs

1,600-crore campus spread across 60 acres will accommodate 5,000 students at full capacity, said Kumar Mangalam Birla, the group chairman and the chancellor of the institute. Began in 1964 in Pilani, the native village of the Birlas in the Marwar region of Rajasthan, the institute, which was one of the six private institutes elevated as



an institute of eminence and houses 80,000 students across its five campuses in Pilani, Goa, Hyderabad, Dubai and Kalyan. The new campus moves away from its core focus of engineering to law, management and design. The design school was started just last week while law and management schools were functional from last year

from the temporary campus in Powai. Declaring the new campus open, Sitharaman said over the years, the institute has produced as many as 7,300 Fortune 500 CEOs, 300 academics of global repute and 600 civil servants. It has also produced 6,200 startups while its incubation centre has spawned 170 startups of which 30 have become unicorns.

Under employment is problem for India, says Panagariya

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Pitching for labour reforms, the chairman of the 16th Finance Commission and former NITI Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya on Saturday said that "unemployment," is not a problem for India but "under-employment" is. Speaking at a session 'The Economic Whisper: how to fuel growth with jobs' at the concluding day of the two-day ABP Network's 'Ideas of India Summit 3.0' here, he also sounded optimistic that the jobs problem in the country will be solved over the next 10 years. "Unemployment is really not India's problem in my view. Our problem is underemployment, so productivity is low. So the job that can be done by one person often gets done by two people or maybe three people. And that is where I think, the real challenge of jobs is creating well-paid high-productivity jobs," he said. Stating that in the economy's jargon, India is a labour-abundant and capital-scarce country, he said, "What we have done is to put much of the capital in very selective sectors which are in any case very capital intensive". "We got the situation where much of the capital is working with very few workers. And then you have a host of workers in agriculture in micro and small enterprises where the capital is hardly present. So then you got a lot of workers working with very little capital. And when that is the case, it translates into low productivity," Panagariya said. The country still needs to fix labour and trade laws, he said, adding that, "compared to other countries, protection level is higher that needs to come down." "In India, building consensus is a part of the democratic reform process, which makes passing laws a slower process," he said.



"During (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee's Prime Ministership labour laws were tabled. Subsequently, no government showed the courage. With the Modi Government, the laws have been passed. It is now the states that have to write the rules and regulations to implement the laws," he stated. Talking about reforms, he said, "Implementation of labour laws, privatization of public sector enterprises and banks are some of the important reforms that need to be brought about." "Nevertheless, on the whole, we are in a fantastic sweet spot. These are problems. I think we'll get sorted out over the next 10 years. I am very optimistic that the jobs problem will be solved as well," Panagariya said. He said that since 1991 economic reforms "we have had upside down but the trend has been towards liberalization. If we take away COVID years, we have grown about 8.8 per cent in real dollars for the past 20 years, which we could not imagine in the 1980s." "The conditions are perfectly there for India to take the world by storm. India is now the only economy, which is growing strongly," he added. On the country's demographic dividend, Panagariya said, "The population is large and the population is young. The size of the population will help us. We don't have that kind of dependency ratio as China has."

Brokers need to be cautious against manipulations in stock market

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney on Saturday cautioned against manipulations in the capital market and urged brokers to keep an eye and prevent such instances. Clamping down on misdoings, the markets watchdog has been taking action against various entities for manipulations, including front running activities. Emphasising the importance of investor trust, Varshney said that if there is no trust of investors, "everything will fail". Manipulations are going on and Sebi cannot intervene in all of them. Some brokers are involved and the broker community should keep an eye as "bad elements can come in the system", he said. He was speaking at the 13th international convention of the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) in the national Capital.

Rumours of my firing inaccurate: Byju Raveendran to staff

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A troubled edtech firm Byju's voted for a leadership change, Byju Raveendran has penned a note to employees saying he continues to remain CEO and the management remains unchanged, as he dubbed Friday's EGM as a "farce". The note to employees assumes significance as it comes after Byju's shareholders (prominent investors) on Friday voted for removing Founder-CEO Raveendran and his family from the board over alleged "mismanagement and failures" at what was once India's hottest tech startup, but the company dug in its heels, calling the voting done in absence of founders as invalid and ineffective. In a note to employees on Saturday, Raveendran alleged that a lot of essential rules were "violated" at Friday's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). "This means that whatever was decided in that meeting does not count, because it didn't stick to the established



rules... It is crucial for everyone to understand the specific issues that make this EGM a farce," he wrote. PTI has seen a copy of the letter. Raveendran said he firmly believes that the truth will inevitably prevail, despite the

"relentless trial by the media". "I am writing this letter to you as the CEO of our company. Contrary to what you may have read in the media, I continue to remain CEO, the management remains unchanged, and the

board remains the same," he said, adding it is "business as usual" at BYJU'S. "To reemphasise, the rumours of my firing have been greatly exaggerated and highly inaccurate," Raveendran said. Outlining what he claimed were "key discrepancies" at the EGM, he said the meeting was convened without following the proper procedure set out by the law and the company's Articles of Association. "To pass any resolution the meeting needs to have a proper quorum, a set of people who are mandatory. Our articles are clear on the quorum requiring the presence of at least one founder director. Consequently, any resolutions taken at the meeting are not enforceable as per law," he said. He also stated, "The claims made by a small group of select minority shareholders that they have unanimously passed the resolution in the EGM is completely wrong. Only 35 out of 170 shareholders (representing around 45 per cent of

shareholding) voted in favour of the resolution. That in itself shows the very limited support that this irrelevant meeting received." BYJU'S Founder CEO Raveendran Byju, his wife and brother -- the only three members on the company board as of now -- stayed away from the EGM called by a group of six investors, who collectively hold more than 32 per cent in Think & Learn (T&L), the firm that operates online tuition platform Byju's. At the end, more than 60 per cent of the shareholders voted in favour of all the seven resolutions, which included removing the current management, reconfiguration of the board and a third party forensic investigation into acquisitions by the company, sources close to the investors said. However, sources close to Byju's put the number at 47 per cent on Friday. Prosus -- one of the six investors who had called the EGM -- in a statement on Friday said, "shareholders unanimously passed all resolutions put forward for vote".

Kerala leads India healthcare talent migration: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Kerala leads India's healthcare talent migration to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, especially to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which witnessed a 3.3-fold increase in demand in 2023, said a report. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh emerged as the leading states contributing to the migration of healthcare workers, including nurses, doctors, and laboratory technicians, to MENA countries, according to data by blue-collar worker platform Huntr. Migration of healthcare workers from Kerala, in particular, witnessed a notable increase in migration to the

UAE, with a 3.3-fold rise in 2023, the report stated. The report is based on data on Huntr platform and employer organisations in the Middle East from 2022 and 2023. It further noted that the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar are the most preferred destinations for Indian healthcare professionals seeking job opportunities. These countries offer attractive incentives, including extended residency visas, financial benefits, and state-of-the-art healthcare infrastructure, the report added. "The rapid globalisation has opened doors for extensive global mobility, and this report is a testament to the crucial role that India plays in meeting MENA countries' rising healthcare talent demands.



"The surge in migration from states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh reflects a significant shift in the region's healthcare landscape. With Huntr's innovative solutions and stakeholder collaboration, we're poised to drive further growth and development in the MENA healthcare sector," Huntr CEO Samuel Joy said.

The report further revealed that employers in MENA countries seek candidates with specific skills and qualifications, including experience in regional sales, distributor management, and project management. Additionally, there is also a high demand for healthcare professionals with qualifications ranging from diplomas to higher degrees in nursing and medicine. The healthcare workers migrating from India to the MENA region are predominantly within the early 30s age group, with a noticeable increase in the number of male nurses joining the workforce segment that is traditionally dominated by women, the report added.

Foundation stone for POL & LPG project of HPCL laid in Assam

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The foundation stone for a first-of-its-kind combined petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL) & LPG facilities of Hindustan Petroleum was laid at Kamardanga in Assam's Chirang district, an official statement said.. Union Minister of State for

Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Telati attended the programme.. "This visionary project, with an investment of Rs 540 crore and sprawling across an expanse of 78.68 acres, underscores Hindustan Petroleum's unwavering commitment to enhancing energy accessibility and fostering socio-economic



progress in the North East region," the statement said.. The LPG facility will boast 1500 MT mounded storage vessels, a cutting-edge 4 Bay tank truck Loading gantry, and tank wagon unloading capability, ensuring seamless operations and meeting the growing demand for LPG in the region. These facilities will ensure

energy sufficiency of a minimum of 15 days in Assam, the statement said.. The project will bolster the existing network of 332 retail outlets, with plans for future outlets slated for development.. The LPG installation will ensure continuous LPG availability to 78 distributorships and 9.2 lakh

customers.. This will also benefit around 7 lakh beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).. Furthermore, the project will facilitate direct product availability to satellite depots in the North Eastern states, ensuring enhanced energy accessibility across the region.

BUSINESS BRIEF

YASHODA HOSPITAL MEDICAL PARTNER OF MARATHON 2024
New Delhi: The 9th Edition of the New Delhi Marathon 2024, scheduled to take place on February 25 at the prestigious JLN Stadium in New Delhi, has been officially recognised by the Athletics Federation of India as the National Marathon, which will also be a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics. Yashoda Hospital is the official medical partner of this event at Yashoda Medical Base Camp, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium.

POWERGRID SIGNS MOU FOR IMPARTING SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME
New Delhi: POWERGRID, (Northern Region-I) a Maharana CPSE, Signed a MOU on February 22,2024, with The Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering & Technology (CIPET) (a premier National Institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Government of India) at RHQ, Faridabad Office for imparting skill development training programme for under privileged/unemployed youth of society, at CIPET, Murthal, Haryana under CSR initiatives of POWERGRID. The Estimated Project cost is approximately ₹1.5 crore. POWERGRID, CSR Department has always been working in line with the nation's plan for developing skills, opportunities, self-employment as well as development of entrepreneurs. To achieve this objective, POWERGRID has signed MOU with CIPET, Murthal for six months Skill Development Training Programme in the field of Plastic Engineering & Technology for the 160 underprivileged /unemployed youth on residential basis. Above tech skill development programme will have 40 students therein 10 per cent seats have been reserved for girl students.

SWIATEK STUNNED BY KALINSKAYA IN DUBAI SEMIFINALS

AP ■ DUBAI

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek was stunned by qualifier Anna Kalinskaya 6-4 6-4 in the semifinals of the Dubai Championships. Swiatek was up 4-2 on Friday when Kalinskaya broke straight back. Swiatek's consistency began to desert her and Kalinskaya rattled off four straight games to take the first set. Swiatek saved two match points to break for 5-3 in the second and had another chance to break for 5-5 but hit wide. Kalinskaya gave Swiatek her first straight-sets loss in almost a year. The first qualifier to reach the Dubai final has defeated three top-10 players in a row, starting with No. 9 Jelena Ostapenko, then No. 3 Coco Gauff for her first top-five win, then Swiatek in their first meeting. The 40th-ranked Kalinskaya will play 26th-ranked Jasmine Paolini of Italy in

Saturday's final. It's the first WTA final for Kalinskaya and Paolini's shot at a second title, easily her biggest. Kalinskaya said the key to beating Swiatek was to stay calm yet aggressive. "I know if I don't stay calm and I don't stay aggressive she is going to destroy me," Kalinskaya said in her on-court interview. "That was my plan, to stay aggressive and move her a lot. She's unbelievable. I'm happy I had the chance to play against her. "I feel physically much better than last year. That gives me a lot of confidence to play at such a high level." The last qualifier to beat two top 3 players in a tournament was Amelie Mauresmo in 1998 in in Berlin with wins over Lindsay Davenport and Jana Novotna. Paolini held off Sorana Cirstea 6-2 7-6 (6) in their semifinal. She has beaten three top-30 players in a row for the first time. Paolini saved six set points in the



second set. "I gave you a little bit of drama at the end of the match," she said on court. Paolini and Kalinskaya have one win against each other. Kalinskaya beat Paolini just a month ago in the Australian Open fourth round. "When I played against her in Australian Open, she was also returning really deep and I couldn't start the point well," Paolini said. "She was really also consistent, not many mistakes. "If you want to beat her, I guess you have to play deep and to try to do not too many mistakes, but also to try to hit winners, to hit the ball, to push her away from the court because if not, she's going to move you." Reaching the final has assured Paolini of a top 20 debut when the rankings are updated on Monday. Kalinskaya will rise into the top 30 for the first time and could crack the top 20 with the title.



Yathiraj, Pramod, Krishna in finals of Para Badminton World Championships

PTI ■ PATTAYA (THAILAND)

India's Suhas Yathiraj, Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar progressed to the men's singles finals in various categories at the Para Badminton World Championship here on Saturday. World No. 3 Yathiraj, a Paralympic silver medalist, upset world no. 1 Lucas Mazur of France 21-16 21-19 in the men's singles SL4 semi-final to reach the finals for the first time in his career. Lucas is a reigning world champion and paralympic gold medalist. The 40-year-old Indian, who hails from Karnataka, is an IAS officer of the 2007 batch of Uttar Pradesh cadre. Yathiraj, who is currently the Secretary and Director General of Youth Welfare and Prantiya Rakshak Dal in the UP government, will square off

against Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan in the final. In another SL4 semifinal, Sukant Kadam lost 13-21 19-21 to Fredy Setiawan. In men's singles SL3 class, Paralympic gold medalist Pramod Bhagat outwitted fellow Indian Manoj Sarkar 23-21 20-22 21-18 and will face England's Daniel Bethell in the finals. Bethell beat India's Nitesh Kumar 21-18 20-22 21-14 in the other semifinal. In SH6 category, Krishna Nagar, a Paralympic gold medal winner, beat Vitor Tavares of Brazil 21-16 21-17 to set up a meeting with China's Lin Naili. In women's singles SU5, Manisha Ramadass beat France's Maud Lefort 19-21 21-21 21-14 in the semifinals to set up a summit clash against China's Yang Qiu Xia. In SH6 women's doubles,

Rachana Shaileshkumar and Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan also entered the finals with a 21-16 21-17 win over Indonesian pair of Daria Bujnicka and Oliwia Szmigiel. The men's doubles pair of Chirag baretha and Raj Kumar, and women's combination of Mandeep kaur and Manisha Ramadass, advanced to the semifinals of SU5 and SL3-SU5 class to assure medals for themselves in the tournament. Among others, Nithye Sre, Palak Kohli and Manisha Girishchandra lost their respective semifinals in SH6, SL4 and SL3 class in women's singles to sign off with bronze medals. Pramod and Sukant also settled for bronze in men's doubles SL3-SL4 after losing 16-21 16-21 to Thai pair of Mongkhon Bunsun and Siripong Teamarrom.

Taha makes it to CCI Snooker Classic main draw

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Pune's Taha Khan recorded a 4-0 win against Siddharth Khemani in a best-of-7-frame final round qualifying match to make it to the main round of the CCI Snooker Classic here on Saturday. Khan raced past Khemani with a 54-43, 72-58, 58-34, 56-9 victory at CCI's Sir Wilson Jones billiards hall.

Earlier in the day, Aditya Agarwal fired two substantial breaks of 51 and 56 to beat Sameer Chabaria 3-0 (55-6, 74-16, 77-16) in the second round. In another second round contest, Vinay Swaminathan got the better of Anupama Ramchandran, charging to a 3-0 win. Chennai's Anupama, who won the U-21 title in the Women's

World Snooker Championship last year in Thailand, was beaten 91-0, 54-44, 54-30 by Swaminathan. **RESULTS:** **Final qualifying:** Suraj Veer bt Saad Sayed 4-2 (66-47, 22-81, 25-55, 58-32, 50-42, 80-42); Taha Khan bt Siddharth Khemani 4-0 (54-43, 72-58, 58-34, 56-9); **Round 2:** Aditya Agrawal bt Sameer Chabaria 3-0 (55-6,

74(51)-16, 77(56)-16); Shailendra Dangal bt Saqlain Mushtaq 3-2 (76-20, 30-55, 80-16, 23-59, 58-19); Rafat Habib bt Saifuddin 3-0 (73-34, 55-33, 68-54); Nalin Patel bt Rohan Pal 3-2 (22-63, 60-13 56-43, 70-87(49), 74-37); Mahesh Jagdale bt Adarsh Verma 3-0 (63-41, 66-14, 75-32); Vinay Swaminathan bt Anupama Ramchandran 3-0 (91(69)-0, 54-44, 54-30).

Diksha 4th, Pranavi 13th in Morocco after second round



PTI ■ RABAT (MOROCCO)

Diksha Dagar placed herself for a good finish as she moved into the tied fourth spot at the end of the second round of the Lalla Meryem Cup on the Ladies European Tour here on Saturday. Diksha, third on the LET Order of Merit in 2023, shot 2-under 73 and moved to 4-under 142 total. Fellow Indian Pranavi Urs, playing her first full season on the LET, seemed set for a high position after the second hole as she

was 3-under through the front nine and 5-under for the event at that stage. Pranavi then dropped a double bogey on the 14th and a bogey on the 17th to drop back to even par 73. At 2-under total, she was tied 13th at the Par-73 Royal Golf Dar Es Salam course. Mexico's Maria Fassi continued to dominate the event after producing a strong second round of 69 (-4). Fassi has held the lead since the start of the tournament carding a round of 65 (-8) on day one.

Diksha, who shot 2-under 71 in the first round, opened the second round with five pars before finding a birdie on the sixth. She gave that shot back on the ninth, but birdies on the 10th and the 18th saw her finish at 2-under. Pranavi, who had six birdies against two bogeys and a double bogey, birdied second, fourth and seventh. She dropped a double bogey on the 14th, and it was her second double, as she had one on the first day, too. She also had a bogey on the 17th on the second day. Despite a shaky start, a double bogey on hole two, Fassi, an LPGA player, dusted off her nerves to roll in three birdies on the front nine on holes five, six and eight. At the turn, Fassi continued her fine form by rolling in a further four birdies with only a bogey on the 17th to blemish her back nine scorecard. Home favourite Ines Laklalech sits in solo third after a round of 73 (par). The Moroccan got off to a strong start carding two birdies in her first four holes before dropping shots on holes nine and fifteen. Six players are tied for fourth on four-under-par; Czech Republic's Sara Kouskova and Klara Davidsson Spilkova, England's Bronte Law, Diksha, Norway's Madelene Stavnar and Spain's Fatima Fernandez Cano.



Norrie beats Wild to reach Rio Open semifinals

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Defending champion Cameron Norrie beat Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild 6-1 3-6 6-2 to reach the semifinals of the Rio Open. The second-seeded British player will take on either Brazil's teenage sensation João Fonseca or Argentina's Mariano Navone on Saturday. The 23rd-ranked Norrie became the favourite to win the clay court tournament again after Carlos Alcaraz retired with a right ankle injury and Stan Wawrinka and Nicolás Jarry were defeated. Earlier on Friday, two players from Argentina won their quarterfinal matches and will face off for a place in the final of the clay-court tournament. Fourth-seeded Francisco Cerúndolo beat Serbia's Dusan Lajovic 3-6 6-4 6-4. His semifinal rival will be Sebastián Báez, who beat Brazil's Thiago Monteiro 6-4 1-6 6-2.



Nagal handed wildcard for Dubai Championship main draw

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal has received a wildcard for the main draw of the Dubai Championship, an ATP 500 event. While the qualifiers of the tournament began on Saturday, the main draw matches get underway on Monday. Nagal will be up against Lorenzo Sonego of Italy, currently world number 49, in the opening round. The 26-year-old Indian has had a remarkable run this year, qualifying for the main draw of the Australian Open last month, where he made it to Round 2 after beating Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan. He became the first Indian since 1989 to

knock off a seeded player in a Grand Slam. He attained his career-high ranking of 98 earlier this month, but dropped to 101st, despite having won the Chennai Open last week, an ATP Challenger event. As for the Dubai Championship, Daniil Medvedev of Russia is the top seed, followed by his fellow countryman Andrey Rublev, Hubert Hurkacz of Poland, Karen Khachanov of Russia, Ugo Humbert and Adrian Panatta of France, Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan and Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain. Other players who were handed wildcards include Gael Monfils of France and Abedallah Shelbayh of Jordan.

Leverkusen extends Bundesliga lead to 11 points

AP ■ BERLIN

Granit Khaka scored his first goal for Bayer Leverkusen as the Bundesliga leader defeated Mainz 2-1 and set a German record of 33 games unbeaten across all competitions. Leverkusen, which hasn't lost a match since last season, stretched its lead to 11 points before 11-time defending champion Bayern Munich hosts Leipzig on Saturday. Eleven rounds remain after this weekend. "We deserve to be where we are," Khaka said. "When you're eight points, now 11 points, ahead of second-place Bayern, there is a lot to lose. But we'll keep working day by day, game by game, stay positive, and I'm sure we'll be able to keep getting our wins." The buildup to Friday's match was dominated by speculation over the future of Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso, with his former clubs Bayern and Liverpool looking for new coaches for next season. Alonso has no lack of suitors after taking Leverkusen from the relegation zone when he took over in October 2022 to a genuine title candidate in his first senior management job. "It's all just speculation, my head is totally here," Alonso repeated on Friday. "We have so much to do, we're in such a super position. So enjoying it, preparing, and that's all that's going on in my head." Supporters celebrated the German soccer league's midweek decision to scrap its plan to bring in an outside investor for a share of media rights income by displaying a



banner saying "Football belongs to the fans." They didn't have to wait long to celebrate again when Khaka fired Leverkusen into a third-minute lead. The Swiss midfielder let fly from outside the penalty area for his first goal on his 31st appearance for the club. But Dominik Kohr replied for the visitors with a header at the other end four minutes later. Leverkusen went on to dominate possession. The home team's urgency grew toward the end of the half, when Alex Grimaldo drew a good save from Robin Zentner with a free kick. Leverkusen's frustrations grew when

Jeremie Frimpong was booked for complaining after he'd been tripped by Mainz defender Philipp Mwene when he would have been through on goal. TV replays showed there was contact. Alonso was also booked for his complaints. The frustration remained after the break as Leverkusen failed to find a way through. Then the otherwise excellent Zentner failed to hold Robert Andrich's harmless-looking shot and the ball looped in over his head in the 68th. It proved enough for the win as Mainz's hopes were hit in the 80th when Jessic Ngankam was sent off after a VAR check for a dangerous tackle on Khaka.

Odisha FC, Mohun Bagan Super Giant play out goalless draw

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant played out a goalless draw in the Indian Super League here on Saturday. With competitors elevating their performance levels lately, the pressure has been built on the juggernauts to not drop points in their pursuit of the top spot of the points table. Mumbai City FC equalled them in points last night with their win over Chennaiyin FC, as only a superior goal difference keeping the Sergio Lobera-coached side ahead in the race. However, they were unable to make the most of the opportunity at home against an upbeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant, who converted their unbeaten streak to five games under Antonio Lopez Habas in the ISL. Contrary to what the scoreline suggests, it was an end-to-end contest that produced umpteen opportunities for either sides to break the deadlock. A total of nine shots were taken out of which six were on target, combined for both teams, with Isak Vanlalruathela and Albanian striker Armando Sadiku leading the charge for their respective teams. Isak, in particular, was a menace for the Mariners, coming close to bagging the first goal of the night for Odisha FC multiple times in the opening half. He

forced a mistake off Anwar Ali around the 20th minute mark and targeted the top right corner but the shot failed to trouble Vishal Kaith. He had a duel with Kaith in the third minute too, making a dazzling run on the left flank before shooting his shot at the goalkeeper who held his composure to make a critical save by staying in his line. It was not as if he lacked support from his senior striking partners Roy Krishna and Diego Mauricio. Just as the half was drawing to an end, Krishna laid up a pass for an onrushing Mauricio on the right flank. The Brazilian collected the pass in his stride before unleashing a fierce shot that deflected off the crossbar. Sadiku will be regretting not converting the several chances that came his way from close quarters. The striker had Asish Rai and Sahal Abdul Samad setting up deliveries for him both when he was at the edge of the box as well as at the centre in the 26th and 34th minute respectively. But, his efforts couldn't make it past Amrinder Singh, and so couldn't the ones made by Dimitrios Petratos just as the second half began. Even the substitutions, featuring the likes of Jason Cummings and Cy Goddard couldn't influence the proceedings abundantly to change the eventual outcome of the game.

INDIA ON BACKFOOT AFTER JAISWAL GRITTY FIFTY

PTI ■ RANCHI

Young off-spinner Shoaib Bashir scythed through the Indian line-up with an impressive four-wicket haul that left the hosts stuttering at 219 for seven on day two of the fourth Test here on Saturday.

The 20-year-old Bashir, playing only his second Test, got rid of Shubman Gill (38), Rajat Patidar (17), Ravindra Jadeja (12) on a pitch that has uneven bounce and cracks to rattle the Indian top and middle order.

He returned after the tea break in his marathon 31-over spell across two sessions to clean up in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal (73) with a ball that skid through the defence of the left-hander.

With intermittent wickets pegging India back, they were forced to play a catch-up game and are still trailing by 134 runs.

If it was not for a combative partnership between Dhruv Jurel (30 batting) and Kuldeep Yadav (17), India would have struggled to cross even 200-run mark. They had joined forces when the scorecard read 177 for seven.

The two batters played late and did not commit early into their shots, a ply that worked well in their unbeaten 42-run stand.

This was after England's first innings folded for 353 after starting the day at 302 for seven. The total could have been bigger if Ollie Robinson (58) had not attempted an audacious reverse sweep off Ravindra Jadeja.

The 22-year-old Jaiswal yet again produced a confident knock. He now has scored 618 runs with an average of 103 in this series. He looked for another big one before being done in by low bounce.

Left-arm spinner Tom Hartley returned with figures of 2/47 that included the crucial breakthrough of Sarfaraz Khan (14) who had a frustrating stay. He also survived a run-out.

India lost Rohit Sharma (2) cheaply when old warhorse James Anderson induced a faint-edge from the skipper in the third over of their innings.

But thereafter, Jaiswal showed why he is India's latest run machine when he overcame some anxious moments to post his fourth fifty-plus score in this series.



From a watchful start, India No. 3 Gill accelerated post-lunch break, taking on Anderson with two elegant boundaries — one flick off the pads, and a punch straight

back down the ground. But Bashir gave England the breakthrough by trapping Gill, halting the fine 82-run alliance between Gill and Jaiswal. He delivered a ball that took off

the crack just outside off stump, trapped Gill on the pad as Indians reviewed unsuccessfully. It sort of triggered the Indian collapse as the batters failed to

grind deep in, showing little application. Having given a lifeline after sloppy displays in Rajkot, Patidar had a nervy and tentative stay.

The only bright spot of his innings was driving down Anderson past the gully for a boundary that brought up the 100 for India.

It was just a matter of time before Bashir trapped him with a ball that skidded onto his pads.

Post his century in Rajkot, Jadeja retained his No 5 spot and counter-attacked Hartley for successive sixes.

But Bashir was in the thick of the action again as his ball came off the cracks with Jadeja managing to loop the ball straight to short leg.

England added 51 valuable runs to their overnight total as the Indian attack failed to make early penetration. The last five England batters added 241 runs after being 112/5 at lunch on the opening day.

Joe Root, who dug in deep with his classical century spanning a little more than six hours, remained stranded on 122 from 274 balls (10x4).

Robinson gifted away his wicket after making a career-best 58 that resulted in England's first innings ending at 353. Root and Robinson's eighth wicket alliance yielded

102 runs for England. While Mohammed Siraj (2/78) erred in his line and length, debutant Akash Deep could not add to his tally of three wickets to return with 3/38 from 19 overs. Jadeja took all the three wickets to return with 4/67 from his 32.5 overs. Robinson had a great start to the morning when he flicked one away from a wayward Siraj in the first ball of the day for a boundary through fine leg.

There was no stopping him as he looked for every opportunity and took on Akash Deep with three boundaries that took him past his previous career-best Test score of 42. However a bizarre shot selection ended his gritty knock as he employed a grounded reverse sweep which was not necessary at that moment as Indian bowlers were hardly troubling the visitors.

The ball missed the edge of the bat but touched the gloves of Robinson before being grabbed by 23-year-old Dhurv Jurel that ended a dogged 102-run stand with Root.

Bazball is not about being arrogant but bringing best out of team: Root

PTI ■ RANCHI

Senior England batter Joe Root on Saturday said that his side's 'Bazball' approach in Test cricket is not about being arrogant but about getting the best result for the team.

England's record 434-run loss to India in the third Test in Rajkot led to widespread criticism about their ultra-aggressive approach they have adopted under coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes.

"There have been times recently when the best way to do that is by being a bit more aggressive. It's like if I connect with that shot and execute it better, (Jasprit) Bumrah will be under pressure and our outlook on the game is very different again."

"It's not about being arrogant... Bazball is a word that's used a lot but that's your word, that's not how we look at it," Root told reporters after the end of second day's play in the fourth Test here.

"It's about how can we get the best out of each other as a team, how we're going to get better as a group. You're not always going to get it right but we'll continue to keep trying to improve."

Root emphasised the importance of adapting and evolving as a batter to counter the skills of world class bowlers.

"The reason I've played as many games as I have is that I've not wanted to stand still as a player, I have to try to keep evolving. If you keep on playing the same way over and over again, teams work you out, figure you out and find your weaknesses."

"They are world-class bowlers for a reason and there's a lot of information out there. So if you don't try to get better and find different ways of scoring runs, you'll get found out."

"You're not always going to get it right but if you're not willing to make mistakes every now and then and sometimes get it wrong it doesn't matter anyway because they're still going to find you out."

Root returned to form with an unbeaten 122 from 274 balls in a classical Test match innings that helped England

recover from 112 for 5 at lunch on day one to post 353.

In reply, India were 219 for 7 at stumps on Saturday, still trailing by 134 runs on a slow wicket with unusually low bounce.

"It felt like it's been a long time coming, it's been a lean series individually for me. You pride yourself as a senior player, especially with the history I've had in this part of the world, to try and make contributions that put you in positions to win games."

"It's been disappointing but the fact I have got quite a lot of experience has been able to keep me calm and trust the stuff I am doing. The way I'm preparing meant it was going to come at some point. It was nice to do it yesterday when we were in the situation we were in at lunchtime."

'BRILLIANT' BASHIR: Young spinner Shoaib Bashir grabbed four wickets in a marathon spell of 31 overs that spanned across all three sessions. He bowled one before lunch and then operated non-stop in the remaining two sessions with a total of 32 overs under his belt.

"The way he bowls is a great little insight into his character and personality, he is quite cheeky and great fun to be around."

"There's clearly a huge amount of skill in what he does, as he proved with the way he bowled for not just small spells but a long period of time," Root said.

"To be able to continually put pressure on some very good players of spin, I know the wicket was helpful at times, but he did an amazing job and it's a great sign for English cricket moving forward. You do have to work in partnerships and Tommy (Hartley) was excellent alongside him, too."

Root is confident that England have the edge in the match. "We've got ourselves into a nice position at the end of the first innings. Obviously, it looks like it (pitch) is going to keep deteriorating and keep getting worse."

"So if we can get three early wickets tomorrow, hopefully that puts us in a really strong position for the rest of the game," he signed off.

Warner misses third T20I against NZ

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Dashing Australia opener David Warner is likely to be fit for the start of next month's IPL after missing the final T20I against New Zealand here due to adductor soreness. The 37-year-old, who retired from Tests and ODIs last month, will take seven to 10 days to regain his full fitness.

"Warner will require a brief recovery period which is not expected to affect his availability for the upcoming Indian Premier League leading into to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," Cricket

Australia said in a statement. Warner had also sat out the second T20I as part of Australia's rotation strategy. He will quit the shortest format after the conclusion of the T20 World Cup in June this year. Warner had captained Delhi Capitals last year following Rishabh Pant's horrific accident and emerged as the highest run-scorer for the team with 516 runs, including six fifties.

He was booed off the ground by the Kiwi supporters after scoring 32 in 20 balls in the opening T20 game against New Zealand in Wellington.



Govt. of Haryana

“भारत की पारंपरिक चिकित्सा पद्धति सिर्फ इलाज तक सीमित नहीं रही हैं, बल्कि ये लाइफ की एक होलिस्टिक साइंस है। आज आधुनिक दुनिया की जो लाइफ स्टाइल है, जो नई-नई बीमारियां हम देख रहे हैं, उससे पार पाने के लिए हमारी ट्रेडिशनल नॉलेज बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Central Government dedicates distinctive healthcare to Haryana

Inauguration of Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy at a cost of about Rs. 64 crore

By
Sh. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
(Through Video Conferencing)

and
Under the chairmanship of
Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

200 Bedded hospital dedicated to yoga and naturopathy

People of Haryana and Delhi will get significant health services

First project of its kind by Central Government in Haryana

Focus on prevention and treatment of diseases related to lifestyle

Facilities of OPD, treatment block, yoga and food block along with the hospital

Extensive campus of 19 acres

August Presence

Sh. Mansukh L. Mandaviya
Union Minister,
Health and Family Welfare

Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal
Union Minister,
AYUSH

Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai
Union Minister of State,
AYUSH

Sh. Anil Vij
Minister of Home, Health, AYUSH and
Medical Education and Research, Haryana

Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma
MP (Lok Sabha) Rohtak,
Haryana

February 25, 2024 | 4 pm | Village Devarkhana, District Jhajjar

Live broadcast: DD News and on youtube.com/ddnews

Department of Ayush, Haryana

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RISKS LURK BEHIND THE GLAMOUR

A recent tragic death during smile enhancement surgery of a 28-year-old man in Hyderabad highlights the risk of cosmetic procedures. In a chat with ARCHANA JYOTI, experts emphasise the need for thorough consideration before surgery, advocating stricter regulations, and increased awareness

From smoothing wrinkles to reshaping body contours, the allure of cosmetic procedures often promises transformative results and a boost in self-confidence. Cosmetic surgery has emerged as a popular option for individuals seeking to enhance their physical appearance and address perceived imperfections. However, there lies a landscape fraught with risks and complexities that warrant careful consideration. Consider a few cases of 2023: *Chethana Raj, a promising young TV actor, who tragically lost her life after undergoing plastic surgery in Bengaluru. Her father, K Varadaraj, revealed that hospital authorities attributed her death to a cardiac arrest. *The untimely demise of Luana Andrade, a 29-year-old Brazilian influencer, following liposuction surgery in São Paulo, serves as a chilling reminder of the risks inherent in cosmetic procedures. Complications during the surgery led to four cardiac arrests, ultimately claiming her life. *Argentine model and actor Silvina Luna died due to complications related to a kidney illness associated with prior plastic surgery. These reported cases involve celebrities or in some others, complainants managed to reach out to media or vice versa. The recent one that has been reported this year is of LN Vinjam (28) who lost his life on February 18 while undergoing a 'smile designing' procedure, just weeks before his wedding. There are countless unreported instances of individuals suffering after cosmetic enhancements. Many endure silent pain as their pursuit of an ideal

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS

Hematoma: Hematoma, a pocket of blood resembling a bruise, can occur in 1 percent of breast augmentation procedures and is the most common complication after facelifts.

Seroma: Seroma, the pooling of sterile body fluid beneath the skin's surface, is a common complication following surgeries like tummy tucks.

Blood loss: While some blood loss is expected during surgery, uncontrolled blood loss can result in severe outcomes such as a drop in blood pressure.

Infection: Despite preventive measures, infections remain common after plastic surgery, affecting around 1.1 to 2.5 percent of individuals undergoing breast augmentation. Cellulitis, a skin infection, is one example, while severe cases may require intravenous antibiotics.

Nerve damage: Many surgeries carry the risk of nerve damage, leading to numbness or tingling sensations. While often temporary, nerve damage can sometimes be permanent, affecting sensitivity or function in the operated area.

Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism: Though relatively uncommon, these conditions can be life-threatening, with rates slightly higher in procedures like abdominoplasty.

Organ damage: Procedures like liposuction pose risks of visceral perforations, where surgical instruments inadvertently puncture internal organs, potentially leading to fatal consequences.

Scarring: Scarring is an inevitable outcome of surgery, with some individuals experiencing hypertrophic or keloid scars, which can be red, thick, and raised, causing aesthetic concerns.

General appearance dissatisfaction: Despite overall satisfaction rates, some individuals may experience dissatisfaction with their postoperative results, particularly if there are contouring issues or asymmetry problems.

Complications of anesthesia: Anesthesia carries its own set of risks, ranging from lung infections to tions, stroke, heart attacks, and death.



DR MANISH JANGRA
Consultant Dermatologist,
Park Hospital

appearance is botched by incompetent surgeons. **Dr Manish Jangra**, Consultant Dermatologist from Park Hospital points out that craze for cosmetic procedures is rising day by day. Minimally invasive procedures have seen an even larger increase than surgical ones. "When it

comes to cosmetic dermatology, individuals often seek treatments to address a variety of concerns related to their skin's appearance and texture, correcting skin tone, smoothing wrinkles, removing hair on the face or body and reducing surface fat. "When we talk about Botox a lot of thing comes in our mind as it is widely used by various media platforms and many famous celebrities for various indications. Botox is a botulinum toxin obtained from bacteria. It is basically used in dermatology for various cosmetic issues like frown lines(Forehead) Crow footprints (Lateral to Eyes). These are basically used to smooth wrinkles over face. This is also used for

Hyperhidrosis of palms & for excessive sweating. "Then there are Fillers. These are used to fill the area that has lost tissue or to fill that gap. "Dermal fillers, sometimes called soft tissue fillers, are substances designed to be injected beneath the surface of the skin to add volume and fullness. The time they take to work, as well as how long they last, also vary. Some fillers last six months, while others last up to two years or longer. They can be used to enhance lips, enhance shallow area like undereye trough & to soften the static wrinkles. But they must be injected by dermatologist with great experience in aesthetic practice," warns Dr Jangra. He reiterates, this must be

injected by qualified dermatologist only as various quacks too are flourishing in market claiming to be cosmetologists leading to various complications. People must check qualification and experience of the doctor first and should cautious about the quacks using term "Cosmetologists." There is no such degree by this name approved by National Medical Commission (NMC), cautions Dr Jangra. "Also you must ensure to go to dermatologist with MD/DNB/DVD (Degree in Dermatology). A lot of dentists / MBBS / non medicos/nurse have started practicing as cosmetologists, playing with health of the common people." **Dr Sachin Ambekar**, Director, Minimal Access Surgery and Medical Director at Massh Hospital, stresses on the necessity for hospitals to be equipped to handle emergencies and emphasizes the importance of thorough patient history-taking before any surgical procedure minor or major which he's had in the previous history. If he's had a surgery, what kind of anaesthesia, did he have any kind of complications and if there is any detailed notes discharge summary available with the patient. Before any surgery the medical teams get multiple tests done that



DR SACHIN AMBEKAR
Director of Minimal Access Surgery and
Medical Director at Massh Hospital

includes local anaesthesia test dose, IV antibiotic test dose. The anaesthetist or the surgeon takes a detailed history of the medical and surgical history. While it is mandatory for every centre involving dentists, oral maxillofacial, aesthetic and plastic surgery to have qualified doctors on its panel but it is most important to keep a backup in case there is any emergency. **Dr Madhu Goel**, Director, Gynecologist and Obstetrics at Fortis La Femme highlights several key points surrounding the motivations, types, and potential risks associated with these surgeries. From addressing perceived flaws to enhancing confidence and conforming to societal beauty standards, rise of social media and celebrity culture have also contributed to the desire to emulate certain looks or features, she notes. While many cosmetic procedures are generally safe and backed by research, it's crucial for patients to be aware of the potential risks and complications involved. As with any surgical procedure, there are inherent risks such as anesthesia complications, infections, scarring, and changes in sensation. "Therefore, thorough consultation with a qualified healthcare provider and a realistic understanding of both the benefits and risks are essential steps," advises Dr Goel.

DOCTORSPEAK

India's Over-the-Counter Topical Steroid Crisis



DR DIKSHA AGRAWAL
Consultant Dermatologist
Ghaziabad Dermatology Centre

LACK OF AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
There is a general lack of awareness among the public regarding the appropriate use of topical steroids and their potential adverse effects. Consumers may be influenced by advertisements or recommendations from non-medical sources, further perpetuating the misuse of these medications. For instance, skin thinning occurs due to the inhibition of collagen synthesis by steroids. This can result in skin atrophy, making it more fragile and prone to injuries. Additionally, continuous application of topical steroids can lead to the development of stretch marks (striae) on the skin, highlighting the detrimental effects of steroids. This scenario urgently calls for collaboration between regulatory authorities, healthcare professionals, pharmaceutical companies, and the public to ensure the safe and appropriate use of topical steroids in India.

MISDIAGNOSIS AND SELF-MEDICATION
Many individuals lack proper medical knowledge and may incorrectly diagnose their skin conditions. This leads them to self-medicate with topical steroids without seeking professional advice. This practice not only exacerbates existing skin issues but also puts them at risk of developing dependence on these potent medications.

PROFIT-DRIVEN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY:
Some pharmaceutical companies prioritize profits over public health by making topical steroids readily available without stringent regulations. This accessibility encourages indiscriminate use among consumers who may not be aware of the potential risks and side effects associated with these medications.

WHO: Nations must step up tobacco control measures



SAIMA WAZED
Regional Director of WHO
South-East Asia

Despite significant declines in tobacco consumption over the years, the South-east Asia region continues to be the home of the highest number of tobacco users, including smokeless tobacco. Moreover, the use of e-cigarettes is on the rise, particularly among young people, posing additional health risks. Highlighting the gravity of the menace causing health issues like cancer, respiratory issues, and heart disease, newly elected Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia, Saima Wazed, has called for heightened efforts in controlling both tobacco and e-cigarette usage within the region. Of particular concern is the increasing number of adolescent tobacco users, indicating a concerning trend among younger populations. Regarding e-cigarettes, she said, despite efforts by some countries to ban or regulate e-cigarettes, more comprehensive measures are required. "Several countries in the region have set ambitious targets for tobacco control, with initiatives such as "Tobacco Free Bangladesh" and "Tobacco Endgame" in India. "Moreover, countries are implementing demand reduction strategies advocated by WHO, such as the MPOWER package, to further curb tobacco consumption," Wazed said.

portion of global tobacco consumption. Smokeless tobacco usage is particularly prevalent, with the region hosting nearly 77% of global users. Furthermore, there are approximately 11 million adolescent tobacco users, indicating a concerning trend among younger populations. Regarding e-cigarettes, she said, despite efforts by some countries to ban or regulate e-cigarettes, more comprehensive measures are required. "Several countries in the region have set ambitious targets for tobacco control, with initiatives such as "Tobacco Free Bangladesh" and "Tobacco Endgame" in India. "Moreover, countries are implementing demand reduction strategies advocated by WHO, such as the MPOWER package, to further curb tobacco consumption," Wazed said.

BOOK REVIEW

Rhythm of the Ruins unveils emotional brilliance

Enter the world of 'Rhythm of the Ruins' by Mukul Kumar, a captivating collection of poignant poems that capture the essence of life's complexities, offering a profound exploration of the beauty found amid chaos and change. From the slums of Bombay to mythic realms, the book promises to touch the hearts and minds of all who dare to delve into its pages

By SWARN KUMAR ANAND

*I miss you terribly, Papa
My sky stretches, serene
Within the fortress of his care,
Deluge or draught draws from
My shelter a joyous smug stare.*

Mukul Kumar's poetry collection "Rhythm of the Ruins" commences with an unwavering dedication to his late father, painting a vivid picture of the poet's profound connection to his Papa. The poem portrays the father as a

nurturing guardian, providing a sense of eternal peace and security. Evoking imagery of a serene sky sheltered within the fortress of paternal love, Kumar finds solace amid life's uncertainties. The phrase "joyous smug stare" hints at the comfort and pride derived from his father's strength and support. *Rhythm of the Ruins* offers a profound exploration of the human experience through thought-provoking poems. Mukul Kumar's mastery of personification infuses each piece with a unique blend of

romance and realism, drawing inspiration from sources as diverse as Renaissance paintings to the chaos of modern life. The title poem, "The Rhythm of the Ruins," sets a captivating tone for the entire collection, prompting readers to ponder the beauty inherent in disorder and flux. Through introspective exploration, the poem delves into the tumult of inner emotions, conveying a yearning for resolution



amid tumult. The vivid imagery of a cloud withholding its rain and the subsequent silence following a storm portrays the poet's struggle for catharsis. Despite the pervasive sense of emptiness, there emerges a resilient endeavour to impose order upon chaos, driven by a desire for rejuvenation symbolised by the invocation of "Gaia" and "Eros". "Will She Come Back?" is an exploration of longing and uncertainty, where time seems

to blur into an unintelligible haze. It delves into the universal question of whether someone departed will return, evoking themes of hope, longing, and the enigmatic nature of fate. With its emotive depth and evocative language, the poem invites readers to contemplate the intricacies of human relationships and the enduring quest for closure. Throughout the book, Mukul Kumar delves into a wide range of themes, from love and loss to the complexities of human nature and the beauty of imperfection. Each poem is

a journey in itself, offering readers moments of reflection and insight. "Not Missing the Rainbow" invites us to ponder the significance of common sights and experiences. What sets "Rhythm of the Ruins" apart is Mukul Kumar's ability to convey deep emotions with simplicity and clarity. His language is accessible yet rich, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the beauty of his verses. One of the most remarkable aspects of this collection is its ability to resonate with readers on a personal level. Kumar's

attention to detail and keen observation of life's nuances ensure that each poem feels like a deeply personal experience. These are poems to return to time and time again, each reading offering new insights and revelations. From its evocative title to its stunning cover design, *Rhythm of the Ruins* (The Browser) is a book that demands attention. Whether you are a lover of poetry or simply someone who appreciates the beauty of well-crafted words, this collection is sure to leave a lasting impression.

"I didn't finish university, I barely finished high school. All I know is from the books I've read, and the plays that I've read"
— Jacob Elordi



BOOKS

The New Delhi World Book Fair is a celebration of the written word that transcends boundaries and bridges cultures. Here - as in others counties of the world - the significance of books reverberates with resounding clarity

EXPLORING
PAGES OF POSSIBILITY

By
Rajdeep Pathak

As the vibrant panorama of the New Delhi World Book Fair unfolded its final chapter on February 18, 2024, it bid a fond farewell to nine days filled with the symphony of literary marvels and cultural splendour. Nestled within the expansive embrace of Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan, this majestic event, inaugurated on February 10th, played host to a multitude of nearly 15 lakh book lovers, who traversed its labyrinthine corridors in search of enlightenment and inspiration. Here, amidst the grandeur of more than 1,000 publishers hailing from 40 illustrious nations such as India, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Spain, and beyond, over 2,000 enchanting stalls stood as beacons of literary excellence. Organised by the National Book Trust (NBT) under the nurturing wing of the Ministry of Education, this year's fair unfurled its vibrant banner under the resplendent theme of "Bahubhashi Bharat - Ek Jeevant Parampara" (Multilingual India - A Living Tradition). With the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia taking part as the guest country, the air was suffused with the heady aroma of cultural exchange, literary discourse, and harmonious dialogues, weaving a rich flavour of mutual appreciation and understanding between the two nations. While traversing through the stalls with long overhanging signages guiding paths for visitors, one could also wonder at the very craftsmanship of the engineers who put up the display in a manner that attracted students, school children, writers, authors, guest speakers, men and women with their families alike from far end - thanks to the event management groups of companies who designed this panoramic extravaganza, the effect was spell-binding. However, what really attracted once again is the versatility and the imaginative and creative manner of enticing the readers/visitors and capturing (read holding on) to their interest. There were many window shoppers who just passed by. While some stalls engaged children in solving different crossword puzzles through creative games, there were others like ours (Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti), where spinning on the traditional charkha became a centre of attraction for the young and the old who wanted to try their hands on spinning. What came as a surprise in this digital age where Kindle and other such forums have become the latest fad, is that the Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi, "My Experiments with Truth" was still a popular choice amongst the buyers. The Children's Pavilion became a delightful sanctuary for young book enthusiasts, offering a diverse array of activities including storytelling, illustration workshops, calligraphy sessions, art demonstrations,



ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL BOOK TRUST (NBT) UNDER THE NURTURING WING OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, THIS YEAR'S FAIR UNFURLED ITS VIBRANT BANNER UNDER THE RESPLENDENT THEME OF "BAHUBHASHI BHARAT - EK JEEVANT PARAMPARA" (MULTILINGUAL INDIA - A LIVING TRADITION). WITH THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TAKING PART AS THE GUEST COUNTRY, THE AIR WAS SUFFUSED WITH THE HEADY AROMA OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE, LITERARY DISCOURSE, AND HARMONIOUS DIALOGUES, WEAVING A RICH FLAVOUR OF MUTUAL APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS

drama classes, and explorations into the wonders of space. Notably, the fair has demonstrated its dedication to inclusivity and accessibility in literature through specialized events tailored for children with special needs, in line with its overarching 'Books-for-All' initiative. Further, amidst this vibrant mosaic of India's cultural panorama, as showcased at the World Book Fair, the symphony of myriad languages, dialects, and traditions harmoniously intertwined into a seamless expression of unity. Here, as one flapped through the pages of literature and glanced at the strokes of artistry, the feeling resonated with a profound testament to the nation's rich heritage. The unveiling of "Jaadui Pitara", an enchanting e-learning oasis, emerged as a beacon of enlightenment in consonance with the vision of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Overflowing with the treasures of puzzles, riddles, and tales, this marvellously inclusive repository, deftly translated into 22 languages through the marvels of (artificial intelligence) AI, stood poised to revolutionize the landscape of childhood education. Alongside, a constellation of specialized modules, meticulously crafted in alignment with NEP 2020, adorned this educational tableau, offering a cornucopia of resources and insights tailored to the modern learner. Embracing the noble vision of fostering a nation of avid readers, an ethereal e-library welcomed all with its boundless offerings, inviting one and all to immerse themselves in the splendour of knowledge.

In this timeless mosaic of human civilization, books stand as luminous threads weaving together the very fabric of knowledge, imagination, and cultural heritage. Like radiant beacons illuminating the path of enlightenment, books beckon us into realms of limitless discovery and profound insight. Amidst this vast literary landscape, book fairs emerge as vibrant marketplaces of intellect, where bibliophiles and seekers of wisdom converge in a harmonious symphony of literary delight. The English author Neil Gaiman once remarked, "Literacy is more important than ever it was, in this world of text and email, a world of written information. We need to read and write, we need global citizens who can read comfortably, comprehend what they are reading, understand nuance, and make themselves understood." His words underscore the contemporary relevance of literacy in an age dominated by digital communication. Maya Angelou, the celebrated poet and civil rights activist, aptly encapsulated the transformative power of literacy when she asserted, "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him." She underscored the profound impact that exposure to literature can have on shaping young minds and nurturing a lifelong love for reading. Book fairs, with their wide array of offerings spanning genres and age groups, play a crucial role in instilling this habit of reading and nurturing a generation of literate and intellectually curious individuals.

Book fairs also serve as vital platforms for promoting diversity and inclusion within the literary world. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the acclaimed Nigerian author, emphasized the importance of diverse representation in literature when she said that "Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity". Therefore, by showcasing literature from diverse cultures, perspectives, and voices, book fairs contribute to a more inclusive literary landscape, fostering empathy, understanding, and interconnectedness among readers. Book fairs, by bringing together a diverse array of literature, empower individuals to engage with various forms of written expression, thereby fostering critical thinking and communication skills essential for navigating the complexities of the modern world. The New Delhi World Book Fair is a celebration of the written word that transcends boundaries and bridges cultures. Here - as in others counties of the world - the significance of books reverberates with resounding clarity, underscoring the enduring relevance of organizing such transformative events with new creative engagements. It is time when we move beyond just literacy...
(The writer is programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Sansthan, views are personal)

(The writer is retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Karnataka)

