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SUNAK'S PARTY HIT WITH ELECTION  
DATE BETTING ALLEGATIONS

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11 SPORTS

# After NEET comes NET row

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI/PATNA

Still grappling with NEET controversy, the cancellation of UGC-NET exams on Wednesday has brought serious troubles for the Narendra Modi Government which has just started its third tenure and a Special Session of the Parliament scheduled next week.

With the ruling NDA on shaky numbers, Opposition leaders on Thursday launched an attack on the National Testing Agency (NTA) and accused the agency as well as the Union Government of destroying the future of students who appeared for these exams. They said the matter will be raised in Special Session of the Parliament next week.

Both the exams are conducted by Union Education Ministry's National Testing Agency (NTA) and the paper leaks and cancellations have led to protest by aspirants, students, parents with simultaneous attack by the Opposition parties and judicial interference to streamline the issues.

A day after the UGC-NET was cancelled, Education Ministry officials on Thursday said no complaints were received about the exam but a suo motu action was taken on the basis of inputs



Students stage a protest over the NEET-UG and UGC-NET examinations issue (L) and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a Press conference at AICC Headquarters on Thursday



Photos: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

available with them to protect students' interest and a fresh exams will be announced. Education Ministry Joint Secretary Govind Jaiswal said the details of the inputs cannot be shared as the matter has been referred to the CBI and is currently under investigation.

"No complaints were received but the inputs we received from agencies indicated that the integrity of the exam has been compromised. The action was taken suo motu to safeguard interests of the students," he said.

While the Congress-led Opposition continues to

## Panel to review NTA functioning

NEW DELHI: Amid demand by the Opposition to re-conduct the medical entrance exam NEET, Education Minister D h a r m e n d r a Pradhan on Thursday said isolated incidents of malpractices should not affect lakhs of students who cleared the examination rightfully. He announced a high-level panel to look into the functioning of the testing

agency NTA. Addressing a Press conference late evening, Pradhan also appealed to t h e



Opposition parties not to politicise the issue and said strict action would be taken against those found guilty, including officials from the National Testing Agency (NTA).

PNS

mount attack on the BJP-led NDA Government, the partners of the NDA, JD(U), alleged a direct link of the RJD in the NEET paper leaks as the probe begins in the case by Nitish Kumar the Government. Bihar police have arrested 13 people in connection with the case. They are currently lodged in a Patna Jail.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on the Government over the alleged irregularities in both entrances and said Modi has "psychologically collapsed" post-elections and will struggle to run a Government like this.

## Setback to parties as Patna HC scraps Bihar Govt's quota hike

RAJESH KUMAR ■  
PATNA/NEW DELHI

In a major setback to ipolitical parties in Bihar, the Patna High Court on Thursday set aside the amendments passed by the Bihar legislature in 2023 when quotas for Dalits, backward classes and tribals in Government jobs and educational institutions were raised from 50 to 65 per cent. The court declared null and void the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Act, 2023 and the Bihar Reservation (in Admission to Educational Institutions) Amendment Act, 2023 as ultra vires the Constitution and violative of equality clause under Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the statute. Meanwhile, the coalition Government-led by Nitish Kumar has decided to challenge the Patna High Court order in the Supreme Court.

A division bench of Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Harish Kumar passed the ruling on a batch of petitions that had challenged the enactments as violative of the right to equal opportunity for citizens in matters of employment and



Patna High Court building.

"We, hence, set aside the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Act, 2023 and the Bihar Reservation (in Admission to Educational Institutions) Amendment Act, 2023 as ultra vires the Constitution and violative of the equality clause under Articles 14, 15 and 16. The writ petitions are allowed leaving the parties to suffer their respective costs," the bench said in its 87-page verdict.

Reacting to the development, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Samrat Choudhary said the State Government will move the Supreme Court and ensure justice for the people of Bihar.



## Big relief for Kejriwal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a Rouse Avenue Court on Thursday granted him bail in the money-laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy case. Vacation Judge Niyay Bindu passed the order after hearing from Kejriwal and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over two days. Kejriwal is likely to walk out of jail on Friday.

The special judge ordered Kejriwal's release on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. "Accused is admitted to bail in the sum of ₹1 lakh," the judge said while passing the order. The bail bond will be produced before the duty judge on Friday.

The court, however, imposed certain conditions on the AAP leader before granting him the relief, including that he will not try to hamper the investigation or influence the witnesses.

## Dance of death in heat-hit Delhi

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■  
NEW DELHI

With a severe heatwave sweeping vast swathes of the country, the National Capital has seen a huge upsurge in mortalities caused by sunstrokes and other heat-related ailments. As many as more than 210 people have so far succumbed to the heat fury not seen in decades in Delhi or elsewhere in the country.

Of the 210 dead in Delhi, 192 were homeless people who have been bearing the brunt of the extreme heat in the city. A total of 22 fatalities caused by suspected heat-related illnesses have been recorded at the Ram Manohar Lohia and Safdarjung hospitals in the last 24 hours.

The Centre for Holistic Development (CHD), an NGO working for the homeless, claimed that deaths of 192 homeless people due to extreme heat were recorded in Delhi



Residents beat the heat with dupatta and umbrella in Delhi File photo

between June 11 and June 19, marking a sharp increase of 156 per cent over the last year's figure when 75 people sleeping rough were found to be dead.

Though Delhiites have got some relief from the searing heat thanks to a mild dust storm and light rainfall causing a slight fall in the

maximum temperature, the heatwave conditions may intensify in the coming days as the minimum temperature showing a rising trend. The maximum temperature in the city was recorded at 40 degrees Celsius, one notch above the normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 29.6 degrees Celsius.

However, the feel like temperature or heat index is 48.5 degrees celsius. According to officials at the Safdarjung Hospital, 33 patients suffering from heat-related illnesses were admitted there. Of them, 13 died in the last 24 hours. The RML Hospital received 22 patients, victims of suspected heatstroke, in the last 24 hours, four of them have died, a hospital source said. Meanwhile, at Nigambodh Ghat, the city's main crematorium, there has been a spike in the number of cremations. Officials, however, could not confirm if the deaths were related to heatstrokes.

## 39 killed in Tamil Nadu hooch tragedy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■  
CHENNAI

The death toll in Kallakurichi liquor tragedy reached 39 by Thursday evening and more than 100 persons who consumed the spurious liquor have been admitted to hospitals in the district. According to doctors in these hospitals, the death toll is likely to go up as the condition of many is reportedly serious.

It all started on Tuesday night at Karunapuram village in the district, 250 km south of Chennai, when people started consuming hooch (spurious liquor) and started vomiting. Some of the tipplers who were rushed to hospitals breathed their last before they reached the hospitals. Death caused by consumption of spurious liquor is nothing new in Tamil Nadu.

## Indian Coast Guard



Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel perform yoga aboard ICG's ship Samarth during preparations on the eve of the International Day Of Yoga

PTI Photo

## Religare bid to block open offer draws fire from Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets watchdog Sebi has ordered non-banking financial company Religare Enterprises (REL) to seek statutory approvals from regulatory authorities for blocking an open offer by Dabur India promoter Burman family before July 12. The Burman group accused Religare's board and its Chairperson Rashmi Saluja of obstructing the open offer. Meanwhile, Religare argued that the Burman family was not 'fit and proper' to undertake the acquisition.

Sebi said that the NBFC did not show any evidence that the Burman group suffers from such alleged infirmities. Expressing dissatisfaction over the Religare board's attempt to block the open offer, Sebi in its interim order said that Religare has "acted in an apparently hostile manner".

Sebi has ordered Religare to apply for approval to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), besides Sebi. In response to the latest

development, Religare spokesperson said, "As per Sebi's advisory the company will apply for the fit and proper status of the acquirers (Burman Group) for the open offer to the concerned regulators including the RBI."

In its order, Sebi noted that Burman Group (MB Finmart, Pura Associates, VIC Enterprises and Milky Investment & Trading Company) were public shareholders of Religare Enterprises with 21.54 per cent shares in the company before September 25, 2023.

On September 25, 2023, they placed orders through JM Financial Services Limited to purchase up to 5.27 per cent more shares, which would have increased their total shareholding to over 25 per cent.

This triggered the requirement to make an open offer to all shareholders under Sebi rules. The public announcement of this offer was made on September 25, 2023, stating that they intended to buy up to 26 per cent of the company's expanded voting share capital at Rs 235 per share, totalling Rs 2,115.99 crore.

## Modi reaches out to Kashmiris

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ SRINAGAR

Reaching out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, yearning for their popular Government since June 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who arrived here in Srinagar to attend the 10th International Yoga Day celebrations, on Thursday announced that preparations for Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir have begun.

Addressing a gathering at the 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K' event in Srinagar, Modi said the Union Government has taken the recent terror attacks very seriously. "I assure you that we will not hesitate to teach a lesson to the enemies of Jammu & Kashmir." Referring to the much-awaited Assembly polls the Prime Minister said, "The people of Jammu and Kashmir elect their representatives at the local level, through them you find ways to solve problems, what can be better than this? Therefore, now the preparations for the Assembly elections have also started. The time is not far when you will elect the new Government of Jammu and Kashmir with your votes. That day will also come soon



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during "Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K" event, in Srinagar, on Thursday PTI

when Jammu and Kashmir will once again make its future better as a state.

The Prime Minister had made a similar announcement during an election campaign rally in Udhampur on April 12. Mentioning record voter turnout in the recent elections, the Prime Minister praised the trust of the people of Jammu & Kashmir in democracy. "I have come to

express my thanks for your efforts for keeping the flag of democracy high", he added.

"The transformation in Jammu & Kashmir is a result of the work done by the government in the last 10 years", Prime Minister Modi said. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed excitement about his visit to Jammu & Kashmir and mentioned

two specific reasons for it. He said, "Firstly, today's event is related to the inauguration and foundation stone laying of developmental projects in Jammu & Kashmir and secondly, this is the first meeting with the people of Jammu & Kashmir after the Lok Sabha elections."

"The whole world is witnessing the changes in Kashmir Valley...Humara Kashmir kitna aage badh gaya hai...You will see that the International Yoga Day celebration will also become an attraction for tourists." Modi said after the wall of 370 has been broken down the constitution of India has been implemented in a true sense. PM Modi also lamented the non-acceptance of the Constitution of India and the neglect shown towards Jammu & Kashmir since independence. "I am delighted that today, we are living the Constitution of India. Through the Constitution, we are finding new ways to change the face of Kashmir for good", the Prime Minister said with pride. "The Constitution of India has

finally been adopted by Jammu & Kashmir in the true sense", PM Modi exclaimed, "The walls of Article 370 have been brought down."

Modi said I am making efforts to bridge distances between Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring the connection of hearts. "Duri Dil ki rahe ho ya Delhi ki, we are trying our best to erase them." He further added, "Our government shows its performance by following the expectations of people and brings results. Recalling his recent visit to Italy for the G7 Summit, the Prime Minister highlighted the impact of continuity of the government for three terms as it has changed the outlook of the world towards India. He also said that all time high aspirations of Indians are the nation's biggest strength. He said that this high aspiration leads to high expectations from the government and in this backdrop, the third continuous term of the government is special as the only parameter of an aspirational society is performance. "People have faith in the intentions and policies of the government", he added.



Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

**I, Harmeet Kaur** wife Amarjit Singh R/o # 1062, Near Model Town, Chhaju Majra, Kharar, Mohali Punjab. My son Manjot Singh and his wife Gurpreet Kaur are out of my control. I disown my son Manjot Singh and his wife Gurpreet Kaur from my movable and immovable property. And if any one transacts any kind of dealings with these two he shall himself be liable.

**I, Shiv Parkash** S/o Roshan Lal R/o H.No. 1757/31, Gali No. 4,Shastri Colony, declare that my son Vikas Rohila and his wife Lalita and his both Son's 1. Bhvya 2. Divakar are out of my control. So I disown them from my all movable/ immovable property. Any body deals with them at own risk.

**I, Rajpal** S/o Sh. Lakhmi Chand R/o vill. Garhi Jhanjhara Tehsil Ganour Distt Sonipat declare that my Son nilkhill is out of control. i disown my son Nikhil from my moveable and immovable properties. anybody deals with him deals at own risk and responsibilities.

**I, Rajindro** w/o Roshan Lal r/o village Habana, Tehsil Shahbad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra inform that my son Kamal Kumar and his wife Suman Lata are out of control. Therefore, I disown them from all my movable and immovable properties. My family will not be responsible for their good or bad deeds and transactions in future.

**We, Lokender Kumar** S/o Sh. Sukhbir Singh and Bala Devi Wife of Sh. Lokender Kumar both R/O # 964, Indira Colony, Sector-17, Panchkula, we disown our son Pankaj Kumar from my all property. We shall not be responsible for their any act.

**We, Darshan Singh** Madaan S/o Late. Parmna Nad Madaan & Aruna Madaan S/o Darshan Singh Madaan both R/O H.No. E.Q-274, Pacca Bagh, Jalandhar declare that our son Chirag Madaan & his wife Sapna Madaan have gone out of our control. We disinherit them from our moveable and immovable properties. We and our family shall not be held responsible for any of their acts, deeds and things.

**We, Ravinder Singh** S/o Bakhshish Singh & Sudarshan Kaur W/o Ravinder Singh both R/O Village Sarai Khas, Distt. Jalandhar declare that our son Lajdeep Singh is out of our control he is living separately. We disinherit him from our moveable and immovable properties. We and our family shall not be held responsible for any of his acts, deeds and things.

**I, Lata** W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar, R/o House No. 95/3, Maloya Chandigarh inform that my daughter Anjali and her son Master Kawansh out of my control. I Disown them from my all moveable and Immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them at their own Risk and Responsibilities.

**I, Sukhvinder** W/o Kashmir R/o Pabnawa, Tehsil Dhand, Distt Kaithal My Son Sagar And His Wife Taniya Are Out Of Our Control. I, Disown Them From All My Moveable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Deals With Them At Their Own Risk.

**मैं, संस्था पत्नी** स्व. विनोद कुमार निवासी मकान नं. 544/ए, गली नंबर 5, आनंदपुर, नजदीक बाल भवन, रोहतक अपने पुत्र सुनील व उसकी पत्नी पायल को मेरे व मेरे परिवार के कहने-सुनने से बाहर होने पर अपनी समस्त चल-अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करती हूँ। भविष्य में इनसे लेन-देन करने वाला व्यक्ति स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा, मेरी व मेरे परिवार की कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Chanan Singh** S/o Parkash Chand R/o Vill. Bala Kullian P/O Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur declare that I am owner of policy number 22022328 of PNB Metlife India insurance co. my father name in this policy mentioned as Darshan Singh which is wrong. Correct name of my father is Parkash Chand. All concerned may note.

**I, Aastha Srivastava** W/o Pankaj Saxena, #1215/1 34C Chandigarh, confirm that my name printed on my Aaradhya Saxena's 10th and 12th board DMC as Aastha Saxena is wrong. My correct name is Aastha Srivastava.

**I, Suresh Kumar** S/o Lakshman Singh # 2106, Sector-22C, Chandigarh declare that in my PAN Card No. AMIPK9020E My Father's name 'Wrongly written as Laxman Singh' instead of Lakshman Singh. Lakshman Singh and Laxman Singh are one and same person and will be known as Lakshman Singh in future.

**I, Manjeet** Army No. 3213959P, S/o Balbir Singh, R/o Village Karhans, Tehsil Samalkha, District Panipat, declare that my mother's name has been mistakenly recorded as Usha Rani in my Army service record. Whereas in my mother's documents, her correct name is Usha, which is correct. All Concerned noted.

**I, Mahesh Buliwal** father of Nagesh Kumar R/o #589, Victoria Enclave, Zirakpur have changed my Son name from Nagesh Kumar to Kunal Buliwal vide Affidavit Dated 17-06-2024 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

**I, Khushdaman Kaur** D/o Sh. Kulwinder Singh R/o H No. 17, Police Colony. Sector 17, Chandigarh have changed my name from Khushdaman Kaur to Khushpreet Kaur.

**I, Jashanjeet Singh** Rana S/o Shamsher Singh R/o H No. 460/1, Sector 40-A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Jashanjeet Singh Rana to Jashanjeet Singh Ranu.

**I, Smt Kuldip Kaur** wife of No. 14381428Y NK Manjit Singh (Retd) R/o Village & PO Parika, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Kuldip Kaur to Kuldeep Kaur. My correct date of birth is 01.03.1963. Concerned note.

**I, Sital Das** S/o Sarwan Ram R/o Village Manjhi PO Nara Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Sital Dass. Concerned Note.

**I, Ishu** W/o Sh. Lakhwinder Singh R/o #508, Samadhi Gate Manimajra Chandigarh Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Ishu To Madhu Bala.

**I, No.15208842W** HAV Dinesh Shankarrao Awaghad S/o Shankarrao Awaghad R/o VPO- Lakhpuri, The Multizipur, Distt.Akola (MH), Pin-444107 have changed my name from Dinesh Awaghad to Dinesh Shankarrao Awaghad and my wife name from Kavita Awaghad to Kavita Dinesh Awaghad vide affidavit dated:-20 June 2024 before notary public Panchkula (Haryana)

**I, Jagdish Raj** S/o Munshi Ram, House no. 13-A, Park Lane, Rani Ka Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab, 143001 have changed my name from Jagdish Raj Madaan to Jagdish Raj.

**I, Bhupinder kaur** sandhu w/o Harbinder Singh Sandhu r/o h.no c-153 yamuna enclave sec13-17 panipat 132103 declare change my name from Bupinder kaur to Bhupinder kaur Sandhu and in future my name is Bhupinder kaur Sandhu.

**I, Davinder Singh** S/o Harjit Singh R/o VPO Harta Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that I Devinder Singh and Davinder Singh is one and same person. Concerned note.

**I, Anuj Kumar** S/O Prem Kumar R/o Village Kakheri Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana declare that in my 10th Class and 12th Class marketseet my D.O.B wrongly entered as 08.05.2004 while my correct D.O.B. is 08.05.2002.

**I, Anil Kumar** S/O Prem Parkash Garg R/O #128/8, R-3, Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Anil Garg to Anil Kumar.

**I, Lal Mani** S/o Jagannath Josi H/o 1910A/8, Gurdev Nagar, Tehsil Thanesar, Kurukshetra, In my Aadhar my name is Lal Mani. In the future call me Lal Mani S/o Jagannath Joshi.

**We, Ankit Agarwal** S/o Anil Kumar Agarwal & Aarohi Agarwal W/o Ankit Agarwal R/o #145, Sector-27A, Chandigarh (UT) have changed our minor daughter name from Aanvi Agarwal to Maanvi Agarwal by affidavit sworn before the notary public sector 1 Panchkula. Henceforth, she will be known as Maanvi Agarwal for all purposes.

**I, Pranati Chakraborty** W/o Sh. Hiralal Chakraborty R/o H.No. 194, 2nd Floor, Sigma City, Lohgarh, Zirakpur SAS Nagar(Mohali) declare that in my Husband BRO service record my name is wrongly mentioned as Pronoti Chakraborty. My correct name is Pranati Chakraborty.

**I, Lovely alias** Lakshya Kumar S/o Naninder Parsad # 116 , Khuda Lahora, Chandigarh have changed my name to Lakshya Kumar.

**I, Robin** S/o Nikoo Dimus R/o #2017/4 sector 32-32 Chandigarh have changed my name to Robin Dimus.

**I, Binder** W/o Jasmer Singh R/o Village Yara Tehsil Shahabad Markanda District Kurukshetra, declare that I am known by two names Binder and Jinder.

**I, Suraj Bhan** S/o Ram Kishan R/o Village Gumti Post office Madanpur, Tehsil Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Suraj Bhan to Ashok Kumar.

**I, Rishabh** S/o Rajneesh Sharma R/o H.No. 1209 Urban Estate, Sector 7, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from rishab to Rishabh Sharma.

**I, Sanjay Chandra** Prashar S/o Parkash Chand, #164, Ekta Vihar Baltana Zirakpur have changed my minor Daughter name from Sanjini to Sanjini Prashar.

**I, Riddhima** S/o Sanjay Chandra Prashar, #164, Ekta Vihar Baltana Zirakpur have changed my name from Riddhima to Riddhima Prashar.

**I, Sanjay Chandra** Prashar S/o Parkash Chand, # 164, Ekta Vihar Baltana Zirakpur have changed my minor son name from Samarth to Samarth Prashar.

**I, Rajni** W/o Yasin R/o P:O Lohinga Kalan, Tehsil Punhana, Main Road Near Bhand Mohalla, Lohinga Kalan(165), Mewat, Lohinga Kalan, Haryana-122508 have changed my name to Rajo.

**I, Nutan Gupta** w/o Nishant Kumar, R/o #594, First Floor, IAS, IPS Society, Sector 49-A, Chandigarh, declares that Nutan & Nutan Gupta are names of one and the same person i.e. me. Concerned Note.

**I, Navneet Kaur** Bains W/o Daljit Singh R/o VPO Chhachhrauli, Leda Road, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Navneet Kaur Bains to Navneet Kaur.

**I, Gurdev Singh** s/o Amar Singh r/o Village Waraich Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Gurdev Singh to Gurdev Singh Waraich. Concerned note.

**I, Tanya** D/o Ajay Hooda R/o H. No. 246, Defence Colony, Near Gate No. 4 HAU, Hisar hereby declare that Ajay Hooda and Ajay Kumar are one and the same person and similarly Suman Hooda and Suman Rani are one and the same lady and they both are my biological parents.

**I, Thakur Priyanka** Netra W/o Sidharth R/o VPO Laha Tehsil Naraingarh Distt Ambala have changed my name from Thakur Priyanka Netra to Priyanka Thakur. All concerned please note.

**I, Sanehlata** W/O Sukhbir Singh R/O Village Surmi Distt. Kurukshetra I Have Changed My Name From Sanehlata To Sneh Lata.

**I, Rajpal Singh** S/o Sukhpal R/o H.No- 290-C Police Lines, Ambala City have changed my name from Rajpal to Rajpal Singh. All concerned Please Note.

**I, Pritpal Singh Saini** S/O Lajbinder Singh R/O House No. 775, Sector- 4, Panchkula (Haryana), have changed my name from Pritpal Singh Saini to Pritpal Singh.

**I, Apar Kaushik** S/O Sh. Ram Kumar Sharma R/O #43/2, Kayasthan Mohalla, Panipat Declare that i have change my name Apar Kaushik to Apar Kaushik Sharma for all purposes.

**I, Virender Singh** S/o Satpal Singh R/o Flat no.204, Vardhan Socity, Toll Palza, Sector 18, Huda, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Virender Singh to Virender Mann, for all future purpose.

**I, Harsh** S/o Kulwinder Singh R/o Village Wahidpur, P.O. Moela Wahidpur, Tehsil Garhshankar (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name to Harsh Heer.

**I, Roshini Devi** W/o Deva Ram R/o Ward No 3 Cheeka Kaithal. That Minakshi is my minor grand daughter. I have changed her name Minakshi to Minakshi Devi,

**I, Satyawan Pannu** S/o Sh. Dharam Singh Resident of # 197, Housing Board Colony, Himshikha, Pinjore-134104 Tehsil Kalka District Panchkula have changed my name from Satyawan to Satyawan Pannu.

**I, Amandeep Kaur** W/o Parminder Singh R/o Village Rehpa P.O Hakimpur Tehsil Banga S.B.S Nagar Pb have changed my name Pretty to Amandeep Kaur.

**I, Sohan Lal** Chhibber S/o Ripudaman R/o VPO Katron, Tehsil Dhuri Distt Sangrur, have changed my name to Sohan Lal.

**I, Baljit Kaur** Chhibber W/o Sohan Lal R/o VPO Katron, Tehsil Dhuri Distt Sangrur, have changed my name to Baljit Kaur.

**I, No. JC226660Y** Rank Sub Maj Rajinder Pal S/o Maha singh R/o VPO Malar, Tehsil Safidon Distt Jind Haryana my service record my son name is Devinder Kumar my son's correct name is Devender Kumar.

**I, Ravinder Kumar** s/o Hari Singh R/o #521, Kaithal Road, Bastali, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Ravinder Kumar to Ravinder. In future I should be known as Ravinder.

I, Hitherto Known As Sapna Daughter Of Ajit Kumar Wife Of Gaurav Mahajan Residing At 199-B, Gali No.13, New Pawan Nagar, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Komal Mahajan.

I, Hitherto Known As Gurpal Singh Son Of Sulakhan Singh Residing 58, Village Lodhipur P.O Khunda Distt Gurdaspur -143519 In State Of Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurpal Singh Chahal.

**I, Daljeet Singh** S/O Kulwant Singh R/O 33-34, 3, Tarn Taran Road, Gurdev Nagar, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Daljeet Singht To Daljit Singh

**I No.Jc355126y** Sub Gurpreet Singh S/O Sewa Singh R/O Village And Post Office Dhindsa Tehsil Samrala Distt Ludhiana Have Change My Wife's Name From Charanjeet Kaur To Charanjit Kaur

**I, Charanjit Singh** Sidhu S/O Mohinder Singh R/O H.No.81, Adarsh Nagar, Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Charanjit Singh Sidhu To Charanjit Singh

**I Swaran Kaur** Mann W/O Swinder Singh R/O Vill. Khidowali P.O. Mattewal Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Swaran Kaur Mann To Surinder Kaur

**I Kawaljeet Kaur** W/O Sukhbir Singh R/O H.No. 263, East Mohan Nagar Sultanwind Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kawaljeet Kaur To Kawaljit Kaur

**I, Amanjit Kaur** And Amanjeet Karu W/O Gurdev Singh R/O Bhuchar Khurd Tehsil And Distt Tarn Taran Have Declare That Above Both Name's Are Mine One And Same Person

**I, Gurvinder Singh** S/O Teg Bahadar Singh R/O Village Mararai Khurd District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurvinder Singh To Gurwinder Singh

**I, Jasbir Singh** Maan S/O Kashmir Singh R/O H.No.578, New L2/64, Gali No.1, Jodh Nagar B/S Mandir, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Jasbir Singh Maan To Jasbir Singh

**I, Lilabati Devi** W/O Narad Muni Singh R/O Vpo Belaur, District Bhojpur (Ara) Bihar-802206 Have Changed My Name From Lilabati To Lilawati Singh.

**I Gurpindersingh** Jaswidersingh Bhatti S/O Jaswidersingh Bhatti R/O Village Vain Poin Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Gurpindersingh Jaswidersingh Bhatti To Gurpindersingh Bhatti

**I, Kitty** W/O Vininder Singh Madan R/O Hno 5 Court Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kitty To Kitty Madan

**I, Balbir Singh** Thind S/O Arjan Singh Thind R/O Village Kotli Mian Khan Po Khaper Khari Chheharta Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Balbir Singh Thind To Balbir Singh

**I, Sawinder Kaur** Thind W/O Balbir Singh R/O Village Kotli Mian Khan Po Khaper Khari Chheharta Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sawinder Kaur Thind To Sawinder Kaur

**I, Surjeet Singh** Sandhu S/O Bhola Singh R/O Ward No 13 Aggarwal Street Zira Ferozepur Have Changed My Name From Surjeet Singh Sandhu To Surjit Singh Sandhu

**I,Brji Lal** S/O Mela Ram R/O Vpo Tarsiksha Teh Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Brji Lal To Brij Mohan

**I, Deepanka Kapoor** W/O Abhinav Sekhri R/O Sekhri House Out Side Mori Gate Ram Tirath Road, Batala District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Deepanka Kapoor To Deepanka Sekhri

**I, Arpanbir Singh** S/O Sukhcharanjit Singh R/O Village Chhapa Tehsil And District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Arpanbir Singh To Arpanbir Singh Gill

**I, Nirphow Singh** S/O Hardeep Singh R/O Village Kot Bakhta, Po Jaito Sarja, Teh Batala, Gurdasspur.I Have Changed My Name From Nirphow Singh To Nirbhow Singh

**I, Manbir Kaur** W/O Swaraj Singh R/O Plot No.5, Ujagar Nagar, Opp R.N Public School Sultanwind Sub Urban Amritsar Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Arshpreet To Arshpreet Kaur

**I, Nishtha Kapoor** W/O Ambrish Khosla R/O H.No.2087/1, Cirular Road, Opp Medical Collge, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Nishtha Kapoor To Nishtha Khosla.

**I, Yaman Deep** S/o Nandlal R/O House No. 90/29, Ward No. 29, Chandana Gate, Kaithal, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Yaman Deep to Yamandeep. In future I will be known by the name of Yamandeep.

**I, Hitesh Diwan** S/o Sh. Jiwan Dass R/o H. No. 530, Sector-13, Hisar 125001 (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Hitesh Diwan to Hitesh Kumar for all future Purpose.

**I, Manjula Diwan** W/o Sh. Hitesh Kumar R/o H. No. 530, Sector-13, Hisar 125001 (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Manjula Diwan to Manjula Rani for all future Purpose.

**I, Rohtash Kumar** Gakkhar S/o Ganesh Dass R/o H. No. 109, PLA, Kamiri Road, Hisar (Haryana) 125001 declare that I have changed my name from Rohtash Kumar Gakkhar to Rohtash Gakhar for all future purpose.

**I, Vikas Kansal** S/o Sh. Duli Chand R/o H.No. 210/3 Ward No. 34 Janta Colony Rohtak declare that I have changed my minor daughter name from Shrestha Jain to Shrestha Kansal in future my minor daughter name will be called by the name of Shrestha Kansal for all purposes.

**I, Vikas Kansal** S/o Sh. Duli Chand R/o H.No. 210/3 Ward No. 34 Janta Colony Rohtak declare That I have changed my minor son name from Udit Rai Jain to Udit Rai Kansal. In future my minor son name will be called by the name of Udit Rai Kansal for all purposes.

**I, Mahesh Kumar** Goel S/O Sh. Krishan Chand Arya R/O H.No. 26/8 FM PGIMS, Medical Campus Rohtak-124001 declare that I have changed my name from Mahesh Kumar Goel to Mahesh Goel in future I will be called by the name of Mahesh Goel for all purposes.

**I, Sewapati** W/o Sh. Ved Parkash R/O House No. 1095, Village Ghirai, Teh. Hansi, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Sewapati to Raj bala for all future purpose.

**I, Darshan Kumar** W/o Sh. Devender Singh R/o H. No. 604, Sector 9-11, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Darshan Kumar to Darshan Kumari for all future purpose.

**I, Devender Singh** Goondli S/O Sh. Hemraj R/o H. No. 604, Sector 9-11, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Devender Singh Goondli to Devender Singh for all future purpose.

**I, Ramesh Devi** Mother Of Army No. 3015373N, L/Nk Gajender R/O Vpo Manheru, Teh & Distt Bhiwani, Declare That My Name Is Ramesh In The Army Record Of My Son, Which Is Wrong. My Correct Name Is Ramesh Devi Which Should Be Corrected In My Son Army Record.

**I, Devendra Pal** Father Of Army No. 3015373N, L/Nk Gajender R/O Vpo Manheru, Teh & Distt Bhiwani, Declare That My Name Is Devender Pal Singh In The Army Record Of My Son Which Is Wrong. My Correct Name Is Devender Pal Which Should Be Corrected In My Son Army Record.

**I Balbinder Singh** Son Of Karam Singh Resident Of Ward No. 10, Amloh Road, Guru Nanak Nagar, Khanna Tehsil Khanna District Ludhiana Have Changed My Name From Balbinder Singh, Binder Singh To Balbinder Singh.

**I Ramesh Kumar** S/O Pritam Ram R/O Village Behra Tehsil Dera Bassi Distt SAS Nagar Have Changed My Name From Rames To Ramesh Kumar

**I Sukhvir** S/O Ram Kumar R/O House No- 1181, Near St Theresa Public School Sector-25 Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Sukhvir To Sukhvir Singh.

**I Jijoy Joseph** Joy W/O Harshpreet Singh R/O H.No- 160 Sector- 27 Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Jijoy Joseph Joy To Jijiy Joy For All Future Purpose As Per Documents.

**I Parkash Kumar** W/O Arjan Singh, V P O Khadoor Sahib Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Manjit Kaur.

**I Sushila W/O** Rajesh Kumar R/O Village Kot Distt Panchkula, Have Changed My Name From Sushila To Sushila Devi.

**I, Ekta** D/O Lt. Shiv Charan And W/O Ketan Bansal R/O #1939, Mauli Complex Ut Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Ekta To Ekta Bansal.

**I Ramesh Kumar** S/O Pritam Ram R/O Village Behra Tehsil Dera Bassi Distt SAS Nagar Declares That My Passport No.G3033285 My Father Name Is Wrongly Recorded As Pritam. His Correct Name Is Pritam Ram

**I Monika** W/O Vishwa Mitra Resident #558 Sunder Nagar Dera Baba Nanak Road Batala Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Monika Walia To Monika After Marriage.

**I, Jatindhar Malhotra** S/o Wazir Chand Malhotra R/o H.No. 9, Near A.S. Farm, Po. Wadala, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Jatindhar Malhotra to Jatinder Malhotra.

**I, Ankita Khosla** W/o Paras Malhotra R/o H.No. 9, Near A.S. Farm, Po. Wadala, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Ankita Khosla to Ankita Malhotra, after marriage.

**I, Ram** S/o Mahinder R/o VPO. Dhani Pind, Tehsil Phillaur, Jalandhar, Punjab -144633 have changed my name to Ram Chumber for all future purposes.

**I, Harish** S/o Sham Lal R/o H.No.44, New Rasila Nagar, Basti Danishmanda, Jalandhar-144002, Punjab have changed my name from Harish to Harish Kumar. (Surname as Kumar)

**I, Kamlesh Rani** W/o Sanjiv Kumar Arora R/o H.No. 22592, Street No. 17, Bhagu Road, Bathinda, Punjab- 151001. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kamlesh Arora

**I, Shally Arora** W/o Ashish Chopra R/o 45, Opposite New Kitchlu Nagar, Mahavir Enclave Hambran Road, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141001. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Manisha Chopra.

**I, Rajiv Kumar** S/o Padam Sain R/o H.No.871, Sector-13, Urban Estate, Karnal Haryana-132001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Rajev Gupta.

**I, Charanjeet Kaur** W/o Kuldeep Singh R/O Post Office, Nangal Shahidan, VTC: Bilaspur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 146001, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Baneeta aged about 12 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Banita Kaur.

**I, Charanjeet Kaur** W/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Post Office Nangal Shahidan, Bilaspur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 146001, I have changed the name of my minor Son Samarpreet aged about 10 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Samarpreet Singh.

**I, Ranjit Singh** S/o Sulakhan Singh R/o VPO. Hajipur, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my spelling name from Ranjit Singh to Ranjeet Singh.

**I, Santosh Kaur** W/o Ranjeet Singh R/o VPO. Hajipur, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur Have changed my name from Santosh Kaur to Santosh Kumari.

**I, Sangeeta Malhotra** D/o Charan Dass Malhotra W/o Mukesh Mehta R/o H.No. 4, Mukesh Bhawan, Milap Chowk, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab have changed my name to Sangeeta Mehta.

**I, Sonia Verma** W/o Ravi Verma R/o H.No. 30, Gali No. 4, New Ujala Nagar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Sonia to Sonia Verma, after marriage.

**I, Pyara Lal** S/o Amar Chand R/o Vill. Sanghwah, Po. Kishangarh, Distt. Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Pyara Lal To Piara Lal.

**I, Shanta** More Mother of 14849631K Rank HAV/MT Name Pandurang More R/o Vill. & PO Kinaye, Teh. Belgaum, Distt. Belgaum, Karnataka-590014 have changed my name in army record from Shanta More to Shanta Parashram More vide affidavit dated 19-06-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

**I, Shri Ram** Father of JC- 676669J Rank NB/SUB MT Name Jeetendra Yadav R/o Vill. Utrejpuri, PO Shambhuganj, Teh. Sadar, Distt. Jaunpur, UP-222132 have changed my name in army record from Shri Ram to Shree Ram Yadav vide affidavit dated 19-06-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

**I, Sanjeev Kumar** s/o Tarsem Lal r/o VPO. Ajram, Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my spelling name from Sanjeev Kumar to Sanjiv Kumar. All Please Note.

**I, Parmjeet** Singh son of sh Mulakh singh R/o HNO. 283L model town yamanunagar That I have changed my name from Parmjeet Singh to Parmjeet Singh Anand.

**I, No.13766071N** Hav Swarn Singh, In My Army Record My Son Name Is Wrongly Recorded As Sheajpreet Singh. His Correct Name Is Sahejpreet Singh According To His Adhar Card And Birth Certificate.

**I, Hasrat Khosa** daughter of Sh. Shalendra Pal Singh Khosa, resident of H.No. 668, Gilico Villas, Gilico Valley, Kharar, Tehsil Kharar, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Punjab presently residing at H.No. 102, Tower-01, Acme Eden Courts, Sector-91, Mohali, Tehsil and Distt. S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) have changed my name from Hasrat Khosa to Hasrat Kaur Khosa.

**I, Neelam rani** W/o Ramesh Singh V.P.O Jhansa Tehsil Pehowa Kurukshetra have Changed my Name Neelam Devi.

**I, Bharati** W/O Ajay kalra R/O Ward no 03, Gurgaun nanak Colony, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Haryana Changed Name Bharati Kalra.

**I Narang Singh** S/o Bakhshish Singh R/o V.P.O. Dakala, Teh. & Distt. Patiala, I have changed my name Narang Singh to Naurang Singh.

**I Gurmit Singh** S/o Naurang Singh R/o V.P.O. Dakala, Teh. & Distt. Patiala, I have changed my Name Gurmit Singh to Gurmeet Singh.

**I Balwant Singh** S/o Teja Singh R/o V.P.O Dakala, Teh. & Distt. Patiala, I have changed my Name Balwant Singh to Bant Singh.

**I, Raveen** W/o Rakesh Kumar R/O 328, Street No. 3, Ekta Vihar, Anand Nagar-B, Tripuri VTC Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Ravin to Raveen.

**I, Gulshan Kumar** S/o Manohar Lal R/O Ward No.13, Near New Nagar Consel



# Jalandhar West By-Election: Clash between Grassroots Loyalty vs Turncoats

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The July 10 Jalandhar West Assembly by-election is shaping up to be a battle of ideologies and strategies. While the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have opted to field turncoats, Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) have strategically placed their trust in the grassroots workers. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has followed suit, nominating a long-time booth-level worker for the multi-cornered contest.

## Cong's Strategic Choice: Surinder Kaur

In a move emphasizing loyalty over opportunism, Congress has nominated 63-year-old Surinder Kaur — a former Senior Deputy Mayor and five-time councillor from Jallawal Abadi. Known for her unwavering commitment, Surinder Kaur took over her late husband Ram Asra Chaudhary's political legacy in 2001. She has balanced her responsibilities as a councillor, businesswoman, and mother, gaining widespread respect in her community. Surinder Kaur's selection comes after considerable internal deliberation. The party's decision to finalize her candidacy more than 10 days ago but delay the announcement was aimed at managing potential rebellions. Her nomination underscored Congress' commitment to its

core values, contrasting sharply with its recent campaign against party hoppers.

## SAD's panthic candidate: Surjit Kaur

Akali Dal has chosen Surjit Kaur — a two-time councillor and widow of a former councillor Jathedar Pritam Singh. Known for her social work and community service, Surjit Kaur's candidacy was decided by a SAD's four-member committee, comprising Bibi Jagir Kaur, Gurpartap Singh Wadala, Dr Sukhwinder Sukhi and Mohinder Singh Kaypee. Bibi Jagir Kaur expressed confidence that Surjit Kaur's dedication to the panthic cause and her community service will resonate with voters. "I am confident that the people will support a hard working party leader from Jalandhar West," she added.

## BSP's Long-Term Commitment: Binder Lakha

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has nominated Binder Lakha, a party booth-level worker, working for the party organization for the last 25 years while holding various positions. Announcing his candidacy, BSP Punjab state president Jasvir Singh Garhi highlighted Lakha's longstanding dedication to the party. Lakha's nomination symbolizes that BSP's focus on grassroots organization and consistent party loyalty.

## AAP, BJP's Turncoat

## Candidates

In a contrasting approach, AAP and BJP have fielded candidates with a history of switching allegiances. AAP's candidate, Mohinder Bhagat, son of former BJP Minister Bhagat Chunni Lal, previously contested the 2022 assembly elections as a BJP candidate. Sheetal Angural, the former AAP MLA whose resignation necessitated the by-election, will contest as the BJP candidate this time.

## The Electoral Landscape

The upcoming bypolls in Jalandhar West constituency have become a battleground for candidates with a history of shifting loyalties and grass-root workers.

Interestingly, just two weeks after Jalandhar voters resoundingly rejected turncoats in the Lok Sabha elections, AAP and BJP have once again placed their bets on leaders who have recently switched allegiances — to test the electoral waters despite recent voter backlash against opportunistic political switchers.

Notably, the voters had outrightly rejected SAD's former MLA Pawan Kumar Tinu, who contested on an AAP ticket; Congress' former MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee, who was an Akali candidate; and AAP's former MP Sushil Kumar Rinku, who was the BJP's candidate. Instead, they elected former Chief Minister

and senior Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi from the Jalandhar reserved seat in the recently-concluded general elections.

AAP has nominated Mohinder Bhagat, a former BJP leader who joined AAP last year. Bhagat had contested unsuccessfully on a BJP ticket in the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections. He hailed from the 30,000-strong Kabir panthi community.

On the other hand, the saffron party has fielded Angural, who had previously won the Jalandhar West assembly seat under the AAP banner in 2022, but switched to the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year.

Contrarily, the deep-rooted connections and service to the Ravidassia community are seen as pivotal to the candidacy of Congress' Surinder Kaur, who hails from the community. Similarly, Surjit Kaur's panthic background and Binder Lakha's decades-long grassroots work position them as strong contenders with deep local ties.

## Punjab CM to participate in shobha yatra today

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is expected to participate in the shobha yatra marking Kabir Jayanti on June 21, underscoring the importance of the Kabir Panthi community, which has a substantial voter base of around 30,000 in Jalandhar West.

# Punjab Police busts trans-border illegal arms, narco-terrorism hawala racket

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

Amritsar Commissionerate Police, in a 10-day long operation, busted a trans-border illegal arms and narco-terrorism hawala racket with the arrest of eight accused persons including a kingpin.

Sharing details, the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Thursday said that the kingpin has been identified as Ranjit Singh alias Kaka. Apart from him, other arrested persons have been identified as Rajinder alias Raja, Abhishek alias Abhi, Vishal alias Shalu, Lovepreet alias Kalu, Gurbhej alias Bheja, Gurjant and Jaspal — all residents of Gharinda in

Amritsar.

DGP Yadav said that police teams have also recovered 4.10 kg heroin, two pistols — Pakistan-made Zigana pistol and .32 bore pistol — along with 45 live cartridges and Rs 2.07 lakh drug money from their possession, besides impounding their seven vehicles bought with drug money. The recovered vehicles include Hyundai Verna, Mahindra Thar, Hyundai i20, Maruti Swift Dzire, Maruti Zen, Activa scooter and Splendor motorcycle.

The operation is still ongoing to nab other entities with cross-border linkages and hawala involvement, he said.

The development came after meticulous investigations

of backward and forward linkages carried out by the Amritsar Commissionerate Police into the arrest of a local drug peddler identified as Rajinder alias Raja (22) of Gharinda in Amritsar, who was arrested with 500 grams heroin, Rs 40,000 drug money, Verna car and a pistol. Accused Rajinder Raja was also wanted by the Amritsar Rural Police in an attempt to murder case.

Sharing more details, Amritsar Commissioner of Police (CP) Ranjit Singh Dhillon said that during investigation, carried out by team of CIA 1 led by Inspector Amandeep Singh and Police Station Islamabad under the supervision of ADCP Zone 1 Dr Darpan Ahluwalia and

ADCP Detective Navjot Singh Sandhu, into the arrest of Rajinder Raja, backward linkage was traced to kingpin Ranjit Singh alias Kaka.

"After the meticulous follow-up of financial trail and technical investigations, Police teams have successfully arrested kingpin Ranjit Kaka and other accused persons, with further recovery of smuggled heroin, firearms and live cartridges," he said.

CP Dhillon said that the probe has revealed that the kingpin Ranjit Kaka, who was in direct contact with Pak-based entities, was running a heroin and illegal weapons racket in Punjab, further fueling the hawala nexus, and re-routing to Pakistan.

## Allocate Internships to Foreign Medical Graduates: Pb Minister to medical institutes

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Medical Education and Research Minister Dr Balbir Singh on Thursday directed all the Government and Private Medical Institutes in the state to start allocating internships to the foreign medical graduates (FMGs).

Terming that the Punjab Government has been actively working to resolve critical issues being faced by the foreign medical graduates, Dr Balbir said that the entire process to allocate internships is being streamlined to reduce the administrative bottlenecks.

"We are collaborating with medical institutions across Punjab and Chandigarh to make available the maximum number of available internship slots for foreign medical graduates," he said, while adding that this will ensure that all eligible graduates can promptly begin their internships.

The Health Minister said that the Punjab Government is committed to implement the orders of the Supreme Court and guidelines of National Medical Commission (NMC).

# Hry CM to attend State Level Prog of Int'l Day of Yoga in Hisar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will be the Chief Guest at the State Level Function of 10th International Day of Yoga to be organized in Hisar on Friday. A government spokesperson said that the International Day of Yoga will be organized in all district blocks of the State with great fervor and grandeur. This year, the theme of International Yoga Day is 'Yoga for Self and Society, he added.

In district Panchkula, Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Gian Chand Gupta will be the chief guest in the district level yoga day function; Kanwar Pal Gujjar, Agriculture Minister will be the chief guest in the district level yoga day function at Yamuna Nagar while State Industry Minister Mool Chand Sharma at Faridabad; Ranjit Singh, Energy Minister at Sirsa, JP Dalal, Finance Minister at Bhiwani, Public Health Engineering Minister Banwari Lal at Ambala-I, Kamal Gupta, Health Minister at Hisar II, Seema Trikha, Minister of State for School Education at Palwal, Mahipal Dhandu, Minister of State for Development & Panchayats at Panipat, Abhe Singh Yadav, Minister of State for irrigation & Water



Resources at Narnaul; Subhash Sudha, Minister of State for Urban Local Bodies at Thaneshwar; Bishamber Singh, Minister of State for Social Justice, Empowerment, SCs & BCs Welfare and Antyodaya at Charkhi Dadri; Sanjay Singh, Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Wild life at Gurugram, MP Rajya Sabha Krishan Panwar at Madlauda, Panipat; MP Rajya Sabha Subhash Barala will be the chief guest in the district level yoga day function at Tohana.

## CM approves 4 projects worth Rs 62.48 crore in Rohtak under Rural Augmentation Programme

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has granted administrative sanction for four major projects worth Rs. 62.48 crore in Rohtak District under the

Rural Augmentation Programme. An official spokesperson said the approved projects include raw water arrangement from JLN Canal through pumping and laying of DI pipe from canal to water works of village Kabulpur, District Rohtak at an estimated cost of Rs 2.13 crore, Providing independent canal based water works at village Madina Gindhran-II, at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.33 crore, Renovation of existing water works and laying of distribution pipe line at village Bahu Akbarpur at an estimated cost of Rs 14.24 crore, Establishing a raw water arrangement from the JLN Canal through a pumping system for 13 existing water works that serve 12 villages. This project also includes the construction of raw water pumping station and laying of DI pipes, with an estimated cost of Rs 39.78 crore.

Saini also has granted administrative sanction for the special repair and improvement of 3 MDR (Major District Roads) in 2 Districts namely Bhiwani and Sirsa. This project will cost over Rs. 35 crore. The important roads with a district connecting production and market places with each other or with the main highways are known as 'Major District Roads'.

## Flight to commence shortly from Hisar Airport, says Hry CM Saini

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that flights to various states will soon commence from Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar. Following this, the airport will also be connected to international destinations. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the airport when flights begin.

He was addressing the people after laying the foundation stone and inaugurating several development projects, including the expansion of Maharaja Agrasen Airport, which will cost approximately Rs 544 crore in Hisar.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated the people of Haryana, particularly the residents of Hisar, stating that nine different projects worth Rs 339 crore have been inaugurated at this domestic airport named after Maharaja Agrasen.

He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for airport operations, and soon flight services from Hisar will begin to various destinations including Chandigarh, Jaipur, Ayodhya, Jammu, and Ahmedabad. This development will benefit not only the local residents but also the people of Punjab, Rajasthan, and other

states. The enhanced connectivity is expected to be a milestone in the development of Hisar and will significantly contribute to the state's progress.

Saini said the goal is to elevate Hisar Airport to international standards in the coming years. He said that in October 2020, former Chief Minister Manohar Lal initiated the Bhoomi Pujan for the construction of the runway at Hisar Airport. The construction of the 3,000 km long runway has been completed, and the parallel taxiway is also being expanded.

Targeting the opposition, the Chief Minister said that the Congress party has nothing substantial to say. He accused them of spreading lies and creating confusion. He stated that Congress leaders sometimes approach the Governor and sometimes create an atmosphere of insecurity, despite not having sufficient MLAs. He criticized the opposition for misleading the public during the last elections by falsely claiming that if Narendra Modi became Prime Minister for the third time, he would abolish the Constitution. He asserted that under Modi's leadership, the country has been governed in accordance with the Constitution, while the Congress has disrespected it.

## Punjab FM approves sixth pay panel recommendations for aided staff

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday gave in-principle approval for implementing the sixth pay commission recommendations for employees of aided educational institutions. The decision would benefit employees of aided schools and colleges under the Departments of School Education, Technical Education and Industrial Training, non-teaching staff of these institutions under the Higher Education Department, and retirees of aided schools.

"The administrative departments have been directed to issue a notification for implementing the sixth pay commission recommendations for employees of aided institutions and those who have retired from aided schools," said Cheema. The departments will examine the financial statements of the last three years of all aided schools and colleges to assess the deficit analysis and send a detailed proposal citing financial implications. "After considering the administrative departments' proposal, the Finance Department will give financial sanction to these institutions," he added.

# Himachal CM inaugurates Bulk Drug Park in Una, terms it a revolutionary initiative

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday inaugurated the commencement of the Bulk Drug Park constructed at Panjvuna in Haroli Assembly constituency of Una district.

Addressing a public gathering on this occasion, Sukhu termed this project as a "revolutionary initiative" of the state government which would go a long way in significant transformation of the entire region besides providing employment and self-employment opportunities to the local people.

The state government would provide land at a nominal cost of one rupee, electricity at the rate of three rupees per unit and free water for a period of ten years to the industries coming up in the Bulk Drug Park. The state government would also extend financial support for the construction of a five-kilometer railway line from Jajjon to Polian costing approximately Rs. 3400 crore.

The Chief Minister said the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi scheme had been launched from Haroli and commencement of the Bulk Drug Park within 48

hours, were two significant developments in Una district. Under the Pyari Behna scheme, the women would receive Rs. 18,000 annually. He said that reinstating the old pension scheme for government employees and providing financial assistance of Rs. 3 lakh to widows for building homes reflects the government's dedication to its employees and efforts towards women empowerment. The state government would also bear education expenses for the education of widows' children up to the age of 27. He said a Center of Excellence was also coming up at Kandaghat in district Solan, which aims to provide higher education to 9,000 specially abled children of the state.

Sukhu said that the previous BJP government mismanaged the state's finances, which has put every resident of the state under a debt burden of Rs. 1.25 lakh. The present state government was committed to strengthening the state's economy and making it a self-reliant state.

He added that Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri has dedicated himself to the development of Haroli Assembly constituency and contribution has been sig-



nificant.

The Deputy Chief Minister thanked the Chief Minister for allocating Rs. 1000 crore for construction of the Bulk Drug Park and said that now the park would be developed without involving private agencies. The residents of Volleyball, Kuthar Beet, and Polian would benefit from the project. Earlier the people of this area had to face various challenges like proper health care, education and water facilities. To meet the electricity requirement of the area, the government has made a provision of Rs. 40 crore and there would be no power shortage from next year.

Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said that it was a significant moment for Haroli, as the Chief Minister initiated major projects for the area. The bulk drug park would help in manufacturing raw material for the pharmaceutical industry and reduce dependence on Chinese imports.

## CM INAUGURATES 32 MW SOLAR POWER PROJECT

In another function, the Chief Minister formally inaugurated the 32 MW Pekhabela solar power project, developed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) at Pekhabela in Una district. The project spans 49 hectares and has been completed at a cost of Rs. 220 crore.

The foundation stone for this project was laid by Sukhu in December, 2023 and within a span of approximately four months and the power generation commenced on 15 April, 2024.

Sukhu stated that the project was expected to produce 6.61 crore units of electricity each year. This would generate Rs. 19.17 crore revenue for the state at a rate of Rs. 2.90 per unit. The project features 82,656 solar modules with electricity being transmitted through the Rakkad-Tahliwal transmission line. Moreover, the Pekhabela solar project is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 2,532 tonne annually. He added 19,200 workdays were generated during the construction of this project.

He said Himachal Pradesh was marching ahead to become the first green energy state of the country. As part of this initiative, the state government has set a target for HPPCL to install 500 MW of solar power capacity. He said that to achieve this target, currently the Corporation has allotted construction of three solar projects totalling 47 MW and one of these projects has been completed.

To enhance the power generation capacity, the government has invited tenders for seven additional solar projects with a combined capacity of 72 MW through HPPCL, said the Chief Minister. The detailed project reports (DPR) were being prepared for four solar power projects totalling 54 MW, whereas pre-feasibility reports for ten solar power projects with a cumulative capacity of 77 MW were also in progress. He said that FCA permissions were being sought for 50 MW of solar power projects, with another 200 MW of solar projects in the exploratory stage. These include 160 MW in district Una, 110 MW in district Solan, 170 MW in district Kangra, 50 MW in district Mandi and 10 MW in district Bilaspur.

## Cong submits memorandum to Hry Guv; Demands imposition of President's rule, early elections

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A Congress delegation led by former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday met Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and submitted a memorandum demanding dissolution of the State Assembly and imposition of President's rule and order early elections.

In the memorandum, the Congress said the BJP has 41 MLAs, and there has been no change in the strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, even though the current Chief Minister has been elected MLA from the recently held Karnal by-election. Besides its own 41 MLAs, the government has the support of one MLA of HLP and one independent. The total number of MLAs supporting the government is only 43. Whereas at present the number of MLAs in the House is 87 and the majority figure is 44.

It has been said in the memorandum that if the present government does not use horse-trading and other unconstitutional methods, then it does not have a majority in the House. "Therefore, as the protector of the Constitution, Governor should immediately dismiss the minority government and impose President's



rule in the state," the memorandum states.

The Congress urged the Governor to maintain the dignity and sanctity of the Constitution while discharging his constitutional duties. The Congress also sought orders to be passed to conduct assembly elections as per rules to provide an opportunity to the people of the state to elect a majority government.

Talking to journalists after meeting the Governor, Hooda said that a memorandum was earlier submitted to the Governor in this regard by the Congress Legislature Party on May 10. "This government should resign on moral grounds and the Governor should immediately dissolve the Assembly to stop horse trading. The Governor has assured to consider the memorandum," the former Chief Minister said.

Haryana Congress President Udaibhan said, "The results of the Lok Sabha elections have shown that the Congress is the strongest party in the state. 42 former MLAs, former ministers, MPs and former MPs from other parties, including the BJP, have joined the Congress. Three independent MLAs supporting the government have also supported the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections," he said. As far as Kiran Chaudhary's joining the BJP is concerned, former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar himself has made a big disclosure about it. Manohar Lal Khattar said that for a long time, Kiran Chaudhary's heart was in the BJP, only her body was in the Congress. Congress Rajya Sabha candidate Ajay Maken had raised questions about Kiran Chaudhary's role in the Rajya Sabha elections at that time itself, he added.



## NSA extension against Amritpal a violation of Constitution, human rights: Sukhbir

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Strongly opposing the extension in the National Security Act (NSA) imposed against Amritpal Singh, the Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Thursday lashed out against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann holding him squarely responsible for "dancing to Delhi's tunes on Sikh and Punjab issues".

"Punjab Government records clearly show that the decision to extend NSA in this case is Bhagwant Mann's. His anti-Punjab and anti-Sikh face stands fully exposed now," he said.

Going beyond and above his party's political and ideological differences with Amritpal Singh, Sukhbir said that the decision to extend NSA in this case is a "clear violation of the Constitution and of the basic human rights and civil liberties."

The Akali chief said: "I have already clarified several times that our party is guided

by the sacred principles taught to us by the great Guru Sahiban, and accordingly, we oppose repression and injustice even against our opponents. SAD goes beyond considerations of political gain or loss while pursuing these principles. We said it in our manifesto and also in our resolutions that for the party, principles are above politics."

He said that our differences of ideology with Amritpal Singh apart, we will oppose repression and injustice against him or against anyone else; and "we don't care what political cost we have to pay for this. I will not flinch from these principles," he added.



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# Pelosi to McCaul, Modi meets bipartisan US Congressional delegates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday here reiterated commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations with the US for global good. He made this assertion when a bipartisan US Congressional delegation including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on him.

Modi also highlighted the significant role played by the consistent and bipartisan support of the US Congress in advancing India-US ties, which are based on shared democratic values, respect for rule of law and strong people-to-people ties.

Prime Minister Modi recalled his State Visit to the US in June last year during which he had an opportunity to address a Joint Session of the US Congress for a historic second time.

A seven-member US

Congressional delegation led by Rep. Michael McCaul, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called on Modi.

The other members of the delegation included Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Gregory Meeks, Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, Rep. Amerish Babulal "Ami Bera" and Rep. Jim McGovern. The delegation members congratulated Prime Minister on his election for the historic third consecutive term.

They expressed deep appreciation for the scale, fairness and transparency of the recently concluded world's largest democratic electoral exercise in India. The delegation described India-US relations as the most consequential one and expressed their strong support for further deepening Comprehensive Strategic Global Partnership in all areas, including trade, new and emerging technology, defence,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with US Congressional delegation, in New Delhi, on Thursday

PTI

people to people exchanges. The visiting US delegation on Wednesday met with Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama at his residence in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

After the meeting Pelosi took in a social media post said

"Today, it was my honor to join a bipartisan Congressional delegation to meet with His Holiness, the 14th @DalaiLama, in Dharamsala, India. In our meeting, we strongly reaffirmed Congressional support for the

people of Tibet." The bipartisan delegation also met with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar along with Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Wednesday night.

Jaishankar appreciated their

"strong and continued" support for the strategic partnership between India and the US.

In a social media post, Jaishankar said "Pleasure to meet with the bipartisan US Congressional delegation led by @RepMcCaul. Thank

@SpeakerPelosi, @RepGregoryMeeks, @RepMMM, @NMalliotakis, @RepBera and @RepMcGovern for joining. Appreciate their strong and continued support for the strategic partnership." The US Congressional delegation had arrived in India on Tuesday and was received by officials of the Central Tibetan Administration at Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Airport.

Upon arrival, the US lawmakers headed to Dharamshala to meet Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama.

The delegation stated their commitment to ensuring China does not influence the choice of his successor, remarks expected to provoke Beijing, which views the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader as a separatist.

These remarks coincide with efforts by Washington and Beijing to stabilize their relations, while India urges China to ensure lasting peace on their

disputed Himalayan frontier, following a military clash four years ago.

The lawmakers also indicated that Washington would pressure Beijing to resume talks with Tibetan leaders, which have been stalled since 2010, to address the Tibet issue, with a bill expected to be signed by President Joe Biden soon. "It is still my hope that one day the Dalai Lama and his people will return to Tibet in peace," McCaul told a public reception after the meeting.

Pelosi said Congress approval of the legislation, titled "Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act", or the Resolve Tibet Act, sent a message to China that Washington was clear in its thinking on the issue of Tibet. "This bill says to the Chinese government: things have changed now, get ready for that," she said to cheers from hundreds of Tibetans at Wednesday's event.

## Birthday greetings pour in for President Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday wished President Droupadi Murmu a long and healthy life on her 66th birthday. She started her day by visiting the Lord Jagannath temple in Delhi and prayed for the welfare of all citizens.

"Jai Jagannath! Today I visited the Jagannath temple in Delhi and prayed for the welfare of all countrymen and also (wished) that our country continues to set new standards of progress," the President's office said in a social media post in Hindi, along with pictures of the visit.

She was born on June 20, 1958 at Uparbeda village in Odisha's Mayurbhanj. She was sworn-in as the 15th President of India on July 25, 2022.

"Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar along with his wife Dr Sudesh Dhankhar called on President Droupadi Murmu and conveyed birthday greetings to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the President's office said.



In his birthday greetings to President Murmu, Prime Minister Modi said the President's "wisdom and emphasis on serving the poor and marginalised are a strong guiding force".

"Warm birthday wishes to Rashtrapati Ji. Her exemplary service and dedication to our nation inspire us all. Her wisdom and emphasis on serving the poor and marginalised are a strong guiding force.

"Her life journey gives hope to cores of people. India will always be grateful to her for her tireless efforts and visionary leadership. May she be blessed with a long and healthy life," Modi said in a social media

post.

The Congress extended birthday greetings to President Droupadi Murmu and said her innate wisdom and steadfast commitment to India's progress, continues to guide all Indians.

In a social media post, Congress president Kharge said, "On behalf of the Congress party, we extend our warm birthday greetings to the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji. We wish you a long and healthy life."

"May your innate wisdom and steadfast commitment to India's progress, welfare and justice, continue to guide all Indians," he said.

## SC stays HC proceedings in NEET case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday decided to examine pleas questioning the Centre's appointment of National Testing Agency (NTA) chairman Professor Pradeep Kumar Joshi to the high-powered committee which recommended a re-test for 1,563 undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) candidates who were given grace marks.



The Supreme Court has issued notices to the Centre, the National Testing Agency (NTA) and others on petitions, including those seeking the scrapping of NEET-UG 2024 exam and a court-monitored probe into the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance test. The top court also stayed further proceedings on some pleas on NEET (Undergraduate)-2024 examination pending before different high courts in the country.

A vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti issued notices to the parties seeking their responses on four separate pleas filed by the NTA seeking transfer of some pending petitions, including those concerning alleged paper leak, from the high courts to the

apex court. As the bench issued notices on NTA's petitions, the counsel appearing for the agency urged that proceedings in these matters before the high court be stayed. "Issue notice, returnable on July 8," the bench said, adding, "In the meantime, further proceedings before the high courts shall remain stayed".

The Supreme Court heard a total of 14 petitions during the hearing. Of these, 10 were filed by 49 students and a student organisation called 'Student Federation of India'. Meanwhile, the remaining four were submitted by the NTA. They have also sought a direction to the NTA and others to conduct the test afresh.

The bench, which issued notices to the Centre, NTA and others seeking their responses on these petitions, said the pleas would be heard on July 8 along with other pending matters concerning the NEET-UG 2024. During the hearing, the bench made clear that it was not staying the counselling process.

"All this has been argued from day one and they (some petitioners) have been wanting stay of counselling. We have denied that," the bench observed. "Ultimately, if all of you succeed, everything will go. The examination goes and the counselling will also go."

An advocate, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the

counselling can be deferred until after July 8. The bench asked the NTA's counsel about the counselling. "The counselling will start on July 6, but it will not finish on July 6. It will take time," the NTA's counsel said. Another counsel informed the bench that a person has been arrested in Bihar in connection with the probe into alleged irregularities in the exam. The lawyer said FIRs have been lodged in Bihar and Gujarat regarding the alleged irregularities and the police should be asked to give status report of their investigation in these matter.

During the hearing, the bench observed that petitioners in the matter were making similar

arguments. The counsel appearing for the Centre said many a times, coaching institutes have also come as petitioners.

"They have a right to come. Because their business is ... these students only and if you play with them and you meddle with their rights, then these coaching centres will come," the bench observed. While hearing separate pleas concerning the NEET (Undergraduate)-2024 examination, the apex court had on June 18 said even if there was "0.001 per cent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

The NTA conducts the all India pre-medical entrance test. While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the NEET-UG 2024, the apex court had last week sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

The examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier.

## India, Oz, France pledge joint efforts for free Indo-Pacific as China flexes muscles



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

India, Australia and France have vowed to jointly work towards a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific amid China's growing muscle-flexing in the region.

The overall situation in the Indo-Pacific came up for detailed deliberations at the third 'India-France-Australia trilateral focal points' meeting that took place in Delhi on Wednesday.

"The three sides reviewed the progress made under the three pillars of trilateral cooperation: maritime safety and security, marine and environmental cooperation, and multilateral engagement," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Thursday.

It said the meeting identified new proposals for furthering the trilateral cooperation, including under the framework of the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) mechanisms.

"India, Australia and France reaffirmed their commitment

to advancing their shared values and working together towards a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific," the MEA said in a statement.

The IPOI is an open, inclusive, non-treaty based, global initiative that was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 14th East Asia Summit in November 2019 to promote collaborative efforts among like-minded nations to better manage, conserve and secure the Indo-Pacific maritime domain.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation.

The Indian side at the trilateral was led by Piyush Srivastava, joint secretary (Europe West) and Paramita Tripathi, joint secretary (Oceania and Indo-Pacific) at the MEA.

The French side was headed by Benoît Guidé, Director (Asia and Oceania) in French foreign ministry. The Australian delegation was led by Sarah Storey, a first assistant secretary at Australian foreign ministry's South and Central Asia Division.

## EC flooded with applications alleging EVM tampering

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Following the June 4 Lok Sabha election results, the Election Commission has been flooded with applications from high-profile candidates, including from the BJP and Congress, alleging tampering with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The move reignites the contentious debate over the reliability of EVMs, despite the Supreme Court's recent dismissal of such claims as "unfounded".



However, since the Apex Court had allowed candidates who finished second or third to request verification of EVMs for a fee, candidates across eight parliamentary seats in six States, covering 92 polling stations, are now demanding a thorough investigation into the micro-controller chips embedded in the

machines. Notable applicants include Sujay Vikhe-Patil (BJP) from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, and candidates from YSRCP and DMDK.

As per the rule, candidates must pay Rs 47,200 per EVM set for verification, which includes costs set by manufacturers (BEL and ECIL) and administrative expenses. The EC is responsible for communicating requests to manufacturers and has outlined a

process for verifying the EVMs, with a technical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be issued later. Similar requests have been made for EVM verification following assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. This process aims to maintain transparency and integrity in the electoral system, addressing candidates' concerns about the election results.

Vikhe-Patil had lost to Nileshe Lanke of NCP (Sharad Pawar) faction. A YSRCP and a DMDK candidate too have applied for the verification, according to data shared by the poll panel. Candidates who come second or third and seek verification of the EVMs will have to pay Rs 47,200 per EVM set, according to the SOP issued by the EC on June 1.

As per the SOP, the cost submitted by manufacturers BEL and ECIL to carry out EVM "check and verification" is Rs 40,000 (plus 18 per cent GST) per set of EVM.

"In addition to the cost incurred by the manufacturers, there are also administrative costs like cost of labour to shift the units, CCTV coverage, electricity charges, videography costs and various other operational costs at the district election officer level," the document said.

## Job fair for former servicemen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence, is organising an Ex-Servicemen Job Fair at Station Auditorium, Air Force Station, Hindon (Ghaziabad), Uttar Pradesh on June 21.

The Job Fair aims to connect Veterans and Employers, offering a second opportunity for employment to the Ex-servicemen (ESM). The veterans of Tri-services from all over the country are eligible for participation in the job fair, officials said here on Thursday.

Around 40 corporates are expected to take part in the fair offering various jobs such as field job, administrative



work, desk job, institutional security, and related works to the veterans.

Registration for all Ex-Servicemen will take place at the venue from 7 am to 10.00 am.

To register, ESM should bring their ESM identity card and five copies of the latest CV or bio-data with a photograph. ESM Job seekers would gain access to multiple job opportunities and hassle-free recruitment process.

## Modi to lead Yoga Day celebrations from Srinagar today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

On June 21 ie Friday, as the world joins India in celebrating the International Day of Yoga (IDY) with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the lead at Srinagar, over 150,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs set up in the nook and corner of the country too will hold yoga sessions.

This year's theme, "Yoga for Self and Society," underscores yoga's role in promoting personal well-being and social harmony. These Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, designed to extend healthcare services beyond traditional boundaries, encompass comprehensive care for non-communicable diseases, palliative and rehabilitative care, oral, eye, ENT, and mental

health services, alongside emergency and trauma care, including essential drugs and diagnostics.

In a recent communication, Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra emphasised the integral role of yoga in these centers' primary healthcare strategies suggesting them to invite prominent public figures as yoga ambassadors to motivate the participants.

The planning of IDY 2024 at AAM should involve coordination with block/district administration with active participation from ASHA/ANM, voluntary organizations, schools, colleges, and youth groups, said the Secretary.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in his message on the eve of the IDY,



said, "With roots in India but now embraced worldwide by people of all faiths and cultures, yoga unites people with its values of balance, mindfulness and peace with people and planet alike." At the same time, Hwang Il Yong, Director of Korean Cultural Centre

India said, "In Korea, yoga is embraced not just as a fitness routine but as a holistic lifestyle that nurtures the body, mind and spirit. The practice reduces stress and enhances flexibility and balance, contributing to its global adoption. This day cele-

brates yoga as India's cultural contribution, now deeply rooted in Korean culture.

"Celebrating the day, the Seoul Metropolitan Government will host 'Gwanghwamun Moonlight Yoga' event at Gwanghwamun Square from June 25 to August 8, providing a special experience on a summer night. The opening is on June 21 and will include cultural and artistic performances," he shared.

Dr. Jyoti Kapoor, Founder and Director, Manasthali Wellness too elaborated benefits of the yoga saying that it imbibes the feeling of 'accepting yourself and your body just as you are today. This is the mindfulness aspect of yoga - simply appreciating your body for the things that it can do right now in the pre-

sent moment. This is crucial for all of us. By regular yoga practice of yoga, one can strike a balance and bring peace back into your hectic life."

Dr. Rajnish Kumar, Director and Unit Head- Neurology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Dwarka echoed similar views stating that "emerging research shows that yoga can significantly benefit women dealing with neurological issues. By reducing stress, enhancing mood, and improving physical well-being, yoga helps manage conditions like anxiety, depression, and chronic pain. Regular yoga practice increases levels of neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine, which can help alleviate symptoms of depression and anxiety."











FIRST COLUMN

G7 SUMMIT AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The Summit acknowledged the critical role of the Global South



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The recent G7 meeting held in picturesque Apulia, Italy, had several pointers on the recent geopolitical shifts and changing equations between some of the most powerful nations in the world. Yes, the meme-worthy, Pictures of Stares, Namaskars and Parachute Landings, kept the social media alive and brought energy to an otherwise, boring round of meetings and dinners of world leaders, discussing topics of shared interest, the underlining points were not missed. First, the clear focus of the meeting, as highlighted in the joint communique was Ukraine to send some tough messages to China and other parties working covertly with Russia. In a not-so-veiled message and directly naming China the Joint Statement read “We will continue taking measures against actors in China and third countries that materially support Russia’s war machine, including financial institutions, consistent with our legal systems and other entities in China that facilitate Russia’s acquisition of items for its defense industrial base. We reiterate that entities, including financial institutions, that facilitate Russia’s acquisition of items or equipment for its defense industrial base are supporting actions that undermine the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. Accordingly, we will impose restrictive measures consistent with our legal systems to prevent abuse and restrict access to our financial systems for targeted individuals and entities in third countries, including Chinese entities, that engage in this activity. “The message to China was, don’t keep playing with fire, as one day, it may singe you. It may be worth mentioning that the US has undertaken several export control measures to prevent the transfer of high-tech equipment to China, which have dual-purpose utilities, i.e. can be used for making precision weapons as well as cyber surveillance tools. China was the only large economy, (not so direct a party to the Russia-Ukraine war), which was absent from the G7 summit. Recently Chinese President Xi Jinping undertook a tour of several European countries to ease the tariff-related issues, imposed by several European nations, against Chinese electrical vehicles. While some nations in Europe are committed to the US-led vision of hard measures on China, several others are on the fringe, tilting towards China.



Meanwhile, this G7 summit, in a backhanded compliment of sorts, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of inclusion of Global South countries in world affairs, reiterated the importance of African nations and pledged several measures to boost the economic prosperity of the region. The Joint Statement Stated “We endorse African countries’ call for greater voice in international bodies and welcome the AU’s participation in the G20 as a permanent member and the creation of a third Chair for sub-Saharan Africa at the IMF Executive Board in November. We reiterate our support for the G20 Compact with Africa, as a tool to increase private sector investments, promote structural reforms and local entrepreneurship support and enhance cooperation, including in the energy sector.” PM Modi who was also in Apulia, as a special invitee, in his brief outreach session addressed highlighted the preeminence of Global South countries. He said “The countries of the Global South are bearing the brunt of global uncertainties and tensions. India has considered it its responsibility to place the priorities and concerns of the countries of the Global South on the world stage. We have given high priority to Africa in these efforts. We are proud that the G-20, under India’s chairmanship, made the African Union a permanent member. India has been contributing to the economic and social development, stability and security of all African countries and will continue to do so.” A new world order with multiple voices opining on global matters, at a time when existing political structures are being challenged domestically, was one clear message from the G7 meeting in Italy. *(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)*

# The unseen burden of women’s unpaid labour



ARCHANA DATTA

## Globally, women spend significant time on unpaid care work, limiting their participation in the labour market and affecting economic stability



In the early 60s when Canadian short story writer, Alice Munro, who died recently, earned some success, a newspaper ran a piece on her, which had a condescending headline the ‘housewife who finds time to write short stories’. The banter fell through Alice and she went on to win a Nobel in literature in 2013. While another Nobel winner in Economics in 2023, Claudia Goldin, explained in her research that a woman’s vocation is not always guided by her choice, but, more often by the ‘long-standing societal trends’, which build a ‘cult of domesticity’ around her, idealising her role as an unpaid caregiver. Not surprising that women spend almost 76.2 per cent of total hours, three times more than men, on unpaid care work (ILO). Of all regions, the Pacific and Asia present the worst scenario, with men performing the lowest share of unpaid care work (1 hour and 4 minutes). In 2018, 606 million working-age women expressed disappointment that they failed to enter the labour market because of the burden of unpaid care work, which was the case for only 41 million men. In terms of monetary value, women’s unpaid work may exceed up to 40 per cent of GDP in some countries (ILO). Social scientists contend that child-bearing, as well as the age and number of children, more than marriage, impede women’s entry into the labour market. Women (aged 25-54) face a wide disparity in labour force participation rate (LFPR), which remains only 61.4 per cent, as against men’s 90.6 per cent (World Bank, 2022). While, in the lone women households, with at least one child under 6, economic compulsion lifts women’s LFPR to about 65.8 per cent, but, it goes down to 48.7 per cent, when mothers live with a partner and a young child, as the ‘male breadwinner’ syndrome prevails (UNWomen). Notwithstanding, the ‘breadwinner moms’ also bear a heavier load at home,



IT IS HIGH TIME NOW THAT THE WORLD FULFILLS ITS SDG 2030 COMMITMENTS AND ENSURES WOMEN’S ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND EQUALITY, WITH APPROPRIATE POLICY FORMULATIONS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS

even if they out-earn their husbands’ (Pew Research Centre). While, the ‘motherhood penalty’ is very much persistent in the USA (Harvard, 23). ‘Moms were six times less likely than non-mothers and 3.35 times less likely than child-free men to be recommended for a hire...and are 114 per cent more likely than dads to take a career pause (Mom Project, US, a career-resource platform for working mothers). ‘If a kid is sick,..... it’s going to be the woman to take time off, because they are paid less, which makes more economic sense’ (PNAS, 2023). While, a report by the British trade union association TUC, said that ‘men do not face a penalty as parents at all, rather, fathers who work full time, experience a wage bonus, when they have children, earning 22 per cent more’. ‘The disparity arises not because mothers actually become less productive employees, or fathers work harder becoming parents, but, because employers expect them to be so, indicating a clear-cut culture bias about gender and work’, said Michelle Budig, a sociology professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research further revealed that on average, men’s earnings increased by more than 6 per cent when they had children, if they lived with them, while, women’s decreased by 4 per cent for each child they had (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, US, 1979 to 2006). In India, childbirth impacts women’s entry into the labour market, but, differently, in the context of urban and rural. A study, collecting the Life History Calendar (LHC) data from the


States of Karnataka and Rajasthan, suggested that motherhood may not be accompanied by a penalty in terms of labour market participation for rural women because of the predominance of informal and flexible employment, which are more conducive for childcare responsibilities than work in an urban or more formalised setting (Gautham 2021). The analysis of data from the Employment-Unemployment Schedule (EUS) of the NSS from 2004 to 2012 revealed that rural motherhood wage penalties are close to zero, whereas, urban women pay a large penalty of about 18 per cent of total wages and highly educated women, or women in regular or salaried wage work, incur a larger wage penalty after motherhood than their less educated or casual wage counterparts (Wilde et al. 2010). However, first-time fathers, both rural and urban, experience no negative wage effects following the birth of children. The lack of childcare facilities is one of the most significant impediments to gender equality in job markets (UNWomen). A macro-econometric analysis of childcare policies in 18 OECD countries (1980-2007) commented that measures like high levels of employment protection and longer paid leave are crucial for the survival of working mothers (Thévenon, 2013). In 2016, an analytical study (ITUC) in seven high-income OECD countries, appraised that an investment of two per cent of GDP in the care industry, could create nearly 13 million new jobs in the US, 3.5 million in Japan, nearly 2 million in Germany, 1.5 million in the UK, 1 million in Italy, 600,000 in

Australia and nearly 120,000 in Denmark and boost women’s employment rate by 3.3 to 8.2 percentage points, as against men’s 1.4 to 4.0 percentage points. Subsequently, similar research (ITUC) in emerging economies such as Brazil, Costa Rica, China (People’s Republic), India, Indonesia and South Africa, also substantiated that the same amount of investment in the health and care sector would bolster nearly 24 million new jobs would in China, 11 million in India, nearly 2.8 million in Indonesia, 4.2 million in Brazil and over 400,000 in South Africa and 63,000 in Costa Rica. While, the ILO’s recent global ‘Care at Work’ report exhorted that to reducing the gender gap in employment by 7 percentage points and the monthly earnings gap to 1.8 per cent by 2035, a sustainable annual investment of over \$204 billion, an average of 5.8 per cent of GDP per country, should be invested for universal childcare and long-term care services. While, feminist economists (Elson et al.) and proponents of the Purple Economy (Ilkharacan), vouched for recognising care as ‘an indispensable component of human well-being’ and called for a ‘caring and gender equal economic and social order’, by sharing caregiving responsibilities between the State and households and women and men. It is high time now that the world fulfils its SDG 2030 commitments and ensures women’s economic justice and equality, with appropriate policy formulations and resource allocations. *(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan & All India Radio, views are personal)*

# UGC set to revolutionise higher education in India

## The University Grants Commission has introduced a transformative policy that is expected to align India with global educational practices

The University Grants Commission (UGC) in its recent decision has allowed Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), which offer programs in regular mode, to admit students twice a year, from the coming academic year. This option would be made available only in those HEIs that intend to increase their student intake and offer new programmes in emerging areas. Earlier, the UGC had decided in its 571st commission held on 25 July 2023 to permit biannual admissions under Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online modes in January and July during an academic year. Last year, after the UGC had permitted two cycle admissions in a year for ODL and Online modes, in addition to



MANOJ VARGHESE

countries this biannual mode of admissions exists for the diploma, degree and post-graduation courses after the senior secondary education. It will enhance international collaborations and student exchanges from foreign countries. As a result, the global competitiveness will improve and will be in alignment with the global educational standards. The biannual university admissions will help students who missed an entrance owing to a delayed result or health reasons, as they do not have to wait for one another full year. Most of the institution heads have welcomed the step, owing to the official directive and secondly as the intake will bring in extra revenue to their institutes. Some of them want to

test the water by introducing it in some selected courses. On the other side, some of them expressed concern over the additional space, infrastructure and faculty required to handle this extra burden of students. Enhancing the quantity is good, but the cost of the quality is what some educational experts fear. Recently, a German IT professional was travelling from Delhi to Dehradun on a Shatabdi train. He was on his vacation trip to India after a six-month long professional hard work. He narrated how the Germans work, “When they work, they work and then spare a few months to upgrade their skills and also go in a hibernation mode of rest for reviving themselves.” Whereas, we Indians, either

work throughout the 12 months of spring, winter, rainy and summer seasons; or follow a lacklustre attitude and take a back seat. In India, many scholars pursue a doctorate for the sake of procuring a PhD degree after their post-graduation. Whereas, in European countries like Germany, students while pursuing their secondary education develop the flare for a particular vocational course and practice it on grounds. After a while, they return to learn more about that particular profession through higher studies. No doubt, many of them do their PhD in plumbing or automobiles and add value to their profession. In countries like Germany, education is a lifelong learning process and addresses the

ever-changing demands of the labour market. The learning is procured through adult education, professional development, recognising prior experience, flexible learning pathways and providing opportunities for seniors to pursue personal interests. The ongoing learning and training is imparted through Evening classes, Workshops, Vocational courses and Non-formal educational programs tailored to adults seeking to acquire new skills or qualifications. These educational opportunities are provided by diverse entities, including municipal and private institutions, religious organisations, trade unions, industry and commerce chambers, associations, political parties, businesses, Government agencies, academies, family education centres, vocational schools, as well as media outlets like radio and television. In India, the recently introduced vocational degree courses like BVoc and MVoc have failed to take off and get the desired results as expected. The adult mindset is different here, as they prefer a white-collar job. But the reality is different. One of the ITI pass out in the AC stream, Mr Khatri, an entrepreneur was recently awarded for his turnover of over Rs 10 crore per year. It is not the Degrees, but the determination and expertise in their profession, that makes a person successful. In most of the developed countries like the USA, Canada, Australia, the UK and Germany, college stu-

dents while pursuing their higher studies work and earn. The literacy campaign and the efforts to bring back the school dropouts in India have yielded good results. The missing link is the flare for a particular vocational course, hands-on training, experience in the respective field and the confidence to be of their own. A change in the mindset of senior secondary-level students towards their career perspective can make a difference. Adopting the worldwide model of universities is good, but engaging them after this biannual mode of education is what the policymakers need to ponder upon. *(The writer is a former editor and former media advisor to the Delhi Government; views are personal)*



# Putin signs deals with Vietnam

AP ■ HANOI

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a series of deals with his Vietnamese counterpart To Lam on Thursday, during a state visit that comes as Moscow is seeking to bolster ties in Asia to offset growing international isolation over its military actions in Ukraine. The two signed agreements to further cooperation on education, science and technology, oil and gas exploration and health. They also agreed to work on a roadmap for a nuclear science and technology centre in Vietnam.

Following the talks, Putin said that the two countries share an interest in “developing a reliable security architecture” in the Asia-Pacific Region based on not using force and peacefully settling disputes with no room for “closed military-political blocs”.

This was echoed by Vietnam's new President To Lam, who said they seek to further “further cooperate in defense and security to cope with non-traditional security challenges” while implementing energy projects and expanding investments. He also congratulated Putin on his re-election and praised Russia's “domestic political stability”.

The agreements between Russia and Vietnam were not as substantial as an agreement Putin signed with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un the previous day, pledging mutual aid in the event of invasion said Nigel Gould-Davies, a senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, and a former British ambassador to Belarus.

Putin arrived in Hanoi early Thursday morning from North Korea, where he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed an agreement that pledges mutual aid in the event of war. The strategic pact that could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War comes as both face escalating standoffs with the West.

Putin also met Vietnam's most powerful politician, Communist Party General



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, drives a car which was presented by Russia's President Vladimir Putin, left, at a garden of the Kumsusan State Guest House in Pyongyang, North Korea Wednesday. AP/PTI

Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, as well as Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, according to the official Vietnam News Agency. He is also scheduled to meet parliamentary chief Tran Thanh Man. Putin drove to Vietnam's Presidential Palace on Thursday afternoon, where he was greeted by school children waving Russian and Vietnamese flags. There, he shook hands with and embraced Lam before a bilateral meeting and a joint briefing to the media.

Russia is keen to maintain “close and effective cooperation” in energy, industry, technology, education, security and trade, Russian Ambassador to Vietnam Gennady S. Bezdetko said on Wednesday, according to Vietnamese official media. The trip has resulted in a sharp rebuke from the US Embassy in the country.

Much has changed since Putin's last visit to Vietnam in 2017. Russia now faces a raft of US-led sanctions for its invasion of Ukraine. In 2023, the International Criminal Court in Hague issued an arrest warrant for Putin for war crimes. The Kremlin rejected it as “null and void”, stressing that Moscow doesn't recognize the court's jurisdiction.

Putin's recent visits to China and now North Korea and

Vietnam are attempts to “break the international isolation”, said Nguyen Khac Giang, an analyst at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

The US and its allies have expressed growing concerns over a possible arms arrangement in which Pyongyang provides Moscow with badly needed munitions for its use in Ukraine, in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile programme. Both countries deny accusations of weapons transfers, which would violate multiple UN Security Council sanctions that Russia previously endorsed.

Meanwhile, Russia is important to Vietnam for two reasons, Giang said: It is the biggest supplier of military equipment to the Southeast Asian nation, and Russian oil exploration technologies help maintain its sovereignty claims in the contested South China Sea.

“Russia is signalling that it is not isolated in Asia despite the Ukraine war, and Vietnam is reinforcing a key traditional relationship even as it also diversifies ties with newer partners,” said Prashanth Parameswaran, a fellow with the Wilson Centre's Asia

Programme.

It is unlikely that Vietnam will supplying significant quantities of weapons to Russia, because that would risk progress the country has made with NATO members on military equipment, particularly the US, which has donated naval patrol vessels and is in talks to supply aircraft, said Ridzwan Rahmat, a Singapore-based analyst with the defense intelligence company Janes. “There is progress that you wouldn't have imagined just 10 years ago,” he said. “So I would imagine Vietnam wouldn't want to take a risk, inviting the wrath of Western countries by supplying the Russians.” Hanoi and Moscow have had diplomatic relations since 1950, and this year marks 30 years of a treaty establishing “friendly relations” between Vietnam and Russia.

Evidence of this long relationship and its influence can be seen in Vietnamese cities like the capital, where the many Soviet-style apartment blocks are now dwarfed by skyscrapers and a statue of Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet Union, stands in a park where kids skateboard every evening. Many of the Communist Party's top leadership in Vietnam studied in Soviet universities, including party chief Truong.

# Defendant in Vatican trial takes case to UN, accuses pope of violating his rights

AP ■ JERUSALEM

One of the defendants in the Vatican's big financial trial has filed a formal complaint with the United Nations, alleging that Pope Francis violated his human rights by authorising wide-ranging surveillance during the investigation.

A lawyer for Raffaele Mincione, a London-based financier, submitted a complaint last week to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights via a special procedure that allows individuals or groups to provide the UN with information about alleged rights violations in countries or institutions.

The Vatican on Thursday rejected the claim, saying the investigation followed all relevant laws and international agreements and that no surveillance was ordered for Mincione.



The filing marks the latest and highest-profile complaint about the Vatican trial, highlighting the peculiarity of the Vatican's criminal justice system and its seeming incompatibility with European and democratic norms. The Vatican is an absolute monarchy where the pope wields supreme legislative, executive and judicial power.

The trial, which opened in 2021 and ended in December, focused on the Holy See's money-losing 350 million euro

investment in a London property but also included other tangents. Vatican prosecutors alleged brokers and Vatican officials fleeced the Holy See of tens of millions of euros in fees and commissions, and then extorted the Holy See for 15 million euros (\$16.5 million) to cede control of the property.

The trial ended in December with convictions for nine of the 10 defendants, including Mincione and a once-powerful cardinal, Angelo Becciu. The court's motivations for the sentence still haven't been published, but both Vatican prosecutors and the nine convicted defendants have announced appeals. Mincione's complaint to the UN focused on the role of the pope during the investigation, an area that was flagged as problematic by defense lawyers during the trial and external experts in its aftermath.

The complaint cited four secret executive decrees Francis signed in 2019 and 2020 that gave Vatican prosecutors wide-ranging powers to investigate, including via unchecked wiretapping and to deviate from existing laws. The decrees only came to light right before trial, were never officially published, provided no rationale or time-frame for the surveillance, or oversight of the wiretapping by an independent judge.

The chief prosecutor argued Francis' decrees provided unspecified “guarantees” for the suspects, and the judges rejected the defense motions at the time that claimed they violated the fundamental right to a fair trial. In a somewhat convoluted decision, the judges ruled that no violation of the principle of legality had occurred since Francis had made the laws.

## Romania pres withdraws from race for NATO chief

Brussels (AP): Romania's president has withdrawn from the race to become NATO's next secretary general, leaving outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte all but certain to head the world's biggest military organisation from October. The office of President Klaus Iohannis said in a statement that Romania's security council has backed Rutte's bid.

It also said that Iohannis had informed NATO late last week that he intended to pull out. His withdrawal removes the last real hurdle Rutte might face. It should allow NATO to put on a show of unity and demonstrate solidarity with war-ravaged Ukraine when US President Joe Biden and his counterparts meet in Washington on July 9-11 to mark NATO's 75th birthday.

## Duterte resigning from Marcos' Cabinet as alliance flounders

AP ■ MANILA

Philippines Vice President Sara Duterte is resigning from her posts of education secretary and head of an anti-insurgency body, as her whirlwind alliance with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. unravelled over key differences, including efforts to arrest a religious leader accused of child abuses and Manila's handling of escalating territorial disputes with Beijing.

Duterte will remain the vice president. Her resignation from the other posts she had in Marcos' Cabinet was accepted by the president and takes effect July 19, Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil said in a statement on Wednesday.

Duterte, 46, did not cite any reason for her resignation, Garafil said, but there have been open political hostilities between her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, and Marcos. She ran as the vice-presidential running mate of Marcos, the son and

namesake of an ousted dictator, under a hastily forged unity ticket and won with huge margins in 2022. The alliance of the scions of two authoritarian leaders combined the voting power of their families' political strongholds but compounded worries of human rights activists. The alliance, however, rapidly faced political headwinds.

Early this year, the former president accused Marcos' legislative allies of plotting to amend the constitution to lift term limits and warned that could lead to him being ousted by a public uprising like his father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in 1986. He also accused Marcos of being a drug addict.

Marcos laughed off the allegations and claimed his predecessor was using fentanyl, a powerful opioid.

Duterte and his daughter, Sara, back Apollo Carreon Quiboloy, the leader of a Philippines-based church known as the Kingdom of Jesus Christ who has been

sought by Philippine authorities for his alleged involvement in child abuse and exploitation. Quiboloy had also been indicted on a raft of charges in the United States, including conspiracy, sex trafficking of children and sex trafficking by force. He has denied any wrongdoing.

On China's increasingly aggressive moves against the Philippines in the South China Sea, Marcos has become one of the most vocal critics of Beijing's actions, in sharp contrast to the vice president's refusal to comment on the issue.

Her father nurtured cosy ties during his presidency with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin while often criticising the security policies of the United States and its Western allies. Marcos, who took office in 2022, backpedalled by rapidly boosting security ties with Washington, which he said needed to have a presence in Asia as a counterweight to China.

# Swedish court acquits former Syrian army gen

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

A Swedish court on Thursday acquitted a former Syrian army general accused of playing a role in war crimes in his home country more than a decade ago. Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hamo, who now lives in Sweden, was charged in February with aiding and abetting crimes against international law. Prosecutors said that as head of the Ordnance Department of the Syrian Army's 11th Division, he was responsible for providing the weapons that were used to commit war crimes in 2012.

The prosecutor alleged that Hamo had participated in the division's indiscriminate attacks on military and civilian targets in and around the Syrian cities of Homs and Hama.

The Stockholm District Court said it was “clear that the Syrian army's warfare in the conflict included indiscriminate attacks in violation of international law there.

However, Judge Katarina Fabian said the evidence that the prosecutor relied on was not sufficient to convict Hamo. Swedish news agency TT said that Hamo was the highest-ranking military officer ever to stand trial in a European court for international human rights violations in Syria. Syria has been ravaged by civil war for over 13 years.

Little is known about the 65-year-old Hamo. In June 2012, he was transferred to northern Syria, and the following month he decided to leave the army and fled to Turkiye. There, he joined a group that was fighting against the Syrian regime. He traveled to Sweden in 2015, where he sought asylum. He was granted asylum, but Sweden's Migration Board informed the government that Hamo was previously “a senior officer within the framework of an army that was systematically considered to have committed violations of human rights”. Hamo was living in central Sweden when he was arrested on December 7, 2021. A court

at the time released him two days later, saying there wasn't enough evidence to keep him incarcerated. He has since been free.

The unrest in Syria between Assad's regime and opposition groups began in March 2011, and later exploded into a civil war that has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million.

Chief prosecutor Karolina Wieslander said that it had been “a tough case to investigate”, saying among others that the country was still at war, making it “hard to gather evidence”.

“It is positive that a court of law has ruled that what the Syrian government did was war crimes,” she told The Associated Press, adding they had not decided yet whether to appeal.

A lawyer for the eight plaintiffs who backed the case against Hamo told Swedish broadcaster SVT that they need to read the verdict before deciding whether to appeal.

## Train collision in Chile kills at least 2 people and injures several others

Santiago (AP): At least two people were killed and nine others injured Thursday when a train full of passengers collided head-on with another train on a test run just outside Chile's capital of Santiago. Investigations were underway to determine the cause of the crash, which vaulted one car fully on top of a car from the other train.

The eight-car freight train, which was carrying 1,346 tonnes of copper, was also packed with people, while the other train had 10 workers on board operating a speed test, the state rail company said. Authorities have not identified the two people killed. The nine injured included four Chinese nationals who were receiving treatment at hospitals near the crash site in San Bernardo, Chile. “We have to identify what the causes are and take the corresponding measures,” Transportation Minister Juan Carlos Muñoz told The Associated Press.

# British PM Rishi Sunak's party hit with election date betting allegations

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party is facing a series of allegations on Thursday involving his bodyguard and aides over betting around the general election date, which is scheduled for July 4. The Metropolitan Police initially suspended an officer from Sunak's personal security detail and later arrested the individual on suspicion of misconduct in public office.

Soon after, it emerged that the UK's Gambling Commission was investigating several individuals linked to the governing Tories over allegedly betting on the timing of the election. While betting is legal in the UK, any bets placed with the advantage of insider information could fall within the purview of illegality.

“The matter was immediately referred to officers in the Met's Directorate of Professional Standards, who opened an investigation, and the officer was also removed from operational duties,” the Met Police was quoted by the BBC as saying.



ing.

“The officer was subsequently arrested on Monday 17 June on suspicion of misconduct in public office. He was taken into custody and bailed pending further enquiries,” the Met Police said.

Last week, the ‘Guardian’ newspaper reported that Sunak's close parliamentary aide, Craig Williams, placed a GBP 100 bet with Ladbrokes at a five to one odds on a July election just three days before the British Indian leader had surprised the country with a summer election, as opposed

to a widely expected autumn date later in the year.

Williams, 39, is the Tory candidate for Montgomeryshire and Glynwdr in Wales. In a statement, he said his “flutter” on the election had prompted some “routine inquiries” and that he would “fully cooperate with these”.

“I don't want it to be a distraction from the campaign. I should have thought through how it looks,” he said.

It has since emerged that a second Conservative candidate, who is married to the party's Director of Campaigns – who would be expected to have knowledge of election matters, is also facing an investigation over allegedly betting on the timing of the general election.

While Laura Saunders, the Tory candidate for Bristol North West, is reportedly among those being looked into by the Gambling Commission, her husband Tony Lee is said to have taken “a leave of absence” from his role. “The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in the interests of con-

sumers and the wider public,” a commission spokesperson said.

“Currently, the commission is investigating the possibility of offences concerning the date of the election. This is an ongoing investigation, and the commission cannot provide any further details at this time. We are not confirming or denying the identity of any individuals involved in this investigation,” the spokesperson said.

Under Section 42 of the UK's Gambling Act 2005, it is an offence to cheat at gambling or to do anything that allows someone else to cheat. The Conservative Party has said that the Gambling Commission being an independent regulatory body, it would not be “proper to comment further, until any process is concluded”.

However, the Opposition Labour Party has mounted pressure on Sunak, with leader Keir Starmer calling for Saunders to be suspended and said it is “very telling” that action had not been taken.

# Is Earth really getting too hot for people to survive?

Fort Collins (US)My parents said the planet is getting too hot for people to live here. They called it climate change. What does that mean? – Joseph, age 12, Boise, Idaho.

Many countries have seen extremely hot weather lately, but in most of the inhabited world, it's never going to get “too hot for people to live here,” especially in relatively dry climates.

When it's hot outside in dry places, most of the time our bodies can cool off by evaporating water and heat from our skin as sweat.

However, there are places where it occasionally gets dangerously hot and humid, especially where hot deserts are right next to the warm ocean. When the air is humid, sweat doesn't evaporate as quickly, so sweating doesn't cool us the way it does in drier environments.

In parts of the Middle East,

Pakistan and India, summer heat waves can combine with humid air that blows in off the sea, and this combination can be truly deadly. Hundreds of millions of people live in those regions, most without access to indoor air conditioning.

Scientists like me use a “wet bulb thermometer” to get a better sense of this risk. A wet bulb thermometer allows water to evaporate by blowing ambient air over a damp cloth. If the wet bulb temperature is over 95 F (35 C), and even at lower levels, the human body won't be able to let enough heat out. Prolonged exposure to such combined heat and humidity can be fatal.

During a severe heat wave in 2023, wet bulb temperatures were very high over the lower Mississippi Valley, though they didn't reach fatal levels. In Delhi, India, where air temperatures were over 120 degree Fahrenheit (49 Celsius) for

several days in May 2024, the wet bulb temperatures came close, and several people died from suspected heatstroke in the hot and humid weather. In conditions like that, everyone has to take precautions.

### IS IT CLIMATE CHANGE?

When people burn carbon – whether it's coal in a power plant or gasoline in a vehicle – it creates carbon dioxide (CO2). This invisible gas builds up in the atmosphere and traps the Sun's warmth near the Earth's surface. The result is what we mean by “climate change.”

Every bit of coal, oil or gas that ever gets burned adds a little bit more to the temperature. As temperatures rise, dangerously hot and humid weather has begun to spread to more places. Areas of the US Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Texas are increasingly at risk of dangerous hot and humid conditions

in summer, as are heavily irrigated areas of the desert Southwest where water sprayed over farm fields adds moisture to the atmosphere.

Climate change causes a lot more problems than just hot, sweaty weather.

Hot air evaporates a lot more water, so crops, forests and landscapes in some areas dry out, which makes them more susceptible to wildfire. Each Celsius degree of warming can cause a sixfold increase in wildfire over parts of the western US.

Warming also makes ocean water expand, which can flood coastal regions. Rising sea levels threaten to displace as many as 2 billion people by 2100.

All of these impacts mean that climate change threatens the global economy. Continuing to burn coal, oil and gas could cut global incomes by about 25% by the end of the century, according to one estimate.

Good news and bad news

There's both bad news and good news about climate change in the future.

The bad news is that as long as we keep burning carbon, it will continue to get hotter and hotter.

The good news is that we can substitute clean energy, like solar and wind power, instead of burning carbon, to power the products and services of modern life.

There's been tremendous progress in the past 15 years in making clean energy reliable and affordable, and almost every country on Earth has now agreed to stop climate change before too much damage is done.

Just as our ancestors built better lives by switching from outhouses to indoor plumbing, we will avoid making our world unlivable by switching from coal, oil and gas to clean energy.

## Germany arrests man accused of plotting Islamic State attacks

Berlin (AP): An Iraqi man who is accused of standing by to carry out attacks for the Islamic State group after he arrived in Germany in 2022 has been arrested, prosecutors said Thursday.

The suspect, identified only as Mahmoud A. in line with German privacy rules, was arrested on Wednesday in Esslingen, near Stuttgart in southwestern Germany, federal prosecutors said in a statement. A judge ordered him to be kept in custody on suspicion of membership in a foreign terrorist organization pending a possible indictment.

He is accused of joining IS in Iraq in or before May 2016 and fighting for the extremist group.

## OpenAI founder sets up new AI company

Washington (AP): Ilya Sutskever, one of the founders of OpenAI who was involved in a failed effort to push out CEO Sam Altman, said he's starting a safety-focused artificial intelligence company.

Sutskever, a respected AI researcher who left the ChatGPT maker last month, said in a social media post on Wednesday that he's created Safe Superintelligence Inc. with two co-founders. The company's only goal and focus is safely developing “superintelligence” - a reference to AI systems that are smarter than humans.

The company vowed not to be distracted by “management overhead or product cycles”, and under its business model, work on safety and security would be “insulated from short-term commercial pressures”, Sutskever and his co-founders Daniel Gross and

Daniel Levy said in a prepared statement.

The three said Safe Superintelligence is an American company with roots in Palo Alto, California, and Tel Aviv, “where we have deep roots and the ability to recruit top technical talent”. Sutskever was part of a group that made an unsuccessful attempt last year to oust Altman. The boardroom shakeup, which Sutskever later said he regretted, also led to a period of internal turmoil centred on whether leaders at OpenAI were prioritising business opportunities over AI safety.

At OpenAI, Sutskever jointly led a team focused on safely developing better-than-human AI known as artificial general intelligence, or AGI. When he left OpenAI, he said that he had plans for a “very personally meaningful” project, but offered no details.



# N Korea-Russia def pact far from unique

AP ■ BANGKOK

A new mutual-defence pact signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un commits each country to come to the other's aid if attacked. Just what the threshold for such assistance would be is currently unclear — maybe deliberately so, to deter other countries from putting it to the test. Putin initially told Russian media that the partnership provides for “mutual assistance in the event of aggression against one of the parties”, while North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency later reported that the pact's Article 4 called for assistance “in the event that either of the parties is invaded and pushed into a state of war”.

If the pact is triggered, the countries' obligations are also vague, with KCNA reporting that if one is attacked the other must deploy “all means at its disposal without delay” to provide “military and other assistance”. Experts note that the language is almost identical to that of a previous mutual defense pact from 1961 between the Soviet Union and North Korea, which was never put to the test.

Such pacts are not uncommon and are rarely invoked, while often being touted as a means of deterring aggression, though the agreement between the two unpredictable and autocratic leaders of nuclear nations immediately raised concerns globally.

The United States has many similar treaty obligations with other Asian nations, not to mention through NATO's Article 5 provision, which says that an attack on a member of the alliance is to be considered an attack against all of its members. The only time NATO's Article 5 has been invoked has been to come to the defence of the US after the September 11, 2001, attacks. Russia also has mutual defense pacts with several post-Soviet states through its Collective Security Treaty Organisation alliance, including Belarus and Kazakhstan.

China has only one mutual defense agreement, and it's also with North Korea, formally known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## WHAT'S KNOWN, AND NOT KNOWN

**Seoul (AP):** Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un say a new strategic partnership is a breakthrough, but what it means for their relationship is still uncertain. The pact requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance in the event of war, according to North Korean state media. While the agreement, inked on Wednesday at a summit in Pyongyang, could represent the countries' strongest deal signed after the Cold War, there are differing opinions on how strong the security commitment is. Kim claimed that the deal elevated bilateral relations to the level of an alliance, while Putin was more understated and did not call it an alliance. North Korean state media released the text of the agreement, which also includes broader cooperation in military, foreign policy and trade. Russia has not published its version of the text.

Relations between sprawling Russia and small, isolated North Korea — both of them nuclear powers — have warmed significantly in recent years amid Russia's growing acrimony with the West over the invasion of Ukraine and suppression of all domestic opposition. One of the first knock-on effects of the agreement came on Thursday, when South Korea's government said it would reconsider its policy of limiting its support to Ukraine to non-lethal supplies. South Korea, a growing arms exporter, has provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine, but it

has not directly provided weapons to Kyiv.

### WHAT DID RUSSIA AND N KOREA PROMISE?

Most of the debate over the partnership agreement revolves around the article that pledges mutual aid. According to North Korean state media, the section states that if one of the countries gets invaded and is pushed into a state of war, the other must deploy “all means at its disposal without delay” to provide “military and other assistance”. But it also says that such actions must be in accordance with the laws of both countries and Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which recognises a UN member state's right to self-defence.

To some analysts, that sounds like a promise that either nation would intervene if the other comes under attack, renewing a pledge made under a 1961 treaty between North Korea and the Soviet Union. That deal was discarded after the collapse of the USSR, replaced in 2000 by one that offered weaker security assurances.

Cheong Seong Chang, an analyst at South Korea's Sejong Institute, said the agreement echoes the language of the 1961 treaty, as well as provisions of the US-South Korea mutual defence treaty about activating channels to coordinate if either of faces the threat of invasion. “North Korea and Russia have completely restored their Cold War-era military alliance,” Cheong said.

Other experts were more cautious, saying the section is

carefully worded to avoid implying automatic interventions and strictly limits the circumstances in which either country would be obligated to step in. And the language of the agreement is much less important than what each nation is actually capable of and willing to do, Du Hyeogn Cha, an analyst at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said. While it's rare for any defence treaty to spell out specifically that a country is required to automatically intervene to defend a partner under attack, the strength of the commitment can be signalled in other ways, such as how the US stations thousands of troops in South Korea and closely coordinates with its ally over training and weapons systems, Cha said. But Russia, for instance, doesn't have a troop presence in North Korea and the countries have no established track record in joint military activities and coordination, aside from the North's alleged munitions transfers to Russia.

The fact that the article invokes the countries' domestic laws and the UN Charter could reflect that Russia tried to limit its defense obligation to very narrow conditions: when it's clear North Korea did not instigate the aggression, the attack on the North is legally recognised in Russia as war, and Russia's defence of the North is justified by the UN, Cha said. “The agreement is a symbolic statement vowing the expansion of cooperation, but it leaves a lot of room for interpretation when we get into practice,” Cha said.

the 1951 treaty with the Philippines that has been in focus, as China pursues sweeping claims in the South China Sea ever more aggressively, leading to physical confrontations with Philippine ships. Three weeks ago, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. told a defence forum in Singapore that if one of his citizens were killed by China, it would be “very, very close to what we define as an act of war”, giving rise to new fears that the tensions could spark a broader conflict between the US and China.

Just this week, after at least eight Filipinos were injured in a scuffle as China's coast guard tried to prevent them from delivering fresh supplies to a territorial outpost, the US renewed its warning to Beijing that it was obligated to defend the Philippines. US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell told his Philippine counterpart that Washington's treaty obligation “extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft — including those of its coast guard — anywhere in the South China Sea”, according to the State Department. In addition to its NATO obligations, the US also has mutual defence agreements with multiple Central, South American and Caribbean nations under the 1947 Rio Treaty.

The US does not have a mutual defense pact with Taiwan and adheres to a so-called One China policy, in which it recognizes only Beijing as the government of China but allows informal relations and defence ties with Taiwan. China maintains that self-governing Taiwan is a part of its territory and has not ruled out taking the island by force if necessary. The US has left it intentionally vague how it would respond if Taiwan were to be invaded by China, pursuing a policy known as “strategic ambiguity”.

At the same time, US President Joe Biden has said on several occasions that the US would respond militarily if China invaded Taiwan.

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said earlier this month, however, that war with China was neither imminent nor unavoidable, stressing the need for continued dialogue.

# Russia hammers power grid in Ukraine again

## Kyiv's drones target enemy oil depots

AP ■ KYIV

Russia resumed its aerial pounding of Ukraine's power grid and Kyiv's forces again targeted Russian oil facilities with cross-border drone strikes, seeking to curb each other's ability to fight in a war that is now in its third year, officials said on Thursday.

With no major changes reported along the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line, where a recent push by the Kremlin's forces in eastern and northeastern Ukraine has made only incremental gains, both sides in the war have taken aim at distant infrastructure targets. In its seventh major attack on Ukrainian power plants since Moscow intensified energy infrastructure attacks three months ago, Russia fired nine missiles and 27 Shahed drones at energy facilities and critical infrastructure in central and eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said. Air defences

intercepted all the drones and five cruise missiles, it said. The attack hit power structures in the Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv and Vinnytsia regions of Ukraine, causing “extensive damage”, according to national power company Ukrenergo. Seven workers were injured, it said. Ukrenergo announced extended blackouts across the country despite electricity imports and help with emergency supplies from European countries. Private energy company DTEK said one of its power plants was hit in the overnight attack but did not specify its location. Three company employees were injured and the plant's equipment was severely damaged, DTEK said on social media.

Among the most damaging recent strikes on Ukraine's energy supply were an April barrage that damaged Kyiv's largest thermal power plant and a massive attack on May 8 that targeted power generation and transmission facilities in several regions. Rolling blackouts have affected Ukrainian households and industry.

The Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement that the strikes aimed at Ukrainian

energy facilities that are needed to produce weapons and military equipment. Ukraine, which is heavily dependent on Western military aid, is developing a small but fast-growing defence industry. In Russia, meanwhile, authorities in two regions reported fires at oil storage depots after drone attacks, two days after a Ukrainian strike started a huge blaze at another refinery.

Ukraine has in recent months stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals in an effort to disrupt the Kremlin's war machine. The overnight drone attacks were carried out by Ukraine's Security Service, known by its acronym SBU, a Kyiv security official told The Associated Press. The attacks triggered fires at the facilities, which processed and stored crude oil and its derivatives used to supply the Russian army, the official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information. The head of Russia's Adygea region, Murat Kumpilov, said a Ukrainian drone attack sparked a fire at an oil depot in the town of Enem that was later extinguished.

# Treason trial of Russian American woman opens amid tensions

AP ■ MOSCOW

The trial of a Russian American dual citizen whom Russia accuses of treason opened on Thursday amid rising tensions between Washington and Moscow that have included the arrests of two American journalists.

The trial is being held behind closed doors in Yekaterinburg, in the same court that next week is to begin hearing the case of Evan Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter who was arrested in March 2023 and charged with espionage. The defendant was identified by Russian authorities as Los Angeles resident Ksenia Karelina, although US media reports frequently use the surname Khavana, the last

name of her ex-husband. Karelina was born in Yekaterinburg and was arrested in February while visiting family. Russia's main domestic security agency, the Federal Security Service, charges that Karelina raised money for a Ukrainian organization that was providing weapons, ammunition and other supplies to the Ukrainian military. Her boyfriend has said she made a single donation of about \$50 to a Ukrainian organization, according to media reports. Karelina faces a sentence of 20 years in prison if convicted. Almost all Russian criminal cases that make it to court end in convictions. Gershkovich, the highest-profile American behind bars in Russia, is accused of gathering secret information

from a tank factory in Yekaterinburg's region. His employers deny the allegation, and the US State Department has declared him to be wrongfully detained. Gershkovich's trial, also closed, is to begin on Wednesday. A journalist for US-funded Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe with US and Russian dual citizenship has been held since October on charges of gathering military information and failing to register as a foreign agent. Since sending troops into Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has sharply cracked down on dissent and has passed laws that criminalise criticism of the operation in Ukraine and remarks considered to discredit the Russian military.

# 35 Pakistanis among over 900 died during Haj in S Arabia

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

At least 35 Pakistanis were among more than 900 people from around the world who died during this year's Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia marked by searing heat, the government has confirmed.

Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs said on Wednesday that Haj was challenging this year due to extreme heat and harsh weather conditions, with temperatures reaching 50 degrees Centigrade. Saudi state TV said temperatures on Monday rose as high as 51.8 degrees Celsius at the Grand Mosque in Makkah.

The Director General of Pakistan's Haj Mission, Abdul Wahab Soomro, said on Wednesday that as of June 18, a total of 35 Pakistani casualties had been reported.

This includes 20 in Makkah, six in Madina, four in Mina, three in Arafat and two in Muzdalifah, the Dawn newspaper quoted Soomro as say-

ing. He said the Saudi government had set up a system for burials in Haramain, and arrangements were made to send the body of any Pakistani pilgrim back to the home country if the heirs demanded so.

Saudi Arabia has not officially provided information on fatalities, though it reported more than 2,700 cases of “heat exhaustion” on Sunday alone.

Soomro also asked the general public not to heed social media posts about the hardships faced by the pilgrims, calling them “inauthentic”.

In a statement issued in Islamabad, Soomro referred to a video clip circulating on social media that showed bodies lying on footpaths and people appealing to officials — also seen in the video — to put the bodies into the ambulances parked nearby.

“It has come to our attention that some videos are circulating on social media websites in which pilgrims are shown,

and no one is coming to help [them]; these videos are baseless because their authenticity could not be verified, and their date or year could not be determined,” he said.

He pointed out that verified information had to come from the Saudi government, which was later verified by the mission.

While deaths among pilgrims are not uncommon (there were more than 200 last year), this year's gathering is being held amid particularly high temperatures. Haj season changes every year according to the Islamic calendar, and this year, it fell in June, one of the hottest months in the kingdom.

On Monday, Saudi Arabia advised pilgrims against performing the “stoning of the devil” ritual between certain hours due to high temperatures. According to the Dawn newspaper, more than 900 deaths were reported this year. Several Indians were also among the dead.

# Malaysian PM says China a ‘true friend’, not to be feared

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday rejected the notion that China's dominance is to be feared, calling China a “true friend” at the end of Premier Li Qiang's visit to mark 50 years of diplomatic ties between their countries.

While the leaders raised some contentious bilateral issues, Anwar said they discussed them as “equal partners, as trusted friends.” He didn't give details but likely referred to the prickly issue of overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea.

“People say, well, Malaysia is a growing economy. Don't let China abuse its privilege and extort from the country. I said no. To the contrary, we want to benefit from one another, we want to learn from one another and we want to profit from this engagement,” Anwar told some 200 business leaders at a luncheon attended by Li. Anwar said he rebuked the “incessant propaganda that we



should cast aspersions and fear the dominance of China economically, militarily, technologically.” “We do not. We in Malaysia, having a neutral stance, have the resolve to work with all countries and with China,” he said. “We see Premier Li Qiang as a friend that would work together with us.” Li, the first Chinese premier to visit Malaysia since 2015, flew in for a three-day visit on Tuesday on the last leg of a regional tour. Li, China's No. 2 leader after

# China says Dalai Lama must correct political propositions

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Thursday asked the Dalai Lama to thoroughly reflect and completely correct his political propositions for it to hold talks with him and asked the US to respect its sensitivity and importance to Tibet-related issues as Washington is set to pass a tough Tibet policy law. On the central government's contact and talks with the 14th Dalai Lama China's policy is consistent and clear, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing. The key is that the 14th Dalai Lama must thoroughly reflect on and completely correct his political propositions, he said, without elaborating. China watched warily the high-powered US Congressional delegation's visit to Dharamsala and its meeting with the 88-

year-old Dalai Lama besides the strong remarks made by its leading members US House Foreign Affairs Committee chair Michael McCaul and former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi questioning China's policy towards Tibet and their call to Beijing to hold talks with the Dalai Lama.

Their visit came as US President Joe Biden was set to sign the Tibet policy bill adopted by both the US Senate and the House of Representatives. The bill awaits Biden's signature to make it into law.

The bill seeks to counter China's narrative about its control over Tibet and promote dialogue between the Chinese government and the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who is based in India since he fled the Himalayan region in 1959. On Tuesday, Beijing urged Biden not to sign the



Tibet policy bill, warning of “resolute measures”.

On the US delegation's visit to Dharamsala and its talks with the Dalai Lama, Lin said, “We urge the US to clearly see the sensitivity and importance of Xizang-related issues and earnestly respect China's core interests on its comments on

Xizang, refrain from any forms with the Dalai group and stop sending out to the world wrong signals.”

He also criticised the reported remarks by the Tibet government-in-exile that it is going to use the new Tibet legislation passed by the US Senate and Congress to try to force China to come to the negotiating table and urge other countries to put pressure on Beijing to hold talks with it.

“The so-called Tibet government-in-exile is an out-and-out separatist political group and an illegal organisation in total violation of China's constitution and laws. It is not recognised by any country,” Lin said. After the US Congressional talks with the Dalai Lama, McCaul said on Wednesday that the Tibetans have the right to self-determination and should be allowed to practise their reli-

gion freely.

At a felicitation ceremony held after the seven US Congress members met the Tibetan leader, McCaul said the delegation had defied a warning from the Chinese Communist Party. “The Tibetan people possess a distant religion, culture and historic identity and they should have a say in their own future. You should be able to freely practise your religion and that is why we are here today in defiance of the CCP (Communist Party of China) warning,” he said.

“Our delegation received a letter from the CCP warning us not to come here. They repeated their false claim that Tibet is part of China since the 13th century but we did not let the CCP intimidate us and we are here today,” he said at the event organised by the Dharamsala-based Central

# Future of refugees in Indonesia awaiting resettlement unclear

AP ■ TANJUNGPINANG

Morwan Mohammad walks down an old hotel corridor on Batam Island in northwestern Indonesia before entering a 6-square-meter (64-square-foot) room that has been home to him and his growing family for the past eight years. Mohammad, who fled war in Sudan, is one of hundreds of refugees living in community housing on the island while waiting for resettlement in a third country. Hotel Kolekta, a former tourist hotel, was converted in 2015 into a temporary shelter that today houses 228 refugees from conflict-torn nations including Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan and elsewhere. The island, just south of Singapore, has a population of 1.2 million people. Indonesia,

despite having a long history of accepting refugees, is not a signatory to the U.N. Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol, and the government does not allow refugees and asylum-seekers to work. Many had fled to Indonesia as a jumping-off point hoping to eventually reach Australia by

boat, but are now stuck in what feels like an endless limbo. Mohammad and his wife arrived in Jakarta nine years ago after traveling from his hometown Nyala to Jeddah and onward to the sprawling Southeast Asian archipelago, where their first stop was the UN refugee agency office in the capital.

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“ हरियाणा सरकार समाज के हर वर्ग के उत्थान के लिए तत्पर है। चाहे वह किसान हो, मजदूर हो या अंत्योदय परिवार, हरियाणा सरकार सदैव जनकल्याण के लिए कदम उठाती रहेगी। ”

- नायब सिंह



हरियाणा सरकार



“ देश के पास आज ऐसी सरकार है, जो सर्वजन हिताय सर्वजन सुखाय, देश के संतुलित विकास के लिए समय का पल-पल और जनता की पाई-पाई जनता की भलाई के लिए लगा रही है। ”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

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रबी-2024 में क्षतिग्रस्त फसलों के लिए  
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कुल क्षतिग्रस्त क्षेत्र  
**1,22,147.717 एकड़**

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आज 3527 लाभार्थियों को  
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मुख्यमंत्री, हरियाणा

दिनांक - 21 जून, 2024

समय - प्रातः 10 बजे

स्थान - बिट्स इंटरनेशनल स्कूल, भिवानी

कार्यक्रम से  
जुड़ने के लिए  
क्यू आर कोड  
स्केन करें





# Kuldeep will come into play in the Caribbean: Rahul Dravid

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN

Without giving too much away, India head coach Rahul Dravid hinted at the possibility of playing wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav in the Caribbean leg of the T20 World Cup, starting with the Super 8 opener against Afghanistan.

India did not play either Kuldeep or Yuzvendra Chahal in the USA leg of the tournament considering the pace-friendly conditions. However, the conditions are different in the Caribbean where wrist spinners have already made an impact with Adam Zampa being a case in point.

India could drop a pacer and include Kuldeep in the team. How tough was it to leave Kuldeep, who has been India's standout spinner over the past 12 months, out of playing eleven in USA?

"It's tough to leave anyone out. I mean all the four guys that we left out in those games, to be honest, are all quality players. It's just that the conditions and what we felt was the requirement in that particular venue made us go with that particular combination where we felt that there wasn't a huge role for spin and it was more of pace more of kind of conditions."

"And we also wanted to ensure that we had the depth on those tricky kind of tickets. So that's what we went there with. You know, it might be different here. Without giving too much away, certainly. You know, it might be slightly different here. That you might need an extra spinner and then someone like Kuldeep or Yuzy can come into play. They become a very good factor for us," said Dravid ahead of the Afghanistan fixture.

We have definitely pushed the needle in batting

India were guilty of being too conservative in their approach in the previous two editions of T20 World Cup but Dravid feels the team has turned the tide on that front. "We have actually been to be able to push the needle forward in terms of our batting there. Sometimes in certain conditions, you just got to be mindful of conditions also.

Sometimes we just get carried away with pushing the needle forward in T20 cricket. "Cricket is a very condition specific game. It's one of the only sports left where the surface makes such an impact on the actual skill levels, the actual performance levels, what is an acceptable performance level.

"It's one sport that we play that where the surface makes a huge difference and it has to be brought into consideration at all times. And I think we saw that in the US that we had to be brought into consideration

not only for us but for other teams as well," said the outgoing India coach.

Dravid expects the wind to be a factor at the Kensington Oval on Thursday, bringing the fast bowlers like tournament's leading wicket



taker Fazalhaq Farooqi into play.

"It is not just for their spinners, their pacers are also experienced and doing well. Afghanistan is a very dangerous team in this format of the game. They play a lot of T20 cricket and their cricketers are very prominent members of their IPL teams. They have showed that with their performances in the World Cup."

Dravid loves the cricket culture in the Caribbean and is looking forward to the business end of the tournament. He was cheekily reminded by a scribe on India's infamous Test defeat against the West Indies at this venue back in 1997 when the visitors were bundled out for 81 chasing 120 on a treacherous pitch.

"It's also now lovely to come to the Caribbean, you know, come to Barbados, come to this ground which has a great history, a great tradition of great... Country and this region. We've had a couple of days of really good practice. We are ready, we rested, we feel we are prepared."



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Department of Rural Development

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Sd/-  
(Sumita Budhiraja) Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

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

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 05-April-2024 vide Ref. No.: CB/SAR/13-2/BB/APR-2024/01 Loan Account No. 2306254147581050, 9001220334024980, 9001220334027949, 9001222634666875 & 9001222634666915 calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor M/S. MAHAK HATCHERIES THROUGH IT'S PROPRIETOR MRS. SURESH KUMARI (Borrower), MRS. SURESH KUMARI W/O MR. ASHOK KUMAR (Guarantor) MR. ASHOK KUMAR S/O PRITAM SINGH (Guarantor), MRS. RAJBALA W/O MR. ROHTASH (Mortgagor/Guarantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices being is for Loan Account No. 2306254147581050 Rs.82,16,094/- (Rupees Eighty Two Lakh Sixteen Thousand and Ninety Four Only), for Loan Account No. 9001220334024980 Rs.3,29,399/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Nine Only) for Loan Account No. 9001220334027949 Rs.61,64,242/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Two Only) and for Loan Account No. 9001222634666875 Rs.1,29,508/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Eight Only) and for Loan Account No. 9001222634666915 Rs.2,49,190/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Only) as on 04th April 2024 collectively total amount Rs.1,50,88,433/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three Only) aggregating total due (which includes principal, interest, penalties and all other charges) with further interest and charges until payment in full within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/mortgagor/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/co-borrower/mortgagor/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 20 day of June of year 2024.

"The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets"

The borrower/ mortgagor/ guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited for an amount of for Loan Account No. 2306254147581050 Rs.81,43,444/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Four Only), for Loan Account No. 9001220334024980 Rs.2,85,973/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Three Only) for Loan Account No. 9001220334027949 Rs.58,06,763/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Three Only) and for Loan Account No. 9001222634666875 Rs.1,09,735/- (Rupees One Lakh Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Five Only) and for Loan Account No. 9001222634666915 Rs.2,09,507/- (Rupees Two Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Seven Only) as on 15th June 2024 collectively total amount Rs.1,45,55,422/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Five Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Two Only) and further interest & expenses thereon until full payment.

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# T20 WC: England batters look to tame strong South African bowling

PTI ■ GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)

If their authoritative win against the West Indies is a sign, England batters seemed to have found their cloak of invincibility at the right time and they will eye an encore against a formidable South African bowling unit in a Group-2 match of the T20 World Cup Super 8s here on Friday.

England were at their menacing best against the Windies, while handing them a crushing eight-wicket defeat here that has also fired them to the top of the group through a better Net Run Rate -- +1.34 against SA's +0.90.

That the winner here will have their one foot in the semifinals of this ICC showpiece will come as an additional motivation.

South Africa, on the

other hand, suffered a scare from the USA before they squeezed out an 18-run win in their Super Eight opener. English opener Phil Salt showed why he is the No. 2 T20I batter in the world when he steered a tricky 181-run chase, mixing caution and aggression en route an unbeaten 87.

Salt would once again look to give England an explosive start along with his skipper Jos Buttler, who will be eyeing some runs under his belt.

Buttler, who scored a 42 in their loss to Australia in the group stage, has not been able to convert his starts with just 91 runs from four innings.

The return to form of Jonny Bairstow, who struck a crucial 48 not out against the West Indies, will also be a big boost for England.



## The theme of International Yoga Day 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society"

Jhakri: Yoga is an ancient art born in India that connects the mind and body. Yoga is a great gift for mankind that helps us to stay better and maintain our health. The entire World International Yoga Day celebrates from 2015 to 21 June. In the same series, as per the instructions of the corporate office like every year, International Yoga Day 2024 is being celebrated with great enthusiasm at Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station. The theme of International Yoga Day 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society". In this series, a yoga camp was organized on 20.06.2024 at NJHPS Satadri (Auditorium), Jhakri, especially for women. This yoga camp was organized to empower women and help them live a healthy and happy life. The yoga camp was started from 10:00 am in which the chief guest was Smt. Anamika Kumar, President, Officer Ladies Club. First the Head of the Department (Human Resources) Isha Negi welcomed the chief guest Mrs. Anamika Kumar as per the local tradition. After the lamp- after lighting, the yoga-shivir began. On this occasion, the Chief Guest greeted all women on International Yoga Day 2024.



Chaudhary Bansi Lal University is determined to provide quality, employable cultural education: Prof. Deepti Dhamani

The university made a record by declaring the results of recently conducted examinations in 18 days. The average exam result was 70 percent. The University took important steps towards timely examination and declaration of results. University took important steps to implement the new National Education Policy Swarna Jayanti University College is going to be started in the old campus of the university. 8 new employment oriented courses started as per the new National Education Policy Bhiwani 19 June. Chaudhary Bansi Lal University has created its own identity in the country by setting new records in sports, education, research and cultural activities in just a few years of its formation and this university is fully determined to provide quality cultural education for employment.

## State Bank of India Chandigarh

Chandigarh: Shri Manoranjan Panda has assumed the position of General Manager (Network-1) at the State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Chandigarh Circle. This Network of Chandigarh Circle encompasses SBI's operations in the state of Punjab. Shri Manoranjan Panda started his career with SBI as a Probationary Officer in 1997 and has since served in various key roles over his distinguished 27 year career. Shri Manoranjan Panda brings extensive operational experience, having served in various key roles across Bhopal, Raipur, Mumbai, and Delhi in the areas of Corporate Credit, Branch Management, Forex, Agriculture, SME Business etc. He has also served in the Bank's overseas offices at New York and Bahrain. Before his current assignment, Shri Manoranjan Panda was the General Manager & Branch Head, CAG Branch, New Delhi.

# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, No. 15345110M** Rank: Hav Name: Gurprit Singh Unit: 236 Engr. Regt. C/o 99 APO Resident of Village Untsar, PO. Untsar., Tehsil Rajpura, Distt. Patiala, Pb-140417 declare that in my service records my son's name is mentioned as Jashandip Singh but his correct name is Jashandeep Singh

**I** Hitherto Known As Roopam Agrawal Wife Of Rajvinder Agarwal Adarsh Model School Street, Near Co Operative Bank, Kotkapura Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib -152026, Punjab ( India ) Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Roopam Agrawal.

**I, No. 454352y.** Nb/Sub, Shyam Singh Of Unit 19 Grenadiers C/O 99 Apo, And Resident At Village Raymla, Po Sewwa, Tehsil And Distt. Jaisalmer, State Rajasthan Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Jaypal Singh To Jaipal Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 21 June 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Hira Singh** Son Of Balvir Singh Resident Village Changali Qadim Tehsil And District Ferozepur (152004) Army Number 4481791m Rank Hav Unit 3 Sikh Light Infantry C/O 56 Apo Hira Singh Inform That In My Record My Mother Rajbir Kaur Date Of Birth 08-04-1964 Is Recorded Which Is Incorrect Whereas Her Correct Date Of Birth 01-01-1968 Which Should Be Corrected In My Record.

**I, Hira Singh** Son Of Balvir Singh Resident Village Changali Qadim Tehsil And District Ferozepur (152004) Army Number 4481791m Rank Hav Unit 3 Sikh Light Infantry C/O 56 Apo Hira Singh Inform That In My Record Name And Date Of Birth Of My Wife Name Kirandip Kaur And Date Of Birth 16-05-1985 Is Recorded Which Is Incorrect Whereas Her Correct Name Kirandeep Kaur And Date Of Birth 16-07-1985 Which Should Be Corrected In My Record.

**I, Hira Singh** Son Of Balvir Singh Resident Village Changali Qadim Tehsil And District Ferozepur (152004) Army Number 4481791m Rank Hav Unit 3 Sikh Light Infantry C/O 56 Apo Hira Singh Inform That In My Record Name And Date Of Birth Of My Father Name Balveer Singh And Date Of Birth 17-07-1962 Is Recorded Which Is Incorrect Whereas His Correct Name Balvir Singh And Date Of Birth 01-01-1963 Which Should Be Corrected In My Record.

**I, Sunita Rani** wife of Gurbachan Singh resident of Basti Bohrian wali, Gurusarhahsi, Distt Ferozepur, Punjab , India have changed my name from Balveer Kaur To Sunita Rani

**I Manpreet Kaur** wife of Jagjit Singh Resident of Vpo Ratta Khera District Fazilka have changed my given name to Manpreet and Surname to Kaur.

**I, Kiran** wife of Mohinder Pal Resident of House No. 97 P, Kumhar Mandi, Ferozepur Cantt have changed my name to Kiran Sharma.

**I Mohinderpal Sharma** Son of Mangat Ram Resident of House No. 97 Kumhar Mandi Ferozepur Cantt have changed my name to Mohinder Pal.

**I Anu Kukkar** W/O Sonu Kumar R/O Near Patrol Pump, Village Rupana Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Anu.

**I Smt, Rashpal Kaur** W/O No. JC-326304-N, Ex Sub, Harpal Singh R/O Flat No. 04 Block No. 22 Scheme No.07 New Gurdaspur Po Gurdaspur Tehsil And Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed My Name From Rachpal Kaur To Rashpal Kaur And Date Of Birth Is. 01-12-1959 To 01-12-1960.

**I, Sonam Salvia** Khosla W/O Ajay Kumar Gill, R/O H.No. 316 Ward No. 6, Shehzada Nangal Gurdaspur. Tehsil /Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name From Sonam Salvia Khosla To Sonam Salvia Khosla.

**I, Monica Bawa** D/O Pritam Singh Prent. R/O 2, Civil Lines G.T Road Mandi Gurdaspur. Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name From Monica Bawa To Monika Bawa.

**I Paramjit Singh** Hans S/O Jai Singh R/O Vpo. Hans Kalan Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Paramjit Singh.

**I Gurmeet Singh** Jassal S/O Underjeet Singh R/O H.No.1245/1 Mohalla Ram Nagar Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Gurmeet Singh.

**I Gurmit Kaur** W/O No. JC-511129W Rank Sub Pavittar Singh R/O Vpo. Hans Kalan District Rohatk (Haryana) have changed my name in my husband Army records from Santosh (existing name) to Santosh Devi (Proposed new name) my correct DOB 20.08.1969 instead of 18.05.1968 as per my Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In future I shall may be known/written and called as Santosh Devi (DOB : 20.08.1969) for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated June 2024 before Ist Class Magistrate Rohatk

**I Dalbir Singh** S/O Joginder Singh R/O Vpo. Bhadrana District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Dalvir Singh.

**I Sarvjit Singh** S/O Joginder Singh R/O H.No.189, Fatehgarh Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Sarvjit Singh To Sarbjiet Singh.

**I, Vitthalrao** is father of Army No-15582820L, Rank- Hav Name-Sude Gopal Vitthalrao Presently Posted At Unit: CME Pune, Maharashtra 411031 Permanent Address: Methi, Omarga Court, Latur, Maharashtra-413513 Declare that I have changed my name from Vitthalrao to Vitthal Sopan Sude. Vide Affidavit No:RD 0021736678, Dated:20/06/24

**I, Mangalbai Vitthalrao** Sude is Mother of Army No-15582820L, Rank- Hav Name-Sude Gopal Vitthalrao Presently Posted At Unit: CME Pune, Maharashtra 411031 Permanent Address: Methi, Omarga Court, Latur, Maharashtra-413513 Declare that I have changed My Date Of Birth from 24/03/1969 to 01/01/1961. Vide Affidavit No:RD 0021736679, Dated : 20/06/24

**I, Vitthal Sopan** Sude is Father of Army No-15582820L Rank- Hav Name-Sude Gopal Vitthalrao Presently Posted At Unit: CME Pune, Maharashtra 411031 Permanent Address: Methi, Omarga Court, Latur, Maharashtra-413513 Declare that I have changed My Date of Birth from 24/03/1959 to 14/04/1958. Vide Affidavit No:RD 0021736677, Dated-20/06/24

**I, Gavande Dilip** Murlidhar S/O Gavande Murlidhar Sitaram R/O H.No.71/7, Behlana, U.T Chandigarh declare in the School record the Name of my Daughter has been written as Gavande Shraddha. But my Daughter Correct Name is Gavande Shraddha Dilip. Vide Affidavit Dated- 20/06/24 before Executive Magistrate Chandigarh

**I, Gavande Dilip** Murlidhar S/O Gavande Murlidhar Sitaram R/O H.No.71/7, Behlana, U.T Chandigarh declare in the School record the Name of my Son has been written as Gavande Sai. But my Son Correct Name is Gavande Sai Dilip. Vide Affidavit Dated- 20/06/24 before Executive Magistrate Chandigarh

**I, Sita Devi** Mother of No.14704113H Hav Manoj Singh Tolia resident of House No.243A Awas Vikas Colony (Holly Chowk) Post- Rudrapura, Tehsil- Kichha, District- Udhham Singh Nagar, State- Uttarakhand, Pin-263153, have changed my name from Sita Devi to Seeta Devi Toliya Vide affidavit No.IN-PB26612065134580W dated 18 June 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.15792381H** Hav Yogesh Dhula Kolwadkar resident of Village- Dalwadi, Post- Wakhari, Tehsil- Phaltan, District- Satara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-415523, have changed my Son name from Atharv to Atharv Yogesh Kolwadkar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB27449881446021W dated 20 June 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.15792381H** Hav Yogesh Dhula Kolwadkar resident of Village- Dalwadi, Post- Wakhari, Tehsil- Phaltan, District- Satara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-415523, have changed my Daughter name from Sanskruti to Sanskruti Yogesh Kolwadkar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB27450757161844W dated 20 June 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Basil John** resident of Village- Pananchery, Post- Vaniampara, Tehsil- Thrissur, District- Thrissur, State- Kerala, Pin-680652, have changed my Father name from John to K T John Vide affidavit No.IN-PB27319326255123W dated 20 June 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Nachhtar Kaur** Mother of No.JC-511438Y Sub Jaswinder Singh resident of Village- Manna, Post- Meemsa, Tehsil- Dhuri, District- Sangrur, State- Punjab, Pin-148024, have changed my name & DOB from Nachhtar Kaur to Nachhtar Kaur and date of birth from 04 March 1957 to 01 Jan 1951 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB22022228684972W dated 03 June 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.14865551W** Sep/MT Parmar Vijay Kumar Kanubhai resident of Village- Samli, Post- Samli, Tehsil- Godhra, District- Panchmahal, State- Gujarat, Pin-389001, have changed my Mother name from Parmar Ramila Ben to Parmar Ramilaben Vide affidavit No.IN-PB26360694239820W dated 18 June 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Seema Pahwa** W/o Sh. Parveen Kumar R/O H.No. 139, E-Block, Sirsa, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Seema Pahwa to Seema Rani, in future my name is to be called as Seema Rani.

**I Santosh** (existing name) WIFE OF No. 1082419L Ex L/D/R Narender Singh resident of VPO Bhalout, Tehsil & District Rohatk (Haryana) have changed my name in my husband Army records from Santosh (existing name) to Santosh Devi (Proposed new name) my correct DOB 20.08.1969 instead of 18.05.1968 as per my Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In future I shall may be known/written and called as Santosh Devi (DOB : 20.08.1969) for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated June 2024 before Ist Class Magistrate Rohatk

**I, Parveen** son of Sh. Ram Mehar resident of Main Bazar, Sanghi, District Rohatk, Haryana declare that my old name is Parveen and I want to change my name to Parveen Rohilla.

**I Shrimati Devi** W/o Service No. JC732522W Rank SUB (SKTMT) Ram Kewal Unit of 77 ARMD WKSP C/o 56 APO Ambala Cantt that in my service record my address is wrongly mentioned as Village Kakabiri Dular Post Biliaryaganj TO Biliaryaganj Tehsil Sagari PS Bilaria Ganj Distt. Azamgarh Uttar Pardesh Pin-276001 to Village Kakarahi Dular Post Biliaryaganj, Biliarya Ganj, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh Pin-276121. Concerned note

**I Service No. JC732522W** Rank SUB (SKTMT) Ram Kewal S/o Duij Ram Unit of 77 ARMD WKSP C/o 56 APO Ambala Cantt that in my service record my address is wrongly mentioned as Village Kakabiri Dular Post Biliaryaganj TO Biliaryaganj Tehsil Sagari PS Bilaria Ganj Distt. Azamgarh Uttar Pardesh Pin-276001 to Village Kakarahi Dular Post Biliaryaganj, Biliarya Ganj, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh Pin-276121. Concerned note

**I Vishal Walia** S/o Mukhtiar Singh Vpo Ghogra, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur. I Have Got My Son Randeep Singh Name Given On The Passport As Randeep And Surname Singh.

**I, Amritpal Kaur** Johal W/o Manjinder Singh R/o Vpo. Nathowal Teh-Raikot have changed my name to Amritpal Kaur.

**I Chanchal Singh** S/o Nirmal Singh R/o Village Barhmi, Tehsil Raikot, Distt ludhiana have changed my name to Chanchal Singh Talia.

**I Kanwaljeet Kaur** W/o Ranjit Singh Reona R/o Bill Reona Niwan Teh & Distt Fatehgarh Sahib Changed Name As Kamaljit Kaur Reona.

**I, Deetar Singh** S/o Shingara Singh R/o Joan Wala (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Didar Singh.

**I, Ranjeet Singh** S/o Avtar Singh R/o W.No. 13 Makhu (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Ranjit Singh.

**I, Sukhjinder Singh** S/o Balram Singh R/o Vill: Himmatpur Po. Dhanao Teh- Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my minor daughter name from Sukhjinder Singh to Sukhinder Singh.

**I Ranjeet Singh** Sandhu S/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Dhani Gurusar Road, Kabanwala, Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib-151210 Have Changed My Name To Ranjeet Singh.

**I Gurwinder Kaur** W/o Sukhbir Ricky Gill R/o Vill-Gill Wariach Distt Tarn Taran, Punjab. After Marriage I Have Changed My Name As Gurwinder Kaur Gill.

**I, Lakhvir Singh** Hundal S/o Ram Singh Hundal R/O Vpo. Chuchak Wind Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Lakhvir Singh.

**I** Hitherto Known As Manpreet S/O Sh. Kewal Krishan Residing At Vpo Pankhu, Tehli Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Manpreet Viridi.

**I, Sarabjit Singh** S/O Nishan Singh R/O Village Gharan, Tehsil Duddhan Sadhan, District Patiala (Pb) Have Changed My Name To Sarbjiet Singh.

**I, Pooja Singh** W/O Bhupesh Kumar Singh R/O # 1104, Guru Arjun Nagar, Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar Have Changed My Name From Pooja Rani To Pooja Singh.

**I, Sarbjit Singh** S/O Jaimal Singh R/O Village Sherpur Pacca, P.O. Bhagawati, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146113, India Have Changed The Name Of My Son From Charanpreet To Charanpreet Singh.

**I Kulwinder Kuar** W/O Satpal Singh R/O H.No.21/8, Dogra Street, Namdar Khan Road, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Kaur.

**I, Amardeep Kaur** W/O Sumesh Sachdeva R/O House No. 376, Mohalla Pir Baksh, Zira District Ferozepur Declare That Both Names Gurcharn Singh & Gurcharan Singh Are Of My Father And Of One And Same Person.

**I Parveen Lata** W/o Krishan Kumar R/o H.No. 273, Multani Gate, Mohalla Dollian Wala Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Parveen After Marriage.

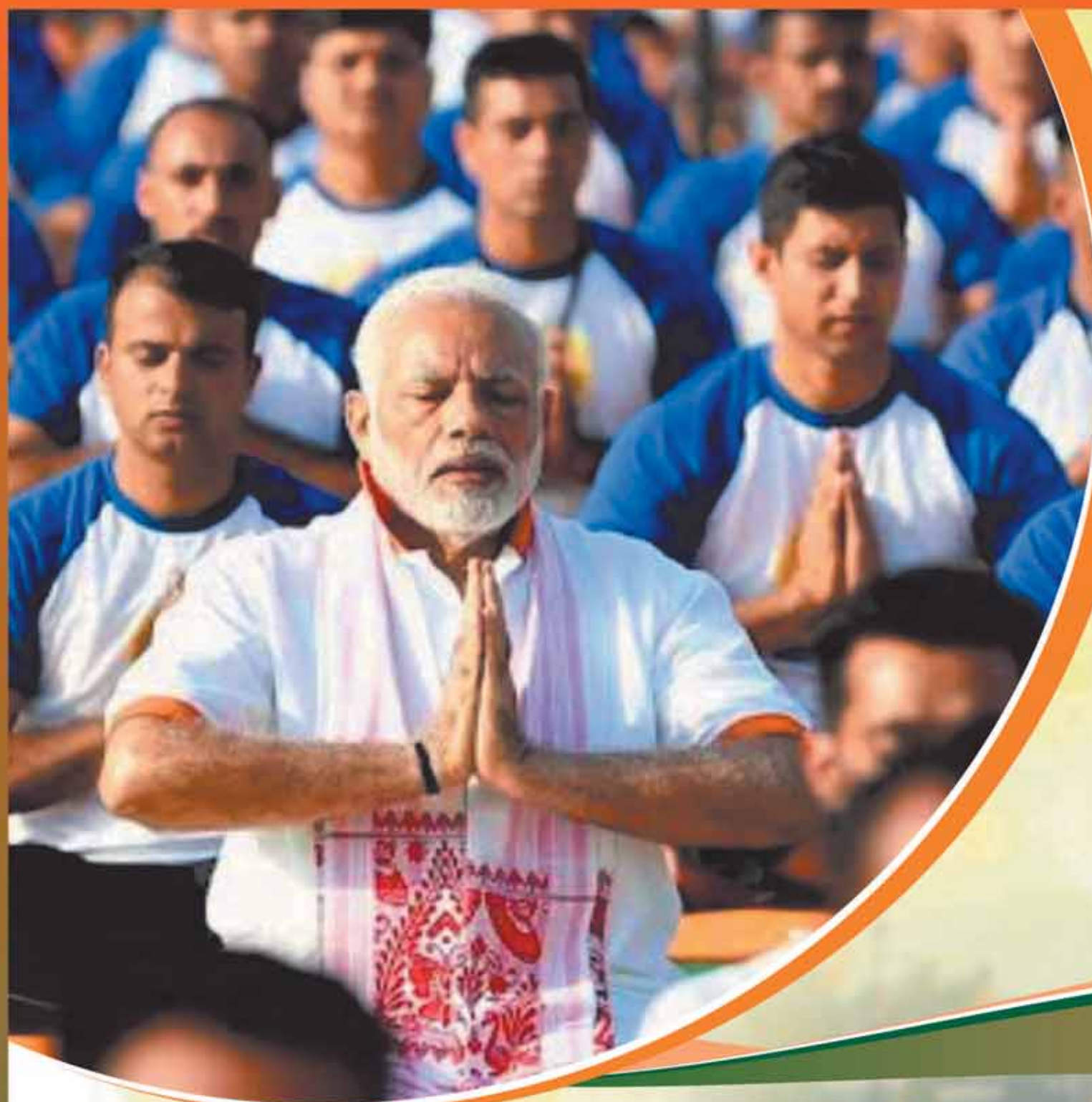
**I Vinod Kumar** S/O Lachman Dass R/O H No 2781, Lado Dai Wali Gali, Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Vinod Bansal.

**I Kulwant Singh** Momi S/O Kartar Singh R/O Village Bazidpur, Teh. And Dist Ferozepur, 152004 Punjab, Have Changed My Name to Kulwant Singh.

**I Baljinder Kaur** Momi W/O Kulwant Singh R/O Village Bazidpur, Teh. And Dist. Ferozepur, 152004 Punjab, Have Changed My Name To Baljinder Kaur.

**I Parmjit Saingh** S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O Village Rasulpur Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Parmjit Saingh To Parmjit Singh.





Govt. of Haryana



**प्राणायाम और योगध्यान**  
स्वस्थ तन, मन ऊर्जवान

“जब हम योग करते हैं तो हम शारीरिक रूप से स्वस्थ, मानसिक रूप से शांत और भावनात्मक रूप से संतुष्ट महसूस करते हैं।”

**- नरेन्द्र मोदी**

*Heartiest Greetings on International*  
**Yoga Day**



**State level function**

Chief Guest

**Sh. Nayab Singh**

Chief Minister, Haryana

**Date - June 21, 2024 Time - 5:30 AM**

**Venue - Maharana Pratap Stadium, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar**

Scan QR code to join the programme



“प्यारे प्रदेशवासियों, आप सबको अंतर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस की बधाई व शुभकामनाएं। शारीरिक, मानसिक व आध्यात्मिक शिक्षा का मूलमंत्र योग हमारे जीवन जीने की सच्ची कला है। हर रोज करो योग, जीवन भर रहो निरोग।”

**- नायब सिंह**

**Launch of New Yoga Centres and Gymnasiums Through Video Conferencing**

**Inauguration in 24 Villages | Laying Foundation Stone in 69 villages**

Now, totaling **807** yoga centres and gymnasiums at village level in the state