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INDIA NEEDS SUBSTANTIAL DEFENCE INVESTMENT

WORLD 8

POPE APOLOGISES FOR USING VULGAR TERM ABOUT GAYS

MONEY 10

STOCK MARKETS FALL FOR THIRD DAY, SENSEX DROPS 220 POINTS

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RONALDO SHINES AT SAUDI PRO LEAGUE 11 SPORTS

Modi vows war to uplift women, economy



BJP supporters during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, in Dumka district, on Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE RANCHI/KOLKATA

Entering last legs of the over one and a half months criss-cross hectic campaign, Prime Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he had heard that the term 'love jihad' was coined by the people of Jharkhand and that efforts were made in one district of the State to change the weekly holiday from Sunday, which was connected to the Christian community, to Friday.

Meditation in Kanyakumari

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meditate at Rock Memorial, a monument built in tribute to Swami Vivekananda, in Kanyakumari following the culmination of the Lok Sabha polls campaign on May 30. He will meditate from the evening of May 30 to the evening of June 1 at Dhyani Mandapam, the place where Vivekananda — a spiritual icon admired by Modi — is believed to have had a divine vision about 'Bharat Mata', they said.

was decreasing in the Santhal Parganas because of infiltration and accused the JMM-led ruling alliance in Jharkhand of 'patronising' infiltrators, who he said were grabbing land and putting women at risk. 'A friend was telling me that the term 'love jihad' emanated from Jharkhand. The people of Jharkhand have coined this term,' he said.

Accusing the JMM of indulging in 'communal and appeasement politics', he said that despite Sunday being a holiday since the British era, in one Jharkhand district, it was changed to Friday. 'Sunday is not linked to Hindus but to the Christian community. It has been a holiday since 200-300 years. In one district, they changed the holiday from Sunday to Tuesday. First, they fought with Hindus, now they are fighting with Christians. What is going on?' Modi asked. 'INDI Alliance's politics is based on the formula of communal appeasement, patronising separatists and protecting terrorists... Those who oppose it face the allegation of dividing Hindus and Muslims,' he said.

INDIA Bloc's theme song: 'Goodbye Modi, tata'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/SHIMLA/PATNA

With the last phase of Lok Sabha polls scheduled on Saturday, the Opposition leaders on Tuesday exuded confidence that they would be successful in preventing Narendra Modi's juggernaut this time.

Campaigning in remaining parts of States, including Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, which go to polls on June 1, Congress leaders led by Rahul Gandhi posted 'Good Bye Modi, Tata after June 4' and 'Priyanka Gandhi

termed Modi as 'anti-people' while TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, RJD supremo Lalu Prasad took a jibe at Modi's reported 'God sent' remark and claimed that INDIA Bloc will form Government at the Centre after June 4. The results of the Lok Sabha elections will be announced on June 4. AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as well as Rahul too mocked the Prime Minister over his 'sent by God' comment and said God sent Modi to help Adani and not the poor. Kejriwal said Modi is an arrogant man.



While RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav predicted yet another volte-face by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, claiming that the JD (U) president would take a 'big decision' once Lok Sabha poll results were out. Yadav, who had lost his job as Deputy CM following Kumar's abrupt return to NDA in January, also claimed that Modi will not return to power. 'Modi has lost. He will not be the Prime Minister after June 4. The country will have a new Government, sensitive to the crying need for job creation,' said Yadav.

Remal triggers Aizawl quarry cave-in, 17 die

PTI AIZAWL

At least 17 people, including two minors, were killed and six-seven others were missing as a stone quarry collapsed in Mizoram's Aizawl district on Tuesday morning amid incessant rain in the aftermath of cyclone Remal, officials said. Several other people also went missing in landslides elsewhere in the State capital which was cut off from the rest of the country. The incident happened around 6 am in an area between Melthum and Hlimen on the southern outskirts of Aizawl town. 'We have recovered 17 bodies so far and the rescue operations are going on. We suspect that 6-7 more people are still trapped under the rubble,' Mizoram Director General of Police Anil Shukla told PTI.



He said heavy rain was affecting rescue operations at the disaster site. The rain triggered landslides at several other places in the state and at least two persons have been 'swept away', Shukla said.

India's \$1mn help for Papua landslide victims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed grief over the loss of lives and damage wreaked by a devastating landslide in Papua New Guinea, and said India is ready to offer all possible support and assistance. An immediate financial aid of USD 1 million to provide relief and assistance to people there was announced by the Indian Government. 'Deeply saddened by the loss of lives and damage caused by the devastating landslide in Papua New Guinea. Our heartfelt condolences to the affected families and prayers for speedy recovery of the



injured. India is ready to offer all possible support and assistance,' the Prime Minister posted on X. According to the Papua New Guinea Government, more than 2,000 people are believed to have been buried alive in a landslide in the South Pacific island nation.

HC acquits Ram Rahim in ex-manager murder case

PTI CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Tuesday acquitted Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in the murder case of his former manager Ranjit Singh. The Sirsa-headquartered sect chief, who is also serving a 20-year jail term for raping two of his disciples, is currently lodged in Sunaria jail in Rohtak, Haryana. 'The High Court has acquitted him in the Ranjit Singh murder case,' Dera chief's lawyer Jitender Khurana said. In 2021, a special CBI court sentenced Ram Rahim and four others to life imprisonment in the 19-year-old murder case of Ranjit Singh, a former manager of the Dera. Singh, who was also a follower of the sect, was shot dead on July 10, 2002, at Khanpur Kolian village in Haryana's Kurukshetra. He was murdered for his suspected role in the circulation of an anonymous letter, which narrated how women were being sexually exploited by the sect head at the Dera headquarters. After his conviction by the CBI court in Panchkula, the sect chief appealed to the High Court.

High drama after bomb hoax on Varanasi flight

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Dramatic scenes unfolded at the Indira Gandhi International Airport as the 176 passengers onboard the IndiGo flight were evacuated via the emergency exits following the bomb threat. Panic gripped after a bomb threat received from Delhi to Varanasi bound IndiGo flight (6E2211) at the IGI airport here on Tuesday morning prompting authorities to move the aircraft to an isolation bay for a thorough investigation. This is not an isolated case. There has been a growing concern over the escalation of such bomb threats, which not only disrupt daily life but also instil fear and uncertainty among citizens. Forget this year; the month of May alone witnessed a rise in bomb threats right from airports and schools to hotels. Upon landing, security personnel, firefighters, and ambulances arrived at the runway. Passengers were evacuated through the emergency gate and moved to a safe zone. Subsequently, the bomb squad and dog squad conducted a thorough search of the plane. According to police, nothing suspicious has been found so far and a search of the aircraft found it to be a hoax. The footage shows the pilot sliding out of the aircraft using the emergency slides, highlighting the tense moments following the threat. An elderly woman passenger and an IndiGo crew can be seen coming out to the wing of the plane through the emergency exit,



A pilot slides down from the Varanasi-bound IndiGo flight that received a bomb threat at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi on Tuesday

with the airhostess helping the passenger walk on the wing by holding her hand as she takes her to another emergency slide. Delhi Airport Authorities confirmed that all passengers were safe. 'All passengers are safe and the flight is undergoing a detailed inspection', it said. A statement by IndiGo read, 'IndiGo flight 6E2211 operating from Delhi to Varanasi had received a specific bomb threat at Delhi airport at 5:35 am. All necessary protocols were followed and aircraft was taken to a remote bay as per guidelines by airport security agencies. All passengers were safely evacuated via the emergency exits. The flight is currently undergoing

inspection. Post completion of all security checks, the aircraft will be positioned back in the terminal area.' 'An alternate aircraft was arranged to operate flight 6E2211 from Delhi to Varanasi, which was delayed due to a specific bomb threat at Delhi airport. The passengers were provided with refreshments and were boarded. The flight departed for Varanasi at 11:00am. We regret the inconvenience caused to the passengers,' the airline said in a statement, it said. According to the Delhi fire service, 'There was news of a bomb on the flight going from Delhi to Varanasi at 5:35 AM today. Quick Response Teams (QRT) arrived at the spot'.

Can run but can't hide, UK scientist's pandemic warning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Just as the world begins to emerge from the tough four-year period of the Covid-19 pandemic, marked by lockdowns, economic downturns, and significant loss of life and livelihood, a prominent British scientist and former chief scientific adviser to the British Government, Sir Patrick Vallance has issued a stark warning that another pandemic is 'absolutely inevitable'. The Covid-19 had claimed over seven million lives while leaving many still suffering from its long-term health impact. The top UK scientist's assertion highlights the persistent vulnerability of global health systems to emerging infectious diseases. Vallance has urged the UK Government to prioritise preparations for the pandemic and emphasised that the country is 'not ready' for it yet, according to The Guardian. The report quoted Vallance, who was speaking at a panel event at the Hay Festival in Powys, also stressing upon the UK Government to implement 'better surveillance' to detect the threats of the virus. The



caution comes amidst significant cases such as Covid-19 cases in Singapore. The number of infections has nearly doubled, rising from 13,700 cases in one week to 25,900 cases the following week. The US scientist Vallance also recommended some measures to prevent drastic steps during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatments. The top scientist believes that such measures could be implemented, however, it would require some coordination. 'We know we have to have an army, not because there's going to be a war this year, but we know it's an

important part of what we need as a nation. We need to treat this preparedness in the same way and not view it as an easy thing to keep cutting back when there's no sign of a pandemic - because there won't be a sign of a pandemic,' he said, as quoted by The Guardian. The scientist's warning is grounded in the understanding that pandemics are a recurring natural phenomenon, driven by factors such as increased human-animal interactions, global travel, urbanization, and environmental changes. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the profound impact such outbreaks can have on health systems, economies, and daily life worldwide. The British scientist, during the panel event, mentioned the World Health Organization's (WHO) pandemic accord, calling it a 'positive step'. However, he also criticised its 'lack of focus and urgency'. Vallance' critical observation against WHO functioning comes days after a significant impasse in international efforts to establish a global pandemic treaty, an initiative spearheaded by the global health agency.

ASI moves to restore 1400-yr-old Shiva temple in Puri

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

Amidst the looming threat of imminent collapse due to neglect and decay, the recently discovered 1300-1400 years old historical Swarneswar Mahadev temple in Odisha's Puri district now stands poised for a remarkable restoration. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Union Culture Ministry has recently issued a draft notification inviting suggestions and objections to its plans to bring the monument dating back to the 6th-7th century CE and adorned with the unique Kalingan architectural style under its protection. Once the process is completed, the temple will be designated as a 'monument of national importance'. Once the designation is finalised, the temple will receive the

necessary resources and attention for its preservation, ensuring that the temple and its precinct spread over 2,470 acres is preserved for future generations. Discovered three years ago by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in Birapurussottampur village in Puri, the temple had caught the attention of the then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who urged Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy to take action for its preservation on an urgent basis. In response to the temple's discovery, Odisha's Tourism and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi too had promised funds for its restoration. It stands as a historical marvel showcasing the unique Kalingan architectural style. The temple was



discovered by a four-member team led by Anil Dhir, Deepak Kumar Nayak, Subhashish Dash and Suman Swain of INTACH at Biropurusottampur village in Pipili tehsil of Puri district during the survey of Ratnachira Valley and its monuments. They were shocked to find the temple, which is crafted from unique square Khandolite stone blocks, embodying the architectural grandeur of the post-Gupta era, was covered in thick vegetation and was a site of negligence. Talking about its historical value, Dhir said, as per reports, the stone blocks were placed one over other in symmetry to make the temple wall and roof. 'No evidence of iron clamps has been seen. The neatly chiselled blocks denote an era when Kalingan traditional temple architectural style was in its

infancy. The temple is devoid of any external embellishments on both the inner and outer walls; even the parshadavata niches are empty,' Dhir said. The temple's intricate carvings and graceful proportions are a testament to the craftsmanship and ingenuity of its creators. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the temple holds a special place in the hearts of locals and historians alike for its early Kalingan architectural style, added an ASI official. The notification signed by ASI Director General YS Rawat states, 'Whereas, the Central Government is of the opinion that the ancient monument, as specified in the site plan and schedule annexed hereto, is an ancient monument of national importance; now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred

by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (24 of 1958), the Central Government hereby gives notice of its intention to declare the said ancient monument to be of national importance.' Any objections or suggestions to the declaration of the temple as an ancient monument of national importance may be made within a period of two months from the date of issue of this notification by any interested person, adds the notification which was issued in May 9. The proposed national protection aims to mobilise comprehensive conservation efforts to ensure the preservation of this invaluable historical and spiritual monument for future generations, the official explained.



# Classifieds

## BEDKHALI NOTICE

**I, Takhir S/O Pasi Ram R/o** Jhuggi No. 216, Sector 25, Chandigarh declare that my daughter Khushi is out of my control. I disown her from my movable & immovable properties. Anybody dealing her them at their own risk.

**I, Dharampal Sharma S/o** Late Sh. Kundan Lal Sharma R/o 3365, Sector 47-D, Chandigarh declare that I, disown my son Rakesh Sharma his wife Anuradha Sharma Dated 18-03-2015 in The Pioneer & Desh Sewak. From my movable immovable properties. Rakesh Sharma divorced with his wife Anuradha Sharma. Now my son Rakesh Sharma is in my control. I, cancelling this disown notice.

**I, Ramesh Kumar S/o Sh.** Ram Chandra R/o Vill Sutana teshil Madlauda, Distt Panipat, My Son' Deepak Kumar is out of control. I disown my son deepak kumar from all my moveable & immovable properties, anybody deals with them deals at own risk and responsibilities.

**I, Khushi Ram S/o** Late Sh . Santu Ram and Anita W/o Sh . Khushi Ram, R/o House No 2579, Sector 38-C, Chandigarh Inform that our Son Hemant and Daughter-in-law Heena are out of our Control . We disown them from our all moveable and immoveable properties. Anybody deal with them at their own risk.

**I, Sonmath S/o** Sh. Bant Singh R/o. Village Bhanokheri Tehsil & Distt Ambala inform that my unmarried Son Manjeet Kumar is out of my control. So I disown him from my movable and immovable property. I and my family will not be responsible for any kind of transaction or legal or illegal work done by him.

**We Amar Nath Sharma S/o** Tulsi Ram Sharma and Lakshmi Sharma W/o Amar Nath Sharma R/o H.No. T- 14/2001, Gali Tucha Teja Singh, Haweli Jamandar, Amritsar declare that our son Manish Sharma and his wife Himani Sharma are out of our control. We disown them from our movable and immovable property. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk, we and our family will not be responsible.

**I, Ram Mehar, S/o** Mange Ram, R/O House no. 525 Sector-17 Indira Colony, Panchkula, declare that my son Sonu and his wife Rakhi both are out of my control, so I disown them from my movable- immovable property. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

**I, Usha D/o** Durga Das, H.No. 417 Type-2, Sector-1 Naya Nangal, Tehsil Nangal, (Ropar), disown my daughter Nisha, from my movable/ immovable property, as she was beyond my control and got married without our consent. If anybody deals her do at own risk/ responsibility, we shall not be responsible.

**I, Rajender S/o** Sh. Rampal R/o Village Chandi (93) Distt. Rohtak declare that my son Amit is out of my control. So I disown him from my all moveable/ immoveable properties. Any body dealing with him at their own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal or illegal acts.

**I, Usha (Aadhaar Card No. 855607530497) W/o** Subhash R/o H. No. 607/6, Lal Darwaza, Sonipat evict my son Bantu from all my movable and immovable properties because he is beyond the reach of me and my family and fights. In future the person doing the transaction will himself be responsible.

**I, Rajpal Singh S/o** Harikesh Vpo Chuhar Majra Sub Tehsil Dhand Kaithal My Son Parkash Singh And His Wife Seema Devi is out of my control. I, disown them from all My moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at their Own risk.

**I, Manjeet Kaur W/o** Mulak Singh R/o Word No 01. Gandhi Nagar Teh Pehowa, Distt Kurukshetra, My Son Lovpreet And His Wife Jasmeen Kaur Is Out Of My Control. I, Disown Them From All My Moveable And Immoveable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Him At Their Own Risk.

**मैं सुरजीत (4794 4722 3956) पुत्र रामकुमार व सुनीता पत्नी सुरजीत निवासी गांव दरियापुर, तहसील गोहाणा, जिला सोनीपत ब्यान् करता हूँ कि मेरी सगी लड़की रीना मेरे कहने सुनने से बाहर हूँ। मैं इसके अपनीक अचल संपत्ति से बंदखल करता हूँ। भविष्य में इसके साथ लेन देने व अन्य अवहार करने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा। मेरी व मेरे परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य की कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Suneeta Kumari** wife of No 10361886P Nk Rattan Chand, resident of Village New Gugran, PO Sujapur (Rural), Teh Pathankot, Distt Pathankot (Pb) 145023 have changed my date of birth from 10-07-1974 to 01-08-1974 being wrongly mentioned in Army Record of my husband vide Affidavit No IN-PB20082503421522W dated 28 May 2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Kailash Patni** (Existing name in the service documents of my husband) spouse of No 1290182-Y Ex Gnr Om Parkash resident of Village Jauli Tehsil Gohana Distt Sonipat (Haryana)-131301 have changed my name from kailash Patni to Kailash Pathi (Existing name in my civil documents) vide affidavit dated 28-05-2024 executed at District court Sonipat (Haryana)

**I, Ruchika Legally Wedded** Spouse Of No. 10468004A, Rank Hav Name Kailash Chander Presently Residing At Vill - Sangar (Bassa), Po-Shahpurkandi, Tehsil Dhar Kalan, Distt-Pathankot-145029 (Punjab), India Have Changed My Name From Ruchika Sharma To Ruchika Vide Affidavit Dated 22-05-2024 Before Distt Court Pathankot (Pb)

**I, Veer Singh S/o** Manjeet Singh R/O Dhillwan Kalan (Faridkot) declare that my permanent residence is at Village Dhillwan Kalan (Faridkot) while I do my business at Village Nanaksar (Faridkot) so as per documents my permanent residence considered at Village Dhillwan Kalan (Faridkot).

It is for general information that I Kamalvir Singh Panag S/O Kuldip Singh Panag R/O Tehsil Amloh Vpo Salana Jiwah Singh Wala Fatehgarh Sahib Punjab-147301 Declare that name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as Kuldeep Singh and My Mother has been wrongly written as Amandeep Kaur in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father and mother name is Kuldip Singh Panag and my mother name is Amandeep Kaur Panag which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Manjeet Kaur** Legally Wedded W/O Late Sarja Singh Ex. Rank Havildar Of No. 3374133f Permanent Residence R/O W. No.10 Zora Basti, Patran, Distt. Patiala Have Changed My Name To Manjit Kaur And My Actual Date Of Birth Is 04/05/1959

It Is For General Information That I, Jaswinder Kaur D/O Resham Singh And Ex. Wife Of Gurnam Singh, R/O R-456, Bal Sarai Khurd, Dera Baba Jaimal Singh, Amritsar, Punjab-143204, Declare That I Got Divorce From My Husband Gurnam Singh, Vide Court Decree Hma Case No. 212 Of 2011, Dated 01.12.2011. Further I Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Daughter Divya Aged 15 Years And She Shall Hereafter Be Known As Divya Singh.

**I, Adrish S/O** Hukam Din R/O Village Ranjitpur, Teh. Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar, Declare That In My Son Parvej Ali Eighth Class Certificate My Name Written As Drish Which Is Incorrect. While My Correct Name Is Adrish.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**मैं, राजपाल पुत्र श्री औमप्रकाश निवासी गांव छोड़ी, तहसील बेरी व जिला झज्जर अपने हल्क से ब्यान् करता हूँ कि सुदेश उर्फ सुरेश दोनों नाम एक ही औरत के हैं। जो मेरी बहन है भविष्य मे मेरी बहन को दोनों नामों से जाना व पहचाना जाए।**

**I, Manoj Kumar Jha S/o** Dev Chander Jha R/o H.No. 15-C Bliss Homes Peer Muchhalla, Zirakpur have changed my ame from Manoj Kumar Jha to Manoj Jha.

**I, Manjit Kaur W/O** Kulwinder Singh R/O Village Kainaur, Tehsil Morinda, Distt Rupnagar declare that in my husband's army records my name is written as Manjeet Kaur. Whereas my correct name is Manjit Kaur in adhaar card and other documents. I am known by both names Manjit Kaur and Manjeet Kaur. Both names are mine only.

**I, Sunil Punia S/o** Rajmal Punia R/O VPO-Satrod Kalan, Distt.Hisar (Haryana) have changed my son name from Daksh to Daksh Poonia and his DOB is 16.04.2012.

**I, Bhupinder Singh** alias Bhupinder Bhandari S/O Prem Singh Bhandari R/O House No. 2236A, Sector 27C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Bhupinder Singh Bhandari.

**I, Pushpraj Singh S/o** Mahipal Singh Resident H.No-76 Shiv Shakti Colony Near HP Gas Agency Pinjore Tehsil Kalka Distt. Panchkula declare that my old name was Pushpraj Rawat. Now I have changed my name to Pushpraj Singh. In future I should be known me as Pushpraj Singh.

**I, Shelly Singla W/o** Atul Goel R/o 1049, Sector 38-B, Chandigarh have changed my minor daughter's name from Samaira to Samaira Goel.

**I, Priyanka W/o** Sanjeev Kumar, # 117, Sector-15A, Chandigarh hereby declare that in my PAN Card my name is mentioned as Priyanka Kanojia and my father name as Gian Chand Kanojia but my correct name is Priyanka and my father name is Gyan Chand, It is further declare that in my son's date of birth my husband name wrongly mentioned as Sanjeev Kanojia instead of Sanjeev Kumar.

**I, Daljit Singh S/o** Surinderpal Singh R/o Village Sherpur, PO Sulakhani, Distt Ambala have changed my name from Daljit Singh to Daljeet Singh.

**I, Gurmit Kaur** widow of Late Gurcharan Singh R/O VPO Mussimble Musalmanan, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Gurmit Kaur to Gurmeet Kaur and date of birth changed from 22/5/1959 to 8/8/1955.

**I, Reeta W/o** Vishal Kumar R/o 120/52, Bihari Lal Ahata, Railway Road, Ambala Cantt, Distt Ambala, have changed my name from Reeta to Reeta Rani. In future I shall be known as Reeta Rani.

**I, Suneel Kumar S/o** Baru Ram R/o VPO Bubka, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Suneel Kumar to Sunil Kumar. In future I shall be known as Sunil Kumar.

**I, Bharti W/o** Tripurari Vasisht R/o Una Road, beside Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan, New Bank Colony, PO Sadhu Ashram, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Bharti to Bharti Vasisht. Concerned note.

**I, Seema Sharma W/o** Jitender Kumar R/O B-31-480308 St. No. 2/6 Tibba Road, Basti Jodhwal Ludhiana have changed my name to Seema Devi.

**I, Kul Winder Kaur w/of** Sh.Harjit Singh resident of House No.705, Diwan Nagar Ward No.1, Distt.Panipat declare that I have Kulwinder Kaur to Kulwinder Name are some of the one person Name of the one person.

**I, Harjit Singh s/of** Sh.Mastan Singh resident of ward No.1, Diwan Nagar, Distt.Panipat declare that I have Harjit Singh to Harjeet Singh Name are same of the one person Name of the one person.

**I, Daljit Singh S/o** Gurbakhsh Singh R/o H. No. 138, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Daljit Singh to Daljit Singh Sandhu.

**I, Gurvinder s/o** Lakhbir Singh r/o Village Palwal, Tehsil Thanesar (Kurukshetra) have changed my name from Gurvinder to Gurvinder Singh.

**I, Jyoti Kaswan W/o** Aditya Maan R/o H. No. 171, Sector-15, Hisar, (Haryana) have changed my name from Jyoti Kaswan to Jyoti Maan for all purposes in future.

**I, Pushpa w/o** Ranbir Singh R/o House No.184 Jarnail Enclave Phase-2 Zirakpur (Punjab) have changed my name to Pushpa Devi.

**I, No.14855496-X SEP/MT** Sonawane Prashant Suresh S/O Suresh Hilal Sonawane R/O Vill. Nandra, P.O. Nandra, Tehsil-Pachora, Distt. Jalgaon (Maharashtra) PIN- 425115 presently posted at 359 Company ASC Type G, C/o 56 APO, Chandimandir Cantt., Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my father's name from Suresh to Suresh Hilal Sonawane.

**I, No.14855496-X SEP/MT** Sonawane Prashant Suresh S/O Suresh Hilal Sonawane R/O Vill. Nandra, P.O. Nandra, Tehsil-Pachora, Distt. Jalgaon (Maharashtra) PIN- 425115 presently posted at 359 Company ASC Type G, C/o 56 APO, Chandimandir Cantt., Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my mother's name from Sunanda Bai to Sunanda Suresh Sonawane & DOB is from 01-01-1972 to 01-01-1971

**I, Arun Kumar S/o** Prem Chand R/o 86, Ward No. 18, Prithvi Nagar-A, Farakpur, Railway Station, Jagadhri Workshop, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Arun Kumar S/o Prem Chand to Arun Gupta S/o Prem Chand Gupta.

**I, Manju Bala W/o** Arun Gupta R/o 86, Prithvi Nagar-A, Near Railway Crossing, Farakpur, Jagadhri Workshop, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Manju Bala to Rashmi.

**I, Sandeep Kumar** resident of Vill - Dhani Bajnath Ki, Post - Ramsisar, Teh - Fatehpur, Distt- Sikar (Rajasthan) -332302 have changed my daughter's Name from Shanaya to Shanaya Kulhari Vide Affidavit No 2008 dated 27.05.2024 before Sirsa Court.

**I, Ritu Goyal W/o** Sh. Ashish Singla R/o #399, Bawari Street, Ward No. 19, Sirsa(Haryana). That I have changed my name from Ritu Goyal to Ritu Singla, in future my name is to be called as Ritu Singla.

**I, Pawan Kumar** resident of V.P.O. Baroda. Teh. Uchana. Dist. Jind (Haryana)-126115 have changed my daughter's Name from Poorvi to Poorvi Chahal vide Affidavit no. KD272024E20 dated 27/05/2024 before Court Complex, Sub Division Narwana.

**I Pawan Kumar** resident of V.P.O. Baroda. Teh. Uchana. Dist. Jind (Haryana)-126115 have changed my daughter's Name from Arya to Arya Chahal vide Affidavit no. KD272024E19 dated 27/05/2024 before Court Complex. Sub Division Narwana.

**I, Kamla Devi** Dependents of Pawan Kumar resident of V.P.O. Baroda. Teh. Uchana, Dist. Jind(Haryana)-126115 have changed my Name from Kamla Devi to Kamla vide Affidavit no. KD272024E21 dated 27/05/2024 before Court Complex. Sub Division Narwana.

**I, Mohinder Paul S/o** Sh. Jagan Nath R/o House No. 102, N.A.C Sector 13, Shivailk Enclave Manimajra Chandigarh have changed my name from Mohinder Paul to Mohinder Paul Goswami.

**I, Shruti Mahajan W/o** Dev Pratap Dabra R/o Flat No.602 Tower 12B, Sector-20, Suncity Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name to Shruti Dabra.

**I, Neelam W/O** Mr. Gurnam Singh R/O Village-Saidpura, P/O Derabassi, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab. I Have Changed My Name From Neelam To Neelam Rani.

**I, Smt. Lalita Kumari W/o** No 13752709K Ex Hav Vinod Kumar R/o Vill. Darmian Chathial PO Chathial Khurd Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Lalita Kumar to Lalita Devi.

**I, Smt. Harwinder Kaur W/o** No. 1083951K Ex Dfr (Hony Nb Ris) Balbir Singh R/O VPO Dhade Fateh Singh Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my date of birth from 15-1-1966 to 07-12-1962.

**I, Joginder Singh** father of Army No. 14438050Y Hav (Gunner) Retesh Kumar R/O 220 FD Regiment Army Camp PO & PS Sonari Tehsil Jamshepur District Bast Singhbhum, Jharkhand declare that in my son's service record my name is wrongly written as Jaginder Singh instead of Joginder Singh and D.O.B. 01.07.1951 instead of 01.01.1948. Vide affidavit No. 10329 dated 28.05.2024 before Kurukshetra Court Kurukshetra.

**I, Anju Garg W/o** Ram Kumar R/o H.No. 1617/21, Subhash Mandi, 2nd gate, Thanesar, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Anju to Anju Garg. Note all concerns.

**I, Ram Kumar S/o** Sh. Ram Chander R/o H.No. 1617/21, Subhash Mandi, 2nd gate, Thanesar, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Ram Kumar Gupta to Ram Kumar. Note all concerns.

**I, Kusum Devi W/o** Mahender Singh R/o H. No. C-16, Model Town Extension, Hisar, Haryana 125001 declare that I have changed my name from Kusum Devi to Suman for all future purposes.

**I, No. 4476824H** Ex-Hav Paramjit Singh S/O Rattan Chand R/O Village & PO Manhota Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur (PB) declare that the name of my mother has published wrong in my Army discharge book whereas her correct name is Tirtho Devi.

**I, Nitin Jain S/o.** Sh. Subhash jain R/o h. no. 3031, Block-G, Ansal City Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Nitin to Nitin Jain for all future purposes.

**I, Prabhdial Singh S/o** Sardool Singh R/O Waraich, P.O. Ghuman Kalan, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Prabdaiyal Singh to Prabhdial Singh.

**I, Sarabjit Kaur W/o** Prabhdial Singh R/O Waraich, P.O. Ghuman Kalan, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Sarbjit Kaur to Sarabjit Kaur.

**I, Sahib Singh S/o** Sukhwinder Singh Bains R/O Vill: Khudaipur, PO: Bamial, Distt. Pathankot declare that Sahib Singh is my given name and Bains is my Surname. Concerned note.

**I, Sukhwinder Singh S/o** Saran Singh R/O Vill: Khudaipur, PO: Bamial, Distt. Pathankot have changed my name from Sukhwinder Singh to Sukhwinder Singh Bains. Concerned note.

**I, Rajesh Mahajan S/o** Kuldip Raj R/O 731, Gali No. 5, Near Rani Bazar, Sharif Pura, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Rajesh Mahajan to Rajesh Kumar.

**I, Singh Amandeep S/O** Charanjeet Singh R/O Village Kharkara Tehsil Guhla district Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Amandeep Singh to Singh Amandeep. Singh is my surname and Amandeep is my name.

**I, Kaur Pardeep W/O** Singh Amandeep R/O Village Kharkara Tehsil Guhla district Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Pardeep Kaur to Kaur Pardeep. Kaur is surname and Pardeep is my name.

**I, Singh Amandeep S/O** Charanjeet Singh R/O Village Kharkara Tehsil Guhla district Kaithal Haryana have changed my son's name from Harjoban Singh to Singh Harjoban. Singh is surname and Harjoban is my name.

**I, Bharti Ben P** Balgha W/O Service No 15783175X Nk(Ds) Parmar Chhagan Govind Present Unit 516/105 Ad Regt, C/O 56 Apo R/O Vill Amaran, Po- Amaran, Distt Morbi, State- Gujarat, Pin-363655 Have Changed My Name From Bharti Ben P Balgha To Bharti Ben Chhagan Bhai Vide Affidavit Dated 28-05-2024 Before Ambala Cantt.

**I, Kavita Devi W/o** Kamal Sharma R/o H.No. 301/A Sharma House Near Shiv Mandir Village Majri Tehsil Ambala Cantt distt Ambala have changed my name from kavita to Kavita Devi .all concerned please note.

**I, Suman Devi W/o** Rishi Pal R/O VPO Barot, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Suman Devi to Suman. All concerned please note.

**I, Baljinder Kumar** Alias Balwinder Kumar s/o Garib Das Vill Chahal Teh Balachaur (SBS Nagar) have changed my name to Baljinder Kumar.

**I, Service No 3217904H** RANK Sep Surender S/o Sh. Bansil Lal R/o Hisar, District Hisar Haryana, declare that name my mother's Suresh has been wrongly mentioned in my Army service record, the correct & actually name of my mother is Sudesh which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Mala Kumar W/o** Dipu Yadav R/O Mohalla Sunder Nagar Gali No. 03 Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Mala Kumari to Mala Devi.

**We, Sanket Dhingra S/o** Sawtanter Dhingra & Pooja Gupta D/o Rakesh Gupta, R/O #3593, Sector 23-D, Chandigarh, have changed our minor son name from Nirvir Vir Ahuja S/o Vidur Ahuja to Nirvir Dhingra S/O Sanket Dhingra. Concerned Note.

**I, Raj Kumar s/o** Mai Ram r/o Nissing, Distt. Karnal declare that my minor son Shubham documents wrongly wrote father name Rajkumar, mother name Indu, While correct name of father is Raj Kumar, mother is Indu Rani.

**I Army No. Jc-433889K** N/ Sub Ravinder Singh Unit-3 Punjab C/O 56 Apo My Son Name Parsh Rana Has Been Wrongly Entered In My Military Regt Name Is Paras Rana Is Should Be Updated.

**I Sudhir Kumar S/O** Sh. Raj Kumar Resident Gidderbaha Tehsil Gidderbaha District Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name From Sudhir Kumar Midda To Sudhir Kumar And Minor Child Name From Anant Midda To Anant.

**I Gurpreet Singh R/O** V. Wara Chain Singh Wala Alias Ramgarh, District Ferozepur Minor Son Name Of Change Manvars Singh To Manvars Singh Brar.

**I Deepak Verma S/O** Late Suresh Kumar R/O #1797, Mohan Nagar Dera Bassi Distt Mohali Have Changed My Name From Pardeep Verma To Deepak Verma.

**I Poonam** Wife Of Roshan Lal Arora R/O H. No. 4/747 St. No. 01 Bawa Colony Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name Poonam Arora.

**I Jasvinder Kaur W/O** Inderpreet Singh Bala R/O #571, Sector 78, Sohana Tehsil Ad Distt Sas Nagar (Mohali) Have Changed My Name From Jasvinder Kaur Bala To Jasvinder Kaur.

**I Sudhir Kumar S/O** Babu Ram R/O # 153 Ward No. 5 Kurali Tehsil Kharar District Mohali Declare That Sudhir Kumar And Sudhir One And The Same Person.

**I Radha Rani W/O** Sudhir Kumar R/O #153, Ward No. 5, Kurali Tehsil Kharar, District Mohali Declare That Radha Rani And Radha One And The Same Person.

**I, Shweta Gupta W/O** Paras Lakhnawal R/O H.No.857, Kucha Nalke Wala, Joura Pipal, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Shweta Gupta To Shweta Lakhnawal

**I, Parmajeet Kaur** Wife Of Bhupinder Singh Resident Of Vpo Makhi Kalan Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran Have Changed Her Name To Parmajit Kaur

**I, Princejit Singh S/O** Talwinder Singh R/O H.No.617/13, Vishal Colony, Near Dashmesh Public School, Patti, Tarn Taran Have Declare That Singh Is My Surname And Princejit Is My Given Name.

**I, Pooja Rani W/O** Pawan Kumar Taneja. R/O 4449 Gali No.4 Ranjit Pura Putlighar Amritsar. Have Changed My Name From Pooja Rani To Pooja Taneja. All Concerned Pls Note It.

**I Rajnish S/O** Satnam R/O 21 Quarter Krishna Mandir Back Side Naraingarh Chheharta Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Rajnish To Rajnish Kumar

**I Amrinder Singh** Son Of Madan Gopal Singh R/O H.No. 708 Gali No. 2 Near Bahmini Wala Chowk Garden Colony Patti Distt. Tarn Taran Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Amrinder Singh Randhawa.

**I Rajkaur Savinder** Sing W/O Savinder Singh Dharam Singh Sohi R/O Vill.Abdal Po Kathunangal Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Rajkaur Savinder Singh Sohi

**I Gautam Dev S/O** Sodhi Ram R/O 2349 Opp.Gali Abul Thana Near Kila Lohgarh Sahib Guruduwara I/S Lohgarh Gate Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Gautam Dev Sharma

**I, Gurjant Singh S/O** Savraj Singh R/O Vill. Sarangra Tehsil Ajnala Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name Gurjant Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

**I, Ram Kali** Gangwar Is Mother Of No. 149340731 Hav Harish Kumar Gangwar Presently Residing At Village Faridapur Nawabgan, Po Bijamau, Tehsil Nawabganj, District Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh-262406 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Ram Kali Gangwar To Ram Kali And Date Of Birth From 16 Jul 1963 To 01 Jan 1955 Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb20369804876903w Dated 28-05-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

**I, Saguna Ben** Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 14928874w Hav Valand Govindbhai Presently Residing At 139, Vachalu Faiyup, Punaj, Kharanti, Kheda, Gujarat- 387520 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Saguna Ben To Valand Shakuntalaben Govindbhai Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb20368948178435w Dated 28-05-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

**I, Hemanshi** Daughter Of No. Jc-423005y Sub Asa Ram Resident At Plot No. 14-A, Near Tiranga Chauraha, Mangla Vihar-2, Po New Pac Lines, Tehsil Kanpur Sadar, District Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208015 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Hemanshi To Himanshi Dixit Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb20369880601916w Dated 28-04-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar

**I, Aakansha Devi** Daughter Of No. Jc-423005y Sub Asa Ram Resident At Plot No. 14-A, Near Tiranga Chauraha, Mangla Vihar-2, Po New Pac Lines, Tehsil Kanpur Sadar, District Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208015 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Aakansha Devi To Akansha Devi Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb20369536290533w Dated 28-04-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

In My Husband No. 4205423a L/NK Kuldeep Kumar, 21 Kumaon Services Documents My Name Wrongly Written As Rachna Devi, Which Needs To Be Corrected As Rachna. Rachna Resident Of Darabpur, Berni, Etah, Uttar Pradesh

**I, Seeta Devi** Is Mother Of No. Jc-771514n Sub Jay Singh Presently Residing At Village Utari, Po Samudpur, District Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh-221115 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Seeta Devi To Sita Devi And Date Of Birth From 01 Jul 1951 To 01 Jan 1955 Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb20407696568947w Dated 28-05-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

**I, Manjit Jangra S/O** Baldev Singh R/O H.No.2451, Ekta Bhawan Ranjit Pura, Chheharta Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Manjit Jangra To Manjit Kumar Jangra

**I, Gurvel Singh S/O** Gujjar Singh R/O Village Basarke, Gumanpura, District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurvel Singh To Gurvail Singh.

**I, Sandeep Malik S/O** Shri Rajbir Singh Malik, r/o village Risalu tehsil and district Panipat, declare that I want to change my name from Sandeep Malik to Sandeep Singh Malik. Let me be known as Sandeep Singh Malik in future.

**I, Josoda Bala Das** is mother of No. 14931777K Hav Ranjan Kumar Das presently residing at Dhablat Raspur, Prasad Pur, South 24, Parganas, West Bengal-743373 now at 15 MECH INF, have changed my name from Josoda Bala Das to Jashoda Das and date of birth from 25 SEP 1957 to 12 FEB 1962 vide affidavit no. IN-PB20438330067824W dated 28-05-2024, before Notary Public, Amritsar.

**I, Ananda Kumar Das** is father of No. 14931777K Hav Ranjan Kumar Das presently residing at Dhablat Raspur, Prasad Pur, South 24, Parganas, West Bengal-743373 now at 15 MECH INF, have changed my name from Ananda Kumar Das to Ananda Das and date of birth from 25 SEP 1952 to 20 DEC 1948 vide affidavit no. IN-PB20437879538786W dated 28-05-2024, before Notary Public, Amritsar.



# Soon, Punjab's women will get Rs 1100 per month instead of Rs 1000, announced CM Mann

AAP INTENSIFIES CAMPAIGN

PNS ■ SANGRUR/CHANDIGARH

Under attack of his rivals for not fulfilling its main pre-poll promise of giving Rs 1000 to all 18-plus women in the state, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday made a big announcement that all the women in the state will get Rs 1,100 every month instead of the promised Rs 1000 per month "soon".

"Soon, instead of Rs 1000 per month, mothers and sisters of Punjab will get Rs 1100 per month, declared Mann, while campaigning for the AAP candidate Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer in his own constituency Dhuri.

Stating that household electricity is free in Punjab, Mann asserted, "90 percent of the households in Punjab get zero electricity bills. Farmers are also getting sufficient electricity in the daytime for the paddy season. Our government bought a private thermal power plant and named it after Guru Amardas ji... Everything is possible with an honest government. Before the AAP Government, only 21 percent of fields were getting canal water. Now, more than 60 percent of the fields are getting canal water... My aim is that every field in Punjab should get canal water for irrigation."

"That way five to six lakh



tubewells will be out of need in Punjab, and AAP Government will save Rs 6000-7000 crore from the electricity subsidy. With that money, we will fulfill the guarantee of Rs 1000 per month to women. We only need Rs 5500 crores for that, since we are saving more, the people of Punjab will get more," he said.

Mann also declared that he will not get tired or stop until he root out the Akali, Congress, and the BJP from Punjab for good. "These people ruined our three generations. They robbed the rights of our children and ruined their future, they destroyed our youth and ruined the lives of our elders."

Making a vote appeal, Mann said that he was fighting against the dictatorship, the BJP and the Centre; and he is fighting the Governor and every opponent in Punjab for the rights of our state and

people. He urged the people to make him stronger by giving him 13 more arms and voices in the Parliament.

On the people's demand, Chief Minister Mann recited his famous kikli-2. His quipped, "Sukhbir Badal expelled his brother-in-law (referring to Adeish Partap Singh Kairon) from the party, now the news is that Bikram Majithia is ready to expel his brother-in-law (that is Sukhbir Badal)." He added, these people can never compete with us or match our hard work.

Also taking on Congress, Mann said that it is a confused bunch in Punjab. "Sukhpal Khaira abandoned Bholath and came to fight elections in Sangrur, last time he went to Bathinda but lost, this time again he will taste a defeat... Congress brought Raja Warring from Bathinda and fielded him in Ludhiana and

they sent Vijay Inder Singla to Anandpur Sahib to get defeated there."

**Kejriwal Alleges BJP Threatens to Remove Punjab Govt, Urges People to Give AAP All 13 Seats**

**Ludhiana:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday accused the Union Home Minister Amit Shah of threatening to topple the Punjab Government after the Lok Sabha election results are declared on June 4. Kejriwal, in a fiery address during a Town Hall meeting in Ludhiana, alleged that Shah's motive behind this move is to halt the provision of free electricity in AAP-ruled states.

Kejriwal's allegations came as he addressed a significant industrial hub in Punjab, where 13 Lok Sabha constituencies are at stake. He questioned the feasibility of toppling a government elected by three crore people, asserting that Punjab has 92 out of 117 assembly seats under AAP's control.

Challenging Shah's tactics, Kejriwal asked if the BJP would resort to using agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to intimidate Punjab residents. He warned that such actions would only embolden Punjabis, known for their resilience and large-heartedness.

Kejriwal shifted focus to the importance of AAP securing all 13 Lok Sabha seats from Punjab, emphasizing that a strong representation in the Central Government would enable the party to address issues beyond the state's jurisdiction. He highlighted the need for stronger bargaining power at the Center to secure Punjab's rights and interests.

Accusing the BJP-led Central Government of withholding Punjab's dues amounting to Rs 9,000 crore, Kejriwal emphasized the importance of electing AAP candidates to safeguard the state's interests.

Furthermore, Kejriwal condemned the BJP's alleged intention to halt free electricity provisions in AAP-ruled states, arguing that providing free electricity was a cornerstone of AAP's governance model, contrasting it with BJP-ruled states where power tariffs are exorbitant.

Appealing to the people of Punjab to support AAP's candidates in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Kejriwal urged them to give all 13 seats to AAP to amplify the state's voice in the parliament.

In a separate engagement, campaigning for AAP candidate Ashok Parashar Pappi in Ludhiana, Kejriwal highlighted the economic turnaround witnessed in Punjab under the AAP-led government, citing a surge in investments and the establishment of major industrial projects in the state.

## Kharge criticizes drug menace, deteriorating law and order in AAP-ruled Punjab, amidst political crossfire

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday launched a scathing critique of the prevailing drug menace and deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab, attributing these challenges as significant threats to the state's future.

Kharge, speaking at a press conference in Amritsar, highlighted the profound disillusionment among Punjab's youth due to the pervasive issue of drug addiction. "The rampant drug addiction gripping Punjab represents one of the gravest challenges for the state's future," Kharge emphasized, drawing attention to the urgent need for effective intervention measures.

He further lamented the declining law and order standards under the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP Government, condemning the widespread deterioration across the State.

Kharge's remarks, laden with criticism of AAP's governance in Punjab, came shortly after AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

## Rahaul Gandhi in Ludhiana today

On Wednesday morning, the political fervor in Ludhiana will reach its peak as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is set to address a rally in support of the party's candidates contesting from Ludhiana, Faridkot, and Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha constituencies. Rahul Gandhi will rally support for the formidable contenders representing their respective constituencies — Punjab Congress president and party candidate from Ludhiana Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Faridkot candidate Amarjit Kaur Sahoke, and Hoshiarpur candidate Yamini Gomar — during the rally scheduled to commence at 10:30 am at Dana Mandi Dakhna in Ludhiana. The event is poised to energize supporters and galvanize momentum as the Congress reinforces its campaign efforts in these crucial constituencies for the June 1 polls.

indirectly blamed the Congress for the state's woes during a public event in Ludhiana. Kejriwal's statement, suggesting the need for change after decades of Congress and Akali Dal rule, added fuel to the political fire, exacerbating tensions between the rival parties.

"The situation is deteriorating with each passing day," Kharge asserted, echoing concerns about the worsening conditions under AAP's tenure. He seized the opportunity to denounce the Central Government's policies, particularly targeting the adverse impact of demonetization and

GST on Punjab's small and medium industries.

Kharge also took aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, rebuffing their predictions of his impending departure as party president on June 4, coinciding with the Lok Sabha election results announcement. "Amit Shah and Modi are saying that I will lose my job on June 4th. I did not come into politics to work, I came to serve. Let me tell you, as much as Modi's age is, my experience in working in politics, becoming an MLA, and MP is till date," he said.

## Tewari presents '56 point' charge-sheet against BJP's non-performance

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

INDIA bloc candidate from Chandigarh Manish Tewari on Tuesday presented a '56 point charge sheet' against the ten years of non-performance of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the union territory. Talking to reporters, Tewari reiterated the challenge for an open debate to his BJP rival Sanjay Tandon, telling him that he will be waiting for him at Press Club, Chandigarh on May 30, 11 am to debate and discuss all the issues related to Chandigarh.

The senior Congress leader listed his charges against the BJP's non-performance during the last ten years, counting these one by one. Referring to the BJP's manifesto, he remarked, the BJP had done a PhD in "lying in writing".

Giving some examples to prove his charges against the BJP, he pointed out that the party had promised to provide health insurance and pension to journalists working in the city. He asked whether any journalist had got insurance or

a pension. He observed, if the BJP can lie to the journalists, it can easily lie to the people of Chandigarh.

Tewari listed other unfulfilled promises of the BJP like preparing a 'Citizens Charter', holding a 'public darbar' by the MP Kiron Kher which never happened, regularising need-based changes in the Chandigarh Housing Board flats, extending the limits of Lal Dora in the villages and resolving the issue of traffic congestion.

**Tewari a 'migratory bird' shifting from one constituency to another: Sanjay Tandon**

BJP leader and party's candidate for Chandigarh Lok Sabha seat Sanjay Tandon said on Tuesday that the comprehensive report card presented by the former BJP Mayors of Chandigarh on developmental activities in the past 10 years has taken the wind out of the sails of Congress candidate Manish Tewari's poll campaign.

Tandon said, it is now Tewari's turn to present his report card of Ludhiana and Sri Anandpur Sahib. Tandon added, "Tewari is a 'migratory bird' and believes in abandoning constituencies not in development so I don't think he has anything to report on development."

Tandon was addressing gatherings during his 'padyatra' or foot marches. Tandon said ever since Tewari landed in Chandigarh after an absence of 40 years and saying goodbye to Ludhiana and Sri Anandpur Sahib, his two earlier constituencies he had based his entire election campaign on seeking BJP's report card of 10 years. Now that BJP ex-Mayors have presented it, Tewari who was issueless has also been rendered speechless. During the 'padyatra' campaign, Sanjay Tandon directly interacted with the shopkeepers in Sector-38 Market. After this, the 'padyatra' reached Sector-38 Motor Market. From there the march passed through Sector-19 and reached the vegetable market of Sector-26.

## Borders of Punjab and country safe under Modi's rule: Rajnath Singh

PNS ■ KURALI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday addressed a at Dussehra Ground, while campaigning for BJP candidate from Sri Anandpur Sahib Subhash Sharma and targeted both the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party for betraying the people of Punjab.

Speaking at the rally, Rajnath Singh claimed that like other parts of the country, there is a strong Modi wave in Punjab too. He said that due to the highly competent, efficient and strong leadership of PM Modi, the borders of Punjab and the country are completely safe. "Today, India is at a position in the world, where all countries look at us with respect and our enemy countries do not dare to look towards our nation", he asserted.

Pointing towards Pakistan, Singh said, "Do not worry, very soon PoK will also be brought back. Now, the situation is that our brothers and sisters in PoK themselves have started demanding to come



together with India." Taking a dig at Pakistan, Rajnath Singh said, "If Pakistan cannot eliminate terror factories on its soil, then we are ready to provide help. Indian Army will not hesitate to take action against India's enemies not only within its borders but also across the border if needed." He assured everyone that India's strength, prestige and economy are growing rapidly. Underlining the need for India to emerge as a world power, Rajnath Singh

said, "India's defence exports were around Rs 600-800 crore in 2014 and today it has crossed Rs 31,000 crore. In the next five years, we expect it to take beyond Rs 50,000 crore". He also rejected the opposition's allegations of alleged Chinese infiltration and said, "No country can occupy even an inch of our land." He further said that if China tries to indulge in any kind of mischief, the Indian army is fully capable of giving a befitting reply.



Union Minister and BJP leader Smriti Irani campaigned in support of party's candidate for Chandigarh Sanjay Tandon on Tuesday.



Congress candidate from Chandigarh, Manish Tewari campaigns in the city on Tuesday.

## Farmers protest outside BJP leaders' homes; Jakhar warns against extortionist leaders

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a display of discontent, farmers in Punjab commenced protests outside the residences of BJP candidates and leaders across 16 locations on Tuesday. The demonstrations underscored mounting frus-

tration among farmers, who confronted BJP candidates and leaders campaigning in villages, questioning the Modi government's policies, handling of farmers' protests, and alleged police actions during protests.

Reacting to the protests, Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar issued a stern warning, cautioning the "farmers" and criticizing what he referred to as "self-styled" leaders of farmer unions. Jakhar condemned these leaders as extortionists, alleging collusion with the Bhagwant Mann-led government. "They need to introspect. People will turn against them. They are defaming their own community. These self-styled leaders need to mend their ways," he said.

Addressing representatives of trade and industry in Ludhiana, Jakhar launched a scathing attack on the alleged disruptors of industrial opera-

tions, accusing them of causing massive losses and hindering Punjab's economic activities.

"Punjab's arteries are blocked. They are not the genuine farmers who are protesting. Those resorting to these undemocratic ways are self-styled leaders who have their axe to grind. The AAP government under Bhagwant Mann is fanning their protest by patronizing it. The government is culpable of bringing disrepute to the real farmers," he said in the presence of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Jakhar further lamented the distress faced by Punjab's industries due to the ongoing protests, blaming the government for exacerbating tensions between farmers and traders. He accused the administration of perpetuating a divide between the two sectors, jeopardizing Punjab's economic stability.

# SAD's Panthic Revival: Strategizing Lok Sabha Elections with an Eye on 2027 Assembly Polls

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bid to revive its historic panthic legacy, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is pulling out all the stops ahead of the Lok Sabha elections to regain support with an eye on the 2027 Punjab Assembly polls. Facing a critical juncture after a series of electoral setbacks, SAD is doubling down on its core identity, distancing itself from former ally BJP to pursue an uncompromising panthic agenda. With its rich history of championing Sikh and farmer rights, SAD aims to reestablish itself as the definitive voice of Punjab. This audacious move comes as the party grapples with its diminished influence, vowing to restore its stature and support base among the Sikh community and rural voters.

Historically, SAD has been a dominant force in Punjab politics, ruling the State for a decade across two consecutive terms — from 2007 to 2017. At that time, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal brought the party out from its panthic image, by projecting a new, "young", and development-oriented Akali Dal.

However, in the wake of electoral defeats in 2017 and 2022, SAD has now been focusing on reinforcing its core support base among Sikhs and farmers by adhering to its traditional panthic agenda.

After distancing itself from its decades-old ally — the BJP, SAD is prioritizing issues central to the Sikh community and agrarian concerns. The move comes as a response to the party's declining influence and the need to re-establish its identity as the primary protector of Sikh and Punjab interests.

### Historical Context and Electoral Performance

The party's downfall began with a series of sacrilege incidents and related police firings that shook Punjab in 2015 during its regime, severely tarnishing its panthic image. Rivals seized the opportunity to accuse the Akali Dal of orchestrating the desecration of the holy birs (Sikh holy book) for political gain. The party also faced allegations of ordering police to open fire on the "peaceful" protests against the sacrilege. In response, two Commissions of Inquiry, led by former High Court judges, were established, yet the issue remains unresolved, with no clarity on the involvement of the Badals. But, the fallout from these events led to a dramatic decrease in its seat share, falling from 68 seats (out of 94) it contested in alliance with BJP in the 2012 assembly polls to just 15 (out of 94) in 2017, and a mere three seats (out of 97) in 2022 when it contested in alliance with the

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). The vote share also plummeted from 34.73 percent in 2012 to 25.2 percent in 2017, and a dismal 3.4 percent in 2022. SAD's performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections was also underwhelming, with only two seats won — by Sukhbir Badal in Ferozepur and Harsimrat Kaur Badal in Bathinda — garnering a vote share of 27.76 per cent. In 2014, SAD had won four seats, in alliance with BJP, with a vote share of 26.30 percent.

### Efforts to Reclaim Panthic Identity

Making amends, SAD president Sukhbir Badal had, in 2023, publicly apologized for the party's failures during the 2015 sacrilege case. His father, five-time Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, had also done so. The party's separation from the BJP, which it accuses of interfering in Sikh religious affairs, is a key part of its strategy to revive its panthic credentials. SAD has accused the BJP of meddling in the affairs of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and changing the management structure of Takht Nanded Sahib in Maharashtra. Besides, it has also been accusing BJP of going back on its promise, it made on the eve of Guru Nanak Dev's 550th anniversary, regarding releasing the

Sikh prisoners, languishing in jails across the country. SAD has also been vocal about the release of Sikh prisoners who have completed their sentences. The party has also been demanding the transfer of radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh, behind bars under the stringent national Security Act (NSA), from Assam's Dibrugarh jail to Punjab. "These were our very clear demands, and prerequisites for re-stitching the alliance with BJP...but they made no promise and we decided to go alone," said a senior Akali leader. Other than the panth-related issues, SAD was also demanding withdrawal of cases against the farmers from the 2020 agitation and assurances on minimum support prices (MSP) for crops.

### Challenges and Political Landscape

Despite its efforts, the road ahead for SAD is fraught with challenges. Political experts predict a divided Sikh electorate and a strong BJP presence in Hindu-dominated areas. The party's performance in the upcoming polls will be crucial, as it will set the tone for the 2027 Assembly elections. Success in these polls could bolster Sukhbir's leadership and help consolidate the party's support base.

### Campaign Strategies and Rhetoric

SAD has been targeting the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on issues such as law and order, state finances, and unfulfilled promises. But while targeting the Congress, it is raking up the issues of Operation Blue Star and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. In a master stroke against the Congress, Sukhbir has been appealing to the voters that Punjabis should teach Congress a lesson for attacking 'Darbar Sahib' (Golden Temple-Sikhs' holiest shrine) 40 years ago "by voting for the panthic party". In most of the election rallies, Sukhbir, flashing a picture of the bullet-riddled Akal Takht Sahib, says: "Every Punjabi and Sikh must remember that the date of polling in Punjab is June 1, which coincides with the 40th anniversary of the launch of the army assault — Operation Blue Star — on 'Sri Harmandir Sahib' in 1984 by Congress Prime Minister Indira Gandhi." "Not even a single Congress leader has been punished in the cases related to anti-Sikh riots in Delhi, Kanpur, Nagpur and Kolkata.

### Electoral Alliances and Future Prospects

For the first time since 1996, SAD is contesting the Lok Sabha polls without an alliance with the BJP. This independent stance, being a regional party, is part of a broader strategy to emphasize its commitment to Punjab over political alliances. Sukhbir has emphasized that SAD's primary focus is on protecting Punjab's interests and upholding the principles of the Khalsa Panth. "For us, whether we win a seat or not, we will continue fighting for the state. The Akali Dal is a 103-year-old party with a history of struggles and agitations against oppression and discrimination. The Khalsa Panth is our base, and we won't compromise on Punjab's prestige and interests," Sukhbir had said. As the SAD prepares for the June 1 Lok Sabha elections, with an eye on the 2027 state assembly polls, its efforts to revive its panthic image and address key Sikh and farmer issues will be crucial. This election marks a significant test for Sukhbir Badal's leadership and the party's ability to reclaim lost ground, especially as it is his first electoral challenge following the death of his father, the Akali patriarch Parkash Singh Badal. The results of these elections will set the stage for the 2027 Assembly elections, making the stakes especially high for the SAD.

## Priyanka Gandhi Slams PM Modi in Himachal Pradesh Rally

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Terming Prime Minister Narendra Modi "anti-people", Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday said he is misleading people in the name of religion to remain in power. Addressing an election rally in Una, she said that PM Modi ignored the people of Himachal and did not even send a penny for the victims of the monsoon disaster that hit the hill state last year.

"Hindu religion has taught us to live an honest life but the BJP is doing politics in the name of religion," she said and wondered if any religious person will not be moved by the disaster. The BJP-led Centre neither declared the monsoon calamity a national disaster nor gave any special package to the state, the Congress general secretary said, adding that they tried to topple the democratically-elected Congress government in the state. Priyanka Gandhi was referring to the six political crisis involving the six

Congress rebels who recently joined the BJP. Six Congress legislators had voted in favour of the BJP in the Rajya Sabha elections and later joined the party. They are now contesting assembly bypolls on the ticket of the saffron party. Attacking the Congress rebels, Priyanka Gandhi said, "It is good that those preferring money over service have left the Congress party." She alleged that the Centre did not release funds deposited under the National Pension Scheme when the Congress government restored the Old Pension Scheme in Himachal, to "make our endeavour unsuccessful". She also lashed out at the BJP for allegedly halting the process of giving Rs 1,500 monthly to women. "Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had given her jewellery for the country in time of need and Modi says that the Congress people will steal your mangalsutra," Priyanka Gandhi said and added that such language does not suit the country's prime minister.



# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto Known as Manjeet Kaur W/o Bahadur Singh R/o VPO. Chanian, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar-144033, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manjit Kaur.

I, **Parvinder Kaur** W/o Gurnam Singh, R/o Village Shadipur, Ladwa, Thanesar Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana has changed her name as Parvinder Kaur from Parminder Kaur.

I, **Chirag S/o** Ghansham R/o 230/A, Jagjiwanpura, Fatehabad, Haryana-125050 have changed my name from Chirag to Chirag Kukreja for all future purposes.

I, **Ranjit Singh** Aggarwal S/o Nachhattar Singh R/o Village Nurpura, P.O Channo, Tehsil Sangrur, Distt. Sangrur (148026) have Changed my name from Ranjit Singh Aggarwal to Ranjit Singh.

I, **Chandrakala** W/O Kripal Singh R/O Vill Ghogripur Tehsil & Distt Karnal Declared That Chandrakala And Chanderkanta Are Both My Names.I Known With Both Names.

I, **Gohil** Jagrutiba Narendrasinh Is Spouse Of No. 2706177H Hav, Gohil Narendrasinh Dilavarsinh Unit 19 Granadiers C/O 99 Apo And Resident At Village And Post Jaliya, Tehsil Gariyadhra, Distt. Bhavnagar, State Gujarat, Pin 364275 Have Changed My Name From Jagrutiba To Gohil Jagrutiba Narendrasinh Vide Affidavit Dated 27 May 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, **Jaya M** is legally Mother of No. 16119853K Hav, Rajasekar M of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Residing at 696 Village Santhanur Post Office Damodarahalli Distt. Krishnagiri State Tamil Nadu Pin 635123 Declare That My Date of Birth 12 May 1964 Wrongly written in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Date of Birth is 13 July 1968.

I, **Jaya M** is legally Mother of No. 16119853K, Hav, Rajasekar M of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Residing at 696 Village Santhanur Post Office Damodarahalli Distt. Krishnagiri State Tamil Nadu Pin 635123 have change my name in all documents from Thirumathi Jaya to Jaya M. Vide Affidavit Dated 28 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I, **Kavita Devi** Spouse Of Army No. 14683141Y, Nk, Vinod Kumar Khedar Unit Of 607 Erme Bn. C/O 56 Apo And Resident Of Ward No.13, Khedaro Ki Dhani Village Jakhhal, District Jhunjhunun, Pin 333305 (Rajasthan) Have Changed My Name From Ms Kavita To Kavita Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 28 May 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, **Sanjeev Kumar** S/o Amar Nath R/O H.No. 504, Ward No. 3, Gopi Vihar, Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Sanjeev Kumar to Sanjeev Ahuja.

I, **Sneh Jain** W/o Vineet Garg R/o H.No. 1950/20, Krishna Nagar Gamri, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Sneh Garg.

I, **Kusum Arora** D/o Jagan Nath Arora, W/o Suresh Kumar R/O H.No. 846, Sector 3, Urban Estate, Thanesar, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Kusum Arora to Kusum Dhingra, after marriage.

I, **Kawaldeep Singh** S/O Sh. Varinder Pal Singh R/O Vill. Ramba Tehsil And District Karnal Inform That I Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Parmish To Parmish Kaur. All Concerned Please Noted.

I, **Sumita Rani** W/O Sh. Surinder Pal R/O Vill. Rasulpur Kalan, District Karnal Inform That My Daughter's Passport No. V1539890 In Name Vrishti Is Registered. I Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Vrishti To Vrishti Pal. All Concerned Please Noted.

I, **Sangeeta Sahu** W/O Rakesh Kumar R/O Vill.Sacha Khera Teh. Narwana Distt. Jind Have Declared That I Have Changed My Name From Sangeeta Sahu To Sangeeta. That In Future. I Shall Be Known As Sangeeta For All Future Purpose.

I, **Rhys D** Fernandes S/O Anjeilo Fernandes #14 Abhimanyu Apts E7/104 Near Sai Baba Board Arera Colony Hazur Bhopal Madhya Pradesh Have Changed My Name From Rhys Fernandes To Rhys.D Fernandes

I, **Pallavi Sharma** W/O Rhys. D Fernandes #14 Abhimanyu Apts E7/104 Near Sai Baba Board Arera Colony Hazur Bhopal Madhya Pradesh Have Changed My Name From Pallavi Sharma Fernandes To Pallavi Sharma.

I, **Rahul** S/o Om Parkash R/o Bakhli, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Rahul Kumar.

I, **Satbir Singh** S/o Chanda Singh R/o Dherdu Tehsil Dhand District Kathail, my mother Murti Devi and Parmeshwari Devi W/o Chanda Singh Both Are Same Name And Person But Correct Name Is Parmeshwari Devi.

I, **Pankaj** S/o Jaspal R/O 271/14 Gali No 08 Kailash Nager, Tehsil Thanesar, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Pankaj Kumar.

I, **Suraj Bhan** Singh S/o Amarnath, village Dhulgarh, Pehowa, Kurukshetra, by mistake my name is Suraj Bhan in my driving license whereas as per all my documents the correct name is Suraj Bhan Singh.

I, **Ashok Kumar** S/o Karnail Singh V/o Harigarh Bhorakh Pehowa, Kurukshetra, Have Changed My Given Name Ashok Surname Kumar.

I, **Raj Rani** W/o Ram Karan R/o 102, Near Bus Stand, Village Lotni, P.O. Jalbehra Distt.Kurukshetra Have Changed My Rani To Raj Rani

I, **Pankaj** S/o Rulda Ram R/o. Village Jaitpura, P.O. Danipur, Distt. Ambala, Have Changed My Given Name Pankaj Toor to Pankaj.

I, hitherto known as Gagandeep S/o Lakhwinder Pal R/O V.P.O Kalanaur Tehsil & District Gurdaspur Punjab - 143512, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gagandeep Pansotra.

I, **No 14470123N** Ex Hav Ashok Kumar resident of H.No 138, Mohala Shakti Nagar Pathankot, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed the name of my daughter from Shardha to Shradha Attri vide Affidavit No. IN-PB20051285172500W Dated 28 May 2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, **Malan** mother of No 23000472N Rank LNK (SPSTF ER) Name Dandekar Rahul Aapasahab resident of Village - Shrigonda, Teh - Shrigonda, Distt - Ahmednagar, State - Maharashtra, have changed my name Malan to Malan Appasaheb Dandekar vide Affidavit No 96AA557548 Dated 16-05-2024 before Notary Public Shrigonda.

I, **Makhan Singh** S/O Wariam Singh R/O Vpo. Sadda Singh Wala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Makhan Singh Lalit.

I, **Shavinderjit Kaur** W/O Tejinder Singh Sadiora R/O Vpo. Channu Wala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Shavinder Kaur Sadiora.

I, **Jarnail Singh** S/O Hari Singh R/O Vpo. Majri Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Jarnail Singh Toor.

I, **Vishaldeep** S/O Ravinderpal R/O Bhagta Bhai Ka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Vishaldeep Kamra.

I, **Anmol Preet Singh** S/o Dilver Singh R/o Vill: Dogranwala Po. Bhavanipur (Kapurthala) my given name is Anmol Preet and my surname is Singh.

I, **Jasmine Kaur** W/o Anmol Preet Singh R/o Vill: Dogranwala Po. Bhavanipur (Kapurthala) my given name is Jasmine and my surname is Kaur.

I, **Gurcharanjit Singh** S/o Gurmial Singh Vill-Kakoa Po Mand Pandher Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name Gurcharanjit Singh to Singh Gurcharanjit.

I, **Kuldip Kaur** W/o Paramjit Singh R/O Vpo. Dosarjnh Kalan Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) Pb. have changed my name to Kuldeep Kaur.

I, **DC Singh** S/o Gurjant Singh R/o Kothe Leta Wale, Kotliablu, Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib-151202 have changed my name to Dici Singh.

I, **Harjinder Kaur** W/o Som Raj R/o Vpo. Rurki Muglan Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) have changed my given name is Harjinder Kaur and my surname is Kaur. after marriage.

I, **Sarabjit Kaur** W/o Ashwani Kumar R/o Nawan Bhargala Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Sarabjeet Kaur to Sarabjit Kaur.

I, **Charanjeet Kaur** W/o Rajinder Singh R/o Talwandi Rai (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Charanjit Kaur.

I, **Charanjit Kaur** W/o Jita Singh Vill Jangiana Teh-Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Charanjit Kaur Gill.

I, **Parmjeet Kaur** W/o Sukhdev Singh R/o Tindwan (Ferozepur) have Changed My Name To Parmjeet Kaur.

I, **Lakhwinder Singh** Wander S/o Manjeet Singh R/o Matta (Faridkot) have changed my name to Lakhwinder Singh.

I, **Manjit Singh** S/o Pirtha Singh R/o Matta (Faridkot) have changed my name to Manjeet Singh.

I, **Harbrinder Singh** Devgan S/O Kapoor Singh R/O Chaina (Faridkot) have changed my name to Harbrinder Singh.

I, **Kapur Chand** S/o Arjan Ram R/O Chaina (Faridkot) have changed my name to Kapoor Singh.

I, **Veerpal Kaur** W/o Jagdish Singh R/O Kotli Ablu (Sri Muktsar Sahib) declare that I have known by both names Veerpal Kaur and Balveer Kaur. and I am the one and same lady of both names.

I, **Baljeet Singh** S/o Achhar Singh R/O Vill: Kaironwal Teh & Distt. Tarn Taran have changed my name from Baljit Singh to Baljeet Singh.

I, **Anant Raj Kaur** W/o Navtej Singh R/o Vill: Chhabrhi Sahib Po. Fatehabad (Tarn Taran) have changed my name from Anant Raj to Anant Raj Kaur.

I, **Gurcharn Singh** S/o Tara Singh R/o 10/259, Gali Sant Bhuri Wali, Mohalla Jaswant Singh, Tarn Taran, Tehsil & Distt: Tarn Taran have changed my name to Gurcharan Singh.

I, **Kochurani** M.V. alias Sister. Little Therese D/o Varghese R/o St. Francis Convent School, G.T. Road, Jandiالا Guru, Distt: Amritsar have changed my name to Sister. Little Therese.

I, **Taranjit Singh** S/O Bhanga Singh Village Banian Teh. Khadur Sahib,Distt TarnTaran.I Have Changed My Name Tarnjit Singh.

I, **Jasbir Kaur** Charanjit W/O Manjinder Singh And D/O Charanjit Singh R/O H.No 94, Street No 4A, Sardar Enclave, Tarn Taran. Have Changed My Name From Jasbir Kaur Charanjit To Jasbir Kaur.

I, **Gurmej Singh** S/O Kundan Singh Bal R/o Vill: Gorkha Po. Daleke Teh-Tarn Taran (Tarn Taran) have changed my name to Gurmej Singh Bal.

I, **Santosh Kumar** Jindal Alias Santosh Kumar S/O Shiv Kumar R/O #E-104, Omaxe City, Sirhind Road, Patiala, Punjab - 147001, Have Changed My Name To Santosh Jindal.

I, **Nakashi** D/O Rajinder Kumar Jain And W/O Japesh Sharma R/O S-20/119, Shiv Vihar, Randhawa Colony, Khanpur, Pathankot, Punjab - 145001 Have Changed My Name To Nakashi Sharma.

I, **Baljinder Kaur** W/O Baliahar Singh R/O Tehsil Moonak, Mandvi Sangrur, Punjab - 148027, Have Changed My Name To Balwinder Kaur.

I, **Gopal Dass** S/O Ashok Kumar R/O Street Docter Ashok Wali, Kot Ise Khan, Kot Ise Khan, Moga, Punjab - 142043, Have Changed My Name To Gopal Gupta.

I, **Komal W/O** Ravi Kumar Chugh R/O #B-9-768, Ward No-62, Near Gurdwara Sahib Gulchaman Gali, Chori Sadak Singla Shivala, Ludhiana, Central Post Office, Punjab - 141008, Have Changed My Name To Renu Bala Chugh.

I, **Darshan Singh** S/O Ajit Singh R/O Bank Colony, Sunder Nagar, Dhangu Road, Pathankot, Pathankot, Punjab - 145001, Have Changed My Name To Jassa Singh.

I, **Lovepreet** S/O Budhu Ram R/O Samrari, Jalandhar, Punjab - 144418, Have Changed My Name To Lovepreet Heer.

I, **Priya Katyal** W/O Rajesh Kumar Katyal R/O Sb-001, Balsarai Khurd, Dera Baba Jaimal Singh, Baba Bakala, District- Amritsar, Punjab-143204, Have Changed My Name To Bindu Bassi.

I, **Rakesh Goyal** S/o Dharam Chand R/O Lajpat Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar.

I, **Pushpinder Kaur** W/o Yadwinder Singh R/o Village Nurpur Kirpal Ke District Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my name Pushpinder Kuar to Pushpinder Kaur.

I, **Veerpal Kaur** Gill W/O Napinder Singh Brar R/O Sikhian Wala Road, Prem Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name After Marriage Veerpal Kaur Brar

I, **Bhajan Singh** S/O Karam Singh R/O Near Lakkhar Kanda, Prem Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Bhajan Singh Sandhu.

आमी सर्विस नंबर वर जी. 471530M सुवेदर विजय पुत्र श्री बख्खार सिंह गांव बलब डाकखाना गढ़ी तहसील कलानौर जिला रोहतक (हरियाणा) posted at 4 RAJRIF UNIT C/o 56APO. मेरी पत्नी का नाम मेरे आमी रिकॉर्डर्स में BABITA DEVI दर्ज है जबकि मेरी पत्नी के सभी अधिकृत दस्तावेजों में मेरी पत्नी का सही व वास्तविक नाम BABITA दर्ज है। भविष्य में मेरी पत्नी को सभी कार्यों के लिये BABITA (DOB : 25.07.1981) के नाम से जाना व पढ़ा जायें। इस संबंध में नोटरी पब्लिक रोहतक के समक्ष दिनांक 01 मई 2024 को शपथ पत्र दिया गया है।

I, **Reeta Jain** W/O Sh. Mukesh Kumar R/O H.No. 817/10 Sarafa Mohalla, Jind Teh. & Distt. Jind Have Changed My Name From Reeta Jain To Rita Singh.

I, **Rakhi** W/O Sh. Rajiv Singla R/O H.No. 817/10 Sarafa Mohalla, Jind Teh. & Distt. Jind Have Changed My Name From Rakhi To Rakhi Singla.

I, **Tasbir Singh** Sheoran S/O Sh. Hoshiar Singh Sheoran R/O H.No. 3124 C-Block, Urban Estate, Jind Tehsil And Distt. Jind, Have Declare That In My Passport My Wife Name Is Recorded As Shankulita Devi Sheoran And My Mother Name Is Sujani Devi Sheoran. But True And Correct Name Of My Wife Is Shakuntla And Name Of My Mother Is Sujani Devi.

I, **Jaswinder Kaur** W/O Suchha Singh R/O Vill. Chudiyala Sub Tehsil Saha Distt. Ambala That I Have Changed My Name From Jasmero To Jaswinder Kaur. Concerned Note

I, **Rajbala Devi** (Existing Name) Wife Of No. Jc725447p Ex Sub Ramesh Kumar Resident Of H.No. 243, Sector 4, Rohtak, Tehsil & District Rohtak (Haryana) Have Changed My Name In My Husband Army Records From Rajbala Devi (Existing Name) To Rajbala (Proposed New Name) My Correct Dob 20.06.1970 Instead Of 02.11.1967 As Per My Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In Future I Shall May Be Known/Written And Called As Rajbala (Dob : 20.06.1970) For All Work Purposes, Vide Affidavit Dated 28 May 2024 Before Ist Class Magistrate Rohtak

I, **Murti Devi** (Existing Name) Wife Of No. 3169641p Ex Hav Jagdish Resident Of H. No. 134/06, Hanuman Colony, Rohtak, Tehsil & District Rohtak (Haryana) Have Changed My Name In My Husband Army Records From Murti Devi (Existing Name) To Ramrati (Proposed New Name) My Correct Dob 01.01.1959 Instead Of 02.09.1960 As Per My Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In Future I Shall May Be Known/Written And Called As Ramrati (Dob : 01.01.1959) For All Work Purposes, Vide Affidavit Dated 28 May 2024 Before Ist Class Magistrate Rohtak

I, **Vikas Chhabra** S/O Sh. Rajinder Kumar Chhabra R/O 390/4, Ram Nagar, Gurgaon-122001, Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name Saanvi To Saanvi Chhabra.

I, **Maggar Singh** Is Father Of Army No. 18001343x Rank: Hav Name-Harchand Singh Presently Posted At Unit: 70 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Permanent Address: Village: Rupowali Kalan, Kathu Nangal, Kathunangal, Amritsar, Punjab-143502 Have Changed My Name From Maggar Singh To Maghar Singh.Vide Affidavit No:Rd 0021441382, Dated-28-05-24

I, **Avtar Kaur** W/O Harkirpal Singh Sidhu R/O H.No-786, Sector-16 Panchkula Haryana-134109 Have Changed My Name From Avtar Kaur To Avtar Sidhu.

I, **Rajbala Devi** Is Mother Of Army No-153439631 Rank-Hav Krishan Pal Chawhan Presently Serving In 62 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Permanent Address- Vill-Shekhupura Imma, Post: Aawalpur, Amroha, Uttar Pradesh-244251 Have Changed My Name From Rajbala Devi To Rajbala And Also Change My Date Of Birth From 01/05/1955 To 01/01/1953. Affidavit No: Rd 0021441384, Dated: 28-05-24

I, **Jai Singh** S/O Sh. Badlu Ram R/O H.No. 840 Huda Plot Sector 19 Panchkula Haryana 134113, Declare That My Son Shiv Kumar And His Wife Suman Pal Are Completely Out Of My Control, Therefore Today I Disown My Son And His Wife From My Movable Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them Will Be Responsible At His/Her Own Risk. I Or My Family Will Have Nothing To Do With Them.

I, **Chhotey Singh** Is Father Of Army No-153439631 Rank-Hav Krishan Pal Chawhan Presently Serving In 62 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Permanent Address-Vill-Shekhupura Imma, Post: Aawalpur, Amroha, Amroha, Uttar Pradesh-244251 Have Changed My Name From Chhotey Singh To Chote Singh And Also Change My Date Of Birth From 03/05/1952 To 01/01/1950.Vide Affidavit No: Rd 0021441385,Dated:28-05-24

I, **Swaranjit Kaur** W/O Sh.Shiva Ram Vill. Purkhali, Teh & Distt Rupnagar Declare That My Son Harpreet Singh And His Wife Babita Is Out Of My Control. So,I Disown Him From My All Movable & Immovable Properties. I Will Not Be Responsible For Their Deal.

**Lost and Found**  
I Sachin Kumar r/o Village Sabalpur, Tehsil Sarswati Nagar, Distt Yamunanagar have lost my sale deed no. 4398 /dated 09.02.2012 & S270 / dated 21.12.2012 Plot No. 117 Kewat / Khatuani no. 4563 Khasra No.27/15/22- 28/18, 28/19, 20, 21, 28/22, 23,2 33/12,3,9,10 Mouja Sabalpur, Yamunanagar, somewhere in Saraswati Nagar on dated 14.04.2024. If anybody found, Kindly return to above-mentioned address or ICICI Bank Ltd Bhatia Nagar Yamunanagar branch to concern mortgage employee.

**Jasdev Singh Sandhu College of Education, Kauli, Patiala**  
Required regular Principal, Assistant Professor in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Science, Mathematics, Economics, Social Studies, History, Political Science, Sociology one each. Qualification & Salary as per Punjab University/Punjab Govt./UGC norms. Apply within 15 days at jss.patiala@yahoo.co.in (Chairman, Jasdev Singh Sandhu College of Education, Kauli, Patiala) and college-jobs.punjabuniversity.ac.in. 8725062301, 9780655991

**PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK** CIRCLE SASTRA, PATHANKOT

**AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLE**

Quotations are invited for auction of below mentioned Vehicles Financed by us on "As is where is" condition. As the below mentioned borrowers has defaulted in payment of EMIs of the Loan. Bank has seized the Vehicles and decided to Sale Vehicle through Auction on the date mentioned below :

Borrowers Name /Account No. & Name of the Branch	Details of the Vehicle	Outstanding Amount	Date of Notice	Vehicle Seized Date	Reserve Price EMD Amount
<b>Sh. Rinku S/o Sh. Parshotam Lal, R/o Ward no. 11, Mohalla Ghumiaran, Sujanpur, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot Pin Code 145023</b> Branch : Chak Bijura, Sujanpur	Hypothecation of Commercial Vehicle no. PB-06-BD-6348 (Auto) Chassis no. N5K87983 and Engine No J9224809, Make and Model: Mahindra and Alfa Passenger	Rs. 2,51,078/93 as on 31-03-2024	31-01-2024 to 29-02-2024	13-03-2024	Rs. 1,62,000/- Rs. 16,200/-

**DATE AND TIME OF AUCTION : 11-06-2024 AT 12:30 PM TO 01:30 PM**  
**LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS : 11-06-2024, BEFORE 12:00 NOON**

**Terms and Conditions :** (1) Quotations in Sealed Envelopes stating quotations for Car / Vehicle containing Bid Price to be submitted at PNB, above mentioned Branch Office or at Circle Office, Pathankot. (2) For deposit of EMD, use Account no. 20890037118A, Account Name: SUNDRY-NPA/SARFAESI, IFSC Code: PUNB0208900, PNB Model Town, Pathankot Branch (3) The Vehicle will not be sold below the Reserve Price or Minimum Indicative Value plus applicable other charges. (4) The successful bidder should deposit full amount within 24 hours of sale excluding Holiday. In case of the default of payment the sale will be cancelled and the amount whatsoever which has already been paid as EMD will be forfeited. Bank shall reserve the right to cancel/postpone the auction. (5) The successful bidder will also be responsible for getting the Registration Certificate of the vehicle transferred in his name at his own cost and copy of the documentary evidence for the same to be provided to this office. (6) The vehicle is available for inspection during banking hours at Luxmi Garden Colony, Near Water Tank, Dhaki Road, Pathankot (7) For further details contact Authorized Officer, PNB Circle SASTRA, Pathankot (M) 91155-54320 (Sh. Hira Lal Hans, Chief Manager) [Date : 29-05-2024 Place : Pathankot Sd/- Authorised Officer]

**DEVINE IMPEX LIMITED**  
CORPORATE OFFICE: C-157, 1st FLOOR, INDUSTRIAL FOCAL POINT, PHASE VII, MOHALI, PUNJAB, 160059  
EXTRACT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024 (Rupees in Lakhs)

PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended 31-Mar-2024	Quarter Ended 31-March-2023	Year Ended 31-Mar-2024
	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total income from operations (net)	103.79	92.24	176.10
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before exceptional items and tax)	1.89	4.85	5.13
Share in Net Profit/ (Loss) of an Associates	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	1.89	4.85	5.13
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	1.40	3.59	3.73
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit/(loss) for the period (after tax)]	1.40	3.59	3.73
Paid up Equity Share Capital (face value Rs. 10 per share)	953.22	953.22	953.22
Earnings Per Share(after exceptional items) (of Rs.10/- each) (Not Annualized except year ended 31.03.2023)			
- Basic (in Rs.)	0.01	0.04	0.04
- Diluted (in Rs.)	0.01	0.04	0.04

**NOTE: 1.** The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Audited Financial Results are available on the website of the company www.devineimp.in & Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com. **2.** The above financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the company at its meeting held on 28.05.2024. **3.** Company has only one segment and hence no separate segment results have been given. **4.** Previous period / year figures have been regrouped, wherever necessary, in order to make them comparable.

**Place: Mohali**  
**Date: 28/05/2024**

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Devine Impex Limited  
**NEERAJ JAIN, Managing Director**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Shal Tower, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ankur Sanon, Shefali Jain, House No-102, Blue City, Near Krishna Mandir Meerankot Khurd, Nangli, Amritsar, Punjab- 143008, A/c No.: LBAMT00006091528	Plot Private No.102, Measuring 114.88 Sq. Yards, Comprised In Khasra No.9/177min, Khata Khatoni No.300/461, as Per Jamabandi Year 2014-2015, Hadbasat No.343, Situated at Village Meeran Kot Khurd, Tehsil & District Amritsar, Punjab- 143001	08/05/2024 Rs. 1,14,362/-	*10/03/2024
2.	Harmanjit Singh Deol, Tejinder Kaur Deol, House No.13/89, Sohian Road, Guru Angad Nagar, Sangrur, Punjab-148001, A/c No.: LBPAT00006294278	Property 1: Property House Measuring 1 Biswa 8.1/2 Biswas Pukhta (214.23 Sq Yards) Being 214/9480 Share of Total Land Measuring 3 Bighe 3 Biswe 3.99 Biswas Pukhta, Comprised In Khata No.38/44 To 49, Khasra No.61/2/2-3-6, 277/0-1, 554/5/2/min 0-2-13, 554/5/2/min 0-0-13.66, 555/5/2/min 0-3-7, 557/5/2/0-5-11, 556/5/2/0-6-13.33, as Per Jamabandi Year 2018-2019, Situated at Inside Road, Village Kammomajra Khurd, Tehsil and District Sangrur, Punjab- 148001.; Property 2: Property Measuring 1 Biswa 6.2/3 Biswas Pukhta Being 5/237 Share of 3 Bighe 3 Biswa 4 Biswas Pukhta, Comprised In Khata No.8/16, 17, 18, Killa No. 61/2/min 1-7-15, 277/0-1-0, 5/2/min 0-9-9, 61/2/min 0-15-11, 5/2/min 0-9-9, as Per Jamabandi Year 1988-89, Situated at Village Kammomajara Khurd, Tehsil And District Sangrur, Punjab- 148001.	08/05/2024 Rs. 14,30,916/-	*04/03/2024
3.	Harmanjit Singh Deol, Tejinder Kaur Deol, House No.13/89, Sohian Road, Guru Angad Nagar, Sangrur, Punjab-148001, A/c No.: LBSAN00005996321	Property 1: Property House Measuring 1 Biswa 8.1/2 Biswas Pukhta (214.23 Sq Yards) Being 214/9480 Share of Total Land Measuring 3 Bighe 3 Biswe 3.99 Biswas Pukhta, Comprised In Khata No.38/44 To 49, Khasra No.61/2/2-3-6, 277/0-1, 554/5/2/min 0-2-13, 554/5/		









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PAPER WITH PASSION

## A positive vote

The highest voter turnout in Kashmir in three decades bodes well for Assembly polls

At a time when almost the entire nation is reluctant to exercise its franchise, Kashmiris have shown courage and resilience to come out and vote despite its high-risk perception. Only Kashmir and Bengal have shown a surge in voter turnout this election. Bengal's case is understandable as it has been a political State all along but Kashmir has never shown such keen interest in general elections as in 2024. This surge in civic participation is being hailed by the Election Commission (EC) as a promising indicator for the forthcoming Assembly elections. It is being seen as a crucial step towards the restoration of democracy in the State. On August 5, 2019, the Government of India abrogated Article 370, which granted special autonomy to the region of Jammu and Kashmir. The move was accompanied by a series of political and administrative changes, including the bifurcation of the State into the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The decision was met with mixed reactions, both domestically and internationally, and led to a period of political instability and security concerns in the region. In the aftermath of this significant constitutional change, the Central Government has focused on integrating the region more closely with the rest of India, promising development, investment and a return to normalcy. One of the key components of this strategy has been the re-establishment of a democratic framework through local and Assembly elections. However, the biggest impediment had been people's resistance and mistrust of the civic authorities.



Now that they have voted in high numbers, they have in a way shown their willingness to have a democratic Government at the State level. The recent elections, which saw the highest voter turnout in three decades, mark a significant milestone in this process. The voter participation was markedly higher compared to previous elections, indicating a renewed faith in the democratic process among the Valley residents. This increase in voter turnout can be attributed to several factors, including improved security and Government initiative. This unprecedented voter turnout is a good omen for the upcoming Assembly elections. These elections are viewed as a pivotal moment for the restoration of democratic governance in J&K. The high turnout suggests that the people are eager to participate in the democratic process and would have their voices heard in governance. Their active civic engagement is essential for the legitimacy and success of the Assembly elections. It also reflects a broader acceptance of the political changes that have occurred since the abrogation of Article 370. Despite this positive development, several challenges remain. Additionally, the Government and EC need to address the grievances and aspirations of various sections of people to maintain the momentum of democratic engagement. Now the poll panel must ensure that the upcoming elections are free, fair and transparent, with a focus on maintaining the momentum of increased voter participation.

Government at the State level. The recent elections, which saw the highest voter turnout in three decades, mark a significant milestone in this process. The voter participation was markedly higher compared to previous elections, indicating a renewed faith in the democratic process among the Valley residents. This increase in voter turnout can be attributed to several factors, including improved security and Government initiative. This unprecedented voter turnout is a good omen for the upcoming Assembly elections. These elections are viewed as a pivotal moment for the restoration of democratic governance in J&K. The high turnout suggests that the people are eager to participate in the democratic process and would have their voices heard in governance. Their active civic engagement is essential for the legitimacy and success of the Assembly elections. It also reflects a broader acceptance of the political changes that have occurred since the abrogation of Article 370. Despite this positive development, several challenges remain. Additionally, the Government and EC need to address the grievances and aspirations of various sections of people to maintain the momentum of democratic engagement. Now the poll panel must ensure that the upcoming elections are free, fair and transparent, with a focus on maintaining the momentum of increased voter participation.

### PICTALK



Students celebrate with their teacher over Secondary School Certificate (SSC) results, in Mumbai

# India needs substantial defence investment



ASHOK K MEHTA

The BJP's defence manifesto, dubbed 'Modi ki guarantee,' pledges robust security measures but faces criticism for overlooking persistent threats and insufficient defence spending

India's Twin Challenges Warrant Active Deterrence: Achievable through Investment in Defence BJP's defence and national security manifesto is Modi ki guarantee for Surakshit Bharat. It launched a massive 15-day campaign to invite suggestions through face-to-face meetings and the NaMo app from around 10 mn supporters. The election manifesto is immersed in Modi pictures and a surfeit of Modi ki guarantees. There is plenty the BJP is taking credit for. Eliminating terrorism though attacks occurred only last week in J&K. Cross Border Terrorism has a tragic history: attack on Parliament in December 2001 (under BJP rule) and Mumbai 2008 under United Progressive Alliance (UPA) dispensation. In 2001 BJP applied coercive diplomacy -Operation Parakaram- which was partially successful. In 2008 UPA exercised strategic restraint — doing nothing. Its zero tolerance for terrorism was demonstrated by Uri and Myanmar surgical strikes in 2016 and Balakot air strikes in 2019. These created deterrence against spectacular terrorism. BJP's claim of no attack in the last decade is wrong; terrorists struck at Pathankot, Pulwama and Uri Brigade Headquarters and 2950 civilians and security forces were killed in terrorist-related incidents between 2014 and 2023. BJP's inventory of achievements is impressive: revocation of Article 370, 52 per cent reduction in Left Wing Terrorism, with Home Minister Amit Shah declaring it will be crushed within three years. There is an overall decline of 73 per cent in the insurgency in the northeast but no mention of Manipur where violence has continued for one year and repelling ordered twice. Manipur, a serious embarrassment for the Government will reignite insurgency. Given the violent situation on the India-Myanmar border, with the Junta fighting a losing battle with rebels, Myanmar will present a major threat to the North East. Hailing CDS as an achievement, the BJP emphasised the completion of theorisation soonest. Further infrastructure development in the northern



borders is matched by a thrust towards the security of the Indian Ocean Region. Defence manufacturing and Atmanirbharta figure prominently under Making India a Global Manufacturing Hub. There is no mention of China or Pakistan and dealing with the twin threats they pose even as the opposition has attacked the Government for loss of territory in east Ladakh which the Government has denied emphatically. Clean chit to China will resolve the border dispute on India's terms difficult if not impossible. Restoration of status quo ante (April 20, 2020), demanded by successive Army Chiefs, is also not realizable. The lack of political guidance to the Armed Forces is a major deficiency. The first indication in four years that agreement on theorisation is nearing came from RM Rajnath Singh this month. Leaving it to the CDS whose operational role is unclear to obtain consensus on the allocation of resources, the job profile of service Chiefs when theatre commanders are in place and operational command and control of theatres is unworkable without inputs from RM and NSA to CDS. Equally, NSA Ajit Doval and the National Security Council Secretariat have to update the National Security Strategy submitted by Integrated Defence Staff in 2021. Surprisingly, the Government has not taken



DEFENCE ALLOCATION HAS PLUMMETED FROM A HIGH OF 3.5 PER CENT IN CONGRESS RULE IN THE LATE 1980s WHEN I WAS A MEMBER OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING STAFF TO LESS THAN 2 PER CENT TODAY, EVEN WHEN THE GDP HAS RISEN EXPONENTIALLY

these two interlinked issues — Theatrisation and NSS— seriously enough. Speculation is rife these will happen within one year of BJP 3.0. During the UPA rule, NSS was prepared thrice. The issue most befuddling is the static of defence spending on which the 2024 BJP manifesto is silent. The Congress on the other hand has Stated in its current manifesto that it will arrest the decline in defence spending and allocate sufficient funds. Sufficiency of funds is a challenge no Government has addressed. Defence allocation has plummeted from a high of 3.5 per cent in Congress rule in the late 1980s when I was a member of the Defence Planning Staff to less than 2 per cent today even when the GDP has risen exponentially. The latest SIPRI report shows India's defence budget is USD 84bn compared to China's USD 296 bn. In defence allocation, for 2024-25, defence outlay was increased by 4.7 per cent which is the lowest in ten years (except in 2020-21) when it was 1.45 per cent of the GDP. As a percentage of GDP defence spending has not reached even 2 per cent at a time when two full-fledged wars are being fought along with several skirmishes. The capital budget for modernisation best illustrates the parsimony: the gap between the amount demanded and the amount allocated in 2015-16

was Rs 16,646 crore while in 2022-23 it rose to Rs 63,328 crore. Government officials offer the perennial excuse that defence forces can't spend the money. Amit Cowshish who was financial advisor (Acquisition) a decade ago says the 1.9 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal is 13 per cent of Government expenditure. A defence spending budget which is 3 per cent of GDP alone can begin to catch up with China in military capability. The rest of the world is investing hugely in defence with 31 Nato nations committed to reaching 2 per cent of GDP with the UK pledging to reach 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2027. Even pacifist Japan has decided to put aside the 1 per cent spending on defence constitutional limitation and will spend 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2027 and invest USD 315 bn to augment capabilities and deterrence. The capital cost of catheterisation and attendant reforms have to be factored in. Modi has to bite the bullet to deter China and with Jaishankar try to make the twin threat challenge one-front. Modi's This is not the era of war is day-dreaming! (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Domestic airfares remain globally low



Proposed the news story "Domestic airfares on a northward trajectory; still among the lowest globally, say experts," published on May 27, this is my response. As a regular newspaper reader, the escalating airfares in India, soaring up to 40 per cent, have caught my attention. Despite being among the lowest globally, the recent surge reflects the challenges faced by the aviation industry, primarily due to capacity constraints exacerbated by supply chain issues. The rise in fares, though significant in percentage, seems less drastic considering inflationary pressures. Industry experts suggest this trend may persist until FY2026, signaling a structural shift. However, the affordability of air travel in India, compared to developed markets, remains commendable. The discourse around finding a balance between operational efficiency and revenue generation is crucial. Airlines must navigate this delicate equilibrium to ensure sustainability in a dynamic market landscape. Achieving profitability at varying load factors underscores the complexity of the aviation business, emphasising the need for adaptive strategies. In essence, while the surge in airfares may present short-term challenges, addressing underlying capacity issues and maintaining a balance between cost and revenue is imperative for long-term viability.

Aaradhya Patel | Delhi

recruitment. In disregarding calls from its closest ally, the US, Israel is undermining the rules-based global order. About 143 countries have supported full UN membership for Palestine and three European countries—Ireland, Norway and Spain—have decided to formally recognise Palestine as a State for 'peace in the Middle East'. Israel's friends and partners, the US in particular, need to stress to Tel Aviv the diminishing returns of its current course of action. The peace and security in the region and the fate of the multilateral rules-based order hang in the balance. Disruptions like these have a long-term ripple effect on an already tense world.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

#### MARVELLOUS ANATOMY OF A BRANCH

Madam — Apropos the news story "Genesis of Growth: From Bud to Branch," published on May 26, this is my response. The intricate anatomy of a branch is a testament to the remarkable adaptability and resilience of trees. From the initial bud formation to the eventual shedding of

unproductive branches, each stage of growth is a masterclass in strategic planning and resource allocation. The delicate balance between auxin and cytokinin hormones ensures that the tree grows in a way that maximises its exposure to sunlight and minimises shading, while the development of lignin provides a robust defence against pathogens and pests. The branching patterns of trees are a reflection of their genetic makeup and environmental conditions, with different species adopting various strategies to optimise their growth and survival. The branches themselves serve as vital conduits for water and nutrient transport, providing habitat and support for a diverse range of organisms. Ultimately, the cycle of growth and retreat in trees serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of change and the wisdom of knowing when to let go, inspiring us to adapt and evolve in our own lives.

Kiara Mehta | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Nurture dreams with open eyes and determination

Believe in the power of continued dreaming and the importance of supporting others in their journey towards realising their aspirations



SANJAY CHANDRA

Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon on 21 July 1969. We read about the historical event in the newspapers the next day. I think on a subconscious level, the event sowed the seed of the first dream that I saw with open eyes. For days on end, all that I could think of was ways to create a miniature earth and moon within the confines of our bedroom and the ways that I could send my own Apollo to the moon. My dreams kept on evolving. At that stage, all that I would look forward to was to move to the next class with good marks. Much later, coming from a family of first-generation engineers, it was only natural for me to join an engineering course. Towards the end of my course, I started dreaming of becoming an entrepreneur. I realised the difficulties in pursuing this goal at that stage due to the limitations of a middle-class background. I parked my dream, to be retrieved at an appropriate time. I thought of my next steps. At the age of 21, it was only



natural to dream of a good job, followed by marriage and children and promotions; till I realised that I wanted something beyond the predictable routine of a Government job. This led me to join the private sector. It was now time to bring forward my earlier dream of being an entrepreneur. The dreams kept on evolving with my advancing age; some were discarded, some were attained and few remain, hoping for fruition in the years to come. One unfulfilled dream is to help others, much younger and less privileged than me, to dream. A child is born a child. It does not know the meaning of being

poor, till others make it conscious of the disparity. I firmly believe that each human being dreams with open eyes; it could be a prayer to be able to see the dawn next day, a hope that the wages would be better tomorrow, or the belief in a better life. I know a couple, now settled in America, who have started a foundation to assist the underprivileged young. The lady passionately told me about the introductory annual session that they arrange for the youngsters, usually at some rated property, to give them exposure to a life that currently is beyond their means, but which they might be able to lead one day if they pursue their dreams. I was sceptical as I thought that such an environment might be too intimidating. My fears might be unfounded. The Internet has made available a plethora of possibilities to the younger generation. A young boy, whose education we have been supporting for the past few years, wants to be an astronaut. He might not

make it, but the best advice that I could give him and others, is to continue to dream even if you fail — there is always something new to look forward to. We know of people who get paralysed or lose their eyesight and sometimes even their limbs. Yet, there are many instances of people overcoming their handicaps through sheer grit and courage. A visually impaired young woman found dumped in a waste bin 25 years back, cleared Maharashtra services examinations recently. There are many more around us. All that they need is for someone to help them nurture their dreams. We need only to remember writer Mary Anne Radmacher, "Nurturing is not complex. It's simply being tuned in to the thing or person before you and offering small gestures toward what it needs at that time." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)





## FIRST COLUMN

## THE MYSTICAL NATURE OF SHIVA'S THIRD EYE

It is a potent symbol of destruction, creation and spiritual awakening



SWAMI CHARANASHRIT

In Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva, the destroyer and transformer among the Trimurti, is often depicted with a third eye on his forehead. This eye is not just a physical feature but a powerful symbol with deep spiritual and metaphysical connotations.

## The Origin of Shiva's Third Eye

The third eye of Shiva, also known as the "eye of wisdom," is associated with many legends and mythological stories. One prominent story explains how Shiva's third eye emerged. It is said that when Shiva was in deep meditation, Kamadeva, the god of love, attempted to disturb his meditation by shooting an arrow of desire. In his fury, Shiva opened his third eye, from which a powerful beam of fire emerged, reducing Kamadeva to ashes. This event not only signifies the destructive aspect of Shiva but also underscores the concept of burning away desires and illusions to achieve a higher State of consciousness.

## Symbolic Meaning

**Spiritual Insight:** The third eye is often seen as the center of higher consciousness and wisdom. It represents the ability to see beyond the physical and perceive the underlying truths of the universe. In this sense, Shiva's third eye signifies spiritual awakening and enlightenment.

**Destruction and Regeneration:** Shiva's third eye embodies his role as the destroyer of evil and ignorance. The fire that emanates from the third eye symbolises the destruction of impurities and the subsequent regeneration and purification of the soul. This destructive power is necessary for the creation of a new and purer State of being.

**Inner Vision:** Beyond its destructive capabilities, the third eye is also a source of inner vision and clarity. It allows Shiva to see beyond the superficial and understand the deeper realities of existence. This inner vision is essential for guiding his actions and decisions, making Shiva a just and wise deity.



## Cultural and Religious Significance

The third eye holds profound importance in various aspects of Hindu culture and spirituality. It is often associated with the "Ajna" or "brow" chakra, one of the seven primary chakras in the human body, which is believed to govern intuition and insight. Practitioners of meditation and yoga often focus on this chakra to develop their inner vision and achieve spiritual growth.

In iconography, Shiva's third eye is frequently depicted in sculptures, paintings and other forms of art. It serves as a reminder of the deity's transcendent powers and his ability to look beyond the ordinary. Temples dedicated to Shiva often have representations of the third eye, symbolising the presence of divine wisdom and protection.

## The Third Eye in Contemporary Understanding

In modern times, the concept of the third eye has transcended religious boundaries and has been embraced in various spiritual and esoteric traditions around the world. It is commonly associated with the pineal gland in the brain, which is thought to play a role in regulating circadian rhythms and has been linked to mystical experiences.

For many spiritual seekers, the third eye represents the pursuit of higher knowledge and self-awareness. Practices such as meditation, mindfulness and certain forms of yoga are often aimed at "opening" the third eye, enabling individuals to gain deeper insights into their lives and the universe. Shiva's third eye encapsulates the essence of Shiva's role in the Hindu pantheon as a deity who destroys in order to create anew, who sees beyond the physical to understand the profound truths of existence. The third eye serves as a guiding light towards enlightenment and inner peace, reminding us of the power of true vision and the necessity of transcending the illusions of the material world.

*(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)*

## Creating food systems for tropical climate



ISHOO RATNESH SRIVASTAVA

As climate change reshapes our environment, its impact on food systems becomes clear. We must model our food systems for resilience to ensure food security in a warmer world



Climate change is bound to affect our food systems. The impact of rising CO2 levels may impact crop yields in complex ways like altering plant metabolism, changing soil fertility, erosion by pests and several others. Thus our food systems must be modelled for resilience in a warmer world. While we must make behavioural shifts in our food habits, it is also important to revisit history to learn how science has contributed to addressing the food question in the past. The introduction of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) during the Green Revolution made us overcome the Malthusian trap in the mid-20th century, which threatened a mass starvation-like situation. HYVs produced more grains per plant, requiring less land and resources, however, the use of fertilisers and pesticides also increased.

## Targeted &amp; Precision Gene Editing

Genetic alterations in plant breeding are both natural and human-induced and have been there for years. These methods involve cross-breeding, altering DNA with radiation or planting a gene like a pest-resistant Bt gene inserted in the cotton seed. The conventional methods for human interventions involve changes in a large part of a plant's genetics, resulting in both intended and uncertain consequences like enhancing one trait and an inadvertent suppression of others. However, technologies like CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) offer precision cut-and-paste-like operations at the ladder level in the DNA helix (the nucleotides).

This accuracy thus minimises the risk of unintended edits in the genetic material. The tool is derived from natural defence systems in bacteria and the



GENETIC ALTERATIONS IN PLANT BREEDING ARE BOTH NATURAL AND HUMAN-INDUCED AND HAVE BEEN THERE FOR YEARS. THESE METHODS INVOLVE CROSS-BREEDING, ALTERING DNA WITH RADIATION, OR PLANTING A GENE LIKE A PEST-RESISTANT BT GENE INSERTED IN THE COTTON SEED

breakthrough led to a Nobel Prize win for Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier in the year 2020.

To get a more intuitive feel of the technology, think of the conventional gene editing technologies similar to a random insertion of a chapter in a book which might look rather messy whereas CRISPR has the ability of adding that chapter well aligned with the context and information flow of that book. Although not entirely free of risks, it is widely believed that CRISPR holds immense potential for creating climate-resilient crops like a wheat plant thriving in summer, similar to how the HYVs addressed the challenges during the Green Revolution.

## The AI Advantage :

Proteins are the building blocks of life. These proteins are synthesised upon activation of certain genes in the plant or animal cell. One of the biggest mysteries of life on earth is to understand what triggers the synthesis of a particular protein in a cell and how a protein molecule is shaped in 3-D, as this understanding helps in determining the protein's function and how it would interact with other such molecules to create organ structures or say an enzyme.

AI tools like Google's AlphaFold attempt to predict these 3-D structures of protein molecules by reading the cellular codes in the form of amino acid sequences. It's quite similar to imagining a complex machine and its functional-

merely by reading the instruction booklet meant for its assembly. No doubt an AI-enabled enhanced and faster understanding of life's fundamental systems like the protein structures can help in the creation of more resilient crop varieties. Key Concerns: No doubt there are risks associated with gene edits. It is very much like tinkering with life's basic systems and this may have consequences beyond the intended genetic material, species, geographies and time horizons. Beyond the perceived threat of these scientific misadventures, there are ethical concerns associated as well like the creation of designer babies or large corporations monopolising the technology.

## Way Forward:

While we must tread with caution in the gene space, we should also realise that genetically modified organisms have already entered into the world's food systems. A large part of animal feed is genetically engineered and several ingredients in human food too have such modifications.

The benefits of gene tech are not limited to food crops rather they have path-breaking implications on human health in terms of disease prevention or cure and myriad others. The recent introduction of indigenous CAR-T cell therapy by India, targeted towards genetically engineering T cells (immune system cells) for cancer cure is one such example. The Indian Council of

Agricultural Research is working in the field of CRISPR to develop crop varieties suitable to the country's needs.

The need of the hour is to build robust knowledge systems, invest in genetic engineering research, create robust institutional mechanisms for stakeholder collaboration including the consumers and envisage regulations that blend civilisational ethics and the tenets of contemporary science. In conclusion, climate change necessitates a resilient approach to our food systems, incorporating advanced technologies like CRISPR for precise genetic modifications.

This innovative tool, inspired by natural bacterial defenses, offers targeted solutions for creating climate-resilient crops with minimal unintended effects.

Combined with AI advancements in understanding protein structures, these technologies promise significant improvements in agricultural productivity and sustainability. While ethical and safety concerns remain, the benefits of genetic engineering extend beyond agriculture to human health.

By investing in research, fostering collaboration and establishing ethical regulations, we can harness these advancements to secure our food future in a warming world.

*(The author is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers. He has been a UK Commonwealth Scholar; views are personal)*

## Time to prioritise human life over commerce

The Ghatkopar tragedy underscores the urgent need for stricter safety measures and accountability to prevent future incidents driven by commercial greed

In a massive human tragedy, involving human negligence, 16 innocent lives were lost and almost 75 people were injured when a hoarding fell on a petrol pump in Ghatkopar, a suburb in Mumbai on May 13. It is guessed that the hoarding had a weak foundation and probably fell due to the heavy winds that were blowing that day and struck several people who were present at a nearby petrol pump. It is learnt that the hoarding was three times the size sanctioned by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and stood on the land owned by the Government Railway Police (GRP). The advertising panel that held the hoarding in question was put by Ego Media whose owner Bhavesh Bhide



SIDDHARTHA MISHRA

was arrested in this connection on Thursday. This incident would not have occurred if care had been taken by those who are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring observance of legal norms. Any damage or harm caused to persons, naturally, raises concerns of some kind of negligence or human carelessness. It is apparent that some negligence was involved and legal norms were violated.

There was negligence on the part of the people who put up such a dangerous advertising panel as well as the local authorities.

The natural question here is why was the company allowed to put an advertising panel, that posed danger to human lives, in violation of the relevant norms and why some action to remove such a dangerous panel was not taken in time by the concerned authorities. There is clear negligence of the owners and workers of the company that put this panel on the public road as they could reasonably foresee that such a panel may cause harm or injury if care is not taken. But there is also apparent negligence of the local authorities whose accountability is required to be fixed

as their responsibility is to keep watch on city roads and, wherever necessary, take quick action to prevent accidents and damage. In this particular matter also, there is an obvious indifference towards the breach of duty and negligence as is apparent in the general attitude of apathy and lackadaisical approach in the Government functionaries as well as among the common people in India. This incident has posed many questions involving faulty urban governance in Indian cities as well as highlighting the general apathy towards human life in our country.

There is no doubt that the Ghatkopar incident was an accident and accidents do occur despite precautions and they happen even in the most

developed nations. But incidents and accidents causing deaths, injuries and damages are rampant in India, perhaps, much more than in any other country.

The national newspapers are full of news of deaths, injuries and damages caused either due to road accidents, dog attacks, fire incidents, drowning in rivers, lakes and swimming pools or due to negligence in many other situations including while doing medical procedures. What is surprising is that such news does not invite or attract much public reaction and only some hue and cry is raised in bigger matters for some time which is gradually forgotten. The Government officials also do not seem much bothered by such incidents and they also respond

momentarily to assuage the public outcry for the time being.

The thought that perplexes one here is how unfortunately so many innocent and precious lives were lost and what impact it would have had on their family members. Many of those who died must have been the sole breadwinners in the family on whose income the family may have been dependent. The unexpected deaths of near ones and injuries to those who survived must have caused huge shock and left indelible marks on the psyches of relatives and injured that will remain a constant source of pain for them for the rest of their lives. The loss of relatives as well as the source of income will turn this tragedy into a double

jeopardy for the shattered and grieving family members.

Anyone, with an awakened mind and a sensitive heart, who is witnessing rampant human tragedies regularly happening in India, naturally shudders to think about whether there is any guarantee of security or value of human life in this country. Ghatkopar tragedy among other such incidents again compels one to think that whether every individual, in this country, is so insecure and vulnerable that anything can happen to them anytime and anywhere and there is always a possibility of an accident occurring with them due to negligence and callous apathy of others towards human life. This dismal atmosphere makes the author recall a Statement

from a friend's son who had long back gone to study in England. When asked about the difference in life between India and England, he sadly quipped that in England people do not let even their animals die and go to every extent to save their lives, but in India, we see people regularly dying like animals, without much compassion being felt by Government or people. Hope that the Ghatkopar incident will raise concerns and make the Government and people more careful and responsible and a general atmosphere of care and value for human life shall prevail to save precious human lives in our nation.

*(The author is a Sr Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, the University of Delhi; views are personal)*



# Spain, Norway and Ireland formally recognise Palestinian state

## EU rift with Israel widens

AP ■ BARCELONA

Spain, Norway and Ireland formally recognised a Palestinian state on Tuesday in a coordinated effort by the three western European nations to add international pressure on Israel to soften its devastating response to last year's Hamas-led attack. Tel Aviv slammed the diplomatic move that will have no immediate impact on its grinding war in Gaza.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez told his nation in a televised address from Madrid that "this is a historic decision that has a single goal, and that is to help Israelis and Palestinians achieve peace". Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz quickly lashed out at Spain on X, saying Sánchez's government was "being complicit in inciting genocide against Jews and war crimes".

Ireland and Norway soon joined Spain in formalizing a decision they had jointly announced the previous week. The Palestinian flag was raised in Dublin outside Leinster House, the seat of the Irish parliament. "This is an important moment and I think it sends a signal to the world that there are practical actions you can take as a country to help keep the hope and destination of a two-state solution alive at a time when others are trying to sadly bomb it into oblivion," Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said before his Cabinet meets to formally sign off on the decision.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said in a statement that "for more than 30 years, Norway has been one of the strongest advocates for a Palestinian state. Today, when Norway officially recognizes Palestine as a state, is a milestone in the relationship between Norway and Palestine."

While some 140 countries have

recognised a Palestinian state - more than two-thirds of the United Nations - none of the major Western powers has done so. Still, the adherence of three European countries to the group represents a victory for Palestinian efforts in the world of public opinion, and will likely put pressure on EU heavyweights France and Germany to rethink their position.

Relations between the EU and Israel have nosedived with the diplomatic recognitions by two EU members, and Madrid insisting on Monday that the EU should take measures against Israel for its continued deadly attacks in southern Gaza's city of Rafah.

After Monday's meeting of EU foreign ministers, Irish Foreign Minister Micheál Martin said "for the first time at an EU meeting, in a real way, I have seen a significant discussion on sanctions" for Israel. Harris, the Irish leader, insisted Tuesday the EU should consider economic sanctions for Israel, saying "Europe could be doing a hell of a lot more". Norway, which is not an EU member but often aligns its foreign policy with the bloc, handed diplomatic papers to the Palestinian government over the weekend ahead of its formal recognition.

At the same time, the EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell threw his weight behind the International Criminal Court, whose prosecutor is seeking an arrest warrant against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and others, including leaders of the Hamas militant group. The formal declaration and resulting diplomatic dispute come over seven months into an assault waged by Israel following the Oct 7 Hamas-led attack in which militants stormed across the Gaza border into Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage. Israel's air and land attacks have killed 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians. Last week's joint announce-

ment by Spain, Ireland and Norway triggered an angry response from Israeli authorities, which summoned the countries' ambassadors in Tel Aviv to the Foreign Ministry, where they were filmed while being shown videos of the Oct 7 Hamas attack and abductions.

Slovenia's Prime Minister Robert Golob said Monday his government will decide on the recognition of a Palestinian state on Thursday and forward its decision to parliament for final approval.

The United States and Britain, among others, back the idea of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel but say it should come as part of a negotiated settlement. Netanyahu's government says the conflict can only be resolved through direct negotiations.

In his speech on Tuesday, Sánchez said that the recognition of a Palestinian state was "a decision that we do not adopt against anyone, least of all against Israel, a friendly people whom we respect, whom we appreciate and with whom we want to have the best possible relationship".

The Socialist leader has spent months touring European and Middle Eastern countries, including stops in Oslo and Dublin, to garner support for the recognition of a Palestinian state. He called for a permanent cease-fire, for stepping up humanitarian aid into Gaza and for the release of hostages still held by Hamas.

Spain's foreign minister, José Manuel Albares, will meet with the Arab Contact Group in Spain's capital on Wednesday, including Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan.

Sánchez said that his intention was to back the beleaguered Palestinian Authority, which lost effective political control of Gaza to Hamas. He laid out his vision for a state ruled by the Palestinian Authority that must

connect the West Bank and Gaza via a corridor with east Jerusalem as its capital.

The Western-backed Palestinian Authority administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, cooperates with Israel on security matters and favors a negotiated two-state solution. Its forces were driven out of Gaza by Hamas when the militants seized power there in 2007.

The Palestinians have long sought an independent state in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. The idea of a land corridor linking Gaza and the West Bank through Israel was discussed in previous rounds of peace talks, but no serious or substantive peace negotiations have been held in over 15 years.

"We will not recognise changes in the 1967 border lines other than those agreed to by the parties," Sánchez added. "Furthermore, this decision reflects our absolute rejection of Hamas, a terrorist organisation who is against the two-state solution," Sánchez said. "From the outset, Spain has strongly condemned the terrorist attacks of Oct 7. This clear condemnation is the resounding expression of our steadfast commitment in the fight against terrorism. I would like to underline that starting tomorrow we would focus all our efforts to implement the two state solution and make it a reality."

Ireland's government said that it will appoint an ambassador and create a full embassy in Ramallah in the West Bank. Israel, which rejects the possibility of Palestinian statehood, recalled its ambassadors to Ireland, Norway and Spain after they announced the decision last week. Norway's Barth Eide added Tuesday that "it is regrettable that the Israeli government shows no signs of engaging constructively." "The recognition is a strong expression of support for moderate forces in both countries," Norway's top diplomat said.

# Israeli army says it used small munitions in Rafah airstrike

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH

The Israeli military says an initial investigation into a strike that sparked a deadly weekend fire in a tent camp in the southern Gaza city of Rafah has found the blaze was caused by a secondary explosion.

Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, the chief military spokesman, said Tuesday that the military fired two 17-kg (37-pound) munitions that targeted two senior Hamas militants. He said the munitions would have been too small to ignite a fire on their own and the military is looking into the possibility that weapons were stored in the area.

Palestinian health officials say at least 45 people, around half of them women and children, were killed in Sunday's strike. The fire also could have ignited fuel, cooking gas canisters or other materials in the densely populated camp housing displaced people.



Children light candles during a march against Israel and in solidarity with Palestinians in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, on the Mediterranean Sea corniche in Beirut, Lebanon, Monday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged Monday that a "tragic mistake" had been made after an Israeli strike in the southern Gaza city of Rafah set fire to a tent camp housing displaced Palestinians and killed at least 45 people, according to local officials. AP/PTI

The strike caused widespread outrage, including from some of Israel's closest allies. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was the result of a "tragic mishap". New strikes in the same western Tel al-Sultan district of

Rafah that was hit Sunday killed at least 16 Palestinians, the Palestinian Civil Defence and the Palestinian Red Crescent said Tuesday. Residents reported an escalation of fighting in the southern Gaza city once seen as the territory's last refuge.

An Israeli incursion launched in early May has caused nearly 1 million to flee from Rafah, most of whom had already been displaced in the war between Israel and Hamas. They now seek refuge in squalid tent camps and other war-ravaged areas.

The United States and other allies of Israel have warned against a full-fledged offensive in the city, with the Biden administration saying that would cross a red line and refusing to provide offensive arms for such an undertaking. On Friday, the International Court of Justice called on Israel to halt its Rafah offensive, an order it has no power to enforce.

# Missile attack damages ship in Red Sea off Yemen's coast

AP ■ DUBAI

A missile attack damaged a ship Tuesday in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen, with a private security firm saying radio traffic suggested the vessel took on water after being struck. No group immediately claimed responsibility, but suspicion immediately fell on Yemen's Houthi rebels, who have launched a number of attacks targeting ships over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The attack happened off the port city of Hodeida in the southern Red Sea, near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait that links it to the Gulf of Aden, according to the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre. The vessel "sustained damage" in the assault and later reported an "impact in the water in close

proximity to the vessel," the UKMTO said. "The crew are reported safe and the vessel is proceeding to its next port of call," the centre said.

The private security firm Ambrey said the vessel reported by radio of having "sustained damage to the cargo hold and was taking on water."

The location of the attack corresponded to the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Laax. The vessel reported being heading to Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates. Grehel Ship Management of Piraeus, Greece, manages the Laax. A man who answered the phone at Grehel declined to answer questions about the attack and an emailed request for comment was not returned.

The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge the attack, though it can take the rebels

hours or even days to claim their assaults.

The Houthis have launched attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden in recent months, demanding that Israel ends the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians there. The war began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage. The rebels have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the United States Maritime Administration. Shipping through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has declined because of the threat. In recent weeks, the tempo of Houthi attacks has dropped, though the rebels have claimed shooting down US surveillance drones.

# Pope apologises for using vulgar term about gays

Vatican City (AP) - Pope Francis apologised Tuesday after he was quoted using a vulgar term about gays to reaffirm the Catholic Church's ban on gay priests.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunetti issued a statement acknowledging the media storm that erupted about Francis' comments, which were delivered behind closed doors to Italian bishops on May 20.

Italian media on Monday had quoted unnamed Italian bishops in reporting that Francis jokingly used the term "faggotness" while speaking in Italian during the encounter. He had used the term in reaffirming the Vatican's ban on allowing gay men to enter seminaries and be ordained priests.

# OpenAI starts training latest AI model

San Francisco (AP) - OpenAI says it's setting up a safety and security committee and has begun training a new AI model to supplant the GPT-4 system that underpins its ChatGPT chatbot.

The San Francisco startup said in a blog post Tuesday that the committee will advise the full board on "critical safety and security decisions" for its projects and operations. The safety committee arrives as debate swirls around AI safety at the company, which was thrust into the spotlight after a researcher, Jan Leike, resigned and levelled criticism at OpenAI for letting safety "take a backseat to shiny products."

OpenAI co-founder and chief scientist Ilya Sutskever also resigned, and the company disbanded the "superalignment" team focused on AI risks that they jointly led. OpenAI said it has "recently begun training its next frontier model" and its AI models lead the industry on capability and safety, though it made no mention of the controversy. "We welcome a robust debate at this important moment," the company said. AI models are prediction systems that are trained on vast datasets to generate on-demand text, images, video and human-like conversation. Frontier models are the most powerful, cutting edge AI systems.

The safety committee is filled with company insiders, including OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Chairman Bret Taylor, and four OpenAI technical and policy experts. It also includes board members Adam D'Angelo, who's the CEO of Quora, and Nicole Seligman, a former Sony general counsel.

The committee's first job will be to evaluate and further develop OpenAI's processes and safeguards and make its recommendations to the board in 90 days. The company said it will then publicly release the recommendations it's adopting "in a manner that is consistent with safety and security."

# Md Bagher Qalibaf re-elected as speaker of Iran's parliament

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's parliament re-elected hard-liner Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf on Tuesday as its speaker, reaffirming its hard-right makeup in the wake of a helicopter crash that killed the country's president and foreign minister.

Of 287 lawmakers voting, 198 backed Qalibaf to retain the position he first took in 2021. He initially became speaker following a string of failed presidential bids and 12 years as the leader of Iran's capital city, in which he built onto Tehran's subway and supported the construction of modern high-rises. Many, however, know Qalibaf for his support, as a Revolutionary Guard general, for a violent crackdown on Iranian university students in 1999. He also reportedly ordered live gunfire to be used against Iranian students in 2003 while serving as the country's police chief. In Tuesday's



Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, center, takes an oath during the opening ceremony of the new parliament term in Tehran, Iran. AP/PTI

vote, challenger Mojtaba Zounouri, a hard-line Shiite cleric who once led the parliament's national security commission, won 60 votes. A former foreign minister to hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Manouchehr Mottaki, received five votes.

Qalibaf offered no immediate remarks after the vote. The March parliament election saw the country's lowest turnout since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. Of those elected to the 290-seat body, hard-liners hold over 230 seats, according to an Associated Press survey.

# Fears rise second landslide and disease outbreak loom at site of PNG disaster

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Authorities fear a second landslide and a disease outbreak are looming at the scene of Papua New Guinea's mass-casualty disaster because of water streams and bodies trapped beneath the tons of debris that swept over a village, a United Nations official said Tuesday.

A mass of boulders, earth and splintered trees devastated Yambali in the South Pacific nation's remote highlands when a limestone mountain-side sheared away Friday. The blanket of debris has become more unstable with recent rain and streams trapped between the ground and rubble, said Serhan Aktoprak, chief of the International Organisation for Migration's mission in Papua New Guinea. The UN agency has officials at the scene in Enga province helping shelter 1,600 displaced

people. The agency estimates 670 villagers died, while Papua New Guinea's government has told the United Nations it thinks more than 2,000 people were buried. Five bodies had been retrieved from the rubble by Monday.

"We are hearing suggestions that another landslide can happen and maybe 8,000 people need to be evacuated," Aktoprak told The Associated Press.

"This is a major concern. The movement of the land, the debris, is causing a serious risk, and overall the total number of people that may be affected might be 6,000 or more," he said. "That includes villagers whose source of clean drinking water has been buried and subsistence farmers who lost their vegetable gardens." "If this debris mass is not stopped, if it continues moving, it can gain speed and further wipe out other communi-

ties and villages further down" the mountain, Aktoprak said. Scenes of villagers digging with their bare hands through muddy debris in search of their relatives' remains were also concerning.

"My biggest fear at the moment is corpses are decaying, ... water is flowing and this is going to pose serious health risks in relation to contagious diseases," Aktoprak said.

Aktoprak's agency was raising those concerns at a disaster management virtual meeting of national and international responders Tuesday. The warning comes as geotechnical experts and heavy earth-moving equipment are expected to reach the site soon. The Papua New Guinea government on Sunday officially asked the United Nations for additional help and to coordinate contributions from individual nations.

An Australian disaster response team was scheduled to arrive Tuesday in Papua New Guinea, which is Australia's nearest neighbour. It will include a geohazard assessment team and drones to help map the site.

"Their role will be particularly helping perform geotechnical surveillance to establish the level of the landslip, the instability of the land there, obviously doing some work around identifying where bodies are," said Murray Watt, Australia's minister for emergency management.

Australia's minister for the Pacific, Pat Conroy, said the government would also provide long-term logistical support for clearing debris, recovering bodies and supporting displaced people. The government announced an initial aid package of 2.5 million Australian dollars (USD 1.7 million).

# New German citizens hit record high, many Syrians naturalised

Berlin (AP) - Germany saw another big increase in the number of people gaining citizenship last year as large numbers of people from Syria helped push naturalisations up to their highest level since at least 2000, according to official data released Tuesday.

About 200,100 people were granted German citizenship in 2023, the Federal Statistical Office said. That was an increase of about 31,000, or 19 per cent, compared with the previous year. The increase followed a 28 per cent rise in 2022, which also was fuelled by large numbers of Syrians being naturalised as increasing numbers of people who migrated to Germany between 2014 and 2016 fulfilled the requirements for citizenship. Last year, 75,500 people from Syria were naturalised — the biggest single group, account-

ing for 38 per cent of the total — the statistics office said. That number was up 56 per cent compared with 2022. They had spent an average 6.8 years in Germany before becoming citizens. About 10,700 citizens each of Turkey and Iraq became German citizens last year, putting those groups in second place.

The overall number of new citizens was the highest since current records started in 2000 following a change in the law under which people of German ancestry from the former Soviet Union, who arrived in large numbers in the 1990s, were automatically granted citizenship rather than having to apply for it. Requirements for being granted citizenship include a working knowledge of German and proof of being able to support oneself financially.

# Heat waves can be deadly for older adults

AP ■ MASSACHUSETTS

A deadly heat wave gripped large regions of Asia for weeks in April and May 2024. As temperatures climbed past 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) in India on May 7, campaigning politicians, local news anchors and voters waiting in long lines passed out from the oppressive heat.

From as far north as Japan to as far south as the Philippines, the relentless heat wreaked havoc on everyday life. Students and teachers in Cambodia were sent home from school, as their hand-held fans provided little protection against the stifling heat and humidity in their poorly ventilated classrooms. Farmers in Thailand saw their crops wither and mourned the loss of livestock that perished under the punishing sun. Hundreds of people died from the heat.

Most of the planet has suffered the dire effects of extreme heat in recent years. A weeks-long heat wave in the southwestern United States in 2023 was



described as "hell on earth" in Phoenix, where temperatures hit 110 F (43.3 C) or higher for 31 straight days.

At the same time, Europe saw unprecedented high temperatures that killed hundreds and contributed to devastating wildfires in Greece. Regardless of where or when a heat wave strikes, one pattern is a constant: Older adults are the most likely to die from extreme heat, and this crisis will worsen in the coming years. We study climate change and

population aging. Our research documents two global trends that together portend a dire future.

First, temperatures are hotter than ever. The nine-year period from 2015 and 2023 had the highest average temperatures since global records began in 1880. Second, the population is aging worldwide. By 2050, the number of people ages 60 and older will double to nearly 2.1 billion, making up 21 per cent of the global population. That proportion is 13 per cent today.

These combined forces mean that ever-rising numbers of vulnerable older adults will be exposed to intensifying heat. To understand the risks ahead, we developed population projections for different age groups and combined them with climate change scenarios for the coming decades. Our analyses show that by 2050, more than 23 per cent of the world population ages 69 and older will be living in regions where peak temperatures routinely surpass 99.5 degrees F (37.5 degrees C), compared with just 14 per cent today.

That means that as many as 250 million additional older adults will be exposed to dangerously high temperatures. Mapping the data shows that most of these older adults live in lower- and middle-income countries with insufficient services and limited access to electricity, cooling appliances and safe water.

In historically cooler regions in the Global North, including North America and Europe, rising temperatures will be the

main force driving older adults' heat exposure. In historically hotter regions in the Global South such as Asia, Africa and South America, population growth and increases in longevity mean that steeply rising numbers of older adults will be exposed to intensifying heat-related risks.

Policy makers, communities, families and older residents themselves need to understand these risks and be prepared because of older adults' special vulnerabilities to heat.

High temperatures are oppressive for everyone, but for older adults they can be deadly. Extreme heat worsens common age-related health conditions such as heart, lung and kidney disease and can cause delirium. Older people don't sweat as much as younger people, which makes it harder for their bodies to cool down when temperatures spike. These problems are intensified by common prescription medications, such as anticholinergics, which further reduce the capacity to sweat.



# Belgium commits aid to Ukraine

Zelenskyy continues European tour

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday picked up a second USD 1 billion promise of military aid in as many days for his war with Russia during a whirlwind tour through the European Union.

The pledge came from Belgium, which topped up the money with a commitment to give 30 F-16 fighter jets over the next four years. The Netherlands added to the goodwill by promising to quickly assemble with key EU partners a Patriot air defence system, which Zelenskyy sees as key in stopping Russia from hitting the power grid and civilian areas, as well as military targets, with devastating glide bombs that wreak wide destruction.

A day earlier, Zelenskyy signed a bilateral security agreement with Spain that allocates 1 billion euros (USD 1.1 billion) of military aid to Ukraine in 2024, and 5 billion euros (USD 5.4 billion) by 2027.

The bilateral aid is essential since the 27-nation bloc is again struggling to overcome Hungary's objections to the bloc itself providing billions of euros in military aid to Kyiv, which is in its third year of war following Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion.

An estimated 6.5 billion euros (USD 7 billion) are stalled by the Hungarian government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who is considered Russia's staunchest ally in the 27-nation bloc. Single member states have wide veto powers and Hungary has long held up funds aimed at boosting Ukraine's defence efforts.

Zelenskyy met with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo on Tuesday and as well as the immediate money obtained a security agreement aimed at providing guarantees of military help until Ukraine joins the NATO alliance.

Since Russia launched a spring offensive around eastern Kharkiv, Zelenskyy has insisted Ukraine urgently needs seven more US-made Patriot air defence systems to stop Russia hitting the power grid and civilian areas, as well as military targets, with devastating glide bombs that wreak wide destruction.



Ollongren, meeting with her EU colleagues, said that such a system will be built "in a short time frame." The Netherlands has the core components for a Patriot system and other EU nations will contribute other key parts and munitions. "Ukraine is also fighting Europe's fight," she said.

Hungary, meanwhile, continues to oppose swift distribution of centralised EU aid, angering just about every one of its EU allies.

"We need all these critical decisions and still there are too many decisions which are not made," Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur told reporters ahead of the meeting. "The urgency is very, very acute."

Zelenskyy was to visit Belgium and Spain earlier this month but postponed all his foreign trips after Russia launched its offensive in the Kharkiv region. Ukraine has repeatedly tried to strike behind Russian lines, often with drones, though Russia's response to the new technology used in unmanned vehicles has improved in recent months.

The onslaught unfolding as the weather improves has brought Ukraine's biggest military test since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Slow deliveries of support by its Western partners, especially a lengthy delay in US military aid, have left Ukraine at the mercy of Russia's bigger army and air force.

# Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif re-elected 'unopposed' as PML-N prez

PTI ■ LAHORE

Three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was re-elected "unopposed" as the President of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party here on Tuesday, six years after losing the post following a Supreme Court ruling in the Panama Papers case.

The 74-year-old veteran politician, who returned to Pakistan in October last year after a four-year self-imposed exile in the UK, was elected at the General Council meeting of the PML-N in Lahore, his party said in a post on X. Earlier, his party while sharing a video of preparations for the General Council meeting, had said: "Lion is returning to take his rightful place at the top."

The PML-N had earlier announced convening the general council meeting on May 11 but it was postponed to coincide with the celebration of 26 years of Pakistan becoming a nuclear power, Dawn

newspaper reported. Sharif was the prime minister when Pakistan conducted six nuclear tests on May 28, 1998. PML-N Punjab president Rana Sanaullah had hinted that the elder Sharif would be elected without a contest.

When asked why the party didn't adopt a democratic process to vote for a new president, Sanaullah said the party was a "servant of power corridors and it was Nawaz Sharif who made it a party of the public". He added that after Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, it was Nawaz Sharif who "made the party vibrant".

Replying to another question on why Nawaz Sharif wasn't active in politics after the February 8 general elections, Sanaullah said the former PM is not angry with anyone and he is active in the party. "All major decisions of the party and government are taken by him," he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had earlier this month resigned as the PML-N president citing the "unjust" dis-

qualification of the party supremo and his elder brother Nawaz Sharif from the PM Office.

Shehbaz, 72, said that it was time for the latter to "resume his rightful place as the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party." The February 8 general elections had delivered a fractured mandate and the PML-N did not get a clear majority. It joined hands with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) led by Bilawal Zardari Bhutto and other smaller parties to form the government at the federal level when Nawaz relinquished the post of prime minister in favour of Shehbaz.

Much before that, in 2017, Nawaz had stepped down as the country's prime minister after the Supreme Court disqualified him for life from holding public office for not declaring a receivable salary. Following his trial in the Panama Papers case, the apex court, in February 2018, disqualified the PML-N supremo as the party's president.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrive to attend a meeting of the Council of Regions of Uzbekistan and Russia in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Monday.

# Wickremesinghe's party suggests referendum to postpone elections

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The United National Party headed by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Tuesday suggested holding a referendum to postpone both presidential and general elections and extending the terms of both offices for two years to pursue economic reforms to stabilise the country's economy.

The island nation's Elections Commission earlier this month said the presidential election would be conducted between September 17 and October 16. United National Party (UNP) general secretary Palitha Range Bandara presented a proposal to postpone both the presidential and general elections by two years and emphasised that if circumstances warrant, this proposal can be formally submitted to Parliament, paving the way for a referendum, news portal NewsFirst.lk reported.

"The UNP General Secretary highlighted a pivotal moment in Sri Lanka's history. The nation faced economic adversity, but resolute measures were taken to steer it away from the brink. These efforts yielded significant victories," Bandara told reporters here. "We have regained international trust, stabilised the economy, and provided relief to our citizens. Administrative reforms have streamlined governance, and the education system has returned to normalcy," he asserted. Range Bandara attributed these achievements to the current President's leadership and underscored that the country's current needs do not align with an immediate Presidential or Parliamentary election. "Instead, he called upon all members of parliament to rally behind a proposal: extending the current President's term by two years (or potentially five), along with a corresponding extension of the current parliament's tenure," the news portal said. Range Bandara urged unity across party lines, including opposition leader Sajith Premadasa's support, the news portal said. The Government has reached agreements with the IMF, World Bank and other donors on eco-

mic reforms and it is essential to extend the terms of the President and Parliament to make this exercise a success, another news portal, Daily Mirror, said quoting Bandara. "Stabilising the economy is more important than anything," Range Bandara told the media and added, "We propose a referendum to extend the terms of the President and Parliament as it is the most democratic way to do it."

Incidentally, President Wickremesinghe, 75, last week reiterated his intention to hold the next presidential election this year ahead of the parliamentary election. He had told the Cabinet meeting that day that financial allocations have only been reserved so far for the conduct of the presidential poll.

Wickremesinghe succeeded Sri Lanka People's Front - commonly known by its Sinhalese name Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) - elected president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to become President for the rest of the term when the latter was ousted, after the island nation declared first international

default, during street protests which lasted between April and July of 2022.

Rajapaksa gave in to calls for his resignation due to his inability to handle the unprecedented economic crisis. Wickremesinghe since taking over has steered the economy to safety by securing an IMF bailout. Analysts, however, feel that Sri Lanka is not completely out of the woods yet.

Minister of Fisheries and the leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party Douglas Devananda on Tuesday said President Wickremesinghe's experience and performance, as well as his management ability, cannot be matched with any other politician in Sri Lanka. Addressing the opening ceremony of the Training and Research building of the Medical Faculty of Jaffna University, the Sri Lankan Tamil minister said that because of the current economic crisis and the great instability in the country, it was his opinion that Wickremesinghe should continue to be the president and the people of the country should also have the same opinion.

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lankan security forces suspect that a 46-year-old man acted as a handler of the four Sri Lankan nationals who were arrested at Ahmedabad airport in India last week for suspected links with the banned Islamic State (ISIS) outfit, according to a media report.

Sri Lanka Police revealed that the wanted suspect, identified as Osmand Gerrard - a resident of Dematagoda, often changes his appearances, and these are some of his appearances that detectives suspect he may be using now, Newsfirst news portal reported on Monday.

Gerrard is believed to have facilitated the movement of the suspected Sri Lankans from the country to India, the news portal said on Tuesday. Sri Lanka Police recently announced a cash award of Rs. 2 million for any credible information on the whereabouts of the wanted suspect. The exchange of information between Sri Lanka and India has commenced concerning

# 46-yr-old man acted as handler of 4 arrested for IS links, suspects Lanka

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the Sri Lankans arrested in India. This collaborative effort involves both the Sri Lanka Army Intelligence Division and the Police Terrorist Investigations Division, the news portal said on Tuesday. The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on May 19 arrested four Sri Lankans with links to the ISIS at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel airport in Ahmedabad. The ATS also seized three pistols and cartridges abandoned at a location in Ahmedabad based on geo-coordinates and seized a mobile phone from their possession. The four men had taken an Indigo flight out of Colombo to Chennai on May 19. Among the arrested individuals, Mohammed Nusrat is a businessman involved in importing telecommunication devices and electrical equipment from countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, and Dubai, the news portal said. Nusrat operated within Colombo, where he sold these imported goods.

# Pak's top leadership says 1998 N-tests ensured 'credible min deterrence'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Commemorating the 26th anniversary of Pakistan's first successful nuclear tests, its top leadership on Tuesday said the historic move in 1998 has ensured a "credible minimum deterrence" to safeguard the country's territorial integrity. Pakistan conducted six nuclear tests on May 28, 1998, inside a deeply dug tunnel in the remote Chaghi mountain of Balochistan province, as a tit-for-tat response to India's nuclear tests in the same month at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range. Pakistan's nuclear tests, state-run Radio Pakistan, said were conducted in response to the regional security dynamics and one that ensured that Pakistan's defence capabilities were robust and credible.

Pakistan became the seventh nuclear nation in the world and the first Muslim state in 1998 having the nuclear arsenal in its defence stockpile to exercise

deterrence. Designated as 'Youm-e-Takbeer, translated as 'the day of greatness' or 'the day of God's greatness', and observed annually with national zeal and fervour, Sharif has declared Tuesday as a public holiday, for the first time in the recent past. Congratulating the nation in his message on social media platform X, Sharif said the day symbolises the collective effort of all facets of national power.

"May 28 signifies more than just a mere commemoration of a day; it encapsulates the narrative of our nation's arduous yet remarkable path towards establishing a credible minimum deterrence," he said, adding, "On this historic day, in 1998, PM Nawaz Sharif demonstrated bold leadership by rejecting nerve-wracking pressures and inducements to make Pakistan a nuclear-armed nation."

Sharif also paid tribute to Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali

Bhutto, the founder of Pakistan's nuclear programme for his "strategic foresight and unwavering commitment to the cause."

Sharif said the nation should resolve to work tirelessly to ensure economic security with the same spirit it made the defence invincible on May 28, 1998.

The Foreign Office in a post on X paid rich tributes to Pakistan's scientists, engineers and technicians for their contributions to the country's nuclear programme "which has also played an important role in the socioeconomic development" of the nation. "Pakistan's nuclear programme enjoys the unanimous support of all sections of Pakistani society including political parties, the armed forces, the scientific community, academia and the public at large. Pakistan is committed to global and regional peace and stability and reaffirms its resolve to

safeguard Pakistan's territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty," it said.

Though both Prime Minister Sharif and the Foreign Office avoided mentioning or acknowledging the contribution of the father of Pakistan's atomic weapons programme in the nuclear project, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar paid tribute to the "architect of the nuclear programme, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, his team and all the scientists". In his message, acting President Yusuf Raza Gilani reiterated the resolve to continue working towards a peaceful and stable world.

"We successfully demonstrated our nuclear capabilities and joined the ranks of nuclear powers," he said and added that Youm-e-Takbeer serves as a testament to our nation's resilience, unwavering determination, and commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability.

# South Africa's surprise election challenger is evoking past anti-apartheid struggle

AP ■ DURBAN

The 59-year-old Dumisani Ndlovu has voted in every South Africa national election since he and the rest of the Black majority finally won the right 30 years ago. He has faithfully supported the liberation party-turned-ruling party African National Congress every time. That ends on Wednesday. In a way, nostalgia is calling. Ndlovu in this week's election is turning his support to the man, Jacob Zuma, whose career spanned from the liberation struggle to the presidency before falling out with his ANC colleagues and reemerging last year with a new political party. That MK party, named after the ANC's old armed wing, shows how the 82-year-old Zuma is leveraging the past to rally South Africans' support against the ANC, which he himself once claimed would rule until

"Jesus comes back." Here in the heartland of Zuma supporters, the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal, cab driver Ndlovu has embraced the unlikely comeback of a political survivor after years of corruption allegations, criminal charges and prison. Even being barred from this election as a candidate for Parliament over a recent conviction hasn't blunted Zuma's influence. "They think they have finished him, but we are with him all the way. The ANC will pay," Ndlovu said. It is a rallying cry that could, for the first time, force the ANC into a coalition to stay in power. The new party is fielding other candidates for Parliament and appears likely to win seats. Zuma has become the wild card of the election for Africa's most advanced country, six years after resigning South Africa's

presidency under a cloud. His MK party was formed just over six months ago and yet is expected to drain significant support from the ANC, which already faced its sternest test. Zuma's credentials — he was in prison alongside Nelson Mandela for his work in the anti-apartheid movement — resonate especially in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal. Ndlovu, the cab driver, had backed the ANC since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule in 1994. Now, one of his grievances against the ANC is what he calls its ill-treatment of Zuma. "He went to jail during apartheid and then they (the ANC) put him in jail again despite all his sacrifices. What kind of freedom is that?" Ndlovu said. Zuma was sent to prison in 2021 after refusing to testify at an inquiry looking into alleged corruption in

government during the time he was president from 2009-2018. He called that sentence an effort by the ANC to silence him.

Zuma said last week's Constitutional Court decision to disqualify him from standing as a candidate was part of a grudge against him by the ruling party and the courts. The constitution doesn't allow anyone to stand for election if they have been sentenced to 12 months or more in prison without the option of a fine. "I am going to fight for my rights until this country agrees that freedom must be a complete freedom, not for some and oppression for others," Zuma said. He now fights under the banner of the MK, which he has fashioned as the vanguard of anti-apartheid struggle ideals such as the distribution of land to Black people.

# Nepal celebrates 17<sup>th</sup> Republic Day

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

As Nepal celebrated the 17th Republic Day on Tuesday, President Ramchandra Paudel said the federal democratic republic system has ensured complete political rights in the country while Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' said a republic system is not only a political system but also a lifestyle.

Seventeen years ago in 2008, Nepal's Parliament, through a historic declaration, abolished the 240-year-old monarchy after the successful conclusion of the People's Movement II. Nepal was declared a Federal Republic Democratic state on May 28, 2008. On Tuesday, the Jeth 15 as per Bikram Era cal-

endar, Nepal is celebrating the Republic Day anniversary with festivities extended over three days.

In his message to the nation, President Paudel said the federal democratic republic system has ensured complete political rights in the country.

"This is an opportune moment to move forward united for a prosperous future," he said, adding, "We had achieved the republic system along with freedom on this day 17 years ago. Nepal has obtained civil supremacy from this day and had set a foundation for a liberal, inclusive proportional Democratic Republic Nepal along with social justice." Prime Minister 'Prachanda' said that a republic system is not only a

political system but also a lifestyle and argued that the republic system has been institutionalised at the citizen's level with the development of a republican lifestyle at all walks of life in the society.

"A republic is a system to best utilise one's rights while respecting others' rights too, and more than that the federal democratic republic is also local autonomy and the right to self-determination on fundamental issues. So, the government is making efforts with firm determination to share its dividends to the citizens," the Prime Minister said in his message. The government has declared a national holiday on Tuesday to mark the Republic Day.

# Taiwan's legislature passes changes seen as reducing president's power

Taipei (AP): Taiwan's opposition-controlled legislature passed changes on Tuesday that are seen as favouring China and diminishing the power of the island's president.

The changes pushed by the opposition Nationalist Party and its allies give the body greater power to control budgets, including defence spending that the party has blocked in what many see as a concession to China. The Nationalists officially back unification with China, from which Taiwan separated dur-

ing a civil war in 1949. They took control of the legislature with a single-seat majority after elections in January, while the presidency went to Lai Ching-te of the Democratic Progressive Party, which favours Taiwan's de facto independence from China. Thousands of people gathered outside the legislature to protest the changes. The legislative chamber was festooned with banners promoting both sides in the dispute, while arguments on the floor broke into shouting and pushing matches.

# First Syrian jet in over decade transports Muslim worshippers to Saudi for Hajj

Damascus (AP): For the first time in over a decade, 270 Syrians travelled on a direct flight early Tuesday from Damascus to Saudi Arabia for the annual Islamic Hajj pilgrimage, the Syrian Transportation Ministry said. The development is part of an ongoing thaw in relations between Damascus and Riyadh, which days ago appointed Saudi Arabia's first ambassador to war-torn Syria since severing ties in 2012. Syria was readmitted to the 22-member Arab League in 2023, after it had been suspended from the group for more than a decade over

President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on anti-government protesters in 2011. Most countries in the Arab world have since restored diplomatic ties with Damascus. A second plane of pilgrims is set to depart from Damascus to Jeddah late Tuesday, the ministry said. 1.8 million Muslims from around the world took part in last year's Hajj pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, making it one of the world's largest religious gatherings. This year, it's scheduled to begin on the evening of June 14. The Hajj is one of the five pil-

lars of Islam, and Muslims are required to undertake it at least once in their lives if they are physically and financially able to do so. The uprising-turned-civil war in Syria, now in its 14th year has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of the country's prewar population of 23 million. The war has largely remained frozen and so have the efforts to find a viable political solution to end it. Poverty is rampant across the front lines, with aid dwindling and a growing number of countries sounding the alarm on surging migration.







# Ronaldo finishes Saudi Pro League by setting season goal scoring record

AP ■ RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo finished the Saudi Pro League by setting the season goal-scoring record on Monday. Ronaldo scored twice in Riyadh as Al-Nassr defeated Al-Ittihad 4-2 and lifted his league tally to 35, one more than the record in 2019 by Abderrazak Hamdallah. In the final seconds of the first half, Ronaldo, who had already had two goals ruled out for offside, chested down a long pass from Mohammed Al-Fatih and opened the scoring with a low shot from the left side of the area. With 21 minutes remaining, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner celebrated wildly after heading home a corner from Marcelo Brozovic. He was substituted off the field five minutes later to a standing ovation from the home fans. It ended an action-packed season for Ronaldo, who scored four hat tricks and collected one red card. He was also suspended for an obscene gesture in February at Al-Shabab fans who had



been chanting the name of Lionel Messi, Ronaldo's longstanding soccer rival. Al-Nassr finished second in the league, 14 points behind local rival Al-Hilal, which won the championship more than two weeks ago and

completed the 34-round league unbeaten on Monday. Al-Hilal was too strong even without Neymar, who joined the club in August from Paris Saint-Germain but suffered a season-ending ACL injury in October.

Aleksandar Mitrovic stepped in and ended the season with a goal in the final seconds to clinch a 2-1 win over Al-Wehda. The Serbian striker, signed from London club Fulham last summer, reached 27 league goals, second only

to Ronaldo. On its way to the title, Al-Hilal went on a 34-game winning streak in all competitions, a new world record for a top tier team. "This season has been truly exceptional for the team,

arguably our best ever," coach Jorge Jesus said. "The credit goes to the immense talent within the squad and the incredible sense of unity that transcends both on and off-field interactions." Al-Ittihad's defeat at Al-Nassr ended a disappointing season for the defending champion. Karim Benzema, signed from Real Madrid, struggled with injuries and even with N'Golo Kante and Fabinho in midfield, signed from Chelsea and Liverpool respectively, the team from Jeddah could manage only fifth place. Poor results cost Nuno Santo his job as coach in November, and the Portuguese tactician returned to the English Premier League a month later to take over Nottingham Forest. Al-Ahli, the fourth of the Big Four clubs taken over by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund last June, finished third, 17 points behind Al-Nassr. Al-Ahli beat Al-Fayha 1-0 thanks to a late goal — his ninth of the season — from former Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino.



# Praggnanandhaa beats Alireza in Armageddon

PTI ■ STAVANGER (NORWAY)

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa got off to a flier and defeated Firouzja Alireza of France in the Armageddon game in the first round of Norway Chess tournament here on Tuesday. After an easy draw under normal time control, Praggnanandhaa got 10 minutes as white compared to Alireza's seven but with the condition that he had to win as a draw would have given black extra points. The Indian was clinical in his approach and carved out a fine victory in the endgame. The day saw all the games under classical time control ending in draws in both men and women's section and as many as six Armageddon happened to decide the winner in this unique format. World number one Magnus Carlsen played out a 14-move draw in classical and then a 68-move marathon draw with reigning world champion Ding Liren to seal the day in his favour while Hikaru Nakamura proved stronger than American compatriot Fabiano Caruana in the Armageddon. After the end of the first round, Praggnanandhaa, Carlsen and Nakamura share the lead on 1.5 points apiece while Alireza, Liren and Caruana follow them a half point behind. Each win under classical time control here is worth three points while the winner takes 1.5 home in the Armageddon with one point for the one on

the receiving end. Praggnanandhaa scored his first ever over-the-board victory over Alireza. It was an irregular queen pawn opening wherein Praggnanandhaa seized a small advantage and benefited from a casual 26th move by Alireza. Pouncing on the opportunity, a series of forced moves gave the Indian a decisive advantage and the game was over in 38 moves. The women's section, having the same prize fund as men's (USD 161000), also witnessed three draws in Classical time control between six competitors. Needing a draw with black pieces in the Armageddon, Koneru Humpy did not face many difficulties and got the 1.5 points. R Vaishali came up with an inspired performance with black against women's world champion Wenjun Ju of China but could not cash in on her chances. It was a tough Classical game for the elder sister of Praggnanandhaa as Wenjun took her for a long grind in a queen and opposite coloured Bishops endgame. The game was drawn after 80 moves thanks to Vaishali's resistance. Wenjun sacrificed a pawn early in the return game in a must-win situation and Vaishali had this extra pawn for quite some time. However, with the clock ticking away, Vaishali could not withstand the pressure. Wenjun won in 43 moves.

# De Bruyne to lead Belgium at Euro 2024 with unretired Witsel

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne will lead a rejuvenated Belgium side including a once-retired Alex Witsel at the European Championship next month. De Bruyne and Witsel were on the 25-man list unveiled by coach Domenico Tedesco on Tuesday. Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, preparing for the Champions League final, was not. Full back Maxim De Cuyper, who won the Belgian league with Club Brugge last weekend, was the only newcomer. De Bruyne and Witsel are remaining members of the so-called golden generation of Belgian players. While De Bruyne's presence was expected, Witsel's was a surprise after Tedesco dropped him from his first squad last year. Witsel soon after announced his retirement from international soccer and did not play in qualifying. But Tedesco said Witsel's recent showings with Atletico Madrid convinced him the 35-year-old midfielder was the right choice. "I have the best feelings with Axel," Tedesco said. Tedesco said Courtois was not ready for Euro 2024, which starts on June 14 in Germany, after recently returning from injury. The men are at odds since a dispute last year, and Courtois announced in December he would miss the Euros. Tedesco succeeded Roberto Martinez as Belgium manager in February 2023.



He has yet to lose a game in charge of the Red Devils. Belgium will face Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine in Group E. Belgium's best result at the continental tournament was runner-up in 1980. **GOALKEEPERS:** Matz Sels (Nottingham Forest), Koen Casteels (Wolfsburg), Thomas Kaminski (Luton). **DEFENDERS:** Wout Faes (Leicester), Timothy Castagne (Fulham), Arthur Theate (Rennes), Jan Vertonghen (Anderlecht), Axel Witsel (Atletico Madrid), Zeno Debast (Anderlecht), Thomas Meunier (Trabzonspor), Maxim De Cuyper (Club Brugge). **MIDFIELDERS:** Aster Vranckx (Wolfsburg), Youri Tielemans (Aston Villa), Orel Mangala (Lyon), Kevin De Bruyne (Manchester City), Arthur Vermeeren (Atletico Madrid), Amadou Onana (Everton). **FORWARDS:** Romelu Lukaku (Roma), Charles De Ketelaere (Atalanta), Jérémy Doku (Manchester City), Lois Openda (Leipzig), Leandro Trossard (Arsenal), Johan Bakayoko (PSV Eindhoven), Dodi Lukebakio (Sevilla), Yannick Carrasco.

# Team's plan was to stay close to US to earn Olympic qualification: Jacob

NEW DELHI. (PTI)

Determined to improve its time and qualify for the Paris Olympics, the Indian men's 4x400m relay squad had planned to shadow the formidable USA team at the World Athletics Relays, sprinter Amoj Jacob had revealed. The Indian men's squad comprising Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal, Arokia Rajiv and Jacob qualified for the Paris Games after finishing second in their heat at the World Athletics Relays in Nassau, Bahamas earlier this month.

The Indian quartet finished with a collective timing of 3 minutes and 3.23 with USA (2:59.95) expectedly topping the heat. "We knew that we had the US in our Heats and they mostly run below 3 minutes. So, our plan was to stay close to them in the race, which will not only improve our time but also help us qualify for Paris Games," Jacob told SAI Media. "Our target was to register a time between 3:00 and 3:10 so that our confidence is high going into the Paris Olympics," he added. The Indian team was in third position when anchor-leg

runner Jacob took the baton from Arokia. The Delhi boy ran a fantastic race to overtake his Mexican opponent and finish second. India had failed to finish in the first-round qualifying heat after second leg runner Rajesh Ramesh pulled out midway due to cramps. Rajiv took the place of Ramesh in the team and he ran the third leg after Anas and Ajmal. Asked how the team dealt with Ramesh's absence Jacob, said "It was easy because we were practicing together. And we had trained the baton exchange with different combinations.

The only concern was to ensure that no one else got injured." "In fact, it is easier than 100 meters relay where better coordination is required. So, it was an easy transition for us. And because Rajiv was with us for a long time, he was in the camp, he was our senior. So, he knew what to expect and what not. And it was easy only," Jacob added. The 26-year-old added that reaching Bahamas a month before the competition helped the team acclimatise to the conditions well, which was key in securing Olympic qualification.

# Nishant outclasses Otgonbaatar in two minutes, Abhinash loses close bout

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Nishant Dev out-punched his Mongolian opponent in just over two minutes to progress to the 71kg pre quarterfinals while Abhinash Jamwal ran out of luck as he was knocked out of the second Boxing World Olympic Qualifiers here on Tuesday. Dev, who had narrowly missed out an Olympic berth at the previous qualifiers, began with a flurry of punches against Mongolia's Otgonbaatar. Byamba-Erdeneto to force a standing count in the very first minute. A combination of a jab and cross hook led to another standing count and the Referee Stopped the Contest (RSC) with 58 second still left to play in Round 1. Earlier, Jamwal fought back with gumption after losing a close first round against Colombia's Jose Manuel



Viafara Fory in the 63.5kg bout. He clearly dominated the third and final round forcing a tie on points from all five judges. However as per the rules, the judges were asked to weigh the performance again and decide on the winner after the

scores were level. All of them then finally voted in Fory's favour after a long deliberation to seal the final score 5:0 for the Colombian. Third Indian boxer, Sachin Siwach will take on Frederik Jensen of Denmark in the 57kg round of 32 bout later in the day.

# Indian boys and girls defend South Asian team titles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's under-19 girls team retained its title at the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships after blanking hosts Sri Lanka 3-0 in the final in Kandy. India had got the better of Nepal 3-0 in the semifinals before taking on the the hosts in the final. He first defeated Naviru Sayali Wani beat Bimandee Bandara 11-6, 12-10, 11-8, Pritha Vartikar downed Tamadi Kavindya 7-11, 11-3, 11-7, 6-11, 11-8, and Taneesha Kotecha beat Divya Dharani 11-8 11-7 11-7 in the summit clash to lift the trophy on Monday. In the Under-15 section, the results were no different. Divyanshi Bownick accounted for Yoshini Jayawardena 11-8, 11-7, 11-9, Syndrela Das followed it

up with a 11-9, 11-9, 11-4 win over Shanya Muthuli before Kavya Bhatt ended the ordeal of Samindi Weerasooriya to win 11-3, 11-8, 11-7. In the Under-15 boys final, also against the hosts, Sarthak Arya won both his singles, to be the architect of India's win. He first defeated Naviru Nethsitha 11-4, 11-5, 11-5, and Soham Mukherjee consolidated India's lead when he downed Akian Bojith 11-6, 11-6, 11-5 for a 2-0 lead. However, Sahil Rawat lost to Agasthya Ananditha 7-11, 11-3, 11-6, 9-11, 10-12 as the Lankans pulled one down. But Sarthak completed the job by winning the fourth rubber when he beat Akian Bojith 11-3, 11-8, 11-8.

# Carapaz misses out on Ecuador's road cycling spot at Paris Games

AP ■ QUITO (ECUADOR)

Richard Carapaz will not be at the Paris Olympics to defend his road cycling title. Ecuador's only representative at the Olympics in the road cycling race and individual time trial will be Jhonatan Narváez, the national cycling federation said in a statement on Monday. Carapaz said on his social media he wished "the best of luck to Jhonatan," and added he will keep reaching for new goals. The two cyclists had a tough battle for Ecuador's spot in Paris. Carapaz was the first Ecuadorian to win a grand tour, the 2019 Giro d'Italia. He also made the podium at the Tour de France and Spanish Vuelta, but hasn't finished any grand tour since 2022.

# Shooters level gun tampering allegations against top rifle coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reputed national coach has been accused of tampering with rifles of some shooters by their parents, a charge that has been vehemently denied by the national federation, which has urged the aggrieved individuals to file a complaint. One of the parents of the allegedly affected shooters, who declined to be named, told PTI on Tuesday that he had to purchase a new equipment for his ward after the original rifle was "spoilt" by the coach. They also refused to reveal the coach's identity. "Yes, my ward's gun was spoilt by the coach. We had to buy a new one because of that. How can the coach just come and do all these setting

changes (alter the settings) without the approval of the shooter just one day before a world Cup," the father of the shooter said. "It happened during the ISSF World Cup in Bhopal last year. Not only this, every other match also, the coach does it, whenever the coach goes abroad, all these things are done." "Earlier, parents used to travel with the shooters... When we are present the coach doesn't touch the gun. The logic the coach gave (for changing the settings) was 'you need to experiment'. But experimenting just a day before the World Cup, what experiment are you doing?" he asked. The father also alleged that a lot of shooters had met the NRAI (National Rifles Association of India)



officials and brought it to their notice. "There was a meeting held in NRAI in front of all the shooters and shooters also told the NRAI these things. The federation has promised they will look into it. The

NRAI knows about it," the father added. NRAI secretary Rajiv Bhatia refuted the charge, saying he was not aware of any such instance. "I have no idea, nobody has approached us. We have not

received anything. I don't think so (this has been done)," Bhatia said. "Even if such a thing has been done, they (shooters) should have the guts to come forward, why these allegations come up once they are not selected? The Bhopal World Cup happened in March last year, so much time has elapsed," he added. Another parent of a rifle shooter alleged that the coach had an "old record" of tampering with guns. "My ward had gone to play a World Cup and the the coach had tampered with the gun in connivance with a jury (member). The coach has an old record of tampering with guns. "We have not brought it to the notice of NRAI as we fear retribution from the national body," he alleged.

Two more shooters write to NRAI on Olympics Air rifle shooters Nancy, who finished fourth in the Olympic Selection Trials recently and Tilottama Sen, placed third after the OST, have written to the NRAI requesting the federation to be considered for the Olympics. While Nancy is a 'deemed quota winner', Tilottama bagged the Paris quota at the Asian Championship in South Korea last year. In her letter, Nancy has said that more than just the trials, "an athlete's overall performance of the last one year and his/her international matches should also be considered." "My world ranking is third and my India ranking before the trials was No.1 besides I am a deemed quota winner,"

added Nancy in her letter to the NRAI. She has also listed her scores in international competitions before the trials to strengthen her case. Tilottama's father, Sujit Sen, has said that his daughter lost out to Ramita for the 10m air rifle Paris berth because of an amendment done by the NRAI to its selection policy in November last year. Contingent for Munich World Cup It is learnt that NRAI, in its selection committee meeting on Monday, decided to send the top-three position-holders in the Olympic Selection Trials to participate in the ISSF World Cup in Munich (May 31-June 6). The remaining two have been cleared on no-cost to

government and will compete only in the Ranking Points Only (RPO) category. RPO shooters are those, who even if they top the qualification round, cannot enter the finals and fight for medals. In 10m air rifle, Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita and Tilottma will compete for medals by virtue of being the top-three finishers in OST, while Nancy and Mehuli Ghosh can only compete as RPOs. Nancy, however, has decided to skip the World Cup. A source told PTI that Mehuli should not have been included in the RPO category as the NRAI's policy states that all those securing Olympic quotas "should play as main player and not RPOs," said the source.



# Far from IPL, bowlers set to lord over batters in T20 World Cup

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**  
Put through the wringer in the IPL, can bowlers hope to breathe a bit easier in the T20 World Cup next month? The genesis of this question lies in the transformation that T20 batting underwent in the latest edition of the IPL. The 250-mark was breached only once in the league till this season, but teams went past that point eight times in the just-concluded edition. Many of the batters who led that revolution, such as Australian Travis Head and West Indian Andre Russell, will be seen in action in the ICC showpiece in the Americas next month. So, it's quite natural for fans to expect another batting waltz. But their approach cannot be as one-dimensional in the World Cup as it was in the IPL for a variety of reasons. To begin with, teams will not have the luxury of an Impact Player in the World Cup. So, they will have to be ready to switch to an attritional style of cricket as and when the situation demands.

Mitchell Starc underlined that point after playing a big role in guiding Kolkata Knight Riders to their third IPL title. "There is an Impact Player Rule here (in IPL) and not in the T20 World Cup. You are going to rely more on your all-rounders. You cannot put your batting all-rounder at No. 8, like you did in the IPL. "I don't think that you'll see these kind of high scores in the T20 World Cup, purely because there will be one batter less," said Starc. In the earlier part of the IPL, Chennai Super Kings used Shivam Dube, a pace bowling all-rounder, exclusively as a batter through the Impact Player rule, though he usually walked in at No. 4 or 5 in place of a bowler. Dube produced a couple of match-winning knocks against Royal Challengers Bengaluru and the Knight Riders. But in the World Cup, the left-hander will have to showcase his bowling skills too to get a slot in the eleven as vice-captain Hardik Pandya plays a similar role and remains the first-choice. Skipper Rohit Sharma has made that bit



quite clear already. "I will be expecting if we need Shivam to ball a few overs, he will. Same with Hardik, he has come and bowled whenever needed. All-rounders must do that whatever their role is," he had said after the announcement of India's squad. However, that's just one part of the story. The batters will also have to negate pitches that will be very different from the ones they got used to in the IPL. "The West Indian pitches are no longer what they used to be in the '80s or in the '90s. They are now slower, and at times gripping," a veteran curator told PTI.

"I am sure the bowlers, particularly spinners, will have much more say than in the IPL, especially from the second week of the tournament. "India have included four spinners in their squad. It was maybe because of the nature of the pitches in the West Indies. Hence, I don't think we may see all those 250 totals there," he added. In the USA, only Florida has prior experience in hosting high-profile cricket matches. New York and Texas are bracing for their maiden foray into the sport. Will that have an impact on the scoring rate? "Yeah! it can be as initially the teams might be looking to assess the pitch and other conditions. I think these drop-in pitches that are being used in some of these venues are more consistent than the natural pitches. So, we may see a few high scores in that round," he said. David Warner, who has immense experience in playing international and franchise cricket in the West Indies, concurred. "The pitches in the Caribbean being dry, the ball will get roughed up and it's going to spin. I don't think they're going to be as compact as they are here (in the IPL). The lacquer on the ball is staying longer (in IPL) and hence it's not getting chewed up and hence very little turn on offer. "I've played a lot of cricket over there and played in the CPL (Caribbean Premier League). The wickets tend to get lower and slower," Warner pointed out. The average run-rate in this IPL was a whopping 9.56, the highest ever in the history of the tournament, and the average score remained upwards of 180. The average first innings score in Hyderabad was in the vicinity of 230. However, the stadiums in the West Indian islands are cut from a different cloth as some statistics will reveal. The average T20 score in Antigua is a dawdling 123 and at Barbados it is 138. It is even bleaker in Guyana at 124, at 115 in Trinidad and at 118 in St. Vincent. Gros Islet tops the chart with a princely 139. By the look of things, the bowlers are set to be royalty in T20 at least for a month.



## India is strongest side even with injuries: Morgan

**PTI ■ LONDON**  
India's remarkable reservoir of talent and formidable depth within their squad makes them strong contenders to win the upcoming T20 World Cup, feels former England skipper Eoin Morgan. India have gone with almost the same squad as they had in the last edition of the T20 World Cup while adding the likes of young Yashasvi Jaiswal, Yuzvendra Chahal and Sanju Samson. "The strongest side even with injuries throughout the tournament is India. Their strength and depth is absolutely incredible," Morgan said on Sky Sports. "And it's almost probably, we're talking about who the players that were missed out in their squad of 15 because of the quality that they possess. "They are favourites for me, the quality they have on paper, if they produce it I think they can beat anybody quite well in the tournament," he added. India were spoilt for choice as they were forced to leave the likes of Shubman Gill and KL Rahul. "The only decision I would have had differently and if I was selecting the squad, I would have Shubman Gill over Yashasvi Jaiswal. I have played alongside him, I know how he thinks. I know how he works. "I feel that's a future leader within that side and I think in big moments, in World Cups the more leaders the better. Even if he's sitting on the sideline, you still need inspiration from here and there, a sense of positivity." India head into almost every

tournament as favourites but they haven't won an ICC title in over a decade. The last trophy the 'Men in Blue' lifted was the Champions Trophy in 2013. In the last edition of the T20 World Cup they were hammered by 10 wickets by eventual winners England in the semifinals in Adelaide. "I think they can (win), because they have gone to a stage now where Adelaide would hurt, recently losing the (ODI) World Cup at home to Australia in front of 1,25,000 Indian fans. "The spinner will come into the game, the level of batsmanship will come into the game if the wickets slow down like we think. But also that excellence in power hitting is the point of difference for me. Shivam Dube has to play, I think he'll set this World Cup alight. **IRONY THAT ONLY TIME INDIA WON T20 WC WAS PRE-IPL: ATHERTON:** Many argue that India's cricket in T20 format has improved by leaps and bounds since the advent of the IPL. But former England captain Michael Atherton pointed out that it is ironic that the only time India won the T20 World Cup was before the IPL came into being. "It's also an irony, because everyone talks about the IPL and how it has improved India's T20 cricket. The irony is that the only time they have won is pre-IPL," Atherton said. India were the first T20 World Cup winners in 2007. Under the captaincy of the talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni, they had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan.

## Want Hardik to come good in T20 WC, he has gone through a lot: Harbhajan

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**  
Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has nothing but empathy for Hardik Pandya as he navigates a challenging phase in his career and is hopeful that the all-rounder, who "hasn't been a free man in the last two months", will become one during next month's T20 World Cup. Pandya endured a forgettable IPL both as captain and player with his team Mumbai Indians ending bottom of the heap in the points table. What made things worse was the incessant jeering of fans whenever he took the field, including at MI's home turf — the Wankhede Stadium. But Harbhajan expects the tide to turn in the Americas during the T20 showpiece. "When he wears that blue jersey, he will be a different Hardik Pandya because we know he can score those runs and take those wickets. I want Hardik to come good as he has gone through a lot and I wish him all the very best to have a very good tournament for India," Harbhajan told PTI in an exclusive interview. "If he has a good tournament, obviously India will have a great chance to go forward," he said. "Yes, his form is a bit of a concern...And lot of other stuff was going on around him, his shifting from Gujarat to Mumbai, was a big change and the team (MI) didn't react too well to Hardik coming back



and that too as captain," the 43-year-old added. The reason for the fan backlash against Pandya was MI's decision to hand him the captaincy after taking it away from the long-serving Rohit Sharma. There was speculation throughout the season that MI's dressing room was a divided house due to the change of guard. Rohit will now captain the national side with Pandya as his deputy in the World Cup starting June 1. Harbhajan, a multi format World Cup-winner, urged the team management to bring Pandya and Rohit on "same page". "...It looked like they (MI) were not playing together as a team. So there was a lot going on. Hardik wasn't a free man in the last two months. I believe both of them and many others who have played in different teams will have to come together to do something special for the nation..." he said. "Winning a World Cup is a bigger achievement than winning an IPL trophy, so I would urge the management to bring everyone together, have them on one page and make sure they play like one. "I believe it's the responsibility of the management to come together, and win together. Even if they lose they should be losing together." **BUMRAH WILL NEED SUPPORT:** Jasprit Bumrah is the only speedster among the chosen three (the other two being Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj), who doesn't need conditions to be successful, feels Harbhajan. "Pace attack definitely could be a concern because because Bumrah is in a different league for the kind of bowler he is. He will win you games on any kind of pitch. He doesn't need conditions whereas other bowlers like Arshdeep and Siraj would need help from conditions. "If there's bounce, Siraj might

do well. He is tall, can also swing it both ways, hits the deck hard and has got pace. But if wickets are slow then the challenge begins for other bowlers. "There will be lot of responsibility on Bumrah's shoulders but I hope other guys also take responsibility to be someone special." **IPL PERFORMANCES WON'T MATTER:** Harbhajan said IPL form would make no difference to the players' fortunes in the ICC showpiece. "No matter what you have done in your IPL career or previously, this is what counts the most...If I was in their shoes, I would be looking for this opportunity to showcase that I have been better than what I have been doing," the "Turbanator" stated. **VIRAT IS A CHANGED T20 BATTER:** Harbhajan was

mightily impressed with how Virat Kohli tweaked his T20 game during this year's IPL by adding shots to his repertoire, which drastically improved his strike rate. "Virat has shown a lot of improvement from last year to this year and people spoke about his strike rate. It was in 130s during last year and this time it is in 160s," he said. "Of course it's a big big change. Virat and Rohit will have to score quickly in Powerplay but also need to respect the conditions in USA and West Indies." **IF GAMBHIR BECOMES COACH:** Harbhajan doesn't know whether Gautam Gambhir, who is being spoken of as the favourite to take over India's head coach position from the outgoing Rahul Dravid, will get the job but he does believe it would be a crown of thorns for whoever chooses to wear it. "If I say it properly, it is a speculation, which is doing rounds...The biggest thing a coach can do is to bring everyone together, so that team plays together. So, whether Gautam becomes coach or Ashish Nehra, or whosoever gets the opportunity, hope they do better than what others before them did." He also ruled himself out of the race. "I don't think I will be able to give that much time. At this stage of my life I have a young family and I need to be around them and look after them. Yes, when the right time comes, I will put my foot forward and say I am ready for it," he concluded.



## India A to play Australia A ahead of Border Gavaskar Trophy

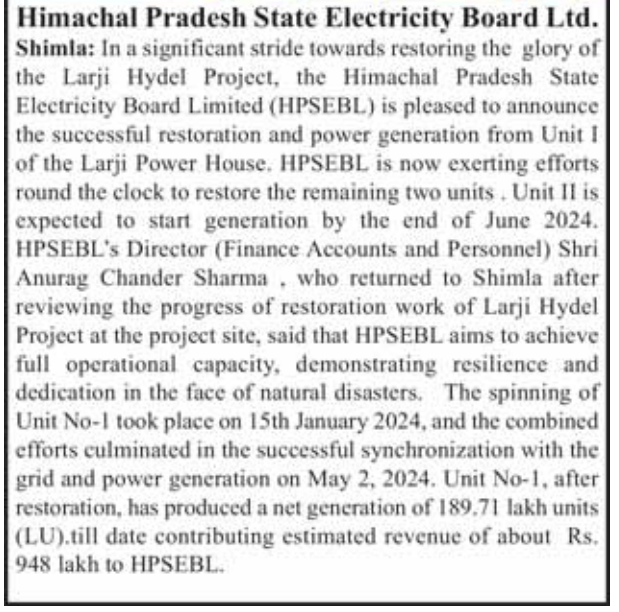
**PTI ■ MELBOURNE**  
India 'A' will play two first-class matches against Australia 'A' in the run-up to the marquee Border Gavaskar Trophy later this year, CA announced on Tuesday. The two games are scheduled to be played at the Great Barrier Reef Arena in Mackay and the MCG from October 31-November 3 and November 7 to 10 respectively, Cricket Australia said. The warm-up games will provide an opportunity for fringe players from both sides to push for a Test berth. "Hosting those A matches at the upgraded Great Barrier Reef Arena and the MCG give these 'A' matches significant status and will provide great opportunities to players from both sides to put up their hand for selection," said Peter Roach, CA Head of Cricket Operations and Scheduling. The Indian team will also play a three-day intra-squad match at the WACA Ground from November 17. India had played warm-up matches against Australia A in their previous tour Down Under in 2020-21 as well. The opening Test is set to be held at the Optus Stadium in Perth from November 22. It will be the first time since the 1991-92 season that the marquee series has been extended to five Tests. "To have that (the series) running simultaneously with the women's ODIs and preceded by two significant Australia A v India A matches will be terrific for our fans," Roach added. The Indian women's cricket team will also be touring Australia around the same time. The second ODI between the two sides on December 8 is set to clash with the second Test. Australia have not won the Border Gavaskar Trophy since 2017, having lost all past four series 2-1, including two at home in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)**  
1st Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional Space Allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)  
Case No. OA/1504/2023  
Summons under sub-Section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Exh. No. 21993  
**IDFC FIRST BANK LTD.**  
Vs  
**SHREE NATH JEWELLERS VERMA**  
To,  
(1) SHREE NATH JEWELLERS VERMA D/W/S/O-HONEY M/S SHREE NATH JEWELLERS VERMA, (PROPRIETOR OF HONEY VERMA) OFFICE AT 1437/4, NANDI MOHALLA, NEAR PREM MANDIR, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT AMBALA CITY HARYANA-134003, 2ND ADDRESS:-M.C. HOUSE TAX NO.-439/85, B-11, SONIA COLONY, AMBALA CITY PLOT NO. 85-A AMBALA HARYANA-134003 ALSO AT M.C. HOUSE TAX NO.-439/85, B-11, SONIA COLONY, AMBALA, PLOT NO. 85-A AMBALA HARYANA-134003  
(2) SH HONEY VERMA S/O DIN DAYAL VERMA, M.C. HOUSE TAX NO.-439/85, B-11, SONIA COLONY, AMBALA HARYANA-134003 ALSO AT 1437/4, NANDI MOHALLA, NEAR PREM MANDIR, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT AMBALA CITY, AMBALA HARYANA-134003.  
(3) MRS. MONIKA VERMA D/O CHARANJEET VERMA, M.C. HOUSE TAX NO.-439/85, B-11, SONIA COLONY, AMBALA HARYANA-134003 ALSO AT 1437/4, NANDI MOHALLA, NEAR PREM MANDIR, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT AMBALA CITY, AMBALA HARYANA-134003.  
**SUMMONS**  
Whereas, OA/1504/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding officer/Registrar on 31/01/2024  
Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 2441386/- (application along with copies of document etc. annexed).  
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-  
(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;  
(ii) To disclose particulars of properties of assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;  
(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;  
(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;  
(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank of financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.  
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before REGISTRAR on 19/06/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 08/02/2024  
By Order of The Tribunal  
Assistant Registrar  
Debts Recovery Tribunal Chandigarh (DRT 2)



## NHPC Limited, Chandigarh organized an awareness program on 'Menstrual Hygiene' under Swachhta Pakhwada-2024

On the occasion of 'Menstrual Hygiene Day' NHPC Limited Regional Office, Chandigarh today (28.05.2024) organized an awareness program on 'Menstrual Hygiene' for women in Sector 50, Community Centre, Chandigarh. Smt. Ruby Raina, General Manager (Law & Human Resources) was the Chief Guest of the program. In this awareness program, Dr. Jyotirmoy Jain of Parbati Project, Stage-II, NHPC Limited explained the importance of Menstrual Hygiene to all the women and people present and also made them aware about sanitary waste management. Apart from this, Chairperson, Indian Women Network (CIW) Dr. Ruby Ahuja also made the attendees aware about the importance of hygiene during menstrual cycle and the myths related to it.



## Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd. Shimla: In a significant stride towards restoring the glory of the Larji Hydel Project, the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) is pleased to announce the successful restoration and power generation from Unit 1 of the Larji Power House. HPSEBL is now exerting efforts round the clock to restore the remaining two units. Unit II is expected to start generation by the end of June 2024. HPSEBL's Director (Finance Accounts and Personnel) Shri Anurag Chander Sharma, who returned to Shimla after reviewing the progress of restoration work of Larji Hydel Project at the project site, said that HPSEBL aims to achieve full operational capacity, demonstrating resilience and dedication in the face of natural disasters. The spinning of Unit No-1 took place on 15th January 2024, and the combined efforts culminated in the successful synchronization with the grid and power generation on May 2, 2024. Unit No-1, after restoration, has produced a net generation of 189.71 lakh units (LU), till date contributing estimated revenue of about Rs. 948 lakh to HPSEBL.