

# Dr Harshinder Kaur emerges winner as govt eats humble pie

This was one move for which the Indian government paid dearly, as did the Punjab's Akali-BJP regime. Dr Harshinder Kaur, who was at the centre of the government's vengeful attack for contradicting at an international forum an Indian official who had claimed 100 per cent literacy for girls in Punjab, had to be reinstated within days of her ouster from Patiala's hospital.

Dr Harshinder Kaur will now continue on her post at Rajindra Hospital in Patiala. She was shunted out under the pretense that she had made anti-India remarks at a recent United Nations conference when all she had done was simply underline what the entire civil society has been shouting hoarse about: that international aid is best spent through working with NGOs than merely through governments.

Dr Kaur had also contradicted the official representing the Indian government by saying that it was not true that Punjab had 100 per cent literacy among women or girl children and much needed to be done. The Indian official had threatened Dr Kaur and as soon as she reached India, the consequences followed.

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Punjab government's secretary Health Satish Chandra summoned Dr Harshinder Kaur and asked her to submit an explanation along with a copy of her speech at the June 8 United Nations conference. There was such hue and cry that the government was forced to retract its steps.

Dr Kaur's reputation also came in the government's vengeful ways. She is known for speaking up against female foeticide, misuse of government funds, cause of Punjabi language and betterment of the female child.

Daughter of legendary scholar, late Prof Pritam Singh, and sister of Bathinda Central University Vice-Chancellor Dr Jairup Singh, Dr Kaur had made it clear that her speech contained nothing incriminating and the action divesting her of her charge as medical officer in the pediatric department of Rajindra Hospital in Patiala was clearly wrong.

On Monday, she joined back as a winner.

The state government will write to the Ministry of External Affairs, informing it of the same.



## She resisted slur at Sikhs

The Indian official at the international conference was also guilty of bad mouthing the Sikhs and had tried to suggest that since Punjab had a highly skewed sex ratio, and majority of Sikhs lived in Punjab, therefore Sikhs were somehow killers of the girl child. Dr Kaur took on the official and protested at the remarks against the Sikhs.

She asked the official whether or not there were other states and communities which have a lower gender ratio than Punjab in general and Sikhs in particular. Quoting statistics of the Government of India and Punjab government, she said literacy rate in Punjab is 64 per cent and efforts be made to educate the girl child in the state.

The IFS officer had dubbed the remarks "anti-national" and "anti-Punjab" and lodged a complaint with the MEA. Instead of the ruling Akali Dal demanding action against the official for heaping insults on the Sikh community, action was taken against Dr Kaur.

# Preet Bharara confirmed as Manhattan attorney

WASHINGTON: The US senate has confirmed India-born lawyer Preet Bharara as Manhattan's next US attorney who will oversee some of the most prominent cases like the prosecution of Bernard L. Madoff for his multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme.

"As a naturalised American citizen from India, Bharara also brings a diversity of background to the post," said the New York Times noting that for this nominee of President Barack Obama "politics and prosecution don't mix."

And while recent United States attorneys in Manhattan have come directly from prosecutors' jobs, Bharara's background on Capitol Hill will serve him well, it said citing Daniel C. Richman, a law professor at Columbia University and a former Southern District prosecutor.

Preetinder S. Bharara, 40, was born in Ferozepur, India, and he was an infant when his parents immigrated to the United States in

1970. He grew up in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and graduated from Harvard in 1990 and Columbia Law School in 1993.

His father, a Sikh, and his mother, who was Hindu, were born in what is now Pakistan. In the violent migration that occurred after the 1947 partition, his father and mother both moved to the Indian side, with their families losing property and most of their possessions, Bharara has said.

His wife's father, a Muslim, also moved, from the Indian side into Pakistan, also losing his home "and much, much more," as Bharara put it according to the Times. And his wife's mother was born in Palestine, after her father, who was Jewish, escaped with his family from Nazi Germany.

"Four different families, practicing four different faiths - all compelled to flee a half century ago because of their religion," Bharara said in a speech to the South Asian Bar Association of New York in 2007.



## Miri Piri Campers Visit Maharaja Dalip Singh's Former House

LONDON: A group of Miri Piri campers visited the former home of Maharaja Dalip Singh at 53 Holland Park, on August 2, singing "We are Mighty Khalsa, Mighty Mighty Khalsa, Everywhere We go, People Want to Know, Who We Are, So We tell Them." Organised by the United Sikhs, the Miri Piri weekend camp hosted by the Central Gurdwara London, the oldest Gurdwara in Europe, also known as the Shepherd's Bush Gurdwara, left wonderful

memories. Many came to participate from Essex, Berkshire, Middlesex, Birmingham, Hitchin and Wolverhampton. The activities included talks, discussions, Sikh Martial Art Gatka, and of course all of this was marked by spiritual energy as well as fun. Maharajah Dalip Singh lived in this house for 5 years in the 1800s. Many felt a tinge of sadness at reading the English Heritage Blue Plaque on the house which read - "The last Maharaja of Lahore".

# Alumni Association Honors Baban Pal Singh

Two high achieving students who have excelled academically, demonstrated outstanding service to their department, campus and/or community and show strong involvement in extracurricular, academic and professional activities are being honored this spring by Cal State Fullerton's Alumni Association.

Baban Pal Singh of Hacienda Heights has been awarded the association's Outstanding Graduate Award. Sam H. Muhaidly of Fullerton is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Senior Award.

Both scholars will be honored as part of the university's annual commencement ceremonies, beginning with the May 22 Honors Convocation in the Meng Concert Hall.

Baban Pal Singh earned both his bache-

lor's and MBA in just four years at Cal State Fullerton and was a member of the campus chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars, serving as chapter coordinator, student president and a board member. He was also a student ambassador at the university's World Hunger Conference in 2008 and a student volunteer during Mihaylo College of Business and Economics' Professor for a Day in 2007 and 2008. Away from campus, he has volunteered more than 200 community service hours at the Sikh Gurudwara of Walnut.

Singh will join the international accounting firm Ernst & Young, serving in business advisory services in October and is excited about starting a new chapter in his life.



# 7 NRIs remanded to custody in UK for killing kabaddi star

LONDON: Seven people of Indian origin have been remanded to judicial custody in the UK in connection with the killing of prominent kabaddi player Suvinder Singh Bath outside a pub he owned in Bilston in the West Midlands.

Bath, 47, was shot dead outside his pub called Gavin's Sports Bar some ten days earlier. The seven people charged with his murder were remanded to judicial custody during a hearing at the Wolverhampton magistrates court.

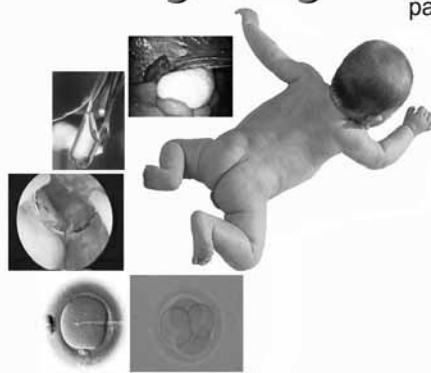
Kabaddi enthusiasts paid tributes to Bath as his family grappled with the loss.

One fan wrote online: "What a tragedy.

Great player of the game, but more so, he was well known for being one of the truly great characters. RIP." Another fan said: "He was one of the best stoppers in England over the years. He went toe-to-toe with much heavier men and was a big crowd favourite. 'He was a real character who will be a big loss for all the Kabaddi world.'" Bath's pub was named after his son, Gavin, who reportedly cradled his dying father as he waited for police and ambulance crews to arrive at the scene.

Bath's daughter Danny, 20, said: "He was a loving, caring man who was so generous to us all. We all loved him so much. We just can't believe this."

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