

## International News

## Three Indian-Americans take oath as county judges in US

Houston: Three Indian-American Democrats have taken oath as Fort Bend County Judges in the United States.

In a ceremony on Sunday, Juli A Mathew, KP George, and Surendran K Pattel were sworn in as Fort Bend County Judges, along with other newly elected and re-elected officials. Juli A Mathew, the first Indian-American woman to be elected to a judge's bench in the US four years ago, was re-elected for a second term after defeating her Republican challenger Andrew Dornburg. Mathew, a native of Thiruvalla in Kerala, was sworn in via video-conferencing.

George, the first Indian-American to hold an office in Fort Bend County, won a second term as the county's



KP George &amp; Surendran K Pattel

judge in a narrow race in the November elections. He hails from Kerala's Kakkodu city.

George, a 57-year-old Democrat, whose win in 2018 made him a trailblazer in the Houston area and beyond, said he hopes it stays that way now that he's been granted another four years as the chief executive for one of the most diverse and fastest-growing counties in the country. He said that community en-

gagement will be the top priority for his administration.

The county also welcomed District Court Judge Pattel, who edged Republican Edward M Krenek in the race for the 240th Judicial District in November. The 52-year-old, a native of Kerala, with an experience of over 25 years has been a Texas attorney since 2009, prior to which he was a lawyer in India, where he earned his law Degree in 1995 from the University of Calicut. According to his website, in 2015, Pattel was elected as the president of the Malayalee Association of Greater Houston, a 2,500-member nonprofit organisation that serves more than 12,000 Indian families.

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## DPS in News

## गणतंत्र दिवस की परेड में शामिल होगा नितिन



बुलंदशहर। दिल्ली पब्लिक स्कूल के एनसीसी छात्र नितिन चौधरी का 26 जनवरी को दिल्ली में होने वाली गणतंत्र दिवस की परेड में भागीदारी के लिए चयन किया गया है। विद्यालय के प्रधानाचार्य डॉ. एचएस वशिष्ठ ने बताया कि छात्र नितिन चौधरी का दिल्ली परेड में शामिल होने के लिए चयन होने पर शिक्षकों व छात्र के अभिभावकों में खुशी की लहर है। छात्र नितिन चौधरी को स्कूल के शिक्षकों ने बधाई देते हुए उसके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना की है। संवाद

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## National News

## After strategic talks, India &amp; France vow to strengthen def ties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and France held another round of strategic dialogue on Thursday reaffirming commitment to their partnership in the Indo-Pacific and pledging to further enhance defence cooperation with focus on co-development of futuristic technologies. France has been looking to become India's most trusted partner in defence manufacturing by sharing best technology and state-of-the-art equipment.

The dialogue was co-chaired by NSA Ajit Doval and French President's diplomatic adviser Emmanuel Bonne who later also met PM Narendra Modi and foreign minister S Jaishankar. Discussions were also held about French President Emmanuel Macron's upcoming visit to India.

During the strategic dialogue and the meetings, according to the MEA, India and France reiterated their commitment to take forward their strategic partnership to ensure peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific based on common beliefs in rules-based international order and strategic autonomy. Discussions were held on the conflict in Ukraine and its impact



NSA Ajit Doval and Emmanuel Bonne, diplomatic adviser to the President of France, co-chaired the annual India-France Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on Thursday

on the global economy.

Third Country Cooperation; cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, nuclear energy, space and cyber domains were also among the issues discussed.

In his meeting with Bonne, Modi highlighted the close cooperation between India and France in various domains of their Strategic Partnership including defence, security, and the Indo-Pacific. PM welcomed France's support to India's G20 Presidency. Discussions were also held on other areas of mutual interest and cooperation including energy, and culture.

"PM fondly recalled his recent meeting with President Macron in Bali and conveyed his invitation to President Macron to visit India," said the government in a statement.

## Sports News

## Bishwamitra showcases his class, nails 51kg gold

## NATIONAL BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi  
HISAR

World youth bronze medalist Bishwamitra Chongtham exhibited his gifted game to beat another up-and-coming talent Zoram Muana in the 51kg final and win his maiden title in the National Boxing Championships on the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University campus here on Friday.

Bishwamitra's fine showing helped him record a 5-0 win over his rival from Mizoram and celebrate his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday a day in advance.

Related to legendary woman boxer Sarita Devi, the diminutive Bishwamitra, hailing from Manipur and representing Services, relied on his smooth footwork and superb ring craft to move in and out of an attacking Zoram's grasp and land some well-directed punches.



Podium finishers: The 51kg gold medalist Bishwamitra, second left, silver winner Muana, left, and bronze winners Amarjeet, second right, and Aarif, right. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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