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ROLE OF AI IN LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

WORLD 8

US EFFORT TO BRING AID TO GAZA BY SEA

MONEY 10

MARKETS SNAP FIVE DAYS RALLY; SENSEX TUMBLES

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol. 19 Issue 115
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

CHANDIGARH, SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

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Supreme Court rejects 100 per cent VVPAT verification plea

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A tight slap to Congress led Opposition: Modi

In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court on Friday rejected all petitions seeking 100 per cent cross-verification of votes cast using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

Weighing in on the intensely debated issue that has long divided political parties, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta delivered two concurring verdicts in the matter, also rejected a demand to go back

to ballot papers in elections. The order came on a day during the second phase of polling for 88 parliamentary seats in 13 States. The Supreme Court's long anticipated verdict quickly found echo in the political landscape with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying at a rally in Araria in Bihar that it is a "tight slap" on the Congress-led Opposition which now must "apologise" for committing the "sin of creating distrust" against



Supreme Court on EVM-VVPAT Verification Case

Photo: PTI

electronic voting machines. Hours after the Supreme Court verdict, Modi said the decision shattered dreams of the INDIA Bloc that "sought to mislead the nation". "Every politician in the INDIA coalition sinned by trying to create doubts in the hearts of the nation's citizens," Modi said at an election rally in Araria Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar. "When the Congress, the RJD and other INDIA Bloc parties were in power, the

poor, backwards and Dalits were to be deprived of their votes through booth capture. With the introduction of Electronic Voting Machines, they are no longer able to play their old game. Hence, they committed the sin of creating distrust against EVMs," he said. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal described the decision as "fabulous". He said the Supreme Court's ruling has exposed Opposition parties, including the Congress, which had left no opportunity to "defame" the Election Commission.

Opposition vows to continue VVPAT campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

While most Opposition parties did not express their view after the Supreme Court's verdict on VVPAT, the Congress and a couple of parties like Samajwadi Party (SP) said it will continue with its campaign on greater use of VVPATs to increase the public trust in the electoral process.

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the Opposition is not a party, directly or indirectly, to the petition on VVPATs. "We have taken note of the verdict of the two-judge bench and our political campaign on the greater use of VVPATs to increase public trust in the electoral process will continue," Ramesh said in a statement.

Estimated Poll Turnout (Phase -II) at 07:00 PM

STATES	VOTING PER CENT
Assam	70.78
Bihar	54.91
Chhattisgarh	73.05
Jammu and Kashmir	71.63
Karnataka	67.12
Kerala	65.28
Madhya Pradesh	56.60
Maharashtra	54.34
Manipur	77.18
Rajasthan	63.82
Tripura	78.63
Uttar Pradesh	54.82
West Bengal	71.84



Nearly 61 per cent voter turnout in Phase II of LS polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to young and women voters to turn out in great numbers and Opposition leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi's message for voters to vote and 'save the Constitution,' notwithstanding, saw nearly 61 per cent voting till 7 pm on Friday in the second phase of the Lok Sabha.

The 2019 polls of the second phase recorded 66 per cent voting. At 7 pm, 61 per cent voter turnout was recorded across 13 States and Union Territories. Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Bengal, Assam and Tripura recorded over 70 per cent voter turnout while Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra recorded

the lowest turnout at 52.6 per cent, 53 per cent and 53.5 per cent respectively. In 2019, NDA secured victory in 56 seats of the 89 seats while the UPA won 24 seats.

In the ongoing second phase of Lok Sabha elections, Assam saw voting percentage of 70.97 per cent, Bihar 54.91 per cent, Chhattisgarh 73.19 per cent, Jammu and Kashmir 71.92 per cent, Karnataka 67.77 per cent, Kerala 65.45 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 57.55 per cent, Maharashtra 54.58 per cent, Manipur 77.18 per cent, Rajasthan 64.01 per cent, Tripura 78.82 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 54.83 per cent and West Bengal 71.84 per cent.

After Friday's phase, polling will be over in the States of Kerala, Rajasthan and Tripura. Barring a few confrontations and complaints of fake voting in Barmer-Jaisalmer, polling was peaceful in the second phase. The third phase of elections for 94 seats across 12 States and Union Territories will be held on May 7.

Modi expressed his delight saying the phase two of the Lok Sabha polls has been "too good" for the BJP-led NDA, describing the support to the ruling alliance as unparalleled.

"Phase Two has been too good! Gratitude to the people across India who have voted today. The

unparalleled support for NDA is going to disappoint the Opposition even more. Voters want NDA's good governance. Youth and women voters are powering the strong NDA support," Modi said on social media.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took potshots at the PM over his attack on the grand old party, saying he is scared and may even shed tears on the stage.

Interestingly, Modi and Opposition leaders, including Rahul raised the pitch of the campaign by focusing on hot-button issues such as religious discrimination, inheritance taxes and affirmative action's during the second phase to polarize their vote bank.

Notably, Kanker, Rajnandgaon and Mahasamund in Chhattisgarh having naxalite presence, recorded voter turnout of 63.92 per cent. Similarly, the newly settled Bru voters of Tripura exercised their franchise for the 2024 general elections to the Lok Sabha. Voters in some villages of Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, Rajasthan's Banswara and Maharashtra's Parbhani boycotted polls over various issues but were persuaded by authorities to cast their franchise. Voters in some villages of Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, Rajasthan's Banswara and Maharashtra's Parbhani were boycotting the polls over various issues but were later persuaded by authorities to cast their franchise.

THE PIONEER REPORTS FROM GROUND ZERO

KERALA

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The ebullient fight between the BJP-led NDA, the Congress-led UDF and the CPI(M)-led LDF for the 20 Lok Sabha seats from Kerala that went to the polls on Friday is continuing even after the polling concluded by 6 pm on Friday.

As hundreds of voters had queued up in front of polling stations at 6 pm, polling officials issued tickets to all so that no one needed to return home without casting their votes. By 7 pm on Friday, the State had registered 70 per cent polling according to the Election Commission of India. The final figure is likely to cross the 77.8 per cent figure which was recorded in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll from the State.

Law enforcement agencies heaved a sigh of relief as the polling process was by and large peaceful and no major untoward incidents were reported from anywhere in the State. But there were allegations by the BJP and the opposition Congress party that thousands of voters cast their votes with the help of fake identity cards.

"There were many instances of expatriate workers from



other States managing to cast their votes with the help of officials whose loyalty lied with the CPI(M)," said Adoor Prakash, Congress candidate from Attingal in southern Kerala. Seven persons reportedly died either after casting the votes or while waiting for their turn to vote.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who cast his vote with wife Kamala and scam tainted daughter Veena Mohammed Riyaz claimed that there was a CPI(M) wave across Kerala and the LDF would win in all the 20 constituencies. He said that the good works done by the LDF to help the poor would be reflected when results are declared on 4 June.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Sensitive States of the North East, including Manipur and Tripura, besides Assam witnessed peaceful polling on Friday in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections. Manipur, where polling was held under high presence of security personnel, the turnout was a high 77 per cent and one incident of EVM damage was reported. The State had witnessed violence in some areas during the first phase of polls on April 19.

On Friday, voting was held in the remaining parts of the Outer Manipur Lok Sabha constituency at 857 polling stations, spanning 13 Assembly segments in eight districts, officials said. Over 4.84 lakh people are eligible to vote in this phase.

Fifteen assembly segments of the Outer Manipur Lok Sabha constituency went to the polls in the first phase on April 19 along with the whole of the Inner Manipur seat.

Four candidates are in the fray in Outer Manipur — NPF's K Timothy Zimik, Congress's Alfred Kannam



Arthur, and Independents S Kho John and Alyson Abonmai. The BJP has not fielded any candidate and is backing its ally, the NPF. Security measures were significantly enhanced across all 13 assembly segments where polling was held on Friday.

Prominent among the 91 candidates whose fate was decided in the second phase polling are actors-turned-politician Hema Malini, who is seeking a third term from Mathura, and Arun Govil, who played the role of Lord Ram in the Ramayana TV serial. He has been fielded by the BJP from his native place Meerut. The other prominent candidates are Danish Ali of Congress from Amroha, and BJP's Atul Garg from Ghaziabad and Mahesh Sharma from Gautam Buddha Nagar.

The constituencies where polling was held on Friday included Amroha, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aligarh, Mathura and Bulandshahr.

UTTAR PRADESH

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

In the second phase of Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, 55-60 per cent voter turnout is expected to be recorded. Uttar Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said here on Friday that by 5 pm 52.74 per cent voter turnout was recorded in eight Lok Sabha constituencies where polling was held on Friday.

Among the 91 candidates whose fate was decided in the second phase polling are actors-turned-politician Hema Malini, who is seeking a third term from Mathura, and Arun Govil, who played the role of Lord Ram in the Ramayana TV serial. He has been fielded by the BJP from his native place Meerut. The other prominent candidates are

Danish Ali of Congress from Amroha, and BJP's Atul Garg from Ghaziabad and Mahesh Sharma from Gautam Buddha Nagar. The constituencies where polling was held on Friday included Amroha, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aligarh, Mathura and Bulandshahr.



The CEO said polling was peaceful in all eight Lok Sabha constituencies and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere. He said around 150 complaints were received at the state control room and all were promptly disposed of.

The CEO said complaints related to faulty electronic voting machines (EVMs), power supply breakdown, slow polling and identification documents produced by voters. He said 48 ballot units, 213 control units and 469 VVPAT machines were replaced. In one polling booth, a polling agent was asked by the police to leave the booth. Following a complaint by the political party, the agent was allowed to stay at the particular polling booth.

KARNATAKA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU

The first phase of Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka on Friday comprising 14 constituencies witnessed an impressive 65 per cent voter turnout where the Congress and BJP locked horns on the electoral battleground in less than a year.

According to poll officials, 65 per cent voter turnout was recorded. The turnout was however 49.37 per cent in Bengaluru South, and 50.04 per cent in Bengaluru North, amid indications of continued voter apathy in the city.

Long queues were seen at polling booths, as people, especially senior citizens and morning walkers came out to vote during the early hours since the voting began at 7 am. Several prominent personalities like Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, IT industry veteran N R Narayana Murthy, his wife and nominated member of Rajya Sabha Sudha Murty, cricketing legends Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, and Javagal Srinath cast their



ballot. Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar, Kumaraswamy, and film personalities like Upendra, Shivarajkumar and Sudeep, also exercised their franchise. Several new couples cast their votes either before or after their marriage. Many booths saw centenarians and differently-abled people actively taking part in the democratic process.

Out of 14 segments that went to polls, the highest turnout of 74.87 per cent was recorded in Mandya, followed by Udipi-Chikmagalur and Hassan at an identical 72.13 per cent, and the least 48.61 per cent in Bangalore Central.

JAMMU

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

More than 70 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha constituency in the second phase of polling amid tight security arrangements on Friday.

Over 67.22 per cent polling was recorded till 5.00 pm and a large number of voters were still standing in the polling booths to cast their votes. Election Commission authorities said while sharing the Assembly-wise polling percentage.

Former Minister and working president of Raman Bhalla is challenging two-time sitting MP Jugul Kishore Sharma of BJP. Ankur Sharma of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal is also in the fray to test the political waters ahead of the maiden Assembly polls in the Union Territory. Of 17,80,835 eligible voters, 11,971,27 had exercised their right to vote till 5.00 p.m. sealing the fate of 22 candidates in the fray across 2416 polling stations spread across 4 districts of Jammu, Samba, Reasi, and Rajouri (83- Kalakote-Sunderbani).



SC to consider listing Delhi Government's plea on services row with Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday told the Delhi Government that it would consider listing its plea challenging the Central Government's law establishing pre-eminence of the Lieutenant Governor over the elected dispensation in controlling services in the national Capital.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was urged by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the AAP Government, that the whole administration has come to a standstill and the matter needed to be heard.

The CJ said presently a nine-judge bench matter is going on and he will consider the submission.

Presently, the nine-judge bench headed by the CJ is hearing petitions



raising a vexed legal question whether private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) of the Constitution, which is a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Earlier on February 9, the Delhi Government had mentioned the plea for urgent listing before the five-judge Constitution bench. On September 27 last year, the top court had ordered that a common compilation of submissions be filed by both the parties in the petition by the Delhi Government.

Two terrorists killed in Baramulla

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Amid high-voltage electioneering going on in the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency of North Kashmir, a joint team of security forces on Friday eliminated two terrorists in the Nowpora area of Sopore.

A civilian and two security personnel were also injured in the exchange of firing which continued intermittently during the night. The condition of all three personnel is stable.

According to the Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range VK Birdi, "a joint operation was launched by the security forces on receipt of information about the presence of terrorists in the Nowpora area of Sopore in



Security personnel stand guard during an encounter with terrorists in Nowpora area of Sopore on Friday

the Baramulla district late Thursday evening." IG Kashmir said that during the search operations, the hiding

terrorists opened indiscriminate firing on the security personnel leading to a fierce gunfight.

The intermittent firing continued during the night. The two terrorists were neutralised early Friday morning after fresh contact was established.

The entire area was sanitised after the recovery of arms ammunition and other incriminating material. IG Kashmir VK Birdi said the identity of the slain terrorists is yet to be ascertained. Based on documents recovered from the encounter site one of the terrorists has been identified as Saifullah, he added.

Voting is scheduled to take place during the fifth phase of polling on May 20. People's Conference Chairman Sajad Lone and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are locked in a straight fight on the Lok Sabha seat.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mithlesh Singh S/o Ram Lakhman Singh R/o House no. 1257, Sector 52, Chandigarh declare that my son Harjeet Singh, his wife Reema Devi are out of my control. I disown both of them from my movable immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Narender Singh S/o Sh. Sahab Singh R/o VPO Kakroi, Teh. & Distt. Sonapat, Haryana has disowned my son Aditya from my all movable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Sita Ram S/o Sh. Manohar Lal R/o H.No. 605/22, Panchsheel Colony, Sonapat, Haryana has disowned my son Ravi & his wife Jyoti from my all movable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Chandher Prabha W/o Late Ramesh Chander R/o House No. 191, Sector 18, Panchkula, my son Pramod Kumar and his wife Sapna are out of my control. I disown them from my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at his/ her own risk.

I, Satpal S/o Late Sh. Dhan Ram R/o VPO Bajana Khurd Tehsil Ganaur Distt. Sonapat, Haryana declare that my son Naveen Kumar & his wife Anju are out of my control. I disown them from my movable & immovable properties. I & My family will not be responsible for any kind of transaction or Legal or illegal work done by them.

I, Baljit Singh, S/o Khem Chand, R/o 492-A, Aggrasain Nagar, Jagadhri, District Yamunanagar, declares that my son Ashish Ahlawat, who is residing with my brother Kapoor Singh Ahlawat at H. No. 293, Sector 11, Panchkula from childhood, who neither meets me nor takes care of me, hence I debarred him from my all movable and immovable properties. I have no dealings with him.

I, Randhir Singh s/o Late Mamu Ram r/o village Fatuhpur, PO Amin, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra inform that my son Ankush is out of control. I evict him from my movable and immovable properties. My family will not be responsible for his good or bad deeds and transactions in future.

I, Peeter Masih s/o Sohan Masih r/o Near Good Morning farm, Harijan Colony, Kahanpur Distt Pathankot Declare that in school documents of my daughter, my name and her name wrongly written as Peter and Khushoo. Our correct names are Peeter Masih and Khushboo.

I, Jasbir Kaur w/o Baldev Singh r/o VPO Dorangla Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab)-143526 declare that in my passport, my name has been wrongly written as Jasbeer Kaur. My correct name is Jasbir Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Mehakdeep Kaur D/o Navtej Singh R/o 2620/16, Gali Phat Wali, Sultanwind Gate, Amritsar, Punjab declare that in my HDFC Life Policy No. 10420990 my name was written as Mehak Kaur. Mehakdeep Kaur and Mehak Kaur is one and the same person.

I, Nisha W/o Sh. Raj Kumar, R/o House No. 135, Dhanas Chandigarh inform that my daughter Anjali out of my control. I have no relationship with her in future. I disown her from all my moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deal with her at their own Risk.

I, Dalbir Kaur w/o Shalinder Singh r/o Vill Ranipur Chhotra P.O Ranipur Distt Pathankot Declare that in school record of my son , my name wrongly written as Dalvir Kaur. My correct name is Dalbir Kaur.

I, Sachin Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Lal Chand R/o H.No. B-6/829, Kashmiri Bazar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that my son Chirag Jain and his wife Surbhi is out of my control. I so disown all of them from our Moveable and Immoveable Properties anybody dealing with them his/ her own risk Concerned Note.

I, Gurcharan Singh S/o Mahinder Singh R/o #924, Dadu Majra colony, Sector 38 West, Chandigarh declares that my son Satnam and his wife Kajal are out of my control. I disown them from my movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals them in future, shall be self responsible.

We Gurmeet Rai S/o Late Baldev Singh and Kanta W/o Gurmeet Rai R/o H.No.42, Radha Swami Satsang House, New Kitchlu Nagar, Hambran Road, Ludhiana declares that my son Sandeep Rai and his wife and children are out of our control we disown them from our moveable and immovable properties.

I, Manwinder Kaur W/o Inderjit Singh Nagpal # 936, TF, Sector 78, SAS Nagar Mohali declare that Inderjit Singh Nagpal do not care about me and my sons namely Anmol Nagpal and Ishaan Nagpal from the last more than 10 years and indulged himself into various criminal activities. Therefore, I along with my sons do not wish to keep any relation with Inderjit Singh Nagpal and anybody dealing with him shall be himself/herself liable and me and my sons shall not be responsible for his any act or conduct.

I, Madan Lal Utreja S/o Nathu Ram Utreja, # 3291 Sector 46-C, Chandigarh, declare that in my all documents my name is mentioned as Madan Lal Utreja S/o Nathu Ram Utreja and in my passport my name is Madan Lal S/o Nathu Ram which are one and the same person.

I, Manoj Kumar S/o Pyare Lal R/o #1365-A, Morigate, Manimajra, Chandigarh disown my daughter Shivangi from my moveable/immovable properties. she is out of my control. Anybody deals with her they will do their own risk/responsibility

I, No. 9514310M Rank Havildar Name Virender, Unit HQ 59 INF DIV, S/o Jagbir R/o VPO Mokhra Kheri (102), Teh. Meham Distt. Rohtak Haryana - 124022 declare that my mother name Krishna Devi and her DOB July, 1969 are wrongly mentioned in my Army record. But my mother correct & actual name is Krishna and her correct DOB is 01.01.1970 (as per her Aadhar Card & other documents).

I, Darshan kaur wife of Army No.14464710 H Rank/Hav. Name:Charan Singh, Unit:114 Med. Regt. C/o 56APO Patiala declare that in my husband's service record my name wrongly mentioned Darshana kumari but my correct name is Darshan kaur.

I, Tejghan S/o Sh. Munshi Ram R/o Village Akbarpur Barota, Rai, Sonapat declare that my son Sanjeev is out of my control. So I disown them from my all movable/ immovable property. Any body deal with them at own risk.

I, Kuldeep Singh Mangat, son of Joginder Singh, resident of village Sain, Patiala, declare that my son Satnam Singh, his wife Gurbinder Kaur and my daughter Sukhjot Kaur (married) are beyond my authority and do what they want. I exclude them from my movable property. Those who deal with them will be responsible themselves, I will have nothing to do with it. To make related notes.

I, Dilbag Singh S/o Jagmal R/o Vill. Pur Teh. Bawani Khera Distt. Bhiwani (Hr.) declare that my son Devender Singh and his wife Rachna are out of my control. So, I disown both of them from my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk, Me and My family members are not responsible.

I, Sukhpreet Singh Brar, Holder of Indian Passport No. T4011071 Having Permanent Address Villa Rataul Rohi Po Sodhiwala, Teh Zira, Ferozepur, Pin: 142050, Punjab, India Residing In Kuwait At Present, Hereby Declare That Henceforth My Name Will Be Read As Under: Given Name Sukhpreet Singh

I Sundresh S/o Balvir Singh R/o Vill Fatehpur Distt Sonipat that in my son Vineet School Certificate his my name wrongly entered Sandresh and his mother name wrongly entered Sandika but my correct name is Sundresh and his mother correct name is Sandika Devi.

I, Sukhdeep Kaur D/o Gurtej Singh, Holder of Indian Passport, Passport No. Z2870663, issued at Jalandhar on 20 June 2014, Permanent resident of (Vpo Hiala Teh Nawanshahr, SBS Nagar, Pin-144517 Punjab India) and presently residing at 15 Valley West Road, Brampton ON L6P 2J9, do hereby changed my name from Sukhdeep Kaur to Sukhdeep Kaur Bains, with immediate effect.

I Army No. 4473825A Rank Ex HAV (ACP NB SUB) Jaswinder Singh s/o Jarnail Singh r/o VPO Halwara Teh Raikot, District, Ludhiana, Punjab, 141107 declare that in my service record book my father DOB entered as 12-12-1957 is incorrect, his correct DOB is 07-02-1955 and my mother DOB entered as 27-10-1959 is also incorrect, her correct DOB is 01-01-1956 and my son name entered as Narinder Pal Singh is incorrect, his correct name is Narinderpal Singh.

I, Gurmej Singh S/o Sulakhian Singh R/o Vill-Gharota Kalan, Tehsil & Distt-Pathankot (Punjab) -143533 declare that in my daughter's passport her name is wrongly entered as Harmandeep instead of Harman Deep Kaur vide Affidavit dated 23-04-2023

I, Kalidashi Sarkar (Old Name), Mother of No JC-677575M, Rank Nb Sub Name Sudeb Sarkar resident of VILL - Sahapur, Post - Islampur, Ps - Katwa, Dist - Purba Barddhaman, State - West Bengal, Pin - 713502, I have changed my name & DOB from Kalidashi Sarkar, DOB - 01/07/1962 (Old Name & DOB) to Kalidasi Sarkar, DOB - 19/06/1955 (New Name & DOB), vide Affidavit dated 26 Apr 2024 sworn before Notary Public Sat Pal, Pathankot. Please correct it

I, Fanindra Nath Sarkar (Old Name), Father of No JC-677575M, Rank Nb Sub Name Sudeb Sarkar resident of VILL - Sahapur, Post - Islampur, Ps - Katwa, Dist - Purba Barddhaman, State - West Bengal, Pin - 713502, I have changed my name & DOB from Fanindra Nath Sarkar, DOB - 01/07/1949 (Old Name & DOB) to Fanindranath Sarkar, DOB - 18/04/1945 (New Name & DOB), vide Affidavit dated 26 Apr 2024 sworn before Notary Public Sat Pal, Pathankot. Please correct it

I, Monika W/o Rakesh Malhotra R/o 303 F, Near Transformer, Professor Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Monika to Monica.

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Krishan Lal R/o 303 F, Professor Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Rakesh Kumar to Rakesh Malhotra.

I, Madhu W/o Sh. Lekh Raj R/o H.No.1667-A, Near Iskcon Temple, Sector-24, Panipat, declare that in the school certificate of my son my name entered is Madhu Midha and in my other documents my name entered is Madhu. Madhu Midha & Madhu both name are of same person.

I, Lekh Raj S/o Sh.Ladha Ram R/o H.No.1667-A, Near Iskcon Temple, Sector-24, Panipat, declare that in the school certificate of my son my name entered is Lekhraj Midha & other documents my name entered is Lekh Raj. Lekhraj Midha & Lekh Raj both names are the same person.

I, Harvinder Singh S/o Mohan Singh R/o House no. 2096, B-Block, Friends Avenue, Gali Plah Sahib, Ajnala Road, Amritsar, Punjab 143001 have changed my name from Harvinder Singh to Harvinder Singh Bedi.

I, Harish Taneja Son of Kanshi Ram Taneja R/o #3961, Sector 47/D, Chandigarh has changed my name from Harish Taneja to Harish Kumar Taneja.

I, Harpal, S/o Ram Murti, R/O Village Tedi Baroti, P.O. Trilokpur, Tehsil Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, H.P., declares that in the Birth register record of my son Himanshu, father and mother name has been wrongly entered as Rinku and Krishna instead of Harpal and Sadhna. All concern please note.

I, Anil Kumar (Old Name) S/O Sh.Kakanapillil Pannikker Anirudhan R/O House no. 188,Lajpat Nagar, Hisar have changed my name from Anil Kumar to Anil Pannikker.

I, Narinder Vohra S/o Shiv Darshan Lal Vohra R/O House No. 326 Sector-7, Panchkula, Haryana, declared that I have changed my name from Narinder Vohra to Narinder Kumar Vohra.

I, Neena Gharu W/O Sh. Kanwal Jit Singh R/O House No. 2149, Sector 44-C, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name To Neena.

I, Kanwal Jit Singh Gharu S/O Late S. Gurdev Singh R/O House No. 2149, Sector 44-C, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name To Kanwal Jit Singh.

I, Kanta Rani wife of IC-34841P Lt Col Chaman Lal Mahinia resident of A-602, Vikram Vihar, Sector-27, Panchkula (Haryana) declare that my pre/post marriage name is Kanta Rani in all my service documents and PPO by Punjab Govt. My name in the PPO of my husband is recorded as Kanta Mahinia which may be corrected as Kanta Rani.

I, Vikrant Kashyap (Aadhaar no.8532-1673-6695) S/o Mr. Babloo R/O House No.237, Street No.21, Prem Nagar, Abohar, Distt.Fazilka, Punjab-152116 have changed my name from Vikrant to Vikrant Kashyap.

I, Jasvinder Kaur W/o Sh. Balvir Singh R/o Vill. Noorpur PO Bhunga, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Jasvinder Kaur to Jaswinder Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Jugal Kishor Budhiraja, S/O Nihal Chand R/O House No. B-588, Ansal, Sushant City, Panipat, declare that Jugal Kishor Budhiraja and Jugal Kishore Budhiraja both are same and one person name. In future I should be known by the name of Jugal Kishor Budhiraja for all purposes.

I, Jyoti Budhiraja, W/o Jugal Kishor Budhiraja, R/O House no. B-588, Ansal Sushant City, Panipat declare that Jyoti Budiraja and Jyoti Budhiraja both are the names of my one and same woman. In future I may be known as Jyoti Budhiraja for all purposes.

I, Pawan Kumar S/o Raj Kumar R/o 169 A, Gali No. 12, Guru Amardass Avenue, A-Block, Ajnala Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Pawan Kumar to Pawan Kumar Marwah.

I, Laxmi D/o Naresh Kumar R/O 811, Gali No. 9, Sunder Nagar, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Laxmi to Laxmi Sharma.

I, Gurbakash Singh S/o Mota Singh R/O Village Kambo Dhai Wala, Chamba Kalan, Tarn Taran, Punjab- 143408 have changed my name from Gurbakash Singh to Gurbax Singh.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/o Harjinder Singh R/O VPO Dehriwala, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Gurpreet Singh to Gurpreet Singh Aujla.

I, Yadbir Singh S/o Manjit Singh R/O Dabanwal Khurd, P.O Dabanwal Kalan. Teh. Batala Distt. Gurdaspur declare that Yadbir is my Given name And Singh is Surname. Concerned note.

I, Anju Bala W/O Narinder Kumar R/O Ward no.14, Advocate Colony Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Anju to Anju Bala.

I, Vikas alias Vikas Shira S/O Jaibhagwan R/O Village Hariharng Kingan Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name to Vikas Shira.

I, Anita Rani W/o Pawan Saini, R/O 767/1, Sudama Nagar, Sonapat declare that I have changed my name from Anita Rani to Anita Saini, for all future purposes.

I, Bina Devi W/o Mohan Lal R/O Vill-Lukhi, Kurukshetra, changed her name from Beena Kumari to Bina Devi.

I, Kulbir Kaur Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Jc-343932Y Rank Sub Name Major Singh R/O Village- Mianpur Handur, Po- Gardley, Tehsil- Anandpur Sahib, District-Rupnagar, State-Punjab-140114 Have Changed My Name From Kulbir Kaur To Kulvir Kaur In My Spouse Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.04.2024 Before Executive Magistrate Hisar.

I, L Ongbi Shila Devi Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 15413765A Rank Hav/Aa Name Larenlakpam Kumar Singh R/O Village- Maibam Chingmang, Po-Nambol, Tehsil- Bishnupur, District- Bishnupur, State-Manipur-795134 Have Changed My Name From L Ongbi Shila Devi To Hanglem Shilla Devi In My Spouse Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Manju Duhan W/o Sh. Karanveer R/O House No. 22 Sector-30, U.E. Kurukshetra (Haryana) 136118, have changed my name from Manju Duhan to Manju.

I, Vijay Kumari W/o Dharam Vir Dubran & D/o Karan Singh R/O H.No- 546, Sec-9, Urban Estate Ambala City inform that in my passport my husband name wrongly mentioned as Dharam Vir. But according to my husband all documents his correct name is Dharam Vir Dubran. All concerned pls note .

I, Ruby w/o Ajay Kheterpal r/o Beharampur Road, Near Mini Mart, Rajindra Garden Colony, Tehsil and Distt Gurdaspur - 143521 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anju Kheterpal. Concerned note.

I, Karam Singh s/o Harbansh Singh r/o Dera Chand Pura, Village Hamidpur, Sub-Tehsil Babain, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Karam Singh to Karm Singh.

I Balram Kumar Chachra s/o Uttam chand chachra r/o h.no 322 sec-12 huda panipat declare change my name from change my name from Balram Kumar Chachra to Balram Chachra and in future my name is Balram chachra.

I, Sunita W/o Shri Piere Lal, #940C, Housing Board Colony, Himshikha, Pinjore, Tehsil - Kaika, Distt.- Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Sunita to Sunita Bhoria.

I, Rajesh Kumar Yadav s/o Ram Pal #549/L, Kanshi Nagar, Model town, Ambala City declared that I have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kumar Yadav. Please note.

I, Pawan Kumar S/o Raj Kumar R/o 169 A, Gali No. 12, Guru Amardass Avenue, A-Block, Ajnala Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Pawan Kumar to Pawan Kumar Marwah.

I, Laxmi D/o Naresh Kumar R/O 811, Gali No. 9, Sunder Nagar, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Laxmi to Laxmi Sharma.

I, Gurbakash Singh S/o Mota Singh R/O Village Kambo Dhai Wala, Chamba Kalan, Tarn Taran, Punjab- 143408 have changed my name from Gurbakash Singh to Gurbax Singh.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/o Harjinder Singh R/O VPO Dehriwala, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Gurpreet Singh to Gurpreet Singh Aujla.

I, Yadbir Singh S/o Manjit Singh R/O Dabanwal Khurd, P.O Dabanwal Kalan. Teh. Batala Distt. Gurdaspur declare that Yadbir is my Given name And Singh is Surname. Concerned note.

I, Anju Bala W/O Narinder Kumar R/O Ward no.14, Advocate Colony Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Anju to Anju Bala.

I, Vikas alias Vikas Shira S/O Jaibhagwan R/O Village Hariharng Kingan Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name to Vikas Shira.

I, Anita Rani W/o Pawan Saini, R/O 767/1, Sudama Nagar, Sonapat declare that I have changed my name from Anita Rani to Anita Saini, for all future purposes.

I, Bina Devi W/o Mohan Lal R/O Vill-Lukhi, Kurukshetra, changed her name from Beena Kumari to Bina Devi.

I, Kulbir Kaur Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Jc-343932Y Rank Sub Name Major Singh R/O Village- Mianpur Handur, Po- Gardley, Tehsil- Anandpur Sahib, District-Rupnagar, State-Punjab-140114 Have Changed My Name From Kulbir Kaur To Kulvir Kaur In My Spouse Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.04.2024 Before Executive Magistrate Hisar.

I, L Ongbi Shila Devi Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 15413765A Rank Hav/Aa Name Larenlakpam Kumar Singh R/O Village- Maibam Chingmang, Po-Nambol, Tehsil- Bishnupur, District- Bishnupur, State-Manipur-795134 Have Changed My Name From L Ongbi Shila Devi To Hanglem Shilla Devi In My Spouse Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.04.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Manju Duhan W/o Sh. Karanveer R/O House No. 22 Sector-30, U.E. Kurukshetra (Haryana) 136118, have changed my name from Manju Duhan to Manju.

I, Vijay Kumari W/o Dharam Vir Dubran & D/o Karan Singh R/O H.No- 546, Sec-9, Urban Estate Ambala City inform that in my passport my husband name wrongly mentioned as Dharam Vir. But according to my husband all documents his correct name is Dharam Vir Dubran. All concerned pls note .

I, Dharam Vir Dubran S/O Shiri Ram Dubran R/O H.No-546, Sec-9, Urban Estate Ambala City inform that in my passport my father's name wrongly mentioned as Shri Ram. But according to my Father's all documents his correct & actual name is Shiri Ram Dubran. All concerned pls note .

I, Dharam Vir Dubran S/O Shiri Ram Dubran R/o H.No-546, Sec-9, Urban Estate Ambala City have changed my name from Dharam Vir to Dharam Vir Dubran.

I, Simaranjeet Kaur W/o Lakhwinder Singh R/O Village Jagoli, Tehsil & Distt Ambala have changed my name from Simaranjeet Kaur to Simranjeet Kaur.

I, Sunita Gupta W/o Goverdhan Gupta R/O House No. 7-B, Balsamand Road, F.C., Aggarsain Colony, Hisar, Haryana, 125001 declare that in my passport my husband name is Goverdhan Gupta. I have changed my husband's name to Goverdhan Gupta for all future purpose.

I, Poonam W/o Shanker Maharia R/O House No. 110, Azad Nagar, Rajgarh Road, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Sihag for all future purpose.

I, Shanker Maharia S/o Wazir Singh Maharia R/O House No. 110, Azad Nagar, Rajgarh Road, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Shanker to Shanker Maharia for all future purpose.

I, Gurdip Singh S/O Swaran Singh R/O H.No.54, Kapoor Nagar, Sulatnwind Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurdip Singh To Gurdeep Singh

I Hitherto Known As Goly Daughter Of Gurdeep Singh Wife Of Jaspal Singh Residing At H.No.2411-A, Sharifpura, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Simran.

I, Ravinder Singh S/O Niranjan Singh R/O H.No.49, Beharwal, Po Assarapur Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Ravjinder Singh To Ravjinder Singh

I, Usha Sharma Mother Of No.1528039n Gnr (Dmt) Ankit Sharma R/O Village Basara, Post Amrita Khas, Tehsil Bilsalpur District Pilibhit Uttar Pradesh-262201 Have Changed My Name To Usha Devi Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb09720120336752w Dt.26.04.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Mahesh Kumar Sharma Father Of No.1528039n Gnr (Dmt) Ankit Sharma R/O Village Basara, Post Amrita Khas, Tehsil Bilsalpur District Pilibhit Uttar Pradesh-262201 Have Changed My Name To Mahesh Chandra Vide Affidvit No.In-Pb09719371630390w Dt.26.04.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I Hitherto Known As Parminder Kaur Alias Paramjit Kaur W/O Parmjit Singh, Residing At Vpo Razada, Qadian, Gurdaspur-143516, Punjab, India Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Parmjit Kaur.

I, Sarbjit Kaur Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. Jc-250686m Nb/Ris Balljinder Singh Presently Residing At Vpo Hardo Nekkama, Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur-144205 Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 02 Feb 1981 To 07 Jan 1979 Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb09996667223624w Dated 26-04-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Pammy Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 14928454w Hdd Avinash Kumar Presently Residing At Vpo Chilhos, Tehsil & District Bhojpur, Bihar-802164 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Name From Pammy To Pammy Kumari Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb09998241816537w Dated 26-04-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Anil Chandra Adhikari Father Of No. Jc-248081m Ris/Cik Sanjit Adhikay Presently Residing At Village Bhawanipur, Po Bairampur, Tehsil Bongaon, District 24 Parganas, West Bengal-743262 Have Changed My Name From Anil Chandra Adhikari To Anil Adhikari Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb09996945283557w Dated 26-04-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Sumna Devi W/o No 2497314H Hav Sanjay Kumar Chauhan resident of Vill- Bassi Kothi, PO- Cholthra, Teh Sarkaghat, Dist- Mandi (HP) changed my name from Sumana Devi to Sumna Devi vide affidavit dated 26 Apr 2024.

I, No 2497314H Hav Sanjay Kumar Chauhan resident of Vill- Bassi Kothi, PO- Cholthra, Teh - Sarkaghat, Dist- Mandi (HP) changed my name from Kangana vide affidavit dated 26 Apr 2024.

I, Bhav Dev F/o No 2493942A Hav Dalip Singh resident of Vill- Badyar PO- Bhargaon, Teh Kolti, Dist- Mandi (HP) changed my name from Bhavdev Singh to Bhav Dev vide affidavit dated 26 Apr 2024.

I, Mathra Devi M/o No 2493942A Hav Dalip Singh resident of Vill- Badyar PO- Bhargaon, Teh Kolti, Dist- Mandi (HP) changed my name from Mathru Devi to Mathra Devi vide affidavit dated 26 Apr 2024.

I, Rajneesh Lata W/o JC-432967K Nb Sub Sanjay Sharma resident of VPO-Dehra, Teh Dehra, Dist- Kangra (HP) changed my name from Rajneesh Lata to Rajneesh Lata vide affidavit dated 26 Apr 2024.

I, Karan Pal Kaur D/o Ishwar Singh R/o 268/16 J. P Colony, Pehowa Kurukshetra, Haryana, have changed my name from Karan Pal to Karan Pal Kaur.

I, Rajbir Singh Gill S/O Ravinder Singh R/O #2029, Sector 68, Mohali Tehsil And Distt Mohali Have Changed My Name From Raj Bir Singh To Rajbir Singh Gill

I, Saleem Kumar S/O Parveen Kumar Guru Nanakpura, Beas Tehsil Baba Bakala, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Saleem Kumar To Saleem Is My Given Name And Kumar Is My Surname

I, Ravinder Kumar S/O Jatinder Kumar R/O H No B-4-1178, Sudda Mohalla, Mata Rani Chowk, Ludhiana, Have Changed My Name From Ravinder Kumar To Ravinder Kumar Chopra.

I, Ravinder Kumar Sharma S/O Om Parkash Sharma R/O Hno. 221, Sector 4, Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Ravinder Kumar To Ravinder Kumar Sharma

I, Hitherto Known As Bhim Sen Hans Son Of Gurrian Das R/O House No B 4/6 Pahari Gate, Ward No 1 Vpo Hariana District Hoshiarpur, Punjab 144208, Have Removed Surname Hans From My Name And Now My Name Will Be Bhim Sen. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I, Anita Rani D/o Sulakhian R/o Village Gorsian, PO. Alamapur, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Anita Rani to Kulwinder Kaur.

I, Harjinder Kaur w/o Maninder Singh r/o Vill. Sikri, Po. Miani Bhagupurian, Teh. Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala have changed my name from Harjinder Kaur To Kaur Harjinder (Surname as Kaur)

I, Harjinder Kaur w/o Maninder Singh r/o Vill. Sikri, Po. Miani Bhagupurian, Teh. Bholath, Distt. Kapurthala have changed name of my minor daughter from Avleen Kaur to Kaur Avleen (Surname as Kaur).

I, Pooja Sehdev w/o Balwinder Kumar r/o H.No. 178, Gali No.1, Near Basti Adda Sheikh, New Ashok Nagar Jalandhar have changed my name from Pooja Sehdev to Pooja.

I, Love Preet s/o Surjeet Singh r/o H.No.20

NSA detainee and Khalistan ideologue Amritpal to contest from Khadoor Sahib

SAD contemplating support to the jailed preacher

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

It's official! In a move that has captured the attention of political observers across the nation, Khalistan ideologue Amritpal Singh is all set to foray into the electoral battleground. Despite being incarcerated at Assam's Dibrugarh jail under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), 'Waris Punjab De' head Amritpal will embark on a new journey as his mother Balwinder Kaur on Friday officially declared his candidacy for the Khadoor Sahib constituency — putting an end to the suspense around his candidature.

The official announcement regarding Amritpal's candidacy from Khadoor Sahib came two days after his counsel Rajdev Singh Khalsa had claimed that his client had expressed a firm intention to contest the Lok Sabha elections. Khalsa, who had met Amritpal in Dibrugarh on Wednesday, affirmed the latter's resolve to enter the political arena despite his ongoing legal battles. However, Amritpal's mother, who has been participating in the pakka morcha (a permanent sit-in protest) seeking Amritpal and his associates' release at Amritsar, had denied the same.

Amritpal's decision to contest the impending Lok Sabha elections independently comes as a surprise to many, considering his previous reluctance to enter mainstream politics. However, his mother Balwinder

Kaur revealed that relentless pressure from the community, his followers, coupled with the plight of Sikh inmates and their families, has compelled him to take this bold step.

Highlighting the rationale behind Amritpal's decision, Balwinder Kaur emphasized his unwavering commitment to promote Sikh values and address the pressing issues facing Punjab. She highlighted his dedication to eradicate the drug menace that has plagued the State for years, emphasizing that his candidacy represented a beacon of hope for those affected by addiction.

Furthermore, she underscored the need to secure justice for Sikh inmates who have been unjustly detained, stating that Amritpal's candidacy aimed to bring attention to their cause on an international level. She expressed confidence in his ability to amplify their voices and advocate for their rights both within India and on the global stage.

"When I spoke with Amritpal, he initially felt that if he were alone in jail, it wouldn't matter much. But now, with his associates also unjustly incarcerated, it's a completely different situation. That's why he has decided to contest the elections....Amritpal has made the decision to enter politics for the sake of his fellow inmates. I urge the sangat to stand by Amritpal so that he can serve the community upon his release from jail. We aim to eradicate drugs from Punjab and safeguard the youth. His goal in entering the political arena is solely to promote Sikhism," said Balwinder Kaur.

Amritpal's mother added that his main objective, behind

contesting polls, was only to "give a powerful voice to the wave of religious preaching, to end atrocities under the 'atrocious' NSA, and to bring Punjab's pain to the international stage".

Khadoor Sahib, a constituency with deep-rooted significance in Sikh history and culture, is poised to become the battleground for this high-stakes electoral contest. Traditionally known as a panthic seat, the constituency holds immense symbolic importance for the Sikh community.

Amid swirling speculations over the self-styled preacher's political aspirations, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has been considering extending support to the candidacy of Amritpal Singh, a prominent figure in the pro-Khalistan movement. While SAD has yet to announce its candidate for the Khadoor Sahib constituency, the official confirmation of Amritpal's entry into the electoral arena has heightened anticipation regarding its stance. All attention is now focused on whether SAD will align with Amritpal, whose fervent advocacy for the Khalistan cause resonates with the party's panthic agenda.

Back in 1989, amidst the political turbulence, SAD had thrown its weight behind former IPS officer and Khalistan supporters Simranjeet Singh Mann, who was then behind bars. Against all odds, Mann clinched victory with an impressive tally of nearly four lakh votes.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has already declared Cabinet Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar as its candidate

from Khadoor Sahib, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had nominated former SAD MLA Manjeet Singh Manna Mianwala.

As the election campaign gains momentum, all eyes will be on Khadoor Sahib to witness the unfolding dynamics of this politically charged constituency. The contest will not only determine the representation of the people but also serve as a barometer of the prevailing sentiments within Punjab's Sikh community.

Notably, on April 23, 2023, the Punjab Police managed to arrest Amritpal Singh ending a 35-day dramatic chase. Amritpal was arrested from Moga district's Rode village — the ancestral village of slain Khalistani militant 'Sant' Jarnail Singh Bindaewala. Revered as Bhindrawale 2.0 by his followers, Amritpal had strategically chosen Rode village's Gurdwara Janam Asthan Sant Khalsa — erected nearly 38 years after Bhindranwale died in Operation Blue Star in 1984 — to surrender. It was the same Gurdwara where the ceremony of Amritpal's dastarbandi (installation), as the head of Waris Punjab De, was held on September 29, 2022, amidst the slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad".

Born in 1993 in Jalandhar's Jallapur Kheda village, Amritpal initially pursued business ventures in Dubai after completing his high school education. However, upon returning to India, he became associated with the farmer agitation in Delhi and later founded the 'Waris Punjab De' organization. Initially aimed at engaging youth in Sikhism and awakening Punjab, the organization later faced accusations of radicalizing youth.

Congress list of eight candidates in Haryana dominated by Bhupinder Hooda loyalists

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Seven of the eight candidates announced by the Congress for Haryana are loyalists and supporters of former Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, clearly suggesting the dominant position he has in state politics.

Hooda's son and Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda has again been fielded from Rohtak while former Union Minister and Congress General Secretary Kumari Selja will be the candidate for the Sirsa reserved seat. Selja is the only Hooda detractor to have found a nomination for the Lok Sabha polls. Selja has been pitted against former Haryana Congress president and BJP candidate Ashok Tanwar in Sirsa. Deepender will be contesting against sitting BJP MP Arvind Kumar Sharma. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Sharma defeated Deepender by a thin margin of nearly 7,500 votes.

The name of Divyanshu Budhiraja from Karnal has come as a surprise, as he was active only in youth Congress activities and is considered a lightweight candidate. He is considered close to Hooda and will take on former chief min-

ister Manohar Lal Khattar of the BJP. Budhiraja too is a Punjabi like Khattar and perhaps this was the consideration for his nomination.

The Congress sprang a surprise by refusing tickets to Shruti Choudhry from Bhiwani-Mahendragarh and Brijendra Singh from Hisar, two family legatees who were expected to get the nomination, with the list bearing the stamp of senior Congress leader Hooda.

From the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Lok Sabha seat, the Congress has replaced Shruti Choudhry (granddaughter of former CM Bansi Lal) and daughter of former minister Kiran Chaudhary) with Rao Dan Singh this time, apparently because she had lost 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls with a huge margin. Rao is considered close to Hooda. Bhiwani-Mahendragarh has been considered a traditional seat of the family of Bansi Lal. But this time, the party appears to have changed its strategy while fielding an OBC community member against sitting BJP MP Dharambir Singh, who comes from the Jat community.

The Congress also did not field Brijendra Singh from the

Hisar seat. Singh is the son of former Union minister Chaudhary Birender Singh and had won the 2019 parliamentary elections from Hisar as a BJP candidate.

Brijendra had escalated the political temperature of the state by switching his loyalties to Congress party. He was the first sitting MP who had left BJP and joined Congress at a time when several political leaders were making a beeline to join the saffron outfit. This time, the Congress has fielded former Union minister Jai Prakash, who is close to Hooda, from Hisar.

From Ambala (Reserved) seat, the party has fielded sitting MLA Varun Choudhary, son of former Haryana Congress president Phool Chand Mullana, a long-time associate of Hooda. From Sonapat, the party has fielded a Hooda associate Satpal Brahmachari, while former State Minister Mahendra Pratap has been fielded from Faridabad.

Caste equations have also been kept in mind while declaring candidates, party leaders pointed out. Out of eight candidates, two (Deepender Hooda and Jai Prakash) are from the Jat community, while another two (Rao Dan Singh

and Mahendra Pratap) are from the OBC category. Kumari Selja and Varun Chaudhary are from Scheduled Castes, while Satpal Brahmachari is a Brahmin. Budhiraja, who is from the Punjabi community, has been fielded from the prestigious Karnal seat in an attempt to woo the Punjabi community, especially after the BJP replaced its Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Haryana with Nayab Singh Saini last month.

The Congress, which is contesting nine of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, has not yet announced a candidate for the Gurgaon constituency.

For the Gurgaon seat, the Congress is considering the names of actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar and former state minister Captain Ajay Singh. Hooda is pushing for actor Raj Babbar while AICC OBC department head and senior leader Ajay Yadav has also staked a claim.

Congress announced candidates for eight of the nine seats that it will contest in Haryana, having left Kurushetra for ally AAP. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), a constituent of the opposition INDIA bloc, has already declared its candidate Sushil Gupta from the Kurukshetra seat as per the seat agreement.

Ballot Battle

Ballot Battle

Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal has become a major issue for farmers: Selja

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Congress General Secretary and party candidate from Hisar, Kumari Selja on Friday said that the government is not serious about the problems of farmers, who have become trapped by the portal game. The 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal has become a major source of trouble for farmers, with 10,902 complaints pending over the last 15 days, preventing farmers from selling even their wheat crop in the markets without verification. Instead of claiming to be farmer-friendly, the government should protect their interests and resolve their issues.

In a statement, Selja said that registration on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal has been made mandatory for selling crops like mustard and wheat at MSP. During the Rabi season, registrations were made for 6,419,348 acres involving 1,103,095 farmers, of which only 6,319,060 acres were verified. She said that across the state, 50,688 farmers filed complaints regarding incorrect registrations, errors

in crop names, discrepancies in area, and lack of verification, of which 10,902 complaints still remain unresolved. Due to these unresolved complaints, farmers are unable to sell their produce in the market. The districts of Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Jhajjar, Palwal, and Mahendragarh have the highest number of pending complaints. Selja said that the government should prioritize addressing these farmers' issues and complaints; otherwise, the farmers are determined to teach the government a lesson in this election.

The Congress leader has written to Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, informing him that elderly and widow pension holders are facing significant difficulties due to a change in the IFSC code by Indian Bank, which is causing unnecessary delays in the pension process. This technical issue is making it difficult for these pensioners to receive their pensions, severely affecting their livelihood. She has called for immediate resolution of this issue and the establishment of a permanent procedure to address it.

Crop diversification saved Rs 477-cr of electricity, 5 BCM of groundwater: CM Mann

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amidst the ongoing farmer protests ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday lauded the significant impact of crop diversification in conserving vital resources. Mann expressed gratitude to Punjab's farmers for embracing crop diversification and shunning PUSA-44 type of paddy, which has resulted in substantial savings of Rs 477 crore in electricity costs and preserved five billion cusecs of groundwater.

Mann, in a video message, underscored his commitment to revitalizing the agricultural sector and ensuring its profitability. He commended the farmers for their cooperation and emphasized the government's efforts in facilitating agricultural activities, including the provision of daytime electricity and efficient preparations in mandis for procurement, lifting, and transportation.

Highlighting the impact of the farmers' decision to shift away from PUSA-44, Mann revealed that the reduced cultivation of this variety resulted in significant savings. By opt-

ing for shorter-duration varieties like PR-126 to PR-130, which take only 90 days to mature compared to PUSA-44's 150-plus days, farmers contributed to saving Rs 477 crore in electricity costs and conserving five billion cusecs of groundwater.

Mann reiterated his commitment to the principles of sustainable agriculture, citing the adage "pawan guru paani pit" (air is the teacher, water is the father) from Sikh teachings. He expressed satisfaction in the farmers' response to his advice and pledged to continue making decisions in the best interest of Punjab and its resources.

Ahead of the upcoming paddy season, Mann renewed his plea to farmers to refrain from cultivating PUSA-44, urging them instead to opt for PR-126 to PR-130 and basmati varieties. He emphasized the financial benefits of cultivating basmati rice, which often fetches higher prices than the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Additionally, Mann highlighted the environmental benefits of avoiding PUSA-44, which produces more stubble and contributes to air and water pollution.

Pb CM campaigns in Amritsar, Jalandhar and Tarn Taran

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR/TARN TARAN/ (JALANDHAR)

Embarking on a day filled with spiritual reverence and vibrant campaigning, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, accompanied by his family and his newborn daughter Niyamat Kaur Mann, commenced his Friday morning by paying homage at the Golden Temple, Durgiana Mandir, Sri Valmiki Teerath S'than, and Sri Ram Teerath Mandir in Amritsar. Following this spiritually enriching start, Mann transitioned seamlessly into an impressive campaign trail for AAP's Khadoor Sahib candidate Laljit Singh Bhullar in Patti and Jalandhar candidate Pawan Kumar Tinu in Jalandhar.

Mann's vibrant campaigning, road shows, and public speeches, garnered attention and support as he addressed the electorate in Patti and Jalandhar, emphasizing the AAP's vision and agenda for the upcoming elections. While the primary purpose of Mann's visit to Amritsar was to lead the AAP's election campaign, his morning visit to the city's sacred sites underscored the significance of spirituality and unity in his personal and political endeavors.

"We are commoners like you...we understand your pain well"

Jalandhar: Mann, campaigning for AAP candidate Pawan Kumar Tinu in Jalandhar led a road show in various areas of Jalandhar city and appealed to the people to make him win by a huge margin.

Addressing the people during the road show, Mann made a scathing attack on MP Sushil Rinku who left AAP and joined the BJP. "AAP made him an MP and gave him national recogni-

tion, but due to greed and selfishness, he betrayed the party and the people of Jalandhar," said Mann, appealing to the people of Jalandhar to teach a lesson to those who betrayed Punjab and make sure that he even loses his security deposit.

He said that the AAP is a party of common people. "This party gives people from common households a chance to become MPs, MLAs, ministers and the Chief Minister. We are also common people like you. We understand your pain and suffering very well. So make Aam Aadmi Party candidates win. They will become your voice in Parliament and fight for your rights," he said.

On Tinu, Mann said that he did not leave Akali Dal, rather Akali Dal has left him, because when it comes to work, the party used him and when it comes to giving the fruits of hard work, their own uncle, nephew, brother-in-law etc used to eat it. "Tinu also came to politics from an ordinary household and made his identity. Make him win with a huge margin, he will raise the voice of the common people of Jalandhar in the Parliament," he said.

"Wealthy dynast politicians think your votes are for sale"

Tarn Taran: Earlier, Mann, campaigning for Khadoor Sahib candidate Laljit Singh Bhullar in Patti, lambasted all opposition leaders from Narendra Modi to Badal, from Captain to Jakhar. Addressing a huge public

gathering in Patti, Mann said that for the very first time, the people of Punjab have their own government in the state. Earlier, there was only 'raje and rajwade', in direct reference to Capt Amarinder Singh as Raja and the Badals as Rajwade. "They looted Punjab, amassed wealth and property and now they call the common people 'malang' and 'material'. They built their dynasties while looting Punjab and its people, that is why the people of Punjab have thrown them out of power, now they are begging people for a chance," he said.

He said that in 2024, Punjab will become a hero, will set an example because all 13 candidates of the AAP will win and represent the state in the Parliament. "Traditional parties ruined our childhood, they ruined our youth and they ruined the lives of elderly people. They are even ready to ruin the future of our children and our next generations. But we are going to vote against them. The times have changed. There was a time when they used to come to you with folded hands at the time of election and then abandon you for five years to live their luxurious lives. But now the change is here, new kind of politics is here," he said.

Mann added that they think that their votes "are for sale, that they will come to you at the last moment, will offer you a couple of thousands for your vote and win. But we have to get united against them. We have to defeat them and their low thinking".

Mann prayed for Punjab's peace and prosperity; refused to make any political comments

Amritsar: Mann, visiting the religious places of the holy city Amritsar, said that he was blessed with 'Waheguru di Niyamat' last month referring to his newborn daughter, so he is here with his family today to thank God for all his blessings. At the same time, Mann refused to comment on any political matter saying that he was only here to pray for peace and prosperity of Punjab.

He said that he also prayed for the strength to live up to his responsibilities and keep working for 'Rangla Punjab'. "It is our fortune that the people of all religions and backgrounds live peacefully in Punjab. We celebrate Gurpurabs, Eids and Navamis together. I prayed for forever communal harmony and unity among Punjabis and their success," he said.

Rs 4.33 crore illicit cash seized in Hry: CEO

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal on Friday said that stringent action has been taken by the police, Income Tax Department, Excise and Taxation Department, and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in the state after the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct. As a result, a total of Rs. 4.33 crore illicit cash has been seized, including Rs 71.21 lakh seized by the police, Rs 81.19 lakh by the Income Tax Department, Rs 3.04 lakh by the Excise Department, and Rs. 278 lakh by the DRI. Besides this, various agencies have confiscated over 2,67,821 liters of illicit liquor valued at Rs 8.40 crore. This includes 1,75,140 liters seized by the police worth Rs 552.23 lakh and 92,669 liters seized by the Excise Department worth Rs 288.19 lakh, said Agarwal.

He said that a total of 5,844.44 kg of drugs, narcotics worth Rs 9.38 crore, have been seized by the agencies. The police have seized 5,839.18 kg of narcotics worth Rs 9.34 crore. Additionally, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has confiscated 2 kg of drugs valued at Rs 4 lakh. Apart from this, valuables worth Rs 1.73 crore and other items worth Rs 1.59 crore have also been seized.

The Chief Electoral Officer further said that despite the official notification for elections scheduled on April 29, voters have already raised 2541 complaints through the C-Vigil mobile app. Out of these complaints, after scrutiny by the Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers, 2195 complaints were found to be true, on which action has been taken as per rules, he added.

Punjab CM Mann apologises for casteist remarks of his minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday found himself addressing a controversy, apologizing for the allegedly casteist remarks made by Laljit Singh Bhullar, his Cabinet colleague in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government and the party's candidate for the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha constituency. The incident unfolded earlier this month when Bhullar sparked outrage with comments directed at former Congress MLA Harmandir Singh Gill during an election rally in Tarn Taran district's Patti area. His remarks, perceived as derogatory towards certain castes, prompted widespread condemnation.

In response to the criticism, Bhullar had released a video expressing regret to the communities affected by his statements but stopped short of apologizing to Gill. The situa-

Punjab CEO forwards report to ECI for further action

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibin C informed that a complete report of the complaint received against Cabinet Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar — AAP's candidate from Khadoor Sahib — has been sent to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for further action. The national poll panel will now proceed with necessary actions based on the report. The action came on the complaint lodged by the Akali Dal alleging a violation of the model code of conduct. They demanded Bhullar's immediate arrest.

tion escalated as the opposition parties, including the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), seized upon the controversy, condemning Bhullar's conduct and demanding swift action.

Mann, addressing a campaign rally for Bhullar in Patti, took a firm stance, denouncing the remarks made by his Minister. He emphasized AAP's commitment to inclusive politics, stating, "Laljit Singh Bhullar

made the wrong remarks in the sway of emotions. AAP does not support such behaviour. We are not into politics of caste and creed. We do not do politics of religion and hate. We do politics of education, hospitals, electricity."

The Chief Minister stressed the need for Bhullar to issue an unconditional apology and reaffirmed the party's dedication to governance based on meritocracy, devoid of discrimination.

"I called him on the same day and asked him to apologize unconditionally. He went to Harmandir Sahib to seek forgiveness. Being the head, I too apologize for Bhullar's conduct," said Mann.

At the same time, Mann asserted, "I want to make it clear to Laljit that such behaviour won't be tolerated in future because it is our responsibility to bring society together. Harmandir Sahib has four doors that welcome everyone. I respect all communities."

Appealing to the people of Patti, Mann said that sometimes mistakes happen, "little problems and obstacles appear but do not stop, keep moving towards development, our goals are bigger".

He also asked Bhullar to not give irresponsible statements, adding, "we are here to do politics of work, we are here to save our democracy and the Constitution, we are here to

build schools and hospitals and give jobs to our youth.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties had press their advantage, with SAD lodging a formal complaint with the Punjab Chief Electoral Officer against Bhullar accusing him of violating the model code of conduct and demanded his immediate arrest. Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira went further, calling for Bhullar's dismissal from the Cabinet, labeling him a "racist minister".

In his apology video, Bhullar had attempted to contextualize his comments, attributing them to emotional outbursts and personal grievances against Gill. While expressing regret if his remarks had hurt any community members, he maintained they were directed solely at Gill. However, the opposition remained unsatisfied, characterizing Bhullar's apology as insufficient and insincere.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bhoomi Chahar Daughter of Army No. 15792866L, Rank NK (OPR) Name Ramniwas S/o Sobran Singh Unit 616(i) AD BDE PIN- 928616 C/O 56 APO have change name from Kumari Bhoomi to Bhoomi Chahar through wide document No. IN-PB09898614490496W Dated 26-04-2024.

I, Gohil Bhavishaba Narvinsinh, spouse of Havildar Gohil Narvinsinh Gogubha resident of RR Complex, 9 FOD, Kandroni, C/o 56 APO, Pin-909909 have changed my name from Bhavishaba to Gohil Bhavishaba Narvinsinh vide affidavit 13.03.2024. Dated All Concerned Note it.

I, Jasbir Kaur W/o Amrik Singh R/o Kharaudi tehsil Guhla have changed my name Jasveer Kaur.

I, Jagdish Chand s/o Bakshi Ram R/O House No. 283 Sector 13 Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, have changed my name Jagdish Dhawan.

I, Komal Rani W/o Pawan Kumar R/o 303 L, Model Town, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Komal Mongia to Komal Rani.

I, Pawan Kumar S/o Baldev Raj R/o 303 L, Model Town, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Pawan Kumar Mongia to Pawan Kumar.

I, Raj Davesar spouse of Satinder Nath Deoveser resident of H.No 370, Ward No 26, Bharat Nagar, Pathankot, Tehsil & Distt Pathankot, State Punjab, have change my name from Raj Davesar to Raj Rani vide Affidavit Dated 26 Apr 2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Army No 17006723K Nk (AUTO TECH B VEH) Javed Shamshoddin Pathan r/o VPO - Warapgaon, Teh - Kajj & Beed (Mah) presently serving with 25 Punjab Regiment do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Khatik Javed Shamshoddin to Javed Shamshoddin Pathan vide affidavit No 34480 dt 22 mar 2024 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days.

I, hitherto known as Raju S/O Dharam Singh R/O Manjura, Karnal, Haryana, 132001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raju Singh.

I, Mohinder Pal Luthra S/o Prithvi Raj R/o Basant Colony, Saili Road, Tehsil & District Pathankot, Have Changed My Name From Mohinder Luthra To Mohinder Pal Luthra, Kindly Note.

I, Adwin S/O Rajesh Masih R/O Village- Bandianwal, Tehsil/District- Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name From Adwin To Adwin Randhawa Concerned Note Please.

I, No 4006923A Ex Nk (TS) Gurinder Singh Pathania resident of VPO - Jugial, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed the name of my Mother from Shashi Bala to Arti Devi vide Affidavit No. IN-PB09787376465026W Dated 26-04-2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I Tajinder Singh S/O Parminder Singh R/O Vpo. Attawal Phagwara Road P/S Mehtiana District Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Mother's Name From Jabir Kaur To Jasbir Kaur.

I Am Fatehjeet Singh S/O Jaswinder Singh R/O Ujjager Nagar Qadian Road, Batala, Gurdaspur Punjab Have Add My Surname To Singh. Given Name-Fatehjeet, Surname-Singh.

I Devinder Singh S/O Swaran Singh R/O Vpo. Dhanoya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Devinder Singh To Davinder Singh.

I Talvinder Kaur Sangha W/O Mandeep Singh R/O Village Sherpur P.O Bahawal Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Talvinder Kaur.

I Subhash Chander Maheshwari S/O Amin Chand Maheshwari R/O House No.68-A, Street No.3, Birbal Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Subhash Chander Maheshwari To Subhash Chander Maheshwari.

I Sunita Devi, W/O Jodh Kumar, R/O Village And Post Office Bajwara Kalan Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Sahil To Sahil Kumar.

I Kuldip Kaur W/O Kashmir Singh R/O Vpo. Jaura District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Kaur.

I Harjit Singh S/O Sakandar Singh R/O Village Tajawal, P.O. Bulhawal Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Singh Harjit.

I Reva W/O Rajesh Kumar R/O H.No.1106, Maskian Mohalla, Gouran Gate, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Reva Gupta.

I Mehtab Singh S/O Roshan Lal R/O Village Takhni P.O. Mehangerwal Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Mehtab Singh To Mahitab Singh.

I Subhadra Goswami Alias Rajni Bala W/O Rattan Chand Sharma R/O Near Khalsa College, Vpo. Garhdiwala, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Rajni Bala.

I Harbans Lal S/O Mohan Lal R/O Village Ucha District Jalandhar Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Diya To Diya Rai.

I Anil Kumar Garg S/O Suraj Bhan R/O H.No.-404, 4th Floor, Sector-4, Panchkula 134112 Haryana Have Changed My Name To Anil Kumar.

I Tejinderjeet Singh S/O Baldev Singh R/O Village Daudhar Garbi, District Moga 142053 (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Tejinderjit Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Vineet Kumar Sood S/O Amrit Pal Sood R/O H.No.258 Block-B Rajindera Estate Moga District Moga 142001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Vineet Sood.

I Ranjeet Singh S/O Ujagar Singh R/O Vpo. Chachrari Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Ranjit Singh.

I Veerpal Kaur W/O Sandip Singh Jassi R/O Vpo. Hans Kalan Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Veerpal Kaur Jassi.

I, Service No. 14448239K Hav (GNR) Umesh Prasad Patel R/O 327 Med. Regt. C/O 56 APO, have changed the name of my Daughter from Babali Kumari to Babali Patel, concerned not please.

I, सिमता रानी D/o Sh. पूर्ण चंद W/o प्रवीन कुमार R/o V.P.O. Talwara khurd Tehsil Ellenabad.Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from सिमता रानी to प्रिया (Priya), in future my name is to be called as प्रिया (Priya).

I, Preete Devi spouse of Krishna Pratap Singh resident of Village- Kaparahat, Post- Kahinjari, Tehsil- Rasoolabad, State-UP, Pin-209302, have changed my name from Preete Devi to Priti Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PBW dated 26 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Asha Rani spouse of No.15619886F Hav Amit Kumar Sharma resident of Village - Darveshpur, Post- Bohich, Tehsil- Shikarpur, District - Bulandshahr, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-202395, have changed my name from Asha Rani to to Asha Sharma Vide affidavit No. IN- PB08997280195276W dated 24 April before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15618296W Hav Ranbeer Singh resident of Village- Bucholi, Post- Bucholi, Tehsil- Mahendergarh, District- Mahendergarh, State- Haryana, Pin-123034, have changed my mother name from Murti Devi to Murati Vide affidavit No.IN-PB09966439908870W dated 26 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Mangalawat spouse of Manoj Kumar resident of Village- Sohali, Post- Sohali, Tehsil- Buhana, District - Jhunjhunu, State- Rajasthan, Pin-333515, have changed my name from Mangalawat to Manglawat Vide affidavit No.IN-PB09825257413878W dated 26 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Kumari Sapna spouse of No.13627620X L/Hav Kundan Singh resident of Village-Bokata, Post- Bhandarigaon, Tehsil- Didihat, District- Pithoragarh, Pin-262552, have changed my name from Kumari Sapna to Sapna Devi Vide affidavit No. IN-PB08431719108991W dated 22 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15618296W Hav Ranbeer Singh resident of Village- Bucholi, Post- Bucholi, Tehsil- Mahendergarh, District- Mahendergarh, State- Haryana, Pin-123034, have changed my mother name from Murti Devi to Murati Vide affidavit No.IN-PB09966439908870W dated 26 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Suditi Vohra D/o Narinder Kumar R/O House No. 378, Street No. 11, Prem Garh Near Mata Rani Chowk, Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Suditi.

I Pavita Rani W/o Karamjit Singh Vill Mirpur Po Sagran Teh Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Pavita Rani to Rani Pavita.

I Pavita Rani W/o Karamjit Singh Vill Mirpur Po Sagran Teh Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my minor son's name from Tajveer Singh to Singh Tajveer.

I Pavita Rani W/o Karamjit Singh Vill Mirpur Po Sagran Teh Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) has changed my minor daughter's name from Asees Kaur to Kaur Asees.

I, Kanwaljit Kaur W/o Harbans Singh Brar R/o Behbal Khurd (Faridkot) have changed my name to Kawaljeet Kaur.

I, Ashu Chawla W/o Vijander Singh Chawla R/o H.No. 2049 Phase-7 SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my name to Ashu Kaur Chawla.

I, Jagjeet Singh S/o Uttam Singh R/o Mohalla Dhamia Raikot (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jagjit Singh.

I, Ajay Kumar @ Ajay Grover S/o Naresh Kumar R/o Hira Singh Nagar Kotkapura (Faridkot) declare that i am known by above both names. both names are mine.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Harpawanmeet Singh R/o 470, GTB Nagar, Lalheri Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) also known as Manjot Kaur, these both names are mine, one & same lady.

I Malkit Kaur W/O Rajbir Singh R/O Khojkiur District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Given Name To Malkit And Surname To Kaur.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Santokh Singh R/o Vill: Thathi Khara Teh-Tarn Taran (Tarn Taran) have changed my name from Gurmit Kaur to Manjit Kaur.

I, Manjit Singh s/o Dalip singh r/o Goindwal Byypass Baba bidhi Chand nagar tehsil & district Tarn Taran have changed my name to Manjeet Singh.

I, Vinita Gondhi, W/o Shri Gagan Gondhi, R/o Ward No. 15, Mohalla Pathana Wala, Naraingarh, District Ambala, has changed my name from Vinita Gondhi to Vinita.

I Jaspal Singh S/o Gumam Singh R/o Village Panjgrain Kalan (Faridkot) have Changed my name to Jaspal Singh Chauhan.

I Parmjeet Kaur W/o Jaspal Singh R/o Village Panjgrain Kalan (Faridkot) have Changed my name to Parmjeet Kaur Chauhan.

I Gurjit Singh Tatla s/o Kartar Singh . R/o Vpo. Barhmi, Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Gurjit Singh.

I Inderjit Kaur Tatla w/o Gurjit Singh, R/o Vpo. Barhmi, Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Inderjit Kaur.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

All is well

India shows the mirror to the US, rejects its report on rights violations in Manipur as 'deeply biased'

Soon after the US pointed the finger at India for alleged incidents of human rights violations, particularly in Manipur, India has vehemently criticised the State Department report. The Indian Government has denounced the report as "deeply biased" and asserted that it reflects a "significant misunderstanding of the ground realities". Seeking to show the mirror to the US instead, it questioned the US administration's response to the recent killing of Indian students on its soil. The MEA emphasised the "deeply biased" nature of the report, saying the report misrepresents the situation in Manipur and demonstrates a "lack of comprehension" regarding India's efforts to address human rights issues within its borders. The report, which is not limited only to Manipur, talks about other issues too that have apparently undermined Indian democracy in the recent past. One of the key points raised in the State Department's report pertains to the raids conducted by the Indian Income Tax authorities on the offices

of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), alleging that the raids extended to journalists not involved in the organisation's financial affairs. Furthermore, the US report claims that the Indian Government used emergency powers to ban the screening of a BBC-produced documentary. The report highlights the concerns of local human rights organisations, minority political parties and affected communities regarding the Government's alleged "delayed response" to violence and its failure to provide adequate humanitarian assistance in Manipur.



It also cites instances of disinformation tactics being employed against civil society organisations, religious minorities such as Sikhs and Muslims, and political opposition groups. The Indian reaction to the US report is laudable as it defends and protects the boundaries of Indian sovereignty and sends across the message that no country has any business to meddle in India's domestic affairs. The Government must also ensure that foreign powers do not get a chance to sermonise India on human rights. It is an established maxim that human rights issues transcend political boundaries. Besides, the Government should be mindful of criticism by the Indian civil society, which has been airing similar sentiments. They should not be summarily rejected and branded as anti-national and harassed, a routine thing in autocratic systems. Indeed, India's reaction to the State Department's report underscores its commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and ensuring that international assessments accurately reflect the country's efforts to uphold human rights. India has consistently maintained that it is committed to addressing any legitimate concerns regarding human rights violations through its robust legal framework and democratic processes. In light of these developments, it is imperative for the international stakeholders to engage with India in a constructive dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding.

PICTALK



A man bathes an elephant at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Botanical Udyan and Zoo, in Mumbai

PTI

Robotics: Predictable and optimal surgical success

Today, India is leading globally with advancements in robotic surgery and making a difference in critical surgical procedures

Robotic surgery, also known as robot-assisted surgery, has revolutionised the field of surgical procedures by offering increased precision, flexibility and control compared to conventional techniques. Typically associated with minimally invasive surgery, robotic surgery utilises a system consisting of a camera arm and mechanical arms with surgical instruments attached, all controlled by the surgeon seated at a computer console. This setup provides high-definition, magnified, 3D views of the surgical site, enhancing the surgeon's ability to perform delicate and complex procedures. Minimally invasive surgery is now the standard of care across various surgical specialities. Introduced four decades ago, Laparoscopy changed our approach and outcome in surgical patients. Robotic surgery introduced two decades ago, was the next step in the evolution of minimally invasive surgery. Now, the time has come when a surgeon avoids leaving anything on chance. Advanced, stable and predictable robotic surgery can ensure success



in each case. The primary motivation for opting for robotic surgery is the enhanced precision, flexibility and control it offers to surgeons during operations. The precision and minimally invasive nature of robotic procedures contribute to a lower risk of infection and other complications. In India, the Da Vinci system is commonly used for robotic surgery across various specialities, including urology, gynaecology, cardiothoracic and general surgery. In urology, robotic surgery has emerged as a significant advancement, offering several advantages over open or laparoscopic procedures. These advantages include reduced blood loss, decreased patient discomfort, minimised use of painkillers, shorter hospital stays and faster healing times. Urological surgeries com-

monly performed using robotic technology include robotic prostatectomy, robotic cystectomy, robotic partial nephrectomy, robotic pyeloplasty and other procedures such as nephroureterectomy, adrenalectomy, uterine reimplantation and kidney transplantation. Even in the case of frequently performed non-cancerous gastrointestinal surgery like cholecystectomy gall bladder removal or hernia, innumerable challenges can be countered including some very serious injuries, which may result in longer hospital stays or life-threatening situations. Robotic surgery filters out the struggle happening at the surgeon's end while ensuring smooth outcomes with ultimate safety for the patients. Our understanding of robotic surgery benefits originated from cancer patients in urology and onco-surgery. Today non-cancerous surgeries deserve and demand equal precision and safety. Prevention of complications and quick recovery are the new points. Due to the sheer number, improvement of outcome in benign surgeries would translate into a large

number of healthier and happier patients. While technology remains premium, the health insurance companies do understand and approve of such advanced technology. For instance, Narayana Health offers robotic-assisted procedures for various gastrointestinal conditions. The robotic surgery program has an experienced team specialising in using the da Vinci surgical system for minimally invasive general surgeries. With the surgeon controlling robotic arms from a console while watching the operative field through a video camera, patients experience shorter recovery times, with most returning to normal activities within two to three weeks instead of the six to eight weeks typically associated with standard open surgery. Indeed, constant innovation and development in the field of robotic surgery will result in lowering the cost with wider applications. (The writer is a consultant-general, Robotic and Renal Transplant Surgery at Narayana Hospital - RN Tagore Hospital, Mukundapur, Kolkata; views are personal)



FORQAN BABU SHAIKH

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Role of AI in Lok Sabha elections

From personalised voter outreach to the menacing potential of deepfake videos, Artificial Intelligence's influence is palpable, promising both innovation and ethical dilemmas



KALYANI SHANKAR

Artificial Intelligence, a game-changer in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, has revolutionised traditional campaign strategies. The era of candidates personally visiting voters' homes and engaging in conversations over tea, even after a five-year hiatus, has given way to a more technologically advanced approach. Social media played a pivotal role in the 2014 election. However, the advent of AI and the potential use of deepfake videos in India's 2024 elections could be game-changers. These videos, capable of blurring the lines between truth and falsehood, have the potential to significantly impact the trust and integrity of the electoral process.

Political parties and candidates have understood the power of AI in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. They use AI to analyse voter data, enabling them to develop effective campaign strategies. Additionally, AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants have been deployed to engage with voters on social media, providing real-time responses to their queries and concerns.

The use of AI technology can help with election processes in several ways:

AI can predict election outcomes. AI chatbots and virtual assistants can communicate with virtual media.

AI can prevent election fraud and regulate political advertising campaign finance violations.

Political parties can now customise their calls to individual voters, potentially harming their opponents' reputations. In India, more than 50% of the population uses the internet, which may increase to 900 million by 2025. The upcoming election in India is expected to generate a market worth Rs 500 crore.

Political parties are using AI to reach voters via social media. Congress and BJP used AI in last year's State elections, the first time false videos and parodies were used in political campaigning. Parties like BJP, Congress, AAP, DMK and AIADMK use AI technology to engage with their supporters. For example, the BJP used AI to translate PM Modi's speech-



es into eight regional languages. However, some campaigners misuse AI-generated videos, including deepfakes, to spread misinformation. These videos are targeted at the 18-25 age group and are being shared on platforms like WhatsApp.

Parties in India use various tools to influence voters. They share fake images and videos on social media platforms. For example, the Congress party shared a phoney photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the same time, the BJP posted a false video of Rahul Gandhi on Instagram. In Tamil Nadu, the DMK and AIADMK parties used recordings of their deceased leaders for voter support in this election. The Communist parties have also employed AI technology in their campaigns. One video shows Asaduddin Owaisi, the leader of the AIMIM party, singing Hindu devotional songs. Regional leaders like Akhilesh Yadav, Naveen Patnaik and Mamata Banerjee also applied similar tools to influence voters.

The use of AI for malicious purposes is a significant concern. With advanced AI, it has become possible to impersonate anyone, including voters or candidates, which can lead to identity theft and manipulation of the electoral process. This underscores the



POLITICAL PARTIES ARE USING AI TO REACH VOTERS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA. THE CONGRESS AND THE BJP USED AI IN LAST YEAR'S STATE ELECTIONS

need for clear regulations to ensure a fair and transparent electoral process, making the audience more aware of the potential risks and the importance of addressing them, fostering a sense of vigilance.

The use of AI in political campaigns raises valid concerns about privacy and the potential for unfair competition and misinformation. Therefore, it's imperative that clear regulations are implemented to ensure a transparent electoral process. Governments must take the lead in regulating AI use to promote fairness.

The IT Minister has already issued warnings to social media companies, instilling confidence in the audience about the security and integrity of the electoral process. The Election Commission must issue clear guidelines to regulate AI-generated information for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. These guidelines should address ethical AI use in campaigns and voter data analysis. Strict rules are necessary to maintain the integrity of the electoral process, protect voters' rights and ensure fairness and transparency. Without these regulations, there could be doubts about the legitimacy of the election results.

While there are valid concerns about AI, it's crucial to recog-

nise its potential for positive change. Certain AI-generated technologies have the power to revolutionise how we conduct free and fair elections. As these technologies gain wider acceptance, they could pave the way for e-elections, a future where elections are conducted online, ensuring a more transparent and accountable electoral process. This potential for positive change should inspire optimism and hope, reassuring the audience about the future of elections.

During the Bihar elections, the Election Commission used an AI-powered system to ensure transparency and prevent manipulation. The system detected and flagged misinformation and hate speech cases, expediting the counting process and curbing hate speech during the election. This demonstrates how AI can be used effectively and instils confidence in the electorate.

Presidents, prime ministers, or legislators could win or lose based mainly on the success or failure of their AI campaign. Gullible voters can be fooled easily. Technological advancements can bring about significant changes and AI is no exception.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REVIVAL OF EDUCATION IN BIHAR

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Bihar's educational reforms cock a snook at private players", published on April 26, this is my response. The narrative underscores Bihar's struggle with governance failures, notably in areas like liquor laws and rural migration. However, amidst this backdrop of challenges, the Government's focus on education emerges as a beacon of hope. In a landscape where education is increasingly commodified, Bihar's commitment to public education stands out as a bold counterforce to market forces.

By prioritising education, the Government aims to address deep-rooted social and economic inequalities. The recruitment of teachers and infrastructural improvements demonstrate tangible progress. Yet, sustaining these reforms remains a concern, particularly regarding the absence of a robust mechanism. Additionally, while efforts to combat corruption and enhance accountability are commendable, ensuring the continuity of initiatives like the Mid-Day Meal program is crucial. Ultimately, Bihar's journey towards educational reform signifies a vital step towards empowering marginalised communities and challenging the dominance of private institutions driven by profit motives.

Rajiv Mishra | Lucknow

PERSPECTIVES ON CONSCIOUSNESS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "The Essence of Consciousness", published on April 26, this is my response. The journey of understanding consciousness is a profound one, intricately woven with the fabric of human existence. In the hustle of modern life, terms like consciousness often float around without genuine comprehension. Yet, beneath this veneer lies a profound truth: consciousness is the essence of our being, the awareness that shapes our reality. In a world bombarded with information, it's easy to overlook the depth of our existence. From the wisdom of Buddha to the revelations of quantum physics, consciousness permeates every aspect of our lives. Like Arjuna on the bat-

Ensure representation of the disabled



Apropos the news article, "The marginalisation of disabled in politics", published on April 26, this is my response. The stark absence of political representation for persons with disabilities in India's democratic landscape is a glaring issue. Despite a substantial population, their needs are sidelined, reflecting a systemic failure. Political parties overlook their demands, perpetuating exclusion and reinforcing stereotypes.

Physical barriers at polling stations compound their challenges, stripping away dignity and agency. Anitha's experience exemplifies this neglect. Moreover, those with lesser-known disabilities face additional hurdles, such as a lack of sign language interpreters during campaigns. The dearth of accurate data further complicates policy formulation and budget allocations.

However, amidst these challenges lies an opportunity for transformation. A shift towards a rights-based approach is imperative, with persons with disabilities actively involved in policy development. Integration across governance facets is essential for true inclusivity. Respecting their fundamental rights and ensuring their participation in civil and political systems is crucial as India celebrates 75 years of independence. Only then can the nation progress towards its economic aspirations while truly embracing diversity in a democracy.

Aarav Patel | Mumbai

tlefield or King Janaka in his kingdom, we grapple with doubts and fears until a moment of awakening shifts our perception.

True consciousness is not merely being awake but being truly alive, attuned to both internal thoughts and external surroundings. It's the clarity that arises when we shed the layers of ignorance and embrace the purity of our being. In this journey towards enlightenment, let us not merely skim the surface but dive deep into the ocean of consciousness, where every wave carries the promise of a profound revelation.

Vikram Singh | Delhi

THE INDIAN PARADOX

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Why do Indians excel abroad and fail back home?", published on April 26, this is my response. India's global footprint shines brightly across diverse fields, yet a puzzling paradox persists: why do Indians thrive abroad while facing challenges at home? This conundrum demands urgent attention and a deep dive into the complexities

at play. The link between India's international success and domestic hurdles lies largely in the shortcomings of the public education system. Insightful analyses pinpoint the dire State of education as the root cause, a truth echoed by credible sources. Education stands as the linchpin connecting governance, socio-economic stability and prosperity. The nation's future hinges on the quality of primary and secondary education, a reality starkly revealed by surveys.

Moreover, the disconnect between higher education and employability exacerbates the brain drain dilemma. To reverse this trend, India must foster an environment that retains talent and promotes innovation. Embracing change is paramount. Reimagining education to nurture creativity and entrepreneurship can steer India towards global competitiveness. It's time to forge a path towards a brighter, more inclusive future.

Nandini Rao | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

WORK WITH ALLIES FOR SEMICONDUCTORS

It is time to let go of the regulatory bottlenecks to make a mark



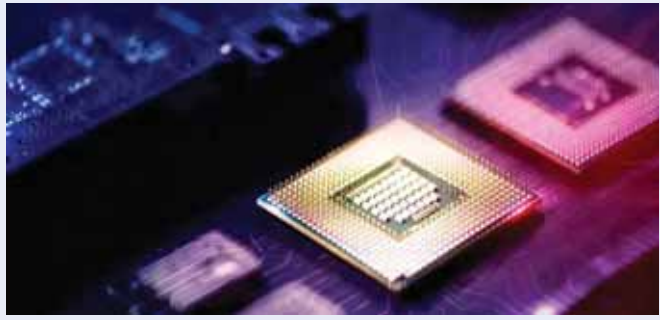
KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

One of the most common reasons cited by foreign investors, against investing in India is too complex regulatory processes and multiplicity of overlapping compliances. The latest to join the bandwagon is Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu. The minister was responding to questions from a journalist on the reason for Taiwanese companies not warming up to India's constant welcome mat for attracting investments in the new age technology, building block and semiconductors space.

To be sure Taiwan is home to the largest chip manufacturing facilities in the world, a key component of the digital economy, ranging from mobile phones to satellites. Wu during his interaction with the journalist quoted "India is cumbersome in its administrative structure and it would require for Indian Government to look at that too, to streamline all kinds of laws and regulations to help semiconductor investors coming to the country". He has further in the same interview talked about the lack of skilled engineers to work in the chip-making factories, even though India doesn't fall short of chip-designing talent.

What Mr Wu highlighted, isn't something new, as it is a similar caution from many other potential investors interested in India. This author spoke with several high-ranking officials in several new and emerging technology manufacturing companies, who complained about complex time-consuming administrative processes in India and echoed that, when compared to competing economies such as Singapore, Vietnam etc.

A new department called Invest India (a public-private joint venture) was created, early on in the current Government's regime, to assist potential investors through the difficult, regulatory regime. Even for semiconductors, where, India is the preferred potential partner, a dedicated business division has been created in the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, in the form of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).



The recent trade policy agenda 2024 released by the Biden administration highlighted "Since announcing the negotiating mandate in August 2022, the two sides have pursued an ambitious schedule of meetings to make progress as quickly as possible. In June 2023, AIT and TECRO signed the first agreement under the Initiative. This agreement includes high-standard commitments and economically meaningful outcomes in a number of trade areas, including customs administration and trade facilitation, good regulatory practices, services domestic regulation, anticorruption and small and medium-sized enterprises", underscoring the importance of the partnership between the two countries.

The US supports India's ambitions to develop into a significant player in semiconductor design and manufacturing space, as an alternative to China. India US trade relationship, which has been in limbo has been energised in the last two years after a formal Trade policy forum came into existence, which has had regular meetings on several bilateral issues. In the 2024 trade policy agenda document, US mentions, "We committed to pursue enhanced engagement leading to mutually beneficial outcomes in several areas, with a view to deepening the trade relationship for the benefit of working people. We identified certain areas, including critical minerals, customs and trade facilitation, supply chains and trade in high technology products, in which our Governments intend to develop an ambitious and forward-looking roadmap for enhanced cooperation in order to achieve economically meaningful outcomes."

Given the convergence of interests and the willingness of like-minded partners and allies to invest and support India in the race of semiconductors, the next Government could do well to include removing regulatory bottlenecks in its 100-day agenda. It would be a good start towards a Stated Vikist Bharat target.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Sri Lanka's Easter attack revisited



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

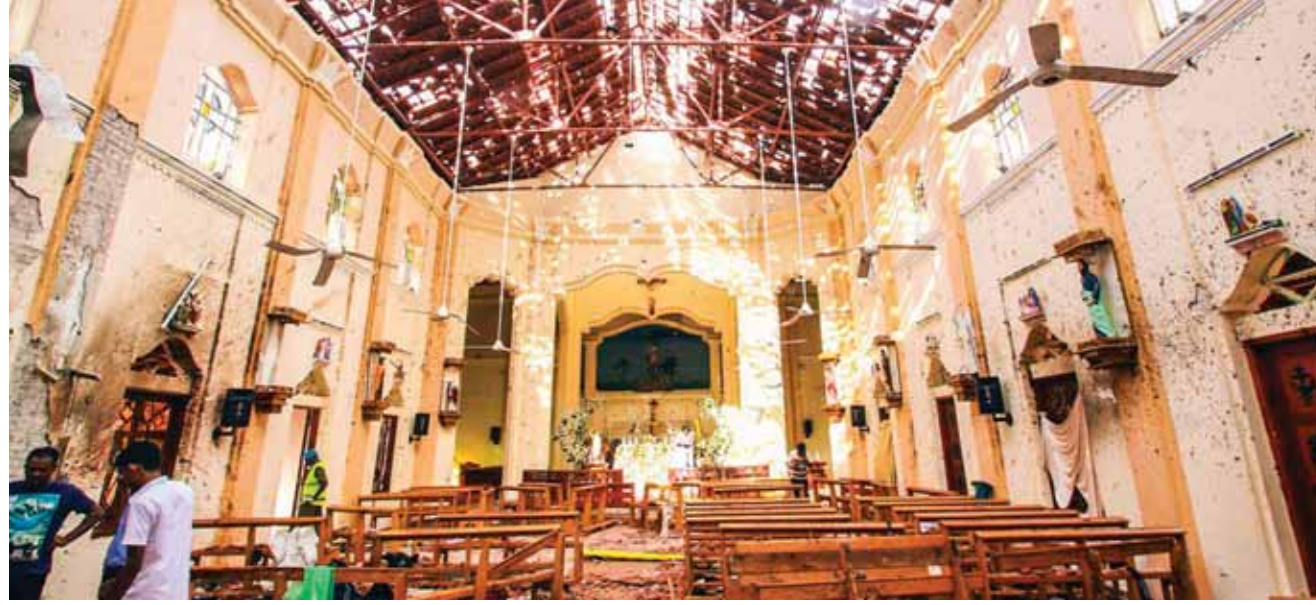
As the island nation grapples with the aftermath of the attack, the intricate web of extremism and intelligence failures continues to haunt it even five years later

When conspiracy theories gain traction and permeate the public consciousness, they inevitably taint the discourse surrounding the event in question. This phenomenon is especially pronounced in politically charged contexts. Five years ago, amidst the Easter attack on tourist hotels, two Catholic churches and a Zion church in Western and Eastern provinces, a plethora of conspiracy theories surfaced. Initially, speculation swirled suggesting the involvement of a powerful Western nation, followed by theories positing the attack as a ploy to consolidate political power. More recently, local politicians and various social groups have propagated the notion that India orchestrated the attack. Yet, none of these claims have been substantiated with credible evidence. Meanwhile, the culpability of the investigating officers' negligence, which played a role in the tragedy, has been overshadowed by these baseless allegations. Instead of being held accountable, those partially responsible have reshaped the narrative to deflect blame onto others.

However, in the aftermath of the attack, public media reports surfaced alleging that prominent politicians and Government officials were aware of the impending threat. Some even openly discussed this matter. Additionally, a leaked classified document from the police indicated forewarning of an imminent attack. What followed was not just the proliferation of various interpretations but also the dissemination of misconceptions. For instance, blame was swiftly pinned on the State Intelligence Service, the country's premier intelligence agency, extending to judicial indictments. However, a more rational examination, grounded in verifiable data, reveals a different societal reality. It uncovers a systemic failure across institutions tasked with national security and a disregard for prior warnings. Furthermore, it exposes concerted efforts to downplay this negligence for political gain. In a nation scarred by nearly four decades of internal conflict and widespread devastation, such institutional negligence sadly becomes almost unsurprising. It's crucial to highlight overlooked facts concerning the attack in question.

Leading up to the incident in question, there was a noticeable proliferation of extremist factions advocating violence across Sri Lanka. This surge wasn't limited to Muslim extremist groups but encompassed various ideological factions, each pursuing distinct political agendas. The emergence of the Islamic State in West Asia particularly bolstered the prospects of extremists across different nations, with Sri Lanka serving as a pivotal transit hub.

Investigations have revealed a significant influx of extremists from regions like Kerala, as well as countries such as the Maldives, into Sri Lanka. It's evident that intelligence agencies within the region, including those of Sri Lanka and Western nations, amassed substantial intelligence on these activities and collaborated in information sharing. Testimony from the wife of Zahran Hashim, a ringleader of the carnage, attests to the financial backing he received from a Singaporean national to establish his initial mosque. She further detailed Zahran's extensive involvement in extremist endeavours, including recruiting adherents and garnering financial and logistical support throughout the country. This revelation sheds light on the proliferation of extremism in Sri Lanka, culminating



in the Easter attack and subsequent incidents like the suicidal blast at the Sainthamaruthu house, where Zahran's family last resided. Zahran and his cohorts have exhibited affiliations with extremist ideologies and have been inspired by the Islamic State. Moreover, Sri Lankan nationals who joined the organisation's ranks in Syria have been observed exerting influence on local activities. Between 2014 and 2018, a staggering 41,490 individuals from 91 nations travelled to Syria to support the Islamic State, including 32 Sri Lankans.

Exploiting this influx, organisations espousing extremist ideologies, under various guises, began proliferating throughout Sri Lanka. Additionally, individuals of Sri Lankan origin who attempted to travel to Syria via Turkey but were unsuccessful have returned home and aligned themselves with figures like Zahran. Simultaneously, the ideological backing of Mohamed Naufar, known as the "second emir" and a close relative—specifically, the husband of Zahran's maternal aunt—played a pivotal role. Naufar, identified by the FBI as the mastermind behind the attack, exerted significant influence on the events.

Since March 2017, there have been eleven significant incidents leading up to the Easter attack, yet none have undergone thorough investigation. This failure on the part of investigative agencies, which were supposed to act on precious intelligence passed on to them, has been perceived as a deliberate effort to conceal the underlying truth of the entire episode from society, thereby impeding the crucial lessons to be gleaned from this tragedy. The series of events began with a clash at Kattankudy Aliyar junction on March 10, 2017. Following this conflict, police attempted to arrest Zahran, but their efforts proved unsuccessful. Subsequently, on May 17, 2017, a member of National Thowheeth Jama'ath was shot. This was followed by a bomb thrown at the National Front for Good Governance (NFGG) Mohammad Farzan's house on February 06, 2018 and another bomb thrown at

the NFGG Kattankudy office on February 12, 2018.

Further escalations occurred with the shooting of Palani Bawa in Kattankudy on June 08, 2018 and the detonation of a bomb by Zahran's brother Rilwan in Arayampathy on August 26, 2018, resulting in injuries and fatalities at Wavnathiv police post on November 30, 2018. The incidents continued with the vandalism of religious statues in Mawanella on December 23, 2018 and further vandalism on January 16, 2019, related to providing information about the destruction of statues and concealment of explosive materials in Vanathavilluwa of Puttalam District. The situation intensified with the discovery of material and the shooting of informant Raziq Mohammad Taslim on March 08, 2019, resulting in permanent disability. Finally, a motorcycle explosion in Thalankudah on April 16, 2019, just five days before the Easter attack, marked the culmination of these incidents. Numerous intelligence reports concerning these events have been received by the commissions tasked with investigating them, shedding light on the negligence of the officers responsible for the criminal investigation.

One of the most significant incidents out of these eleven took place in August 2018, involving Rilwan, who mishandled explosives, resulting in an accident. After the explosions in the Arayampathy area, Rilwan was taken to Colombo National Hospital and admitted under the name Zaheed on 26 August 2018. Investigations have confirmed that Zahran, conducting a training camp in the Hambantota area at the time, visited his brother in Colombo. The following day, 27 August 2018, Rilwan was admitted to the National Eye Hospital. Subsequently, he visited the clinics of the National Hospital on 27.09.2018, 04.10.2018, 11.18.26 and 15.03.2019. This incident occurred eight months prior to the attack, yet neither the training camps nor the incident itself were reported to any police or intelligence agencies.

Remarkably, the individual managed to conceal his identity from the National Hospital and Eye Hospital for several days. The doctor suspected of aiding in this matter has later fled the country.

Later, there was another incident identified as a dry run, which the State Intelligence Service formally reported to the Inspector General of Police as well as the head of CID, stating that the incident on 2019.04.18 was an explosive test. However, due to the lack of proper investigation into the incident until the Easter Sunday attack, a key opportunity to apprehend the perpetrators was missed.

Upon examination of the intelligence reports submitted to the investigative commissions regarding the attack, it becomes evident that not only did the local intelligence agency provide information, but also the Indian Intelligence Bureau (IB), India's internal security and counter-intelligence agency under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, accurately foresaw the impending attacks. This information was disseminated not only to the then Inspector General of Police and the Secretary of the Ministry of Defense but also to the officers responsible for crime and investigation.

Their acknowledgement of receiving this crucial information is documented. Despite being forewarned, no preventive measures were taken to thwart the attack. This apparent failure to act raises serious questions about accountability and highlights a disturbing trend of negligence. That was a collective failure.

The balance sheet of five years since this tragedy is that there has been a concerted effort to obscure the truth by proliferating conspiracy theories, thereby masking this dereliction of duty. This deliberate attempt to deflect attention from institutional failures through the propagation of unfounded narratives not only undermines public trust but also obstructs the implementation of preventive mechanisms to ensure non-recurrence.

(The writer is a Sri Lankan journalist. Views are personal)



SINCE MARCH 2017, THERE HAVE BEEN 11 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS LEADING UP TO THE EASTER ATTACK, YET NONE HAS UNDERGONE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION

The U-turns and contradictions in Antony's political journey

From advocating communal harmony to his stance on Hindu-Muslim relations, Antony's journey reflects his love for courting controversies

The year was 1993. The Kerala Press Academy (since renamed as Kerala Media Academy) under the ownership of the Kerala Government was having the Mathai Manjooran Memorial Day. Mathai Manjooran was a socialist party leader and was a member of the EMS Namboodiripad-led coalition Government during the 1967-69. He was also a trade union leader who never hesitated to speak his mind. It is unfortunate that he passed away in 1970 at the age of 58.

A K Antony, the quintessential Congress leader was the speaker who delivered the Manjooran Memorial speech and as a journalist, I was there to cover the event. The country was yet to come out of the impact of the demolition of the



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

disputed structure at Ayodhya and the entire secularist forces were up in arms against the Hindus for the "barbaric" act. Not a single day passed in Kerala without communal harmony meetings and all speakers were vying with one another in blaming the Sanatanis for the heinous act and praising Islam as the religion of peace. But Antony chose a different approach in his 45 minutes. He warned the minority com-

munities (read Christians and Muslims) from attacking the Hindus and reminded the two communities that they should be grateful to the Sanatanis for their magnanimity in offering the minorities more than what the Hindus themselves enjoyed. "The minorities have been given more rights and privileges to run their own educational institutions and hospitals while the Hindus were denied the same. We should always bear in mind the truth that the minorities in India enjoy unique rights and privileges that the Hindus do not have and we should be grateful to them for their broad-mindedness," said Antony, which made the next day's headlines. Antony became the chief minister of Kerala for the third

time in 2001 but he quit in 2004 for reasons best known to him, the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi and the then Muslim League boss Mohammed Shihab Ali Thangal. Eight Hindu fishermen were butchered by members of a Muslim extremist organisation at Maradu in Kozhikode district in May 2003 and there was a demand for a CBI probe into the massacre. A prominent Muslim League leader, who later on became a Union Minister in the Manmohan Singh Government played a significant role in offering shelter in a mosque to the assassins. When the issue of the CBI probe came for consideration in the liaison committee meeting of the UDF, the Muslim League leaders warned Antony



who was the then Chief Minister against an investigation by the Central agency. The UDF had won 99 out of the 140 seats at stake and was in a comfortable position. The Muslim League ultimatum against the CBI probe angered Antony and he announced in a public meeting the next day

that political parties, especially the caste and community-based outfits, should not make the Government dance to their tunes with organised bargaining power. That turned out to be the nemesis for Antony as the Gods in Malappuram asked Sonia Gandhi to remove him from the post of chief minister. Despite Antony tendering an apology, the chieftains of the Muslim League, controlling Kerala politics from the Kudappanakkal castle in Panakkad, were not humoured and they insisted on the former's ouster. That was how Antony resigned as the Chief Minister and shifted camp to Delhi. The Sulthans of Malappuram had the last laugh. Antony knows very well that his shirt and dhoti should be

more secular than that of the CPI(M) and other outfits to stay in the reckoning. That is why the person who wanted the minority communities to be grateful to the Hindus wants the Sanatan Dharma to be demolished. There is nothing surprising in Antony's stance as he was always against the Hindus even as the president of Kerala Students Union, the feeder organisation of the Congress. The group in the Congress party in Kerala has its roots in Antony's grievances over the status enjoyed by Hindu leaders like K Karunakaran and their clout in the High Command. The group in Congress has nothing to do with ideology and Antony's hatred towards Hindus is reflected in his cursing his son Anil Antony join-

ing the BJP. What Antony should have done is to give freedom to 38-year-old Anil to select the party of his choice and wish him all success. Instead of that what Antony has done is to demand the Nehru-Gandhi clan to field candidates for the Lok Saba election from Amethi and Rae Bareilly. He also declared that the Congress party cannot exist without the Nehru-Gandhi family. Isn't this another way of telling that India is India and India is India? Remember, this is the same Antony who ridiculed Indira Gandhi cast his lot with the CPI(M) in 1980 and formed a Government with the Marxists during 1980-1982.

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)

University responses vary: Dialogue or police for pro-Palestinian protests

AP ■ WASHINGTON
The students at Columbia University who inspired pro-Palestinian demonstrations across the country dug in at their encampment for the 10th day on Friday as administrators and police at campuses from California to Massachusetts wrestled with how to address protests that have seen scuffles with police and hundreds of arrests. Officials at Columbia and some other schools have been negotiating with student protesters who have rebuffed police and doubled down. Other schools have quickly turned to law enforcement to douse demonstrations before they can take hold. As the death toll mounts in the war in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis worsens, protesters at universities across the country are demanding schools cut financial ties to Israel and divest from companies they say are enabling the conflict. Some Jewish students say the protests have veered into antisemitism and made them afraid to set foot on campus, partly prompting the calls for police

intervention. After a tent encampment popped up Thursday at Indiana University Bloomington, police with shields and batons shoved into protesters and arrested 33. Hours later at the University of Connecticut, police tore down tents and arrested one person. And at Ohio State University, police clashed with protesters just hours after they gathered Thursday evening. Those who refused to leave after warnings were arrested and charged with criminal trespass, said university spokesperson Benjamin Johnson, citing rules barring overnight events. The clock is ticking as May commencement ceremonies near, putting added pressure on schools to clear demonstrations. At Columbia, protesters defiantly erected a tent encampment where many are set to graduate in front of families in just a few weeks. Columbia officials said that negotiations were showing progress as they neared the school's deadline of early Friday to reach an agreement on dismantling the encampment.



An Israeli police officer searches an activist before she is taken away by police car after she was blocking a road along with a delegation of American and Israeli rabbis from Rabbis for Ceasefire marching towards the Erez crossing to the Gaza Strip with food aid for Gaza civilians and to call for a ceasefire, in southern Israel, on Friday. AP/PTI

US effort to bring aid to Gaza by sea moving forward but concerns remain

AP ■ JERUSALEM
The construction of a new port in Gaza and an accompanying US military-built pier offshore are underway, but the complex plan to bring more desperately-needed food to Palestinian civilians is still mired in fears over security and how the humanitarian aid will be delivered. The Israeli-developed port, for example, has already been attacked by mortar fire, sending high-ranking UN officials scrambling for shelter this week, and there is still no solid decision on when the aid deliveries will actually begin. While satellite photos show major port construction along the shore near Gaza City, aid groups are making it clear that they have broad concerns about their safety and reservations about how Israeli forces will handle security. Sonali Korde, an official with the US Agency for International Development, said key agreements for security and handling the aid deliveries are still being negotiated. Those include how Israeli forces will operate in Gaza to ensure that aid workers are not harmed. "We need to see steps implemented. And the humanitarian community and IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) continue to talk and engage and iterate and improve the system so that everyone feels safe and secure in this very difficult operating environment," Korde said. A senior US military official said on Thursday the US is on track to begin delivering aid using the new port and pier by early May. The official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public, said deliveries through the sea route initially will total about 90 trucks a day and could quickly increase to about 150 trucks daily. The senior official acknowledged, however, that the final installation of the US-built causeway onto the beach at the port will be governed by the security situation, which is assessed daily. The Israeli Defense Forces has a brigade — thousands of soldiers — as well as ships and aircraft dedicated to protecting the deliveries, the official said. Asked about the recent mortar attack, the military official said the US assesses that it had nothing to do with the humanitarian mission, adding that security around the port will be "far more robust" when the deliveries start.

Scottish leader cancels major speech as confidence vote in his govt looms

AP ■ LONDON
Scotland's leader cancelled a speech on Friday as he fights for his political life in the wake of his decision to pull the plug on a three-year power-sharing agreement, a move that has exposed the government to peril. First Minister Humza Yousaf of the Scottish National Party was due to deliver a major speech on Scotland's independence from the UK, but that has been cancelled following the furor surrounding his decision to tear up the power-sharing deal with the much smaller Greens on Thursday. Without the support of the Greens, the SNP is two seats shy of a majority of lawmakers in the Scottish Parliament, meaning it can only get legislation and its budget through with the support of other parties. Although Scotland is part of the UK, its government has widespread powers, including

over health and education, as well as some limited powers over the raising of revenues. On Friday, Scottish Labour, which is connected to the UK's main opposition Labour Party, said it wants to lodge a vote of no confidence in the Scottish government next week. If all opposition legislators, which now include the Greens, vote against the government, it could set off a chain of events that leads to early elections in Scotland, which are not due until 2026. Ministers in the government would be required to resign immediately and the legislature in Edinburgh would then have 28 days to see if it can create a new government with majority support. If that isn't possible, then early elections would be triggered. "It's a matter now of when, not if, Humza Yousaf will step down as first minister," said Scottish Labour's leader Anas Sarwar. "It would be untenable for the SNP to assume it can impose another unelected first

minister on Scotland." Yousaf, who replaced long-time leader Nicola Sturgeon in March 2023, may need the vote of a former SNP lawmaker, Ash Regan, to survive. She has indicated that she would seek to extract a price from Yousaf in order to back him and the government in the no-confidence votes. Of Parliament's 129 seats, the SNP holds 63. Regan's backing would result in the government having 64 votes at least. In the event of a tie, the chamber's presiding officer — Scotland's equivalent to the speaker — would be expected to vote in favour of the status quo. It could well be that tight. The Greens, furious at their ejection from government, have already said they will vote against Yousaf himself, along with the other main opposition parties, including the Conservatives and Labour. It's not clear yet whether they will vote against the government as a whole or whether they will abstain.

Tate's trial on charges of rape, human trafficking might start

Bucharest (AP) — A court in Romania's capital on Friday ruled that a trial can start in the case of influencer Andrew Tate, who is charged with human trafficking, rape and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women. The Bucharest Tribunal ruled that prosecutors' case file against Tate met the legal criteria but did not set a date for the trial to begin. Tate's spokesperson, Mateea Petrescu, said the ruling will be appealed. Tate, 37, was arrested in December 2022 near Bucharest along with his brother Tristan Tate and two Romanian women. Romanian prosecutors formally indicted all four in June last year. They have denied the allegations.

'United Team Pak could defeat negative forces'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Pakistan's Army chief General Syed Asim Munir said on Friday that a "united team Pakistan" could defeat "negative forces", as he asserted that negative propaganda and social media trolls could not distract the nation from marching towards its development and prosperity. Addressing the Green Pakistan Initiative conference, Gen. Munir said that the country's armed forces, with the nation's support, would defeat all the inimical forces bent on impeding Pakistan's development and prosperity, Geo News reported. He asserted that negative propaganda and social media trolls could not distract the nation from marching towards its development and prosperity. "Let us all reject negative forces together and focus on Pakistan's journey of development and stability," he was quoted as saying.



"We are all a united team Pakistan — InshaAllah (God willing), with the cooperation and support of the people, all efforts of those who distract and obstruct Pakistan's development journey will fail," he said. Stressing the need for over-pursuing economic challenges, Gen. Munir said that complete independence without economic stability is not possible. "In today's era, complete independence is not possible with-

London resident arrested by NIA in Indian mission attack case

London (PTI) — A man who was arrested for unlawful activities by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as part of its investigations into the attack on the High Commission of India here in March 2023 had previously been detained at the Attari border while entering India from Pakistan last year. Indrapal Singh Gaba, a resident of Hounslow in west London, was arrested in India on Thursday for committing offences under Section 13(1) of the Prevention of Insult to National Honour Act and Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), official sources here said. There were two major violent protests in front of India House in London on March 19 and 22, 2023. On March 19, a large group of protesters were found to have attacked Indian officials, damaged the High Commission building and insulted the Indian National Flag. On March 22, they chanted anti-India slogans, insulted the Indian National Flag again and indulged in unlawful and threatening behaviour, according to the reports logged by the NIA following the incidents. As part of the investigation, several suspects were examined, and seizures were made after conducting searches at 31 locations in Punjab and Rajasthan. An investigation team of the NIA had also visited London, sources said. L[ook Out Circular] was opened against several suspects, including Indrapal Singh Gaba. Singh was detained at the Attari border on 09.12.2023 when he entered India from Pakistan. As part of the investigation, his mobile phone was seized and data was extracted and analysed. Investigation revealed that protests on 19.03.2023 and 22.03.2023 were part of the larger conspiracy to attack Indian missions and its officials, they said. The violent protests in March last year were repeatedly raised in the British Parliament and there has since been a very visible Metropolitan Police security presence outside the High Commission of India in London.

Trump's lawyers to grill ex-tabloid publisher

AP ■ NEW YORK
After prosecutors' lead witness painted a tawdry portrait of "catch-and-kill" tabloid schemes, defence lawyers in Donald Trump's hush money trial are poised on Friday to dig into an account of the former publisher of the National Enquirer and his efforts to protect Trump from negative stories during the 2016 election. David Pecker will return to the witness stand for the fourth day as defence attorneys try to poke holes in his testimony after he described helping bury embarrassing stories that Trump feared could hurt his campaign. It will cap a consequential week in the criminal cases the former president is facing as he vies to reclaim the White House in November. At the same time jurors listened to testimony in Manhattan, the Supreme Court on Thursday signalled it was likely to reject Trump's sweeping claims that he is immune from prosecution in his 2020 election inter-



ference case in Washington. But the conservative-majority high court seemed inclined to limit when former presidents could be prosecuted — a ruling that could benefit Trump by delaying that trial, potentially until after the November election. In New York — the first of Trump's four criminal cases to go to trial — the presumptive Republican presi-

dential nominee faces 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in connection with hush money payments meant to stifle negative stories from surfacing in the final days of the 2016 campaign. Trump denies any wrongdoing. Before entering the courtroom on Friday, he told reporters he believes Thursday's proceedings went "very well" for the defense, adding that "the case should be over". Prosecutors allege that Trump sought to illegally influence the 2016 race through a tabloid industry practice that involves catching a potentially damaging story by buying the rights to it and then killing it through agreements that prevent the paid person from telling the story to anyone else. Over several days on the witness stand, Pecker has described how he and the tabloid parlayed rumour-mongering into splashy stories that smeared Trump's opponents and, just as crucially, leveraged his connections to suppress seamy stories about Trump. The charges centre on USD 130,000 in payments that Trump's company made to his then-lawyer, Michael Cohen. He paid that sum on Trump's behalf to keep porn actor Stormy Daniels from going public with her claims of a sexual encounter with Trump a decade earlier. Trump has denied the encounter ever happened.

During the cross-examination that began Thursday, defence attorney Emil Bove grilled Pecker on his recollection of specific dates and meanings. He appeared to be laying further groundwork for the defense's argument that any dealings Trump had Pecker were intended to protect himself, his reputation and his family — not his campaign. Pecker recalled how an editor told him that Daniels' representative was trying to sell her story and that the tabloid could acquire it for USD 120,000. Pecker said he put his foot down, noting that the tabloid was already USD 180,000 in the hole for Trump-related catch-and-kill transactions. But, Pecker said, he told Cohen to buy the story himself to prevent Daniels from going public with her claim. "I said to Michael, my suggestion to you is that you should buy the story, and you should take it off the market because if you don't and it gets out, I believe the boss will be very angry with you."

Claims of double standards in Sydney stabbing incidents

Newcastle (Australia) (AP) — Muslim groups in Australia on Friday criticized the disparity in the police response to two stabbing attacks in Sydney this month, saying it had created a perception of a double standard and further alienated the country's minority Muslim community. The Australian National Imams Council said an attack at a Bondi Junction shopping center was "quickly deemed a mental health issue" while the stabbing of a Christian bishop at a Sydney church two days later was "classified as a terrorist act almost immediately." "The differing treatments of two recent violent incidents are stark," the council's spokesperson, Ramia Abdo Sultan, said in a statement with the Alliance of Australian Muslims and the Australian Muslim Advocacy Network. "Such disparities in response create a perception of a double standard in law enforcement and judicial processes," she said. A 16-year-old boy is accused of repeatedly stabbing Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and a priest at the Christ the Good Shepherd Church on April 15, two days after the Bondi Junction attack, in which six people were killed and a dozen others seriously wounded by a lone assailant with a history of mental illness. The boy was charged last week with committing a terrorist act, a crime that carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. Five teenage boys aged from 14 to 17 have also been charged with terrorism offenses in connection with the church stabbings.

UK cancer patient joins trial for world's first skin cancer vaccine

PTI ■ LONDON
An international clinical trial testing a novel cancer immunotherapy, which may prevent skin cancer from recurring, has recruited its first patient in Britain this week. The mRNA-based technology, the vaccine tech used for some COVID vaccinations, is aimed at people who have already had high-risk melanomas — the most serious form of cancer — removed. For the trial, University College London Hospitals (UCLH) doctors are giving it alongside another drug, pembrolizumab or Keytruda, that also helps the immune system kill cancer cells. One of the first patients to sign up for the trial is British musician Steve Young, 52, from Hertfordshire, east England,

who was diagnosed with stage II melanoma, which was removed. "I feel lucky to be part of this clinical trial. Of course, I did not feel so lucky when I was diagnosed with skin cancer, in fact, it came as quite a shock, but now that I've had treatment, I'm keen to ensure it does not recur. This is my best chance at stopping the cancer in its tracks," Young said. The personalised treatment works by instructing the body to make up to 34 proteins, each targeting "neoantigens" identified by gene sequencing and thought to be driving the cancer in that particular patient. The neoantigens are proteins found only on the cancer cells, and the individualised neoantigen therapy is designed to prime the immune system to attack the tumour cells in each patient, while Keytruda

blocks an immunological "brake" that protects the cancer. "The idea behind this immunotherapy is that, by prompting the body to make these proteins, it can prepare the immune system to quickly identify and attack any cancer cells bearing them, with the aim of preventing recurrence of melanoma," said University College London medical oncologist Heather Shaw, the national coordinating investigator of the new trial. The new Phase 3 clinical trial, being led by UCLH, is evaluating the combination of mRNA-4157 (V940) and Keytruda (pembrolizumab) versus a current standard of care (pembrolizumab) as a risk-reducing treatment option for patients with resected high-risk, stage IIB to IV melanoma.

US probes Tesla autopilot recall on attention

AP ■ DETROIT
The US government's auto safety agency is investigating whether last year's recall of Tesla's Autopilot driving system did enough to make sure drivers pay attention to the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in documents posted on its website on Friday that it has concerns about the December recall of more than 2 million vehicles, nearly all the vehicles that Tesla had sold at the time. The agency pushed the company to do the recall after a two-year investigation into Autopilot's driver monitoring system, which measures torque on the steering wheel from a driver's hands. The fix involves an online software update to increase warnings to drivers. But the agency said in documents



that it has found evidence of crashes after the fix, and that Tesla added updates that weren't part of the recall. "This investigation will consider why these updates were not part of the recall or otherwise determined to remedy a defect that poses an unreasonable safety risk," the agency wrote. A message was left early Friday seeking comment from Tesla.

NHTSA said that Tesla reported 20 crashes that apparently happened after the recall remedy was sent out. The agency has required Tesla and other automakers to report crashes involving partially and fully automated driving systems. NHTSA said it will evaluate the recall, including the "prominence and scope" of Autopilot's controls to address misuse, confusion and use in environments that the system

is not designed to handle. It also said that Tesla has stated that owners can decide whether they want to opt in to parts of the recall remedy, and that it allows drivers to reverse parts of it. Safety advocates have long expressed concern that Autopilot, which can keep a vehicle in its lane and a distance from objects in front of it, was not designed to operate on roads other than limited access highways. The Associated Press reported shortly after the recall that experts said it relied on technology that may not work. Tesla, the leading manufacturer of EVs, reluctantly agreed to the recall last year after NHTSA found that the driver monitoring system was defective and required a fix. The system sends alerts to drivers if it fails to detect torque from hands on the steering wheel, a system that experts

describe as ineffective. Government documents filed by Tesla say the online software change will increase warnings and alerts to drivers to keep their hands on the steering wheel. It also may limit the areas where the most commonly used versions of Autopilot can be used, though that isn't entirely clear in Tesla's documents. NHTSA began its investigation in 2021, after receiving 11 reports that Teslas that were using the partially automated system crashed into parked emergency vehicles. Since 2016, the agency has sent investigators to at least 35 crashes in which Teslas that were suspected of operating on a partially automated driving system hit parked emergency vehicles, motorcyclists or tractor trailers that crossed in the vehicles' paths, causing a total of 17 deaths.

FEAST ON HOT SUMMER MENUS

Embark on a culinary journey through Delhi NCR's finest dining experiences, discovering the hottest summer menus in the vibrant city's gastronomic scene.

SEASONAL AND LOCAL AT OLLY, OLIVE'S ALL-DAY CAFE & BAR, GURGAON

Like a second home Olly is a peaceful escape from the city's hustle and bustle. With a cafe menu featuring classics, fresh coffee, unique beverages, and homemade cold-pressed juices, on offer is a delightful everyday experience. The summer menu is influenced by seasonal and local produce, aimed at ensuring a light and refreshing dining experience during the warmer months. Abundant with fresh salads, bowl food, and light grills, the menu promises to be both satisfying and light.



stems from a desire to cater to the most discerning palates, offering a diverse selection that caters to all tastes. Olly's offerings encompass world cuisine crafted from the finest quality ingredients. Their charming terrace provides a cool retreat, complete with live music on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday evenings.

Must Try: Baked Crispy Sweet Potato Skins, Prawn, Mango & Avocado Salad, The Forbidden Rice Salad, Asian Style Buddha Bowl & Almond Crusted Baked Sole Fish

A TANTALIZING JOURNEY AT THE CHINA KITCHEN, THE HYATT REGENCY NEW DELHI

The China Kitchen offers a unique Chinese dining experience that sets it apart. Diners get to enjoy their meals right in the kitchen, giving a fresh and authentic touch to their dining experience. With a strong emphasis on using fresh, quality ingredients and expert culinary methods, The China Kitchen serves up an immersive culinary journey through Chinese cuisine. Their famous Peking duck and specially curated menu by Chef Zhang are highlights not to

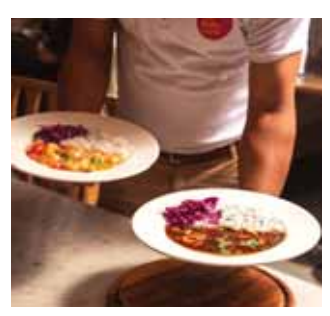


be missed. Experience a tantalizing voyage through Chinese culinary delights with the new summer lunch menu. Infusing traditional flavours with a touch of innovation, each dish reflects the rich tapestry of Chinese cuisine. Meticulously chosen ingredients and expert cooking methods elevate classics like the Beijing-style chilled cucumber salad and the fragrant Sichuan fried rice. Delve into specialties such as the Southern-style lotus root fritter and the luxurious Gong bao diced chicken, celebrating diversity and authenticity. Embark on a culinary escapade that captures the essence of summer in every flavourful bite.

Must Try: Southern Style Lotus Root Fritter, Sizzling Sliced Lamb, Gong Bao Diced Chicken Clay Pot, Braised Tofu is a Hearty vegetarian option with tofu, vegetables, and aromatic sauces. And the Wok-Fried String Beans, stir-fried with chili and garlic chip, make for a savoury and spicy side dish.

SUMMER IN MY HEART AT VIET-NOM, CYBER HUB, WOLDMARK & DLF SAKET

As the sun casts its golden rays to signal a new season, Viet:nom unveils a tantalizing array of seasonal delights, marrying traditional Vietnamese flavours



with a modern flair. With a steadfast commitment to authenticity and culinary mastery, it presents a menu that invites guests on a sensory journey through the symphony of tastes and textures embodied in their signature Banh Mi sandwiches. Combining tender proteins, crisp vegetables, and house-made spreads, these sandwiches redefine street food with sophistication. Complimenting this epicurean adventure are the meticulously crafted cocktails and mocktails, skillfully prepared with premium spirits, fresh herbs, and homemade cordials. From refreshing fruit-infused mocktails to innovative cocktail creations inspired by Vietnamese flavours, each sip offers a refined experience of taste and creativity. The menu is a celebration of the season's abundance and Vietnamese culinary art.

Must Try: From crisp salads brimming with seasonal produce to delicate summer rolls bursting with succulent fillings and fragrant herbs, each dish is a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation.

SALADS AND SAVOURY AT L'OPERA, MULTIPLE OUTLETS

At this revered French Boulangerie, Pâtisserie, and Salon de Thé, the seasonal selection

features an array of refreshing salads tailored for the summer, light and delectable meals catering to diverse palates, and a fresh assortment of summer coolers perfect for savouring on hot summer days and evenings. The new menu is artfully complemented by Lopera's renowned seasonal mango collection, presented in captivating new presentations. Adding to the culinary experience, the savoury offerings introduce enticing additions such as Alfredo Pasta in Fettuccine - a creamy fettuccine pasta bathed in a luscious Alfredo sauce and adorned with Parmesan cheese and Panzanella Salad - a lively and tangy ensemble of seasonal vegetables, fresh basil, Parmesan cheese, and crispy bread croutons, among other delightful surprises.

Must Try: Alfredo Pasta in Fettuccine, Herbed Risotto with Pesto Prawns is a harmony of flavours and textures, Panzanella Salad, a vibrant tangy salad with seasonal vegetables, fresh basil, Parmesan cheese and crunchy bread croutons.

VIBRANT ESSENCE OF SADDI DILLI AT CAFE DELHI HEIGHTS, MULTIPLE OUTLETS

Reflecting the Capital's generous spirit through its generous servings of exquisitely prepared dishes. Constantly evolving with a new outlet each month and revamped aesthetics across many locations, Café Delhi Heights has unveiled an enticing New Menu designed to tantalize the taste buds of discerning food enthusiasts.

Founder Mr. Vikrant Batra proudly champions the diverse and imaginative culinary offerings at CDH that aim to delight all five senses. Chef Ashish Singh has consistently impressed food aficionados since the brand's inception, and the latest menu is poised to continue this tradition of culinary



excellence. Featuring delectable specialties such as the healthy Italian Chicken Salad and the Miso Avocado & Tofu Bowl, the menu also showcases a range of gourmet options including savoury wraps, flavourful Mexican dishes, and tantalizing meal bowls crafted for the pleasure of the palate.

Must Try: Health-conscious patrons can savour the Protein Bowl or Poke Bowl, while dessert lovers can indulge in the luscious Red Velvet Lava and Fruit Truffle creations, adding a sweet conclusion to the culinary journey at Café Delhi Heights.

Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.



INTERNATIONAL STREET FOOD FETSIVAL THE WORLD ON THE PLATE



Known for its versatility, dynamism and one of the best food ethos, the most loved café of Delhi - Café Delhi Heights is introducing the most dynamic food festival- International Street Food Festival. Scheduled from April 20th to May 10th, Café Delhi Heights is inviting patrons on an epicurean journey through the International Street Food Festival. Vikrant Batra, founder of Café Delhi Heights says, The idea of a food festival is to celebrate the diversity of food. Food festivals are those special occasions where we celebrate specially curated menus that are otherwise not part of our routine menu. We at CDH take our festivals seriously, and each menu is a serious attempt to do something new and exciting for our customers. We are bringing the International Street Food Festival for the first time, and this brings street delicacies from different countries on the gourmet front. Whether you're a seasoned epicurean or a curious adventurer, Café Delhi Heights' International Street Food Festival promises an unforgettable dining experience that will transport you to distant lands and leave you yearning for more. Come, indulge your senses and savor the flavors of the world at Multiple outlets of Pan India Brand, Café Delhi Heights. Drawing inspiration from

bustling food markets and vibrant street stalls around the world, Café Delhi Heights presents a carefully curated menu that showcases the rich tapestry of global cuisine. Each dish is a masterpiece, crafted with precision and passion by the café's talented chefs, ensuring an authentic and immersive dining experience for all.

From the bustling streets of Bangkok to the sun-kissed shores of Greece, guests can embark on a culinary voyage like no other, sampling iconic street foods from Thailand, Greece, Japan, Latin America, Canada, Lebanon, Russia, and Spain-all within the cozy confines of Café Delhi Heights Dehradun. Savor the bold flavors of Thailand with the signature Pad Thai, an irresistible blend of stir-fried rice noodles, succulent shrimp or chicken, and crunchy peanuts. Transport yourself to the Mediterranean with Gyros,

tender grilled meat nestled in warm pita bread and topped with fresh vegetables and creamy tzatziki sauce. Japan's culinary artistry shines through in the comforting embrace of Ramen, a soul-warming noodle soup adorned with slices of grilled chicken breast, soft-boiled eggs, and fragrant green onions. Meanwhile, Latin America beckons with the savory indulgence of Empanadas, golden pastry parcels brimming with flavorful filling. Canada's beloved Poutine offers a hearty treat with its crispy fries, gooey cheese curds, and savory gravy. At the same time, the Middle Eastern delight of Shawarma promises a symphony of flavors with its tender grilled meat and creamy tahini sauce. From the heart of Russia come Pelmeni, delicate dumplings filled with savory delights, while Spain's Churros provide the perfect sweet finale-a crispy delight coated in cinnamon sugar and served with a decadent chocolate dipping sauce. "As we celebrate culinary diversity with our International Street Food Festival, we invite our guests to embark on a journey of flavors and discoveries," says Brand chef Aashish Singh of Café Delhi Heights.

Born and brought up in Mumbai, Chef Varun Totlani moved to Hyderabad to study at the Culinary Academy of India and later graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in New York. Upon returning to Mumbai, he joined the opening team at Masque and steadily rose through the ranks, becoming Sous Chef in 2021 and Head Chef in 2022. Chef Varun is passionate about showcasing the diversity of India's produce and culinary prowess, contributing to the country's ever-evolving contemporary foodscapes. For reservations please contact +91 8586972078.



At Café Delhi Heights
Multiple outlets
Meal for two- ₹1500 plus taxes
For reservations please contact- 8800691812
Instagram page- @cafedelhiheights

The Story Club at WESTIN Gurgaon hosts a Pop Up by Masque Restaurant's Chef VARUN TOTLANI

Savour a 10-Course Tasting Menu: Traditional Flavours Meet Innovation



Embark on a culinary adventure at an exclusive 2-day pop-up at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi, featuring Chef Varun Totlani from Masque restaurant, India's Best Restaurant for the third consecutive year at Asia's 50 Best 2024. Guests can enjoy a 10-course Tasting Menu that showcases innovative twists on traditional Indian flavours, all thoughtfully paired with fine beverages.

The event is priced at INR 8250 plus taxes per person for food & beverages. It will be hosted at Story Club & Lounge, The Westin Gurgaon New Delhi, Number 1 MG Road, Sector 29, Gurugram, Haryana 122002, on April 26th & 27th, 2024, from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm.

About Chef VARUN TOTLANI

The menu promises a keen exploration of India's diversity, embodying Chef Varun's culinary style that harmonises technique and intuition. It blends the ever-evolving landscape of contemporary Indian cuisine, offering a range of tantalising dishes. Dive into a world of flavours with options like Purple Corn, Charred Baby Corn, and Corn Mousse. Veggie lovers can savour Puran Poli with Amti and Green Peas, while non-vegetarians can indulge in Mud Crab. Don't miss the must-tries: Jicama with Coconut Malai Momo and Passionfruit Thukpa. Barbecue enthusiasts can enjoy BBQ Sweet Potato or Pork paired with tangy Tamarind and crispy Rice. Tantalise your taste buds further with Jackfruit Pepperfry or Duck Pepperfry served with Malabar Paratha and Mustard, complemented by refreshing Green Mango, Aam Papad, and Apples. For the main course, vegetarians can relish Butternut Squash, and non-vegetarians can try Clams with Karandi Loncha and Goda Masala. Don't miss the enticing Mushroom Bhutwa or Lamb Bhutwa with Potato and

ABOUT MASQUE

Located in a Mumbai textile mill, Masque is an ingredient-driven restaurant founded by Aditi Dugar and Chef Varun Totlani. Since 2016, their seasonal 10-course menus have featured farm and foraged ingredients, reflecting a commitment to local produce.

For more information, please contact: **PERNA DAGA** Associate Director of Marketing Perna.Daga@westin.com +91-99990 45851 **SUNAKSHI SONI** Sunakshi@quirkindia.com +91-9899928231



