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WORLD 8

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MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY SNAP THREE  
DAYS WINNING RUN

CHANDIGARH, WEDNESDAY MARCH 27, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

MI, SRH LOOK TO  
MAKING WINING  
COMEBACKS  
12 SPORTS

# Kejriwal stir chokes Central Delhi

AAP seeks Delhi CM release, BJP his resignation

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■  
NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Tuesday witnessed massive protests led separately by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). While AAP workers attempted to 'gherao' the Prime Minister residence in Lutyens' Zone, seeking release of their supremo Arvind Kejriwal from the Enforcement Directorate's custody, the BJP organised protest demanding that the arrested Chief Minister step down from his post. Kejriwal, who was arrested on March 21 and subsequently remanded to ED custody till March 28 by a Delhi court, faces charges of direct involvement in a conspiracy related to the formulation of the excise policy favouring specific individuals. The protests led to massive traffic jams in the Central and New Delhi areas and as preventive measures the Delhi Police issued directions to shut down the entry and exit gates of the Lok Kalyan Metro Station from where the PM's residence is nearby. The Delhi Police beefed up security in several parts of the national Capital,



AAP workers during their protest outside Patel Chowk metro station in New Delhi on Tuesday



BJP workers protest on Tuesday in Delhi demanding resignation of Arvind Kejriwal after his arrest by the ED

including around the PM's residence and Central Delhi, by deploying its personnel and those of paramilitary forces. Prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were imposed in the Patel Chowk area. A senior police officer said they cannot allow anyone to gather and added that in view of this, "we have to clear this area". "We will not allow anybody to gather here," he said. Deputy Commissioner of Police of New Delhi Devesh Kumar had earlier warned that those who gather at the chowk to demonstrate would be detained immediately.

## Kavitha remanded in judicial custody till April 9

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A court here on Tuesday sent ABRS leader K Kavitha to judicial custody till April 9 on a plea made by the Enforcement Directorate that the "highly influential" arrestee, if released, is likely to influence witnesses and tamper with evidence. The 46-year-old leader was arrested by the Central probe agency on March 15 in a Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case. The federal probe agency's application seeking 15-day jail custody was filed before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja, saying an investigation into economic crimes was more complex than ordinary crimes as economic offenders were influential, resourceful and committed the crime meticulously. The plea sought her judicial custody on the ground that "the arrestee is highly influential and there is every likelihood the arrestee will influence the witnesses and tamper with the evidence if released, (and) it may hamper the ongoing investigation."

## US comments on AAP chief arrest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Germany, the United States of America Government on Tuesday said they are closely watching the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and support a fair, transparent, and prompt legal process. "We encourage a fair, transparent, and timely legal process for Chief Minister Kejriwal," news agencies quoted a US State

Department spokesperson as saying. The US Government's response follows India's summoning of a senior diplomat from the German Embassy to express its objection to the country's remarks regarding Kejriwal's arrest. In a statement, Germany's foreign affairs spokesperson expressed hope that the "standards regarding the independence of the



judiciary and fundamental democratic principles" would be upheld in Kejriwal's case. "...Like anyone facing accusations, Kejriwal is entitled to a fair and impartial trial, this includes he can make use of all available legal avenues without restrictions. The presumption of innocence is a central element of the rule of law and must apply to him [sic]," the spokesperson said.

## Efforts on to find stolen vehicle of JP Nadda wife

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has launched an operation to find the stolen luxury car linked to BJP National president JP Nadda. A Toyota Fortuner, belonging to Nadda's wife Mallika Nadda, was stolen while it was taken for servicing on March 19. Despite CCTV footage showing the vehicle registration number HP-03-D-0021 heading towards Gurugram with a Himachal Pradesh registration, efforts to locate it remain futile. According to the report, the vehicle was brought to Govinpuri after servicing by its driver Joginder. An FIR has been lodged based on the driver's complaint, as authorities intensify efforts to recover the seven-seater SUV, valued between ₹33 lakh to ₹51 lakh. Mallika is the chief of 'Special Olympics Bharat', a national sports federation registered under the Indian Trust Act 1882 in 2001. Recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the organisation works to develop sports for persons with intellectual disabilities. In the past, the Delhi Police has demonstrated swift resolution in cases involving prominent figures and leaders. For instance, in the 2019 incident where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's niece Damayanti Ben had her purse snatched in Delhi's Civil Lines area, the Delhi Police mobilised 700 personnel and meticulously reviewed 200 CCTV recordings to apprehend the perpetrators.



## Majestic cats continue to perish

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The recent discovery of carcasses of two tiger cubs in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and a tigress in Uttar Pradesh's Kheri forest division has brought the total tiger death toll to 39 even as the third month of this year is yet to conclude. This accounts to nearly one tiger death every alternate day, underlining the multifaceted threats confronting these majestic animals, particularly territorial fights given that out of the total deaths, majority ie 22 occurred within tiger reserves, while 17 were reported from non-protected areas. The other threats encompass habitat loss, territorial disputes, human-wildlife conflicts, poaching, and other illicit activities. This alarming rate equates to nearly one tiger death every alternate day and highlights the various threats faced by tigers, including habitat loss, territorial fights, human-wildlife conflict, poaching, and other illicit activities. At least 22 perished inside the tiger reserves while 17 in non-protected areas. Fateh Singh Ninama, the sub-divisional forest officer from Madhya Pradesh said the carcasses of the cubs, both less than a year old, were found in separate locations within the Panpatha and Khitoli ranges of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. He said while one cub died as a result of a territorial fight, investigations are on to find the reason behind the death of another young tiger whose body was found deceased near Gadhpuri village in the Khitoli range in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve which has already lost five majestic cats till date this year. Kanha Tiger Reserve in the State has recorded three tiger fatalities. Overall, the top tiger State i.e. Madhya Pradesh has



Representative Image

lost 12 big royal cats so far till March 26, 2024. In a separate incident in the South Kheri forest Division of Uttar Pradesh, a tigress was discovered dead. Sanjay Biswal, divisional officer of the South Kheri forest division, said the tigress was found dead on Monday, with all vital organs intact, suggesting no involvement of poachers. The data shows that the royal predators have been unsafe not only in non-protected areas but also inside reserves, given that many deaths have occurred outside the tiger reserves. Overall while Madhya Pradesh reported highest tiger death at 12, followed by Maharashtra at seven fatalities while Karnataka lost five felines. Last year, a total 181 majestic cats had died as per the NTCA data while according to figures compiled by non-profit Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), India lost a record 204 tigers from January 1-December 25, 2023.

## Mumbai surpasses Beijing as billionaire hub

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

India's financial hub Mumbai has emerged as "Asia's billionaire epicentre" for the first time, surpassing Beijing, as per the Hurun Global Rich List 2024. According to the list, Mumbai now boasts 92 billionaires, edging past Beijing's count of 91. While Mumbai added 26 new ultra-rich to the club, Beijing lost 18. "Mumbai was the fastest-growing billionaire capital in the world, adding 26 in the year and taking it to third in the world and Asia's billionaire capital. New Delhi broke into



Representative Image/PTI

the Top 10 for the first time," the report read. India has ranked third in the list of the world's richest people, with 271 billionaires, as per a new global list, which

said that Mumbai has emerged as Asia's billionaire capital, with Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani occupying a key spot in the list. Globally, Mumbai

now ranks third in terms of billionaires after New York, which has 119 and London 97, as per Hurun's list. Industries that the report attributed India's growth in rank to were Pharmaceuticals (39) and Automobile and Auto Components (27). As per the list, there are 3,279 billionaires in the world today, with 167 of them added in the previous year. The United States added 109 billionaires, maintaining its lead with a total of 800 billionaires, while China, despite a decline of 155 billionaires, retained its position as the world's leader with 814 billionaires.

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# Classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Tulsi Singh** S/o Natha Singh R/o H.No. 47, Hariana Road, Vill Mugulpura, Kakkon, Hoshiarpur declare that in the school records of my son Akash Singh his name written as Akash instead of Akash Singh. His father's name written as Tulsi instead of Tulsi Singh and his mother's name written as Lachmi instead of Lachmi Kaur. Concerned note.

It Is For General Information That I, Gursewak Singh S/O Chanan Singh R/O Vpo. Sohian Tehsil Jagraon District Ludhiana - 142023 Declare That My Father Name Has Been Wrongly Written As Chaman Singh In My Passport No. M-4245935. The Actual Name Of My Father Is Chanan Singh Respectively, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

I, **Jaswinder Kaur** W/o Sh. Jasmer Singh r/o Village Goslan Tehsil Kharar Mohali have declare that my son Mandeep Singh is out of our control I disown him from all movable/immovable property property. Anybody deals with him at his own risk.

I, **Bimla** Wo Sh. Rajbir R/o Village Hullahedi, Tehsil & Distt. Sonapat has disowned my son Neeraj 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, **Ramesh Kumar** S/O Sh. Dayanand Or my wife Santosh Devi R/o H.No. 176, vill. Paldi Kalan tehsil Rai Distt. Sonipat declare that my daughter Sweetie are out of my control. So i disown her from our all moveable/immovable property any body deal with them at own risk.

I, **Naresh Kumar** Mahajan S/o Prithvi Raj r/o Sanjeevani Vihar Dinanagar, Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab) declare that my passport bears my name as Naresh Kumar i.e. mentioned by mistake. My correct name is Naresh Kumar Mahajan mentioned in my all other documents.

We **Ramesh Kumar** son Dalip Singh and Rekha wife Ramesh Kumar village Gobindpura tehsil and district Jind Haryana inform that our son Gaurav and his wife Harpreet Kaur are out of our control. We evict them from all our movable and immovable properties. If any police or legal action is taken in future, whoever deals with them will be held responsible and our family will not have any responsibility.

I, **Full Devi** w/o Late Sh. Mani Ram R/o Village Nouch District Kathiwal, have disown Ramrati (w/o my son Sukhdev), his daughter Sangeeta Raj Rana & his son Mohit from all my movable immovable properties, as they are out of my control.

I **Jaswant Singh** S/O Suba Singh R/O Village Niharasi Tehsil Jansui Head, Ambala Declare That My Adopted Daughter Sarabjit Kaur Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Her From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Her On Their Own Risk.

I **Sharanjeet Kaur** W/O Late Rupinder Singh, R/O #J-1/9 Gobind Colony, Rajpura, Tehsil Rajpura & District Patiala Declare That In My Minor Son Jashanpreet Singh's School Certificated Of Cisce His Date Of Birth Is Wrongly Mentioned As 07.07.2007. His Correct Date Of Birth Is 03.03.2007. Please Correct Accordingly.

I **Parveen Kumar** S/O Jagdish Pal R/O Village Jhar Chandna Teh. Jagadhri Distt. Yamuna Nagar(Haryana) Declare That In My Passport No.M7551740 My Father Name Is Jagdish Pal.

I **Swarn Singh** S/O Surjan Singh R/O Siyana Saidta Tehsil Pehowa Distt Kurukshetra Declare That My Son Amardeep Singh And His Wife Inderjeet Kaur Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Both Of Them From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Both Of Them Will Be Responsible For Their Good And Bad Deeds In Future If Both Of Them Do Any Illegal Work. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

I **Rahul Bhola** S/o Ram Saran Bhola R/O House No.1091, Sector -6, Urban Estate, Karnal declare that in my school certificates my Date of Birth is wrongly written as 16.12.1994 . But My Actual Date of Birth is 16.12.1993. Kindly correct it.

I, **Nitin S** Singh S/o Sh. Ajit Singh R/O V.P.O. Lohana, Teh. & Distt. Rewari (Haryana). In My All Documents I.E. Aadhar Card, Pan Card, Bank Account, Service Record, 10th, 12th & Graduation Marksheet As Nitin. I Have Changed My Name From Nitin To Nitin Yadav. In Future I Will Be Known As Nitin Yadav.

We, **Kaka Ram** son of Shri Deep Ram and Smt Sunita wife of Shri Kaka Ram both residents of Village, Kanguwal, Tehsil Kalka, District Panchkula declare That my daughter Komal is out of our control and has married with a boy against our consent. We disown Komal from all their movable and immovable properties. Whosoever deals with her shall do at their own risk and cost.

It is for general information that I, Ranjna Rani W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o #252, Ward No-4, Near Gugga Mari, Morinda, Rupnagar, Punjab-140101, declare that name of my minor daughter namely Tanushika Rana aged 16 years has been wrongly written as Tanushika in her Educational Documents. The actual name of my minor daughter is Tanushika Rana respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

I, **No. 13765243L** Rank Hav. Tehal Singh S/o Sh. Pritam Singh R/O Village and po Paral, Tehsil Indora, Distt. Kangra, H.P, declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Dikhsu Choudhary to Diksha Choudhary and her DOB-31/7/ 2007

I, **Ramana Devi** is legally widow daughter of GS No 090525H Rank PNR Name Late Reghubir Singh presently residing at Village – Nangal Frida, Post Office – Taragarh, Tehsil & Distt – Pathankot, State – Punjab, PIN - 143534, I have changed my name & date of birth from Ramana Devi, DOB 12.06.1976 to Manju Devi, DOB 01.01.1978 vide affidavit No IN-PB9683098120237W before Executive Magistrate, Pathankot. Please correct it.

I, **Santosh Kumar** S/O Baljeet, village Tikri tehsil Pehowa Distt. Kurukshetra, my son Bhagwan Singh and His Wife Sarjveet, Rajvindra and Gaurav are my real grandsons are out of my control. I, disown them from all my moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at Their Own risk.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Rajiv Kumar** S/O Dhana Singh R/O Vill. Tajewal, O. Bachhohi. Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name Rajiv Kumar To Rajiv Singh.

I, **Harsh S/O** Kundan Lal R/O Village Satial PO Nara Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Harsh Nar. Concerned Note.

I, **Rajiv Kumar**, son of Bhag Singh, resident of village Garhi Kotaha, Tehsil Raipur Rani (Panchkula) declare that my name is Rajiv Kumar in my Aadhar Card No.3353 9572 9859 and my name is Rajiv in my passport No. J9980332. Both Rajiv and Rajiv Kumar are my names.

I, **Gurnoor D/o** Supreet Vikhu R/O Flat No. 10052, ATIS Casa Espana, Sector 121, Mohali, SAS Nagar, Punjab have changed my name from Gurnoor to Gurnoor Kaur.

I, **Seema** alias Seema Chugh W/o Chander Mohan Chugh R/O 29, Professor Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name to Simmi Chugh. In future I shall be known as Simmi Chugh.

I, **Kavita Bernal** W/o Anil Kumar R/o VPO Dang Kalan, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana declare that In 10th Marksheet of my daughter Sneha my name is mentioned as Kavita Devi but my actual name is Kavita Bernal. Kavita Devi and Kavita Bernal is one and same person. In future I shall be known as Kavita Bernal for all purpose.

I, **Mamta Nimal** W/O Pankaj Yadav R/o H.N.O.- 876, Sector-3, Rewari, District Rewari, Haryana-123401 have changed my name to Mamta Yadav.

I, **Mohd. Ayyub** S/o Shri Jamir Hassan R/O House No. 525, Phase-2, Ram Darbar, Chandigarh declare that in some documents my name mentioned as Mohamad Ayyub. Mohd. Ayyub and Mohamad Ayyub these both names are mine and is one and the same person. Concerned please note.

I, **Tilak Raj** Dingra Son of Shri Mool Chand resident of House No. 15-B, Behind P.N.B. Bank, Parlahad Colony Panipat-123103, state that I have changed my name from Tilak Dingra to Tilak Raj Dingra.

I, **No. 3207903M** Rank Sep Name Vijay Singh R/O Vpo - Kheri Lochab, Tehsil - Narnauda, District - Hisar, State – Haryana – 125039, In My Army Service Record My Mother's Name Wrongly Mentioned As Kavita Devi While Her Correct Name Is Kavita As Per Her Aadhar Card, Pan Card. Now I Am Going To Make It Correct As Kavita In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 22.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Rajender Prasad** Son of Sh. Jagdish Chand R/o #993, Sector 47-A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Rajender Prasad to Rajender Singh for all the official and unofficial purposes.

I, **Rajinder Kaur** Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No. 15481192a Rank Dfr Name Kuldeep Singh R/O Vpo - Rohi Bablana, Tehsil & District - Jammu, State - J&K – 181101 Have Changed My Name From Rajinder Kaur To Rajinder Kour In My Spouse Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **No. 15343806Y** Rank Nk Name Solanki Gopalaji Bhupatsang Posted At 234 Armd Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo R/O Village - Akba, Po - Dhathli, Tehsil - Bechraji, District - Mahesana, State - Gujarat – 384210, In My Army Service Record My Son's Name Wrongly Mentioned As Dhruv Raj Singh While His Correct Name Is Solanki Dhruvrajsinh Gopalaji In His All Government Documents. Now I Am Going To Make It Correct As Solanki Dhruvrajsinh Gopalaji In My Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Executive Magistrate Hisar.

I, **Appukkuttan Nair** Is Father Of Jc-424961n Rank Nb Sub Name - Arun A R/O Vailiyaveetil, Vellamkulungara, Veeyapuram, Haripad Po, Alappuzha, Kerala - 690514 Have Changed My Name From Appukkuttan Nair To Appukkuttan Nair And Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1957 To 02/05/1955 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Saroj Devi** Is Mother Of No. 14935694w Rank Hav Name Paramjeet Singh R/O Village - Sarakpur, Po - Haripur, Tehsil & District - Panchkula, State - Haryana - 134204 Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1966 To 03/04/1958 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Saroj Bala** Is Mother Of No. 14935694w Rank Hav Name Paramjeet Singh R/O Village - Sarakpur, Po - Haripur, Tehsil & District - Panchkula, State - Haryana - 134204 Have Changed My Name From Saroj Bala To Saroj Devi In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Suresh Kumar** Is Father Of No. 14935694w Rank Hav Name Paramjeet Singh R/O Village - Sarakpur, Po - Haripur, Tehsil & District - Panchkula, State - Haryana - 134204 Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1962 To 02/02/1954 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Pushpa Gupta** Is Mother Of No. 14942611h Rank Nk Name - Anil Kumar Gupta R/O Village - Kauihi, Po - Parour, District - Shahjahanpur, State - U.P. - 242127 Have Changed My Name From Pushpa Gupta To Pushpa Devi And Changed My Date Of Birth From 08/07/1965 To 01/01/1954 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Satypal Gupta** Is Father Of No. 14942611h Rank Nk Name - Anil Kumar Gupta R/O Village - Kauihi, Po - Parour, District - Shahjahanpur, State - U.P. - 242127 Have Changed My Name From Satypal Gupta To Satypal And Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/01/1960 To 01/01/1961 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Satypal Gupta** Is Father Of No. 14942611h Rank Nk Name - Anil Kumar Gupta R/O Village - Kauihi, Po - Parour, District - Shahjahanpur, State - U.P. - 242127 Have Changed My Name From Satypal Gupta To Satypal And Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/01/1960 To 01/01/1961 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 26.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Deepanshu** S/o Jaibir R/o H.No. 749/1, Jatwara, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Deepanshu Khatri for all future purposes.

I, **Virender** S/o Sh. Munshi Ram R/O H.No. 900/28, Kakroi Road, Dev Nagar, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Virender Singh for all future purposes.

I, **Jyoti Sangwan** W/o Sh. Vishal Duhann, R/O Village Bhadson, Tehsil Indri, District Karnal have changed my name from Jyoti to Jyoti Sangwan.

I, **Rajan Kumar** Vashist S/o Babu Ram Sharma R/O Apartment No.102, AJ Tower Antariksh heights, Sector-84, Gurgaon - 122001 (Haryana) have changed my name from Rajan Kumar Vashist to Rajan Vashist.

I, **Puthiya Veedu Susha** Spouse of Balakrishnan K V R/O #2974-B, Sector 47-C, Chandigarh have changed my name from Puthiya Veedu Susha to Susha P V vide Affidavit Dated 22-03-2024 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

I, **Sandeep Kumar** S/O Prem Singh R/O Village Theh Banhera Tehsil Guhla District Kathiwal Haryana have changed my name to Kumar Sandeep (i.e. Kumar (surname) and Sandeep(name).

I, **Prem Singh Bist** S/O Rattan Singh R/o # 379 Near Colony No. 1, Khuda Lahora, Chandigarh have changed my name from Prem Singh Bist to Prem Singh.

I, **Ashwani Kumar** S/o Madan Mahan Bajaj R/o 18, Gali No. 24, Mehrapura, Nawan Kot, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Ashwani Kumar to Ashwani Bajaj.

I, **Parminderjeet Kaur** W/o Ajvinder Singh R/o Pind Thande, Amritsar, Punjab-143009 have changed my name from Parminderjeet Kaur to Parminder Kaur.

I, **Ripandeep Singh** Goraya S/o Santokh Singh R/o Village Ghanshampur, PO Chananke, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Ripandeep Singh Goraya to Ripandeep Singh.

I, **Nahan Singh** S/o Hawa Singh R/o VPO-Kharainti, Tehsil-Meham, Distt.Rohtak (Haryana) declare that Nahan Singh & Jagmahender both are my name. In future I will be known as Jagmahender S/o Hawa Singh.

I, **Rahul** S/o Sh. Narender Kumar R/o H.No. 7/454, Narendra Mattress Suratgharia Chowk, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Rahul to Rahul Kumar, in future my name is to be called as Rahul Kumar.

I, **No. 14938560H** Rank NK Name Salendra Singh Bhadouria R/O VPO Monhad, Tehsil Mehaogaon, District Bhiind, State-M.P.-477660 in my army service record, my daughter's name wrongly mentioned as Akanchha while her correct name is Akanksha Bhadouria as per her all govt documents. Now I am going to make it correct as Akanksha Bhadouria in my Army service record vide affidavit dated 10.02.2024 before Hisar Court.

I, **Mahadevi** Mother Of No.14948160k Rank Sep Name Sanjeeva Kumar Pandre R/O Vpo-Shiradon, Tehsil - Chadchan, District - Vijayapura, State - Karnataka - 586205 Have Changed My Name From Mahadevi To Mahadevi Ravasab Pandre In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 02.02.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, **Sazia w/o** Titus Sahotra r/o Ward No. 9, New Abadi, G.T Road, Dharwal Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name Sazia to Sazia Sahotra. Concerned note.

I, **Gurpid Singh** S/o Diwan Singh R/o House No 514 /1, Near Happy School , Rulia Ram Colony District Gurdaspur have changed my name Gurpid Singh to Gurdeep Singh

I, **Hira** s/o Sham Lal r/o Behrampur Road, Gurdaspur have changed my name from Hira to Hira Singh. Concerned note.

I, **Narender Kumar** alias Narendra Kumar S/o Mahabir Singh R/o H.No. 21, Ramesh Nagar, Tehsil Camp, Panipat declare that Narender Kumar and Narendra Kumar is a same person & both are the name of the same person. All Concern noted.

I, **Kusum** alias KM Kusum W/o Narender Kumar R/o H.No. 21, Ramesh Nagar, Tehsil Camp, Panipat declare that Kusum and KM Kusum is a same person & both are the name of the same person. All Concern noted.

I, **Varun Chauhan** S/o Janardan Chauhan R/o Kutani Road, Ashok Vihar Colony, Panipat declare that Varun and Varun Chauhan both are the name of the same person. In future I may known as Varun Chauhan.

I, **Gurvinder Kaur** W/o Sukhwant Singh R/o H.no 178, MS Enclave, Dhakauli, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab have changed my name from Gurvinder Kaur to Gurvinder Kaur Grewal.

I, **Aarti W/o** Kiran Kumar R/O House No 402, Piplewala Town Sector 13, Manimajra Chandigarh Pin Code 160101 have changed my name from Aarti to Arti Luddu.

I, **Charanjit S/o** Amarjit Singh R/O House No. 218, Bapat Dham Colony, Phase-2, Chandigarh have changed my name from Charanjit Singh to Charanjit.

I, **Priti Gupta** W/o Sh. Lalit Gupta R/o H. No. 2195-A, Ward No-18, Near Bansal Hospital Adarsh Nagar, Hisar (Haryana) India declare that I have changed my name from Priti Rani, Preeti Gupta, Priti to Priti Gupta for all future purpose.

I, **Khushi Gupta** D/o Sh. Lalit Gupta R/o H. No. 2195-A, Ward No-18, Near Bansal Hospital Adarsh Nagar, Hisar (Haryana) India declare that I have changed my name from Khushi to Khushi Gupta for all future purpose.

I, **Lalit Gupta** S/o Sh. Nirmal Kumar Gupta R/o H. No. 2195-A, Ward No-18, Near Bansal Hospital Adarsh Nagar, Hisar (Haryana) India declare that I have changed the name of my son from Keshav to Keshav Gupta for all future purpose.

I, **Amritbir Singh** S/O Sarbjit Singh R/O Vpo Kasel Tehsil And District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Amritbir Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

I, **Dharambir Sharma** S/o Krishan Chand R/o VPO Barout, Thanesar Distt Kurukshetra have changed my name from Dharambir Sharma to Dharamvir.

I, **Paramjit Kaur** W/o Karamjeet Singh R/O H.No- 122 Village Ladana PO Jalbera Tehsil and Distt Ambala have changed my name from Paramjit Kaur to Paramjeet Kaur .

I, **Kirana Devi** W/O Sohan Lal R/O Vpo. Balana Distt. Ambala I Have Changed My Name Kirna Devi.

I, **Muskan** D/o Yash Pal R/o Village Lotni Postoffice Jalbehra District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Muskan (given name) and Kaur (surname).

I, **Renu** W/o Satish R/o Village Bahri, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Renu (given name) and Kumari (surname).

I, **Ashok Kumar** S/O Madan Lal R/O H.No. 958/5A, Near Durga Devi Mandir, Pipli, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, declare that I am known by two names: Ashok Kumar and Ashok Tuli.

I, Hitherto Known As Harpreet Kaur Bhatti Wife Of Mohinder Jeet Singh Bhullar Residing At 46, Sg Enclave, Pandori Waraich, Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Harpreet Kaur Bhullar.

I, Hitherto Known As Gurpreet Singh Brar Son Of Sukhdev Singh Residing At Village Sadhu Wala, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur-142047 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurpreet Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Kulvinder Kaur Hayer Wife Of Gurpreet Singh Residing At Village Gagoani, P.O Khosa Dal Singh Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur-142052 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kulvinder Kaur

I, **No.Jc 332740f** Sub Major Kaosar Ali S/O Ahamed Hossian R/O Deblipur, Dakshin, Dinajpur, Distt. West Bengal-733121 Have Declare That My Father's Name Wrongly Written In My Service Record As Mohmed Hossan Instead Of Ahamed Hossian

I, **No.Jc 332740f** Sub Major Kaosar Ali S/O Ahamed Hossian R/O Deblipur, Dakshin, Dinajpur, Distt. West Bengal-733121 Have Declare That My Daughter's Name Wrongly Written In My Service Record As Sarmili Khanam Barsha Instead Of Sharmili Khanam Varsha

I **Gurbhej Singh** S/O Hardeep Singh R/O Vill New Abadi Po Bundala Teh And Distt Amritsar Change Name Gurbhej Singh To Singh Gurbhej

I, **Daljit Kaur** W/O Baljit Singh R/O Village Vehra, Po Tut Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Daljit Kaur To Daljit Kour.

I **Kuldeep Singh** S/O Tarlok Singh R/O Plot No 176, Near Park Kot Atma Ram Sultanwind Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kuldeep Singh To Kulpid Singh

I **Inderjeet Kaur** W/O Kuldip Singh R/O Plat No 76, Near Park Kot Atma Ram Sultanwind Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Inderjeet Kaur To Inderjit Kaur

I, **Narinder Singh** S/O Parkash Singh R/O Vpo Ucha District Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Narinder Singh Alias Ninder Singh To Narinder Singh

I, **Ramandeep Singh** S/O Joginder Singh R/O Kothi No 266, Mirankot Road, Blue Valley, Amritsar-143001 Have Changed My Name From Ramandeep Singh To Ramandeep Singh Khaira

In My Services Documents My Son's Date Of Birth Wrongly Written As 29-09-2013, Which Needs To Be Corrected As 29-09-2010, I No. 4202664p Nk Rinku, 21 Kumaon

In My Husband N. 4202664p Nk Rinku, 21 Kumaon Services Documents My Name Wrongly Written As Santosh Yadav, Which Needs To Be Corrected As Santosh. Santosh Resident Of Sihor (4), Kanina, Mahendragarh, Haryana

In My Husband N. 4202664p Nk Rinku, 21 Kumaon Documents My Date Of Birth Wrongly Written As 01-01-1987, Which Needs To Be Corrected As 01-01-1988. Santosh Resident Of Sihor (4), Kanina, Mahendragarh, Haryana

I, **Amritbir Singh** S/O Sarbjit Singh R/O Vpo Kasel Tehsil And District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Amritbir Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

I, Hitherto Known As Kamaldeep Kaur D/O Manjit Singh And Now Wife Of Amandeep Singh R/O Mohalla Sunder Nagar, Hoshiarpur, P.O.Hoshiarpur District Hoshiarpur Punjab 146001 , Have Suffixed Kaur As My Surname And Now My Name Is Kamaldeep And My Surname Is Kaur. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I **Gurpreet Kaur**, Wife Of Pardeep Singh, Resident Of Village Jarikpur Sub Tehsil Ghanaur Tehsil Rajpura District Patiala Has Changed My Name From Jaspreet Kaur To Gurpreet Kaur.

I **Chirag Dhawan** S/O Jagdish Kumar R/O #1652 Near Radha Krishan Mandir, Rajpura Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala Declare That Jagdish Dhawan Alias Jagdish Kumar And Meena Dhawan Alias Meena Kumari Are Names Of One And Same Person's I.E. My Father's And Mother's Name's

I **Jang Bahadur** S/O Prem Bahadur R/O 848-B, Type -1, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Jang Bhadur

I **Dinesh Kumar** S/O Mohan Lal R/O H No 4122, St No 5,Durga Puri Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Mahi To Mahi Jagga.

I, **Indu Bala** W/O Gopal Sethi R/O Flat No. 601, Sixth Floor, Tower No. 11, Royal Estate-2, Peermuchalla, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar Punjab Have Change My Name From Indu Bala To Indu Sethi

I, **Gopal Krishan** Sethi Alias Gopal Krishan S/O Sham Sundar Sethi R/O Flat No. 601, Sixth Floor, Tower No. 11, Royal Estate-2, Peermuchalla, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name To Gopal Sethi

I **Vikram Sheokand** S/O Sh. Hawa Singh Sheokand R/O House No- 2164, Urban Estate, Jind Haryana. Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Rudranshi To Rudranshi Singh.

I **Mahender Kumar** S/O Puran Chand R/O 1295 Gonti Gali Jagadhri Distt Yamuna Nagar Have Changed My Name Mahender To Mahender Kumar & Mahender Sharma & Mahender Is One Of The Same Person Both Are My Name.

I, **Angrajo** W/o Sh. Baljeet R/O Pana Ghilana, Murthal, Distt. Sonipat declares that in my husband's Pension Record (PPO No. 240550101549), my name was wrongly entered as Angret instead of Angrajo. Please correct it.

I, **Seema** W/o Vinod Kumar R/O House No. 421, Arjun Nagar, B/ye Pass, Ward No. 02, Kathiwal, Distt. Kathiwal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Seema to Seema Verma. All concerned please note.

I, **Seema Gaur** W/o Tarun Kaushik R/O 448/9, Housing Board Colony Extension, Near Sabji Mandi, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Seema for all future purposes.

I, **Punam Bagga** W/O Satinder Kumar Bagga R/O # 68, Phulkian Enclave., Patiala, Punjab-147001 Have Changed My Name From Punam To Punam Bagga.

I, **Vijay Luxmi** Saxena W/O Kuldeep Kishore Saxena R/O Lane-2, Air Avenue, Kheri Gujran, Near Engineer Gate, Patiala (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Vijay Laxmi Saxena To Vijay Luxmi Saxena.

I **Titiksha Kaushik** D/O Deepak Kaushik W/O Nayan Jain No. 2635, Sector 65, Phase-11, Mohali, Punjab But Currently Residing Ar R/O H.No. 2006, Sector 32-A, Chandigarh-160030 Have Changed My Name From Titiksha Kaushik To Titiksha K Jain After Marriage.

I, **Lachman Singh** S/O Kaka Singh R/O #161, Street No. 2, Guru Nanak Nagar, Bahadurgarh, Patiala (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Lachman Singh To Lachhman Singh.

I, **Brinder Preet** Singh S/O Partap Singh R/O H.No. 47/8, Dogra Mohalla, Patiala (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Barinder Preet Singh.

I, **Parwinder Kaur** W/O No. 3380968x Ex/Nk (Ts) Manjit Singh, R/O H.No. 515a, Sector 4, Mundi Kharar, Teh. Kharar, Distt. Sas Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Parwinder Kaur To Parminder Kaur With Immediate Effect.

I, **Rama** Daughter Of No. 1432813n Late / Hav. (Hony. Nb. Sub.) Juggal Kishore R/O H.No. 1312/1, Phase'11, Sector 65, Sas Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Rama To Rama Awasthi.

I, **Mani** Is Father Of Army No. 15332892p, Hav, Buvanewaran.M Of Unit 5 Engr. Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From Kamaldevi To Kalaivani Mani & Date Of Birth From 17/09/1963 To 17/09/1970 Vide Affidavit Dated 23 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, **Kaladevi** Is Mother Of Army No. 15332892p, Hav, Buvanewaran.M Of Unit 5 Engr. Regt C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From Kaladevi To Kalaivani Mani & Date Of Birth From 17/09/1963 To 17/09/1970 Vide Affidavit Dated 23 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, **Buvanewaran** Shenbagam Is Spouse Of Army No. 15332892p, Hav, Buvanewaran.M Of Unit 5 Engineer Regiment, C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From Buvanewaran Shenbagam To B. Shenbagam Buvanewaran Vide Affidavit Dated 23 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, **Rakkel** Is Mother Of Army No. 16123865w, Nk, John Peter G Of Unit 05 Engr Regt. C/O 56 Apo, Residing At 135, East Street Elaiyakkanni Perungolathur Vanapuram Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu-606753 Have Changed My Name From Rakkel To Rakkel G Vide Affidavit Dated 23 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, **Gabriel** Is Father Of Army No. 16123865w, Nk, John Peter G Of Unit 05 Engr Regt. C/O 56 Apo, Residing At 135, East Street Elaiyakkanni Perungolathur Vanapuram Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu-606753 Have Changed My Name From Gabriel To Gabiriyel D Vide Affidavit D



# BJP declares solo run in Punjab, Setting stage for 4-cornered contest

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Setting the stage for a four-cornered contest in Punjab, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday made a significant announcement, declaring its decision to contest all 13 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections independently. The move effectively put to rest all speculations surrounding the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)'s potential return to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), signaling a clear divergence in electoral strategies.

According to sources familiar with the matter, BJP national president JP Nadda engaged in a last-minute conversation with SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday night, making a final attempt to forge an alliance. However, negotiations faltered as the Akalis insisted on addressing specific demands, including the relocation of Sikh prisoners such as Amritpal Singh from Assam to Punjab, citing difficulties faced by their families in meeting them.

The primary factor driving the decision for the two parties not to form an alliance seems to stem from disparities in their core ideological principles. SAD's focus on panthic issues and its efforts to connect with the Sikh community appear incongruent with BJP's nationalist stance. Additionally, unlike the alliance formed in 1996, which endured for over

two decades, the Sukhbir Singh Badal-led Akali Dal has laid out specific conditions for any potential future collaboration, which does not suit BJP's national agenda.

Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar, in a video message he shared on the social media, affirmed the party's decision to contest solo in Punjab, emphasizing that the move was guided by a collective vision for the region's future. "The party would not forge any alliance in Punjab," he said.

Jakhar highlighted BJP's track record under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, particularly its efforts in areas like the Kartarpur corridor and grain procurement from farmers, underscoring the party's commitment to public welfare.

Akali Dal, after its core committee meeting this Friday, had strongly indicated its intention to contest independently in the upcoming elections. Notably, SAD was BJP's oldest ally and first one to support Narendra Modi's candidature as a prime ministerial candidate.

The breakdown in talks between BJP and SAD occurred primarily due to the former's inability to meet SAD's demands unconditionally. SAD's requisites included the withdrawal of cases against farmers involved in protests against the agricultural reform laws, along with legal guarantee on minimum support prices

(MSP) for various crops.

Reacting to the development, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal reiterated the party's steadfast commitment to its principles and vision for Punjab. He emphasized that SAD prioritizes principles over politics, positioning itself as a movement dedicated to Punjab and the Khalsa Panth. He stressed that while other parties prioritize vote politics, "SAD

stronghold has revolved around Sikh panth and agrarian interests. However, recent setbacks, including the erosion of its core base in the 2017 and 2022 assembly polls and the fallout from the farm bills passed by its alliance partner BJP in 2020, have reshaped the state's political dynamics.

SAD has found itself in an existential quandary following its performance in 2022 state

## Ballot Battle

remains focused on putting Punjab's interests first."

Meanwhile, amidst the evolving political landscape, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress are also gearing up for the electoral battle in Punjab, albeit separately, despite being members of the pan-India opposition bloc — Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). Notably, both AAP and Congress are contesting in coalition in neighboring states like Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Gujarat.

Now as the BJP throws its hat into the ring for all 13 seats, the battleground for the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab is shaping up for a fierce contest. The failure of alliance talks underscored the divergent priorities between the two parties, while highlighting the evolving political landscape in Punjab. Traditionally, SAD's political

assembly elections, where it could only secure three seats while the BJP won just one. The fallout from the farmers' agitation took a toll on SAD's traditional support base among farmers and Sikh voters, prompting a reassessment of its strategy.

The BJP's decision to contest independently mirrored its strategy in Haryana, where it severed ties with Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party (JJP). By doing so, the BJP aimed to focus on consolidating Punjabi and OBC votes, previously overshadowed by SAD's dominance.

In a similar vein, with SAD contesting separately, it will vie for Sikh voters, especially Jat Sikhs and farmers, who are also being courted by the AAP and Congress.

BJP's move to contest alone signaled its ambition to emerge from SAD's shadow and

expand its electoral footprint in the state. Recent electoral contests have shown promising signs for the BJP, with increased visibility in rural areas and direct voter engagement. In the 2023 Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, all major parties contested independently. Despite AAP's victory, BJP garnered a notable 15 percent votes, closely trailing SAD's 17 percent — an outcome that sparked elation among BJP leaders, as it marked a significant shift. "For the first time, party flags were prominently displayed in rural areas which shows BJP's growing presence there, and shows that the party was able to directly engage with the voters without the need for assistance from SAD," said a senior BJJP leader.

Also, BJP's outreach efforts towards the Sikh community, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have strengthened its position. Initiatives like Veer Bal Diwas, Kartarpur Corridor, doing away with the black list, celebrating the birth anniversaries of Sikh Gurus, among others have resonated positively among Sikhs, bolstering BJP's appeal.

As the political landscape shifts in Punjab, the breakup of the BJP-SAD alliance raises concerns of polarization. However, the BJP's strategic maneuvers aimed at consolidating its Sikh base independently, challenging traditional electoral dynamics.

The implications of the

failed alliance talks are significant. With each party pursuing its own agenda, the electoral space in Punjab is expected to become more crowded. While AAP and Congress aim to capitalize on the division of votes, the SAD hopes to regain its lost ground and challenge the AAP government. Conversely, the BJP, buoyed by Modi's popularity, seeks to leverage its national appeal to secure urban support.

### In surprising move, Cong MP Bittu joins BJP

Punjab's political arena reverberated with yet another seismic tremor as Congress Lok Sabha sitting MP from Ludhiana Ravneet Singh Bittu on Tuesday made a surprising leap across the party lines to join the BJP. Bittu's unexpected defection marked another significant setback for the Congress party in Punjab, following a string of high-profile exits including former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, his sitting MP wife Preneet Kaur, Sunil Jakhar, Manpreet Badal, among others.

Bittu's move dealt a substantial blow to the Congress, further exacerbating the party's existing challenges in Punjab. His decision to switch camps comes on the heels of his earlier calls for action against former Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, citing internal discord within the party as a major contributing factor to its defeat in the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections.

### Principles more important, says SAD chief Badal after BJP decides to contest LS polls alone

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Soon after the BJP decided to contest the Lok Sabha polls in Punjab alone, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Tuesday said that for his party, principles are more important than the number game.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President said, "The SAD is not an ordinary political party. It is a party of principles. For us, principles are more important than the number game." He said that the 103-year-old SAD's responsibility was to protect "gaum" (community), Punjab, and maintain brotherhood and peace in the state.

"The Akali Dal was not formed to just form the government," he said, accusing the Delhi-based national political parties of playing politics over votes. "We are not (playing) politics over votes. For us it is Punjab," he added.

Badal also pointed towards decisions taken by his party's core committee a few days ago. "Our core committee has made it clear what our principles are," he said.

In a statement, Badal said, "Shiromani Akali Dal is not just a political party driven by number games, unlike some national parties. We are a 103-year-old movement with a clear vision and we have always stood by and for principles. That will continue to be our goal."

"For us, it is principles above politics and issues above any political numbers. We are the largest democratic representative organisation of farmers and have always led the fight for their rights from the front and introduced historic measures in governments for their welfare," said Badal.

## Tech Overhaul: Punjab Prepares for High-Tech Elections in 2024

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab poll panel is embarking on a technological revolution for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024, with an array of cutting-edge IT initiatives set to transform the electoral landscape. Picture this: 100 per cent webcasting will illuminate all 24,433 polling stations across the state, while a suite of mobile voter-friendly apps and websites will put election oversight at the fingertips of every citizen. These innovations not only empower voters to report violations via phone but also ensure meticulous monitoring of Electronic Voting Machines' (EVMs) transportation and the installation of vigilant CCTV cameras at polling stations.

Aiming to make the electoral process more transparent and accessible, the state's Chief Electoral Office (CEO) Sibin C has introduced a comprehensive range of IT solutions. "We are closely monitoring the election process through 100 per cent webcasting of poll stations. For the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, CCTV surveillance will be ensured inside all 24,433 polling booths, apart from it cameras

will be installed outside 1,884 polling stations in all 13 constituencies where there are three or more polling stations," he said.

CEO said that the implementation of 100 per cent webcasting at all polling stations will enable real-time monitoring of polling activities, ensuring accountability and transparency throughout the electoral process. Additionally, the installation of CCTV cameras at polling stations further enhances surveillance, deterring malpractices, and safeguarding the integrity of the voting process.

Sibin C said that they have introduced a revamped NextGen District Information System for Elections (DISE) this time which will be used to manage all aspects of elections — from collecting data of polling staff to scheduling rehearsals, randomizing polling staff and counting staff.

"This web-based application is utilized to integrate available employee data from other applications using APIs, CSV or Excel files. It will also assist in managing staff shortages after the initial stage by deploying additional staff," he added.

In another initiative, the

CEO said that live streaming from flying squad vehicles (FSV), and static surveillance teams are monitoring violations of the model code of conduct during the election process. The poll activity management system (PAMS) used for deploying polling parties and updating voting information, such as the commencement of polling and the status of voter queues at closing hours, has also been revamped to enhance the efficiency of election-related activities. The mobile app will provide real-time data.

In addition, the poll panel has launched several mobile voter-friendly apps and websites. These platforms empower voters to actively participate in the electoral process by reporting election violations via phone. Citizens can use these apps to submit complaints and provide evidence of any malpractices, enabling swift action by election authorities to address such issues.

"The ECI's 'Voter Helpline APP' provides citizens with convenience in finding their names in the electoral roll, submitting online forms, downloading their digital photo voter slip, filing complaints, and receiving replies on their mobile app," he said.

IT Initiatives	
■	100 per cent webcasting of all 24,433 polling stations
■	Cameras to be installed outside 1,884 polling stations in all 13 constituencies
■	NextGen District Information System for Elections (DISE)
■	Live streaming from flying squad vehicles (FSV), and static surveillance teams
■	Poll activity management system (PAMS)
■	Voter Helpline App
■	Know Your Candidate'
■	cVIGIL
■	Saksham

Another crucial initiative is the mobile application 'Know Your Candidate', allowing electors to access details and criminal background of any candidate. This app aims to provide wider publicity and greater awareness regarding the criminal background of contesting candidates to ensure transparent elections.

"In another novel initiatives by the ECI, the voter-friendly mobile app cVIGIL enables people to report the Model Code of Conduct violations, featuring live photo or video with live location. Any citizen can lodge a complaint

through this mobile app, after which Flying Squads investigate the matter, and the Returning Officer takes a decision within 100 minutes, utilizing GPS to track the violation's location," he said.

Likewise, the CEO said that Saksham-ECI, an application enabling Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to request new registration, address changes, alter particulars, and mark themselves as PwD. The app offers voice assistance, text-to-speech, accessibility features, among others, catering to the needs of PwDs during the electoral process.

## BJP fields 6 Congress rebels in Himachal Assembly bypolls; Triggers resentment

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Triggering a political turmoil, the BJP on Tuesday named six disqualified Congress MLAs as its candidates for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly bypolls, disappointing the party hopefuls who lost by narrow margins in the 2022 Assembly polls.

Soo after the BJP announcement, former minister Ram Lal Markanda quit the party and announced he would contest the bypolls. He is likely to be fielded by the Congress. BJP leader Ranjit Singh also said he will contest as an Independent.

Former minister Virender Kanwar, who was defeated last time by one of the Congress rebels, also expressed displeasure over the announcement by his party.

The BJP nominated the six former MLAs from the same seats they held as Congress members before their disqualification from the House.

Sudhir Sharma has been fielded from Dharamshala, Ravi Thakur from Lahaul and Spiti, Rajinder Rana from Sujampur, Inder Dutt

Lakhanpal from Barsar, Chetanya Sharma from Gagret and Devinder Kumar Bhutto from Kutlehar.

All six of them switched over to the BJP from the Congress on March 23, nearly a month after being disqualified from the House for defying a party whip to be present and vote in favour of the Congress-led government during the cut motions and budget.

Markanda quit the party to protest the fielding of Ravi Thakur, who had defeated him in the Lahaul and Spiti seat in the last Assembly election by a margin of 1,542 votes. The entire BJP block unit of Lahaul Spiti also resigned in protest against the party's decision and pledged support to Markanda.

Markanada, a former agriculture and tribal development minister during the previous BJP government led by Jai Ram Thakur, was a frontrunner for the BJP ticket from the Lahaul and Spiti Assembly seat. "I will contest the Assembly bypolls for sure. There is a possibility of my contesting from the Congress," Markanda said, adding that a meeting of the Lahaul and

Spiti core committee has been convened to chalk out the future strategy.

Former BJP rural development and panchayat raj minister Virender Kanwar said the people of his constituency are upset that the BJP nominated Congress rebel Devinder Kumar Bhutto, a first-time MLA, from Kutlehar in his place. The party is above everything but the people of my constituency are disappointed and want that the decision of the party should be reviewed by conducting a fresh survey on popularity in the area. Bhutto worked like a dictator in the past 15 months and has lost his goodwill," he said.

BJP's Ranjit Singh, who lost to his Congress rival Rajendra Rana in the 2022 assembly polls by a margin of 399 votes, said he would contest as an Independent. "In the Lok Sabha elections, I will support the party candidate Union minister Anurag Singh Thakur but in the bypolls, I will contest as an Independent candidate," he added.

Talking to media persons here on Tuesday, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said some BJP leaders, including

Markanda and Rakesh Kalia of Gagret, were in contact with the Congress. "People of Himachal are intelligent, believe in democracy and would give a befitting reply to those practising 'aaya ram, gaya ram' culture in Dev Bhumi Himachal, especially those who sold themselves," he said.

"I want to inform you that even the 25 sitting legislators of the BJP are feeling suffocated," Sukhu added.

Among the names announced by the BJP, Sudhir Sharma is a four-term MLA and former minister while Rajinder Rana defeated former chief minister and BJP candidate Prem Kumar Dhupal in 2017.

Three-time legislator Lakhanpal is a former chief parliamentary secretary, while Ravi Thakur, a two-time legislator, is a former chairman of the state Congress Seva Dal and ex-vice chairperson of the National Commission for Schedule Tribes. Chetanya Sharma and Devinder Kumar Bhutto are first-time MLAs.

These MLAs and three Independents had voted in favour of the BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya

Sabha polls held in the state on February 27, triggering a crisis for the Congress-led government in the state.

The three independents, Ashish Sharma (Hamirpur constituency), Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra) and K L Thakur (Nalagarh), submitted their resignation on March 22 and joined the BJP on the next day.

With the disqualification of six Congress MLAs, the strength of the ruling party came down from 40 to 34, including the Speaker who can vote only in the case of a tie during a floor test, in the 68-member Assembly. The BJP has 25 members.

Ever since the Rajya Sabha polls, the BJP and Congress have been trading charges with the ruling party slamming the opposition for hatching a conspiracy to topple the democratically elected government in the state by using money power and maintaining that the public will not forgive the Congress rebels for their betrayal.

The Himachal Pradesh Assembly bypolls will be held on June 1, along with the election to the four Lok Sabha seats in the state — Hamirpur, Shimla, Mandi and Kangra.

## Election Buzz

### STRONG INTER-STATE NAKAS IN PLACE IN PUNJAB'S 10 BORDER DISTRICTS

**Chandigarh:** Punjab's Special Director General of Police (Spl DGP), Law and Order, Arpit Shukla on Tuesday directed all the Police officers to work as one team with the Excise and Taxation Department to keep vigil around the bootleggers. Accompanied by Punjab Excise and Taxation Commissioner (PETC) Varun Roojam, he virtually chaired a state-level meeting of senior officers of the Excise and Taxation Department and all Deputy Commissioners and Commissioner and Senior Superintendents of Police (CPs and SSPs) of the state at Punjab Police Headquarters here. To keep a tab at drug trafficking and liquor smuggling, Punjab Police have already laid well-coordinated strong inter-state nakas at all sealing points of 10 border districts in the state, which share boundaries with four states and UT Chandigarh — including Pathankot, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Fazilka, Ropar, SAS Nagar, Patiala, Sangrur, Mansa, Hoshiarpur, and Bathinda. All CPs, SSPs have been asked to take excise officers along while conducting checking of vehicles at static or mobile nakas and ensure effective action against people found indulged in selling or smuggling of illicit or spurious liquor. Directions have also been given to the officers to intensify checking at villages, especially in Mand areas, which are infamous for making lahan (raw material used to make liquor). He also asked them to take preventive action against bootleggers or unscrupulous elements, who are history-sheeters or facing criminal cases under serious offences. PETC Roojam asked the officers to keep vigil at dilapidated buildings, marriage palaces, godowns and other suspected points where liquor can be stored.

### JJP TO FIELD ITS CANDIDATES IN ALL 10 LOK SABHA SEATS IN HARYANA & ONE IN CHANDIGARH

**Chandigarh:** The Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), a former alliance partner of BJP in Haryana on Tuesday announced to contest on its own all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The decision was taken at a meeting of the 's political affairs committee (PAC) in Delhi, the party said in a statement. Various issues related to the Lok Sabha elections were discussed at the PAC meeting held in Delhi. In the meeting chaired by JJP national president Ajay Singh Chautala, some names were shortlisted for each Lok Sabha constituency in Haryana. It was suggested by some members in the meeting that apart from Haryana, the party should also explore the possibility of contesting elections on the Lok Sabha seat of Chandigarh. The PAC discussed the names of the probable candidates for all the 10 Lok Sabha seats of Haryana and evaluated them on various parameters. Lok Sabha polls for all 10 seats in Haryana will be held in the sixth of the seven-phase general elections on May 25. The BJP has already announced its candidates for all the 10 seats. In the PAC meeting, a suggestion was made that the JJP should contest the Chandigarh parliamentary seat as well, on which the party leadership directed to explore the possibilities, said the statement. Former Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala and JJP state president Nishan Singh were among those who were present in the meeting.

**AAP LEADERS PROTEST IN HARYANA AGAINST KEJRIWAL'S ARREST**  
**Chandigarh/Ambala:** Scores of Aam Aadmi Party leaders and workers on Tuesday staged a protest in Ambala and in other parts of Haryana against the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The AAP workers gathered near the BJP's Ambala City office and staged a protest during which they raised slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre. Protests by the AAP were also held in other parts of Haryana, including Karnal, Rohtak and Faridabad. AAP state unit president Sushil Gupta said the BJP government is scared of the good works done by the Kejriwal dispensation. He said, "The dictatorial Modi government wants to destroy the Aam Aadmi Party but today the entire country stands firmly with honest leader Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party". During their protest, the AAP also hit out at the BJP government in Haryana over the alleged police lathicharge on the AAP workers and some state leaders of the party in Kurukshetra on March 22. Following Kejriwal's arrest on March 21, the AAP had given a nationwide call for protest against the BJP the next day.

**HISAR LS CANDIDATE AND HARYANA MINISTER RANJIT CHAUTALA RESIGNS AS MLA**  
**Chandigarh:** Haryana minister Ranjit Singh Chautala,

who is the BJP candidate from Hisar Lok Sabha seat after he joined the party, has resigned from the membership of the state assembly. The independent MLA from Rania seat in Sirsa district has sent his resignation to Haryana Assembly Speaker. Chautala and industrialist and former Congress MP Naveen Jindal joined the BJP on Sunday and were named as the party's candidates from Hisar and Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seats, respectively. Recently, former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar had also resigned as an MLA from Karnal. Khattar is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Karnal. As an independent MLA, Chautala had extended support to the BJP when it fell short of majority on its own after the 2019 assembly polls. He was later made power and jails minister.

### CEO HARYANA: ECI LAUNCHES MOBILE APPS FOR VOTERS & CANDIDATES TO GET UPDATED INFORMATION RELATED TO LS POLL

**Chandigarh:** To get the updated information related to Lok Sabha election 2024, the Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal on Tuesday said that the Election Commission of India has launched several mobile apps for the convenience of voters, political parties and contesting candidates. These apps allow individuals to obtain information related to the election process and also resolve their issues, he added. Presiding over a review meeting regarding election arrangements with department officers in Chandigarh, he said, "to make the electoral process simple and convenient, the Election Commission of India has initiated not only offline but also online services. For example, if a young man or woman of 18 years of age wants to register as a voter, they can apply online on the Voter Registration website. This facility is available until the nomination process for the Lok Sabha elections commence. Once the nomination process starts, it will be closed. The nomination process in Haryana will commence from April 29 and continue until May 6," He added. He further said that similarly, a new app called "C-Vigil" has been launched by the Commission. Through this mobile app, any citizen can capture a photo or video if they notice any violation of the Model Code of Conduct in order to report their complaint, which will be resolved by the Election Office within 100 minutes, he added.



# Modi calls Sandeshkhali survivor and BJP Lok Sabha candidate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called up the BJP's Lok Sabha poll candidate from Basirhat, Rekha Patra, who had highlighted the plight of women in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, and lauded her as "Shakti Swaroopa", BJP leaders said. Patra, who had raised her voice against the alleged atrocities by local Trinamool Congress (TMC) strongman Shajahan Sheikh and his cronies, was picked by the BJP as its candidate from Basirhat Lok Sabha seat, under which the village falls. Modi spoke to her about her campaign preparations and the support for the BJP among voters and other issues, while she narrated the ordeal of Sandeshkhali women. Patra told Modi she feels good that he is standing by them and said, "It is like Ram ji is with us". She said she has not voted since 2011 due to the situation in the area, to which Modi assured that the Election Commission will hold free and fair elections and ensure everyone can vote. Patra also said that the TMC supporters around her initial-



ly opposed her candidature from the BJP, but are supporting her now. She said she has no enmity with anyone. She also said that she hails from a poor family and her husband works in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. "I will do something so that no one has to go so far for work. They will get employment here only," she said. PM Modi hailed her as "Shakti Swaroopa". Shakti is a Hinduism term associated with goddesses like Durga and Kali. "You fought the battle in Sandeshkhali, you are 'Shakti Swaroopa'...", PM Modi said. He also said that she should take the message to the masses about how the Trinamool Congress government is working against the people of the

state. "Work in the midst of people, take the message to them that the TMC government is creating problems for the people, they do not allow implementation of the BJP (union) government schemes in West Bengal. Tell people that they are indulging in corruption, and changing names of schemes," the prime minister was quoted as saying by a BJP leader. Basirhat, one of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal, is currently represented by the TMC. Sheikh, who has been suspended by the TMC, and some of his associates have been arrested in connection with attacks on ED officials and are in CBI custody.

# Varun absence from BJP list stirs up political speculation

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Varun Gandhi's absence from the BJP candidate list for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections has stirred up political speculation, particularly in the Pilibhit constituency, indicating a significant rift between the outspoken parliamentarian and the party leadership. Sources indicate that Varun Gandhi's vocal criticisms of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies have caused discomfort among party higher-ups, resulting in his exclusion from the electoral lineup. The decision has fueled conjecture about Gandhi's potential political maneuvers, with speculation rife regarding his possible candidacy as a Samajwadi Party (SP) nominee or as an independent candidate. Such a move could potentially disrupt the BJP's aspirations to secure all 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury too extended an invitation to him to join the grand old party. Chowdhury described Varun as a "dabang neta (strong leader)" and said he is a learned man with a clean image. "He is a dabang neta and a very educated man. He has a clean image. Varun Gandhi



has a connection with the Gandhi family. This is why the BJP denied him a ticket (for Lok Sabha polls). I think he should come (join the Congress), we will be very happy," Chowdhury, the leader of the Congress party in the outgoing Lok Sabha, said. Varun and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi are cousins. Varun, a two-term Lok Sabha MP from Pilibhit, has often aired views deemed critical of his party's governments at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh. However, the BJP has renominated his mother Maneka Gandhi from Sultanpur. Varun has been substituted with former Congress member Jitin Prasada to run for the Pilibhit seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. Renowned for his candid opinions, Gandhi has been a

vocal opponent of several key initiatives of the Modi government, including its agricultural policies, retirement schemes, and employment programs. His dissenting stance has resonated with opposition factions, amplifying discussions on contentious issues and injecting vigor into political discourse. The SP's offer of a seat to Gandhi has added an intriguing dimension to the unfolding narrative. Party leaders, including national President Akhilesh Yadav and national general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav, have hinted at a possible induction if the BJP fails to nominate him. However, Gandhi's response to this overture remains uncertain, given his longstanding association and ideological alignment with the BJP. A recent comment by Akhilesh Yadav indicating the SP's open-door policy for

Gandhi underscores the potential for a realignment of political allegiances. Meanwhile, Bhagwat Saran Gangwar has been announced as the SP's official candidate for Pilibhit, though he has expressed willingness to step aside if Gandhi joins the fray. In a surprising move, the BJP has nominated Jitin Prasada, the Public Works Department Minister in the Yogi Adityanath cabinet, as its candidate for Pilibhit, replacing Varun Gandhi. Additionally, Meneka Gandhi, Varun's mother, has been tasked with contesting from Sultanpur, the constituency she successfully represented in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The Gandhi family's stronghold over the Pilibhit parliamentary constituency has been undeniable for over three decades. Beginning with former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi's victory in the 1989 elections, the family has maintained a formidable presence in the region. Varun Gandhi succeeded his mother in representing Pilibhit, solidifying the family's legacy in Indian politics. However, the decision to deny Varun Gandhi a ticket for the upcoming elections marks a significant departure from tradition. In 2014, he was shifted to Sultanpur while his mother contested and

won from Pilibhit. Nonetheless, Gandhi reclaimed the seat in 2019, securing a decisive victory by a staggering margin of over 2.5 lakh votes, reaffirming the family's enduring dominance. Gandhi's commentary on social and political issues has often made headlines. In December 2021, he criticized the government's handling of job opportunities and recruitment processes, highlighting the plight of millions of unemployed youth. Similarly, his response to the withdrawal of the contentious agricultural laws and his condemnation of communal narratives in the aftermath of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence showcased his willingness to challenge prevailing narratives. Moreover, Gandhi's advocacy for government employees' rights and his call to reevaluate pension schemes have underscored his commitment to social justice and equitable governance. As the political landscape evolves and alliances shift, Varun Gandhi's exclusion from the BJP ticket raises questions about the party's internal dynamics and its approach to dissenting voices within its ranks. It also presents Gandhi with a pivotal decision regarding his political future and ideological alignment.

# Congress leader post on Kangana sparks row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

Every woman, irrespective of her background and profession, deserves dignity, actor Kangana Ranaut said on Tuesday as Congress leaders' comments on Mandi from where she is contesting the Lok Sabha elections snowballed into a massive political row. Ranaut, who makes her political debut as a BJP candidate from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, said she was particularly pained by the derogatory comments on the constituency that is often referred to as "Chhota Kashi" the world over. The Congress has been in the crosshairs after demeaning remarks on Ranaut and Mandi were posted on the social media handles of its leaders Supriya Shrinete and HS Ahir. The party has always believed there is no place for such language in public discourse and the matter should end with Shrinete clearing the air, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit told reporters at the AICC headquarters. "Whatever be the profession of a woman, be it teacher, actress, journalist, politician or sex worker, all of them deserve dignity. I'm pained especially because of the deplorable comments made about Mandi... All of us who



come from Mandi have been hurt by the comments," Ranaut told reporters outside the Chandigarh airport. Asked whether she plans to take any action against the two Congress leaders, the "Queen" actor, often in the news for her controversial comments on a range of issues, said she had been called to Delhi by BJP president J P Nadda and would respond only after meeting him. "I have to maintain the dignity of the party. I can't walk before it. I have to walk with them and follow their instructions," the 37-year-old said. A host of BJP leaders, including Bansuri Swaraj, Amit Malviya and former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur, spoke up on the issue. Congress spokesperson

Shrinete said in her defence on Monday, when the controversy erupted, that many people have access to her Facebook and Instagram accounts and one of them made the inappropriate post. She also said she had deleted the post and will take action against a parody account that is using her name. But that had little impact. "If your account is posting what a parody account posts, then it simply means that admins of both accounts are same. One has to be self-conscious, to the point of being deranged, to do so. Also the admins must have very low opinion of you to post such offensive stuff and get away," Malviya said. Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of the late Sushma Swaraj and the party's candidate from New Delhi, said the

top leadership of the Congress must apologise. "Such derogatory words were used for someone who is India's daughter and a woman. This is very shocking, and has shown the mentality of the Congress. The top leadership of the Congress should apologise for this," she said. Thakur added in a statement that the remarks would be legally examined and the BJP was moving towards registering a case. Shrinete, he said, had made a "big mistake" as people of faith come to Mandi, which is known as "Chhoti Kashi" and is an abode for over 300 temples. "It is unfortunate that being a woman herself, the Congress spokesperson has made such remarks against another woman and now she is trying to retract by saying that someone has used her other account," Thakur said. Union minister Smriti Irani and BJP's Chandigarh MP Kirron Kher have also added their voice to the chorus of condemnation. While Irani is a former TV actor, Kher continues to be a prominent face in Hindi films. There were others who backed Ranaut. Targeting Shrinete, former Congress leader Sharmistha Mukherjee said, "She's saying 'access', not hacked! One gives access to SM accounts only to known & trusted people.

Nothing left of Congress ideology with the Rahul Congress gang. 'Nari Nyay' is nothing but an empty slogan by a bunch of hypocrites!" Former diplomat Lakshmi Puri termed the remarks against the actor "despicable, derogatory & condemnable". "That it should come from another woman politician is all the more galling - how can we as women become transmitters of toxic patriarchy & demeaning slurs & insults that scrape at the bottom of the barrel of indignity!" she posted on X. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera took up cudgels on his colleague's behalf. "Anybody who has known my colleague @SupriyaShrinete will vouch for the fact that she can never resort to such objectionable language ever." Dikshit added that Shrinete had said she will find out who has done it. "Supriya ji has said whoever has done it, it's a mistake. She has explained and the matter should end there," he said. The party's Srinivas BV agreed that the remarks against Ranaut from Shrinete's account were "absolutely derogatory". However, he also raked up Ranaut's past controversial statement in which she had called actor-politician Urmila Matondkar a "soft porn star".

# Jaishankar visits Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, a specialised Pollution Control Vessel, which is in Manila Bay in the Philippines as part of an overseas deployment to the EAN countries, and said the civilizational imprint of India's long and distinguished maritime tradition is still visible in the region. The ICG ship arrived at Manila Bay on March 25 on a three-day visit. The ship is equipped with specialised marine pollution control equipment and a Chetak Helicopter in pollution response configuration designed to contain and recover spilled oil and augment the operation, officials said on Tuesday. "Pleased to visit the Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Paheredar during its port call to Manila. My visit and the ship's presence signifies the deepening India-Philippines relations. India's long and distinguished Indian maritime tradition's civilizational imprint is still visible in this region. Our Act East policy and Indo-Pacific vision will continue giving it a more contemporary form," the External Affairs Minister (EAM) posted on X

on Tuesday. The Union minister is on an official visit to the Philippines. The Defence Ministry earlier in the day said the ICG ship is on an overseas deployment to the EAN countries -- the Philippines, Vietnam and Brunei -- from March 25 to April 12. "The visit of a specialised Pollution Control Vessel is part of a broader initiative aimed at demonstration of the ICG's marine pollution response capabilities and shared concern and resolve towards marine pollution in the EAN region besides bolstering bilateral cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)," the ministry said. "The deployment is the third in a row by the Indian Coast Guard to the EAN countries.

Earlier in the year 2023, ICG Pollution Control Vessels visited Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia as part of the initiative," it said. During this deployment, the ship is also scheduled to make port calls at Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam) and Muara (Brunei). The demonstration at visiting ports includes pollution response training and a practical display of various equipments, the statement said. Additionally, the ship has also embarked 25 cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to participate in the Indian government's initiative 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' and provide it an international outreach in coordination with partner nations, the officials said.

# BJP urges EC to take actions against poll code violations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday raised the issue of objectionable comments by Opposition leaders, including Tamil Nadu Minister Anitha Radhakrishnan, against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the lack of action against him, as it urged the Election Commission to take stringent measures on its own against poll code violations. A BJP delegation flagged the "differing" approaches of poll officials in various States to similar infractions by politicians and claimed that not much is done against the errant leaders in states like Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. All these states are ruled by the BJP's rival parties. A BJP delegation, including Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and its general secretary Vinod Tawde, met the poll watchdog to highlight this "discrepancy". Opposition leaders are continuously "abusing" Modi and denigrating women power and Indian culture, Tawde told reporters later. The poll process has just started and the EC should take "suo moto action" against any violation of the poll code, he said. He said while action was rec-



ommended against Union minister Shobha Karandlaje, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Karnataka, for her controversial comments against Tamils, objectionable remarks of a Tamil Nadu minister and DMK leader have not drawn any censure. In this context, Tawde also highlighted Shiva Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's comparison of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Mughal king Aurangzeb, considered by many a religious zealot. While action was called for in the case of Shobha Karandlaje, poll officials are seen to be having a different stand in other states, he said. "We urged the Election Commission to take stringent action at the right time and we were assured that it will

look into the issue," he said. BJP leaders Om Pathak and Sanjay Mayukh were also part of the delegation. The BJP's written submission to the EC was in reference to Radhakrishnan's alleged use of profanities against the prime minister during an election rally. The party demanded that the poll body bar him from the campaign and direct the DMK leader to tender an apology. An FIR should also be registered, it said. Its complaint also highlighted the alleged insult of Indian culture and personal attacks by DMK leaders, including former Union minister A Raja. Raja had said that Tamil Nadu will never accept phrases like Bharat Mata and Jai Shri Ram, the BJP noted.

# ECI issues advisory for voter safety against heatwave

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With the seven-phase Lok Sabha poll occurring at the peak of the summer amid warnings of above normal temperature and heat wave conditions by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Election Commission (EC) issued an advisory to States and Union Territories and sought "strict compliance" of its directive of providing assured minimum facilities on the day of polls at polling stations for voters as well as polling personnel, including drinking water, shade and medical kit, ramp, polling states at ground floors, proper lighting and electricity, furniture's and proper signages at polling stations. The Commission has also shared with its state chief electoral officers a set of 'dos and don'ts' issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to minimise the impact of the impending heat wave. The commission has cited IMD to note that there is a high probability of above normal temperatures during summer season, "which may translate into stronger and longer spells of heatwave especially during months of March to June, 2024". The Meteorological Scientists have advised political parties to factor in the



impacts of rising temperatures while campaigning outdoors and conducting big rallies. The NDMA in its do's and don'ts advised to avoid going out in the sun, especially between 12.00 noon and 3.00 p.m.; Drink sufficient water and as often as possible, even if not thirsty; Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose, and porous cotton clothes. Use protective goggles, umbrella/hat, shoes or chappals while going out in sun, avoid strenuous activities when the outside temperature is high. Avoid working outside between 12 noon and 3 p.m. The April 19 to June 1 polls are likely to witness an above-normal number of heatwave days in most parts of the country, barring a few pockets in the western Himalayas, north-east and peninsular India. Traditionally, polls in India used to happen either in the winter or in the spring until 2004, when the then-prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, decided to dissolve the Lok Sabha eight months in advance

and went to polls in April-May. Subsequently, four Lok Sabha polls were held amidst the heat and dust. With the Indian subcontinent emerging as a "hotspot" of extreme heat waves owing to global warming, studies have documented the deaths of thousands due to extreme heat events. In cities, there is an additional contributor in the form of "urban heat island" effects. In a letter sent out to its Chief Electoral Officers, the Commission reminded them about its earlier set of instructions on assured minimum facilities at polling stations. According to the June 2023 instructions on assured minimum facilities, which have been circulated afresh, during summer, every polling party shall be supplied with oral rehydration salts (ORS) for their own use as well as for any voter needing the same due to heat-stroke. "A hand bill on 'Dos and Don'ts' in case of heat stroke may be prepared and supplied to each of the polling parties. An appeal to the electors may be issued to carry wet towels to protect themselves against dehydration and also advise women electors to avoid bringing children along with them to polling stations during hot weather conditions," the instruction said.

# Pets in peril due to humans: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the common practice of culling animals to curb the spread of diseases to humans, a study has brought to light a startling reversal: It is pets that are in more peril due to humans. After analysing 12 million viral genomes, the scientists from University College London (UCL) found that humans pass on more viruses to domestic and wild animals than the other way around. The researchers whose study is published in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution have called for better understanding and monitoring of viral transmission between animals and humans to prepare for future outbreaks and aid conservation efforts. Generally speaking, the majority of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases are attributable to animal viruses. When these pathogens transmit from animals into humans (a process called zoonosis), it leads to disease outbreaks and epidemics such as Ebola and new flu strains. Considering the tremendous impact zoonotic diseases can have on public health, humans have historically been seen as a "sink" for viruses rather than a source. In other words, human-to-animal transmission of viruses usually gets far less attention.



Moreover, as the study noted that even more animal-to-animal host jumps that didn't involve humans at all. "We should consider humans just as one node in a vast network of hosts endlessly exchanging pathogens, rather than a sink for zoonotic bugs," said study co-author Professor Francois Balloux (UCL Genetics Institute). "By surveying and monitoring transmission of viruses between animals and humans, in either direction, we can better understand viral evolution and hopefully be more prepared for future outbreaks and epidemics of novel illnesses, while also aiding conservation efforts." On average, viral host jumps show an association with an increase in genetic changes, or mutations in viruses, relative to their continued evolution alongside just one host animal. Study authors say this reflects how viruses must adapt to better exploit new hosts.



**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132, 133, 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Lakshmi Chand & Sons Represented by Proprietor Vinit Goyal (Applicant), Vinit Goyal S/o Bal Chand (Guarantor/ Mortgagor), Sheetal Goyal W/o Vinit Goyal (Guarantor/ Mortgagor)- 073350500600 and 073355000031	Commercial Property No. B-18-1059/A/1, First Floor Of Wakia Model Town, Jai Singh Complex, Tehsil and District - Ludhiana Punjab Area: 61 SQ. YD.	Rs. 52,50,977/- as on March 21, 2024	Rs. 32,40,000/- Rs. 3,24,000/-	April 15, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	May 08, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>)**. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017 on or before **May 07, 2024 before 5:00 P.M.** And thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.**, along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted **ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017** on or before **May 07, 2024 before 5:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Chandigarh.

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The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: March 27, 2024**  
**Place: Ludhiana**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

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Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Lakshmi Chand & Sons Represented by Proprietor Vinit Goyal (Applicant), Vinit Goyal S/o Bal Chand (Guarantor/ Mortgagor), Sheetal Goyal W/o Vinit Goyal (Guarantor/ Mortgagor)- 073305000600and 073355000031	Commercial Property No. B-18-1059/A/1, First Floor Of Wakia Model Town, Jai Singh Complex, Tehsil and District - Ludhiana Punjab Area: 61 SQ. YD.	Rs. 52,50,977/- as on March 21, 2024	Rs. 32,40,000/- Rs. 3,24,000/-	April 15, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	May 08, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>)**. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017 on or before **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.** And thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.**, along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted **ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017** on or before **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Chandigarh.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8355859934/8584874809**.

Please note that Marketing agencies i.e. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd.** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: March 27, 2024**  
**Place: Sirsa**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

The online auction will take place on website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>)**. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017 on or before **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.** And thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.**, along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted **ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017** on or before **May 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Chandigarh.

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**Date: March 27, 2024**  
**Place: Sirsa**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Naveen Kumar, Bimal Sharma, Lal Bahadur, House No. 1397, B-Tank, Patiala, Punjab- 147001, A/c No.: LBPAT0000351772	House No. 1397, B-Tank, Tehsil & District Patiala, Punjab- 147001	06/03/2024 Rs. 2,53,201/-	09/12/2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Date : March 27, 2024**  
**Place : Patiala**

**Authorized Officer**  
**Secured Creditor**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

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**Date : March 27, 2024**  
**Place : Patiala**

**Authorized Officer**  
**Secured Creditor**

**THE HARYANA STATE COOPERATIVE SUPPLY AND MARKETING FEDERATION LIMITED HARYANA (INDIA)**

**District Office : Gobindpura Road, Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)**  
**Tel:- (01732) - 260888, 237838 E-Mail:- [dmhfdynr@hry.nic.in](mailto:dmhfdynr@hry.nic.in)**

**SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF EXPERIENCED LABOUR CONTRACTOR FIRMS / COMPANIES / COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR LOADING / UNLOADING AND HANDLING OF FOOD GRAINS BELONGING TO FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA IN GODOWNS AND CAP STORAGE**

The Haryana State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited (HAFED) invites Centre-based (having one or more godowns) e-tenders from reputed, financially sound and experienced labour contractor firms/ companies/ cooperative societies for loading/unloading and handling of food grains belonging to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and storage articles, etc. in godowns and CAP storage for two years. The tender document containing details of scope of work, eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions is available on portal <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> and Hafed's website [www.hafed.gov.in](http://www.hafed.gov.in). The period of downloading of tender document & bid submission starts from **27.03.2024 at 10.00 AM and ends at 10.00 AM on 01.04.2024** through e-Tender portal <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>. The technical bids will be opened on **01.04.2024 at 11.00 AM at District Office, Ratoli Road, Gobind Pura, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar**, in the presence of the bidders or their authorised representatives, who may wish to be present.

Hafed reserve the right to reject any/all bids without assigning any reason.

**Distt. Manager, Hafed, Yamuna Nagar**

OLD TOTAL LOSS VEHICLE- SIDAQ KARNAL					
S.NO	CUSTOMER NAME	MOB.NO.	ADDRESS	REGN. NO.	STATUS
1	Mr. TARANJIT SINGH	9315812185	VILLAGE BHAGO MAJRA KHARAR	PB65F-5013	SUPERB
2	MS. D. ANJUM RANI	9971943540	HOUSE NO - 2313 SECTOR - 23/3 CHANDIGARH	CH03Z-7505	SKODA Laura L&K 1.9 PD/AT
3	M/s K ENTERPRISES	9991516585	UNION PARKASH NAGAR, BARSAAT ROAD,PANIPAT	HR06V-1500	SKODA Laura FL ELEG.-MRT 1.9 TDI PD
4	Mr. RAJESH	9812093087	VPO PEODA,KAITHAL 136027	HR01AE-0010	SKODA Yaeli Elegance 2.0 C-RTDI 4X4
5	M/s ASHA TELECOM PVT LTD	0981674065	M/s. Asha Telecom Pvt. Ltd. 17/3, Mathura Road, Faridabad	HR13F-0013	LAURA
6	Mr. GULSHAN BATHLA	9968680016	NATHU SWEETS PVT LTD	HR06A-3939	RAPID
7	Mr. RAM AVTAR SOLANKI	9813513372	395, SEC -14, KARNAL	HR05W-5339	À KODA Fabia Ambiente 1.4 TDI PD
8	Mr. PARAMJIT SINGH PANWAR	9815179357	H.NO 205 SEC 9, AMBALA CITY	HR01AE-1923	RAPID
9	Mr. SANDEEP BAKSHI	9996470108	264/25, SEC- PART-2, PANIPAT	HR06S-5079	SKODA Fabia Classic 1.4 TDI PD
10	Mr. KAMAL KANT	931183650	village wajirabad distt. gurgaon	HR26BM-0500	À KODA Fabia FL Ambiente 1.2 TDI CR
11	Mr. JASMEET SINGH DUA	9896140001	POCKET H 1/135-136(G,F)SECTOR-16,ROHINI DELHI	DL3CAA-7085	À KODA Octavia Ambiente 1.9 TDI

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Sushil Kumar/ Anita Devi A/C No. LBWBA00005153227 House No.75, Gurera (131), Gurera Bhiwani Haryana- 127046	Property Measuring 8 Marla Being 8/909 Share of Property Measuring 45 Kanal 9 Marla Comprised In Khewat No.973, Khatoni No. 1318, Kharsa No.441 Min(0-11), 718(0-13), 720 Min(22-5), 722(8-7), 723(9-3), 728(2-0), 731(2-10), as Per Jamabandi Year 2013-2014, Situated at Village Siwani Pana Lohri, Dhani Ramjas Road, Tehsil Bhiwani, District Haryana- 127021	08/03/2024 Rs. 15,94,529/-	03-01-2024
2.	Sushil Kumar/ Anita Devi A/C No. LBWBA00005153229 House No.75, Gurera (131), Gurera Bhiwani Haryana- 127046	Property Measuring 8 Marla Being 8/909 Share of Property Measuring 45 Kanal 9 Marla Comprised In Khewat No.973, Khatoni No. 1318, Kharsa No.441 Min(0-11), 718(0-13), 720 Min(22-5), 722(8-7), 723(9-3), 728(2-0), 731(2-10), as Per Jamabandi Year 2013-2014, Situated at Village Siwani Pana Lohri, Dhani Ramjas Road, Tehsil Bhiwani, District Haryana- 127021	08/03/2024 Rs. 17,85,135/-	03-01-2024
3.	Sushil Kumar/ Anita Devi A/C No. LBCHD00005348868 House No.75, Gurera (131), Gurera Bhiwani Haryana- 127046	Property Measuring 8 Marla Being 8/909 Share of Property Measuring 45 Kanal 9 Marla Comprised In Khewat No. 973, Khatoni No.1318, Kharsa No.441 Min(0-11), 718(0-13), 720 Min(22-5), 722(8-7), 723(9-3), 728(2-0), 731(2-10), as Per Jamabandi Year 2013-2014, Situated at Village Siwani Pana Lohri, Dhani Ramjas Road, Tehsil Bhiwani, District Haryana- 127021	08/03/2024 Rs. 1,49,008/-	03-01-2024

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Date : March 27, 2024**  
**Place : Chandigarh (Punjab)**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Date : March 27, 2024**  
**Place : Chandigarh (Punjab)**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

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

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**STATE BANK OF INDIA**

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002

Notice is hereby given that the following Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Legal Heir(s) have defaulted in the repayment of principal and payment of interest of credit facilities obtained by them from the bank and said facilities have turned Non Performing Assets. The notices under section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 were issued to Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Legal Heir(s) on their last known addresses. However in some of the cases the notices have been returned un-served and in other cases acknowledgment has not been received and notices were posted on their registered addresses. As such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of the Account	Description of Movable/Immovable Property	Date of NPA	Date of Demand Notice	Amount as per Demand Notice
Account : Rohtash Kumar . Borrower : Rohtash Kumar S/o Satpal, House No. 30, Street No. 9, Thakar Abadi, Abohar - 152116	All Part and Parcel of Immovable property measuring 4.5M being 1/2 share of total area measuring 00K 09M comprised in Khasra No. 1236/56(10-9) Khewat No. 1487 Khatoni No. 117 as per Jamabandi for the year 2016-17 situated at street No. 5, near Ganga Mata Mandir, Ramdev Nagar, Hanumangarh Road and registered in the name of Rohtash Kumar S/o Satpal vide wasika no. 1846 dated 09.10.2020 within the revenue estate of Azimgarh Tehsil Abohar. Bounded as: North : Gula Ram, South : Antriksh, East : Street, West : Sham Lal.	06.02.2024	11.03.2024	Rs. 13,68,649/- (Rupees Thirteen Lacs Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty Nine Only) as on 05.03.2024, as shown in Schedule 'A'. You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.

Now by way of this publication, the undersigned in his capacity as Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor (The Bank) as per provisions of the SARFAESI Act 2002 calls upon Borrowers(s)/Guarantors/Legal Heir(s) to repay the outstanding liability amount with future interest and expenses / charges as applicable, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the Secured Creditor will exercise any or all of the rights as detailed under sub section (4) of section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Borrowers(s)/Guarantors/Legal Heir(s) are also put on notice that in terms of Section 13 of the said Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets without obtaining prior written consent of the Bank.

This notice is issued without prejudice to the Bank's rights to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

**Your attention is also invited to provisions of sub sec(8) of Sec(13) of the Act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.**

**DATED : 26.03.2024**  
**Place: Fazilka**  
**Sd/- Authorized Officer**

**UCO BANK**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**Locker Notice**

It is hereby notified that certain Bank clients who had taken Bank lockers on rent in the Phagwara Branch of our Bank have not responded to the Bank's Notices, at the last known address for operating/surrendering the Locker/clearing arrears of rent. Accordingly in terms of Locker Agreement for hiring of the locker duly accepted by the hirers, the Bank may break open / take repossession by breaking open the lockers of such hirers to check the contents kept therein for security reasons/realize its dues, charges and expenses by public or private sale of the part or whole of the contents of the locker and hold the balance of the contents or proceeds of sales at the entire risk and responsibility and cost of the hirer(s). Though it is not obligatory on the part of the Bank to give such Public Notice yet it is being done for the interest of clients/hirers.

Sr. No.	Name of Lessee	Locker No.	Address	Overdue Amount
1.	Sudesh Rani & Jyoti Verma	BA-44	VPO Dosanj Kalan, Tehsil Phillour, District Jalandhar.	5,864/- + Other Charges thereon

**Contact Number: 79864-63039**  
**Place : Phagwara**  
**Branch Head**

**UCO BANK**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**Locker Notice**

It is hereby notified that certain Bank clients who had taken Bank lockers on rent in the Moga Main - Branch of our Bank have not responded to the Bank's Notices, at the last known address for operating/surrendering the Locker/clearing arrears of rent. Accordingly in terms of Locker Agreement for hiring of the locker duly accepted by the hirers, the Bank may break open / take repossession by breaking open the lockers of such hirers to check the contents kept therein for security reasons/realize its dues, charges and expenses by public or private sale of the part or whole of the contents of the locker and hold the balance of the contents or proceeds of sales at the entire risk and responsibility and cost of the hirer(s). Though it is not obligatory on the part of the Bank to give such Public Notice yet it is being done for the interest of clients/hirers.

Sr. No.	Name of Lessee	Locker No.	Address	Overdue Amount
1.	Nirmal Jindal	AA-073	29/281, Gali Mistri Hazara Singh, Near New Town, Moga.	13,030 + Other Charges thereon

**Contact Number: 98170-83766**  
**Place : Moga**  
**Branch Head**

**UCO BANK**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**Locker Notice**

It is hereby notified that certain Bank clients who had taken Bank lockers on rent in the Moga Main - Branch of our Bank have not responded to the Bank's Notices, at the last known address for operating/surrendering the Locker/clearing arrears of rent. Accordingly in terms of Locker Agreement for hiring of the locker duly accepted by the hirers, the Bank may break open / take repossession by breaking open the lockers of such hirers to check the contents kept therein for security reasons/realize its dues, charges and expenses by public or private sale of the part or whole of the contents of the locker and hold the balance of the contents or proceeds of sales at the entire risk and responsibility and cost of the hirer(s). Though it is not obligatory on the part of the Bank to give such Public Notice yet it is being done for the interest of clients/hirers.

Sr. No.	Name of Lessee	Locker No.	Address	Overdue Amount
1.	Nirmal Jindal	AA-073	29/28	



## Much ado about nothing

Arvind Kejriwal governing from jail may look unconventional, but it is not unconstitutional

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is keeping his word so far: That he would rule the Capital from behind bars upon being arrested in the multicrore liquor scam. The issuance of Government orders from prison, however, has sparked a controversy. His political opponents, including the BJP, are raising concerns about the influence of criminal elements within the Government apparatus. The saga began when Kejriwal, also the national convener of AAP, was incarcerated following his alleged involvement in the liquor scam. Despite being in jail, he continued to issue orders related to governance matters in Delhi. This is unprecedented as no serving Chief Minister has ever been jailed. While Kejriwal's supporters argue that his actions demonstrate a commitment to his responsibilities, critics point to the broader implications of a jailed politician running a Government. BJP leaders have wasted no time in alleging that this development is emblematic of the pervasive influence of criminal elements. The BJP leaders



assert that allowing individuals facing serious criminal charges to wield power from jail sets a dangerous precedent. Moreover, they argue that it raises questions about the efficacy of the justice system in curbing such abuses of power. On the other hand, AAP supporters claim the BJP's allegations are aimed at tarnishing their party's image. They maintain that Kejriwal's actions are within bounds of his duties as Chief Minister and emphasise his commitment to serving the people of Delhi. Furthermore, they contend that Kejriwal's governance from jail reflects the resilience and determination of a leader who refuses to be deterred by legal challenges. In reality, the entire

controversy is unfounded. If the Constitution permits an individual to retain a constitutional position while under judicial custody, it logically follows that they have the right to govern from wherever they are. Given its lack of prudence, it might appear unconventional, but it aligns perfectly with the constitutional framework of India's political system. Unlike Laloo Yadav and Hemant Soren, Kejriwal chose not to comply with the establishment's expectations by resigning and instead remained in his post. Additionally, being in judicial custody alone does not constitute a conviction or indictment, regardless of the strength of the allegations, and thus holds no legal validity. In the wake of the controversy surrounding Kejriwal's governance from jail, the next logical step for him would undoubtedly be to pursue avenues for securing bail. For a sitting Chief Minister to be in jail is an extraordinary circumstance, and Kejriwal's legal team will likely be working diligently to secure his release at the earliest opportunity. Amidst the heated exchange of accusations and counter-arguments, the broader implications of this controversy cannot be ignored. It highlights the complex interplay between politics, law enforcement and the justice system in India. As the debate rages on, it remains to be seen how this controversy will shape the political landscape in Delhi and beyond in the days to come.

### PICTALK



Devotees carry Seethala Mallikarjuna Swamy's 'Rathotsava' towards Mullayanagiri hill, in Chikkamagaluru

## Water, an elixir of life and an agent of peace

Ineffective water management practices contribute to water scarcity by water loss, inefficient allocation and degradation of water resources

Water is an indispensable factor in the survival of humanity on this planet. For everything related to humans, we have one or other alternative. But for water, there is no alternative. Water is essential for life, playing a critical role in various bodily functions and processes. Science and religion have a consensus on one point. The first life on the planet originated in water. Water is often referred to as the "elixir of life" because it is essential for all living organisms' existence and survival. Without water, life as we know it would not be possible. All our civilizations and international co-operations have taken place through water bodies.

But the recent water shortage plaguing the silicon city of India, Bengaluru, has sent shocking waves among the city dwellers, who, despite having financial stability, are finding it difficult to get water for their daily use. If it's Bengaluru today, it will be in other cities shortly. According to a recent United Nations report, multiple zones within India's Indo-Gangetic basin have surpassed a critical level



of groundwater depletion, with the entire northwestern region projected to face significantly diminished groundwater resources by 2025. Groundwater depletion occurs when the water extraction rate from aquifers exceeds the recharge rate, leading to a decline in groundwater levels over time. In the Indo-Gangetic basin, excessive groundwater pumping for irrigation, urban water supply, and industrial use has resulted in the widespread depletion of aquifers. The conversion of agricultural lands to high-rise commercial buildings also affects proper recharging. Ineffective water management practices contribute to water scarcity by exacerbating water loss, inefficient allocation, and degradation of water resources. Over-extraction of groundwater, inefficient irri-

gation techniques, leaky distribution systems, and inadequate conservation measures all contribute to the mismanagement of water resources. Urban planners should leave a "water buffer space" within every 1 km radius for proper recharging of the groundwater. For this, they should construct beautiful artificial lakes that harvest rainwater and recycled water. Similarly, in every household or high-rise building, the Government should see that they have proper working rainwater harvesting facilities. Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is a basic human right and is essential for preventing waterborne diseases and maintaining health and hygiene. Without sufficient water, people cannot meet their basic drinking, cooking, and sanitation needs, jeopardising their health and well-being. Water is a key driver of socioeconomic development, supporting various sectors such as agriculture, industry, and tourism. Water infrastructure investments, water-based industries, and water-related services contribute to eco-

nomic growth and job creation. In regions where water is already scarce or shared by multiple parties, disputes over water allocation, usage rights, and infrastructure development can arise, leading to tensions and conflicts. In India, we have seen severe conflicts over water sharing in the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. More such tensions will erupt in future when water scarcity increases. The developments in science and technology can artificially produce anything related to human life, including food products or even human babies; however, research to date has not made it possible to produce water artificially. Hence, we need to maintain the natural water balance on this planet without disturbing it. In the current pace of urbanisation and environmental degradation being carried out by humans, it would be very difficult to regenerate water if it gets depleted.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

## A showdown of arch-rivals

This electoral battle is shaping up to be a multi-party contest, primarily between the ruling BJP-led NDA and the INDIA bloc

Who will win the 2024 Lok Sabha polls? The election scene has become clear after the Chief Election Commissioner announced the poll schedule last week. They will begin next month and end on June 4, when the results will be announced. It will be a multi-party contest, with the ruling BJP-led NDA alliance and the opposition coalition of the INDIA bloc being the primary contenders. Meanwhile, alliances are being built and major parties have announced the candidates. Party hopping and secret deals are also going on. Prime Minister Modi aims to perform a hat trick. Currently, it is a one-horse race, with the BJP dominating and the opposition parties trailing behind.

The Opposition INDIA coalition comprises 26 parties. They have formed a pre-poll alliance to challenge the BJP. It aims to field a single opposition candidate against the BJP in the upcoming elections. The Opposition suffered two consecutive defeats in 2014 and 2019, significantly damaging its image. It needs to connect with voters, including millennials. Congress, leading the Opposition, is a 138-year secular party that used to represent marginalised groups like SCs, STs, OBCs and Muslims. It has been weakened since the eighties, with the rise of regional satraps and today, it is a mere shadow of its former strength. It lacks leadership. After the 2014 and 2019 defeats, Congress now claims it is committed to social justice and empowering India's poor, oppressed, Dalits, farmers, youth and women with its five guarantees: Yuva Nyay, Bhagidaari Nyay, Naari Nyay, Kisan Nyay and Shramik Nyay. The Opposition mainly aims to challenge Modi by consolidating anti-BJP votes and offering incentives. This strategy worked for Congress in recent Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana Assembly polls, which Congress won. Congress hopes to gain from the BJP's anti-incumbency buffering sops and freebies. They also highlight Rahul



Gandhi's recent Bharat Jodo Yatra, which was meant to connect with the people. To succeed, Congress must raise bread-and-butter issues such as inflation, joblessness and social discord to engage with young voters who play a decisive role in elections. They must show an alternate strategy to appeal to them. Simultaneously, some powerful chief ministers of state-level parties dominate their states, making it a tough fight for Prime Minister Narendra Modi in these areas. 2019, the BJP and its allies secured only 45 per cent of the votes. The remaining 55 per cent were up for grabs for the INDIA bloc. Although no national leader matches Modi's popularity, some influential regional leaders can sway voters in their respective regions. This is particularly true for West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The biggest challenge for the coalition is to project a single leader against Modi. Unfortunately, there is an ego clash among the coalition partners, which makes it difficult to agree on someone. Secondly, the BJP boasts a strong organisation with immense financial and political power. The Opposition doesn't seem to have a solid



WITH BOTH SIDES RAISING THEIR PITCH, THE 2024 ELECTIONS WILL SEE A NO-HOLDS-BARRED NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN, AS THIS WILL DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE AGGRESSIVE BJP

and compelling storyline, except for its commitment to safeguarding the Constitution and democratic values. However, voters are more concerned about basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. For instance, Sonia Gandhi's Aam Admi slogan in 2004 resonated well with the masses. Low-income people generally live paycheck to paycheck and may not relate to abstract political concepts. The Congress Party is still clinging to its glorious past and failing to acknowledge the current scene. As the second-largest Party, Congress automatically expects to lead the coalition. It has been losing its leaders to the BJP and a steady flow of these leaders demoralises the Party. The Opposition needs a solid counter to the BJP's propaganda and religious narrative. The BJP has grown since 1980; today, it is the biggest Party in India. It has a strong organisation with unlimited money power. The Party seeks votes in the name of the Prime Minister. The BJP has a better chance of winning this time. The BJP's lucky mascot is Modi. His supporters consider him a doer due to the implementation of various measures. These include the Triple Talaq, CAA,

revocation of Article 356 in Jammu and Kashmir and the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The BJP highlights its achievements in the last decade and various welfare initiatives to attract voters. The continuity has helped Modi achieve his agenda. Modi has gained international recognition over the past ten years and ensured India's position at the high table, which excites his supporters. On the negative side, the Opposition claims that the Modi Government has been targeting Opposition leaders and harassing them with Government probe agencies. The BJP poaches on other parties, lawmakers, and leaders. It has absorbed many second-rung leaders who chose to find better prospects in the saffron Party. With both sides raising their pitch, the 2024 elections will see a no-holds-bar negative campaign, as this will decide the future of the Opposition and the aggressive BJP. Modi's secret to success is a divided opposition. As long as this continues, Modi will continue to win. The Opposition must chant the mantra of unity to win or even improve.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### KEJRIWAL CANNOT BE CM

Madam — Apropos news article "After Kejriwal, AAP Sealed," published on March 24, this is my response. As far as Arvind Kejriwal is concerned, he will have to stay out of politics for a long time. Aam Aadmi Party leaders may claim that Kejriwal will remain the Chief Minister. Still, now it will be almost impossible for Arvind Kejriwal to remain in the post of Chief Minister. Delhi state holds a special position. Here the Lieutenant Governor has unlimited powers. The Lieutenant Governor comes under the Central Home Department. In such a situation, if Arvind Kejriwal does not resign, he will certainly be dismissed in the future. The arrest of Kejriwal will have an impact on the election campaign of Delhi and Punjab. AAP is playing the victim card but the public must repeatedly criticise it. That means the entire opposition is currently on the defensive on the issue of corruption. Kejriwal has committed a huge strategic and legal mistake by not responding to ED's nine summonses. He has to bear the brunt of this at the time of the Lok Sabha elections. If he had gone to the ED office for questioning in November itself, he would have been arrested today. One does not have to see this day. Even if ED had arrested him in November, he could have got bail after four to five months as it happened in the case of Sanjay Raut. The leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party made serious mistakes in the case of Arvind Kejriwal.

Govind Rao Rotti | Vijayapura

### REGULATE REUSED COOKING OILS

Madam — In commercial settings like restaurants, it's common practice not to discard oil after a single use. Unfortunately, with deep frying, failure to regularly change the oil can lead to the generation of trans fats through repeated reheating, potentially causing inflammation in the body as per health experts. Unhealthy oils can adversely affect mainly heightening the risk of cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes. Repeated heating of oil also leads to the

### The parched IT hub



Apropos news article "Zero Water Day Night in Bengaluru," published on March 25, this is my response. Bengaluru is known as the garden city of India. It had more green patches earlier. It had more lakes. Nearly 80 per cent were greenery patches. Now things have changed. Water scarcity was quite unknown to the people of this city since the perennial Cauvery River flows here. Now due to the advent of IT corridor, the city has become a concrete jungle. People have migrated in large numbers to Bengaluru. Also, the change in the climatic conditions and

failure of monsoon rains have resulted in acute water scarcity. Water is more misused here than purposefully used. Even tanker supply by the Corporation is seen as inadequate. Private suppliers fleece the people taking advantage of the situation. The storage in the reservoirs is far below the demand. Not only in Bengaluru but in other places of the state the situation is grim. Places like Raichur, Bellary and Mysore are reeling under water scarcity. Hyderabad, Chennai, Coimbatore, Ooty, Delhi and Gurgaon are no exceptions. The Government should identify water storage lakes and desilt them periodically. Rainwater harvesting should be done on a war footing. Our forefathers saw potable water in rivers and lakes. The next generation saw it in the wells. We now see water in bottles. Our future generation will see it in capsules may ring true if we don't act now. We must sustain judicious water management else the situation will become disastrous.

Sravana Ramachandran | Bengaluru

accumulation of visible and invisible granules, altering the oil's composition and introducing neo-formed compounds (NFCs) over time. This process diminishes the oil's nutritional quality. FSSAI lacks regulations or definitions for reused cooking oils, often leading food safety officials to rely on visual cues such as colour or appearance. Therefore, FSSAI must frame regulations for reused cooking oils.

Vijaykumar H K | Raichur

### MONEY MANAGEMENT IS AN SKILL

Madam — Everyone continually works hard to accumulate wealth and lead a luxurious lifestyle, and money is the source of all these pleasures. Although making money is not a particularly tough chore for everyone, how one manages their finances is what counts. In numerous instances, individuals who were fortunate enough to inherit wealth but lacked financial management skills have become mired in debt;

conversely, those who began from nothing and were fortunate enough to possess sound money management skills have seen their wealth increase threefold. A quotation reads, "Money moves from those who do not manage it to those who do." Money management is very underrated but still, a very crucial skill to be learned although these skills are already built in the people of our country giving the right direction to these skills can add fuel to the fire. People should be taught money management skills like saving, investing and maintaining personal finances. This will help them to enjoy life to the fullest and have emergency funds on hand. It will also help them to become financially independent and lead balanced lives when they move abroad for college or a job.

Lisha Gera | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



FIRST COLUMN

LIFE SHOULD BE A PRECIOUS JOURNEY

In the rush to meet obligations, do we overlook beauty around us?



Life is something very precious, a divine gift given to us by God or nature. Do humans realise how high-priced is it? When we wake up in the morning, aren't we in a tearing hurry to accomplish all the unfulfilled tasks of yesterday? Do we spend some quality time embracing nature, take a few deep breaths, spend moments in solitude and feel the silence encompassing us? Are we grateful for our existence or do we mechanically hit the gym and head for the kitchen to have the mandatory morning cup of coffee? Yes, for sure morning exercise like a walk, a jog, or executing the chores are essential, but it is equally important to slow down the pace of life and become grateful to the Universe for its vastness and its exquisite grandiose geometry. Pierce Brosnan, who wielded guns and gals with remarkable felicity once remarked, 'I realise how precious life is, probably because I've seen how it can be taken away.' As the cloud moves across the sky, so do moments in our lives. We need to be in harmony with our thoughts and actions and also realise the ephemeral nature of events. Once, a student approached his Master and complained that he could not meditate as his body ached, he felt distracted or asleep and was extremely disconcerted. The wise man smiled and merely said that this would pass. After some days, the tutee was in an ecstatic mood and apprised his teacher that the meditation was wonderful and he had had an experiential feeling. He could observe stillness in the mind; see a shimmering light and experience levitation. The Master merely smiled and added that even this would pass. Life should be treated as a celebration and as a precious gift since it is fleeting and transitory.



The sacrosanct premise of life therefore should be to focus on its truly celebratory nature and savour its prepossessing moments. For all this to happen, we need to increase our prana/energy levels manifold. We derive energy from food, breath and rest provided to the body and by maintaining a calm and meditative mind. These sutras or tenets are imparted during the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living. However, the prana/energy level needs to be sustained to nurture the precious moments of life. Humans have to treat their minds and bodies as sacred. Early morning blues can be combatted with warm lime water laced with honey. It is efficacious for the human body to have a few glasses of this elixir of life. A sattvic diet helps in increasing prana levels and also in meditation. The purpose of yoga is not just performing physical exercises but to ultimately do pranayama and meditation. This helps assuage the mind so that we are in a position to recognise and appreciate life's precious journey. Physical sciences, till recently, were all about matter and particles. However, newer studies reveal the mysteries of science have transcended the boundaries of matter and dwelled on waves and their patterns. Waves connect us to science and also to people. While acknowledging the precious nature of life, we need to harness the potential further by choosing a passion. This is an outlet from the dreary ho-hum of life and we can appreciate the droplets on the petals, a nest built on our roof or a koel bird singing mellifluously. In this age of a wired world, humans need to break the chains of tech bondage and develop a harmonious dwelling place where people care and share making life a truly momentous journey. *(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)*

# Conspiracy theories abound for terror attack

A cloud of speculation surrounds the Moscow terror attack; allegations range from claims of internal collusion to Ukrainian complicity, supported by the West

In the end, neither these corrupt politicians nor the manifestos of these inhuman actions, but unarmed civilians will have to pay the price. Over a hundred unarmed civilians were mercilessly killed by those brutal assailants, while hundreds more were wounded in Saturday's terrorist attacks on the outskirts of Moscow. Conspiracy theories, as in many other cases, are deepening. Some say it was an inside job orchestrated by certain parties to gain sympathy. Second, Ukrainians planned it with the help of Western intelligence agencies. Third, this was perpetrated by extremists. Consequently, conflicting yet interesting reports are emerging from all sides. Though these warning messages sound fishy, the amount of intelligence activities in the region certainly emphasises recent detailed reports on CIA activities in Ukraine published by The New York Times, stating that the US and UK were in Ukraine long before the war. "At the end of 2021, Putin was considering whether to launch a full-scale invasion. He met with the head of one of Russia's main spy services, who told him that the CIA, together with British intelligence MI6, controlled Ukraine and turned it into a staging ground for operations against Moscow." However, it is interesting to note that in this brutal attack, terrorists who targeted concertgoers at Moscow's Crocus City Hall not only successfully executed the operation, but also managed to evade capture and attempted to cross the border located over three hundred kilometres away. Later, according to Russian media, all four attackers were apprehended by Russian security forces. A man detained on suspicion of involvement in the Crocus City Hall attack has reportedly confessed to being promised a reward of 500,000 rubles, according to Russian journalist Margarita Simonyan. The alleged killer stated in a video posted by her, 'I shot down people at the Crocus for money; [I was promised] about 500,000.' Strangely, Russia was attacked by the Islamic State, or more accurately, according to Western media outlets, by ISKP. The Islamic State—Khorasan Province is a regional branch of the Islamic State terrorist group active in South-Central Asia. At the beginning of this month, on March 7, the FSB stated that it had stopped an ISKP cell from carrying out a terrorist attack targeting a synagogue. "On the territory of the Kaluga Region, a stop was put to the activity of Wilayat Khorasan, a cell of the Afghan branch of the international terrorist organisation Islamic State, which is banned in Russia, whose members were planning to commit a terrorist act against one of the Jewish religious institutions in Moscow," the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) said in a statement to the state-run TASS news agency. What is fascinating is that almost all Western countries currently supplying arms, personnel, and other vital support, including precious intelligence, to Ukraine for its fight against Russia, were issuing early warnings about such brutal terrorist attacks. On March 7 and 8, several foreign embassies in Russia warned their citizens about the threat of terrorist attacks in Moscow. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow posted a security alert late on March 7, stating, "The embassy is monitoring reports that extremists have imminent plans to target large gatherings in Moscow, including concerts, and U.S. citizens should be advised to avoid large gatherings over the



WHATEVER THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES OR ANY OTHER GROUND REPORTS THAT CAME TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AFTER THIS HORRIFIC TERRORIST ATTACK, ONE THING IS CERTAIN: RUSSIA INDEED HAS INTERNAL SECURITY LOOPHOLES AND ENEMIES ARE CAPABLE OF SNEAKING THROUGH ITS SYSTEM

next 48 hours." The Finnish Foreign Ministry urged its citizens on Saturday to avoid public gatherings in Moscow over the weekend, following the US warning about possible terrorist attacks in Russia. The US Embassy further stated that it is actively monitoring reports indicating that "extremists have immediate intentions to target large gatherings in Moscow." After the US warning, the UK issued a similar advisory advising UK citizens to avoid travelling to Russia due to the risks and terrorist threats. The British Foreign Office recommended against all travel to Russia. Germany, Latvia, and Estonia also urged their citizens and those with dual citizenship not to travel to Russia shortly. These advisories essentially highlight the reliability, effectiveness, and capability of Western intelligence agencies in the region. However, it is important to pay attention to the argument made by the Ukrainian Defence Authority on the attack: "The behaviour of the criminals is also an important factor. They fled, although such attacks are characterised by suicides with the victims and the voicing of demands, or at least reasons. Accordingly, the criminals wanted to survive. But how did they cover a distance of more than 300 kilometres without being noticed? Why, having prepared so thoroughly, did they not do the simplest thing—buy a few spare cars to change on the way? Was it because they were guaranteed security by the Russian special services?" These questions are undoubtedly crucial not only for unravelling the mysteries behind the attack but also for preventing its recurrence. This distinctive IS attack contradicts its previous behaviours; typically, IS members launch attacks to become martyrs. However, in this instance, they attacked to obtain "money"

from unknown sources, a practice strictly prohibited, Haram, according to Islam. Meanwhile, in his address to the nation, President Putin asserted, "All perpetrators, organisers, and masterminds of this crime will face fair and inevitable punishment, whoever they may be and whoever directed them. I emphasise once more: we will identify and bring to justice every individual who stands behind these terrorists, those who orchestrated this atrocity, this assault against Russia and our people." Whatever the conspiracy theories or any other ground reports that came to the public domain after this horrific terrorist attack, one thing is certain: Russia indeed has internal security loopholes, and enemies are capable of sneaking through their system. It is clear that, according to Western pre-warnings of the attacks leading us to presume that these brutal attacks were pre-planned to execute during the recently concluded election where Putin marked the highest percentage of any elections since 2000. This signalled which side the majority of Russians were standing on, while the West kept repeating the same mantra of authoritarianism. On the other hand, can the Ukrainian President go for an election and prove the same, despite remaining in power by manipulating the constitutional clauses? However, Ukrainians, alarmed by the election, launched a risky invasion to halt voting in Russian border areas, particularly in Belgorod city and its region. During the three-day operation, Ukraine killed 11 civilians with drones and rockets and injured 82, including nine critically. Among the casualties were an election official and a thirteen-year-old girl, whose father was seriously injured. Ironically, most Western nations with imperfect democracies expect their enemy countries to be "per-

fect democracies". This paradox can only please a mind accustomed to duplicity but will never overcome common challenges such as normalising the global supply chain and achieving peace while mitigating the burning risk of a possible nuclear attack. The most powerful nations, despite engaging in dirty politics to reaffirm their supremacy, will never hesitate to engage in anything contradictory to their preaching. Nevertheless, determining whether this attack was carried out by ISKP or another group influenced by various integrated parties is a matter that requires verification. However, this attack has the potential to inspire other terrorists in countries facing genuine threats from IS, ISKP, and other extremist factions. We cannot underestimate the importance of security in the forthcoming Indian elections and ISKP's direct threats against China and its investments in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other places. In early September 2022, the ISKP published its most comprehensive critique of China to date, belittling the Belt and Road Initiative and calling on Muslims to take up arms against "red atheists whose hands are soaked with the blood of innocent Uyghur Muslims." Ironically, the tone of these threats is very similar to how the United States evaluates its competitors. Should we take lightly what the Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump repeatedly referred to as the president as 'Obama and Hillary Clinton are as ISIS co-founders'? Sometimes, political jokes, rhetoric and blabbering play a very important role in understanding the context of our day-to-day life and its reality. *(The writer, a journalist, expresses personal views which are independent of any institutional affiliations)*

# Controversial issues reignite India-Lanka relations

## The contentious issues of Katchatheevu and Sethusamudram resurface amid Tamil Nadu's election fervour

The schedule for the General Election 2024 has been announced and the State of Tamil Nadu is full of rattle and brouhaha over non-issues. The ruling DMK which has been maintaining silence over issues like the provision of drinking and irrigation waters and the fate of the State's fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy have dusted and taken out age-old topics for use as campaign materials in the election. A cursory glance over the election manifesto of the DMK drafted under the chairmanship of M K Kanimozhi, the late Karunanidhi's daughter by his third wife Rajathi, makes the reader doubt whether Tamil Nadu is a part of India or not. One of the salient points of the



DMK's election manifesto is to make Tamil Nadu a NEET-free State. This means that admission to the undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the State's medical colleges would be free of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, the selection system ordered by the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court. It was the UPA Government (2004-2014) in which the DMK was the second largest constituent

that brought the NEET into practice. Similarly, the DMK would revive and resume the works of laying a canal through the Palk Strait known as the Sethusamudram Channel. The project work has been put on hold following directives by the Supreme Court based on the fact that it is neither economically sustainable nor commercially viable. The only motivating factor behind the revival of Sethusamudram Channel is that the DMK Government would be able to demolish the Ram Sethu, a stone structure believed to have been built by the army of Lords Ram to cross the sea in their mission to same Maa Sita from the custody of the Ravana. This is being seen as the Dravidian's reply to the Pranaprathista of

the Ram Temple at Ayodhya held in January. The DMK has declared its mission to destroy Sanatana Dharma once and forever. Udhayanidhi Stalin, heir apparent to the DMK throne and the chief minister-ship in the eventuality of Stalin leaving Tamil Nadu for an early rendezvous with his father M Karunanidhi and ideological father Ramasamy Naicker, have declared time and again that Sanatana Dharma is more dangerous than Covid and Cancer and should be banished from the face of the earth. Yet another promise made by the DMK is the retrieval of Katchatheevu, a small islet handed over to Sri Lanka by the Government of India in 1975. The decision to secede this 285-acre uninhabited islet

to Sri Lanka in 1975 was taken after a series of discussions involving top-level diplomats of Sri Lanka and India including G Parthasarathi, a close aide of Indira Gandhi. Katchatheevu is an uninhabited islet in the Palk Strait. The islet once used for pearl farming was strategically important for fishing activities and was owned by the Raja of Ramnad and later became part of the Madras Presidency after the delimitation of Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait during British rule between the then Governments of Madras and Ceylon. In 1921, both Sri Lanka and India claimed this piece of land and the dispute remained unsettled. The agreement signed by Indira Gandhi and her Sri Lanka counterpart Sirimao

Bhandarenaik in 1975 and 1976 says that with the establishment of the Exclusive Economic Zones by the two countries, India and Sri Lanka will exercise sovereign rights over the living and non-living resources of their respective zones. The fishing vessels and fishermen of India shall not engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone of Sri Lanka, nor shall the fishing vessels and fishermen of Sri Lanka engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone of India, as the case may be, according to the agreement. The agreement made it clear that Katchatheevu belongs to the territory of Sri Lanka.

From 1976 to 2008, the DMK and its leader Karunanidhi were silent over Katchatheevu. It was a case filed by AIADMK general secretary J Jayalalitha in 2008 that made Karunanidhi take up the issue as part of his political one-upmanship. When the case came up for hearing, the then chief justice R M Lodha asked Mukul Rohatgi, the then attorney general, what were the possibilities of retrieval of Katchatheevu. "If you want Katchatheevu back, you will have to go to war to get it back" Rohatgi told the Court. In another development, the Coast Guard in an affidavit filed by it in Madras High Court said that it was the Tamil Nadu fishermen who violated the International Maritime Boundary Line and fished in

Sri Lankan territorial waters. Sinha Ratnatunga, a respected editor of a popular newspaper in Sri Lanka said that more than 600 fishing boats from India cross over the IMLB and carry out bottom trawling in the island's territorial waters violating all norms. The bottom trawling using purine nets destroys the entire marine wealth in the Sri Lankan waters. The demand for the retrieval of Katchatheevu is with an ulterior motive. The Dravidians do not want a cordial relationship between India and Sri Lanka. Should Lanka too end up as the Maldives? asks R R Wijayabalan, who is one of the best friends of India in the island nation. *(The writer is special correspondent with the pioneer; views are personal)*



# Assange’s extradition on hold until US rules out death penalty

AP ■ LONDON

A British court ruled on Tuesday that Julian Assange cannot be extradited to the United States on espionage charges unless US authorities guarantee he won't get the death penalty, giving the WikiLeaks founder a partial victory in his long legal battle over the site's publication of classified American documents. Two High Court judges said they would grant Assange a new appeal unless US authorities give further assurances within three weeks about what will happen to him. The ruling means the legal saga, which has dragged on for more than a decade, will continue — and Assange will remain inside London's high-security Belmarsh Prison, where he has spent the last five years. Judges Victoria Sharp and Jeremy Johnson said the US must guarantee that Assange, who is Australian, "is afforded the same

First Amendment protections as a United States citizen, and that the death penalty is not imposed". The judges said that if the US files new assurances, "we will give the parties an opportunity to make further submissions before we make a final decision on the application for leave to appeal". The judges said a hearing will be held May 20 if the US makes those submissions. The US Justice Department declined to comment on Tuesday. Assange's supporters say he is a journalist protected by the First Amendment who exposed US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan that was in the public interest. Assange's wife Stella Assange said the WikiLeaks founder "is being persecuted because he exposed the true cost of war in human lives". "The Biden administration should not issue assurances. They should drop this shameful

case, which should never have been brought," she said outside the High Court in London. The ruling follows a two-day hearing in the High Court in February, where Assange's lawyer Edward Fitzgerald said American authorities were seeking to punish him for WikiLeaks "exposure of criminality on the part of the US government on an unprecedented scale", including torture and killings. The US government said Assange's actions went beyond journalism by soliciting, stealing and indiscriminately publishing classified government documents that endangered many people, including Iraqis and Afghans who had helped US forces. The judges rejected six of Assange's nine grounds of appeal, including the allegation that his prosecution is political. They said that while Assange "acted out of political conviction... it does not follow however that the

request for his extradition is made on account of his political views". The judges also said Assange could not appeal based on allegations, made by his lawyers, that the CIA developed plans to kidnap or kill Assange during the years he spent holed up in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, to prevent him from trying to flee. The judges said "plainly, these are allegations of the utmost seriousness", but concluded they had no bearing on the extradition request. "Extradition would result in him being lawfully in the custody of the United States authorities, and the reasons (if they can be called that) for rendition or kidnap or assassination then fall away," the ruling said. They accepted three grounds of appeal: the threat to Assange's freedom of speech, Assange's claim that he faces disadvantage because he is not a US citizen, and the risk he could receive the death penalty.

# Cargo ship collides with Baltimore’s key bridge, causing collapse

AP ■ BALTIMORE

A container ship rammed into a major bridge in Baltimore early Tuesday, causing it to snap and plunge into the river below. Several vehicles fell into the chilly waters, and rescuers searched for survivors. It was also not clear what caused the cargo ship to crash into the Francis Scott Key Bridge long before the busy morning commute in what one official called a "developing mass casualty event" in a major American city just outside of Washington. Two people were rescued, and it was not clear how many more might be in the water. The ship crashed into one of the bridge's supports, causing the structure to snap and buckle at several points and tumble into the water in a matter of seconds — a shocking spectacle that was captured on video and posted on social media. The vessel



Parts of the Francis Scott Key Bridge remain after a container ship collided with one of the bridge supports on Tuesday. **AP/PTI**

caught fire, and thick, black smoke billowed out of it. "Never would you think that you would see, physically see, the Key Bridge tumble down

like that. It looked like something out of an action movie," said Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, calling it "an unthinkable tragedy."

Chief James Wallace said authorities "may be looking for upwards of seven people" but said that number could change and other officials wouldn't give figures. It was not clear if the two rescued were included in the seven cited by the fire chief. Authorities said a crew of unknown size was working on the bridge at the time of the collapse and that sonar had detected cars in the water, which is about 50 feet (15 meters) deep. The water temperature was about 47 degrees Fahrenheit (8 degrees Celsius) before dawn Tuesday, according to a buoy that collects data for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Earlier, Kevin Cartwright, director of communications for the Baltimore Fire Department, told The Associated Press that several vehicles were on the bridge at the time of the collapse, including one the size of a tractor-trailer truck.

# Israel, Hamas dig in as international pressure builds for Gaza cease-fire

AP ■ RAFAH

Hamas has rejected the latest proposal put forward by international mediators for a cease-fire and hostage release, and Israel has blasted a UN Security Council resolution that called for both without linking them. As the war in Gaza grinds through a sixth month, each side has publicly insisted that its own idea of victory is in reach, and late Monday they rejected the latest international efforts to stem the bloodshed. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel can achieve its aims of dismantling Hamas and returning scores of hostages if it expands its ground offensive to the southern city of Rafah, where over half of Gaza's population has sought refuge, many in crowded tent camps. Hamas has said it will hold onto the hostages until Israel agrees to a more permanent cease-fire, withdraws its forces from Gaza and releases hundreds of Palestinian prisoners,



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, right, receives German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, left, at his office in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Monday. **AP/PTI**

including top militants. It said late Monday that it has rejected a recent proposal that fell short of those demands — which, if fulfilled, would allow it to claim an extremely costly victory.

There is no end in sight to the war, which has killed over 32,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The fighting has left much of the Gaza Strip in ruins, displaced most its residents and driven

a third of its population of 2.3 million to the brink of famine. An Israeli strike late Monday on a residential building in Rafah where three displaced families were sheltering killed at least 16 people, including nine children and four women, according to hospital records and relatives of the deceased. An Associated Press reporter saw the bodies arrive at a hospital. On Monday, the Security Council finally managed to pass a resolution calling for a cease-fire as the United States abstained instead of vetoing the measure, angering Israel in a major escalation of tensions between the two close allies. The resolution calls for the release of all hostages held in Gaza but does not condition the cease-fire on it. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz told Army Radio on Tuesday that the resolution had emboldened Hamas by signalling that international pressure would end the war without it having to make any concessions.

"The message delivered to Hamas yesterday... is that you don't have to hurry," Katz said. The war began on October 7, when Hamas-led militants stormed across the border and attacked communities in southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 others. It is still believed to be holding about 100 hostages and the remains of 30 others, after most of the rest were freed in November in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners. The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent several weeks trying to negotiate another cease-fire and hostage release, but those efforts appeared to have stalled. Hamas said in a statement late Monday that it has informed the mediators it will stick to an earlier position. Hamas said Israel has not responded to its core demands of a "comprehensive cease-fire, an (Israeli) withdrawal from the Strip, the return of displaced people and a real prisoner exchange."

Hamas has previously proposed a phased process in which it would release all the remaining hostages in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the opening of its borders for aid and reconstruction, and the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including top militants serving life sentences. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected those demands as unrealistic. He has vowed to resume Israel's offensive after any hostage release and keep fighting until Hamas is destroyed, saying it's the only way to prevent a repeat of the October 7 attack. But he has provided few details about what would follow any such victory and has largely rejected a postwar vision outlined by the US. That approach has brought him into increasingly open conflict with President Joe Biden's administration, which has expressed mounting concern over civilian casualties

while supplying Israel with crucial military aid and backing Israel's aim of destroying Hamas. The US had vetoed previous UN resolutions calling for a cease-fire. The White House has urged Israel not to undertake a major ground operation in Rafah, warning that it could cause a humanitarian catastrophe. The administration was set to brief visiting Israeli officials on an alternative approach, but Netanyahu called off their visit in response to the US abstention at the UN. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant is in Washington on a separate trip, however, and is to meet with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Tuesday. On Monday, Gallant vowed to continue the offensive until Israel's aims are met. "We will operate against Hamas everywhere — including in places where we have not yet been," he said. "We have no moral right to stop the war while there are still hostages held in Gaza."

# South Africa’s ANC fails in bid to ban Zuma’s party from polls

**Johannesburg (AP):** A South African court on Tuesday dismissed the ruling party's case demanding a rival opposition party be deregistered and banned from participating in the upcoming election. The Electoral Court said the ruling African National Congress party's objection to how the Independent Electoral Commission handled the uMkhonto weSizwe Party's registration had no merit, adding it should have addressed the Electoral Commission before filing a court case. Former South African President Jacob Zuma, who headed the country from 2009 to 2018 when he was removed amid wide-ranging allegations of corruption, parted ways with the ANC in December and is now leading the uMkhonto weSizwe Party, or MK Party. His popularity — especially in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal, expected to be a key battleground in this year's elections — has helped MK Party emerge as a potentially significant contender in the upcoming polls. The party is named after the former military wing of the ANC, which was disbanded at the end of white minority rule and racial segregation policies of the regime known as apartheid. On Wednesday, the ANC will launch another court bid against Zuma's party, challenging its right to use the name and trademark of the now-defunct organization. South Africa's 29 May elections are expected to be highly contested with the ANC, once led by anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, under pressure to remain in power following declining support in successive elections as the country faces stagnant economic growth, high levels of poverty among its Black majority, and an unemployment rate of over 32 per cent. According to recent polls, the ANC may dip below 50 per cent of the national vote for the first since it came into power in 1994 when Mandela became the country's first democratically-elected leader.

# Kennedy Jr. expected to announce his VP pick for WH bid

AP ■ OAKLAND



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. plans to announce his running mate Tuesday as he races to secure a place on the ballot for his independent campaign for president. In advance of an event Tuesday in Oakland, Kennedy and his aides have circulated the names of several contenders, including celebrities with no political experience. Those names include NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers and "Dirty Jobs" star Mike Rowe as well as former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura. Speculation most recently has centred on Nicole Shanahan, a lawyer and philanthropist who bankrolled a Super Bowl ad for Kennedy. "This announcement is really going to shake up the political establishment," Kennedy said in a video he posted on social media last week. Kennedy's campaign has spooked Democrats, who are fighting third-party options that could draw support from President Joe Biden and help Republican former President Donald Trump. As they head into a 2020 rematch, Biden and Trump are broadly unpopular with the US public and will compete for the votes of people who aren't enthusiastic about either of them. Without the backing of a party, Kennedy faces an arduous task to get on the ballot, with varying rules across the 50 states. He's picking a running mate now because about half of the states require him to designate one before he can apply for ballot access. The requirement is already bedeviling Kennedy's ballot access effort in Nevada, where Democratic Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar said in a March 7 letter to independent candidates that they must nominate a vice presidential candidate before collecting signatures. The letter came days after Kennedy's campaign announced he'd collected enough signatures in the state. If Aguilar's opinion

# Farmers block Brussels to protest EU policies

Brussels (AP) Dozens of tractors on Tuesday sealed off streets close to European Union headquarters where the 27 EU agriculture ministers were planning to discuss the crisis in the sector that has led to months of protests across the bloc. The farmers were protesting anything from what they see as excessive red tape to increased environmental measures, cheap imports and unfair trading practices. "Let us make a living from our profession," read one billboard on a huge tractor blocking a main thoroughfare. Even if smaller than previous demonstrations, the impact on the Belgian capital was sizable during the morning rush hour, and authorities asked commuters to stay out of Brussels and work from home as much as possible. With protests taking place from Finland to Greece, Poland, and Ireland, the farmers have already won a slew of concessions from EU and national authorities, from a loosening of controls on farms to a weakening of pesticide and environmental rules. Earlier this month, the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, proposed weakening or cutting rules in areas like crop rotation, soil cover protection and tillage methods. Small farmers, representing some two-thirds of the workforce and the most active within the continent-wide protest movement, will be exempt from some controls and penalties under the new rules. Environmentalists and climate activists say the change in EU policies under the duress of protesting farmers is regrettable. They say the short-term concessions will come to haunt the bloc in a generation when climate change will hit the continent even harder. Politically, the bloc has moved to the right over the past year. The plight of farmers has become a rallying cry for populists and conservatives who claim EU climate and farm policies are little more than bureaucratic bungling from elitist politicians who have lost any feeling for soil and land.

# Senegal’s president-elect pledges to fight corruption after stunning victory

AP ■ DAKAR

Senegal woke up Tuesday to a new president-elect, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, a former tax inspector and political newcomer who was released from prison just weeks ago and had inspired voters, many of them unemployed youth, with a vow to fight corruption and reform the economy. Faye was catapulted into a presidential campaign after popular opposition leader Ousmane Sonko, who was barred from running due to a prior conviction, had backed him. As he gave his first speech as president-elect on Monday evening, it represented a dramatic rise for the 44-year-old who is due to be the youngest leader of the West African nation. "I pledge to govern with humility and transparency, and to fight corruption at all levels. I pledge to devote myself fully to

rebuilding our institutions," he said, restating promises made during his campaign. While official results of Sunday's vote were not yet available, the other front-runner — the former prime minister who was backed by incumbent President Macky Sall — had conceded defeat. Sall followed with congratulations, also naming Faye as the winner. The election followed months of unrest ignited by Faye and Sonko's arrest last year, and concerns that the president would seek a third term in office despite constitutional term limits. The violence shook Senegal's reputation as a stable democracy in a region that has seen a wave of coups. Rights groups said dozens were killed in the protests, while some 1,000 people were jailed. Considered the anti-establishment candidate, Faye's campaign messages of economic

reform and anti-corruption resonated with the youth. Almost a third of young people are unemployed with thousands risking their lives on dangerous journeys in search of jobs in the West. Faye has vowed to improve Senegal's control over its natural resources by promoting national companies to prevent the country from falling into what his campaign called "economic enslavement." His manifesto promised to renegotiate Senegal's oil and gas contract and introduce a new currency. On Monday night, Faye outlined some early foreign policy priorities, which included reforming the troubled West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS. "A win by the opposition also means major changes ahead in domestic and foreign policies," said Rida Lyammouri of the Policy Center for the New South, a Morocco-based think

tank, adding that a promise to move away from former colonial power France could define the foreign policy of the country's new government. The election was largely peaceful and early counts showed voters turned out overwhelmingly in favor of the opposition. Sonko had promised a resounding victory on his YouTube channel. By Monday evening in Dakar, Faye had been declared the winner and celebrations erupted in neighbourhoods around the capital, where supporters danced, played music and set off fireworks. Faye's roots lie in a small town in central Senegal. He is a practicing Muslim and has two wives. Ahead of Sunday's election, Faye published a declaration of his assets, and called on other candidates to do the same. It lists a home in Dakar, and land outside the capital and in his hometown.

# King Charles III to attend Easter service

**London (PTI):** Britain's King Charles III will attend the traditional royal Easter service at St. George's Chapel in Windsor on Sunday, Buckingham Palace said on Tuesday, confirming the 75-year-old monarch's first major public appearance as he undergoes treatment for an unspecified form of cancer. The King had taken a back seat from public-facing duties since his cancer diagnosis was made public last month. But in a sign that he intends to begin a return to a more active schedule gradually, Charles also took part in an audience at the palace in London with community faith leaders from across the UK. "Their Majesties The King and Queen [Camilla], accompanied by other members of the royal family, will attend the Easter Mattins Service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on Easter Sunday," Buckingham Palace said. Several royal family members

gather to celebrate Easter and are annually photographed walking into the service at St. George's Chapel. However, unlike in the past, Prince William and his family will not be joining the service after his wife Kate Middleton revealed she is undergoing preventative chemotherapy following her cancer diagnosis. The family, including children Princes George and Louis and Princess Charlotte, are privately spending the school Easter holidays this year. The latest palace announcement comes as the King met faith leaders from the Windsor Leadership Trust at Buckingham Palace. "In February 2024, 18 influential leaders from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths were invited to St. George's House, Windsor Castle, by the Windsor Leadership Trust for the Faith Leaders' Forum," the palace said.

# UK police share family tribute to Indian student killed in collision

PTI ■ LONDON

The Metropolitan Police in London on Tuesday officially named a former NITI Aayog employee Cheistha Kochhar as the 33-year-old woman who was killed in a road collision in north London while she cycled back home from London School of Economics (LSE). There have been no arrests a week after the incident, police said. The police said Kochhar, who was pursuing her PhD in behavioural research at the LSE, died following a collision involving a refuse lorry on Clerkenwell Road near the junction with Farringdon Road on March 19 evening. The force said enquiries into the circumstances of the collision are ongoing as officers continue to appeal for witnesses and for any road users with dashcam footage from the scene to come forward.



Cheistha was cycling when she was involved in a collision with a refuse lorry — the lorry stopped at the scene and the driver is helping police with their enquiries. There has been no arrest and enquiries into the circumstances continue," the Met Police said. The police also released a statement on behalf of Cheistha Kochhar's family, which praises her "deep intelligence" and "sprightly demeanour" which

won her many friends. "She always had a hug to spare for anyone and she lived her life with the principle that it was more important to be the kindest person in the room, than to be the smartest person in the room. In the short span she had on this planet, she touched tens of thousands of people in extremely meaningful ways and the magnitude of this loss is incomprehensible," the family tribute reads. Cheistha was born in Bareilly in 1990 and graduated high school from the Convent of Jesus and Mary, New Delhi. After graduating from Delhi University with a BA in Economics and Mathematics in 2008, she went on to finish the PGP in Liberal Arts as a Young India Fellow from Ashoka University and then did another post-graduation from the University of Chicago in International Development and Policy (MAIDP).



# 5 Chinese among 6 killed IN Pak suicide attack

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

At least five Chinese nationals were among the six persons killed on Tuesday when an explosives-packed vehicle rammed into their bus in Pakistan's troubled province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said, in the second suicide attack on the personnel working on the China-backed hydropower project since 2021. The Chinese were working on the Dasu hydropower project, which is about 300 km to the north of Islamabad. The 4,320 MW project is being constructed by the China Gezhouba with funding from the World Bank. In Tuesday's attack, several others were injured in the incident that occurred in the Bisham area of Shangla district of the province when a bus, escorted by a five-vehicle convoy, en route from Islamabad to Kohistan was hit by a vehicle coming from the opposite direction in the hilly terrain, police said. The incident occurred around 1 pm. One of the vehicles of the 13-vehicle convoy caught fire and fell into a ravine, follow-

ing the attack, China's Xinhua news agency said, quoting the sources. Senior police officer Muhammad Ali Gandapur confirmed the incident and the death toll, adding that apparently, it was a suicide attack. "Five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in the attack," Gandapur told the media. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. The police and officials of other security agencies rushed to the scene of the attack and launched a probe into the incident. The Pakistan Army said that strategic projects and sensitive sites vital for Pakistan's economic progress are being targeted as a conscious effort to retard progress and sow discord between Pakistan and its strategic allies and partners, most notably China. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said the attack was "orchestrated by the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship" and added that "Such dastardly acts cannot dent the resolve of Pakistani nation to fight against the scourge of terrorism." The Chinese Embassy

here announced taking all necessary measures to protect the Chinese citizens, institutions and projects in Pakistan, and to ensure such incidents will not happen again. This is the second such attack that has killed Chinese nationals since 2021. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi rushed to the Chinese embassy here and met Chinese ambassador Jiang Zaidong. Naqvi offered condolences and also assured the envoy that the Pakistan government would bring the perpetrators to justice. President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the attack and said, "Anti-Pakistan elements will never succeed in damaging Pak-China friendship." Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Ali Amin Gandapur also has condemned the suicide attack and sought a detailed report from the provincial police chief into the attack on the Chinese vehicle. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army said that the recent incidents of terrorism in Pakistan, notably in Gwadar,

Turbat, and Besham on Tuesday were dastardly acts aimed at destabilizing the internal security situation. "While the first two attempts were successfully thwarted by the armed forces, the latest incident at Besham claimed six innocent civilians including 5 Chinese nationals," the army said in a statement, condemning the incident. "Certain foreign elements are complicit in aiding and abetting terrorism in Pakistan, driven by their vested interests. Despite the veneer of innocence, these elements are being continuously exposed as sponsors of terror," it said. The army declared that Pakistan with the unwavering support of the resilient nation and "our iron-clad ally China" will ensure that all those involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, are held accountable and find their due comeuppance. The Foreign Ministry also "strongly condemned" what it called as the "heinous act of terrorism" and said it will take all necessary measures to bring the terrorists and their facilitators to justice. "Such dastardly acts cannot

dent the resolve of the Pakistani nation to fight against the scourge of terrorism. Today's attack was orchestrated by the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship. We will resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them," it said. "Pakistan and China are close friends and iron brothers. The life and safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan is of paramount importance. Pakistan will continue to work with our Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan," the statement added. Separately, the Chinese Embassy, in a statement, too "strongly condemned the attack" and expressed "deep condolences" to the victims and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families. The Chinese Embassy and Consulates General in Pakistan have launched an emergency plan immediately, requesting the Pakistani side to thoroughly investigate the attack and severely punish the perpetrators, it said. The embassy announced tak-

ing all necessary measures to protect the Chinese citizens, institutions and projects in Pakistan, and to ensure such incidents will not happen again. It also reminded the Chinese citizens, and enterprises in Pakistan to pay close attention to the security situation, enhance security alerts, strengthen security measures, and make every effort to take safety precautions. Chinese experts believe the latest attack is a copy of the July 2021 Dasu terror attack in which nine Chinese nationals and four Pakistani people were killed. This latest case should serve as a wake-up call for Pakistan that it needs to improve the security situation in the country and for China that it should be aware of the terrorist forces that are trying to sabotage the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Chinese security experts told the Global Times. Thousands of Chinese personnel are working in Pakistan on several projects being carried out under the aegis of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

# ‘Pak to seek US waiver for Iran pipeline project’

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has decided to plead "vigorously" and seek exemption from potential US sanctions against the planned construction of a multi-billion dollar pipeline to import cheap gas from neighbouring Iran, the petroleum minister has said, asserting that it "can't afford sanctions" on the project.

Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik said that the government would seek exemption from US sanctions for the multi-billion-dollar Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project, the Dawn newspaper reported. "We will seek exemption from US sanctions. Pakistan cannot afford sanctions in the gas pipeline project," he told journalists during an informal chat on Monday evening. The development came after US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu said at a congressional hearing that Pakistan had so far not sought exemption for the 1,150-kilometre gas pipeline.

Malik said the government would "plead vigorously" Pakistan's case for the waiver on technical, political and economic grounds at relevant forums, including through lobbying. He also expressed the hope that the project's construction would begin soon while complying with contractual obligations with Iran. Malik's remarks were in contrast to the stance put forward by the Foreign Office, whose spokesperson told a press briefing last week that there was no room for any discussion or waiver from a third country. An official said the caretaker government had delayed the filing of a request for exemptions from US sanctions due to the changing geopolitical situation, though its draft had been finalised, according to the report. Pakistan and Iran signed an agreement in May 2009 for the supply of 750 million cubic feet per day of gas for 25 years from Iran's South Pars gas



field. Both countries were required to implement the project in their respective territories. The project was initially conceived as an India-Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline, but later, India left it and became a bilateral project between Pakistan and Iran. According to the agreement, the project was to start supply by January 2015. While Iran has already built over 900 km of the pipeline, the remaining 250 km segment has yet to be completed. The caretaker government opted to start building an 80-kilometre segment of the gas pipeline, extending from the Iranian border to Gwadar, at an estimated cost of USD 158 million (Rs 44.2 billion) to ward off USD 18 billion potential penalties from Tehran. In August last year, Pakistan temporarily shelved the gas pipeline project, apparently under pressure from the US, which imposed sanctions against Tehran over its nuclear programme. On December 21, 2023, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) served a material breach notice to Pakistan's Inter-State Gas Systems (Pvt) Ltd (ISGS), an entity of the petroleum division, alleging material breach of buyer's warranties. The NIOC gave the ISGS 180 days to remedy the alleged material breach and referred the matter to the coordination committee for resolution. If Pakistan doesn't implement the project, Tehran has the option to move the Paris-based International Court of Arbitration, with potential contractual liability estimated to be USD 18 billion, according to the report.

# Pak PM says cash-strapped country has to seek another IMF bailout

**Islamabad (PTI):** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said his government is planning to approach the IMF for "another programme", days after the cash-strapped country struck a staff-level agreement with the global lender regarding the disbursement of the final tranche of USD 1.1 billion. Shehbaz, who took oath as the country's premier on March 4 for a second time since 2022 amidst staggering economic and security challenges, said, "We have to do another IMF programme and it won't work out without one." "Rome wasn't built overnight," the 72-year-old added while addressing the Tax Excellence Awards in Islamabad, The News International reported. Washington-based IMF's global team reached a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities last week on the second and final review of Pakistan's stabilisation programme supported by the global lender's USD 3 billion standby arrangement approved in July last year. Shehbaz, the younger brother of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif, said, "While the programme has some limitations, it is important for ensuring economic stability." The prime minister, who came to power with the formation of a coalition government supported by the Pakistan Peoples Party and four smaller parties, reiterated that a "route will have to be taken to ensure economic stability as well as focus on the country's growth, provide job opportunities to people and address inflation". Last week, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb also maintained that Pakistan will discuss an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the IMF in Washington next month, the report said.

# Militants attack Pak naval air base; 4 terrorists killed

PTI ■ KARACHI

Armed Baloch militants tried to infiltrate one of the main naval air bases in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, but security forces foiled the attack and killed all four terrorists. The attack on Monday night took place in Turbat, a turbulent district in the sparsely populated province. Makran Commissioner Saeed Ahmed Umrani told the media that security forces had foiled an armed terrorist attack at the PNS Siddique Naval Air Base which is among the biggest naval air stations in the country. "The armed men attacked from three sides of the airport boundary, but security forces responded immediately and foiled their attempt to infiltrate the premises," he said. Eyewitnesses reported they had heard gunfire and explosions



throughout the night. According to a statement by the army, terrorists on the night of March 25/26 attempted to attack Pakistan Naval Base, PNS Siddique in the Turbat area of Balochistan province. However, it was thwarted due to the swift and effective response by the troops ensuring the safety and security of personnel and assets. "Security forces in the vicinity

were immediately mobilized to support the naval troops. Synergetic and effective response by the armed forces enabled the killing of all four terrorists in ensuing joint clearance operation," the army said. However, during an intense fire exchange, a 24-year-old Sepoy of the paramilitary Frontier Corps Balochistan was killed. A security official said on condition of anonymity that terror-

ists were unable to cause any damage at the airbase or to aeroplanes. No loss of sensitive naval installations was reported, the official said. A sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area and Pakistan Armed Forces were committed to eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country at all costs. The banned Balochistan Liberation Army claimed that its Majeed Brigade was behind the attack. This is the third major attack on security forces and installations this year in Balochistan claimed by the BLA with the first two attacks being also being repulsed by security forces. Earlier in the year, security forces were attacked in Mach town in which at least ten people were killed but attempts to breach the Mach jail were

thwarted by security forces. On March 24, the BLA also claimed responsibility for an attack on the Gwadar Port Authority Complex. Security forces had killed eight militants of the banned separatist group in the gunfire. Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting the USD 60 billion CPEC projects. The BLA accuses China and Islamabad of exploitation of the resource-rich province, a charge rejected by the authorities. BLA's Majeed Brigade, which was formed in 2011, is a particularly lethal guerilla cell of the BLA. It has been alleged that the group also maintains sanctuaries in areas along the Pakistan-Iran border.

# Senior PML-N leader rebukes PPP over approach towards coalition government

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In the first reported public spat between Pakistan's ruling coalition members, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has launched a scathing criticism of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for its "attitude" towards the coalition government at the Centre. PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah, while speaking on a Geo News programme, said the "attitude of the PPP will remain the same throughout the tenure of the government". "Look at their reaction to the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) chairman (appointment) issue," he said. The former interior minister of Pakistan said it is clear the Bilawal Bhutto Zardari-led PPP will have their "own position on everything". "An impression is coming from allies to have the same attitude. However, we will try to move forward," he added. Sanaullah's remarks come after the PPP strongly objected to



the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif government's decision to appoint Zafar Mahmood, a retired federal government officer, as the IRSA chairman, The News International reported. The PPP termed Mahmood's appointment for a three-year tenure as a violation of constitutional procedures. Following the party's concerns,

the government backtracked on the appointment with Shehbaz Sharif assuring Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah of retracting the notification regarding the appointment. Sanaullah said the PPP should have approached the PML-N directly before reaching out to the media on the appointment.

Sanaullah said if PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif had been the prime minister instead of Shehbaz, he might have said "a decision had been made and it would be reviewed later". In the February 8 general elections, the Sharifs-led party failed to garner a clear majority, albeit technically, it was the largest party with 75 out of 265 seats. In a surprise move, the elder Sharif stepped back in favour of Shehbaz to allow him to lead the coalition as he is believed to have the knack of taking along diverse groups in the polarised country. The elections saw more than 90 independent candidates backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's PTI winning the maximum number of seats in the National Assembly. The PPP and four smaller parties joined the coalition with the PPP supporting the government from outside in return for PML-N support for the election of its senior leader and former president Asif Ali Zardari as the president.

# Prisoners jailed for national security crimes unlikely to get early release: HK leader

**Hong Kong (AP):** Hong Kong's leader said Tuesday that prisoners convicted for serious national security crimes would not likely be granted early release under the tightened rules of a new national security law, signalling a hardening government stance against jailed political activists. Chief Executive John Lee said the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance stipulates that people found guilty of endangering national security must not be granted remission unless the commissioner of correctional services believes the move would not be a national security risk. This also applies to inmates who received sentences before the new law was introduced last Saturday, Lee said. Previously, inmates could have their prison sentences reduced by up to one-third for good conduct under the city's prison rules, provided they were serving terms longer than one

month. At a weekly press briefing, Lee urged residents not to defy the law. "We need to make sure everyone understands that if someone was convicted of serious national security offenses, normally there would not be remission of sentence," he said. Lee's comments came after local media, including the South China Morning Post, reported that the early release of activist Ma Chun-man, which had been scheduled for Monday, was blocked under the new national security law. The remission had been granted due to his good conduct and the blockage was the first of its kind, according to the reports, which cited unnamed sources. The revised practice is expected to affect other activists who are jailed or undergoing trials under a similar sweeping security law imposed by Beijing four years ago to quell massive anti-government protests in 2019.

# NZ joins US, UK in alleging it was targeted by China-backed cyberespionage

**Wellington (AP):** Hackers linked to the Chinese government launched a state-sponsored operation that targeted New Zealand's Parliament in 2021, the country's security minister said Tuesday. New Zealand's allegation comes a day after American and British authorities announced a set of criminal charges and sanctions against seven hackers, all believed to be living in China, who targeted US officials, journalists, corporations and pro-democracy activists, as well as the UK's election watchdog. "The use of cyber-enabled espionage operations to interfere with democratic institutions and processes anywhere is unacceptable," Judith Collins, the defense minister responsible for the Government Communications Security Bureau, said in a statement.

# Multiple victims of Moscow attack in serious condition: Russian officials

**Moscow (AP):** Twenty-two victims of the Russia concert hall attack that killed more than 130 people remain in serious condition in the hospital, Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said Tuesday, according to state news agency Tass. Two of them are children, it said. Russia is still reeling from the attack Friday in which gunmen killed 139 people in a concert hall on the outskirts of Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that the gunmen are "radical Islamists," but despite all evidence pointing to the involvement of Islamic State, Putin repeated his accusation that Ukraine could have played a role. Kyiv has strongly denied any link to the attack. Four men accused of carrying out the attack appeared before a

Moscow court on Sunday on terrorism charges and showed signs of severe beatings. One appeared to be barely conscious during the hearing. The men are citizens of Tajikistan, authorities said, and were named by investigators as Dalerdzhon Mirzoyev, 32; Saidakrami Rachabalizoda, 30; Shamsidin Fariduni, 25; and Mukhammadsobir Faizov, 19. They were charged with committing a terrorist attack resulting in the death of others. The offense carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Russian officials said they detained a total of 11 people over the attack. Another of those detained appeared in court Monday. Alisher Kasimov, a citizen of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia, was charged

over renting an apartment to the men accused of carrying out the attack. A senior Turkish security official confirmed Tuesday that two of the Moscow attackers had spent a "short amount of time" in Turkey before travelling together to Russia on March 2. One of the attackers, Fariduni, entered Turkey on February 20, checked into a hotel in Istanbul's Fatih district the next day and checked out on February 27, the official said. The other, Rachabalizoda, checked into a hotel in the same district on January 5, checking out on January 21. The official said Turkish authorities believe the two suspects "became radicalized in Russia" because they were not in Turkey for long.

# Ukraine ramps up spending on homemade weapons

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine needs any edge it can get to repel Russia from its territory. One emerging bright spot is its small but fast-growing defence industry, which the government is flooding with money in hopes that a surge of homemade weapons and ammunition can help turn the tide. The effort ramped up sharply over the past year as the US and Europe strained to deliver weapons and other aid to Ukraine, which is up against a much bigger Russian military backed by a thriving domestic defence industry. The Ukrainian government budgeted nearly USD 1.4 billion in 2024 to buy and develop weapons at home — 20 times more than before Russia's full-scale invasion. And in another major shift, a huge portion of weapons are now being bought from private-

ly owned factories. They are sprouting up across the country and rapidly taking over an industry that had been dominated by state-owned companies. A privately owned mortar factory that launched in western Ukraine last year is making roughly 20,000 shells a month. "I feel that we are bringing our country closer to victory," said Anatolii Kuzmin, the factory's 64-year-old owner, who used to make farm equipment and fled his home in southern Ukraine after Russia invaded in 2022. Yet like many aspects of Ukraine's war apparatus, its defence sector has been constrained by a lack of money and manpower — and, according to executives and generals, too much government red tape. A more robust private sector could help root out inefficiencies and enable factories to churn out weapons and ammunition even faster. Russia controls nearly a quar-

ter of Ukraine and has gained momentum along the 1,000 kilometre front line by showing a willingness to expend large numbers of troops to make even the smallest of advances. Ukrainian troops regularly find themselves outmanned and outgunned, and this has contributed to falling morale. "You need a mortar not in three years, you need it now, preferably yesterday," said Taras Chmut, director of the Come Back Alive Foundation, an organization that has raised more than USD 260 million over the past decade to equip Ukrainian troops with machine guns, armoured vehicles and more. Kuzmin, the owner of the mortar factory, fled the southern city of Melitopol in 2022 after Russia invaded and seized his factory that mostly made spare parts for farm equipment. He had begun developing a prototype for mortar shells

shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, when it illegally annexed the Crimean Peninsula. Kuzmin took over a sprawling warehouse in western Ukraine last winter. His long-term goals include boosting production to 100,000 shells per month and developing engines and explosives for drones. He is just one of many entrepreneurs transforming Ukraine's weapons industry, which was dominated by state-owned enterprises after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Today, about 80 per cent of the defence industry is in private hands — a mirror image of where things stood a year ago and a stark contrast with Russia's state-controlled defence industry. Each newly made projectile is wrapped in craft paper and carefully packed into wooden crates to be shipped to Romania or Bulgaria, where are loaded with explosives. Several weeks

later, they're shipped back and sent to the front. "Our dream is to establish a plant for explosives," said Kuzmin, who is seeking a partner to make that happen. Ukraine's surge in military spending has occurred against a backdrop of USD 60 billion in US aid being held up by Congress and with European countries struggling to deliver enough ammunition. As impressive as Ukraine's defence sector transformation has been, the country stands no chance of defeating Russia without massive support from the West, said Trevor Taylor, a research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based think tank. "Ukraine is not capable of producing all the munitions that it needs for this fight," Taylor said. "The hold up of USD 60 billion of American help is really proving to be a significant hindrance."



# Sensex, Nifty snap three days winning run

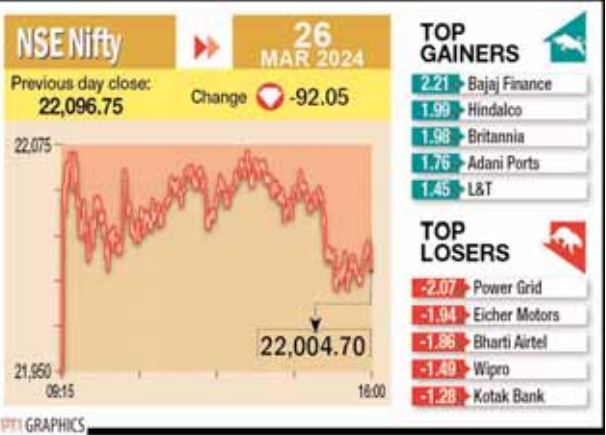
PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 361 points on Tuesday, snapping its three-day gaining streak due to selling in index major Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and IT shares amid mixed global trends. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 361.64 points or 0.50 per cent to settle at 72,470.30 with 20 of its components ending in the red and 10 in the green. During the day, it fell by 468.91 points or 0.64 per cent to 72,363.03 points. The broader Nifty of NSE declined 92.05 points or 0.42 per cent to 22,004.70 as 30 of its constituents dropped and 20 advanced. Among Sensex shares, PowerGrid fell the most by 2.07 per cent. Bharti Airtel dropped 1.99 per cent amid its subsidiary Bharti Hexacom announcing the launch of its Rs 4,275-crore IPO on April 3 at a price band of Rs 542 to Rs 570 per share. HDFC Bank declined 1.11 per cent contributing over 106 points to the total fall in Sensex. Reliance Industries fell



0.88 per cent, adding over 77 points to the fall. IT major Wipro dropped 1.5 per cent, Infosys by 1 per cent and TCS by 0.92 per cent and were a major drag on key indices. Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, and Asian Paints were also among the losers. Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers. "Aligned with global trends, the domestic market sustained

its consolidation pattern, ending close to 22,000. While key data such as US GDP and inflation during the week may provide some clues on future rate cut paths, the fiscal year-ending truncated week, coupled with reduced trading volumes and monthly expiry, are likely to contribute to volatility. "Generally, midcaps are performing well post the consolidation of the last 2-3 weeks, while the IT sector continued to experience sluggishness following weak global IT spending forecasts,"



said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.11 per cent while midcap index climbed 0.71 per cent. Among the indices, teck fell by 0.83 per cent, IT dipped by 0.57 per cent, bankex by 0.51 per cent and financial services by 0.26 per cent. Services jumped 1.48 per cent, really climbed 1.45 per cent, industrials (0.95 per cent) and oil & gas (0.84 per cent) were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled lower, while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the positive territory. European markets were trading mostly in the green. Wall Street ended lower on Monday. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,309.76 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Equity markets were closed on Monday for Hol. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.17 per cent to USD 86.60 a barrel.



## IRDAI issues series of regulations

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Insurance regulator IRDAI has notified a host of regulations, including on surrender charges wherein insurers have to disclose such charges upfront. IRDAI (Insurance Products) Regulations, 2024 merge six regulations into a unified framework aimed at enabling insurers to swiftly respond to evolving market demands, enhancing the ease of conducting business, and boosting insurance penetration. These regulations promote good governance in product design and pricing, including strengthening the principles governing guaranteed surrender value & special surrender value along with disclosures thereof, IRDAI said in a statement. It also ensures that the insurers adopt sound management practices for effective oversight and due diligence, it said. These regulations, which will be effective April 1, 2024, stipulate that the surrender value is expected to remain the same or even lower if policies are surrendered within three years of the purchase. For policies that have been surrendered from the fourth to the seventh year, the surrender value may see a minor increase, it said. A surrender value in insurance refers to the amount paid by the insurers to the policyholder upon terminating the policy before its maturity date. If the policyholder surrenders during the policy tenure, the earnings and savings portion will be paid to him or her. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) at its meeting held on March 19 approved eight principle-based consolidated regulations, following the comprehensive

review of the regulatory framework for the insurance sector. These regulations encompass pivotal domains such as safeguarding policyholders' interests, rural and social sector responsibilities, electronic insurance marketplace, insurance products and operation of foreign reinsurance branches, as well as aspects of registration, actuarial, finance, investment and corporate governance. This comes after the notification of the first consolidated regulation on Expenses of Management of Insurers in January 2024. "It marks a significant milestone in regulatory governance which has replaced 34 regulations with six regulations and introduction of two new regulations enhancing clarity and coherence in the regulatory landscape," the IRDAI said in a statement. The process involved extensive consultations with diverse stakeholders, including insurance industry, experts, and public at large ensuring a comprehensive consideration of varied perspectives in shaping the revised framework, it said. The IRDAI (Rural, Social Sector, and Motor Third Party Obligations) Regulations, 2024 consolidate 2 erstwhile regulations pertaining to minimum business obligations in rural, social sector and motor third party business for insurers, as mandated under the Insurance Act, 1938, it said. Compliance and measurement of these statutory obligations have been revised where the unit of measurement under the rural obligations will now be Gram Panchayat, the scope of social sector has been extended to cover cardholders and beneficiaries under various schemes, it said. Under the Motor Third Party

Obligations, the unit of measurement will be the renewal of insurance coverage to goods-carrying vehicles, passenger-carrying vehicles and tractors, it said. Besides, the IRDAI (Registration and Operations of Foreign Reinsurers Branches & Lloyd's India) Regulations, 2024 consolidate two regulations and aims to foster the systematic development of the reinsurance sector in India by promoting orderly growth and harmonizing the existing legal and regulatory framework. These regulations seek to streamline the operations of entities engaged in reinsurance operations, it said. By promoting transparency and stability, these regulations aim to create a conducive environment for the growth and expansion of the reinsurance sector, ultimately benefiting both insurers and policyholders in India, it said. At the same time, the IRDAI (Protection of Policyholders' Interests and Allied Matters of Insurers) Regulations, 2024 consolidate eight regulations into a unified structure, focusing on several key objectives aimed at ensuring fair treatment of prospects during solicitation and sale of insurance policies and protecting the interests of policyholders throughout their engagement with insurers and distribution channels. These regulations emphasize the adoption of standard procedures and best practices by insurers and distribution channels to fulfill their obligations towards policyholders, including grievance redressal and policyholder-centric governance, it said. Additionally, it said, the regulations aim to promote prudent practices in risk management related to outsourcing activities by insurers.

# LIC world strongest insurance brand: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024. The report said that LIC's brand value remains steady at USD 9.8 billion, accompanied by a brand strength index score of 88.3 and an associated AAA brand strength rating. Following LIC, the rankings highlight Cathay Life Insurance as the second strongest brand, experiencing a 9 per cent increase in brand value to USD 4.9 billion, closely followed by NRMA Insurance, which saw an 82 per cent rise in brand value to USD 1.3 billion, according to a statement by Brand Finance Insurance. Notably, Chinese insurance brands maintain dominance in the global rankings, with Ping An leading with a 4 per cent increase in brand value to USD 33.6 billion, followed by China Life Insurance and CPIC defending their 3rd and 5th



positions, respectively, it said. Allianz from Germany and AXA from France retain their spots in the 2nd and 4th positions to complete the Top 5, it said. Among the brands experiencing significant growth in brand value, NRMA Insurance from Australia stands out with an 82 per cent increase to USD 1.3 billion, along with Denmark's Tryg, which saw a 66 per cent rise to USD 1.6 billion. Additionally, LIC India achieved the highest first-year premium collection of Rs 39,090 crore in FY23, while SBI Life Insurance

and HDFC Life Insurance led the private sector with new business premium collections of Rs 15,197 crore and Rs 10,970 crore, respectively. In recent developments, the government approved a 17 per cent wage revision for LIC employees, effective from August 2022, benefiting over 110,000 employees. LIC's shares also reached an all-time high of Rs 1,175, making it India's most valuable PSU company and reclaiming its status as the fifth most valuable Indian listed company, surpassing SBI in market valuation.

## Nissan to launch three all new models in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Japanese auto major Nissan Motor Co Ltd plans to launch three all-new models in India by fiscal year 2026 and make the country a hub for exports under its new global business plan to drive value and strengthen competitiveness, according to a company statement. Under the new plan, which is split into mid-term imperatives for fiscal years 2024 through 2026, and mid-long-term actions to be carried out through 2030, the company is targeting additional 10 lakh unit sales compared to fiscal year 2023. Globally, Nissan plans to launch 30 new models over the next three years, of which 16 will be electrified, and 14 will be ICE (international combustion engine) models, to meet the diversified customer needs in markets where the pace of electrification differs, the company said. It plans to launch a total of 34 electrified models from fiscal year 2024 and 2030 to cover all segments, with the model mix of electrified vehicles expected to account for 40 per cent global-



ly by fiscal year 2026 and rise to 60 per cent by the end of the decade. In India, the company said it would "launch three all-new models and become a hub for exports, at a level of 1,00,000 units". The company on Monday launched "The Arc", its new business plan to drive value and strengthen competitiveness. "The Arc plan shows our path to the future. It illustrates our continuous progression and ability to navigate changing market conditions. This plan will enable us to go further and faster in driving value and competitiveness. Faced with extreme market volatility, Nissan is taking decisive actions guided by the new plan to ensure sustainable growth and profitability," Nissan President and Chief Executive Officer Makoto Uchida said.

## Zee identifies verticals for critical assessment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Zee Entertainment has decided to have a "critical assessment" of some of its business verticals to reduce losses and enhance performance levels to achieve key performance metrics. The company has formed a Monthly Management Mentorship, called 3M Program, which will guide and enable the management team to achieve key performance metrics, including a targeted 20 per cent EBITDA margin, as proposed by its MD & CEO recently, said a statement from Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL). The 3M Program Special Committee has identified business verticals such as Margo Networks, which offers internet connectivity under the brand name 'Sugarbox', Teleplay (showing theatre play), and Zindagi, a general entertainment channel which broadcasts short-run programming, rather than ongoing, indefinite series. The list also includes the movie app Weyyak and the English Cluster of Linear TV Business. "The Special Committee has advised that the identified business verticals will need to substantially reduce losses and enhance their performance levels," it said. To drive the 3M Program, the ZEE board has formed a Special Committee



comprising its Chairman R Gopalan and Chairman of the Audit Committee U P Agarwal to review the business performance and provide the required directional guidance, it said. Besides, 3M Program Special Committee has also reviewed the music Business of Zee and advised enhancing the monetisation avenues and subsequently increase the vertical's contribution to the company's bottom line. "It has also advised that the Music Business should focus on further optimising its costs, without losing its leadership position in the market," Zee said. It has also conducted a detailed analysis of the Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC), which had incurred an expenditure of approximately Rs 600 crore last year. The Committee has advised to "reduce the expenditure at the TIC by 50 per cent, for the financial year 2024-25 and utilise its

services to enhance the company's content development, distribution and monetisation approach. Though TIC has developed a substantial level of technology and tools, it needs to focus on return on investment. The Committee has advised the management to "stay focused on its core expertise, ethos and DNA i.e. Content" and to utilise the services of TIC to enhance its content development and distribution process. "It has also advised that the management should leverage the TIC's Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) tools to gain a deeper insight into the consumer profiles," it said. Earlier this month, in an investor's conference call, Zee Chairman had said since 2020 ZEEL's performance has been impacted due to industry-wide macro slowdown, transitory issues, and management bandwidth constraints due to merger activities. The board has also decided to closely monitor the business model and plan presented by the MD & CEO of the company, wherein he has provided the roadmap to improve the performance and efficiency of each of the businesses to achieve higher EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization).

## Amazon invested \$1.2 billion in 2023 to tackle counterfeit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online marketplace Amazon invested more than USD 1.2 billion and hired about 15,000 experts in 2023 to protect the brand, its sellers, and customers from fraud and counterfeit, according to the Amazon 2023 Brand Protection Report. Amazon said when a customer purchases from the store, they trust they will receive an authentic product, and when businesses choose to sell in the store, they trust Amazon to provide a great selling experience free from competition with bad actors. "In 2023, Amazon invested more than USD 1.2 billion and employed more than 15,000 people, including machine learning scientists, software developers, and expert investigators, who were dedicated to protecting customers, brands, selling partners, and our store from counterfeit, fraud, and



other forms of abuse," it said. Amazon said it uses document forgery detection, advanced image and video verification, and other technologies to confirm the authenticity of government-issued identity documents quickly and whether they match the individual applying to sell in the marketplace. These technologies, it said, coupled with continued innovation in its machine learning-based detection, are deterring bad actors from attempting to create new Amazon selling accounts. "In 2023, Amazon stopped more than 700,000 bad actor attempts

to create new selling accounts, stopping them before they were able to list a single product for sale in our store. This is down from 6 million attempts by bad actors to create new Amazon selling accounts in 2020," the report said. It added that Amazon identified, seized, and appropriately disposed of more than 7 million counterfeit products worldwide in 2023, preventing them from harming customers or being resold elsewhere in the retail supply chain. It added that since its launch in 2020, Amazon's Counterfeit Crimes Unit has pursued more than 21,000 bad actors through litigation and criminal referrals to law enforcement. Since 2020, it said, while the number of products available for sale in the store has grown significantly, the platform saw a more than 30 per cent decrease in the total valid notices of infringement submitted by brands.



## Rupee jumps 33 paise to close at 83.28 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered from all-time low level and appreciated 33 paise to close at 83.28 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday on decline in the US dollar and positive Asian currencies. Forex traders said weak domestic markets and surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains for the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.33 against the greenback. The unit hit an intra-day high of 83.26 and a low of 83.37. The local unit finally settled at 83.28 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 33 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee depreciated 48 paise to settle at an all-time low of 83.61 against the American currency. Forex and equity markets were closed on Monday on account of Hol. Market analysts said, for the domestic unit, record forex reserves provide a cushion, enabling the Reserve Bank to mitigate the rupee's downside.

**BUSINESS BRIEF**



**VIT-AP HOLDS VLAUNCHPAD 2024**  
**AMARAVATI:** The third Annual National level Business Plan Competition, VLaunchPad 2024, held its Grand Finale and Award Ceremony on March 23. Organised by VIT-AP School of Business (VSB) in collaboration with the Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship Cell (IIEC) of VIT-AP University, the event aimed at promoting creativity, entrepreneurship, and innovative ideas geared towards the development of our nation - Viksit Bharat @ 2047. VLaunchPad 2024 attracted registrations from across India, with over 650 teams representing 72 universities, including prestigious institutes such as IITs, IIITs, IIMs, NITs, and others.

## Shapoorji Pallonji Group sells Gopalpur port to Adani Ports

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group on Tuesday announced the sale of its brownfield Gopalpur Port to Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd for an enterprise value of Rs 3,350 crore, as part of its deleveraging strategy with planned asset monetisation. The under-construction Gopalpur Port in Odisha was acquired in 2017 by the SP Group. Currently, it is capable of handling 20 MTPA. The port had recently signed up with Petronet LNG for setting up a greenfield LNG regasification

terminal, adding predictable long-term cash flows for the port, the group said in a statement. The sale of the Gopalpur Port is the second port divestment in the last few months from the SP Group, a diversified construction and infrastructure, real estate and energy conglomerate. It had earlier divested its Dharamtar Port in Maharashtra to JSW Infrastructure Ltd for an enterprise value of Rs 710 crore. The group had acquired the Dharamtar Port in 2015 and had successfully turned around port operations, increasing

capacity from less than 1 MTPA, when it took over to an expected capacity to handle 5 MTPA in FY24." The planned divestments of Gopalpur Port and Dharamtar Port, at a significant enterprise value, demonstrate our group's ability to turn-around assets and create stakeholder value in a relatively short period of time, capitalising our core strengths in project development and construction," a Shapoorji Pallonji Group spokesperson said. The spokesperson further said, "These divestments are key milestones in our roadmap to reduce group debt."

## SpiceJet shares climb four per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of SpiceJet on Tuesday jumped 4 per cent after the company said it has signed a pact with Export Development Canada (EDC) to settle liabilities worth USD 90.8 million (around Rs 755 crore). The stock climbed 3.93 per cent to settle at Rs 61.06 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 7.23 per cent to Rs 63. In terms of volume, 93.12 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE during the day. The liabilities stem from a loan acquired by the airline in 2011 for the procurement of 15

aircraft. The terms of the settlement pact will allow the airline to clear major liabilities, leading to a comprehensive revitalisation of the airline's balance sheet, SpiceJet said in a statement on Tuesday. Under the agreement, SpiceJet will acquire full ownership of 13 EDC-financed Q400 aircraft, bolstering the airline's operational capabilities and fleet management, it said. SpiceJet will pay a comprehensive settlement amount to resolve outstanding liabilities amounting to close to USD 91 million, the airline said.



## HOCKEY INDIA AWARDS

# Sreejesh, Savita, Harmanpreet in contention for multiple honours

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran goalkeepers P R Sreejesh and Savita Punia found themselves in contention for the ‘Player of the Year’ honours in the men’s and women’s category respectively as Hockey India unveiled nominees for its annual awards which will be presented here on March 31. Sreejesh, a former captain, and Punia have been among the most consistent performers for India and have also been nominated for the goalkeeper of the year award. India men’s team captain and defender Harmanpreet Singh has also been shortlisted in two categories. He will be in contention for the player of the year as well as the defender of the year award.

The player of the year award in both categories comes with a prize of Rs 25 lakh each, while the goalkeeping trophy will fetch the winner Rs five lakh. From eight different categories, a total of 32 nominations have made the shortlist for a total prize purse of Rs 7.56 crore, Hockey India said in a press release. “Notably, the pinnacle of the event, the Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award, will carry the most substantial cash purse of Rs 30 lakh, honouring an individual’s extraordinary contributions to the sport over the years,” the HI added. The Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men) and Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player

of the Year (Women), which are meant for Under-21 players, offers a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh each. The Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year, Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year, and Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year come with a prize of ₹five lakh. “Selecting the nominees proved to be a challenging task, given the outstanding performances showcased by both the men’s and women’s teams in recent times,” said Hockey India President Dilip Kumar Tirkey. “These awards serve as a testament to the dedication, talent, and passion that our athletes, coaches, umpires, and officials bring to the field day in and day out,” added secretary general Bhola Nath Singh. The Nominees for the Hockey India Annual

Awards: Goalkeeper of the Year: Mohit HS, PR Sreejesh, Savita Punia, Krishan Bahadur Pathak Defender of the Year: Deep Grace Ekka, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Udit Midfielder of the Year: Salima Tete, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Navneet Kaur Forward of the Year: Vandana Kataria, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh Upcoming Player of the Year (Women – Under 21): Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Deepika, Deepika Soreng, Sunelita Toppo. Upcoming Player of the Year (Men – Under 21): Uttam Singh, Amir AliVishnukant Singh, Arajjeet Singh Hundal Player of The Year (Women): Savita Punia, Salima Tete, Vandana Kataria, Navneet Kaur.

# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I Mohan Lal**, Legally Father Of Rakesh Kumar Residence At Village Rajpura Koular, Po Birpur, Tehsil Bari Brahmna, Distt. Samba, State J&K, Pin 181133, Declare That In My All Civil Documents My Date Of Birth Is Mentioned As 02-05-1948 But As Per My Son Service Record It Is Erroneously Mentioned As 01-07-1956.

**I Ratano Devi**, Legally Mother Of Rakesh Kumar Residence At Village Rajpura Koular, Po Birpur, Tehsil Bari Brahmna, Distt. Samba, State J&K, Pin 181133 Have Changed My Name From Ratino Devi To Ratano Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 26 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

**I, Reyya Padmaja** Is Wife Of No. Jc-3139381, Nb/Sub, Anandaro Reyya Residing At 15-396, Sivaji Nagar, Near Iiti College Down, Palasa Tehsil Palasa Distt. Srikakulam Pin 532221 State Andhra Pradesh Have Change My Name In All Documents From R Padmaja To Reyya Padmaja And Date Of Birth 29-12-1984 To 30.08.1984.

**I, Khavdiya Pamuben** Maganbhai Is Mother Of No. 6394667f, Hav, Khavadiya Dineshbhai Maganbhai, Resident Of Village Salasar, Po. Dhandhuka, Tehsil Dhandhuka District Ahmedabad State Gujarat Pin 382460 Declare That In My Son's Army Service Records My Name & Date Of Birth Is Wrongly Mentioned As Pamubhen & Date Of Birth 01/07/1945 But Actual And Correct My Name Khavdiya Pamuben Maganbhai & Date Of Birth 01/01/1941.

**I, No. 6394667f**, Hav, Khavadiya Dineshbhai Maganbhai, Resident Of Village Salasar, Po. Dhandhuka, Tehsil Dhandhuka, District Ahmedabad State Gujarat Pin 382460 Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From K Snehabhen Dinesh Bhai To Khavadiya Snehadineshbhai Vide Affidavit Dated 26 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

**I, No. 6394667f**, Hav, Khavadiya Dineshbhai Maganbhai, Resident Of Village Salasar, Po. Dhandhuka, Tehsil Dhandhuka, District Ahmedabad State Gujarat Pin 382460 Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Komal Ben To Khavadiya Komal Vide Affidavit Dated 26 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

**I, No. 6394667f**, Hav, Khavadiya Dineshbhai Maganbhai, Resident Of Village Salasar, Po. Dhandhuka, Tehsil Dhandhuka, District Ahmedabad State Gujarat Pin 382460 Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Tanvi To Khavadiya Tanvi Dineshbhai Vide Affidavit Dated 26 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

**I, No. 6394667f**, Hav, Khavadiya Dineshbhai Maganbhai, Resident Of Village Salasar, Po. Dhandhuka, Tehsil Dhandhuka, District Ahmedabad State Gujarat Pin 382460 Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Rosani To Khavadiya Rosni Dineshbhai Vide Affidavit Dated 26 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

**I, Urmila** Legally Spouse Of Dharmendra Kumar Residing At Village Rasora Post Bhimsar, Tehsil And District Jhunjhunu State Rajasthan Pin code 333001 Have Changed My Name From Urmila Kumari To Urmila Vide Affidavit Dated 09 March 2024 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

**I Jobanmeet Singh** S/O Satnam Singh R/O Zira Gate Rakhri Road Ferozepur City Declare That On My Passport My Mother's Incorrect Name Is Written As Parmjit Kaur. But Right Name Of My Mother Is Written As Parmjit Kaur, Which Is True & Correct. All Concerned Please Note.

**I Jasmeet Kaur** D/O Satnam Singh R/O Zira Gate Rakhri Road Ferozepur City Declare That On My Passport My Mother's Incorrect Name Is Written As Parmjit Kaur. But Right Name Of My Mother Is Written As Parmjit Kaur, Which Is True & Correct. All Concerned Please Note.

**I, Gourav**, son of Shri Virender, resident of Bass Badshahpur Tehsil Bass, District Hisar, declare that my passport number is J8502547. Which was issued on 03.10.2011. Which was valid till 02.10.2021 in which my father's name Virender Singh was entered by mistake. I want to register my father's name as Virender as per all my IDs, which should be done.

**I, Suman** W/o Ramphal R/o Village Bhana, Tehsil Pundri, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Suman to Suman Rani. In future, I will be known by the name of Suman Rani. All concerned please note.

**I, Virender Kumar** S/o Chajju Ram Gupta, 2 New Garden Colony, Sector 12 Kharar, Mohali have changed name to Virender Kumar Gupta

**I**, hitherto known as Sunita wife of Manmohan Singh R/o V. Kikarwala Rupa, Fazilka 152123 PB, have changed name and shall hereafter be known as Sunita Choudhary.

**I**, hitherto known as Josaf Masih son of Darshan Masih R/o F 529, Oddan Wali Basti, Fazilka 152123 PB, have changed name and shall hereafter be known as Josaf Masih.

**I**, hitherto known as Anuradha Bhugari (before marriage) wife of Vikas Kumar and daughter of Chhagan Lal Bhugari R/o 4/3361/10, Vijay Colony Road, M.C.Colony, Fazilka 152123 Pb, have changed name and shall hereafter be known as Anuradha.

**I, Rabiya** D/o Vijay Garg R/o Bhatia Nagar Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Rabiya Garg.

**I, Balvinder** S/o Lakhbeer Singh R/o Kali Mata Mandir Tohana (Fatehabad) have change my name Balvinder Singh. That Balvinder is my name Singh is my Surname.

**I, Jasvinder Singh** S/o Gulvinder Singh R/o Nangla Tehsil Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed name given Jasvinder and Singh as Surname

**I, Shyam Lal** S/o Sucha Ram R/o Balianwala Tehsil Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed name given Shyam and Lal as Surname.

**I Kiran Kumari** wife of Bhavishan Kumar, resident of Village Hambehwal Tehsil Nangal, District Ropar have changed my name from Kiran Bala to Kiran Kumari.

**I, Amit Kumar** S/o Sh. Ram Mehar R/o H. No. 644, Sector - 4, Rohtak, Haryana - 124001 declare that I have changed my name from Amit to Amit Kumar. In future I will be known as Amit Kumar for all purposes.

**I Mohit Luthra** S/o Sh. Davinder Kumar R/o House No.431, Sector -14, Urban Estate, Karnal have changed my name from Mohit to Mohit Luthra.

**I Manoj Batra** S/o Sh. Jiwan Dass R/o H.No.1477, Sector- 9, U/E, Karnal have changed my name from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Batra.

**I, Gurmeet Singh** S/o Harbans Singh R/o Near Gurudwara, Pind Purana, PO. Massania, Tehsil Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab have changed my name to Gurmit Singh.

**I, Balbir Kaur** w/o Jaswant Singh r/o Vill. Prempur, Po. Narur, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab have spelling correction in my name from Balbir Kaur to Balvir Kaur.

**I, Kuldeep Singh** s/o Sarwan Singh r/o Patti Ram Ki, VPO. Jandiala, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have spelling correction in my name from Kuldeep Singh to Kuldeep Singh.

**I**, hitherto known as Swaran Kaur W/o Manjit Singh residing at Saheed Udhm Singh Nagar, Satnam Pura, Phagwara, Kapurthala, Punjab- 144401 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satnam Kaur.

**I, Balvir Singh** s/o Vashan Singh r/o H.No. 222, Gur Arjan Dev Nagar, Basti Mithu, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab-144002 have changed my name-spelling from Balvir Singh to Balbir Singh.

**I, Ashima Mehan** D/o Jyoti Sarup Mehan r/o Patti Gaggari Ki, VPO. Jandiala, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Aashima Kumari Mehan to Ashima Mehan for all Purposes.

**I, Nirmala** mother of No 15633271F GDSM Sachin Pandey, serving in unit 4 Guards, (1 Rajput) C/o56 APO have changed my name from Nirmala to Nirmaala Pandey.

**I, Paramjit Singh** S/o Manjit Singh R/o VPO. Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have spelling correction in my name from Paramjit Singh to Parmjit Singh.

**I, Sarabjit Kaur** W/o Vijay Kumar R/o VPO. Khurla Kingra, Nakodar Road, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Sarabjit Kaur to Kaur Sarabjit (Surname as Kaur)

**I, Kulwinder Kaur** Khehra W/o Jagjit Singh Khehra R/o VPO. Mulewal Khehra, Tehsil Shahkot, Distt. Jalandhar-144702, Punjab have changed my name from Kulwinder Kaur Khehra to Kulwinder Kaur.

**I, Bhajan Kaur** @ Harbhajan Kaur wife of S. Kunan Singh @ Kundan Singh Resident of House No.87, Niwi Patti, Near Makhan Tailor, Takkia Colony, Kot Khalsa, Amritsar hereby certified that both the names Bhajan Kaur and Harbhajan Kaur belong to me and are of one and the same person.

**I, Sonal Gupta** D/O Rajneesh Gupta W/O Rahul Gulati #3566, Sector 35-D, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sonal Gulati.

**I, Ramesh Chander** S/O Chatter Singh R/o Dherdu Sub-Tehsil Dhand Distt.Kaithal have changed my name Ramesh Kumar.

**I, Deva Singh** S/o Tulsi Ram R/o Chandigarh Farm Murtzapur, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my Name Baldev Singh.

**I, Arvinder Kaur** W/o Lovepreet Singh Vill.Gorkha, Ismailabad, Kurukshetra have Changed My Given Name Arvinder Surname Kaur.

**I, Parveen Kumar** S/o Sunder Lal R/o Udhm Singh Colony, Mata Gate, Kaithal have Changed My Name Parveen Verma.

**I, Payal Panwar** Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Ankush Panwar R/O Vill- Chhacharpur, Po- Gungakhri, Teh- Baraut, Distt- Baghat, State- Uttar Pardesh, Pin Code- 250621. Have Changed My Name From Payal Panwar To Payal Tomar Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb99477834162914w Dated 25-03-2024 Before Distt- Court Gurdaspur (Punjab).

**I, Jc No.247246n** Ris Maj Kailash Chandra S/O Mahabeer R/O 62 Cavalary Tibri Cantt, Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur Punjab. Declare That In My Army Service Record My Father Name Mahabeer Prasad And Mother name Mankori Devi Is Wrong. But My Father Name Mahabeer And My Mother Name Mankori Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No.In-B99646245313106w Dated 26-03-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur Punjab India.

**I, No.15504585L** Ld Rajesh S/O Om Parkash R/O 62 Cavalary Tibri Cantt, Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur Punjab. Declcare That In My Army Service Record My Wife Name Manju Is Wrong. But My Wife Name Manju Devi Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb99650459099743w. Dated 26-03-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur Punjab India.

**I, Jaspal Singh** Kahlon S/O Joginder Singh R/O 89 Kailash Enclave Near Abrol Hospital Batala Road Gurdaspur Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur Punjab. Have Changed My Name From Jaspal Singh Kahlon To Jaspal Singh.

**I No.1492856-M**, Ex. Spr. Dhanraj Singh S/O Sh Gurdial Singh R/O Village Manoharpura Po Massanian Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed My Daughter Name From Vansraj Kaur To Vanshraj Kaur.

**I Sahil** S/O Jaspal R/O Village Raju Majra Tehsil Balachaur District S.B.S. Nagar Have Changed My Name From Sahil To Sahil Singh.

**I Mamta** W/O Amran Arora R/O Gali No.02, Khrothran Road Old Guru Harkrishan Nagar Phagwara District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name Mamta To Mamta Arora, After Marriage.

**I Tajinder Singh** S/O Mohinder Singh R/O H.No.780. Street No.12. Tibba Sahib, Hoshiarpur 146001 Punjab Have Changed My Name From Tajinder Singh To Tajinder Singh Saini.

**I Parmjit Kaur** W/O Charanjit Singh R/O Village Dhadday P.O. Rawalpindi Tehsil Phagwara District Kapurthala Punjab Have Changed My Name From Parmjit Kaur To Parmajit Kaur.

**I Gurdip Singh** S/O Karnail Singh, R/O Village Mukho Mazara, P.O. Barian Kalan, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Gurdip Singh To Gurdeep Singh.

**I Sahnaj** W/O Ahsan Ali R/O H.No.B-2/39/14, Mohalla Civil Line Extension, Hoshiarpur 146001, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Shahnaz To Sahnaj.


**I Vijay Singh** S/O Santokh Singh R/O Village Seena P.O. Jallowal Khanoor Distt. Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name To Vijay Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

**I Skinder Kaur** W/O Sandeep Kumar R/O Village Manjhi, P.O. Nara, Tehsil & Distt. Holiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Skinder Kaur Dhindsa To Skinder Kaur.

**I Aarti Devi** Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Name Dube Durgesh R/O 5/8, Jagdish Mandirini Chali Opp. Chepirog Hospital Behrampur Ahmedabad City, Gujarat 380022 Have Changed My Name From Aarti Devi To Arti Durgesh Dubey. Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB99608787308825W Dated 26-03-2024, Before (Judicial Magistrate).

**I Vishaldeep Singh** S/O Hardeep Singh Vahra R/O Vill. Daulatpura Ucha, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Vishaldeep Singh Vahra.

**I Sarabjit Kaur** Wife Of Resham Singh Kalyan Resident Of Moga Have Changed My Name To Sarabjeet Kaur.



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132, 133, 134, Sector- 9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of **Immovable** Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described **Immovable** property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Jatinder Pal Singh (Borrower), Karwaldeep Kaur (Co-Borrower) LAN No. LBLUD00005341908, LBLUD00004813914, LBLUD00004388915	M C No. B-31-2141/2, Comprised In Khasra No.781, Khata No.1198/1293, Situated At Village Taraf Saidan, H.B.No.172, Abadi Known As Adarsh Nagar, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana Punjab Area: 100 Sq. Yd.	Rs. 30,56,783/- as on March 20, 2024.	Rs. 30,60,000/- Rs. 3,06,000/-	April 03, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	April 23, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
2.	Dinesh Narang (Borrower), Anu Narang (Co-Borrower) LAN No. LBLUD00005404205, LBLUD00003337196, LBLUD00002450122, LBLUD00002450121	Plot No. F- 67, Comprised In Khasra No.31/11/2-12-13-31/24-41/4- 31/14/2-15-16-17-25, Khata No.291/300-292/301-294/303, Wakia Pind Ayali Khurd, H.b.No.153, Abadi Known As Shaheed Sukhdev Nagar (south City), Tehsil & District Ludhiana Punjab Area: 500 Sq. Yd.	Rs. 2,54,79,093/- as on March 20, 2024	Rs. 2,57,00,000/- Rs. 25,70,000/-	April 03, 2024 from 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM	April 23, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link -https://disposalhub.com)**. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **April 22, 2024 before 05:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector – 9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017** on or before **April 22, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.**, along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted **ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132 133 134, Sector – 9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017** on or before **April 22, 2024 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of **"ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Chandigarh.**

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8355859934/8584874809**

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited** 2. **Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** 3. **HectaProptech Pvt Ltd.** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: March 27, 2024**  
**Place: Ludhiana**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**I, Pinky Kanwar** spouse of Nitendra Singh resident of Village- Kaliphari, Post- Papurna, Tehsil- Khethi, District- Jhunjhunu, State- Rajasthan, Pin-333503, have changed my name from Pinky Kanwar to Pinki Kanwar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB99670767149906W dated 26 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Nisha Kumari** spouse of Sandeep Kumar resident of Village- Upper Sohar, Post- Sandhole, Tehsil- Sandhole, District- Mandi, State- HP, Pin-176090, have changed my name from Nisha Sharma to Nisha Kumari Vide affidavit No.IN-PB99670500351165W dated 26 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Diksha** spouse of Navle Ashok Altmaran resident of Village- Pall, Post- Pall, Tehsil- Beed, District- Beed, State- Maharashtra, Pin- 431122, have changed my name from Diksha to Navle Diksha Ashok Vide affidavit No.IN-PB99673476625427W dated 26 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.15623943P** NK Vikram Singh resident of Village- Mohammadpur Goojar, Post- Mohammadpur Goojar, Tehsil- Behror, District- Alwar, State- Rajasthan, Pin- 301701, have changed my Brother name from Bhoopender to Bhoopendra Vide affidavit

**I, Sakshi Aggarwal** W/o Gautam Bansal, R/o H.No. 269, Sector 19, Huda, Kaithal, Tehsil & District Kaithal declare that I have changed my name from Sakshi Aggarwal to Sakshi Bansal. Please Note.

**I, Santosh** W/o Shishan Chand Sharma, R/o H.No. 861 A, Dwarka Puri, Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar declare that My Actual Name is Santosh. I am not using any other name instead of my actual name i.e. Santosh.

**I, Maninder Kaur** Dhammu W/o Harjinder Singh R/o Lakhe Wali Gali Opposite New Bus Stand Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar Talwandi Bhai Distt Ferozepur have changed my name to Maninder Kaur.

**I, Nimrat Khurana** D/o Joginder Singh R/o H.No. 2217, Sec 21 C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Nimrat Kaur.

**I, Sarbjit Kaur** W/O Dalwinder Singh R/O Vill. Nagri, Tehsil Patran, Distt. Patiala Have Change My Name From Sarbjit Kaur Chauhan To Sarbjit Kaur.

**I Munni Dhami** W/o Lakhwinder Singh Vpo Mand Pandher Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur have changed my name Munni Dhami to Mona Dhami.

**I Amandeep Kaur** Kaler W/o Buta Singh Vill Talwandi Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Amandeep Kaur.

**I Buta Singh** Kaler S/o Mohinder Singh Vill Talwandi Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Buta Singh.

I Hitherto Known As Malkit Singh S/O Sh. Gurnam Singh Residing At Vpo Dhanoo, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Singh Malkit.

**I Gurdev Singh** @ Major Singh S/o Sarwan Singh R/o Manuke (Ludhiana) declare that both name are one and the same person.

**I Lakhwinder Singh** Jhammat S/o Boota Singh R/o Raikot (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Lakhwinder Singh.

**I Pardeep Singh** S/o Sudagar Singh Vpo Bassian (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Pardeep Singh Aulakh.

**I Parveen Joshi** D/o Harjinder Pal Joshi, W/o Sahil Sharma R/o 424 Preet Nagar Social Road Jalandhar City my given name is Parveen and my Surname is Joshi.

**I Kanchan** W/O Mohinder Singh V.P.O. Patti Dehal Pasla, Tehsil Phillaur District Jalandhar 144037 have changed my name to Kanchan Sarpal.

**I Chetan** S/o Avtar Singh R/o H. No. 10, W. No. 04 Tanda, Teh Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Punjab have changed my name to Chetan Singh.

**I, Vipran Kumar** S/o Ved Prakash Garg R/o #14, Opp. Govt. Girls School, GTB Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) changed my name to Vipran Garg.

**I, Chandan Bala** W/o Vipran Garg R/o #14, Opp. Govt. Girls School, GTB Nagar, Khanna {Ludhiana} changed my name to Chandan.

**I Gurmeet Singh** Sodhi S/o Dalbir Singh R/o Lalchian Chak Mobain Hardo Dhandi Distt Firozpur have changed my name Gurmeet Singh.

**I Sat Paul Singh** S/o Arjun Singh R/O Village Pir Ke Khangarh District Ferozepur have changed my name Satpal Singh.

**I Angad Singh** S/o Sukhwinderpal Singh R/o Village Ratta khara Punjab Singh Wala Tehsil and District Ferozepur have changed my name from Anged Singh to Angad Singh.

**I, Anita** W/o Dhaminder Mittal R/O House No.55, Ward No. 03, Jhoke Road Ferozepur Cantt have changed my name to Anita Mittal. After Marriage.

**I, Dhaminder S/o** Pawan Kumar R/o House No.55, Ward No. 03, Jhoke Road Ferozepur Cantt have changed my name to Dhaminder Mittal.

**I Gurmej Singh** Chahal S/o Banta Singh R/o Village Sadhanwala District Faridkot have changed my name to Gurmej Singh.

**I Jit Ram** S/o Dhanna Ram R/o W.No. 4 Vpo Miani Teh Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Punjab have changed my name to Jeet Ram.

**I Lakhwinder Kaur** Mann W/o Daljit Singh R/O Village Thara, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Lakhwinder Kaur.

**I Jagjeet Singh** Brar S/o Telu Singh R/O Village Kot Sukhia (Faridkot) have changed my Minor Son Name Ekamjeet Singh to Ekamjeet Singh Brar.

**I Dogar Singh** S/O Bant Singh R/O VPO - Bijra, Tehsil Khanna Distt- Ludhiana, Punjab-141412, Have Changed My Name To Baldev Singh.

**I Satish Gupta** Alias Satish Kumar Gupta S/O Madan Lal R/O By Pass Road, 101 Spring Valley, Rampura Phul District Bathinda 151103, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Satish Kumar.

**I Anjali Verma** W/O Tarsen Chand Mehta R/O #55-C St No.3 Partap Nagar Patiala Have Changed My Name To Anjali Mehta.

**I Kanwaljit Singh** S/O Gurbachan Singh R/O #50-B Century Enclave Patiala Have Changed My Name To Kanwaljit Singh Kamboj.

**I Sarabjit Kaur** W/O Amrik Singh R/O Vill. Sahnipur URF Tanda, Massingham, Patiala (Pb.) Have Changed My Name To Sarabjeet Kaur.

**I Amarik Singh** S/O Sucha Singh R/O Vill. Sahnipur URF Tanda, Massingham, Patiala (Pb.) Have Changed My Name To Amrik Singh.

**I Harpal Singh** Sangha S/O Gurdev Singh Sangha S R/O Village Near Khet, Sangha Patti Gill, Tehsil Bagha Purana, District Moga, Punjab-142038, India Have Changed My Name To Pal Singh.

**I Dilip Singh** S/O Moti Singh Village Kurbara, Neem Ka Thana, Rajasthan Have Changed My Name From Dilip Singh Tanwar To Dilip Singh For All Purpose In Future.

**I Gagandeep Singh** S/O Manjeet Singh # 352 Sawan Puri, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar Have Changed My Name From Gagandeep To Gagandeep Singh.

**I, Manisha** W/O Sh. Muneesh Kumar R/O Ward No. 11, Street No. 2, Deep Colony, Garhshankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Pin-144527, Punjab, India Have Changed My Name From Manisha To Manisha Sahota.

**I, Sehajnoor Singh** S/O Jasvir Singh Bajwa R/o Village Birampur, P.O. Rampur Bilon, Tehsil Garhshankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India Have changed My Name From Sehajnoor Singh To Singh Sehajnoor.

**I, Jaswinder Singh** S/o Sh. Ajit Singh R/o Vpo. Terkiana, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Pin-144214, Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Jaswinder Singh To Jasvinder Singh.





# MI, SRH LOOK TO MAKING WINING COMEBACKS

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Mumbai Indians will aim to land the killer punch after fluffing an easy run-chase in their opener when they meet a dangerous Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Five-time champions MI had a lot going for them in their tournament opener against the Gujarat Titans, whether it was the incisive spells from pacer Jasprit Bumrah, Dewald Brevis' impactful knock or Rohit Sharma's fireworks at the top of the order.

But MI, who have built a reputation of slow starters over the years, could not manage 48 runs off 36 balls with seven wickets in hand. With the 10-team event being more competitive than ever before, Mumbai cannot afford more such lackadaisical performances going forward.

In his first game as Mumbai captain, Hardik pushed himself down the order at number seven to accommodate the likes of Tim David and Brevis higher up.

Considering he batted much higher for the Gujarat Titans last year, there is a case for him to bat higher up the order.

Opener Ishan Kishan, back to action after a long break, could

only last four balls against GT. With the T20 World Cup in mind, his performances will be tracked closely and have added significance. He needs to be at his best with the bat and behind the stumps to make the national squad.

Hardik will also be expecting an improved performance from spinners Shams Mulani and Piyush Chawla.

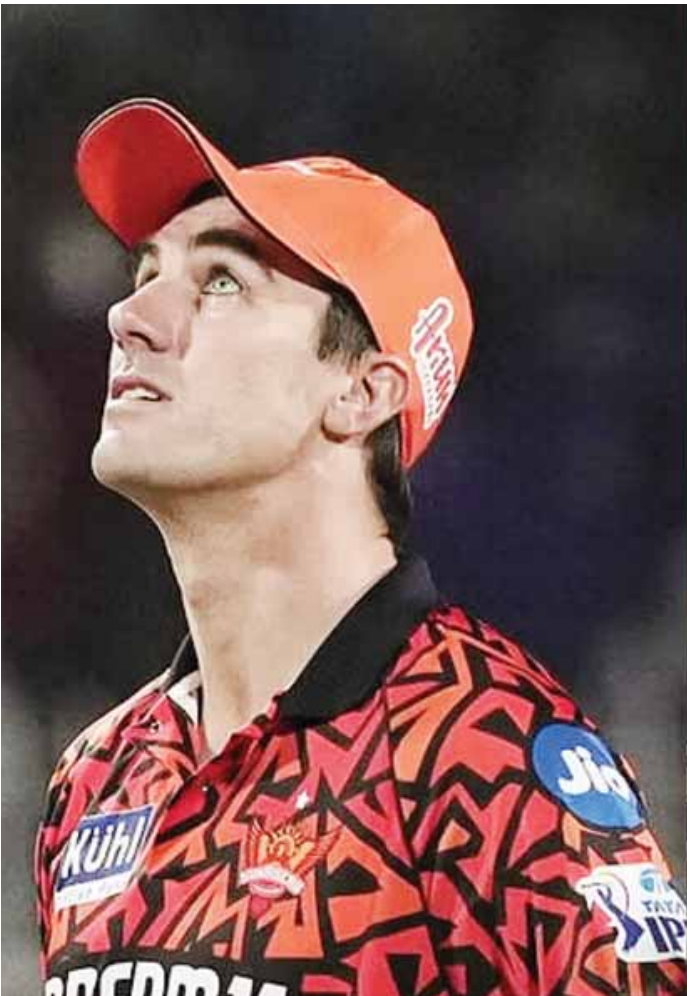
They face SRH on their home turf and the Pat Cummins-led side showed against Kolkata Knight Riders what they are capable of. The big-hitting Heinrich Klaasen almost got them over the line from a hopeless situation though the rest of the batters put up below par performances.

The opening duo of Mayank Agarwal and Abhishek Sharma has shown promise but would also need to be consistent if SRH are to do well in the competition.

SRH have invested heavily in pinch hitter Abdul Samad and it is high time he delivers on the promise.

The seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar was Andre "Russelled" on Saturday night and will look to bounce back strongly.

"Tough job in cricket to bowl to someone like him (Russell). It's one of those ones which goes one way or the other. Who would have thought we



would have got that close? Unfortunately, a bit too much. Lots to be encouraged by. A couple of points to work on also," Cummins said after the narrow loss at Eden Gardens.

### SQUADS:

**Mumbai Indians:** Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Dewald Brevis, Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, Gerald Coetzee, Tim David, Shreyas Gopal, Ishan Kishan, Anshul Kamboj, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kvena Maphaka, Mohammad Nabi, Shams Mulani, Naman Dhir, Shivalik Sharma, Romario Shepherd, Arjun Tendulkar, Nuwan Thushara, Tilak Varma, Vishnu Vinod, Nehal Wadhwa, Luke Wood, Suryakumar Yadav.

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** Pat Cummins (c), Abdul Samad, Abhishek Sharma, Aiden Markram, Travis Head, Wanindu Hasaranga, Marco Jansen, Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Glenn Phillips, Sanvir Singh, Heinrich Klaasen, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mayank Agarwal, T. Natarajan, Anmolpreet Singh, Mayank Markande, Upendra Singh Yadav, Umran Malik, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Shahbaz Ahmed, Jaydev Unadkat, Akash Singh, Jhathavedh Subramanyan.

## Mahipal adds depth to RCB batting

PTI ■ BENGALURU

On a balmy Monday night, Mahipal Lomror gave Royal Challengers Bengaluru two tantalising options — an 'Impact Player' who can yank the match away from the opposition and a potential successor to Dinesh Karthik, their designated finisher who is playing his last IPL season.

Lomror, who replaced Yash Dayal during the chase of 177 as Impact sub, made an eight-ball 17 and assisted Karthik (28, 10b) in knocking off 47 runs in 22 balls that powered RCB to a four-wicket win over Punjab Kings.

But his maiden foray into the world of 'Impact Players' taught Lomror how "weird" that role could be, particularly because of its hurried nature.

"To be honest, it (being an Impact Player) was quite weird when I went into bat. The Impact Player rule is such that you have to be ready as you can get a call at any time to go in," said Lomror in the post-match press conference.

However, the 24-year-old said the RCB management had communicated the possibility of him being used as the substitute player against Punjab.

"As the name suggests, you have to make an impact on the game from the word go. The management had discussed it last night. They told me: 'If we are chasing, we might use you down the order.' So mentally, I was prepared."

During the IPL 2023, RCB had availed the 'Impact Player' option in 12 matches out of 14,



and Anuj Rawat came in twice as the No. 8 finisher, similar to what Lomror did against PBKS at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

On the other 10 occasions, it was either a bowler or a top/middle-order batter who walked in as 'Impact Player'.

However, Rawat could not make the desired impact as he could score only 16 runs off 27 balls in those two games.

Perhaps, that failed experiment prompted the RCB thinktank to give that duty to the big-hitting Lomror in this IPL.

The Rajasthan-born player, who joined Royal Challengers ahead of IPL 2022 from Rajasthan Royals, was ready for the grind too as it was his best chance to get a place in the eleven.

"This is what the team management wants me to prepare for. They are very clear because we have a really strong batting lineup, and this is the only place where they can use me,"

he said.

Lomror has been quietly upskilling himself at nets once the RCB top brass conveyed their decision.

"Earlier, I used to bat up the order, and that gave me more balls to bat. But now as an Impact sub, there's not going to be many balls to play. So, whenever I'm going into nets, I just try and hit boundaries from the very first ball," he offered.

But polishing the skills against your own teammates or local trundlers at nets is quite different from what a batter gets in a real match situation.

Lomror, though, aced the test against proven performers like Arshdeep Singh and Sam Curran at a stadium with an unusually gripping pitch that made shot-making a tricky proposition.

He, however, reduced the equation to 43 off 21 balls and thereby the pressure on Karthik

too with a first-ball boundary off left-arm pacer Curran.

But Lomror soon bettered that effort against Arshdeep. On the third ball of the 18th over, he smoked the left-arm quick over the cow-corner for a six and in the next ball pulled him for a four through backward square leg.

That over had started with RCB needing 36 runs from 18 balls and three balls later it became a more comfortable 24 runs from 14 balls.

Lomror was not hesitant to give a slice of credit to his senior partner Karthik for keeping his pulse against racing.

"I think batting with him makes things really easy. He has some 15-17 years of experience in IPL. He was telling me to stay calm and focus on the next ball, not to get overexcited or not to get too aggressive," he said.

The apprentice has certainly left the master a beaming man.

## Rachin, Dube power CSK to 206/5 against Gujarat Titans

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Rachin Ravindra started with a bang and Shivam Dube finished with a flourish as Chennai Super Kings posted a commendable 206 for 5 against Gujarat Titans in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Rachin made full use of the Powerplay, racing to 46 off 20 balls while Dube, a nightmare for spinners, then used his long levers to whack 51 in only 23 deliveries to increase the challenge of GT batters by manifold.

Dube's innings had as many as five sixes.

In between, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's chiselled 46 off 36 balls also was a significant contribution in another impactful batting performance by the team on a hard bouncy track that was on offer.

Not to forget CSK's Rs 7.60 crore recruit Sameer Rizvi (14 off 6 balls), who pummelled Rashid Khan (2/49 in 4 overs) for two sixes to mark a memorable IPL debut.

Rachin, who has already become a darling of the CSK fans, enthralled all and sundry with his audacious stroke-play. While he missed out again on a half-century but team's 'spiritual skipper' Mahendra Singh Dhoni would be all smiles knowing that his choice was perfect to the T.

The three sixes — a flick



behind the square and one over long-on off the normally profligate Umesh Yadav and one off Azmatullah Omarzai were hit with so much disdain that it did put Gujarat Titans in a spot.

There were some crunchy cover drives as well as Ravindra let his skipper Gaikwad breathe a little easy at the other end.

Finally, it was GT's 'Go-To' bowler Rashid, who drew the first blood but more because of smart work from Wriddhiman Saha, who

removed the bails in a flash after the Black Caps opener lost his balance and moved out of his crease trying to whip the delivery.

Saha's next stumping was way easier as Sai Kishore shortened the length and drew Ajinkya Rahane out of his crease for an indiscreet loft. The ball deviated enough and the keeper completed mere formality.

Gaikwad wasn't as fluent as Rachin to begin with but in his five boundaries and a six, he oozed class before

becoming Saha's third victim with the gloves, trying to pull Spencer Johnson, only to end up edging one behind the stumps.

After that it was Dube, who just plonked his front-foot and bludgeoned Sai Kishore for two monstrous sixes and also sent Johnson's delivery soaring for a maximum.

Dube had the composed Daryl Mitchell for company, who also chipped in with an unbeaten 20-ball 24 in a stand of 57 runs for the fourth wicket in 5.5 overs.

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Not just a marketable name to promote T20 cricket, he's still got the game. This was the subtle message Virat Kohli sent out amid unfounded chatter surrounding his place in the side ahead of the World Cup's debut appearance in the United States.

Kohli, who is back after a two-month paternity break, scored a match-winning 77 off 49 balls for Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday night against Punjab Kings and deservedly walked away with the player of the match honours.

"I know my name is nowadays quite attached to just promoting the game in many parts of the world when it comes to T20 cricket. But, I've still got it, I guess," said the 35-year-old father of two in the post-match presentation.

His comments came in the backdrop of never-ending media speculation surrounding the team's composition for the big event to be jointly hosted by the USA and the West Indies starting June 1.

Former players like Kevin Pietersen have asked whether Kohli would make the Indian squad purely on merit or for being a megastar who will pull

## My name these days is attached to just promoting T20 cricket but I have still got it: Kohli

in fans. Kohli averages over 50 in the format and has a strike rate of 138.15.

On Monday night, hallmark of Kohli's classy knock was the way he stepped out to dispatch the fast bowlers over the extra cover boundary.

The former India captain has nothing left to prove but he realises the need for constant evolution in T20 format.

"Well I mean you have to (make additions to your game)," he said when asked about going aerial against the pacers on the off-side.

"People know I play the cover drive pretty well so they're not going to allow me to hit gaps and with guys like KG (Kagiso Rabada) and Arshdeep (Singh) as well, he's tall. So, I mean, if they're hitting length, you have to create some momentum in the ball.

"And once you're closer to the ball, you kind of negate the bounce that's going to happen. You meet it earlier. So, I mean, you have to come up with a game plan here and there and try to keep improving your



game," he explained at the post-match presentation.

**IT WAS SURREAL NOT TO BE RECOGNISED FOR**

**TWO MONTHS:** Kohli had missed the five-match Test series against England as he was overseas for the birth of

his second child. The long break allowed him to spend much needed quality time with his family and not being

recognised on the streets was something that he enjoyed the most.

"We were not in the country.

We were at a place where people were not recognising us. Just time together as a family, just to feel normal for two months. For me, for us as a family, it was a surreal experience.

"Of course, having two kids, things become totally different from a family perspective. So just the ability to be together, the connections that you make with your older child, it's amazing.

"I mean, I couldn't have been more grateful to God for the opportunity that I got to spend time with my family."

For Kohli, not being mobbed is a luxury and he loved every bit of his time away from the limelight.

"And yeah, just the place that we were in, I was telling the guys (RCB teammates) that when we came back, the voices back home felt that much louder.

"I couldn't look up because I was just not used to being called my name for two months. And then immediately you hear these

loud noises and then you're back in it all again.

"But it was beautiful. It's an amazing experience to just be another person on the road and not be recognised and just carry on about life that normally people would on a daily basis," he said.

Kohli is also forever grateful to the loyal and passionate RCB fans who keep backing the team that is yet to win the IPL.

"It's been going on for years and you know, people talk about a lot of other things when you play sport. The achievements, the stats, the numbers. Look at the end of the day when you look back you're not going to think of the numbers and the stats.

"It's the memories that you create. Famously, Rahul bhai (India head coach) in the change room nowadays says exactly the same to us. When you play, you play your heart out because you're going to miss these times when you're with your friends in the change room playing in front of fans.

"So the relationship that's happened organically over so many years it's something that I can never ever forget. Just the love and the appreciation and the backing I've received for so many years that's been amazing," Kohli added.