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A TRIBUTE TO THE TWO
GREAT SAINTS OF INDIA

WORLD 8
AIRSTRIPE BEING BUILT
ON YEMENI ISLAND

MONEY 10
INDIAN ECONOMY CAN GROW AT 8
PER CENT TILL 2047: SUBRAMANIAN

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CAPTAIN PANDYA:
IN SEARCH OF A
SOUNDING BOARD
12 SPORTS

Kejriwal in full throttle as ED retains his custody

Delhi CM to defend his own case against national probe agencies

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday questioned the locus standi of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for arresting him in the multi-crore liquor gate scam merely on the basis of statements of some, including his former Cabinet colleague Manish Sisodia's secretary. Kejriwal asked the court whether these four statements are enough to arrest a sitting Chief Minister. "I am named by four witnesses in the excise policy case. Are four statements enough to arrest a sitting CM?", alleged Kejriwal. He was produced in a special court on Thursday where his ED custody was extended by four days till April 1. The probe agency had sought seven-day custody of the AAP chief. Kejriwal was supposed to do an "expose" on Friday as per his wife's, Sunita, statement a day earlier. Kejriwal submitted in the open court during the proceedings that statements of witnesses recorded by the investigating agency do not in any manner connect him with the alleged offences and questioned his arrest in the matter. Furthermore, the Chief

Minister said Sarath Reddy, an approver in the case, got bail after he made a statement against him who himself donated ₹55 crore to the BJP. "I have evidence of this. Money trail is established as he donated the funds after being arrested," the Chief Minister said. Kejriwal's submissions were strongly objected to by ED counsel Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, who also questioned why attempts were being made to link the BJP with the excise policy case. Raju had argued that Kejriwal's statements to the ED's questioning have been evasive. "He (Kejriwal) wants to play to the gallery. How does he know how many documents are with ED? This is all figment of imagination ... AAP received the kickbacks which they used in Goa elections. There is a clear cut chain ... The money that they say came to BJP has nothing to do with the liquor scam. There is no quid pro quo... The CM is not above law. He is an ordinary man. We have material to show that this very person demanded 100 crore kickback," Raju contended. In its remand application, the ED said during Kejriwal's custodial interrogation, his statements were recorded over



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal comes out of the Rouse Avenue Court after he was produced by the Enforcement Directorate in the excise policy-linked money laundering case, in New Delhi, on Thursday PTI

five days but he was "giving evasive replies". Kejriwal alleged that the ED investigation had two objectives — one, to create a smokescreen in front of the

country that Aam Aadmi Party was corrupt and did the scam and two, to do an "extortion racket" for collecting money. Reddy is the director of

Aurobindo Pharma Limited and one of the co-accused-turned-approvers in the case. The AAP national convenor personally addressed the Delhi court today and made the

submissions in Hindi after taking permission from the court despite his lawyers being present and he did not oppose the ED's remand extension request.

"Ham ED ki remand oppose nahi kar rahe. Jitne din chaahe wo mujhe custody m rakh le. Par ye ghotala hai (loose translation: I am not opposing the ED's plea for remand. They can keep me in custody for as long as they want. But this is all a scam)," Kejriwal told the court. "So far, the CBI has filed 31,000 pages in this case in the court and 294 witnesses have been examined in this case. The ED has investigated 162 people and filed a 25,000-page report so far. By combining all these documents and reports, why have I been arrested? My name figures only in four statements," he said in a jam-packed courtroom. Elaborating on the four statements mentioning his name, Kejriwal said C Arvind, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's secretary gave a statement. According to it, Sisodia handed over some excise policy-related documents to C Arvind in his (Kejriwal's) presence, in the Chief Minister's official residence. "He has only stated that Sisodia gave some documents to C Arvind. Madam, several MLAs, Ministers and dignitaries come with their secretaries to my house. "They do side-talks and hand over documents to each other.

How do I know who is giving what to whom? Is this statement a sufficient reason to arrest the sitting chief minister?" Kejriwal said. Giving details of the second statement in which his name appeared, Kejriwal said Magunta Srinivas Reddy is an MP from (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister) Jagan Mohan Reddy's party (YSRCP). "Magunta Srinivas Reddy came to my office at 4.30 pm on March 16, 2021. He had sent an e-mail to my office that he is an MP and wanted to meet me. My office gave him an appointment to meet me after 10 days. He came over and said I want to open my family's charitable trust in Delhi. I told him that the land does not come under us, it comes under the Lieutenant Governor (LG)," Kejriwal said. The Delhi Chief Minister further said Magunta Srinivas Reddy gave three statements to the agency but only one was considered. "Why the only statement that is against Kejriwal has been included in the 25,000 pages of ED report and the other two statements were not considered? All the three statements should have been brought to the notice of the court, so that it could decide the truth in the case," he said.

Erode MP kills self over denial of ticket

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A 76-year-old Member of Parliament (MP) belonging to the MDMK who was representing Erode in the Lok Sabha, committed suicide over denial of ticket. Ganeshamurthi, three-time MP representing Erode, was shattered when he was told by party founder Vaiko that he would not figure in the party's list as a candidate for the upcoming election. Instead, MDMK chief Vaiko nominated his son Durai Vaiko as the candidate from Erode. Persons close to Ganeshamurthy said though the latter pleaded with Vaiko for one more term, the party founder remained intransigent and this upset the sitting MP.



According to police, Ganeshamurthi had allegedly tried to kill himself after consuming some poisonous tablets on March 24 at his home. He was rushed to a hospital here and later referred to another private institute in Coimbatore. Hospital authorities said Ganeshamurthy died of cardiac arrest. Vaiko who rushed to Coimbatore said, "He met me twice. We never expected him to make such a decision. He was in a good mood. I cannot believe that he took such a step and passed away. We pay our deep homage." Expressing shock over the sudden demise of Ganeshamurthy, noted film actress in Tamil and Malayalam Lalitha Sree said, "Political parties should be careful while not granting chances to sitting MPs because some of them are so obsessed with serving the people that they may not be able to withstand the snubbing they receive from the mother parties."



Security personnel stand guard at Government Medical College where gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari was admitted, in Banda, on Thursday PTI

Mukhtar Ansari Chapter Closed

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

Mukhtar Ansari, a mafia-turned lawmaker, passed away on Thursday after suffering a heart attack while in custody at Banda jail. A senior police official confirmed that Mukhtar collapsed in his barrack within the jail premises due to a heart attack. He was swiftly transported to a hospital in Banda, where medical personnel attempted to revive him. However, Mukhtar ultimately succumbed to cardiac arrest, as reported by a medical bulletin issued by Rani Durgawati Medical College. Following Mukhtar's demise, authorities have heightened security measures across various regions, including Lucknow, Mau, Ghazipur, and Varanasi. State-wide enforcement of Section 144 has been initiated in response to the situation. This tragic incident occurred amidst concerns over Mukhtar's declining health, with Thursday marking the second instance in two days where his condition worsened. Earlier in the week, the 63-

year-old was hospitalised in Banda for approximately 14 hours after complaining of abdominal pain. Despite being discharged, apprehensions persisted regarding his well-being, particularly in light of allegations made by his brother and Ghazipur MP, Afzal Ansari. Afzal Ansari asserted that Mukhtar had been poisoned while in jail, citing instances where his health had deteriorated due to alleged ingestion of harmful substances. Mukhtar, a former five-time MLA from the Mau Sadar constituency, had a controversial political career overshadowed by legal troubles. With over 60 criminal cases pending against him, Mukhtar had been incarcerated in both Uttar Pradesh and Punjab since 2005, facing convictions in eight cases since September 2022. At the time of his passing, Mukhtar was held in Banda jail. Concerns regarding Mukhtar's health had been raised earlier during a virtual court hearing in Barabanki on March 21, where his lawyer alleged that his client was being subjected to "slow poison".

India, China discuss disengagement in border areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

India and China have agreed to sustain their efforts to resolve the boundary dispute through diplomatic and military channels during a fresh round of talks between the two sides. The parleys came in the backdrop of persisting tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh for the last four years. Both sides had an in-depth exchange of views on how to achieve "complete disengagement" and resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control during the 29th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here



on Thursday. The key meeting was held in Beijing on March 27, it said in a statement. Joint Secretary (East Asia) from the MEA led the Indian delegation. The Chinese delegation was headed by the Director General of the

Boundary and Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the statement said. "In the interim, both sides agreed to maintain regular contact through diplomatic and military

channels and on the need to uphold peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and protocols," it said. Meanwhile, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement on Thursday said, "Both sides positively evaluated the progress made in the management and control of the situation in the China-India border area, and had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the ideas of work for the next stage." The two sides "agreed to focus on the relevant issues on the ground along the border, reach a solution acceptable to both sides as soon as possible, and promote the transition of the border situation into a normalised phase of control and management," it said.

Denied ticket by the BJP, Varun Gandhi wanders down memory lane in Pilibhit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after being denied ticket to contest from his sitting Pilibhit Lok Sabha seat by the BJP, Varun Gandhi on Thursday wrote an emotional open letter to the people of Pilibhit assuring them that he will continue to serve them. Varun, the son of BJP sitting Sultanpur MP, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, has broken his silence first time after the BJP dropped him from the list of candidates in the upcoming LS elections. Sharing the letter on X, he said, his



relationship with Pilibhit is one of love and trust which is far above any political calculations. The BJP has fielded Uttar Pradesh Public Works Minister Jitin Prasada from Pilibhit replacing Varun who has been vocal against his own Government several times on the issue of inflation and unemployment. Prasada had filed his nominations on this seat on Wednesday. "Even though I am not able to contest elections from here, I will

continue to serve the people of Pilibhit", the Pilibhit MP wrote in the open letter. Defining himself fortunate to have served the people of Pilibhit, he wrote, "I consider myself fortunate that I got the opportunity to serve the great people of Pilibhit for years. Not only as an MP, but also as a person, the ideals, simplicity and kindness I got from Pilibhit have contributed greatly to my upbringing and development."



Resilient Padmarajan refuses to bow out of Elections

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ THRISSUR

As returning officer VR Krishna Teja, who is also the district collector, started accepting the nomination papers for the Lok Sabha election from Thrissur constituency on Thursday, Kunhambu Nair Padmarajan (64) was present to file the first nomination paper. Since all the papers were in order, the returning officer accepted the same and Padmarajan rushed to Thrissur Railway Station to board the train to Kannur to visit his ancestral home and worship in front of the family deity.



Thrissur hogged the national limelight thanks to film actor-turned -politician Suresh Gopi who is contesting from the constituency as a BJP candidate. But for one day, people forget the star candidate and his challengers K Murala edharan (Congress) and V S Sunil Kumar (CPI) and the focus was on Padmarajan. Padmarajan is known all over the world as "election king" and his contest from Thrissur is his 240th battle of ballot box.



It is said about BJP leaders in Kerala that they contest the election only to get defeated. But Padmarajan is a man with a mission. Last week he filed nomination papers from Dharmapuri Lok Sabha constituency in Tamil Nadu which has been accepted. Owner of a roadside tyre-retreading shop at Mettur who is also a part time homeo medical practitioner, Padmarajan is not one who wastes money on election. "I want the world to know me as

one who democratised the election process. Thanks to my efforts. Candidates not sponsored by political outfits too get dignity and respect," Padmarajan told The Pioneer after filing his nomination paper. He has been contesting elections since 1988. "I had contested six presidential elections and an equal number of vice presidential polls. The Limca Book of Records has featured me twice while the Guinness Book of world Records featured me once," said Padmarajan who has spent more than ₹1.5 crore on election related expenses.

Punjab BJP dismisses charge of AAP MLAs on money offered to join party

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar on Thursday dismissed AAP MLAs' allegations that they were offered money to join the saffron party, saying he was "amazed at their audacity".

As AAP's lone Lok Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Rinku and Jalandhar West MLA Sheetal Angural joined the BJP on Wednesday, three ruling party MLAs claimed they were offered money to jump ship. The AAP alleged the BJP had "again started Operation Lotus" in Punjab and was trying to break the Arvind Kejriwal-led party.

'Operation Lotus' is a term used by opposition parties to describe what they call "poaching" of MLAs by the BJP to topple governments.

"I am amazed at their audacity. They are so thick-skinned and they are teaching morality," Jakhar told reporters here in response to a question on allegations levelled by the AAP MLAs. Jakhar urged the Election Commission to order a probe into Rs 25-crore-offer allegations made by the AAP legislators so that the people of Punjab can know the truth.

"Truth must come out and I will urge the Commission to investigate and ascertain before people of Punjab as to who

made the offer and who got the money," Jakhar said as he underlined that "falsehood and corruption" of Kejriwal's 'kattar imaandaars' have been fully exposed and there is no place to hide.

Jalalabad MLA Jagdeep Kamboj Goldy had claimed that one Sewak Singh called him from an international number on Tuesday with an offer to join the BJP. He claimed he was offered Rs 20-25 crore but he told the caller that "I do not need it." Similar claims were made by Balluana MLA Amandeep Singh and Ludhiana South legislator Rajinder Pal Kaur Chhina. They asserted that they would not leave the party.

Jakhar was addressing a press conference here after the party's core committee meeting along with the party's Punjab in-charge and former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

Replying to a media query, Jakhar said the Enforcement Directorate has been consistently working to bring "blatant acts of omission and commission perpetrated" by Kejriwal and his chosen ones on the future of Punjab and Punjabis.

Slamming the language used by AAP leaders against Rinku and Angural, the state BJP president said this reeks of their frustration at leaders and

people from all parties trusting the development agenda of BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Meanwhile, Rinku slammed the AAP government in Punjab over the law and order situation and the drug menace. Speaking at a press conference, Rinku also accused the AAP of not fulfilling the promises it made before the 2023 Jalandhar Lok

available" in the state and "cable mafia was still operating in the state".

Hitting out at the AAP, Angural raised questions on the allegations levelled by the party in September 2022 that the BJP had offered Rs 20-25 crore each to 10 of its MLAs in an attempt to topple the Mann government in the state.

LEADERS FROM PATIALA JOIN BJP

Ballot Battle – 2024

Sabha bypoll. "The party's national leader had promised people in Jalandhar that heaps of garbage would be cleared once they sent our candidate to the Lok Sabha. You (media) can send your teams to Model Town in Jalandhar to see for yourselves (what has been done)," Rinku said. "It was a small promise. There are many promises which were not fulfilled," he added.

Rinku further claimed roads were broken and wastewater was overflowing in Jalandhar. On the law and order situation in Punjab, Rinku claimed people were receiving ransom calls from criminals. "Traders are feeling scared today," he said. Rinku claimed drugs were "easily

Several former Congress leaders from Patiala district under the leadership of Patiala MP Preneet Kaur joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of Punjab President Sunil Jakhar and Punjab Incharge Vijay Rupani at the Chandigarh office on Thursday.

Addressing the media, Preneet Kaur said, "Impressed by the pro-people policies of PM Narendra Modi's government, people of Punjab are regularly joining the Bharatiya Janata Party by leaving other parties. I feel honoured to be a part of such a people-centric party and I welcome all these leaders of Patiala district who have joined the BJP today." She said the entire Punjab BJP unit

under the leadership of Sunil Jakhar and Vijay Rupani is working hard.

Jakhar said, "I welcome all the new members who have joined the BJP and I am sure that the party will be further strengthened by their joining. I also welcome MP Patiala Preneet Kaur who has for the first time come to our state office after joining the BJP."

Sheetal Angural resigns as Punjab MLA

A day after joining the BJP, Sheetal Angural on Thursday tendered his resignation as MLA from the Punjab Assembly. Angural was the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator from the Jalandhar West. In a letter sent to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Angural said, "I hereby submit my resignation from membership of legislative assembly Punjab (MLA) with immediate effect." Angural, along with AAP Lok Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Rinku, had joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday. Angural won the Jalandhar West assembly seat by defeating Sushil Rinku of Congress during the 2022 assembly elections. Rinku had last year moved to the AAP from the Congress and became the Lok Sabha MP from Jalandhar after winning a bypoll.

Two-time MLA Goldy from BJP and former minister Birmi join Congress

I am not Jakhar, committed to Congress, says Manish Tewari

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH



Two-time MLA Luv Kumar Goldy from BJP and former Cabinet Minister Malkit Singh Birmi on Thursday joined the Congress in the presence of top leadership of Punjab Congress.

Addressing a press conference here, Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Thursday slammed the leaders who recently quit the party to join other political outfits, saying people will give them a befitting reply in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. His remarks came after three Congress leaders quit the party in the last three weeks.

Former Congress MLA Gurpreet Singh GP joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on March 9 and was declared the party's candidate from the Fatehgarh Sahib seat. A few days later, Raj Kumar Chabbewal, who was the MLA from Chabbewal, also joined the AAP. Three-time MP Ravneet Singh Bittu joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on March 26. Replying to a question on certain party leaders who have quit the Congress, Warring said people are intelligent enough and will give a befitting reply to them in the parliamentary election. He said those who left the Congress were given everything by the

party. "People will not tolerate them," Warring asserted.

On the two leaders who joined the party, Warring said that Birmi parted ways with the party in 2014, choosing to disengage from political affairs to engage in grassroots social initiatives. After a decade, he has opted to reengage in politics under the Congress banner. Similarly, Goldy's departure coincided with Capt. Amarinder Singh's tenure change. "Now, they both return home to the Congress, having remained steadfast in their commitment to public service," he added.

The PCC President said, in contrast to the recent trend of opportunistic political maneuvering, these leaders have consistently prioritized the welfare of Punjab's citizens and their return underscores party's

enduring appeal to those dedicated to the greater good.

Meanwhile, asked about the speculation on social media that he too might be joining the BJP, Anandpur Sahib MP Manish Tewari said he has been a spokesperson of the grand old party for 20 years. "And one thing I have learnt is not to dignify rumours and baseless speculation with a response. This is my response," he said. "We are among those who give sirupas (robe of honour)," Tewari said. He meant that he is among the leaders who welcomed others into Congress rather than being welcomed by other parties.

Congress general secretary and Punjab affairs in-charge Devender Yadav said the party will soon release its list of Lok Sabha poll candidates for the state.

Publishing, broadcasting news & advertisements according to PCI, NBSA guidelines is mandatory: Haryana CEO

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Stating that the media plays a significant role in conducting the Lok Sabha general elections in a free, fair, and peaceful manner, the Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal on Thursday said that during the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), publishing and broadcasting news and advertisements according to the rules and guidelines set by the Press Council of India (PCI) for print media and the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) for electronic media is mandatory. Agarwal said this while chairing a review meeting here in Chandigarh regarding the preparations for the Lok Sabha general elections in 2024. The Chief Electoral Officer said that after MCC implementation, any candidate or political party giving advertisements for printing or broadcasting in print

or electronic media will be required to verify whether the advertisement has been certified by the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC).

He said that the MCMC committee has been formed at the central, state, and district levels, and candidates or political parties don't need to obtain certification only from Haryana's MCMC committee. Candidates or political parties can also obtain certification from the MCMC committee located in Delhi, which will also be valid in Haryana. Agarwal, providing information about the rules and guidelines set by the Press Council of India and the News Broadcasting Standards Authority, said that during the MCC, the media should refrain from broadcasting communal, illegal, casteist, and anti-national news. He said that various types of advertising material are printed by candidates

and political parties for election campaigning, so it is necessary to send the printed material by the publisher and printer to the office of the concerned District Magistrate or Chief Electoral Officer. He said that if any individual prints or broadcasts advertising material on behalf of a candidate or political party, then the media organization will have to check whether the individual has obtained consent from the candidate or political party. If advertising material is being printed or broadcasted with the consent of the candidate or political party, then the expenditure of the advertisement will be added to the election expenses of that candidate or political party. If any advertising is being done without the consent of the candidate or political party, a case will be filed against that individual, Agarwal added.

Choose between those who live with you and outsiders: Sukhbir Badal

PNS ■ SARDULGARH/ TALWANDI SABO

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Thursday said in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections the choice before Punjabis was between those who had always lived and worked amidst them versus outsiders who only came to Punjab to loot and exploit.

The SAD president, who toured Sardulgarh and Talwandi Sabo constituencies as part of the Punjab Bachao Yatra along with senior leaders Balwinder Singh Bhundur and Harsimrat Kaur Badal, said: "It is a choice between apne and prayee". He said the SAD was "apne ghar di party" even as he accused the Delhi-based parties of always indulging in conspiracies to create a wedge of misunderstandings between the Punjabis and their own social, religious and political "fauj"- the SAD.

"This conspiracy, which was underway since the last two years now, stands fully exposed and Punjabis were ready to shun the 'jhadoo', 'khooni panja' and 'kamal da phul' and repose their faith in the 'takdi'". Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal said, "once Punjabis decide to repose faith in the SAD all efforts to pit Punjabis against Punjabis by



Delhi-based parties would fail".

Asserting that the SAD was committed to maintaining the Panthic as well as regional character of the party, Badal said "We have a glorious heritage of safeguarding the Panth as well as the aspirations of Punjabis.

Unlike Delhi-based parties, who can sacrifice anything for political motives, the SAD can never compromise on its core values and principles. This is why we did not get into any

power game and chose to stand with Punjabis". Appealing to Punjabis to strengthen their regional party, Badal said "Delhi-based parties have ruined Punjab in the last seven years.

Not only has the State been bankrupted but all development activity has come to a halt. I challenge both the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to tell one major infrastructure project they have established in Punjab in the last

seven years during their tenure in government.

In contrast, the SAD is responsible for ensuring free power to farmers, unique social welfare schemes like aata-daal and shagun scheme to the underprivileged and old age pension. It is also responsible for all major infrastructure projects in the State be it the Bathinda refinery, thermal plants, AIIMS institute, Central University, four lane highways and airports".

ELECTION BUZZ

SAD (Amritsar) announces 5 candidates for Punjab, 2 for Haryana

Chandigarh: The Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) on Thursday announced five candidates for Punjab and two for Haryana for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Talking to media persons, SAD (Amritsar) president and Sangrur MP Simranjit Singh Mann said he will fight from the Sangrur seat. He said his party fielded Mahinderpal Singh from Patiala, Amritpal Singh from Ludhiana, Baldev Singh from Faridkot and Kushalpal Singh from Anandpur Sahib. Mann further said Harjit Singh has been fielded from Karnal seat and Khazan Singh from Kurukshetra parliamentary seat in Haryana. Polling for the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab will be held on June 1, while voting for 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana will take place on May 25.

Himachal BJP workers welcome Congress rebel, Rajinder Rana, NSUI activists show black flags
Shimla: Congress rebel Rajinder Rana, now the BJP candidate for the Sujapur assembly seat in Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district, faced black flags from the NSUI activists but he also received a welcome from his supporters on visiting his constituency Thursday. Rana, a three-time legislator hogged the limelight by defeating former chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal in the 2017 assembly polls. He is one of the six disqualified Congress MLAs who, along with three Independent legislators, had voted in favour of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha polls on February 27. All the MLAs switched to the BJP on March 23 following which the six rebels including Rana, were given tickets from their respective assembly seats. Rana returned to his constituency after a month.

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Congress, raised slogans and displayed black flags at the Anu Chowk

in Hamirpur as Rana's vehicle passed by to reach the Kot Village in Sujapur to attend a welcome ceremony. Rana was accompanied by former BJP minister Bikram Thakur and was welcomed by the supporters at Kot Village in Sujapur where the BJP workers raised slogans in his support. The former Congress MLA noted that the workers were enthusiastic and claimed that the BJP would win all the assembly seats going to the bypolls and the Lok Sabha seats of the state. Referring to the resentment among the BJP leaders after the six rebels were given the tickets, he said small resentments are part of democracy. They will sit and talk with those who are protesting.

Himachal Speaker issues show cause notice to 3 Independent MLAs

Shimla: The three Independent legislators who had resigned from the assembly last week have been issued a show-cause notice by the Vidhan Sabha by the Speaker. Their replies have to be submitted by April 10, officials said.

The Congress legislative party had submitted that the three MLAs "resigned under duress", not voluntarily". The three independent MLAs -- Ashish Sharma from Hamirpur, Hoshiyar Singh from Dehra and K L Thakur from Nalagarh had submitted their resignation on March 22, a day before they joined the BJP along with six disqualified Congress MLAs. All nine legislators had voted in favour of the BJP in the recently held Rajya Sabha elections. Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania had maintained that the Independent MLAs have submitted their resignation but they have not cited their reasons. It will be recorded and necessary procedures will be followed, he said. Congress legislators and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh have been the vocal against the nine MLAs and have accused the BJP of pressurising the legislators. Congress MLAs Sanjay Awasthi and Bhuvneshwar Gaur have also registered a case of electoral offences, bribery and criminal conspiracy against Hamirpur independent MLA

Ashish Sharma and Rakesh Sharma, father of Gagret MLA Chaitanya Sharma, who is among the six former Congress leaders. The case against them was registered under sections 171C and 171E (undue influence on elections and bribery) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC and sections 7 and 8 (public servant taking undue advantage) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, police had said. All three Independents had sought BJP tickets during the 2022 assembly polls but they were denied tickets and contested as Independents. Later when the Congress formed the government with 40 legislators, the three Independents had supported the government. However, three Independent MLAs, along with six Congress rebels voted in favour of the BJP candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections last month.

This election is a fight to save democracy Constitution: Deepender Hooda

Chandigarh: Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda on Thursday said the 2024 Lok Sabha election is a fight to save democracy and the Constitution in the country. Addressing the first joint workers conference of the opposition INDIA bloc in Rohtak, he said the alliance will win this battle by fighting with strength. The conference was organised by Aam Aadmi Party's Haryana state president and Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seat candidate Sushil Gupta. Besides Hooda and Gupta, CPM leaders, including Inderjit Singh and Jagmati Sangwan, also participated. During the conference, various speakers condemned the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Addressing the gathering, Hooda said this election is a fight to save democracy and the country's Constitution. He also said the time has come to compare the work done by the Congress and the BJP. "Despite being in opposition for 10 years, Congress is still seeking votes in the name of its work, while the BJP does not have anything to show, though they

have been in power for the last decade. "The BJP only wants to win elections by misusing agencies like the ED and the CBI. But the INDI alliance and the people in Haryana will give a befitting reply to all the political tactics of the BJP," Hooda said.

Himachal Congress chief Pratibha Singh says will contest from Mandi if high command directs
Shimla: After announcing her decision to not seek re-election from Mandi Lok Sabha constituency, Himachal Pradesh Congress president Pratibha Singh on Thursday said if the party's central leadership wanted her to contest from the seat, she would follow their directions. Her change in stance came about after a meeting of the six-member committee constituted by the Congress to ensure better coordination, chalk out the strategy and discuss the names of probable Lok Sabha candidates from the hill state was.

"I have always followed what the high command said and now also I will follow what they say," she said. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Congress incharge for the state Rajeev Shukla think that I should contest the Lok Sabha elections, she said, adding "I put my problems and difficulties in front of them."

"We will work as per the directions of the high command," Singh, the wife of former chief minister Virbhada Singh and the mother of Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh, maintained. For a long time I have been saying that the workers who worked hard day and night for the victory of the party (in the assembly polls) should be suitably accommodated and now the CM has given some responsibilities to the workers and I want the message to spread that Congress promotes its workers," she said. Pratibha Singh asserted that in the last assembly polls the people gave the mandate to the Congress and the party-led government would complete its five-year term.

Two working Presidents appointed in Himachal Congress

PNS ■ SHIMLA

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls and Assembly byelections slated for June 1, the Himachal Pradesh Congress Wednesday appointed two working presidents, taking their total number to four.

Chander Kumar was the first Congress leader to be appointed as a working president. Ahead of 2022 assembly polls, the Congress party appointed Harsh Mahajan, Pawan Kajal, Rajinder Rana and Vinay Kumar as working presidents.

However, Mahajan and Kajal joined the BJP last year while Rana recently

revolted against the party and was disqualified under anti-defection law. Chander Kumar and Vinay Kumar remained as working presidents.

On Wednesday, chief parliamentary secretary Sanjay Awasthi and lone Congress MLA from Mandi district Chander Shekhar were appointed as working presidents, Congress office-bearers said on Thursday.

With the latest appointments, the Himachal Congress now has four working presidents -- Chander Kumar, Vinay Kumar, Sanjay Awasthi and Chander Shekhar.

Vinay Kumar is also the deputy Speaker in the state assembly.

The Congress, which lost all four Lok Sabha seats in 2014 and 2019, is facing a major challenge of winning the Lok Sabha polls and the six assembly byelections. After revolt in the ruling party, its strength came down from 40 to 34.

Winning the assembly byelections is crucial for survival and stability of the government as stakes are very high for the Congress.

The BJP has given tickets to all the six Congress rebels leading to a mini rebellion in the state unit of the party.

Former Hry Minister Savitri Jindal quits Cong, joins BJP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Former Haryana Minister Savitri Jindal on Thursday quit the Congress and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at an event in Hissar district, a few days after her son and industrialist Naveen Jindal left the party to join the saffron outfit.

The 84-year-old Savitri Jindal joined the BJP in the presence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, former CM Manohar Lal Khattar and other BJP leaders.

Announcing her decision to quit the Congress on a social media post late Wednesday night, she said, "I represented the people of Hissar for 10 years as an MLA and have served Haryana State selflessly as a minister.

The people of Hissar are my family and on the advice of my family, I am resigning from the



primary membership of the Congress today."

Savitri Jindal was listed as the richest woman in the country by Forbes India this year. According to the Forbes list of the 10 richest women in India, Savitri Jindal, who is the wife of the late industrialist and former minister O P Jindal, has a

net worth of 29.1 billion USD. Savitri Jindal was a minister in the previous Bhopinder Singh Hooda-led Congress government in Haryana.

In 2014, she lost to BJP's Dr Kamal Gupta from Hissar. Gupta is currently a minister in the Nayab Singh Saini government. Naveen Jindal, who rep-

resented Kurukshetra constituency in Lok Sabha from 2004-14 as a

Congress MP, had quit the party on Sunday, and said he wants to contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda of 'Viksit Bharat'. He has been named as the BJP candidate from Kurukshetra.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005				
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.	Ashish Jain/ Nehalkumar Harishchandra Dedkawala, A/c No LBBRH00006502341 C102 Sundaram Residency Jyotinagar, Maktampur Ct, Bharuch- 392012	Arazi Land Khewat No 1535, Khatoni No 1745, Khasra No 62/113(16-0), 62/113/2 (2-0) , Kitte 2, Situated At Mouja Bilaspur Hadbast No. 279, Tehsil Bilaspur District Yamunanagar Haryana	28/02/2024, Rs. 63,75,289.99/-	31-03-2023
2.	Raman Sharma/ Shikha Sharma A/c No LBAMB00005970730, 118-B 6 Laxmi Nagar Ambala Haryana- 134003	Plot No 0151, Block C, Sector 85 Wave Estate, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar Mohali Punjab- 140603	01/03/2024 Rs. 1,96,26,723/-	08-11-2023
3.	Sushil Kumar/ Anita Devi A/c No LBBWA00005153227 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, Khasra 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
4.	Sushil Kumar/ Anita Devi A/c No LBBWA00005153229 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, Khasra 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
5.	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, Khasra 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
6.	Ravi Shankar Soni/ Ompati. A/c No LBBWA00005742883 Ah An 1551/22ward 15, Chijarao Kumar, Dhani Patram Gate Bhiwani, Haryana- 127046	Property Measuring 0-3.5 Marla (105 Sq. Yard) Being 3.5/199 Portion Of Land Measuring 9 Kanal 19 Marle Comprised In Khewat No. 693/ 650 Khasra No. 177/26(9-19), Waka Mauza Amar Nagar, Tibba Basti, Bhiwani Jonpal, Tehsil & Distt. Bhiwani Haryana- 127021	04/03/2024 Rs. 20,05,650/-	04-12-2023
7.	Ravi Shankar Soni/ Ompati. A/c No LBHIS00005768255 Ah An 1551/22 Ward 15, Chijarao Kumar, Dhani Patram Gate Bhiwani, Haryana- 127046	Property Measuring 0-3.5 Marla (105 Sq. Yard) Being 3.5/199 Portion Of Land Measuring 9 Kanal 19 Marle Comprised In Khewat No. 693/ 650 Khasra No. 177/26(9-19), Double Storey House,waka Mauza Amar Nagar, Tibba Basti, Bhiwani Jonpal, Tehsil & Distt. Bhiwani Haryana- 127021	04/03/2024 Rs. 83,348/-	04-12-2023
8.	Ritu./ Pawan Kumar A/c no LBKLN0004263302, Ward No.06, Agarsen Colony, Gharounda, Haryana, Karnal- 132001	House No.608, Khewat No.1302, Khatouni No.1626, Khasra No.455/2, Rakba 3, Kanal 19, Marle Of 5/79, Total Bakdar 5, House At Aggarsain Colony, Gharounda, Karnal, Haryana 132001	23/02/2024 Rs. 17,71,470/-	04-12-2023
9.	Ritu./ Pawan Kumar A/c No LBKLN0004263315 Ward No.06, Agarsen Colony, Gharounda, Haryana, Karnal- 132001	House No.608, Khewat No.1302, Khatouni No.1626, Khasra No.455/2, Rakba 3, Kanal 19, Marle Of 5/79, Total Bakdar 5, House At Aggarsain Colony, Gharounda, Karnal, Haryana 132001	23/02/2024 Rs. 8,17,727/-	04-12-2023
10.	Ritu./ Pawan Kumar A/c No LBKLN00005332076 Ward No.06, Agarsen Colony, Gharounda, Haryana, Karnal- 132001	House No.608, Khewat No.1302, Khatouni No.1626, Khasra No.455/2, Rakba 3, kanal 19, marle of 5/79, Total bakdar 5, House At Aggarsain Colony, Gharounda, Karnal, Haryana 132001	23/02/2024 Rs. 78,513/-	04-12-2023
11.	Gaurav/ Harish Kumar/ Jivya/ Neelam Rani/Prince Satija, A/c No. LBPNP00005110211/ H No. 96/13 Ward No.10, Janak Pura Gate Gohana Sonapat, Haryana- 131301	House Old No 98/7, B-3-72 73 , Situated At Mohalla Janakpura Ward No 10, Gohana Within Limits Of M.c. Gohana District Sonipat Haryana	02/03/2024 Rs. 1,06,37,419.48/-	03-01-2024
12.	Gaurav/ Harish Kumar/ Jivya/ Neelam Rani/ Prince Satija A/c No. LBPNP00005110214/ H No 96/13 Ward No'10, Janak Pura Gate Gohana Sonapat, Haryana- 131301	House Old No 98/7, B-3-72 73, Situated At Mohalla Janakpura Ward No. 10, Gohana Within Limits Of M.C. Gohana District Sonipat Haryana	02/03/2024 Rs. 31,78,438.48/-	03-01-2024
13.	Gaurav/ Harish Kumar/ Jivya/ Neelam Rani/Prince Satija, A/c No. LBPNP00005318087/ H No 96/13 Ward No'10, Janak Pura Gate Gohana Sonapat, Haryana 131301	House Old No 98/7, B-3-72 73 , Situated At Mohalla Janakpura Ward No 10, Gohana Within Limits Of M.C. Gohana District Sonipat Haryana	02/03/2024 Rs. 8,58,248.48/-	03-01-2024
14.	Vikas./ Phool Kumar Jangra/ Glightz Led Private Limited, A/c No LBPNP00005340572, H. No 223/25 Gali No -4, Sonapat Haryana Vishal Nagar, Sonapat- 131001	Khasra No 6582/3070 /9 (0-7) 3072/5 (0-5) Siutated At Patti Muslamanan Sonipat Within M.C. Limits Haryana	01/03/2024 Rs. 44,14,629.66/-	08-01-2024
15.	Vikas./ Phool Kumar Jangra/ Glightz Led Private Limited A/c No LBPNP00005340573, H. No 223/25 Gali No-4, Sonapat Haryana Vishal Nagar, Sonapat- 131001	Khasra No 6582/3070 /9 (0-7) 3072/5 (0-5) Siutated At Patti Muslamanan Sonipat Within M.C. Limits Haryana	01/03/2024 Rs. 40,65,106.66/-	08-01-2024
16.	Vikas./ Phool Kumar Jangra/ Glightz Led Private Limited/ Vinay Kumar A/c No LBPNP00005554697 H. No 223/25 Gali No -4, Sonapat Haryana Vishal Nagar, Sonapat- 131001	Khasra No 3075, Khewat No 15891, Situated At Patti Musalmanan Rajiv Colony Within Limits Of M.c. Murthal Road Sonapat District Haryana 131001	01/03/2024 Rs. 28,78,206.83/-	08-01-2024
17.	Lalit Kumar/ Rakhee Verma A/c No LBPNP00005353489 3 Near Devi Mandir Road Vijay Nagar, Haryana Panipat- 132103	Khasra No.5393, Rakba 1 Bigha, Part 44/600 of 10 Biswa, Bakdar Rakba 2 Biswa 4 Biswansi, Situated At Ward No-8, Vijay Nagar, Patti Insaar, Inside Panipat Nagar Palika, Panipat, Haryana 132103	04/03/2024 Rs. 11,17,436/-	30-12-2023
18.	Lalit Kumar/ Rakhee Verma A/c No LBPNP00005353490 3 Near Devi Mandir Road Vijay Nagar, Haryana Panipat- 132103	Khasra No.5393, Rakba 1 Bigha, Part 44/600 Of 10 Biswa, Bakdar 2 Biswa 4 Biswansi, Situated At Ward No-8, Vijay Nagar, Patti Insaar, Inside Panipat Nagar Palika, Panipat, Haryana- 132103	04/03/2024 Rs. 8,30,414/-	30-12-2023
19.	Surabhi Sharma/ Karan. A/c No LBROH00004719949, 747, B-3, Quilla Mohalla, Haryana Rohtak 124001	Flat No.B-101 (with Out Roof), First Floor, Sector-36a, Suncity 1 Extn, Rohtak 124001	23/02/2024 Rs. 27,69,543.28/-	09-12-2023
20.	Deepak Kumar/ Saroj Rani/ Mahesh Kumar A/c No LBSIR00006522677 Shop No 100, Ward No 11, Kalanwali Mandi, Grain Market, Near Market Kameti Kalanwali Haryana Sirsa- 125201	1/4 Part Of Kothi No. 145 R-1, Situated At Model Town, Property Id No Wd/13a/145c, 6zm5a563, Tehsil Kalanwali, District Sirsa, Haryana 125201	04/03/2024 Rs. 40,883/-	03-10-2023
21.	Deepak Kumar/ Saroj Rani/ Mahesh Kumar, A/c No LBSIR00006522684 Shop No 100, Ward No 11, Kalanwali Mandi, Grain Market, Near Market Kameti Kalanwali Haryana Sirsa- 125201	1/4 Part of Kothi No. 145 R-1, Situated At Model Town, Property Id No Wd/13a/145c, 6zm5a563, Tehsil Kalanwali, District Sirsa, Haryana 125201	04/03/2024 Rs. 43,436/-	03-10-2023
22.	Deepak Kumar/ Saroj Rani/ Mahesh Kumar A/c No TBSIR00006485542 Shop No 100, Ward No 11, Kalanwali Mandi , Grain Market, Near Market Kameti Kalanwali Haryana Sirsa- 125201	1/4 Part Of Kothi No. 145 R-1, Situated At Model Town, Property Id No Wd/13a/145c, 6zm5a563, Tehsil Kalanwali, District Sirsa, Haryana 125201	04/03/2024 Rs. 29,48,820/-	03-10-2023
23.	Ram Karan Sharma/ Veena Rani A/c No LBYGR00001125277 House No-79 Ward No-1, Sadhaura, Near Gurudwara, Haryana Yamunanagar - 135001	Khewat No. 589, Khatoni No. 674, Khasra No. 18/27, Khewat No. 590, Khatoni No. 675, Khasra No. 19/11/4(0-16), 12/2(2-3), 38(2-18), Rakba 5 Kanal, 17 Marle, Khewat No. 591, Khatoni No. 676, Khasra No. 28/30/111-51, Rakba 1 Kanal, 5 Marle, Khewat No. 593, Khatoni, No. 672-673, Khasra No. 19/8/2, 19/1, 19/2 Kita 3, Rakba 6 Kanal And Khasra No. 18/15/212-91 Kita, Rakba 2, Kanal 9, Taddadi 16 Kanal, 11 Marle, Part of 1/18, Bakdar 18 Marle, Jambandi Year 1995-1996, Had Bast No. 155, Situated At Village Sadhaura Tehsil Jagadhari, District Yamunanagar, Haryana 135001	04/03/2024 Rs. 2,91,997/-	30-12-2023
24.	Ramesh Rani/ Monika Sakhuja/ Tanya Sakhuja, A/c No. LBYGR00006009329 H. No. 981 Ward No.1 Dwarka Piri, Haryana Yamunanagar- 135001	Plot No 106 Ppid No 172c372u22, Situated At Dwarkapuri Colony, Tehsil Jagadhari, District Yamunanagar Within M.C. Limits Haryana 135001	07/03/2024 Rs. 28,73,760/-	31-10-2022
25.	Sudesh Saini A/c No LBYGR00006310734, S/o Jai Ram, House No 1600 E, Workshop Road Near Ili Prahlad Puri Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001	Vaka Khasra No 35//19 Vaka Mauja Sasoli Mausuma Tarapuri Yamunanagar Tehsil Jagadhari & District Yamunanagar Inside M.c. Limits Yamunanagar Haryana 135001	07/03/2024 Rs. 1,00,441/-	03-09-2023
26.	Sudesh Saini, A/c No LBYGR00005116061 S/o Jai Ram, House No. 1600 E, Workshop Road Near Ili Prahlad Puri Yamunanagar Haryana 135001	Vaka Khasra No 35//19 Vaka Mauja Sasoli Mausuma Tarapuri Yamunanagar Tehsil Jagadhari & District Yamunanagar Inside M.c. Limits Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001	07/03/2024 Rs. 3,59,496/-	03-09-2023
27.	Sudesh Saini, A/c No LBYGR00002067970 S/o Jai Ram, House No 1600 E, Workshop Road Near Ili Prahlad Puri Yamunanagar Haryana 135001	Vaka Khasra No 35//19 Vaka Mauja Sasoli Mausuma Tarapuri Yamunanagar Tehsil Jagadhari & District Yamunanagar Inside M.c. Limits Yamunanagar Haryana 135001	07/03/2024 Rs. 6,17,252/-	03-09-2023
28.	Poonam. A/c No LBKLN00005720633 House No 1677 Gali Number 2, Shanti Nagar Haryana Karnal- 132001	Property House No 1677, Comprised In Khasra No 431, Rakba 9 Bighe 15 Biswa Its 1-37/50 Share I.e. 1-37/50 Biswe Situated In Between Gali No 2 & 3 Shanti Nagar Karnal, Tehsil And District Karnal, Haryana	07/03/2024 Rs. 8,66,544/-	03-10-2023
29.	Amandeep Kaur, A/c No LBKLN00006060503 H No 587 New Prem Nagar Haryana Karnal- 132001	Property House No 587 (M.C No 1901/v), Situated At Prem Nagar Karnal Inside Nagar Nigam, Tehsil And District Karnal Haryana	07/03/2024 Rs. 6,47,495/-	05-11-2023
30.	Ajay Goyal/ Ajay Goel Huff/ Komal Goyal A/c No LBYGR00004881894 H NO B-2/45 F/2, Hari Prasad Colony Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001	Property Id No 2381821, Plot No 96 House No 220, 4/5 Part Of Shop Bearing B-2/245 F/2 Waka Hari Prasad Colony Tehsil Jagdhari District Yamunanagar Haryana 135001	05/03/2024 Rs. 12,29,681.78/-	03-06-2023

31.	Ajay Goyal/ Ajay Goel Huff/ Komal Goyal A/c No LBYGR00006050201 H No B-2/245 F/2, Hari Prasad Colony Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001	Property Id-365C20U329A, Part Of Shop No B-2/252h, Situated At Old Sabzi Mandi City Center Road, Yamunanagar Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamunanagar-135001	05/03/2024 Rs. 44,36,294.32/-	03-06-2023
32.	Ajay Goyal/ Ajay Goel Huff/ Komal Goyal A/c No LBYGR00004551990 H No B-2/245 F/2, Hari Prasad Colony Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001	House Bearing B-2/245 F/2, Property Id No 365c3u290, House No 220, Situated At Hari Prasad Colony Old Sabzi Mandi Yamunanagar Tehsil Jagadhari District Yamunanagar Within M.C. Limits. Haryana	05/03/2024 Rs. 48,13,726.42/-	03-06-2023
33.	Ajay Goyal/ Ajay Goel Huff/ Komal Goyal A/c No LBYGR00004551998 H No B-2/245 F/2, Hari Prasad Colony Yamunanagar Haryana- 135001	Plot No 96, Property Id 367C70U90 Waka Hari Prasad Colony Yamunagar Tehsil Jagadhari District Yamunanagar Within M.c. Limits Haryana 135001	05/03/2024 Rs. 55,40,733.61/-	03-06-2023
34.	Rajeev Ahuja/ Rekha Rani/ Versha Rani A/c No LBNOD00005332938 Ho No 231 Ews Weavers Colony, Panipat Shiv Mandir Panipat- 132103	Property Part Of House No 842, Ward No 7, Inside M.C. Limits, Tehsil And District Panipat Haryana 132103	05/03/2024 Rs. 3,65,907.19/-	03-02-2023
35.	Rajeev Ahuja/ Rekha Rani/ Versha Rani A/c No LBPNP00004952664 Ho No 231 Ews Weavers Colony, Panipat Shiv Mandir Panipat- 132103	Property Part Of House No 842, Ward No 7, Inside M.c. Limits, Tehsil And District Panipat Haryana- 132103	05/03/2024 Rs. 16,95,309.17/-	03-02-2023
36.	Rajeev Ahuja/ Rekha Rani/ Versha Rani A/c No LBPNP00004952659 Ho No 231 Ews Weavers Colony, Panipat Shiv Mandir Panipat- 132103	House No 231, Ews Situated At Housing Board Colony Abadi Known As Weavers Colony Tehsil And District Panipat Within M.c. Limits Haryana 132103	05/03/2024 Rs. 14,40,833.17/-	03-02-2023
37.	Ravinder Singh/ Neeraj Rani A/c No LBYGR00005198524 Geeta Colony, Radaur M.L.N School Haryana Yamunanagar- 135001	Property Id No Rd014u0031aa, Khewat No. 674, Khatoni No.796, Khasra No 1386, Rakba 7, Kanal 13, Marle 5/306 Share, Jamabandi Year 2010-2011, Geeta Colony, Tehsil Radaur, District Yamunanagar, Haryana 135001	14/02/2024 Rs. 8,57,587.43/-	04-12-2023
38.	Ravinder Singh/ Neeraj Rani A/c No LBYGR00005198526 Geeta Colony, Radaur M.L.N School Haryana Yamunanagar- 135001	Property Id No Rd014u0031aa, Khewat No. 674, Khatoni No.796, Khasra No 1386, Rakba 7, Kanal 13, Marle 5/306 Share, Jamabandi Year 2010-2011, Geeta Colony, Tehsil Radaur, District Yamunanagar, Haryana 135001	14/02/2024 Rs. 5,86,310.43/-	04-12-2023
39.	Ravinder Singh/ Neeraj Rani A/c No LBYGR00005393500 Geeta Colony, Radaur M.L.N School Haryana Yamunanagar- 135001	Property Id No Rd014u0031aa, Khewat No. 674, Khatoni No.796, Khasra No 1386, Rakba 7, Kanal 13, Marle 5/306 Share, Jamabandi Year 2010-2011, Geeta Colony, Tehsil Radaur, District Yamunanagar, Haryana- 135001	14/02/2024 Rs. 58,782.43/-	04-12-2023
40.	Dharam Singh/ Anita. A/c No. LBYGR00006441353, Amar Vihar Old, Chhachhrauli Road, Jagadhari, Haryana Yamunanagar- 135001	Property Measuring 7/133 Marla Portion Of Land Measuring 6 Kanal 13 Marle Comprised In Khewat And Khatoni No. 1462/1708 Khasra No. 181/3/1, Situated In Village Jagadhari, Hadbast No. 400, Tehsil Jagdhari As Per Jamabandi Year 2014-2015, Mosuma, Kesar Nagar, Near Amar Vihar Jagdhari, Inside Municipal Limits, Yamunanagar, Haryana	14/02/2024 Rs. 6,10,840/-	14-12-2023
41.	Sourav Gupta/ Reetika Goyal/ Sushil Kumar Gupta, A/c No. LBKLN00005562215, 1387 Sector 6 Urban Estate Haryana Karnal 132001	Flat No. C-03, Ground Floor, Tower-C, Ras Residency, Karnal, Haryana 126001	15/02/2024 Rs. 11,54,627/-	04-12-2023
42.	Sushil Kumar Gupta/ Sourav Gupta/ Kiran Gupta, A/c No LBKLN00005195691 House No-1387, Sector 6 Urban Estate Haryana Karnal- 132001	Service Shop No-129, Sector-6 Market, Urban Estate, Inside Limit Of Nagar Nigam, Tehsil And District Karnal, Haryana 132001	17/02/2024 Rs. 45,29,491/-	04-12-2023
43.	Sushil Kumar Gupta/ Sourav Gupta/ Kiran Gupta, A/c No LBKLN00005195694 House No-1387, Sector 6 Urban Estate Haryana Karnal- 132001	Service Shop No-129, Sector-6 Market, Urban Estate, Inside Limit Of Nagar Nigam, Tehsil And District Karnal, Haryana 132001	17/02/2024 Rs. 13,20,581/-	04-12-2023
44.	Krishna Devi/ Roshan Lal/ Sushil Kumar A/c No LBPNP00006445484/ 588, Ward No.20, Hari Singh Chowk, Poorwali, G T Road, Haryana Panipat- 132103	Property Measuring 3 Marla 3 Sarasi Out Of Which Being 10/159 Portion Of Land Measuring 2 Kanal 13 Marla Comprised In Khata No.146, Khasra No.63/3/1/1min. (2-13), village Makhdumjadgan, Inside The Limit Of Nagar Nigam, Jawa Colony, Tehsil And District Panipat, Haryana 132103	17/02/2024 Rs. 1,96,723/-	02-12-2023
45.	Krishna Devi/ Roshan Lal/ Sushil Kumar A/c No. TBPNP00006415896/ 588, Ward No.20, Hari Singh Chowk, Poorwali, G T Road, Haryana Panipat- 132103	Property Measuring 3 Marla 3 Sarasi Out Of Which Being 10/159 Portion of Land Measuring 2 Kanal 13 Marla Comprised In Khata No.146, Khasra No.63/3/1/1min. (2-13), village Makhdumjadgan, Inside The Limit of Nagar Nigam, Jawa Colony, Tehsil And District Panipat, Haryana 132103	17/02/2024 Rs. 10,01,596/-	02-12-2023
46.	Krishna Devi/ Roshan Lal/ Sushil Kumar A/c No TBPNP00006415897/ 588, Ward No.20, Hari Singh Chowk, Poorwali, G T Road, Haryana Panipat- 132103	Property Measuring 3 Marla 3 Sarasi Out Of Which Being 10/159 Portion of Land Measuring 2 Kanal 13 Marla Comprised In Khata No.146, Khasra No.63/3/1/1min. (2-13), Village Makhdumjadgan, Inside The Limit of Nagar Nigam, Jawa Colony, Tehsil And District Panipat, Haryana 132103	17/02/2024 Rs. 7,50,675/-	02-12-2023
47.	Dinesh./ Surajmati. A/c No LBPNP00005197468, S/o Rattan Singh Harikrishan Wakil Wali Gali, Kath Mandi Gohana, Haryana Sonipat- 131301	Plot Comprised In Killa No. 236//21, Village Gohana, Gohana Uttam Nagar, Under Gohana Municipal Corporation Council Limits, District Sonipat, Haryana- 132103	17/02/2024 Rs. 10,66,686/-	09-12-2023
48.	Yash./ Santosh Devi A/c No TBPNP00006392092 644/5, Rajender Nagar, Patiala Chowk, Haryana Jind - 126102	Property No.215a/8 Measuring 14 Sarasai Out Of Which 5 Sarsai Being 5/2241 Portion of Land Measuring 12 Kanal, 9 Marle, Comprised In Ekhwat No.926, Khatoni No.1145, And Area Measuring 2, Sarsai Being 1/585, Portion Of Land Measuring, 6 Kanal 10 Marle, Comprised In Khewat No.927, Khatoni No.1146, of Murabba No.54, Kila No.20/2 And 2/13, And Area Measuring 1 Sarsai Being 1/594, Portion of Land Measuring 3 Kanal, 6 Marle Comprised In Khewat No.928, Khatoni No. 1147 of Murabba No.67 of Kila No.1, And Area Measuring 6 Sarsai Being 11/5580 Protion of Land Measuring 15 Kanal 10 Marle Comprised In Khewat No.929, Khatoni No.1148 of Murbba No.67 of Kila No.26 As Per Jamabandi Nakal Year 2014-15,hall Park To Appolo Road In Between Kaitihl Road, Municipal Corporation Jind, District Jind, Haryana 126102	17/02/2024 Rs. 19,66,575/-	02-12-2023
49.	Rahul Gahalyan/ Amita. A/c No TBPNP00006493311, 1537, Sector-12, Huda, Haryana Panipat 132103	Plot No.50, Sector-24, H.S.V.P. Within Limits of Municipal Corporation Panipat, Urban Estate, Panipat, Haryana- 132103	17/02/2024 Rs. 60,05,899/-	07-12-2023
50.	Suresh Kumar/ Shyamo./ Arun Kumar A/c No LBPNP00004961030, House-2975 Devi Mandir Road Jawa Colony Hari Singh Park Haryana Panipat Panipat	Comprised In Khasra No 63/3/1 Minjumla, 6 Marle, 6 Sarsari Situated At Patti Makhdom Jadgan, Within Limits Of M.c Panipat, Abadi Jawa Colony, Noorwala, Hari Singh Chowk, Tehsil & District Panipat, Haryana 132103	21/02/2024 Rs. 15,41,520/-	04-12-2023
51.	Suresh Kumar/ Shyamo./ Arun Kumar A/c No LBPNP00005526098 House-2975 Devi Mandir Road Jawa Colony Hari Singh Park Haryana Panipat Panipat	Comprised In Khasra No 63/3/1 Minjumla, 6 Marle, 6 Sarsari Situated At Patti Makhdom Jadgan, Within Limits of M.C Panipat, Abadi Jawa Colony, Noorwala, Hari Singh Chowk, Tehsil & District Panipat, Haryana 132103	21/02/2024 Rs. 1,61,380/-	04-12-2023
52.	Dinesh./ Surajmati. A/c No LBPNP00005927891, S/o Rattan Singh Harikrishan Wakil Wali Gali, Kath Mandi Gohana, Haryana Sonipat- 131301	House No 807/19, Category No 3, Ward No 21, Purani Abadi Uttam Nagar, Hari Krishan Wali Gali, Under Gohana Municipal Corporation Council Limits, Sonipat, Haryana 132103	21/02/2024 Rs. 12,88,339/-	09-12-2023
53.	Dinesh./ Surajmati. A/c No LBPNP00005927897, S/o Rattan Singh Harikrishan Wakil Wali Gali, Kath Mandi Gohana, Haryana Sonipat- 131301	House No 807/19, Category No 3, Ward No 21, Purani Abadi Uttam Nagar, Hari Krishan Wali Gali, Under Gohana Municipal Corporation Council Limits, Sonipat, Haryana 132103	21/02/2024 Rs. 6,97,266/-	09-12-2023
54.	Devender Kumar/ Urmila Kumari A/c No LBROH00005845597 House No-10/237, W No-14, Charkhi Dadri Harkhi Haryana Bhiwani- 127306	Property Id No. Cd09p0005a, Wakya Jiwan Singh Jain Marg Se Tikona Park Tak, Nagar Nigam Council, Charkhi Dadari, Tehsil And District Bhiwani, Haryana 127022	29/02/2024 Rs. 14,54,305/-	04-12-2023
55.	Ankit Sharma/ Ramniwas Sharma/ Sakuntia Sharma, A/c No LBPNP00005497139, 4708 Shiv Mandir Vikas Nagar, Tehsil Camp, Haryana Panipat- 132103	Plot No 18, Property Id No. P03701200092, Sector 8, Huda, Inside Limit Of Panipat Nagar Nigam, Panipat, Haryana 132103	29/02/2024 Rs. 18,52,314/-	30-12-2023
56.	Saroj Rani/ Savitri Devi/ Charan Jeet A/c No LBROH00005961547, Ward No. 4 Ellenabad Sirsa Haryana Sirsa 125102	Unit No. W/04/48, Ward No-4, Tehsil Ellenabad (Under Red Line Nagar Nigam), District Sirsa, Haryana 125055	29/02/2024 Rs. 3,80,515/-	04-12-2023
57.	Saroj Rani/ Savitri Devi/ Charan Jeet A/c No LBSIR00006027182, Ward No. 4 Ellenabad Sirsa Haryana Sirsa- 125102	Unit No. W/04/48, Ward No-4, Tehsil Ellenabad (Under Red Line Nagar Nigam), District Sirsa, Haryana 125055	29/02/2024 Rs. 7,05,512/-	04-12-2023
58.	Shubham Nagpal/ Seema Rani A/c No. LBKLN00006254355/ 45, Kunjpura, Near Anand Pur Kutia Kunjpura (75), Haryana Karnal 132022	Plot No.933, Sector-32, Urban Estate, Inside Limit of M.c., Tehsil And District Karnal, Haryana 132001	29/02/2024 Rs. 24,26,277/-	02-12-2023
59.	Shubham Nagpal/ Seema Rani A/c No. LBKLN00006375540/ 45, Kunjpura, Near Anand Pur Kutia Kunjpura (75), Haryana Karnal- 132022	Plot No.933, Sector-32, Urban Estate, Inside Limit of M.C., Tehsil And District Karnal, Haryana 132001	29/02/2024 Rs. 18,76,151/-	02-12-2023
60.	Shubham Nagpal/ Seema Rani A/c No. LBPNP00005614109/ 45, Kunjpura, Near Anand Pur Kutia Kunjpura (75), Haryana Karnal- 132022	Plot No.933, Sector-32, Urban Estate, Inside Limit Of M.c., Tehsil And District Karnal, Haryana 132001	29/02/2024 Rs. 38,00,452/-	02-12-2023
61.	Deepak./ Maya Patai A/c No TBHSI00006394663 House No.281, Village Gianpura 15, Haryana Hisar- 125121	Property Measuring 1kanal 19.66 Marla I.e, Part Of Khewat No.120, Khatoni No.195, Khasra No.65/3(8-0), 9(8-0), 20(8-0), 66/23(8-0), 24(8-0), 79/1(8-0), 2/2(4-18), 3(8-0), Kite 8, Rakba 60 Kanal 18 Marle Out Of Part Measuring 1kanal 19.66 Marla (1200 Sq Yard) Being 18.18 Marla As Per Transfer Deed No. 3042 Dated 18/11/2022 And 21.5 Marla As Per Transfer Deed No. 1113 Dated 14/06/2022 As Per Jamabandi Year 2020-2021, Tehsil Barwala District Hilsra Haryana 125121	02/03/2024 Rs. 16,50,058/-	02-12-2023

Truth travels freely

Kejriwal’s arrest gets international attention; vendetta politics may boomerang on ED

Brought to the Rouse Avenue Court amid high drama, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has described his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in the excise policy case as a “political conspiracy.” Himself making submissions in the court after taking the special judge’s permission, he expressed confidence that the public will give a “fitting reply to this injustice”. Seeking to establish a link between the Electoral Bond donations received by the ruling party and his arrest, the Delhi Chief Minister said that people were being turned ‘approver’ in the case and being forced to change their statements. “My arrest by the ED is a political conspiracy ... the approver gave the BJP Rs 55 crore,” he said. As a precursor to this setting, Kejriwal’s wife, Sunita, broke her silence and hinted at the impending revelation of this crucial piece of information. Kejriwal, known for his anti-corruption stance and vocal criticism of the Centre, was arrested last week on charges of being embroiled in a multi-crore liquor scam. The arrest sparked widespread outcry and protests, with supporters of Kejriwal alleging political vendetta and the BJP’s bid to settle political scores with the AAP upon losing the MCD elections after 15 years. Apart from being charged with soliciting kickbacks from liquor traders in exchange for favours, the Delhi Chief Minister is also accused of being the “kingpin and key conspirator” in the now-scrapped policy. The agency has already arrested at least 14 top AAP leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Minister Sanjay Singh, in connection with the case.



Meanwhile, the international community has also been drawn into the fray, with the US making remarks regarding Kejriwal’s arrest that have drawn the ire of Indian officials. The US State Department expressed concern over what it termed as “the apparent suppression of dissent” in India, calling for due process and respect for human rights. However, Indian authorities swiftly responded, asserting that the comments were unwarranted interference in the country’s internal affairs. Germany was the first country to speak against Kejriwal’s arrest. Whenever a politician is put behind bars, there are consequences to it. The Union Government should be doubly sure that it has a watertight case against the accused person, else there are high chances that it will boomerang. Due to the lack of information on the case in public domain, we shall assume that the authorities have a strong case against the Delhi CM and that due process of law would be followed. But if it is an exercise in haste, Kejriwal’s words might prove prophetic as elections are just around the corner. The citizens are discerning enough to read any signs of political vendetta. The outcome of this legal battle and its broader implications remain uncertain, but one thing is clear – the events unfolding around Kejriwal have captured the attention of the nation and the world, highlighting the enduring struggle for transparency, accountability and justice in the corridors of power.



A shepherd with his sheep near a mustard field on the outskirts of Srinagar

A tribute to the two great saints of India

The lives of Swami Atmasthananda ji and Swami Smaranananda Ji are an indelible example of the motto of Ramakrishna Mission ‘Atmano Mokshaartham Jagaddhitaaya Cha’



NARENDRA MODI

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the grand festival of Lok Sabha elections, the news of the demise of Srimat Swami Smaranananda Ji Maharaj brought my mind to a standstill for a few moments. Srimat Swami Smaranananda Ji Maharaj was a pioneer of India’s spiritual consciousness and his demise is like a personal loss. A few years ago, the demise of Swami Atmasthananda Ji and now the departure of Swami Smaranananda Ji on his eternal journey has left many people bereaved. My heart, like that of crores of devotees, saints and followers of Ramakrishna Math and Mission, is deeply saddened. During my visit to Kolkata earlier this month, I had gone to the hospital to enquire about Swami Smaranananda Ji’s health. Just like Swami Atmasthananda Ji, Swami Smaranananda Ji too dedicated his entire life for spreading the ideas of Acharya Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Mata Sharada Devi and Swami Vivekananda across the world. While writing this article, the memories of meetings and conversations with him are getting refreshed in my mind. In January 2020, during my stay at Belur Math, I meditated in the room of Swami

Vivekananda. During that visit, I had a long conversation about Swami Atmasthananda Ji with Swami Smaranananda Ji. It is widely known that I had a close relationship with Ramakrishna Mission and Belur Math. As a seeker of spirituality, I have met different saints and mahatmas and been to many places over the period of more than five decades. Even in Ramakrishna Math, I got to know about the saints who dedicated their lives to spirituality, among whom personalities like Swami Atmasthananda Ji and Swami Smaranananda Ji were prominent. Their sacred thoughts and knowledge provided contentment to my mind. In the most important period of my life, such saints taught me the true principle of *Jan Seva hi Prabhu Seva*. The lives of Swami Atmasthananda Ji and Swami Smaranananda Ji are an indelible example of the motto of Ramakrishna Mission ‘Atmano Mokshaartham Jagaddhitaaya Cha’. We all are inspired by the work being done by Ramakrishna Mission for the promotion of education and

THEIR SACRED THOUGHTS AND KNOWLEDGE PROVIDED CONTENTMENT TO MY MIND. IN THE MOST IMPORTANT PERIOD OF MY LIFE, SUCH SAINTS TAUGHT ME THE TRUE PRINCIPLE OF JAN SEVA HI PRABHU SEVA

rural development. Ramakrishna Mission is working on India’s spiritual enlightenment, educational empowerment and humanitarian service. In 1978, when the disastrous flood struck Bengal, Ramakrishna Mission won the hearts of everyone with its selfless service. I remember, when an earthquake ravaged Kutch in 2001, Swami Atmasthananda Ji was among the first people to call me and offer all possible assistance for disaster management on behalf of the Ramakrishna Mission. Under his direction, Ramakrishna Mission helped many people who were affected by the earthquake. Over the past years, while holding various positions, Swami Atmasthananda Ji and Swami Smaranananda Ji laid great emphasis on social empowerment. Those who know the lives of these great personalities will definitely remember how serious these saints were towards modern education, skilling and women empowerment. Among his many inspiring traits, one thing that impressed me the most was Swami Atmasthananda Ji’s love and respect for every culture and every tradition.

The reason for this was that he used to travel continuously and had spent a long time in different parts of India. He learned to speak Gujarati while living in Gujarat. He used to even speak with me in the language and I loved listening to his Gujarati! At different points in India’s development journey, our motherland has been blessed by many saints and seers like Swami Atmasthananda Ji, Swami Smaranananda Ji who have ignited the spark of societal change. They have motivated us to work with a collective spirit and address all the challenges our society faces. These principles are eternal and will act as our source of strength as we embark on developing a Viksit Bharat during the Amrit Kaal. Once again, on behalf of the entire nation, I pay homage to such saintly souls. I am confident that all the people associated with the Ramakrishna Mission will further move ahead on the path shown by them. Om Shanti.

(This is a tribute to Smaranananda ji Maharaj and Swami Atmasthananda Ji by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POLITICIANS HITTING BELOW THE BELT

Madam — Apropos editorial “Political zealotry” published on March 28, this is my response. It pains one to note that exchanges amongst political rivals are getting too personal and downright abusive. Recent examples are Supriya Srinate of the GOP and Dilip Ghose of the BJP. Wish our “netas,” spokespersons and candidates were more accommodating and tolerant, instead of hissing at one another like venomous snakes. I cite here a witty remark by MP Piloo Mody that turned the tables on his opponent. Mody, a big roly-poly man, showed his back to a minister because he felt outraged at some point. The minister took strong objection to Mody’s gesture and interpreted it to be an insult to the House itself. Piloo Mody replied - “Mr. Speaker Sir, I have no front, no back, no flanks. I am round all over. So how could I have shown my back to the minister?” The House exploded in loud laughter. Our (generally) ill-tempered politicians should take a leave from the above incident and shun vituperative language while attacking their political opponents. Avinash Godbole | Dewas

INEQUALITY RISES IN INDIA

Madam — Apropos news article “Mumbai surpasses Beijing as billionaire hub” published on March 27, this is my response. Paris-based World Inequality Lab has recently published a report titled, ‘Income and Wealth Inequality in India 1992 - 2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj’. As per the report, inequality in India declined till the early 1980s. Thereafter, it started rising sharply. The rise of top-end inequality gained tremendous momentum during the last 10 years. The top 1 per cent of Indians earn 22.6 per cent of the national income and their wealth share has risen to 40.1 per cent. The income share of the top 1 per cent of Indians is among the very highest in the world. The report says that India is now more unequal than during the time of the British Raj. Thanks to rising inequality, the tentacles

Mechanisation is needed



Apropos news article “Mechanisation needed to tackle farm issues,” published on March 28, this is my response. Recurring drought, and scarcity of water for irrigation, combined with a lack of modern farming equipment, have all contributed to a steep fall in productivity and income, forcing our farmers to take huge loans, without being able to repay them. Farmers’ income has not been able to keep pace, such as to cater to increasing production costs, including rising labour wages. Hence, agricultural machinery

becomes the need of the hour to alleviate farmers’ problems. It is also important to note that in farming several activities are highly time-bound and unless executed as per schedule, a farmer will suffer financial loss. Agriculture mechanisation, is, therefore, an appropriate answer to such challenges faced by farmers. Farm mechanisation and crop productivity have a direct correlation as they save time and labour, reduce drudgery, cut down production costs in the long run, reduce post-harvest losses, and boost crop output and farm income. Mechanisation is crucial in the agriculture sector, as it contributes towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the inputs used in crop production. Increasing the rate of farm mechanisation is critical for India to sustainably meet production demand and develop value chains and modernised food systems. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

of VIP culture are spreading rapidly with each passing day. My local SBI branch has opened a special counter where customers can withdraw or deposit money with ease avoiding long queues at the general counter. Standing at the end of a serpentine queue at the general counter, an old man leaning on his stick asked if the special counter was for differently-abled persons and senior citizens. Immediately, he was provided enlightenment with the information that the counter was only for the VIPs who would transact a minimum amount of Rs 50 thousand! Sujit De | Kolkata

INDIA-SINGAPORE TIES
Madam — Apropos news article “India--Singapore to further deepen bilateral ties,” published on March 26, this is my response. The friendship between India and Singapore has stood the test of time for five decades. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had rightly emphasised the fact that Singapore was India’s “gateway” to the east. The phenomenal rise of Singapore from a small nation to a dream country for oth-

Dandi March: Salt, soul and satyagraha

The Dandi March serves as a reminder that peaceful protest can be a potent weapon against injustice and oppression

The 1980s film ‘Mard’ immortalised a poignant scene that encapsulates the essence of patriotism, rebellion, and sacrifice in Indian cinematic history. In this scene, the protagonist, amidst relentless flogging by the heroine armed with chains, whispers with unyielding spirit, “For this salt, our Mahatma led a revolution.” This homage vividly captures the spirit of the Salt Satyagraha of 1930, a pivotal moment in India’s quest for independence, led by Mahatma Gandhi. The Salt Satyagraha, which took place from March 12 to April 6, 1930, galvanised a nation against British colonial rule. Gandhi’s symbolic act of picking up salt at Dandi defiantly challenged the salt taxes imposed by the British, symbolising defiance and resilience in India’s freedom struggle. Over 90,000 brave souls willingly embraced brutality in their pledge for non-violence, standing as a beacon of hope against tyranny. The genesis of the Dandi March was rooted in the momentum established by the Bardoli Satyagraha in 1928, led by Sardar



Vallabhbhai Patel. This successful movement unified farmers and nationalists against oppressive British taxation, revitalising the spirit of the freedom struggle. By 1930, the Indian National Congress boldly articulated its aspiration for independence, setting the stage for Gandhi’s Salt Satyagraha. Gandhi’s letter to Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, articulated the grievances of millions and announced his intention to lead a nonviolent protest against British atrocities. Despite Gandhi’s emphasis on dialogue and peaceful resolution, the Viceroy’s inadequate response led to the commencement of the Dandi March on March 12, 1930. Accompanied by 78 dedicated followers, Gandhi embarked on a significant march covering nearly 241 miles from Sabarmati

Ashram to Dandi. This symbolic journey aimed at challenging the oppressive salt tax and British monopolistic control over salt production. The disciplined resolve of the satyagrahis exemplified unity amidst diversity, embodying the nation’s aspirations for liberation. On April 6, 1930, Gandhi’s defiance of the Salt Laws at Dandi marked a pivotal moment in India’s struggle for independence. His call to civil disobedience catalysed a mass boycott of British goods, prompting a harsh crackdown from British authorities. Despite brutal repression, the spirit of nonviolent resistance persisted, revealing the resilience of the Indian populace. The Salt Satyagraha showcased resolute collective action, with over 60,000 willingly imprisoned and thou-

sands more participating in peaceful protests. Despite Government reprisals, the ‘satyagrahis’ maintained remarkable restraint and non-violent discipline. This non-violent resistance ultimately led to negotiations with Congress leadership and Gandhi’s release after a year of imprisonment. The Dandi March culminated in the historic breaking of the salt laws, a symbolic act of defiance that reverberated globally. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. drew inspiration from Gandhi’s example, recognising the power of nonviolent resistance in confronting injustice. The Dandi March was not just a chapter in history but a transformative moment in India’s fight for independence, marking Gandhi’s emergence as a spiritual force. Through unwavering dedication to love and nonviolence, Gandhi wielded a potent weapon against oppression, demonstrating the profound impact of spirituality in challenging times. (The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)



RAJDEEP PATHAK

FIRST COLUMN

IMPACT AND DUALITIES OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media often promotes formation of echo chambers and spread of false news



SHAINY SHARMA

Social media, a ubiquitous phenomenon in contemporary society, has revolutionised the way people communicate, share information and interact with one another. From its humble beginnings as online forums to the expansive platforms of today like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Telegram, Snapchat and many more, the term ‘social media’ has reshaped human interaction and societal norms to a large extent. Today, it has become an integral part of everyone’s life, especially Generation Z and the impact is complex and multifaceted, encompassing both positive and negative aspects. Social media has fundamentally transformed communication dynamics, making it easier for individuals to connect with others globally. It has transcended geographical barriers, enabled real-time interaction and fostered virtual communities based on shared interests, identities and ideologies. Moreover, social media platforms have become instrumental in political discourse, activism and social movements, empowering voices that were previously marginalised and amplifying diverse perspectives. Millennials and Generation Z rely heavily on social media as a primary source of news and information which at times can lead to issues such as the spread of misinformation, echo chambers and filter bubbles, where individuals are only exposed to viewpoints that align with their own beliefs. Various studies have also shown that spending too much time on social media, especially before bedtime, disrupts the sleep pattern. Blue light suppresses the production of melatonin, a hormone that regulates sleep, making it more difficult to fall asleep and reducing the overall quality of sleep. Studies also reveal that constant exposure to short-form content and distractions on social media platforms can lead to a decrease in attention span and difficulty concentrating on tasks that require sustained focus. Another major role of social media platforms which is responsible for various disruptions is promoting of unrealistic beauty standards through the use of filters, photo editing tools and the prevalence of influencers with idealised appearances, leading to body dissatisfaction and negative body image among Generation Z.



Such platforms are designed to be addictive, with features such as likes, comments, and notifications triggering dopamine release in the brain and can lead to compulsive use and dependency which is no less like other forms of addiction. Moreover, the constant exposure to carefully curated images and posts can create unrealistic expectations and foster feelings of FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) among users. To mitigate the negative effects of FOMO irrespective of the generation gap, it becomes important to promote digital literacy, encourage healthy social media habits and foster offline connections and experiences such as practicing mindfulness, setting boundaries for screen time and cultivating meaningful relationships and activities that are not dependent on social media validation. Additionally, fostering a supportive and inclusive online community can also help alleviate feelings by emphasising authenticity, empathy and acceptance. There is no denying the fact that social media has brought about numerous benefits for Millennials and Generation Z in terms of connectivity, self-expression, and access to information, but at the same time it also poses challenges and risks that require careful consideration and management. Despite its transformative potential, social media presents a myriad of challenges that warrant attention. The addictive nature of social media and its impact on mental health, particularly among young people, raise concerns about excessive screen time, cyberbullying, and negative self-comparison. Balancing the advantages and drawbacks of social media usage is essential to harness its potential while mitigating its negative impacts on their well-being and society as a whole.

(The writer is an educator, views are personal)

Quantifying happiness is perplexing

The World Happiness Report places India at 126th rank, raising legitimate concerns about the methodology and biases inherent in such assessments



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

Happiness is complex and difficult to define, but this in no way implies that we do not know when we are happy. Happiness cannot be a permanent state of euphoria as the mind constantly changes its contours and shades and, by and large, remains an individual experience. Hence any exercise that seeks to generalise the impressions of a large number of individuals like those living within a country and brand them as happy or unhappy people is bound to be fraught with controversies. It will also inevitably reflect the biases of the measurers. When the definition of a variable cannot be agreed upon, its measurement will raise more controversies, but when such rankings are internationally publicised for branding countries and peoples which may influence the decisions of investors and donors, it is no longer a benign exercise without any accountability. On March 20 every year for the last seven years, which date has been marked by the UN as the International Day of Happiness, a New York-based agency called Sustainable Development Solutions Network has been bringing out an annual World Happiness Report, whose 2024 edition has placed India at 126th rank among 143 countries, much below countries like Saudi Arabia (28), China (60), Russia (72), Venezuela (79), Senegal (99), Iran (100), Palestine (103), Ukraine (105), Pakistan (108) even Myanmar (118). These countries are either strife-torn or war-ravaged, where the basic security of human life is not guaranteed, or ruled by autocrats and dictators who ruthlessly suppress the civil liberties of their people, especially of women, countries which are reeling under relentless crises in their democracy, polity and economy. This raises legitimate questions about the methodology used in the exercise that can produce such weird results. Finland has topped the ranking in each year so far, and the top 10 countries have also remained more or less the same, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Luxemburg, Switzerland and Australia. A common thread runs through all of them - high per capita income. Other higher-capita income countries also rank higher in the list, like New Zealand (21), UK



WE DO NOT NEED TO FEEL DEPRESSED AT OUR 126TH RANKING. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD IGNORE SUCH A PHONEY INDEX AND GO ABOUT OUR LIVES AND BUSINESS AS USUAL

(20), USA (23), Germany (24), or France (27). This is no surprise, because to the materialistic West hung on a culture of conspicuous overconsumption, money remains the primary and often the only source of happiness, unlike in Asian and other continental cultures. The only Asian country to feature in the list is Kuwait at 13th position, and the next one is Saudi Arabia at 28th. While Singapore features in 30th position, Japan, which has the largest concentration of longest-living people in the world, at 51st position, below Uzbekistan (47) and Kazakhstan (49). This raises natural questions about whether the index also reflects the inherent civilizational bias of the West against Asia, most of which used to be their colonies once—to treat them as superior or even equal would be an anathema to the West. Bhutan which reckons happiness as a core responsibility of Government and has adopted its Gross National Happiness (GNH) Index as a development indicator in its 2008 Constitution, was ranked 95th in 2019 and has not been ranked this year. GNH was the first such index and is far broader - having nine parameters, all non-income. Trying to measure the immeasurable will have its inherent contradictions. Happiness is a state of being, rather than a fixed state like a goal to be achieved that can be quantified and measured. Such measures therefore confuse happiness with “well-being” which is produced by the interplay of numerous extraneous factors like income, health, education, liberties, choices, relationships, physical and social security, etc. But even then, it is a subjective sense of well-being, which is neither measurable nor quantifiable. The rankings used in the World Happiness Report are based on six parameters of “subjective well-being”: (1) per capita income, (2) healthy life expectancy at birth, (3) social support, (4) freedom to make

life choices, (5) generosity, and (6) perceptions of corruption. The happiness rankings are based on what the authors say are “life evaluations”, on which Gallup World Poll (GWP) provides the data by asking respondents to evaluate their current life on a scale of 0 to 10 (happiest), using a typical sample size of 1000 for each country regardless of its population, and using a three-year average. The sample size is too small for a country like India to represent all its diversity and complexity. Data for per capita GDP on purchasing power parity (PPP) are taken from the World Development Indicators (WDI) of the World Bank, and then a natural log that fits the observations better. Data for healthy life expectancy at birth is provided by the WHO Global Health Observatory data repository. Social support is the national average of the binary responses (0=no, 1=yes) to the GWP question: “If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not?” Freedom to make life choices is again the national average of binary responses to the GWP question: “Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your freedom to choose what you do with your life?” Generosity is the residual of regressing the national average of GWP responses to the question: “Have you donated money to a charity in the past month?” on log GDP per capita, while perceptions of corruption are the average of binary answers to two GWP questions: “Is corruption widespread throughout the Government or not?” and “Is corruption widespread within businesses or not?” It does not require superlative intelligence to divine that all these parameters are derivatives of a single parameter, i.e., income or wealth of a nation, and hence will always favour rich nations over the poorer ones.

So, the richer you are, the happier you are; in other words, income is synonymous with happiness, an assumption not validated by facts, just as happiness cannot be equated with success in material terms. The mind is influenced by social and cultural factors; hence how we perceive happiness also depends on these factors. It also depends on the questions asked and the way they have been framed: Just ask “How much time you spend with your parents every week”, or “For how long you have been married to your present spouse”, and see how the scales turn against the rich western nations. In collectivist societies in Asia, people reckon happiness more as a shared experience rather than individual satisfaction with life, whereas in individualistic societies, people perceive happiness more in terms of individual satisfaction. Happy people increase the happiness of others around them; hence bonding within social groups and families contributes positively to happiness. Individualistic Western nations would score higher given the way the GWP questions have been framed. As every Indian knows from experience, we are not unhappy people, having been brought up to regard values and relationships as more important than wealth and to be content to live a simple life with few material possessions, with strong bonds with our extended families and the community. Even though perceptions are changing in a growing economy, these basic values have remained intact. We do not need to feel depressed at our 126th ranking. Instead, we should ignore such a phoney index and go about our lives and business as usual.

(The author, an ex-bureaucrat, is currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management; views are personal)

Navigating the legal and ethical implications of AI

In a world increasingly shaped by Artificial Intelligence, the discourse shifts from its capabilities to the imperative question of its ethical boundaries

In an era increasingly defined by Artificial Intelligence (AI), the pivotal question shifts from what AI is capable of to what it should be allowed to do. This reflection critically examines AI’s potential to reshape our lives within ethical and legal frameworks. As we explore the vast landscapes carved by AI, we must ensure that our technological advancements are matched with an equally profound commitment to ethical responsibility. The advent of AI is a testament to human ingenuity, offering transformative possibilities in virtually every aspect of our existence. Yet, alongside its potential, AI introduces a spectrum of legal complexities that require careful consideration. The evolution of legal



MANEESHA DHIR

jurisprudence in the face of AI’s rapid development is a topic of paramount importance, dealing with issues ranging from privacy and data protection to intellectual property and employment. The Indian Government’s embrace of AI through initiatives like “Digital India” and a National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence reflects a visionary stance on harnessing technology for societal benefit.

However, the journey toward realising AI’s full promise is fraught with challenges that demand vigilant oversight and a principled approach to regulation and ethics. On a global scale, AI raises questions that transcend national boundaries, presenting legal and ethical dilemmas that must be addressed comprehensively. The capacity of AI to analyse and utilise vast amounts of personal data has challenged existing privacy laws, sparking a worldwide reassessment of how we protect individual rights in the digital age. Countries are adopting comprehensive data protection regulations, such as the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation and India’s Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, to



safeguard personal information while fostering digital innovation. The implications of AI on the job market also warrant serious consideration. The potential for automation to displace jobs creates a pressing need for legal frameworks that can mitigate adverse effects and prepare the workforce for an AI-driven future. Similarly, the intersection of AI with intellectual property rights challenges

conventional notions of creativity and authorship, calling for legal innovations that recognise and protect the contributions of all stakeholders, including those of AI. The issues of bias and discrimination in AI highlight the critical need for our technological systems to be as impartial and inclusive as possible. The development and deployment of AI must be guided by anti-discrimination laws adapted to

the digital age, ensuring fairness and equity in the application of AI. Internationally, the regulatory approach to AI varies significantly, with entities like the European Union adopting comprehensive frameworks while others pursue more sector-specific guidelines. This diversity reflects the complex interplay of legal, cultural, and societal factors that influence AI governance, emphasising the need for a globally coordinated dialogue on AI ethics and regulation. Integrating AI into the legal profession offers a glimpse into the future, showcasing AI’s potential to enhance legal analysis, predict outcomes, and even assist in judicial decision-making. However, these advancements under-

score the imperative for stringent ethical standards to uphold the integrity of the legal system. As AI continues to evolve rapidly, it becomes crucial for societies, especially within the diverse context of India, to engage in proactive discourse. We must anticipate future developments and craft legal frameworks that are flexible enough to adapt to the unpredictable technological landscape. This includes ensuring that the benefits of AI extend to all and democratising access to services like healthcare and education. In conclusion, as we chart the course of AI within the legal domain, our focus must steadfastly remain on enacting and refining laws that protect human rights and dignity. Achieving harmony between

emerging technology and legal norms requires a culture of continuous learning and adaptation, where laws are designed not just to respond to the challenges posed by AI but to foresee and embrace its vast possibilities. With India at the forefront of AI innovation, buoyed by progressive policies and a wealth of intellectual capital, we stand on the brink of leading the global conversation on ethical AI. As we venture deeper into this new frontier, our collective aim should be a future where technology amplifies the noblest goals of law and justice, and in return, legal frameworks foster the responsible growth of Artificial Intelligence.

(The author is a legal expert. Views expressed are personal)

Palestinian Authority announces new Cabinet

AP ■ RAMALLAH

The Palestinian Authority has announced the formation of a new Cabinet as it faces international pressure to reform. President Mahmoud Abbas, who has led the PA for nearly two decades and remains in overall control, announced the new government in a presidential decree on Thursday. None of the incoming ministers is a well-known figure. Abbas tapped Mohammad Mustafa, a longtime adviser, to be prime minister earlier this month. Mustafa, a politically independent US-educated economist, had vowed to form a technocratic government and create an independent trust fund to help rebuild Gaza. Mustafa will also serve as foreign minister.

Interior Minister Ziad Hab al-Rih is a member of Abbas' secular Fatah movement and held the same portfolio in the previous government.

The Interior Ministry oversees the security forces. The incoming minister for Jerusalem affairs, Ashraf al-Awar, registered to run as a Fatah candidate in elections in 2021 that were indefinitely delayed. At least five of the incoming 23 ministers are from Gaza, but it was not immediately clear if they are still in the territory. The PA administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West

Bank. Its forces were driven from Gaza when Hamas seized power in 2007, and it has no power there. It has little popular support or legitimacy among Palestinians, in part because it has not held elections in 18 years. Its policy of cooperating with Israel on security matters is extremely unpopular and has led many Palestinians to view it as a subcontractor of the occupation. Opinion polls in recent years have consistently found that a vast majority of Palestinians want the 88-year-old Abbas to resign. The United States has called for a revitalised PA to administer postwar Gaza ahead of eventual statehood. Israel has rejected that idea, saying it will maintain open-ended security control over Gaza and partner with Palestinians who are not affiliated with the PA or Hamas. It's unclear who in Gaza would be willing to take on such a role.

Hamas has rejected the formation of the new government as illegitimate, calling instead for all Palestinian factions, including Fatah, to form a power-sharing government ahead of national elections. It has warned Palestinians in Gaza against cooperating with Israel to administer the territory, saying anyone who does will be treated as a collaborator, which is understood as a death threat.

US SANCTIONS ONLINE MEDIA SITE GAZA NOW

The US on Wednesday imposed sanctions on online media site Gaza Now and its founder Mustafa Ayash for allegedly supporting Hamas. US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control says that after the October 7 attack by Hamas against Israel — the online entity began a fundraising effort in support of the militant organisation. Gaza Now's Arabic channel has more than 300,000 followers on social media channel X, formerly known as Twitter, and a large following on the encrypted chat platform Telegram. Included in the sanctions are firms Al-Qureshi Executives and Aakhirah Ltd., and their director Aozma Sultana, who are alleged to have partnered on multiple fundraising efforts alongside Gaza Now. The sanctions were imposed in collaboration with the UK's Office of Foreign Sanctions Implementation. Treasury Under Secretary Brian Nelson said in a statement that the US and its partners "will continue to leverage our tools to disrupt Hamas' ability to facilitate further attacks." A representative for Gaza Now and Ayash were not immediately available. The sanctions block access to US property and bank accounts and prevent those designated from doing business with Americans.

Doctors stunned by war's toll on Palestinian children

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH

An international team of doctors visiting a hospital in central Gaza was prepared for the worst. But the gruesome impact Israel's war against Hamas is having on Palestinian children still left them stunned. One toddler died from a brain injury caused by an Israeli strike that fractured his skull. His cousin, an infant, is still fighting for her life with part of her face blown off by the same strike.

An unrelated 10-year-old boy screamed out in pain for his parents, not knowing that they were killed in the strike. Beside him was his sister, but he didn't recognise her because burns covered almost her entire body. These gut-wrenching casualties were described to The Associated Press by Tanya Haj-Hassan, a pediatric intensive-care doctor from Jordan, following a 10-hour overnight shift at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the town of Deir al-Balah. Haj-Hassan, who has extensive experience in Gaza and regu-



larly speaks out about the war's devastating effects, was part of a team that recently finished a two-week stint there. After nearly six months of war, Gaza's health sector has been decimated. Roughly a dozen of Gaza's 36 hospitals are only partially functioning. The rest have either shut down or are barely functioning after they ran out of fuel and medicine, were surrounded and raided by Israeli troops, or were damaged in fighting. That leaves hospitals such as Al-Aqsa Martyrs caring for an

overwhelming number of patients with limited supplies and staff. The majority of its intensive care unit beds are occupied by children, including infants wrapped in bandages and wearing oxygen masks. "I spend most of my time here resuscitating children," Haj-Hassan said after a recent shift. "What does that tell you about every other hospital in the Gaza Strip?" A different team of international doctors working at Al-Aqsa Martyrs in January stayed at a nearby guesthouse.

4 killed, 7 hurt in Illinois stabbings, suspect in custody

Rockford (Illinois) (AP) Four people were killed and seven hurt in stabbings in northern Illinois on Wednesday, authorities said. A 22-year-old man is in police custody and was being questioned Wednesday afternoon, according to Rockford Police Chief Carla Redd. She said one of the people who was wounded remained in critical condition. "My heart goes out to the families right now that are suffering a loss," Redd told reporters.

She said the Rockford Police received a medical call at 1:14 p.m., followed by additional calls for police and paramedics. "We don't believe there's any other suspects that are on the run or at large at this particular time," Redd said. "Right now, we don't have a clear motive as to what caused this individual to commit such a heinous crime."

Not all of the victims found at multiple addresses in the city had stab wounds and none were shot, according to Redd. Rockford Police initially said five people had been injured. Cori Hilliard, a public information officer with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, told AP Wednesday evening that two more victims were among those hurt. Three people died at the scenes. The fourth died at a hospital. Police later identified those victims as a 15-year-old girl, a 63-year-old woman, a 49-year-old man and a 22-year-old man. Their names were not released.

Redd said residents in the area were being asked to review their home surveillance camera footage for anything related to the attacks.

Rockford's population is about 150,000 and it's 144.84 kilometres northwest of Chicago. The violence Wednesday came days after a teenage employee of a Walmart in Rockford was stabbed and killed inside the store.

'Cargo ship underwent maintenance prior collision'

AP ■ BALTIMORE

The cargo ship that lost power and crashed into a bridge in Baltimore underwent "routine engine maintenance" in port beforehand, the US Coast Guard said Wednesday, as divers recovered the bodies of two of six workers who plunged into the water when it collapsed.

The others were presumed dead, and officials said search efforts had been exhausted. Investigators began collecting evidence from the vessel a day after it struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The bodies of the two men were located in the morning inside a red pickup submerged in about 25 feet (7.6 metres) of water near the bridge's middle span, Col. Roland L. Butler Jr., superintendent of Maryland State Police, announced at an evening news conference.

He identified the men as Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 35, who was from Mexico and living in Baltimore, and Dorian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, 26, who was from Guatemala and living in Dundalk, Maryland. The victims, who were part of a construction crew fixing potholes on the bridge, were from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, Butler said. Maryland Gov. Wes Moore addressed their families in Spanish during the news conference, saying, "Estamos contigo, ahora y siempre," which means, "we are with you, now and always." All search efforts have been exhausted, and based on sonar scans, authorities "firmly" believe the other vehicles with victims are encased in material from the collapsed bridge, Butler said. Divers are to resume searching once the debris is cleared.

Coast Guard Rear Admiral Shannon Gilreath said at the news conference that authorities were informed that the ship was going to undergo the maintenance. "As far as the engine goes, we were not informed of any problems with the vessel," he said. The Baltimore region has reeled from the sudden loss of a major transportation link that's part of the highway loop around the city. The disaster also closed the port, which is vital to the city's shipping industry.

National Transportation Safety Board officials boarded the ship to recover information from its electronics and paperwork and to interview the captain and other crew members, NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy said during a separate news conference.

Twenty-three people, including two pilots, were on the ship

when it crashed, she said. The vessel was also carrying 56 containers of hazardous materials including corrosives, flammables and lithium ion batteries, Homendy said. She added that some containers were breached, and that a sheen on the water from those materials would be handled by authorities.

Marcel Muise, NTSB investigator in charge, laid out a preliminary timeline assembled from the voyage data recorder comprising audio from the bridge and VHF radio ahead of the crash, which federal and state officials have said appeared to be an accident.

The vessel, the Dali, left port at 12:39 a.m. Tuesday and, after it entered the channel, signs of trouble came at about 1:25 a.m. when numerous alarms sounded, according to the NTSB. About a minute later, steering commands and rudder

orders were issued, and at 1:26 a.m. and 39 seconds, a pilot made a general radio call for nearby tug boats.

Maryland Transportation Authority data from about the same time shows the pilot association dispatcher called the transportation authority's officer on duty about the black-out, the NTSB said.

Just after 1:27 a.m., the pilot commanded the ship to drop an anchor on the left side of the ship and issued added steering commands. About 20 seconds later, the pilot issued a radio call reporting that the Dali had lost all power approaching the bridge.

At about that time, the state transportation officer on duty radioed two of its units already stationed at each end of the bridge saying to close the bridge to vehicle traffic. They were already there because of the construction.

Airstrip being built on Yemeni island

Dubai (AP): As Yemen's Houthi rebels continue to target ships in a Mideast waterway, satellite pictures analysed by The Associated Press show what appears to be a new airstrip being built at an entrance to that crucial maritime route.

No country has publicly claimed the construction taking place on Abd al-Kuri Island, a stretch of land rising out of the Indian Ocean near the mouth of the Gulf of Aden. However, satellite images shot for the AP appear to show workers have spelled out "I LOVE UAE" with piles of dirt next to the runway, using an abbreviation for the United Arab Emirates.

Both the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea to which it leads have become a battleground between the Houthis and US-led forces in the region as Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip rages — potentially allowing a nation to

project its power into the area. The construction comes as the presence of troops from the Emirates in the Socotra island chain to which Abd al-Kuri belongs — and that of the separatist force it backs in southern Yemen — have sparked clashes in the past.

In response to questions from the AP, the United Arab Emirates said on Thursday that "any presence of the UAE on Socotra island is based on humanitarian grounds that is carried out in cooperation with the Yemeni government and local authorities."

"The UAE remains steadfast in its commitment to all international endeavours aimed at facilitating the resumption of the Yemeni political process, thereby advancing the security, stability, and prosperity sought by the Yemeni populace," it added, without elaborating.

Rishi Sunak shares 'hard balance' of being good dad and UK PM

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has admitted it is a hard balance for him to strike as the father of two young children and holding the top job of leading the country through various crises.

In a friendly podcast interview for "The Times" with former Conservative Party leader William Hague, the 43-year-old British Indian leader was asked about some of the challenges of taking charge at 10 Downing Street in the wake of intense political turmoil.

He shared his concerns about not being able to find as much time as he would like to focus on his daughters Krishna, 12, and Anoushka, 11. "I've got two young girls who mean the world to me and it's



hard to balance being a good dad and doing the job well," said Sunak. "You have to prioritise this job because it's an important job and you're doing it on behalf of the whole country. So not being

there for them as much as any dad would like to be is a challenge. There are particular moments where you feel that acutely because there's something very difficult going on. That's tough, but that's the job," he said.

Further, on a personal note about his Indian heritage, Sunak said he would like to "understand a bit more about" his grandparents who migrated from East Africa via India. "My grandparents largely went from India to east Africa and then my parents and grandparents came from east Africa to the UK as immigrants and when my grandmother made that journey, I think it was probably one of the first times she had been on a plane. I think she didn't know when she was going to see her family again,"

he said.

Southampton-born Sunak pointed out that while his grandmother had come to the UK "not quite knowing how that would all work," within a couple of generations he was sitting in former prime minister Margaret Thatcher's study in Downing Street for the newspaper's "The Story" podcast. "That is an incredible journey. I'm inspired by that, and that's something that speaks to our country's story of openness and tolerance. I think there are very few countries in the world where my story would be possible... my family's story is one of hard work, loving family and service to a community; those were the values I was raised with and I would like to understand where all that came from," he said.

Pope issues marching orders to priests during Holy Thursday Mass

AP ■ ROME/ NORWEGIA

Pope Francis urged his priests Thursday to avoid "clerical hypocrisy" and treat their flocks with mercy as he delivered a lengthy set of marching orders to Rome-based priests at the start of a busy few days leading to Easter. A strong-looking Francis presided over a Holy Thursday Mass in St Peter's Basilica during which the oils for church services are blessed. Later in the afternoon, he travels to Rome's main women's prison for the annual Holy Week ritual in which he washes the feet of inmates in a symbol of humility and service.

The 87-year-old Francis, who has been hobbled by a long bout of respiratory problems this winter, appeared in good form for the morning Mass. He read aloud a long homily, after skipping his text at the last minute during Palm Sunday Mass last weekend. In his remarks, Francis warned



priests against "sliding into clerical hypocrisy," or preaching one thing to their flocks but doing differently in their own spiritual lives. Rather, he urged them to always show mercy to the faithful and not judge them,

and weep instead for their own sins. Doing so, he said, "means looking within and repenting of our ingratitude and inconstancy, and acknowledging with sorrow our duplicity, dishonesty and hypocrisy," he said.

The Mass was the first major papal liturgy in St Peter's since Bernini's great columned canopy over the altar, known as a baldacchino, was covered in scaffolding for a months-long

renovation and cleaning. Francis has a busy few days coming up that will test his stamina.

On Friday, he is due to travel at night to the Colosseum for the Way of the Cross procession re-enacting Christ's crucifixion.

On Saturday, he presides over an evening Easter Vigil in St Peter's Basilica followed a few hours later by Easter Sunday Mass in the piazza and his big noontime Urbi et Orbi (to the city and the world) speech highlighting global conflicts and disasters afflicting humanity.

NORWEGIANS FACING A SHORTAGE

A shortage of eggs in shops during Holy Week has led Norwegians to flock to supermarkets across the border in Sweden and hoard the traditional Easter food.

Norwegian news outlet Nettavisen said on Thursday that the Nordby shopping centre in Sweden, located just off

the border about 100 kilometres (62 miles) south of the capital, Oslo, has been filled by "desperate" Norwegians trying to stock up on eggs.

The centre's Maxi-Mat food store ran out of eggs Tuesday, while the adjacent Nordby Supermarket has had to limit the number of eggs purchased to three 20-packs per household, the news outlet reported. Not only are the Swedish stores better stocked with eggs, a traditional Easter treat needed for many dishes, but the product is also more affordable in Sweden, Nettavisen said.

"It's far cheaper than you get in Norway — if you can get eggs in Norway at all, that is," Stale Lovheim, the head of the Nordby shopping centre, told Nettavisen. "The last time I was in Norway, the store was empty" of eggs.

A pack of 20 eggs in Sweden sells for a price equivalent to 39.90 Norwegian kroner (USD 3.70), about 30 per cent less than the price in Norway.

Concerns about overproduction of eggs in Norway led to farmers being offered compensation to reduce egg production. That and the effects of bird flu have led to a shortage, according to news reports.

Egg prices are at near-historic highs in many parts of the world as Easter approaches, reflecting a market battered by disease, high demand and growing costs for farmers. Ranked consistently among the most expensive countries in the world, Norway is known for its substantially high cost of living, especially in regards to food products and alcohol, which are heavily taxed even when compared to well-to-do Nordic neighbours.

Many residents living in southern Norway regularly make shopping trips across the border to Sweden, where products and services enjoy a lower value-added tax, a phenomenon that has evolved into a lucrative business for Swedish store owners.

Hunter Biden's lawyers push judge to toss out tax case charges

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Attorneys for Hunter Biden asked a judge Wednesday to toss out the tax case accusing him of a four-year scheme to avoid paying USD 1.4 million in taxes while living an extravagant lifestyle. President Joe Biden's son has pleaded not guilty to the nine felony and misdemeanour tax offences. His attorneys argued the prosecution is politically motivated, was tainted by leaks from IRS agents who claimed publicly the case was mishandled and includes some allegations from before he moved to California.

Prosecutors framed the claims as far-fetched during the three-hour hearing. Prosecutor Leo Wise scoffed at the idea that the case was tainted by the IRS agents "who I couldn't have picked out of a lineup". Defence attorney Abbe Lowell, on the other hand, maintained the case was hopelessly contaminated by partisan politics, calling it "the least ordinary prosecution a person could imagine".

US District Judge Mark C Scarsi appeared to be sceptical, telling Lowell the hard evidence for some of his claims was lacking. "You cite to a lot of things on the internet," he said.

Scarsi said he would likely rule on motions to dismiss by April 17.

Hunter Biden has also been charged in Delaware with lying on a federal form to buy a gun in 2018 by saying he wasn't using or addicted to illegal drugs, even though he has acknowledged being addicted to crack cocaine at the time. He has pleaded not guilty in that case, which also accuses him of possessing the gun illegally.

Both cases are overseen by special counsel David Weiss and now have tentative trials scheduled for June, though defence attorneys are also trying to get the Delaware gun charges tossed out.

The two sets of charges come from a yearslong federal investigation that had been expected to wrap up over the summer with a plea deal in which Hunter Biden would have gotten two years of probation after pleading guilty to misde-

meanour tax charges. The president's son, who has since repaid the back taxes with a loan, also would have avoided prosecution on the gun charge if he stayed out of trouble.

Defence attorneys argue that immunity provisions in the deal were signed by a prosecutor and are still in effect, though prosecutors disagree. But the deal that could have spared Hunter Biden the spectacle of a criminal trial during the 2024 presidential campaign unravelled after a federal judge in Delaware began to question it. Now, the tax and gun cases are moving ahead as part of an unprecedented confluence of political and legal drama: As the November election draws closer, the Justice Department is actively prosecuting both the Democratic president's son and the presumptive Republican nominee, Donald Trump.

Hunter Biden's original proposed plea deal with prosecutors had been pilloried as a "sweetheart deal" by Republicans, including Trump. The former president is facing his own criminal problems — 91 charges across four cases, including that he plotted to overturn the results of the 2020 election, which he lost to Joe Biden.

Hunter Biden's criminal proceedings are also happening in parallel to so-far unsuccessful efforts by congressional Republicans to link his business dealings to his father. Republicans are pursuing an impeachment inquiry into President Biden, claiming he was engaged in an influence-peddling scheme with his son. No evidence has emerged to prove that Joe Biden, as president or previously as vice-president, abused his role or accepted bribes, though questions have arisen about the ethics surrounding the Biden family's international business dealings. In launching their Biden impeachment inquiry last year, the House Republicans relied in large part on unverified claims from an FBI informant released by Senate Republicans suggesting that payments totalling USD 10 million from Ukrainian energy company Burisma to the Bidens were discussed.

'King Charles III continuing to serve whole-heartedly'

London (PTI): A pre-recorded audio message by Britain's King Charles III was broadcast on Thursday for a traditional Easter service at Worcester Cathedral in central England, in which the 75-year-old monarch undergoing cancer treatment spoke of continuing to serve the nation with his "whole heart". The King, who has taken a back seat from large-scale public-facing duties since his cancer diagnosis was made public last month, spoke of saying a "special prayer" this Easter as he expressed "great sadness" at being unable to attend the annual Royal Maundy Service in person. Buckingham Palace said the audio was recorded in mid-March and included a reading from the 'Bible' from the 'Gospel according to John'. "The Maundy Service has a very special place in my heart. It has its origin in the life of Our Lord who knelt before his disciples and, to their great surprise, washed their travel-weary feet," said King Charles in his message. "In this country we are blessed by all the different services that exist for our welfare. But over and above these organisations and their selfless staff, we need and benefit greatly from those who extend the hand of friendship to us, especially in a time of need," he said.

The monarch added: "This act of worship, here in Worcester Cathedral, reminds me of the pledge I made at the beginning of the Coronation Service – to follow Christ's example 'not to be served but to serve'. That I have always tried to do and continue to do, with my whole heart.

"It is my special prayer today that Our Lord's example of serving one another might continue to inspire us and to strengthen all our communities."

Won't start war with NATO: Putin

'But Western bases hosting Ukraine F-16s would be targets'

AP ■ KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin scoffed at the possibility of his country launching an attack on a NATO member, calling it “sheer nonsense,” but warned that any Western air base hosting US-made F-16 fighter jets that are slated for deployment in Ukraine would be a “legitimate target” for the Kremlin’s forces.

“Their statements about our alleged intention to attack Europe after Ukraine is sheer nonsense,” Putin said late Wednesday, referring to warnings in the US and Western Europe that Russia could turn its sights on other countries unless it is stopped.

He noted that the US defence budget is more than 10 times higher than Russia’s. “In view of that, are we going to wage a war against NATO? Its ravings,” he told military pilots during a visit to an air base.

Ukraine is awaiting the delivery of F-16s, which will increase military pressure on Russia, from its Western partners.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last year that 42 F-16s had been promised. Ukrainian pilots have been training in the West for months on how to fly the warplanes.

The F-16s require a high standard of runways and reinforced hangars to protect them from bombing attacks when they are on the ground. It is not clear how many Ukrainian air bases can meet those requirements, and Russia would be certain to quickly target a few that could accommodate them once the jets arrive.

Putin warned Ukraine’s Western allies against providing air bases in their countries from where the F-16s could launch sorties against the Kremlin’s forces. Those bases would become a “legitimate target,” he said. “F-16s are capable of carrying nuclear weapons, and we will also need to take that into account while organizing our combat operations,” Putin added.

Military analysts have said the arrival of F-16s won’t be a game-changer in view of Russia’s massive air force and sophisticated air defence systems, though Ukrainian offi-



cials have welcomed them as an opportunity to hit back at Russia’s air dominance.

Putin insisted the F-16s “won’t change the situation on the battlefield.”

“We will destroy their warplanes just as we destroy their tanks, armored vehicles and other equipment, including multiple rocket launchers,” he said. F-16s can be used to bolster Ukraine’s capability to target Russian facilities with long-range missile strikes. Ukraine’s counteroffensive last year came up short in part because it took place without air cover, placing its troops at the mercy of Russian aviation and artillery.

Russia has maintained air dominance in the war with Ukraine, though the provision of sophisticated Western air defence systems has forced Russian warplanes to avoid Ukrainian skies and launch attacks while remaining over Russian-controlled territory.

The Kremlin currently has a battlefield edge in weapons and troops, yielding recent incremental gains at points on the around 1,000-kilometer front line, as Kyiv awaits more promised Western military support and mulls a broader mobilization.

Russia fired salvoes of drones and missiles overnight at southern and eastern regions of Ukraine, authorities said on Thursday, injuring more than a dozen people as the Kremlin’s forces persevered with attritional attacks designed to wear down Ukrainian defenses. Air defence systems intercepted 26 out of 28 Shahed drones, Ukraine’s air force said. Russian forces also launched five missiles overnight, it said.

Russia perseveres with Ukraine bombardments

AP ■ KYIV

Russia fired salvoes of drones and missiles overnight at southern and eastern regions of Ukraine, authorities said on Thursday, injuring more than a dozen people as the Kremlin’s forces persevered with attritional attacks designed to wear down Ukrainian defenses.

Air defence systems intercepted 26 out of 28 Shahed drones, Ukraine’s air force said. Russian forces also launched five missiles overnight, it said. The regular bombardment of Ukraine by the Kremlin’s forces during the war has recently gained momentum, with missile barrages of the capital Kyiv and strikes on energy facilities across the country.

The attacks also aim to weaken Ukrainian morale and act as retribution for Ukrainian long-range strikes on Russian soil. One of Russia’s goals is to “deplete Ukraine’s inventory of ground-based air defence,” according to a recent military assessment published by the

International Institute for Strategic Studies.

That would erode some of Ukraine’s combat ability as it waits on pledged but delayed military support from the West, including ammunition for its artillery and air defenses.

“Kyiv is confronted by the threat that an attritional war in the air domain will increasingly favour Russia without adequate support from the US and its allies,” the IISS said. “Ukraine’s ability to continue to counter Russian air threats and impose costs on the Russian Aerospace Forces remains important to the outcome of the war.”

Ukraine is awaiting the delivery of F-16s fighter jets, which will help place pressure on Russia, from its Western partners.

Ukrainian pilots have been training in the West for months on how to fly the warplanes. Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Ukraine’s Western allies against providing air bases in their countries from where the

F-16s could launch sorties against the Kremlin’s forces, saying those bases would be a “legitimate target.”

The F-16s require a high standard of runways and reinforced hangars to protect them when they are on the ground. Military analysts have said the arrival of potentially dozens of F-16s won’t be a game-changer, though Ukrainian officials have welcomed them as an opportunity to hit back at Russia’s air dominance.

Putin insisted the F-16s “won’t change the situation on the battlefield.”

“We will destroy their warplanes just as we destroy their tanks, armoured vehicles and other equipment, including multiple rocket launchers,” Putin said in comments to military pilots during a visit to an air base late Wednesday.

Even so, Putin said, Russia has no intention of starting a war with NATO. He said it was “sheer nonsense” to think that Russia could attack a NATO member country after the Ukraine war.

Leaders cite progress on regulating Ukrainian food imports to ease farmers’ anger

AP ■ WARSAW

The prime ministers of Ukraine and Poland said they made progress on Thursday toward meeting demands of Polish and western European farmers who want restrictions on cheap Ukrainian food imports that they say undermine their livelihoods, but they announced no breakthrough.

Ukraine’s Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal was in Poland for talks with his counterpart, Donald Tusk, to find ways of addressing the farmers’ discontent that has led to violent protests and blockades of Poland’s border cross-

ings with Ukraine. The leaders said some proposals were made during the talks but that more work was needed. Both said it would be helpful if the European Union went forward with a proposed 50 per cent tax on Russian and Belarusian food imports.

Farmers in many European countries have been staging vehement protests targeting, among other issues, the cheap imports from Ukraine, and tensions have grown between Kyiv and its staunch ally Warsaw over the tax-free inflow of Ukraine’s farm produce. Tusk had suggested that Poland, a NATO member and an EU country bordering

Ukraine, would seek quotas on the imports during the talks. He has also suggested boosting Ukrainian exports to needy countries outside Europe. Shmyhal said that Ukraine has agreed to “certain limitations” but did not specify them.

The EU has opened its doors wide to Ukrainian farm produce to help the country make money from its exports after Russia’s 2022 invasion cut many of its traditional trade routes. However, EU lawmakers recently agreed that quotas could be reintroduced on some Ukrainian foods to address the European farmers’ complaints.

Pakistan SC allows military courts to announce verdicts

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Supreme Court on Thursday conditionally allowed military courts to only announce verdicts of those May 9 suspects who could be released before the upcoming Eid festival. The case is about the trial of 103 civilians for their alleged involvement in the attacks on army installations during the riots that erupted after the arrest of former premier Imran Khan.

A six-member bench of Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Azhar Hasan Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan heard a set of intra-court appeals (ICAs) against its Oct 23, 2023 unanimous ruling nullifying the military trials of civilians.

A five-member SC bench comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Munib Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Syed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Ayesha Malik had unanimously declared that trying the accused civilians in military

courts was against the Constitution of the country. The bench also ruled they should be tried in civilian criminal courts.

A set of ICAs followed and the court on December 13 last year suspended the verdict by a 5-1 majority till the adjudication of the appeals. The appeals were filed by the then-caretaker federal government and provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab as well as by the defence ministry.

During the last hearing on March 25, the court asked authorities to provide details about the military trials of civilians for their alleged involvement in the violent events. It ordered that it be informed about “how many suspects could be acquitted and how many could not be”, adding that all details be submitted by March 28.

It also sought information on the suspects who were to be sentenced for shorter periods. “The stay order on the military courts’ case will be amended according to the summary,” it noted.

During today’s hearing, the

court after hearing arguments gave conditional permission to military courts to announce the reserved verdicts. “Only verdict in those cases be announced in which the nominated suspects could be released before Eid,” the court ruled. The attorney general also informed the court that about 20 suspects may be released after completion of their trial and other formalities, including concession in the sentence by the army chief. The court noted the assurances by Awan that those with lesser sentences would be given legal concessions. The court further said that permission to decide further appeals would be subject to the final decision on the appeals against the Oct 23 ruling. The court also directed the attorney general to submit a report on the issue to the registrar and adjourned the hearing until the last week of April. Hundreds of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers and leaders were arrested after the riot but only those allegedly involved in attacks on army installations were selected for trial by the military courts.

Af not taking steps to root out terrorism: Pak def minister

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan is not making any progress to root out terrorism from its soil, Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said, urging the Taliban rulers in Kabul to tighten border controls further to mitigate the threat faced by his country.

“In view of the increase in terrorist incidents, there is a need for a fundamental change in the border situation. The source of terrorism in Pakistan is in Afghanistan and despite our efforts, Kabul is not making any progress in this direction,” Asif posted on X on Wednesday.

Pakistan, which has witnessed a series of terror attacks in recent months, has openly said it suspects the involvement of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

(TTP), a splinter group of Afghan Taliban. According to the Dawn newspaper, Asif regretted that despite the Taliban administration being aware of the hideouts of terrorism, terrorists were operating freely against Pakistan from their territory. “Cooperation from Kabul (for tackling terrorism threat) is not available,” the minister emphasised. Asif’s comments came against the backdrop of a string of attacks over the past few days including those on the Gwadar Port Authority complex and naval base in Turbat and the suicide attack on the van carrying Chinese workers in Shangla in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The report said that the minister posted these remarks on X after attending a special security meeting convened by

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and added, “His remarks in a way reflected the discussion at the meeting as PMO statement on security meeting had expressed concern over ‘sanctuaries available to terrorists across the borders’ and had called for ‘a regional approach’ for countering terrorism.”

A video clip that recently went viral on social media showed an Afghan Taliban member, identified as Yahya, assisting Pakistani terrorists based in Afghanistan in planning a cross-border attack on Pakistani troops deployed along the border, the newspaper said.

The defence minister describing the complexity of the border security challenge said the Pak-Afghan border was different from the traditional international borders.

‘In Mali, Wagner mercenaries helping army kill civilians’

AP ■ DAKAR (SENEGAL)

The Russian mercenary group known as Wagner is helping government forces in central and northern Mali carry out raids and drone strikes that have killed scores of civilians, including many children, rights groups said in reports published this week that span the period from December to March.

Mali, along with its neighbours Burkina Faso and Niger, has for over a decade battled an insurgency fought by jihadi groups, including some allied with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

Following military coups in all three nations in recent years, the ruling juntas have expelled French forces and turned to Russia’s mercenary units for security assistance instead.

Violence has escalated in Mali since Russian mercenaries arrived there following a coup in 2021. Its ruling junta has ramped up operations, carrying out deadly drone strikes that have hit gatherings of

civilians, and raids accompanied by Russian mercenaries that have killed civilians.

Residents of the Sahel region that includes Mali say Russia’s presence doesn’t appear to have changed since Wagner’s leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, died in a suspicious plane crash last year.

“Mali’s Russia-backed transitional military government is not only committing horrific abuses, but it is working to eliminate scrutiny into its human rights situation,” Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior Sahel researcher at Human Rights Watch, in a statement on Thursday. In an example of a raid carried out by Russian-backed government forces in January, Human Rights Watch said the army entered a village near a military base in central Mali and arrested 25 people, including four children.

Their bodies were found later that day blindfolded and with bullet wounds to the head, the report said. Amnesty International said in separate report earlier this week that two drone strikes in northern Mali

killed at least 13 civilians, including seven children aged 2 to 17. A pregnant woman who was injured in the bombing miscarried days after the attack, it said.

Human Rights Watch has said the Turkish-supplied drones in Mali are capable of delivering precise laser-guided bombs. The group has also documented how drone strikes have killed civilians. In one example, a drone strike in central Mali’s Segou region killed at least seven people at a wedding, including two boys, it said. The following day, a second drone strike targeted a funeral held for those killed in the previous day’s strike.

The juntas ruling Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso earlier this month announced a joint security force to fight the worsening extremist violence in their Sahel region. This follows steps taken by the juntas to step away from other regional and Western nations that don’t agree with their approach and rely on Russia for security support instead.

‘Enemies of Pak-China friendship responsible for terror attack’

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan on Thursday said that the “enemies” of its friendship with China were responsible for the “heinous” terrorist attack which killed five Chinese nationals and vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

At least five Chinese nationals, working on the Dasu hydropower project, and the driver of the vehicle they were travelling in were killed on Tuesday when an explosives-packed vehicle rammed into their bus in Shangla district in the troubled Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, in the second suicide attack on the personnel working on the China-backed hydropower project since 2021.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, addressing the weekly press briefing, said that Pakistan was in contact with the Chinese government regarding the “heinous attack.”

“Pakistan and China are close friends and iron brothers. We have no doubt that the Bisham terror attack was orchestrated by

the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship,” she said without identifying the enemies. She said Pakistan is “fully committed to bringing terrorists, and their facilitators and abettors to justice.”

“Such despicable attacks further strengthen Pakistan’s resolve in combating terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations,” the FO spokesperson said. She said that Pakistan and China would together resolutely act against terrorists and defeat them.

“Pakistan will continue to work with our Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan,” she said. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered a thorough joint investigation into the deadly terrorist attack on Chinese nationals after Beijing pressed Islamabad to speed up the hunt for the perpetrators and take effective steps to protect Chinese personnel working in the country.

SL PM meets Chinese President Xi

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Chinese President Xi Jinping has assured continuous support to Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena for Sri Lanka’s efforts for “political and socioeconomic progress” and also said Beijing will stand for safeguarding the island nation’s territorial integrity and sovereignty. China and Sri Lanka agreed to continue to act under the friendship, peace, mutual respect and fivefold principle in international affairs that do not interfere in the internal affairs of a country during a meeting between Xi and Gunawardena on Wednesday at Great Hall in Beijing, the prime minister’s office said in a statement here on Thursday.

“Chinese President assured continuous support of China to Sri Lanka’s efforts for political and socioeconomic progress. The Chinese President said that China will always stand for safeguarding independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka,” the statement said. “It was emphasised that bilateral relations should be based on mutual respect and mutual productivity between the countries, and acting according to that policy would set a good example for both countries,” it added.

President Xi assured that China will support the schemes necessary for the development of Sri Lanka as soon as they are presented.

China is willing to work with Sri Lanka to carry forward the spirit of the Rubber-Rice Pact, which is characterised by “independence, self-reliance, unity and mutual support,” to consolidate political mutual trust, enhance exchanges of experience in governance, expand practical cooperation, and advance the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Xi was quoted as saying in an official press release in Beijing. Earlier on Tuesday, China and Sri Lanka signed nine new agreements as Prime Minister Gunawardena met his counterpart Chinese Premier Li Qing amid Colombo’s efforts to restructure its bankrupt economy but no details about the agreement were made available.

Top Chinese official says green, high tech development key

AP ■ BOAO (CHINA)

China is committed to reforms that will upgrade the technological level of its largely manufacturing-based economy and exploit green technologies expected to drive around USD 1.4 trillion in annual revenues, a senior Communist Party official said on Thursday.

“We sincerely welcome all countries to board the express train of China’s development and join hands to realize world modernisation featuring peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity,” Zhao Leiji, who heads China’s rubber stamp congress and sits on the party’s all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, was quoted as telling business people and other leaders attending the Boao Forum for Asia.

The gathering in Boao, held on China’s island province of Hainan on the South China Sea, is the latest venue for efforts by Beijing to reassure foreign investors rattled by policies that have raised uncertainties for foreign businesses, geopolitical tensions, and an economic slowdown. Zhao told the forum that China’s economy will be good in the long term, the Foreign Ministry cited him as saying. “The fundamentals have not changed,” he was quoted as saying. China is the world’s second largest economy after the US and has excelled in areas such as electric vehicles, solar and wind power, and high-speed trains. But it remains heavily dependent on highly-polluting coal to power its industries.

The government has set a goal for this year of China’s energy consumption per unit of GDP by 2.5 per cent as part of its efforts to reduce carbon emissions and transition to a greener economy.

“We are speeding up efforts to promote green and low-carbon economic and social development, and will strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neu-

trality by 2060,” said Zhao, who ranks third in the party hierarchy and has a strong background in managing state industries that make up about a quarter of the economy and help maintain the party’s overwhelming influence over economic, political and cultural life. China’s leaders have set an ambitious target of around 5 per cent economic growth this year despite a slowdown that has been accentuated by troubles in the property sector and the lingering effects of strict anti-virus measures during the pandemic that disrupted travel, logistics, manufacturing and other industries.

Zhao also touched on geopolitical topics, saying, “China calls on all countries to transcend the old mentality of bloc confrontation and zero-sum games and practice genuine multilateralism to jointly build an open world economy.”

That reflects Communist Party leader-for-life Xi Jinping’s aspirations to make China a leading player in international affairs by challenging the power and credibility of the US and its Western allies. China has backed Russia in its invasion of Ukraine and threatens various of its neighbours in East Asia, including the self-governing island democracy of Taiwan, a close US ally, that it claims as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary. But its top leaders have also reiterated China’s intention to keep its economy open for business. On Wednesday, Xi met with American business leaders in Beijing and emphasised mutually beneficial economic ties, despite US tariffs on imports from China and efforts to cut off access to advanced and sensitive technologies, especially those with military applications.

“Sino-US relations are one of the most important bilateral relations in the world. Whether China and the United States cooperate or confront each other has a bearing on the well-being of the two peoples and the future and destiny of mankind,” Xi was cited as saying by China’s official Xinhua News Agency.

US congressional delegation pledges continued defence support for Taiwan

Taipei (AP): A bipartisan US congressional delegation pledged continued support for Taiwan on Thursday, days after Congress approved USD 300 million in military aid for the self-governed island that’s claimed by China.

Congress also approved USD 400 million on Saturday to counter the Chinese government’s influence in the region, as part of its Defence Appropriations Act.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province to be brought under its control, by force if necessary. Beijing sends warships and fighter jets near the island daily, as it ramps up its military pressure.

The United States, like

most nations, doesn’t recognise Taiwan as a country. However, it is bound by US laws to ensure the island can defend itself and considers all threats to Taiwan as a matter of “grave concern.”

The delegation led by Republican Congressman Jack Bergman, who chairs the House Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee, sought to reassure Taiwan’s leadership of continued support. “We will continue to assure our colleagues that the strategic relationship is key for the future security of the region,” Bergman said during a meeting with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

Japan leader seeks meeting with N Korea, end to deflation, to boost public support

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida reiterated on Thursday his determination to work toward a summit with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un to realise the return of Japanese people believed abducted by the North Korean agents in the 1970s and 80s.

“I remain committed to realising this for Japan,” he told reporters, while declining to directly address the recent comments from North Korea that suggested such a meeting would be possible only if Japan stops pressing the abductions issue. Speaking at a news conference after the government budget cleared parliament, Kishida stressed he was directly involved in high-level negotiations to fix various bilater-

al problems, amid growing worries about neighbouring North Korea’s missiles and nuclear weapons programmes. In 2002, Kim Jong Il, the late father of Kim Jong Un, told then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi that its agents had kidnapped 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 80s, and allowed five of them to return to Japan.

Japan thinks hundreds more may have been abducted during that period and that some are still alive. Koizumi’s second visit to North Korea in 2004 was the last summit between the two nations.

Kishida, prime minister since 2021, also promised to wrest the nation out of decades-long deflation and set off “a positive cycle” of higher wages, company profits and strong productivity.

“We have this historic chance to get out of deflation,” Kishida said, noting that the changes will come under his “new capitalism” programme, based on economic changes such as a more mobile labour force, investments in artificial intelligence and income growth for the middle class.

He promised that legal revisions and an internal investigation were underway to deal with a burgeoning scandal centred around political funding that ruling party lawmakers had allegedly secretly received through shady methods like expensive tickets for fundraising parties.

Kishida said more time is needed to sort out details, but the erring politicians will get punished, to restore public trust.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No. 15741243Y Signalman Ganesh Mahadev Bhandare R/o Presently Serving WCSR, Chandimandir Cantt, Panchkula, C/o 56 APO declare that in my Army Service record my father name wrongly mentioned is Mahadeo Babu and my mother's name also mentioned is Sulochana whereas their correct name is (Father) Mahadev Babu Bhandare and (Mother) Sulochana Mahadev Bhandare.

I, Sandeep S/o Sh. Narender Kumar R/o Gali No. 3, Didar Nagar, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra declares that in my daughter's Passport No. S3005970 her name is wrongly written as Parul instead of Parul Paul. My daughter's correct name is Parul Paul.

I, Sushila Kumari W/o No. 7239062F Rank L/DFR Dilbag Rai S/o Sh. Chandgi Ram R/o H.No. 531, Ward No. 05, Jagtar Bagh, 12 Quarters Road, Shiv Mandir Wali Gali, Hisar (Haryana) hereby changed my name from Sushila Kumari to Sushila Devi for all future Purposes. My date of birth is 03.06.1969.

I, Nitika Gakhar W/o Shri Varun Sareen R/o House No. 395, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal, Haryana have changed my name from Nitika Gakhar to Nitika Sareen. for all future purposes.

I, Varun Sareen S/o Shri Ramesh Sareen R/o House No. 395, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal, Haryana have changed my daughter name from Dhanya to Dhanya Sareen for all future purposes.

I, Harpreet Kaur Jammu alias Harpreet Kaur W/o Shri Gulab Singh R/o 464P, Sector 27, Panchkula, have changed my name from Harpreet Kaur Jammu To Harpreet Kaur.

I, Gulab Singh Jammu alias Gulab Singh S/o Late Shri Makhan Singh R/o 464P, Sector 27, Panchkula, have changed my Name from Gulab Singh Jammu To Gulab Singh.

I, Sukhvinder Kaur W/o Satinder Pal Singh R/o Village Jainpur, Po Kalyana, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Sukhwinder Kaur.

I, Bimala Devi is Mother Of No. 14952521P Rank Sep Name Pawan Kumar R/O Vpo - Gadhra, Tehsil - Bhadra, District - Hanumangarh, State - Rajasthan - 335503, Have Changed My Name From Bimala Devi To Bimla Devi And Changed My Date Of Birth From 01/07/1965 To 01/01/1973 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 28.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Dulari Pal is Mother Of No. 18003110P Rank Nk Name Dhooop Singh R/O Village - Kishanpur, Po - Surendha, Tehsil - Bidhuna, District - Auraiya, State - U.P. - 206252, Have Changed My Name From Dulari Pal To Dulari And Changed My Date Of Birth From 08/07/1951 To 01/01/1952 In My Son's Army Service Record Vide Affidavit 28.03.2024 Before Notary Public Hisar.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Sewa Singh Malik R/o Near Shiv Mandir village Kutani, Post,office Rajkheri, distt. Panipat have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Malik for all future purposes.

I, Rajiv Jain S/o Anil Kumar Jain R/o H.No. 1373, sector 11, urban estate,karnal declare that Rajiv Jain and Rajeev Jain is a same person & both are the name of the same person. All Concern noted.

I, I am Kuldeep Kumar Bansal, s/o Bakhtawar mal, r/o House No. DA 120, Kath Mandi, Samalkha, Panipat. In some documents My name is Kuldeep Bansal, Kuldeep Kumar and Kuldeep Kumar Bansal. These three are the names of the same person. In future, he should be known by these three names. All concerned note please.

I, Paras S/o Sh. Kuldeep Kumar R/o VPO Rair Kalan Teh Madlauda, Distt. Panipat. i have changed my name from Paras to Paras Wadhwa for all future purposes.

I, Kulbir Kaur Wife Of Navdeep Singh Residing At Village Jhangji Panwan, Post Office Shanhazda Kalan, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, District Gurdaspur-143604 Punjab Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son Japjideep Singh Aged 09 Years And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Japdeep Singh Bathth.

I, Kiran Sehgal W/O Mannoham Sehgal R/O F-5/65, Gali No.1, Majitha Road, Gopal Nagar, District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kiran Sehgal To Poonam Sehgal

I, Ishan Sehdev S/O Amit Verma R/O H.No.1017/16, Aman Bara Chowk Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Ishan Sehdev To Ishaan Sehdev

I, Pawandeep Kaur W/O Balwinder Singh R/O Vpo Brar Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Pawandeep Kaur To Pamandeep Kaur

I, Balbir Kaur W/O Gurwinder Singh R/O H.No.311/9, Gali Jatta Wali, Opp Sbi, Inside Lahori Gate Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Balbir Kaur To Harwinder Kaur

I, Monika W/O Maninder Pal R/O Vpo Sohla Tehsil And District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Marcy To Marcy Bhagat

I, Monika W/O Maninder Pal R/O Vpo Sohla Tehsil And District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Jasmin To Jasmin Bhagat

I, Monika W/O Maninder Pal R/O Vpo Sohla Tehsil And District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Anmol To Anmol Bhagat

I, Monika W/O Maninder Pal R/O Vpo Sohla Tehsil And District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Bhavika Pangasa

I, Parvinder Kaur D/O Naranjan Singh W/O Ajmer Singh R/O Vpo Makhan Windi Tehsil And Distt.Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Pavinder Kaur.

I, Gurjit Kaur W/O Jagdip Singh R/O Bedadpur District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurjit Kaur To Gurjeet Kaur

I, Harita D/O Esuru Rukmandra R/O 351-E Gagobha Sur Singh Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Harita Reddy

I, Kaljinder Kaur Sandhu W/O Ramandip Singh R/O H.No.5, Sun Sahib Road, New Paris Avenue, Chheharta, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kaljinder Kaur Sandhu To Kaljinder Kaur

I, No.15429110x Hav Pandya Tushar Kumar Himmatlal Unit 415 Field Hospital Khasa Cantt. Have Changed My Son's Name From Tanay Kumar To Pandya Tanaykumar Tusharkumar Vide Affidvit No.In-Pb00482637961271w Dt.28.03.2024 Before Notay Public Amritsar

I, Navtaj Singh S/O Angrej Singh R/O Vpo Tur Tesil Khadoor Sahib District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Navtaj Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

I, Mandip Kaur W/O Harinderpal Singh R/O Village Gumanpura District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Mandip Kaur To Mandeep Kaur

I, Seema Devi W/O Ashwani Biala D/O Darshan Lal R/O Vpo Sultanwind, Main Adda, Near Huldand Dairy, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Seema Devi To Seema Biala

I, Sukhwinder Singh Mulle S/O Manjit Singh R/O Riasat Singh R/O VPO Begowal Distt Bholath Distt Kapurthala changed my name from Kuldeep kaur to Kuldp kaur.

I, Baljinder Kaur W/o Ranvir Singh R/O Village Bhankhar, Tehsil & Distt. Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name to Rajinder Kaur.

I, Pamita Misri W/o Suresh Chander Misri R/o H.No. 2017, Sector 48-C, Chandigarh have changed my name from Pamita Toshkhani to Pamita Misri.

I, Amarjit Singh S/o Sher Singh R/o Village Hardaspur, Po. Patiala, Distt. Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name to Amarjeet Singh.

I, Anu Sharma Urf Kanchan Kaushal W/o Suresh Kumar Kaushal R/o Kanchan Villa # 14, Century Enclave-III, Bhan Colony, Patiala (Punjab) India, have changed my name from Anu Sharma to Anu Sharma Urf Kanchan Kaushal

I, Baliji Naga Bhavani Hyamvathi Wife of Pitta N V Rama Krishna presently 37 (Coorg) Field Regiment, C/o 56 APO, Pin-925737 residing at Yellamanchilli, District Visakhapatnam, State Andhra Pradesh PIN-531055 have changed my name from Baliji Naga Bhavani Hyamvathi to Pitta Naga Bhavani Hyamvathi Vide Affidavit Dated 28 March 2024

I, Sukhjinder Singh s/o Naranjan Singh r/o village Mathana, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Sukhjinder Singh to Sukhjinder Kaka. In future, I should be known as Sukhjinder Kaka.

I, Suraj Maurya S/O Davinder Kumar R/O H.No- 2122 Mauli Jagran Complex, Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Suraj Maurya To Gaurav Kumar.

I, Mittoo Singh W/O Sh. Rajinder Singh R/O H.No. - 934, Sector- 8 Panchkula, Have Changed My Name From Mittoo Singh To Mittoo Rajinder Singh.

I, Rohit S/O Bal Kishan R/O Village Dubeta, Sonipat Have Changed My Name From Rohit To Rohit Sheoran For All Future Purposes.

I, Suraj Maurya S/O Davinder Kumar R/O H.No- 2122 Mauli Jagran Complex, Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Suraj Maurya To Sangeeta Sharma W/O Surinder Pal R/O #C151, Sidhu Colony Ward No.8, Jalalabad (W) Tehsil Jalalabad (W) District Fazilka Have Changed My Name From Sangeeta To Sangeeta Sharma.

I, Sonia Sharma D/o Rajinder Verma, R/o H.No.138, Shiv Nagar, Sodral Road, Jalandhar, have changed my name to Sonia Verma. All Note.

I, Harshdeep S/o Amarjit R/o VPO. Sofi Pind, Tehsil and Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab-144024 have changed my name from Harshdeep to Harshdeep Banger.

I, Jasbir Kaur mother of No 18005214P Hav Gurdeep Singh, serving in unit 52 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO have changed my name from Jasbir Kaur to Jasvir Kaur.

I, Jaswinder Singh S/o Balvir Chand R/O VPO. Talwandi Daddiana, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur-144203, Punjab have changed my name from Jaswinder Singh to Singh Jaswinder. (Surname as Singh)

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Ashok Kumar r/o Village Lambra Abadi, Po. Lambra, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my minor child name from Trisha to Trisha Mahi.

I, Harjinder Kumar Dadhra S/o Hans Raj R/o Vill. Malikpur, Po. Naur, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Harjinder Kumar Dadhra To Harjinder Kumar.

I, hitherto Known as Seema W/o Charanjit Heera R/o Vill. Rehman Pur, Distt. Jalandhar-144024, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Seema Heera.

I, hitherto Known as Kamaljit Kaur W/o Satnam Singh R/o VPO. Alamgir, Kala Sanghian, Distt. Kapurthala-144623, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kaur Kamaljit.

I, hitherto Known as Satnam Singh S/o Gurdev Singh R/o VPO. Alamgir, Kala Sanghian, Distt. Kapurthala-144623, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Singh Satnam.

I, hitherto Known as Gurvir Singh S/o Satnam Singh R/o VPO. Alamgir, Kala Sanghian, Distt. Kapurthala-144623, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Singh Gurvir.

I, Kaljinder Kaur Sandhu W/O Ramandip Singh R/O H.No.5, Sun Sahib Road, New Paris Avenue, Chheharta, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Kaljinder Kaur Sandhu To Kaljinder Kaur

I, No.15429110x Hav Pandya Tushar Kumar Himmatlal Unit 415 Field Hospital Khasa Cantt. Have Changed My Son's Name From Tanay Kumar To Pandya Tanaykumar Tusharkumar Vide Affidvit No.In-Pb00482637961271w Dt.28.03.2024 Before Notay Public Amritsar

I, Navtaj Singh S/O Angrej Singh R/O Vpo Tur Tesil Khadoor Sahib District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Navtaj Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

I, Mandip Kaur W/O Harinderpal Singh R/O Village Gumanpura District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Mandip Kaur To Mandeep Kaur

I, Seema Devi W/O Ashwani Biala D/O Darshan Lal R/O Vpo Sultanwind, Main Adda, Near Huldand Dairy, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Seema Devi To Seema Biala

I, Sukhwinder Singh Mulle S/O Manjit Singh R/O Riasat Singh R/O VPO Begowal Distt Bholath Distt Kapurthala changed my name from Kuldeep kaur to Kuldp kaur.

I, Baljinder Kaur W/o Ranvir Singh R/O Village Bhankhar, Tehsil & Distt. Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name to Rajinder Kaur.

I, Pamita Misri W/o Suresh Chander Misri R/o H.No. 2017, Sector 48-C, Chandigarh have changed my name from Pamita Toshkhani to Pamita Misri.

I, Amarjit Singh S/o Sher Singh R/o Village Hardaspur, Po. Patiala, Distt. Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name to Amarjeet Singh.

I, Anu Sharma Urf Kanchan Kaushal W/o Suresh Kumar Kaushal R/o Kanchan Villa # 14, Century Enclave-III, Bhan Colony, Patiala (Punjab) India, have changed my name from Anu Sharma to Anu Sharma Urf Kanchan Kaushal

I, Baliji Naga Bhavani Hyamvathi Wife of Pitta N V Rama Krishna presently 37 (Coorg) Field Regiment, C/o 56 APO, Pin-925737 residing at Yellamanchilli, District Visakhapatnam, State Andhra Pradesh PIN-531055 have changed my name from Baliji Naga Bhavani Hyamvathi to Pitta Naga Bhavani Hyamvathi Vide Affidavit Dated 28 March 2024

I, Sukhjinder Singh s/o Naranjan Singh r/o village Mathana, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Sukhjinder Singh to Sukhjinder Kaka. In future, I should be known as Sukhjinder Kaka.

I, Suraj Maurya S/O Davinder Kumar R/O H.No- 2122 Mauli Jagran Complex, Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Suraj Maurya To Gaurav Kumar.

I, Mittoo Singh W/O Sh. Rajinder Singh R/O H.No. - 934, Sector- 8 Panchkula, Have Changed My Name From Mittoo Singh To Mittoo Rajinder Singh.

I, Rohit S/O Bal Kishan R/O Village Dubeta, Sonipat Have Changed My Name From Rohit To Rohit Sheoran For All Future Purposes.

I, Suraj Maurya S/O Davinder Kumar R/O H.No- 2122 Mauli Jagran Complex, Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Suraj Maurya To Sangeeta Sharma W/O Surinder Pal R/O #C151, Sidhu Colony Ward No.8, Jalalabad (W) Tehsil Jalalabad (W) District Fazilka Have Changed My Name From Sangeeta To Sangeeta Sharma.

I, Sonia Sharma D/o Rajinder Verma, R/o H.No.138, Shiv Nagar, Sodral Road, Jalandhar, have changed my name to Sonia Verma. All Note.

I, Navi S/O Vijay kumar R/O Gali jaswant rai, Dhariwal, Gurdaspur, Punjab Changed my minor son Given name Aarush to Aarush Kanotra.

I, Navi S/O Vijay kumar R/O Gali jaswant rai, Dhariwal, Gurdaspur, Punjab Changed my minor son Given name Naksh to Naksh Kanotra.

I, Nisha Rani W/O Rajiv Chopra R/O 131, Housing Board Colony, Ambala Cantt have changed my name to Sona Chopra

I, Anu W/O Jatinder Kumar R/O H No 1102 Milap Nagar Ambala City That I Have change my name to Anu Sohla.

I, Charanjeet Kaur W/o Harjinder Singh R/o Naraina, Karnal have Changed My Given Name Charanjeet Surname Kaur.

I, Charanjeet Kaur W/o Harjinder Singh R/o Naraina, Karnal have Changed My Minor Daughter name Prabheleen Kaur to Changed Given name Prabheleen Surname Kaur.

I, Ackwinder Kaur Wife Of Gurwant Singh Residing At Village Dala, Po. Behrampur, District Gurdaspur, Punjab-143532, Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Ackwinder Kaur To Jagir Kaur. All Nears And Dears May Note.

I, No 13732401p Ex Hav (Hony Nb Sub) Hari Singh Resident Of Tika Fogli Barsudhal, Po Dunera, Tehsil Dhar Kalan, Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Have Changed The Name Of My Wife From Khemlo Devi To Khimalo Devi Vide Affidavit No In-Pb00518076699402w Dated 28-03-2024 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Kailash Chander Asht S/O Bhagat Ram R/O House No. 240, Phase Iv, Sas Nagar Mohali Punjab Have Changed My Name From Kailash Chander Asht To Kailash Chander.

I, Alpna Pal Spouse Of Shailendra Kumar Resident Of Village- Pure Gangi Rajapur, Post- Dhanapur, Tehsil & District- Amethi, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin- 227407, Have Changed My Dob From 19 June 1991 To 10 May 1994 Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb80462821226601w Dated 27 Jan 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Dev Kumar Thapa Resident Of House No.661, Sector 16 D, Tehsil & District Chandigarh, State- Punjab, Pin-160015, Have Changed My Mother Name From Devi Thapa To Devi Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb80462821226601w Dated 27 Jan 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Sandip Gangawane Resident Of Village- Depul, Post- Wara, Tehsil- Washim, District- Washim, State- Maharashtra, Pin- 444505, Have Changed My Daughter Name From Pravasi Sandip Gangawane To Pranavi Sandip Gangawane Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb97353437671553w Dated 18 March 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Dev Kumar Thapa Resident Of House No.661, Sector 16 D, Tehsil & District Chandigarh, State- Punjab, Pin-160015, Have Changed My Mother Name From Devi Thapa To Devi Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb80462821226601w Dated 27 Jan 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Sandip Gangawane Resident Of Village- Depul, Post- Wara, Tehsil- Washim, District- Washim, State- Maharashtra, Pin- 444505, Have Changed My Daughter Name From Pravasi Sandip Gangawane To Pranavi Sandip Gangawane Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb97353437671553w Dated 18 March 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Vicky And Vikas Kumar Arora S/O Kasmini Lal R/O W.No.- 25 Purana Moga Wadawa Singh Nagar Moga Am Known By Above Both Names.

I, Surjeet Singh S/O Lal Singh R/O Chak Kannian Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Surjit Singh.

I, Lovepreet Singh S/o Jagdev Singh R/O Gehri Bara Singh Teh Mour (Bathinda) have changed my name from Lovepreet Singh Maan to Lovepreet Singh.

I, Rajni Bala W/o Deepak Bansal R/O Mohalla Chah Berian Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Rajni Bansal after marriage.

I, Lovejit Singh S/o Manjinder Singh R/O Vill-Kot Dharan Chand Khurd Po. Kot Dharan Chand Kalan (Tarn Taran) I have changed my name as given name Lovejit Surname Singh.

I, Manjeet Kaur W/o Baljeet Singh R/o Vill: Warhaicha Patti Samana (Patiala) Punjab, have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

I, Baljit Singh S/o Bhagwant Singh R/o Vill: Warhaicha Patti Samana (Patiala) Punjab, have changed my name to Baljeet Singh.

I, Komal Chauhan D/o Mohinder Kumar W/o Kunal Jain R/O H.No. 09 Taj Enclave Bhawanigarh Road Samana (Patiala) have changed my name to Komal Jain.

I, Mishra Singh S/o Bhan Chand R/O Village Dhandial Teh Dirba Distt Sangrur 148035 have changed my name Mishra Singh to Mishra Ram.

I, Manjeet Kour W/o Major Singh R/o Madhak (Faridkot) have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

I, Nachhatter Singh Sidhu S/o Gurcharan Singh R/o Mahian Wala Khurd (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Nachhatter Singh.

I, Navdeep Kaur Dhillon D/o Daleep Singh R/o Talwandi Nepal (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Navdeep Kaur.

I, Sukhbir Kaur W/o Gurmel Singh R/o Vill: Ramgarh Sibian (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sukhvir Kaur.

I, Amarpreet W/o Gaurav Kumar R/o Vill Bainch Khurd Po Chotala Teh Distt Hoshiarpur (Punjab) have changed my name to Amarpreet Sharma.

I, Spinder Kaur W/o Arjinder Singh R/o Village Nanowal Kalan Tehsil Khamanon [Fatehgarh Sahib] changed my name to Spinder Kaur Sohi.

I Satinderjit Kaur Dhandli D/O Bhupinder Singh R/O Village Rakran Dhaha Tehsil Balachaur District S.B.S. Nagar, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Satinderjit Kaur Dhandli To Satinderjit Kaur.

I Lakshmi Is Legally Wedded Spouses Of Name Sonu Singh Permanent Resident Of Village Mohabalipur P/O Chanchali Jewar District Gautam Buddh Nagar Uttar Pradesh 203135, Have Changed My Name From Laxmi Devi To Lakshmi Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB00356540058391W Dated 27-03-2024, Before (Notary Public).

I Name Nepali Chetan Singh R/O C-49, Krishna Park Society Barejdi Ahmedabad Gujarat 382435, At Present R/O 1060 FD WKSP (GREF) C/O 56APO Have Changed My Wife's Name From Smt. Asha Rajput To Asha Chetan Singh Khatri, Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB9960971614627W, Dated 26-03-2024 Before (Judicial Magistrate).

I Simrandeep Alias Jaswinderpal Kaur Dhalwal W/O Amrik Singh Dhalwal R/O Talwandi Bhangarian, P.O Dosanjhi, Moga Have Changed My Name To Simrandeep Kaur Dhalwal

I Paramjit Singh Tagger S/O Pal Singh R/O Vpo. Daulatpura Niwan, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Paramjit Singh.

I Balwinder Kaur Tagger W/O Paramjit Singh R/O Vpo. Daulatpura Niwan, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Balwinder Kaur.

I, Lavkheer Singh Tagger S/O Paramjit Singh R/O Vpo. Daulatpura Niwan, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Lavkheer Singh.

I Dali W/O Rajinder Pal R/O 85 Near Snatam Dharam Mandir New Model Town Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Dolly.

I,Hitherto Known As Kulwant Kaur Sidhu D/O Joginder Singh W/O Chamkaur Singh Gill R/O V.P.O. Kokri Kalan District Moga Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kulwant Kaur.

I Piara Singh Basanti S/O Harjit Singh R/O Vpo. Sihala Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Piara Singh.

I Bhupinder Singh S/O Charan Singh R/O Vpo. Raqba Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Sanamdeep Kaur Sidhu To Sanamdeep Kaur.

I Swaranjit Kaur Dhanoo & Swaranjeet Kaur W/O Gursewak Singh R/O Vpo. Talwandi Kalan Tehsil Jagraon (Ludhiana) Am One And The Same Person Of Above Both Names.

I Vicky And Vikas Kumar Arora S/O Kasmini Lal R/O W.No.- 25 Purana Moga Wadawa Singh Nagar Moga Am Known By Above Both Names.

I, Surjeet Singh S/O Lal Singh R/O Chak Kannian Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Surjit Singh.

I Lovepreet Singh S/o Jagdev Singh R/O Gehri Bara Singh Teh Mour (Bathinda) have changed my name from Lovepreet Singh Maan to Lovepreet Singh.

I, Rajni Bala W/o Deepak Bansal R/O Mohalla Chah Berian Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Rajni Bansal after marriage.

I, Lovejit Singh S/o Manjinder Singh R/O Vill-Kot Dharan Chand Khurd Po. Kot Dharan Chand Kalan (Tarn Taran) I have changed my name as given name Lovejit Surname Singh.

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I, Komal Chauhan D/o Mohinder Kumar W/o Kunal Jain R/O H.No. 09 Taj Enclave Bhawanigarh Road Samana (Patiala) have changed my name to Komal Jain.

I, Mishra Singh S/o Bhan Chand R/O Village Dhandial Teh Dirba Distt Sangrur 148035 have changed my name Mishra Singh to Mishra Ram.

I, Manjeet Kour W/o Major Singh R/o Madhak (Faridkot) have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

I, Nachhatter Singh Sidhu S/o Gurcharan Singh R/o Mahian Wala Khurd (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Nachhatter Singh.

I, Navdeep Kaur Dhillon D/o Daleep Singh R/o Talwandi Nepal (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Navdeep Kaur.

I, Sukhbir Kaur W/o Gurmel Singh R/o Vill: Ramgarh Sibian (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sukhvir Kaur.

I, Amarpreet W/o Gaurav Kumar R/o Vill Bainch Khurd Po Chotala Teh Distt Hoshiarpur (Punjab) have changed my name to Amarpreet Sharma.

I, Spinder Kaur W/o Arjinder Singh R/o Village Nanowal Kalan Tehsil Khamanon [Fatehgarh Sahib] changed my name to Spinder Kaur Sohi.

I, Satnam Singh S/o Jaswant Singh R/o Vill: Harike Teh-Patti (Tarn Taran) have known by both names Satnam Singh and Satnan Singh one and the same person.

I Savarsha Rani Wife Of Ashok Kumar Resident Of Village Rukna Bodla Tehsil Guruharsahai District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Swarsaha Rani.

I Mohinder Pal Son Of Faqir Chand R/O Tibbi Sahib Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Mohinder Pal Dhawan.

I Shivani Alias Ajay Rani Bansal W/O Om Parkash R/O Ward No.5, Barivala (Sri Muktsar Sahib) Have Changed My Name To Shivani Bansal.

I Malan W/O Jagtar Singh R/O Village Vadian Teh Guruharsahai Distt Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Malan To Mallan.

I Vikas Kapoor Kapoor S/O Raj Pal Kapoor Residence Of Ward No 20, Near Dr. Sadhu Chand Chowk, Mohalla Sodhian Wala Ferozepur City, Have Changed My Name To Vikas Kapoor.

I Rajpal Kapoor S/O Mohri Lal Kapoor Residence Of Ho.No.22 Ward No 20, Near Dr. Sadhu Chand Chowk, Mohalla Sodhian Ferozepur City, Have Changed My Name To Raj Paul Kapoor.

I Iqbal Singh Sandhu S/O Malkit Singh Residence Village Sabu Ana, Langiana, Po Ferozepur City, Have Changed My Name To Iqbal Singh.

I Monika Sethi W/O Dhiraj Khera R/O Guru Angad Dev Nagar Gali No 9, Sri

Sindhu advances to Madrid Masters quarters

PTI ■ MADRID

Star Indian shuttler P V Sindhu continued her impressive run at the Madrid Spain Masters, advancing to the quarterfinals with a comfortable straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu-Hsun here on Thursday. It was a smooth performance from Sindhu as she was hardly tested by the Taiwanese qualifier, ranked world no. 63, resulting in a 21-14 21-12 win in 36 minutes.

The former world champion, who finished runner-up in the last edition, will take on either sixth seed Supanida Katethong of Thailand or



Japan's Natsuki Nidaira.
In the opening game, Sindhu

was 3-0 up initially but then entered a phase where she

often found the net or went long, while her rival produced some precise returns to grab a 7-6 lead before taking a one-point advantage with a straight down-the-line smash. The Indian, however, produced a better show after resumption, taking a 18-12 cushion with Yu-Hsun making errors. She soon grabbed eight game points, wasting two of them before sealing the opening game with her trademark smash. After the change of sides, Yu-Hsun struggled to control the shuttle as her lifts repeatedly went long. The Taiwanese shuttler tried to use her drops and placements but she didn't have power in her smashes. The result was Sindhu

quietly waited for her opponent to commit errors. Soon she had a five-point advantage at the break. Every time Yu-Hsuan tried to extend the rallies, she ended up with unforced errors. Soon a smash handed another eight match points to Sindhu and she wrapped it up when her opponent sprayed into net again. With top seed Carolina Marin of Spain pulling out of the tournament after her title-winning run at the All England Championships and Swiss Open in the last two weeks, Sindhu is now the favourite to claim the crown and end a long wait. Sindhu won her last BWF tour title at the 2022 Singapore Open Super 500.

Man City hosts Arsenal in last clash of EPL

AP MANCHESTER

Win against Arsenal on Sunday and Manchester City's path to a record fourth straight English Premier League title becomes clearer. Lose, and Arsenal takes a giant step towards becoming league champion for the first time in 20 years.

Draw, and the big winner this weekend could be Liverpool. With 10 rounds to go, the clash at Etihad Stadium is the last time any of the three title rivals will go head to head.

Arsenal leads the league. Liverpool is second on goal difference. City is a point behind both of them. Just five goals separate the top two. An element of risk and reward

hangers over City and Arsenal. History is clearly on City's side, having won its last eight home games against the Gunners. City's last home loss in this fixture was in 2015. But Arsenal has been better this season after beating City in a penalty shootout to win the Community Shield in August, followed by a 1-0 victory at Emirates Stadium in October. City manager Pep Guardiola's preparations haven't been helped by injuries to key defenders Kyle Walker and John Stones during the international break.

MASTER AND APPRENTICE

Mikel Arteta was once Guardiola's trusted lieutenant at City. Arteta was spoken of as a future City manager but is working on creating his own legacy at Arsenal after transforming the club's fortunes since taking charge in 2019. He has been backed with money and time, and that faith has paid off with Arsenal leading the league and advancing to the Champions League quarterfinals. After falling away badly at the end of last season to allow City to take the English title, it remains to be seen if Arteta and his players have learned from that experience.

Those two wins against City this season suggest Arsenal is more prepared to go head to head against the champion.

RUN-IN

Arsenal stands as the last

Marseille hit by injuries

AP ■ MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

For Jonathan Clauss, the France friendly against Chile this week was meant to be pure joy in front of his home crowd.

It ended up as a sour 11-minute experience concluded by an injury that ruled out the defender from French soccer's biggest game this weekend.

Clauss, who plays for Marseille, left the pitch with a torn left hamstring and was forced to watch his teammates' 3-2 win from the sidelines.

The former Lens player is expected to be out of action for up to four weeks at a crucial moment of the season for Marseille, which has big matches lined up against Lille then Benfica in the Europa League following the clash with bitter rival Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday.

Marseille was already hit by an injury crisis ahead of hosting PSG at a sold-out Stade Velodrome in a match known as "Le Classique." The confrontation became popular during the 1990s when the arrival of prominent players such as Rudi Voeller and George Weah ignited the

major test for City. It has arguably the smoothest run of games to the end of the league. Arsenal and Liverpool both have to travel to Manchester United and face respective derbies against Tottenham and Everton.

All three teams still have to face Aston Villa and Spurs, who are competing for fourth spot and Champions League qualification. Liverpool plays Brighton on Sunday with the chance to go to the top of the standings before City and Arsenal kick off.

FORM GUIDE


There is little to choose between the challengers. City is on an ominous 22-game unbeaten run in all competitions, dating to the start of December. Liverpool has lost two of its last 23 games and already has its first trophy of the season after winning the English League Cup in February. One of those defeats was Manchester United's extra-time winner in the FA Cup final this month. The other was 3-1 to Arsenal in the league in February. Arsenal, meanwhile, has risen to the top of the league on the back of an eight-game winning streak.

DISTRACTIONS

All three teams are battling on multiple fronts. City is defending its Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup treble of last season. Liverpool is no longer competing for a quadruple, but after winning the League Cup it is also still in contention for the Europa League. Arsenal is in the Champions League quarters, where it faces Bayern Munich. City was given the toughest draw of all against Real Madrid.

rially. Marseille, the only French team to win the Champions League back in 1993, has fallen well behind since PSG was taken over by Qatari investors in 2011, but the game continues to stir up passion. PSG has won 11 of the last 14 matches against Marseille. Marseille has failed to score in the last four. Clauss is just the latest name to join Marseille's injury list. The defense has been severely hit, and it's a big blow before PSG's attacking armada led by Kylian Mbappe sets foot in town. Alongside Clauss, Bamo Meité and Amir Murillo have already been ruled out, while Samuel Gigot and Leonardo Balerci are doubtful. Building a solid backbone should give a real headache to interim coach Jean-Louis Gasset, who has managed to put the club back on track since he replaced Gennaro Gattuso last month.

With eight league matches left, seventh-placed Marseille is lagging 20 points behind PSG but can still qualify for next season's Champions League. At the top, PSG has a 12-point lead over Brest and looks all but guaranteed a record-extending 12th league title.



AAVAS FINANCERS LIMITED
(Formerly known as Au HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297)
Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

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
POSSESSION NOTICE


Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **AAVAS FINANCERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned as below.

The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AAVAS FINANCERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED")** for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.


Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
TAPAN BARMAN, Mrs. PRABHATI BARMAN (A/c No.) LNYNM04320-210144786 Guarantor : Mr. RAMAN (A/c No.) LNYNM00619-201006417	11 Jul 23 ₹ 532007/- & ₹ 1053947/-	PROPERTY BEARING KHEWAT NO. 36, KHATONI NO. 40, KHARSA NO. 198, SITUATED AT YAMUNA NAGAR, JAGDARI, YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA AND. 126 Sq. yard	Physical Possession Taken on 27 Mar 24

Place : Jaipur
Date: 29-03-2024
Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">(A SCHEDULED FINANCIAL BANK)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwarghar, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN: L36911RJ1996PLC011381)</p>						
Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002							
<p>As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/ Mortgagees/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below.</p> <p>Borrowers to note that after receipt of this notice, in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor. Borrowers attention are attracted towards Section 13(8) r/w Rule 3(5) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Act that the borrowers shall be entitled to redeem their secured asset upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.</p>							
Loan A/c No./ Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Mortgageor/ Guarantor	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Section 13(2)						
<p>(A/C No.) 1921211123238002 & 9001222621053656 M/S. BSD AND COMPANY THROUGH ITS PARTNERS MR. DEEPAK SINGHAL & MRS. SARTI DEVI (Borrower) MR. DEEPAK SINGHAL S/O DINESH SINGHAL (Guarantor) MRS. JINNY SINGHAL W/O MR. DEEPAK SINGHAL (ALSO, LEGAL HEIRS OF GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR LATE MR. RAMA AVTAR GARG) (Guarantor) MRS. SARTI DEVI W/O MR. RAMA AVTAR GARG (ALSO, LEGAL HEIRS OF GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR LATE MR. RAMA AVTAR GARG) (Guarantor/Mortgagor) MR. HIMANSHU GARG S/O MR. RAMA AVTAR GARG (LEGAL HEIRS OF GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR LATE MR. RAMA AVTAR GARG) VINNY D/O MR. RAMA AVTAR GARG (LEGAL HEIRS OF GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR LATE MR. RAMA AVTAR GARG)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20-Mar-24</p> <p>SCHEDULE OF HYPOTHECATION</p> <p>Exclusive charges by way of Hypothecation on current assets and movable fixed assets both present and future.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED:-</p> <p>All That Part and Parcel of Commercial Property, Shop No. 29, Situated at Purani Dhan Mandi, Sadulshahar, District- Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total Addressing Area 1182.5 Sq. Ft. Owned by Mrs. Sarti Devi W/o Mr. Rama Avtar Garg & Mr. Rama Avtar Garg S/o Hira Lal.</p> <p>Four Boundaries as below:-</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">East-Road & Pid.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">West-Part of Shop</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No.29 Dhan mandi.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>North-Shop No.28</td> <td>South-Shop No.30</td> </tr> </table>	East-Road & Pid.	West-Part of Shop	No.29 Dhan mandi.		North-Shop No.28	South-Shop No.30
East-Road & Pid.	West-Part of Shop						
No.29 Dhan mandi.							
North-Shop No.28	South-Shop No.30						
<p>As on 20-Mar-24</p>							
Place: HISAR, HARYANA	Date : 28-Mar-2024						
Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited							

<div>  <div> <h1>AU SMALL FINANCE BANK</h1> <p>(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)</p> </div> </div>		
<p>Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwarg Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN: L36911RJ1996PLC011381)</p> <h2>Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002</h2>		
<p>As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/ Mortgagees/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as mentioned in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below.</p> <p>Borrowers to note that after receipt of this notice, in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.</p> <p>Borrowers attention are attracted towards Section 13(8) /r/w Rule 3(5) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Act that the borrowers shall be entitled to redeem their secured asset upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.</p>		
Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower /Mortgagor/Guarantor/ Loan A/c No.	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Section 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged Property
(A/c No.) L9001060118519892 Guru Ji Motors Thought its Proprietor Dipak Bhardwaj (Borrower), Dipak Bhardwaj (Co-Borrower), Smt. Pooja (Co- Borrower)	12-Feb-24 Rs. 181992/- Rs. Eighteen Lak Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty- Six Only As on 12-Feb-24	Property Situated At Pro. No. 2N /13 Near Vidya Niketan School, Near Park Nid, Dist- Faridabad, Haryana Admeasuring 82 Sq.Yrd
(A/c No.) L9001061124293472 Guru Ji Motors Thought its Proprietor Dipak Bhardwaj (Co-Borrower), Smt. Pooja (Co-Borrower), Dipak Bhardwaj (Co- Borrower)	13-Feb-24 Rs. 460078/- Rs. Four Lak Sixty Thousand Seventy-Eight Only As on 12-Feb- 24	Property Situated At- House No. 2N/13, New Township Faridabad, Village & Tehsil - Faridabad, Dist- Faridabad, Haryana Admeasuring 82 Sq.Yds.
(A/c No.) L9001060119834952 Jai Print Solution Through IT S Proprietor Karni Singh (Borrower), Karni Singh (Co-Borrower), Suraja Ram (Co-Borrower)	17-Feb-24 Rs. 360730/- Rs. Three Lak Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Only As on 17-Feb-24	A Plot Measuring 66. 67 Sqyds I. E 2 Marla 4 Sarsai Being 5/11 Share Of O Kanal 7 Marla Comprised In So. 302 Killa No. 19/6/1 (0-7) Bounded As Bounded As East- Plot Of Rahul Setta, West- Common Road, North- Plot Of Lal Chand, South- Plot Of Kulvir Situated Within Revenue Estate And Municipal Limit Of Ellenabad Wide Sale Deed No. 1565 Dated 18- 07-2012 duly Registered In The Office In Sub- Registrar Ellenabad, Mutation No. 21943, Khwat No. 299 Wide Jamabandi For The Year 2017-18. Admeasuring 66.67 Sqyds

<p>(A/C No.) L9001060120486164 Deepak Chopra (Borrower), Smt. Gurpreet Kaur (Co-Borrower)</p>	<p>15-Feb-24 Rs. 505082/- Rs. Five Lac Fifty Thousand Eighty- Two Only As on 12-Feb-24</p>	<p>Property situated At- Kf No 13 '9 U Z, H B No 41, Khatouni No 22Kittika I, Khewat No 16 15, Rect No 103, Vill- Pehowa, Dist- Kurukshetra, Haryana Admeasuring 51 Sqyds.</p>
<p>(A/C No.) L9001060120927810 Balaji Agri Culture Shop Through It's Proprietor Manish Sharma (Borrower), Manish Shrama (Co-Borrower), Smt. Sunita (Co-Borrower)</p>	<p>17-Feb-24 Rs. 363253/- Rs. Three Lac Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty- Three Only As on 15-Feb-24</p>	<p>Property Situated At Residential House Measuring 266.66 Sq. Yards. I. E 08. Maria 7 Sarsai Being 79/144 Share Of 00 Kanal 16 Mla Comprised In Sarsai, 4 Killa No 13/35 (O- 16) Situated In Revenue Estate Of Villages Bhambhroh, Tehsil & District- Sirsa, Wide Transfer Deed No. 3031 Dated 27-07-2016 Duly Registered With Sub-Registrar Sirsa, Khewat No. 101 Vide Jamabandi For The Year 2012-13. Admeasuring 266.66 Square Yard</p>
<p>(A/C No.) L9001060121916737 Rudher Sweets Through It's Proprietor Pritam Singh (Borrower), Smt. Kusum (Co-Borrower), Sunder Singh (Co- Borrower), Pritam Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt. Manju Rani (Co-Borrower)</p>	<p>12-Feb-24 Rs. 1612643/- Rs. Sixteen Lac Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Three Only As on 12-Feb-24</p>	<p>Property Situated At Khevat No. 543, Khatouni No. 608, Kharsa No. 103/1/1(1/0), Vill, Pathera, Tehsil- Kanina, Dist- Mahendragar, Haryana Admeasuring 605 Sq.Yrd.</p>
<p>(A/C No.) L9001060122060290 Maan Singh Dairy Farm (Borrower), Maan Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt. Saroj Devi (Co-Borrower)</p>	<p>12-Feb-24 Rs. 413132/- Rs. Four Lac Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Two Only As on 12-Feb-24</p>	<p>Property Situated At - Gram Panchayat Khw 336 Kht 376 M K 70 9 2 Jhagroli Mahendergarh, Dist- Mahendragarh, Haryana Admeasuring 120 Sqyds</p>
<p>(A/C No.) L9001060122387438 Sukhdev Singh (Borrower), Smt. Jasvir Kaur (Co-Borrower), Sandeep Singh (Co- Borrower)</p>	<p>12-Feb-24 Rs. 612648/- Rs. Six Lac Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Eight Only As on 12-Feb-24</p>	<p>Property Situated At - Municipal Corporation Wakia Rakba Under M Kalanwali 252/416 Residential Sirsa Kalanwali, Haryana Admeasuring 338.88 Sqyds</p>
<p>(A/C No.) L9001060126636062 Lakha General Store (Borrower), Smt. Lakhvinder Kaur (Co-Borrower), Manpreet Singh (Co-Borrower), Gurdeep Singh (Co-Borrower)</p>	<p>13-Feb-24 Rs. 493271/- Rs. Four Lac Ninety-Thre Thousand Two Hundred Seventy- One Only As on 12-Feb-24</p>	<p>Property Situated At- Kh No 696 4 1 2 826 641, M No 12575, V Rohi, Dist- Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 453 Sq.Yds</p>
<p>(A/C No.) L9001060128630151 Yuva Laboratory (Borrower), Satpal (Co- Borrower), Vikas (Co-Borrower), Deshraj (Co-Borrower)</p>	<p>15-Feb-24 Rs. 551850/- Rs. Five Lac Fifty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Only As on 12-Feb-24</p>	<p>Property Situated At Kharsa No 76 0 9, Khewat No 203, Khatouni No 288, Gram Panchayat Shahidanwali, Road, Dist-Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 121.28 Sq.Yds</p>
<p>Place: HARYANA Date : 28-03-2024 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited</p>		

 AXIS BANK LTD.		PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS				
THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITIY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY AVAILABLE. AS THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 08.04.2024 AT 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS" .						
DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT						
Sr. No.	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING (IN RS.)	DATE OF RECALL NOTICE	GROSS WEIGHT	NET WEIGHT
B.O.: ADDADAKHA [PB]						
1	SURINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX2812	₹ 88,859.52	09-11-2023	29.300	26.600
2	GURMEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX3986	₹ 1,20,575.00	20-11-2023	71.600	64.400
B.O.: AJNALA [PB]						
3	HARJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX6795	₹ 83,476.87	10-10-2023	34.180	30.080
4	RAJAN HANS	XXXXXXXXXXXX6819	₹ 1,27,133.00	10-10-2023	36.400	30.900
5	GURWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX6125	₹ 1,74,075.00	20-11-2023	57.100	45.800
6	PALWINDER KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX6880	₹ 2,88,597.00	30-05-2023	85.920	73.300
B.O.: AMLOH [PB]						
7	SUNIL KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX1414	₹ 33,252.00	10-10-2023	10.000	10.000
B.O.: BAGRIAN KAP PB						
8	MUSKAN NA	XXXXXXXXXXXX8797	₹ 38,852.00	29-09-2023	10.900	10.500
B.O.: BALAHAR VINJHU BTA PB						
9	CHAMKAUR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX3853	₹ 89,892.00	05-12-2023	23.800	22.300
B.O.: BANGA [PB]						
10	SURINDER KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX0740	₹ 67,301.00	10-10-2023	17.900	16.500
B.O.: BARNALA [PB]						
11	RAJWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX7458	₹ 2,80,900.00	09-11-2023	79.600	78.400
B.O.: BEGOWAL [PB]						
12	PRIYA VERMA	XXXXXXXXXXXX2322	₹ 3,97,542.00	30-05-2023	120.000	108.000
13	NISHAN HUNDAL	XXXXXXXXXXXX5860	₹ 5,27,953.00	29-09-2023	158.400	137.400
14	NISHAN HUNDAL	XXXXXXXXXXXX1931	₹ 5,79,158.00	29-08-2023	154.000	145.000
15	PRIYA VERMA	XXXXXXXXXXXX6216	₹ 9,35,819.00	25-08-2023	267.000	235.500
B.O.: BHAWANIGARH PB						
16	MOHAMMAD YASHMEEN	XXXXXXXXXXXX8130	₹ 1,07,714.60	09-11-2023	31.900	31.000
B.O.: BIKHIWIND [PB]						
17	MUSHABBER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX8719	₹ 2,32,541.00	25-08-2023	62.400	60.400
B.O.: BUDHLADA [PB]						
18	JASWANT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX1294	₹ 28,749.00	09-11-2023	8.800	8.000
19	PARAMJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX1812	₹ 32,366.00	10-10-2023	8.800	8.500
20	SAHILPREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX2398	₹ 42,751.00	29-09-2023	16.800	16.200
21	TALWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX6511	₹ 2,11,316.54	10-10-2023	63.700	60.000
B.O.: DEVIGARH [PB]						
22	SUKHWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX2710	₹ 1,32,998.91	20-11-2023	46.800	40.000
B.O.: DHANAULA PB						
23	GAGANDEEP KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX7723	₹ 89,470.00	09-11-2023	24.700	24.600
B.O.: DHARIWAL [PB]						
24	BALJINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX1943	₹ 53,173.00	20-11-2023	13.300	13.000
B.O.: DINANAGAR [PB]						
25	SOHAN SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX9509	₹ 31,912.00	20-11-2023	9.000	9.000
26	ROHIT MAHAJAN	XXXXXXXXXXXX7822	₹ 1,09,349.00	25-08-2023	30.200	29.700
B.O.: FATEGARH CHURIAN [PB]						
27	JASBIR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX3096	₹ 2,66,819.00	09-11-2023	81.600	79.500
B.O.: FAZILKA, FEROZEPUR [PB]						
28	MARJEEN KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX7101	₹ 73,008.00	10-10-2023	26.100	25.000
B.O.: FEROZEPUR [PB]						
29	VISHAL KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX1098	₹ 33,526.00	29-09-2023	8.700	8.700
B.O.: GEHRI MANDI [PB]						
30	GURLAL SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX3101	₹ 5,95,265.64	20-11-2023	207.300	189.500
B.O.: GOBINDGARH [PB]						
31	NARINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX5588	₹ 56,549.00	10-10-2023	15.170	13.650
B.O.: GURDASPUR [PB]						
32	PANNA LAL	XXXXXXXXXXXX5908	₹ 29,546.00	05-12-2023	9.600	8.700
B.O.: JALALABAD JLB PB						
33	PARAMJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX8778	₹ 43,573.00	05-12-2023	12.700	12.300
B.O.: JHABAL KALAN [PB]						
34	KARAMJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX6519	₹ 1,54,909.00	10-10-2023	56.500	55.500
B.O.: KALANAUR PB						
35	KAWALJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX1614	₹ 69,626.00	25-10-2023	20.400	20.400
B.O.: KARTARPUR [PB]						
36						

CAPTAIN PANDYA: IN SEARCH OF A SOUNDING BOARD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It's just two games into the tournament but Hardik Pandya already seems to have loads to worry about in his second stint with Mumbai Indians, the leadership part not quite falling in place thus far. The exuberant all-rounder, arguably one of the biggest match-winners in the current national set-up, has been, to put it mildly, struggling in the IPL despite being back in the team that shaped him, the one he considers his home. It's been anything but homely ever since Pandya was named captain, replacing the much-loved Rohit Sharma. The results have only made matters worse. Two matches, two losses, some baffling tactics, his own form not being the brightest spot and Pandya has his back against the wall within the first week of the tournament.

the MI owners, after bringing him on board in IPL's biggest one way transfer, would not want to take any decision in haste. After all, MI have always been slow starters, who take a while to find their rhythm, and it would be a bit presumptive to dismiss Pandya this early in the tournament given that he is, after all, leading a five-time champion side. But a team that is so desperate for success after three barren seasons perhaps cannot also look away from the fact that Pandya is making mistakes and he doesn't seem to have a sounding board for course correction. He had a solid one during his time as Gujarat Titans skipper when Ashish Nehra would always be in his ears. "I didn't try to convince Hardik to stay back," Nehra had said



with a dead pan expression in Ahmedabad in the pre-season press conference when Shubman Gill formally took charge as captain. Nehra is widely seen as the back-room strategist, the one who actually calls the shot.

through the captain. He is often seen pacing along the boundary line like an overzealous football manager, trying to grab the attention of his captain and players, and shouting down instructions when he gets it.

"It was an open secret in Gujarat Titans camp that Ashu (that's how old teammates address Nehra) was the strategist and Hardik was the executor," a former India teammate, who has played with Nehra, tried to dissect one of

the most interesting characters in Indian cricket.

"Hardik was good at implementing Ashu's vision. Ashu is more of a football manager in the garb of a cricket coach. He is constantly hovering around the boundary line with some advice. He believes, if a skipper is willing to commit, he can prepare the recipe for success.

"Now, the same Ashu worked for RCB with Virat Kohli but it didn't work. Shubman Gill is also a new skipper, who like Hardik, needs a mentor at the start of his leadership journey and who better than Ashu," the notable player of yesteryears said. So, leading Gujarat to the title was a relatively less complicated task for Pandya but MI is a different beast where there are multiple points of leadership.

For Pandya, return to Mumbai has been like coming from a nuclear family to a joint set-up,

where one needs to adjust with the queries, demands and suggestions of a number of people.

While a big think-tank helps to close ranks off the field when the campaign is going haywire but on field, no one quite knows who to make eye contact with in the dug-out.

It would have helped when Pandya made some rather baffling calls like the one to let Tim David, who finds it difficult to hit when pace is taken off deliveries, to go ahead of him in the match against GT. And then none can decipher just why he delayed Jasprit Bumrah's introduction for three overs when SRH batters went on a rampage on Wednesday night.

The argument can be that Pandya wanted to save Bumrah for Heinrich Klaasen but the South African was already set by the time Bumrah was brought into the attack.

To be fair to Pandya, not having an enforcer like Suryakumar Yadav, who is injured, at number three and missing two international bowlers in Dilshan Madushanka and Jason Behrendorff have affected the team's balance. But what has baffled everyone is Pandya's own batting approach.

In the years 2015, 17, 19 and 20, the four editions when he won the IPL with MI, Pandya's strike rates were 180.64, 156.25, 191.42 and 178.98 respectively. He would come at the back-end and traumatised bowlers with his aggressive strokes.

But moment he became Gujarat Titans skipper, his strike-rate dropped to 131.27 and 136.76 in two seasons.

During the first season (2022), when his team won, David Miller and Rahul Tewatia were finishing games and last season, Gill alone did the heavy lifting with 890 runs in 2023.

IPL 17 opening day registers record breaking viewership: Broadcaster

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The 17th edition of the Indian Premier League opened to blockbuster viewership numbers with 16.8 crore viewers tuning in to watch the season's first game between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22, the tournament's official

broadcaster said on Thursday. Disney Star said the opening day also registered a watch-time of 1276 crore minutes -- the highest-ever for the first day of any season. The watch-time minutes are a compilation of the time spent by each viewer in watching the game. The 17th season of IPL also witnessed the highest-ever peak TV concurrency for an

opening day, with 6.1 crore viewers watching the broadcast simultaneously on the Disney Star network. "Disney Star had recorded 870 crore minutes on the IPL's opening day in 2023. In comparison to the previous edition, there is a growth of 16 per cent in TV consumption," the company stated.

Chennai Super Kings defeated Royal Challengers Bengaluru by six wickets in the season opener in Chennai.

“This growth is a reaffirmation of the incomparable capacity of Live Cricket to aggregate audiences on TV and provides a blockbuster start to the tournament. We will continue to enrich the magic of one of the world’s biggest sporting

events to take forward the launch momentum and deliver unprecedented viewership," a Star Sports spokesperson said in a press release. The channel said that the record-breaking TV viewership on the opening day comes on the back of an array of programmes in the lead-up to the 17th season which attracted more than

24.5 crore viewers till a week prior to the start of the tournament. In the digital space, JioCinema clocked 11.3 crore viewers on the first day of the IPL. The streamer claimed that it registered a 51 per cent jump over day one of IPL 2023. The total watch time on JioCinema on day 1 was 660 crore minutes.

Foreign players were frustrated by KKR coach style of functioning: Wiese

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Several foreign cricketers in Kolkata Knight Riders were frustrated by head coach Chandrakant Pandit's "militant" style of functioning during the previous edition of the IPL, former South Africa and Namibia all-rounder David Wiese, who played for the franchise last year, has claimed.

The 38-year-old all-rounder, who played three IPL games for KKR in 2023, said foreign cricketers weren't happy at being tutored on how to behave or what to wear by the coach.

"He (Pandit) is known in India as a very militant type of coach. He is very strict, very disciplinarian that type of stuff. Sometimes in franchise cricket, when you have overseas guys, who've played all over the world, they don't need anyone coming and telling them how they need to behave, what they need to wear and what they need to do the whole time. So, that was tough," said Wiese on the podcast 'Hitman for Hire: A year in the life of a franchise cricketer' recently.

Pandit took charge as KKR's head coach after New Zealander Brendon McCullum quit the job in 2022. The much-admired coach, who played five Tests for India, coached Vidarbha to successive Ranji Trophy titles in 2018 and 2019. He later guided Madhya Pradesh to its maiden Ranji title in 2022.

Wiese, who was part of the Namibia side that played the 2022 T20 World Cup, said he saw players unhappy with

certain way and that didn't sit well with certain players. It caused a little bit of tension in the changing room.

"Guys were frustrated, there was a lot that changed over the last couple of years (when McCullum was around) and the new coach brought in some new things that he thought would bring success to us," Wiese, who first played the IPL in 2015, said. Wiese added he wasn't too bothered about the environment around him.

"I'm like 'listen it's your circus, you run the show. End of the day, I am here just to play. If you tell me to do this, I'll do it'. I'm not the guy who's going to bump heads or anything. But there are certain players who are a bit more stubborn than me," he said. Two-time champions KKR had a disappointing season last year finishing seventh and Wiese said he felt frustrated because he didn't get more opportunities to showcase his talent.

"...That frustration was more because of the fact that I played those games. I didn't really get the opportunity to do much. "I did hit a couple of sixes but didn't really get the opportunity to showcase my skills there, and never got picked again in the team that was struggling with players," he added.

"I think if I hadn't played a single game it would've been fine but the fact that I played three games, had a taste, did relatively well and then didn't get another chance in a team that is struggling, that was the more frustrating part."

Andi's style of coaching. "...He liked to do things a certain way and that didn't sit well with certain players. It caused a little bit of tension in the changing room.

"Guys were frustrated, there was a lot that changed over the last couple of years (when McCullum was around) and the new coach brought in some new things that he though would bring success to us," Wiese, who first played the IPL in 2015, said. Wiese added he wasn't too bothered about the environment around him.

"I'm like 'listen it's your circus, you run the show. End of the day, I am here just to play. If you tell me to do this, I'll do it. I'm not the guy who's going to bump heads or anything. But there are certain players who are a bit more stubborn than me,'" he said. Two-time champions KKR had a disappointing season last year finishing seventh and Wiese said he felt frustrated because he didn't get more opportunities to showcase his talent.

"...That frustration was more because of the fact that I played those games. I didn't really get the opportunity to do much. "I did hit a couple of sixes but didn't really get the opportunity to showcase my skills there, and never got picked again in the team that was struggling with players," he added.

"I think if I hadn't played a single game it would've been fine but the fact that I played three games, had a taste, did relatively well and then didn't get another chance in a team that is struggling, that was the more frustrating part."

Perplexed by Bumrah getting just one over till 13th over: Smith

PTI ■ HYDERABAD



Left perplexed by Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya's tactics in the record-breaking IPL loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, former Australia captain Steve Smith has said he cannot fathom why premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah bowled just six deliveries up until the 13th over of the match.

In a stunning display of power-hitting, Sunrisers Hyderabad posted the highest ever IPL total of 277/3 before clinching a 31-run victory over an equally aggressive Mumbai Indians on Wednesday night.

Bumrah was the second-most economical bowler in the match, after SRH captain Pat Cummins (2/35), conceding



36 runs in his four overs which did not yield any wicket. 'I was perplexed with some of their bowling changes in the first innings for Mumbai. Bumrah bowled in the fourth over, he went for 5 and then we didn't see him again till the 13th over when they were on 173,' Smith told host broadcaster 'Star Sports'. "All the damage had been done, you needed your best bowler to be coming back and

take some wickets in that period and I think they missed a trick there bringing him back only in the 13th over," he pointed out.

"I think he got a few things wrong, and that was the main one for me. I mean you can't have one of the best bowlers in the world bowling one over."

Smith said Bumrah's late reintroduction into the attack rendered him ineffective.

"When the ball is going around like that, you've just got to bring your best bowler back earlier than you would have liked. It's just about adapting on the go and I'd have almost bowled Bumrah out by the 15th, 16th over, try to get some wickets, if he gets wickets, you slow the rate down anyway.

Team management message to go out and express yourself worked wonders: Abhishek

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Being given the freedom to "go out and express" was the key factor in Sunrisers Hyderabad's record-shattering batting performance against Mumbai Indians, said the home side's batter Abhishek Sharma.

Records tumbled as SRH batters went on the rampage against Mumbai Indians to post the highest IPL total of 277 for 3 and then winning the match by 31 runs on Wednesday night. It was a scintillating exhibition of power-hitting from SRH

opener Travis Head (62 off 24) and number three Sharma (63 off 23) with the latter registering his team's record for the fastest fifty in IPL. Heinrich Klaasen (80 not out off 34 balls) provided the fireworks towards the end to help SRH break an 11-year-old record. The previous highest total in IPL was 263 for 5 scored by Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2013.

"To be honest I didn't realise that it was the fastest fifty for SRH and for this year. I just wanted to go and express myself and after getting out I realised that it was the

quickest. I enjoyed it," said 'Man of the Match' Sharma. "I think the message was pretty much simple for all the batters in the meeting we had before this match. 'Everyone just go and express yourself'. That's a very positive message if you get it from your captain and coach. That's really supportive for all the batters."

Sharma and Head stitched 68 runs off just 22 balls for the second wicket for SRH.

"I was batting with Travis and he is one of my favourite batters. I really enjoyed batting with him," Sharma said.

RCB, KKR eye course correction to add momentum to campaign

PTI ■ BENGALURU




Victory in their respective previous games might have eased the initial nerves but imperfections remain, hence Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders will eye a quick course correction to add steam to their campaign in an IPL 2024 match here on Friday.

The Royal Challengers defeated Punjab Kings by four wickets, while the Knight Riders elbowd out Sunrisers Hyderabad by four runs to garner some early points.

But entering the points table has not really eased some of the worries -- particularly pertaining to the top and middle-order batting.

The Bengaluru dugout might be a happy space after star batter Virat Kohli



made a classy fifty on an unusually gripping Chinnaswamy pitch while chasing 177 against Punjab the other night, but that's only one part of the story.

Skipper Faf du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Cameron Green and Rajat Patidar are

yet to hit the overdrive, and for the win against PBKS they had to rely on the last-minute cameos of Dinesh Karthik and 'Impact Player' Mahipal Lomror. The Kolkatans have a much more capable bowling unit, at least on paper, and such a collectively underwhelming effort by frontline batters might push RCB into deep troubles against them. Once they iron out that rough edges, RCB can look at their bowling unit that still needs to fill a couple of unticked boxes despite good outings by pacers Mohammed Siraj and Yash Dayal against Punjab. Pacer Alzarri Joseph continues to be profligate and his figures - 0/38, 1/43 - might prompt the RCB think-tank to bring in England left-arm quick Reece Topley, who has impressive white-ball skills, in place of the West Indian for

this match. The Knight Riders offer a strikingly similar plot. Their top and middle-order consisting of captain Shreyas Iyer, Venkatesh Iyer, Sunil Narine and Nitish Rana malfunctioned against SRH at the Eden Gardens. It required a combined effort from impact sub Ramandeep Singh, Rinku Singh and Andre Russell - the 6, 7, 8 -- for them to post a competitive total. Shreyas, who is central to their batting plans, was dismissed for a two-ball duck, but the return to Chinnaswamy might give him a sense of relief as he had fruitful outings here in white-ball cricket in his last two innings. The elegant right-hander made an unbeaten 128 against the Netherlands in last year's World Cup before making a 53 against Australia in the fifth T20I in December.



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