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Covishield cure comes with serious side effects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Sparking criticism and raising concerns, British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca has for the first time acknowledged in court documents in the UK that its Covid-19 vaccine, which is known as Covishield in India, has the potential to cause Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), a rare side effect associated with blood clotting.

clotting. As per media reports in the UK, the pharma giant is facing up to 51 litigations, being sued in class action over claims its vaccine caused death and serious injury in dozens of cases. In India, it was one of the widely administered Covid vaccines to reduce severe Covid-19 complications. Developed in collaboration with University of Oxford, AstraZeneca's vaccine was manufactured in India by Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII). As many as 1,749,417,978 doses of Covishield vaccine have been administered in India, in what was the world's largest vaccination programme from January 2021, according to the vaccine dashboard of the

government's web portal CoWIN as on April 29, 2024. Taking cognizance of the development, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the Indian Government should work to urgently address the alleged side-effects of the Covishield vaccine as millions of people in India were administered the shot during the Covid pandemic. Bharadwaj expressed concern over the alleged link between the vaccine's side-effects and a series of sudden deaths in India, claiming that Covishield was banned in several European countries, including Germany, France, Spain, Finland, Norway and Denmark, at the beginning of



2021 due to apprehensions about its safety. Speaking about complications related to the Covishield vaccine, Bharadwaj told a news agency,

"We have seen numerous videos on social media recently showing people collapsing and dying immediately after performing activities, which was not observed before the pandemic. Many people speculate a connection to the coronavirus vaccine and such reports are a matter of concern as they escalate tension." However, in India, the doctors said there was no need to worry. They said that if a person has received the AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covishield in India, two years ago, the likelihood of experiencing any adverse effects now is extremely low. "Adverse effects, if they occur, typically manifest within a few weeks of vaccination," said Dr Sudhir

Kumar, Neurologist, Apollo Hospital, Hyderabad. Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, Co-Chairman of the National Indian Medical Association, added that this particular outcome is reported only in the first month following the first dose, not afterwards. In India, Dr Kumar added that the incidence of TTS after the vaccine is not known. "Only isolated case reports have been reported. So, TTP is extremely rare after Covid vaccination, considering millions of vaccine doses have been administered," the expert said. "TTS is thrombocytopenia with thrombocytopenia syndrome, which is basically clot in blood vessels of the brain or elsewhere,

along with a low platelet count. It is known to occur in very rare instances following certain types of vaccines and also from other causes. According to the WHO, adenovirus vector vaccines in particular have been rarely associated with this condition," Dr Jayadevan asserted. Dr MV Padma Srivastava, Chairperson - Neurology, Paras Hospitals, Gurugram, however, told a news agency, "I have read the recent report which states that TTS (Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) is happening. In rare events, I can say that the vaccine has caused certain consequences and TTS."

Amit Shah deepfake video sings the Congress Sex scandal plot thickens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

The Gujarat police on Tuesday said they have arrested a Congress leader and an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) functionary for allegedly sharing Union Home Minister Amit Shah's deep fake video, in which he is purportedly seen announcing the curtailment of reservation rights of the SCs, STs and OBCs. The arrest comes a day after Delhi Police initiated a probe and summoned several persons including Telangana chief minister Revanth Reddy for questioning in the case. A few arrests have already been made in this case as Mumbai police too registered FIRs against the Maharashtra Youth Congress social media platform and 16 others. Police in other BJP-ruled States also swung into action making the first arrest in Assam in connection with the case on Sunday. In his first reactions pertaining to the matter, Home Minister Amit Shah said the Congress' frustration and disappointment have reached such a level that it made and circulated it on social media and even chief ministers and state unit chiefs also forwarded



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a Press conference at Vajpayee Bhawan, in Guwahati, on Tuesday. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and State BJP president Bhabesh Kalita are also seen

it. Shah alleged that since leader Rahul Gandhi assumed leadership of the Congress, its level of politics is sinking and the attempt to create confusion and mislead people is condemnable. "They should contest elections on the basis of their principles, programmes and manifesto and not by circulating a fake video," he said at a Press conference in

Guwahati when asked on the arrest of a Congress functionary of Assam for allegedly circulating a fake video of the BJP leader. The Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell arrested the two persons, including one who was working as a Personal Assistant (PA) of Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani since the last six years. Another has been serving as the AAP's

Dahod district president since the last four years and third belongs to the Dalit community, also serves as the general secretary of Banaskantha district Congress. The duo was booked under section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505(2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The police release said the duo had uploaded the

edited video of Amit Shah's speech with an intention to create enmity between reserved castes and unreserved castes in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "Both of them had shared this edited video of Amit Shah on their Facebook pages. They received this video on their WhatsApp and investigations are still on to nab the person who had edited this video," said a Gujarat police official. BJP on Monday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against the Congress, alleging that it circulated a "deep fake and morphed" video of Amit Shah to derail the poll process, and demanded strict action against the party. The Special Cell of the Delhi Police had on Sunday registered an FIR after the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, filed a complaint about the doctored video of Shah where his statements indicating a commitment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious ground in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

JD(S) on Tuesday suspended its Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna from the party with immediate effect over an alleged sex scandal involving him. Prajwal is the BJP-JD(S) alliance's candidate from Hassan, which went to the polls in the second phase on Friday. While Home Minister Amit Shah sought to know why the Congress Government in the State did not take any action against Prajwal for alleged sexual abuse of women, the National Commission for Women sought a report within three days from the Karnataka police over allegations of sexual abuse involving Prajwal. The 33-year-old is the son of HD Deve Gowda's elder son HD Revanna, who is an MLA and a former Minister. Prajwal's uncle H D Kumaraswamy is State president of JD(S). The suspension came minutes after the party core committee that met in Hubballi recommended his suspension to its national president and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, who is also Prajwal's grandfather. "Videos of Hassan MP Prajwal



NSUI members hold a poster of JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna during a protest against his involvement in the alleged sexual abuse case in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Revanna allegedly harassing women are widely in circulation on social media and this has caused huge embarrassment to the party and its leadership," the suspension order said. Stating that the Congress government in Karnataka has constituted a Special Investigation Team to investigate this, it said, "In this backdrop, as per JD(S)' party constitution and rules regarding breach of discipline and punishment, Prajwal Revanna has been suspended with immediate effect." Some explicit video clips allegedly involving Prajwal

Revanna were circulated in Hassan over the last few days. Police on Sunday booked Prajwal Revanna and his father H D Revanna on charges of sexual harassment and criminal intimidation based on a complaint from a woman, who worked in their household. BJP welcomed the JD(S) decision to suspend MP Prajwal Revanna over allegations of sexual abuse, asserting that it will push for the full might of law against him, and launched a fierce counter-attack on Congress for "delayed"action by Karnataka Government.

MEA debunks WaPo report claiming RAW hand in murder plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after The Washington Post named an Indian official for allegedly plotting to eliminate Sikh extremist Gurbat Singh Pannun, India on Tuesday said the report made "unwarranted and unsubstantiated" imputations on a serious matter. The newspaper, citing unnamed sources, named a Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officer in connection with the alleged plot to assassinate Pannun. "The report in question makes unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations on a serious matter," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "There is an ongoing investigation of the high level committee set up by the Government of India to look into the security concerns shared by the US government on networks of organised criminals, terrorists and others," he said. Jaiswal was responding to media queries on the report.

"Speculative and irresponsible comments on it are not helpful," Jaiswal said. The report in The Washington Post claimed that a man referred to as 'CC-1' in the indictment filed on the alleged murder plot to kill Khalistani terrorist Gurbat Singh Pannun was a RAW officer, Vikram Yadav. Yadav forwarded details about Pannun to the hired hit team, the report said. Vikram Yadav, an officer who allegedly worked with the Research and Analysis Wing, had hired a hit team and plotted an attack on Pannun on American soil, the report said. According to the report, Vikram Yadav, who is allegedly working with a different government organisation now, forwarded details about Pannun, including his New York address, to the hit team. The Washington Post claimed that the Ministry of External Affairs declined to respond to its article. In November last year, US federal prosecutors charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun. He is wanted in India on terror charges.

EC confirms voter fatigue in first two rounds

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Days after suspense over the low voter turnout, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday came out with official data showing low voting percentage in the first two phases that concluded recently. A voter turnout of 66.14 per cent was recorded in the first phase and 66.71 per cent was recorded in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections. In 2019, the voter turnout was recorded at 69.43 per cent and 69.17 per cent in the first and second phases, respectively. The voter turnout in the two phases of the recent Lok Sabha elections experienced a decline compared to the 2019 polls. The first phase of polling was held on April 19 across 102 constituencies and the second phase was held on April 26

for 88 constituencies. "In the ongoing general elections, voter turnout of 66.14 per cent has been recorded in phase 1 for 102 PCs (Parliamentary Constituencies) and 66.71 per cent in phase 2 for 88 PCs that went for polls in the two phases," the EC said in a statement. Generally, a higher voter turnout is considered an indication of change, while a low turnout suggests continuity. However, there is no clear correlation or trend evident in the data. Analysts say the lower turnout marked a clear lack of enthusiasm among people. Officially sharing the turnout figure, the EC said in phase one of the elections, 66.22 per cent of male and 66.07 female electors turned up to vote. The turnout for registered third-gender voters stood at 31.32 per cent. In the



2019 polls, the turnout in the first phase stood at 69.43 per cent. In the second phase of elections held on April 26, the male voter turnout was recorded at 66.99 per cent, while the female turnout stood at 66.42 per cent. As many as 23.86 per cent of the

registered third-gender voters came out to vote. The data showed that Bihar recorded 49.26 per cent voter turnout, less than 50 per cent while Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh recorded 56.87 per cent and 57.22 per cent respectively. Three parliamentary constituencies recorded less than 50 per cent voting percentage, which include Nawada in Bihar 43.17 per cent; Karauli-Dholpur in Rajasthan 49.59 per cent, a decline from 55.18 per cent in 2019 and Almora in Uttarakhand 48.74 per cent, a decline from 52.31 per cent in 2019. In the first phase of polling, Lakshadweep (84.1 per cent) recorded the highest voter percentage while Bihar (49.26 per cent) recorded the lowest voter turnout of the twenty-21 States and Union Territories that voted on April 19.

Kolkata experiences 43°C burns for first time ever

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Even as parts of south-western Bengal simmered in the vicinity of 45-46 degrees centigrade, Kolkata on Tuesday recorded its all-time highest temperature at 43 degrees which is six degrees above normal, said the weather office, adding the temperature is to go up in the coming 3-4 days. Kolkata had recorded highest temperature of 41.7 degrees 44 years ago in 1980, said sources at Alipore weather office, adding Orange alert had been issued for the City of Joy which had presently turned into a 'city on the boil'. Red alert has been sounded in the Gangetic West Bengal including the areas adjacent to Chotanagpur plateau like Purulia, Bankura, West Midnapore and Birbhum, sources said advising caution for the election campaigners and asking them to abstain from campaigning between 12 and 3 pm. "While heat wave like conditions will prevail in Kolkata, severe heat wave like conditions will prevail in western districts of the Gangetic Bengal," weather office sources said predicting heat-wave like condition in districts of North Bengal too save Darjeeling. The Bengal Government had preponed the summer vacations in Government and Government aided schools from April considering rising heat. "Considering the prevailing heat wave situation, the competent authority has decided to prepone the summer vacation in the schools under your administrative jurisdiction with effect from April 22 except for schools in hill areas of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, wherein the existing academic schedule may continue until further order," the notice issued by School Education earlier said.

India squad for T20 World Cup

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the Indian squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup which will be hosted in the West Indies and the USA from June 2. The Senior Selection Committee chairman Ajit Agarkar and Captain Rohit Sharma picked India's 15-member squad on Tuesday. However there are many surprising inclusions in the team and shocking omissions which created buzz among the cricket fans. In a 15-member squad opener Yashasvi Jaiswal found a place with opening partner Rohit (captain) followed by Hardik Pandya who is newly appointed vice captain for the upcoming World Cup which raises eyebrows about his poor

form. In the much awaited race of wicketkeepers who are named in the squad are Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson. KL Rahul was ignored in the selection with many questions arising despite his seniority and experience in the game and Ishan Kishan due to his form and inconsistency. Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav will be seen batting at number three and four positions. The new all-rounder Shivam Dube, who is getting praises for his swashbuckling batting in the IPL for the CSK, will further strengthen India's bowling attack with Ravindra Jadeja. Yuzvendra Chahal is making a comeback in this year's World Cup. The four spinners in the team are Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra



Jadeja and Axar Patel. Right-arm leg break spinner Ravi Bishnoi has been axed in this year's World Cup. The pace attack will be headed by Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, and Mohammed Siraj. India will begin their World Cup campaign against Ireland in Group A on June 5 in New York. **SQUAD:** Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya (Vice Captain), Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Suryakumar Yadav, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal. **Reserves:** Shubman Gill, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan and Rinku Singh.

All four Major Political Parties field Jat candidates in Hisar; Non-Jat votes may shape outcome

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

As all the major political parties -- Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) have fielded members of the Jat Community as their candidates in Hisar Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, the non-jat votes are likely to shape the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections this time.

In the Hisar Lok Sabha constituency, Jats comprise about 33 percent of the voters, and a member of the community has been elected MP on eight occasions.

To consolidate support among Jat Community voters, the Congress party has fielded former Union Minister Jai Prakash as its candidate while BJP has put former Haryana Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala. Chautala won the 2019 Assembly elections as an Independent from Rania constituency in Sirsa district and extended support to the BJP-led government in the state. Later, he joined BJP and he was picked by the party over other aspirants, including former Hisar MP and senior BJP leader Kuldeep Bishnoi. In 1998, Ranjit Singh had fought from Hisar on a Congress

ticket, but he came in fourth. Former Union minister Jai Parkash has been elected as an MP thrice from the seat. However, every time Jai Parkash has won, he has contested on the ticket of a different party -- for the Janata Dal in 1989, Haryana Vikas Party in 1996, and Congress in 2004. Jai Parkash served as a Union Deputy Minister of Petroleum from November 1990 to June 1991. He contested six elections and one by-election from Hisar. He, however, lost his security deposit in the bypoll, which was held in 2011.

The INLD has fielded its women wing leader Sunaina Chautala from Hisar. INLD Women Wing general secretary Sunaina is the wife of Abhay Chautala's cousin Ravi Chautala. Ravi is the son of INLD supreme Om Prakash Chautala's younger brother late Partap Singh Chautala. From Hisar, the JJP has fielded Naina Chautala, who is currently the MLA from Badhra in Charkhi Dadri district. Naina is the mother of former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala and wife of JJP president Ajay Singh Chautala.

Historically, Hisar Lok Sabha constituency is known as the epicenter of strong caste

polarization in the politics of Haryana. The Parliamentary seat has become the epicenter of Jats versus non-Jat politics in recent years.

As per the available data, the Jat dominated Hisar Lok Sabha constituency has 17.85 lakh voters, including over 500,000 Jat (33%), over 70,000 Prajapati/Kumhar, over 180,000 Brahmins, 65,000 Punjabis, over 36,000 Bishnois, and the rest 400,000 are of various Caste and Backward Classes.

This constituency covers the entire Hisar district and parts of Jind and Bhiwani districts and has nine assembly segments including Adampur, Uklana SC, Narnaund, Hansi, Barwala, Hisar, Nalwa, Uchana Kalan and Bawani Khera (SC).

In the 2019 Lok Sabha Election, Brijendra Singh of the BJP won with 599,951 votes. The runner up was Dushyant Chautala of JJP. The margin of victory was around three lakh votes. In the 2014 Lok Sabha election, Dushyant Chautala of INLD party won with 4,94,213 votes. The runner-up was Kuldeep Bishnoi of HJCB party. The margin of victory was around 30,000 votes. The sitting MP Brijender Singh

has joined Congress but he was not given a ticket by the party. Additionally, of the 16 Lok Sabha elections and one by-poll in Hisa since 1952, no one party has been able to keep the parliamentary seat as a stronghold --Congress has won it seven times, Janata Dal thrice, INLD and HJC twice each, and Haryana Lok Dal, Haryana Vikas Party and Samyukta Socialist Party once each. Though the Congress has won the highest number of times from Hisar, it has not found favour with people of the constituency since 2004.

As far as political history of this constituency is concerned, the family of three-time CM Bhajan Lal holds sway over Hisar. Bhajan Lal himself fought from the seat on a ticket of Haryana Janhit Congress in 2009 and won, and Kuldeep Bishnoi, after the former CM's death, fought the 2011 byelection from the seat and emerged victorious. The Chautala family of INLD is also popular among the voters of Hisar. However, in 1984, INLD supreme Om Prakash Chautala, as a candidate of the Lok Dal Party, lost to Birender Singh, who fought on a Congress ticket at the time.

Chautala's grandson Dushyant, who is the present MP, won his maiden contest

from the seat in 2014. Aged 25 at the time he was elected, Dushyant, with the win, became the youngest-ever MP in Parliament.

Hisar Lok Sabha seat, represented by freedom fighters Lala Achint Ram and Thakur Das Bhargava in 1952 and 1957, respectively, in the Lok Sabha, is a crucial seat due to caste polarisation of the electorate over the years. The seat has elected stalwarts like Mani Ram Bagri, Birender Singh, Bhajan Lal and Jai Prakash, who made their mark in the state and national political scene. Prominent socialist leader Mani Ram Bagri represented this segment in 1962 and 1980. However, the Hisar seat has witnessed polarisation of caste politics in Jat and non-Jat segments, which does not bode well for the area. This emphasis on caste dynamics is evident in candidate selection for 2024 general elections, where parties prioritize fielding candidates from specific communities to maintain caste-based equations.

All political parties acknowledge that a formula combining Jat, SC, OBC, and other votes could be a winning strategy, shaping their candidate selection and campaign strategies around these caste considerations.

Senior IPS Dhillon joins Congress, likely candidate from Ferozepur

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH



In a significant development that has reverberated through Punjab's political landscape, senior IPS officer Gurinder Singh Dhillon on Tuesday made a notable transition from law enforcement to politics. Dhillon's decision to join the Congress party comes on the heels of his recent voluntary retirement from the police service, just weeks before his scheduled superannuation.

With an illustrious career spanning over three decades, Dhillon's entry into the political arena has sparked considerable interest, especially amid speculation that he could be the Congress candidate from the Ferozepur Lok Sabha constituency.

Notably, Congress has, so far, announced its candidates for 12 segments, out of the total 13, while holding back the announcement for Ferozepur. Senior IPS officer, who was serving as the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), was set to retire on May 31, this year.

Dhillon, along with his wife, were inducted into the party at New Delhi, where All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Punjab affairs Devender Yadav formally welcomed them.

During the ceremony, Dhillon expressed his admiration for Rahul Gandhi's leadership qualities, citing his personal interactions with the former Congress president during Punjab led of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. The yatra provided Dhillon with a unique opportunity to accompany Rahul Gandhi for a significant stretch, fostering a close rapport with the Congress leader.

In fact, before joining, Dhillon also changed his 'profile pic' on X (formerly twitter), posting a one with Rahul Gandhi. "I came in close interaction with him (Rahul Gandhi) during the Bharat Jodo Yatra as I walked with him for 130 kms from Fatehgarh Sahib to Jammu city. After that he came for sewa at Golden Temple and stayed for three to four days. (Senior Congress leader KC) Venugopal ji wanted me on duty inside Darbar Sahib.

During these two visits, I interacted with him (Rahul Gandhi) and Venugopal ji very closely. I understood the Congress feel and touch. And I found myself impressed by the leadership qualities of Rahul ji," said Dhillon.

Reflecting on his decision to join the Congress, Dhillon emphasized his commitment to serving the people and contributing to the party's ideology and vision.

Yadav, addressing the media, hailed Dhillon's decision to join the Congress and highlighted his potential as an asset to the party. Yadav underscored the importance of Dhillon's vast experience and leadership qualities, indicating that the party would entrust him with responsibilities in line with his capabilities.

While there is speculation that Dhillon could be fielded as the Congress candidate from Ferozepur, he emphasized his willingness to serve the party in any capacity, prioritizing grassroots engagement and understanding the needs of the public.

The party is also considering the name of former MP Sher Singh Ghubaya for the seat. Born out of a desire to continue serving the people and contribute to the betterment of society, Dhillon's transition from a decorated police officer to a political aspirant underscored the multifaceted nature of public service. Serving the

border state from militancy to serious issues by being on various posts or wings, Dhillon said that he always tried to give the best possible. "Whatever diverse experience I gained from the police service, I place at the disposal of the Congress party and its leadership," he added.

Dhillon further expressed, "Engaging in electoral battles may seem tempting, but my foremost request to the party is to allow me to serve as a humble servant. I aspire to walk alongside the general public, empathize with their challenges, and address their concerns. If, in due course, the people express their desire for my candidacy, I will consider it. Additionally, I am committed to adhering to the directives of the party high command, unwaveringly following their instructions as a disciplined party member."

On April 24, a 1997-batch IPS officer had posted on 'X', stating, "I have taken VRS from my Police service. I am feeling uncaged. Let's see where wind of destiny pollinates me." Starting his career as Deputy Superintendent of Police in Jalandhar, Dhillon was elevated to the Indian Police Service in 2012 and allotted to the 1997-batch on account of his seniority. He had served in various positions in intelligence, anti-drug Special Task Force, Bureau of Investigation, and other wings.

Mann meeting Kejriwal; Says AAP supremo's health better

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, after meeting AAP national convener and his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar Jail on Tuesday, said that Kejriwal is in better health, and "he is getting regular insulin and medical check-ups".

Mann, sharing Kejriwal's message, said that the AAP supremo had asked the people to vote. "Vote to save our democracy and the Constitution. Vote against the dictators. Don't let the politics of hatred win, elect the politics of work," he said.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Mann said that they talked about families and their shared family AAP. "He asked me about all the facilities being given to the people of Punjab, and asked if we are facing any problems due to the code of conduct or the pressure of the Central Government. I told him that everything is functioning smoothly. We are ready to give our share of 130 lakh metric tons of wheat to the Centre. The farmers are getting paid timely," he said.

Mann further said that he apprised Kejriwal about his visits to Gujarat and Assam and his campaign in Punjab. "I told him

Give up Kejriwal's 'milni moh' and attend to farmers: Jakhar to Mann

Chandigarh: Punjab BJP state president Sunil Jakhar on Tuesday prodded Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for his amplified love for 'jailed' Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asking Mann to now focus on the burgeoning farmer concerns and protests in Punjab instead of flying every time in a chopper to Tihar jail to meet beleaguered Kejriwal.

"At a time when distressed farmers are protesting and sitting on railway tracks, Bhagwant Mann's sorties in choppers and milni (ceremonial meeting) with Kejriwal continues. Previously, Mann tried to act as an advocate of farmers, now he's left farmers in the lurch," said Jakhar.

Maintaining clearly that a stronger Punjab will lead to a stronger nation, the state BJP president said that it's an avoidable confrontation with farmers and Mann should focus his energy on ensuring that the protest ends on railway tracks and elsewhere, which he added, was not only causing distress to farmers, it was also a cause of suffering for the common man in Punjab.

that we (AAP) are getting an overwhelming response from the people everywhere. People know that Kejriwal is put behind the bars wrongfully. People are ready to vote out dictators," he added.

Sharing Kejriwal's message, he said: "Kejriwal ji wants you to not worry about him, he is okay, he will keep fighting. He will fight for the rights of the people and to save our democracy."

Earlier also, Mann had met Kejriwal in Delhi's Tihar jail. At that time, he had complained about the treatment that Kejriwal

is getting in jail. This time, Mann said that Kejriwal ji's health is better as he is now getting insulin, but the meeting was conducted similarly as the last time. Mann was made to sit on the other side of the glass and they talked through an intercom phone.

"They think they can arrest Kejriwal, break his spirit and stop the Aam Aadmi Party, but they are highly mistaken...Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party will brave these hard times and come out on the other side much stronger," he said.

Hry Agri Deptt forms teams to prevent incidents of burning of crop residue

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To prevent incidents of burning of crop residue in Haryana, the Agriculture Department has formed teams at village, block and district level. Besides this, Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC) is monitoring the crop residue fire through satellite. This will immediately identify the person who sets fire to the crop residue, and the GPS location will be sent to the farmer. Strict action will be taken against the person who sets fire to the crop residue as per the rules, said a Government official spokesperson on Tuesday.

Sharing more details in this regard, the spokesperson said that in view of the orders of the National Green Tribunal, orders have been passed under the powers conferred upon under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code 1973 to impose a complete ban on burning of residue / straw left after harvesting of Rabi crop in the districts with immediate effect.

The spokesperson said that these orders have been implemented till June 25, 2024. Directions have been given to the officers of Agriculture, Revenue and Panchayat

Department to make farmers aware about not burning crop residue. He said that as per the order issued, the Agriculture Department has formed teams to prevent incidents of setting fire to crop residues. Along with this, farmers have been appealed to not set fire to wheat crop residues but to manage crop residues with the help of agricultural machinery, so that the loss caused by fire can be avoided. Along with this, the fertility of the land can be increased only then our environment can remain clean.

The spokesperson said that the smoke generated by burning the residue/straw left after harvesting the wheat crop spreads in the environment, which is fatal for the health of the common people, adding that the possibility of loss to human life and property cannot be ruled out in case of fire in crop residues.

There is a possibility of shortage of fodder for animals due to burning of residues left after harvesting the crop. On the other hand, burning of straw/crop residue kills the friendly insects of the soil, whereas it is important for them to remain alive. Due to the death of friendly insects, the fertility of the land decreases and the crop yield is also affected, said the spokesperson.

Voting Invitations: Punjab's festive spin on democratic participation

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab is set to infuse a touch of festivity into its democratic process as the Election authorities embark on an innovative endeavour to celebrate the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 as the "festival of democracy". In a delightful twist to achieve the

ambitious target of 70 per cent polling turnout, voters across the State will receive special "voting invitation cards" personally delivered to their doorsteps by the Deputy Commissioners via booth-level officers (BLOs).

The initiative, spearheaded by the Office of the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibin

C, aligned with the overarching campaign theme of 'Is Vaar 70 Paar' (This time, crossing 70). The goal is to encourage maximum participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024, scheduled for June 1.

Punjab CEO Sibin C emphasized the importance of voter engagement and satisfaction, underscoring the signifi-

cance of each citizen's role in shaping democracy. The 'Voting Invitation' cards, equipped with QR codes for easy access to polling booth information, aim to enhance voter convenience and awareness.

As part of the larger election awareness campaigns conducted under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education

and Electoral Participation), the initiative seeks to make the voting experience enjoyable and seamless for every voter. From providing essential amenities like drinking water and clean toilets to ensuring comfortable waiting areas, adequate arrangements are being made at polling booths to accommodate voters.

Haryana CEO to rope in musical bands to encourage young voters come out in large numbers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With voter interest coming down in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections in different parts of the country, Haryana has decided to take a new initiative and rope in musical bands to play election-theme songs for encouraging young voters to exercise their franchise.

Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal said these bands will encourage people to cast their vote on the day of polling and also promote awareness and education regarding the election. "Soon we will be doing the first band play, hopefully in Panchkula. The band will perform and election-theme music will be played," he said. Later, these bands will be engaged districts having a higher percentage of young voters, he said.

Notably, 1,99,81,982 voters across the state are eligible to cast their votes when polling will be

held on May 25 in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state in the sixth phase of general elections. The number of voters in the 18 to 19 age group is over 3.65 lakh while the voters aged between 20 to 29 years are over 39 lakh.

Agarwal said that this year, the Election Commission of India has made "Chunav ka Parv - Desh ka Garv" the slogan for Lok Sabha elections so that citizens participate enthusiastically in the elections. He appealed to the youth across the state, including those who will vote for the first time, saying that when the youth engage with the electoral process, they will understand the power of democracy and the importance of their vote.

He said that the voter turnout in Haryana was recorded at 70 per cent in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. However, this time our goal is to take it to at least 75 per cent, he said.

Notably, several unique initiatives have been undertaken by the state election department, including launching the 'Voters-in-Queue' app, sending polling invitations to voters akin to wedding invitations, and setting up 31 polling booths in the multi-storey societies of Gurugram. Through the 'Voters-in-Queue' app the voters can obtain information about the queue at polling centres from the comfort of their homes and can go to vote as the crowd decreases. The app's primary advantage is that it will save voters' time by eliminating the need to wait in long queues, he said.

Agarwal said voter awareness campaigns are also being carried out to increase voter turnout. I am hopeful that Haryana will register record polling this time, he said.

Nearly 20,000 polling stations will be set up by the time polling is held, which will be

600-700 more than last time, he said.

The CEO said the law enforcement agencies have so far seized over Rs 27 crore worth of drugs, liquor and unaccounted-for cash in Haryana since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the Lok Sabha elections came into effect. On the MCC, he said through the c-VIGIL mobile app citizens are keeping a close eye on any poll code violations.

"As soon as people receive information about violations of the MCC, they send their complaints to the Election Commission. These complaints are resolved within 100 minutes," he said. "It is the result of citizens' vigilance that so far over 2800 complaints have been received in Haryana, of which 2400 were found correct and immediate action was taken," he said.

To ensure smooth conduct of polls, several meetings with police departments related to security related arrangements have been held, he said.

"Upset" with party leadership, Goldy resigns from Cong

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress on Tuesday suffered a significant setback as party's former MLA Dalvir Singh Khangura 'Goldy' tendered his resignation from all party posts, expressing dissatisfaction with the party's decisions. Speculations are rife that Goldy may align with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and emerge as its potential candidate from the Sangrur Lok Sabha constituency.

Goldy, a prominent figure in Punjab politics and a former MLA from Dhuri, had been actively involved in the party's election campaigns for the past three months. However, his disillusionment grew apparent when the Congress overlooked him and nominated Sukhpal Singh Khaira, a three-time MLA, for Sangrur -- a home constituency of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Despite efforts by party leaders, including Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, to persuade him to stay,

Goldy remained firm in his decision to resign. In a terse three-line resignation letter addressed to Warring, he expressed his "displeasure" with the state leadership and relinquished his primary membership from the party.

Taking to social media to announce his resignation, Goldy emphasized the gravity of his decision, acknowledging the difficult choices he had to make for him and his family. This move follows Goldy's earlier expressions of discontent over the denial of the party ticket, urging the Congress high command not to betray the trust of its members.

Beginning his journey as a student leader at Panjab University in Chandigarh, Goldy's political journey has seen both triumphs and setbacks. Despite an unsuccessful bid in the 2022 assembly polls from Dhuri against Bhagwant Mann and the subsequent bypoll for Sangrur Lok Sabha seat, Goldy remained optimistic about his future in the party. However,

the recent turn of events has led him to sever ties with the Congress, leaving behind a void in the party's electoral strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

A day before, Goldy had hinted at a potential departure from his political roots, sparking widespread speculation. Goldy's cryptic social media post on Monday alluded to his contemplation of a new political path, suggesting dissatisfaction with his current party affiliation. As Goldy had also shared a photo indicating his departure for the national capital, rumours swirled about his possible induction into the BJP.

Earlier also, Goldy had taken to the social media to openly express his dissatisfaction over declaration of Khaira's candidature from Sangrur. However, after Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, former Chief Minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, and Khaira personally reached out to him,

Goldy had agreed to join the party campaign and support Khaira's candidature.

Now with Goldy's departure, the Congress, especially Khaira, faces a challenge in Sangrur, a key constituency in Punjab politics. As the party grapples with internal dissent and external competition, the BJP's potential absorption of Goldy into its ranks could reshape the political landscape in the State, especially Sangrur -- which the Chief Minister Mann had recently dubbed as "AAP's capital".

Amidst this uncertainty, the BJP awaits an opportunity to leverage Goldy's potential shift, while BJP leaders like former MLAs Arvind Khanna and Kewal Singh Dhillon have also emerged as contenders for the party ticket from Sangrur.

The ruling AAP has fielded the Cabinet Minister and Barnala MLA Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer from the seat, currently represented by Khalistan sympathizer Simranjit Singh Mann of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar).

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Raguvir Singh S/O Jagan Dev R/O 86 Vill. Sheikhupur Distt Ambala have changed my name To Raghuvir Singh

I, Manohar Lal Nagpal S/O Gurditta Mal R/O 27 Durga Nagar PNB Street Hisar Road Ambala City have change my name to Manohar Lal

I, Prabhunath Panday S/O Bhagwat R/O 66 Near Ravidas Mandir Vill Raomajra Tehsil naringarh Distt Ambala have changed my name To Prabhunath

I, Nita W/O Sukha Singh V.P.O Thaska Miranj SubTehsil Ismailabad Kurukshehra have changed my name Anita Devi.

I, Ram Sawroop S/O Kalu Ram R/O Sainthaly, Narwana, Jind have Changed my Name Ram Sarup.

I, Shalu Sharma W/O Shakti Singh R/O H.No-401, Ward No.4, Near Railway Station Gurdaspur. Tehsil/Disit Gurdaspur Punjab. Have Changed My Name From Shalu Sharma To Shalu.

I, Smt Neetu Bhushan W/O No. 10363038P Late RFN Amit Sharma resident of VPO Mamun, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed my name from Neetu Sharma to Neetu Bhushan vide Affidavit No. IN-PB1085418494448W dated 30 Apr 2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, No 15626085H NK Sanal Kumar Tiwari, serving in unit 4 Guards (1 Rajput) C/o 56 APO that correct name of my father is Shri Prakash Tiwari instead of Prakash Tiwari and mother correct name is Bebi Devi instead of Baby Devi.

I, Kusum Devi is wife of No 15345936A Hav Rinku Rai, serving in unit 52 Engr Regt C/o56 APO have change my name from Kusum Devi to Kusum Rai.

I, Harsh W/o Radhy Sham R/O H.No. 90, Tagore Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Harsh to Harsh Arora. (Arora as surname)

I, Goldi S/o Prem Kumar R/O H.No. WS-58, Satran Mohalla, Basti Sheikh, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Goldi to Goldy.

I, Anupama W/o Goldy R/o H.No.WS-58, Satran Mohalla, Basti Sheikh, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Anupama to Anupma.

I, Jaswinder Singh S/o Ashok Kumar R/O Ward No. 9, VPO. Begowal, Kapurthala, Punjab- 144621, I have changed the name of my minor Son Imran aged about 12 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Armaan Farmay.

I, Pushit S/O Ashok Kumar R/O 340/23, Dif Colony, Rohtak, Haryana- 124001. Declare that Name of My Mother has been wrongly written as Simran in my 10th and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Mother is Pooja, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Kaveri Jha alias Kaveri Vijay Kumar Jha D/o Vijay Kumar Jha and W/o Ashish Pathak R/O H-94, 4th floor, South City 2, Sector-49, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122018. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kaveri Pathak.

I, Sanjeev Kumar S/o Satya Pal R/o H.No. L-105, New Colony, Near Malik Hospital, Palwal, Haryana- 121102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sanjeev Vinayak.

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Gurdinder Pal Singh Dhesi R/o H.No. 68, Lehriya Road, Buwan Kothi, Near Govt School, Bawan (72), Fatehabad, Haryana- 125113. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Khushvinder Kaur.

I, Monika W/o Jai Pal R/o H.No.262, Street No. 17, Rattanpura New Model Town Phagwara, (Kapurthala) Have Changed My Name To Monika Saharan.

I, Manvir Singh s/o Bhupinder Singh r/o VPO. Mehtan, Tehsil Phagwara, Kapurthala, Pin 144402, Punjab, India have changed my name from Manvir Singh to Manveer Singh.

I, Sajan Kumar S/o Surinder Kumar R/O H.No. 15-D, New Dashmesh Nagar, Jalandhar-144014, Punjab have changed my name from Sajan to Sajan Kumar.

I, Vishal S/o Piara R/O Indera Colony, Village Dhina, Po. Jalandhar Cantt., Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed my name from Vishal to Vishal Gill.

I, Surjeet Kaur w/o S. Jaspal Singh, Village Jia Natha, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt Hoshiarpur, Punjab declare that the correct name of my daughter's father is S. Jaspal Singh in place of Gurpreet Singh. All relatives may please be noted.

I, Beena Devi W/O Amrik Singh R/O H No 1918, Baba Budha Ji Nagar, Po Dakoha, Jalandhar Punjab 144023 Have Changed My Name From Bina Kumari To Beena Devi.

I, Priyanka Singh W/O Vikas Badal R/O Ward No.09 Balachaur Distt. S.B.S. Nagar Have Changed My Name Singh As Surname, Priyanka As Given Name.

I, Munmun Arora W/O Rahat Arora R/O H.No.40, Lawrence Road New Garden Colony District Amritsar Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Munmun Bansal To Munmun Arora, After Marriage.

I, Yugraj Bhambr S/O Suraj Parkash R/O Village Ahrana Khurd P.O Ahrana Kalan, Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From From Yug To Yugraj Bhambr.

I, Smt Gurmit Kaur W/O No.6902263Y Late Nk Shangara Singh R/O Village Rehsival, P.O Mandialan, Tehsil And Distt. Hoshiarpur (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Gurmit Kaur To Gurmeet Kaur And My Date Of Birth From 25-2-1961 To 10-10-1957.

I, Jagdeep Kaur Saini W/O Manmohan Jit Singh R/O B-23/662, St.No.2, Green Avenue, Near D.C. Residence, Preet Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name Jagdeep Kaur Saini To Jagdeep Kaur.

I, Rani Shailu W/O Sahib Singh R/O Vpo. Sahri, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Rani Shailu.

I, Reeta Devi Wife Of Rajveer Singh Resident Of Village Tewar P.O. Tewar Tehsil Kharar District Ropar (PB) Pin 140301, Have Changed My Name From Reeta Devi To Ritu Rani Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB10788194276808W Dated 30-04-2024, Distt. Court Place Amritsar.

I, Vikramjit S/O Jatinder Kumar, R/O Vpo. Nasrala, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Singh Vikramjit.

I, Mohinder Kaur W/O Hardev Singh R/O Village & P.O. Harta Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur 146112, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Mohinder Kaur To Mahinder Kaur.

I, Sukhjot Singh Gill S/O Jagdev Singh R/O Vpo. Sherpur Kalan Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sukhjot Singh.

I, Harjeet Kaur Gill W/O Yadwinder Singh R/O Patli Tehsil & Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Harjeet Kaur.

I, Gurmail Singh Khehra S/O Amar Singh R/O Vpo. Jalalabad East (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Gurmail Singh.

I, Barinderpal Singh Soordhar S/O Karnail Singh R/O Vpo. Dhurkot Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Barinderpal Singh.

I, Manjinder Kaur Malhi D/O Kewal Singh R/O Vpo. Pabbian Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Manjinder Kaur.

I, Inderjit Singh S/O Mahinder Singh R/O Vill. Chuhar Singhwala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Inderjit Singh Cheema.

I, Hitherto Known As Bina D/O Darshan Singh W/O Jagvinder Singh R/O H.No.353 St.No.09 Jamiat Singh Road Moga Distt. Moga 142001 Punjab India Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Mandeeep Kaur.

I, No.2807772N L/NK Vispute Kishor Suresh resident of Radhaswami Colony, Jatwada Road, Tehsil- Aurangabad, District - Maharashtra, Pin-431001, have changed my Father name from Suresh to Suresh Wamanrao Vispute Vide affidavit No.IN-PB10805656242764W dated 30 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, No.14832822H Hav Samarjeet Kumar Saraswati resident of Village- Mamrejpur, Post- Mamrejpur, Tehsil- Mahnar, District- Vaishali, State- Bihar, Pin-844504, have changed my Mother name from Lalita Devi to Anant Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB10810526598337W dated 30 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, No.2807772N L/NK Vispute Kishor Suresh resident of Radhaswami Colony, Jatwada Road, Tehsil- Aurangabad, District - Maharashtra, Pin-431001, have changed my Mother name from Sangita to Sangita Suresh Vispute Vide affidavit No.IN-PB 10803164036891W dated 30 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Nanda spouse of No.2808309Y Sep Zinje Dattatray Rajaram resident of Village- Shingnapur, Post- Shingnapur, Tehsil- Jath, District- Sangli, State- Maharashtra, Pin-416405, have changed my name from Nanda to Nanda Dattatray Zinje Vide affidavit No.IN-PB110665309519048W dated 30 April 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Charnjeet Kaur W/o Shamsher Singh R/o H.no. 13 Vill Rukri PO Dhin Tehsil Barara Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Charnjeet Kaur to Charanjeet Kaur and surname to Kaur. Concerned note

I, Rajnish Kumar Sharma s/o Hari Krishan Sharma R/O 558, Prabhu Prem Puram, Ambala Cantt district Ambala declare that I have changed my name from Rajneesh Kumar Sharma to Rajnish Kumar and surname to Sharma. Concerned note.

I, Maan Kaur W/o Parsa Ram R/O H.no. 13 Vill Rukri PO Dhin Tehsil Barara Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Maan Kaur to Man kaur. Concerned note.

I No 13893624X CMD-1 Anand Kumar Pandey S/O Ayodhya Prasad Pandey resident of Village - Selawan Distt - Fathepur (UP) Pin - 212657 Declare That in My Service Documents My Wife Name And DOB Wrongly Mentioned Manoj Kumari DOB 20 - 08 - 1976 Instead Manoj Devi DOB 20 -08 -1974. Manoj kumari and Manoj Devi are only one single person. Please not.

I, Gurleen D/o Jatinder Pal Singh R/o Sangha Hospital, Giani Zail Singh Nagar, Rupnagar, Tehsil and District Rupnagar, Punjab That my name is Gurleen and Gurleen Sangha both the names pertain to one and the same person.

I, Karamjeet Singh S/o Rajpal R/o H.No. 453A Shiv Colony, Near Balaji Service Station, Safidon Road, Jind Tehsil & Distt. Jind Have Changed My minor Daughter Name From Vanshika To Vanshika Sheoran.

I, Gurpreet Kaur W/o Sh. Gurnam Singh R/o Vill. Kinana Tehsil & Distt. Jind Have declare that in My minor Son's documents his name is Prince Singh Alias Happy but in some documents his name is Prince Singh. In future he will be Known as Prince Singh.

I, Rashmi Devi (existing name) wife of No.654569 Ex JWO Rai Singh resident of VPO Hassangarh, District Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my name from Rashmi Devi (existing name) to Ram Piari (Proposed new name) my correct/actual DOB is 01.01.1965 as per my Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In future I shall may be known/written and called as Ram Piari (DOB: 01.01.1965) for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 24 APRIL 2024 before 1st Class Magistrate (Rohtak)

I, Anita W/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar R/o VPO Kheri Meham Distt. Rohtak declare that I Anita W/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar & Parmeshwari w/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar is same name and one person. My name is Anita in my son Rohit's qualification documents and my name is Parmeshwari in collateral property. My Aadhar card No. is by name Anita.

I, Shiqbal Singh S/o Boota Singh R/o Village Bholu Wala, Tehsil & District Ferozepur have changed my name as Iqbal Singh.

I, Sawrnjit Kaur W/o Raj Mohinder Singh Vpo Rayya Khurd, Ward No 3, Baba Bakala Rayya, Amritsar have changed my name from Sawrnjit Kaur to Swarnjit Kaur.

I, Priyanka Markan W/o Pallav Ghai R/O St.No. 3 Partap Colony Samana (Patiala) have changed my name to Priyanka Ghai.

I, Malkit Singh Dhaliwal S/O Buta Singh Village Sahina, Teh. Tapa, Distt Barmala 148103 Have Changed My Name Malkit Singh.

I, Inderjit Singh S/O Bhajan Singh Village Shaina, Teh. Tapa, Distt. Barnala, 148103 Have Changed My Name Inderjeet Singh.

I, Gurmit Kaur W/o Jaswant Singh R/o Vill: Rajoana Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Gurmeet Kaur.

I, Sushma W/o Rajiv Mittal R/o H.No. 10225 Aare Wodi Street Durgapuri Joshi Nagar Ludhiana (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sushma Mittal after marriage.

I, Rajpal Kaur W/o Gurbhej Singh R/o Madhak (Faridkot) have changed my name to Rajpal Kaur.

I, Shinder Singh S/o Bakhtour Singh R/o Dod (Faridkot) have changed my name to Chhinder Singh Gill.

I, Jasvinder Singh S/o Bicker Singh R/o Matta (Faridkot) have changed my name to Jaswinder Singh.

I, Bhajan Singh S/o Jagseer Singh R/o Dhab Guru Ki (Faridkot) have changed my name to Bhajan Singh Dhillon.

I, Gurinder Singh S/O Dilbag Singh R/O, Vpo Kacha Pakka Tashil Patti District Tarn Taran Declare That Gurinder Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname.

I, Naseeb Kaur Sandhu W/o Harwinder Singh R/o Vill Kaler, Tehsil & Distt: Tarn Taran have changed my name to Naseeb Kaur concerned Note.

I, Tarlochan Ram W/O Subha Ram R/O VPO Atta, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar Punjab India 144409, Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name Harleen To Harleen Kaur.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Inderjit Singh R/o Village Panjgrain Kalan (Faridkot) have changed my name to Manjeet Kaur.

I, Paramjit Kaur Sidhu D/o Sadhu Singh R/o Aman Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur.

I, Karamjit Kaur W/o Sikander Singh R/o Village Panjgrain Kalan (Faridkot) have changed my name to Karamjeet Kaur.

I, Sikandar Singh S/o Major Singh R/o Village Panjgrain Kalan (Faridkot) have changed my name to Sikander Singh.

I, Amandeep Kaur W/o Kulwinder Singh R/o Village Panjgrain Kalan (Faridkot) have changed my name to Harjinder Kaur.

I, Jatinder Singh S/o Gurdit Singh R/o Village Bargari, Teh. Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my Name to Jatinder Singh Dhillon.

I, Neeraj W/o Ishwar Kumar R/o House No.100, Ward No.11, Kurali, SAS Nagar (Punjab) have changed my name to Neeraj Sharma.

I, Parminder Singh S/o Surjit Singh R/o Village Mandiala Kalan (Ludhiana) also known as Ravinder Singh, these both names are mine, one & the same person.

I, Varindra Kumar S/o Jal Lal Jakhar R/o Maujgarh, Maujgarh, Fazilka, Punjab - 152132, have changed my name to Varindra Kumar Jakhar.

I, Bholi W/o Paramjit Lal R/o Village Mulewal Brahmana, Tehsil Shahkot, District Jalandhar, Punjab 144702, have changed my name to Gurmeet kaur.

I, Ram Dass S/o Harbans Lal R/o VPO Sango Katrala, Singo Katrala, Sango Katrala, Hoshiarpur, Punjab - 144211, have changed my minor son's name from Aryan Nagla aged 17 years to Aryan Nagla forever.

I, Pooja Chanana W/o Rajesh Kumar Narang R/o House No. 27 Puda Enclave Baghi Road Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Pooja Narang.

I, Kuldeep Kumar Father Of Kashiv Sharma R/o H.No. 23, W.No. 11, Basti Tenka Wali Ferozepur City have changed my son's name Kashiv Sharma to Kashiv.

I, Parmjeet Singh S/o Kashmira Singh R/o W.No. 13 Vpo. Tanda Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Punjab, have changed my name to Paramjit Singh.

I, Karm Singh S/o Makhan Singh R/o Vill Dogranwala Po Bhawanipur Kapurthala have changed my name from Karm Singh to Karam Singh.

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Format C-7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'b1e Supreme Court in contempt pition C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party: **Shiromani Akali Dal**
Name of the Election: **Lok Sabha Election 2024**
Name of State/UT: **Punjab**

(I) Name of the Constituency: **03-Khadoor Sahib**
Name of the candidate: **S. Virsa Singh Valtoha**

Sr. No			
1.	Criminal antecedents		
	a.	Nature of the offences	1. 188, 269 of IPC
	b.	Case no.	1. FIR No 113/2020 PS Valtoha Distt Tarn Taran
	c.	Name of the Court	NA
	d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
	e.	Date of conviction, if any	Not Applicable
	f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	Not Applicable
	g.	Any other information required to be given	Not Applicable
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)		The candidates are democratically selected in the existing framework of the party. Factors such as intelligence, following Party ideology and loyalty tow ards party, Honesty, Educational qualification, knowledge about issues relating to the constituency and his work towards the betterment of society. It is further thoroughly checked that the candidate is accountable to Public at large even before and after being elected. That the present candidate has vast experience being Former Cabinet Minister.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)		Though the party has been keepin g close watch on all the prospective candidates but however the best one out of them has been selected. The Party has moral responsibility towards the Citizens of India and need to rise upto their expectations and no better candidate than the present candi date was available.

(Dr. Daljit Singh Cheema)
Secretary & Spokesman
Shiromani Akali Dal

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is notified for the general public that the person has applied for transfer of Flat/share/transfer of Lease deed right as under:-

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK JALLIANWALA BAGH, AMRITSAR DEMAND NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULE 2002)

Table with columns: Name of the NPA Account, Date of the Demand Notice, Amount Outstanding. Includes Mrs. Gurminder Kaur W/o Mr. Harlochan Singh.

STATE BANK OF INDIA RACPC, RANI KA BAGH, AMRITSAR DISPOSAL OF TATA ALTRIO XT 1.2 RTN BS6

Table with columns: Account Name, Description of Moveable Asset, Reserve Price. Includes Smt. Jaswinder Kaur W/o Sh. Bakar Singh.

DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES DRAW TIME: 06:00 PM ONWARDS

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

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

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra एक परिवार एक बैंक

ANNEXURE 10 AUCTION SALE NOTICE The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34/5 Sector-17A, Chandigarh

STATE SUMMONS M/S VICKY GARMENT AND OTHERS Where, OA/257/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 23.04.2024.

Table with columns: Serial No., Prize Amount, Common to all series, On last 4 digits. Includes 1st Prize Amount (10)Rs.10,000/-.

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra एक परिवार एक बैंक

ANNEXURE 10 AUCTION SALE NOTICE The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts.

Lost & Found I, Amit S/o Sh. Shubhran R/o H.No. 103/A, Railway Colony, Rohtak

Public Notice I, Reena Rani W/o Naresh Kumar R/o Ward 14, Jagjivanpura Fatehabad Teh.

Public Notice I, Jatin Rakheja S/o Naresh Kumar R/o Ward 14, Jagjivanpura Fatehabad Teh.

Public Notice Original Deed No. 1157 dated 10/06/2010 which was in the name of Harkishan Ram

Public Notice THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT CHANDIGARH YACHTING ASSOCIATION WILL BE CONDUCTING ELECTIONS FOR THE BODY ON 12 MAY 2024.

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra एक परिवार एक बैंक

ANNEXURE 10 AUCTION SALE NOTICE The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts.

PUBLIC NOTICE I, Hemant Bansal S/o Suresh Chand Bansal R/o House No. 645 Sector-16

Public Notice I, Reena Rani W/o Naresh Kumar R/o Ward 14, Jagjivanpura Fatehabad Teh.

Public Notice I, Jatin Rakheja S/o Naresh Kumar R/o Ward 14, Jagjivanpura Fatehabad Teh.

Public Notice Original Deed No. 1157 dated 10/06/2010 which was in the name of Harkishan Ram

Public Notice THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT CHANDIGARH YACHTING ASSOCIATION WILL BE CONDUCTING ELECTIONS FOR THE BODY ON 12 MAY 2024.

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra एक परिवार एक बैंक

ANNEXURE 10 AUCTION SALE NOTICE The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts.

LOST OF ID CARD ID Card of HDFC Bank, Jagdish Singh Card No.- 230228490418324

Public Notice I, Reena Rani W/o Naresh Kumar R/o Ward 14, Jagjivanpura Fatehabad Teh.

Public Notice I, Jatin Rakheja S/o Naresh Kumar R/o Ward 14, Jagjivanpura Fatehabad Teh.

Public Notice Original Deed No. 1157 dated 10/06/2010 which was in the name of Harkishan Ram

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PUBLIC INFORMATION The general public is informed that the new property ID number 1THRNP026 has been added to the property tax records

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Repeat offenders

Pro-Khalistan slogans raised again at Toronto event in front of Trudeau; India hits back

Yet another event which saw pro-Khalistan slogans being raised, this time in Toronto, has triggered diplomatic tensions between India and Canada. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was also present in the programme, which made it look like the Canadian Government was condoning the act. It prompted India to summon in New Delhi a Canadian diplomat and express strong disapproval. The event, celebrating cultural diversity and inclusivity, took an unexpected turn when a group of individuals began chanting slogans in support of Khalistan, a separatist movement. The unfortunate incident is indeed a setback to ongoing discussions between the countries on various issues. For India, the incident struck a sensitive chord as it perceives the Khalistan movement a threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Indian authorities view any display of support for Khalistan, especially in the presence of heads of State, with utmost seriousness. The Indian Government, therefore, wasted no time in conveying its concerns to Canadian authorities. The summoning of their diplomat serves as a clear signal of India's displeasure and underscores the gravity with which it views the matter. Meanwhile, in Canada, the incident has sparked discussions about the limits of freedom of expression and the implication of such incidents on diplomatic relations.



ASHOK K MEHTA

While Canada may uphold the principles of free speech and assembly, the chanting of pro-Khalistan slogans on its soil in the presence of its Prime Minister raises questions about the appropriateness of such actions, particularly in a diplomatic context. Trudeau, who has been an advocate for multiculturalism and diversity, has yet to publicly comment on the incident. However, it is expected that he will address the matter in due course, considering the diplomatic ramifications and the need to maintain constructive relations with India. Given the history of the roots of Khalistanis in Canada, it was a foregone conclusion that something of this sort might come up. The Canadian Prime Minister should have ensured in advance such a thing would not happen as it reflects badly on his Government and strains relations with India. Indeed, pampering Khalistanis on its soil is going to be a problem for Canada as history repeats itself and all those regimes that once harboured such elements have paid a heavy price for it. The incident also underscores the complexities of managing diaspora politics, particularly when it intersects with sensitive geopolitical issues. Canada is home to a significant Sikh population, many of whom have strong ties with India and hold varying views on the Khalistan movement. Ultimately, the Toronto incident highlights the interconnectedness of global politics and the need for vigilance in safeguarding the principles of sovereignty, unity and respect for diverse perspectives. It is a stark reminder that actions and words uttered in one corner of the world can have far-reaching implications, shaping the course of international relations for years.

PICTALK



Fireworks light up the sky at the Golden Temple on the birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur, in Amritsar

Why is the BJP avoiding China in campaigning?

The BJP's election focus has shifted away from recent China tensions, opting instead to highlight Nehru's actions during the 1962 conflict

China has been generally missing from election manifestos and campaigning so far. Former Army Chief Gen Naravane at a literary festival in Ajmer recently called China India's primary threat adding confrontation along LAC was a good thing as it exposed this ground reality that Delhi was shy to admit. EAM S Jaishankar and especially Defence Secretary Giridhar Armane have made unkind references to Beijing. In his book Four Stars of Destiny Naravane has written extensively about the India-China confrontation which started under his watch. It was a serious failure of intelligence which allowed the Chinese PLA to occupy nearly 2000 square km of territory on the Indian side of LAC corresponding to their 1956 claim line. The avoidable tragedy at Galwan and the refusal of the Chinese to restore the status quo ante April 2020 even after 21 rounds of military dialogue (the last round on 21 February) place India at a serious disadvantage. In 1998 India gave China as the reason for conducting nuclear tests which incensed the Chinese, requiring then foreign minister Jaswant Singh to travel to Beijing to "untie the knot". I was witness to the repair exercise in Beijing even as then our Army was retaking Tololing Heights, Kargil. Singh had to say that China was not a threat. Later then defence minister George Fernandes called China the number one threat though it was misreported as "No 1 enemy". This caused a diplomatic furore as China is acutely sensitive to being seen as or worse a threat by any country. The Government is careful in its articulations on China as it hopes to secure full disengagement diplomatically. But the gloves came off Feb /Mar. Jaishankar speaking at the Raisina dialogue said that China should not be allowed to play mind -games to counter which India must use other means (implying US help) to seek better equilibrium. His comments came a day after Armane at the INDUS-X FORUM in Delhi unprecedentedly called Beijing a bully adding "we expect our friend US will be



there in case we need their support". Not since 1962 have we sought unequivocally US military support. This is bound to have upset China. Worse, no Indian official had ever called China a bully. Surprisingly China has not reacted. Naravane's book and excerpts have been withheld by the Government in damage control after publishers circulated excerpts of Operation Snow Leopard Night 29/30 August 2020 which belittle the Government's political control in war and explosive comments on Agniveer. Armed with material from the horse's mouth, the opposition is targeting the Government in China and Agniveer — during election rallies where foreign policy is an issue. How Army intelligence cleared the book for publication is a mystery. In parliament on 10 Feb 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had informed Parliament about withdrawals in the North Pangong Tso Lake Fingers area. But he made no mention of vacation from Kailash Heights, which presumably was implied in 'mutual withdrawal'. But Singh added: "Chinese side is aware of our resolve not to allow an inch of territory to be taken". Former NSA, Shiv Shankar Menon in his writings has observed: "we don't know what happened in South Bank (Kailash heights) as we know

FORMER ARMY CHIEF GEN NARAVANE RECENTLY HIGHLIGHTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S CAUTIOUS ARTICULATIONS ON CHINA AIM TO SECURE FULL DISENGAGEMENT DIPLOMATICALLY, DESPITE THE SERIOUS INTELLIGENCE FAILURE ALLOWING CHINESE OCCUPATION OF INDIAN TERRITORY ALONG THE LAC

about North Bank (Pangongtso Lake)". Recently Congress leader Jairam Ramesh cited an X post by Chushul Councillor Konchok Stanzin of autonomous Ladakh Hill Development Council that the Rezangla battle 1962 memorial was dismantled as it fell in the 'buffer zone' negotiated with China during the vacation of Kailash Heights. That undisputed Kailash Heights in Indian territory had been made a buffer zone is a revelation that the Government never even informed parliament. In the critical operational situation replete with vertical and horizontal escalation that developed at Kailash Heights that critical night, no political guidance had been provided by CCS/RM/PM to Naravane which became clear from his conversation with Singh urgently seeking orders. With Naravane's book and excerpts embargoed for release, the book may never materialise as it showed the political direction of a war-like situation in poor light. But Naravane will know why he didn't become CDS even as critical Kailash heights are lost for perpetuity. In the election campaign, no BJP leader has so far mentioned Galwan or Kailash heights which were examples of valorous use of force against China as it could open a can of worms. Keeping Naravane out of the fray, the opposition is attacking the Government for losing 2000 sq km of land as well as 26 of 65 patrolling points. Campaigning in Pune and speaking to the media on 12 April, Jaishankar emphasized "there was no encroachment by China; it has not occupied any of our land; but the situation is sensitive, competitive and challenging." The PM, HM and RM have all also denied loss of territory. In his interview with Newsweek in response to a question on China, PM Modi's terse reply was: "New Delhi ties with Beijing are important and the prolonged situation at the border should be addressed urgently, for peace and tranquillity to be restored and sustained at the borders". The Chinese welcomed the statement adding sound and stable ties were in common interest. Restoring the LAC to April 2020 as sought by India, the Chinese will never do. It's tough to conceive of a compromise formula. Consequently, the C word is almost missing from the BJP election discourse, cleverly diverted to Nehru's follies in 1962. But Naravane deserves praise. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka and a founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHALLENGES FOR NEW GOVERNMENT

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Challenges loom ahead of the July Union Budget," published on April 30, this is my response. The forthcoming union budget already stirs anticipation, underscoring the critical juncture India faces. Economic discourse dominates electoral debates, eclipsing divisive issues. However, the electorate's focus on core economic woes signals a paradigm shift. Spiralling inflation, mounting household debts and sluggish job creation demand urgent attention. Yet, electoral promises veer towards populism rather than pragmatic solutions. The fiscal landscape is daunting, with staggering debt repayments curtailing budgetary flexibility. Amid global economic headwinds, India's export slump exacerbates trade deficits. Addressing structural issues like low productivity and high taxation is imperative for sustained growth. Furthermore, infrastructural development must align with socio-economic welfare, assuage rural discontent and foster inclusive growth. A judicious blend of public and private sector involvement and prudent fiscal policies can steer India towards its lofty economic aspirations. Ultimately, the onus lies on the new Government to navigate these challenges deftly, prioritising the populace's wellbeing over partisan agendas. Neha Iyer | Pune

ENGAGING YOUTH IN POLITICS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Why are the young not joining politics?" published on April 30, this is my response. Witnessing the apathy of young voters towards participating in the political process is disheartening. While some may feel disillusioned with the quality of politicians, others might believe their voices won't make a difference. However, by abstaining from voting, they relinquish their right to shape the nation's future. On the other end of the spectrum, the

State Assembly sessions



Apropos the news article, "Delhi, other state legislative meetings dwindle," published on April 29, this is my response. As someone who follows daily news, the pattern of state assembly sessions raises concerns. The data compiled by PRS Legislative Research reveals a significant disparity in the number of days assemblies convene. While some states meet

the constitutional mandate of at least one session every six months, others fall drastically short. The emphasis on budget sessions, evident from the majority of sittings concentrated within these periods, indicates a rushed legislative process. Such haste might compromise the quality of debate and scrutiny essential for robust policymaking. Moreover, the prolonged sessions in some states, stretching beyond a year in extreme cases, question the efficiency and accountability of legislative bodies. The instances of bills being passed swiftly after introduction raise doubts about thorough deliberation and stakeholder consultation. Efforts to streamline legislative processes and ensure meaningful engagement during sessions are imperative to uphold democratic principles and deliver effective governance. Nisha Menon | Bhopal

lack of interest among older individuals in entering politics is concerning. The decline in ethical and social values, coupled with the high cost of electioneering, deters many from pursuing political careers. Addressing these issues requires systemic changes, such as the delimitation of electoral constituencies and measures to reduce election expenses. Compulsory voting could also enhance participation and diminish the influence of vote-bank politics. Moreover, curbing the distribution of freebies is crucial to prevent elections from devolving into mere transactions. True democracy demands active engagement from all citizens, irrespective of age or background. Meera Patel | Ahmedabad

NUTRITION FOR ORAL HEALTH

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Diet, Mint, Ginger Impact," published on April 29, this is my response. Maintaining oral health extends beyond brushing and flossing; it's about what we eat too. Sugary and starchy foods can

feed harmful mouth bacteria, leading to gum disease. A balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, protein, calcium-rich foods and whole grains not only supports a healthy body but also promotes a bright smile. Opting for natural foods over processed ones is key to oral and overall wellbeing. Remember, oral health impacts your entire body; bacteria from the mouth can spread, increasing the risk of various diseases. Mint and ginger offer natural remedies for oral care. Mint's antiseptic properties combat bacteria, freshen breath and prevent cavities. Meanwhile, ginger, with its gingerol compound, fights infections and inflammation, strengthening teeth. Incorporating these ingredients into a refreshing drink like Mint & Ginger Healthy Drink adds flavour and health benefits to your routine, promoting a radiant smile and robust health. Arjun Reddy | Hyderabad

Recognising workers' resilience and struggle

On International Labour Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to worker welfare and advocate for fair, empowering policies

On May 1st, as we celebrate International Labour Day, these words of Karl Marx resonate with renewed significance. May Day is not merely a day of rest; it is a powerful reminder of the resilience and collective strength of workers worldwide. It is a day to honour the countless individuals who have fought for the rights and dignity of labourers and to recognise the ongoing struggle for justice in the workplace.



Every year on May 1st, International Labour Day serves as a poignant reminder of the struggles, sacrifices and triumphs of workers worldwide. It is a day to honour the contributions of labourers across various countries and industries, while also acknowledging the ongoing battle for labour rights and social justice. As we commemorate International Labour Day on May 1, 2024, let us reflect on the significance of this day and recommit ourselves to advocating for the rights and welfare of workers. The roots of International Labour Day trace back to May 1, 1886, when workers in

Chicago staged a massive protest demanding an eight-hour workday. This pivotal event led to the establishment of International Workers' Day, symbolising the collective struggle for fair labour practices. Since then, May Day has evolved into a global movement, with workers from all walks of life coming together to advocate for their rights. May Day holds immense significance in highlighting the importance of workers' rights. It serves as a platform to address issues such as fair wages, equal opportunities, maternity benefits, healthcare and safe working conditions. By amplifying the voices of workers, May Day fosters solidarity and empowers individuals to strive for better living standards and dignity in labour. In India, May Day was first celebrated in 1923 by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan in Madras (now Chennai). Led by visionary leaders like Singaravelu Chettiar, this event marked the beginning of a movement to champion the rights of workers. Since then, May Day has been observed with fervour across the country, with various labour organisations leading rallies and campaigns to advocate for workers' welfare. Dr BR Ambedkar, a towering figure in India's labour movement, played a pivotal role in advocating for the rights of marginalised labourers. He emphasised the principles of equal pay for equal work, maternity benefits, eradication of discrimination and fair treatment of workers.



SANTOSH MATHEW

Through his leadership and advocacy, Dr Ambedkar laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable society. While we have made significant strides in advancing labour rights, challenges persist. Many workers, especially those in the informal sector, continue to face exploitation and lack of protection. We must address these issues and work towards creating a more just and equitable working environment for all. As we celebrate International Labour Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to the welfare of workers. We must advocate for policies that promote fair labour practices, empower workers and ensure their wellbeing. As International Labour Day dawns upon us once again on May 1st, 2024, let it serve not just as a commemoration of past struggles, but as a beacon lighting our path towards a future where every worker's dignity is honoured, every voice is heard and every dream finds its fulfilment in a world of equality and justice. (The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Visual storytelling can promote sensitivity and empathy



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

A scared figure crouching in a corner, a large hand covering a mouth trying to muffle a scream, outstretched arms pleading for help, tattered clothes. More often than not, images like these accompany media reports of sexual violence against women. As a survivor of sexual harassment, Ankita Anand felt insulted looking at these images. She didn't want to be depicted this way.

What upset her most were drawings meant to represent the survivors and create awareness that served to titillate. She decided to take matters into her own hands. The activist-turned-journalist started a campaign with a Change Org petition and directed her attention to one of the major news channels to set an example by not using disrespectful images of women in sexual violence reporting. What was needed to transform the way society perceived women was images that were not about helplessness but about the rage that challenged the oppression. Pictures that showed that women are "doers," not always the "done upon-s." were shared by Anand in her piece about her innovative campaign for the Network of Women in Media, India.

While her 2018 petition garnered over 47,000 signatories and also helped to spotlight an earlier Redraw Misogyny campaign by Breakthrough, an organisation working to end violence against women, many media platforms continue to churn out images that strip the victim of agency and perpetuate shame and stigma attached with rape and sexual harassment, creating a biased perception of women who have experienced sexual violence.

But now Anand and the many survivors in India and the region, no longer have to be depicted in this disempowering way thanks to the just-launched free-to-use image bank reframing visual narratives around women and sexual violence in South Asian media.



Conceptualised by the Hri Institute for Southasian Research and Exchange, Kathmandu and developed with the help of a team of artists and photographers from India and Nepal, the image bank re-imagines visual depiction of women and sexual violence to address the wide spectrum of women's experiences. It is an outcome of a unique collaborative effort to explore the role images play in forming perceptions around sexual assault, women and gender equality. The project 'Challenging Visual Depiction of Women and Sexual Violence in Southeast Asia' led by Laxmi Murthy and Pawas Manandhar united researchers, activists, filmmakers, and artists to redefine visual portrayals of gender-based violence in cinema, media, and popular culture across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

The one-year project focused on challenging problematic imagery and promoting more meaningful depictions of violence and trauma. South Asian artists utilised textiles alongside illustrations and photos to narrate stories of injustices against women. It is an important artistic medium of expression, especially for those who have suffered violence, repression and discrimination as textiles are inextricably linked to the lives of people, particularly women. "I Never Ask For It," a campaign by Blank Noise, a Bengaluru-based volunteer-led project, has been working to generate awareness of gender-based violence and end victim shaming/blaming by building testimonies of clothing. Images from this campaign can also support survivors of violence to feel heard and believed.

A picture is worth a thousand words. It can transform the way sexual violence against women is framed in the media when used sensitively and appropriately. It just needs the will to do it.

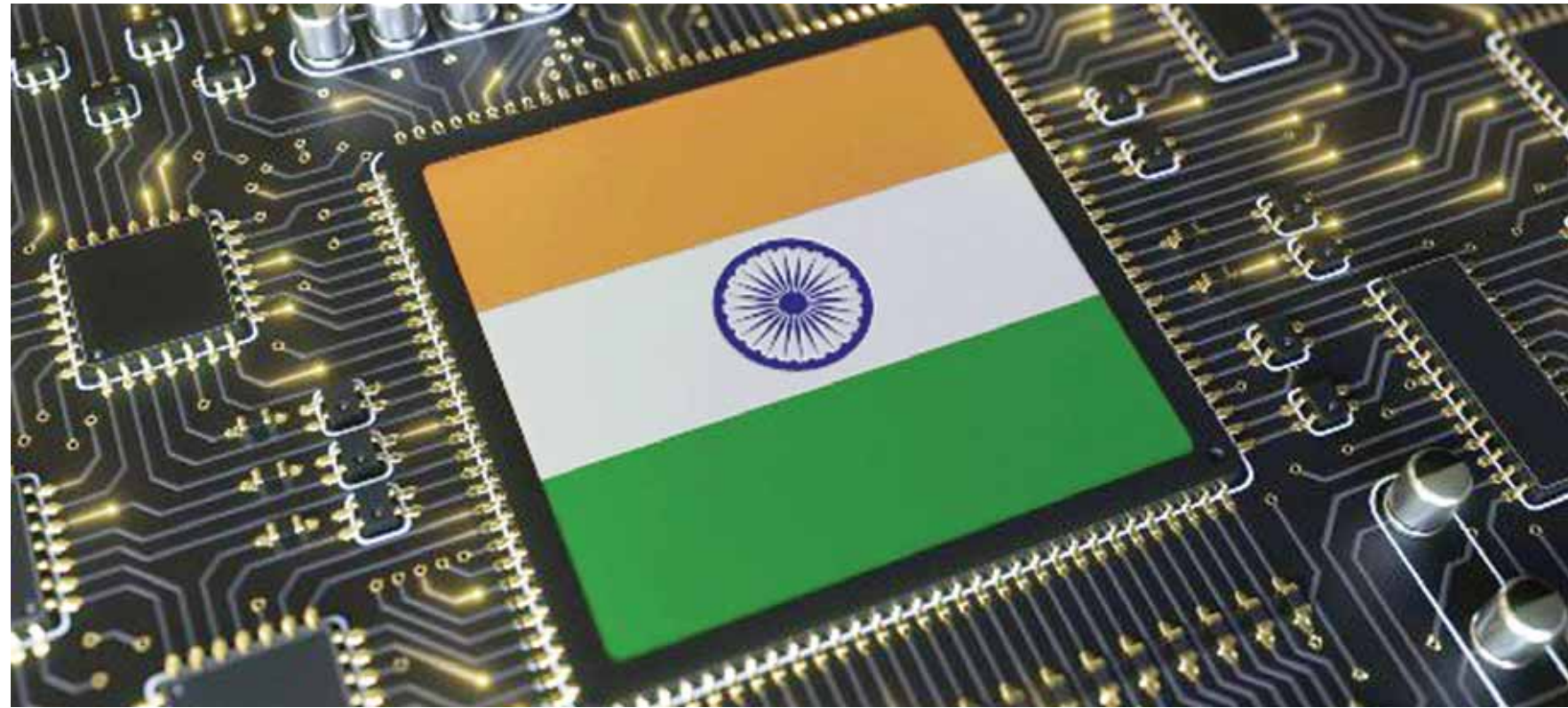
(The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views expressed are personal)

Semicon ecosystem: A revolution in India



A S MITTAL

India's talent, resources and infrastructure position it to excel in the semiconductor sector and becoming a global leader



As our lives become increasingly reliant on technology, semiconductors have become the essential foundation of society. These tiny chips are the powerhouses behind our electronic devices, communication systems and even the functioning of our agricultural implements medical equipment and vehicles. India has recognised the enormous socio-economic potential and strategic importance of this silent revolution of technology and is taking the lead in building a robust semiconductor ecosystem and developing a talented workforce.

India's goal of becoming self-sufficient and a global leader in semiconductors is supported by the fact that the semiconductor industry is expected to generate over one million job opportunities for semiconductor design engineers, manufacturing engineers, R&D scientists, operators, technicians and skilled workers in chip design and semiconductor fabrication, packaging and sales facilities over the next five years. "Around 30 per cent of the new global capability centres established in India during the December quarter of last year were in the semiconductor space, indicating a growing interest in leveraging the local talent pool in areas such as front-end design, performance testing and post-silicon validation", according to the National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) and Zinnov latest report. The world's leading chip design companies, including Intel, Texas Instruments, AMD, Nvidia and Qualcomm, have design and R&D centres in India. AMD recently inaugurated its largest global design centre in Bengaluru. In March, an event- 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat', witnessed the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore.

Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's Power Chip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC), set up the country's first semiconductor fab plant in Dholera (Gujrat) with an investment of Rs 91,000 crore and another plant in Morigaon (Assam) with investment of Rs 27,000 crore, with the first chips to



INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR MARKET IS VALUED AT AN ESTIMATED \$15 BILLION AND IS EXPECTED TO REACH \$55 BILLION BY 2026. SMARTPHONES AND WEARABLES, AUTOMOBILE COMPONENTS, COMPUTERS AND DATA STORAGE ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 60 PER CENT OF THE MARKET

begin coming off the production line in 2026. US-based semiconductor manufacturer Micron India plant with an investment of Rs 22,500 crore in Sanand (Gujarat), is expected to roll out the first "Made in India" memory chips by December. It is contributing its bit to the Chandrayaan-3 mission Semiconductor Corporation of India (SCL) proposed to update and expand its chip facility in the Mohali plant with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore, to enhance its contribution to ISRO and other space research organisations globally.

95 Percent Import Dependency: Despite the upward trajectory of India's current semiconductor chip ecosystem, the country remains dependent on the US, Taiwan, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea, with over 95 per cent of semiconductors imported from these countries.

To reduce this dependency on imports, India recognised the strategic importance of a robust domestic semiconductor industry. It unveiled the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) offering 50 per cent capital expenditure support to new entrants, production-linked incentive (PLI) and design-linked incentive (DLI) schemes with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, as well as state Government incentive support, international partnerships and a focus on talent development. The Electronic and IT Ministry plans to train over 85,000 engineers in chip design over the next five years to address the skill gap. Such focused efforts aim to steer the ecosystem through nurturing policymaking to develop a self-sufficient ecosystem.

Moreover, the geopolitical uncertainties involving the China-US trade war have compelled companies to seek alternative production bases or sourcing locations outside

China. Amid this relocation in the industry, India and Southeast Asian nations like Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have been preferred for front-end manufacturing in the future. India's entry into this ecosystem is timely and strategically important for diversifying the global supply chain and positioning India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development, fostering the creation of employment opportunities for the nation's youth.

Present Landscape and Scope of Growth: Bengaluru and Hyderabad together host about two-thirds of India's semiconductor global capability centres (GCCs), which is over two-thirds of the total 55 semiconductor GCCs in the country. With more than 95 GCC units and a specialised workforce of 50,000, this demonstrates India's strong commitment to the semiconductor industry. Presently, India's semiconductor market is valued at an estimated \$15 billion and is expected to reach \$55 billion by 2026. Smartphones and wearables, automobile components, computers and data storage account for more than 60 per cent of the market.

Challenges: Semiconductor manufacturing is an extremely complex process that requires precision at the smallest level. Since the global chip world is closely connected, Indian companies need to collaborate with countries like Taiwan and South Korea to gain access to advanced technology that will enable them to support emerging applications with more chip content, such as autonomous machines, smart medical devices, futuristic communications at 6G onward and AI across electronics. Bridge the skill gap: India needs to bridge the skill gap, especially for advanced chip design and fabrication. The global semiconductor

manufacturing industry has a talent pool of 2.3 million, with nearly 25 per cent of senior talent being Indian.

To attract and retain this talent, Indian companies are holding roadshows in Taiwan's chip manufacturing centre of Hsinchu. Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says, "The engineers who have decided to return to India from the US are younger, while those from Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia are generally over 45 years and with more experience. We expect many of them to come back to participate in India's high-tech manufacturing revolution."

Road Ahead: The future of the semiconductor industry in India holds immense promise. It will play a crucial role in shaping the country's advanced technological landscape, driving economic growth and positioning India as a global leader in innovation. The semiconductor industry will also generate opportunities for an entrant and Indian talent working in this sector globally, many of whom wish to return to their roots.

India's ambition to become a self-reliant and dominant player in the semiconductor industry is clear. With the talent, resources and infrastructure in place, India is poised to make significant strides in the semiconductor sector and establish itself as a global leader in the years to come.

-The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman (Cabinet Minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President, of Tractor and Mechanisation Association (TMA).

Views expressed are personal

Driving innovation: Role of intellectual property in India

India can emulate Japan's post-Meiji transformation by harnessing innovation, embracing change and cultivating a risk-taking culture

In the 76th Independence Day speech on August 15, 2022, the Prime Minister called for innovation with a focus on indigenous innovations highlighting "Jai Anusandhan". Innovation is the key to India realising a self-reliant, competitive and USD 30 trillion economy by 2047. Innovation has the potential to unlock major productivity gains and will allow the nation to leapfrog towards higher value-added products and services across sectors.

In the last few years, globally we have witnessed a fundamental and rapid shift from a knowledge economy to an era of artificial intelligence (AI) and virtuality. During the same time, the unprecedented nature and



KRISHNA SARMA

scale of the pandemic affirmed the importance of having an innovation ecosystem for finding new cures — vaccines, medicines and diagnostics.

For a country with a legacy of scientific and technical knowledge base, the private sector in India has previously made modest investments in research and development (R&D). India has taken a different approach to innovation

to meet its unique challenges. The transformational digital public infrastructure, starting with the Aadhar platform, is a case in point.

Similarly, against the backdrop of concerns regarding public health, access and affordability of medicines and protecting the domestic industry, India's approach to innovation in the biopharmaceutical sector is primarily based on public-sector-led collaborative innovation, where the private sector has merely been 'encouraged' to invest in R&D in priority areas.

While in many cases, publicly supported research provides a wellspring of initial discovery, it is the private sector that must develop new technologies and bring them to the

market. To be a leader in a rapidly changing marketplace across sectors, private sector innovation is critical. How does one measure innovation? One way could be to determine how much a company spends on R&D as a percentage of its revenue annually. As patents secure exclusive rights to an invention, the innovative index of a company can be additionally judged by the number of granted patents, patent applications filed, whether the filings are in multiple countries, the quality of the patents and so forth.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce's 161st Report on IPR Regime in India (July 2021) expresses concern that the rate of increase in the number of

patents in India in the last four years has been very low compared to the US and China. It goes on to say that this is co-related to the microscopic spending on R&D which is a meagre 0.7 per cent of India's GDP. Globally, companies with the highest R&D spend are big tech US companies like Amazon, Meta, Alphabet, Microsoft, Intel Corp. and bio-pharmaceutical companies like Roche, J&J, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Merck & Co. This list also includes three companies from China — Huawei, Tencent Holdings and Alibaba; Samsung from S. Korea; and European automobile manufacturers like Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz.

Regarding the biopharmaceutical sector, the removal of product patent protection for drugs in 1970 allowed reverse engineering, which led to the exponential growth of the domestic generic industry and helped India be 'the pharmacy of the world'. At the same time, however, the lack of effective patent protection profoundly impacted corporate investment in R&D and the discovery of new molecules. Zydus Cadila's Saroglitazar, launched in 2013, remains so far, the only compound that was entirely indigenously discovered.

India has the potential to spur its innovative spirit by leveraging its strengths, embracing change and fostering a risk-taking culture.

Japan's transformation after the Meiji Restoration from being an importer and imitator of foreign technologies, to a global powerhouse in innovation that has defined the world's technological landscape exemplifies that necessity is the mother of invention.

There is no silver bullet for creating an enabling environment for innovation. Bryce Hoffman in his book Red Teaming shows how disruptive innovation requires critical and contrarian thinking. So, to inculcate the scientific temper and risk-taking and entrepreneurship spirit, there is a dire need to shift the emphasis of our education system from rote memorisation and conformity. Second, we must vigorously

pursue closer collaboration between academia and industry to commercialise innovation. It is a matter of great pride that Prof. Rahul Purwar, IIT Mumbai obtained marketing approval for the first indigenously developed cell and gene therapy for the treatment of cancer.

Last but not least, a robust, meaningful and predictable intellectual property rights system can most optimally provide economic incentives to inventors and investors to invest risk capital in inventive activity — a very high-risk undertaking.

(The author is Managing Partner, Corporate Law Group, a New Delhi-based law firm; views are personal)

'4 law officers killed, 4 hurt in North Carolina home shootout'

AP ■ CHARLOTTE

Four police officers serving a warrant for a felon wanted for possessing a firearm were killed and four other officers were wounded in a shootout Monday at a North Carolina home, police said. Some of the officers who rushed to the Charlotte neighbourhood to rescue the first wave of downed officers were wounded as a second shooter began firing on them after they killed the wanted man, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Johnny Jennings said. "Today we lost some heroes who were out simply trying to keep our community safe," Jennings said at a news conference. After a three-hour standoff, the suburban Charlotte home was torn open. Armoured vehicles smashed into it, ripping off windows and entire doorways

that were left broken. Several armoured vehicles were parked across yards, some with tree branches dangling off them. The US Marshals Task Force was fired on by the wanted suspect as they approached the house and the man was killed in the front yard, Jennings said. His name was not released, but the chief said he was wanted as a felon illegally possessing a weapon. A second person then fired on officers from inside the home where a high-powered rifle was found, Jennings added. A woman and a 17-year-old male were found in the home after the standoff. The two are being questioned, Jennings said. The Marshal's Service confirmed one of its agents was killed. Two officers from the state Department of Adult Correction also were killed, said North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. The governor was in

Charlotte and was speaking to the families of the officers killed and hurt. Their names have not been released. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer Joshua Eyer died a few hours later at the hospital, Jennings said. Eyer was named the officer of the month for the force for April a few weeks ago, the chief said. "He certainly gave his life and dedicated his life to protecting our citizens," Jennings said. One other member of the task force, which is made up of federal agents and other officers from across the region was injured. Three other Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers who responded to the scene were shot while trying to rescue the wounded officers. Neighbors said gunfire lasted for several minutes. WSOC-TV said their helicopter captured an armoured vehicle driving through yards and

knocking over recycling bins before officers removed a person with blood on their shirt who was then loaded into an ambulance. After the home was cleared, the helicopter pilot said he couldn't show the front lawn of the home because the scene was too graphic and disturbing. "A lot of the questions that need to be answered, we don't even know what those questions are now," Jennings said, somberly briefing reporters less than four hours after the shooting. "We have to get a full understanding of why this occurred and also uphold the integrity of the investigation." Many roads in the area including Interstate 77 were closed so ambulances could get to hospitals faster. TV footage showed ambulances speeding to hospitals escorted by vehicles both in front and behind with their sirens wailing.

IMF approves immediate disbursement of \$1.1 bn loan tranche to Pakistan

AP ■ WASHINGTON/ ISLAMABAD

The IMF has approved an immediate disbursement of the final tranche of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package, emphasising that the cash-strapped country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board's decision on Monday came after the global lender completed the second and final review of Pakistan's economic reform programme supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA). With this development, the disbursements under the SBA reached around USD 3 billion. All board members favoured the release of the last instalment. India, however, abstained from voting. "Given the significant challenges ahead, Pakistan should

capitalise on this hard-won stability, persevering — beyond the current arrangement — with sound macroeconomic policies and structural reforms to create stronger, inclusive, and sustainable growth," said IMF's Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh. Continued external support will also be critical, she said. Achieving strong, long-term inclusive growth and creating jobs require accelerating structural reforms and continued protection of the most vulnerable through an adequately financed Benazir Income Support Programme, she said. She said that advancing the reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and ensuring that all SOEs fall under the new policy framework, strengthening governance and anti-corruption institutions, and continuing to build climate resilience will be the priority. The IMF official said Pakistan will receive the loan payment

this week. Sayeh emphasised Pakistan needed to adhere to "a market-determined exchange rate to absorb external shocks and broadening of structural reforms to support stronger and more inclusive growth". "Moreover, stronger action to address undercapitalised financial institutions and, more broadly, vigilance over the financial sector are needed to ensure financial stability," she said in a statement. The development came a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In his first meeting with the IMF chief since his re-election as premier, Sharif also discussed Pakistan's demand for another IMF programme as the country still needs the global lender's crutches to wobble on to get its economy back on track. An IMF team is expected to visit Pakistan in May to initiate talks

for a new long-term Extended Fund Facility (EFF) ranging between USD 6 to USD 8 billion with the possibility of augmentation through climate financing. However, the exact size and time frame will only be determined after evolving consensus on the major contours of the next programme in May 2024. If secured, it would be Pakistan's 24th IMF bailout. Separately, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said all indicators of the economy were negative and the government's decision to seek another bailout from the IMF was an admission of their "failure", The Express Tribune newspaper reported. "Economic growth stalls and inflation rises due to such agreements with the IMF," he said, adding that the IMF "keeps you alive, but your economic condition deteriorates on every parameter."

Japan's PM denies he will step down over his party's loss in special polls

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday his governing party's major defeat in last weekend's by-elections was largely due to a political fundraising scandal and that he would not step down or replace party executives to take responsibility. Instead, Kishida said he will push anti-corruption measures and political reforms. "As I take the results seriously, I believe as president of the governing party we must tackle the challenges we face one by one and achieve results, and this is the way I will take responsibility," Kishida said. "By doing so, I will regain the people's trust." Kishida said the scandal dealt "a big and heavy hindrance" to the party. The scandal centres on dozens of lawmakers in Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party who allegedly pocketed profits from ticket sales to political events by falsifying accounting reports.



Asked if he would take responsibility for the election loss, Kishida denied he would step down or replace top LDP posts, and pledged to pursue party and political reforms, including a revision to the political funds laws. He also vowed to tackle economic issues. The conservative Liberal Democratic Party lost all three seats in Sunday's parliamentary by-elections in Nagasaki, Shimane and Tokyo. Kishida's party only fielded its own candidate in Shimane, a conservative stronghold, while the liberal-leaning main opposition

Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan clinched all three seats previously held by LDP. The loss is seen as a punishment by voters for the governing party's scandal, which erupted last year and has undermined Kishida's leadership. The party is unlikely to lose power because the opposition is fractured. But Sunday's defeat marks a further setback for Kishida, who will seek reelection as his party's leader in the fall. Political analysts say Kishida was hoping to call a snap election possibly after the current parliamentary session ends in late June, seeking to receive a public mandate, and then win another term in the party presidential vote in September. Kishida's state visit to the US earlier this month was perceived as a success, but Sunday's losses could erode his clout and LDP lawmakers may try to bring him down in favor of a fresh face ahead of the next general election.

Mexico taking Ecuador to top UN court

AP ■ THE HAGUE

Mexico is taking Ecuador to the top UN court on Tuesday, accusing the nation of violating international law by storming the Mexican Embassy in Quito to arrest a former vice president who had just been granted asylum by Mexico. The April 5 raid, hours after Mexico granted asylum to former Vice President Jorge Glas, spiked tensions that had been brewing between the two countries since Glas, a convicted criminal and fugitive, took refuge at the embassy in December. Leaders across Latin America condemned the raid as a blatant violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Ecuador said Glas was wanted on corruption convictions and not for political reasons, and has argued that Mexico granting asylum to a convicted criminal was itself a violation of the Vienna convention. Two mornings of preliminary hearings at the International Court of Justice

are focused on Mexico's request for interim orders known as provisional measures to be put in force while the case progresses through the court — a process likely to take many months. Among the measures Mexico is seeking are for the world court to order Ecuador to take "appropriate and immediate steps to provide full protection and security of diplomatic premises" and prevent any further intrusions. It also wants Ecuador to let Mexico clear its diplomatic premises and the homes of its diplomats in the country. In its case filed April 11, Mexico also asked the court to award reparation and suspend Ecuador from the United Nations. On Monday, Ecuador also filed a case at the International Court of Justice, accusing Mexico of using its embassy to "shield Mr. Glas from enforcement by Ecuador of its criminal law" and arguing that the actions "constituted, among other things, a blatant misuse of the premises of a diplomatic mission".

Chinese coast guard fires water cannons at Philippine vessels

AP ■ MANILA

Chinese coast guard ships fired water cannons at two Philippine patrol vessels Tuesday near a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, damaging both in the latest flare-up in an increasingly tense territorial conflict. There were no immediate reports of injuries in the incident off Scarborough Shoal, one of two hotly disputed areas where confrontations between China and the Philippines have flared on and off since last year. A Philippine coast guard ship and an accompanying fisheries vessel were patrolling the waters off Scarborough Shoal when four Chinese coast guard ships, backed by six suspected militia ships, executed dangerous blocking maneuvers. Philippine coast guard spokesman Commodore Jay Tarriela said. A Chinese coast guard ship used a water cannon against

the fisheries vessel, the BRP Bankaw, and two other Chinese coast guard ships hit the Philippine coast guard ship, the BRP Bagacay, simultaneously from both sides, damaging part of its deck railing and a canopy, Tarriela added. "China's coast guard and maritime militia vessels harassed, blocked and rammed vessels of the Philippine coast guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources," a Philippine government task force dealing with the territorial disputes said. The Philippine fisheries vessel sustained damages, including to its electrical, navigation and radio systems, the task force said. A number of journalists who were invited to join the patrol witnessed the hostilities, it added. "China's latest illegal and irresponsible behaviour highlights its egregious disregard for the Philippines' lawful exercise of its rights and entitlements in our own

Exclusive Economic Zone,' the task force said. The Philippine vessels pressed on with their patrol despite the Chinese coast guard's actions, according to the Philippine coast guard. "They were not deterred and would persist in carrying out their legitimate operations to support Filipino fishermen and ensure their safety," it added. China called its action Tuesday a "necessary measure". "The Philippines has violated China's sovereignty with its actions," said Gan Yu, spokesperson for China's coast guard. "It will continue to carry out actions to defend its rights in the Chinese waters according to law, and will resolutely uphold our country's maritime rights," he insisted. The Chinese coast guard has also re-installed a floating barrier across the entrance to the shoal's vast fishing lagoon. The Philippine coast guard removed a similar barrier in the past to allow Filipinos to fish there.

Microsoft will invest \$1.7 bn in AI, cloud infrastructure in Indonesia

AP ■ JAKARTA

Microsoft will invest USD 1.7 billion over the next four years in new cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure in Indonesia — the single largest investment in Microsoft's 29-year history in the country — Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said Tuesday. Microsoft runs one of the world's largest cloud computing operations and has taken a significant step into artificial intelligence by incorporating an AI chatbot into its search engine, Bing. Its earnings report Thursday said profit rose 20 per cent for the January-March quarter as it tries to position itself as a leader in applying artificial intelligence technology to make workplaces more productive. "This new generation of AI is reshaping how people live and work everywhere, including in Indonesia," said Nadella, in Jakarta on the first stop of a tour of Southeast Asia. "The investments we are



Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks as the logo of GitHub, a subsidiary of Microsoft Corp, is displayed on the screen during an event titled "Microsoft Build: AI Day" in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday. AP/PPTI

announcing today — spanning digital infrastructure, skilling, and support for developers — will help Indonesia thrive in this new era," he said. Microsoft sees Southeast Asia

as a growing market and potential location for more AI product development. The rise of AI in the region is expected to significantly impact its economic landscape. A study held by Kearney, a global consulting firm, said that AI could contribute nearly USD 1 trillion to Southeast Asia's GDP by 2030, of which Indonesia is expected to capture USD 366 billion. The investment announced Tuesday will include AI training for 840,000 people, as well as support for Indonesia's growing community of tech developers. Indonesia is home to the third-largest developer community in the Asia-Pacific region after India and China. More than 3.1 million developers in Indonesia use GitHub, a Microsoft-owned platform for software development, collaboration, and innovation. It is projected to be one of the top five developer communities on GitHub globally by 2026. Apple CEO Tim Cook met Widodo on April 17 and said the company would "look

at" manufacturing in Indonesia. Indonesia, under President Joko Widodo's administration, has emphasised development of digital technology and information sectors, aiming to achieve the government's Golden Indonesia 2045 Vision, which projects Indonesia becoming one of the world's top five economies with GDP of up to USD 9 trillion, exactly a century after it won independence from Dutch colonisers. Nadella met Widodo on Tuesday in the Presidential Palace. During the meeting, Widodo proposed building an AI research centre in Indonesia, and a Microsoft data centre based in Bali or Nusantara, the country's new capital city on Borneo island, according to Indonesia's Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Budi Arie Setiadi. The CEO's regional visit began in Indonesia and will be followed by Thailand and Malaysia over the next two days.

Facebook, Instagram face EU scrutiny

AP ■ LONDON

The European Union said Tuesday that it's investigating Facebook and Instagram over a range of suspected violations of the bloc's digital rulebook, including not doing enough to protect users from foreign disinformation ahead of EU-wide elections. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said its opening formal proceedings into whether parent company Meta Platforms breached the Digital Services Act, a sweeping set of regulations designed to protect internet users and clean up social media platforms under threat of hefty fines worth up to 6% of annual revenue. Brussels has been cracking down on tech companies since the DSA took effect last year, opening investigations into social media sites TikTok and X, formerly known as Twitter, and e-commerce platform AliExpress. TikTok bowed to EU pressure last week and halted a reward feature on its new app after the Commission started demanding answers about it. The investigation includes an urgent request for Meta to provide information about its move to discontinue a key tool for monitoring elections. "We have a well established process for identifying and mitigating risks on our platforms," Meta said in a statement. "We look forward to continuing our cooperation with the European Commission and providing them with further details of this work." European Commissioner Thierry Breton said in a social media post that the bloc is probing Meta "for suspected breach of DSA obligations to protect integrity of elections." The EU is stepping up measures to safeguard elections as citizens of the bloc's 27 nations prepare to vote in June for European Parliament lawmakers, amid widespread fears that the latest generative AI systems



could be used to disrupt the many votes around the world this year. The Commission said it's looking into whether Meta is doing enough to curb the spread of "deceptive advertisements, disinformation campaigns and coordinated inauthentic behaviour" that could pose a risk to "electoral processes" and consumer protection. Officials said they suspected the Meta's content moderation system for advertisements was inadequate, allowing ads made with generative AI including deepfakes to be exploited by malicious foreign actors seeking to meddle in elections even as the company makes money from them. The EU also suspects that Facebook and Instagram might be reducing the visibility in recommendation feeds of political content from accounts that pump out a lot of it - a practice known as shadow-banning - and not being transparent about it with users, which would violate the DSA. A third concern is Meta's decision to phase out Crowdtangle, a tool used by researchers, journalists and civil society groups for real-time monitoring of trending social media posts including during elections. The Commission is giving Meta five days to respond with information on how it will remedy the lack of such a tool. The Commission is also investigating whether Meta's mechanism for users to flag illegal content is good enough under the DSA, because it suspects it's neither easy to access nor user-friendly.

Taliban working to woo tourists to Afghanistan

AP ■ KABUL

Around 30 men are crammed into a Kabul classroom, part of the debut student cohort at a Taliban-run institute training tourism and hospitality professionals. It's a motley crew. One student is a model. Another is 17 and has no job history. They're all men — Afghan women are banned from studying beyond sixth grade — and they don't know anything about tourism or hospitality. But they are all eager to promote a different side of Afghanistan. And the Taliban are happy to help. Afghanistan's rulers are pariahs on the global stage, largely because of their restrictions on women and girls. The economy is struggling, infrastructure is poor, and poverty is rife. And yet, foreigners are visiting the country, encouraged by the sharp drop in violence,

increased flight connections with hubs like Dubai, and the bragging rights that come with vacationing in an unusual destination. The numbers aren't huge — they never were — but there's a buzz around Afghan tourism. In 2021, there were 691 foreign tourists. In 2022, that figure rose to 2,300. Last year, there were 7,000. Mohammad Saeed, the head of the Tourism Directorate in Kabul, said the biggest foreign visitor market is China because of its proximity and large population. Afghanistan also has advantages over some of its neighbours. "They've told me they don't want to go to Pakistan because it's dangerous and they get attacked. The Japanese have said this to me also," Saeed said. "This is good for us." But there are disadvantages, too. Visas are difficult and

expensive to access. Many countries severed ties with Afghanistan after the Taliban returned to power, and no country recognizes them as the legitimate rulers of the country. Afghan embassies either closed or suspended their operations. There's an ongoing power struggle between Afghanistan's embassies and consulates staffed by people from the former Western-backed administration, and those under the Taliban administration's full control. Saeed concedes there are obstacles for Afghan tourism to develop but said he was working with ministries to overcome them. His ultimate aim is to have a visa on arrival for tourists, but that could be years away. There are problems with the road network, which is half-paved or non-existent in some parts of the country, and airlines large-

ly avoid Afghan airspace. The capital Kabul has the most international flights, but no Afghan airport has direct routes with major tourist markets like China, Europe, or India. Despite the challenges, Saeed wants Afghanistan to become a tourism powerhouse, an ambition that appears to be backed by the Taliban's top leaders. "I have been sent to this department on the instructions of the elders (ministers). They must trust me because they've sent me to this important place." The students also have aspirations. The model, Ahmed Massoud Talash, wants to learn about Afghanistan's picturesque spots for Instagram posts and its history for media appearances. Business school graduate Samir Ahmadzai wants to open a hotel but thinks he should

know more about tourism and hospitality first. "They hear that Afghanistan is backwards, poverty and all about war," said Ahmadzai. "We have 5,000 years of history. There should be a new page of Afghanistan." Classes include Afghan handicrafts and anthropology basics. An unofficial subject is how to interact with foreign women and how their behaviour or habits could clash with local customs and edicts. Examples might be women smoking or eating in public, to mixing freely with men who are not related to them by blood or marriage. The Taliban have imposed a dress code for women and requirements for them to have a male guardian, or mahram, when they travel. Dining alone, travelling alone, and socialising with other women in public have become harder. With gyms closed to women and

beauty salons banned, there are fewer places where they can meet outside the home. In a sign that the country is preparing for more overseas visitors, the country's only five-star hotel, the Serena, has reopened its women's spa and salon for foreign females after a month-long closure. Foreigners must show their passport to access services. Women with "born in Afghanistan" on their ID are barred. The restrictions on Afghan women and girls weigh on overseas travel companies, who say they try to focus on the positive aspect of cultural interactions by making donations, supporting local projects or only visiting family-run businesses. Shane Horan, the founder of Rocky Road Travel, said visiting Afghanistan should not be seen as an endorsement of any particular government or political regime.

Indian economy likely to grow over 7 per cent in 2024-25: NCAER

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Indian economy could grow more than 7 per cent during the current fiscal amid a benign global outlook and expected above-normal monsoon, economic think tank NCAER said.
In its April 2024 issue of Monthly Economic Review (MER), NCAER said a range of high-frequency indicators reflect the resilience of the domestic economy with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing at a 16-year high and UPI, the leading digital payments system, touching the highest volume since its inception in 2016.
"Projected acceleration in both global growth and trade volumes, as well as a forecast of an above-normal monsoon, indicate that the Indian economy can again attain growth rates higher than 7 per



cent during the current fiscal year," said NCAER Director General Poonam Gupta. According to NCAER, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached Rs 1.8 lakh crore in March, the second best since its rollout in 2017, while UPI recorded 13.4 billion transactions (in volume) in March 2024, the highest since its introduction, registering a growth of 55.3 per cent on a year-on-year basis.
"These high-frequency indicators, coupled with a more benign global outlook

projected by the IMF and WTO bode well for the Indian economy during the current year," Gupta added. According to the report, Consumer Price Index (CPI) headline inflation was down to 4.9 per cent in March from 5.1 per cent in February, while core inflation came down to 3.2 per cent during the same period. The report said employment indicators again showed mixed trends, with an increase in the number of net new subscribers under the Employees'

Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on a year-on-year basis. However, the overall online hiring activities, as per the Naukri JobSpeak Index, moderated year-on-year, it added.
While the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fitch Ratings have estimated India's growth at 7 per cent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley projected a 6.8 per cent growth rate for FY25. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept projections for India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for FY2024-25 at 7 per cent and Consumer Price Index (CPI) headline inflation at 4.5 per cent, in line with their previous projections.

Central Bank of India Q4 profit jumps 41 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Central Bank of India on Tuesday reported a 41 per cent jump in its net profit to Rs 807 crore for the March quarter, helped by a decline in bad loans and a rise in interest income. The Mumbai-based lender had earned a net profit of Rs 571 crore in the year-ago period. During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 9,699 crore as against Rs 8,567 crore a year ago, Central Bank of India said in a regulatory filing. Interest income grew to Rs 8,337 crore during the period under review from Rs 7,144 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. On the asset quality side, the bank's gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) were reduced to 4.5 per cent of gross advances as of March 31, 2024, compared to 8.44 per



cent by the end of March 2023. Net NPAs also came down to 1.23 per cent of the advances over 1.77 per cent at the end of 2024. The fall in bad loans ratio helped cut the provisions towards NPAs for Q4FY24 to Rs 509 crore compared to Rs 789 crore a year ago. The board also approved raising of capital up to Rs 5,000 crore through a Follow-on Public Offer (FPO) or

rights issue, Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) issue, or any other mode or through issue of BASEL III Compliant Tier I and Tier II bonds or such other securities as may be permitted under applicable laws etc, it said. Provision Coverage Ratio stood at 93.58 per cent as on March 31, 2024. The bank's capital adequacy ratio declined to 15.08 per cent from 14.12 per cent at the end of FY23.

Sterlite Power bags projects worth ₹2,500 crore in Q4

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Sterlite Power on Tuesday announced securing new orders worth Rs 2,500 crore during the quarter ended March 31. This takes the company's cumulative order wins in FY24 to Rs 7,000 crore, up 35 per cent year-on-year (YoY) over FY23, Sterlite Power said in a statement.
"Sterlite Power has capped off a successful fiscal year FY24 with new orders worth Rs 2,500 crore for its Global Products and Services (GPS) business unit in Q4. This growth underscores the growing global and domestic demand for robust power transmission infrastructure, particularly to support the integration of renewable energy sources critical for a net-zero future," the company said.
Pratik Agarwal, Managing Director, Sterlite Power, said, the company's GPS business is experiencing significant growth. These products are essential in driving the sector's expansion over multiple decades, spurred by the global shift towards energy transition and decarbonization. In Q4, some of the projects secured by the company are for conductor supply to green energy power transmission projects in Rajasthan including the Farhad Transmission line project. The company also bagged export orders for OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) in Africa and CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) markets. Besides, Sterlite Power has secured multiple orders to supply Extra High Voltage (EHV) & High Voltage (HV) cables for large-scale infrastructure projects that are underway in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Odisha, and Gujarat. The company's specialized EPC services unit signed a turnkey project contract with Odisha state transmission utility to upgrade its existing 132 kV Pratapsasan-Kesura-Ransinghpur transmission line using high performance conductors (HPC). Sterlite Power is a leading private sector power transmission infrastructure developer and Global Products and Services provider.

Markets wipe out early gains on fag end sell off

Nifty slips from record

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Tuesday as a fag-end sell-off wiped out early gains, with IT and power stocks playing spoilsport amid a mixed trend in global markets. Snapping its two-day winning run, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 188.50 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 74,482.78. During the day, it had jumped 404.11 points or 0.58 per cent to 75,111.39. The NSE Nifty dipped 38.55 points or 0.17 per cent to finish at 22,604.85. In the late afternoon trade, the benchmark hit its all-time peak of 22,783.35, up 139.95 points or 0.61 per cent. From the Sensex basket, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank and Maruti were the major gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul,



Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Shanghai ended lower. European markets were mostly trading lower. Wall Street ended with gains on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent to USD 88.59 a barrel. "Global markets remained mixed ahead of the US FED policy meeting, as markets appear to have already factored in the slim chance of a near-term rate cut. Profit booking ensued towards a close given the sharp rally in the last couple of days and a holiday-led truncated week,"

said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Monday after continuous offloading. They bought equities worth Rs 169.09 crore, according to exchange data. In the previous session, the BSE benchmark jumped 941.12 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 74,671.28 on Monday. The NSE Nifty went up by 223.45 points or 1 per cent to 22,643.40. Domestic equity markets will remain closed on Wednesday on account of Maharashtra Day.

India's oil import bill could swell in FY25: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's net oil import bill could widen to USD 101-104 billion in current fiscal from USD 96.1 billion in 2023-24 and any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict could impart an upward pressure on the value of imports, ICRA said on Tuesday. The domestic rating agency said based on its analysis, lower value of Russian oil imports is estimated to have led to savings of USD 7.9 billion in 11 months (April-February) of 2023-24, up from USD 5.1 billion in 2022-23. "With India's oil import dependency expected to remain high, if the discounts on purchases of Russian crude persist at the prevailing low levels, ICRA expects India's net oil import bill to widen to USD 101-104 billion in FY2025 from USD 96.1 billion in FY2024, assuming an average crude oil price of USD 85/bbl in the fiscal," ICRA said. Additionally, any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict and an associated rise in crude oil prices could impart an upward pressure on the value of net oil imports in the current fiscal year, it added. As per ICRA's calculations, a USD 10/barrel uptick in the average crude oil price for this fiscal pushes up the net oil



imports by USD 12-13 billion during the year, thereby enlarging the current account deficit (CAD) by 0.3 per cent of GDP. Accordingly, if the average crude oil price rises to USD 95/barrel in FY2025, then the CAD is likely to widen to 1.5 per cent of GDP from ICRA's current estimate of 1.2 per cent of GDP for 2024-25. CAD, which is the difference between value of India's imports and exports, is estimated at 0.8 per cent in 2023-24. India is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for its needs of crude oil, which is converted into fuels such as petrol and diesel at refineries. ICRA said the value of India's

imports of petroleum crude and products declined by 15.2 per cent YoY during April-February of last fiscal, even as volumes rose slightly in this period. This was supported by the fall in average global crude oil prices as well as savings from stepped up purchases of discounted Russian crude. In volume terms, the share of crude petroleum imported from Russia jumped to 36 per cent in April-February FY2024 from 2 per cent in FY2022, while that from West Asian countries (Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait) fell to 23 per cent from 34 per cent, respectively. ICRA estimates that the lower imputed unit value of imports

of Russian oil, compared to imports from West Asia, has led to savings in India's oil import bill amounting to USD 5.1 billion in 2022-23 and USD 7.9 billion in 11 months of 2023-24, thereby compressing India's CAD/GDP ratio by 15-22 basis points in FY2023-24. However, the extent of monthly discounts relative to price narrowed sharply over the fiscal, to 8 per cent on an average in September-February FY2024 from 23 per cent in April-August FY2024. Consequently, the savings related to purchase of Russian crude are likely to have dipped to USD 2 billion in September-February FY2024 from USD 5.8 billion in April-August FY2024, ICRA said. Post the Ukraine war, some Western nations shunned Russian oil, leading to Moscow offering discounts. This led to Indian refiners lapping up the discounted oil. The recent conflict in the Middle East also poses threat to crude oil import route. Earlier this month, Iran first launched drone and rocket attacks on Israel, which retaliated by firing a missile. India imports oil from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE as well as liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar through the Strait of Hormuz, which is a narrow sea passage between Oman and Iran.

Gold slumps ₹150; silver plunges ₹750

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Extending the losses for the second straight session, gold prices on Tuesday slumped Rs 150 to Rs 72,600 per 10 grams in the national capital amid fall in precious metal rates in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 72,750 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also plunged Rs 750 to Rs 83,750 per kg. In the previous close, it had ended at Rs 84,500 per kg. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 72,600 per 10 grams,

down Rs 150 taking bearish cues from overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,320 per ounce, down USD 13 from the previous close. "Gold prices continued to weaken... As this sell-off was attributed to the anticipation of a hawkish stance from the US Federal Reserve in the upcoming interest rate policy announcement scheduled for May 1. "Additionally, the week ahead is expected to see continued

volatility in gold prices, driven by key data releases such as the Nonfarm Payroll and Unemployment data," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said. Silver was also quoting lower at USD 26.80 per ounce. In the previous session, it had finished at USD 27.22 per ounce. Investors will await for the key data, including the US consumer confidence due to release later on Tuesday, which if is reported lower than expectations then it could support bullion prices on the lower end, Navneet Damani,

RITES completes 50 years

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

RITES Limited, a leading engineering consultancy firm in India, celebrated its milestone 50th anniversary on Friday. The month-long Foundation Day celebrations, 'Marking The Gold', that were carried across work sites culminated with a cultural evening at Shikhar, RITES' Corporate Office, Gurugram. Members of RITES' cultural team 'Sankalp' presented RITES Anthem at the 50th anniversary celebrations. On the occasion, Chairman & Management Director Rahul Mittal launched RITES' coffee

table book — Atulya, a compilation tracing the organisation's illustrious journey of becoming 'The Infrastructure People'. Also, it marked the unveiling of 'RITES Dhara', a novel initiative to treasure the organisation's legacy and encapsulate the essence of its core values — Integrity, Professionalism and Excellence. Addressing the gathering and paying gratitude to the founding fathers, Mithal said, "From pioneering projects to fostering sustainable practices, RITES' five-decade journey has been glorious.

Rupee recovers 4 paise to 83.41 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered 4 paise to 83.41 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking foreign capital inflows and a strengthening greenback against major crosses overseas. According to forex analysts, the domestic currency initially faced resistance from a strong greenback and upward momentum in the crude oil prices but recovered the lost ground

during the session on the back of a sharp rally in equities in the late afternoon trade. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.46 and traded between 83.41 and 83.52 against the greenback during the session. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.41 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 4 paise from its previous closing level. The rupee had settled 7 paise

lower at 83.45 against the US dollar on Monday after losing 10 paise in the preceding session on Friday. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said: "Volatility in the capital market kept the rupee range-bound. Participants are closely monitoring the upcoming interest rate decision in the US for potential price action in the rupee. Weakness persists in the rupee, albeit in a stable manner."

US tile industry seeks import tariff on India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A coalition of US ceramic tile suppliers has urged the federal government to impose tariffs on ceramic tile imports from India as it is impacting domestic industry due to subsidised imports by the Indian government. The Department of Commerce has instituted an investigation into this matter. Import of ceramics and tiles from India has increased significantly over the past few years, an association of the US ceramic and tiles industry has claimed alleging that these are impacting their domestic industry as the imports are subsidised by the Indian government. In a petition filed before the US International Trade Commission of the

Department of Commerce, the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile (TCNA), which claims to represent more than 90 per cent of US tile production, seeks the imposition of tariffs estimated between 408 per cent to 828 per cent, alleging that there is ongoing massive and widespread dumping from India. "American tile manufacturers have always welcomed fair competition from imports. In fact, US manufacturers have plentiful deposits of clay and feldspar, an efficient and well-respected labour force, local community support, state-of-the-art equipment, and affordable energy - so much so that major exporters from Italy, Spain, Brazil, Mexico, and China have built facilities in the US from



which to compete on a global scale," stated Tile Council of North America executive director, Eric Astrachan. "However, Indian tile producers enjoy substantial government subsidies, which in conjunction with selling excess capacity at dumped prices, has allowed them to flood the US market. Over the last 10 years, sales of tile from India have increased from a mere 344,000 square feet in 2013 to nearly 405 million square feet by the end of 2023," he alleged. "Our domestic manufacturers had no alternative but to petition the federal government for relief from these unjust trading practices. The vitality of the US industry and the livelihoods of thousands of employees and their families within our member

companies depend on it," Astrachan said. US International Trade Commission last week issued a federal notification giving notice of the institution of investigations and commencement of preliminary phase antidumping and countervailing duty investigation to determine whether there is a reasonable indication that the imports of ceramic tile from India impact US industry. June 10 is the last date for responses. According to Barnes & Thornburg, trade counsel for the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile, if the US finds that Indian imports are unfairly traded and have injured or threatened to injure US tile manufacturers, the Government will impose tariffs on Indian tile imports.

The Government would first impose preliminary tariffs in a few months and would impose final tariffs at the conclusion of its investigation in approximately 16 months, with the calculation of such final tariffs applied retroactively to the date of preliminary tariffs, and possibly to the date of initiation, he said. In its filing, the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile (FTCT) claimed that India is engaged in unjust trading practices by allowing low-priced ceramic tile imports into the United States, which undercut domestic manufacturers. The scope of the investigation includes various types of ceramic tile, such as flooring tile, wall tile, paving tile, hearth tile,

porcelain tile, mosaic tile, and more. These ceramic tiles are articles containing a mixture of minerals, including clay, that are fired to produce a finished product less than 3.2 cm in actual thickness. The investigation covers both glazed and unglazed tiles, regardless of end use, surface area, weight, or other factors. The members of the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile include American Wonder Porcelain, Crossville, Inc., Dal-Tile Corporation, Del Conca USA, Inc., Florida Tile, Inc., Florim USA, Landmark Ceramics, and StonePeak Ceramics. The US Department of Commerce has initiated investigations in response to the petition filed by the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile.



Vishvanath, Akash, Preet storm into semis at ASBC Asian U 22 & Youth Boxing Championships

PTI ■ ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

Vishvanath Suresh, Akash Gorkha and Preet Malik advanced to the men's U-22 semi-finals after convincing wins in their respective bouts at the ASBC Asian U-22 and Youth Boxing Championships here on Tuesday.

Reigning youth world champion Vishvanath (48kg) led the charge for India as he beat Iran's Hassani Seyedarsham 5-0 in a one-sided quarterfinal bout.

Senior national champion Akash (60kg) outclassed Ebadi Arman of Iran with an identical 5-0 scoreline. Preet (67kg) also didn't take much time before finishing the bout with a Referee Stopping the Contest (RSC) decision in the first round itself against Vietnam's Nguyen Duc Ngoc. Kunal (75kg), however, bowed out after losing 0-5 against Iran's Mahshari Mohammad in the quarter-finals.

Jugnoo (86kg), Rhythm

(+92kg), Tammana (50kg), Preeti (54kg) and Priyanka (60kg) will have their U-22 quarter-final bouts later on Tuesday. The U-22 semi-finals will be played on Saturday. On Monday night, Rahul Kundu (75kg), Lakshay Rathi (+92kg), Laxmi (50kg), Tamanna (54kg), Yatri Patel (57kg) and Shrusthi Sathe (63kg) emerged victorious to enter the semi-finals in the youth category. On Wednesday, nine youth Indian boxers will compete in

their respective quarter-final bouts: Aryan (51kg), Jatin (57kg), Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg), Priyanshu (71kg), Sahil (80kg) and Aryan (92kg) in the men's category, and Nisha (52kg), Akansha Phalasal (70kg) and Rudrika (75kg) in the women's section. Nearly 400 boxers from more than 24 countries are competing in the prestigious tournament across 25 weight categories. The finals of the youth and U-22 category will be played on May 6 and 7 respectively.

US and Mexico drop bid to host 2027 World Cup

AP ■ NEW YORK

The U.S. Soccer Federation and its Mexican counterpart dropped their joint bid to host the 2027 Women's World Cup and said they instead will focus on trying to host the 2031 tournament. The decision left a proposal from Brazil and a joint Germany-Netherlands-Belgium plan competing to be picked for 2027 by the FIFA Congress that meets May 17 in Bangkok. The USSF said the 2031 bid will call for FIFA to invest equally in the men's and women's World Cups. FIFA said last year it planned to spend \$896 million in prize money for the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. The governing body devoted \$110 million in prize money for last year's Women's

Brazil and joint German-Dutch-Belgian bids remain



World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. "Hosting a World Cup tournament is a huge undertaking — and having additional time to prepare allows us to maximize its impact across the globe," USSF President Cindy Parlow Cone said in a statement. "I'm proud of our commitment to provide equitable experiences for the

players, fans and all our stakeholders. Shifting our bid will enable us to host a record-breaking Women's World Cup in 2031 that will help to grow and raise the level of the women's game both here at home as well as across the globe." In detailing the bid in December, the USSF proposed U.S. Sites from among the

same 11 to be used in the 2026 men's World Cup. Mexico listed Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey - its three sites for the men's World Cup - and in addition for 2027 listed as possibilities Leon and Querétaro. "We feel that moving our bid back to 2031 will allow us to promote and build up to the most successful Women's World Cup ever," MFF President Ivar Sissneg said in a statement. "The strength and universality of our professional women's leagues, coupled with our experience from organizing the 2026 World Cup, means that we will be able to provide the best infrastructure as well as an enthusiastic fan base that will make all the participating teams feel at home and to put together a World Cup that will contribute to the continued growth of women's football.

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona survived a tricky first half to beat Valencia 4-2 with the help of a second half hat trick from Robert Lewandowski and a red card to Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili. On a rainy night in Catalonia, the home side dominated possession but was behind at the break due to two defensive errors. Fermin López put Barcelona ahead with a lovely glancing header midway through the first half. Valencia levelled just five minutes later thanks to a woeful intervention from keeper Marc Ter Stegen. He intercepted a long ball 25 yards from his goal but he tried to be too fancy and Hugo Duro easily dispossessed him and ran the ball into the empty net. Before halftime, Valencia took the lead thanks to another elementary mistake. Ronald Araújo's mistimed tackle felled Peter Federico in the box and Pepelu coolly converted the spot kick.

Lewandowski hat trick gives Barcelona comeback victory over Valencia



The balance of the match changed moments before the break when

Mamardashvili used a hand outside the box to thwart a scoring chance by Lamine Yamal and was red-carded. Lewandowski headed an equalizer from a corner kick after 50 minutes. However, it took Barcelona until the 82nd to regain the lead from another Lewandowski header after Valencia failed to clear another corner. The hat trick came in the third minute of stoppage time from a 25-yard free kick. "It wasn't easy," Lewandowski said. "In the first half we didn't find any space in attack." Barcelona replaced Girona in second place and was 11 points behind Real Madrid. Madrid needs five from its last five matches to guarantee a 36th Spanish league title.

Nadal tested in 3 hours win over Cachin at Madrid

AP ■ MADRID

After spending more than three hours on the court and earning a hard-fought victory, Rafael Nadal was feeling optimistic again. Nadal's body withstood its toughest test yet at this Madrid Open in a 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-3 win over 91st-ranked Pedro Cachin on Monday. He didn't show any signs of physical limitations in a victory that earned him a spot in the round of 16 at the clay-court tournament where he is the record five-time champion. "It's positive, now I don't feel that something went wrong on my body, but I need to wait until tomorrow, being 100% honest," he said. "I am trying my best to keep dreaming. Tomorrow is another day to keep dreaming. To keep playing in front of this amazing crowd and, to me, that means

everything." Nadal will next face 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka. He said he needs "to find a way to be able to play days in a row and still be competitive." "I don't know if I am in that moment yet," the 22-time Grand Slam champion said. "Let's see what can happen tomorrow." The 37-year-old Nadal is trying to get in shape for next month's French Open. Since his latest injury layoff, he's had two matches in Barcelona and was pessimistic about his physical condition after arriving in Madrid. But he's won three more times in the capital. Nadal again looked comfortable early on against Cachin. The Argentine rallied in the second but was broken twice while serving for the set before eventually prevailing in the tiebreaker.

Nadal didn't look as loose in the final set, but did look tired. He wasn't as consistent with his shots but picked up three breaks to seal the victory to the delight of the local crowd in the Caja Magica. "I took more risks in the third set, but it's hard after so many months without competing," Nadal said. "I hadn't played a match like this in a long time. I don't know how I'm going to wake up. But I'm already happy for having won three matches in a row." Cachin asked for Nadal's shirt after congratulating him at the net, and received the gift moments later. Top-seeded Jannik Sinner was not at his best but had enough to defeat Pavel Kotov 6-2, 7-5. Sinner, who has been dealing with a hip issue, will face 16th-seeded Karen Khachanov. "I have been struggling a little bit with my right hip," Sinner



said. "We're trying to find a solution and I don't think it's anything serious. Sometimes I feel it more like today and some days are a little bit better."

Third-seeded Daniil Medvedev was two points from defeat before he rallied to beat Sebastian Korda 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Fifth-seeded Casper Ruud beat Cameron Norrie 6-2, 6-4. KEYS DOWNS GAUFF: Madison Keys rallied after trailing in the first and second

sets to beat Coco Gauff 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-4 in an all-American fourth-round meeting. It will be the 20th-ranked Keys' first quarterfinal appearance in Madrid. She lost in the first round in seven of her nine previous trips to the Spanish capital. The third-seeded Gauff undermined herself with 38 unforced errors, including 13 double faults. Keys will face eighth-seeded Ons Jabeur, who eased past Jelena Ostapenko 6-0, 6-4. SWIATEK ADVANCES: Top-ranked Iga Swiatek remained on track for a first Madrid title with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Sara Sorribes Tormo. Swiatek dropped just five points in the second set en route to the quarterfinals of the only high-profile European clay tournament she is yet to win. The 27th-ranked Sorribes

Tormo was the last Spanish woman in the draw. Swiatek, who lost last year's Madrid final to Aryna Sabalenka, will next face 11th-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia, who defeated fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 6-4, 6-4. Sabalenka, the champion in Madrid in 2021 and 2023, advanced by beating No. 15 Danielle Collins 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. The result ended Collins' 15-match winning streak, and sent Sabalenka into her first WTA 1000 quarterfinal of the season. Mirra Andreeva celebrated her 17th birthday with a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win over 12th-seeded Jasmine Paolini. The Russian teenager rallied from 5-2 down in the first set to reach the quarterfinals, a round further than she managed in Madrid a year ago. Fourth-seeded Elena Rybakina defeated teenage qualifier Sara Bejlek 6-1, 6-3.

Indian women blanked 0-5 by China in Uber Cup

PTI ■ CHENGDU (CHINA)

Teenage sensation Anmol Kharb left the badminton court in tears owing to an ankle injury as an under-strength Indian women's team suffered a 0-5 defeat to the mighty China in its final group A fixture of the Uber Cup here on Tuesday. Having already qualified for the quarterfinals by picking up successive wins against Canada and Singapore, Ashmita Chaliha sat out the contest against the 15-time champions. The team is competing without double Olympic-medallist P V Sindhu, who opted out of the tournament. It was a reality check for the young Indian team as it could not take a single game from the Chinese during

the five-match tie. To add to India's woes, 17-year-old Anmol was forced to retire after twisting her ankle during the second singles contest. Olympic champion and world no.2 Chen Yu Fei started off the proceedings for China with an easy 21-12 21-10 win over 83rd ranked Isharani Baruah. "A little disappointed in my game because I made too many errors, I thought I would play good with her but it was an easy win for her...The pace was really high, I had to increase my speed," Isharani said after her match. "Her variations were good, and all her strokes were going in the third court and it wasn't comfortable to hit well. It



was a tough game but it was a good experience," she added. National champions Priya



Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra, ranked 67, were no match for reigning world champions Chen Qing Chen

and Jia Yi Fan, who doubled China's lead with a 21-13 21-12 win. After losing the first game 9-21 and trailing 1-4 in the second against Han Yue, Anmol rolled her right ankle while trying to defend a point. She received medical attention but the pain didn't seem to subside and the ankle looked swollen, forcing her to retire from the match giving China a 3-0 unassailable lead. In the next two matches, Liu Shen Shu and Tan Ning defeated Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker 21-9 21-10, while Tanvi Sharma lost 7-21 16-21 to Wang Zhi Yi as China completed the 5-0 drubbing of India. India will end the group stage proceedings in second place behind China.

MESSI TO MIAMI:



Soccer star, and a few teammates, show up for Heat Celtics game

AP ■ MIAMI

Lionel Messi took a night off to watch the Miami Heat. The Inter Miami star and eight-time Ballon d'Or winner as the world's best player - along with teammates Jordi Alba, Sergio Busquets and Luis Suarez - arrived just before tip-off of the Heat playoff game with the Boston Celtics on Monday night. Messi's group — some clad in Heat attire and Busquets wearing a Heat hoodie — arrived in the players' parking garage, then were brought in through a VIP entrance before making their way to their seats in a suite atop the lower level. Messi has been to the arena before for at least one other event, but never before had arranged to be at a Heat game since moving to Miami last year.

Inter Miami is 6-2-3 so far this season in Major League Soccer play, sitting in first place in the Eastern Conference and with the most points of any team in the league. Messi had two goals and an assist in Miami's 4-1 win at New England on Saturday, and has multiple goal contributions in five straight matches - the first MLS player ever to do that. He has nine goals and seven assists in seven matches with Inter Miami this season. Messi, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 2022, has more than 800 goals in his career for club and country, making him one of the greatest scorers in soccer history. He scored twice in the 2022 World Cup final against France, a match that ended 3-3 with Argentina prevailing 4-2 on penalty kicks.

Real Madrid coach Carlo apologises for forgetting German on his Bayern Munich return

AP ■ MUNICH

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has apologized upon his return to Bayern Munich for not remembering his German. "Ich habe vergessen Deutsch (I have forgotten German)," the Italian coach said on Monday in his only words in that language, albeit with the word order mixed up, before the teams meet on Tuesday for the first leg of their Champions League semifinal. Ancelotti coached Bayern for just over a year during 2016-17 and won the Bundesliga, but the league title alone is not always enough to sate ambitions at the Bavarian powerhouse. Bayern had won the previous four Bundesligas. After Ancelotti made it five in a row, Bayern won the next six.

Ancelotti was forced out after a shaky start to the 2017-18 season. Losing to Paris Saint-Germain 3-0 was the final straw for club chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. "Unfortunately, we weren't as successful back then as he is now at Real," Bayern midfielder Joshua Kimmich said on Monday. Under Ancelotti, Bayern's Champions League ambitions were ended by Madrid in the quarterfinals. Borussia Dortmund knocked his team out of the German Cup, leaving just the Bundesliga. "One title is a bit scant for us," Bayern president Uli Hoenes said at the time. Ancelotti departed the club that September, his reputation tarnished after failing in the previous season in the Champions League, a competition he had won three



times before. But Ancelotti said on Monday he had only fond memories of

his time in Munich. "I was fortunate to be coach of this club. It could have been for

longer, yes, but otherwise it was a nice time," he said. "I have fantastic memories and

remember it with a lot of affection." The Italian, who led Madrid to the 2014 Champions League title, returned to the Spanish giant in 2021 after stints in charge of Napoli and Everton. He won the Champions League again in 2022, his fourth success as coach including the two titles won with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007. "He's been successful almost everywhere he's been," Kimmich noted. Ancelotti has won domestic honors with Milan, Madrid, Chelsea, Paris-Saint-Germain and Bayern. Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel also praised his counterpart on Monday. "What Carlo has done for football as a player and as a coach is at the highest level. Yet he's always very polite and humble, it's extraordinary," Tuchel said.

CSK EYE ALL ROUND STABILITY AGAINST UNPREDICTABLE PBKS

PTI ■ CHENNAI

An inconsistent Chennai Super Kings will have to display all-round solidity when they face an unpredictable Punjab Kings in their Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday. The Super Kings have 10 points from nine matches, similar figures as that of Lucknow Super Giants, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals, and the defending champions would certainly like to break away from that mid-table gridlock with a win. However, the defending champions will be a worried lot as Punjab Kings, who have six points from nine games, are coming to this match after scaling down 262 against Kolkata Knight Riders, the highest chase in the history of T20 cricket. But the Chepauk deck is a different beast, offering a semblance of assistance to the bowlers and it was evident in CSK's impressive 78-run win over SRH in their previous match. There was no dew in Chennai on that night, and the CSK bowlers defanged SRH's potent batting unit with their accuracy and variations after their batters put on board a 200-plus total. They need an encore against Punjab, and all eyes will be on skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is on a hot streak. Gaikwad has registered scores of 108 and 98 in his last two innings and New Zealand man Daryl Mitchell too seemed to have regained his touch at just the right time with a 32-ball 52 against Hyderabad. However, the real storm-force in the CSK line-up is Shivam Dube, who has pulverised the opposition bowlers while coming as an Impact Sub. While Dube has always been a spin-basher, the left-hander has now added another angle to his batting with his effective tackling of pacers. Dube so far has made 350 runs, second highest for CSK behind Gaikwad's 447, and those runs came at a strike-rate of 172.41, second only to MS Dhoni's 259.45.



However, the CSK opening combination continues to be a bit iffy. Gaikwad has been a solid presence but both now-dropped Rachin Ravindra and Ajinkya Rahane have not been able to play the support role to their skipper. Rahane's last four outings as opener produced scores of 5, 36, 1, 9, and those numbers don't reflect his experience or skill-level. However, CSK in all likelihood will continue to back him. Batting coach Michael Hussey had remarked that the 35-year-old was close to getting a big knock under his belt. On the other hand, PBKS will be desperate to carry the momentum after that record chase and climb up the ladder from the current eighth place. For that, their batters need to fire in unison once again and the onus is on Jonny Bairstow, who made a hundred against KKR, Shashank Singh and Prabhsimran Singh. But they

will eye a more impact outing from wicketkeeper batter Jitesh Sharma. However, PBKS' bowling department looks a bit shaky despite having experienced campaigners such as Kagiso Rabada, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh and Sam Curran in their ranks. The visitors will also require a much-improved effort from their spinners — Harpreet Brar and Rahul Chahar — as they have scalped just seven wickets among them this season. **TEAMS (FROM):** CSK: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), MS Dhoni (wk), Aravelly Avnish, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube, RS Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Jadhav Mandal, Daryl Mitchell, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Nishant Sindhu, Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh Choudhary, Mustafizur Rahman, Matheesha

Pathirana, Simarjeet Singh, Prashant Solanki, Shardul Thakur, Maheesh Theekshana and Sameer Rizvi. **PBKS:** Shikhar Dhawan (c), Matthew Short, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Prabhsimran

Singh (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Sikandar Raza, Rishi Dhawan, Liam Livingstone, Atharva Taide, Arshdeep Singh, Nathan Ellis, Sam Curran, Kagiso Rabada, Harpreet Brar, Rahul Chahar,

Harpreet Bhatia, Vidvath Kaverappa, Shivam Singh, Harshal Patel, Chris Woakes, Ashutosh Sharma, Vishwanath Singh, Shashank Singh, Tanay Thyagarajan, Prince Choudhary, Rilee Rossouw.



Rana suspended for one match, fined 100 per cent match fees

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders seamer Harshit Rana was on Tuesday fined 100 per cent of his match fees and suspended for one match for breaching IPL Code of Conduct during their seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals here. Rana, who was fined 60 per cent of his match fees for giving a flying-kiss send off to Sunrisers Hyderabad batter Mayank Agarwal in an earlier match, almost repeated the same offence when he knocked over Abhishek Porel in their game against Delhi on Monday. Rana was seen pointing his hand towards Porel, indicating him to go back to pavilion and was about to give another flying kiss before he was stopped short of doing that. He was seen appealing excessively after hitting Rasikh Salam high on his pads. "Rana committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.5 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He admitted to the offence and

accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the IPL said in a statement. "The player was earlier penalised under the same level and article of the IPL Code of Conduct," it added. Rana will now miss KKR's next match against Mumbai Indians in an away game on Friday. Article 2.5 of the IPL Code of Conduct addresses offences related to "Using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from another player in the match." In KKR's IPL opener against SRH on March 23, Rana committed two Level 1 offences under Article 2.5 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He was fined 100 per cent and 50 per cent of his match fees for the two respective offences. Rana is KKR's joint leading wicket-taker with the spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy. The trio have 11 wickets each.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**
1) CV- 4393899 (BABA SMADH) EICHER PRO 5025 BS IV HR47D5728- YOM- 2018 RESERVE PRICE - 637992/-
2) CV-4393904 (BABA SMADH) EICHER PRO 5025 BS IV HR47D4735- YOM- 2018 RESERVE PRICE - 637992/-
3) CV-4393827 (BABA SMADH) EICHER PRO 5025 HR47D5117- YOM- 2018 RESERVE PRICE - 637992/-
UNDER HYPOTECAUTION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 15.05.2024 (PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF / HOLIDAY).
BRANCH ADDRESS: FIRST FLOOR, PLOT NO 406 TO 408 /28, ROOPALAY COMPLEX, D PARK, MODEL TOWN, ROHTAK 124001 OR
CONTACT: MR. GOVERDHAN JOSHI KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. +91-9671300231 EMAIL: Goverdhan.joshi@kotak.com

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, Mc International, The Mall, Mall Road Amritsar 143001

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sarup Chand Bansal and Sons (Guarantor/ Applicant)- Suruchi Bansal/ Legal Heir and Guarantor, Purav Bansal u/g Suruchi Bansal/ Legal heir, Amrit Paul / Guarantor) Lan No. 355605002064,	Residential Property Comprised In Khasra No-300/1/2(3-1), 300/1/1 (1-0) Khawat Khatoni No-443/1315, 1315/1, Property Measuring 0 Kanal 7, 1/4 Marlas i.e. 29/324 Share Of 4 Kanals 1 Marlas, Ward No-15, Near Old Msd School Maur Mandi Bathinda, Punjab. And Khasra No-300/1/2(3-1), 300/1/1 (1-0) Khawat Khatoni No-443/1315, 1315, Property Measuring 0 Kanal 7, 1/4 Marlas i.e. 29/324 Share Of 4 Kanals 1 Marlas, Ward No-15, Near Old Msd School Maur Mandi Bathinda, Punjab. Admeasuring An Area 3924 Sq Ft.	Rs. 75,91,503/- as on 20 April 2024	Rs. 60,00,000/- Rs. 6,00,000/-	May 06, 2024 from 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	May 28, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
2.	Goverdhan Dass Giri Raj Saran, Kiran Narang/ Guarantor, Amit Narang/ Guarantor, Rahul Narang/ Guarantor, Goverdhan dass Narang (Mortgagor, Guarantor, Borrower) Loan No-231605000241/ 231655000009	Property Khana Shumari No 1024/7 Old & 2878/7-16 New, Amritsar Urban, Circle No 107, Inside Gate Bhagtan, Gali Peahalwana, Near Akhara Kallu, Inside Municipal Corporation, Amritsar 143001 Area-70 Sq Yard	Rs. 23,40,655/- as on April 02,2024	Rs. 22,60,000/- Rs. 2,26,000/-	May 10, 2024 from 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	May 28, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>). The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till May 27, 2024 before 05:00 PM failing which, this/these secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, MC International, The Mall, Mall Road Amritsar-143001 on or before May 27, 2024 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before May 27, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, MC International, The Mall, Mall Road Amritsar- 143001 on or before May 27, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Amritsar.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9780139915/ 7304914763
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Assets Management Private Limited 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s
Date : April 30, 2024
Place : Punjab (Amritsar, Sunam)
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I)] POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor/Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(A/C No.) L9001060122319010 Bhumika Service Center Through Smt. Sunita Devi - Legal Heir Of It's Proprietor Late Shri Ram Chander. Smt. Sunita Devi (Legal Heir Of Late Shri Ram Chander - Co-Borrower), Suraj (Co-Borrower & Legal Heir Of Late Shri Ram Chander - Co-Borrower), Tarun (Legal Heir Of Late Shri Ram Chander - Co-Borrower), Teena (Legal Heir Of Late Shri Ram Chander - Co-Borrower)	27-Jul-23 Rs. 364259/- Rs. Three Lac Sixty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Nine Only as on 27-Jul-23	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Khasra No 505/428, 506/428, Khata No 769,770, 771, 772, 774, 775 Mouza - Ganaur, Dist - Sonapat, Haryana, Bounded As East - Plot Of Other, West - Street, North Plot Of Other, South - Remaining Plot Seller Admeasuring 80 Sq.Yds	26-Apr-24
(A/C No.) L9001071028620112 Chander Parkash (Borrower), Smt. Pinki (Co-Borrower), Maman Singh (Co-Borrower)	15-Feb-24 Rs. 2020824/- Rs. Twenty Lac Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Four Only as on 12-Feb-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khevat No 12 Khatouni No 15 Mustakil No 9 Killa No 26 16 3-18, Rampura Road, Dist- Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 3811 Sq. Ft.	29-Apr-24

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act (2002) read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets." The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table. -sd-
Place: HARYANA Date: 30-April-2024 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

USP

At a distinguished ceremony in the House of Lords (British Parliament), Mr. Manish was honoured with the prestigious 'Global Power Leader 2024' award on 25th April 2024, recognizing his ascent from humble beginnings from a modest village in India to a globally recognized figure in leadership and operational excellence. His exemplary career spans significant military and corporate achievements, setting unparalleled standards in operational excellence, strategy, and leadership. In addition to this international acclaim, he has also been chosen the 'Business Excellence Leader 2024' by the Indian Achievers Forum. Mr. Manish's journey and achievements exemplify a beacon of inspiration, setting benchmarks for future leaders globally.

Financial Results for the year ended 31st March 2024
Chandigarh: Key Highlights of the Results - FY 2024 vis a vis FY 2023
Business Growth - Bank has shown consistent growth where total Business grew by 9.50% y-o-y to Rs.450007 crore (3.34% from Rs. 435456 Cr. q-o-q) on, wherein Gross Advances increased by 15.62% y-o-y to Rs. 186877 crore (4.29% from Rs. 179195 Cr. q-o-q) & Total Deposits grown by 5.53% y-o-y to Rs.263130 crore (2.68% from Rs. 256261 Cr. q-o-q).
Advances in Retail, Agriculture & MSME (RAM) Sectors - RAM segment of the Bank increased by 13.88% y-o-y to Rs.97516 crore (4.05% from Rs.93720 Cr. q-o-q) backed by 14.62% y-o-y growth in Retail advances, 13.16% y-o-y growth in Agriculture advances and 13.53% y-o-y growth in MSME advances.

Huge jump in profit of UCO Bank for the financial year 2023-24
Karnal: On the announcement of the financial results of UCO Bank for the financial year 2023-24, the zonal head of UCO Bank zonal office, Karnal, Mr. Abhishek Singh expressed happiness over the financial results of the bank. On behalf of UCO Bank, Managing Director and Chairman Shri Ashwani Kumar presented the closing accounts for the financial year 2023-24 in Kolkata Head Office. UCO Bank is continuously registering growth in its business. The total business of the bank has increased by 9.50% year-on-year to Rs 450007 crore. Gross advances grew by 15.62% year-on-year to Rs 186877 crore. Total deposits have increased by 5.53% year-on-year to Rs 263130 crore. The bank's RAM segment grew by 13.88% year-on-year to Rs 97516 crore. This growth was driven by 14.62% year-on-year growth in retail advances, 13.16% year-on-year growth in agricultural advances and 13.53% year-on-year growth in MSME advances.

Central Bank of India Financial Results For The Year Ended 31st March 2024.
Performance Highlights:
Total Business grew by 10.34 % to ₹ 636756 crore. Total Deposits up by 7.16 % to ₹ 385011 crore. CASA Deposits have increased by ₹ 11657 crore to ₹ 191969 crore reflecting Y-o-Y growth of 6.46% & having a share of 50.02% of total Deposits. Gross Advance increased by 15.60 % to ₹ 251745 crore. Credit to Deposit (CD) Ratio improved to 65.59 % registering an improvement of 473 bps, from 31st March 2023. Gross NPA improved to 4.50 %, registering an improvement of 394 bps. Net NPA improved to 1.23 %, registering an improvement of 54 bps. Provision Coverage Ratio improved to 93.58%, registering an improvement of 110 bps. Net Profit up by 41.33 % to ₹ 807 crore (Quarter)/ 61.13% to ₹ 2549 crore (FY). Net Interest Income (NI) increased by 10.34 % to ₹ 12896 crore for 12 months period / FY ended on 31st March 24, over corresponding period of last year. Net Interest Margin (NIM) reduced marginally to 3.40 %. Return on Assets (ROA) improved to 0.76 % & 0.63 % (Q-o-Q& for 12 months period /FY ended on 31st March 24, over corresponding period of last year), registering an improvement of 15 & 19 bps, respectively.

THDC India Limited and SJVN Collaborate in Development of High-Performance Sports Academy at Tehri Power Complex
ऋषिकेश: In a groundbreaking ceremony aimed at revolutionizing Water Sports Development in India, THDC India Limited (THDCIL) and SJVN Foundation (a dedicated Trust of SJVN Limited) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish THDCIL High-Performance Academy in Tehri Power Complex, Uttarakhand. Highlighting the significance of this historic event, Sh. R. K. Vishnoi, Chairman and Managing Director, THDC India Limited said that this MoU underlines the commitment to not only provide affordable Power 24 x7 to the Nation but also unleash the power of Sports Development in the Country in the realization of the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.