

**OPINION 6**  
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CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

**WORLD 8**  
ISRAELI FORCES SEIZE RAFAH  
CROSSING IN GAZA

**MONEY 10**  
SEBI REJECTS NSE'S PROPOSAL  
TO EXTEND TRADING HOURS

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# Mercury Rises, Voting Falls

## 61 Per Cent Polling In Phase III of Lok Sabha Elections

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the hostile weather conditions, the third phase of the Lok Sabha polls on Tuesday saw a further dip in the voting percentage which recorded 61.81 per cent voter turnout when compared to 66.14 per cent in the first phase followed by 66.71 per cent in the second. Comparatively, in the 2019 elections, these same 93 seats collectively recorded an overall turnout of 67.33 per cent. The third phase failed to buck the trend amid hot weather and heatwave in the polling States. Experts and political parties attributed the decline to heatwave and voters' apathy. The stakes are high for the BJP in this round as it had won an overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, in the last election. Fate of candidates for more than half of the 543 Lok Sabha has been sealed while four phases still remain for the counting to be done on June 4. Voting has been completed in 283 seats out of 543 seats so far. Except sporadic incidents of violence in four constituencies in West Bengal, the polling in 10 States and Union Territories has been peaceful. Five States — Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat and Karnataka — have wrapped up



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shows his ink-marked finger after casting his vote for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Ahmedabad, on Tuesday

their polling in phase three. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Electoral Officer for Gujarat, P Bharathi, industrialist Gautam Adani were among the early voters to cast their vote. Modi urged people to vote in record numbers and said their active participation will make the election more vibrant. While the BJP has already declared a win in Surat Lok Sabha seat as unopposed, stakes are significant for the BJP and its allies, which had, in 2019, won 75

of the 93 seats. INDIA Bloc parties had won only 11. Four seats had gone to the undivided Shiv Sena, two were won by independents, and one by the AIUDE. As per the EC's voter turnout app (till 8 pm), Assam witnessed the highest voter turnout of 75.30 per cent followed by West Bengal at 73.93 per cent, while Maharashtra witnessed the lowest at 55.21 per cent, with Bihar doing slightly better at

54.73 per cent, Budaun 52.77 per cent, Bareilly 54.21 per cent, Etah 57.07 per cent, Fatehpur Sikri 54.93 per cent, Ferozabad 56.27 per cent, Hathras 53.54 per cent, Mainpuri 55.88 per cent and Sambhal 61.10 per cent. "The polling was held smoothly and peacefully in all States/UTs across the three phases which covered the entire North Eastern part of the country, Left Wing Extremists affected and vulnerable areas in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh," the EC said in a statement. During the third phase polling, 13 people were injured when swarms of bees attacked them in two separate polling booths of two constituencies in north Chhattisgarh. Eight people were injured in Aara village under Raigarh Lok Sabha constituency and five at Jawaharnagar under Surguja Lok Sabha constituency. The first vote for the election to Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency was cast by Ali Mohammad Rather, a visually impaired person, under the Election Commission's new home voting facility. In Karnataka's Kapalapur village in Bidar district, a 110-year-old Gattigitti Lakshmi reached a polling station along with her son and grandson to cast her vote while 100-year-old Gurama exercised her franchise in Sindbandagi village. In many polling stations, the elderly reached in wheelchairs.



# Will Kejriwal Be Able To Campaign For AAP?

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After the arguments by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Supreme Court in the multi-crore liquor-gate scandal on Tuesday in the court, all eyes are on the judiciary to see whether AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal would be granted interim bail, allowing him a chance to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections. After much deliberation on the arguments made by Kejriwal's legal team and those representing the probing agency, the Supreme Court deferred its order on the Delhi Chief Minister's interim bail plea, with a two-judge bench rising without pronouncing an order. The court is likely to hear the matter on Thursday. Meanwhile, a Delhi court extended Kejriwal's judicial custody in the money laundering case till May 20. Special Judge for CBI and ED matters Kavari Baweja extended Kejriwal's custody after the AAP leader was produced before the court through a video conference on the expiry of his remand granted earlier. Legal experts are of the view there is a possibility that the Supreme Court might grant Kejriwal interim bail in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. "Suppose we grant interim bail on account of elections. Then if you say you will attend office then it may have a cascading effect... Dr Singhvi if we give any interim bail we do not want you to be performing official duties as somewhere it will lead to conflict. We do not want interference at all in



the working of the Government," the court remarked. However, in the same breath, the court also remarked, "Let us see whether at all it (interim bail) should be given or not." The bench reserved its decision after hearing the arguments put forth by senior advocate Singhvi and Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for Kejriwal and the ED, respectively. Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, staunchly opposed showing any leniency to Kejriwal on account of the Lok Sabha polls and said granting interim bail to the AAP national convener would amount to creating a separate class for politicians. "Please do not earmark a political leader as a separate class and let them not be separated from the common man. It is being stated that nothing was done (by the ED) in 1.5 years and (he was) picked up during elections. That is not the correct impression at all," he said.

## THE PIONEER REPORTS FROM GROUND ZERO

### GUJARAT

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD



A voter turnout of 55.22 per cent was recorded till 5 pm in 25 Lok Sabha seats of Gujarat in the third phase of the elections on Tuesday. Home Minister Amit Shah from Gandhinagar as well as his Cabinet colleagues Mansukh Mandaviya and Parshottam Rupala from Porbandar and Rajkot, respectively, are in the fray. Gujarat has 4.97 crore voters, including 2.56 crore men, 2.41 crore women and 1,534 persons from the third gender. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi cast his vote at Nishan School in Ranip area, Shah exercised his franchise at a polling booth in Naranpura, both of which fall under the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat. As per the data shared by the Election Commission, the tribal-reserved Valsad constituency in south Gujarat recorded the highest turnout of 68.12 per cent, while Amreli in Saurashtra saw the lowest turnout of 45.59 per cent till 5 pm. Meanwhile, a 45-year-old woman polling officer deployed at a polling booth in Amreli district died after she complained of uneasiness while on duty on Tuesday, an official said. Kaushika Babariya, a government school teacher, was deployed at a booth in Jafrabad town.

Some voters braved physical limitations to exercise their franchise. A person with disabilities used his leg to cast his vote, and another person voted on a stretcher. Dedicated non-resident Gujaratis (NRGs) turned up in large numbers to cast their vote in their hometowns. The State Election Commission ensured that voting was a celebratory exercise by decorating some polling stations like wedding venues and setting up selfie points for voters to make their day memorable. In Nadiad, which falls under the Kheda Lok Sabha constituency, Ankit Soni, who lost both hands, cast his vote using his legs. "Around 15-20 years ago, I suffered an electric shock and lost my hands. With the blessings of my teachers and parents, I started drawing, completed CS and earned an MBA. I am working towards a PhD. I voted using my legs," Soni said.

### UTTAR PRADESH

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



Over 56 per cent polling was recorded till 5 pm in the Lok Sabha elections being held for 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday in the third phase. According to the Election Commission, by 5 pm, 57.34 per cent votes were cast. Voting began at 7 am and will continue till 6 pm. More than 1.89 crore voters are eligible to vote in these 10 constituencies. With the end of this phase of voting, 26 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats have already gone to polls. Agra witnessed 53.99 per cent polling till 6 pm, Aonla 57.08 per cent, Budaun 54.05 per cent, Bareilly 57.88 per cent, Etah 59.17 per cent, Fatehpur Sikri 57.09 per cent, Ferozabad 58.22 per cent, Hathras 55.36 per cent, Mainpuri 55.88 per cent and Sambhal 62.81 per cent. The third phase is important for the family members of Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav is aiming to retain the Mainpuri seat, which she won in a bypoll following the death of her father-in-law. Akshay Yadav, the son of SP national principal general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav is contesting

from Ferozabad and Aditya Yadav, the son of SP national general secretary Shivpal Yadav, is making his electoral debut from Budaun. Voting began at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm. More than 1.89 crore voters are eligible to vote in these 10 constituencies. With the end of this phase of voting, 26 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats have already gone to polls. Uttar Pradesh has the highest 80 parliamentary constituencies among all the states. Polling in the state is spread across all seven phases from April 19 to June 1. The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

### MAHARASHTRA

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



In a polling marred by an incident of violence which claimed one life and left another person injured in Osmanabad parliamentary constituency, as many as 53.40 per cent of total 2.09 crore voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm in eleven constituencies that went to polls in the third phase of high-stake Lok Sabha polls held on Tuesday. On a day when Kolhapur registered a maximum 63.71 per cent polling while prestigious Baramati registered a lowest 45.68 per cent voting till 5 pm, a man was knifed to death and one person sustained stab wounds in a brawl that broke out near a polling station in Patsangvi village in Bhoom taluka of Osmanabad district. The tentative final polling percentage figures are likely to be released either later on Tuesday night. As per the revised figures put out by the Election Commission of India on April 30, 2024, 63.71 per cent of total voters exercised their rights in five constituencies in the first phase of the Lok Sabha held in Maharashtra on April 19, while 62.71 per cent of the total electorate voted in eight Lok Sabha constituencies during the second phase of polling held on April 26. Compared with the percentages of voting that took place in the first

### WEST BENGAL

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal continued to reverse its poll-day trends as Tuesday's third phase polling passed off without reporting a single electoral violence related death. Notwithstanding, reports of sporadic and stray violence filtered in from different parts of four constituencies of Murshidabad, Jangipur, Malda South and Malda North. Amid all these voters polled briskly but a tad on the lower side. Most number of incidents came from Murshidabad where CPI(M) candidate Md Salim ran from booth to booth to report alleged illegal gathering and false voting. The CPI(M) leader was seen holding an alleged fake polling agent at Raninagar area whom he later handed over to the police. In other places he was seen chasing away people who were jamming the booths. In the process the TMC workers raised "go back" slogans against him, sources said. In 2019 a number of people had died at Murshidabad alone. In an election about 20 years ago the same district had seen about 75 people killed in a single day... even in last year's panchayat elections lakhs of people could not vote," said a local adding "comparing to what happens in Murshidabad this year things were far more cooler." At Jangipur a BJP booth president was seen exchanging blows with a TMC counterpart who was trying to rig polling, sources said. At Malda South bombs were hurled at Ratua to chase away voters, Congress candidate Isha Khan Chowdhury said.

# Top LeT commander among two terrorists killed in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



A top commander of the Resistance Front (TRF), responsible for targeting members of the minority community, police personnel, and others, was killed, along with one accomplice in an overnight encounter with the joint team of security forces in the South Kashmir district of Kulgam on Tuesday. The TRF is an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba. The encounter broke out after the security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Redwani Payeen of Kulgam late on Monday after receiving

inputs about the terrorists. "The operation continued throughout the night and concluded on Tuesday afternoon. Two terrorists were neutralised and their bodies have been retrieved," IG Police, Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi said. "The slain TRF commander has been identified as Basit Dar. He was an A-category terrorist and was involved in

at least 18 cases. He was involved in the planning of conspiracy to attack minorities, police forces, and civilians," Birdi added. The terrorists, according to Birdi, were given ample time and opportunity to surrender. "They did not pay any heed to the caution by police and security forces. The terrorists continued firing upon the forces and were killed in the encounter," he said. According to police, the house in which the terrorists were hiding caught fire on Tuesday morning during the exchange of fire between the two sides.

# Modi, Lalu in tug of war on Muslim quota

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA/BHOPAL

After a political slugfest over Constitution, SC/ST & OBC reservations during the campaigning for three phases of the Lok Sabha elections, a row over Muslim reservation has gained momentum ahead of the fourth phase scheduled on May 13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at RJD president Lalu Prasad over his statement that he is in favour of extending reservation benefits to Muslims. Modi said the INDIA Bloc wants to snatch all quotas for SC, ST, and OBCs and give them to their 'vote bank' as part of a deeper conspiracy. The PM also asserted that India has reached a turning

point in history, and people have to decide in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections whether 'vote jihad' or 'Ram Rajya' is the way forward for the country. BJP's partner in NDA, the JD(U) slammed Lalu for favouring reservation for Muslims, saying his stand violates the basic spirit of the Constitution as well as the Mandal Commission report. Such a statement is tantamount to a conspiracy against the backwards who get reservation due to their social and educational backwardness, Janata Dal (United) spokesperson K C Tyagi said. Addressing a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar, the PM said a big alliance partner of the INDIA Bloc has endorsed what he used to say



about their plan to end the reservations for SC, ST and OBCs. "Their leader, who has eaten the animal's fodder and convicted by the court, even by the Supreme Court in the corruption case, is out on bail due to health. The Congress is making him dance on their head. He is saying not only

Muslims should get reservations but all the reservations should be given to Muslims. Means they want all the reservation to Muslims by snatching it from SC, ST and OBC," Modi said. After all, why these people are doing this is because they are counting their remaining breath with the help of this

"very vote bank" as everything else is over and nothing left with them, "one by one all have left and ran away", he said. "I have been saying the same thing about them for the last several days. I was saying that they would cut some part of the reservation and give it on the basis of religion but the conspiracy is deeper...They are saying on the day of voting that they want to give all the reservation of SC, ST and OBC to Muslim community," Modi said. He recalled how the maker of Constitution BR Ambedkar had opposed religion-based reservation. Lalu alleged that the ruling BJP at the Centre wanted to do away with reservations by scrapping the Constitution.

# Classifieds

## BEDKHALI NOTICE

**I, Sunita Devi** W/o Bhanu Partap Singh, R/O House No. 197, Raipur Khurd, Near TW No. R-13, Chandigarh inform that my son Sunil Kumar out of my control. I disown him from my moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deal with him at their own Risk.

**I, Kuldip Singh Bedi** S/O Rajinder Singh Bedi R/O 169, Sultanwind Road, Akali Colony, New Gurnam Nagar, Amritsar, Punjab declare that my father was known by two names Rajinder Singh and Rajinder Singh Bedi. Rajinder Singh and Rajinder Singh Bedi is one and the same person.

**I, Hukmi Devi** W/o Late Sh. Ranjit Singh R/O Vill. Buhawa, P.O. Lakhmadi, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra declare that my Grandson Dharamvir and his wife Tanya Devi are out of control and do not even behave well with us. So I disinherit them from my all moveable /immoveable Properties. If anybody deals with them in any manner, they will deal on his own responsibility.

**We Balwant Singh** S/O Ranjit Singh and Amarjeet W/o Balwant Singh R/O Vill. Buhawa, P.O. Lakhmadi, Teh. Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra declare that my son Dharamvir and his wife Tanya Devi are out of control and do not even behave well with us. So I disinherit them from my all moveable /immoveable Properties. If anybody deals with them in any manner, they will deal on his own responsibility.

**We Pawan Kumar** Gupta S/O Chet Ram Gupta and Usha Goel w/o Pawan Kumar Gupta R/O H.No.46, Housing Board colony, Murthal Adda, Sonipat declare that our son Ankur Goyal and his wife Prachi Gupta both are out of our control. So we disown them from our all moveable/immovable property any body deal with them at own risk.

**We are Jitendra Pandit**, son of Shri Kamal Prashad and Sunita Devi, wife of Jitendra Pandit, resident of Hon. Plot no. 12, Shivalik Colony, Ambala City, inform that our daughter Shalu Kumari, is out of our control & has got married as per her own wish. So we disown her from all our movable and immovable property. We and our family will not be responsible for any kind of transaction or legal or illegal work.

**I, Mukha Masih** s/o of John Masih r/o Hayat Nagar, District Gurdaspur disinherit my son Vikrant from my moveable/immovable property. He is not in my control. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his/her own risk.

**I, Ranjit Singh** S/o late Baldev Singh R/O VPO Mandheri, Tehsil Shahabad, District Kurukshetra, have evicted my son Rohit Kumar from all my moveable-immovable properties, as he is out of my control. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

**I, Rajesh Kumar** S/O Sh. Shri Niwas R/O Vpo Sisar Khaz, Meham, Distt. Rohtak Declare That My Son Puneet And His Wife Nancy Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Them From My All Moveable/Immoveable Properties. Any Body Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk. I Or My Family Are Not Responsible For Any Type Of Their Acts.

**I, Suman Sharma** S/O Badri Nath Sharma, R/O H.No-102 Ms Enclave Dhakoli, SAS Nagar Mohali, Declare That My Son Abhishek Sharma Is Out Of My Control, So I Disown Him From My Moveable- Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Him At Their Own Risk.

**I Deepak Kumar** S/O Parkash Dass R/O #417, Sector 15a, Chandigarh Disown My Son Sunny Bawa, His Wife Simranpreet Kaur From All My Moveable/Immoveable Properties. They Are Out Of My Control. Anybody Deals With Them They Will Do Their Own Risk/Responsibility.

**I Jaswinder Kaur** W/O Late Sukhdev Singh R/O #9R, Baba Farid Avenue, Faridkot Tehsil & Distt Faridkot Declare That My Daughter Amandeep Kaur Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Her From All My Moveable And Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Her On Their Own Risk.

**I, Pawan Kumar**, son of Gyan Chand, resident of Ward No. 16, Canal Colony Ratia, Tehsil Ratia, District Fatehabad, evict my son Prince, who is beyond my authority, from my movable and immovable property. In future, the person dealing with him will be responsible for himself and not me and my family.

**We, Devi Dayal**, son of Bhavani Das and Dushpa Devi, wife of Devi Dayal, residents of Model Town Fatehabad, Tehsil and District Fatehabad, declare that our son Raj Kumar Chopra, his wife Ekta Arora, grandson Jatin Chopra and grandson Harman Chopra, at the behest of us and our family. -Out of hearing. Therefore we evict them from our movable and immovable property. In future, the person dealing with them will himself be responsible. There will be no responsibility for us or our family.

**We, Simru Ram** and Farnejo Devi W/o Simru Ram, R/O H.No.62/5A, Bhagwan Nagar Colony, Pipli, Distt. Kurukshetra, declare that our son Manoj Kumar and daughter-in-law Suman Devi are beyond our reach. We evict both of them from our movable and immovable property. Whoever does any transaction with these two will himself be held responsible.

**I, Gurmali Singh** S/O Hari Singh R/O Village Tajalpur, Tehsil Dudhan Sadhan Distt. Patiala declare that my son Gurtej Singh and his wife Suman Devi and her son Anubhav who are beyond my authority. I exclude them from my movable property. The lender himself will be responsible for dealing with them. Neither I nor my family will be held responsible.

**I, Mangat** S/O Kaka Ram # 35, Behlana, Chandigarh is hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mangat to Mangat Khan. In some documents my father's name mentioned as Kaka and Kaka Ram, which is the one and the same Person.

**I, Mulka Masih** s/o John Masih r/o Hayat Nagar, District Gurdaspur declare that my deceased father was known as John Masih and Bashir Masih s/o Balwant masih. These both names pertain to one and the same person i.e my father.

**I, Omwati** W/O No. 2874171-P Late Hav Ram Pal R/O Vill. & P.O. Nonond, Teh. Sampla Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) Declare That My Name Om Pati Devi And My Dob 14.04.1962 Are Wrongly Mentioned In My Late Husband Army Record. But My Correct & Actual Name Is Omwati And My Correct Dob Is 03.06.1958. Vide Affidavit Dated 07.05.2024 Before Notary Public Rohtak.

**I, Bhajan Kaur** W/O Ram Kishan Vpo Mukari Tehsil Anandpur Sahib Distt Ropar Declare That My Son No 2512417f Rank L/Nk Raj Kumar's Army Service Documents My Name Is Written As Bhajno Devi Mistakenly. Whereas My Correct Name Is Bhajan Kaur

**I, Mirabai Popat** Gopale Is Mother Of Army No:15580460F Rank: Nk Name- Gopale Shashikant Popat Posted At Unit: Cme Pune, Maharashtra 411031, Permanent Address:Vill-Nimgaon Khurd, Post Nimgaon Paga, Teh-Sangamner, Dist-Ahmednagar, State-Maharashtra, Pin-422603 Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 24/03/1973 To 01/01/1973.Vide Affidavit No-Rd 0021185330, Dated: 07/05/2024

**I, Sukhwinder Singh** alias Jaswinder Singh S/O Harnek Singh R/O Vill: Biraahwal Teh-Nabha (Patiala) declare that my elder daughter Ravinder Kaur is out of my control. So I disown with her from my moveable/immovable property. If anybody dealing with her at his/her own risk.

**I, Jahida** W/o shri Mumtaj, House No. 717, Charan Singh colony, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh hereby declare that my son Arif and daughter in law Gulshita are out of my control. So I disown them from my movable and immovable property.

**I, Jahida** W/o shri Mumtaj, House No. 717, Charan Singh colony, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh hereby declare that my son Asif and daughter in law Sahaana and their two daughters and one son are out of my control. So I disown them from my movable and immovable property.

**I, Gh. Mohd. Sheikh** s/o Late Shri Abdul Rahim R/O # 997, Phase-2, Ram Darbar Chandigarh hereby disown my Son Imran from my all moveable/ immovable properties. He is out of my control. If any body deal with him will do so at own Cost/ responsibility. I shall not be responsible for his any deeds.

**ਮੈਂ ਰਾਣੇਸ਼ ਲਾਲ** ਸਰਮਾ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਪਰਮਾ ਨੰਦ ਦਾਸੀ ਐਡ 3/489, ਗੁਲੀ ਨੰਬਰ 2, ਭਦਾਨੀ ਨਗਰ ਐਂਮਿਤਸਰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਨੌਦਰਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਚੰਪਕ ਸਰਮਾ ਅਤੇ ਨੂਰ ਮਨੀਸ਼ਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੜਾਈ ਬਰਾੜ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਕੋਈ ਗੱਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਮੰਨਦੇ ਹਨ। ਮੈਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੋਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚਲ ਚਲ ਨਜ਼ਦੀਕਾ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਆਪ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

**I, Pallavi Sahdev** W/o Sh. Rishabh Chauhan resident of H.No. 417 Ward No. 25, Village Dhakki, Pathankot, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot declare that I have changed my name from Pallavi Sahdev to Pallavi Sahdev Chauhan vide Affidavit dated 04-05-2024.

**I, Jasdeep Kaur** Mann D/o Dilbagh Singh R/O Vpo. Tuto Mazara Teh-Garhshankar Pin-146109, Punjab and presently residing at 14213 66 Ave, Surrey, BC, V3W2B4, Canada, do hereby change my name from Jasdeep Kaur to Jasdeep Kaur Mann with immediate effect.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that in my 10th Class marksheet passout year 2022 Roll No.13118882 my date of Birth is wrongly mention as 11-01-2005 but correct date of birth is 01-11-2005 Name Rishabh Shah S/O Surinder Shah H.No.380 Sector 45, Chandigarh.

It Is For General Information That I, Manju Rani D/O Ishwar Singh Residing At House No.1006, Mundhri, Kaithal, Haryana-136042 Declare That The Name Of My Father Has Been Wrongly Written As Ishwar In My Board Of School Education Haryana Class 10th & Class 12th Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Father Is Ishwar Singh Which May Be Amended Accordingly. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

**I, Mangat** S/O Kaka Ram # 35, Behlana, Chandigarh is hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mangat to Mangat Khan. In some documents my father's name mentioned as Kaka and Kaka Ram, which is the one and the same Person.

**I, Rajwinder Kaur** And Rajwinder W/O Rubinder Singh R/O H.No.195, Gali No.5, Pritam Nagar, Amritsar Have Declare That Above Both Name's Are Mine One And Same Person

**I, Amarjeet Kaur** W/O Balkar Singh R/O Village Guruwali Sadhu Wala Khu, Jalal Ki Patti Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Amarjeet Kaur To Amarjit Kaur

**I, Gurdev Singh** Saimbhi S/O Gurbachan Singh R/O Devi Wala Road Street No.03 Left Kot Kapura Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Gurdev Singh

**I, Rupinder Singh** Sembhi S/O Manjeet Singh R/O House No.B-11/1777 Backside Hero Honda Agency Prem Nagar Ward No.5 Kot Kapura Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Rupinder Singh

**I, Hitherto** Known As Harbhinder Singh Kler Son Of Subeg Singh Residing At Vill.Kuri Wallah Po Kang, Tarn Taran-143406 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Harbhinder Singh.

**I, Rakesh Kumar** S/O Mohan Lal R/O H.No.43, Gali No.3, Rodey Shah Colony Guru Nanak Pura District Amritsar Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Angel To Angel Bhagat.

**I, Hitherto** Known As Suman @Sumanlata W/O Satpal Residing At Gali No-2, Ward No-11, Kount Road, Back Of D.A.V. School, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021 Have Changed My Name And I Shall Hereafter Be Known As Suman Lata.

**I, Jyoti Soni** w/o Sh. Alo Nayyar R/O # 3837, Sector 32-D Chandigarh have changed my name to Jyoti Nayyar.

**I, No 9927054P** Rank Hav Name Thupstan Tsewang S/O Tsering Gyatso R/O Spituk UT Ladakh declare that In my Service record my Daughter name Wrongly Mentioned as Stanzin Edzes but my Daughter Correct Name is Stanzin Edsal.

**I, Manik Lal Jhawar** Son of Shri Champa Lal Jhawar resident of H.No. 443, Sector 12, Huda Panipat-132103, state that I have changed my name from Manik Lal Jhawar to Manik Chand Jhawar.

**I Mehak** D/o Vipin Gaba r/o h.no 8 kartar shah nagar model town panipat declared change my name from Mehak to Mehak Gaba and in future my name is Mehak Gaba.

**I, Sanjeev Saluja** s/o Narendar Nath r/o h.no 5517 second floor block D-1 ansal susahnt city panipat decided change my name from Sanjeev saluja to Sanjeev Kumar Saluja and in future my name is Sanjeev Kumar Saluja.

**I, Sarika Jain** Wife of Shri Anuj Jain resident of H.No. 30-31, Railway Road, Near Railway Station, Aggarwal Mandi Panipat-132103, state that I have changed my name from Sarika Jain to Sarika.

**I, Simran Dhingra** Wife of Shri Gaurav Madaan resident of H.No. C-1124, Ansul Susahnt City Panipat-132103, state that I have changed my name from Simran Dhingra to Simran Madaan.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Ajay Kumar Singh** s/o Shri Daya Singh R/O Flat no 302, Tower10 Motiaz Royal Citi Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali (Punjab) have changed my minor daughter's name from Snigdha to Snigdha Jaryal and her Correct Date Of Birth is : 07-03-2009.

**I, Meera** D/o Late Matwar Parsad R/O House no. 71, Sector 8-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Meera Raturi.

**I, Rajender Kumar** S/O Thakur Dass R/O 286/27, Gandhi Nagar, Rohtak declare that Rajender Kumar and Rajender Dua both are my name, one and the same person.

**I, Santosh kumari** W/o Chinta Mani R/O Ismaila 9B, Tehsil Sampla, District Rohtak, declare that Santosh and Santosh Kumari both are my name, one and the same lady.

**I, Amrit Bahadur** S/O Khem Lal, House No. 2067, Dainik Bhaskar Colony, Sector 25-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Amrit Bahadur to Amrit Bahadur Oli.

**Military Number** 15233184A Rank Naik Manoj Kumar S/O Chhatrapal Singh Resident of Village Sariapur, Post Sejkhurd, Police Station Pisawan, District Sitapur I declare that in my army records my mother's name has been erroneously recorded as Raj Kumari whereas her correct name is Rajesvari.

**I, Murni Devi** W/O Surender Singh R/o # 993 (GF) Sector 19, Panchkula has changed my name from Murni to Murni Devi. All concerned please note.

**I, Dilbagh Singh** S/o Dalbir Singh R/O VPO Tarsikka, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Dilbagh Singh to Dilbag Singh.

**I, Manpreet Singh** S/O Balwinder Singh R/o Vill. Riali Khurd, PO Raili Kalan, Distt. Gurdaspur declare that Manpreet is my given name and Singh is my surname.

**I, Anita Devi** Bahuguna W/o Virender Prasad R/O House no 36 Sector 41-B, Village Butrela Chandigarh, have changed my name to Anita Devi.

**I, Bimla** W/o Shri Jai Singh, # 1031, Kishangarh, Chandigarh have changed my name from Bimla to Bimla Devi.

**I, Ravi Kumar** S/O Sh. Barwa Ram, R/O House No. 971, Sector, 38 West, Dadu Majra. Chandigarh, declared that I have changed the name of my son from Aarav to Saksham.

**I, Prabhreet kaur** D/o Gagandeep Singh R/O Village Rainwali, Tehsil Tohana District Fatehabad declares that I have changed my name Prabhreet kaur from Prabhreet Brar for all future purpose. That I will solely responsible for any illegal activity.

**I, Mohammad Saffat** S/O Mohd. Ayyub # 710, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh have changed my name to Mohd. Safaat.

**I, Anuradha Sharma** W/o Rishi Kumar 10/5, Ram Nagar, Karnal. I have changed my name from Anuradha Gautam to Anuradha Sharma for all purposes.

**I, Surinder Kumar** S/O Sh. Dharam Singh R/O H. No. 31, Village Pahheri P.O Barana Tehsil & Distt Panipat. change my son's name Abhishek Mouria to Nidhin in your school record.

**I, Vandana** W/o Sh. Arun Sethi R/O H.No 27-L, Bosa Ram Chowk, Model Town, Panipat, have changed my name to Vandana Sethi for all future purposes.

**I, Sumit Chabra** S/O Amarjeet R/O H. No. 233/9, Hakim Kartar Singh Chowk, Ayodhya Nagri, Panipat, have changed my name to Sumit Chhabra for all future purposes.

**I, Surender Kumar** S/O Jagdish Lal R/O H.No. 314, Ward No. 1, Near Masjid, Village Jhundpur, Distt. Sonipat, Haryana has changed my name to Surender Singh Batra for all future purposes.

**I, Mridu Angra** W/o Kamal Kant R/O 237/6, Near Gurdwara, Guru Nanak Pura, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Mridu Angra to Mridu Arora.

**I, Rampati** W/o Suresh R/O village Dhani Raipur, District Hisar (Haryana), declare that Rampati & Neha are the names of the same person and I am known as Rampati & Neha.

**I, Ashwini Sheorain** S/O Attar Singh Sheorain R/O H.No. 706, Top Floor, Sector 7, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Ashwini Sheoran to Ashwini Sheorain. In future I will be known as Ashwini Sheorain.

**I, Jyoti** W/o Vikrant Sharma R/O H.No. 461/15 Bansi Nagar Distt. Hoshiarpur 146001 Punjab have changed my name from Jyoti to Jyoti Sharma. Concerned note.

**I, Rajveer** S/o Sh. Santosh Kumar, R/o Village Saikiana, District Jalandhar, Punjab. I have changed my name from Rajveer to Rajveer Kahlon.

**I, Babi Rani** W/o Sh. Santosh Kumar R/o Village Saikiana, District Jalandhar, Punjab. I have changed my name from Babi Rani to Bavi Rani.

**I, Sakshi Kumari** D/o JC No. 284084L Sub (GNR) Gyan Singh R/O Ghadi Mohalla, Ward no. 2, Atus, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.have changed my Name from Sakshi To Sakshi Kumari Vide affidavit dated 7/5/2024 before Ambala.

**I, Monika Singhal** D/o Sharvan Kumar R/O H. No. 600, Police Line Area, Hisar, Haryana 125004 declare that I have changed the name of my minor son from Divyamm Singhania to Divyamm for all future purpose.

**I, Asgar Khan** S/o Amajad Khan R/O H. No. 470, Khaipur, Distt. Banda, Uttar Pradesh declare that I have changed my name from Asgar Khan to Asagar Khan for future purpose.

**I, Lalit Kukreja** S/o Ramchander R/O 70-N Model Town, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Lalit Kukreja to Lalit Kukreja for all future purpose.

**I, Muvina Begum** W/o Asagar Khan R/o H. No. 470, Khaipur, Distt. Banda, Uttar Pradesh declare that I have changed my name from Muvina Begum to Mubeena Khan for future purpose.

**I, Jagwinder Pal Singh** S/o Sh. Jasvir Singh Judge R/O #731, IT City, Block A, Sector 66-B, Mohali, District SAS Nagar Punjab, have changed my name to Jagwinder Pal Singh Judge.

**I, Manik Dhawan @** Manik S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Dhawan R/O H.No- 34 Ground Floor LRC Home, Kpura Dhakoli, Zirakpur SAS Nagar Mohali Pb. Manik Dhawan@Manik both are one & the same person.

**I, Gopal Singh** S/o Late Hermam Singh R/o H.No- 8 Housing Board Colony Baldev Nagar Naraingarh Road, Ambala City have changed my name from Gopal Singh Bakshi to Gopal Singh.

**I, Manpreet Kaur** W/o Gurwinder Pal Singh R/O H.No 68-B Vita Enclave Baldev Nagar Ambala City have changed my name from Manpreet to Manpreet Kaur.

**I, Ritu** W/o Surinder Kumar, R/O H.No- 64/1019, Baldev Nagar. Ambala City have changed my name from Ritu to Ritu Rani.

**I, Manoj Kumar** Poddar S/O Sh. Lakari Poddar R/O H.No. 316, Street No. 5, Durga Colony Karnal have declared that I want to change my father's name in my Pan card from Parmanand to Lakari Poddar and date of birth from (14/01/1985) to (14/01/1988). All concerned please note.

**I, Kamla** W/o Riya Ram R/O Village Neemwala Tehsil Rajaund Distt Kaithal inform that in may all documents my DOB wrongly mentioned as 01-01-1965. But my correct or actual DOB 16-06-1967

**I, Seema Saini @Seema** W/o Manish Kumar Saini R/O #1820/B-2, Vishvakarma Colony, Distt.Panchkula declare that Seema Saini & Seema both are my name.

**I, Shivani Sharma** W/O Sahil Dogra R/O House number -912 , Ward no - 6 , Mohalla Sant Nagar, Teh & Distt Pathankot Have Changed My Name From Shivani Sharma To Shivani Dogra.

**I Roshan Lal Kakkar** Son Of Ram Chand Arora R/O H.No. 4/747 St. No. 01 Bawa Colony Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name Roshan Lal Arora.

**I Priyanka Goyal** W/O Amit Bansal R/O #247, Phase-2 Near Park Green City Bathinda Have Changed My Name From Priyanka Goyal To Priyanka.

**I, Hitherto** Known As Manisha Sidhu W/O Harmanjit Singh Saini R/O Village Giganwal, Po Behram Sarishta, Tehsil & District Jalandhar, Punjab, 144201 , Have Suffixed Saini As My Surname And Now My Given Name Is Manisha Sidhu And My Surname Is Saini. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

**I Satnam Singh** S/O Jaswant Singh Vpo Allowal, Tehsil Khadar Singh, Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Satnam Singh To Satnam Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname. Concerned Noted.

**I, Chalia Ram** S/O Teju Ram R/O Village Ghorawahi, Po Ladhra, Tehsil & District Jalandhar Punjab State That I Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Alka To Alka Kumari. All Concerned Note

**I Ramdhan Soni** Alias Ramdhan S/O Bahadar Mal R/O H.No- 701/B, Manav Colony, Suketri, Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Ramdhan Soni Alias Ramdhan To Ram Dhan.

**I Bhatari** Alias Ram Bhatari W/O Ram Dhan R/O H.No- 701/B, Manav Colony, Suketri, Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Bhatari Alias Ram Bhatari To Ram Bhatari.

**I Sunaina Rani** W/O Gourav Dhawan R/O #1377 Gulati Street, Behind Rohit Automobile, Saharanpur Road, Yamunanagar. That I Have Change My Name To Sunaina.

**I, Ram Dhan** S/O Bahadar Mal R/O H.No- 701/B, Manav Colony, Suketri, Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Vikash Soni To Vikas Soni.

**I, Garima Mann** W/O Prakash Maan, Resident Of House No. 94, Hope Apartment, Sector 15, Part 2, Gurugram, Have Changed My Name From Garima Mann W/O Prakash Maan All Future Purposes

**I, Prakash Maan** S/O Subhash Maan, Resident Of House No. 94, Hope Apartment, Sector 15, Part 2, Gurugram, Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Soham Mann S/O Prakash Chandra Mann To Soham Maan S/O Prakash Maan All Future Purposes

**I, Prakash Chandra** Man S/O Subhash Chandra Man, Resident Of House No. 94, Hope Apartment, Sector 15, Part 2, Gurugram, Have Changed My Name From Prakash Chandra Man S/O Subhash Chandra Man S/O Subhash Maan All Future Purposes.

**I, Prakash Kumar** S/O Poker Mal R/O H. No. 19, Type-Iv, Mdu Campus Rohtak 124001 (Hr) Declare That I Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Arjun Attri To Arjun.

**I, Bharat Puniani** S/O Sh. Ramesh Chander Punyani R/O489/23 DLF Colony Near Pappu Bakery Rohtak declare That I have changed my minor son name from Parin to Parin Puniani in future my son will be called by the name of Parin Puniani for all purposes.

**I, Shahnaz Parveen** D/o Munawer Khan R/o plot no.6 1st floor near Karan Hotel Mansrover Colony Rohtak declare That I have changed my name from Shahnaz Parveen to Shahnaz Batra In future I will be called by the name Shahnaz Batra for all purposes.

**I, Kamlesh Devi** w/o Jeet Singh r/o Near Dada Kheda, Rabhri Mohalla, Village Jundla, Distt. Karnal, Haryana have changed my name from Kamlesh Devi to Kamlesh. In future I should be known as Kamlesh.

## CONTINUITY PG NO. 04

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# Hooda demands President's rule & Assembly Poll after 3 Independent MLAs withdraw support from BJP Govt

CM Saini led BJP Govt has support of 43 out of 88 MLAs

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a setback to the ruling BJP Government in Haryana amid the Lok Sabha elections, three Independent MLAs on Tuesday announced that they have withdrawn their support to the Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government in the state. These three MLAs have also sent letters withdrawing their support from the government to the Governor.

Following the resignations of Independent MLA Ranjit Chautala and former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar from the 90-member Haryana Assembly, the BJP now has only 40 MLAs out of 88. After the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) with 10 legislators withdrew their support in March, the BJP enjoyed the support of five Independent MLAs and the Haryana Lokhit Party legislator Gopal Kanda. So Chief Minister Saini led Government in Haryana now has the support of 43 out of 88 MLAs. The main opposition Congress has 30

MLAs while the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has one.

Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda claimed that with the withdrawal of support by three independent MLAs, the BJP Government in Haryana has lost the majority. The Nayab Saini-led BJP Government is a minority in Haryana. Hooda said that now the BJP government has lost the majority after the withdrawal of support from JJP and independents. Therefore, assembly elections should be conducted by immediately imposing President's rule in Haryana.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in Haryana slated on May 25 in all 10 Parliamentary seats in the state, the Congress on Tuesday got a major shot in the arm as three Independent legislators extended their support to the grand old party.

The legislators are Somveer Sangwan from Charkhi Dabri, Randhir Golan from Pundri, and Dharampal Gondar from Nilokheri. They withdrew their support from the BJP.

Responding to the development, senior Congress leader Hooda said the BJP govern-

ment has lost majority after the withdrawal of support from the JJP and three Independents. "The Assembly elections should be conducted immediately by imposing President's Rule in Haryana because today not only just the public but also the people who voted and supported the BJP are unhappy with the policies of the government," he told the media persons in Rohtak.

The three legislators announced their support while addressing the media in the presence of Hooda and state unit Congress president Chaudhary Udaibhan. The three MLAs have sent letters withdrawing their support from the government to the Governor.

During the press conference, the Independent MLAs said in one voice that the public has tried BJP, and now there was no justification for giving an opportunity to it because every section is unhappy with unemployment, inflation, increasing crime, family ID, and property ID in this government. They said every class including farmers, laborers, employees, traders, sarpanch, numberdars are agitating today. They added that



Independent legislators who withdrew support from BJP — Somveer Sangwan from Charkhi Dabri, Randhir Golan from Pundri, and Dharampal Gondar from Nilokheri with Leader of Opposition in Haryana Assembly Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Tuesday.

they tried to warn the BJP on different occasions while they were in the government, but BJP did not give up its stubbornness.

The MLAs said now the public's expectations are only from Congress. There is a wave of Congress's INDIA alliance in the entire country including Haryana. They assured that all three of them will play their part to make the alliance win and ensure the defeat of BJP.

On this occasion, Hooda expressed his gratitude to the

three MLAs for their support and said the MLAs have taken this decision keeping in mind the public sentiments. "Their right decision, taken at the right time, will definitely bear fruit. Congress's victory is certain in the Lok Sabha and upcoming assembly elections," he said.

He further said, "BJP leaders and workers themselves are fed up with this government. This is the reason why many people are leaving BJP and joining Congress. Till now, more than 100 big leaders

including 40 MLAs, former MLAs, MPs and former MPs have joined Congress from other parties in the last one and a half years."

Haryana PCC president Chaudhary Udaibhan also welcomed the support of the three MLAs. He said often people leave the Opposition and go to the ruling party, but these MLAs have announced their decision to leave the ruling party, and support the opposition. "It is clear that these MLAs have come forward with the aim of supporting the struggle. Their decision will definitely strengthen the Congress. With the withdrawal of support by 3 MLAs and JJP's exit from the government, it is clear that a minority government is running the state. In such a situation, BJP has no right to remain in power. Government should face assembly elections," he said.

After Independent MLA Ranjit Chautala and former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar resigned from the 90-member Haryana assembly, the BJP has 40 MLAs out of 88 and Saini had won the trust vote after becoming chief minister in March. He is fighting the Karnal assembly by-election on May 25.

## President Murmu visits 2 temples in Himachal



President Droupadi Murmu, who is on a five-day visit to Himachal Pradesh, performed puja at the famous Tara Devi temple and Sankat Mochan temple on Tuesday.

Murmu, accompanied by members of her family and Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, went around the Tara Devi temple, 17 km from the state Capital. She also ate at the langar (bhandara) at the temple. The

memento committee presented a memento of the temple to her. Earlier, she worshipped at the Sankat Mochan temple and took a keen interest in its history. She was presented an idol of 'Ram Darbar' by the governor. She was also briefed about the history of the temple.

These temples are visited by a large number of people on Tuesdays and Sundays but today there was no rush as the entry was restricted.

## Drugs, cash & valuables worth Rs 37.29 crore seized in Hry, says CEO

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal on Tuesday said that the enforcement agencies are continuously keeping a strict vigil on the movement of illicit liquor, drugs, and cash in the ongoing Lok Sabha election in the State. Till now cash amount of Rs 7.24 crore has been seized. Apart from this, illicit liquor, drugs, and valuables worth Rs 30.05 crore have also been seized. Notably, this figure is much more than the items seized in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections of 2014 and 2019.

Agarwal said that till now Rs 7.24 crore in cash, 3,87,332.77 liters of illicit liquor worth Rs 12.94 lakh, Narcotics worth Rs 12.55 crore have been seized. Valuables worth Rs 1.80 crore, and other items worth Rs 2.76 crore have been seized. He said that in the 2014 assembly elections, a total of Rs 7 crore including cash worth Rs 3.10 crore, illicit liquor worth Rs 2.69 crore, and narcotics worth Rs 1.21 crore were seized. Similarly, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, a total of Rs 18.36 crore was seized, which included cash

worth Rs 2.74 crore, illicit liquor worth Rs 6.23 crore, and narcotics worth Rs 9.38 crore, shared Agarwal.

He said that during the Assembly Elections 2019, cash worth Rs 5.17 crore, illicit liquor worth Rs 9.73 crore and drugs worth Rs 3.27 crore, silver worth Rs 4.14 lakh were seized, the total value of which is Rs 18.22 crore.

Party in power or its candidates will not have a monopoly on using government rest houses

Agarwal said that as per the Model Code of Conduct, the party in power or its candidates will not have the monopoly to use government rest houses, dak bungalows, or other government residential complexes. He said that the use of such government premises cannot be done for any meetings of election offices or any election-related meetings for the Lok Sabha 2024 general elections. He mentioned that Circuit House, dak bungalows can only be used for temporary accommodation. He stated that as per the Election Commission's instructions, no formal or informal meetings of political party candidates will be allowed inside these premises, and if

such events occur, it will be considered a violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

Children can win cash prizes ranging from Rs 2,500 to Rs 10,000 at District level

The CEO said that according to the directives of the State Election Commission, children will be involved in all districts under a new scheme so that on the day of voting, children are encouraged to take selfies with the inked fingers of their parents on social media. Under this scheme, all such selfies can be uploaded on the portal and children can win cash prizes ranging from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 10,000 at the district level. Similarly, school students can also participate in this initiative, and the school whose students upload the most selfies will also be awarded a special prize of Rs. 25,000. A link has been created on the www.ceo-haryana.gov.in portal for uploading selfies, which will be open on the day of voting, i.e., May 25. The link to upload selfies will open for school children along with voting from 7 AM on the day of voting, and selfies can be uploaded until 8 PM, he added.

## Amid rising heat and farmers' agitation, Punjab CEO focuses on voter turnout, candidates' security

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

As Punjab gears up for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections slated for June 1, the electoral machinery was set in motion by the 2005-batch IAS officer Sabin C on Tuesday. Initiating the process with the issuance of notifications and the commencement of nomination filings, Sabin C, in an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer, delved into the comprehensive preparations undertaken to ensure a seamless and transparent electoral exercise.

Despite grappling with formidable challenges such as scorching temperatures and the imperative of maintaining law and order amidst the backdrop of ongoing farmers' protests, the Chief Electoral Officer remains resolute in his commitment to conduct the elections with utmost fairness and tranquility.

Amidst a notable surge in the registration of first-time voters, he expressed a palpable optimism regarding achieving a substantial voter turnout. Setting an ambitious target of surpassing the 70-percent polling mark this time, the seasoned bureaucrat has embarked on a concerted effort to galvanize voter engagement, employing various outreach initiatives to maximize participation.

As the countdown to the elections accelerates and the electoral process gains momentum, Sabin C graciously shares insights into the meticulous groundwork and intricate facets of election preparation. Excerpts from the interview:

**Could you throw some light on how Punjab is getting ready for the elections with the starting of nominations, and**

**now that the code of conduct has been in place for over a month? What steps have been taken to ensure everything is set for the elections?**

The elections were announced in March and a code of conduct has been in place since then. We have to first prepare the database of all the polling materials, EVMs, polling staff... Checking the basic infrastructure of all the polling stations, and seeking their approval, polling personnel, right from DCs, ADCs, AROs, AEROs... SHOs transfers... So, all this is being done during this time. The notification has been issued today, and from now, normally, it is the advanced stage of preparation. EVMS sessions, polling personnel session and training... preparations of electoral rolls, eliminating absentees or those shifted. Issuing of postal ballot and its voting, home voting... and so many things... Observers will come now... they will carry out criticality analysis, polling station deployment, how much police is required, CAPF requirement... Simultaneously, the nomination process is running... After that, their expenditure monitoring will be done. Our expenditure teams deployment, flying squads, everything will be there. So, it's comprehensive activities that are underway at the same time.

**How has technology been leveraged to streamline the electoral process and enhance voter participation in Punjab? What technological advancements CEO office is using to conduct elections?**

ECI is very particular about apps, IT innovations, and all. Now, it does not take much time for reporting... Earlier, there used to be hard copy reporting. But it's not the case

now. We have Suwidha portal for seeking permissions. We have C-Vigil app that takes care of MCC violations. Saksham app is there for facilitating PWDs, for wheelchair requirements, for home voting requests. KYC app is there for the people to know everything about their candidates. Besides, all 24,000 polling stations will be covered with webcasting. Then from the Punjab CEO office, we have developed DISE (District Information System for Elections) software. Apart from randomizing polling staff and counting staff, poll activity management system is also the part of DISE, that is actually all reporting voting percentage, any untoward incidents, repolling, at-a-time reporting at the polling station level. Apart from that, we have developed AMF portal, for assured minimum facilities (AMF) at polling stations, its reporting along with the photographs are there of all polling stations... What facilities are their like drinking water, shade, sitting facilities, ramps, electricity... so everything is there.

**According to you, what are the key challenges in ensuring free and fair polls here?**

Key challenge is basically the heat, and making the people come out to vote... That is our main priority. Second is requiring the security forces as per our demand because of the farmers' agitation, and other such issues. These two are the main routine challenges. This is the new thing, the farmers' agitation. Then there are law and order issues in certain areas... that may be an issue. Heat is a major challenge. Actually our polling is getting delayed. Previously, it was in April first week, then it went to April last week, then May, May last, and now June.



Sabin C, Punjab CEO

**So, how are you planning to deal with the expected intense heat on the polling day?**

We have directions from the ECI regarding the issue of heat wave. We have made provisions of linear shades, sitting arrangements, drinking water, also sweetened water, wheel chairs, volunteers will be there

**Regarding BJP's complaint on farmers' protest, I have sent it to the DGP for report... I have asked them to send me what are the actions they have taken on various issues. The main issue here is the candidates' security. We have to ensure because the Election Commission is very particular about the candidates' security that it should be the first priority... Like in J&K, they are providing 25 personnel per candidate. But the situation there is different. Still, here, we also have to take care of this. Assigning security personnel to the candidates is according to the threat perception, and it varies... it depends on the SSP's report. Also, it is not compulsory... Any candidate, who does not have any threat, it is not compulsory for the police to give security. But normally, the security is provided to can-**

**Ensuring law and order in a state like Punjab is also a challenge. Do you agree?**

Central armed police force (CAPF) requirement in Punjab has always been high because of its history of various issues here, and also because it shares international border... It's a landlocked state of India... So our requirement is normally

more as compared to the states like Haryana, or Himachal or any other state. Here, we usually get the CAPF in accordance with our demand. As of now, 25 companies are already here. Rest will also come. The exact number, I cannot divulge also because it depends. Also, the elections are being conducted in other states, so after that they will be shifted here. They will come, we have already taken up this issue, and today only, I had a word with the Election Commission regarding this. Whatever our requirement is there, it's because of prevailing farmers' agitation and all. So, we will get as per our demand.

**BJP has also filed a complaint regarding the farmers' protests, raising concerns about security. How do you take it?**

Regarding BJP's complaint

### PIONEER INTERVIEW

to help, queue management... Then we have model polling stations, which are specially decorated and make attractive for the voters. Then we have pink polling stations — the all-women polling stations. Green polling stations have also been established where saplings will be given to the voters and it will also be planted. Youth management polling stations... so there are different types of polling stations to woo the voters.

**What efforts the CEO Office is making to ensure an increase in voters' turnout?**

Punjab's voting percentage was always high... always in 70 per cent. It's only in 2019 that it was 65 per cent. Reasons may be different like lack of people's enthusiasm to vote. But our main aim is to make them aware about their voting rights, or their fundamental duties and that we are doing this through various means like electronic, print and social media... through various SVEEP icons like we have engaged cricketer Shubman Gill and singer Tarsem Jassar. We also have district icons and also PWD icons, third gender icons are there also. We are running a comprehensive campaign to make voters aware. Another thing is like attracting the voters to polling stations and that we have to do through various means like what I have told earlier like model polling stations, giving all facilities at polling stations, that we are concentrating on. Finally, what matters is the voters' enthusiasm. But there are certain negative factors like heat, and the start of another sowing season, and other things are there. But still, we expect it to be 70 per cent. But the only issue will be heat, and we are trying to manage it but ultimately, we can't say.

**People's faith in EVMS is also flickering, apprehensions are there which may also impact the turnout. Anything being done to address this aspect?**

We have focused on that too. We had run the EVM awareness campaigns for about two-three months across the state. EVMS, VVPATs, and ballot units — all the three components — were kept at several polling stations for the

## Nomination Filing for 7th Phase of Lok Sabha Polls Begins in Punjab & Himachal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH / SHIMLA

The nomination process for Punjab's 13 Lok Sabha seats and Himachal Pradesh's four parliamentary constituencies as well as six assembly segments where bypolls are to be held on June 1 began on Tuesday.

The nomination process will continue till May 14, barring

May 11 and 12 which are public holidays. The scrutiny of papers will take place on May 15 and the last date for the withdrawal of nominations is May 17, according to an official release. In Himachal Pradesh, four candidates, including two Independents, filed their nominations for the parliamentary polls on Tuesday. Ramesh Chand Sarthi (50) filed his nomination as an Independent for the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat while BSP candidate Anil Kumar (31) filed his papers for the Shimla seat. Mahesh Kumar Saini (45) of Himachal Janta Party and Independent candidate Ashutosh Mahant (38) filed their nominations from the Mandi Parliament seat, a spokesperson of the election department said.

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sabin C said 13 candidates filed their nominations on the first day. A nomination each was filed for the Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Khadoor Sahib, Hoshiarpur, Anandpur Sahib, Faridkot and Sangrur seats, he added. No candidate

filed nomination papers for the Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib and Bathinda Lok Sabha seats, the official said. He said May 4 was the deadline for registering new voters in Punjab. According to the electoral roll released on May 6, the total number of voters in Punjab is 2,14,21,555 of which 1,12,67,019 are male and 1,01,53,767 female. As many as 5,28,864 people are first-time voters, the CEO said.

The forms submitted for the registration of new voters by May 4 are to be decided by May 14 and thus the final figure of the total number of voters will be released after that date.

According to the CEO, 1,89,832 voters are aged above 85 years and comprise 88,169 men and 1,01,661 women. For the 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state, a total of 24,451 polling stations will be set up with 16,517 in villages and 7,934 in cities, he said.

In Himachal Pradesh, there are 7,990 polling stations for four Lok Sabha seats of which 425 have been designated as critical. The state has 56,38,422 voters, including 28,79,200 men and 27,59,187 women. The bypolls to six assembly seats of Sujanpur, Dharamshala, Lahaul and Spiti, Barsar, Gagret and Kutlehr, necessitated following the disqualification of six rebel Congress MLAs, would be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls on June 1.

## Will win all 10 Lok Sabha and Karnal Assembly seat, claims Khattar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Former Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday alleged that jobs used to be on sale during the Congress rule in the State and said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has set the system right and given jobs based on merit. "We will win all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana as well as the Karnal Assembly seat (for which bypolls will be held along with the 10 parliamentary seats on May 25)," he asserted.

Khattar said the BJP governments at the Centre and in the state have undertaken development work in various spheres. He alleged that there was favouritism in giving jobs during the previous Congress-led regime in the state. "Jobs used to be on sale. During the Congress rule, be it the job of a peon, clerk, superintendent, HCS, class 1, class 2 -- rates were fixed. We set the system right and deserving candidates got jobs on merit. We have given 1.3 lakh jobs purely on the basis of merit," the BJP leader said while addressing a gathering during his roadshow in Samalkha, which falls under the Karnal parliamentary constituency.

He is the saffron party's candidate from Karnal in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. Khattar said that the BJP will retain power at the Centre because people have seen the work the party did over the last 10 years.

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expenditure and wasteful exercise. Even if it is NOTA (none of the above) that receives the maximum votes, the person second to NOTA is declared the winner as per ECI rules. So even if the elections would have been conducted there and NOTA received maximum votes, the only candidate is the winner. That is the only choice left.

**Have sensitive polling stations identified?**

Identifying sensitive and critical polling stations is a six-month long exercise, before the election starts, and finalized sometime near to the polling. After observers come, they have their own kind of inputs. So now, there are around 5000 critical polling stations, out of a total 24,451. But the number will vary depending upon the candidates, and also various events. It's a dynamic one. I can only give the exact number two days before the polling.

**How are you monitoring social media?**

We have a comprehensive media cell, and also a social media cell. Social media teams monitor it... There is something like deepfake videos, which is basically affecting our electoral system... then we find out and take action. They are also monitoring whatever gets viral and they will be able to know. We can't monitor each and every social media account. But whenever there is such news getting viral against EVM or against election commission, etc, we take suo motu action. We will also be monitoring all the social media accounts of the candidates after they file nominations. Sharing general pictures and information is fine. But in case, they are using any creatives, promotional creatives, they have to get it certified and shoe tier expenditure and everything.

# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Hitherto Known As Beena Thakur Daughter Of Onkar Singh Pathania Wife Of Inder Pal Residing At H.No.34, New Preet Nagar Abadi, Near Bharti Bambi, Batala Road, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Beena Rani**

**I, Hitherto Known As Sarwan Singh Son Of Manohar Singh Residing At Ajit Nagar, Kapurthala, Po Kapurthala, District Kapurthala144601 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sarwan Singh Randhawa**

**I, Harbhajan Singh S/O Sohan Singh R/O Kajewal Rakh Dinewal Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Harbhajan Singh To Bhajan Singh**

**I, Hitherto Known As Nishan Singh Sekhon Son Of Jagtar Singh Residing At Khukhrana, District Moga-142048 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Nishan Singh**

**I, Deepak Kumar Bhatti S/O Birbal Kumar R/O H.No.556/4, Gali Shekhan, Inside Lahori Gate Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Deepak Kumar Bhatti To Deepak Bhatti**

**I, Charanjit Singh S/O Dan Singh R/O F14/200, Street No.4, Guru Gobind Singh Nagar, Majitha Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Charanjit Singh To Charanjit Singh Bhatia**

**I, Jaskiran Kaur Sandhu, W/O Jagroop Singh Sandhu, R/O 5-A Sant Avenue Mall Road Amritsar Punjab 143001, Have Changed My Name From Jaskiran Kaur To Jaskiran Kaur Sandhu.**

**I, NO.15421836L Hav/Aa Sunil Kushwaha S/O Ravishankar. House No 23 Pooja Shree Colony Cto Road Bairagarh Huzur, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462030 Have Changed My Son's Name From Vansh To Vansh Kushwaha Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb77256145393932w D.16.01.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar**

**I, Gurmeet Kaur Daughter Of Malket Singh R/O H.No. 1370 Gali No. 03 Shri Guru Amardass Colony Near S.D.M School Naraingarh Amritsar Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Gurmeet Kaur Sandhu.**

**I, Onkar Singh Chawla Son Of Palwinder Singh R/O H.No. L-6/2473 Gali No. 2 Krishana Nagar Tarn Taran Road Amritsar Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Onkar Singh.**

**I, Jaspreet Kaur Chawla Wife Of Onkar Singh R/O H.No. L-6/2473 Gali No. 2 Krishana Nagar Tarn Taran Road Amritsar Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Jaspreet Kaur.**

**I, Pooja W/O Inder Kumar Handa R/O 8, Tara Enclave, Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Pooja To Pooja Handa.**

**I, Honey Lalwani w/o Arshdeep Singh Kahlon Vill Qila Desa Singh P.O Man Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name Honey Nirmal Lalwani to Honey Lalwani.**

**I, Virender Kaur W/o (4484686-F) Hav Amrik Singh R/O V.O.P. Chammu Kalan, Tehsil Pehowa, District Kurukshetra have changed my name & D.O.B from Varinder Kaur (03/03/1987) to Virender Kaur (03/03/1986). All concerned note please.**

**I, Munish Kumar Nadra R/o H.No 13, Arman Nagar, Street No. 2, Dhillwan, Jalandhar 144023 declares that my daughter's passport should be made according to my identities.**

**I, Monu S/o Harjit R/O H.No 1060 sadak mohalla, Garha,P.O Garha, Jalandhar 144022 Punjab have changed my name from Monu to Monu Sidhu. Concerned Note**

**I, Army No.14839665K NK/MT. Ashok Tiwari Unit: Unit: 665 Tataru Coy ASC c/o 56 APO resident of Village Tasri, P.O. Mamajpur Distt. Rohtas, Bihar have changed my son's name from Sheeshu Kumar Tiwari to Shishu Kumar Tiwari**

**I, Dharmveer Singh S/o Narinder Pal R/O Rasulpur Saidan, P.O. Patiala, Distt. Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Dharmveer to Dharmveer Singh.**

**I, Arshpreet Kaur Sidhu D/o Gurpreet Singh R/O Village Reeth Kheri, PO. Nandpur Kesho, Distt. Patiala have changed my name to Arshpreet Kaur.**

**I, Rajinder Kumar Raina S/o Janki Nath Raina R/O 2588, Urban Estate, Phase-2, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Rejinder Kumar Raina to Rajinder Kumar Raina.**

**I, Reeta Raina W/o Rajinder Kumar Raina R/O 2588, Urban Estate, Phase-2, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Rita Raina to Reeta Raina.**

**I, Charanjeet Kaur Laharh W/o Gurwinder Singh Laharh R/O Village Sadarpur, P.O. Gajju Majra, Tehsil and District Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Charanjit Kaur to Charanjeet Kaur Laharh.**

**I, Gurwinder Singh Laharh S/o Jagar Singh R/O Village Sadarpur, P.O. Gajju Majra, Tehsil and District Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Gurvinder Singh Lahar to Gurwinder Singh Laharh.**

**I, Roni Pankaj son of Ram Lubhaya Address Street No. 01 Subhash Nagar Phagwara District Kapurthala On some of my documents my father's name is written as Ram Lubhaya and on some of them Ram Lubaya these two names are my father's real name is Ram Lubhaya**

**I, Rameshwar Dass Sharma S/o Ramji Dass Sharma R/o #B-16/289 Samania Gate Roga Mohalla Patiala have changed my name to Ram Ishwar Dass Sharma.**

**I, Mukesh Girdhar S/o Sudesh Kumar Girdhar R/O H.No.26, Dyal Singh Colony, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Mukesh Kumar Girdhar to Mukesh Girdhar. Please note for future.**

**I, Rajni Girdhar W/o Mukesh Girdhar R/O H.No.26, Dyal Singh Colony, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Rajni to Rajni Girdhar. Please note for future.**

**I, Sandeep Kaur W/o Sukhdev Kumar R/O Village Bilron, PO. Rampur Bilron, Tehsil Garhshankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India have changed the name of my minor son from Ankit to Ankit Singh. Concerned Note.**

**I, JC-441633W, SUB. Neelam Nageswara Rao Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt, Resident at Vpo. Somalingapalam, Teh. Yellamanchili, Distt. Visakhapatnam, (AP) 531055 have changed my Daughter Name in all documents From Neelam Bhava Sri to Neelam Bhavya Sri. Vide Affidavit Dated 07 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.**

**I, Selvaraj Selvamani is Father of No. 15328696X, Hav, S Sreekumar of Unit 22 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Residing at 25-5, Mundakala Vilai Thumbacode Ramannam Village Kalkulam Dist. Kanyakumari State Tamil Nadu PIN 629161 Declare That my Name in my Son Army Service record Selvaraj and Date of Birth 01-07-1951 is Wrong but my correct Name is Selvaraj Selvamani and date of Birth is 19-03-1954.**

**I, Rajam Selvaraj is Mother of No. 15328696X, Hav, S Sreekumar of Unit 22 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Residing at 25-5, Mundakala Vilai Thumbacode Ramannam Village Kalkulam Dist. Kanyakumari State Tamil Nadu PIN 629161 Declare That my Name in my Son Army Service record Rajam and Date of Birth 01-07-1958 is Wrong but my correct Name is Rajam Selvaraj and date of Birth is 22-04-1959.**

**I, Army No. JC-313991W, NB/SUB, GR Arasapathi of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Residing at D No 1/32(1) Gollapalli Emakal Natham Salinayanapalli Emakkalnatham Krishnagri State Tamil Nadu Pin-635104 have changed my Son Name in all documents. From A Honneshkanth to Honnesh Kanth A. Vide Affidavit Dated 08 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.**

**I, Kamatchi V. spouse of No. JC-313991W, NB/SUB, GR Arasapathi of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Residing at D No 1/32(1) Gollapalli Emakal Natham Salinayanapalli Emakkalnatham Krishnagri State Tamil Nadu Pin-635104 Declare That my Name V Kamatchi and date of birth 10 May 1987 Wrongly written in my Husband Army Service Records but my correct Name is Kamatchi V and date of birth 10 May 1987.**

**I, Shatrudhan Ojha Father of No.17037744F, CFN, Anuj Kumar Resident Of Village And Post Chhotka Sihanpura, Ps Simari, Distt, Buxar, State Bihar, Pin 802120 have Changed my name From Shatrughan Ojha to Shatrudhan Ojha Vide Affidavit Dated 07 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.**

**I, Army No. 15514642P, ALD, Baraiya Jayantibhai unit of 84 ARMD C/O 56 APO, permanent resident at Vadi Vistar, Hathab, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, 364070 have changed my wife name form Kantariya Ranjanben d/o Hardasbhai to Baraiya Ranjanben Jayantibhai w/o Baraiya Jayantibhai Vide Affidavit Dated 07 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur**

**I, Selvi K is mother of Army No. 16123864N, NK, Sanjeev Kumar C of Unit 05 Engr Regt, resident of D No. 1/4, Melkaradikuri, Krishnagiri, PO: Karadiguri, District Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu-635001 have changed my name from Selvi K to Selvi Chenrayan Vide Affidavit Dated 07 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.**

**I, No. 3003239W, Hav, Ram Siya Sharma Resident of Village Hulapura PO. Pratappura Tehsil Ater District. Bhind (MP) PIN.477111 have changed my minor Daughter name from Swati to Swati Sharma Vide Affidavit Dated 10 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.**

**I, Chhinder Pal Singh Son of, No. 1549359K NK/T Sukhdev Singh Unit Bombay Engineer. Kirkee, Pune Resident at Lakho ke Behiram Mamdot Uttar, Firozpur Punjab PIN 152023 have change my Name all documents from Shinder Pal Singh To Chhinder Pal Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 07 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.**

**I, Sukhdev Singh Sandhu S/o Buta Singh R/O H.No.101-B, New Shashtri Nagar, Near Raja Garden, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Sukhdev Singh Sandhu to Sukhdev Singh.**

**I, hitherto known as Kamaljit S/o Mohan Lal R/O Taran Enclave, Near Diamond City, Dhillwan, Po. Dakoha, Distt.Jalandhar, Punjab-144023, have changed my name as Kamaljit Singh Madhas.**

**I, Sreemathi T is mother of SC-00724X Maj Sudeesh T, serving in 52 Engr C/o 56 APO have change my name from Sreemathi T to Pennukutty.**

**I, Sharanjeet Kaur D/o Harjinder Singh R/O Vill. Kurali, Po. Lambra, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed the spelling of my name from Sharanjeet Kaur to Sharanjit Kaur.**

**I, Savita Devi W/o Raju R/o Road No. 3, Village Alipur, District Jalandhar, Punjab declare that I am holder of policy no. 17262362 that I have changed my and my husband names from Suneeta Devi to Savita Devi and Raju to Shatrudhna Mandal.**

**I, Poonam W/o Madhu Sudan Arora R/O H.No.282, Greater Kailash, Jalandhar have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Arora.**

**I, Madhu Sudan S/o Mohan Lal R/O H.No.282, Greater Kailash, Jalandhar have changed my name from Madhu Sudan to Madhu Sudan Arora.**

**I, Siddhu Surinder Kaur Sukhbir Singh w/o Atul Chitra r/o 47, Raja Garden, Golden Block, Basti Peer Daad Khan, Near Kapurthala Road, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab, have changed my name to Sohni Chitra.**

**I, Tanvi Sharma W/o Nitin Arora R/O H.No.-3-A, Gobind Nagar, Basti Guzan, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Tanvi Sharma to Tanvi, After Marriage.**

**I, Harpreet Singh S/O Harjit Singh R/O Gali Harjit Singh Jalawal Amandeep Avenue Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran have changed my given name to Harpreet and surname to Singh.**

**I, Bandna W/O No 4488527F Rank NK Ranjeet Singh VPO Chhangla Tehsil Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name Bandna To Bandna Devi.**

**I, Payal Dogra W/o No. 14671041F Rank Naik Sandeep Kumar R/O Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Payal Sharma.**

**I, Balwinder Singh S/o Kartar Singh, R/o Village Rupra patti, Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana, have changed the name of my minor daughter Parneet Kaur to Parneet Kaur Kehal.**

**I, Nitish Kumar Sharma s/o Surinder Kumar R/O. 3127/9, Nebba Chowk, Raikot, Distt ludhiana have changed my name to Nitish Kumar.**

**I, Davinder Kumar S/o Tarsem Kumar R/O Vpo. Hari Ke Kalan (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name to Davinder Singh.**

**I, Jaspinder Singh S/O Bhupinder Singh R/O Village Dalam P/O Bhala Pind Tehsil Ajnala Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Jaspinder As Given Name And Singh As Surname. Concerned Note.**

**I, No.2685489H Ex-Hav Ashok Kumar S/O Ram Singh R/O Village Bhambowal P.O. Garhdiwala Tehsil And Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Declare That My Mother Name Is Entered Wrongly In My Discharge Book. Correct Name Of My Mother Is Chanchal Devi.**

**I, No.2685489H Ex-Hav Ashok Kumar S/O Sh. Ram Singh R/O Village Bhambowal P.O. Garhdiwala Tehsil And Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Wife's Name From Anita Devi Manhas To Anita Devi.**

**I, No.2685489H Ex-Hav Ashok Kumar S/O Ram Singh R/O Village Bhambowal P.O. Garhdiwala Tehsil And Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Son's Name From Pradeep Kumar To Pardeep Kumar.**

**I, Ajay Kumar S/O Ram Sarup Malhotra R/O H.No.187, Moh. Shekhan, Chatti Gali, Near Bhai Joga Singh Gurudwara, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Ajay Kumar To Ajay Malhotra.**

**I, Kuldeep Kaur Virk W/O Gurjeet Singh Virk R/O Vill. Daultapura Ucha Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Kaur.**

**I, Sumanpreet Kaur W/O Mandeep Singh Khangura R/O Vpo. Bhundri Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sumanpreet Kaur Khangura.**

**I, Kulwinder Kaur Dhaliwal W/O Harpinder Singh R/O Vpo. Malliana Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Kaur.**

**I, Harpinder Singh Dhalival S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Vpo. Malliana Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Harpinder Singh.**

**I, Harpinder Singh S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Vpo. Malliana Distt. Moga Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Siratpreet Kaur Dhaliwal To Siratpreet Kaur.**

**I, Sukhchain Singh Bath S/O Baljit Singh R/O Vpo. Khosa Pando Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Sukhchain Singh.**

**I, Harpreet Kaur Bath W/O Sukhchain Singh R/O Vpo. Khosa Pando Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Harpreet Kaur.**

**I, Jagdev Singh S/O Mukhtiar Singh R/O Kokri Buttran P.O. Kokri Wehniwal Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jagdev Singh Buttar.**

**I, Major Singh Toor And Mejor Singh S/O Pooran Singh R/O Vpo. Bhinder Khurd Distt. Moga Am Known By Above Both Names.**

**I, Amandeep Kaur Sandhu W/O Beant Singh R/O Gulam Wala (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Name To Amandeep Kaur.**

**I, Pargat Singh S/O Karnail Singh R/O Vpo. Hathur Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Pargat Singh Gill.**

**I, Manjit Kaur Sidhu W/O Bhagwant Singh R/O Vpo. Toosa Tehsil Raikot Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Manjit Kaur After Marriage.**

**I, Harpreet Singh S/O Harjit Singh R/O Gali Harjit Singh Jalawal Amandeep Avenue Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran have changed my given name to Harpreet and surname to Singh.**

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**I, Balwinder Singh S/o Kartar Singh, R/o Village Rupra patti, Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana, have changed the name of my minor daughter Parneet Kaur to Parneet Kaur Kehal.**

**I, Nitish Kumar Sharma s/o Surinder Kumar R/O. 3127/9, Nebba Chowk, Raikot, Distt ludhiana have changed my name to Nitish Kumar.**

**I, Davinder Kumar S/o Tarsem Kumar R/O Vpo. Hari Ke Kalan (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name to Davinder Singh.**

**I, Anitu W/o Kulbhushan Rai R/o Dod Mohalla, Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name to Anitu Garg.**

**I, Sukhnoor Kaur Saagu D/o Sukhdev Singh R/o Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Sukhnoor Kaur.**

**I, Shubhkarma Deep Singh S/o Davinder Singh, Sekho Patee Vill: Pipaltha Distt Jind, 126116 Haryana have changed my name Shubb Karman Deep Singh to Shubhkarma Deep Singh.**

**I, Parmjit Kaur W/O Dilbag Singh Vpo Naushera Pattan Teh-Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur Have Change My Name From Parmjit Kaur To Parmjit Kaur.**

**I, Fateh Deep Singh S/o Pira Singh R/O H.No. 72 Randhawa Colony Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Fatehdip Singh to Fateh Deep Singh.**

**I, Ritu Rishi W/O Manoj Kumar R/O Peron Patti, Sanghera, Barnala 148101 Have Changed My Name Ritu.**

**I, Balwinder Singh Varich S/O Jarnail Singh R/O Vill. Chung Tehsil Tapa (Barnala) Have Changed My Name Balwinder Singh.**

**I, Kirandeep Kaur Kaler D/O Pargat Singh Vill Thuliwal (Barnala) Have Changed My Name After Marriage To Kirandeep Kaur Widow Rajdeep Singh Vpo Sehna, District Barnala.**

**I, Sudesh Kumari W/o Jatinder Singh Arora R/O Farid Nagar, Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name to Sudesh Arora.**

**I, Nanak Singh Bhagwania S/o Sukhdev Singh R/o Akhara (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Nanak Singh.**

**I, Manpreet Kaur W/o Amritpal Singh Brar R/O Vill: Acharwal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur Brar.**

**I, Tejinder Singh S/o Balbir Singh R/O Bath road Green Avenue, Tarn Taran-143401, have changed my name from Tajinder Singh to Tejinder Singh.**

**I, Guljar Singh S/o Nazar Singh R/O VPO Sangatpura, VIA Naushehra Pannuan, Tehsil & Distt: Tarn Taran have changed my name to Gulzar Singh.**

**I, Gurbhej Singh S/O Mohan Singh VPO Kandiala PO : Sarhail Mandan Dist: Tarn Taran Punjab. I Have Changed My Name Gurbhej Singh To Gurbje Singh.**

**I, Sweety W/o Saravpreet Singh Chohan R/o #494 Phase-2 (SAS Nagar, Mohali) Pb, have changed my name from Sweety to Sweetie Chohan.**

**I, Sania Goyal Alias Sania Garg W/o Sumit Garg R/o Kotkapura (Faridkot) is known by two names as above.**

**I, Rupinder Kaur Sandhu W/o Gurjant Singh R/O Vill: Kattianwali Teh-Malout (Sri Muktsar Sahib) has changed my name to Rupinder Kaur.**

**I, Satpal Singh S/o Ajmer Singh R/O Vill: Alfooke Teh-Gurharsahai (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Satpal Singh Sandhu.**

**I, Satbeer Kaur W/o Satpal Singh Sandhu R/O Vill: Alfooke Teh-Gurharsahai (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Satbeer Kaur Sandhu.**

**I, Kamlaish Rani W/o Lal Dev R/o W.No. 09 Dashmesh Nagar Vpo. Tanda Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Kamlesh Rani.**

**I, Ram Kishan S/O Khushi Ram R/o W.No. 09 Balmik Mohalla Tanda Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Pb, also known as Surinder Kaur, These both names are mine, one and the same person.**

**I, Kamaljit Singh S/o Pritam Singh R/O Amloh Road, Village Galwadi, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Kamaljit Singh Gill.**

**I, Sarbjeet Kaur W/o Kamaljit Singh Gill R/O Village Galwadi, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sarbjeet Kaur Gill.**

**I, Baldeep Singh Mangat S/o Sikander Singh R/O VPO Begowal, Tehsil Payal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Baldeep Singh.**

**I, Sampie Khanna W/o Gaurav Puri R/o #126, Sun City Colony, Near A.S. Women College, Amloh Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name after marriage as Sampie Puri.**

**I, Avtar Singh S/O Nirmal Singh R/O Plot No. 87, Sultanwind Pind, Daburji Road, Star Nagar, Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Avtar Singh Pannu.**

**I, Narinder Kumar S/O Mathra Dass R/O House No 316 Street No 01 Bathinda Road Baba Farid Colony Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Narinder Kumar Khurana.**

**I, Navdeep Singh Son Of Sardara Singh R/O Vpo Rupana Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Navdip Singh Brar.**

**I, Davinder Kumar S/o Tarsem Kumar R/O Vpo. Hari Ke Kalan (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name to Davinder Singh.**

**I, Ajay Kumar S/o Naresh Kumar R/O St.No. 5 (Left) Hira Singh Nagar Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Ajay Grover.**

**I, Naresh Kumar S/o Ram Dhan R/O B-1/3766 Devi Wala Road Near Khiva Service Station Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Naresh Grover.**

**I, Jaswinder Kaur @ Kulwinder Kaur W/o Gursewak Singh R/O Vpo. Ghanie Wala (Faridkot) declare that I am known by above both names, both names are mine.**

**I, Aman Deep Singh S/o Dalbir Singh R/O Ward no.5, Khamanon (Fatehgarh Sahib) changed my name to Amandeep Singh.**

**I, Hardeep Kumar S/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Rajprura Sarna, Teh/Distt- Pathankot. Have Changed My Name Hardeep Kumar To Kumar Hardeep.**

**I, Harjeet Singh S/O Kuljit Singh R/O Village Salahpur Dist, Po- Chak Sharif, Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur, Pin-143528, Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name From Harjeet Singh To Harjit Singh.**

**I, Gurwinder Kaur W/O Lakhbeer Singh R/O Village Choure, Po- Udhanwal, Pin Code-143505, Tehsil- Batala, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab. Declare That My Son No.15348512P, Hav Gurpreet Singh In Army Service Record My Name Gurwinder Kaur Is Wrong. But My Name Gurwinder Kaur Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB17035243065067W Dated 07-05-2024 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab, India.**

**I, Balwinder Kaur Wife Of Darshan Singh Residing At Village Qila Nathu Singh, Po. Bhikharival, District Gurdaspur, Punjab-143520, Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Balwinder Kaur To Manjit Kaur. All Nears And Dears May Note.**

**I, No.15469409W Ex CFN Subhash Chander resident of Village Siali Kullian, PO, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed the name of my son from Malkinder Singh to Malkinder Singh Sanga vide Affidavit No. IN-PB13072214575331W Dated 07-05-2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).**

**I, Suresh Devi Mother of No.4202670H /LNK Manoj resident of Village- Bhiwani, Post- Bhiwani, Tehsil- Bhiwani, District- Bhiwani, State- Haryana, Pin-172021, have changed my name from Suresh Devi to Suresh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12078279203150W dated 03 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, No.14664870M NK Bebul SK resident of Village- Khalipur, Post- Bamundi, Tehsil- Katwa, District- Purba Bardhaman, State- West Bengal, Pin- 713129, have changed my Son name from Pravez Ahmed Saikh to Parvez Ahmed Sheikh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12076481893692W dated 03 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, Rajveer Singh Solanki Father of Sandeep Solanki resident of Village- Bhagwanpur, Post- Jhajhar, Tehsil- Khurja, District- Bulandshahr, State- Maharashtra, Pin-203203, have changed my name from Rajveer Singh Solanki to Rajbir Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12743365349379W dated 06 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, Rani spouse of No.15417990M Hav Rajeev Kumar resident of Village- Ramdauli Ganj, Post- Bidupur Bazar, District- Vaishali, State- Bihar, Pin-844503, have changed my name from Rani to Rani Kumari Vide affidavit No.IN-PB11702242216853W dated 02 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, Shakuntla Devi Mother of Sandeep Solanki resident of Village- Bhagwanpur, Post- Jhajhar, Tehsil- Khurja, District- Bulandshahr, State- Maharashtra, Pin-203203, have changed my name from Shakuntla Devi to Shakuntla Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12744437814722W dated 06 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, Usha spouse of No.15719200K NK Dara Singh resident of Village- Raghunathpura, Post- Raghunathpura, Tehsil- Udaipurwati, District- Jhunjhunu, State- Rajasthan, Pin-333022, have changed my name from Usha to Usha Kumari Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12737466898299W dated 06 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, Priyanka spouse of No.2811931X /LNK Sirsat Dhanraj Ramakant resident of Village- Telghana, Post- Gadhnanur, Tehsil- Ambajogai, District- Beed, State- Maharashtra, Pin-431519, have changed my name from Priyanka to Priyanka Dhanraj Sirsat Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12746844517797W dated 06 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, S Jikuben Mother of No.14689615L NK Sangadiya Rajubhai Punabhai resident of Village- Chiroda, Post- Gadhada SN, Tehsil- Gadhada SN, District- Botad, State- Gujarat, Pin-364750, have changed my name from S Jikuben to Sangadiya Jikuben Punabhai and date of birth from 02 March 1966 to 01 Jan 1963 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12745771260778W dated 06 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**

**I, Army No.18000989W Rank NK Randhir Singh R/O 424 (I) ENGR Sqn C/o 56 APO declare that I in my service record my Son name wrongly written as Adhitya Singh my correct name is Aditya Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB12272911665185W dated 04 May 2024 before notary public Pathankot**





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## The die is cast

The pivotal third phase of the elections concluded with a low turnout, featuring prominent contenders

Yesterday, Prime Minister Modi exercised his voting right. He was vocal about India's exemplary democratic process on the global stage. Indeed, the complexity of Indian elections, given the vastness of the nation and its electorate, makes their execution a challenging feat. As the 2024 Lok Sabha election reaches midway, India's political arena brims with fervour, anticipation, and meticulous scrutiny. The third phase of voting holds particular significance, especially for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with voting taking place in Gujarat, the home turf of Prime Minister Modi, and Amit Shah, the Home Minister. The presence of both leaders casting their votes amplifies the importance of this phase, shaping the election's narrative thus far. The third phase encompassed 11 States and Union territories, witnessing 93 constituencies participating in the electoral process. Notably, the BJP secured victory in the Surat constituency in Gujarat uncontested. With voting in 283 Lok Sabha seats (52 per cent of total Lok Sabha seats) complete, the election is less than a month away from its logical conclusion. After four more phases, the results would be out on June 4. What set the third phase apart was the presence of several constituencies where notable figures were contesting. This phase hosted several prominent candidates, including Amit Shah (BJP) from Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Digvijaya Singh (Congress) from Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh; Shivraj Singh Chouhan (BJP) from Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh; Dimple Yadav (Samajwadi Party) from Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh; Supriya Sule (NCP - Sharad Pawar) from Baramati, Maharashtra; Jyotiraditya Scindia (BJP) from Guna, Madhya Pradesh; Pralhad Joshi (BJP) from Dharwad, Karnataka; and KS Eshwarappa (BJP) from Shimoga, Karnataka, among others.

The Election Commission reported a turnout of 66.14 per cent and 66.71 per cent for the first and second phases, respectively. The third phase was no different in terms of voter turnout. With the completion of the third phase, the fate of 283 Lok Sabha seats has been sealed, marking the election's midpoint with 52% of seats voted upon. The persistently low turnout across all phases raises concerns for both democracy and political parties, each grappling with the challenge of ensuring voter participation. For the BJP, the third phase holds immense significance. As a party entrenched in power since 2014, it faces the daunting task of not only maintaining its stronghold but also expanding its influence across diverse regions of the nation. As the Lok Sabha election unfolds, discernible trends and dynamics offer insights into the nation's pulse. Despite facing formidable challenges, the BJP leverages its organisational strength, robust campaign machinery, and Modi's charismatic leadership to maintain its competitive edge. However, navigating through economic concerns, social tensions, and regional disparities presents formidable obstacles. The outcome of this phase serves as a litmus test for the BJP's policies and leadership shaping the trajectory of Indian politics.

**PICTALK**



Women show their ink-marked finger after casting votes for the 3rd phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Bareilly

## Evolution of monetary policymaking in India

With the changing nature of inflation and macroeconomic turbulence, remaining committed to inflation-targeting seems daunting

The history of monetary policymaking in India dates back to the pre-independence era, but it gained significant momentum and structure post-independence. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established in 1935, as a private shareholders' bank and was nationalized in 1949, giving the Government greater control over monetary policy and credit system. With the establishment of the Planning Commission in 1951, emphasis was laid on the direct and active role of Central banking. A breakthrough year was 1969 when 14 private sector banks were nationalized. It led to transforming monetary policy into 'credit planning' and taking up a 'command approach' (Khatkhate, 1990). Soon the economy suffered due to the two oil price shocks (1973-75 and 1979-81) leading to critical economic crises, which led to large-scale monetary expansion in the form of Government debt to support fiscal policy. It badly hit the inflation situation when it reached 23% in 1974-75. The condition worsened and



became dismal when India had to borrow largely from the IMF and also faced a critical BOP situation. Hence, the revision of the monetary policy framework was the way ahead. This was done by appointment of a committee (which came to be known as the Chakravarty Committee (1985) chaired by Sukhmoy Chakravarty) to review the functioning of the monetary system by the then Governor of RBI, Dr Manmohan Singh. The RBI Governor, C Rangarajan, introduced the Multiple Indicator Approach (MIA) in 1998, incorporating various macroeconomic factors like interest rates, inflation, exchange rates, output growth, employment, foreign trade, capital flows,

banking stability, among others, into the monetary policy framework, moving away from the unreliable M3 target due to economic liberalisation's unpredictability. This provided monetary authorities the flexibility to cater to a broad forum of economic disruptions. The economy was coordinating well with the MIA till the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 dawned, and a high-order expansionary fiscal and monetary policy was floated to capture the receding economic growth. This jeopardised inflation management by the RBI with the inflation gliding into double digits in 2009-10. The RBI became hawkish and between March 2010 and October 2011, the repo rate was increased by 325 basis points. It started preparing for inflation as the primary goal of monetary policy. Finally, in May 2016, the RBI formally adopted inflation-targeting (IT), the target being a 4 per cent inflation rate, with a relaxation of 2 per cent on both sides, to handle unforeseen macro-economic disruptions. Taming inflation helps

counter investor uncertainty and business sentiments, anchors inflationary expectations, unfavourable exchange rates and balance of payments, besides supporting receding purchasing power. The IT did not get a fair chance to prove itself due to economic disturbances like Demonetisation and the Pandemic, and the current geo-political unrest has led to supply-side inflationary pressures that are difficult to control with IT, which is more efficient against demand-side inflation. With the changing nature of inflation from demand to the supply side, macroeconomic turbulence, and burgeoning uncertainties, remaining committed to IT seems daunting. The RBI needs to frame a comprehensive policy to make determined efforts to address and supplement IT with prudent actions to counter supply-side disruptions especially, affecting food prices.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi; views are personal)



KAJLEEN KAUR

# Global South's cultural diplomacy

Cannes transcends its role as a mere film festival; it serves as a beacon of cultural exchange, artistic exploration, and industry innovation



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

As we inch closer to the second week of May, excitement for the forthcoming 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival is reaching a crescendo. The Cannes Film Festival, since its inception, has been hailed as the platform celebrating the joy and creativity of cinema, the high point of confluence of cultures, and talents, and an assembly of masters of storytelling. In recent years, its stage has increasingly spotlighted the cinematic voices of the Global South, a trend underscored by the burgeoning presence of films from Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Building on last year's diverse selection from Japan, China, and South Korea, Cannes in its 77th edition, from 14th to 25th May 2024, reaffirms its commitment to amplifying varied narratives and perspectives. This year's edition promises to continue this trajectory, featuring standout entries like "All We Imagine As Light" by Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia, "Boku No Ohisama (My Sunshine)" by the acclaimed Japanese filmmaker Hiroshi Okuyama, "Viet Nam" by Vietnamese filmmaker Truong Minh Quy, and "The Village Next to Paradise" by Somalian filmmaker Mo Harawe. These selections highlight the new creative talent spots for cinema.

With the evolving world, there is a deeper significance highlighted by the recognition of cinema as a potent tool of soft power by countries in the Global South. Across the continents of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, nations have increasingly acknowledged the power of storytelling through cinema as a means to amplify their cultural influence and enhance their global standing. Over the past two years Cannes Film Festival has seen a dynamic shift in programming, from a European narrative to a more perceptive Southern inclusion and interconnection. In the borderless world that we live in today, the prominence of the Global South as a group has risen despite being dominated by multipolarity. Enhanced communication and the growing effects of globalisation have blurred geographical



boundaries, ushering in a new era where technology plays a pivotal role in shaping interactions. This transition has reverberated across various realms, including the cinematic sphere, where soft power finds expression on prestigious platforms. Cannes truly give the Global South a platform for creativity on the silver screen. Nomination and participation in prestigious festivals like Cannes are not merely accolades but recognition of the importance of soft power in the creative ecosystem. By showcasing their cinematic prowess and an amalgamation of their creative skills on a global stage, countries in the Global South seek to assert their cultural identity, foster cross-cultural dialogue, and bolster diplomatic ties. In an era where cultural diplomacy holds increasing sway, the Cannes Film Festival serves as a creative platform for nations to assert their soft power through the medium of cinema. Through their cinematic endeavours, these filmmakers become cultural ambassadors, bridging divides and fostering mutual understanding between nations. At the helm of the 77th Cannes Film Festival jury stands Greta Gerwig, both an accomplished actor and a filmmaker. Gerwig's appointment signals a broader effort towards gen-



**BY SHOWCASING THEIR CINEMATIC PROWESS AND AN AMALGAMATION OF THEIR CREATIVE SKILLS ON A GLOBAL STAGE, COUNTRIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH SEEK TO ASSERT THEIR CULTURAL IDENTITY, FOSTER CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE, AND BOLSTER DIPLOMATIC TIES**

der representation at Cannes, a realm historically dominated by male voices. Symbolising a step towards inclusivity and recognition of the invaluable contributions of women in shaping cinematic discourse. As the jury list for this year awaits announcement, anticipation brews for a lineup that mirrors the festival's commitment to diversity, echoing last year's eclectic mix of talents from Argentina, Afghanistan, Morocco, Zambia, and beyond. Amidst the glitz and glamour, the Marché du Film emerges as a vital nexus for industry professionals, offering a platform for networking, deal-making, and creative exchange. With its finger firmly on the pulse of evolving industry dynamics, the Marché du Film embraces innovation and adaptation. Recognising the need to cater to the ever-changing landscape of filmmaking, it champions emerging trends, technologies, and voices, fostering a conducive environment for the flourishing growth of the global film industry. As over 14,000 industry professionals converge in Cannes annually to present and explore nearly 4,000 films and projects, the Marché du Film serves as a catalyst, urging professionals to elevate their business acumen and seize new opportunities.

Indeed, Cannes itself is a reflection of society's evolution, a microcosm of shifting cultural paradigms and technological advancements. Embracing the ethos of change, the Festival de Cannes introduces innovative elements to its programming, staying at the vanguard of storytelling in the digital age. One of the nominations for this year's Immersive Competition includes 'Maya: The Birth of a Superhero', an XR experience created by Poulomi Basu, an Indian artist and CJ Clarke. The announcement of eight projects as part of the Immersive Competition heralds a bold foray into uncharted territory, encompassing location-based virtual reality, mixed reality experiences, projection mapping, and holographic works. Amid these shifts, India shines bright with the participation of Payal Kapadia, Sandhya Suri's "Santosh", FTII's "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" and the screening of Shyam Benegal's "Manthan". As the global cinematic landscape continues to evolve, Cannes remains steadfast in its mission to celebrate the myriad voices that enrich the tapestry of world cinema.

(The writer is former additional director general, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; Views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JP AGGARWAL'S COMMITMENT

Madam — Apropos the news article, "I have not lost touch with Chandni Chowk people: Aggarwal," published on May 6, this is my response. In a political landscape rife with rhetoric and rivalry, Jai Prakash Aggarwal emerges as a steadfast figure, deeply rooted in Chandni Chowk's tapestry. Despite electoral setbacks, his commitment to constituents remains resolute. Aggarwal's recent critique of Prime Minister Modi's language underscores a concern for decorum in public discourse, a sentiment often lost in the cacophony of contemporary politics. His indictment of the BJP's alleged misuse of investigative agencies reflects a broader apprehension about democratic norms and the rule of law. Beyond partisan skirmishes, Aggarwal's focus on local issues—traders' welfare, infrastructure, and healthcare—reveals a genuine concern for Chandni Chowk's residents. His vision for the area, encompassing tourism, urban renewal, and social welfare, speaks to a holistic approach to governance. Amidst shifting political alliances, Aggarwal's unwavering commitment to his constituency stands out as a beacon of stability. As he embarks on his eighth electoral campaign, his pledge to serve remains unyielding, a testament to the enduring spirit of public service.

Zoya Chatterjee | Chandigarh

### Make mistakes to learn something new



Apropos the news article, "Oops, I Dropped The Lemon Tart," published on April 28, this is my response. Gyaneshwar Dayal's piece in The Pioneer paints a vivid canvas of Chef Massimo Bottura's recent culinary odyssey in New Delhi. Bottura, not merely a chef but a maestro of gastronomy and a beacon of philanthropy, brought the essence of Osteria Francescana to India's capital once more. His partnership with The

Leela Palace New Delhi illuminated the culinary scene, offering an unforgettable experience steeped in innovation and sustainability. The narrative delves into Bottura's culinary philosophy, highlighting his penchant for turning mistakes into masterpieces, epitomised by the iconic "Oops! I Dropped the Lemon Tart." His interactive session at The Leela, where he shared the genesis of this dish, revealed profound insights into creativity and embracing imperfection. Through his culinary prowess and philanthropic endeavours, Bottura transcends the role of a chef, becoming a global inspiration. His anticipation for a simple breakfast with underprivileged children reflects his humility and dedication to making a difference beyond the kitchen. In essence, Bottura's visit not only tantalised taste buds but also stirred hearts, leaving an indelible mark on India's culinary landscape.

Neha Gupta | Delhi

Revolution, persistent challenges like hunger and malnutrition endure, revealing systemic failures in addressing agricultural productivity. The poignant juxtaposition of floods ravaging the North while droughts parch the South underscores the urgent need for holistic solutions, like river interlinking. However, bureaucratic inertia and political apathy have impeded meaningful progress. Amidst this backdrop, the Northeast emerges as a beacon of transformation, propelled by visionary leadership and concerted efforts to integrate the region into the national fabric. The narrative of Modi's North East Story encapsulates this metamorphosis, beckoning readers to witness the evolution firsthand and embrace the region's vibrant culture and potential.

Amaira Singhania | Bengaluru

work has been a mixed bag, with some relishing newfound flexibility while others struggle to delineate between work and home life. Blurred boundaries breed conflicts, taxing individuals' energy and focus. Boundary theory sheds light on these dynamics, emphasising the impact of role transitions on work-home conflicts. Employers must support employees, but self-leadership is equally vital. As remote work becomes ubiquitous, individuals must proactively manage their roles. Yet, challenges persist, from lacking managerial support to battling distractions. Self-leadership emerges as a beacon amid these complexities. Its principles empower individuals to adapt, innovate, and thrive in remote environments. As remote work becomes the norm, mastering self-leadership will be indispensable for professional success and personal well-being alike.

Reyansh Joshi | Mumbai

### WORK FROM HOME CHALLENGES

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Mastering self-leadership during work from home," published on May 6, this is my response. The transition to remote

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN OVERCOMING BONDAGE OF THINKING

God's grace frees us from anguish,  
guides us on the right path



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

This is a cruel fact. We are hopelessly tied down by our thinking, especially negative. What do you see on roads? Older folks are engrossed in thoughts. What happened? They realized that they were not so great after all. But the obstinate ego would not allow them to seek help where it is available. If a solution to a problem is to be found, it must be; this is their thinking. Sure, but how long would you meditate on it? There should be a time limit. No, that is why obsession is a very common problem.

Other ages are no better. The younger ones are guilty of lusty thoughts. With the advent of cell phones and the internet, age is no longer a bar. What a shame when one is supposed to be in the 'brahmacharya' (celibacy) stage. As one gets older, thoughts of earning the maximum amount of money capture the imagination. There is nothing wrong with it except our expectations should be based on reality. Otherwise, there will be a lot of pain. What is common to all ages is fear of different kinds. This is a real problem, which causes all kinds of mental diseases. This particular problem requires help at the highest level, that is from God, but will we turn to Him? Also common to all ages are hate, anger, enmity, etc. There is hardly any chance of relief when we think that we are the centre of the universe, even though there are eight billion of us. If that were true, there would be eight billion centres of the universe. See, how silly such thinking is. This is what is the basis of our thought process. The frog mentality of thinking one's limited knowledge is everything leads many to dismiss spiritual practices as simplistic, when in fact they are meant to be easily accessible to all.



Let us get to the bottom of this all-pervasive problem. What is this mind? It is a faculty given to us for thinking, willing and feeling. It is subtle, i.e. far more strong than the gross body. The mind affects the body, as we all have experienced. When we are disturbed, our bodies get affected; their working is disturbed. Why has God given us a faculty, which can hurt us so much? He had to do to give us free will, which can bring bliss, as indicated by Lord Krishna, 'A person, having consciousness, unattached to external sense objects, enjoys that happiness within, which is extraordinary. He who, with consciousness united to Brahman, finds eternal joy. God's kindness lies in our return to Him, part of the Cosmic Design, where independence is limited, and control rests with God. So we must turn to God to control our uncontrolled and negative thinking. Lord Krishna States, "Undoubtedly the mind is very difficult to control due to its fickle nature, but it can be brought under control by practice and by detachment from inappropriate sense objects." (6.35) This practice has to be with help from God. Otherwise, there will be partial success only. As we age, our focus shifts towards God, as our physical pleasures diminish, highlighting the purpose of the "Ashram" system for spiritual growth in later years. Therefore, God has made provisions for unlimited mental enjoyment. But we have to seek shelter from God for that. We should not be turning to drinks, etc. for compensation to get over our woes, because they send us deeper into more suffering. Fear is a defence mechanism but only in the limited sense. It should alert us to take curative action. But if it overtakes our thinking, fear becomes a serious problem, as all mental diseases point to.

The conclusion is: that we must turn to God with determination sooner than later. Then God will not only free us from the bondage of painful thinking but will also help us in all matters with His guidance and help. This is the way the System has been designed.

*(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)*

# Elected leaders need to rethink

It is time that elected representatives live up to the expectations of their electors as responsible, honest and devoted community leaders



JS RAJPUT



These are election times and each one of us is a part of the process. These are also times of model code of conduct in the shape of guidelines for political parties and candidates. There are restrictions imposed by the election commission on the maximum expenditure a candidate could incur. Everyone knows what happens to it! In general, people are no more worried about spiralling high expenses that the spread of elections imposes on the candidate and State exchequer.

The spread of elections leads to avoidable wastage of manpower and other resources required to conduct and complete the process. The worst sufferers are the schoolchildren, as teachers are the most easily available manpower for elections at every stage! Once elected, no one is willing to pave the way for the generation next! Election times also reveal the behavioural decline amongst those who had tasted the fruits of power earlier but were dethroned by the people.

Their frustrations even bring forth utterances that may be blatantly unsocial, personal and not acceptable in a civil society. The elders have created conditions that demand innovative action by the young 'millennials' who must realize how their elders have decimated the basic principles of democracy by taking recourse to caste combinations, igniting regional and linguistic sentiments, and creating communal antagonism at the cost of deteriorating social cohesion! Independent India began its new journey at around 18% of literacy, today its boosts to nearly 80% of it despite the population increase of over 100 crores. We are a learning society. Our international standing is at its best after independence. One wonders why the language used by politicians against each other should become so coarse and uncivil. It could put to shame any decent educated person.

Respect for the learned, committed and experienced is one of the most liked of the treasures of our heritage which unfortunately stands torn to tatters. India shall never be in a position to ignore the



ARTICULATING THE NORMAL EXPECTATIONS FROM THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE, APJ ABDUL KALAM WAS GIVING VOICE TO EVERY SANE INDIAN: "IT HAS BECOME CRUCIAL FOR US TO BE CLEAR ABOUT WHAT WE CAN RIGHTLY EXPECT FROM OUR LEADERS, FROM PANCHAYAT MEMBERS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT"

presence of great luminaries of contemporary times like Gandhi, Patel, Subhash Bose, Nehru, Rajendra Prasad and others. How could anyone who wishes to understand India do so without getting familiar with Swami Vivekananda, Ramkrishna Paramhans, Tagore or Sri Aurobindo? Hope lies only in those who were in schools a couple of years ago, and were mesmerized by a saint-scientist; the indomitable APJ Abdul Kalam. I had personally witnessed on numerous occasions how children of India fell in love with him. It was not because of his position or the Pokhran II, it was because of the love his persona emanated for every child, every Indian! India stands blessed with numerous such luminaries who could make a change in the area around their place. One wishes political aspirants learn from APJ, and other luminaries how to deal with people! APJ Abdul Kalam was one of the most admired and loved celebrities during the millennial transition to the 21st century. He was a professional leader who led by example, through heart-to-heart connections with one and all. His dedication and devotion to the national cause were of the highest order. He inspired, he motivated and he achieved his target with gusto.

He could win over every Indian irrespective of their socio-economic station in life, his profession or his ideological leanings. APJ endeared himself particularly to the children of India in whom he could see the emerging India, the future India! He ignited the curiosity and creativity of millions of children. He gave them 'wings of fire'. He entered the Rashtarpati Bhavan with two bags and left with the same after five years. India needs people with such

personalities right from the panchayat level to the Parliament with whom every individual could feel connected, who may be acknowledged as 'approachable'. All this, and much more; reverberates in one's mind as various inputs concerning the general elections float before everyone. Each one of us who has voted over a dozen times in general elections would love to talk about the drastic change that has occurred in the quality of leadership on a larger scale, the deterioration in mutual respect and regard amongst those in public life, in power or opposition.

We are witness to the usage of a language for the opponents that would have shamed everyone some five decades ago. Today, no one seems to be worried about it. The only encouraging sign is that all this is being noted by the voters, and they are despising it. In the long run, one could say with confidence that it would not work in favour of the truants. Sadly enough, the defects of elections about whom Gandhi had written as early as 1922, have reached every stage of elections, including even those of panchayat Raj bodies.

One must not give up hope. And there is always hope for the better after having reached the bottom. Articulating the normal expectations from the elected representatives, APJ Abdul Kalam was giving voice to every sane Indian: "It has become crucial for us to be clear about what we can rightly expect from our leaders, from panchayat members to local councillors of a municipal corporation to members of parliament." In other words, there has to be ownership. Whether it is the panchayat member, development officer, councillor, MLA MP or minister, they have to at least try to be

the best of their ability to do what they are elected to do. We need a Parliament with a vision, one that has the larger picture in mind and can rise above petty party politics.

How would such a parliament perform? What are how it can play a far more constructive role than it has in the last Lok Sabha? I would also expect that the Hon'ble members of the next Lok Sabha shall firmly and sincerely resolve not to present before the nation any spectacles that disturb the functioning of the August House, and present a poor example before the young of India. What was happening till now, was a matter of serious concern for the last couple of decades. It was precisely articulated with great concern by the veteran politician C. Subramaniam: "The indiscipline that marks the proceedings of parliament and legislatures is a matter of great concern. Not only pandemonium is created obstructing the proceedings of the legislatures but also acts of violence among the members inside the legislatures are becoming common and an almost everyday occurrence. Nobody is prepared to observe the rules of the game. Then how can we expect the masses of the people to observe discipline and respect the laws and regulations?"

It is time that future MPs and other elected representatives live up to the expectations of their electors as responsible, honest and devoted community leaders. They have to be a source of inspiration to generations ahead. Let them resolve not to let even a minute of parliament's time be wasted! It would be a great gift to the nation!

*(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity, views are personal)*

# Benevolent hearts: Dynamics of begging and household donations

Despite legal prohibitions in many States, begging persists with beggars being one of the highest recipients of household donations

Begging is a ubiquitous phenomenon in India and is hidden in plain sight. Perceptions of 'persons engaged in Beggary' may vary but it is also evident that many households donate to them. 'Persons engaged in Beggary' are largely missing from the discussions on public policy in the country. A recent study by the Centre of Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP) at Ashoka University showed that 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the highest recipients of household donations, ranking only after 'religious organisations'. This leads us to question, what are the motivations that lead households in such a large proportion to donate to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Who are the biggest donation-makers to



SHAIVYA VERMA

'beggars' with respect to gender, geography and age? And in what 'form' donations are received by the 'persons engaged in Beggary'? Even though begging is not a crime it is legally prohibited in more than twenty States and Union Territories and can invite punishment for one year to 10 years and even beyond under special circumstances. The pros and cons of the existing laws are another

debate. The study by CSIP showed a 14% increase in total 'cash' donations by Indian households from INR 23.7 thousand crores in 2020-21 to INR 27 thousand crores in 2021-22 of which 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the preferred recipients of household giving among 'religious organisations', 'non-religious organisations', 'family and friends', 'household staff', and 'supporting a cause or signing a petition'. They are the second highest recipient of household donations both in terms of overall market size and the proportion of households who made donations to them among other recipient groups in the study. The report further notes that the market size and the average cash payments to

the 'persons engaged in Beggary' have increased from 2020-21 to 2021-22. While 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the preferred recipients, households do not trust them with their money but with materials. Despite a high proportion of households who donated to 'persons engaged in Beggary' they received the lowest value of 'cash' donations from households (under INR 100). While 'persons engaged in Beggary' were least preferred for 'cash' donations as compared to other recipient groups in the study, a clear preference to donate 'in-kind' was noted for this recipient group. More than half of those donating to 'persons engaged in Beggary' donated 'in-kind' which is starkly different from 'in-kind'

donations received by other recipient groups. Households are mostly driven by their intrinsic motivations when giving to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'. 'Religious beliefs' are one of the top motivators. It guided 55% of households that gave to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Religious beliefs can be understood as 'helping others is a way to serve God', and 'good karma/ Almighty rewards good deeds'. Furthermore, 'family traditions' play an important role in motivating households to give to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'. They are also affected by the visible hardship due to poverty and are driven to donate in order to support someone in financial distress. Rendering 'seva' or service

also emerged as a significant motivation for giving to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Households also find it easier to give in smaller amounts in 'cash', which leads many households to offer some money to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. About 60% proportion of households responded to have donated to them. The study also found that donations made to 'persons engaged in Beggary' were in the range of smaller amounts 'under INR 100'. It was intriguing to find that the givers who are more empathetic to the 'persons engaged in Beggary' are the people who have a 'vulnerable' position in society and are mainly dependent on others for social and economic security. Older women and households from

rural areas and from lower socio-economic categories are primary givers to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. More households from rural India donate to 'persons engaged in Beggary' than households from large towns. In fact, the proportion of households making offerings to 'persons engaged in Beggary' in rural India was higher than the national average of the proportion of households who gave to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Similarly, 'giving' by lower socioeconomic category (SEC D/E) to 'persons engaged in Beggary' was higher than the national average. While about 53% of households from higher and middle socio-economic categories (SEC A, SEC B and SEC C) contributed, more

than 65% of households contributed towards 'persons engaged in Beggary' from the lower socioeconomic groups (SEC D/E). In terms of gender and age, older women between the ages of 46 to 60 years are the biggest and primary donation-makers to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Beggary in many forms has been in existence for ages. Due to the hardships faced, persons engaged in Beggary usually suffer from negativity, hopelessness, low self-esteem and stigma. In India, 'people engaged in Beggary' are often seen outside religious places.

*The writer is Senior Research Manager at the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP), Ashoka University. Views expressed are personal*

# Israeli forces seize Rafah crossing in Gaza

AP ■ CAIRO

Israeli tanks seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as cease-fire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's edge.

The UN warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say the northern part of the enclave is already experiencing "full-blown famine."

The Israeli foray overnight came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands. The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — if only barely — for a deal to bring at least a

pause in the war, which as it marked its 7-month point Tuesday, has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip.

The incursion appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded.

The looming operation threatens to widen a rift between Israel and its main backer, the United States, which says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into the city. US President Joe Biden warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again on Monday against launching an invasion of the city after Israel ordered 100,000 Palestinians to evacuate from parts of Rafah.

Cheers of joy overnight among Rafah's Palestinians over Hamas' acceptance of the cease-fire turned to fear Tuesday. Families fled in a steady stream out of Rafah's eastern neighbourhoods on

foot or in vehicles and donkey carts piled with mattresses and supplies. Children watched as parents disassembled tents in the sprawling camps that have filled Rafah for months to move to their next destination — which for many remained uncertain.

"Netanyahu only cares about coming out on top. He doesn't care about children. I don't think he'll agree" to a deal, said Najwa al-Saksuk as her family packed up. Israeli strikes rang out and raised plumes of black smoke.

The Israeli 401st Brigade entered the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing early Tuesday, the Israeli military said, taking "operational control" of it.

Footage released by the military showed Israeli flags flying from tanks that seized the area. It also said that ground troops and airstrikes targeted suspected Hamas positions in Rafah. The military claimed it had intelligence the crossing was "being used for terrorist purposes," though it did not immediately provide evidence.

It said Hamas fighters near the crossing launched a mortar attack that killed four Israeli troops near Kerem Shalom on Sunday and that more mortars and rockets were fired from the area on Tuesday. The Rafah crossing with Egypt and the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel are critical points of entry for food, medicine and other supplies keeping Gaza's population of 2.3 million alive. They have been closed for at least the past two days, though the smaller Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza continues to operate.

Israeli authorities denied the UN humanitarian affairs office access to Rafah crossing Tuesday, its spokesman Jens Laerke said, warning that the disruption could break the fragile aid operation. All fuel for aid trucks and generators comes through Rafah, and Laerke said they have a "very, very short buffer of about one day of fuel."

"If no fuel comes in for a prolonged period of time, it would be a very effective way

of putting the humanitarian operation in its grave," he said.

Israeli strikes and bombardment across Rafah overnight killed at least 23 Palestinians, including at least six women and five children, according to hospital records.

Mohamed Abu Amra said his wife, two brothers, sister and niece were killed when a strike flattened their home as they slept. "We did nothing. ... We don't have Hamas," he said. "We found fire devouring us. The house was turned upside down."

Egypt's Foreign Ministry condemned the seizure of the crossing, calling it "a dangerous escalation." Egypt has previously warned that any seizure of Rafah — which is supposed to be part of a demilitarised border zone — or an attack that forces Palestinians to flee over the border into Egypt would threaten the 1979 peace treaty with Israel that's been a linchpin for regional security.

Netanyahu has said an offensive to take Rafah — which Israel says is Hamas' last

major stronghold in Gaza — is crucial to the goal of destroying Hamas after its October 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war.

In that unprecedented Hamas raid, militants killed some 1,200 people and took around 250 others as hostages back to Gaza. Israeli critics say Netanyahu is concerned about his government's survival, since hard-line partners in his coalition could bolt if he signs onto a deal before a Rafah invasion.

As Israel announced it would push ahead with Rafah operations, it said the cease-fire proposal that Hamas agreed to did not meet its "core demands." But it said it would send a delegation to Egypt to continue negotiations. An Egyptian official said delegations from Hamas and Qatar arrived in Cairo on Tuesday.

An Egyptian official and a Western diplomat said the draft Hamas accepted had only minor changes in wording from a version the US had earlier pushed for with Israeli approval.

# Police break up pro-Palestinian student protest in Berlin

AP ■ AMSTERDAM

German police on Tuesday broke up a protest by several hundred pro-Palestinian activists who had occupied a courtyard at Berlin's Free University earlier in the day, the latest such action by authorities as protests that have roiled campuses in the United States spread across Europe.

The protesters had put up about 20 tents and formed a human chain around the tents. Most had covered their faces with medical masks and had draped kufiyah scarves around their heads, shouting slogans such as "Viva, viva Palestina." Earlier on Tuesday, Dutch police arrested about 125 activists as they broke up a similar pro-Palestinian demonstration camp at the University of Amsterdam. In Berlin, police called on the students via loudspeakers to leave the campus. Police could also be seen carrying some students away and some scuffles erupted between police officers and protesters.

Police used pepper spray against some of the protesters. The school's administrators said in a statement that the protesters had rejected any kind of dialogue and they had therefore called in police to clear the campus. "This form of protest is not geared towards dialogue. An occupation is not acceptable on the FU Berlin campus," university president Guenter Ziegler said. FU is the abbreviation for Free University. "We are available for academic dialog — but not in this way."

The administrators said some protesters attempted to enter rooms and lecture halls at Free University in order to occupy them. The protest organizers, which say they are made up of students from various Berlin universities and other individuals, had called on other students and professors to take part in the action,

the university statement said.

In recent days, students have held protests or set up encampments in Finland, Denmark, Italy, Spain, France and Britain, following earlier protests at US campuses.

Amsterdam police said on the social media platform X that their action was "necessary to restore order" after protests turned violent. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Video from the scene aired by national broadcaster NOS shows police using a mechanical digger to push down barricades and officers with batons and shields moving in, beating some of the protesters and pulling down tents. Protesters had formed barricades from wooden pallets and bicycles, NOS reported.

The demonstrators occupied a small island at the university on Monday, calling for a break in academic ties with Israel over the war in Gaza.

After clearing the Amsterdam protest by early afternoon Tuesday, police closed off the area by metal fences. Students sat along the banks of a nearby canal. The school said in a statement that police ended the demonstration at its Roeterseiland campus overnight Tuesday "due to public order and safety concerns."

"The war between Israel and Hamas is having a major impact on individual students and staff," it said. "We share the anger and bewilderment over the war, and we understand that there are protests over it. We stress that within the university, dialogue about it is the only answer."

In Finland, dozens of protesters from the Students for Palestine solidarity group set up an encampment outside the main building at the University of Helsinki, saying they would stay there until the university, which is Finland's largest academic institution, cuts academic ties with Israeli universities.

# Malaysia defends companies that supply weapons to Israel

**Kuala Lumpur:** Malaysia will not interfere in business relations between arms manufacturers and other countries, its defence minister said Tuesday, after protesters demanded that the government expel companies that supply weapons to Israel from an international exhibition. More than 1,300 companies from 60 nations are participating in Defence Services Asia and the concurrent National Security Asia exhibitions that started Monday. The events are hosted and co-organised by Malaysia's Defence Ministry and Home Affairs Ministry.

The Solidarity for Palestinian coalition held a brief rally outside the exhibition centre on Tuesday to protest the presence of US weapons maker Lockheed Martin, European missile manufacturer MBDA and others that provide arms to Israel. The coalition accused the manufacturers of being complicit in Israel's offensive in Gaza.

They said the companies' presence was inconsistent with the Malaysian government's support of Palestinian statehood and insensitive to the many Malaysians who oppose Israel's actions in the Palestinian territories. Muslims account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 34 million people. "We urge the Malaysian government to take a firm and consistent stand. Do not allow these murderous arm dealers to participate and prevent their war mongering," coalition spokesperson Tian Chua said. Defence Minister Khaled Nordin said Malaysia opposes all forms of injustice against the Palestinian people but is also a "free trade country". He said the exhibition is a space for the defense industry to display its latest technology and help countries strengthen their defense preparedness. "This exhibition does not favour or give advantage to any particular country or company," Khaled said in a statement. "The relationship of some global defense companies with certain countries is a business matter that Malaysia will not interfere with."

# 'Gaza may be Joe Biden's Vietnam'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In April, Bernie Sanders repeatedly stood shoulder to shoulder with President Joe Biden, promoting their joint accomplishments on health care and climate at formal White House events while eviscerating Donald Trump in a widely viewed campaign TikTok video.

Then just last week, Sanders was bluntly warning that the crisis in Gaza could be Biden's "Vietnam" and invoking President Lyndon B. Johnson's decision not to run for reelection as the nation was in an uproar over his support of that war.

Such is the political dichotomy of Bernie Sanders when it comes to Joe Biden. They are two octogenarians who share a bond that was forged through a hard-fought primary in 2020 and fortified through policy achievements over the last three years.

Now, in this election year, Sanders will be Biden's most powerful emissary to progres-



sives and younger voters — a task that will test the senator's pull with the sectors of the Democratic Party most disillusioned with the president and his policies, especially on Gaza.

Privately, Sanders has felt less enthusiastic in recent days about making the political case on Biden's behalf as the Gaza crisis worsened, according to a person familiar with Sanders' sentiments. Still, Sanders remains adamant that the specter of Trump's return to the Oval Office is too grave a threat and stresses that "this election is not between Joe Biden and God. It is between

Joe Biden and Donald Trump." "I understand that a lot of people in this country are less than enthusiastic about Biden for a number of reasons and I get that. And I strongly disagree with him, especially on what's going on in Gaza," Sanders said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

But Sanders continued: "You have to have a certain maturity when you deal with politics and that is yes, you can disagree with somebody. That doesn't mean you can vote for somebody else who could be the most dangerous person in American history, or not vote and allow that other guy to win."

That will be the thrust of the message that Sanders will carry through November, even as progressive furor over Biden's handling of the war in Gaza continues to escalate, protests continue to fester and Sanders' own critiques of the administration's policy become more pointed.

"He's not trimming the sails on Gaza, because of

Biden," said Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., who succeeded Sanders in the House and joined him in the Senate last year. "Bernie's credibility is that he's maintained his solid positions, and then he's going to make the case why, Biden versus Trump."

Few can doubt Sanders' influence throughout the Biden presidency. Once rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, the two men later joined forces to assemble half a dozen policy task forces that underpinned the party's policy platform later that year — an unusual endeavor that helped bring the Democratic socialist's supporters into Biden's fold.

That laid the groundwork for a burst of ambitious policymaking in the first two years of the Biden administration, from a sweeping \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package in early 2021 to legislation in the summer of 2022 that was a mishmash of longstanding Democratic priorities, including cheaper prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Sanders, who helped craft those blueprints as head of the Senate Budget Committee, had been directly encouraged by Biden to go big in those proposals, with the assurance that the president had his back.

"You and I have been fighting this for 25 years," Biden told Sanders admiringly at their joint health care event in April. "Finally, finally we beat Big Pharma. Finally."

Sanders, like many others who back Biden's domestic achievements, believes the public is still too unaware of them. He was the one who approached White House officials about doing an event specifically to spotlight a drop in the cost of inhalers.

More than three years into Biden's term, Sanders' connections throughout the West Wing are deep.

He chats regularly not only with the president, but his top aides, including White House chief of staff Jeff Zients, senior adviser Anita Dunn and national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

# 2 killed, 21 injured in knife attack at hospital in China

**Beijing/Kunming (PTI):** At least two people were killed and 21 others injured in a knife attack at a hospital on Tuesday in China's Yunnan Province, local authorities said, in the latest incident of mass stabbing in the country.

The attack took place at around 11:30 am when a man assaulted people with a knife at a local hospital in Zhenxiang County, the county's public security bureau said.

The injured are being treated in the hospital, and the case is under investigation, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. It is not yet known whether police have subdued the suspect, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

China, where private gun ownership is illegal for most civilians, has faced a spate of mass knife attacks in public places in recent years.

In August last year, two people were killed and seven others injured after a man with a history of mental illness attacked people with a knife in a residential district in also Yunnan.

In July of that year, six people, including three children, were killed in a stabbing at a kindergarten in the south-eastern province of Guangdong. Zhenxiang County, situated in Yunnan's northeast, borders Guizhou and Sichuan provinces and, until 2020, was classified as "poverty-stricken".

# Stormy Daniels expected to appear at hush money trial

AP ■ NEW YORK

Donald Trump returns to the hush money trial Tuesday facing a threat of jail time for additional gag order violations as prosecutors gear up to summon big-name witnesses including porn actor Stormy Daniels.

An attorney for Daniels, Clark Brewster, told The Associated Press that the porn actor, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, is "likely" to be called as a witness in the trial on Tuesday. Trump said earlier Tuesday that he was "recently told" who the witness would be on Tuesday and complained he should've been given more notice. In the final weeks of Trump's 2016 Republican presidential campaign, his then-lawyer and personal fixer, Michael Cohen, paid Daniels USD 130,000 to keep quiet about what she says was an awkward and unexpected sexual encounter with Trump at a



celebrity golf outing in Lake Tahoe in July 2006. Trump denies having sex with Daniels. Trump and his campaign were reeling from the October 7, 2016, publication of the never-before-seen 2005 "Access Hollywood" footage in which he boasted about grabbing women's genitals. He spoke with Cohen and Hope Hicks, his campaign's press secretary, by phone the

next day as they sought to limit damage from the tape and keep his alleged affairs out of the press.

Cohen paid Daniels after her lawyer at the time, Keith Davidson, indicated she was willing to make on-the-record statements to the National Enquirer or on television confirming a sexual encounter with Trump. National Enquirer editor Dylan Howard alerted Pecker and then, at Pecker's direction, told Cohen that Daniels was agitating to go public with her claims, prosecutors said. Daniels had previously sought to sell her story to another celebrity gossip magazine, Life & Style, in 2011.

The jury on Monday heard from two witnesses, including a former Trump Organization controller, who provided a mechanical but vital recitation of how the company reimbursed payments that were allegedly meant to suppress embarrassing stories from sur-

facing and then logged them as legal expenses in a manner that Manhattan prosecutors say broke the law.

The testimony from Jeffrey McConney yielded an important building block for prosecutors trying to pull back the curtain on what they say was a corporate records cover-up of transactions designed to protect Trump's Republican presidential bid during a pivotal stretch of the race.

It focused on a USD 130,000 payment from Cohen to Daniels and the subsequent reimbursement Cohen received. McConney and another witness testified that the reimbursement checks were drawn from Trump's personal account. Yet even as jurors witnessed the checks and other documentary evidence, prosecutors did not elicit testimony Monday showing that Trump dictated that the payments would be logged as legal expenses, a designation

that prosecutors contend was intentionally deceptive.

McConney acknowledged during cross-examination that Trump never asked him to log the reimbursements as legal expenses or discussed the matter with him at all.

Another witness, Deborah Tarasoff, a Trump Organization accounts payable supervisor, said under questioning that she did not get permission to cut the checks in question from Trump himself.

"You never had any reason to believe that President Trump was hiding anything or anything like that?" Trump attorney Todd Blanche asked. "Correct," Tarasoff replied. The testimony followed a stern warning from Judge Juan M. Merchan that additional violations of a gag order barring Trump from inflammatory out-of-court comments about witnesses, jurors and others closely connected to the case could result in jail time.

# Boeing calls off its first astronaut launch due to valve issue

AP ■ CANAVERAL

Boeing called off its first astronaut launch because of a valve problem on the rocket Monday night. The two NASA test pilots had just strapped into Boeing's Starliner capsule for a flight to the International Space Station when the countdown was halted, just two hours before the planned liftoff. United Launch Alliance CEO Tory Bruno said an oxygen pressure-relief valve on the upper stage of the company's Atlas rocket started fluttering open and close, creating a loud buzz. The valve may have exceeded its 200,000 lifetime cycles, Bruno said, which means it would have to be replaced, pushing the launch into next week. But if engineers can determine the valve is still within that limit, the launch team could try again as soon as Friday. It was the latest delay for Boeing's first crew flight, on hold for years because



of capsule trouble. Bruno said similar valve trouble had occurred in years past on a few other Atlas rockets launching satellites. It was quickly resolved by turning the troublesome valves off and back on. But the company has stricter flight rules for astronaut flights, prohibiting valve recycling when a crew is on board. "And so we stayed with the rules and the procedures, and scrubbed as a result," Bruno said at a press conference. NASA's commercial crew pro-

gram manager Steve Stich acknowledged it was a tough call.

"We're taking it one step at a time, and we're going to launch when we're ready and fly when it's safe to do so," Stich told reporters.

Within minutes of the countdown halting, Boeing's new astronaut was back at the launch pad to retrieve Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams from their pad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Starliner's first test flight without a crew in 2019 failed to reach the space station and Boeing had to repeat the flight. Then the company encountered parachute issues and flammable tape. NASA hired Boeing and SpaceX a decade ago to ferry astronauts to and from the space station after the shuttle program ended, paying the private companies billions of dollars. SpaceX has been in the orbital taxi business since 2020.

# Details of UK military personnel exposed in payroll data breach

**London (AP):** British officials say the names and bank details of thousands of serving British soldiers, sailors and air force members have been exposed in a data breach at a payroll system. The Ministry of Defence said Defence Secretary Grant Shapps would make a statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon "setting out the multi-point plan to support and protect personnel". The ministry would not comment on a Sky News report that Chinese hackers are suspected of carrying out the cyberattack. Cabinet Minister Mel Stride told Sky that "we are not saying that at this precise moment". British media reported that the government will blame "hostile and malign actors" but will not name the country it believes is responsible.

# Trump faces jail threat over gag order

AP ■ NEW YORK

Donald Trump returns to his hush money trial Tuesday facing a threat of jail time for additional gag order violations as prosecutors gear up to summon big-name witnesses in the final weeks of the case.

Stormy Daniels, the porn actor who has said she had a sexual encounter with Trump, and Michael Cohen, the former Trump lawyer and personal fixer who prosecutors say paid her to keep silent in the final weeks of the 2016 presidential campaign, are among those who have yet to take the stand but are expected to in the coming weeks.

The jury on Monday heard from two witnesses, including a former Trump Organization controller who provided a mechanical but vital recitation of how the company reimbursed payments that were allegedly meant to suppress embarrassing stories from sur-



legal expenses in a manner that Manhattan prosecutors say broke the law. The testimony from Jeffrey McConney yielded an important building block for prosecutors trying to pull back the curtain on what they say was a corporate records cover-up of transactions designed to protect Trump's presidential bid during a pivotal stretch of the race. It focused on a \$130,000 payment from Cohen to Daniels and the subsequent reimbursement

McConney and another witness testified that the reimbursement checks were drawn from Trump's personal account. Yet even as jurors witnessed the checks and other documentary evidence, prosecutors did not elicit testimony Monday showing that Trump himself dictated that the payments would be logged as legal expenses, a designation that prosecutors contend was intentionally deceptive.

McConney acknowledged during cross-examination that Trump never asked him to log the reimbursements as legal expenses or discussed the matter with him at all. Another witness, Deborah Tarasoff, a Trump Organization accounts payable supervisor, said under questioning that she did not get permission to cut the checks in question from Trump himself. "You never had any reason to believe that President Trump was hiding anything or anything like that?" Trump attorney

Todd Blanche asked. "Correct," Tarasoff replied. The testimony followed a stern warning from Judge Juan M. Merchan that additional violations of a gag order barring Trump from inflammatory out-of-court comments about witnesses, jurors and others closely connected to the case could result in jail time.

The \$1,000 fine imposed Monday marks the second time since the trial began last month that Trump has been sanctioned for violating the gag order. He was fined \$9,000 last week, \$1,000 for each of nine violations. "It appears that the \$1,000 fines are not serving as a deterrent. Therefore going forward, this court will have to consider a jail sanction," Merchan said before jurors were brought into the courtroom. Trump's statements, the judge added, "threaten to interfere with the fair administration of justice and constitute a direct attack on the rule of law. I cannot allow that to continue."



# Markets settle lower

## HDFC Bank, Reliance, ICICI Bank major drags

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices declined on Tuesday dragged by HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank amid concerns over rich valuation of equities. Paring all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 383.69 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 73,511.85. During the day, it tanked 636.28 points or 0.86 per cent to 73,259.26. The NSE Nifty declined 140.20 points or 0.62 per cent to 22,302.50.



From the Sensex basket, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries were among the major laggards. Among the gainers, Hindustan Unilever climbed over 5 per cent. Tech Mahindra, Nestle, ITC, Wipro, Tata Consultancy

# Sebi rejects NSE's proposal to extend trading hours

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has rejected a proposal by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to extend the trading hours in the equity derivatives segment citing a lack of feedback from the stock brokers community.



“Currently, there is no plan to extend the timings as Sebi has returned our application as the stock brokers have not given the feedback that Sebi wanted. So, as of now, the extended time frame (plan) is shelved,” NSE MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said in a post-earnings analysts call. This came after the NSE had urged Sebi to extend trading hours in the equity derivatives segment in a phased manner. This was aimed at potentially curtailing the overnight risk arising from global information flow. Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer of NSE, had told PTI

in September that the bourse was planning a session from 6 pm to 9 pm after a break from the closure of the regular session from 9.15 am to 3.30 pm. Based on the response, a gradual extension of the market timing till 11.55 pm was proposed on the lines of commodity derivatives. To begin with, only index derivatives in phase 1 were proposed to be available followed by single stock

efforts to enable the integration of stocks and commodities trading on a single exchange. With regard to NSE's IPO, Chauhan said that “situations remain as in”. Last month, he said that NSE is awaiting approval from Sebi to kickstart the initial public offering process. The NSE's listing plans have been on the backburner amid a Sebi probe against the exchange and some of its top officials. During the fourth quarter ended March 2024, NSE reported a 20 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,488 crore. Further, the consolidated operating revenues stood at Rs 4,625 crore for the January-March quarter of the financial year 2023-24, marking a surge of 34 per cent year-on-year. Apart from trading, the total revenue was also supported by other revenue lines, including listing, index services, data services and co-location facility.

# SRMIST celebrates World Intellectual Property Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) marked the World Intellectual Property Day 2024 with a grand event held on May 7, 2024, at the TP Ganesan Auditorium Mini Hall-2. This event was organised by the SRM Directorate of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (DEI). The event commenced with a welcome address delivered by the DEI Associate Director Dr. Shantanu Patil, setting a celebratory tone for the day's proceedings. The Vice Chancellor Prof. C. Muthamizhchelvan, inaugurated the event amidst enthusiasm and anticipation.

# Rupee settles on flat note, higher by 1 paisa at 83.51 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled higher by 1 paisa at 83.51 against the US dollar on Tuesday, amid a negative trend in domestic equities and strong dollar demand. Forex traders said elevated significant foreign fund outflows in the international market dented investors' sentiments.



higher than its previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled 7 paise lower at 83.52 against the US dollar. The Indian rupee traded almost flat on weak domestic markets and positive US

downside. The US Dollar gained on weak Asian currencies after the Australian Dollar fell amid a less-hawkish-than-expected tone of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA). “We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on weak domestic markets and positive dollar amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. “However, softness in crude oil prices and positive European and Asian markets may support the rupee at lower levels. Any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may also support the domestic currency. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.30 to Rs 83.75,” Choudhary added.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.10 per cent to USD 83.25 per barrel. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was at 105.26, higher by 0.20 per cent.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 383.69 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at 73,511.85 points. The Nifty fell 140.20 points, or 0.62 per cent, to close at 22,302.50 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,168.75 crore, according to exchange data.

# SRF Q4 profit falls 25 per cent to ₹422 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chemical firm SRF Ltd on Tuesday reported a 25 per cent decline in its net profit to Rs 422 crore for the quarter ended March 2024 on lower income. “The company's Profit After Tax (PAT) decreased 25 per cent from Rs 562 crore to Rs 422 crore in Q4FY24 when compared with the corresponding period of the last year,” SRF said in a statement.

# Number of ghost shopping malls rise to 64 in 2023 across eight major cities, reveals report



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The number of ghost shopping malls — those with vacancy of more than 40 per cent — increased to 64 last year from 57 in 2022 across eight major cities as retailers and consumers are preferring premium properties, according to Knight Frank. Real estate consultant Knight Frank India on Tuesday released a report titled ‘Think India Think Retail 2024’ capturing the dynamics of shopping centres and high streets across 29 cities. The consultant found a sharp rise in low-performing retail assets across eight major Tier I cities. As many as 64 shopping malls with about 13.3 million square feet of gross leasable area have been categorised as ‘Ghost Shopping Centre’ in 2023. In terms of area, this is up 58 per cent from 8.4 million square feet in the preceding year. As a result of the rise in ghost shopping centres, Knight Frank estimated the loss of value to be at Rs 6,700 crore or USD 798 million in 2023. National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for the highest ghost shopping centre stock measuring at 5.3 million sq ft (rise of 58 per cent Year-on-Year), followed by Mumbai with 2.1 million sq ft (rise of 86 per cent YoY) and Bengaluru with 2 million sq ft (rise of 46 per cent YoY). Hyderabad is the only city to record a decline in the ghost shopping centre stock by 19 per cent YoY to 0.9 million sq ft in 2023. The sharpest rise in ghost shopping centres was recorded in Kolkata (237 per cent YoY), albeit at a lower base. Of the total 64 ghost malls across top 8 cities, Knight Frank data showed that 21 such malls are in Delhi-NCR, 12 in Bengaluru, 10 in Mumbai, 6 in Kolkata, 5 in Hyderabad, 4 in Ahmedabad and 3 each in Chennai and Pune. “The momentum of consumption, propelled by rising disposable incomes, a youthful demographic, and urbanisation, tilts in favour of the organised retail sector,” Shishir Bajjal, Chairman & Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said. An enhanced retail experience remains crucial for shoppers, highlighting the significance of physical retail spaces, he added. “Grade A malls have notably excelled, maintaining robust occupancy, foot traffic, and conversion rates, thereby delivering value to their customers.

# JSW Energy profit rises 29 per cent in March quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Energy on Tuesday posted a 29 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 351 crore in the March quarter compared to a year ago mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 272 crore in the quarter ended on March 31, 2023, according to a BSE filing. “Profit after Tax (consolidated net profit) increased by a robust 29 per cent YoY (year on year) to Rs 351 Crore,” it stated. During the quarter, total revenue increased by 3 per cent YoY to Rs 2,879 crore from Rs 2,806 crore in Q4 FY23, it stated. The profit after tax increased by 17 per cent YoY to Rs 1,723 crore in fiscal year 2023-24 crore compared to Rs 1,478 crore in FY23.

# Indian FMCG industry sees 6.5 per cent volume growth in Q4FY24: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian FMCG industry experienced a 6.5 per cent growth in volume terms at a national level in the January-March period of 2024, with rural consumption surpassing urban for the first time in five quarters, according to consumer intelligence firm NielsenIQ. Both food and non-food sectors contributed to the growth in consumption in the first quarter of 2024, but non-food saw almost double the growth as compared to food, NielsenIQ (NIQ) said in its quarterly snapshot for Q1 2024. The FMCG industry has experienced a 6.6 per cent growth in value, attributed to a 6.5 per cent increase in volume at an all-India level. The volume growth for this quarter was higher than Q1 2023, which stood at 3.1 per cent, it added. NIQ Head of Customer Success India, Roosevelt



Dsouza said, “The FMCG industry's growth continues to be driven by consumption trends in Q12024 with rural areas surpassing urban growth for the first time in five quarters.” Notably, Dsouza said home and personal care (HPC) categories have outperformed food categories. While food categories witness higher unit purchases, the growth in HPC is largely driven by the popularity of larger pack sizes. The quarterly snapshot pointed out that there is a consumption slowdown in urban and modern trade,

while there is an uptick in rural and traditional trade. “Rural consumption growth has gradually picked up pace and has surpassed urban (growth) in Q12024. Urban sees sequential decline in consumer demand leading to 5.7 per cent this quarter,” NIQ said. Within the retail sector, modern trade continues to exhibit strong double-digit volume growth at 14.7 per cent. Traditional trade, on the other hand, experienced stable growth, with volumes registering 5.6 per cent growth in Q1 2024, compared to 5.3 per cent in the previous

quarter (Q4 2023), suggesting that traditional retail channels are holding their ground, it added. According to the snapshot, at a pan India level, both food and non-food sectors contributed to the growth in consumption but non-food saw almost double the growth as compared to food. “More units were purchased in food categories compared to the same period last year, whereas in non-food, more large packs were bought,” it said. In Q1 2024, the volume growth in the food sector was 4.8 per cent compared to Q1 2023, down from 5.3 per cent in Q4 2023. This slowdown in growth is primarily due to products falling under staples. In contrast, non-food categories, there is an improvement, with consumption reaching 11.1 per cent in Q1 2024 compared to last year, an increase from the 9.6 per cent recorded in Q4 2023.

# Toy exports marginally down at USD 152.34 million in 2023-24: GTRI report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's toy exports declined marginally to USD 152.34 million in 2023-24 from USD 153.89 million in the previous financial year, according to a report by economic think tank GTRI. The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that India's toy exports did not benefit much from the mandatory quality control orders. It said that while the domestic measures were primarily aimed at boosting local industry and ensuring safety, they did not significantly enhance India's toy exports. “From FY2020 to FY2022, exports increased modestly from USD 129.6 million to USD 177 million. However, by FY2024, exports decreased to USD 152.3 million,” the report said. Imports, however, increased to USD 64.92 million in 2023-24 from USD 62.37 million in 2022-23. GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said that the QCO checked standard imports from China but did not result in higher exports from India. Though India has taken decisive steps since 2020 to curb the inflow of substandard toy imports, especially from China, and strengthen the domestic toy industry, but “India needs to take more comprehensive approach for development of the industry,” he said. The report proposes a comprehensive strategy aimed at developing India's toy industry and boosting exports. He suggested steps such as developing a robust domestic ecosystem, encouraging global toy brands to manufacture in India, learning from China, and localise production of key inputs.

This move could help shift part of the global toy production market to India. Further, it asked to reduce dependency on imports by developing local production capabilities for critical toy-making materials and components, such as glass eyes for dolls, beads, imitation stones, various types of plastics, electric motors, and remote control apparatus. This step will decrease costs and enhance the self-sufficiency of the Indian toy industry, the GTRI said. “Imports of inputs used for making toys is much higher than import of finished toys. For example, we imported glass eyes for dolls or other toys, beads and imitation stones of value USD 137.2 million in FY2024,” Srivastava said. He added that India needs to make separate strategies for each group of toys such as plush toys like stuffed animals



“Invest in research and development to foster innovation in toy design and functionality, positioning Indian toys competitively on the global stage. Strengthen partnerships between toy manufacturers and design institutes to continuously introduce innovative products,” Srivastava said. The report recommended setting up specialized toy manufacturing hubs to reduce costs and increase efficiency; modernising traditional Indian toys while preserving their cultural value to create unique products. “Support small and medium enterprises in leveraging digital marketing and promote Indian toys at international fairs to establish global connections,” it said. It also asked India to invite international toy manufacturers who operate in China, such as Hasbro, Mattel, Lego, Spin Master, and MGA Entertainment, to consider setting up production facilities in India.

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**PUNJAB & SIND BANK** HALL BAZAR BRANCH, AMRITSAR

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the "Authorized Officer" of Punjab and Sind Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security Interest Act 2002 in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the respective borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rule on date mentioned against account. The borrowers / guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Property and any dealing with the Property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab and Sind Bank, for the amounts, other charges, costs and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the Secured Assets.

Name of the NPA Account	Date of the Demand Notice	Date of the Possession	Amount Outstanding
Mr. Harjinder Singh S/o Mr. Bakshish Singh and Guarantors (i) Mrs. Sawinder Kaur W/o Mr. Bakshish Singh (ii) Mrs. Amandeep Kaur W/o Mr. Satnam Singh (iii) Mr. Bakshish S/o Mr. Balwant Singh (iv) Mr. Satnam Singh S/o Mr. Bakshish Singh (v) Mrs. Baljit Kaur W/o Mr. Harjinder Singh (vi) Mr. Manpreet Singh S/o Mr. Harjinder Singh, all R/o House No. 1536, Gali No. 7, New Abadi Guru Nanak Nagar, Verka, Tehsil and Distt. Amritsar and (viii) Mr. Gurbir Singh S/o Mr. Satwant Singh R/o House no. D-17/426, Sandhu Colony, B-Block, Chheharta, Amritsar.	13-02-2023	02-05-2024	Rs. 9,93,113/41 + Interest, other charges and expenses and less recovery if any, till date affected

**Description of the Immovable Property :** All part and parcel of the Property i.e. One Residential Property measuring 6 Marla bearing Khasra No. 1496/4, situated at Village Verka, Abadi Guru Nanak Nagar, Tehsil and District Amritsar as per the Registered Sale Deed dated 15-01-1971 bearing Document No. 7282, Book No. 1, Volume No. 834/1640, Page No. 138, owned by Sh. Bakshish Singh S/o Sh. Balwant Singh and bounded as East : Road 6ft wide, West : Other Property, North : Bazar 8ft wide South : Plot of Bachan Singh

Date : 08-05-2024 Place : Amritsar Sd/- Authorised Officer

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi- 110005.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. 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 ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vimal Sood/ Deepak Sood (13600003842 & QZLUD00005006655) & House No. 4529, Street No. 3, Near Shivajik Vidya Mandir School, Shivaji Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab 141001	House Measuring 50 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Khasra No. 781, Khata No. 1198/1293, As Per Jamabandi Year 2007-2008, Hadbasat No. 172. Situated at Village Taraf Saidan, Abadi Jawsant Nagar, Street No. 4, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, Punjab/ May 03, 2024/	January 17, 2024 Rs. 11,69,932/-	Ludhiana

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : May 08, 2024 Place : Ludhiana Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

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

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. 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 ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Surender Singh/ Kavita Devi/ LBHIS00006219936/ LBHIS00005912625/ LBHIS00006223798	Property House Measuring 6.573 Marle Being 1392/17787 Share of Land Measuring 4 Kanal 4 Marle Comprised in Khatwat No. 1062, Khatoni No. 1432 and 1433, Khasra No. 133/1/45(0-2), 1/46(0-2), 1/55(0-2), 1/62(0-2), 1051/2(0-14), 1055(0-18), 1059(1-0), 1060(0-18), 1051/1(0-6), Jamabandi Year (2019-20), Intkal No. 4591, Situated At Village Matloda, Tehsil Barwala, District Hisar, Haryana-125001/ May 04, 2024	January 19, 2024 Rs. 27,25,597/-	Hisar

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : May 08, 2024 Place : Hisar Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

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

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

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets(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.	Dinar International (Applicant), Dinesh Narang (Guarantor) Anu Narang (Guarantor/Mortgagor), Account No. 001705500706	Property Bearing M.C.No.B- 15-866, Property Measuring 105 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Khasra No- 2633/ 2371/47/1/12 Khatta No 464/680 As Per Jamabandi For Year 2009-10 Situated Village Dholewal H.b No-174, Abaddi Known As Nirankari Mohalla Street No-5 Teh & Distt. Ludhiana. Area: 105 Sq. Yd.	Rs. 1,33,90,135/- (as on May 02, 2024)	Rs. 80,00,000/- Rs. 8,00,000/-	May 14, 2024 From 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	June 04, 2024 From 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on website of E-auction agency C1India Pvt Ltd. (URL Link-<https://www.bankeuctions.com>). The Mortgagors/noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **June 03, 2024** before **05:00 P.M.** failing which this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132, 133, 134, Sector- 9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160017 or on before **June 03, 2024** before **05:00 P.M.** And thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above-mentioned website only on or before **June 03, 2024** before **05:00 P.M.** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted **ICICI Bank Limited, SCO 132, 133, 134, Sector-9C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160017** or before **June 03, 2024** before **05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Chandigarh.

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

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

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

Date : May 08, 2024 Place : Ludhiana Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
Hatt Road, Safidon, Distt. Jind, Haryana Tel. No : Email : sbi.50113@sbi.co.in

**POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX-IV (For immovable property)**  
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest act, 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 dated 15.02.2024 under section 13[2] calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor- Sh. Anil Kumar s/o Sh. Raj Kumar, Ward No. 10, Geeta Colony, Tehsil Safidon, Distt. Jind [Haryana][Borrower] to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.8,18,913.00 [Rupees eight lakhs eighteen thousand nine hundred thirteen only] including interest charged upto 15.02.2024 with further interest at contracted rate w.e.f. 16.02.2024 and all incidental expenses, costs & misc. charges etc., less recovery, if any until payment in full [ hereinafter referred to as 'secured debt' ] within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower(s)/Guarantors and the public in General that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 7th day of may of the year 2024. The Borrowers/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, Hatt Road, Safidon, Haryana, for an amount of Rs. 8,18,913.00 [Rupees eight lakhs eighteen thousand nine hundred thirteen only] including interest charged upto 15.02.2024 with further interest at contracted rate w.e.f. 16.02.2024 and all incidental expenses, costs & misc. charges etc., less recovery, if any until payment in full [ hereinafter referred to as 'secured debt' ]

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor & Loan A/c No.	Description of the immovable mortgage	Date of demand notice	Amount as per demand notice	Date of possession notice
1.	Sh. Anil Kumar s/o Sh. Raj Kumar Ward No. 10, Geeta Colony, India, Hatt Road, Safidon, (Haryana) All that part and parcel of Residential House at Shiv Colony, Ward No.15, Safidon measuring 51.33 Sq Yd in the name of Sh. Anil Kumar s/o Sh. Raj Kumar r/o Ward no. 10, Geeta Colony, Tehsil Safidon, Distt Jind. Regd. vide original Sale Deed No. 1463, dated 24.07.2015. The property is equitable Mortgaged with the Bank bounded as under- East : Street 21' wide West: 21' wide plot of other owners North: 22' Street South: 22' House of Ashok Kumar	(Mortgaged with State Bank of India, Hatt Road, Safidon, Haryana) All that part and parcel of Residential House at Shiv Colony, Ward No.15, Safidon measuring 51.33 Sq Yd in the name of Sh. Anil Kumar s/o Sh. Raj Kumar r/o Ward no. 10, Geeta Colony, Tehsil Safidon, Distt Jind. Regd. vide original Sale Deed No. 1463, dated 24.07.2015. The property is equitable Mortgaged with the Bank bounded as under- East : Street 21' wide West: 21' wide plot of other owners North: 22' Street South: 22' House of Ashok Kumar	15.02.2024	Rs.8,18,913.00/- as on 15.02.2024	07.05.2024

Date: 07/05/2024 State Bank of India  
Place : Safidon, Distt. Jind (Authorized Officer)

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

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. 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 ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kamaldeep Singh Luthra/ Bandhpal Pal Singh Luthra/ Balwinder Kaur/ LBLUD00005239387/ LBLUD00005239243	House Measuring 191.50 Sq. Yard Comprised In Khasra No. 10/11/3, 12/1, 19/2, 20/1, Khata No. 850/950, As Per Jamabandi Year 2003-2004, Situated At Village Jawaddi, Hadbasat No. 160, Abadi Vikas Nagar, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, Punjab/ May 02, 2024	December 07, 2023 Rs.1,07,86,558/-	Ludhiana
2.	Raj Kumar/ Manjeet Kaur/ LBLUD00002845534/ LBLUD00005145395	Plot No. 126, Situated At Phase-3, Urban Estate, Dugri Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001/ May 02, 2024	December 30, 2023 Rs.62,61,191/-	Ludhiana
3.	Avtar Singh/ Harminder Kaur/ LBLUD00005370819/ LBLUD00004276455/ LBLUD00004276502/ LBLUD00005126681	House No B-25-345, Comprised In Khasra No. 334/2/7/2, Khata No. 304/330, As Per Jamabandi Year 2011-2012, Hadbasat No. 87, Situated At Village Saletm Tabri, Abadi Salem Tabri, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, Punjab- 141007/ May 02, 2024	December 16, 2023 Rs. 45,97,883/-	Ludhiana
4.	Banti/ Sonia/ Sonu/ Kanchar/ Seeta/ Rani/ LBLUD00005170561/ LBLUD00005170560	Plot Comprised In Khasra No. 1475/439, Khata No. 648/662, Jamabandi Year 2005-06, Hadbasat No. 77, Situated In Village Taraf Jodhwala, Abadi Known As Mohalla New Shakti Nagar, Tehsil and District Ludhiana, Punjab- 141001/ May 02, 2024	December 16, 2023 Rs. 16,04,629/-	Ludhiana
5.	Rakesh Jain Alias Rakesh Kumar Jain/ Neelima Jain Alias Nilima Jain/ LBLUD00005046730/ LBLUD00005121433	House Measuring 103.88 Sq. Yard Comprised In Khasra No. 19/16/1, 19/25/2/2, Khewat No. 64/40-min, 64/40-min, 64/40-min, Khatoni No. 80-81, Jamabandi Year 2014-2015, Situated At Village Chuharpur, Abadi Verma Colony, Tehsil and District Ludhiana, Punjab-141001/ May 02, 2024	January 12, 2024 Rs. 11,77,616/-	Ludhiana

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : May 08, 2024 Place : Ludhiana Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

# Stimac announces second list of probables for World Cup qualifiers

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Injured central defender Sandesh Jhingam missed out as Indian senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday announced his second list of 15 probables for the Bhubaneswar camp ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 preliminary joint qualification round 2 matches against Kuwait and Qatar. The first list of probables was announced on Saturday. Defender Jhingam, who sustained a right knee injury during India's Asian Cup group match against Syria in January, missed out of the list. The 26 players from the first list will begin training in the Odisha capital on May 10. The 15 players from the second list, comprising players from Mumbai City FC and Mohun Bagan SG, who contested the ISL Cup final, will join the camp on May 15. A total of 41 players will take part in the national camp. The Blue Tigers will face Kuwait in



Kolkata on June 6 before travelling away to take on Qatar on June 11 in their last two matches of Group A. India are currently placed second in the group, with four points from four matches. The top two teams in the group will qualify for Round 3 of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and book their berth at the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027.

**The second list of 15 probables for the Bhubaneswar camp (training from May 15):**  
**Goalkeepers:** Phurba Tenga Lachenpa, Vishal Kaith  
**Defenders:** Akash Mishra, Anwar Ali, Mehtab Singh, Rahul Bheke, Subhasish Bose  
**Midfielders:** Anirudh Thapa, Deepak Tangri, Lalengmawia

Ralte, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Sahal Abdul Samad  
**Forwards:** Manvir Singh, Vikram Partap Singh  
**The first list of 26 probables for the Bhubaneswar camp (training from May 10):**  
**Goalkeepers:** Amrinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.  
**Defenders:** Amey Ganesh Ranawade, Jay Gupta, Lalchungnunga, Muhammad Hammad, Narender, Nikhil Poojary, Roshan Singh Naorem.  
**Midfielders:** Brandon Fernandes, Edmund Lalrindika, Imran Khan, Isak Vanlalratfela, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Mohammad Yasir, Nandhakumar Sekar, Rahul Kannoly Praveen, Suresh Singh Wangjam, Vibin Mohanan.  
**Forwards:** David Lalhlansanga, Jithin Madathil Subran, Lalrinzuala, Parthib Sundar Gogoi, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri.

# What to know about journey of Olympic torch to Paris

**AP ■ PARIS**  
The Olympic torch will finally enter France when it reaches the southern seaport of Marseille on Wednesday. And it's already been quite a journey. After being lit by the sun's rays on April 16 in Ancient Olympia, the torch was carried around Greece before leaving Athens aboard a three-mast ship named Belem, headed for Marseille. The Belem was first used in 1896, the same year the modern Olympics came back. It will be accompanied by more than 1,000 boats as it parades around the Bay of Marseille, before arriving at the Vieux-Port, or Old Port, and docking on a pontoon resembling an athletics track. Torch bearers will carry the flame across Marseille the next day, the last stretch running on the roof of the famed Stade Vélodrome, home to Marseille's passionate soccer fans. After leaving Marseille, a vast relay route will be undertaken before the torch odyssey ends on July 27 in Paris. Here's a look at where the torch goes before reaching Paris:  
**MONT-SAINT-MICHEL:** The torch is due to reach the island fortress looks like it was created for a Game of Thrones film set. But it's real, and very old. So old that it already existed during the Hundred Years' War between England and France, from 1337 to 1453. An English attack was even fended off. Later it became a prison, and in 1979 it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Every year swarms of tourists are in awe of its raw and



haunting beauty.  
**ACROSS THE OCEANS:** The torch travel route is even more unique considering it takes a detour through France's overseas territories called the Relais des Océans, or Ocean Relay. Riding the waves of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean, it will be in French Guiana on June 9 before hitting New Caledonia on June 11. Next is the island of Réunion at Saint-Denis — coincidentally the same name as the Paris suburb with the Olympic village — before reaching Peapeite in the surfing realm of Tahiti, then Baie-Mahault in Gaudeloupe and finally Fort-de-France in Martinique. The torch comes back to France on June 18 in the southern city of Nice.  
**FROM SEA BREEZE TO HEAVY CHEESE:** Just five days after landing on French shores, the torch heads up the Alpine mountain pass of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc for Olympic Day on June 23. The Haute-Savoie region is known for its outstanding Chamonix ski resort, which hosts World Cup races, for sweeping views across glacier fields to nearby Italy, and — some would say more importantly — as a producer of fine cheese. A Cheese Olympics, should it be invented, would feature a

**AP ■ ROME**

# Atalanta comes from behind to beat Salernitana and improve Champions League chances

Atalanta came from a goal down to beat Salernitana 2-1 in Serie A and improve its chances of a place in next season's Champions League. The Bergamo-based club rose above Roma and into fifth place. The top five qualify automatically for the Champions League. Atalanta rested some regular starters with one eye on Thursday's second leg of the Europe League semifinal against Marseille. It went behind after 18 minutes when Loum Tchaooua scored against the run of play. But Atalanta woke up in the second half. Gianluca Scamacca converted a nice headed assist by Mario Pasalic and six minutes later Teun Koopmeiners stroked home from outside the box.

Salernitana remained on the bottom of the table and will spend next season in Serie B.  
**UDINESE DRAWS WITH NAPOLI:** Udinese equalized deep in stoppage time to draw with Napoli 1-1 at home and earn a vital point in its fight against relegation. Substitute Isaac Success was surrounded by defenders but managed to squeeze a shot home in the second minute of stoppage time. Until then, it had looked like a certain defeat for the home side



after Victor Osimhen scored his 15th league goal five minutes into the second half. Osimhen rose to power home an inviting cross from Matteo Politano. The Nigeria international also had a goal chalked off 10 minutes from the end. Udinese remained third from the bottom and in the relegation zone but it was just two points behind Empoli and Frosinone. Three rounds remain and six teams are fighting to avoid joining Salernitana in the second division.



# India's Kavin Quintal bags top 10 finish 2024 FIM Junior GP World Championship

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**  
Ace Indian rider Kavin Quintal made a stunning debut in the 2024 FIM JuniorGP World Championship with a top-10 finish in the Stk European class in Round 2 at the Circuito do Estoril, outside Lisbon, Portugal. Fifty Motorsport team, Kavin clocked 23:19.001s for the 11 laps, just 34.866s adrift of the winner Adrian Rodriguez of Spain (SF Racing) and just 16.092s off fifth-placed Lorenzo Della Porta (Yamaha GV Racing) the current championship leader and 2019 Moto3 champion. The 18-year-old faced early setbacks as he crashed during out-lap in qualifying and had to start the race from the 30th position on the grid. The stock race was red flagged due to deteriorating track conditions in the rain in the second lap, but Kavin had

already moved up to 19th place by then. He navigated through the treacherous conditions overtaking his competition one-by-one and crossed the finish line in an impressive ninth position, for a top-10 finish among 36 riders. The stock race is a stepping stone for Moto2 and JuniorGP World Championship, a new FIM event for juniors on to the road for MotoGP. Having begun racing as a 13-year-old, Kavin became the youngest rider to bag points in the FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Championship in 2018, switched to Honda Talent Cup in 2019. He made his international debut in the Asia Talent Cup in 2020 and represented India thrice in the Asian Road Racing Championships, with two top-10 finishes in 2023. Kavin's next race will be Round 3 of the JuniorGP Stk at Barcelona from May 16-19.

# Gukesh, Arjun and Praggnanandhaa in Warsaw for Superbet Rapid and blitz

**PTI ■ WARSAW**  
Fresh from his historic triumph at the Candidates' tournament, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will compete in the Superbet Rapid and Blitz chess tournament which begins here on Wednesday. A part of the Grand Chess tour, the event will also see GM R Praggnanandhaa in action for the first time since the Candidates while world number seven Erigaisie Arjun is the other Indian in the 10-player field for the tournament which will have nine rounds of rapid and 18 rounds of blitz to decide the winner. The tournament favourite is none other than world number one Magnus Carlsen



of Norway who starts as the top seed. The USD 175000 prize money event has as many as six wild cards in the first of the five events. The tour also has a bonus prize pool of USD 175000 for the top three finishers out of which a UDS 100000 is reserved for the winner. The four players who have signed up for the entire tour are Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan. All of them will take part in four out of five events out of which two will be classical and remaining

three will be rapid and blitz. Besides Carlsen and Arjun, the other four wild cards have been given to Wei Yi of China, Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland, Vincent Keymer of Germany and Kirill Shevchenko of Romania. Set to play four out of five events in the tour, Gukesh looks like one of the tour favourites. The Chennai-based player also has a World Championship match to play later this year against Ding Liren of China and he surely has his hands full. Praggnanandhaa is a known expert in the faster version of the game and has beaten Carlsen a few times already. If there is one opponent that creates fear for the opposition — that's this 18-year-old Praggnanandhaa.

Arjun might have missed out on a Candidates berth very narrowly but has quickly put that setback aside. Banking on open events that elite players seldom play, Arjun struck back like a hurricane and briefly became top Indian rated player too till Gukesh surpassed him. Arjun is one uncompromising player in the world who fears none and wants to be his best, no matter who the opposition is. For Carlsen, the biggest opposition will come from the Indian trio only, both in Rapid and Blitz. Gukesh may not be the best when it comes to faster version of the game but the reason why he is playing is a clear signal that he wants to get better at it.

# Thiago Silva to return to Brazilian club Fluminense after leaving Chelsea at the end of the season

**AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO**  
Veteran defender Thiago Silva will return to Brazilian club Fluminense after leaving Chelsea at the end of the season. The 39-year-old Silva said last week he was not extending his contract with Chelsea and Fluminense announced Tuesday that the center back is joining on a

free transfer. The defending Copa Libertadores champion posted a picture of Silva wearing a Fluminense shirt on social media with the text: "The monster is back." Silva played for Fluminense between 2006 and 2008. He left for AC Milan in 2009, and three years later joined Paris Saint-Germain. The Brazilian joined Chelsea in



2020 and won the Champions League the following year. The defender was in Brazil's squad for the last four World Cups. He also won the 2013 Confederations Cup and the 2019 Copa America with the national team. Silva is expected to join Fluminense once Brazil's transfer window reopens in July.



# Late Baldé header steals dramatic 4-3 win for Lyon at Lille

**AP ■ LILLE**  
Lyon scored a dramatic last-minute winner to beat Lille 4-3 in a topsy-turvy French league thriller. Mama Baldé got the winner with a superb header in the second minute of stoppage time to shock a home side that led 1-0, 2-0, and 3-2. Lyon's fourth win in five league games ended Lille's run of three consecutive home victories. Bafodé Diakité put Lille ahead with a fine header after 20 minutes, and Edon Zhegrova added a second 16 minutes later when he fired a low shot home from outside the box. Goals from Said Benrahma in the 65th and substitute Malick Fofana eight minutes from time brought Lyon level. Bafodé Diakité gave Lille the lead again three minutes later with his second goal. Alexandre Lacazette made it 3-3 with two minutes remaining and Baldé grabbed the spotlight. Lyon moved into seventh place in Ligue 1, two points behind Lens.

# Olympic bound Preeti among seven Indians to win gold at Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships

**PTI ■ ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)**  
Paris Olympics-bound Preeti was among seven Indian boxers to have clinched the gold medal as the country's medals tally hit a high of 43 at the conclusion of the Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships here. Preeti (54kg) made a remarkable comeback after going down 0-5 in the first round to register a 3-0 win in the final against Kazakhstan's Bazarova Elna. The Indian boxers won 12 gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals to finish second behind hosts Kazakhstan who

bagged a total of 48 medals. The first gold medal on Tuesday went to Vishvanath Suresh in the 48kg category with the reigning defending Kazakhstan's Karap Yernar 5-0. Nikhil (57kg) defeated Sabyr Yerbolat of Kazakhstan with a referee stopped contest (RSC) win in the third round. Akash Gorkha (60kg) secured a 4-1 win over Kazakhstan's Ruslan Kuzeubayev to win India's third gold medal in the men's category. In the women's category, Poonam Poonia (57kg) and Prachi (63kg) defeated Kazakhstan's Sakysh Anel and

Anar Tursynbek respectively with an identical 4-1 scoreline. Later, Muskan (75kg) was made to work hard by Uzbekistan's Zokirova Aziza for a 3-2 split decision but one that gave India's its seventh gold medal. Preet Malik (67kg), Guddi (48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Saneh (70kg) and Alfiya Pathan (81kg) finished their campaigns with silver medals after going down in their respective finals. The Indian U-22 team grabbed a total of 21 medals including seven gold, five silver and nine bronze medals.



**LIST OF MEDAL WINNERS:**  
**Youth medallists:** Gold - Men's: Brijesh Tamta (48kg), Aryan Hooda (51kg), Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg); Women's: Laxmi (50kg), Nisha (52kg); Silver - Men's: Sagar Jakhar (60kg), Priyanshu (71kg), Rahul Kundu (75kg), Aryan (92kg); Women's: Tamanna (54kg), Nikita Chand (60kg), Shrushti Sathe (63kg), Rudrika (75kg), Khushi Pooniya (81kg); Bronze - Men's: Sumit (67kg), Sahil (80kg), Lakshay Rathi (92+kg); Women's: Annu (48kg), Yatri Patel (57kg),

Parthavi Grewal (66kg), Akansha Phalasalwal (70kg), Nirjhara Bana (+81kg).  
**U-22 medallists:** Gold - Men's: Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Nikhil (57kg), Akash Gorkha (60kg); Women's: Preeti (54kg), Poonam Poonia (57kg), Prachi (63kg), Muskan (75kg); Silver - Men's: Preet Malik (67kg); Women's - Guddi (48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Saneh (70kg), Alfiya Pathan (81kg); Bronze - Men's: M Jadumani (51kg), Ajay Kumar (63.5kg), Ankush (71kg), Dhruv Singh (80kg), Jugnoo (86kg), Yuvraj (92kg); Women's - Devika (52kg), Kajal (66kg), Ritika (+81kg).



# INCONSISTENT SRH TAKE ON LSG IN PUSH FOR PLAYOFFS SPOT

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad will be eager to move on from their underwhelming batting display when they host Lucknow Super Giants in a crucial Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday. Both teams are locked in at 12 points from 11 games with SRH making the top four cut based on a slightly superior net run rate of -0.065 compared to LSG's -0.371. The Sunrisers find themselves in a fierce competition for the top four spot with Kolkata Knight Riders (16), Rajasthan Royals (16) and Chennai Super Kings (12) stationed above them on the points table. The winner of the duel will take a leap in the playoff race. The Pat Cummins-led side has ample talent but has been unable to hold on to a winning run recently. Sunrisers have lost three of their last four matches, mainly because their destructive batting line-up hasn't delivered. In their last match against Mumbai Indians, which they lost by seven wickets, they failed to put up a good target on the board, which has been



their strong suit this season. Barring Travis Head, who has been their stand out performer, the other batters in the side have faced a recent slump. After displaying his power-hitting ability, young opener Abhishek Sharma has

breached the 30-run mark just once in the last four games. And while SRH head coach Daniel Vettori has conceded that the openers are not expected to do the job all the time, the middle order needs to step up.

The flamboyant Heinrich Klaasen has also been unable to strike the ball consistently and Nitish Reddy too has been patchy. The bowlers have fared better compared to their batting counterparts. T Natarajan has been

consistent with the ball while seasoned seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar also seems to have found his mojo after his incisive spell helped SRH eke out a one-run win against RR. LSG, on the other hand, have to get over their overall lacklustre display against Kolkata Knight Riders, when they not only conceded the first-ever 200 plus score at the Ekana Stadium but also folded their innings at 137. It was a day when skipper KL Rahul failed to anchor the innings while the likes of Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran were unable to get the big shots when needed. Ayush Badoni has had a subdued run in this IPL and the uncapped Indian player would be keen to shrug off the rustiness. LSG's struggles with the ball have been majorly due to the lack of firepower in their pace-bowling department. With tearaway pacer Mayank Yadav ruled out of the IPL and left-arm pacer Mohsin Khan also picking up an injury, the onus will be on Afghan quick Naveen-ul-Haq, young Yash Thakur, Stoinis and spinners Krunal Pandya and Ravi Bishnoi to deliver.



# No plans to rest Bumrah yet: MI batting coach Pollard

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians have no plans to rest ace India pacer Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the T20 World Cup even though they are out of contention for the IPL playoffs, said batting coach Kieron Pollard. MI defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets here on Monday after Suryakumar Yadav (102 not out) struck his second IPL century to help his team chase down a target of 174 with 16 balls to spare. The win helped MI end their four-match losing streak and record only their fourth win in 12 matches. "I certainly haven't had any discussions about that," Pollard told media after the game when asked if there are any plans to rest Bumrah from MI's remaining two matches keeping in mind the upcoming T20 World Cup. "I don't think that's my role and function at this point in time. But let's see what happens. We are all here to play an entire IPL. Sometimes when we think too far ahead of different things, thinking about World Cups, all these things could affect performances even from before the team was selected. "For us and in our camp, the most important thing is finishing off the IPL and let's see what happens after that. When he leaves the IPL and he goes into the Indian team, I think that's where that concession will take place."

MI's last IPL game is against Lucknow Super Giants at home on May 17. The T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by USA and the West Indies, will begin on June 1. Pollard said as a batting coach the most difficult aspect of coaching an all-round batter like Suryakumar is to curb his attacking instinct. "He's one, who, by nature, instinctively, is very aggressive. He wants to take the bowler's on more often than not. At times it's just a matter of understanding the situation and respecting the new ball when it's moving around," Pollard said. "If the conditions are not suitable for a certain amount of shot making, having that discipline in order to be there for a period of time and they'll get into your work. "I think that would be the hardest thing - to try to curb the attacking instinct. But it's not something you want to curb too much and get them in a defensive frame of mind because of the direction the sport is heading now in terms of the amount of runs being scored." **SRH'S ASSISTANT COACH HELMUT DOFFS HIS HAT TO SURYAKUMAR:** SRH's assistant coach Simon Helmut said Suryakumar played an exceptional innings to take the game away from his side and the world No 1 T20I batter will have a lot of influence in the T20 World Cup. "On some days you just have to

take your hat off and say well played and well played to him. He's an exceptional cricketer and he's always going to demand a spot in the Indian team and I'm sure he'll have an influence in the World Cup," he said. "It's very difficult (to bowl at Suryakumar) and you guys have seen him close up for many years as I have. He's a very difficult batsman to match up with when he's in that sort of frame of mind, that sort of mood." Helmut said the conditions assisted swing bowling with the new ball in both the innings which forced the batters to adjust their game. "Travis (Head) has been one of our best players this season at the top of the order. But even he found it difficult at times to time the ball out in the middle on this particular track and that will happen at different times during the season," he said. Helmut said not losing their fourth spot in the IPL points table was the biggest positive for SRH in a resounding defeat. "The positives are that we're still fourth in the ladder. It's a really tight competition; one of the tightest competitions we've had in IPL for years that I can remember," he said. "For us, we've got our very first fly tomorrow (Tuesday) and then play the next day against Lucknow (on Wednesday). For us, it's (about) very quickly get through over this game," he added.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

# 'Fatigued' Rohit Sharma needs break to freshen up ahead of T20I World Cup: Michael Clarke

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke does not read much into Rohit Sharma's string of poor scores, but suggests that the "fatigued" Indian skipper take a break to freshen up ahead of the T20I World Cup. Rohit, who will lead India in the next month's 20-team global showpiece, has four single-digit scores in his last five outings for his franchise Mumbai Indians in the ongoing IPL. The 37-year-old has had a busy season this year with an intense five-Test series preceding the IPL for Mumbai Indians, who are all but eliminated from the race to the playoffs this year. "Rohit, being the wise judge of his own performances, will

undoubtedly be disappointed, especially considering his strong start. In my view, he might be feeling a bit fatigued as well," Clarke told Star Sports. "A break to freshen up could do wonders for him, but as the Indian captain and a key player for Mumbai Indians, you're not getting a break. He's going to have to find form," Clarke continued. Rohit played as an impact substitute in their match against Kolkata Knight Riders last week, raising some concerns for the Indian camp. However, he played a full game



against Sunrisers Hyderabad three days later. Clarke said it is only a matter of time before Rohit gets back to his usual elements as a batter.

"He was in a great mood. He's happy, which is a really good sign. He doesn't seem to be struggling with his timing; it's just a matter of getting out," he

said. "With someone like Rohit, it's only a matter of time before he finds his form again. Hopefully, he stresses less and focuses on his game because he's too talented to keep missing out. He's at his best when he's timing the ball, rather than trying to force it," he added. Clarke, meanwhile, also had praise in store for Rohit's deputy for the World Cup and MI skipper Hardik Pandya, who returned with 4-0-31-3 in their seven-wicket win over SRH on Monday.

## OTHER SPORTS

# Man United in crisis: Transfers, tactics and takeover helped lead up to 4-0 humiliation at Palace

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

A bad season just keeps on getting worse for Manchester United. The 20-time English champion was routed 4-0 by Crystal Palace on Monday and faces the prospect of its lowest finish in the Premier League era, as well as a season without European soccer. Champions League qualification was already beyond Erik ten Hag's troubled team before its latest defeat. Now, sitting eighth in the standings, even the third-tier Conference League could end up out of reach. On current form, United might need to beat Manchester City in this month's FA Cup final to secure a place in the Europa League. On current form, there is little chance of that happening. One of the world's most storied clubs is in a mess and the humiliation at the hands of



Palace was the latest evidence of that. A record of 13 league defeats is the most United has suffered in a Premier League campaign. In all competitions that number rises to 18, including four losses in six games as United crashed out of the Champions League at the group stage. Ten Hag's team has conceded 81 goals in all competitions, which is the most since 1976-77. According to stats company Opta, United has also spent more time in a losing position in league games this season than a winning one. Its only win in its last seven league games was against last-placed Sheffield United. United's lowest finish in the Premier League era - which it long dominated, winning 13 titles under former manager Alex Ferguson - was seventh under David Moyes in 2013-14. Here are some of the reasons behind United's fall this season. **INJURIES:** United's substitutes' bench against Palace included six teenagers

and two goalkeepers, such is the level of the injury crisis which has gripped Ten Hag's team. Jonny Evans, the veteran 36-year-old center back, was rushed back from injury to cover for the absent Harry Maguire and midfielder Casemiro had to play as a makeshift defender. It has been the story of United's season with key players ruled out for long periods, including Luke Shaw, Lisandro Martinez, Mason Mount, Casemiro, Christian Eriksen, Rasmus Hojlund and Marcus Rashford. Yet United is not the only team to suffer from injuries, with Liverpool and Newcastle also seeing their squads decimated by absences. Even Ten Hag accepted there was no excuse for Monday's performance. "The players who were available should do better. It's a deserved defeat," he said. **TACTICS:** Last season United had one of the meanest defenses in the Premier

League, with only treble-winning City and Newcastle conceding fewer goals. It's been a very different story in Ten Hag's second season in charge, with the openness of his team a consistent problem. To compound the issue, United has found goals hard to come by at the other end of the field. A total of 52 scored is the joint lowest in the top half of the standings, level with 10th-place Bournemouth. Luton - which is in the relegation zone - has scored 49. United is too open in midfield, too fragile in defense and not potent enough in attack. And it falls on Ten Hag to come up with the solutions.



# KKR players spend night in Varanasi after flight diverted multiple times due to bad weather

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kolkata Knight Riders players had a harrowing experience as they were forced to spend a night at Varanasi after their flight from Lucknow to Kolkata was diverted multiple times due to bad weather. Following their massive 98-run win over Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday, the Shreyas Iyer-led side left on Monday evening for Kolkata at 5:45pm. The team was scheduled to arrive at 7:25pm. But the charter flight had to be diverted to Guwahati first and then to Varanasi after adverse weather conditions made it impossible to land the plane in Kolkata. The KKR media team provided an update at 8:46pm, saying, "Due to inclement weather over Kolkata, the KKR charter flight has been diverted to Guwahati. We've just landed here." Then another update at 9:43pm said, "We've got clearance to fly back to Kolkata now, from Guwahati. Estimated arrival: 11pm."

However, the ordeal was not over for the players and support staff as multiple attempts to land the flight failed, forcing the officials to divert the flight mid-air to Varanasi. "Flight took off from Guwahati to Kolkata, was scheduled to land at 11 PM. Couldn't land once again due to bad weather, despite several attempts. Diverted mid-air to Varanasi now. Just landed here," said an update at 1:15 am. The KKR team then spent the night at Varanasi and will be travelling to Kolkata this afternoon. "The team would be checking into Varanasi hotel for overnight stay. Return flight to Kolkata TBD on Tuesday (7 May) afternoon," the KKR media team said in the final update at 3:00 am. Fortunately, KKR's next game is against Mumbai Indians at Edens Garden on May 11. The two-time former champions will play Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on May 13 and Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur on May 19 for their final two league matches.

# Bengal, Haryana win women hockey nationals ties

PTI ■ RANCHI

Bengal and Haryana registered identical victories by margins of 2-1 over Odisha and Maharashtra respectively in the National Women's Hockey League 2024 here on Tuesday. Bengal showed relentless attacking prowess and swift passing throughout the game. Their breakthrough came in the second quarter when Shanti Horo (23) manoeuvred past Odisha's defence before unleashing a thunderous shot into the net. The momentum swung further in Bengal's favour in the second half when Shanti Horo (39) capitalised on an unmarked opportunity in the D area, slotting home



her second goal with precision. Odisha managed to score a goal in the final quarter through Dipi Monika Toppo (51), who converted a penalty

corner. Nevertheless, Bengal held on to their lead to emerge winners. Despite the loss Odisha, remained on top of the points table with 12 points from six matches. In the day's other match, Haryana dominated possession from the start. The breakthrough came through Manju Chorsiya (12), who capitalised on an opportunity to score from open play, putting Haryana in the lead. In the second half, Haryana strengthened their position with Pooja (37) converting a penalty corner. Despite Maharashtra's efforts and multiple opportunities, including four penalty corners, they could only convert one, with Sukanya Dhaware (55) scoring a field goal in the dying minutes to narrow the deficit for her team.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nidhi W/o Romi Khurana R/o H.No.839, Ward-18, Ghani Pura, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name to Nidhi Khurana for all purposes. PD(417)A

I ANKIT GOEL S/o SATBIR GOEL R/o H.No.357-L Model Town Panipat Haryana-132103 have changed my minor daughter's name DVITI GOEL to AYAANA GOEL, aged-11-Years. PD(418)A

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION GOVT. OF INDIA (Constituted Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986) Upphokta Nyay Bhawan, 'F'- Block, General Pool office complex, INA, NEW DELHI - 110023. Telephone No.: 011-24608714-711, Fax No.: 24651505, 2465519, Website: http://ndrc.nic.in First Appeal No. 180/2020 (Against the order dated 27 Nov 2019 in Complaint Number 219/2018 of the State Commission Chandigarh) BHARTI AXA GIC LTD .....Petitioner/Appellant Versus RAJINDER KANWAR DASS & ANR .....Opposite Party/Respondent(s) To Trawell Tag Karvat Group of Companies Karvat Travel Services Pvt. Ltd. Through Authorised Representative, Suite No. 218, SCO No. 156-160, Sector-8-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh NOTICE WHEREAS in the First Appeal No. 180/2020 filed against the order Dated 27-11-2019 in Complaint No. 219/2018 arising out of the Order of the State Commission, Chandigarh you have been arrayed as Respondent No. 2 AND WHEREAS hearing notice sent to you by registered post has been received back with a postal remark 'LEFT' NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE through this publication to appear before this Hon'ble Commission in person or through your Counsel / Authorized Representative on 17 May 2024 failing which the appeal will be disposed of on merits in your absence. Dated this New Delhi the 20 Feb. 2024 ASSISTANT REGISTRAR