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OF SKILLS IN LEARNING

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VIOLENCE RAGES IN
NEW CALEDONIA

MONEY 10
SILVER SURGES ₹1,800 TO HIT ALL
TIME HIGH; GOLD JUMPS ₹650

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RAEBARELI
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who has been canvassing continuously every day in Amethi and Rae Bareilly simultaneously, is highlighting the strong bond of the Gandhi family with both constituencies since the days of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. This effort comes as her sibling Rahul Gandhi contests in Amethi, having taken over from his mother, Sonia Gandhi. Priyanka said the grand old party follows the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi who uttered "Hey Ram" before dying and former Prime Minister Narendra Modi is wrong in accusing it of being anti-religion. She alleged that while the saffron party claims to be a "champion of Hindu religion," the condition of the State-run cowsheds in Uttar Pradesh remains pitiable. She accused the Modi Government of trying to take

credit for the free ration scheme by putting his photograph on the papers related to the scheme, saying it was the Congress-led UPA Government that brought the Right to Food Act. The Congress leader also lambasted the BJP over frequent question papers leak in UP and promised stringent laws to stop such leaks. She promised to do away with GST on education and scrap the Agni-Veer scheme for recruitment in the armed forces if her party comes to power at the Centre. She said her party will restore the earlier method of permanent appointment with pension provision for the army personnel. The Congress general secretary also spoke about creating a Rs 5,000 crore fund to help small entrepreneurs. Voting in both the constituencies is scheduled in the fifth phase on May 20.



JAUNPUR/AZAMGARH
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the Samajwadi Party and the Congress want to adopt the 'Trinamool politics,' terming it a strategy of appeasement and harassment of Dalits and women. While addressing an election rally in Bhadohi, where the Opposition has fielded a TMC candidate, Modi attacked the INDIA Bloc partners, accusing them of attempting to replicate West Bengal's 'TMC politics' in Uttar Pradesh. Modi said the TMC's politics includes calling Ram temple "impure," banning Ramnavami celebrations, sheltering Bangladeshi

promising "poisonous arrow of appeasement" and calling for "vote jihad". Referring to the alliance between the SP and the BSP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Modi said, "The previous bua (hinting at Mayawati) identified the SP people and left them. They have now brought a bua (aunt) from Bengal (hinting at Mamata Banerjee)." In another rally in Jaunpur, Modi said this Lok Sabha election is an opportunity for the country to choose a leader who can run a strong Government which "makes the world aware of India's strength". Amid slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Har Har Modi,' the Prime

Minister said, "Your enthusiasm shows that you have made it difficult for the INDIA alliance to win even a single seat in Uttar Pradesh." Attacking SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Modi said, "SP's shehzade also makes fun of Kashi. They are crossing every limit to please their vote bank. I am surprised that it is the 21st century and they are roaming around with the flag of triple talaq." Accusing the leaders of the INDIA Bloc of advocating reservation on the basis of religion, Modi said, "They advocate reservation on the basis of religion. They want to take away the right of reservation of the SCs, STs and OBCs by changing the Constitution of the country."



LUCKNOW
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

On a day when AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal made his presence known in the INDIA Bloc alliance, partnering with the Samajwadi Party (SP), which is contesting the Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh alongside the Congress coalition, he faced criticism from the grand old party's former Chief Minister of Punjab, Charanjit Singh Channi, who termed Kejriwal as untrustworthy. Released on bail to campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, Kejriwal embarked on a whirlwind tour, reaching Lucknow on Thursday to express solidarity with SP chief and former Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav, before moving on to campaign in Punjab. Congress candidate from Jalandhar Parliamentary seat, Charanjit Singh Channi, said Kejriwal can't be trusted and that he should be opposed. Congress and AAP are alliance partners

under INDIA Bloc elsewhere, including Delhi except for Punjab where the current Government is of AAP. "Kejriwal, who is involved in a liquor scam and is out of jail for only 15 days, can't be trusted. A big liquor scam happened in Delhi and the same happened in Punjab as well. We demand an inquiry into it. He should be opposed," Channi said. At a joint Press conference with Yadav, Kejriwal reiterated his claim that Home Minister Amit Shah will be made the next Prime Minister and Yogi Adityanath will be removed as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister if the BJP returns to power. Kejriwal claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had implemented a rule stating that individuals over 75 years of age would not be appointed to any position in the government or organisation and would be retired.



Interim bail to Delhi CM justified: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday steered clear of the political talk about it having made an exception for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in granting him interim bail for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls but said "critical analysis of the judgement is welcome". A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta refused to consider claims and counter claims by advocates for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Kejriwal on statements related to grant of interim bail to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor. "We have not made any exception for anybody. We said in our order what we felt was justified," the bench said. Appearing for the ED, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta objected to Kejriwal's speeches in poll rallies that if people voted for AAP, he would not have to go back to prison on June 2. "It is his assumption, we cannot say anything," the bench told Mehta. It added, "Our order is very clear about when he has to surrender. It is the order of the Supreme Court. The rule of law shall be governed by this order." Mehta alleged that Kejriwal had violated the bail

condition by his assertion. "What is he trying to imply? It is like a slap on the institution," the Solicitor General said. Justice Khanna said the court's order is clear that he has to surrender on June 2. "We have not said anything in the order that he cannot speak about the case," the bench said. Without naming Home Minister Amit Shah, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who was appearing for Kejriwal, referred to an interview where he said many believe the court accorded "special treatment" to the AAP leader. The bench told Singhvi it will not go into that. The senior lawyer denied that Kejriwal had made any statement about having to go back to jail if people did not vote for his party. Singhvi said he can swear an affidavit to that effect. The top court was hearing Kejriwal's plea against his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise scam. On May 10, the apex court had granted Kejriwal interim bail till June 1, the last day of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections, and directed him to surrender and go back to jail on June 2.

Mercury rising: Delhi, north plains may hit 45°C

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

If you're residing in northwest India, brace yourself for intense heatwaves ahead. Days after predicting thunderstorms and rain spells in the region, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday issued warnings of impending heatwave conditions, notably in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi. By Saturday, in fact, temperatures in the national Capital could soar to 45 degrees Celsius, exacerbating the already intense heat conditions. For the next five days, the Northwest region is expected to bear the brunt of heatwaves, owing to westerly and northwesterly winds, said the IMD, flagging heightened health concerns, particularly for vulnerable populations such as infants, the elderly, and those with underlying



People use scarves to shield themselves from the hot summer Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

health conditions. The IMD has also cautioned about the increased risk of heat-related illnesses for individuals exposed to prolonged sunlight or engaging in heavy work. In contrast, a wet spell with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected to persist over south Peninsular India

until May 22, 2024, according to the IMD, with Tamil Nadu and Kerala likely to experience the maximum impact at isolated places. The forecast for the Northwest region indicates a fresh heatwave spell extending to east and central India from May 18.

Now, concerns prop up over Covaxin too

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Coinciding with AstraZeneca's acknowledgment of rare side effects of its vaccine, which was sold as Covishield in India, in UK courts earlier this year, a study by BHU researchers has suggested that those who have received the Covaxin vaccine may not find relief, as its side effects are also concerning. They found that nearly one-third of Covaxin recipients reported adverse events of special interest. Published in the journal Springer Nature, the study, which is a one-year follow up, said nearly 50 per cent of 926 study participants in the study complained of infections during the follow-up period, predominated by viral upper

respiratory tract infections. According to the study, adolescent girls were the most affected by it. Some side effects were quite serious. The study involved 635 adolescents and 291 adults, who received the BBV152 vaccine. The participants were interviewed telephonically about long-term adverse events of special interest after 1 year of vaccination. Meanwhile, AstraZeneca's vaccine has been linked to yet another rare blood clotting disorder called Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VITT). A majority of the population in India took Covishield and Covaxin developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech. It was said to be India's first indigenous jab against Covid-19 during the pandemic.



Maliwal spills the beans to cops, NCW calls Kejriwal's PA

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police recorded the statement of the controversial AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at her house on Thursday, days after she claimed to have been assaulted by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide, Bibhav Kumar, at the AAP chief's residence. Breaking her silence on the issue for the first time since the incident happened, Maliwal wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "What happened to me was very bad. I have given my statement to the police on the incident that happened to me. I hope that appropriate action will be taken."

Sachin, IPL legends bat for higher polling



Despite the EC's best efforts to engage the elderly and specially-abled, along with all other eligible voters, the polling so far has not seen a significant increase in voter turnout

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Don't be surprised if you receive a call from cricket legend and Election Commission's National Icon, Sachin Tendulkar, along with top cricketers from all 10 IPL teams, appealing to voters to cast their votes in large numbers in the upcoming phases. Sources in the EC have expressed concern over voters' apathy and heatwave in the Gangetic plains during the

next three phases of polls. A fresh heatwave spell will also commence over east and central India from May 18. Highlighting the various voter awareness drives and campaigns being carried out by stakeholders to reach out to voters, the poll body has enlisted IPL, PhonePe, and telecom service providers such as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharti Airtel Limited, Jio Telecommunication, and Vodafone-Idea Ltd. Additionally, they have

partnered with Facebook, Google, WhatsApp, YouTube, Google Pay, and other platforms, as well as the Ministry of Railways, Civil Aviation, Department of Posts, banking networks, cinema theaters across the country, AMUL, Mother Dairy, and other milk cooperatives, music app Spotify, bike app Rapido, grocery app Blinkit, BookMyShow, food delivery platforms such as Zomato and

Swiggy, Tata Neu app, and Truecaller to encourage people in large numbers to cast their votes. The EC said on Thursday the cumulative turnout in the first four phases of the Lok Sabha elections has been recorded at 66.95 per cent. Over 45.10 crore of the nearly 97 crore electors have voted so far in the ongoing electoral exercise, it said. The poll body said the updated

voter turnout in the fourth phase of polling held on May 13 was 69.16 per cent, 3.65 percentage points higher than the corresponding phase in the 2019 parliamentary polls. The updated voter turnout figures for the third phase of polling in the Lok Sabha election stood at 65.68 per cent. In the third phase of the 2019 general election, the turnout was 68.4 per cent. In the second phase of the election held on April 26, the turnout was recorded at 66.71

per cent as against the 69.64 per cent in the second phase of the 2019 polls. In the first phase of the ongoing general elections, a 66.14-per cent turnout was recorded. In the 2019 polls, the turnout in the first phase was 69.43 per cent. As a part of its outreach to increase the voter turnout, the EC has introduced an array of various interventions, to appeal and motivate voters to cast their vote, during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Amritpal Kaur Widow Of Jaspal Singh R/O H.No.25, New Krishna Nagar, Tarn Taran Road, Amritsar Have Declare That My Son Ramandeep Singh And His Wife Gurleen Kaur Are Out Of My Control I Disinherit Them From My All Movable And Immovable Properties Anybody Deal With Them Is His Own Risk And Responsibility.

I, Rajbir Singh, Son Of Jaage Ram R/O Village Rathdhana, Sonipat, Evict My Son Sandeep From All My Movable And Immovable Property Because He Is Beyond My Authority. In Future, Those Who Transact Through This Will Themselves Be Responsible. There Will Be No Responsibility For Me Or My Family.

I Suman Kharbanda W/O Late Sh. Bothr Raj Kharbanda R/O House No- 268 Sector- 18 Panchkula, Haryana, Declare That My Daughter Ms. Neha Kharbanda Is Out Of My Control, So I Disown Her From My Moveable- Immovable Properties. If Any Person Deals With Her Relating To Any Matter He/ She Will Be Liable For Her Acts And Conducts. I And My All Family Members Shall Not Be Responsible.

I, Saroj Dora W/O Late Shree Ram Kishan R/O Ward 03, Sital Pur Colony Jind Distt. Jind, My Son Daksh Dora is out of my control. I, disown them from all My moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at their Own risk.

We Satinder Kumar S/o Sh. Amar nath, and Sunitha Bhasin wife of satinder kumar Resi# 1726/B2, Bitna Colony, Pinjore Teh Kalka, dist. Panchkula Haryana declares that our son Lokesh Bhasin and his wife Anchal Mehta are out of my control. We disown them from all my moveable / immoveable property. Anybody dealing with them will be responsible for his own action.

ਮੈਂ, ਰਤਨ ਲਾਲ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਜਮਾ ਰਾਮ ਵਾਸੀ ਬੀ-2-556, ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨਗਰ, ਦਾਦਾ ਮੰਡੀ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਦੋਨੋਂ ਲੜਕੇ ਯਤਨ ਅਤੇ ਸੋਠੈਂ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਚੋਰ ਕਰੇ ਗਏ ਜੋ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੋਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੋਲ-ਅੱਲੰਠ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਮੇਰਾ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਿਠਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੋਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੋਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰੇਗਾ, ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਫ਼ੇ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਦਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਮੈਂ ਅਜੈ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਹਰੀ ਨਰਾਇਣ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਤੇ ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ ਭੋਮਾ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਤੇ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪਠਾਨਕੋਟ ਦਾ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਹਾਂ। ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਗੁਰਦੇ ਸ਼ਰਮਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਚੋਰ ਕਰ ਗਏ ਜੋ ਮੇਰੇ ਦੋਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਆਮ ਚੋਲ-ਅੱਲੰਠ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਅੱਜ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰੇਗਾ ਉਹ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੈਂ ਤੇ ਮੇਰਾ ਪਿਠਵਾਰ ਜ਼ੁਬਦਾਹ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਸਬੰਧ ਨੇਟ ਕਰਨ।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sukhwinder Devi w/o Ramesh Lal r/o Mehar Chand Road, Basant Avenue, Gurdaspur declare that in school record of my son Gaurav Katru, my name wrongly recorded as Sukhwinder Kaur. My correct name is Sukhwinder Devi. Concerned note.

I Shafiq UL Rehman S/O Shakil Ahmed R/O Plot No.-B-5, Opposite 15/26, Near Mahavir Mandir Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That I Have Changed My Religion From Muslim To Hindu.

I Ajay Parkash S/O Jaydatt R/O Indergarhi W.No. 19 H.No. 824 Gohana Teh. Gohana Distt. Sonipat Declare That In My Son Abhishek Documents My Name Is Ajay Parkash, But In His Passport My Name Is Ajay Which Is Wrong. I Want To Correct My Name As Ajay Parkash In His Passport In Place Of Ajay.

I Sushma Devi W/O Ajay Parkash R/O Indergarhi W.No. 19 H.No. 824 Gohana Teh. Gohana Distt. Sonipat Declare That In My Son Abhishek Documents My Name Is Sushma Devi, But In His Passport My Name Is Sushma Which Is Wrong. I Want To Correct My Name As Sushma Devi In His Passport In Place Of Sushma.

I, Santosh W/d/o No. 2861665 Late Hav Mange Ram R/o Vill. & P.O. Sunari Kalan, Teh. & Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my son name Satya Prakash and his DOB 18.12.1984 are wrongly mentioned in my late husband Army record. But my son correct & actual name is Sat Parkash and his correct DOB is 01.01.1985. vide affidavit dated 16.05.2024 before Notary Public Rohtak.

I, Manoj Kumar S/o Shish Ram R/o 705, Sarai Allowardi, New Palam Vihar, Allowardi (56), Gurgaon, Railway Road, Haryana- 122006, Declare that name of Mine & My Wife and My Minor Daughter has been wrongly written as Manoj & Ranjana and Monal in my minor Daughter Monal Swami, aged about 11 Years, In her Birth Certificate. The actual name of Mine & My Wife and My Minor Daughter are Manoj Kumar & Ranjna Kumari and Monal Swami, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Harpal S/o Baldev Raj R/O VPO, Rairu, District Jalandhar, 144012, Punjab, India (Passport No. U9021473) have changed my name from Harpal to Hari Pal. (Given name as Hari & Surname as Pal). Now I shall be called with new Name Hari Pal For All Purpose in future. Concerned Kindly Note.

I, Army No. 15671183P Rank Hav. Name Bimlesh Kumar Singh presently residing Village Chendaupur Chephul, P.O. Fulwaria Tajpur, Distt. Saran Bihar Pin Code No. 841209 declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Giya Kumari to Jiya Kumari vide Affidavit dated 14-05-2024 before Harmanjeet Bedi Notary Pathankot (PB)

I, Anjali spouse of No. 15671183P Rank Hav. Name Bimlesh Kumar Singh presently residing Village Chendaupur Chephul, P.O. Fulwaria Tajpur, Distt. Saran (Bihar) 841209 declare that I have changed my name from Anjali to Anjali Devi vide Affidavit dated 14-05-2024 before Harmanjeet Bedi Notary Pathankot (PB)

I, Polagani Rajaiah S/o Polagani Bhoomaiiah, father of Army No. 14866458F, Rank NK Name Polagani Chandramogili resident of 6-23, Sandral Pad, Kasipet, PO – Kasipet, Distt – Adilabad, State – Telangana, PIN – 504231, I have changed my DOB from 20/06/1971 (Old DOB) to 12/02/1962 (New DOB vide Affidavit dated 15 May 2024 sworn before Notary Public Sat Pal, Pathankot. Please correct it.

I, Balbir Kaur W/O Hav Mohinder Pal R/O VPO Bombeli Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Balbir Kaur to Balvir Kaur & My date of Birth is 21.05.1969. All Concerned to Note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vinita W/O Late Sh. Budhiram H.No 89 GF HBC Sector 19 Panchkula Haryana Have Changed My Name From Vinita To Suryawati Devi.

I, Digvijay Singh S/O Jodh Singh R/O Vill - Tango Shah, PO - Lahri Gujran, 143534 Teh/Distt Panchankot. I Have Changed My Name Digvijay to Digvijay Singh. That Digvijay And Digvijay Singh Are One And Same Person. All Concerned please note.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Kharaiti Lal R/O 64, Model Colony, Yamuna Nagar declare that Rajesh Kumar and Rajesh Kumar Oberoi both are my name, one and the same person.

I, Rajinder Kumar S/O Bag Ram R/O 376/77, Ward no. 14, Camp, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Rajinder Kumar to Rajinder Kumar Jasuja.

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Mohinder Singh R/O 304, Jaginder Nagar, Ward no. 16, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sukhwinder Kaur to Sukhvinder Kaur.

I, Amarpreet Kaur W/o Anand Sabharwal R/O 1440 progressive society Sector 50-B Chandigarh have changed my name from Amarpreet Kaur to Amarpreet Sabharwal.

I, Anjali Devi D/o No. 13745239F NK Karamjit (Retd) resident of Village Tukwandi Kalan, PO & Tehsil Mulnerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb), have changed my name from Anjali Devi to Anjali Sharma. Concerned note.

I, Sushiel Parshad S/O Kedar Nath R/O Gali No.1, Sant Nagar, Verka, Amritsar hereby inform that my actual and correct name is Sushiel Parshad and not Sushil Parshad. Concerned please note.

I, Manoj Kumar S/o Gian Chand Garg R/O House No 42-A, First Floor Ishmita Home Kishanpura, Dhakauli, SAS Nagar, Punjab, have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Garg.

I, Nancy D/o Sh. Tarsem Singh R/O Village Kapahat PO Mustapur Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Nancy to Nancy Dadwal. Concerned note.

I, Rajni Bansal W/o Rajeev Bansal R/O 683, Sector-9/11, Hisar have changed my name from Rajni Gupta to Rajni Bansal.

I, Gaytri W/O Late Karam Singh R/O House No 114, Parvati Enclave, Baltana, Sas Nagar (Mohali), Punjab-140604 have changed my name to Raj Rani.

I, Pardeep Kumar S/O Late Ram Sewak R/O House No-10, Street No-08, New Krishna Nagar, Partap Singhwala, Ludhiana, Punjab-141008 declare that name of mine & my father is wrongly written as Pardeep & Ram Saver in my CBSE Class 10th & 12th Educational Documents. Actual name of mine & my father are Pardeep Kumar & Ram Sewak.

I, Gagandeep W/o Umesh Matta R/o 55, Sharma Garden, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Gagandeep to Gagandeep Kaur.

I, Dharambir Son of Ramsroop Permanent resident Of Village Bhuriyawas, P. O. Guriani, Distt. Rewari (Haryana), Pin Code-123301, have changed My name from Dharambir To Dharmbir Sharma Vide Affidavit Dated 14-05-2024 at Pathankot.

I, Bhawna Bagga w/o Sh. Sandeep Bagga r/o H.No 3135 Sector 47 D Chandigarh declare that Bhawana Bagga and Bhawna Bagga is one and the same person.

I, Vikas Bathla Father of Himansh r/o #1376, Sec.13, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra-136118 Haryana (India) presently residing at 128 Ducatel Crescent, Ajax, ON, Canada L1T3A9 have changed my son's name from Himansh to Himansh Bathla. In future, know him as Himansh Bathla only, all concerned please note.

I Sapna Devi Spouse of Kundan Singh resident of Village-- Bokata, Post-Bhandarigaon, Tehsil- Didihat, District Pithoragarh, Pin-262552 have changed my name from Kumari Sapna to Sapna Devi through vide document No.IN-PB08431719108991W, dated 22-04-2024 before Notary Public Pathankot.

I, Usha Kumari W/o Sh. Avinash Kumar Chawla R/O H.No.4242, Urban Estate Jind, have changed my name from Usha Kumari to Usha Chawla.

I, Pooja Rani W/o Chandan Ahuja R/O Kali Mata Mandir Road, PO-Dinanagar, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143531 have changed my name to Pooja.

I, Rupa Singh Sodhi W/o Rahul Rana R/O House no. 123 Village Raipur Khurd U.T Chandigarh have changed my name from Rupa Singh Sodhi to Rupali Rana

I, Bijender Singh S/O Raj Singh, R/O Panna Bhada, Murthal, District Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name from Bijender Antli to Bijnder Singh.

I, Naresh Siwach No. 3208329L Rank Nayak 14 Jat regiment s/o Satbir r/o Gorakhpur, Sub Tehsil Bhuna, District Fatehabad declare that in my army service record my mother's name wrongly mentioned as Maya Devi. While her correct name is Maya. Now I am going to make it correct as Maya in my army service record vide affidavit 09.05.2024 before Notary Public Fatehabad.

I, Savita D/o Raj Kumar Sharma R/O H.No. 29/2 Bajran Gali, Kurukshetra, Thanesar, Haryana declared in my documents my name is Savita and Savita Devi but my real name is Savita.

I, Daljit Singh S/O Baldev Singh R/o Ward No. 12 Ellenabad, Tehsil Ellenabad, District Sirsa have changed my name from Daljeet Singh to Daljit Singh. In future I should be known by this name.

I, Dharampreet Singh S/O Prem Singh R/O village Mamera Kalan, Tehsil Ellenabad, District Sirsa have changed my name from Dharmpreet Singh to Dharampreet Singh. In future I should be known by this name.

I, Charanjit Kaur Bakshi w/o Lakkir Bakshi R/O H.No.1468, Gali No. 2, Goal Maszidh, Sharifpura, Amritsar-1, have changed my name to Charanjit Kaur.

I, Amarender Singh S/o Suresh Kumar R/O 1620, Sector 3, Rohtak have changed my name from Amarender Singh Nandal S/o Suresh Kumar

I, Amarender Singh S/o Suresh Kumar have changed my minor daughter's name from Mairi Nandal to Maitree Nandal R/O Flat No 1304, E-Block, Suncity Height, sector 36, Rohtak.

I, Rekha W/o Mandep Sharma R/O House No. 2850/1, Sector-47,C, Chandigarh declare that I have changed my name from Rekha to Rekha Rani.

I, Shivani W/o Pankaj Singh R/O VPO Chak Sadhu Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Shivani to Shivani Dhiman After my marriage. Concerned note.

I, Ravish Rai S/O Pawan Kumar Aggarwal # 1260, Sector 42B, Chandigarh have changed my name to Ravish Aggarwal.

I, Anjana Thakur W/o Arvind Kumar # 2168, New Indra Colony, Manimajra, Chandigarh have changed my name to Anjana.

I, Arvind Thakur S/O Sarota Ram # 2168, New Indra Colony, Manimajra Chandigarh have changed my name to Arvind Kumar.

I, Nikhil S/o Naresh Kumar, R/O House no. 2587, Sector-56, Palsora Chandigarh (UT) have changed my name to Nikhil Arora.

I, Satwinder Singh Mavi S/O Bahadur Singh R/O house no 1091, First Floor, Sector 71, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali), Punjab have changed my minor son's name from Jai Kanwar Singh to Jai Kanwar Singh Mavi.

I, Smt. Rachna Kumari W/O No. 2454846 Late Sep Karnail Singh R/O Vill. Chak Gujran PO Bassi Ballo Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Rachna Kumari to Rachana Devi. Concerned note.

I, Kawaljeet S/o Sh. Paramejit Bathla R/O Gali Shiva Sweet, Khairpur, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Kawaljeet to Kawaljeet Bathla , in future my name is to be called as Kawaljeet Bathla.

I, Udai Paul S/o Sh. Daya Nand R/O Village Suchan, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Udai Paul to Udai Paul Sihag , in future my name is to be called as Udai Paul Sihag.

I, Sukhmit Kaur Sandhu W/O Parminder Singh Sandhu W/O No.A-22 Dr.Ambedkar Co-op.H/B Society Sec.76 SAS Nagar Mohali have changed my name to Sukhmit Kaur W/O Parminder Singh. Concerned note.

I, Davinder Nath Wadhwa S/O Sh. Nihal Chand Wadhwa R/O House No. 1490, Sector-13, Urban Estate, Karnal have changed my name from Devinder Nath Wadhwa to Davinder Nath Wadhwa.

I, Bui Dass S/o Ram Asra R/O Village-Kajla, Dist-Nawanshar, Punjab-144505 have changed my name to Bua Dass.

I, Rohit S/o Ashok Kumar R/O VPO-Paddi Mattwali, Nawanshar, Punjab-144510 have changed my name to Rohit Banger.

I, Onkar S/O Sulinder Singh R/O PO-Naushehra Pattan Tehsil Mukerian, Basti Bagh, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144211 have changed my name to Onkar Boparai.

I, Sameer Vasudeva S/O Avadh Kumar Vasudeva R/O Village-Tagra Kali Ram Kangan Road Kaika, Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Sameer Kumar Vasudeva to Sameer Vasudeva.

I, Tejinder Singh S/O Kuldip Singh R/O H.No- 938, Sec-10 Ambala City have changed my name from Tejinder Singh to Tejinder Singh Randhawa

I, Jasbir Singh S/O Sh. Nirmal Singh R/O H.No-100 Village manakpur Tehsil & Distt Ambala have changed my son name from Siridhar to Shridhar. In future my Son's name will be known as Shridhar.

I, Tejinder Singh Randhawa S/O Kuldip Singh R/O H.No- 938, Sec-10 Ambala City have changed my minor daughter's name from Ayushi Singh to Aayushi Singh Randhawa.

I, Pooja W/o Sandip Kumar R/O H.No-81 Kanshi Nagar Model Town Ambala City have changed my name from Pooja to Pooja Kumar.

I, Ranjit Singh S/O Fauja Singh Walia R/O H.No- 358/15, Ram Bagh Road, Guru Nanak Nagar, Ambala Cantt have changed my name from Ranjit Singh to Ranjit Singh Walia.

I, Jaswinder W/o Jaspal R/O Village Topra Khurd, Post office Hafizpur, Tehsil Radaur, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Jaswinder to Jaswinder Kaur.

I Parveen Kumar S/o Sh. Hari Ram R/o Sector-D, Defence Colony, Ambala Cantt & Vill. Tapariya, Distt. Ambala (Haryana) do hereby solemnly affirm & declare that I have changed my daughter's name from PEO to PIHU. All Concerned note.

I, Ramesh Kumar s/o Sh. Gyan Chand ,resident Village - BhagwanPur ,Tehsil Bilaspur , District - Yamunanagar have changed my name from Ramesh Chand to Ramesh Kumar. All concerned Please note.

I, Sachin s/o Ibar Singh, resident of village Wazirpur Titana, Tehsil Israna, District Panipat. Already my name is Sachin. I have changed my name from Sachin to Sachin Chhoker vide affidavit dated 14.05.2024. In future known me Sachin Chhoker for all government and non-government purposes.

I, Kuldeep Singh Randhawa S/O Hardev Singh, Village Himmatpura, P.O. Nakora Tehsil Rania Distt. Sirsa, Have Changed Name To Kuldeep Singh.

I, Basminster Singh S/O Sh. Yash Pal Singh R/O H.No. 1433, Sector-20, Part-II, Sirsa (Haryana) Have Changed My Name To Basminster.

I, Monika Bhatheja W/O Basminster D/O Sh. Balwant Rai R/O H.No.- 1433, Sector-20, Part -II, Sirsa (Haryana) Have Changed My Name To Monika Arora.

I, Kulwinder Kaur Alias Kulvinder Kaur W/O Sh. Harjinder Singh R/O H.No.- 141, Ward- 7, Rania, Tehsil Rania, District Sirsa Have Changed My Name To Kulvinder Kaur Thind.

I, Arsad Khan S/O Asagar Khan R/O Khasra No. 44/26 Plot No. 402, Badli, North West Delhi, Delhi 110042 declare that I have changed my name form Arsad Khan to Arshad Khan for future purpose.

I, Satish Kumar S/O Tara Chand R/O H. No. 599/13, Multan Colony, Hansi, Distt. Hisar declare that I have changed my name form Satish Kumar to Satish Goyal for future purpose.

I, Kuldeep, S/o Gulshan Village & Post office, Mullana tehsil. Barara Distt. Ambala. I changed my name from Kuldeep to kala. In future I will be known as Kala Go. Concerned Note.

I, Chanchal Khurana W/o Sh. Naveen Khurana R/O H.No. 2/24 Near Canal Office Partap Nagar Rohtak declare That I have changed my name from Chanchal Khurana in future I will be called by the name of Chanchal Khurana for all purposes.

I, Harjinder Kaur W/o Paljit Singh R/o VPO. Saila Kalan, Tehsil Garhshankar (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name as Kaur Harjinder.

I, Mittarman Singh s/o Avtar Singh Village & PO Zaffar Wal (Gurdaspur) have changed my name as Singh Mittarman. Concerned note.

I, Deepak Kumar r/o 175, Olla Mohalla, Old DSP Kothi, Batala, Distt Gurdaspur declare that Deepak is my given name and Kaur is My Surname.

I, Santosh Bhardwaj W/O Dr Subhash Chander Bhardwaj # 2162, Sector 38-C, Chandigarh is hereby declare that I have Changed the name of my minor granddaughter from Osheen Sachdevabardhwarj to Dhaanya Bhardwaj being the guardian.

I, Virendra Pratap Singh S/O Sh. Durga Deen Singh R/O H.No.776, Charan Singh Colony, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh, declare that in my son's birth certificate my name is wrongly mentioned as Satpal but my correct name is Virendra Pratap Singh.

I, Poonam Garg W/O Darshan Singh R/O 1808/2/8, Sheela Nagar, Near KBC school, Thanesar, District Kurukshetra have changed my name to Poonam.

I, Sanjana Aggarwal W/o Akshat Mittal R/O House No. E-2003, Ansal Sushant City District Panipat, have changed my name to Sanjana Mittal.

I, Nirmal Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Ward No. 2, Panchpeer Mohalla, Pundri, District Kaithal, have changed my name to Nirmal (given name) and Singh (Surname).

I, Dinesh S/o Ram Kumar R/O Village Mirzapur, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have change my name from Dinesh to Dinesh Kumar.

I, Hithero Known As Jaspal Singh Son Of Sukhjinder Singh Residing At Village Jangla Post Office Nasarke, Tehsil Batala District Gurdaspur-143602 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Jspal Siingh.

I, Hithero Known As Sanjiv Kumar Son Of Dhani Ram Residing At H.No.89, Shri Ram Avenue, Tung Bala, Majitha Road, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sanjeev Kumar.

I, Hithero Known As Simarjit Singh Son Of Ram Singh Residing At H.No.4263, Ranjit Pura, Po Khalsa College, District Amritsar-143002 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Simarjit Singh Dhadha

I, Hithero Known As Avideep Singh S/O Pushpinder Singh Residing At H.No. HI-51, Roop Nagar, Near Gate Hakima, Amritsar Pin 143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Avideep Singh Josan.

I, Parminder Kaur W/O Jatinder Singh R/O H.No-Bx 28 Street No 1 L Balbir Avenue Distt Farridkot Have Changed My Name From Parminder Kaur To Parminder Kaur

I Rita Kumari W/O Balker Singh R/O Vpo. Dinawal Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Rita Kumari To Reeta Kumari

I Jasbir Kaur W/O Sharam Singh Resident Of Vpo Mallowal Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar Punjab Have Declare That Kaur Is My Surname And Jasbir Is My Given Name

I Kirpal Singh S.O Indar Singh R/O Vpo Mallowal Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar Punjab Have Declare That Singh Is My Surname And Kirpal Is My Given Name

I, Harpreet Singh S/O Lakkir Singh R/O Village P.O Bhagiari Tehsil And District Tarn Thara Have Changed My Name Harpreet Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

I, Sukhjinder Kaur W/O Harpreet Singh R/O Village P.O Bhagiari Tehsil And District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Sukhjinder Is My Given Name And Kaur Is My Surname

I, Sandeep Siingh S/O Swarn Singh R/O 75, Abadi Baba Jivan Singh, Chheharta, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sandeep Singh To Sandeep Singh

I, Harnoor Singh S/O Darshan Singh R/O New Defence Colony Phase-2 Block C Satyewala Tehsil And Distt. Ferozepur Have Change Of My Name Harnoor Singh Waraich To Harnoor Singh

I, Sukhi W/O Prem Singh R/O Vpo Jethuwal, District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sukhi To Sukhwinder Kaur

I Sukhjit Kaur W/O Harwinder Singh R/O Vpo Gaggio Mahal Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sukhjeet Kaur Othee To Sukhjit Kaur

I, No. 14937739K L/Hav Amit Singh Jadaun Resident At Vpo Kishorgarh, Tehsil Sabalgarh, District Morena, Madhya Pradesh-476229 Now At 15 Mech Inf, Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Kumari Swati Jadaun To Swati Jadaun Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb16441651964427W Dated 16-05-2024, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I Avtar Singh Babra S/O Anokh Singh R/O H.No.176, Pritam City, Jand Peer, Gate No. 2, Amritsar, Punjab I Have Changed My Name From Avtar Singh Babra To Avtar Singh

I, Baljit Kaur D/O Mohinder Singh Have Change From Vill. Daniai, Amritsar To Vill. Virk Po Athval, Gurdaspur Pin: 143511, Punjab, India.

I, Zorawar Singh S/O Harbinder Singh Mangat, 16 B, Palm Enclave, Brahma Majra Ludhiana, have changed name to Zorawar Singh Mangat

I, Ashi Devi mother of No. JC 285128K Ex Sub (DMT) Pappu of Artillery Records resident of VPO Jhumian Wali Tehsil and District Fazilka have changed my name from Asi Rani to Ashi Devi and DOB from 01-07-1953 to 01-01-1947 for correction in army service record of my son.

I, Deepshikha Chetry spouse of No. 5253265K NK Narayan Chhetry resident of village Dighali Pathar, PO Mirigaon Tehsil Sarupathar, District Golaghat Assam, 785602 have changed my name from Deepshikha Chetry to Deepshikha Chetry for correction in army service record of my husband.

I, Smt. Kuldip Kaur W/o No. 1546679N Late NK Nirmal Singh R/O H.No. 509, Sector 1, Shahbad (M), Tehsil Shahbad (M), District Kurukshetra declare that in my husband's service record my name is wrongly written as Kuldip Kaur instead of Kuldeep Kaur & D.O.B. 10.05.1961 instead of 06.10.1954. Note all concerns.

I, No.15106661X Hav Joginder Singh (Retd.) S/O Late Sh. Sukhlan Singh R/O Village Bakhli Khurd, (Plot No.5), P.O. Bakhli, Tehsil Pehowa, District Kurukshetra declare that in my service record my wife's name is wrongly written as Paramjit Kaur instead of Paramjeet Kaur. Note all concerns.

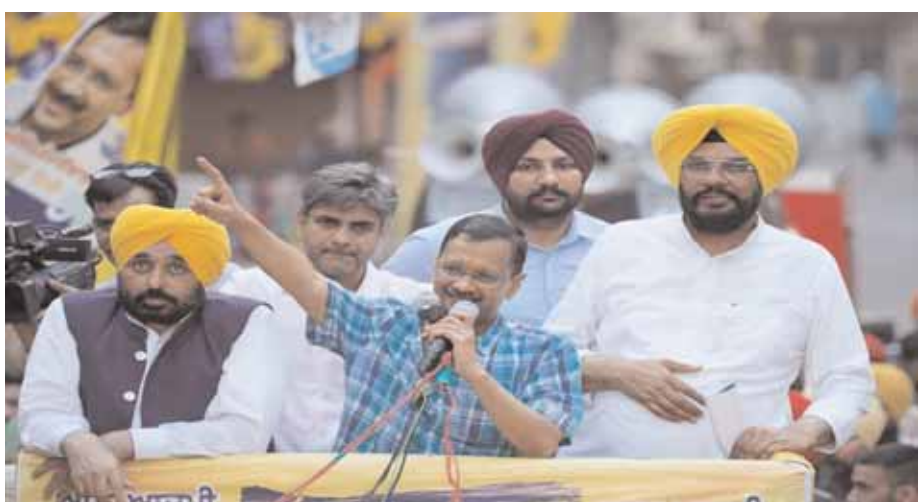
I Davinder Singh S/O Jagir Singh R/O Village Udhoke Khurd, Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Dawinder Singh To Davinder Singh.

I Om Parkash Gandhi S/O Jetha Ram Gandhi R/O #29 MC Road Loghgar Dasmesh Nagar Zirakpur Distt Sas Nagar Have Changed My Name From Om Gandhi To

Your Vote Will Save the Country and Constitution: Kejriwal in Amritsar Raodshow

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

In a highly charged and emotional return to Punjab's political stage, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday held a grand roadshow in Amritsar — marking his first public appearance in the state since being released on bail in Delhi excise policy case. Accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to campaign for AAP's Amritsar Lok Sabha candidate Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Kejriwal emphasized to the people of Punjab, "Your vote will save the country and the Constitution."



Before hitting the campaign trail, Kejriwal, Mann, and Dhaliwal paid their respects at the Golden Temple and Durgiana Temple, praying for peace and prosperity in Punjab — a spiritual start setting a reverent tone for the day's events, underscoring Kejriwal's connection with the region and its people.

Ballot Battle

Kejriwal outlined what he believed were the real reasons for his imprisonment — providing free electricity, improving government schools, and establishing Mohalla Clinics in Delhi and Punjab. "They jailed me because I gave your children a good education and ensured free healthcare and electricity," he asserted. He also shared his ordeal of not receiving diabetes medication for 15 days in jail, a situation that dangerously elevated his blood sugar levels. "I am a sugar patient. For the last 20 years, I have been suffering from severe diabetes. For the last 10 years, I have been on insulin. I am given 52 units of insulin daily. When I went to Tihar, they stopped my insulin injection for 15 days. My sugar level reached above 300, sometimes 350. If a person's sugar remains high for a long time, his liver and kidneys get damaged," he explained.

The roadshow in Amritsar saw thousands of AAP supporters waving flags and chanting slogans of 'Inquilab Zindabad', with 'Rang De Basanti Chola' — a song associated with Shaheed-e-Aazam Bhagat Singh — being played along. The atmosphere was electric as Kejriwal, Mann, Dhaliwal, and AAP's national general secretary Dr Sandeep Pathak worked back at the enthusiastic crowd. Addressing the crowd, Kejriwal recounted his time in jail, framing it as a period of personal and political trial. "I was jailed on false charges... During my meetings with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, my foremost concern was the well-being of the people of Punjab," he said.

the achievements of the AAP Government. Hitting at the BJP, Kejriwal said that these people want to change the Constitution. "These people have very dangerous plans in their mind. They are repeatedly saying of crossing the 400-mark. These people are not telling why 400 seats are needed. When inquired, we came to know that they would end the reservation. They need 400 seats to end reservation for OBC, SC and ST," he said.

Punjab Chief Minister Mann said: "After coming out of jail, Arvind Kejriwal today came to the holy land of Amritsar to pray for our country and asked God to bring our country back on the right track. Tomorrow, we will pray at Ram Teerath Mandir that the reigns of the country should go to the honest people." Mann, addressing the crowd, emphasized the integrity and dedication of AAP candidates like Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal. He praised Dhaliwal for his efforts in reclaiming 10,000 acres of illegally occupied land and promised that Dhaliwal would champion Punjab's issues in the Parliament. "Elect Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, and no one will be able to stop our funds," Mann declared.

Drugs, cash & valuables worth Rs 56.19 crore seized in Haryana, says CEO

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal on Thursday said cash amounting to Rs 11.50 crore has been seized in the ongoing Lok Sabha Elections in the State. In addition to this, illegal liquor, narcotic substances, and valuable items worth Rs. 44.69 crore have also been confiscated.

He said that to conduct the Lok Sabha General Elections 2024 in the State in a completely fair and transparent manner, all the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India, as well as the Model Code of Conduct, are being strictly enforced. The Commission is very strict about preventing voters from any kind of inducement, and various agencies in the State are keeping a close watch on the movement of illegal liquor, narcotic substances, and cash. Agarwal said that stringent action has been taken by the police, Income Tax Department, Excise and Taxation Department, and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in the state after the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct. As a result, a total of Rs 11.50 crore illicit cash has been seized, including Rs 5.48 crore seized by the police, Rs 3.03 crore by the Income Tax Department, Rs 2.98 crore by the Excise Department, and DRI. Besides this, various agencies have confiscated over 3,83,038 liters of illicit liquor valued at Rs 12.54 crore.

35,000 Policemen, 90 Paramilitary Companies & 24,000 Home Guard Personnel to be deployed during LS Election in Hry Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) Shatruijeet Kapur said that over 35,000 personnel and 90 paramilitary companies will be deployed to ensure a peaceful and fair voting environment in the State. Additionally, over 24,000 Home Guard personnel will also be strategically stationed throughout the region to maintain law and order. Overall, the police will keep a close watch on every nook and corner of the state, he added.

He said that with an extensive network of 20,606 polling stations established across 10,343 locations, effective security arrangements have been made to ensure smooth conduct of voting. Out of these, 3,033 polling stations at 1,362 locations have been identified as critical. Further 51 polling stations have been flagged as vulnerable, warranting heightened security measures, DGP added.

Kapur said that to bolster vigilance, a network of 130 inter-state and 170 intra-state checkpoints has been established, supplemented by a fleet of 418 flying squads, 415 static surveillance teams, and 34 quick response teams. Furthermore, 1,039 patrolling parties have been mobilized to uphold law and order and ensure peaceful elections at the same time diligently adhering to the model code of conduct. In conjunction with Central forces, personnel from the Haryana Armed Police and the Indian Reserve Battalion have been tasked with safeguarding the integrity of the 91 designated strong rooms. Stringent measures have also been taken to regulate licensed firearms, with over 1,14,667 weapons securely deposited out of 133513 licensed weapons. Besides, 339 firearms have been seized, and licenses for 1,202 weapons have been revoked, in response to violations of the Model Code of Conduct, the DGP added.

Further 51 polling stations have been flagged as vulnerable, warranting heightened security measures, DGP added. Kapur said that to bolster vigilance, a network of 130 inter-state and 170 intra-state checkpoints has been established, supplemented by a fleet of 418 flying squads, 415 static surveillance teams, and 34 quick response teams. Furthermore, 1,039 patrolling parties have been mobilized to uphold law and order and ensure peaceful elections at the same time diligently adhering to the model code of conduct. In conjunction with Central forces, personnel from the Haryana Armed Police and the Indian Reserve Battalion have been tasked with safeguarding the integrity of the 91 designated strong rooms. Stringent measures have also been taken to regulate licensed firearms, with over 1,14,667 weapons securely deposited out of 133513 licensed weapons. Besides, 339 firearms have been seized, and licenses for 1,202 weapons have been revoked, in response to violations of the Model Code of Conduct, the DGP added.

BJP only preaches nationalism, while Congress actually practices it: Manish Tewari

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Congress candidate from Chandigarh Parliamentary constituency Manish Tewari on Thursday asserted that unlike the Bharatiya Janata Party, which only talks about nationalism with its characteristic 'jumblebazi', the Congress party and its leaders have a tradition and history of martyrdom and sacrificing their lives for the nation.

Tewari reiterated the Congress' welfare guarantees including doubling the free monthly ration to the poor, paying Rs 8500 every month to poor families and guaranteed first year jobs for all graduates and diploma holders. Replying to a question, during an interaction with reporters, that the BJP leaders were claiming that India had emerged stronger under the BJP rule, as compared to the Congress, Tewari retorted, "yes verbally, but not practically, as it had weakened actually", while referring to China still occupying India's land and the BJP leadership being timidly quiet. He pointed out, it was during the Congress regime under late Indira Gandhi that India divided Pakistan into two parts and created a new country, Bangladesh. He said that Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi laid down their lives for the unity and integrity of the country.

making it actually happen are two different things", he remarked, while asserting, "Congress believes in actually making Bharatmata victorious as it did in 1971". He pointed out, it was the Congress that won freedom for the country and then integrated over 500 princely states into one nation.

Tewari shifting constituencies in every Lok Sabha election: Tandon Chandigarh: BJP candidate for

election since 2014. "Now that he is contesting from Chandigarh, which constituency will he shift to in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections?" Tandon questioned. Tandon wondered why the Congress nominees in Ludhiana and Shri Anandpur Sahib constituencies which were rarely represented by him in the past are not calling him to campaign in favour of the Congress. At the Faida jansabha, Tandon raised the issue of 'Guarantee Cards' being distributed to unsuspecting voters by Manish Tewari's Congress and AAP workers at many places in Chandigarh, in violation of the Model Code of Conduct. Tandon retorted, "The Congress nominee is fooling innocent people, by showing them 'Mungerli Ke Haseen Sapne' by making false promises in the 'guarantee cards'." Tandon promised all-round development of semi-urban areas. He also raised the issue of Lal Dora which he vowed to resolve on becoming MP. Tandon said, "I am committed to bridging the developmental gap between the city's core and its peripheries, ensuring prosperity reaches every corner."

Ballot Battle

Chandigarh Lok Sabha seat, Sanjay Tandon on Thursday asked the Congress nominee Manish Tewari to share with the voters in Chandigarh how his performance had been as an MP from Ludhiana and Shri Anandpur Sahib. Tandon said while Tewari has been claiming himself to be a national leader, it has always been a mystery why he has been changing his Lok Sabha constituency in every Lok Sabha

BJP did politics in name of cow but Congress worked for its welfare: Himachal CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday alleged that the BJP did only cow politics while the Congress built cowsheds and worked for cow welfare in the state. "To solve the problem of destitute animals, the state government has decided to increase the grant given to private cow shelters from Rs 700 to Rs 1,200 per month," CM Sukhu said in a statement issued here. Apart from this, a state-level task force will be formed to deal with the problem of stray cows in the state. This force will give suggestions with regard to keeping these stray cows in cow sanctuaries and cowsheds after consultation with farmers and local communities, Sukhu said, adding that provision for this initiative has been made in the budget for

Ballot Battle

the financial year 2024-25. He added that the present Congress government in the state has taken various effective steps to strengthen the rural economy so that the standard of living of the people in the villages can be improved. "The BJP has only done politics in the name of cow whereas the present Congress government (in Himachal Pradesh) has made many schemes for the welfare of cows and cowherds," the CM said in the statement.

He added that the present Congress government in the state has taken various effective steps to strengthen the rural economy so that the standard of living of the people in the villages can be improved. "The BJP has only done politics in the name of cow whereas the present Congress government (in Himachal Pradesh) has made many schemes for the welfare of cows and cowherds," the CM said in the statement. Sukhu claimed that as 90 per cent of Himachal Pradesh's population lives in villages, the state government is focused on making policies and launching programmes that will strengthen their economic status. The chief minister said that an artificial insemination training centre will be established at Darlaghat in Solan district to provide best breed animals to the cattle rearers. He added that the Congress-led state government will ensure fair prices for milk products to farmers. Sukhu said that with the aim of developing skills related to animal husbandry among the youth of the state, new skill training programmes will be started through the Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Corporation.

An additional plant with a capacity of 50,000 litres per day (LPD) is being started in the milk processing plant in Duttanagar in Shimla district. Milk processing plants with modern technology are being established in Una and Hamirpur on which approximately Rs 50 crore will be spent," CM Sukhu said.

Kahlon Joins BJP hours after expulsion from SAD

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In a significant political development, especially related to Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency, Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) senior leader Ravi Karan Singh Kahlon — son of Punjab Vidhan Sabha's former Speaker Nirmal Singh Kahlon — joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday, mere hours after he was expelled for "anti-party activities". Kahlon, who was SAD's general secretary and in-charge of Dera Baba Nanak assembly constituency, made the switch to the saffron brigade alongside his several supporters.

BJP is expecting to consolidate its position in Punjab, especially Gurdaspur, ahead of the June 1 Lok Sabha elections. Notably, Ravi Kahlon had lost to the Congress's Sukhbir Singh Randhawa by a mere 466 votes in 2022 state assembly polls, amidst the AAP's tsunami. Randhawa, the former Deputy Chief Minister, is the Congress's Lok Sabha candidate in Gurdaspur, where AAP has fielded Amansher Singh Shery Kalsi, and SAD has fielded former Minister Daljit Singh Cheema. The BJP, this time, is betting on its former MLA Dinesh Singh Babbu after dropping Bollywood superstar Sunny Deol, who in 2019 routed Sunil Jakhar, then with the Congress. Gurdaspur is considered to be a BJP stronghold as the party had contested this seat even when it was an ally of the SAD.

The BJP hopes to leverage this new alignment to strengthen its foothold in Punjab, a state where the saffron party is contesting elections independently for the first time and struggling amidst ongoing farmers' protests. At his induction into the BJP, Ravi Kahlon did not hold back in his criticism of the SAD leadership, and accused Bikram Singh Majithia of wielding undue influence and sidelining those who questioned the party's direction. "Sukhbir Singh Badal is merely a rubber stamp, with Majithia pulling the strings." Ravi Kahlon stated. He also highlighted the absence of due process in his expulsion, noting that he had raised concerns about maintaining the party's integrity and image. BJP state president Sunil Jakhar, welcoming Ravi Kahlon into the party, emphasized the growing trend of leaders from other parties gravitating towards the BJP. Ravi Kahlon, who became SAD's member in 1992 and previously led the Youth Akali Dal, faced expulsion from the party on Wednesday evening. SAD spokesperson and Gurdaspur candidate Cheema, announced on the X, that SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal had expelled Ravi Karan Singh Kahlon, the in-charge of Dera Baba Nanak Assembly, from the party's primary membership. Cheema cited Kahlon's "anti-party activities" and "backstabbing" as the reasons for his expulsion, emphasizing that indiscipline would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Ballot Battle

The move comes as a blow to the Akali Dal and a boost to the BJP, particularly in Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency, where Dera Baba Nanak is one of the nine assembly segments. The development also assumes significance as it came on the day when Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was campaigning for Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) candidate for Gurdaspur Amansher Singh Shery Kalsi, and addressed a huge public rally in Congress candidate Pratap Singh Bajwa's assembly segment, Qadian. Ravi Kahlon's political lineage and influence in both Dera Baba Nanak and Fatehgarh Churian are significant. His father, Nirmal Singh Kahlon, was a two-time MLA from Fatehgarh Churian and served as the Rural Development and Panchayat Minister in 1997 and Vidhan Sabha Speaker from 2007 to 2012. With Kahlon's switch,

Poll Buzz

Malika Garg, Police Observer for Elections inspects Strong Room in Chandigarh Chandigarh: In view of upcoming Lok Sabha elections in UT Chandigarh, Malika Garg, IPS, Police Observer for Elections, visited the Strong Room at CCET, Sector 26 in Chandigarh for inspection. She also visited the Sensitive Booths and Border Nakas in the Area of Daddu Majra and Kajheri.

Congress will confirm temporary employees, says Hooda Kurukshetra: Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday said that if the Congress government is formed in the state, the old pension scheme will be implemented in the first cabinet. Besides, a policy will be made to confirm the temporary employees, which will directly benefit thousands of employees and their families. Hooda had reached Kurukshetra today to seek votes for India Alliance candidate Sushil Gupta. He addressed many election meetings and claimed the big victory of AAP candidate Sushil Gupta.

Modi ki guarantees' are falling flat: Indian Oversees Congress senior leaders Chandigarh: Mohinder Singh Gilizan, President, Indian Oversees Congress USA, Kamal Dhaliwal, President, Indian Oversees Congress UK, R C Sharma IOC Canada, Charanjit Modgil IOC Estonia, Gurpreet Sobi IOC USA & Simranjot Singh IOC Finland on Thursday accused the BJP government of ruining the economy, undermining democracy, and threatening socio-cultural fabric of the country. IOC members addressed media persons in Chandigarh. Highlighting the quid pro quo arrangements of BJP, Mohinder Singh Gilizan, President, Indian Oversees Congress USA vented about the Electoral Bond scheme calling it a scam "What the electoral bonds scheme has done is to ensure 'ease of doing crony capitalism' and distort the market in a way that propagates inequality."

Punjab CEO to interact with people today 17 during 2nd 'Facebook Live' Chandigarh: Buoyed by the massive success of the first 'live' interaction program with the voters in April, Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibi C will hold another Facebook live session — Talk to Your CEO Punjab — from 11 am to 11:30 am on Friday (May 17) to address the queries raised by voters related to the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. The CEO said that the sole aim of this initiative is to spread awareness among voters and clear their doubts pertaining to the election process.

Kangaroo courts' by kisan unions a sign of AAP leadership failure: Jakhar Chandigarh: Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar on Thursday said that Punjab is reeling under a dangerous crisis of a collapse of leadership with a "non-serious" Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann squarely responsible for Punjab's ignominy and kangaroo courts taking roots. There are kisan unions that have become law unto themselves.

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Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mrs Anju Kumar W/O Ashwani Kumar R/O Flat No.117, Block-A5 Gulmohar City, Derabassi Tehsil Derabassi Distt SAS Nagar Have Changed My Name From Anju Kumari To Anju Kumar

I, Arman Mor S/O Jagbir Singh R/O House No. 58, Sector-7, Gohana, Sonipat, Declare That Arman Mor And Kamal Both Names Is One & Same Person.

I Dharampal Singh S/O Charandas H. No. 4532, Gt Road, Bara, Ward No 14, Sirhind, Fatehgarh Sahib Have Change My Name Dharmpal Singh To Dharampal Singh

I Sukhdeep Kaur Bhachu W/O Manmohan Singh R/O Flat No.752 Gilico Palm, Sector 115, Khara Distt Sas Nagar Have Changed My Name From Sukhdeep Kaur To Sukhdeep Kaur Bhachu

I Karan Kumar S/O Raj Kumar Ward No.3 Ahluwalia Mohalla Mukerian Distt Hoshiarpur Declare Karan Kumar Walia And Karan Kumar Both Names Of One And Same Person. I Known With Both Names.

I, Vikram S/O Pitamber Dutt R/O Hno. 158T3, Power Colony, Police Line, Ropar, Punjab, Presently Residing At Hno. 6216/B, Sector 56, Chandigarh, Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Vikram To Vikram Sharma, Concerned Please Note.

I Garima Dhingra W/O Anshuk Dhingra R/O H.No-315 Sector- 12 Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Garima Dhingra To Garima Kathuria.

I, Army No 4478235L Rank Havildar Gobind Singh R/O Vpo Gajewas, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala (Punjab) Pin-147101, Have Changed My Wife Sandeep Kaur Date Of Birth 01-01-1986 To 20-01-1986 In My Army Service Record.

I, Ranjodh Singh S/O Gurmaj Singh, Resident Of Village Chhapianwali, Amritsar, Punjab, India, I Have Change My Name From Ranjodh Singh To Ranjodh Is My Name And My Surname Is Singh, All Concerned Note.

I Reetu Mahajan W/O Naresh Kumar Mahajan R/O Kali Mata Mandir Road, Saranjeev Bihar Dinanagar Distt Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Ritu Mahajan To Reetu Mahajan

I, Madhu W/O Vikram Sharma R/O Hno. 158T3, Power Colony, Police Line, Ropar, Punjab, Presently Residing At Hno. 6216/B, Sector 56, Chandigarh, Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Madhu To Madhu Sharma, Concerned Please Note

I, Nater Pal Father Of No 15340520y, Rank: Spr. Name: Vinod Kumar (Retd) R/O Vpo-Gonder, Tehsil- Nissing & Distt-Karnal (Haryana)- 132024 Have Changed My Name From Nater Pal To Netrapal Ji Maharaj Vide Affidavit Dated 16 May 2024 Sworn In Before Notary, Karnal.

I Vimla Devi W/O No.Gs-165281k Superintendent Vijay Kuma R/O #8, Rose Valley Estate Gulabgarh VTC Dera Bassi Distt Mohali Unit Of WBW (GREF) C/O APO Declare In My Husband Army Record My Name Is Wrongly Recorded As Vimla Arya. My Correct Name Is Vimla Devi. Vimla Arya Alias Vimla Devi Both Names Of One And Same Person.

My Old Name Was Deeksha And Now My Name Is Deeksha Girdher D/O Rakesh Girdher R/O Street No. 4-C2, Guru Angad Dev Nagar, Kotkapura Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab - 152026 In All The Educational Certificates And In Other Relevant Documents.

My Old Name Was Khushi And Now My Name Is Anandita Girdher D/O Rakesh Girdher R/O Street No. 4-C2, Guru Angad Dev Nagar, Kotkapura Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab - 152026 In All The Educational Certificates And In Other Relevant Documents.

My Old Name Was Rekha Grover And Now My New Name Is Rekha Girdher W/O Rakesh Girdher R/O : Street No. 4-C2, Guru Angad Dev Nagar, Kotkapura Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab - 152026

I, Roshan Khan S/O Bashir Khan R/O Village Binjal, Tehsil & Distt. Patiala (Punjab) declare that Roshan Khan and Roshan Lal both names are mine and of one same person.

I, Krishan alias Krishn S/O Dharampal R/O St. No. 26, Near Bobby Karyana Store, Anand Nagar-B, Patiala (Punjab) declare that both above names are mine and of one same person.

I, Balvir Kaur wife of Army No 3367130 NK (TS) Amrik Singh S/O Pala Singh Resident of Vill Burj Mohamad Shah P.O Fatehgarh Panjtoor Tehsil Zira and Distt Ferozepur, (Punjab) have changed my name From Manjit Kaur to Balvir Kaur and date of birth as 01 Jan 1961 in my husband service records, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB 1612425779334W dated 16 May 2024.

I, Rajendra Singh Chaudhari Father of Army No.3206061A, Rank Hav, Name Murari Singh Chaudhary, presently Resident at Village Karai Post Ghosla, Tehsil Hindaun City, District Karauli, Rajasthan, PIN 322254, have changed my name from Rajendra Singh Chaudhary to Rajendra Singh Chaudhari vide affidavit no. IN-PB 16324478125105W, Dated 16 May 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Anju Kumari Jat Wife of Army No.3206061A, Rank Hav, Name Murari Singh Chaudhary, presently Resident at Village Karai Post Ghosla, Tehsil Hindaun City, District Karauli, Rajasthan, PIN 322254, have changed my name from Anju Devi to Anju Kumari Jat vide affidavit no. IN-PB 16322796899762W, Dated 16 May 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Vimala Devi Mother of Army No.3206061A, Rank Hav, Name Murari Singh Chaudhary, presently Resident at Village Karai Post Ghosla, Tehsil Hindaun City, District Karauli, Rajasthan, PIN 322254, have changed my name from Vimla Devi to Vimala Devi vide affidavit no. IN-PB 16326035968216W, Dated 16 May 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, JC-441400P, SUB, Sasi Kumar V Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56. APO Ferozepur Cantt Resident at Vpo. Chinnakkattalai, Teh. Peraiyur, Distt. Madurai, (TN) 625527 have changed my son Name in all documents From S. Sriveeagan to Sri Viveagan S. Vide Affidavit Dated 16 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I, R. Aruvi Selvi is wife of No. JC-441400P, SUB, Sasi Kumar V Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt Resident at Vpo. Chinnakkattalai, Teh. Peraiyur, Distt. Madurai, (TN) 625527, have changed my name from R. Aruvi Selvi to Arivuchelvi R Vide Affidavit Dated 16 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I, Bhanumathi is Mother of No. 14674967L, NK, Saravanan R. OF UNIT 90 ARMD REGT C/O 56 APO Residing at 2/105, Pappampatti Kattu, Valavu, Kammampatti, Nallampalli, Taluk Kammampatti Dharmapuri State Tamil Nadu, PIN 636352, have changed my name from Bhanumathi to Banumathi Vide Affidavit Dated 14 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I, Raju is Father of No. 14674967L, NK, Saravanan R. OF UNIT 90 ARMD REGT C/O 56 APO Residing at 2/105, Pappampatti Kattu, Valavu, Kammampatti, Nallampalli, Taluk Kammampatti Dharmapuri State Tamil Nadu, PIN 636352 have changed my name from Raju To Raji C Vide Affidavit Dated 14 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I, S Deepa is Spouse of No. 14674967L, NK, Saravanan R. OF UNIT 90 ARMD REGT C/O 56 APO Residing at 1/5-440 Vellar Mettur Salem State Tamil Nadu, PIN 636451 have changed my name from S. Deepa To Deepa Srinivasan Vide Affidavit Dated 14 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I, No. 14674967L, NK, Saravanan R. OF UNIT 90 ARMD REGT C/O 56 APO Residing at 1/5-440 Vellar Mettur Salem State Tamil Nadu, PIN 636451 have changed my Son name from S Pavithran To Pavithran S Vide Affidavit Dated 14 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I, No. 14674967L, NK, Saravanan R. OF UNIT 90 ARMD REGT C/O 56 APO Residing at 1/5-440 Vellar Mettur Salem State Tamil Nadu Pin 636451 have changed my Daughter name from S Abhinaya to Abhinaya S Vide Affidavit Dated 14 May 2024 before at Notray Ferozepur.

I Harinder Kumar S/O Sushil Kumar R/O #3995/2 Mohalla Soot Bata Tehsil & Distt Patiala Have Changed My Name Harinder Moudgil To Harinder Kumar.

I, Tanveen Walia d/o Gagandeep Singh r/o Bakshi Colony, Fateh Nangal, Nagar-B, Patiala (Punjab) declare that both above names are mine and of one same person.

I, Mukesh Kumar s/o Om Parkash Sharma r/o Krishna Gali No.2, Back Side Power House, Dhariwal, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Mukesh Kumar to Mukesh Sharma.

I, Shallu w/o Mukesh Sharma r/o Krishna Gali No.2, Back Side Power House, Dhariwal, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed the spelling of my name from Shallu to Shalu.

I, Veenus S/o Raj Kumar R/o H.No.10, Krishna Nagar, Old Cottan Factory, Hisar, Haryana- 125001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Veenus Popli.

I, Rachhpal Singh S/O Kartar Singh Dhanoa R/O H.No.2590, Phase-11, Sector-65, S.A.S Nagar, (Mohali), Punjab- 160062, have changed my nameand shall hereafter be Known as Rachhpal Singh Dhanoa.

I, Sarbjit w/o Shri Bashir Rana r/o Vill. Jajjan Kalan, Po. Bir Bansian, Teh. Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have spelling correction in my name from Sarbjit to Sarbjjeet.

I, Kuldeep Kaur W/o Harjinder Singh R/O VPO. Mari Buchian, Teh. Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed the spelling of my name from Kuldeep Kaur to Kuldeep Kaur.

I, hitherto Known as Richa Mahajan D/o Darshan Vir Arora W/o Vivek Mahajan R/O H.No. E. J. 144, Chahar Bagh, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Richa Arora.

I, Jang Bahadur Singh S/o Balwant Singh R/o H.No.NA-158, Street No.3 Mohalla Kishanpura, Jalandhar have changed my name from Jang Bahadur Singh to Jang Bhadur Singh.

I, Madhvi W/o Baldev Kapoor R/O H.No.5 B, New Dilbagh Nagar, Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Madhvi To Madhvi Kapoor (Kapoor as Surname)

I, Parshotam Dass S/o Chaman Lal R/o Basant Vihar Colony, Backside Paul Hospital, Dhariwal, District Gurdaspur, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Parshotam Dass To Parshotam Lal Malhotra.

I, Deepak Malhotra S/o Parshotam Dass R/o Basant Vihar Colony, Backside Paul Hospital, Dhariwal, District Gurdaspur, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Deepak Malhotra To Deepak.

I Rinku Jeryal W/O Sukhjit Singh R/O H.No.88-L, W.No.9, Model Town, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Rinku Jeryal To Rinku Jarial.

I Harpreet Singh S/O Bahadur Singh R/O Village Hukran P.O. Rajpur Bhayan, District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From To Singh Harpreet.

I Sunita Devi W/O Baldev Singh R/O Vill Mirpur, P.O. Chanour, Tehsil Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Declare That Sunita Is My Given Name And Devi Is My Surname.

I Raj Kirpal Singh S/O Rattan Singh R/O Vpo. Sarhala Mundian, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Raj Kirpal Singh To Raj Kirpal Singh.

I Pargat Singh Atul S/O Manjeet Singh R/O Bhagta Bhai Ka Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Pargat Singh.

I Jasbir Singh S/O Mahinder Singh R/O Vpo. Sukhanand Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jasveer Singh.

I Jaspreet Singh Sran S/O Harbans Singh R/O Vill. Lalle Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Khushveer Kaur To Khushveer Kaur Sran.

I Harwinder Kaur W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Vill. Talwandi Bhangerian Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Harwinder Kaur.

I Dilbag Singh S/O Sadhu Singh R/O Thakar Patti Vpo. Saffuwala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Dilbag Singh Gill.

I, Sheela Devi W/o Rameshwar Singh R/o Vill: Ishaq Distt. Kurukshetra-136128 have changed my name from Sheela Devi to Sushila Devi.

I, Kulvinder Kour W/o Harminder Singh R/o #73 Shekhpora Enclave (Patiala) have changed my name to Kulvinder Kaur.

I Gurmit Singh Gill S/O Jangir Singh Vill jangiana Tehsil Tapa,Distt. Barnala have changed my name Gurmit Singh.

I Kiran Dip Kaur Gill W/O Gurmit Singh Vill jangiana Tehsil Tapa,Distt. Barnala have changed my name Kirandip Kaur.

I Parnam Singh S/O Sandeep Singh Dhillon Vill Majuke Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Parnam Singh Dhillon.

I Satvir Kaur W/o Sandeep Singh Dhillon Vill Majuke Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Satvir Kaur Dhillon.

I Satigur Singh Aulakh S/O Gurcharan Singh Vill.Kaleran, Teh.Dhuri, Distt. Sangrur have Changed my Name To Satigur Singh.

I, Balwant Singh Matharu S/o Nahar Singh R/o Vill: Rajoana Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Balwant Singh.

I, Harkomal Singh S/o Dalwinder Singh Wander R/O Guru Ki Dhab (Faridkot) have changed my name to Harkomal Singh Wander.

I, Dalwinder Singh S/o Major Singh R/O Guru Ki Dhab (Faridkot) have changed my name to Dalwinder Singh Wander.

I, Amritpal Kaur W/o Dalwinder Singh Wander R/O Guru Ki Dhab (Faridkot) have changed my name to Amritpal Kaur Wander.

I, Baljit Kaur W/O Kunan Singh, R/O 716, Opp . Dispansri. VPO Rayya. Distt-Amritsar. Have Changed My Name Spelling. Baljith Kaur To Baljit Kaur.

I, Tanvir Singh Dhaliwal S/o Jagsir Singh Dhaliwal R/O Barnala Road Near Shiv Mandir Nihal Singh Wala (Moga) Punjab, have changed my name to Tanveer Singh Dhaliwal.

I, Satvir Kaur W/o Satpal Singh Gill R/O Dhani Natha Singh Vill: Karamgarh Teh-Malout (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name to Satveer Kaur Gill.

I Raghubir Singh S/O Gurdev Singh R/O VPO. Khota (Moga) have changed my name to Raghvir Singh.

I, Pawan Kukar S/O Hans Raj R/O Krishna Mandir Street Jalalabad W/O Distt Fazilka Have Changed My Name Pawan Kukar To Pawan Kumar.

I, Raj Kumar S/O Arjun Dass R/O H.No 197, Naka No. 4 Kasturi Lal Street Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Raj Kumar Khanna.

I Jasbir Kaur W/o Kuldeep Singh R/O Near Chungi No. 08 Nawa Purba, Satyewala Po Sbs Engg College Ferozepur District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Jasveer Kaur.

I Kuldip Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O Near Chungi No. 08 Nawa Purba, Satyewala Po Sbs Engg College Ferozepur District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Singh.

I Paramjit Kaur W/o Bikramjit Singh Lamba R/O House No 1485 Nargy Colony Street No 4 Sri Muktsar Sahib District Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Change My Name To Paramjit Kaur Lamba.

I Nisha Rani W/O Ashok Kumar R/O House No. 1150, Gandhi Colony Rajpura Town Distt. Patiala Have Changed My Name From Nisha Rani To Meenu Rani After My Marriage.

I Kirpal Singh @ Kiru Singh S/O Baru Singh R/O Village Dakala, Tehsil And Distt. Patiala Both Names Are One And The Same Person.

I, Baby W/O Mohan Lal R/O Village Munda Kheda, Tehsil Chhachhrauli, Distt Yamunanagar Have Changed My Name From Rekha Rani To Baby.

I, Anchala Devi W/O Sh. Shiv Raj Chauhan R/O Village Bilon, PO. Rampur Bilon, Tehsil Garhshankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144528, India Have Changed The Spelling Of My Name From Anchala Devi To Anchla Devi.

I, Kamaljeet Kaur W/O Avtar Singh R/O H.No. B-14/1017 Sant Nagar Ladowali Road, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name to Kamaljit Kaur.

I Asees D/O Arshdeep Singh R/O House No-915, Phase-3 B-2, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali), Chandigarh Sector 60, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali), Punjab- 160059, Have Changed My Name To Asees Lamba.

I Jashwant Singh S/O Bakshsi Ram R/O Balnau, Khanpur Dhadda, Jalandhar, Shahkot, Punjab - 144701, Have Changed My Name To Jaswant Singh.

I Bindya Kumari W/O Jagjit Singh R/O Isewal, Jalandhar, Rupewali, Punjab- 144701, Have Changed My Name To Balwinder Kaur.

I Anu Bala D/O Hans Raj And W/O Gaurav Mahajan R/O House No-283, Mohalla Limini, Pathankot, Pathankot, Punjab - 145001, Have Changed My Name To Anu Bala Bajaj.

I Sugrim Pal S/O Karta Ram R/O Vill And P.O Kunjpara Tehsil And Distt. Karnal Have Changed My Name From Sugrim To Sugrim Pal. In Future I Shall Be Known As Sugrim Pal.

I, Ajay S/O Jasbir Singh R/O Village- Chak Araian, Po-Chor Sidhwan, Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur Pin-143521 Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name From Ajay To Ajay Sabharwal.

I, Kamaljit Kaur W/O Gurmukh Singh R/O Village-Salahrpur, Chakshrif, Distt-Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name From Kamaljit Kaur To Kamaljeet Kaur.

I, Bachitter Kalo S/O Munshi Ram Resident Of Vill-Kaunter Pur, District-Pathankot. Have Changed My Name From Bachitter Kalo To Bachitter Singh Concerned Note Please.

I, No 618811L Ex SGT Sumbaj Raj resident of H.No 506/A Bhadoya Road, Omkar Nagar Pathankot PO. Pathankot, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed the name of my wife from Suman Bedgal to Satya Devi vide Affidavit No. IN-PB16114110928308W Dated 16 MAY 2024 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I Miss. Sumandeep Kaur Daughter Of Late No. 15100907-P. HAV. Satnam Singh R/O Village Ladhpur Po Bhattian Tehsil And Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed My Name From Samandeep Kaur To Sumandeep Kaur And Date Of Birth Is. 20-06-1994 To 06-04-1994.

It is for general information that I Ayush Bhardwaj S/o Suman Kumar R/O Street No-12, Jujhar Nagar, Kharar, SAS Nagar, Mohali Punjab-140301 declare that name of mine and my mother has been wrongly written as Ayush Kumar and Komal in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and mother are Ayush Bhardwaj and Manju respectively which may be amended accordingly.

I, Naresh Spouse Of No.15791606N Hav Sunil Kumar Resident Of House No.1573/31 Chhotu Ram Colony Opposite Petrol Pump Gohana Road, Sonipat, State-Haryana, Pin-131001, Have Changed My Dob From 26 May 1981 To 26 July 1981 Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb14415250926914W Dated 10 May 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Shayma Devi Spouse Of No.405672k Sub Mhaweer Prasad Sen Resident Of Village- Tityari, Post-Salembad, Tehsil- Kishangarh, District- Ajmer, State-Rajasthan, Pin-305815, Have Changed My Name From Shayma Devi To Shyama Devi Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb16406112371108W Dated 16 May 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot

I, Nirmala Devi W/o Rakesh Kumar R/O H.No. 620, Dashmesh Nagar, Ward No.4, Bishanpura, Sub-Tehsil Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali, Punjab declared that my son Pardeep Kumar (aged 20) is out of my control. So we disown from him my moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deals with this at their own Risk.

I Chandra Devi (Existing Name) Wife Of No. 7772135L Ex Hav Prem Singh Resident Of Vpo Sisar Khas, District Rohtak (Haryana) Have Changed My Name In My Husband's Army Record From Chandra Devi (Existing Name) To Santra Devi (Proposed New Name) My Correct /Actual Dob Is 02.08.1960 As Per My Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In Future I Shall May Be Known/Written And Called As Santra Devi (Dob: 02.08.1960) For All Work Purposes, Vide Affidavit Dated May 2024 Before Ist Class Magistrate Meham (Rohtak)

I Gotam Chand (Existing Name) S/O Number 154599N EX LCK (S) Rakesh Kumar S/O Tara Chand Resident Of Vpo Anwal, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Rohtak (Haryana) Have Changed My Name Spelling In My Father Defence Record From Gotam Chand (Existing Name) To Goutam Chand (Proposed New Name) As Per My Matric Certificate, Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In Future I Shall May Be Known/Written And Called As Goutam Chand For All Work Purposes, Vide Affidavit Dated May 2024 Before Ist Class Magistrate, Kalanaur (Rohtak)

I Chander (Existing Name) Wife Of No. JC137319M EX SUB Om Singh Kajal Resident Of Village Nidana, Po Samargopalpur, Tehsil Rohtak District Rohtak (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Chander (Existing Name) To Chandro Devi (Proposed New Name) My Correct/Actual Dob Is 01.01.1945 Instead Of 01.07.1946 As Per My Aadhaar Card/Pan Card. In Future I Shall May Be Known/Written And Called As Chandro Devi (Dob: 01.01.1945) For All Work Purposes, Vide Affidavit Dated May 2024 Before Ist Class Magistrate, Rohtak

I, Santro Devi W/O Satbir Singh R/O Vpo Karsola Tehsil Julana Distt. Jind Have Changed My Name From Santro Devi To Sumitra Devi.

I Aaditya Lathar Son Of Ajit Singh Resident Of House No. 540 Sector 8 Jind Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Aaditya To Aaditya Lathar. All Concerned Please May Note.

I, Kritika D/O Vijay Kumar R/O Shiv Khader Colony Kotla Taprian Post Office Kotla Nihang Tehsil & District Rupnagar, Have Changed My Name Kritika Gaichand To Kritika.

I, Piyusha D/O Vijay Kumar R/O Shiv Khadar Colony Kotla Taprian Post Office Kotla Nihang Tensil & District Rupnagar, Have Changed My Name Piyusha Gaichand To Piyusha.

I Kanchan W/O Prakash Chand R/O H. No. 168/34 Ward No. 30 Sangan Chand Ahata Ambala Cantt That My Son Rohit Sapra And His Wife Neha Are Out Of My Control So I Disown Them From All My Moveable Immoveable Properties. In Future Anybody Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk, Me And My Family Members Will Not Be Responsible .

I, Sanehlata Devi Spouse Of No.14658455p Nk Ambika Prasad Gupta Resident Of Village- Kolhua, Post-Mohammad Ganj, Tehsil- Kolhua Sonbarsa, District- Palamu, State- Jharkhand, Pin- 822120, Have Changed My Name From Sanehlata Devi To Snehlata Devi Vide Affidavit No.In-Pb15828719185313w Dated 15 May 2024 Before Notary Public Pathankot.

BEDKHALI NOTICE

We, Nirmala Devi W/o Rakesh Kumar R/O H.No. 620, Dashmesh Nagar, Ward No.4, Bishanpura, Sub-Tehsil Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali, Punjab declared that my son Pardeep Kumar (aged 20) is out of my control. So we disown from him my moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deals with this at their own Risk.

USP



Sh. Sushil Sharma, CMD, SJVN Leads Swachhta Pledge for Employee Commitment to Cleanliness

SHIMLA: SJVN is observing Swachhta Pakhwada 2024 in all its Projects & Offices from 16 th to 31 st May 2024. Sushil Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN today administered Swachhta Pledge to employees at Liaison office, New Delhi. On this occasion Sh. Akhileshwar Singh, Director, (Finance) and Sh. Prem Prakash, CVO along with other senior officials were also present. This marked the commencement of Swachhta Pakhwada in SJVN reinforcing commitment of the company for maintaining a clean and green environment. The Swachhta Pledge has also been administered in SJVN Corporate Office, Shimla and 22 other locations/Projects located in HP, Punjab, Uttrakhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.



Mega Retail Expo-2024 organised by Union Bank of India

A Mega Retail Expo-2024 was organized by Union Bank of India on 15-05-2024 at Sector 8, Chandigarh. The program was inaugurated by Zonal Head and General Manager Shri Manoj Kumar. The main objective of Mega Retail Expo was to showcase various retail loan products of the Bank like housing loan, car loan, property loan, Solar panel installation loan and education loan to the customers at one place and to resolve the queries and problems related to them. Renowned builders and car dealers of Tricity participated in this expo and attracted the customers by showcasing their projects and cars. On this occasion, Regional Head Mr. Sanjiv Kumar alongwith Deputy Regional Head Shri Lakshman Kumar and RLP Head Mr. Amit Meena and all senior Officials of Union Bank of India participated in the Mega Retail Expo.



Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station

According to the instructions of the Ministry of Power, Government of India and Corporation Headquarters Shimla, the cleanliness fortnight is organized by from 16 to 31 May every year. Under this, CSR Department projects various activities like project affected panchayats, health centers and schools like awareness camps, speech competition, painting competition, street plays, best out of waste. This year also this year also CSR department also by CSR department , The distribution of sanitary napkins, old electronics items, old furniture etc. has been listed in the project affected panchayats and schools. Also like every year, this year also will be done by Sajvin employees. It is worth noting that SJVN Electricity Ministry has been awarded the first prize 03 times and 01 times for cleanliness works by the Ministry of Electricity, Government of India. It is worth noting that SJVN Electricity Ministry has been awarded the first prize 03 times and 01 times for cleanliness works by the Ministry of Electricity, Government of India. In this episode, under the Swachhta Pakhwada 2024, on 16/05/24 today, all the officers, employees and trainees were administered the oath of cleanliness in the office premises by Mr. Manoj Kumar, Project Head, Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station. Starting from this cleanliness campaign is to be reflected between the surrounding and society at the ground level, only then its meaning will prove.

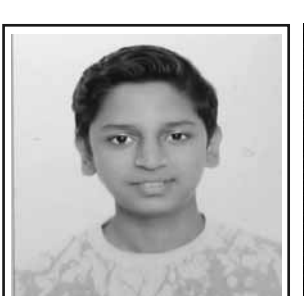
SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai Tamil Nadu-600032, Tamil Nadu, and Wockhardt Towers, Level-3, C-2, G Block, Badra-Kurka Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai-40051
Branch Office: #9/47, Modal Town, Opp. Saini Sweets, Delhi Road, Hisar, Haryana-125001

SYMBOL

मानवीयतावादी श्री दानि कान्हा, एसओ(एड), सहायक कलेक्टर प्रमो श्री प्रमो अशोक शर्मा (आ.प्र.अ.)

सांख्यिक सूचना
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...



The Student of KV School Sector 31, Chandigarh name Soham Kumar S/o Sh. Sanjiv Kumar (Working as Regional Head in Union Bank of India at Chandigarh) secured 96% Marks in 10th CBSE Board Result.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that of Smt. Smt. Bajji Kaur wife of Sh. Ranjit Singh...

Public Notice
I, Mrs. Avtar Rani widow and 2. Satish Kumar and 3. Surinder and 4. Varinder Kumar sons and 5. Sudeesh Gandhi and 6. Seema Rani and 7. Nishant Kumar...

Application under section 4 of Redemption of Mortgage Act for redemption of land comprising in Khewat/Khatani No. 60/5388 bearing Khalsa No. 12/92 (1-2), (8)-0 (total measuring 09 Kanal 0/2 M2 situated in the revenue estate of village Kanwli, Hadabast No. 111, Tehsil and Distt. Ambala.

सांख्यिक सूचना
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE SH. SANYAM GARG, HCS, ASSISTANT ESTATE OFFICER, U.T. CHANDIGARH.



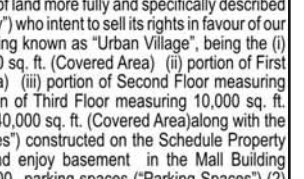
Subject - Transfer of Ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 3054, SECTOR 19-D, Chandigarh, (RP 11045) to the extent of 20.00% Share on the basis of Intestate Death of Late MOHINDER KAUR PARMAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Harpreet Singh s/o Narninder Singh R/o No. 1533, Sector 11 D, Chandigarh declare that I have lost my property documents of H.No. 1533, Sector 11D, Chandigarh...

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that Smt. Sugandhivi W/o Sh. Om Parkash was the owner of the property constructed on plot measuring 121 square yards situated in Saitoj Nagar, Village Dhandra-4 Tehsil and District Ludhiana...

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform and seek objections, if any, from general public that M/S V & M Realcon, a partnership firm holding registration No. 06-002-2002-0021 and PAN: AAUFV1485A...

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE SH. SANYAM GARG, HCS, ASSISTANT ESTATE OFFICER, U.T. CHANDIGARH.



Subject - Transfer of Ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 3054, SECTOR 19-D, Chandigarh, (RP 11045) to the extent of 20.00% Share on the basis of Intestate Death of Late MOHINDER KAUR PARMAR.

It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Sh. Smt. MOHINDER KAUR PARMAR is the Owner / lessee of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 3054, SECTOR 19-D, Chandigarh to the extent of 20.00 % Share.

कार्यालय सहायक, सिरसा
पब्लिक नोटिस
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

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SAVED NOTICE
All that piece and parcel of the land in aggregate measuring 29K 7M comprised in Khalsa nos. 37/19/1(1)-(15), 37/19/1(2)-(18), 37/12/2(1)-(4-3), 37/12/2(6)-(10), 48/1/12(2)-(4-7), 48/2/1(1)-(15), 48/1/2(2)-(3-2), 48/1/9(2/1m)-(1-3), 48/1/10/1(1m)-(7-9), on which License bearing nos. 256 of 2007 dated 07.11.2007 and 100 of 2014 dated 13.08.2014 has been granted by Director of Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh, situated in Village-Jandri, District-Ambala, Sector-21, 22, 23 & 25, Ambala, Haryana, Pin Code-134003, butted and bounded as follows-

SAVED NOTICE
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Table with 3 columns: Sr. No., Name of the legal heirs, Relationship with the deceased. Lists heirs of Mohinder Kaur Parmar.

कार्यालय सहायक, सिरसा
पब्लिक नोटिस
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

सांख्यिक सूचना
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

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सांख्यिक सूचना
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

सांख्यिक सूचना
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to all General Public that Punjab National Bank, Main Branch Fazilka intends to create equitable mortgage of the property owned by Sunil Kumar Son of Sunder Lal, R/o Maheshwari Street Fazilka which he got from Smt. Kiran wife of Surinder Kumar resident of Fazilka by way of sale deed having wasika no. 2220 dated 21/09/2022. The detail of property is as: Property/Plot measuring 14'x60' i.e. 840 sq. feet. i.e. 3 Marlas 1 Sarsai detailed as: 1) Land measuring 5 Sarsai i.e. 28/28341 share of total land 28 Kanals comprised in Khalsa No. 995/2(4-0), 996/(1-4), 923/(1-2), 924/(1-2), 926/(0-10), 913(4-0), 996/2(6-16), 914(8-0), 1010/2(0-18), 1011/(0-8), Khewat No. 208, Khatoni No.394 to 400 and 2) Land measuring 2 Marlas 5 Sarsai i.e. 28/28341 share of total land measuring 129 Kanals 09 Marlas comprised in Khalsa No. 1010/1(5-5), 916/(0-19), 987/(1-0), 995/(4-0), 929/2(0-9), 771/(0-7), 987/2(1-8), 988(6-17), 991(0-7), 991(7-9), 992(8-1), 1011/2(7-4), 1012(1-19), 986(0-7), 920/2(1-14), 916/2(0-10), 918/2(4-0), 920/1(2-10), 1010/12(0-19), 772/(0-2), 927/(10-18), 918/(4-0), 919/(4-9), 917(8-0), 922(4-4), 929/(16-12), 993(8-0), 994(8-0), 927/2(1-0), 929/3(0-9), 921(8-0), 915(4-9), 916/3(3-0), 989(5-14) Khewat No.209, Khatoni No.401 to 423 vide Jamabandi for the year 2019/20 situated at village Sultanpura Dakhli Mohalla Dhoni Ghat Fazilka and bounded as: East: Street, West: House of Suman Rani, North: Vacant plot, South: House of Amrik Singh. Previous title bearing wasika no.399, dated 06/09/2018 in the name of Smt. Kiran wife of Surinder Kumar had been lost/misplaced and could not traced despite of best efforts and in this regard last information was also given to Police Station Fazilka. Now Punjab National Bank, Main Branch Fazilka intends/giving to create equitable mortgage of above said property/title having wasika no.2220 dated 21/09/2022 in the name of Sunil Kumar son of Sunder Lal in favour of Bank. Any person having any claim or interest or title in the above said property or otherwise any person having any objection regarding creation of equitable mortgage of above said property, can make representation in written to Branch Manager of PNB, Main Branch Fazilka within 7 days of publication of this notice, otherwise the bank will create equitable mortgage of above said property/title after expiry of 7 days of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE SH. SANYAM GARG, HCS, ASSISTANT ESTATE OFFICER, EXERCISING THE POWERS OF THE ESTATE OFFICER, U.T. CHANDIGARH.
Subject - In Transfer of ownership rights to the extent of 30% share on the basis of Intestate Death of Late Capt. Rachpal Singh in the name of Sh. Jagdeep Singh Dhanoo S/O Late Capt. Rachpal Singh on the basis of Registered Will dated 03.05.2017 executed by Late Capt.Rachpal Singh is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office, the ownership of the property known as H.No.1186 Sector 34-C Chandigarh bearing File No. RPD 15274 to the extent of 30% share stands in the name of Late Capt.Rachpal Singh. It has been intimated by Sh. Jagdeep Singh Dhanoo S/O Late Capt. Rachpal Singh that who was the owner of the extent of 30% share of the property/plot has been executed Registered Will dated 03.05.2017. It has further been intimated that Capt.Rachpal Singh has left behind the following legal heirs:

Table with 3 columns: Sr. No., Name of the legal heirs, Relation with Deceased. Lists heirs of Capt. Rachpal Singh.

OFFICE MARKET COMMITTEE NARNAUD (HISAR)
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the public vide publication of this notice that a shop No. 22 Size 6 mtr x 23 mtr situated in New Gurgaon, Hisar (Gurgaon) was allotted to Sh. Ramdya S/O Sh. Raj Singh vide Allotment Letter 505 of 11.05.2001. Now as per record Late. Sh. Ramdya is the owner of this property. Sh. Ramdya has been expired on 06.06.2021. His son Sh. Narsimh Singh vide Will dated 06.25.2014 was executed by him as per registered will in Sh. Ramdya has declared the legal heir of his property Shop No. 22 NGA Narnaud in the name of his sons Sh. Narsimh Singh and Sh. Balkar Singh S/O Late Ramdya R/o Narnaud has applied in this office for transfer of said property as per will in the record of this office. In this regard, Sh. Narsimh Singh and Sh. Balkar Singh S/O Late Ramdya has submitted their NOC in the form of affidavit regarding transferred above shop in the name of 1. Mahender, 2. Sandeep, 3. Pardeep Kumar, 4. Balkar Singh S/O Late Ramdya. Now this shop is to be transferred to Sh. Narsimh Singh, 2. Sandeep, 3. Pardeep Kumar, 4. Balkar Singh S/O Late Ramdya in the record of Market Committee Narnaud. If any person having any objection regarding transfer of this property, he/she can file their objections in written in the office of Market Committee, Narnaud Distt. Hisar(Haryana) within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. If any objection has not been filed in this office by the above mentioned period then they said property will be transferred to the name of above said as per will provided by the applicant.

Public Notice
It is hereby informed that House No.784-LIG Housing Board Colony, Ph-V Jind stands in the name of Smt. Santosh Jain W/O Tarseem Kumar Jain as record of this office. Due to death of allotment holder on dated 06-10-2010. Now the legal heir of the deceased Sh. Amit Jain, and Vandana Jain S/o/D/o Sh. Tarseem Kumar Jain has submitted the documents to get the allotment/ownership transfer in his/her favor with this office. An opportunity is given through this notice to site any objection regarding the transfer of allotment/ownership of the house with strict documentary proof with this office within 15 Days from the publication of this notice otherwise this house will be transferred in favor of Sh. Amit Jain and Vandana Jain S/o/D/o Sh. Tarseem Kumar Jain legal heir of the deceased.

LCRT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Recognized by NCTE & Affiliated to C.R.S.U. Jind (Haryana)
Requirement as per course:-
Application are invited for teaching & non teaching faculty post, send your application in prescribed form at Email ID: lcrt27@gmail.com send a set of hard copy of application form with self attested testimonial certificates to undersigned, post detail is given below:-
B.A.- Associate Prof. 02, Assistant Prof. 04 (Specialization in Marketing, Finance, Human Resource & General Marketing) Assistant Prof. in English, Computer Science, Mathematics & Hindi (1 each).
B.C.A.- Assistant Prof.-2 in each Computer Science, Mathematics & English.
B.Ed.- Assistant Professor - Educator (4) Pedagogy in Hindi, Home Science (1 each), Performing Arts, Music/Dance/Drama/IT (1 each)
Non Teaching Staff:- Librarian, Office Manager, Office-Cum-Accountant/Asst., Office Asst., Cum-Computer, Store Keeper, Technical Asst., Lab Asst. & Attendants, Helpers/Support Staff (1 each).
Note:- Eligibility (Qualification) and salary as per norms of State Govt./J.C.C.R./University, Jind. Appointment will be regulated after only approval of the University Application on prescribed proforma self attested copies of all certificates to be sent within 15 days to the Dean of Colleges CR.S.U., JIND. (dean.colleges@crsu.ac.in) Chairman

SAVED NOTICE
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Public Notice
That Sh. Mandeep Singh S/o Sh. Sukhdev Singh (Hereinafter referred to as the Mortgagor) is owner of House No. 2328, Group Town, Cat-LIG, Sector-66, SAS Nagar, Mohali, measuring 49 Sq. Yards, (hereinafter referred to as the property) according to the said mortgage. The details mentioned following documents are misplaced.

सांख्यिक सूचना
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

Punjab & Sind Bank
Branch Office: Maur (M1399), Sector 13, Gurgaon Road, Maur Mandi, District Bathinda.
(As a Court of Law Undertaking)
[Rule-8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the Punjab & Sind Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 14.08.2017 registered with Sub-Registrar Maur, property situated in the name of the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against below accounts. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Punjab & Sind Bank for the amount specified against below accounts. The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time-availability, to redeem the secured assets.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s), Description of the Immovable Property, Date of Demand Notice, Date of Possession Notice, Amount Outstanding as per Demand Notice. Lists borrowers and their property details.

Branch Office: Maur (M1399), Sector 13, Gurgaon Road, Maur Mandi, District Bathinda.
(As a Court of Law Undertaking)
[Rule-8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)
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इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माध्यम से...

NAME CHANGE
I Vipin Gulati S/o Krishan Lal Gulati R/o 1452, Sec-1, Rohtak declare that I have changed my son's name from Hridaan to Hridaan Gulati for all future purposes.

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

Table with 5 columns: 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. Lists borrowers and their property details.

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(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.

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

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Union Bank
Possession Notice (Rule - 8(1))
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned there under with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Branch & Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s), Description of the Immovable Properties, Date of Possession Notice, Date of Possession Notice, Amount Outstanding. Lists borrowers and their property details.

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned there under with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Unifying Paradise

Pointing to people's anger and civil unrest in PoK, Amit Shah says it will be reclaimed as part of India

As peace and tranquility envelop the sylvan slopes of Kashmir Valley in perfect harmony but civil unrest recoils with its squirming populace across the LoC in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), India's Home Minister Amit Shah has iterated that the region "belongs to India and we will reclaim it". Nothing new there, but the comment has reignited discussions on the disputed region and its intricate history, fraught as it is with serious ramifications. Following Partition, the princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, like other such States, had the option to accede to either India or Pakistan. Maharaja Hari Singh, then ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, initially sought to remain independent but, amid invasion by tribal militias supported by Pakistan, opted to accede to India in October 1947. It led to the first India-Pakistan War, which saw a United Nations-brokered ceasefire and establishment of the LoC, which divided the region into the Indian J&K and PoK. While India gained control over most of the territory, Pakistan retained approximately its one-third, which it named Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan. Therefore, from an Indian perspective, PoK is an integral part of J&K and its inclusion in India's territorial claims is based on historical, legal and moral grounds. However, the timing and practicality of the Home Minister's claim are debatable: Bringing up such critical matters in public sphere, especially during elections and when they involve a neighbouring nuclear power, is not the best of ideas.

For its part, Pakistan considers PoK as a "liberated territory" pending a plebiscite promised by the UN. In this given situation, the status quo maintained for over seven decades keeps the two countries from going to war. The larger question is, do we want to go to war with Pakistan and can we afford it when we have so much to sort out domestically? Should not the Home Minister be more cautious in raking up such contentious issues during elections? It is true that despite Pakistan's hollow assertions, PoK has witnessed internal dissent and unrest over the years. The region has been marred by allegations of human rights abuses, lack of democratic freedoms and marginalisation of local voices by the Pakistani establishment. Civil society movements, such as the Gilgit-Baltistan Movement, have been advocating for the recognition of their rights and the restoration of genuine autonomy. If Amit Shah's recent declaration reaffirming India's claim over PoK is not a standalone Statement but reflects a broader strategic shift in India's approach, it must be well articulated and a clear roadmap must be laid to approach the matter diplomatically or otherwise. If that is not the case, then it would pass off as another poll rhetoric or 'jumla'. Indeed, diplomatic endeavours are most effectively conducted behind closed doors rather than at public rallies.

PICTALK



Devotees at the Kedarnath temple during the 'Char Dham Yatra,' in Rudrapur

The rising significance of skills in learning

The new educational landscape must integrate skill-based learning into formal education systems, fostering a holistic approach to learning and livelihood



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Each generation does make its contribution to the vocabulary of the language it uses. The vocabulary represents its understanding of the current emotions and fancied expressions of sentiments, which are at times as old as the human race. This may be of joy, glee, or sheer 'inaction'.

At times serious sentiments are involved and led by a prominent person of the time; they acquire fancied importance. Many will recall the time when the Department of Education in the Government of India was declared the 'Department of HRD' during the time of the Prime Ministership of Rajiv Gandhi and overnight many departments of personnel of corporate enterprises declared themselves to be the departments of human resource development. Nothing in the content had changed nor had even the approach, but still the fashion had got its new draping.

Each time somebody important in a current scenario projects a concept, there are a lot of people who follow the trail. Nothing wrong with that. The important thing is to understand how human nature moves and what the significance of words is in the larger context of those particular times. It is best to do an analysis without making a value judgement. Having said that, one can come to the present times and notice how the emphasis of the present dispensation in the national arena on 'skill' has brought the word skill to the center of the focus in learning.

There are attempts to offer degrees for certain types of skill formation. Some decades ago, skill was not such a happy word. No vice chancellor of a university would have talked of a degree in 'skills'. Education was supposed to be a 'grand concept', which indeed it is. The confusion with skill was, albeit, reducing its significance of the grandeur of the process of education. To enter that debate may not be helpful at this stage. The fact of the matter is that times have now changed and skills have acquired the level of an elevated pursuit. As mentioned earlier, there are attempts to offer



degrees in skill formation. Perhaps this is a recognition of the emphasis on doable learning. Anything which can be performed in action is now getting more valued.

By itself, it may or may not be a good thing, but it does show a tendency to reducing action largely to an operational front. The neglect, therefore, of concepts and ideas is proportional. By itself, the subject matter may be debated, but that remains, as the expression goes, 'another matter'. This is inevitable and leads to some reflections. Skill by itself is important and perhaps far more important than the value attached to it in everyday parleys.

Skill is the foundation of all relationships. If one is attracted towards anyone else, it is only on the basis of that person's skills. That skill may be in singing, cooking, speaking or dancing and the list can be endless. The truth is, nobody was drawn to anybody else, if that other person had no skills. Even a parent is drawn to a child, only at some action of the child, even if it was just a smile. That is how important a skill is. Without a smile, the child would draw no attention. Any adult sees a child seeks to establish some communication with that child and that child's response is the core of the attention it gets from anyone



LIKE ANY OTHER DEGREE, A DEGREE IN SKILLS CAN LEAD TO EARNINGS AND A LIVELIHOOD. THIS IS NEW TO THE LANDSCAPE. THERE IS MORE TO EARN AND MORE WAYS TO EARN WITH IT THAN BEFORE. THIS HAS WIDENED AND DEEPENED THE NATURE OF LEARNING, WHICH BY POPULAR PARLEYS HAS BEEN ADDRESSED AS 'EDUCATION'

around him. Later, that kind of interaction becomes the root of learning communication and more.

This seminal position of skill in human relationships has not often been noticed, either with analytical fervor or poetic exuberance. If that had been done, there would have been greater recognition that nothing, not even emotional bonding, takes place without some skill being the foundation of it. Be that as it may, it is an additional dimension of playfulness, friendship and relationships and from there it goes on to earning and livelihood.

What is happening today is the induction of this skill formation into a standardised format like education leading to a degree. Today even skill in laying bricks in construction can get the status of a degree. A degree is indeed nothing but the benchmarking of standards. Similarly, there is even a proposition on degree in acting and more.

In other words, like any other degree, a degree in skills can lead to earnings and a livelihood. This is new on the landscape. There is more to earn and more ways to earn with it than before. This has widened and deepened the nature of learning, which by popular parleys has been addressed as 'education'. The industry, if one might say so,

of education has its own components, which are widely understood but not equally commonly categorised in our operational terms. Such being the case, a time may have come to categorise different types of learning and different types of skills. It is this component of education which needs greater thought and analysis than has been done so far for 'education' leading to a degree.

It may, therefore, be a fit proposition to submit that to understand 'skills' as a part of learning, one needs to begin the overhaul of the learning process with an overhaul of the learning process of degree in 'education' itself. Operationally this could mean, to begin with, the review of the curriculum of the B.Ed. and M.Ed degree. It is generally agreed that conceptual reflection to be converted into operational reality requires a fulcrum point of intervention. In the text above, the philosophical reflection on skill has been sought to be combined with the world of action and research. This could be a point to be seriously taken on board for further discussion and action.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ageing gracefully



Propos the news article "Embracing the joys and wisdom of age," published on 16 May, this is my response. Reflecting on the passage of time and the shifting perspectives it brings, one can't help but marvel at the journey of life. The writer's experience in the mountains, juxtaposed with encounters that touch upon age, paints a poignant picture of acceptance and

growth. The narrative resonates with the universal theme of ageing, gracefully navigating the transition from youth to seniority. Initially resistant to notions of age, the writer's attitude evolves, finding solace and even pride in the title of 'old'. The seismic impact of the pandemic serves as a sobering reminder of life's fragility, prompting a deeper appreciation for each passing year.

Amidst reflections on personal experiences, there's a poignant call to action - a reminder of the responsibilities that accompany ageing. It's a testament to the profound impact one can have on others, echoing Frank Lloyd Wright's sentiment that life's beauty amplifies with age. In a world often fixated on youth, this narrative serves as a gentle reminder of the richness that comes with embracing the journey of ageing, with all its complexities and rewards.

Khirabdi | Noida

ily life has begun"! Again, in 1976, Loknayak J P Narayan, who was arrested during the emergency, campaigned relentlessly for the Janata Party. But soon thereafter, one of the first persons to call on the vanquished Mrs Gandhi was JP. After the meeting, when press reporters sought a Statement from him, JP said "I wish Mrs. Indira Gandhi, a brighter future than her bright past!" We have had leaders like Rajaji, Kamaraj and JP, who fought their political opponents with might, but without ever hating them, indulging in personal vilification or mudslinging. Will we ever see their likes again?

V Jayaraman | Chennai

NEPAL'S CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE

Madam — India-Nepal relationship has had its highs and lows. Being a demographically close neighbour, the tiny Himalayan country has always been wary about India's might. Though India has been quick to respond to the devastating earthquakes that rock Nepal with frightening frequencies, Kathmandu was sore with the insensitive reporting of ground realities by some

television channels during a major earthquake. The Madhesi agitation had further strained bilateral relations resulting in Nepal's outreach to China. Overall, New Delhi's inability to keep up the tempo of goodwill has irked Kathmandu. The recent decision of the Pushpa Kamal Dahal Government to depict the controversial India-Nepal-China tri-junction on its currency notes has raised eyebrows in Indian diplomatic circles. It is widely felt that apart from traditional issues, Kathmandu's unhappiness with New Delhi over a few crucial projects not taking off, or not being maintained after being inked, could be among the few triggers for its currency notes step. Both countries should display maturity to ensure that the negative influence of Beijing does not cast a shadow on mutual friendship. The currency note issue should be resolved soon after the elections for peace and stability in the region.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Modi filing nomination boosts BJP morale

Varanasi electrified as Narendra Modi filed papers, underscoring UP's centrality and Modi-Yogi alliance's lasting impact on national politics



VIVEK SHUKLA

Varanasi recently witnessed a surge of excitement as Prime Minister Modi filed his nomination papers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. This event not only underscored the significance of Uttar Pradesh in shaping national politics but also highlighted the enduring influence of the Modi-Yogi partnership in the State's political landscape. The ancient city of Varanasi buzzed with excitement as Prime Minister Narendra Modi submitted his nomination papers for the Lok Sabha polls once again last Tuesday. Accompanied by his trusted ally, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and a host of supporters, Modi's presence electrified the streets during a massive roadshow prior to filing his papers. The atmosphere in the holy city exuded confidence among leaders and workers of the saffron party, indicating a strong belief in their impending triumph in the Lok Sabha polls. The significance of Uttar Pradesh (UP) in determining the fate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the BJP, cannot be overstated, especially as they



strive for a third consecutive term in power. With 80 Lok Sabha seats at stake, UP holds considerable sway over Indian politics, both present and future. The adage that the road to Delhi's throne runs through UP rings true, emphasising the pivotal role the State plays in shaping the country's political landscape. Consequently, political parties are sparing no effort in vying for victory in UP in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Despite political manoeuvres, analysts predict a familiar outcome in UP this time around, with the BJP poised to replicate its 2019 electoral success. The formidable duo of Modi and Yogi is expected to deliver another commanding performance, cementing their status as unbeatable political forces. The Modi-Yogi partnership has become synonymous with victory, casting a shadow of doubt

over the opposition's prospects.

The BJP's ambitious goal of securing all 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP is buoyed by the confidence placed in this dynamic duo. Modi has lauded Yogi's development initiatives on numerous occasions, underscoring their collective vision for UP's progress. This sentiment was echoed during Modi's recent rally in Amroha, where he expressed optimism about surpassing previous electoral records under Yogi's leadership, thereby making history in UP. The 2014 Lok Sabha elections marked a turning point in UP's political landscape, ending the BJP's electoral drought in the State. Securing a staggering 71 out of 80 seats, the BJP emerged victorious without any significant opposition alliance.

The subsequent 2019 elections saw the BJP leverage the Modi wave and Yogi's governance to further consolidate its position, despite facing a united opposition front. Yogi's proactive stance on law and order issues resonated with voters, contributing to the BJP's resounding victory. Yogi's tenure as Chief Minister

has been characterised by a crackdown on criminal elements, instilling a sense of security among the populace. Under his leadership, UP has witnessed a significant decline in crime rates, marking a departure from the lawlessness of the past. Central Government support for development initiatives has further bolstered UP's economy, with the Gross State Domestic Product witnessing substantial growth.

As the 2024 elections unfold, the BJP finds itself in a favourable position in UP, owing to the combined successes of the Modi Government at the centre and Yogi's governance model. The tangible improvements in governance and economic indicators serve as testaments to their administration's efficacy, instilling confidence among voters. While the outcome of the elections remains uncertain, one thing is clear: the Modi-Yogi alliance continues to enjoy unwavering support from the people of UP.

(The writer is a senior journalist and author of two books; his views are personal)

AAP'S CANDID ADMISSION

Madam — This relates to the news story "AAP admits to assault," which was published on May 15. While the action of the CM's PS Bibhav Kumar is condemnable, to say the least, the very admission of the act by the AAP's leader Sanjay Singh is a rare instance of admission of guilt. It is reassuring to note that the party has promised to take strict action against its own. Contrast this with how a well-entrenched party (the BJP), which hopes for a "chaar so paar" score in the LS polls, stood by Brij Bhushan Saran Singh, despite a barrage of sexual allegations against him, only to give the LS sabbha ticket to his son, as some kind of saving grace.

Though AAP has not yet acted on its promise, the admission of wrongdoing has, by itself, lessons for all other parties that choose to look the other way when such incidents involve their party folk. For now, at least, it is the AAP and not the BJP, which is walking the talk on "Beti bachao".

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

DIGNIFIED CAMPAIGNING

Madam — Apropos the editorial "Bitter ballot battle," published on May 15, the ongoing Lok Sabha elections may go down as the most bitterly fought yet, in the history of independent India. Senior citizens like this writer cannot help but recall a time when politicians were dignified in fighting opponents during election campaigning. For instance, during the 1969, assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, when the Congress stalwart Kamaraj thundered that he would win from Virudhunagar constituency 'lying down', Rajaji retorted, "His lying down is a certainty, but winning is difficult!" Rajaji's Swatantra party and the DMK fought that election in alliance, resulting in the Congress defeat and the DMK forming Government. Differences cropped up between Rajaji and Anna. Said a disillusioned Rajaji in a press meet — "The honeymoon between the Swatantra party and the DMK is over!" When Annadurai heard this, he quipped — "Yes, the honeymoon is over and fam-



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA AND IRAN SIGN CHABAHAR PORT PACT

A significant step for connecting the Indian Ocean to Europe and beyond



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India and Iran finally managed to put a long-term contract closure for one of the most stretched flagship projects in the bilateral relationship between the countries. India managed to sign a ten-year Long-term Contract for the development of Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal, Chabahar. It was no surprise that, despite being in the middle of elections, Union Minister of Ports Shipping and Waterways Sarabandanda Sonowal visited Chabahar port to witness the signing of this crucial bilateral agreement.

Chabahar is a deep water port, located nearest to India, which is crucial for India's access to central Asia and vice versa for the States in the region into the Indian Ocean. The Chabahar project first came up as a crucial bilateral platform for Iran and India in 2003 when PM Vajpayee and Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani, unveiled a transformational strategic cooperation blueprint between the two nations. Iran and India while getting closer on the bilateral, were focussed on securing Afghanistan and making it an important transit destination further into Central Asia. The Delhi Declaration of 2003, signed between Iran and India reiterates "The recent trilateral agreement between the Governments of India, Iran and Afghanistan to develop the Chabahar route through Melak, Zaranj and Delaram would facilitate regional trade and transit, including to Afghanistan and Central Asia, contributing thus to enhanced regional economic prosperity."



However, post the Vajpayee Government, India's focus on the crucial infrastructure project shifted, partially impacted by domestic politics and a new world order. It wasn't until Prime Minister Modi became the prime minister that this integrated multi-modal Chabahar project found prominence. Hectic backroom negotiations, including the visit of the Afghan President to India in 2015, followed by PM Modi's visit to Iran in 2016, the signing of the trilateral agreement provided the much-needed impetus to the project. It also involved close coordination with the US (which wasn't too keen on India's enthusiasm, with Chabahar), but the independent access to Afghanistan served as the crucial lynchpin to unblock the hesitancy.

In 2017 India, Iran and Afghanistan held the second ministerial-level trilateral meeting to get an update on the establishment of a transport and transit corridor in Chabahar. The Statement released after the trilateral Stated "Reiterating the importance of Chabahar as a hub for regional economic connectivity and their commitment to work towards this objective, the Ministers commended the joint efforts of the three countries in the recent successful transit of wheat from India to Afghanistan through Chabahar."

It was nearly seven years later that India got complete access to the Chabahar port for handling the crucial operations. It is important to be reminded that China has made significant progress in Central Asia by aggressively pursuing its Belt and Road initiative. Iranian President led a high-level economic delegation to China in February this year, while reiterating that China continues to be its largest trading partner. India's relations with Central Asian countries and further into Russia have been stable for decades. China has been a new entrant in the region which has first managed to acquire critical infrastructure projects in India's immediate neighbourhoods like Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc and is now in weather with Russia.

Iran has traditionally been a key influencer in the West Asian and Central Asian regions, however, the ongoing war in Gaza has revived old fault lines in the region. The US which withdrew from Afghanistan used to be a key decision-maker in the region and is keen to.

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

RBI fortifies the nation's economy with gold



SHIVAJI SARKAR

Taking a cue from prudent household savers, the Reserve Bank of India has significantly increased its gold reserves to 817 metric tonnes to hedge the economy



In a strategic move reminiscent of Indian households safeguarding their wealth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is fortifying the nation's economic resilience by actively acquiring gold reserves. This bold initiative mirrors the prudence of household savers, as the central bank positions itself to shield itself against potential economic turmoil and bolster the country's financial stability.

The RBI now has accumulated gold reserves of 817 tonnes.

This surge can be attributed to a combination of factors including escalating tensions in West Asia, Israel's assault on Palestine, the Russia-Ukraine war and persistent inflation, all of which have heightened the appeal of gold.

Central banks worldwide are actively accumulating gold to diversify reserves and reduce dependency on the US dollar. China, in particular, has been on a gold-buying spree for the 17th consecutive month, aiming to hedge against currency depreciation and geopolitical risks. The world is unofficially going back to the gold standards it abandoned in 1971.

India is also hit by a continuous six-day fall in the stock market. It wipes out a significant investment. The loss is estimated at Rs 7 lakh crore.

The household savers, of course, got their savings dipped as unemployment and rising prices hit them. The RBI in a clarificatory note on May 9, mentions that "they are putting their savings into real estate and the central bank is not worried of the phenomenon".

The bank itself has stepped up gold purchases to "help diversify its foreign exchange reserves base amid US dollar volatility". The US inflation rate in February hit 3.2 per cent year over year. Since the Federal Reserve began raising rates in 2022, it has raised rates from 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent in July 2023. It's

holding further raises given the US elections.

The price of gold has surged over 10 per cent since the start of the year, cementing its status as a preferred hedge against inflation and a sanctuary amid political and economic uncertainty. This significant uptick is largely due to considerable purchases by central banks and a rising demand for safe-haven assets.

Gold prices, in India, have been experiencing a significant surge in 2024, with a remarkable rally that has propelled them to an unprecedented all-time high of over Rs 73,000 per 10 gm two days before Akshay Tritiya, when customary gold purchases reach a peak. This surge represents an impressive increase of approximately 21.1 per cent within just one year. On the day of Akshaya Tritiya on May 10, it has slightly dipped to Rs 72,788. Over six months, domestic gold prices surged from Rs 54000 per 10 grams to a record high of Rs 73,958.

One can realise that nothing can appreciate faster than gold and can't question the RBI's sagacity. One dollar is at Rs 83.88. Rupee is expected to rise to Rs 82.50 in six months, a gain of about 1.1 per cent and in a year it could rise to Rs 82 - a gain of 1.7 per cent. It means the RBI dollar reserves would lose about 2 per cent value in a year. So, the RBI has decided to buy more gold than dollars. Its investment would be less at even Rs 73000 for 10 gm and gains over 20 per cent. That's an intelligent economy.

The RBI has increased gold purchases to diversify reserves, with

gold value contributing to a \$3 billion rise in forex reserves to \$648.5 billion. RBI acquiring more gold in early 2024, aiming for diversification and inflation hedging.

The World Gold Council (WGC) says that RBI gold purchases touched 19 tonnes during January-March. This dwarfs the 16 tonnes of gold it bought in the whole of 2023.

In terms of countries with the highest gold reserves, the USA leads with 8,133 tonnes, followed by Germany, Italy, France and the Russian Federation with 3,366.49, 2,451.84, 2,436.01 and 2,271.16 tonnes of gold, respectively, according to WGC.

The surge in central banks' gold acquisitions stemmed from the aftermath of the US imposition of sanctions on Russia. These sanctions, triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, included freezing Russian reserve dollars and imposing restrictions on crucial commodity trades such as crude oil. The global repercussions of these measures were profound, exposing vulnerabilities within Western financial institutions.

The option of investments in the stocks has become riskier. In February, China divested an additional \$22.7 billion in U.S. Treasury securities, as per the latest Federal Reserve data, reducing its total holdings to \$775 billion. Despite this decrease, China retains its position as the second-largest foreign holder of U.S. debt. China is reducing its dependence on the dollar, as per US Federal Reserve data.

According to ICICIdirect study,

The RBI wants to diversify its foreign exchange reserves and reduce dependence on the US dollar. Gold offers stability and isn't directly tied to the performance of any one currency. It can be especially valuable during times of economic uncertainty or fluctuations in the dollar's value.

Gold is considered as a hedge against inflation. When the value of currencies weakens due to inflation, gold tends to hold its value or even increase. It protects the purchasing power of India's foreign reserves.

The diversification of the portfolio to gold reserve, RBI says, can inspire confidence in the Indian economy from foreign investors. It signals a strong financial position and stability, potentially attracting more foreign investment.

While less common today, gold can still be used for international transactions. Holding a gold reserve allows India to settle debts with other countries if needed, or if those countries aren't willing to accept rupee.

The next few years can be times of turmoil and gold can be a stabilising factor in the international economy. It is particularly so as the IT sector, industry, markets are in a destabilised condition and would take time to calm. At such volatile times gold is likely to be more in demand than paper currencies. The RBI has resorted to the right move and lead the India economy, which has been striving to become one of the major world economies.

(The author is a senior journalist; views are personal)



THE WORLD GOLD COUNCIL SAYS THAT RBI GOLD PURCHASES TOUCHED 19 METRIC TONNES DURING JANUARY-MARCH. THIS DWARFS THE 16 TONNES OF GOLD IT BOUGHT IN THE WHOLE OF 2023

Reflections of an oncologist navigating imperfections in cancer care

Doctors aren't infallible gods but compassionate humans dedicated to easing human suffering, even in the face of formidable medical challenges

As an Oncologist, my days are filled with the most dreaded and life-threatening cancers head-on, armed with an arsenal of anti-cancer treatments that range from mild to equally dreadful. But amidst the battle against this relentless disease, I've come to understand that medical science is far from perfect.

Every time I sit down with a patient and their family to discuss treatment options, I embark on a delicate balancing act. Yes, I outline the potential benefits of the treatment, but I also dedicate ample time to explaining its imperfections and the associated risks - risks that can sometimes be massive, impacting not only the



PRASHANT MEHTA

patient's life but also their quality of life.

These discussions are rarely brief; on average, I find myself engaging with 2 to 8 family members, ensuring that everyone understands the complexities involved. And in these conversations, I make it a point to acknowledge that success is not guaranteed. I've had my fair share of failures and I recognise that my clinical judg-

ments aren't infallible. In the realm of oncology, the weight of responsibility is immense. The human toll of the disease, coupled with the emotional turmoil experienced by families, weighs heavily on me every single day. There are moments when the sheer gravity of it all threatens to overwhelm me, but I gather my strength, reminding myself of the dignity, composure and compassion required to navigate through these turbulent waters.

Recently, I stumbled upon an opinion piece penned by Mr. CY Gopinath, recounting the journey of a patient grappling with suspected pancreatic cancer. The patient felt as though his oncologist was pushing a

cancer diagnosis onto him. Such situations are not uncommon, especially when dealing with cancers that are notoriously difficult to biopsy. Misdiagnoses and the fear of missing a fatal diagnosis loom large in the minds of oncologists.

The widening trust gap between patients and healthcare providers is a cause for concern. Patients and their families may perceive our actions and recommendations in various ways, sometimes attributing them to ulterior motives. But the reality is often far more nuanced than it appears. Having worked extensively in both private and Government healthcare settings, I've witnessed my fair share of diagnostic and ther-



apeutic errors. These errors stem from the inherent imperfections of medicine and the challenges of navigating a complex healthcare landscape. In the modern era, doctors are acutely aware of the trust

deficit that exists between us and our patients. The notion of a 'God complex' is a myth; instead, we recognise our limitations and strive to bridge the gap through open communication and transparency.

While drugs and surgeries aren't panaceas, alternative treatments aren't always the answer either. It's imperative to base our decisions on evidence-backed practices rather than succumbing to anecdotal allure. In the realm of healthcare, there's no one-size-fits-all solution. Each patient's journey is unique, shaped by their individual preferences and circumstances. As doctors, we must personalise our approach, empowering patients to be active participants in their healing process.

It's crucial to foster an environment where patients feel empowered to question, learn and seek second opinions. After all, informed decision-making is the cor-

nerstone of effective healthcare delivery. In conclusion, amidst the cacophony of controversy and misinformation, the voice of expertise must prevail. Medicine is a science guided by evidence, not conjecture. Despite the challenges and uncertainties that lie ahead, I remain steadfast in my commitment to serve, echoing the words of my mentor: "Someone has to do this work and you've been chosen. Do it well."

(The writer is a Senior Consultant and Program Director (Lymphoid Neoplasms and Cellular therapy) Department of Medical Oncology Amrita Institute of Medical sciences, Faridabad. Views are personal.)

UN's top court opens hearings on military incursion into Rafah

AP ■ THE HAGUE



Vusumuzi Madonsela, South Africa's ambassador to the Netherlands.

The United Nations' top court on Thursday opened two days of hearings into a request from South Africa to press Israel to halt its military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population has sought shelter. It is the fourth time South Africa has asked the International Court of Justice for emergency measures since the nation launched proceedings alleging that Israel's military action in its war with Hamas in Gaza amounts to genocide.

According to the latest request, the previous preliminary orders by The Hague-based court were not sufficient to address "a brutal military attack on the sole remaining refuge for the people of Gaza."

South Africa said the situation was getting worse in the war-ravaged area.

"Israel's genocide has continued at pace and has reached a new and horrific stage," said

Gaza and said it does all it can to spare civilians and is only targeting Hamas militants. It says Hamas' tactic of embedding in civilian areas makes it difficult to avoid civilian casualties.

In January, judges ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza, but the panel stopped short of ordering an end to the military offensive that has laid waste to the Palestinian enclave.

In a second order in March, the court said Israel must take measures to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including opening more land crossings to allow food, water, fuel and other supplies to enter. Most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced since fighting began. The war began with a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct 7 in which Palestinian militants killed around 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages. Gaza's Health Ministry says over 35,000

Palestinians have been killed in the war, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants in its count. South Africa initiated proceedings in December 2023 and sees the legal campaign as rooted in issues central to its identity. Its governing party, the African National Congress, has long compared Israel's policies in Gaza and the occupied West Bank to its own history under the apartheid regime of white minority rule, which restricted most Blacks to "homelands". Apartheid ended in 1994.

On Sunday, Egypt announced it plans to join the case. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Israeli military actions "constitute a flagrant violation of international law, humanitarian law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding the protection of civilians during wartime". Several countries have also indicated they plan to intervene, but so far only Libya, Nicaragua and Colombia have filed formal requests to do so.

French Interior and Overseas Territories Minister Gerald Darmanin said Thursday. "The (French) state will regain total control," Darmanin declared in a series of interviews with French media.

Darmanin said 10 people, all alleged members of the pro-independence movement known as The Field Acton Coordination Unit, have been placed under house arrest. In April, the group had backed several protests against French authorities on the island.

However, Darmanin, the interior minister, alleged on Thursday that the movement is a "small group which calls itself pro-independence, but instead commits looting, murder and violence." "We will not back down," Darmanin said. The National Council of Chiefs of the Indigenous Kanak people condemned "all acts of vandalism and gun violence" as "unjustifiable," but rejected the allegations that members of The Field Action Coordination Unit have been involved in the deadly violence.

Violence rages in New Caledonia France rushes emergency reinforcements to its Pacific territory

AP ■ PARIS



Burnt cars are lined up after unrest in Noumea, New Caledonia, Wednesday. France has imposed a state of emergency in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Violence raged across New Caledonia for the third consecutive day on Thursday, hours after France imposed a state of emergency in the French Pacific territory, boosting security forces' powers to quell deadly unrest in the archipelago that has long sought independence.

French authorities in New Caledonia and the interior ministry in Paris reported that five people, including two police officers, have been killed in the violence after protests earlier this week over voting reforms pushed by President Emmanuel Macron's government turned deadly.

At least 60 members of the security forces were injured and 214 people were arrested in the Thursday's clashes with police, arson and looting, according to the territory's top French official, High Commissioner Louis Le Franc.

"Everything is being done to restore order and calm that Caledonians deserve," French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said

after Thursday's security meeting at the Elysee presidential palace in Paris.

Attal said France will provide the island with essential goods after three days of unrest. In addition to the 1,700 security forces troops that have already been deployed to help police curb the

violence, 1,000 more are on the way, he added.

The situation "remains very tense, with looting, riots, arson and attacks which are unbearable and unspeakable," Attal said. Two members of the island's Indigenous Kanak community were among the five dead,

'Gaza Strip pier project completed, aid to flow soon'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US military finished installing a floating pier for the Gaza Strip on Thursday, with officials poised to begin ferrying badly needed humanitarian aid into the enclave besieged over seven months of intense fighting in the Israel-Hamas war.

The final, overnight construction sets up a complicated delivery process more than two months after US President Joe Biden ordered it to help Palestinians facing starvation as food and other supplies fail to make it in as Israel recently seized the key Rafah border crossing in its push on that southern city on the Egyptian border. Fraught with logistical, weather and security challenges, the maritime route is designed to bolster the amount of aid getting into the Gaza Strip, but it is not considered a substitute for far cheaper land-based deliveries that aid agencies say are much more sustainable. The boatloads of aid will be deposited at a port facility built by the Israelis just southwest of Gaza City and then distributed by aid groups. US troops will not set foot in Gaza, American officials insist, though they acknowledge the danger of operating near the war zone.

Heavy fighting between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants on the outskirts of Rafah has displaced some 600,000 people, a quarter of Gaza's population, UN officials say. Another 100,000 civilians have fled parts of northern Gaza now that the Israeli military has restarted combat operations there.

Pentagon officials said the fighting in Gaza wasn't threatening the new shoreline aid distribution area, but they have made it clear that security conditions will be monitored closely and could prompt a shutdown of the maritime route, even just temporarily. Already, the site has been targeted by mortar fire during its construction and Hamas has threatened to target any foreign forces who "occupy" the Gaza Strip. The "protection of US forces participating is a top priority. And as such, in the last

several weeks, the United States and Israel have developed an integrated security plan to protect all the personnel who are working," said Navy Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, a deputy commander at the US military's Central Command. "We are confident in the ability of this security arrangement to protect those involved."

Israeli forces will be in charge of security on the shore, but there are also two US Navy warships near the area in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, the USS Arleigh Burke and the USS Paul Ignatius. Both ships are destroyers equipped with a wide range of weapons and capabilities to protect American troops off shore and allies on the beach. Aid agencies say they are running out of food in southern Gaza and fuel is dwindling, which will force hospitals to shut down critical operations and halt truck deliveries of aid. The United Nations and other agencies have warned for weeks that an Israel assault on Rafah, which is on the border with Egypt near the main aid entry points, would cripple humanitarian operations and cause a disastrous surge in civilian casualties.

More than 1.4 million Palestinians — half of Gaza's population — have been sheltering in Rafah, most after fleeing Israel's offensives elsewhere. The first cargo ship loaded with 475 pallets of food left Cyprus last week to rendezvous with a US military ship, the Roy P. Benavidez, which is off the coast of Gaza. The pallets of aid on the MV Sagamore were moved onto the Benavidez. The Pentagon said moving the aid between ships was an effort to be ready so it could flow quickly once the pier and the causeway were installed.

The installation of the pier several miles (kilometers) off the coast and of the causeway, which is now anchored to the beach, was delayed for nearly two weeks because of bad weather and high seas. The sea conditions made it too dangerous for US and Israeli troops to secure the causeway to the shore and do other final assembly work, US officials said.

Slovak lone wolf charged with PM assassination attempt

AP ■ BANSKA BYSTRICA



Slovakia's incumbent President Zuzana Caputova speaks during joint press statements with President elect Peter Pellegrini at the presidential palace in Bratislava, Slovakia, on Thursday. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico was in serious but stable condition Thursday, a hospital official said, after the populist leader was shot multiple times in an assassination attempt.

Slovak authorities charged a man Thursday with attempting to assassinate populist Prime Minister Robert Fico, saying the suspect acted alone in a politically motivated attack that laid bare the extreme polarization that has gripped the small central European country.

Fico, 59, was in serious but stable condition a day after being shot multiple times in the stomach, a hospital official said. President-elect Peter Pellegrini said he spoke to Fico at the hospital but confirmed his condition "remains very serious." The attempted assassination has shocked the nation and reverberated across the continent weeks ahead of European elections.

While President Zuzana Caputova called on everyone to take the opportunity to dial back the vitriol that has characterized the political debate, some government ministers took aim at Slovakia's media for contributing to the fractious atmosphere. Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok asked jour-

nalists to "reflect" on how they had covered Fico's policies. He referred to the suspect — who was charged with premeditated murder — as a "lone wolf" who did not belong to any political groups, though he said the attack itself was politically motivated. Fico has long been a divisive figure in Slovakia and beyond, and his return to power last year on a pro-Russian, anti-American message led to even greater worries among fellow

government's full control of public television and radio. That coupled with his plans to amend the penal code to eliminate a special anti-graft prosecutor have led opponents to worry that Fico will lead Slovakia down a more autocratic path. Thousands of demonstrators have repeatedly rallied in the capital and around the country of 5.4 million to protest his policies.

Slovak police have provided little information on the identity of the suspect. But unconfirmed media reports suggested he was a 71-year-old retiree who was known as an amateur poet, and may have previously worked as a security guard at a mall in the country's southwest. At a news conference on Thursday following a meeting of Slovakia's Security Council, government ministers gave more details about the man, while still not naming him. Estok said that the man himself cited his dissatisfaction with several of Fico's policies as motivation for the attack. The minister said presidential elections in the spring prompted the assault, and that the suspect

European Union and NATO members that he would abandon his country's pro-Western course — particularly on Ukraine.

At the start of Russia's invasion, Slovakia was one of Ukraine's staunchest supporters, but Fico halted arms deliveries to the neighbor when he came to power.

Fico's government has also made efforts to overhaul public broadcasting — a move critics said would result in the

Shooting of Slovak PM sends shockwaves across Europe

Bratislava (AP): The shooting Wednesday of Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico in the town of Handlova following a political event sent shockwaves across Europe three weeks before EU parliament elections are scheduled to be held. Leaders from across the political divide denounced the apparent assassination attempt against the populist, pro-Russian leader, calling it an attack on democracy. Here's what European leaders and others are saying: "What has happened is something that we cannot seem to realize because we cannot comprehend it. A physical attack on the prime minister is, first of all, an attack on a person, but it is also an attack on democracy. Any violence is unacceptable. Hateful rhetoric we've been witnessing in society leads to hateful actions. Please let's stop it." — Slovak President Zuzana Caputova, Fico's political rival, in a televised statement.

— "An assassination attempt on one of the highest constitutional officials is an unprecedented threat to Slovak democracy. If we express different political opinions with guns in the squares, and not in polling stations, we endanger everything we have built together in 31 years of Slovak sovereignty." — Slovak President-elect Peter Pellegrini.

had attended a recent anti-government protest. "I can confirm to you that the reason it was a politically motivated, attempted premeditated murder is as the suspect himself said: the media information that he had

at his disposal," he said. "I think each of you can reflect on the way you presented it." At the same news conference, Deputy Prime Minister Robert Kalinak also blamed the media for tensions in the country.

Indian national charged in connection with Nijjar's murder appears before Court

PTI ■ OTTAWA

An Indian national charged in connection with the killing of a Khalistani separatist appeared before a Canadian court, which ordered him to re-appear on May 21 alongside three co-accused arrested in the high-profile case that has severely strained India's relations with Canada.

Amandeep Singh, a 22-year-old suspect in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, appeared via video in a Surrey court on Wednesday, and the matter has been put forward to next week, local media reports said. Nijjar, 45, was killed outside Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18, 2023.

Amandeep was charged on May 11 with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, just over a week after identical charges were announced against three co-accused — Karan Brar (22),

Kamalpreet Singh (22) and 28-year-old Karanpreet Singh. Amandeep appeared in court in Surrey virtually from Ontario, where he was already in the custody of Peel Regional Police for unrelated firearms charges.

A judge set his next court date for May 21 — when he'll appear alongside the other three men charged with conspiring to kill Nijjar. His appearance before the court was marred by technical delays.

More than two dozen people gathered outside the courtroom before Amandeep's appearance, holding flags in support of Khalistan.

Amandeep, Karan Brar, Kamalpreet Singh and Karanpreet Singh are all Indian nationals. Police say Amandeep was splitting his time in Canada between Brampton, Abbotsford, and Surrey. They are allegedly members of a hit squad that investigators

believe was tasked by the government of India to carry out the murder of Nijjar, according to the Canadian media.

Amandeep was already caught up in the Canadian justice system at the time of Nijjar's death, CBC News reported. The Indian national, who entered Canada on a temporary visa, appeared in a Surrey courtroom to answer charges on an unrelated matter just two days before he lay in wait for Nijjar at the entrance to the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, according to the report.

Amandeep had been arrested in Surrey on a warrant after fleeing from police in March 2023. He was charged with flight from police and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and made a first court appearance on June 16, 2023. Court documents show that his case came up before the court again 19 days after the killing, on July 7, and was proceeding through the system toward a trial, scheduled for

later this year, when he was arrested on separate firearms and drug charges in Brampton last November.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.

India has dismissed Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and "motivated."

Nijjar, a Khalistani separatist, was wanted in India on various terror charges.

India has been asserting that its "core issue" with Canada remained that of the space given to separatists, terrorists and anti-India elements in that country.

Following Trudeau's allegations last year, India temporarily suspended the issuance of visas to Canadian citizens. The visa services were resumed several weeks later.

FB and Instagram face fresh scrutiny under EU's digital regulations

AP ■ LONDON

The European Union opened fresh investigations Thursday into Facebook and Instagram over suspicions that they're failing to protect children online, in violation of the bloc's strict digital regulations for social media platforms.

It's the latest round of scrutiny for parent company Meta Platforms under the 27-nation EU's Digital Services Act, a sweeping set of regulations that took effect last year with the goal of cleaning up online platforms and protecting internet users.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, said it's concerned that the algorithmic systems used by Facebook and Instagram to recommend content like videos and posts could "exploit the weaknesses and inexperience" of children and stimulate "addictive behaviour". It's worried that

these systems could reinforce the so-called "rabbit hole" effect that leads users to increasingly disturbing content.

The commission is also looking into Meta's use of age verification tools to prevent children from accessing Facebook or Instagram, or be shown inappropriate content. Only children aged 13 and older are allowed to use the platforms. It's also looking into whether the company is complying with DSA rules requiring a high level of privacy, safety and security for minors.

"We want young people to have safe, age-appropriate experiences online and have spent a decade developing more than 50 tools and policies designed to protect them," Meta said in a prepared statement. "This is a challenge the whole industry is facing, and we look forward to sharing details of our work with the European Commission."

WH blocks release of Biden's special counsel interview audio, says GOP is being political

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has asserted executive privilege over audio of his interview with special counsel Robert Hur that's at the center of a Republican effort to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt of Congress, the Justice Department told lawmakers on Thursday.

It comes as the the House Oversight and Accountability Committee and the Judiciary Committee are each expected to hold a hearing to recommend that the full House refer Garland to the Justice Department for the contempt

charges over the department's refusal to hand over the audio. Garland advised Biden in a letter on Thursday that the audio falls within the scope of executive privilege. Garland told the Democratic president that the "committee's needs are plainly insufficient to outweigh the deleterious effects that the production of the recordings would have on the integrity and effectiveness of similar law enforcement investigations in the future."

Assistant Attorney General Carlos Felipe Uriarte urged lawmakers not to proceed with the contempt effort to avoid "unnecessary and

unwarranted conflict." "It is the longstanding position of the executive branch held by administrations of both parties that an official who asserts the president's claim of executive privilege cannot be held in contempt of Congress," Uriarte wrote.

White House Counsel Ed Siskel wrote in a separate, scathing letter to Congress on Thursday that lawmakers' effort to obtain the recording was absent any legitimate purpose and lays bare their likely goal — "to chop them up, distort them, and use them for partisan political purposes." The White House letter is a tacit admission that there are

moments from the interview it fears portray Biden in a negative light in an election year — and that could be exacerbated by the release, or selective release, of the audio.

The transcript of the Hur interview showed Biden struggling to recall some dates and occasionally confusing some details — something long-time aides says he's done for years in both public and private — but otherwise showing deep recall in other areas. Biden and his aides are particularly sensitive to questions about his age. At 81, he's the oldest ever president, and he's seeking another four year term.

S Korean court denies bid to halt medical school admissions boost

AP ■ JERUSALEM

A South Korean court ruled in favour of the government's contentious plan to drastically boost medical school admissions on Thursday.

A standoff between the government and doctors opposed to the plan has shaken the country's medical system for months. More than 10,000 junior doctors have been on strike since February in protest.

The Seoul High Court rejected a request from striking doctors and other opponents for an injunction to block the plan, which would raise the

medical school enrollment quota by 2,000 next year, from the current cap of 3,058. Lee Byung-chul, a lawyer for the doctors, said he will prepare to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court, the country's top court. He said he will issue an official statement on Thursday's ruling after reviewing details of the verdict. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo welcomed the ruling, saying the government appreciates "the wise ruling by the judicial branch".

He said the government will take steps to finalise medical school admission plans for the 2025 academic year. The striking doctors represent

a fraction of all doctors in South Korea, estimated to number between 115,000 and 140,000. But in some major hospitals, they account for about 30 per cent to 40 per cent of doctors, assisting fully qualified doctors and department chiefs during surgeries and other treatments while training. Their walkouts have caused cancellations to numerous surgeries and other treatments at their hospitals. Officials say the plan is aimed at adding more doctors, because South Korea has one of the world's fastest-aging populations and its doctor-to-population ratio is among the lowest in the developed

world.

Doctors say schools aren't ready to handle an abrupt increase in students and that it would ultimately undermine the country's medical services. They say the government plan would also result in doctors performing unnecessary treatments because of greater competition. But critics argue that many doctors are mainly worried that more competition would lower their incomes. Government officials earlier threatened to suspend the licenses of the striking doctors but later halted related administrative steps to facilitate dialogue with the strikers.

Xi, Putin hint at political settlement to end war

US warned against hindering close China-Russia ties

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday hinted at a political settlement to end the Ukraine war, saying he expects peace and stability will return to the European continent, shortly after his talks with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin as the two leaders vowed to counter any attempt by the US to hinder their strategic ties. Putin received a grand welcome upon his arrival here earlier in the day on his first foreign visit after winning the fifth term in office in March for wide-ranging talks with Xi to reset the burgeoning China-Russia strategic ties for future.

China hopes that peace and stability will return to the European continent at an early date, and stands ready to play a constructive role to this end," Xi said at a joint press conference with Putin after their talks. A joint statement issued after Putin-Xi talks said that both sides believe that for "a sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, it is necessary to eliminate its root causes."

In a veiled criticism of the US, which is pressuring Beijing to end its strategic ties with Russia, the joint statement said relations between China and Russia do not target any third countries, therefore they will counter any attempts to hinder such cooperation. "The two sides note that the relationship between Russia and China has progressed to a more advanced interstate cooperation compared to the mili-



Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Russian President Vladimir Putin attend a signing ceremony in Beijing, China, on Thursday

tary-political unions of the Cold War era as it is not bloc or confrontational in nature, nor does it target any third countries," Russia's new agency Tass quoted the document as saying. According to the statement, Russia and China reaffirmed their resolve to defend their legitimate rights and interests and block any attempts to impede a normal development of bilateral ties, and any interference in the internal affairs of the two nations or to impose restrictions on their economic, technological and foreign policy potential.

Putin's visit to China, the second since last October, follows Xi's just concluded European Union tour to France, Serbia and

Hungary where the Chinese leader came under pressure from EU leaders not to sell arms to Russia. The US too is mounting pressure on China not to sell arms to Russia. While Xi, 70, regards his ties with Putin, 71, as counter to the US' increasing hostility towards China, which Beijing says is aimed at countering its rise, there is unease here over the Russian leader's continuation of the Ukraine war. Though Beijing has not publicly supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the "no-limits" China-Russia strategic partnership has come under intense scrutiny from the US and its allies, who have imposed sanctions on Moscow and repeatedly called Beijing to use its lever-

age to bring the war to an end. Xi, who has met Putin more than 40 times, welcomed his "old friend", saying the relations between the two countries have withstood an international "storm and changes" and set a model for mutual respect and cooperation. The two leaders held wide-ranging talks on a host of issues, the significant among them is the way out to end the Ukraine war. Xi said the two sides believe that a political settlement is the right way forward for the Ukraine crisis. China's position on this issue is consistent and clear, including observing the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, respecting the legitimate security concerns of all parties, and building a new security architecture that is balanced, effective and sustainable. For his part, Putin said he is open to a negotiated settlement. "We have never refused to negotiate," Putin said. "We are seeking a comprehensive, sustainable and just settlement of this conflict through peaceful means", he told China's state-run Xinhua news agency. "We are open to a dialogue on Ukraine, but such negotiations must take into account the interests of all countries involved in the conflict, including ours," he said. Putin emphasised that the four principles for the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis recently proposed by Xi seamlessly fit in the above-mentioned document.

UK's Labour Party unveils pledges in hopes of winning next election

London (AP): Britain's still-undeclared election campaign stepped up a gear on Thursday when opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer announced the key pledges that he hopes will make him the UK's next prime minister later this year. The centre-left party is focusing on economic stability, security, health and education as it tries to win over disillusioned voters and regain power after 14 years in opposition. Among Starmer's six promises are restoring economic stability after years of soaring inflation and high mortgage rates, establishing a publicly owned green-energy company and toughening border controls. Labour also says it will cut waiting times for treatment in the state-funded National Health Service, recruit more police officers to curb low-level crime that blights neighbourhoods and hire thousands of new teachers. Money for the pledges will come from modest revenue-raising measures including a windfall tax on oil and gas companies and an end to tax breaks for private schools. At a launch event in Essex, an electoral bellwether county east of London, Starmer said the promises were "our down-payment on change" that would take a decade to implement. Starmer, 61, has dragged Labour toward the political centre ground since taking over in 2020 from veteran socialist Jeremy Corbyn, who led Labour to election defeats in 2017 and 2019. He has dropped Corbyn's opposition to Britain's nuclear weapons, backed military aid to Ukraine, apologised for antisemitism within the party under Corbyn and stressed the party's commitment to balancing the books.

Imran appears before Pak top court via video link

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Incarcerated former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday appeared before the Supreme Court via a video link in a case about changes in the anti-corruption laws but did not get to speak as a petitioner in the matter. However, a leaked image of the 71-year-old founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's image showing him attending the court hearing has prompted the Supreme Court administration to initiate a probe to find out the source for the leak, The News International reported citing sources.

Khan appearing via the video link was possible after Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday while hearing an appeal by the government against annulment of certain changes in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws by the previous government had ordered the authorities to present Khan virtually for his statement.

Khan had challenged the tweaks in the NAB laws and the top court in September last year had accepted his plea which reopened dozens of cases of alleged corruption against some leading politicians, including Khan's arch rival Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif. A five-member Supreme Court larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi

heard the case. During the hearing, senior counsel Khawaja Haris, who earlier represented Imran Khan in the first round of litigation, appeared before the court for legal assistance while Makhdoom Ali Khan was present on behalf of the federal government. Dawn.com reported. The SC, noting that the bench was unavailable next week, adjourned the hearing indefinitely, it said.

Khan's party said in a statement that there was no live streaming from the apex court as the registrar maintained that it was the prerogative of the bench to decide. "Judicial process demands fairness and openness, (and) transparency can only be ensured through public view of proceedings. Refusal to stream proceedings advances unfairness and non-transparency and must be condemned. CJ has changed the process unilaterally and has discredited his own decision that brought him fame soon after he took over," it said.

Khan has been charged in several cases, including cyber and unlawful marriage, and has remained imprisoned even though he had obtained bail in some other cases. He was arrested in August last year and since then has been incarcerated, first in the Attock Jail and now in Adiala Jail and out of sight. His appearance in court comes a day after two courts granted him relief in separate cases, including the Al-Qadir Trust matter. A division of the high court led by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri granted him bail in the RS 60 billion case, while Judicial Magistrate Suhaib Bilal Ranjha also acquitted him in a case registered against him at the Khanna police station in connection with the Azadi March in 2022.

Ukraine checks Russia offensive in key town

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian units locked in street battles with the Kremlin's forces in a key north-eastern Ukraine town have halted the Russian advance, military officials in Kyiv claimed Thursday, though a senior Moscow official said the frontline push had enough resources to keep going. Russian attempts to establish a foothold in the town of Vovchansk, which is among the largest towns in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region with a prewar population of 17,000, "have been foiled", Ukraine's general staff said in a midday report. It was not possible to indepen-

dently verify the claim. Vovchansk, located just 5 km (3 miles) from the Russian border, has been a hotspot in the fighting in recent days. Russia launched an offensive in the Kharkiv area late last week, significantly adding to the pressure on Ukraine's outnumbered and outgunned forces which are waiting for delayed deliveries of crucial weapons and ammunition from Western partners. Russia has also been testing defences at other points along the roughly 1,000-km (620-mile) front line snaking from north to south through eastern Ukraine. That line has barely changed over the past 18 months in what became a war

of attrition. Recent Russian attacks have come in the eastern Donetsk region, as well as the Chernihiv and Sumy regions in the north and in the southern Zaporizhzhia region. The apparent aim is to stretch depleted Ukrainian resources and exploit weaknesses. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with his top military commanders in Kharkiv on Thursday and said the region "is generally under control". However, he acknowledged on social media that the situation is "extremely difficult" and said Ukraine was again strengthening its units in Kharkiv. "We clearly see how the occupier is trying to distract our

forces and make our combat work less concentrated," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Wednesday. Ukrainian authorities have evacuated some 8,000 civilians from Vovchansk. The Russian army's top tactic is to reduce towns and villages to ruins with aerial strikes before its units move in. Former Russian defence minister and now the head of the presidential Security Council Sergei Shoigu insisted Russian troops are pushing the offensive in many directions and that "it's going quite well". "I hope we will keep advancing. We have certain reserves for the purpose, in personnel, equipment and munitions," he said.

Mosque attack in northern Nigeria leaves 8 dead

AP ■ ABUJA

Abuja, May 16 (AP) At least eight worshippers were killed and 16 others injured early Wednesday morning after a man attacked a mosque with a locally made explosive in northern Nigeria's Kano state, resulting in a fire outbreak, the police said. The suspect, a 38-year-old local resident, confessed that he attacked the mosque in Kano's remote Gadan village "purely in hostility following (a) prolonged family disagreement," police spokesman Abdullahi Haruna said in a statement on Wednesday. Eight of those injured died later in a hospital, Haruna

later told local Channels Television on Thursday. Four children were among the injured worshippers, although it was not clear if any of the children died. The incident caused panic in Kano, northern Nigeria's largest state, where periodic religion-related unrest has occurred over the years, sometimes resulting in violence. The suspect invaded the mosque with "a locally prepared bomb and exploded it," local police chief Umar Sanda told reporters. "It has nothing to do with terrorism." Footage broadcast by the local TVC station showed charred walls and burned furniture in the mosque, the main place of

worship for Gadan village in Muslim-dominated Kano state. Local media also reported the worshippers were locked inside the mosque, making it difficult for them to escape. "Some children ran for their lives with fire all over them. We had to put water to quench it," Hussaini Adamu, a resident, told TVC. The police cordoned off the scene while the injured were rushed to a hospital in the state capital. "The disagreement (was) over sharing of inheritance of which those that (the attacker) alleged to have cheated on him were in the mosque at that moment and he did that for his voice to be heard," the police statement said.

The Netherlands veers to right

AP ■ THE HAGUE

Anti-Islam firebrand Geert Wilders and three other party leaders agreed on a coalition deal early Thursday that veers the Netherlands toward the hard right, capping a half year of tumultuous negotiations that still left it unclear who would become prime minister. The "Hope, courage and pride" agreement introduces strict measures on asylum seekers, scraps family reunification for refugees and seeks to reduce the number of international students studying in the country. "Deport people without a valid residence permit as much as possible, even forcibly," the 26-page document says. "We are writing history today," Wilders proclaimed, saying he had made sure the three other coalition parties, including the one of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte, had accepted the core of his programme. "The sun will shine again in the Netherlands," Wilders said. "It is the strongest asylum policy ever."

With hard-right and populist parties now part of or leading a half dozen governments in the 27-nation European Union, they appear positioned to make gains in the bloc's June 6-9 election. Wilders has been a political ally of radical right and populist leaders such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni and French opposition leader Marine Le Pen. "My party will be at the centre of power. It makes us enormously proud," Wilders said. He had to make person-

al compromises, though. Wilders has already reluctantly acknowledged that he will not succeed Rutte at the country's helm. The parties still have to agree on a prime minister, who is expected to be a technocrat from outside the party structures. Speculation has centred on Ronald Plasterk from the Labor Party, who shot back to prominence this year when he became the first "scout" to hold talks with political leaders about possible coalitions. The deal said the next government will continue with existing plans to combat climate change, including continuing to pay for a climate change fund established last year. But the Farmers Citizens Movement is part of the coalition, and the deal includes soothing language and concessions to farmers who have blocked cities with tractors during disruptive protests. Other points in the agreement include increasing social housing, stricter sentences for serious crimes and capping property taxes. The group intends to continue supporting Ukraine and wants to enshrine the NATO standard of spending 2% of gross domestic product on defence into law. EU headquarters may not welcome a line in the coalition deal that says "the Netherlands is very critical against further enlargement of the European Union," at a time when many other member nations want to add Ukraine and some other eastern nations. The EU needs unanimity among its current nations before it can add more.

Indonesia seeds clouds to block rainfall after floods killed at least 67 people

AP ■ TANAH DATAR

Indonesian authorities seeded clouds on Wednesday, trying to prevent further rain and flash floods after deluges that hit Sumatra Island over the weekend left at least 67 people dead and another 20 missing. Monsoon rains triggered a landslide of mud and cold lava from Mount Marapi, eventually causing rivers to breach their banks. The deluge tore through mountainside villages in four districts in West Sumatra province just before midnight on Saturday. The floods swept away people and dozens of homes and submerged hundreds of houses and buildings, forcing more than 1,500 families to flee to temporary government shel-

ters, according to National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari. He said 67 bodies had been pulled from mud and rivers by Wednesday, mostly in the worst-hit Agam and Tanah Datar districts, while rescuers are searching for 20 people reported missing. About 44 villagers were injured. Cloud seeding involves dispersing particles into clouds to create precipitation, thereby modifying the weather. National Disaster Management Agency chief Suharyanto said the aim of Wednesday's action was to redirect the rain elsewhere and keep the search operation free of downpours, which could hamper the rescuers' progress. Suharyanto, who goes by a single name like many Indonesians, said the

emergency response will last until May 25. Authorities are evaluating which areas are no longer inhabitable and which residents need to be relocated "from the danger zone". Suharyanto spoke during a visit to the devastated villages in hard-hit Tanah Datar district on Wednesday. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency head Dwikorita Karnawati has said that more rain was forecast for West Sumatra in the coming days, and that extreme rainfall could continue until next week. Karnawati said an air force plane was sent up to shoot salt flares into the clouds on Wednesday to get the clouds to release water and break up before they reach the devastated areas in West Sumatra

province. About 15 tons of salt have been prepared for the seeding operation, she said. Muhari, the disaster agency spokesperson, said Indonesia's air force teamed up with the country's technology agency to carry out two rounds of cloud seeding Wednesday each using a ton of sodium chloride, or salt. Rescue workers meanwhile combed through rivers and the rubble of devastated villages where roads were transformed into murky brown rivers and villages were left covered by thick mud, rocks, and uprooted trees. Heavy rains cause frequent landslides and flash floods in Indonesia, an archipelago nation of more than 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near floodplains.

Georgia's leader says divisive media bill unacceptable

Tbilisi (Georgia): A controversial media bill passed this week by Georgia's parliament is "unacceptable" and will be vetoed, President Salome Zourabichvili said Thursday, reaffirming her opposition to a measure that critics say is a threat to free speech. In an interview with The Associated Press, Zourabichvili harshly criticised the ruling Georgian Dream party for pushing the bill that also is widely seen as a threat to Georgia's aspirations to join the European Union. The bill, passed on Tuesday, requires media and non-governmental organisations and other nonprofit groups to register as "pursuing the interests of a foreign power" if they receive more than 20% of their funding from abroad. The government says the bill is need-

ed to stem what it deems to be harmful foreign actors trying to destabilise politics in the South Caucasus nation of 3.7 million people. "It's unacceptable because it reflects a turn of the Georgian attitudes towards the civil society, towards the media and towards the recommendations of the European Commission that are not consistent with what is our declared policy of going towards a European integration," Zourabichvili told the AP. She reaffirmed her intention to veto it because it "goes directly against the spirit or the letter of EU recommendations". Zourabichvili is increasingly at odds with the Georgian Dream party, which has a majority sufficient to override her veto. She has until May 28 — 14 days after its passage — to act. AP

'9 Egyptians accused of causing deadly shipwreck were misidentified'

AP ■ ATHENS

The legal defense team for nine Egyptian men due to go on trial in southern Greece next week accused of causing one of the Mediterranean's deadliest shipwrecks said Thursday they will argue that Greece has no jurisdiction in the case, and insisted their clients were innocent survivors who have been unjustly prosecuted. The nine, whose ages range from early 20s to early 40s, are due to go on trial in the southern city of Kalamata on May 21 on a series of charges, including migrant smuggling, participation in a criminal organization and causing a deadly shipwreck. They face multiple life

sentences if convicted. The Adriana, an overcrowded fishing trawler, had been sailing from Libya to Italy with hundreds of asylum-seekers on board when it sank on June 14 in international waters off the southwestern coast of Greece. The exact number of people on board has never been established, but estimates range from around 500 to more than 700. Only 104 people survived — all men and boys from Syria, Egypt, Pakistan and two Palestinians — and about 80 bodies were recovered. The vessel sank in one of the Mediterranean's deepest areas, making recovery efforts all but impossible. The Greek lawyers who make up the defense team spoke

during a news conference in Athens on Thursday. They maintained their clients' innocence, saying all nine defendants had been paying passengers who had been misidentified as crew members by other survivors who gave testimonies under duress just hours after having been rescued. The nine "are random people, smuggled people who paid the same amounts as all the others to take this trip to Italy aiming for a better life, and they are accused of being part of the smuggling team," lawyer and defense team member Vicky Aggelidou said. Dimitris Choulis, another lawyer and member of the legal team, said that Greek authorities named the defendants as crew members following testi-

monies by nine other survivors who identified them for having done things as simple as handing bottles of water or pieces of fruit to other passengers. "For nearly a year now, nine people have been in prison without knowing what they are in prison for," Choulis said. "For me, it is very sad to visit and see people in prison who do not understand why they are there," he added. While the Adriana was sailing in international waters, the area was within Greece's search and rescue zone of responsibility. Greece's coast guard had been shadowing the vessel for a full day without attempting a rescue of those on board. A patrol boat and at least two merchant ships were in the vicinity when the

trawler capsized and sank. In the aftermath of the sinking, some survivors said the coast guard had been attempting to tow the boat when it sank, and rights activists have accused Greek authorities of triggering the shipwreck while attempting to tow the boat out of Greece's zone of responsibility. Greek authorities have rejected accusations of triggering the shipwreck and have insisted the trawler's crew members had refused to accept help from the nearby merchant ships and from the Greek coast guard. A separate investigation being carried out by Greece's naval court hasn't yet reached any conclusion, and the defense team hasn't been given any access to any part of it. The

Egyptians' defense team also argues that because the shipwreck occurred in international waters, Greece courts don't have jurisdiction to try the case, and the defense will move to have the case dismissed on those grounds when the trial opens in Kalamata next week. Greece lies along one of the most popular routes into the European Union for people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. While most of those cross into the country's eastern Aegean Sea islands from the nearby Turkish coast, others try to skirt Greece altogether and head from north Africa to Italy across the longer and more dangerous Mediterranean route.

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Sensex jumps 676 points, Nifty closes above 22,400 on global stocks rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty shot up nearly 1 per cent on Thursday, driven by buying in HDFC Bank and Infosys and a rally in the US and Asian markets.
In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 676.69 points or 0.93 per cent to settle at 73,663.72. During the day, it hit a high of 73,749.47 and a low of 72,529.97.
The NSE Nifty surged 203.30 points or 0.92 per cent to 22,403.85.
“The domestic market experienced a late surge, driven by strong global trends that pointed to lower-than-expected US consumer inflation figures, which suggests at least two interest rate cuts in 2024,” Geojit Financial Services Head of Research Vinod Nair said.
Among the Sensex components, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Infosys, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major gainers.
Maruti, State Bank of India, Power Grid, Tata Motors and IndusInd Bank were the laggard.
“The market exhibited volatility during trading hours but managed to gain nearly one per cent, indicating a continuation of its recovery trend. Positive global cues led to a gap-up



opening in the Nifty; however, the initial gains diminished quickly as the session progressed. Subsequently, it witnessed sharp fluctuations on both sides before settling near the day's peak,” said Ajit Mishra — SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.
In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.07 per cent and smallcap index rallied 0.85 per cent. Among the indices, capital goods jumped 2.05 per cent, followed by industrials (1.99 per cent), teck (1.66 per cent), realty (1.59 per cent), IT (1.55 per cent), telecommunication (0.99 per cent) and healthcare (0.70 per cent). Utilities index emerged as the only

laggard.
In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains. European markets were trading lower. Wall Street ended higher on Wednesday.
Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.33 per cent to USD 82.45 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,832.83 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.
Halting its three-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 117.58 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 72,987.03 on Wednesday. The NSE Nifty dipped 17.30 points or 0.08 per cent to 22,200.55.

Silver surges ₹1,800 to hit all time high; gold jumps ₹650

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Silver soared by Rs 1,800 to hit a fresh record high of Rs 88,000 per kg on Thursday, while gold prices jumped Rs 650 to Rs 74,050 per 10 grams in line with strong global trends.
According to HDFC Securities, rising for the second straight session, silver prices surged Rs 1,800 to hit its lifetime high of Rs 88,700 per kg in Delhi. It had closed at Rs 86,900 per kg in the previous session.
Meanwhile, the precious metal price jumped from Rs 650 to Rs 74,050 per 10 grams. In the previous session, it had closed at Rs 73,400 per 10 grams.
“Bullion rose on Thursday as yesterday's lower US inflation figures raised the prospect of interest rate cuts as early as September. In April, the underlying US inflation rate fell for the first time in six months.
“Following the data release, the US dollar index slipped to a fifth-week low, and US Treasury yields declined,

which is also positive for the precious metal,” Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.
In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,386 per ounce, up by USD 21 from the previous close.
“Gold prices maintain a positive stance overall, some minor profit booking may occur from higher levels, especially as buying driven by the anticipated consumer price index (CPI) event appears to have been priced in,” Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.
Silver was also quoted higher at USD 29.55 per ounce. In the previous session, it had settled at USD 28.80 per ounce.
“The swift rise in silver prices is primarily due to its unique industrial properties, which set it apart from gold. Key industrial metals like copper, aluminium, zinc, and lead prices have risen sharply since April on worries over supply threat.

India PC market grew 2.6 per cent in January, March to 3.07 million units

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The traditional PC market in India, comprising desktops, notebooks, and workstations, grew 2.6 per cent to 30.7 lakh units in the March quarter, market research firm International Data Corporation said on Thursday.
HP led the personal computer (PC) market with a 30.1 per cent share despite an 8.8 per cent decline in shipments. The company's PC shipment dropped to 9.23 lakh units during the quarter from 10.12 lakh a year ago.
Dell Technologies and Acer Group's PC volume shipments market share grew 28.8 per cent each to 17.5 and 15.4 per cent, respectively.
The market shares of Lenovo and Asus declined to 15.1 and 5.9 per cent, respectively, during the reported quarter. The share of Lenovo declined 1.3 per cent to 4.64 lakh units from 4.7 lakh while that of Asus declined 8.3 per cent to 1.82 lakh from 1.98 lakh on a year-on-year basis.
“The PC market in India is facing challenges in the commercial segment due to reduced PC procurement from the IT and ITES sector and global accounts which traditionally drive significant volumes,” IDC India Associate Vice President, Client Devices and IPDS, Navkendar Singh, said.
The market is expected to start recovering by the end of 2024 with refresh buying from the enterprise segment, Singh said.
According to the International Data Corporation (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly Personal Computing Device Tracker report, the desktop and workstation categories grew 10.1 per cent and 2.7 per cent year-on-year, respectively, and notebooks declined 1.7 per cent. Even with reduced demand for notebooks, premium notebooks (priced above USD 1,000) grew a healthy 21 per cent.
“The vendors have also fast-tracked the local assembly of commercial notebooks, which will help reduce the imports in the next few quarters,” Singh said.

Oberoi Realty shares hit 52 weeks high; rally nearly nine per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Shares of Oberoi Realty on Thursday jumped nearly 9 per cent after the company posted a 64 per cent increase in consolidated net profit for the March quarter of 2024 and announced plans to raise up to Rs 4,000 crore through issuance of equity shares and non-convertible debentures.
The stock climbed 8.70 per cent to Rs 1,712.30 -- its 52-week high, on the BSE.
At the NSE, it rallied 8.81 per cent to the one-year high of Rs 1,712.85 apiece.
The stock climbed 3.52 per cent on the BSE on Wednesday.
Oberoi Realty has posted 64



per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 788.03 crore for the March quarter of 2023-24.
Its net profit stood at Rs 480.29 crore in the year-ago period.
Total income rose to Rs 1,558.56 crore in the quarter, from Rs 995.11 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing on Tuesday.
During 2023-24, the

company's net profit increased to Rs 1,926.60 crore, from Rs 1,904.54 crore in the preceding year.
Total income rose to Rs 4,818.77 crore in the last fiscal, from Rs 4,293.20 crore in 2022-23.
The board has passed a resolution for issuance of non-convertible debentures up to an aggregate amount of Rs 2,000 crore by way of private placement, in one or more tranches.
It also passed a resolution for issuance of equity shares or securities for an aggregate amount of up to Rs 2,000 crore by way of one or more qualified institutions placement, public and/or private offerings.

Air passenger traffic in India to touch 407-418 million this fiscal, says Icra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Air passenger traffic in the country is projected to touch record levels in the range of 407-418 million in the current financial year and the revenues of select airport operators together are estimated to rise 15-17 per cent during the same period, rating agency Icra said on Thursday.
Surpassing the pre-Covid level by 10 per cent, the traffic reached 376.4 million in the fiscal ended March 2024.
In a report, Icra said the overall traffic is expected to see a healthy growth of around 8-11 per cent year-on-



year to around 407-418 million in FY2025, supported by strong pick-up in both leisure and business travel, improving connectivity to newer destinations in the domestic segment and the

continued uptick in international travel.
Indian airport operators' revenue is anticipated to grow 15-17 per cent on an annual basis in the current fiscal ending March 2025, it added.
Icra's sample set of airport operators include Airports Authority of India (AAI) as well as operators of Delhi, Hyderabad and Cochin international airports.
“The recovery in the Indian airport passenger traffic is one of the best compared to other major global counterparts. India accounted for 4.2 per cent of the global passenger traffic in CY2023, and its share in passenger traffic has improved from 3.8 per cent in CY2019.
“While the global passenger traffic recovered to just 96 per cent of global passenger traffic in CY2023, the Indian airport passenger traffic

Rupee settles 4 paise lower at 83.50 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The rupee stayed range-bound and settled 4 paise lower at 83.50 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by unabated foreign fund outflows amid investors' weak appetite for riskier assets.
However, a firm trend in domestic equities supported the local unit and restricted its losses, forex traders said.
The rupee remains under pressure due to ongoing elections and foreign fund outflows, and the same shall subside once the results are out, they added.
At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit traded in a narrow range. It opened at 83.45 and touched an intraday high of 83.44 and a low of 83.50.
The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 83.50

(provisional), down 4 paise from its previous close.
On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 83.46 against the US dollar.
Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 104.40, higher by 0.06 per cent.
Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.33 per cent to USD 82.48 per barrel.
Oil price has corrected substantially following a surge to USD 93 per barrel and is currently hovering around USD 82 per barrel. This decline in oil prices is set to have a beneficial effect on India's trade balance, especially considering that petroleum products make up 25 per cent of its total import spending, according to experts.

Odisha FPOs tap global markets with first export of mangoes, vegetables

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
In a significant boost to farm exports from Odisha, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in the state have marked their foray into the global markets with the first commercial shipment of fresh mangoes and vegetables.
This feat was made possible through a strategic collaboration between the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the state Directorate of Horticulture and Palladium which is the technical support unit for the 'Promotion and Stabilisation of Farmer Producer Organisations (PSFPO)' project.
On May 15, as much as 0.75



tonne of fresh vegetables were exported to Dubai from the Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar. This included 0.5 MT supplied by the Madanamohana Farmers Producer Cooperative Society Ltd, an FPO from Dhenkanal district, a statement said.
Besides, 1.22 tonne of premium Amrapali and Dussehri variety mangoes from the same FPO were shipped to Italy over the last

couple of days, it said.
Farmers associated with these FPOs realised 20-30 per cent higher prices for their produce in the export markets as compared to domestic sales, it added.
Lauding the efforts, Sitakanata Mandal, APEDA's Regional Head, said, “We wanted to facilitate exports of fresh produce this season. Our partnership with Palladium made this possible as they identified and connected the FPOs with exporters.”
“The work done by Palladium in linking Odisha's FPOs with global markets is praiseworthy,” Mandal added. Biswajit Behera, Associate Director of Palladium, said with over 800 FPOs, Odisha has immense potential to export fresh farm produce worldwide.
The market linkages created with export supply chains will boost farmer incomes and create sustainable business opportunities for the state's FPOs, he stated.
“We aim to provide more such global markets connected to FPOs in remote areas and help them adopt efficient quality control systems to scale up their operations,” Behera said.

Reliance completes sale of REC Solar Norway



PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Reliance Industries Ltd on Thursday said it has completed the sale of REC Solar Norway AS to Oslo-listed Elkem ASA for around USD 22 million.
REC Norway is a wholly-owned unit of REC Solar Holdings and is involved in the manufacturing of kerf-based polysilicon in the Scandinavian country.
In October 2021, a unit of Reliance acquired Norway's solar panel manufacturer at an enterprise value of USD 771 million as the Indian oil-to-retail conglomerate sought to extend its dominance into alternative energy.
In January this year, Reliance stated that REC Solar Holdings AS, a step-own wholly-owned subsidiary, on January 14, 2024, entered into a share purchase agreement with Elkem ASA for the sale of its 100 per cent equity stake in REC Solar Norway AS for an aggregate cash consideration of USD 22 million.
The sale has been completed, the firm said in a stock exchange filing.
“Consequently, REC Norway has ceased to be a subsidiary of the company,” it added.
Founded in 1904, Elkem ASA is a silicon-based material provider, and listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange.
Reliance will continue to retain the technology and intellectual property rights pertaining to kerf-based polysilicon, the firm had stated in January.
REC Norway had a turnover of Norwegian krone 1.1 billion in the calendar year 2022 and a net worth of Norwegian krone 0.3 billion as of December 31, 2022, contributing about 0.08 per cent and 0.03 per cent, respectively, of Reliance' annual consolidated turnover and net worth for the financial year 2022-23, it had said.
In October 2021, RIL bought REC Solar Holdings from China National Bluestar Group Co to expand in green energy markets globally, including the US, Europe, Australia and elsewhere in Asia.
The acquisition was part of company chairman Mukesh Ambani's pledge to spend USD 10 billion on green energy over three years.
REC makes solar-grade polysilicon and solar panels and modules at facilities in Norway and Singapore.
Reliance was to use REC's technology to manufacture metallic silicon and solar panels at its gigafactory at Jamnagar in Gujarat.
REC Solar Holdings AS and its subsidiaries, engaged in the business of manufacturing and sale of solar PV HJT cells and modules, continue to be Reliance's subsidiaries.

Samco Asset Management eyes ₹500 crore from special opportunities fund

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Samco Asset Management expects to mop up Rs 500 crore from its new fund offer that tracks long-term capital growth through undervalued or overlooked opportunities,

a top company official said on Thursday.
The new fund offering (NFO) would open on May 17 and conclude on May 31.
In an interaction with PTI, Umeshkumar Mehta, Chief Investment Officer of Samco

Mutual Fund, said the objective of the fund is to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing in a portfolio of securities “that are involved in 10 special situations.”
“These ‘situations’ include digitisation, spin-offs & corporate actions, reform-based strategy, undervalued holding companies strategy, trends sustainable over time, innovation & technological disruption, and new & emerging sectors.
These 10 sub-strategies define the “disruption” model and are weaved around different corporate actions. These situations often create mispricing and undervalued opportunities that the fund aims to exploit for potential capital appreciation, Mehta said.
“This strategy allows the fund to explore and capitalise on

special situations across the entire market spectrum, from large-cap to micro-cap companies.
“By not confining itself to a particular segment, the fund is able to pursue a wide range of investment opportunities wherever they may arise, enhancing its potential for capital appreciation by tapping into diverse and sometimes under-explored areas of the market,” he added. According to him, the fund has set an internal target of garnering Rs 500 crore during the NFO.
In addition, tax efficiency is another key feature of the Samco Special Opportunities Fund. “By managing thematic investments internally, we aim to prevent the tax implications associated with the frequent buying and selling of different thematic funds by investors.

GAIL Q4 net profit triples on gas transmission business turnaround

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
State-owned gas utility SGAIL (India) Ltd on Thursday reported more than tripling of its fourth quarter net profit after natural gas transmission and petrochemical business saw a turnaround.
Its stand-alone net profit of Rs 2,176.97 crore in January-March — the fourth quarter of 2023-24 — was 261 per cent more than Rs 603.52 crore net profit in the same period last year, according to stock exchange filing by the company.
The net profit was, however, 26 per cent lower than Rs 2,842.62 crore earning in the preceding quarter of October-December.
The year-on-year rise in profit was aided by a turnaround in natural gas transmission and petrochemicals business and an uptick in gas marketing.

Against a loss of Rs 16.41 crore in gas transmission business in January-March 2023, India's largest gas transportation and marketing firm booked a pre-tax profit of almost Rs 980 crore. Also, the petrochemical business had a pre-tax profit of Rs 262.34 crore compared to a loss of Rs 401 crore in the previous year.
Earnings from natural gas marketing jumped to Rs 1,390 crore in January-March 2024 from Rs 487.40 crore a year back.
Its revenue from operation was almost flat at Rs 32,334.50 crore.
For the full 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024), GAIL reported a net profit of Rs 8,836.48 crore on a revenue of Rs 1.3 lakh crore. This was higher than Rs 5,301.51 crore profit on a revenue of Rs 1.44 lakh in the previous 2022-23 fiscal year.

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STALWART CHHETRI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The iconic Sunil Chhetri on Thursday announced his decision to retire from international football after the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Kuwait on June 6, bringing the curtains down on a glorious career that is unparalleled in Indian football for its longevity and consistency.

The long-serving national team captain announced his decision via a video he posted on his social media accounts.

Chhetri, who made his debut in 2005, has scored 94 goals for the country. He will leave the scene as India's all-time top scorer and most-capped player.

He is also third in the list of goal scorers among active players behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi and currently sits at the fourth in the all-time list of international goal-scorers as well.

Chhetri, 39, will walk into international sunset after rendering yeoman service for nearly two decades, 19 years to be precise, to a team that was heavily reliant on the 57-year forward to deliver the goods every time he wore the blue jersey. "The match Against Kuwait is the last," Chhetri said while announcing his decision.

Chhetri's final match will be played at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, and it is appropriate that he will end his journey in a city, where he has played a lot of his football while evolving into a potent striker.

India are currently second in Group A with four points, behind leaders Qatar.

Chhetri had made his 150th national



appearance in March and scored on the occasion against Afghanistan in Guwahati. India, though, stunningly lost that game 1-2. On his international debut against Pakistan way back in 2005, Chhetri, who would go on to become one of the game's most lethal strikers, scored, and he rated it as his best moment.

"There is one day that I never forget and remember it quite often is the first time I played for my country man, it was unbelievable.

"But the day before, morning of the day, Sukhi sir (Sukhwinder Singh),

my first national team coach, in the morning he came to me and he's like, you're going to start? I can't tell you how I was feeling man," Chhetri recalled.

He added, "I took my jersey, I sprayed some perfume on it, I have no idea why. So that day, everything that happened, once he told me, from breakfast to lunch and to the game and to my first goal in my debut, to conceding late in the 80th minute, that day is probably that I will never forget and is one of the best days of my national team

journey." Speaking on the future of Indian football, Chhetri said that it was time for the country to find the next 9. He felt the team is currently handicapped as none of the current lot of players play as the main striker for their respective clubs and sees the massive hole in the current national team. In recent times, Chhetri said he could sense that he was heading towards the end of his glorious journey.

"You know the feeling that I recollect in the last 19 years is a very nice

combination between duty, pressure and immense joy. I never thought individually, these are the many games that I've played for the country, this is what I've done, good or bad, but now I did it.

"This last one and a half, two months, I did it and it was very strange. I did it because probably I was going towards the decision that this game, this next game is going to be my last." The moment he had arrived at the decision, memories came flooding back to his mind.

"And the moment I told myself first, that yes, this is the game that is going to be my last, is when I started recollecting everything. "It was so strange, I started thinking about this game, that game, this coach, that coach, that team, that member, that ground, that away match, this good game, that bad game, all my individual performances, everything came, all the flashes came. So when I did decide that this is it, this is going to be my last game."

His family members reacted differently to his big decision.

"I told my mom, my dad and my wife, my family first, my dad was...He was normal, he was relieved, happy, everything, but my mom and my wife started crying," he said.

"...They couldn't express to me as to why they burst into tears. It's not that I was feeling tired, it's not that I was feeling this or that, when the instinct came that this should be my last game, then I thought about it a lot."

Chhetri was felicitated ahead of his 150th outing for the Blue Tigers in the World Cup qualifier against Afghanistan in Guwahati.



Griezmann scores hat trick as Atletico beats Getafe in Spanish league to seal Champions League spot

AP ■ MADRID

Antoine Griezmann scored a hat trick as Atletico Madrid defeated Getafe 3-0 in the Spanish league on Wednesday to secure a Champions League spot next season.

The France international scored twice in the first half and again in the second to give Atletico its 12th straight appearance in Europe's top club competition.

The victory at Getafe moved Atletico 11 points clear of fifth-place Athletic Bilbao with two rounds remaining. Athletic's hopes of making it to the Champions League ended with a 2-1 loss at Celta Vigo.

Griezmann hadn't scored since a brace in Atletico's 3-1 win against Girona five matches ago. "We've been qualifying for

the Champions League for many years now, that has to be valued," Griezmann said.

It was Atletico's fourth straight league victory. It was the third straight defeat for Getafe, which stayed in 10th place.

RELEGATION FIGHT: Three teams fighting against relegation won on Wednesday. In addition to Celta's win against Athletic, Rayo Vallecano beat Granada 2-1 at home and Cadiz won 1-0 at Sevilla.

Celta opened a five-point gap to Cadiz, which remains the first team inside the relegation zone. Rayo was one point ahead of Celta. Cadiz sat four points inside the demotion area.

Rayo got the win over Granada despite playing with 10 men after Oscar Trejo was sent off in the fifth minute.

AP ■ ROME

Danielle keeps on winning even with retirement looming

Danielle Collins has been nearly unbeatable lately. Even with her announced retirement looming.

The 15th-ranked American beat former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday to reach the Italian Open semifinals and extend her record to 19-1 since early March.

Having won back-to-back titles in Miami and Charleston, South Carolina, recently, she hasn't dropped a set on Rome's red clay.

Collins underwent surgery in 2021 to treat endometriosis and has said she wants to have a child - which is why she plans to retire at the end of the year.

"A lot of it has to do with my health," Collins said. "Everybody has different ways of ending their professional journey. I want to go out playing my best tennis."

Collins frustrated Azarenka with her aggressive baseline

play and even took out her aggression on a TV cameraman at one point, telling him after being approached on a changeover, "Hey dude, you're going to have to back up a little bit."

Late in the second set, Azarenka slammed her racket on the Campo Centrale as her unforced errors piled up. Then Collins slammed her racket, too, after wasting a series of break points. But Collins came up with some clutch serving to finish Azarenka off - finishing with six aces to Azarenka's none.

"I feel dialed in with my shots and I've gotten better at hitting those small parts of the court," Collins said. Collins' semifinal opponent will be Aryna Sabalenka, who showed no ill-effects from her previous marathon match as she eased past Jelena Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion, 6-2, 6-4.

Sabalenka's win over Collins in the fourth round of the the Madrid Open marked the American's only loss since a defeat to top-ranked Iga Swiatek at Indian Wells on March 8.

All three top-ranked women have reached the final four in Rome as the other semifinal pits Swiatek against No. 3 Coco Gauff.

In men's action, 29th-seeded Alejandro Tabilo of Chile extended his surprising run by beating Zhang Zhizhen 6-3, 6-4 to follow up his upset victories over Novak Djokovic and Karen Khachanov in the previous two rounds.

Tabilo, who hasn't dropped a set during his first appearance in Rome, served an ace down the T on his first match point. In his first Masters series semifinal, Tabilo will face 2017 champion Alexander Zverev, who beat 11th-seeded



Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-3.

Zverev lost his footing on a service return early in the match, fell to the clay and bloodied his hands and arms. It appeared his left hand got the worst of it but after receiving medical attention he continued playing. He won the point when he got injured.

"My finger is crooked. ... It's starting to be a bit blue," Zverev said of his left pinkie, adding that he wasn't sure if it was broken or not. "I felt pain, but probably not to the extent that we'll feel it tomorrow."

Zverev plays right-handed but uses a two-handed backhand. The other quarterfinal matches are scheduled for Thursday. Stefanos Tsitsipas faces Nicolas Jarry - another Chilean - and Hubert Hurkacz plays Tommy Paul. Collins, who reached the Australian Open final in 2022, said she's playing the

best tennis of her career.

"It's been nice to have a stretch where I've really been kind of climbing, because, it's not always like that," Collins said. "You have to be really happy for yourself in these moments because it doesn't always work out that way."

Sabalenka, who didn't allow the ninth-seeded Ostapenko a break opportunity, showed no sign of the back problem that required treatment during Monday's three-setter against Elena Svitolina that ended well after midnight local time. The 26-year-old Sabalenka said she didn't even practice on Tuesday and focused instead on treatment and recovery. And that clearly paid off.

"I would definitely say that it was the best performance of the tournament," Sabalenka said. "I'm super happy that I was able to play without pain today and hopefully with every day I will feel better and better, and I will recover as good as I can for the next match."

Ten Hag addresses Man United fans after winning last home game of season

AP ■ LONDON

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag had just seen his team win its last match at Old Trafford this season when he strode onto the field and took the microphone to address the club's fans.

There might have been a smattering of boos but there was largely a backdrop of cheers as the under-pressure Dutch coach delivered a speech that felt like an audition to continue in the job next season.

"As you know," he said after the 3-2 win over Newcastle in the Premier League, "it wasn't an easy season, but one thing remained constant - and that was the backing of you for the team.

"But this season is not over yet."

Indeed, United still has to go to Brighton in Sunday's final round of Premier League games. Then, the following weekend, it's another FA Cup final against Manchester City. Two huge games. Two opportunities to qualify for Europe. Two final chances for Ten Hag to stake his claim to stay on as manager of England's grandest club as it undergoes a shake-up.

United remained in eighth place in the league - hugely disappointing for a club of its stature - but moved level on points with Newcastle in seventh and three behind sixth-place Chelsea, which beat Brighton 2-1 away in Wednesday's other game.

With Tottenham likely to finish in fifth place, Chelsea, Newcastle and Man United look to be fighting for the final two European qualifying



positions. The teams finishing in sixth and seventh place should qualify for the Europa League and Europa Conference League, respectively.

Man United could also get in the Europa League by winning the cup final against City on May 25.

Chelsea's win at Brighton was its fourth straight in the league. That hasn't happened since October 2022.

NKUNKU CELEBRATION: Christopher Nkunku inflated a blue balloon and held it between his lips to celebrate his second-half goal that ultimately proved the difference for Chelsea at Amex Stadium. The France striker's 64th-minute strike added to Cole Palmer's 22nd goal of the campaign in the 34th minute.

Second-half Chelsea substitute Reece James was shown a straight red card in the 88th - following a VAR review - after he kicked out at Joao Pedro while on the ground. Danny Welbeck grabbed Brighton's consolation goal in

the seventh minute of stoppage time.

HOJLUND STRIKES: A strike by substitute Rasmus Hojlund in the 84th minute proved to be the clinching goal for Man United in a match between direct rivals for Europe.

Kobbie Mainoo put United ahead in the 31st after a pass was slipped through the Newcastle defense by Amad Diallo, who regained the lead for the home side with a fierce left-footed shot through a crowd of players after a 57th-minute corner wasn't fully cleared.

Anthony Gordon had scored Newcastle's equalizer in the 49th and Lewis Hall ensured a nervy finish to the game for Man United by making it 3-2 in stoppage time.

FAREWELLS: French players Anthony Martial and Raphael Varane waved goodbye to Man United's supporters after the game against Newcastle. They are leaving the club at the end of the season because their contracts are expiring.

Asian soccer body scraps 12 years limit for senior officials and lets Sheikh Salman stay beyond 2027

AP ■ BANGKOK (THAILAND)

Asian soccer leaders can have unlimited years in power after their governing body voted to scrap a key pillar of reforms passed after the corruption crisis that rocked FIFA in 2015.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar were among four of the 47 Asian Football Confederation members who put the proposal to their annual congress in Bangkok on Thursday. Only Australia and Jordan voted "No."

The vote win lets AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa seek re-election in 2027 when he had been due to step down after 14 years in office.

Ahead of the vote, the Bahraini royal family member told members of the AFC's wish to be "a model confederation" in world soccer aligned with FIFA.

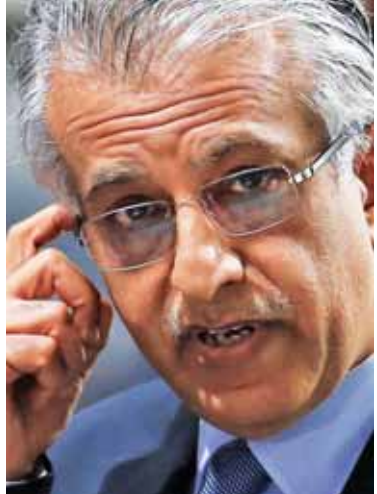
Presidential term limits have been pushed in two waves of governance reforms at FIFA in response to bribery

and corruption scandals in 2011 and 2015 - Asian soccer was linked to both. In 2011, then AFC leader Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar was barred from the FIFA presidential election after Caribbean voters were paid \$40,000 cash in brown envelopes after a campaign meeting in Trinidad.

In fallout from the 2015 scandal two years later, senior AFC official Richard Lai of Guam pleaded guilty in a federal court in Brooklyn to being part of a bribe-paying scheme that built influence in international soccer. Lai said it was run by a Kuwaiti faction which helped Sheikh Salman win election to succeed Bin Hammam in 2013.

Removing presidents after no more than 12 years were then seen as essential to curb networks of patronage and loyalty that can enable corruption and poor governance.

However, FIFA president Gianni Infantino has been allowed by a subsequent statutes amendment he



oversaw to stay in office for 15 years until 2031, and UEFA voted in February to ensure its president Aleksander Ceferin can seek to stay beyond his 11th year in 2027. Ceferin

later said he will not stand for re-election.

Even the International Olympic Committee is still weighing a members' request last October to change legal rules to let their president, Thomas Bach, seek a third election next year. That would go beyond the 12-year limit set after the Salt Lake City bidding corruption scandal 25 years ago.

The AFC has trumped both FIFA and UEFA in removing all barriers to its president and executive committee members staying in place. It was, the AFC said in a later statement, "another clear signal of our intent to ensure that we remain a model confederation that continues to uphold the highest ethical standards and best governance practices for the future generations of our great game."

One legal barrier still remains for Sheikh Salman at FIFA. Its statutes currently block him from continuing beyond 2031 as a FIFA vice president and member of its ruling council.

Anjum, Swapnil post first wins in Olympic Selection Trials

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Olympian Anjum Moudgil and Paris Olympic Games quota winner Swapnil Kusale posted their maiden victories in the ongoing Olympic Selection Trials (OST), winning the women's and men's 50m rifle 3-positions here on Thursday. In men's 50m rifle 3P final, Swapnil, who had finished second in the qualification round on Wednesday with a score of 587, shot 463.7 to beat the challenge of Akhil Sheoran, who finished



second with 461.6.

Local lad and qualifications topper Aishwary Tomar shot 451.9 to finish third, being eliminated after the 44th shot of the 45-shot final.

In women's 3P final, Anjum shot 463.9 to leave India No. 1 Sift Kaur Samra 1.9 points behind in second place. Ashi Chouksey, took the third spot with 447.3 points in OST (Olympic Selection Trials) T3.

In women's 10m air pistol OST T3 qualification, Olympian Manu Bhaker was placed on top with a score of 577, followed by Palak (576),

Esha Singh (576), Surbhi Rao (574) and Rhythm Sangwan (573).

OTHER SCORES:

Men's 10m air pistol OST T3 qualification: 1. Arjun Singh Cheema (583), 2. Ravinder Singh (581), 3. Sarabjot Singh (581), 4. Naveen (579), 5. Varun Tomar (577).

Women's 10m air rifle OST T3 qualification: 1. Elavenni Valarivan (634.4), 2. Tilottama Sen (632.4), 3. Ramita (630.8), 4. Nancy (629.4), 5. Mehuli Ghosh (628.4).

Men's 10m air rifle OST T3 qualification: 1. Arjun Babuta (632.2), 2. Rudranksh Patil (632.0), 3. Sandeep Singh (631.6), 4. Divyansh Singh Panwar (631.4), 5. Sri Karthik Sabari Raj (630.5).



Mumbai Indians, Lucknow Super Giants look to end dismal IPL campaigns with win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Out of reckoning from the IPL playoffs, Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants will look to end their campaign on a winning note when they clash at the Wankhede Stadium here on Friday.

While Mumbai Indians were knocked out of the playoffs race long ago, Lucknow Super Giant's chances of making the last-four are extremely bleak even if they win their last IPL game here by a huge margin.

Three consecutive defeats have not only denied LSG crucial points, they have also battered their net run rate.

A 98-run loss to KKR was followed by a 10-wicket hammering by Sunrisers Hyderabad with a 19-run defeat to Delhi Capitals all but ending their chances of

getting into the playoffs after making the final-four in the previous edition.

The seventh-placed LSG's NRR of -0.787 will not improve significantly for them to get back into contention, as Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at No. 6, are much better placed with a NRR of 0.387.

Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians were the first team to be knocked out of the race for the playoffs this year as they endured a horror first season under new skipper Hardik Pandya.

With only four wins from 13 matches so far, Mumbai Indians can at best finish with 10 points if they win on Friday, something that can possibly help them avoid a last-place finish.

For Mumbai Indians, a pre-season change of leadership, with Pandya replacing Rohit



Sharma as captain, set off angry reactions from fans, which seem to have marred their campaign to a large extent.

As a team, MI failed to get behind their captain. While their batting failed collectively, Jasprit Bumrah's individual brilliance with the ball (20 wickets in 13 matches), could not inspire the other bowlers to come together.

The focus of the match would be on the likes of T20 World Cup-bound players such as Pandya, Rohit Sharma, Bumrah and Suryakumar Yadav given that they would be pivotal to India's hopes of bringing back the elusive trophy.

Rohit is enduring a horror run with the bat with his best being 19 in the last six outings for MI, while Pandya too has not been able to inspire

confidence in his all-round role.

Suryakumar, though, has regained confidence with a strong showing in the IPL following three fifties and a century.

For LSG, the lack of firepower and failure to capitalise on key moments has led to their plight even though skipper KL Rahul has had a successful run with the bat, scoring three half-centuries in his 465 runs this season at an average of 136.36.

His strike rate, however, remained a topic of debate throughout even as the other batters failed to pull their weight.

While Nicholas Pooran (424 runs at 168.92) provided the late impetus, the collective failure of LSG's bowlers has also remained an area of concern.



Happy to get some reward after a challenging tournament: Nathan Ellis

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Punjab Kings pacer Nathan Ellis was relieved to see his team register a much-needed win, against second-placed Rajasthan Royals, after what has been a very difficult IPL season for them.

Already out of playoffs contention, PBKS are currently placed in the ninth place with 10 points after five wins and eight losses in 13 matches, while RR, who have stuttered after an excellent start, maintain their second position despite a run of four defeats in recent times.

"The wicket was a little bit slower than expected, but I still think it was a pretty good

wicket. Really happy for the guys to get some reward as it has been a bit of a challenging tournament for us," Ellis said at the post-match press conference here on Wednesday.

Batting first, RR were restricted to 144 for nine in the stipulated 20 overs and then, PBKS chased down the target of 145 for the loss of five wickets, with seven balls to spare.

"We were playing for pride today and trying to put in the best performance we can. Collectively, it was one of our better performances, adapted to conditions, bowled in partnerships. It was probably a complete performance," Ellis



said of the win.

Skipper Sam Curran's unbeaten 63 off 41 balls anchored the PBKS innings, and he received support from Jitesh Sharma, who made 22 off 20 balls, as the duo combined for a 63-run partnership for the fifth wicket to earn the team's fifth win of the season.

Playing his first game in this edition of the IPL, Ellis bowled tidily to finish with miserly figures of 1/24 from his full quota of four overs. He also took the all-important wicket of Sanju Samson.

"Coming to the ground, we didn't know what we wanted to do -- bat or bowl. Later, I think we also decided on batting

first. Losing the toss wasn't the desired outcome. But I was happy. We bowled first, which gave us the chance to set the tone for the day," Ellis said.

On how the surface played at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati, Ellis said: "The wicket was a little bit slower than expected, but it was still a pretty good wicket. In the powerplay, was where the game could have been won or lost and we both lost wickets there."

"I think batting-wise, the powerplay was the best time to score and we both probably didn't have the greatest power players. And then from there the ball got a little bit softer and both teams lost wickets."

Once I am done, I will be gone; you will not see me for a while: Kohli

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Well aware that he "can't keep going forever", Indian batting superstar Virat Kohli wants to give everything he has to his cricket career because he once he is done, he says he would be "gone" and won't be seen "for a while."

Kohli's appetite for runs and centuries has already got him a record eighth ton in the IPL this season and he continues to lead the scoring charts with a mind-boggling 661 runs from 13 games for Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

In a video posted by RCB on social media, the 35-year-old said the desire to live a regret-free life keeps him going.

"So, it's just about not leaving any undone business behind and not having any regrets later, which I'm very sure of I won't. Once I'm done, I'll be gone; you won't see me for a while."

"So, I want to give it everything I have till the time I play and that's the only thing that keeps

me going," said Kohli when asked what keeps him hungry.

Kohli was picked by RCB soon after he led India to title triumph in the 2008 Under-19 World Cup and he has continued to be with the franchise ever since.

"I think, as sportsmen, we do have an end date to our careers, so I'm just working backwards, I don't want to finish my career thinking what if I had done this on that particular day because I can't keep going on and on forever," he added.

The former India captain is part of the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies beginning next month.

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh had recently opined that RCB should think about giving back the team's captaincy to Kohli, saying he has an ideal combination of intent, commitment and aggression to take the side forward from the next season.

South African Faf du Plessis is currently leading RCB.

Hussey hopes Dhoni will carry on for two more years

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey is hoping that charismatic Mahendra Singh Dhoni would continue with the team for a couple of years more, saying the former skipper was still batting well.

The 42-year-old Dhoni surprised everyone by stepping aside as captain of the team just a day before the start of the 2024 season. Ruturaj Gaikwad was handed the reins of the side.

"We are hoping he does keep going. He is still batting so well. He does prepare well - he gets into the camp very early and hits a lot of balls. He has been in good touch all season really," Hussey said on ESPN's Around the Wicket show.

"I guess we just got to try to manage him from the body side of things. He had a knee surgery after the last season. So, he has been managing that

from the initial stage of the tournament. "I hope he keeps going for another couple of years. But we will just have to wait and see. He is the only one who will make that call. And, he likes to sort of build the drama a little bit as well. So, I wouldn't expect a decision anytime soon."

Dhoni, who led the side to record five IPL titles, has been batting quite down the order this season, sometimes at number eight, and faces only a handful of deliveries.

Hussey said that Dhoni's workload is being managed appropriately, given that he had undergone knee surgery.

"That [knee surgery] is why we have had to manage him a little bit, and he only comes in at the back end. But, there has been no one better in being able to come in and hit the ball so cleanly from ball one than MS. He has been phenomenal," he added.

The Australian was Dhoni wanted to



stick around in the transition phase as Gaikwad was handed the captaincy. "MS sort of announced that he was

not going to be attending the pre-tournament captains' meeting. And we're like, 'Oh, no. What's going on?'"

He said Ruturaj was going to be captain from then on.

"So, it was a little bit of a shock to start with, but it has been managed really well. We have sort of known for a little while that he was the right man to take over the job when MS decided to step aside."

"He wanted to still be here while the new captain took over, to try to help him along the way and sort of mentor him a little bit," said Hussey.

Under Gaikwad's leadership, CSK has fared decently. The team is placed third on the points table and is likely to make the play-offs.

"He has done a great job. He has been really calm and measured on the field. He will just get better and better. The more he does it and the more support we keep around him. The pleasing thing is, it has not affected his batting at all either," Hussey was effusive in his praise for Gaikwad.

OTHER SPORTS



Sharath, Manika to lead India in Olympic team debut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran Sharath Kamal and world no. 24 Manika Batra will lead the Indian men's and women's squads respectively at the Paris Games, where the country will make its Olympic debut in team events.

The senior selection committee of the Table Tennis Federation of India on Thursday picked a six-member squad (three in each section) as per the Olympics norms, besides naming the individuals who would compete in the singles events.

Sharath, Harmeet Desai, and Manav Thakkar will form the three-member men's team, while Manika, Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath will be squad members in the women's category.

The "Alternate Player" in each section would be G. Sathiyam and Ayhika Mukherjee.

In the men's singles, Sharath and Harmeet will compete and it will be Manika and Sreeja in the women's event. The decision was taken based on the latest world rankings. It will be the fifth and final Olympic appearance for 41-year-old Sharath, who made his Games debut back in 2004. Since the selection of the squads and the individuals were as per the already pronounced TTFI criteria, three players "got selected themselves" because of their consistent performances over time and world rankings.

However, there was a debate over the third player for the women's squad. After Manika and Sreeja Akula walked in on the back of their higher world rankings (top 50), Archana Kamath (103) made it to the team as the third player. The Bengaluru paddler edged out Ayhika Mukherjee



(133) on several counts, including her ranking.

As for the men, Sharath picked himself as the top-ranked Indian at No. 40, while Harmeet (No. 63) and Manav (No. 62) were separated by one slot in WR. Though both made it to the team composition, National champion Harmeet got the selectors' nod based on his international (better win-loss proportion to his participation) and national performances. Incidentally, Massimo Costantini's presence as a special invitee at the meeting also added teeth as the foreign expert's inputs proved handy in the selection of the squads.

Costantini will take charge of the Indian team for a third time as early as next week. He arrived in India earlier this week.

Alternate players Sathiyam and Ayhika will travel with the team to Paris but will not stay in the official Games Village. Their services would be needed in case of an injury.

THE TEAMS:
Men: A. Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, and Manav Thakkar; Alternate Player: G. Sathiyam. **Women:** Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, and Archana Kamath; Alternate Player: Ayhika Mukherjee.

AFI signs multi year deal with sports wear brand Puma

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Thursday announced that it has signed a multi-year deal with the sports wear brand Puma, which will now provide apparel, footwear and accessories to around 400 Indian athletes during domestic and international tournaments.

Being the official kit sponsor, Puma's accessories will be used by top Indian athletes

including Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, long jumper Murali Sreeshankar and steeplechaser Parul Chaudhary.

"As an athlete training for 12 years, I know the importance of high-quality gear for high-level practice. With AFI teaming up with global sports brand, Indian athletes across all levels will now have access to training gear of international excellence, assisting us to express our best in our game now,"

Chopra was quoted as saying in a release.

"This partnership signals the bright future of Indian sport," he added.

This is the first time Indian athletes will get access to world-class speed suits that Puma supplies globally to other athletes. The speed suits are designed to aid freedom of movement, aerodynamics and faster speed, supporting athletes to focus solely on their performance and increase efficiency," the press

release mentioned.

AFI President Adille Sumariwalla said, "Our association with Puma represents a significant milestone for India's athletes. With their high-quality gear, we are not only enhancing the performance of athletes but also creating a culture of excellence within the country's sporting community. We are confident that this partnership will propel Indian athletics to new heights on the global stage."