

**OPINION 6**  
MEN NOT DOGS ARE  
REAL KILLERS

**WORLD 9**  
CHINA BIGGEST GLOBAL JAILER  
OF JOURNALISTS: PRESS GROUP

**MONEY 10**  
INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES  
RISE TO 4588.78 BN

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## 5 elite commandos martyred in Rajouri

**Manhunt on to track foreign ultras who fled into thick forest**

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In one of the deadliest attacks, coinciding with the meeting of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), five elite commandos of Para Special forces were "killed in action" by a well entrenched group of heavily armed terrorists, possibly trained in guerilla warfare, in the thickly forested belt of Kotranka in the frontier district of Rajouri on Friday.

One of the senior Army officers, who received critical injuries during an explosion triggered by the terrorists, was airlifted and undergoing specialised treatment at a military command hospital in Udhampur. His condition is stated to be 'stable' till the time of filing the report.

Earlier, on April 20, five Indian soldiers were killed in action after a group of terror-



Security personnel near the site of an encounter with terrorists in Kandi area of Rajouri district on Friday

ists ambushed an Army truck in Bhatta Durrian area of Poonch. It is suspected the same group of foreign terrorists, hiding in the thickly forested areas of Rajouri and Poonch, were behind the deadly attack.

It is after a gap of almost three long years elite para commandos suffered heavy casualties during counter terrorist operations in Jammu & Kashmir.

A group of five Para commandos were martyred in the Keran sector of Kupwara on April 5, 2020 while foiling a

major infiltration bid. Five terrorists were neutralised in the hand to hand combat by the elite commandos. Similarly, on 22 February 2016, two officers of the Para Unit along with one para commando had also attained martyrdom while neutralising held up terrorists inside the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) in Pampore.

According to the ground reports the group of terrorists vanished inside the deep forests after triggering an explosion thereby causing heavy army casualties.

## Bilawal spokesperson of terror: EAM

**Victims of terrorism don't sit together with perpetrators of terrorism, says Jaishankar**

PNS/ AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ BENAULIM (GOA)

Reiterating India's stand that terrorism and talks can't go together, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday ruled out bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart on the sideline of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' meeting. He said, "Victims of terrorism do not sit together with perpetrators of terrorism to discuss terrorism."

Jaishankar termed Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari a "promoter, justifier and a spokesperson" of the terrorism industry, and said his position on the menace was called out at the SCO meeting on Friday.

Addressing the conclave, Jaishankar said "Taking our eyes off the menace would be detrimental to our security interests. We firmly believe that there can be no justification for terrorism and it must be stopped in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism."

"The channel of finances for terrorist activities must be seized and blocked without distinction. Members need not be reminded that combating terrorism is one of the original mandates of the SCO," he added in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Chairing the meet, he said India firmly believes that there can be no justification for terrorism and noted that combating the menace is one of the original mandates of the SCO.

Bilawal was present when Jaishankar underlined the challenges posed by scourge of terrorism at the two-day SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Jaishankar also underlined that while connectivity is key to progress, it must come with respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member states. It was in apparent reference to China. Its foreign minister Qin Gang was also present at the conclave.

The meeting at a luxury hotel in this beach resort was attended by Qin Gang, Russia's Sergey Lavrov and their counterparts from other SCO member nations.

In his remarks, Bilawal said the "collective security of our peoples is our joint responsibility."

"Terrorism continues to threaten global security. Let's not get caught up in weaponising terrorism for diplomatic point scoring. When I speak on this topic, I do so not only as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan whose people have suffered the most in terms of number of attacks and number of casualties. I also speak as the son whose mother was assassinated at the hands of terrorists," the Pakistan foreign minister said. Former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated by a suicide bomber in Rawalpindi in 2007.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa on Friday

## Pak's Kashmir rant: Bilawal says no talks till Article 370 restored

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Given the frosty ties between the two countries, Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Friday unless India reviews abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir, "Pakistan is not in a position to engage bilaterally with India."

He was in Goa to attend the two-day SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting which started on Thursday.

Replying to a question on why there had been no talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar during his visit, he

said, "Unless India reviews the action it took on August 5, 2019 (abrogation of Article 370), Pakistan is not in a position to engage bilaterally with India."

He added, "As far as Pakistan's position on bilateral relations with India or any meaningful engagement or dialogue with my Indian counterpart, our position remains unchanged."

The Pakistani foreign minister said the country wishes to quell terrorism "not because India said it or the Indian government said so, but because we want to end this menace."

"Pakistan has suffered the most. I myself am a victim of terrorism, so Pakistan and myself are wholly committed to combating this menace," Bilawal said in an exclusive interview with *India Today*.

Speaking on India's stance that it will not engage in bilateral talks with Pakistan unless the latter controls cross-border terrorism and stops alleged funding of terror outfits, Bilawal Bhutto stated, "As far as accusations are concerned, we are willing to engage any concerns that India might have but India will also have to address our concerns."

### CAPSULE

#### SPORADIC VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR; 13K RESCUED

**Imphal:** The Imphal Valley in Manipur which remained peaceful for most of Friday witnessed sporadic clashes later in the day as more security forces were rushed in from other States to calm down a State which had witnessed bloody ethnic rioting over the last 48 hours. A Defence spokesperson said a total of 13,000 people were rescued and shifted to safe shelters, some in Army camps as the Army brought Churachandpur, Moreh, Kakching and Kangpokpi under its "firm control".

#### TAJPURIYA MURDER IN JAIL: 7 STAFF SUSPENDED

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Prisons Department on Friday suspended seven staff members of Tihar Jail in connection with the fatal stabbing of gangster Tiltu Tajpuriya on the premises. Tajpuriya was killed early on Tuesday by four members of the rival Gogi gang — Deepak alias Titar, Yogesh, alias Tunda, Rajesh, and Riyaz Khan — who stabbed him "92 times".

#### 6 OF FAMILY SHOT DEAD IN REVENGE KILLING

**Morena:** Six members of a family, including three women, were shot dead and three others were injured on Friday in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district in a revenge killing. Police have identified eight killers. The victims' relatives have been accused of killing the family members of today's alleged killers, police said.

## Pawar back at NCP helm, but insists on hunt for successor



National Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, with party leaders, addresses the media at the YB Chavan Centre in Mumbai on Friday

PN ■ MUMBAI

In an anti-climax to nearly 80-hour-long high-voltage drama that had unfolded after he declared that he was stepping down from his post, Sharad Pawar on Friday took back his earlier decision and said he would continue as the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president, thus restoring normalcy within his party.

Pawar said though he had decided to continue as the NCP chief's post, he considered it essential to develop someone as his successor who could accept any post or take up any responsibility within the party.

Within hours of a search-committee appointed to look for a successor to him rejecting his resignation and requested him to continue in the post, Pawar said, "Having been in active politics for 63 long years, I had decided to give up political responsibilities. But the announcement I had made on May 2 plunged the party into turmoil and it resulted in unrest in the rank and file of the party.

"Countless party workers, leaders, office bearers and well-wishers rallied together and requested me to reconsider my decision. Even leaders from various political parties insisted that I re-accept the party chief's post."

## Khalistanis vandalise Swaminarayan temple in Oz

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/MELBOURNE

Days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sydney to attend the Quad Summit on May 24, alleged Khalistanis on Friday vandalised a prominent Hindu temple there.

Earlier this year, three Hindu temples in Melbourne and two temples in Brisbane were targeted by the so-called Khalistan supporters residing in the country.

In the latest incident in Sydney, the perpetrators defaced the temple with anti-India graffiti on the walls.

The incident took place at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Rosehill.

Reporting about the incident the *Australia Today* newspaper said temple authorities also found a Khalistani flag hanging on the gate, and reported the matter to New South Wales (NSW) police.

## Cong backs terror groups, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping up his relentless attack on the Congress amid intense campaigning for the Karnataka Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invoked "The Kerala Story" movie at a public rally in the North-East part of the State on Friday to accuse the Congress of having a "backdoor understanding" with terror groups and standing with them.

Modi alleged that the Congress has nurtured, given shelter and surrendered before terror for the sake of vote bank politics.

At Tumakuru in the east-central part of the Mysuru rally, Modi also said, "The BJP is returning to power in Karnataka with a thumping majority." Addressing a public rally in Bellary, Modi alleged that the Congress had opposed the film "The Kerala Story", which, according to him, exposes a terror conspiracy. He further claimed the Congress was backing individuals who support terrorism by attempting to ban the film.

The Hindi film "The Kerala Story" directed by Sudipto Sen and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah depicts the story of three women from



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the crowd during a roadshow ahead of the Karnataka Assembly elections, in Tumakuru, on Friday

spiry. He further claimed the Congress was backing individuals who support terrorism by attempting to ban the film.

The Hindi film "The Kerala Story" directed by Sudipto Sen and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah depicts the story of three women from

Kerala who are said to have been converted to Islam and made to join the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

A petition to ban the film was rejected by the Kerala High Court on Friday asserting that "secular Kerala society will accept the film for what it is".

## Modi guest of honour at French National Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signifying strong bilateral ties between the two countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend this year's Bastille Day Parade, France's National Day, in Paris as the guest of honour on July 14, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Friday.

An Indian Armed forces contingent will also participate in the parade along with their French counterparts, it said.

Reacting to the announcement, French president Emmanuel Macron in a tweet in French and Hindi said, "Dear Narendra, it will be my pleasure to welcome you to Paris as the guest of honour for the 14th of July parade."

On the occasion of the India-France Strategic Partnership, Modi has accepted Macron's invitation to attend this year's Bastille Day Parade as the guest of honour, the MEA statement said.

## Friday namaz calls for clean Yamuna

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After Hindu priests' espousal of the "green" cause, Imam of several mosques located alongside the Yamuna on during khutba (prayers) on Friday urged their community members to ensure cleaning of the Yamuna river.

For the last few days, Hindu priests of major temples situated at the banks of Yamuna had taken similar initiatives, sensitising Delhiites not to dispose off waste items like clothes, old idols, calendars, posters, flowers among others in the river.

Efforts to clean the river are being carried out through wide-ranging awareness campaigns, including discour-

aging people from throwing waste in it.

The Imams reminded their community members that Islam gives primacy to cleanliness — of the mind, soul, body, house, neighbourhood and water bodies like rivers and canals.

"If the Yamuna river is clean, it is good for Muslims as they perform ablution in the river itself and offer namaz (prayers)," they said.

Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena had launched the Yamuna cleanliness drive on February 16 and after inspecting cleaning work at the Qudsia Ghat, he had said that the target is to rejuvenate the Delhi stretch of the river by June 30.



"The recent efforts by the L-G towards cleaning and rejuvenation of the Yamuna have begun to show visible and concrete results," said Muslim clerics after Friday namaz at

mosques in Dwarka, Rohini, Darya Ganj and Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin.

mosques in Dwarka, Rohini, Darya Ganj and Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin.

"Even as critical steps to clean the Najafgarh drain and restore the Yamuna floodplains

have been going on in the right earnest, efforts at preventing disposal of physical waste into the river have started bearing results," they noted.

In view of the extreme importance of public participation in the Yamuna rejuvenation efforts, it has been decided to undertake wide ranging awareness generation and motivational IEC (information, education and communication) campaigns on various media platforms.

Various macro and micro-level steps have been taken by a high level committee chaired by the LG, formed at the direction of National Green Tribunal, that have begun showing results in the shape of relatively improved pollution

## Demands met, wrestlers should let probe take its course, says Anurag

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday urged the wrestlers protesting in Delhi to let an unbiased probe be completed by Delhi Police as all their demands have been fulfilled.

"It is my request to all the sports persons who are agitating there that whatever their demands were, they were met. Court has also given its directions and they should let an unbiased probe be completed. Delhi Police will do 'doodh ka doodh pani ka pani' and take strict action as per law," Thakur told reporters here.

Several wrestlers have been



Bajrang Punia takes a selfie with kids during the protest at Jantar Mantar on Friday

protesting at Jantar Mantar since April 23 with a demand that the findings of a committee which was formed to probe sexual harassment charges against WFI chief Brijbhushan Sharan Singh be made public.

# Classifieds

## LOST AND FOUND

It is Notified for the information that my original Passing certificate of main Secondary examination of year 2011 and Index no T/1267/078 issued by ICSE Board from Bell toll public high school Ambala City has been Lost . Yogesh Dhiman S/o Mangal Singh Dhiman R/O 2864, B-12 Basant Vihar Ambala City.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**I Pardeep Kumar S/o Shri Hari Chand Sharma R/o #469, Gali No. 9, Village Haripur Sector-4, Panchkula Haryana** my son Himanshu Sharma is out of my control. I disown him from my moveable/immovable properties Anybody dealing with own risk.

**I, Braham Datt S/o Ishwar Datt R/o Village Kaimri (165), Kaimri, Hisar (Hry.)** declare that my daughter Chahat is out of my control. I, deprived her from all my moveable-immovable properties. If anybody deals with her, they shall be doing on their own risk. I & my family will not be responsible.

**I, Shakil Ahmed S/o Shokeen Shah # 645, Near Masjid Wali Gali, Daria, Chandigarh** declare that my daughter Gulnaz, DOB-15/01/2001, out of my control. I disown her from my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody deal with her at their own Risk.

**I Ravinder Mohan Singh s/o Gurdial Singh Ghai r/o H. No. 38, Shyam Nagar, Model Town, Yamuna Nagar** declare that I have changed my name from Ravinder Ghai to Ravinder Mohan Singh. Ravinder Ghai and Ravinder Mohan Singh are the names of one and the same person. Also the Pan Card Number for both of the names is same.

**I Surinder Kaur W/o Late Ram Asra, House 214, Village Burail, Sector 45, Chandigarh.** My son Gaganvir Singh out of my control. I disown him from my moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody deal with him at their own Risk.

**I Beena Devi w/o Tarsem Lal Resident of Village Dhalorian, P.O. Jhakholar, tehsil & District Pathankot.** Declare that my Son Raj Kumar his wife Preeti and grand daughter Aruhi is out of my control. I am disinherited from my all moveable and Immoveble property. Anybody deal with him on our behalf. please note it.

**I Amanpreet Kaur W/o Jagtar Singh R/o Village Dappar, Tehsil DeraBassi, Distt. SAS Nagar** declare that in my Passport No.X5298034 my father name's spelling mentioned as Sarvjeet Singh. his correct name is Sarabjeet Singh. please correct accordingly

**I Vikasjeet Singh s/o Harpal Singh r/o #706, D-1, Trishila City, Zirakpur** declare that in my 10th certificate my name is wrongly mentioned as Vikasjeet. my correct name is Vikasjeet Singh.

**I, Ramkumar S/o Sh. Reduram R/O H.No. 2324/20, Ekta Colony, Rohtak Haryana** declare that my son Sunil is out of my control. So I disown him from my all moveable/immovable properties. Any body dealing with him at own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their any legal or illegal acts.

**I, Mr. Sham Lal S/o Mr. Karnal Singh, House No. 160 Tanki Wala Mohalla Babyal, Ambala Cantonment** declare that I disown my daughter Meenakshi from my moveable and immovable property. In future, the transactor himself will be responsible

**I Kaka Ram S/o Shri Sadhu Ram House No. 2339, Valmiki Nagar Ambala city** declare that my son Sonu is out of my control. so I disown Sonu from my moveable and immovable property. in future the person who dealing with him himself will responsible.

**I Harjinder Kaur w/o Gurdeep Singh R/o MARRI Distt Bathinda My Husband No. 2500623Y Rank L/HAV. Gurdeep Singh Unit 21 Punjab C/O 56 APO My name in my husband's army record is Mehakdeep Kaur. Which is wrong. My correct name is Harjinder Kaur. Please correct my name Harjinder Kaur in my husband's army record.**

**I Hitherto Known As Prince S/O Sh. Rajeev Kumar Residing At H.No.-1363, Old Dc Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonipat, Haryana-131001** Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Prince Saroha.

**I Sunil Kumar S/O Sham Lal R/o baba jwan singh nagar, Street No. 6, Tibbi Sahib Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib,** do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that In School Record of my minor daughter Vanshika Watts, my name and my wife's name are wrongly entered as Sunil Kumar Watts and Neha Rani Watts. Instead our correct names are Sunil Kumar and Neha Kumari. All concerned may kindly note.

**It Is For General Information That I, Himanshu Saroha S/O Sh. Rajeev Kumar Residing At 1363, Old D C Road, Opposite Dahiya Hospital, Shankar Colony, Sonipat, Haryana-131001** Declare That Name Of My Father And My Mother Has Been Wrongly Written As Rajiv Saroha And Rekha Saroha Respectively In All My Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Father And My Mother Are Rajeev Kumar And Rekha Respectively Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

**I, Satish Kumar Sharma S/o Late Shri Brijlal Sharma R/o H.No- 297, Sector 10 Panchkula (Haryana)** Declare that my son Varun Sharma are completely out of my control. Therefore, I Disown my son from all my Moveable and Immoveable Properties. Anybody dealing with him will do at his own risk and cost. We will have nothing to do with it.

**I, Harpreet Diwan W/o Subhash K Diwan R/O House No.965, Gillico Palm, Sector-115, Kharar, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)** declare that my son Damanjit Singh and his wife Prabjot Kaur alias Pooja Kaushal are out of my control. I therefore disown and debar them from all my moveable / immovable property. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities. I will not be responsible and liable for any of their activities.

**I, Sansar Army No.17031145L S/O Taqdir Singh R/O Village Bhawar Tehsil Gohana Distt Sonipat Declared In My Army Service Record My Daughter Name Is Kritika That Is Wrong Her Correct Name Is Kritika Plz Contact It In My Army Service Record.**

**I, Daler Singh S/O sh.Harnam Singh R/O house no 215 Green city Dhakoli Zirakpur SAS Nagar (mohali) and now I am a permanent resident in Germany.** Inform you that our son Gurpreet singh (Goldy) & his wife Gurpreet Kaur & his daughter are out of our control We disown them from our moveable and immovable properties anybody deal with both of them at their own risk.

**I, Amarjit Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O H.No. 684, Gobind Nagar, Naya Gaon, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, Punjab** declare that on dated 02.06.2021 I disowned my son Tajinder Singh and his wife Jasmeet Kaur from my all moveable and immovable properties and also I get it published in two newspapers on dated 03.06.2021 but now I declared that the news regarding disowned only my son be treated as null and void as because my son is treating us well and he has changed his behaviour in good manner with us .The wife of my son has taken divorce from my son.

**I, Manjit Kaur W/o Ashok Kumar R/o VPO Rurka Khurd, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar** declare that in my daughter Khushpreet Kaur's 10th and 12th certificates my name is wrongly written as Manjeet Kaur whereas my correct name is Manjit Kaur and my ID proofs also have the same name.

**I, Sadhna Kumari** legally spouse of JC- 672448N Sub Maj Vinod Kumar presently residing at Ankupur, Belkharakhas, Arwal, Bihar - 804428 have changed my date of birth from 10-04-1977 to 15-01-1978 vide Affidavit dated 28/04/2023 before Magistrate Jalandhar.

**We, Purn Chand S/O Juman Ram And Maya W/o Purn Chand R/O Ward No 14, Fouji Plot Tehsil Pehowa, Distt Kurukshetra** declare that Our son Mehar Singh and his wife Harpreet Kaur are out of control. We disown them from all moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

**We, Anup Singh S/o Hira Singh and Harjinder Kaur W/o Anup Singh Vill Talheri Tehsil Pehowa, Distt Kurukshetra** declare that Our son Mehar Singh and his wife Harpreet Kaur are out of control. We disown them from all moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

**I, Amir Chand s/o Ishwar Chand R/o Village Kharindwa Tehsil Shahabad Markanda District Kurukshetra,** have disown my son Titu from all my movable immovable properties, as he is out of my control.

**हम मोहिंद्र सिंह सुपुत्र श्री लाल सिंह व सुनीता रानी पत्नी श्री मोहिंद्र सिंह निवासी # 19 ईशर नगर कालका के रहने वाले है. हमारी पुत्री हरदीप कोर हमारे कहने सुनने से बाहर है इसलिये हम उसे अपनी चल अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करते है**

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Rajan s/o Dharam Pal R/O SCO No 25, Sector 27C, Chandigarh** hereby affirm and declare that Rajan and Rajan Wadhwa is one and the same person. Both names pertain to me.

**I, Lajja Singh** Son of Sampurnan Singh Resident of Islamnagar CRPF Pinjore Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula declare that Lajja Singh and Lajja Ram bothe are my name's and both names belongs to same person/deponent.

**I, Sagar S/o Naresh Kumar R/o VPO. Bajwara Kalan Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab (India)** have Changed My Name from Sagar to Sagar Kumar all concerned note please.

**I, Sudesh Kumari w/o Sh. Lalit Mohan Verma, R/o # 3041, Top floor, Sector 40-D, Chandigarh** have changed my name after marriage to Sudesh Verma.

**I Dinesh Kumari W/o Sh. Dinesh Kumar R/O House no.1945/8 New Ramesh Nagar, Ward No.4, Panipat** declare that Dinesh Kumari and Deepa is the one and same person.

**I Dinesh Kumar S/o Sh. Sewa Ram R/O House no.1945/8 New Ramesh Nagar, Ward No.4, Panipat** declare that Dinesh Kumar and Dinesh is the one and same person.

**I, Jaswinder Kaur Sidhu W/o Amarjit Singh R/o 213, Sarojini Colony, Yamuna Nagar** have changed my name to Jaswinder Kaur for all future purposes.

**I, Jyoti d/o Deshraj r/o Bir-Bangran, Sub-Tehsil Rajound (Kaithal)'s father** have changed his name from Desraj alias Deshraj to Deshraj.

**I, Bhagyawati Cheppa w/o Ruldu Ram Cheppa r/o #451, Chatha Complex, Hari Nagar, Tehsil Thanesar (Kurukshetra)** have changed my name from Bhagyavati Cheppa to Bhagyawati Cheppa.

**I, Ravo Devi w/o Bajo Mehto r/o #931A, Shiv Colony, Gali no.01, Karnal** have changed my name from Ravo Devi to Rabo Devi. In future I shall be known as Rabo Devi.

**I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Bhushan Lal Garg R/o 1869, Civil Lines, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar** have changed my name from Ashwani Kumar to Ashwani Garg.

**I, Sunita Rani W/o Army No. JC-510971F Sub. Sukhdev Singh R/o Ward No. 11, Guru Ravidas Nagar, Gardhivala Tanda Road Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab** declare that my birth date written inadvertently 23 March 1982 in Army record of my husband. According to my Aadhar card, PAN Card my correct birth date is 24-04-1977 be amended in Army record of my husband.

**I, Satwant Kaur W/o Baljeet Singh R/o 427-R, Model Town, Yamuna Nagar** have changed my name from Satwant Kaur to Simranjeet Kaur.

**I Shyam Jagat S/o Sh. Ram Kirpal R/O H.No. 2696, Sector 52C, Chandigarh** have changed the name of my minor son from Ashish to Ashish Kumar.

**I, Lalita W/o Sh.Ashish Goyal R/o #1354, Urban Estate, Jind** have changed my name from Lalita to Lalita Goyal for all future purposes.

**I, Mahesh Goyal S/o Sh.Bhagwant Sarup Goyal R/o #1354, Urban Estate, Jind** have changed my name from Mahesh Goyal to Mahesh Chand Goyal for all future purposes.

**I, Sonia Bakshi W/o Naveen Vashishtha R/O H.No. 15/1, Nai Abadi Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab** have changed the name of my daughter from Mannat to Mannat Vashishtha. Concerned note.

**I, Mouni Karki D/o Thaman Bahadur R/o Mohalla Dashmeh Nagar, Near Back Side Daganra Road Hoshiarpur** declare that I have changed my name from Muna to Mouni Karki. Concerned note.

**I, Jagjiwan Kumar S/o Late Harmesh Lal R/o VPO Bassi Wazid Teh Bhunga Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab (India)** have changed my name from Jagjiwan Kumar to Jiwan Kumar all Concerned note please.

**I, JC- 431595X Ex Sub Lakhwinder Singh S/o Shri Munsha Singh R/o Vill. Khanpur Tehsil Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab** have changed the name of my son from Gurkamal Singh to Gurkomal Singh. Concerned note.

**I, JC- 431595X Ex Sub Lakhwinder Singh S/o Shri Munsha Singh R/o Vill. Khanpur Tehsil Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab** have changed the name of my son from Sukhkamal Singh to Sukhhomal Singh. Concerned note.

**I, No. 14468048W Ex Hav Jaswinder Singh S/o Shri Harbhajan Singh R/o Vill. Rasulpur PO Sarhala Khurd Tehsil Garshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab** have changed the name of my daughter from Ramandeep Kaur to Ramandeep Kaur Bains. Concerned note.

**I Brij Sharma W/o Sh. Rampal Sharma R/o H. No 05, Radhe Vihar Colony, Model Town, Panipat,** have changed my name to Brij Rani Sharma for all future purposes.

**I, HAV. No.3173662H 14 JAT Reg. Mahabir Singh S/O Shri Chand R/O Village-Sacha Khera, Tehsil-Narwana, Distt.Jind (Haryana)** declare that Mahavir Singh & Mahabir Singh both are my name and have changed my son name from Sunil Kumar to Suneet Kumar and his DOB from 26 May 1991 to 09 Jan 1993 in my service record.

**I, Sandeep Singh S/o Sh. Partap Singh R/O Above Central Bank of India, Gas Agency Road, Hansi, Distt. Hisar** declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Agarta to Agrata for all future purposes.

**I Khushboo Sethi W/O Ankit Sethi # 594/9, Chadau Mohalla, Panipat** Change My Name From Khushboo Arora To Khushboo Sethi In Future.

**I, Nidhi Goel W/o Sh.Naveen Gupta R/O H.No.269/11, Kanugo Mohalla, Tanga Chowk, Jind (Haryana),** have changed my name from Nidhi Goel to Nidhi Gupta.

**I, Geeta Rani W/o Baldev Raj, R/o #B-34-8875/82, G.K. Dairy Street, Churpur Road, Ajit Nagar, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana, Punjab** have changed my name from Geeta to Geeta Rani and both names are of one and the same person. Concerned Note.

**I Jasbir Singh S/o Shyam Singh R/o House Number 653, Jatto Mohalla Karnal** Declare that I Have Changed my Father Name From Sham Lal To Shyam Singh For All Future Purpose.

**I, Surjeet Singh S/o Balbeer Singh r/o Village Dachar, Sub Tehsil Nissing District Karnal** have changed my name from Sarjeet to Surjeet Singh. In future I shall be known as Surjeet Singh.

**I, Reena Rai w/o Mahinder Kumar R/o #B-65, Ansal Town, Sector-36, Karnal** have changed my name from Reena Rai, Reena Devi to Reena for all purpose.

**I, Mahinder s/o Rattan Lal s/o #B-65, Ansal Town, Sector-36, Karnal** have changed my name from Mahinder to Mahinder Kumar for all purpose.

**I, Surender Kumar S/o Ram Lal R/O H.No. 349, Huda Sector-3, Fatehabad, Haryana** declare that I have change my son name Vaidik to Vaidik Gulati. His Date of Birth is 20/05/2012.

**I Hitherto Known As Ramesh Sharma Son Of Iqbal Rai Sharma Residing At H.No.F-7/268 Aare Wali Gali, Kashmir Avenue, Batala Road, Amritsar-143001 Punjab** have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Himesh Sharma.

**I Sukhdev Singh S/O Swarn Singh R/O Vill Ram Rauni Tarn Taran** Have Changed My Name To Singh Is My Surname And Sukhdev Is My Given Name

**I, Sandeep Kaur W/O Kuldp Singh R/O Village Chabbhal Kalan Patti Kandu Ki Tehsil And District Tarn Taran** Have Certified That Kaur Is My Surname And Sandeep Is My Given Name

**I, Sandeep Kaur W/O Kuldp Singh R/O Village Chabbhal Kalan Patti Kandu Ki Tehsil And District Tarn Taran** Have Certified Son's Name Asis Singh. Singh Is His Surname And Asis Is His Given Name

**I, Raghuveer S/O Kuldeep Sharma R/O 611, Gali No.2, Diamond Avenue, Majitha Road Amritsar** Have Changed My Name From Raghuveer To Raghuveer Sharma.

**I, Nidhi W/O Yogesh Grover R/O #269, Nagina Avenue, Near Bedi General Store Amritsar** Have Change Name Nidhi To Nidhi Grover.

**I, Daljit Kour W/O Manohar Singh R/O H.No.106, 100ft Road Azad Nagar Amritsar** Have Changed My Name From Daljit Kour To Daljit Kaur

**I, Amandeep Singh s/o Kuldeep Singh r/o Vill Near Krishna Mandir, Awankha Tehsil Dinanagar Distt Gurdaspur** have changed my name from Amandeep to Amandeep Singh. Concerned note.

**I, Satnam Kour W/o Rascal Singh R/o.VPO Singhpura Distt Tarn Taran** Have Changed my name to Satnam Kaur

**I, Neelam Devi W/o Rajender Kumar R/o Ambedkar Colony, Village Sirsi, Ward No. 6, PO Madhuban, Tehsil & Distt. Karnal** declares that my previously name is Neelam. Now, I known by the name of Neelam Devi.

**I, Rajender Kumar S/o Amar Singh R/O Ambedkar Colony, Village Sirsi, Ward No. 6, PO Madhuban, Tehsil & Distt. Karnal** declares that my previously name is Rajender. Now, I known by the name of Rajender Kumar.

**I, Vidhi S Singal D/o Sanjay Singal R/O H. No. 48, Bhamashah Nagar, Balamand Road, Hisar (Haryana)** 125001 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Vidhi S Singal to Vidhi Singal for all future purpose.

**I, Vipin Agarwal S/o Pawan Kumar Agarwal R/o Tiku Ram Gum and Chemicals (P) Ltd. Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani (Haryana)** 127046 do hereby declare that I have changed the name of my minor Son from Ansh to Ansh Agarwal for all future purpose.

**I, Vipin Agarwal S/o Pawan Kumar Agarwal R/o Tiku Ram Gum and Chemicals (P) Ltd. Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani (Haryana)** 127046 do hereby declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Ashi to Ashi Agarwal for all future purpose.

**I, Vikas Agarwal S/o Pawan Kumar Agarwal R/o Tiku Ram Gum and Chemicals (P) Ltd. Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani (Haryana)** 127046 do hereby declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Anvi to Anvi Agarwal for all future purpose.

**I, Sunitaben Sanjaybhai Singal W/o Sanjay Singal R/o H. No. 48, Bhamashah Nagar, Balamand Road, Hisar, Haryana (125001)** do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sunitaben Sanjaybhai Singal to Sunita Singal for all future purpose.

**I, Rammehar Singh (Old name, which is to be changed) S/o Birkha Ram R/o H. No. 327, PLA, Hisar Distt., Hisar, Haryana (125001)** do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Rammehar Singh to Ram Mehar Singh for all future purpose.

**I, Reeta Wife of No. 15498527H, Rank LD Name Rajesh Kumar R/O VPO Tela, Teh. Handia, Distt. Prayagraj, U.P.-221502** have changed my name in my husband's army record from Reeta to Rita vide affidavit dated 05-05-2023 before Session Court Hisar.

**I, Dinesh Jain S/o Himmat Singh, House No. 84, Agrasen Colony, Ghoda Farm Road Colony, Hisar,** declare that my Aadhaar card and all the documents have the name Dinesh Jain registered while in the Class X certificate, Dinesh Kumar is registered. Dinesh Jain and Dinesh Kumar are one person. I have changed my name from Dinesh Kumar to Dinesh Jain.

**I, Sushila Devi W/o Ishwar Dutt, H.No.46/15, Krishna Colony, Jind,** declare that in my husband's passport No.G8474870 (Expiry Date 11.05.2018) my name has been wrongly mentioned Sheela Devi. But my actual name is Sushila Devi.

**I, Gurvinder Singh S/o Karnail Singh R/O Village Patti Baj Ke, PO Bundala, Tehsil and Distt. Amritsar Punjab-143413** have changed my name from Gurvinder Singh to Gurwinder Singh.

**I Simranjit Kaur Spouse of Service No. JC512070N Rank Nb Sub Budh Ram Singh of Unit 2 Sikh Li Ambala Cantt C/o 56 APO.** Have Changed my DOB from 03.04.1983 To 24.04.1983

**I, Rekha Rani W/o Vijay Kumar R/o 153 Katju Nagar Taraori, Distt. Karnal** have changed. my name from Rekha to Rekha Rani. All Concern Please note.

**I, Sarabjit kaur Sandhu w/o Angerj Singh R/O Bariwala Tehsil & District Sri Muktsar Sahib** have Changed My Name Sarabjit kaur Sandhu to Sarabjeet Kaur.

**I, Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Jai Gopal R/o 153, Katju Nagar Taraori, Distt. Karnal** have changed my name from Vijay to Vijay Kumar. All concerned Please Note.

**I Krishan Lal S/o Late Sh. Ved Prakash R/o Vill Bhatoli Tehsil Jagadhri ,Distt. Yamunanagar,Haryana.**Have Changed my Son Name from Bhavy To Bhavya Bachhal.

**I, Raj Bala Singh W/o Sh. Dharamvir Singh R/O House No. 903 Sector- 17 Panchkula,** have changed my name from Raj Bala Singh to Raj Bala.

**I Taranjit Kaur W/o Inderjit Singh, R/o Village Bhanakharpur, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt. SAS Nagar** have changed my name from Taranjit to Taranjit Kaur

**I Vir Singh S/O Hari Singh R/O Village Ram Nagar Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declared That Hari Singh & Hari Chand S/O Inder Singh S/O Rala Both Names Of One And Same Person I.E. My Father's Names. He Known With Both Names**

**I, Seema W/o Sh. Harnarayan R/o VPO - Ferozabad, Tehsil Rania, District Sirsa** have changed my name from Seema to Seema Rani. All Concerned note.

**I, Pardeep Kumar s/o Late Sh. Saig Ram R/O H.No. 181, gali no.-3, Grewal Basti, Begu Road, Sirsa** declare that my father is known by Salig Ram & Sagan Lal. Both name are one and same person. Concerned note.

**I, Madhuleen D/o Inderjit Singh R/o #3775 Sector 22-D, Chandigarh** have changed my name to Madhuleen Kaur.

**I, Arvind Alias Arvind Kumar Alias Arvind Kumar Arya S/o Sh. Dharam Vir Arya R/O House No. 1165, Sector 51-B, New Light House Cooperative House Building Society, Chandigarh,** have changed my name to Arvind Arya.

**I, Surender S/o Mahabir Singh, 1713/1 Sector 39B Chandigarh,** have changed name to Surender Gheeyal.

**I, Bhav Mittal S/o Jai Pal, 57 Sharma Estate, Lohgarh, Zirakpur Mohali,** have changed name to Bhav

**I, Rajinder Goyal S/o Chhote Lal, H.No.10-A, Gurdev Nagar, Bhabat, Zirakpur (SAS Nagar),** have changed my name to Rajinder Kumar.

**I Service No 16118005Y L/Nk Dhani Reddy Madhu Sudhana Reddy, Of Unit:228 Fd Pk Coy, 22 Engr Regt, C/O 56 Apo, Pin:914022, Have Changed My Name Self (Old Name) Dhani Reddy Madhu Sudhana Reddy To (New Name) Dhanireddy Madhusudhanreddy Vide Affidavit Dated 23.03.2023 Sworn Before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore**

**I Pawanjit Singh** son of Ajeet Singh r/o House No. 2728 Street No. 09 Ferozepur Cantt Declare that my minor Daughter name Manpreet School St. Joseph's Convent School Ferozepur Record my Daughter name Manpreet Kaur is Wrongly mentioned in school record But actual & Correct name is My Minor Daughter Manpreet.

**I, Bhupinderjit W/o Harpreet Singh R/o House Number C-713 Bagh Colony Jalalabad West Distt Fazilka** have changed my name Bhupinderjit to Bhupinder Jeet.

**I, Baljit Singh S/o Kartar Singh R/o House Number 1471/17 D Ganesh Nagar Jalalabad West Distt Fazilka** have changed my name Baljit Singh to Baljeet Singh .

**I, Deewakar Sharma S/o Baldev Sharma R/O Panje Ke Uttar, Tehsil Gurusahasal, Distt. Ferozepur** Have Changed My Name From Deewakar Sharma To Diwaker Sharma.

**I, Santosh Kumari W/o Raj Kumar Monga R/O House No. 756, Ward No. 08, Guru Ram Dass Nagar, Firozpur** have changed my name to Santosh Monga.

**I Sandeep Kumar S/o Balwant Singh R/o Vill. Bakarpur, Teh. Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar** have changed my minor son name from Geetarth to Geetarth Kamboj. In future my son should be known, recognized and called by the name of Geetharth Kamboj

**I Priyanka Sharma D/O Vijay Kumar Sharma R/O House No. 33-B, Gian Colony, Near Phatak No. 22, Patiala, Punjab-147001** Have Changed The-Name Of My Minor Son Sahaan Mukhija, Aged About 11 Years And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Advait.

**I, Surinder Devi W/O Pawan Kumar Vpo- Jhabkka, Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur.** Affirm That My Name Surinder Kumari On The Marriage Certificate Is Wrong. My Correct Name Is Surinder Devi.

**I, Sudesh Bhaskar Spouse Of No.Jc-802464x Rank Ex Sub/Hony Capt Raj Kumar R/O House No.503/6, Buttan Wali Gali, Mandi, Tehsil/District Gurdaspur (Punjab). Pin-143521.** Have Changed My Name Sudesh Bhaskar And My Dob 23-04-1960 Is Wrong. But My Name Sudesh Kumari And My Dob 01-06-1961 Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No.IN Pb96018600315922v Dated 04-May-2023, Before Notary Public Gurdaspur.

**I, Vandna Kaushik C/O Ashwani Kumar R/O H.No.77, Ward No.23, Near Govt Collage, Trimmoo Road, Gurdaspur. Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur. Punjab-143521.** Have Changed My Name To Vandna.

**I, Manjit Kaur W/O Sardul Singh R/O Kahlon Patti Tibber, Distt- Gurdaspur (Pb).** Have Changed My Name Manjeet Kaur To Manjit Kaur.

**I, No 10545685W Ex LNK Kuldp Kumar S/O Yash Pal resident of Village Jaini Post Office Madhopur Tehsil and Distt Pathankot, (Punjab)** declared that I have changed the name of my daughter from Bhawana Devi to Bhawna Devi vide affidavit No. IN-PB96267924402912V Dated 05-05-2023 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot.

**I, No 10545685W Ex LNK Kuldp Kumar S/O Yash Pal resident of Village Jaini Post Office Madhopur Tehsil and Distt Pathankot, (Punjab)** declared that I have changed the name of my son from Uarbansh Nangla to Urvansh Nangla vide affidavit No. IN-PB96268448075358V Dated 05-05-2023 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot.

**I, Smt Meenaxi Devi W/O JC-178394L Ex Sub Maj (Hony Capt) Late Mohan Lal resident of Village Tharial, PO Madhopur Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab)** declared that I have changed the name of my daughter from Biranda to Varindha vide affidavit No. IN-PB96281246449785V Dated 05-05-2023 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot. The correct date of birth of my daughter is 27-08-1987 instead of 27-08-1986.

**I, PM Sugeshan Son of JC-301484W Sub (DVRSP/LEH) Muthu P resident of Qtr No - 128/3, Madhopur Cantt, Thariyal, Pathankot** have changed my name from PM Sugeshan to Sug

# PUNJAB MINISTER'S VIDEO --- "Victim" accuses Kataruchak of forcing him into a relationship

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak is in deep waters. Facing allegations of "sexual misconduct" on the basis of two videos, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader on Friday faced attack from all sides with the alleged "sexual abuse victim" coming on camera to accuse Kataruchak of first befriending him and then sexually exploiting him on the promise of a government job on becoming an MLA.

That is not all! National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), taking note of "victim's" complaint, issued notice to Punjab Government asking the officials concerned to submit an action taken report "immediately".

Adding fuel to the fire is the opposition parties — including the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In chorus, they have been demanding immediate dismissal of the Minister from the Cabinet, besides his immediate arrest.

Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira was the first one to make the issue public by submitting the two "highly objectionable" videos to the Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Monday (May 1) demanding an inquiry into the same, besides forensic examination of the videos to ascertain its authenticity.

The Governor, acting on

the serious allegations, asked the Chandigarh Director General of Police (DGP) to look into the complaint and conduct a forensic examination. The report is awaited.

On the other hand, the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann backed his Minister, asserting that he had not received any such videos. At the same time, he lashed out at the Opposition, especially Khaira, BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa, and SAD's Bikram Majithia, for making "baseless" allegations just for the sake of speaking against the Government.

On Friday, Sirsa tweeted a part of the video, in which the alleged "victim" claimed that he was on the run now fearing the Minister would harm him or his family.

Coming on camera, the "victim", who identified him as Pathankot-resident, claimed that it was he who was shown in the video that was handed over to the Governor by Congress leader Khaira. In the video, he also alleged that he had been subjected to sexual misconduct by Kataruchak when "I was very young" — from 2013 to 2014, which continued till 2021.

Giving details, he alleged that Kataruchak had approached him by sending a friend request on the social networking website, Facebook, in 2013-14. When he accepted it, Kataruchak allegedly started making advances towards him, and later asked to have a relationship with him.

"I was too young at that time to understand anything... Later, Kataruchak called me to Gurdaspur... I refused saying that I don't have enough money. He promised me that he will give me money once I come to meet him at Gurdaspur... He picked me from the bus stand and took me to his office for his sexual excesses," said the man in the video.

The "victim" also added that he met Kataruchak for the last time on Diwali in 2021. "He then promised me a government job stating that he would become an MLA soon. After that he did not meet me and asked me not to approach him," the "victim" alleged.

## SC Panel Asks Punjab CS, DGP to Submit ATR Immediately

Taking serious note of the complaint by one Keshav Kumar alleging "sexual misconduct" by Punjab Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Friday issued a notice to Punjab Government officials asking them to submit an action taken report "immediately".

The victim Keshav Kumar, in a video message and a letter to NCSC, demanded justice as well as security, citing that the Minister is now giving threats to his life. "I am now on the run and submitting the complaint

in Delhi as the Minister is threatening to harm me or my family. I request NCSC to take action against the Minister over the sexual misconduct and provide me security," he said.

The Commission chairperson Vijay Sampla has asked the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to investigate the matter and submit the action taken report (ATR) immediately, "through over or email, based on the facts and information on the action taken on the allegation or matter".

The Commission has also asked the officials to provide security to the victim.

At the same time, Sampla cautioned the officers that if action taken report is not received within the stipulated time, the Commission might exercise the powers of the civil court conferred on it under article 338 of the Constitution of India, and issue a summons for personal appearance before the commission in Delhi.

## Opposition Demands Kataruchak's Immediate Dismissal, Arrest

Punjab's opposition parties have come on one platform to unanimously demand the immediate dismissal and arrest of the state Food and Civil Supplies Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak following "shock-

ing" revelations that the Minister committed sodomy with a minor.

Making the demand, former Minister and SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia questioned the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for shielding the perpetrator of such a heinous crime.

Majithia, addressing a public gathering in Kartarpur assembly constituency, said: "With Kataruchak's victim coming out in the open, it is clear that the obscene video of the Minister which has been submitted to the Punjab Governor is genuine. The video is also in the possession of the police which must have also verified it by now. It is surprising that the Chief Minister has not acted in the matter till now. Bhagwant Mann should tell Punjabis if he has something to hide due to which he is not taking action against the Minister."

Quipping that this was the "badlav" AAP had brought in Punjab, Majithia said: "Earlier, AAP's Jalalabad MLA Gurdy Kambhoj's father was caught indulging in flesh trade extortion. Even then, the Chief Minister did not take action despite the fact that the father-son duo are together in everything and are even known to have been arrested in similar circumstances earlier. Now, he is again shielding Kataruchak and even denying the existence of a video tape which has been submitted to the Punjab Governor."

Senior Congress leader and the Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Partap Singh Bajwa demanded that the Minister be booked under the POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offence) Act.

"The Minister has been facing very serious allegations. Punjab Chief Minister must dismiss him from the Cabinet with immediate effect and then he should be arrested," he demanded.

BJP leaders Manjinder Singh Sirsa urged Punjab Governor to immediately dismiss Kataruchak and also direct the police to take action against the culprit as per law "as person sexually assaulted by him has already come forward and has filed a criminal complaint with National SC Commission regarding his exploitation done by Lal Chand Kataruchak".

Lashing out at Chief Minister Mann, Sirsa said that it was shocking to note that even after learning about videos of exploitation being submitted to the Punjab Governor, he kept on defending the accused and denied having any such video. "He should be ashamed of himself for defending a person who is accused of sexually exploiting a minor boy. Now when the victim has come forward and filed his complaint with the National SC Commission, the Chief Minister should himself recommend dismissal of the Minister besides ordering the arrest of the accused," he added.

# CM Mann and Kejriwal dedicate 580 Aam Aadmi Clinics in Punjab



PNS ■ LUDHIANA

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday dedicated 80 more Aam Aadmi Clinics to people thereby bringing total tally of such operational clinics to 580.

Addressing the gathering, Mann said that with this around 580 Aam Aadmi Clinics are now operational in the state to offer free healthcare services to people. He said that 580 clinics have been dedicated to the people of state in three phases, adding that these clinics have already proved to be a cornerstone in imparting quality health services to people.

He said that equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, these clinics are providing world-class treatment and diagnostic facilities to the people free of cost. He said that so far 25.63 lakh patients from across the state have benefited from

these Aam Aadmi clinics by their visit, pointing out that a total 41 type of diagnostics tests are being provided at these clinics free of cost and till April 30, 1.78 lakh patients have undergone these tests.

Mann said that above all these clinics have helped the government in preparing a database for checking the various diseases prevalent in the state and combating them effectively. He said that total 80 drugs are being provided free of cost to the patients at these clinics. Bhagwant Mann said that most commonly used drugs are for the hypertension, diabetes, Skin ailments, Seasonal outbreaks like viral fever and others.

Describing quality education as the panacea of all ills faced by the poor, the Chief Minister said that it enables poverty-stricken families to enhance their living standards. He said that due to this the state

government is laying special thrust on the improvement of education sector in the state. Mann said that no stone will be left unturned for providing quality education to the students. In his address, Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal lauded the state government for taking this initiative and said that this is unprecedented as Punjab has never witnessed such a revolution in health sector. He said that it was first implemented in Delhi and is now successfully replicated in Punjab after people gave chance to them.

Kejriwal hailed the state government for taking several pro-people and development-oriented initiatives in the state and said that while Delhi government 500 clinics were opened after 5 years, in Punjab they are operational within an year. Likewise, Mann said that free power in the state is big boon in the state.

# Father of slain Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala starts "Insaaf Yatra"

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Kickstarting his 'Insaaf Yatra' (justice march) from Phillaur assembly segment in Jalandhar, the father of slain Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala Balkaur Singh on Friday minced no words to say that the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is playing politics over his son's murder and his efforts to seek justice.

Balkaur Singh, whose son was Congress candidate from Mansa for 2022 assembly polls, made it clear that he was not seeking votes for any party, but was just making an appeal to the people to don't vote for "nikammi Sarkar" (useless government), which failed to deliver justice to him for his son's murder.

"I am seeking justice for my son because the government has failed to deliver in the last 11 months since Moosewala's murder... Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann says that I am doing politics over Moosewala's murder... Is seeking justice for the murder of my son politics? It is

the CM who is playing politics over my son's murder and my efforts to seek justice," said an upset Balkaur Singh.

He maintained that he had been running from pillar to post for 11 months. "I went to Amit Shah, Rahul Gandhi, and the Punjab Chief Minister... But today, I am forced to approach the public of this belt which houses several NRIs," he added.

"Just like your family members, my son too could have gone and settled abroad but he wanted to stay in his own country and work for the nation. He wanted to build good health facilities. But was choosing to stay in India a fault?" said Balkaur Singh.

Lashing out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led Punjab Government, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, and Finance Minister Harpal Cheema, Balkaur Singh said: "Whenever I approach the authorities to seek justice, they say I am playing the victim card and doing politics over my son's death." "Am I a candidate of any party, or asking you to vote for

any particular party or candidate? I am just appealing to not to vote for those who cannot deliver justice to the masses... I am a victim and appealing to you that don't vote for this nikammi (useless) government's candidate because they cannot provide justice to a father who lost his young son. In fact, it will be a true tribute to my son by not voting for this government," he said.

The yatra, which started from the Phillaur assembly segment on Friday, will be held for two days — Friday and Saturday — and will cover all nine assembly segments of the Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency, which is going for polls on May 10. On Friday, the yatra covered the Phillaur, Nakodar, Jalandhar Cantt, and Shahkot assembly segments.

Balkaur Singh also posted a video on social media and appealed to all the people of Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency to participate in his yatra in large numbers to get justice for his son. "I can get justice for my son only through the people," he said.

## Punjab police bust module linked with Landa and Satta; One held

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/TARN TARAN

Punjab Police have busted a module linked with foreign-based wanted terrorists — Lakhbir Singh alias Landa and Satbir alias Satta — with the arrest their one operative after recovering 10 pistols from his possession.

The state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, sharing the details on Friday,

said that the arrested accused has been identified as Gurbhuj Singh alias Bheja of Dhun Dhai Wala village in Tarn Taran.

"The accused has a criminal background and has recently been released from Goindwal Sahib Central Jail. The Police have also nominated Sukhdeep Singh alias Sukh of Chheharta in Amritsar, Lakhbir Singh alias Landa Harike, Satnam Singh alias Satta Naushehra,

Yadwinder Singh alias Yada and Baaghi Singh in the first information report (FIR)," he said.

DGP Yadav said that acting on a reliable input that accused Gurbhuj is coming after retrieving pistols along with magazines from location pinpointed by Landa and Satta, Police teams from Tarn Taran district promptly laid a trap and arrested him, when he was travelling on his motorcycle.

# Haryana Chief Minister sends 896 job offers to youth on his birthday

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Celebrating his birthday in a special way, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday gave employment gift to the youths of the state by sending job offers to 896 youth through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRN). Extending best wishes to those who received the job offers, the Chief Minister said that the youth should discharge their duties with honesty and integrity.

Khattar also announced an amount of Rs 2 crore to the Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, pointing out that this amount is being provided to be spent by the Haryana State Council for Child Welfare Council on the welfare of orphans.

Birthday wishes for the Chief Minister started pouring in from the morning, with a large number of people gathering at the Chief Minister's residence to extend their wishes. Khattar performed yajna at



his residence along with saints and gave the message of environmental cleanliness and wished for the happiness and prosperity of the residents of Haryana. "Entire state is my family and my life is dedicated to every Haryanvi. I will always work with the spirit of public welfare," he added.

On the occasion, Transport Minister, Mool Chand Sharma, Cooperation Minister, Banwari Lal, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Om

## PANCHKULA'S SHISHU GREH

Khattar celebrated his 70th birthday with simplicity at Shishu Greh of Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, Sector 15, Panchkula and advised the children to continue their studies. He also presented gifts to the children. The Chief Minister inquired about the facilities and various activities being provided for the children at Shishu Greh. He also inquired about the virtual classroom being run for the children from Class VI to X. Presently, 50 children are studying through a virtual classroom.

Prakash Yadav, BJP state president, OP Dhankar, Alwar MP, Mahant Balaknath, Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand ji Maharaj, Chief Secretary, Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Minister, DS Dhesi, along with many saints, senior administrative officers and party workers were present.

## DEDICATES BIRTHDAY TO SOCIAL WELFARE

Dedicating his birthday to social welfare, the Chief Minister appealed to the saints to cooperate with the state government to curb the social evils spread in the society. The saints appreciated the cam-

paign being run by the state government for water conservation and de-addiction and assured the Chief Minister of their cooperation for the success of these virtuous works. A special meeting was organized on the subject of water conservation and de-addiction campaign with saints at the Chief Minister's residence.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Rajesh Khullar apprised about the reality of the drug abuse problem through a presentation. He informed that as per the instructions of the Chief Minister, the state government is taking strict action against the drug peddlers. For this, the government has constituted a special task force. Anti-narcotics cells have been formed at the district, range and state levels and more than 5,000 arrests have been made in Haryana, he added. Till January 2023, properties worth

Rs 37.29 crore of persons involved in drug offences have been attached and the process of attaching property worth Rs 15 crore is underway.

Khullar informed that a mobile app 'Saathi' has been created to prevent illegal sale of medicines. Also, software HAWK has been developed for database of criminal activities and Inter-State Drug Secretariat has been established at Panchkula. He informed that the state government has prepared a special action plan for de-addiction and 52 de-addiction centers have been opened in the state. Besides, de-addiction wards have been opened in government medical colleges and de-addiction centers have been set up in civil hospitals of 13 districts.

Apart from this, toll free anti-drug helpline number 9050891508 has been started on which citizens can give information and 'Dhakad' programmes are also being run to save the youth from drugs.

## BRIEFS

NEED TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TOWARDS SPORTS: HIMACHAL GOVERNOR



Shimla: A delegation of Him Sports and Cultural Association, Shimla led by its President called on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Raj Bhavan on Friday. He invited the Governor as the Chief Guest in the inauguration of the cricket tournament being organized by the Association in Shimla from June 10 this year. The Governor congratulated the Association for organizing the sports event and said that such efforts could definitely prove effective in connecting the youth with society and against evils like drug abuse. He said that today there was a need to encourage youth towards sports and such events are positive steps in this direction. He said that today there was a need to encourage sports in a big way. On the occasion, Principal Advisor (Media) to the Chief Minister, Naresh Chauhan apprised the Governor that the Him Sports and Cultural Association organize cricket and other cultural activities every year. He said that the purpose of organizing such events was to promote sports among the youth and to involve them in constructive and positive activities.

## HRY CS REVIEWS PROGRESS OF LAND DEMARCATION AND PILLAR INSTALLATION ALONG THE YAMUNA RIVER

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Friday held a review meeting of the progress made in land demarcation and pillar installation along the Yamuna River, spanning from Yamunagar to Palwal. During the meeting, the Mission Director, Lt. General Girish Kumar disclosed that the Survey of India would soon commence the demarcation of land in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, along the Yamuna River. The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of completing the demarcation work within a specified timeframe and instructed officers of the mining department to work in coordination with the Survey of India. He also requested the Mission Director to regularly review the progress of the demarcation work with officers from the Survey of India, Revenue, and Mining Departments. The design of the pillars had been finalized by the Panjab Engineering College, Chandigarh.

## HIMACHAL GOVT ISSUES SOP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OLD PENSION SCHEME

Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh government has issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for the 1.36 lakh state employees. According to the SOP, employees, who wish to be covered under OPS or want to remain under the National Pension System (NPS), will have to choose an option within 60 days from the date of issue of these instructions. Once exercised, the option would be final and irrevocable and in case the option is not exercised within 60 days by an employee, it would be deemed that the employee wishes to continue under the NPS, an office memorandum said. The Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government had taken a decision to implement the OPS in its first cabinet meeting in March. The decision would put a burden of Rs 1,000 crore on the state exchequer during the financial year 2023-24.

## PB VB ARRESTS COUPLE FOR COLLUDING IN CAUSING LOSS TO STATE EXCHEQUER DURING SALE OF LAND

Chandigarh: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its ongoing campaign against corruption has arrested Bander Kumar, resident of village Tura, Jalandhar district and his wife Deepak Bala, for colluding with other accused who had sold land in village Karura, Rupnagar district to the state government at a price much higher than the prevalent collector rate causing a huge loss to the state exchequer.

## NEW FEATURES IN HARYANA-ESAMIKSHA PORTAL TO ENHANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government will be introducing a new feature on the Haryana-eSamiksha portal to enable Administrative Secretaries and Head of Departments to monitor the follow-up actions taken on decisions made during their meetings and presentations. This was discussed during a meeting led by the Chief Secretary, Sanjeev Kaushal, along with officers from the Human Resource Department and National Informatics Centre. Haryana-eSamiksha is a real-time online system designed to monitor follow-up actions taken on decisions made during presentations by Administrative Secretaries and Head of Departments. The system can also be configured to review follow-up actions from other meetings, if necessary. Kaushal informed that the portal will provide updates on file number, meeting date, chairperson, meeting description, and other documents such as the minutes of meeting (MOM), which can be accessed by officers of the concerned departments. Additionally, the portal facilitates the automatic tracking of action points, proposals, issues, projects, schemes, and targets, starting from online submission to compliance.

## HRY CM LAUNCHES MUKHYAMANTRI TIRTH DARSHAN YOJANA ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on



Friday launched the Mukhyamantri Tirth Darshan Yojana on his birthday on Friday. Under the scheme, the Chief Minister flagged off the first batch of buses, carrying about 200 senior citizens from Panchkula for Ayodhya Yatra from May 5 to May 8. The buses will reach Ambala Cantt and from there the passengers will travel to Ayodhya via train. The state government will bear the travel expenses of these passengers. Khattar said that the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yojana, which has been started from Panchkula will be implemented in the entire state; under which arrangements will be made to send senior citizens above 60 years of age for pilgrimage.

## CHARANJIT ATWAL JOINS BJP

Chandigarh: Days after resigning from the primary membership of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Lok Sabha's former Deputy Speaker and Punjab Vidhan Sabha's two-time Speaker Charanjit Singh Atwal on Friday joined the saffron party in the presence of party national president JP Nadda in New Delhi. The 86-year-old Atwal resigned from SAD on April 19, days after his son, Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal, was fielded as BJP's candidate for the Jalandhar Lok Sabha byelections, scheduled for May 10. A former Akali veteran, Atwal was the Deputy Speaker of the 14th Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009. He represented the Phillaur Lok Sabha constituency, and was a member of Akali Dal. He was also the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly twice.

# Classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**We Surinder Nath Sharma** S/o Ram Kishan And Amar Devi W/o Surinder Nath Sharma R/o #28 Geeta Colony Rajpura Town Distt Patiala declare that Our daughter Jatinder Sharma and her husband Dharminder Vasishit and her Children Devash Vasishit is out of my control so I evict them all my Moveable immovable property anyone dealing with them at their own risk.

**I, Bajjit Singh** S/o Bachan Singh R/o Vill: Ekal Gadda Teh-Khadur Sahib (Tarn Taran) declare that my son Ranjit Singh is out of my control. So I disown with him from my moveable/immovable property. If anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk.

**I Mukesh Kumar Saldi** S/o Mohan Lal Saldi R/o #310 Dalima Vihar Rajpura Distt Patiala in my passport my wife name wrongly entered Bhawana Rani but my wife correct name is Bhawana.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I Sunita Rani** W/O Harminder Pal R/O Vpo. Mona Kalan Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Jaspreet To Jaspreet Shini.

**I Dharamveer S/O** Jaswinder Kumar R/O Vpo. Shergarh District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name Dharamveer To Dharamveer Gandotra.

**I Balvir Singh** S/O Sansar Singh R/O House No.476/1 Roop Nagar Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Balbir Singh.

**I Gian Kaur** W/O Harbhajan Singh W/O House No.2721/10, Ranjit Nagar, Adampur, District Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Gian Kaur To Paramjit Kaur W/O After Marriage.

**I Sahil S/O** Talwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Purani Bassi District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name Sahil To Sahil Singh Seehra.

**I Santosh Samra** W/O Jugal Kishore R/O H.No.13 Joshi Colony The Mall Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Name Santosh Rani To Santosh Samra.

**I Baljinder Singh** S/O Jaspal Singh R/O 143, Village Naag Khurd Majitha Road Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Daughter's Name From Akriti To Akriti Mattu.

**I Khushboo** Alias Jyoti Sharmal D/O Khazan Chand R/O HL-68 Punjab Housing Board Green Avenue Amritsar 143001 Have Changed My Name To Khushboo.

**I Jaspreet Kaur** W/O Jagdeep Singh Brar R/O Vpo. Dhurkot (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Jaspreet Kaur Brar After Marriage.

**I Jasbir Kaur** W/O Updesh Singh R/O Ward No.4, Ram Nagar Mudki (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Name To Jasveer Kaur After Marriage.

**I Jasbir Kaur** W/O Updesh Singh Sandhu R/O Ward No.4 Ram Nagar Mudki (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Name To Jasveer Kaur After Marriage.

**I Harjeet Kaur** W/O Sukhchain Singh R/O Vpo. Mudki (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Name To Harjit Kaur After Marriage.

**I Jagrup Singh** S/O Nahar Singh R/O Vpo. Kaliewala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jagroop Singh.

**I Manjinder Kaur** W/O Avtar Singh Bath R/O Vill. Daulatpura Ucha Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Manjinder Kaur Bath.

**I Ramandeep Kaur** Sangrah W/O Sarvdeep R/O Patti Datta, Vpo. Gholla Kalan, Tehsil Baghapurana Distt. Moga-142056, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Ramandeep Kaur.

**I Ranjit Singh** Dhaliwal S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Vpo. Giddarwindi Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Changed Minor Son's Name Simarjit Singh To Simarjit Singh Dhaliwal.

**I Gurwinder Kaur** W/O Navdeep Singh Khosa R/O Vill. Jhandiana Garbi Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name After Marriage As Gurwinder Kaur Khosa.

**I Jasvir Singh** Sekhon S/O Gurdev Singh R/O Machaki Mal Singh Distt. Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Jasvir Singh.

**I Ramandeep Singh** W/O Joginder Singh R/O Kot Ise Khan Tehsil Dharamkot (Moga) Changed Minor Son's Name Juhar Singh To Juhar Singh W/O.

**I Ramandeep Singh** W/O Joginder Singh R/O Kot Ise Khan Tehsil Dharamkot (Moga) Changed Minor Daughter's Name Gursimran Kaur To Gursimran Kaur W/O.

**I Gaurav Kumar** Sharma S/O Shri Narayan R/O W.No.48 St.No.01 Kande Wali Gali Zira Road Moga Tehsil & Distt. Moga 142001 Punjab Have Changed My Name To Gaurav Kumar.

**I Thaker Singh** S/O Chand Singh R/O Vpo. Datta Distt. Moga 142041 Punjab Have Changed My Name To Thakur Singh.

**I Jagjit Singh** Brar S/O Buta Singh R/O Vill. Goniana Khurd P.O. Goniana Mandi Tehsil & District Bathinda Punjab Have Changed My Name To Jagjeet Singh.

**I Sukhdeep Kaur** W/O Lakhvir Singh R/O Vill. Rai Ke Patti Kotla Rai Ka Tehsil Bagha Purana District Moga 142057 Punjab Have Changed My Name To Gurmeet Kaur.

**I Gurmakh Singh** S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Vill. Talwandi Bhangarian P.O. Dosaanjh Tehsil & District Moga Punjab Have Changed My Name To Gurmukh Singh Bhullar.

**I Jagraj Singh** Dhaliwal S/O Malkit Singh R/O Vpo. Rama Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala District Moga Punjab Have Changed My Name To Jagraj Singh.

**I Ranjit Singh** Sandhu S/O Sumand Singh R/O Village Shivpura Kukrian Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib Punjab India Have Changed My Name To Ranjit Singh.

**I Mamta D/O** Inderjit R/O B-3/253/2 Killa Mohalla, Nawanshahr District Sbs Nagar 144514 Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Mamta To Mamta Rani.

**I Harmesh Lal** Bangar Son Of Sarwan Ram R/O VPO Sodhian Tehsil Banga Distt S.B.S. Nagar PB have changed my name from Harmesh Lal Bangar To Harmesh Lal Bangar.

**I, Neelam Kumari** W/o Dara Ram R/O VPO Sanawa Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt SBS Nagar Punjab have Changed my minor Daughter Name From Naina To Naina Kumari.

**I, Neelam Kumari** W/o Dara Ram R/O VPO Sanawa Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt SBS Nagar Punjab have Changed my minor Daughter Name From Sania To Sania Kumari.

**I Simru Ram** Son of Mallu Ram R/O VPO Kamam Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt SBS. Nagar-144513 PB have changed my name from Simru Ram To Simru Ram Ganger.

**I Kashmiro** Wife of Simru Ram Ganger R/O VPO Kamam Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt SBS. Nagar-144513 PB have changed my name from Kashmiro To Kashmir Kaur Ganger.

**I Bachittar Singh** Marad S/O Dalip Singh Vill Sandhu Kalan Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Bachittar Singh.

**I Kulwinder Singh** Kaler S/O Gurmeet Singh Vill Talwandi Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Barnala have changed my name Kulwinder Singh.

**I, Gurjit Rana** Sandhu W/O Harjinder Singh Sandhu R/O Sandhu Niwas St.No. 4 Sant Nagar Moga (Moga) that Gurjit Rana and Gurjit Rana Sandhu both names are mine one & same person. all people have known to me by both these names.

**I, Manpreet Singh** S/O Harbans Singh R/O New Talwandi Road Zira (Ferozepur) 142047, have changed the name Manpreet Singh Sran.

**I Lakhwinder Kaur** W/O Ranvir Kumar R/O Vpo Kariha Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt Sbs Nagar 144508 Pb Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Nitika To Nitika Kaur.

**I Lakhwinder Kaur** W/O Ranvir Kumar R/O Vpo Kariha Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt Sbs Nagar 144508 Pb Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Gurleen To Gurleen Kaur.

**I Jasmeen D/O** Nachhatar Ram R/O Vpo Bheen Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt Sbs Nagar 144512 Pb Have Changed My Name From Jasmeen To Jasmeen Kaur.

**I Surjit Singh** S/O Roop Lal R/O Vpo Mazara Khurd Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt Sbs Nagar 144515 Pb Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Kritika To Kritika Kaur.

**I Harvinder Singh** S/O Hardev Singh R/O Village Chohla Sahib District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Harvinder Singh To Harwinder Singh.

**I, Pinku Singh** alias Banty Singh S/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vill: Urang Teh-Malout (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name to Pinku Singh.

**I, Deependra Singla** S/O Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O # 508, SST Nagar Patiala Have Changed My Name From Deependra To Deependra Singla.

**I, Sukhvinder Kaur** W/O Kulgurutar Singh R/O Vill: Lalton Khurd (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sukhvinder Kaur.

**I, Harwinder Singh** Buttar S/O Mukand Singh R/O Vill: Nathawal (Ludhiana) have changed my minor son name from Rajkirat Singh to Rajkirat Singh Buttar.

**I, Gurmail Singh** S/o Lal Singh R/O Vill: Kalsan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Gurmail Singh.

**I, Gurlali** W/o Sukhjinder Singh R/o Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name from Gurlali to Gagandeep Kaur after marriage.

**I, Manjeet Kaur** Raikae W/o Bhajan Singh R/o Fatehgarh (Faridkot) have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

**I Daljeet Kaur** W/o Kashmira Singh. Village Asgaripur Teh-Khanna Dist. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Kaur Daljeet.

**I Sonu Pruthi** S/o Jagan Nath R/o Mohalla Ram Gali, Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sonu.

**I Sunita** W/o Sita Ram R/o Vill. Kazibans, Sub Teh. Saraswati Nagar, Teh. Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar have Changed my name from Sunita to Sunita Devi.

**I Sheetal Devi** W/o Mehar Lal R/o Vill. Ghisarपुरi, Distt Karnal have changed my name from Sheetal Devi to Shital Devi.

**I Baljeet Singh** S/o Dharam Singh R/o #27 Prem Colony Kamal have declare Baljeet Singh & Baljeet is one and the same person

**I Surinder Singh** S/o Jagmohan Singh R/o #38 Sheran wala gate Patiala have changed my name to Surinder Mohan Singh.

**I Kanwaljeet Kaur** Golan W/o Sukhdev Singh R/o VPO. Dhaipai (Faridkot) have changed my name to Kanwaljeet Kaur.

**I Gurpreet Kaur** Gill W/o Sukhjinder Singh R/o Village Laleana, Teh. Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Gurpreet Kaur.

**I Vaneta** W/O Anil Kumar R/O Dashmesh Nagar Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Vanita.

**I, Jeevan Jot Kaur** W/o Jaswinder Singh R/o Dashmesh Nagar, Jalalabad Distt Fazilka Have Changed My Name Jeevan Jot Kaur To Jeevan Jyot Kaur.

**I M.L.Midha** S/o Milkhi Ram R/o H.No. 267/123, W.No.3, Gali No. 12 Teh Gurusahasai and Distt Ferozepur have changed my name to Mohan Lal.

**I Rekha Rani** W/o Ravinder Kumar R/o H.No. 60 B, Mandir Wali Gali, Azad Nagar, Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Rekha.

**I, Gitanjali** W/O Mukesh Kumar R/O Green Avenue Colony, Gurusahasai Tehsil Gurusahasai, Distt. Ferozepur, State Punjab Have Changed My Name Gitanjali To Gitanjali.

**I Harjinder Singh** S/o Gurnam Singh R/o village Alipur mandwal Teh. Rajpura distt. Patiala have changed my name from Harjinder Singh to Singh Harjinder.

**COURT NOTICE**  
Form NO.55  
Criminal Courts, Amritsar  
IN THE COURT OF Harsimranjit Kaur Judicial Magistrate First Class, Amritsar  
Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgments as well as other Case information is available on <http://ecourts.gov.in>  
**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
ARVIND GUPTA  
**VS.**  
DEEPAK JAIN  
NACT/2/17/2022  
PBAS03-000784-2022  
NEXT DATE: 01-06-2023  
POLICE STATION/FIR NO. 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act  
Detail of offence:-  
**PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:-** DEEPAK JAIN- S/O SHRI SATISH JAIN R/O 8577 NEW ROHTAK ROAD KATRA SHANTI DEVI NEAR JAIN PETROL PUMP KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005  
ALSO AT RESIDENT OF 65/74 1ST FLOOR NEW ROHTAK NEW ROHTAK ROAD KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI 110005  
ASLO RESIDENT OF RZ4/8 SOUTH EXT PART-2, GALI NO.6, UTTTAM WEST DELHI-110059  
WHEREAS complaint/case has been made before me that DEEPAK JAIN S/O SHRI SATISH JAIN R/O 8577 NEW ROHTAK ROAD KATRA SHANTI DEVI NEAR JAIN PETROL PUMP KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005 ALSO AT RESIDENT OF 65/74 1ST FLOOR NEW ROHTAK NEW ROHTAK ROAD KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI 110005 ASLO RESIDENT OF RZ4/8 SOUTH EXT PART-2, GALI NO.6, UTTTAM WEST DELHI-110059 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section 138 or Negotiable Instruments Act and it has been returned to warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said DEEPAK JAIN cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said DEEPAK JAIN has absconded (or is concealing himself/herself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said DEEPAK JAIN is required to appear before this Court (or before me) on 01-06-2023 to answer the said complaint/case.  
Judicial Magistrate First Class  
Amritsar  
Dated, this day of 02-05-2023

## Format C-2

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil)No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation &Ors. Vs. Union of India &Anr.)

Name of Political Party: **Shiromani Akali Dal**  
Name of Election: **Bye Election 04-Jalandhar Parliament Constituency 2023**  
Name of State/UT **Punjab**

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Sr. No	Name of Candidate	Name of Constituency	(A) Pending criminal Cases	Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences cases
			Name of Court case No. & Status of the cases(s)	Name of the Court & dates (s) of order (s)
1.	Dr. SUKHWINDER KUMAR	04 JALANDHAR	(1) FIR NO. 131 DT. 07-06-2021 PS MATAUR, SAS NAGAR (2) FIR NO 26 DT.16.03.2021 PS NORTH CHANDIGARH (3) FIR NO. 118, DT. 18-06-2020 P.S. CITY NAWANSHAHR U/S 188, 269, 270 IPC, SEC. 51 DISASTER OF MANAGEMENT ACT 2005 & SEC. 3 OF EPIDEMIC ACT DISEASES ACT 1897 16-12-2021 ACQUITTED BY THE COURT OF SH. JAGBIR SINGH, MEHNDIRATTA, CJM, SBS NAGAR FILE NO. 202/1 OF 10.09.2021	U/S 188, 269, 270 IPC AND 51 A DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2005 U/S 186, 323, 34 1511 OF IPC 1860 U/S 188, 341, 283, 431 OF IPC NIL NIL FIR NO. 152 DT. 08.12.2017 U/S 188, 341, 283, 431 OF IPC PS CITY NAWANS HAHR CJM NAWANS HAHR CONVICTED ON DT 10-09-2021 U/S 188, 341, 283 I.P.C THE CONVICTION WAS ADMONISHED UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ACT 1958 AND IT WAS CLARIFIED THAT ADMONITION OF THE CONVICT SHALL NOT ATTACH TO ITSELF ANY OF THE DISQUALIFICATION. NOTE: APPEAL AGAINST THE JUDGEMENT OF CONVICTION DATED 10-09-2021 IS PENDING IN THE COURT OF LEARNED SESSIONS JUDGE, SBS NAGAR

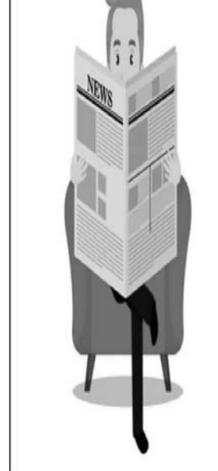
## Public Notice

I, Balwinder Singh S/o Pala Singh R/o Vill: Longiwid Teh-Dharamkot (Moga) declare that Sukhmander Singh is my son who is unmarried and currently living in England. That Sukhmander Singh his heavy restrained relation with me and my family members and he is not under our impression and if does anything wrong, he will be responsible for himself. That today Sukhmander Singh has no concern with my movable and immovable property anywhere in Punjab/India. That I have no relation with Sukhmander Singh after today. He will be responsible for his good and bad deeds. That if any person is doing any type of dealing/business with Sukhmander Singh then that person himself be responsible or that and I have no responsibility in that transaction and I have nothing to do with it, that i/we or any member of my family are not had any dealings or relation with it after today. That I am executing this affidavit with own sweet will and without any force or pressure.

## Classified Advertisement



## The Pioneer



COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE ADS  
CONTACT: 9417419351

## COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF Sanjeeta Additional Principal Judge Family Court, Amritsar  
Sunita Kanojia aged about 27 years, wife of Abhimanyu, daughter of Durga Prasad, resident in rented property no.3, Police Lines, Amritsar  
**VS.**  
Abhimanyu Chaudhary  
CNR No.: PBAS01-002687-2021  
Next Date:- 07-07-2023  
Petition under section 13 of Hindu marriage Act 1955 for dissolution of marriage by decree of divorce.  
**PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:-** Abhimanyu Chaudhary Father-Kailash Chaudhary @ Kalu Resident of 307-Nekpur, Guna Mandi, Sharma Chaki Wali Gali, Bareilly, UP-243001  
In above tiled Case, the defendant (s)/ respondent (s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant (s) /respondent (s) should appear in person or through counsel on 07-07-2023 at 10:00 a.m.  
For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=Amritsar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=Amritsar)  
Additional Principal Judge Family Court, Amritsar  
Dated, this day of 01-05-2023

## LOST / FOUND

I, Surinder Kumar Bajaj Partner M/S Surinder Kumar & Co. R/o Mandi Ladhuka Tehsil & Distt. Fazilka would like to inform the general public that I have misplaced the original link deed pertaining to the property Adjoining Rice Mill M/S Surinder Kumar & Co. Mandi Ladhuka. The following is the misplaced original link deed.  
(a) RTD No. 1657 dated 21-06-1999 (Bhim Sen, Roop Chand & Ram Rakha Mal S/o Sh. Chand Ramin Favour of M/S Bajaj Rice Mills Mandi Ladhuka).  
Further to inform that bank intends to create Equitable Mortgage in respect of the said property Any person claiming any interest or title in the property or otherwise having any objection can make representation to Punjab National Bank, Branch MCC, Fazilka within seven days of such notice.  
Mobile No. 98148-29687

Please take notice that I Reena Bansal w/o Sh. Dargesh Bansal have lost Original previous sale deed dated 23.02.2005 bearing vasika No. 2438 in respect of the Land measuring 1B-3B-0B, Comprised in the Khasra No. 811, Situated in the "Jasrnan", Tehsil Amloh & Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib, which was owned vide registered sale deed dated 28.09.2022 bearing vasika No. 1369. A DDR dated 10.04.2023 LR No. 332512 was lodged with PSOC Gobindgarh, Fatehgarh Sahib. Smt. Reena Bansal w/o Sh. Dargesh Bansal is availing a loan facility from HDFC Bank Ltd. against this property. If anyone has any objection please contact Mr. Sherry Sandhu, Advocate @ 9814493393 within 15 days of the publication of this notice otherwise no claim shall be entertained.

mahindra FINANCE

MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED Registered Office: Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai - 400 001. CIN: L65921MH1991PLC59642 - Tel : +91 22 6652 6000 - Fax: +91 22 2498 4170 Website: www.mahindrafinance.com • Email: investorhelpline\_mmfs@mahindra.com

CORRIGENDUM

Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 16th of May, 2023 for recovery of Rs. 48,96,20,028/- (Rupees Forty Eight Crores Ninety Six Lacs Twenty Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Eight only) which was due as on 28.9.2021 due to the Secured Creditor ("Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited") from Kwalty Limited (Borrower), Mr. Sanjay Dhirga, JTPL Townships Private Limited & JTPL Private Limited (Mortgagor and Corporate Guarantor (s)).

Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of the Borrower & Mortgagor, Name of the Secured Creditor/ Lender, Date; Time & Venue of Auction, Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD"), Reserve Price, Bid Incremental Amount, Contact Person Name, Number & Email-Id.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES:

A first and exclusive charge by way of mortgage on land & building and structures thereon at Sector 115, Kharar- Landhran Road, Mohali, Punjab owned by M/s JTPL Townships Private Limited (later changed to JTPL Private Limited). The details of each LOTS are as mentioned below:

Table with 2 columns: \*LOTS, DESCRIPTION & MEASUREMENT. Includes LOT-I to LOT-V with their respective areas in sq.ft.

Secured Property Address :-

The above said properties i.e. LOT-I to LOT-V are under the possession of the company and also fencing with pillars and wires. The said properties fall under following khasra numbers Part and parcel of land measuring 06 kanal 00 Marla i.e. 1/3rd share out of total land measuring 17 kanals 19 marlas bearing khewat/khatoni no. 103/106 comprised under khasra no. 27/11/1(6-0), 20/2(6-0), 28/1(5(4-13)), 16(1-6) kittas 4 situated at Village Santemajra, H.B. No. 186 Tehsil Kharar District SAS Nagar Mohali as per Jamabandi for the year 2003-04 as per sale deed bearing vasika no. 6571/1, dated 13.1.2006 registered with Sub Registrar Kharar, Distt. Mohali.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: (1) The properties are being sold on "As is where is" and "Whatever there is" as such sale is without any kind of warranties and indemnities. (2) The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the reserve price mentioned above. Intending bidders are required to deposit the EMD as stated above by way of demand draft payable at Mumbai and favouring "Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd" drawn on any nationalized or scheduled bank. (3) Bidders can bid for single lot or multiple lot(s) together with Bid Price clearly mentioned. (4) The EMD deposit shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder, and for others will be refunded within 7 days after opening of the bids/tenders. The earnest money deposit will not carry any interest. (5) The bid shall be submitted along with the aforesaid EMD in a sealed cover superscribed "Offer for purchase of Property lot wise or whole so as to reach Mr. Anurag Sharma Authorized officer For Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. SCO No.33-34-35, Fourth Floor, Near Regional Passport office, Sector-34, Chandigarh on or before 16.05.2023 10.00 A.M. (6) Bids/tenders so received by the Authorized Officer shall be opened in presence of all the bidders at the Venue on the given time. The Authorized Officer after opening the bids/tenders shall also make an auction and the bidders are entitled to participate in the auction and the highest bidder in the auction shall be declared as the purchaser. (7) The successful Purchaser/s of the Lot(s), shall deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, immediately or latest before closing hours of the next working day after the acceptance of bid price by the Authorized Officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest deposit shall be forfeited. (8) The balance sale price should be paid by the purchaser to the authorized officer on or before 15th day of confirmation of sale of the immovable property or within such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing by and between the purchaser and the secured creditor, in any case not exceeding 3 months. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. (9) The successful purchaser would bear the Charges/fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fee, etc., as applicable as per law for the immovable properties. (10) To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer no encumbrances exist on the property (11) The Purchaser shall bear all the applicable charges, levies, taxes, duties if any payable on demand on such properties which is exclusive of the sale price. (12) The purchaser shall be solely responsible for getting all the requisite licenses, permissions, approvals/clearances, compliances, registrations etc. for the property to be transferred in his/its name, at his/its own cost and expense. (13) The purchaser shall make his own arrangement for getting required consents, permissions, approvals, power connection, water and other facilities and payment of arrears of rates & taxes of the said property and shall meet all the costs of whatever nature to be incurred in that behalf. Lender shall not be liable to pay any arrears of charges and costs/expenses by whatever name known or called, if any, in respect of the same. The purchaser shall make own inquiries about arrears of dues for supply of power, water, duties, cess, levies, imposts, taxes, penalties etc. and other facilities, if any, and it shall be borne and paid by the purchaser alone. (14) The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the Bid without assigning the reason therefor. (15) The sale is subject to conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules, 2002 and the conditions mentioned above. (16) The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any/all bids/tenders without assigning any reason. This notice is also to be treated as a notice under Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER rule 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 The borrower(s)/guarantor(s), corporate guarantor(s) and mortgagor(s) are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest, legal charges and ancillary expenses before the Bid cum Auction date, failing which the property will be sold/auctioned and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest, legal charges and other cost. The original publication dated 16.04.2023 is to be considered for 30 days' notice to be in charge for all the above borrowers, guarantors, corporate guarantors and mortgagor/s.

Authorized Officer Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited SCO No.33-34-35, Fourth Floor, Near Regional Passport office, Sector-34, Chandigarh

COURT NOTICE

Form No. 55 Criminal Courts, Amritsar IN THE COURT OF Harsimranjit KAUR Judicial Magistrate First Class, Amritsar Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgments as well as other Case information is available on http://ecourts.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED HARWINDER SINGH VS. VIJAY KUMAR NACT/2144/2021 PBAS03-011335-2021 NEXT DATE: 01-06-2023 POLICE STATION/FIR NO. 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act

PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:- VIJAY KUMAR:- SH. BHAJAN LAL C/O SHOP NO.6, NEW SABJI MANDI, DHABWALI BYPASS ELLENABAD SIRSA HARYANA AND R/O B/S PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK AUTHO MKT. ELLENABAD HARYANA PIN-125102 WHEREAS complain/case has been made before me that VIJAY KUMAR R/O S/O SH. BHAJAN LAL C/O SHOP NO.6, NEW SABJI MANDI, DHABWALI BYPASS ELLENABAD SIRSA HARYANA has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act and it has been returned to warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said VIJAY KUMAR cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said VIJAY KUMAR has absconded (or is concealing himself/herself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said VIJAY KUMAR is required to appear before this Court (or before me) on 01-06-2023 to answer the said complaint/case.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Amritsar Dated, this day of 03-05-2023

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) IN THE COURT OF Sh. Gurshar Singh Civil Judge (Junior Division), Hoshiarpur, Bhupinder Singh aged 44 yrs S/o Late. Sh. Kashmiri Lal R/o VPO Dhoot kalan, Tehsil and Distt. Hoshiarpur and Anr.

Vs. Sanjeev Kumar S/O Om Parkash r/o H.No.12016, Gali No.1/5, Adarsh Nagar, Bathinda and Anr. ...Defendant Recovery of Rs.2,00,000/- CNR No.: PBHO02-000760-2022 Next Date:- 03-07-2023

PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:- Sukhvinder Singh Dhillon Father:- Sudarshan Singh R/o Sushant City Ansal Plaza, Mansa Road, Bathinda. In above titled Case, the defendant (s) respondent (s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant (s) /respondent (s) should appear in person or through counsel on 03-07-2023 at 10:00 a.m. For details login to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=distric\_notice & district=Hoshiarpur Civil Judge (Junior Division) Hoshiarpur Dated, this day of 29-04-2023

THE TELESOP EMPLOYEES COOP HOUSE BUILDING FIRST SOCIETY LTD., SECTOR 50-C, CHANDIGARH. PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby notified for the information of General Public that Balwant Singh son of Sh. Alma Ram Saini R/o # 2321, Telesop Society, Sector 50-C, Chandigarh, owner of residential freehold Flat No. 2321, Category B, (First Floor), The Telesop Employees Coop Hb First Society Ltd., Sector 50-C, Chandigarh, intend to family transfer in favour of his wife Smt. Sujji Kaur W/o Late Sh. Balwant Singh R/o # 2321, Telesop Society, Sector 50-C, Chandigarh as per transfer policy. Now he has applied for the transfer of Share/Fat in his name on the basis of death/family transfer. If any individual has any objection against the transfer of right, title or interest in the above mentioned flat, same may be submitted to the Society, in writing along with supporting documents within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which action will be taken for issuance of NOC to the intending Transferee. PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

नगर निगम रोहताक

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COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF Ms. Rasveen Kaur Judicial Magistrate First Class-19, Jalandhar DAINIK SAVERA NEWS AND MEDIA NETWORK Vs. MANOJ DHIMAN CNR No.PBJL03-008102-2021 Next Date:-01-07-2023 NACT/2305/2021 PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:- MANOJ DHIMAN R/O SON OF SHRI MILAP CHAND, RESIDENT OF VILLAGE BAHWAR, PO BHAWARNA, DISTT. PALAMPUR (HP) In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 01-07-2023 at 10:00 a.m. For details login to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=distric\_notice & district=Jalandhar Judicial Magistrate First Class-19 Jalandhar Dated, this day of 04-05-2023

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## Right decision

The Patna High Court has ordered the Nitish government to stop the caste-based survey in the state

Our political masters often grumble about judicial overreach when court orders go against their interests, so it would not be surprising if the functionaries of the Nitish Kumar Government are unhappy over the Patna High Court on Thursday stopping the caste-based survey in the state with immediate effect. So far, however, they have not said anything critical of the HC order. The Mahagathbandhan Government, RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari said, respects the stay put in place by Patna High Court. The court did the right thing by doing so. The division Bench of Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Madhuresh Prasad slammed the state Government for acting irresponsibly regarding the right to privacy: "We also see from the notification issued that the Government intends to share the data with leaders of different parties of the State Assembly." The State Government began the survey in Bihar on January 7 at a project cost Rs 500 crore. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav has deployed semantic convolutions to justify the action: "Everyone knows it was a caste-based survey, not a caste survey. The caste-based survey aims to benefit the poor of Bihar. Lalu Yadav and Nitish Kumar are committed to a caste-based survey. Our government will do it. At present, the detailed order of the court is awaited." The convolutions, however, cannot conceal the fact that the Mahagathbandhan and other parties opposed to the Bharatiya Janata Party are veering towards a narrative which promotes caste-oriented politics. This type of politics revolves around caste-based reservations.



The Opposition's strategy seems to derive a lot of inspiration from history. It is a well-known fact that the Mandal Commission Report over three decades ago had baffled the BJP. The report's recommendations divided Hindu society, the saffron party's potential constituency, on caste lines. The party was on the two horns of a dilemma: if it opposed Mandal, it would perpetuate the belief (promoted by anti-BJP leaders and intellectuals) that it represented the interests of the so-called upper castes only; and it supported the recommendations which would hurt the prospects of upper castes, it would displease the core constituents. Lord Ram came to the redemption of the BJP. All this happened long ago; a lot of sewage has flown down the Yamuna since then. The political and ideological progeny of Ram Manohar Lohia are trying to flog the dead horse. Today's India is not the same as it was in 1990; nor is today's BJP the party that was under LK Advani and Atal Bihari Vajpayee; it is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The Lohaites should not downplay the facts that the BJP is a much more inclusive party today than it was in 1990 and Modi himself comes from another backward class or OBC—the social group around which much of Mahagathbandhan politics revolves. History does not and will not repeat itself.

### PICTALK



Artists perform Lama Gana Cham mask dance on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Jayanti in Lahaul-Spiti

## A grim reminder of pollution menace

Ludhiana gas leak is a direct fallout of the disposal of untreated industrial waste which has reached a crescendo in Punjab

The 30th of April 2023 is a Sunday that will be painfully etched in the memories of the Giaspura locality of Ludhiana forever when 11 people lost their lives and many others had severe breathing problems when a gas leak caused people to drop dead where they stood. Surprisingly, leakage of odorous gases and effluents is an accepted fact for the residents of this locality who live amid rickety, polluting industrial units. According to the residents, in the rainy season, industrial acid is often seen mixing with rainwater and contact with the same causes rashes and skin problems. For a long time, Ludhiana and its industrial units with their suspect pollution compliance standards have been escaping national attention. The Giaspura gas leak shows that stubble burning is not the only environmental problem facing the state. The present gas leak disaster that needs grass root investigation seems to have been the culmination of years of degrading environmental conditions in the city. In a survey conducted by IQAir, a Swiss-based air quality technology company,



Ludhiana was featured in the top 50 most polluted cities of the world in 2021. Ludhiana reported an average yearly particulate matter (PM) 2.5 value of 71.8 micrograms per metric cube (µg/m<sup>3</sup>). Thanks to these dubious achievements, the city saw a big jump of more than 100 ranks as compared to the previous year earning it the 41st spot among the cities of the world. The credit for these deplorable conditions goes to an almost unregulated industry sector riding on "flexible" pollution norms. Be it small or big industry, the environment is continuously being degraded by these units in the industrial hub of Ludhiana. The furnaces, dyeing units, electroplating units, foundries, brick kilns or iron

moulding units, all are contributing immensely to polluting the city environment. The illegal and harmful discharge and disposal of industrial waste and effluents has reached a crescendo in Punjab. The Giaspura disaster, an outcome of disposal of industrial effluents in the local sewer network became a nightmare in minutes and snuffed out lives. Small units run from homes and single-room tenements are accorded tacit nod to operate as a result these boot-strapped units running on shoestring budgets have never heard of waste treatment plants, let alone afford them. As a result, the liquid and solid waste management rules framed by the National Green Tribunal in 2016 are alien to the industry operators. But the state pollution control board's (PCB) apathy is glaring and possibly this is why the local police authorities have warned the PCB officials in Giaspura to find out the offending parties that have caused the gas leak or be ready to be included in the FIR. Many more towns and cities in India have an inter-

mix of residences and industries, for example, Kanpur city maybe at the threshold of disasters that may unfold anytime. This requires more funds, infrastructure and manpower, however, the government must not see this as an expense but more as an investment because new industries especially small and medium-scale enterprises will spell the growth of the economy and if these units are not set up and run as per norms, the nation will have to pay major social and environmental costs in future. Growth and prosperity cannot be at the cost of human and environmental loss. This is not the definition of inclusive growth. Businesses that are not environmentally sustainable are at best set up and run for the short term and cannot grow to be larger companies of the future. Every state in India must champion the concept of Sustainable Entrepreneurship and that alone can bring accountability to every business operator towards the environment and prevent collision of business and environmental interests. (The writer is a policy analyst)



KOTA SRIRAJ

## Men not dogs are real killers

Chronicles of atrocities that make one's stomach turn

There have been, of late, several reports of stray dogs attacking people but perhaps only one of the savage atrocities humans have perpetrated on stray dogs. Three such incidents are cited below as one should not get away with the impression that humans are innocent, helpless victims of vicious, predatory street canines.

According to a report in The Indian Express datelined April 13, 2023, a group of local people had tied a stray dog's limbs with ropes in the Garden City of the Sahnewal area in Ludhiana and beat it mercilessly for hours. They removed the body after it died. The incident occurred late on Monday, April 10 but it was only on 12 April that the police filed a First Information Report (FIR) on the complaint by Mani Singh, a member of People for Animals and the president of an NGO, 'Help for Animals'. A local animal lover had recorded a video of the incident on his phone. It suggested that the accused had lured the dog with eatables, tied its limbs and choked its mouth with ropes, and beat it to death.

The report in The Indian Express stated that an FIR under Sections 428 (Mischief by killing or maiming animal of the value of ten rupees), 429 (Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the value of fifty rupees) of IPC, and Section 11 (A) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was registered against the accused at the Sahnewal police station. The report cited sub-inspector Harmeet Singh, the officer investigating the case, as saying that the residents claimed that the dog used to bite strangers, which infuriated a group that assaulted it.

The claim that the dog was biting strangers had all the trappings of a post-facto justification for a heinous crime. There could have been a demand for identifying the victims and proving that the dog had bitten them if it was said that they were people from the locality. On the other hand, one could argue that the victims were strangers who were untraceable. That possibility that the



claim that the dog was biting strangers was fabricated, is further suggested by the fact that the report of the incident in Hindustan Times cites Mani Singh as saying that the accused had started making the excuse that the dog was biting local people. Not just that. The report also stated that it had been killed for allegedly defecating on the streets. Lies have a way of contradicting one another.

In another horrifying incident, nearly two dozen students and staff of Don Bosco Technical Institute in Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi, had, according to a NEWSTRACK report, savagely beat a pregnant bitch to death. A video showed the bitch silently hiding in a tin shed and a student approaching it with a baseball bat. Soon many more students arrived with baseball bats and attacked the bitch when it came out, beating it to death. As the video went viral and animal activists demanded strong action. New Friends Colony police station registered an FIR and arrested four persons, all students of Don Bosco Institute of Technology



THE CLAIM THAT THE DOG WAS BITING STRANGERS HAD ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF A POST-FACTO JUSTIFICATION FOR A HEINOUS CRIME

who were seen in the video. And why did the accused murder the bitch so cruelly? The NEWSTRACK report quoted the police as saying that they were upset with the bitch barking at them!

A report datelined 29 January 2016, by Vivek Surendran in India Today, records a Facebook post by a student, Haardikaa Goswamy, narrating an act of stomach-turning cruelty with which some people treated a stray dog in a housing colony in Chandigarh. The dog, according to Goswamy's account, arrived in the colony two months before the incident. Though he was frail, people feared him and some of them even called a dog-catcher to get rid of him. He, however, had become a pet of the colony's children who gave him food, water and care. They even collected money to get him vaccinated against rabies hoping that this would prevent him from being killed or removed.

According to Goswamy, however, some people tied him to a tree and savagely beat him with lathis, pushing away the children who tried to save

him. Even their attempt to record the incident was foiled as the video was deleted. Meanwhile, someone informed the police. The policemen, however, started beating the half-dead dog. Haardikaa Goswamy reportedly further stated that the dog was then put in a sack and taken away. The children, who had no idea whether the dog was dead or alive, were reportedly looking for him, hoping to find him alive.

Not surprisingly, Erich Fromm wrote in The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness: "If human aggression were more or less at the same level as that of other mammals—particularly that of our nearest relative, the Chimpanzee—human society would be rather peaceful and non-violent. But this is not so. Man's history is a record of extraordinary destructiveness and cruelty and human aggression it seems, far surpasses that of that of man's animal ancestors, and man is in contrast to most animals, a real killer."

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### BAN ON BAJRANG DAL AND PFI

Sir — I think Congress has struck the right chord by announcing a ban of PFI and Bajrang Dal, but still Congress party didn't directly say that it will ban Bajrang Dal. The Congress party knows very well that banning an outfit is not possible by a State Government. It is said by the Congress party that they will take firm and decisive action against individuals and organizations spreading enmity and hatred, whether among majority or minority communities. Further Congress party rightly said we believe that law and constitution are sacrosanct and cannot be violated by hate mongers.

Bajrang Dal took responsibility for vandalizing churches and Mosques in the country. A Muslim youth was assaulted by Bajrang Dal for talking to a woman Hindu friend. Bajrang dal in Karnataka created havoc against Hijab, Halal meat and boycotting

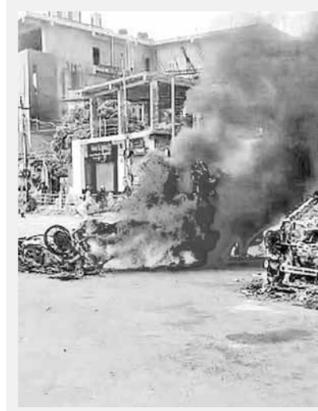
Muslim traders. A Muslim trader was killed by a Bajrang dal activist for selling Halal meat. The law and order were spoiled in Karnataka by the dictates of Bajrang dal activists. It is hard to forget how Bajrang dal activists killed Graham Stuart Staines an Australian Christian Missionary along with his two sons Phillips and Timothy were burnt to death in our country. Now BJP Party terms the Congress party's move as an insult to Lord Hanuman and the height of appeasement is nothing but diverting the issue. BJP Party and its leaders should know that Lord Hanuman is different and banning Bajrang dal is different, and these leaders should know that the Bajrang Dal is an organization that is converting the country into hatred and violence.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

#### SAVE HERITAGE

Sir — Your editorial 'Save Heritage' (4-5-23) disturbs the sentiments of have-nots. No doubt, occupying the area of ASI cannot be endorsed by anyone to be right. There is a vast sheet of temple lands occupied by many bigwigs not questioned by

#### Manipur boiling



That major clashes erupted between two massive groups in Manipur state over scheduled Tribe status requiring Army to control is unfortunate. The High Court order there asking the state government to include and forward to the union government one group into the list of STs is a fresh cause for concern. The ethnic group named Meities who are majority there in population as well as in political representation are seeking scheduled Tribe status for a long. Now as the High Court order has come in support of their demand, the apprehensive tribal groups have come to the streets against the verdict. The protracted issue cannot be sorted out legally which needs a dialogue between the groups in the society. All political parties there should act above the political calculations and help the situation to come under control.

Dr. DVG Sankararao | Vizianagaram

anyone. The fact that no one can deny is that such an occupation can happen only with the blessings of some powerful political party or leader. Poor man, though badly in need of a small place to shelter himself with his dependents, never ventures on his own to occupy a place and have his hut or small structure. The question is, are these poor people on the road? But those under whose encouragement or blessings such occupation was done remain silent spectators not even questioned. The law needs to be corrected to hold them responsible and rehabilitation should be provided for the evacuees. Appreciating the demolition sprays more chilly powder on the wounds.

G Rajmohan | Anantapur

#### BJP IS SHELTERING CRIMINALS

Sir — After the intervention of the apex court, Delhi police which have been altogether reluctant to register an FIR against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, President Wrestling Federation of India against sexual harassment of the players had to reg-

ister two FIRs. It should be remembered that it is not a solitary case where the BJP has been giving shelter to notorious criminals of the party. The reason is clear — Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is a six-time MP from the BJP. Further people have to recall the notorious Kuldeep Singh Sengar also a BJP MLA, who was accused of the rape of a 17-year-old minor girl case in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. It was only after the High Court's intervention that the CBI was handed over the case and eventually Sengar was arrested and sentenced. There was another complaint against the Haryana sports minister, Sandeep Singh, of sexual harassment. Besides, the Kathua rape case and an endless list of criminals are still in the minds of the people. The BJP's attitude to charges of sexual harassment levelled against its leaders and even ministers is one of trying to shield them and avoid action.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

**PLI GIVES A NEW LIFE TO THE SOLAR INDUSTRY**

The PLI scheme is a big step towards making India energy independent



KUNAL SAXENA

Electrification is an essential lever for India to grow. For electrification to be aligned with the net-zero target, renewable energy development is an absolute must. Renewable energy production requires equipment like solar modules, wind turbines etc. Talking about solar energy, currently, there is 38 GW of manufacturing capacity of solar modules in India, but the upstream products are largely missing from the Indian territory. This renders the Indian solar module manufacturers exposed to the vagaries of foreign suppliers for the ancillary and upstream materials viz. solar cells, wafers, polysilicon etc., in turn making Indian solar modules uncompetitive.

Therefore, the need is to develop a full-blown solar manufacturing ecosystem in India. For this, the Government of India came up with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme where the bidders were required to bid based on the extent of integration, technology, and local sourcing. The PLI – tranche 1 of INR 4500 cr. was concluded in 2021 with a total winning capacity of ~ 9 GW, while the PLI – tranche 2 of INR 19500 cr. is recently concluded with a winning capacity of ~ 40 GW.

In the recent PLI- tranche 2 bid, a bidder was supposed to quote the extent of integration, manufacturing capacity to be installed, efficiency & temperature co-efficient of the module and local value addition to be achieved each year. Also, sales volume is a factor in the PLI subsidy calculation. So, the bidder is expected to sell the solar modules of the committed technology while maintaining the local value addition. In case, during bidding, a bidder gets over-optimistic in technology to grasp a higher PLI amount, it may act against the bidder when it comes to selling the modules, for the said module might be expensive thereby facing limited offtake.



Against this, if a bidder quotes a technology, which becomes obsolete at the time of selling the modules, the bidder is expected to face push-back from the customers. So, the government has left it to the industry's prudence to decide on the module technology. The same goes for local value addition. PLI scheme has mandated a trajectory of % local value addition on a y-o-y basis. E.g., in the "Cell + Module" category, starts with a minimum of 50% in the first year and goes to 75% in the 5th year. If we look at the current scenario, most of the cost-sensitive raw materials viz. wafers, silver paste, module BOM etc. are imported. This leaves the local value addition to 35% - 40%. Given this, it is up to the industry to develop the ancillary capacities and make the scheme a success. The PLI indirectly addresses the ancillary development in India. Overall, the scheme's success would position India more strongly in its energy supply chain while minimizing India's import bill.

Moreover, once an industry's ecosystem is developed, it cross-pollinates with other industries. With a big downstream capacity announcement, every related industry smells the opportunity. Currently, process equipment and robotics manufacturing is completely missing from the ecosystem. This may lay a foundation for that.

The PLI scheme brings a new life to the solar manufacturing landscape of India and prompts the industry to choose what's best for it. It directly addresses the need for home production of solar modules and is a big step towards making India independent in terms of Energy. Besides this, the benefits associated with installing a technology manufacturing sector come with a big bonus. There are examples in manufacturing history when the development of a manufacturing ecosystem brought in development in other industries. This provides a multiplier effect to the Indian economy and helps boost the GDP growth, making India truly an "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

(The writer is General Manager- Strategic Initiatives, Amp Energy India)

**Opposition unity is a failed project: Manohar Lal Khattar**

The Haryana CM remains unfazed despite Opposition unity bids. In an interview, he tells Manish Anand that such attempts don't work



Haryana also has at least three big political players in the state. How do you look at the prospect of the Opposition unity and what impact will there be in Haryana? Khattar: This is nothing new. The Opposition unity plank is a failed project. They tried in the past also but failed miserably. The Opposition parties have tried all tricks in the 2019 elections, but the people rejected them. The Opposition parties fail to realise that they have a disconnect with the people. Congress has unveiled a slew of measures such as cash allowances for the unemployed, free electricity and several other promises.

Will Congress pose a challenge in the Haryana Assembly elections next year? Khattar: The people in Haryana are very proud and they have no appetite for freebies. The BJP government in Haryana has shown that good governance can guide the people to a fast path of progress and prosperity. Before the BJP government took office in Haryana, the losses of electricity were to the extent of over 34 per cent. But we explained to the people the benefits of paying the electricity bills. 'Jag Mag Gaon Yojna' was thus born, and the villagers began paying electricity bills for a 24-hour electricity supply. With electricity in villages, the people engaged in gainful activities, which improved their incomes. We have shown that good governance with the right intention can change the situation for the better. Thus, there are no takers for freebies in Haryana.

The Narendra Modi government at the Centre will complete nine years on May 30. What are your thoughts? Khattar: The Modi government has shown good governance. The employment of technology in governance has brought benefits to the people. The use of technology also weeded out corruption. The benefits of good governance are reaching out to the

people on a great scale.

In the last eight years, how many people have come out of the poverty line?

Khattar: The Centre mandates states to screen the people below the poverty line with an income cut-off line of Rs 1.20 lakh per family annually. But Haryana has a very high per capita income, and the poor as discussed in the cases of other states may not be here in Haryana. So, we decided that the state government will screen people in the BPL category with an annual income ceiling of Rs 1.80 lakh, much above what the Centre mandated. At the same time, we launched a massive exercise backed by IT to prepare 'Parivar Pehchan Patra', which fetches all data based on the field surveys on the basis of criteria. This has enabled a system of automatic inclusion and exclusion of the people in the BPL list based on their income.

There are currently 31.5 lakh people on the BPL list. But there may be scopes for the exclusion of genuine people because of the system error.

Khattar: Even in the case of exclusion, ration doesn't stop automatically. Such people continue to get ration for three months during which they can challenge the exclusion which will be checked with another round of field inspection. But we have been able to exclude over nine lakh such families who were filing income tax returns and holding government or private jobs from the BPL list. In place, we added over 12 lakh families who were previously deprived of their right to free foodgrains.

Is there any consideration to include families who may have a marginally higher income than the ceiling of Rs 1.80 lakh annually?

Khattar: We are contemplating including another eight lakh families in the ambit of the ration scheme with the monthly cost of Rs 3000 shared equally by the government and the beneficiaries. We seek to cover families with an annual income of Rs 1.80 lakh to Rs 3 lakh. You are leading a coalition government in Haryana.

Will there be a possibility of a pre-poll adjustment with the ally JJP? Khattar: The BJP contested the 2019 Haryana Assembly elections on its own. We formed an alliance government after the elections. Therefore, the BJP will contest the next year's poll once more on its own. Haryana mandates that 75 per cent of the unskilled workforce is sourced from within the state.

What is the impact on the industries?

Khattar: The industries have positively adopted the measure, which is also prevalent in several other states. We have launched an initiative whereby we have become a facilitator to bring employees and employers together. The first lot of demand was for 6,000 unskilled employees and we provided over profiles of 12000 candidates whose records are already verified by the government department. This eliminates middlemen and also ensures that the employees avail of all statutory benefits and get full payments.

Does the Haryana government

also give incentives to the industries for hiring locally?

Khattar: We have divided Haryana into four categories, from Group A to Group D. Haryana government extended monthly support of Rs 4,000 per employee to industries in Group D as part of an initiative to promote the industrialization of such districts.

How has Haryana employed technology in governance?

Khattar: Haryana has a very robust technology-enabled governance model. Farmers upload details of their cultivable land on the designated portal and they get benefits as given under the existing schemes. Bhavantar Yojna under which the state government pays the difference between the Minimum Support Price and the prevailing market price is fully executed through the portal. We have eliminated the scope of the middle class. Even in the case of the farmers leaving their land fallows, they are automatically paid compensation.

What changes are being seen in agriculture in Haryana?

Khattar: Farmers in Haryana are highly progressive. Farmers here are also environmentally sensitive and open to adopting the best tools and techniques. We launched 'Mera Pani, Meri Virasat' to encourage farmers to sustainable agriculture. Paddy is a water-intensive crop. We want farmers to shift from paddy cultivation to other crops which require less water. In the last few years, a significant number of farmers have shifted away from paddy to take up short-duration crops, which are also highly remunerative.



HARYANA HAS A VERY ROBUST TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED GOVERNANCE MODEL. FARMERS UPLOAD DETAILS OF THEIR CULTIVABLE LAND ON THE DESIGNATED PORTAL AND THEY GET BENEFITS AS GIVEN UNDER THE EXISTING SCHEMES

**Major takeaways from Mann Ki Baat after 100 episodes**

PM Modi is clear that to realise his grand plans, support of all Indians is needed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio outreach programme Mann ki Baat's 100th episode has indicated a host of geopolitical underpinnings that could have a long-term impact on India at the regional level at the least. Apart from 22 Indian languages and 29 dialects, Mann Ki Baat was broadcast in 11 foreign languages including French, Chinese, Indonesian, Tibetan, Burmese, Baluchi, Arabic, Pashto, Persian, Dari (a dialect of the Persian language spoken in Afghanistan) and Swahili besides English.

The choice of foreign languages for the broadcast like Chinese, Indonesian, Tibetan, Burmese, Baluchi, Pashto and Dari is indicative of the Prime Minister's confidence to enhance support on the cultural



RAKESH SINGH

(The writer is a special correspondent, The Pioneer)

front from people outside India, especially countries that were part of India over two millennia back.

The outreach is intended for these regions and several related cultural aspects were covered in the 100th episode, which is important in the current context. The areas where Chinese, Indonesian, Tibetan, Burmese, Baluchi, Pashto and Dari are spoken were under Chandragupta Maurya empire (350-295 BCE).

The choice of these foreign languages used for the broadcast coincides with the Akhand Bharat map. The areas in which these languages are spoken have been separated from the Akhand Bharat in the historical past. Geopolitical analysts said the disintegration of the common cultural fabric



also referred to as sindhu ghati ki sabhyata (Indus Valley Civilisation) from the Akhand Bharat is indicative of the pain the Prime Minister feels for the historical shift.

However, the experts pointed out that the outline of the Akhand Bharat in Modi's vision is more focused on coexisting cultural values and not religion-based as either Islam

or Buddhism is prevalent in these regions. The policy also discounts military integration for assimilation. The vision is also indicative of Modi's strong adherence to the parent organization's ideology and willingness to accommodate people of various cultural backgrounds if Akhand Bharat becomes a reality. Modi's strong bond with the BJP's par-

ent organization RSS is also explicit.

The vision and the discreet implementation of the idea are a pointer that Prime Minister Narendra Modi relies mostly on National Security Advisor Ajit Doval for policies related to this. Doval directly deals with the region in which these languages are spoken. He has also spent several years on the ground in this region.

The vision is also indicative of a grand strategy for the next five years where India will challenge, compete and contain China through the cultural initiative. The challenge, competition and contain strategy will make India more secure and help New Delhi create a regional cultural umbrella. With the execution of the grand strategy, the

Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb concept formulated by the Britishers to maintain law and order will fade with a broader cultural concept like the revival of Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata covering Balochs, Tibetans, Muslims and Hindus, experts said.

"To fulfil this strategy, the cultural and moral support of the Balochs in Balochistan, Tibetans in China and Pashtuns in Afghanistan is envisioned. All of these groups-- Balochs, Tibetans and Pashtuns are opposed to China. The strategy aims to make India more relevant by supporting these groups who harbour anti-China sentiment", Geopolitical analyst Dr Rituraj Mate told The Pioneer. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a clear understanding that it is not

easy to realize the grand strategy unless the support of all Indians is enlisted, a reason why the Mann ki Baat programme is being broadcast in 22 regional languages and 29 dialects across the country, Dr Mate said.

The vision further highlights the willingness to expose the original concept of Hindutva ideology which postulates vasudhaiva kutumbakam (the world is one family) and implement the grand strategy through cultural interventions as military means can neither be afforded nor is sustainable in the current era. The cultural influence of India will not increase unless significant acceptance from a cross-section of people in the region is garnered across geographies, he added.

# Sunak admits 'disappointing' first electoral test outcome

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Friday admitted it was a "disappointing" run for the governing Conservative Party, with the Opposition Labour and Liberal Democrat parties making significant gains in the local elections.

Voters went to the polls on Thursday to elect local representatives in 230 of England's 317 councils in what marked Sunak's first electoral test at the ballot box since the British Indian leader took charge at 10 Downing Street in October 2022. Even as the results continue to be counted, Labour gained control of some of its top target councils including Medway in south-east England which has been under Tory control for 20 years. Pollsters had forecast that a loss of fewer than 1,000 seats for the governing Tories would be seen as a good result for Sunak, given that the government usually faces a drubbing in

local polls close to a general election – which is expected towards the second half of next year. However, that threshold seems set to be crossed and will add immense pressure on the British Indian leader within his own party ranks.

"It is always disappointing to lose hardworking Conservative councillors," said Sunak as the early results and trends poured in. "I'm not detecting any massive groundswell of movement towards the Labour Party," the 42-year-old prime minister stressed. However, the Opposition parties have declared the results a big sign of things to come in the general election.

"Make no mistake, we are on course for a Labour majority at the next general election. We've won the trust and confidence of voters and now we can go on and change our country," said Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer. Starmer travelled to Medway to celebrate his party's victory in the Kent council with



local activists. "You didn't just get it over the line, you blew the doors off," he told the crowd. He said Labour were "on course" to win a majority at the next general election. Liberal Democrat Leader Sir Ed Davey, meanwhile, described the results as a "ground-breaking night" for his party. "The Liberal Democrats are the big winners in this year's

local elections," he declared. While poll experts are striking a note of caution to say that local elections have never proven to be very reliable indicators for a general election, the mood music around Sunak having taken over a deeply divided party without the backing of the wider British electorate has only got louder. "The clear message of the night is indeed that the Conservatives have done badly," polling expert John Curtice told the BBC.

"The slightly more difficult thing for the Labour Party is that yes, it has hit some of its targets and it has made significant gains already, [but] it is having to share the spoils with other Opposition parties. "And in particular, the one niggle the Labour Party will really have I think about these results if it continues is that yes, the swing in the local elections is almost what you would expect from the national polls — but not quite," he cautioned.



Writer Monserrat Luna-Ballantyne, right, wears a Darth Vader mask while doing fellow members of The Writers Guild of America to picket outside of Universal Studios on Thursday in Universal City, Calif. The first Hollywood strike in 15 years commenced Tuesday as the 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America stopped working when their contract expired AP | PTI

## Biden sending top aide to meet with Saudi crown prince

Washington (AP): US President Joe Biden is dispatching one of his top advisers to Saudi Arabia to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto leader of the oil-rich kingdom, later this week.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Thursday he will travel to Saudi Arabia on Saturday for talks with Saudi officials and will also meet with his counterparts from the United Arab Emirates and India during his visit.

Sullivan said he would "discuss new areas of cooperation between New Delhi and the Gulf, as well as the United States and the rest of the region." India and UAE last year signed a comprehensive economic partnership aimed at improving ties between the two countries.

Sullivan is expected to meet with the crown prince, who is often referred to by his initials MBS, during the visit, according to a person familiar with Sullivan's travel plans who was not authorised to publicly discuss that element of them.

## Erdogan faces tough election amid earthquake, inflation

AP ■ ANKARA

Early in his political career, a devastating earthquake and economic troubles helped propel Recep Tayyip Erdogan to power in Turkey. Two decades later, similar circumstances are putting his leadership at risk.

The highly divisive and populist Erdogan is seeking a third consecutive term as president on May 14, after three stints as prime minister, which would extend his rule into a third decade. He already is Turkey's longest-serving leader.

The presidential and parliamentary elections could be the most challenging yet for the 69-year-old Erdogan. Most opinion polls point to a slight lead by his opponent, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who heads the secular, centre-left Republican People's Party, or CHP. The outcome of the presidential race could well be determined in a runoff vote May 28.

Erdogan is facing a tough test in this election because of public outrage over rising infla-

tion and his handling of the February 6 earthquake in southern Turkey that killed over 50,000 people, levelled cities and left millions without homes. His political adversaries say the government was slow to respond and that its failure to enforce building codes is to blame for the high death toll.

Some even point to government malfeasance after a 1999 earthquake in northwestern Turkey near the city of Izmit that killed about 18,000 people, saying that taxes imposed from that disaster were misspent and worsened the effects of this year's quake.

The political party founded by Erdogan in 2001 came to power amid an economic crisis and the Izmit quake. His Justice and Development Party, or AKP, capitalised on public anger over government mishandling of the disaster, and Erdogan became prime minister in 2003 and has never relinquished leadership of the country. Still, even with resent-

ment directed toward Erdogan over his handling of the February quake and the economy, analysts caution against underestimating him, pointing to his enduring appeal among working- and middle-class religious voters who had long felt alienated by Turkey's former secular and Western-leaning elites. Erdogan's nationalist policies, often confrontational stance against the West and moves that have raised Islam's profile in the country continue to resonate among conservative supporters. They point to an economic boom in the first half of his rule that lifted many people out of poverty, adding that his past successes are proof of his ability to turn things around. "There is an economic crisis in Turkey, we can't deny it. And yes, this economic crisis has had a huge impact on us," said Sabit Celik, a 38-year-old shop owner selling cleaning products in Istanbul. "But still, I don't think anyone else (but Erdogan) can come and fix this."

## 'US effort to extradite Assange not worth it'

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed frustration at the United States' continuing efforts to extradite WikiLeaks founder and Australian citizen Julian Assange, saying: "There is nothing to be served by his ongoing incarceration." Albanese's comments Friday in an Australian Broadcasting Corp. interview appeared to escalate diplomatic pressure on the United States to drop the charges against the 51-year-old Assange, who has spent four years in Britain's Belmarsh Prison fighting extradition to the United States.

Before that, Assange had taken asylum for seven years in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Albanese said Assange's case had to be examined in terms of whether the time Assange had "effectively served" was in excess of what would be "reasonable" if the allegations against him were proved.

"I just say that enough is enough. There is nothing to be served by his ongoing incarceration," Albanese said.

"I know it's frustrating, I share the frustration. I can't do more than make very clear what my position is and the U.S. administration is certainly very aware of what the Australian government's position is," Albanese added.

Assange has battled in British courts for years to avoid being sent to the U.S., where he faces 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse that stem from WikiLeaks' publication of a huge trove of classified documents in 2010. American prosecutors allege he helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

To his supporters, Assange is a secrecy-busting journalist who exposed US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Several MoUs to be signed, Jewish Trail to be inaugurated next week

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

India and Israel are expected to sign several MoUs next week to boost bilateral trade with a focus on agritech, energy, tourism and healthcare during Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen's visit to New Delhi, a top Israeli trade body official has said. Cohen, who will be on a three-day visit to India from May 9 to 11, will also inaugurate a "Jewish trail" in Mumbai.

A business delegation of 25 multi-sectoral companies will be accompanying the Israeli foreign minister during his trip to explore opportunities, along with members of leading economic organisations who will be signing MoUs with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Anat Bernstein-Reich, President of the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce, told PTI.

Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce, The Israeli Manufacturers Association (IMA) and the Israeli Export

Institute will all be signing MoUs with CII.

"The growing trade relations between Israel and India require a stronger collaboration between the economic organisations of the two sides. CII has been a close friend of our Chamber and we are planning to host several of their delegations in the near future. As part of the I2U2 programme, we hosted in Israel a delegation of CII from UAE and India. We are planning an I2U2 event in India soon", Bernstein-Reich said. From a humble beginning of USD 200 million in bilateral trade (primarily in diamonds) in 1992 when full diplomatic relations were established between the two countries, merchandise trade has diversified and reached USD 7.86 billion (excluding defence) during the period 2021-2022.

In addition, bilateral trade in services in 2021 was USD 1.1 billion and in FY 2022-23 bilateral merchandise trade from April to December 2022 stood

at USD 8.09 billion (excluding defence).

I2U2, a quad comprising India, Israel, UAE and the United States was unveiled during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Israel in October 2021 and since then it has held several meetings, including one in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated along with the top leaders of the other three countries involved.

The quad has indicated a firm commitment to enhancing the economic interests of the involved nations by putting in place projects related to ensuring food security and strengthening the renewable energy sector. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs earlier this week conducted the India Forum with the participation of several ministries with the aim of enhancing governmental coordination leading to a larger trade, innovation, tourism and cultural collaboration, Bernstein-Reich said.

## 1 killed, 13 hurt in Japan earthquake

AP ■ TOKYO

A strong, shallow earthquake hit central Japan on Friday afternoon, killing at least one person and injuring 13 others, but no tsunami warning was issued. The magnitude 6.2 quake struck Ishikawa prefecture on the west coast of Japan's main island of Honshu, the US Geological Survey said. The Japan Meteorological Agency measured the quake at 6.5 and said it was centred at a depth of about 12 kilometres (7.5 miles). One person was reported dead and at least 13 were injured in Suzu city at the northern tip of Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture, a city official said. He said six homes were damaged and rain could trigger mudslides, causing further damage. He did not say how the person died, but the Fire and Disaster Management Agency reported that a person was found without vital signs after falling from a ladder.

## Britain to start free trade with New Zealand, Australia

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Britain's free trade agreements with New Zealand and Australia will come into force by the end of this month, the leaders from the three nations said Friday.

The announcement came while the prime ministers from the two Southern Hemisphere nations are in London for the coronation of King Charles III. The deals are part of Britain's efforts to expand its economic ties after it left the European Union. Both deals were first agreed to in 2021. Zealand officials say its deal will help boost sales of products like wine, butter, beef and honey, and will increase the size of its economy by up to 1 billion New Zealand dollars (USD 629 million).

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said it was a gold-standard agreement. "The market access outcomes are among the very best New Zealand has secured in any

trade deal," Hipkins said in a statement.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the deal with New Zealand reflected the close relationship between the nations.

"This deal will unlock new opportunities for businesses and investors across New Zealand and the United Kingdom, drive growth, boost jobs, and, most importantly, build a more prosperous future for the next generation," Sunak said in a statement.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said it would mean more market access for its exporters. "So for beef, for our sheep products, for our seafood, for our other products it will mean much greater access to the British market," Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. in an interview.

Albanese said it would also mean greater access for younger Australians to work in Britain and vice versa after the terms of a working holiday arrangement were expanded.

## Gilded carriages, crown jewels polished up for coronation

PTI ■ LONDON

Charles, who acceded to the British throne on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II in September last year, will be formally crowned King at a solemn religious ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London on Saturday, last seen 70 years ago for his late mother.

Over 7,000 troops have been rehearsing into the early hours of the day in preparation for one of their most historic royal duties to date – to line up the procession route and the gilded horse-drawn carriage of Charles, 74, and Camilla, 75, to be ridden from Buckingham Palace for their Coronation.

While Saturday's ceremony will include many similar elements from Queen Elizabeth II's crowning in June 1953, there are several crucial changes – not least the cut-size congregation of 2,200 as compared to 8,000 of the past, as a nod to Charles' sustainable outlook in the face of a cost-of-living crisis facing the country. The many multi-faith elements incorporated into the Christian ceremony are also reflective of his more modern touch.

"It is my prayer that all who share in this service, whether they are of faith or no faith, will find ancient wisdom and new hope that brings inspiration and joy," said Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who will be presiding over the ceremony.

Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will read from the biblical book of Colossians soon after he and wife Akshata lead the host nation procession into the Abbey. House of Lords peers who belong to different faith traditions of Sikhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam will present key Regalia to the King.

While Lord Indrajit Singh, 90, will represent the Sikh faith and present the Coronation Glove, Lord Syed Kamall, 56, of Indo-Guyanese heritage, will represent the Muslim faith and present the Armills or a pair of bracelets. Lord Narendra

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Akshata Murty wife of the British Prime Minister greets the US First Lady Jill Biden on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street in London on Friday. The First Lady is in London to attend the Coronation of King Charles III, on Saturday AP/PTI

Babubhai Patel, 84, will represent the Hindu faith and hand over the Sovereign's Ring to Charles.

India will be represented at the gathering by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and his wife, Dr Sudeep Dhankhar.

On Saturday morning, the King and Queen will travel from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey in the Diamond Jubilee

State Coach created for Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate the 60th anniversary of her reign in 2012.

This horse-drawn carriage is the far more comfortable one of the two to feature in the two-way procession, including air-conditioning and shock absorbers. The less comfortable royal carriage, the ancient Gold State Coach, will be used for a

shorter return journey from the Abbey to the palace.

The Gold State Coach was last seen during the Pageant of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in June 2022 and was commissioned in 1760.

The Coronation Regalia, the heart of the Crown Jewels which remain at the Tower of London for public display at all other times as a set of sacred and secular objects which symbolise the service and responsibilities of the monarch, will get their full ceremonial outing.

Charles will be crowned King as the St. Edward's Crown is placed upon his head during the ceremony – which will be made up of five key elements: the Recognition; the Oath; the Anointing; the Investiture and Crowning; and the Enthronement and Homage.

Camilla will be crowned with St. Mary's Crown studded with Cullinan diamonds, having made the diplomatic choice to shun the customary crown embedded with the infamous Kohinoor diamond due to its colonial link with India.

## King to confer thank-you medals to thousands

PTI ■ LONDON

As a thank you gift from King Charles III, around 400,000 Coronation Medals will be handed out to the UK armed forces personnel and emergency frontline workers taking part in the historic ceremony on Saturday.

The UK government unveiled the design of the medal, which will be handed out to everyone actively contributing and supporting the Coronation, including choristers, police officers, military personnel and St. John Ambulance personnel, as well as those directly involved in the delivery of the mega event.

The design features a double portrait of King Charles and Queen Camilla on the front and a version of their Royal Cypher, a laurel wreath and the date of the Coronation on the

reverse. The ribbon is made up of red, blue and white vertical stripes – the colours of the UK's Union Flag and are made of nickel silver and plated in nickel.

"This medal is a symbol of the critical role our emergency services will play in this potentially once in a lifetime opportunity to honour our new King," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman. "However, it recognises not just those who are helping at the Coronation, but the heroes across our emergency services, such as the police, fire and rescue services, that go to work every day to protect and support us all," the Indian-origin minister said. The medals will also be given to serving frontline members of the police, fire, emergency services, prison services and armed forces that

have completed five full calendar years of service.

"The Coronation would not be possible without the dedication and selfless service shown by our armed forces and other public servants. This medal is a fitting recognition of their efforts, and a thank you from the nation. It will be worn with pride for years to come," said UK Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden.

The double portrait of the King and Queen Consort on the front of the newly unveiled Coronation Medal was designed by Martin Jennings who also designed the official effigy of the King for the new coins issued by the UK's Royal Mint. The Coronation Medal is made by Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd in Birmingham.

"The Coronation Medal will act as a reminder of the impor-

tant part each person has played in this moment of history. From our Armed Forces who protect our country to the emergency services who care for us at home, alongside those volunteers who are giving up their time to make this event so special, I am delighted that we can mark their contribution to this special day, and for each and every day that they go above and beyond serving their country," said UK Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer. "Our Armed Forces and the monarch have a unique bond. Our histories and customs mirror the reigns of Kings and Queens. Our deployments are in their names and our allegiance is sworn by each and every one of us. The Coronation Medal will celebrate that bond and allow huge numbers of service personnel to reaffirm that linkage as King Charles is crowned

our new monarch," added UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.

The tradition of Coronation Medals dates to the reign of King James I when the first medal was awarded in 1603, featuring a bust of James I wearing the costume of a Roman Emperor. Its reverse included a crowned lion rampant holding a beacon and a wheat sheaf. The estimated 400,000 Coronation Medal recipients for this weekend will include: individuals who have actively contributed to the official Coronation events in Westminster Abbey and processions, and other officially recognised ceremonial Coronation events; serving members of the Armed Forces who have completed five full calendar years of service on May 6 or participate in Armed Forces Coronation events during the course of 2023.

## British Indian chef Manju Malhi all set for her big day as guest

PTI ■ LONDON

When King Charles III is formally crowned Britain's monarch at a grand ceremony on Saturday, Indian-origin chef Manju Malhi will be among the chosen few British Empire Medal (BEM) recipients seated at Westminster Abbey in London.

She is among the last batch to be awarded a BEM by Charles' mother, late Queen Elizabeth II, for services to the community in London during the COVID-19 response. The medal recognised her work offering remote cookery classes to the old age charity Open Age during lockdown and got her the coveted Abbey invite to a gathering of an estimated



2,000 guests made up of community champions, charity representatives, world leaders and royalty.

"When I realised it is actually happening, I felt like gosh – who am I to be at one of the most historic moments in global history, sitting in the Abbey

watching the ceremony take place for real," shares Malhi.

"I'm quite nervous because normally I just cook and throw on some clothes and an apron. But this is almost like a wedding but more important than that. I think I have everything ready; I have to do a checklist like I do with my ingredients," she said.

Malhi has chosen British Indian fashion designer Geeta Handa to create an Indo-Western outfit that reflects her heritage and resonates with the regal theme of the day.

The result is a bespoke design, tailored from pure Indian broderie cotton to a vibrant royal blue tone and styled as a kameez over trousers.

# 8 killed in yet another Serbia shooting

AP ■ BELGRADE

A gunman apparently shot at random killed eight people and wounded 14 in three Serbian villages, authorities said, shaking a nation still in the throes of grief over a mass shooting a day earlier. Police arrested a suspect on Friday after an all-night manhunt. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic called on Thursday's shooting an attack on the whole nation.

It came a day after a 13-year-old boy used his father's guns to kill eight fellow students and a guard at a school in Belgrade, the capital.

The bloodshed sent shockwaves through a Balkan nation scarred by wars, but unused to mass murders. Though Serbia is awash with weapons left over from the wars of the 1990s, Wednesday's shooting was the first at a school in the country's modern history.

The last mass shooting before this week was in 2013, when a war veteran killed 13 people in a central Serbian village. Late Thursday, an attacker shot at people in three villages near Mladenovac, some 50



Police officers prepare for a chase in the village of Dubona, some 50 kilometers south of Belgrade, Serbia on Friday. AP/PTI

kilometers (30 miles) south of the capital. Vucic said the assailant targeted people "wherever they were."

"I heard some tak-tak-tak sounds," recalled Milan Prokic, a resident of Dubona, near Mladenovac. Prokic said he first thought people were shooting to celebrate a birth, as is tradition in Serbia. "But it wasn't that. Shame, great shame,"

Prokic added. Police said a suspect, identified by the initials UB, was arrested near the central Serbian town of Kragujevac, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Belgrade.

Authorities released a photo of the suspect in a police car, showing a young man in a blue T-shirt with an inscription and a map of part of Europe on

it. Vucic vowed to the nation in an address that the suspect "will never again see the light of the day." He referred to the attack as an act of terror, as is typical and announced a series of "anti-terrorist" measures, including the hiring of 1,200 policemen and putting a police officer on guard each day at schools. Before the second shooting, Serbia spent much of

Thursday reeling. Students, many wearing black and carrying flowers, filled streets around the school in central Belgrade as they paid silent homage to slain peers.

Serbian teachers' unions announced protests and strikes to warn about a crisis in the school system and demand changes. The same day, authorities moved to boost gun control, as police urged citizens to lock up their guns and keep them away from children. The government ordered a two-year moratorium on short-barrel guns and tougher sentences for people who enable minors to get hold of guns.

Under current law, a registered gun owner in Serbia must be over 18, healthy, and have no criminal record. Weapons must be kept locked and separately from ammunition. Wednesday's shooting at the Vladislav Ribnikar school also left seven people hospitalized, six children and a teacher. One girl who was shot in the head remains in life-threatening condition, and a boy is in serious condition with spinal injuries, doctors said Thursday.

# Pak ex-premier to face indictment on May 10

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

An Islamabad court on Friday announced that it will indict former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan on May 10 in a case in which he allegedly hid the proceeds from the sale of state gifts.

The Toshakhana case was filed against Khan last year after the Election Commission of Pakistan ruled that he failed to declare the funds he received after selling the gifts given by foreign dignitaries.

A toshkhana is a treasure house where gifts that are received as honour from foreign dignitaries are stored. Khan, 70, has challenged the maintainability of the case but Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar of the sessions court dismissed the pleas and objection regarding the jurisdiction after hearing arguments by the lawyers.

The judge announced to indict the accused, Khan and also summoned the chief of

TOSHA KHANA CASE



the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in person on the day of the indictment.

Earlier, the court had fixed February 7 to indict him but the process was deferred several times as Khan was not present and his lawyers also pressed to decide the issue of

maintainability of the case.

The case is based on the ECP ruling of November 22 last year that decided to hold a trial of Khan and later sent a reference to the court that he had misled officials about the gifts he had received from foreign dignitaries during his tenure as the prime minister.

The cricketer-turned-politician is currently facing over 140 cases registered against him under treason, terrorism, murder, attempted murder, blasphemy, and other charges.

Khan was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan.

In an informal chat with journalists in the Islamabad High Court on Thursday, Khan said that a double-hundred of cases would soon be filed against him.

# China biggest global jailer of journalists: Press group

AP ■ WASHINGTON

China was the biggest global jailer of journalists last year with more than 100 behind bars, according to a press freedom group, as President Xi Jinping's government tightened control over society.

Xi's government also was one of the biggest exporters of propaganda content, according to Reporters without Borders.

China ranked second to last on the group's annual index of press freedom, behind only neighbour North Korea.

The ruling Communist Party has tightened already strict controls on media in China, where all newspapers and broadcasters are state-owned.

Websites and social media are required to enforce censorship that bans material that might spread opposition to one-party rule.

Xi, China's most powerful

figure in decades, called during a 2016 meeting with journalists who had been awarded official prizes for them to adhere to "the correct orientation of public opinion."

Xi is pursuing a "crusade against journalism," Reporters Without Borders said in a report Wednesday. It called China's decline in press freedom "disastrous."

Beijing operates what is regarded as the world's most extensive system of internet controls.

Its filters try to block the Chinese public from seeing websites abroad operated by news outlets, governments and human rights and other activist groups.

Chinese journalists have been prosecuted on charges of spying, leaking national secrets and picking quarrels, a vague accusation used to jail dissidents. Others are subjected to surveillance, intimidation and harassment.

Journalist Dong Yuyu, who worked at a ruling party-

affiliated newspaper and is a former Harvard University fellow, faces espionage charges after being detained for more than one year, his family said last week.

In 2022, Chinese-born Australian journalist Cheng Lei was tried in China on national security charges but has yet to learn the verdict, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said in March.

Cheng worked for CGTN, the English-language state TV channel aimed at foreign audiences. She was detained in August 2019 and accused of sharing state secrets.

In Hong Kong, the Communist Party forced a prominent newspaper, Apple Daily, to shut down as part of a crackdown on pro-democracy sentiment.

Apple Daily's founder, Jimmy Lai, was convicted of fraud last year that his supporters said were politically motivated. Six other former executives of the newspaper pleaded guilty.

# Foreign ministers of Pak, China & Af to meet in Islamabad

Islamabad (PTI): The foreign ministers of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan will meet here for a trilateral meeting on Saturday that aims to forge cooperation on the vexed Afghan issue and also have bilateral interactions with top Pakistani leaders.

Pakistan's Foreign Office in two separate statements confirmed the visit of Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang and acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to attend the 5th China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, of which Pakistan is a member.

"China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister H.E. Qin Gang will pay an official visit to Pakistan on May 5 and 6, 2023. This would be his first official visit to Pakistan since assuming office," FO said in a statement. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and State Councillor Qin will co-chair the 4th round of the

Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue, which is a structured mechanism that reviews bilateral cooperation in key areas.

The two sides will reaffirm the abiding vitality of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership; develop a roadmap for multidimensional cooperation between Pakistan and China; and discuss the evolving regional and global landscape.

The 3rd round of the Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue took place in July 2021 in Chengdu, China.

Separately, FO said that Muttaqi will lead a high-level delegation, including Acting Afghan Minister for Commerce and Industry Haji Nooruddin Azizi, and senior officials from the Afghan ministries of foreign affairs, transport, and trade. "The visit of the Acting Afghan Foreign Minister is a continuation of Pakistan's political engagement process with Afghanistan," FO said.

# Russia's Wagner boss threatens Bakhmut pullout in Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

The owner of Russia's Wagner Group military contractor threatened on Friday to pull his troops out of the protracted battle for the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut next week, accusing Russia's military command of starving his forces of ammunition and causing them heavy losses.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, a notorious millionaire with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, claimed that Wagner had planned to capture Bakhmut by May 9. That day is a major Russian holiday marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

But, Prigozhin said, his force hasn't received enough artillery ammunition supplies from the Russian military since Monday.

Known for his bluster, Prigozhin has previously made unverifiable claims and made threats he hasn't carried out. Hours before releasing the

statement, Prigozhin's spokesperson published a video of him angrily demanding ammunition from Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff Chief Valery Gerasimov.

In the video, Prigozhin stands in front of around 30 uniformed bodies lying on the ground. He says they are the bodies of Wagner fighters who died on Thursday alone.

Prigozhin speaks in a furious tone and uses numerous expletives in the video.

"These are someone's fathers and someone's sons," Prigozhin says, pointing at the bodies. "The scum that doesn't give us ammunition will eat their guts in hell."

He alleged that Russia's regular army was supposed to protect the flanks as Wagner troops pushed forward but is "barely holding on to them," deploying "tens and rarely hundreds" of troops.

Russia's Defence Ministry did not immediately comment on the claims, and it was not possible to independently ver-

ify them. "Wagner ran out of resources to advance in early April, but we're advancing despite the fact that the enemy's resources outnumber ours five-fold," Prigozhin's statement said. "Because of the lack of ammunition, our losses are growing exponentially every day."

The Wagner Group has spearheaded the struggle for control of Bakhmut, which is the longest — and likely bloodiest — battle of the war.

The more than eight months of fighting there is believed to have cost thousands of lives, though neither side is saying how many.

Prigozhin has toured Russian prisons to recruit fighters, promising inmates pardons if they survive a half-year tour of front-line duty with Wagner. Western countries and United Nations experts have accused Wagner mercenaries of committing numerous human rights abuses throughout Africa, including in the Central African Republic, Libya and Mali.

# Canada mulls expulsion of Chinese diplomat for targeting lawmaker

AP ■ TORONTO

Canada's foreign minister said on Thursday the country is considering the expulsion of Chinese diplomats over an intelligence agency report saying one of them plotted to intimidate the Hong Kong relatives of a Canadian lawmaker. Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said her department was summoning China's ambassador to a meeting to underline that Canada won't tolerate such interference.

She said the intelligence agency report indicated that opposition Conservative lawmaker Michael Chong and his Hong Kong relatives were targeted after Chong criticised Beijing's human rights record. "We're assessing different options including the expulsion of diplomats," Joly said before a Parliament committee.

Canada's spy agency has not released details publicly. Chong has said the report identifies a Toronto-based diplomat as being part of the plot. Chong has been critical of Beijing's treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang province. "I cannot imagine the shock and concern of learning that your loved ones have been targeted in this way," Joly said to Chong at the committee hearing. "There will be consequences." Chong said the diplomat should be on the first plane out of Canada.

"It is inexplicable that this diplomat hasn't been told to leave the country already," he said. "If we do not take this course of action we are basically putting up a giant billboard for all authoritarian states around world that says we are open to foreign interference targeting Canadian citizens. That's why this individual needs to be sent packing." Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu denied interference in a statement and warned



against expelling its diplomats.

Once again, China strongly urges the Canadian side to immediately stop this self-directed political farce, and not go further down the wrong and dangerous path. Should the Canadian side continue to make provocations, China will play along every step of the way until the very end," Cong said. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday that he did not learn of the spy agency report until a Globe and Mail article Monday, citing top-secret documents, said the spy agency had the intelligence. But Chong told Parliament that Canada's national security adviser informed him the 2021 report went to various points in government, including to the national security adviser at the time. Trudeau has ordered Canada's intelligence agencies to immediately inform lawmakers of any threats against them, regardless of whether those threats are considered credible.

Canada's spy agency didn't tell Chong about the targeting of his family until this week. Many governments, the UN, and human rights groups accuse China of sweeping a million or more people from its Uyghur community and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minority groups into detention camps, where many have said they were tortured, sexually assaulted, and forced to abandon their language and religion.

# 'Lanka's foreign reserves improves to USD 2.69 bn'

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Colombo (PTI): Debt-ridden Sri Lanka's foreign currency reserves improved to USD 2.69 billion in March 2023 from a mere USD 50 million in May last year, giving indications of marginal improvement of the island nation's economy, data from the Central Bank said on Friday.

Sri Lanka has been in financial turmoil and its total debt is USD 83.6 billion, of which foreign debt amounts to USD 42.6 billion externally and domestic debt amounts to USD 42 billion.

In April 2022, Sri Lanka declared its first-ever debt default, the worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948, triggered by forex shortages that sparked public protests.

According to Central Bank of Sri Lanka data, the island's foreign currency reserves had improved to 2.69 billion dollars in March 2023, an improvement from under 50 million in May last year.

Analysts said that the USD 2.69 billion, includes a 1.4 billion US dollar currency swap from China with conditions attached to its usage.

Therefore the usable reserves would be just 1.6 billion dollars, the analysts say. By May last year, the country was deeply plunged into its worst-ever economic crisis since 1948.

Reserves not sufficient to pay for imports led to shortages of essentials and power cuts.

Sri Lanka was then thrown a lifeline with an Indian line of credit worth USD 4 billion which paid for the imports of essentials and fuel. This triggered public protests which culminated in the resignation of the then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout which was released mid-March amounts to nearly 3 billion dollars to be disbursed over 4 years.

# Wickremesinghe calls for unity in solidarity to build affluent nation

PTI ■ COLOMBO

President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday called on Sri Lankans facing "troubled times" due to the unprecedented economic crisis to unite to rebuild an affluent nation. In his message on the occasion of Vesak Poya Day, Wickremesinghe, also the cash-strapped country's finance minister, said the timeless philosophy of the Buddha becomes a source of solace.

Vesak Poya Day commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Lord Buddha. The three events in his life are said to have happened on the same date.

The president, in his message, urged the people to rise above all differences and unite in these "troubled times."

"At this juncture of the



country's unprecedented economic crisis, the timeless philosophy of the Buddha becomes a source of solace," he said.

"Therefore, during these troubled times, it is imperative to rise above all differences and join together in unity and service as espoused by the Buddha, to overcome the dangers in pursuing a life of normality," Wickremesinghe said.

Wickremesinghe also granted presidential pardons to 988 inmates serving time for minor offences in the island's jails on the occasion, the NewsFirst news portal reported on Friday.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo organised a special exhibition on India's rich Buddhist Heritage as a part of the festivities in Colombo, the state-run Daily News newspaper reported.

Wickremesinghe, accompanied by Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay, senior ministers and other dignitaries, visited the exhibition at the soft opening of the Vesak Festival, jointly organised by the President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office and Gangaramaya Temple on Wednesday.

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# Ukraine delegate hits Russian official at Black Sea summit

Istanbul (AP): Ukrainian and Russian delegates have had to be separated after a scuffle during a meeting of Black Sea countries in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Oleksandr Marikovski, a Ukrainian member of parliament, landed several blows to the head of a Russian official after his Ukrainian flag was ripped from his hands during a summit at the Turkish parliament building on Thursday.

A video posted on Marikovski's Facebook page shows him waving the flag behind Russian delegate Ola Timofeeva as she records a video on her phone. A man approaches, grabs the flag and is chased by Marikovski.

During a brief altercation in parliament's hallway, Marikovski grabs the flag back, pushing the man in the face. Others separate the men and plead "please, no fight-

ing," Marikovski replies: "It's our flag. We're going to fight for this flag."

In a caption to his Facebook video, Marikovski wrote: "Paws off our flag, paws off Ukraine, Russian filth!"

The outburst happened at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, a grouping of 13 countries. It came a day before officials from Russia, Ukraine and Turkey were scheduled to meet in Istanbul to discuss extending the deal for exporting grain and fertiliser through Black Sea ports, which is due to expire on May 18.

The deal, which was first agreed last July, has allowed cargo ships to transport millions of tons of food for export safely through the Black Sea, despite the war in Ukraine.

# Nepal PM: Buddha inspired me to renounce violence

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" on Friday said he was inspired by Lord Buddha to abandon the path of violence after conquering many smaller states and adopt a peaceful path shown by him.

Addressing a special function on the occasion of Buddha Purnima organised at Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha, Prachanda compared himself with Maurya King Ashoka, who renounced violence after coming into the fold of Buddhism.

Recalling the historic incident of Maurya emperor Ashok transforming himself by shunning the path of war and adopt-



ing a peaceful way of life by following the teachings of Buddha, Prachanda said the same is true with the Nepalese Maoists, who renounced armed struggle and adopted peaceful politics through signing Comprehensive Peace Agreement (in 2006).

It is estimated that the 10-year-long conflict (1996-2006) resulted in the death of over 17,000 people. The Maoists rebel started an armed agitation in 1996 to overthrow the monar-

chy in Nepal and establish a people's system.

Prachanda said his party had abandoned the path of violence by signing the peace process as they are inspired by the teachings of Buddha. "This has also proven that peace and revolution are complementary to each other," he remarked. Nepal on Friday celebrated the 2567th Buddha Jayanti by organising various programmes. The special programme organised at Lumbini saw Prachanda as the chief guest. Speaking at the programme the Prime Minister further said that "the government is committed to resolving the instability and adverse economic situation that has currently surfaced in the country."

# CAs, CS, cost accountants brought under PMLA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chartered and cost accountants and company secretaries have been brought under the anti-money laundering law for five specified financial transactions, including buying and selling of any properties and management of bank accounts, undertaken on behalf of their clients.

A notification to this effect was issued by the Finance Ministry on May 3.

The five broad categories of financial transactions listed in the notification are buying and selling of immovable property; managing of client money, securities or other assets; management of bank, savings or securities accounts; organisation of contributions for the creation, operation or management of companies; and creation, operation or management of companies, limited liability partnerships or trusts, and buying and selling of business entities.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in a statement said chartered accountants have now become reporting entity for the purposes of these specified transactions.

"As a reporting entity they have to do KYC of all clients entering into above transac-

## Plan return filing to avoid last-minute rush: GSTN

**New Delhi (PTI):** GST Network has advised taxpayers to plan return filing and invoice uploading better and avoid the last-minute rush, which results in the clogging of GST systems.

It said that 20.05 lakh GSTR-3B returns were filed on April 20 -- the last day for filing tax returns for sales in March, resulting in a waiting queue on the GST system and causing inconvenience to some of the taxpayers.

Around 45 per cent of the returns filed on April 20 were either NIL returns (no tax liability and no ITC availment) or were such returns where no tax was paid in cash. It also highlighted that some taxpayers are uploading a large number of invoices (up to 27 lakhs) of the past period in one GSTR-1 on the due date of filing.

"Taxpayers are advised to inculcate a month-wise return filing discipline for all the B2B invoices for the month and avoid reporting invoices of the past period in one go, as such behaviour can adversely impact the queue

(waiting time) on the GST system," GSTN said in an advisory to taxpayers.

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) manages the technology backend of the indirect tax regime, which was launched on July 1, 2017. Currently, there are over 1.39 crore taxpayers registered under GST.

GSTN said it has upgraded its infrastructure over a period of time. However, it has observed that some taxpayers faced difficulty in filing GSTR-3B for March on April 20, 2023.

"On analysing the reasons, it was noted that a large number of taxpayers attempted to file GSTR-3B returns in the afternoon of the last day," it said. GSTN further said that taxpayers with 'Nil' returns can file them earlier and not wait for the last day to file GSTR-3B. It also suggested that taxpayers may use the SMS filing option to file NIL returns as it would be quicker and a more convenient way to file NIL returns and will also help to reduce the queue on the GST system.

tions and maintain record thereof," ICAI said.

It further said that ICAI will conduct an awareness programme for its members in relation to such financial transactions which are already prohibited on behalf of one's client, in the course of his or her profession.

"ICAI will also continue to work with the authorities and other regulators so that these changes are implemented in the right perspective and role of professionals is understood," ICAI added. The government has been tightening PMLA provisions in recent months to check black money.

In March, the Ministry had amended rules under the PMLA making it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to record financial transactions of politically exposed persons (PEP).

Also, financial institutions or reporting agencies were mandated to collect information about the financial transactions of the non-profit organisations or NGOs under the PMLA.

The government also made it mandatory for crypto exchanges and intermediaries dealing with virtual digital assets to do KYC of their clients and users of the platform.

# Sensex, Nifty fall over 1 per cent

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined more than 1 per cent at close on Friday dragged down by a heavy sell-off in index major HDFC twins.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 694.96 points or 1.13 per cent to settle at 61,054.29. During the day, it plunged 747.08 points or 1.20 per cent to 61,002.17.

The NSE Nifty fell 186.80 points or 1.02 per cent to end at 18,069.

Among the Sensex firms, HDFC Bank tumbled 5.80 per cent followed by HDFC which plummeted 5.57 per cent. Both the stocks fell sharply amid reports that the merged HDFC entity could see significant outflow.

"The Indian market was dragged down by heavy selling in HDFC twins on fears of post-merger fund outflow. In addition, the cues from global peers were lacklustre as the ECB raised rates by 25 bps and signalled the need for further rate hikes.

"Wall Street has witnessed prolonged selling pressure due to apprehensions in the banking sector about the strength of regional banks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj



Finserv, HCL Technologies, Infosys, Wipro and NTPC were the other major laggards.

Titan, UltraTech Cement, Maruti, Nestle, ITC and Larsen & Toubro were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Shanghai ended lower, while Hong Kong settled in the green.

European equity markets were trading higher. The US markets ended lower on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers on Thursday also as they bought equities worth Rs 1,414.73 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.59 per cent to USD 73.65 per barrel.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 555.95 points or 0.91 per cent to settle at 61,749.25 on Thursday. The Nifty had advanced 165.95 points or 0.92 per cent to end at 18,255.80.

# FinMin allows 22 finance cos to use Aadhaar-based verification for clients

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has allowed 22 financial companies, including Amazon Pay (India) and Hero FinCorp, to undertake Aadhaar-based authentication of clients.

The ministry, through a notification, said these 22 companies, which are already reporting entities under the PMLA, will be able to verify the identity of clients and beneficial owners' details using their Aadhaar numbers.

These 22 financial companies include Godrej Finance, Amazon Pay (India) Pvt Ltd, Aditya Birla Housing Finance, Tata Motors Finance Solution, IIFL Finance and Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said that while Aadhaar authentication of clients is made available as one of the modes of verification for banking companies, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) provides that Aadhaar authentication can also be adopted by reporting entities

other than banking companies as may be notified by the central government.

"Accordingly, the CG has notified a list of 22 financial institutions/intermediaries, which are permitted to use Aadhaar authentication to verify the identity of clients/beneficial owners," Jhunjhunwala said.

The other modes of verification prescribed under the Money Laundering Act include offline verification under the Aadhaar Act, use of a passport and any other officially valid document or modes of identification as may be notified by the central government, and the client has a voluntary choice to opt for the mode of verification.

"In the interest of safeguarding the identity information and authentication records of individuals, the Money Laundering Act prohibits reporting entities from storing the Aadhaar number or core biometric information of the client, where Aadhaar is used to verify identity," Jhunjhunwala added.

# Gold falls Rs 160; silver climbs Rs 650

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined Rs 160 to Rs 62,040 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid a fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 62,200 per 10 grams. Silver, however, climbed Rs 650 to Rs 77,950 per kg. "Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at Rs 62,040 per 10 grams, down Rs 160 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas market, gold was quoting lower at USD 2,040 per ounce and silver was up at USD 25.88 per ounce. Gold prices traded lower in Asian trading hours on Friday.

# India's forex reserves rise to USD 588.78 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves jumped USD 4.532 billion to USD 588.78 billion for the week ended April 28, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The overall reserves had dropped USD 2.164 billion to USD 584.248 billion in the previous reporting week.

In October 2021, the country's forex reserves had touched an all-time high of USD 645

billion. The reserves had been declining as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused mainly by global developments.

For the week ended April 28, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased nearly USD 5 billion to USD 519.485 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets

include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves dropped USD 494 million to USD 45.657 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 35 million to USD 18.466 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down USD 4 million to USD 5.172 billion in the reporting week.

# TVS Motors cumulative EV sales crossed more than one lakh units

Bengaluru (PTI):

TVS Motor Company's revenue from operations in the quarter ended March 2023 grew by 19% at Rs 6,605 Crores against Rs. 5,530 crores in the quarter ended March 2022.

Operating EBITDA for the fourth quarter is higher at 10.3%. The Company achieved record Operating EBITDA of Rs. 680 Crores for the fourth quarter with a growth of 22% as against Rs. 557 crores in fourth quarter of 2021-22. During the financial year 2022-23, revenue from operations grew by 27% at Rs. 26,378 Crores as against Rs. 20,791 Crores recorded in 2021-22.

During the year ended March 2023, the overall two and three-wheeler sales of TVS Motor Company, grew by 11% at 36.82 Lakh

units as against 33.10 Lakh units in the year 2021-22.

Motorcycles sales during the fiscal year recorded 17.33 Lakh units as against 17.32 Lakh units in the year ended March 2022. Scooter sales during the fiscal year grew by 45% at 13.34 Lakh units as against 9.23 Lakh units in the year ended March 2022.

Electric vehicles registered sales of 0.97 Lakh units in the year 2022-23 as against 0.11 Lakh units during 2021-22. Cumulatively TVS Motor has more than one lakh delighted EV customers.

Three-wheeler sales for the fiscal year is 1.69 Lakh units in the year ended March 2023 as against 1.72 Lakh units in the year ended March 2022.

## 4TH QUARTER RESULTS

### FEDERAL BANK Q4 NET ZOOMS 62 PC

**MUMBAI:** South-based lender Federal Bank on Friday reported a 62 per cent jump in its March quarter consolidated net profit at Rs 953.91 crore, driven by profit booking on the sale of investments. The private sector lender's net profit for FY23 increased to Rs 3,164.72 crore from the year-ago period's Rs 1,969.79 crore. For the reporting quarter, its core net interest income grew 25 per cent to Rs 1,909 crore. However, it was the other income line, which reported a 58 per cent growth to Rs 734 crore for the January-March period, which helped it post the highest-ever net profit. The bank's analyst presentation said it booked a profit of Rs 192 crore on the sale of securities and other receipts against Rs 12 crore in Q4 FY22, which helped the most to the other income stream. Its net interest margin widened to 3.31 per cent for the reporting quarter from 3.16 per cent in the year-ago period but was down when compared to the preceding December quarter's 3.49 per cent. Its managing director and chief executive Shyam Shrinivasan told reporters that it will aspire to keep the NIMs between 3.30-3.35 per cent in FY24.

### BRITANNIA INDUSTRIES Q4 NET PROFIT RISES 47.5 PC

**NEW DELHI:** Bakery food company Britannia Industries Ltd on Friday reported an increase of 47.53 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs 557.60 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2023. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 377.95 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, Britannia Industries said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations rose 10.93 per cent to Rs 3,892.02 crore during the quarter under review against Rs 3,508.35 crore in the year-ago period. The total income of Britannia Industries in the March quarter increased 13.18 per cent to Rs 4,079.55 crore. Its total expenses rose 7.68 per cent to Rs 3,322.48 crore in the fourth quarter of FY23 from Rs 3,085.45 crore in the year-ago period. Shares of Britannia Industries Ltd on Friday settled at Rs 4,623.90 apiece on BSE, 0.85 per cent higher than its previous close.

### BHARAT FORGE CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AT RS 127.74 CR

**NEW DELHI:** Auto components major Bharat Forge Ltd on Friday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 127.74 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2023. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 231.86 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, Bharat Forge said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at Rs 3,629.05 crore. It was at Rs 3,573.09 crore in the year-ago period. For the fiscal ended March 31, 2023 consolidated net profit was at Rs 508.39 crore. It was at Rs 1,077.06 crore in the previous fiscal. Consolidated revenue from operations in FY23 stood at Rs 12,910.26 crore. It was at Rs 10,461.08 crore in FY22.

### SYMPHONY Q4 NET PROFIT FALLS 75 PC TO RS 16 CR

**NEW DELHI:** Air cooler and appliances maker Symphony Ltd on Friday reported a decline of 75 per cent in its consolidated net profit at Rs 16 crore for the March quarter. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 64 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, Symphony said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations was also down 19.79 per cent to Rs 308 crore during the quarter under review, as against Rs 384 crore in the year-ago period. Its total expenses in Q4FY23 were down 4.83 per cent to Rs 295 crore as against Rs 310 crore of the corresponding quarter a year ago. Its total revenue in the March quarter was down 20.5 per cent to Rs 318 crore. For the financial year ended March 2023, Symphony's net profit was down 4.13 per cent to Rs 116 crore against Rs 121 crore in FY22. However, its consolidated revenue from operations in FY23 increased 14.34 per cent to Rs 1,188 crore from Rs 1,039 crore a year ago.

### JK BANK RECORDS HIGHEST-EVER PROFIT OF RS 1,197 CR

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Bank has announced its highest-ever net annual profit of Rs 1,197 crore in the results for the financial year 2022-23. With a decade-high capital adequacy ratio of 15.39 per cent and NPAs at an eight-year low of 6.04 per cent, the bank also recorded its highest-ever quarterly profit of Rs 476 crore in the last quarter. "Jammu and Kashmir Bank has recorded Rs 1,197 crore as net profit for FY 2022-23 which is the highest ever annual profit," a bank spokesperson said. "The bank's gross and net NPA as percentages to gross and net advances improved considerably to 6.04 per cent and 1.62 per cent respectively, compared to 8.67 per cent and 2.49 per cent recorded last year." The growth of advances outpaced the increase in deposits. While advances grew by 17 per cent to 82,285 crore, deposits increased by around 6 per cent to Rs 1,22,038 crore.

### BLUE DART EXPRESS NET PROFIT FALLS 49 PC

**NEW DELHI:** Logistics company Blue Dart Express Ltd on Friday posted an over 49 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 69.44 crore in the March quarter on account of increased expenses. It had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 136.97 crore in the year-ago quarter, the company said in a BSE filing. Its total income declined to Rs 1,225.22 crore from Rs 1,169.52 crore in the January-March period of FY22.

# Indian market is incredibly exciting, dynamic, vibrant: Tim Cook

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Apple CEO Tim Cook has said India is an "incredibly exciting market" and a "major focus" for the company, as the Cupertino-based iPhone maker highlighted that business in India "set a quarterly record, grew very strong, double-digits year-over-year".

India is at a "tipping point", the top honcho said during the Q2 earnings call of the company.

Apple charted an ambitious retail expansion in India last month, when it launched two retail outlets here, in Mumbai and Delhi, during Cook's

first trip to the country in seven years.

The two stores are "off to a great start", Cook said during the quarterly earnings call.

"Looking at the business in India, we did set a quarterly record, grew very strong, double-digits year-over-year. So it was quite a good quarter for us, taking a step back, India is an incredibly exciting market," Cook said.

The Apple CEO praised the "dynamism in the market" and asserted that its "vibrancy is unbelievable".

"It's a major focus for us. I was

just there, and the dynamism in the market, the vibrancy is unbelievable. Over time, we've been expanding our operations there to serve more customers, and three years ago, we launched the Apple Store online, and then, as you just mentioned, we launched two stores just a few weeks ago, and they're off to a great start, one in Mumbai and one in Delhi," he said.

Apple has a number of channel partners in the country and is "very happy with how that's going overall". "Overall, I couldn't be more delighted and excited by the enthusiasm I'm seeing for the brand there.

There are a lot of people coming into the middle class, and I really feel that India is at a tipping point, and it's great to be there," Cook said.

Cook, during his recent India trip, had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as well as Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav, and Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, as he pledged the company's investment commitment to India.

Looking to replicate what China did to Apple's business in the last 15 years, the tech giant is eyeing India's massive market with an expanding middle class to power sales growth,

and potentially make it a home base for the production of millions of Apple devices.

The new stores in Mumbai and Delhi come at a time when Apple is trying to deepen its retail push in India, the world's second-largest smartphone market.

As such, India is also home to factories that produce 5 per cent of total iPhones as Apple diversifies its supply chains away from China.

"And as I noted earlier, in a milestone for Apple, we just opened our first two Apple stores in India, in Mumbai and Delhi. I was there to see it for myself, and I couldn't have been

more delighted by the excitement and enthusiasm of the customers, developers, creators and team members I got to spend time with," Cook said during the earnings' call.

Apple has announced financial results for its fiscal 2023 second quarter ended April 1, 2023. The company posted quarterly revenue of USD 94.8 billion, down 3 per cent year over year.

"Today, we're reporting revenue of USD 94.8 billion for the March quarter, which was better than our expectations. We set an all-time record for services and a March quarter record for iPhone," Cook said.

# Proptech firm PropertyPistol raises Rs 45 cr from investors

**NEW DELHI (PTI):** Proptech startup PropertyPistol, which is into real estate advisory services, has raised Rs 45 crore from investors including ICICI Bank and Baring Private Equity Partners to expand its business.

Mumbai-based PropertyPistol was founded in 2012 by IIT alumni Ashish Narain Agarwal and later joined by Tushar Shrivastava as co-founder. It offers various tech solutions and advisory services to home buyers, real estate brokers and developers.

The company has raised Rs 45 crore in Series A funding led by ICICI Bank and Baring Private Equity Partners India.

It plans to utilise the fund to expand its leadership team across business functions and augment its presence in newer markets - both in India and abroad.

"This fund raise will help expand the company's operations into newer geographies and yield significant business growth and value in the future," Ashish Narain Agarwal, Founder and CEO, PropertyPistol, said.

The company will focus on new product development and also strengthen core verticals, such as the syndicate broker platform and project mandates. Varun Batra, Partner, Baring Private Equity Partners India, said, PropertyPistol has built a highly credible and profitable business with prudent capital deployment.

# ACME, IGL ink pact to explore biz avenues in Green Hydrogen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diversified renewable energy firm ACME Group and city gas distribution company IGL have signed an initial pact to jointly explore potential business opportunities in Green Hydrogen.

ACME and IGL will work jointly to promote the adoption by the customers and create demand for Green Hydrogen in the country, an ACME Group statement said.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Ashwani Dudeja (President & Director - Green Hydrogen and Ammonia, ACME) and Sanjeev Kumar Bhatia (Vice President -

Business Development & Gas Sourcing, IGL), it added.

The companies will also work together to explore the opportunity of setting up hydrogen generation plants including setting up electrolyzers to blend Green Hydrogen in IGL's existing pipeline networks supplying gas to households, industrial & commercial set ups and CNG for vehicles.

"I would like to thank IGL for their commitment to develop infrastructure and supply green hydrogen to customers. Both the partners will identify areas/projects for green hydrogen adoption in the country," Manoj K Upadhyay, Founder & Chairman, ACME Group said.

# MG Motor India to open bookings for Comet EV from May 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MG Motor India will open bookings from May 15 for its small electric car Comet EV, which has been launched at an introductory price range of Rs 7.98 lakh and Rs 9.98 lakh. Deliveries of the smart electric vehicle developed on the company's GSEV pure electric platform will begin May 22.

Comet EV will be available at an inaugural price, starting at Rs 7.98 lakh for the Pace variant; Rs 9.28 lakh for the Play and Rs 9.98 lakh for the Push variant (all prices ex-showroom) for the first 5,000 bookings, MG Motor India said in a statement.

# Travel agents urge Go First to process ticket refunds

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Amid uncertainty over tickets booked by passengers with crisis-hit Go First, a travel agents' body on Friday urged the carrier to make the refunds from the agents' funds deposited in a credit shell with the airline.

The Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) has also urged Go First that the ticket refund amount be directly credited to the agents' bank accounts as many passengers are seeking refunds.

TAFI, which has more than 1,400 members, in a letter to Go First CEO Kaushik Khona said that thousands of tickets need to be cancelled due to the suspension of flights.

Go First has cancelled all flights till May 9 and has suspended sale of tickets till May 15.

On GoFirst's website,



bookings are available from May 23 but there was no official word on whether the suspension of ticket sales has been extended beyond May 15.

"Hundreds of travel agents across the country have placed substantial deposits with your airline in a credit shell to be used for immediate and future bookings and which currently

remain unutilised," the letter said.

While noting that it will not be possible to refund the passengers unless funds are received from the airline, TAFI said that "refunds be effected as a direct credit to the agents' bank accounts, rather than being placed in a credit shell".

# NAPOLI'S WAIT IS OVER

AP ■ NAPLES

Napoli finally ended their long wait to win Serie A on Thursday, joining late club icon Diego Maradona in the history books by being crowned Italian champions with a record-equalling five matches to play.

A 1-1 draw at Udinese gave Napoli the point they needed to end 33 years of waiting and spark wild celebrations among the thousands of fans in Udine, at the Stadio Maradona in Naples and all around southern Italy's biggest city.

Supporters streamed onto the pitch at the Dacia Arena to celebrate after a season dominated by Luciano Spalletti's side, creating moments of tension with home fans not happy at such open partying on their ground.

Victor Osimhen scored the decisive goal in the second half as Napoli's current stars came back from trailing to Sandi Lovric's opener at half-time and emulated the teams led by Maradona which won the league in 1987 and 1990.

"To be compared to him, to be the captain after Maradona to lift the Scudetto, I just have no words," said skipper Giovanni Di Lorenzo.

"This isn't my title, it belongs to every player and the people who worked to make our dream come true."

Spalletti and his squad will receive an emotional welcome when they return to Naples, where the city-wide partying is set to continue to until at least their next home fixture against Fiorentina on Sunday evening.

"Seeing Neapolitans happy is enough to give you a sense of that joy they are feeling," Spalletti told DAZN on the verge of tears.

"These people will look to this moment when life gets hard, they have every right to celebrate like this. You feel a bit more relaxed knowing that you've given them this moment of happiness."

It was appropriate that Osimhen was the man to take Napoli over the line as the Nigeria striker has had the best season of his career and been key to Napoli's historic charge to glory.

Osimhen's title-deciding strike was his 22nd goal in 28 league appearances and rightly caused



bedlam among the massed ranks of away fans who took over Udine.

Napoli's 16-point lead over second-placed Lazio leaves them with a month-long parade between now and the end of the season which will allow their long-suffering supporters to fully unload more than a generation of frustration.

## OSIMHEN SEALS DEAL

Napoli were straight on the front foot but looked worryingly bereft of ideas in the final third, and the away side were stunned in the 13th minute following the first spell of play in Udinese's favour.

Lovic was given the freedom of the penalty area after being fed by Destiny Udogie, and the Slovenia midfielder took advantage by placing a lovely shot in the top corner.

Lovic stung the fingers of former Udine youth product Alex Meret in the Napoli goal just after the half-hour mark, by which point Napoli hadn't created a single goalscoring opportunity.

Seconds later Osimhen, who looked like Napoli's only hope of scoring in the opening period, headed a deep cross just the wrong side of the post.

However, in the 52nd minute the 24-year-old stepped up as so often he has this season to unleash a wave of relief and blue smoke from the stands with his 27th goal in all competitions.

Osimhen was on hand to ram home the leveller when, after a corner, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's low shot was blocked and fell to the clinical striker. He had the ball in the net again in the 67th minute but was denied by referee Rosario Abisso who rightly whistled for a foul by Eljif Elmas.

But by that point the fans grew ever more sure that Thursday night would be the night, chanting victory songs in Udine while flares billowed and fireworks were set off at the other end of the country.

While fans had to be cleared from the pitch in Udine to avoid clashes with home supporters the Stadio Maradona was lit up by phones held by teary-eyed Neapolitans singing along to songs by late local singer-songwriter Pino Daniele.

## Brighton beat Man Utd to avenge FA Cup defeat



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Brighton gained sweet revenge on Thursday for their defeat by Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-finals, with Alexis Mac Allister converting a 99th-minute penalty to dent the visitors' Champions League hopes.

Classy Brighton dominated possession but lacked a cutting edge until Luke Shaw's handball deep into stoppage time presented them with an opportunity to take all three points.

The 1-0 win completes a league double for the Seagulls against United, who beat Erik ten Hag's men in their first match of the season but suffered a painful defeat on penalties in last month's FA Cup semi-final at Wembley.

United remain in the fourth and final Champions League qualification spot in the Premier League, four points ahead of fifth-placed Liverpool with a game in hand, while Brighton are up to sixth.

"There is a God of football,"

Brighton boss Roberto De Zerbi told Sky Sports.

"We deserved to win the semi-final but lost on penalties but today we won with a penalty. In both games I think we played better than United."

Ten Hag bemoaned his team's lack of finishing, but said United's destiny was still in their own hands.

"We have to finish the chances, be more clinical and don't make the mistakes we did like in the last seconds," said the disappointed Dutchman.

"We have everything in our hands and we have to bounce back. We take the lessons from tonight and we have to move on."

Both teams squandered clear-cut chances in the opening minutes of an entertaining encounter at the Amex Stadium.

United's Brazilian winger Antony was put through by Bruno Fernandes in just the second minute but fired wastefully wide.

Two minutes later Japan's

Kaoru Mitoma intercepted a careless ball across the defence at the other end and broke into the box before hitting a shot that smashed goalkeeper David de Gea in the face.

The lively Mitoma, putting United right-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka under huge pressure, danced into the area again in the 13th minute but was unable to finish. The home side, bursting with confidence after a 6-0 win against Wolves, were enjoying the bulk of possession but United looked dangerous on the break.

The impressive Marcus Rashford hit a shot from a tight angle that Brighton goalkeeper Jason Steele did well to keep out at his near post.

Argentine World Cup winner Mac Allister shot wide of De Gea's goal while Anthony Martial's effort was pushed away by Steele at the other end.

De Zerbi's team were again on top in the early stages of the second half but Mitoma and Danny Welbeck were guilty of wasting openings.

As the half wore on the game became more scrappy, suiting United, who were struggling to find fluency, but Brighton finished the stronger of the two teams.

In the 90th minute De Gea produced a smart save to keep out a Mac Allister strike, puffing out his cheeks in relief.

But the home side had one final chance after Shaw was penalised for handball following VAR intervention and Mac Allister made no mistake, lashing the ball high into the net to spark wild celebrations on the south coast.

## PL side Brighton sign Watford's Joao Pedro

AP ■ LONDON

Brighton have signed Brazilian forward Joao Pedro from second-tier Watford for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League high-flyers announced on Friday. The 21-year-old will join the Seagulls on a contract until June 2028 when the post-season transfer window opens.

Brighton technical director David Weir told the south coast club's website: "Joao has been a long-term target of ours and he has also attracted a lot of interest from across Europe."

"He's a brilliant young talent, technically very good, quick and with an eye for goal. He will complement our existing forward line very well."

"He also has settled well here (in England), with good experience of both the Premier League and Championship and more than 100 games for Watford."



## Lloris ruled out for rest of season



AP ■ LONDON

Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris has been ruled out for the rest of the season due to a thigh injury.

The 36-year-old suffered the problem during the first half of Tottenham's 6-1 thrashing at Newcastle on April 23.

The French World Cup winner has not featured since then and caretaker boss Ryan Mason on Friday confirmed Tottenham's captain is sidelined for the remainder of the campaign.

"Hugo's out for the season," Mason said ahead of Saturday's visit of Crystal Palace.

"We had the results back. Obviously disappointing, but we kind of feared that initially. We did some more tests and he won't play for us again this season."

Lloris has only one year left on his Tottenham contract and could leave north London in the close-season as his troubled club face up to a turbulent period.

## Ronaldo and Neymar beyond Newcastle's reach: Howe

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

Eddie Howe says Newcastle are not able to launch blockbuster moves for superstars like Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar despite the financial muscle of their Saudi owners.

Newcastle, 80 percent owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, have spent over £250 million (\$315 million) on new players in the last three transfer windows.

With Howe's side sitting third in the Premier League ahead of this weekend's visit from Arsenal, the Magpies look odds on to secure a lucrative berth in next season's Champions League.

Newcastle's impressive transformation since Howe took charge has made them a desirable destination for top players, with Paris Saint Germain forward Neymar and Al Nassr striker Ronaldo both linked with moves to St James' Park recently.



But, asked on Friday about the prospect of some of the best players in the world coming to Newcastle, Howe told reporters: "It is best to discover them before they explode onto the world scene."

"We could not be able to come close to affording those players as they are the

best players in the world. "We are never going to be in a position currently to afford those transfer fees and wages, so we need to go underneath and find them young and develop them into the players they can be."

Howe has made shrewd signings like Nick Pope and Kieran Trippier for rela-

tively low fees, while spending larger sums to land Bruno Guimaraes, Sven Botman, Alexander Isak and Anthony Gordon.

Mega-money swoops for players of Neymar's calibre remain out of Newcastle's reach at present, but Howe knows that won't stop the speculation.

"That kind of speculation has been there from day one since the takeover, really. Naturally everyone has then assumed the biggest names in world football will be going to Newcastle," he said.

"Now we've not recruited that way. Financially, we can't recruit that way at the moment, but also we have to bring the right people and the right players into the group."

"I will say the transfer market is such a complex decision, you can't just pick a name and bring them in. There's got to be a lot of thought going into what we're doing both financially and looking at the players."

## Messi says 'sorry' for Saudi trip



AP ■ PARIS

Lionel Messi on Friday apologised for going on an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia that led to Argentina's World Cup-winning captain being suspended by his club Paris Saint-Germain.

"I want to apologise obvi-

ously to my teammates and to the club," Messi said in a video posted on Instagram to his 458 million followers.

He was suspended by the Qatar-owned club after failing to turn up for training on Monday, a day after their 3-1 home defeat by Lorient in Ligue 1.

Instead, the seven-time

## MESSI SUSPENSION 'NOT MY DECISION TO TAKE'

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier sought to deflect questions about Lionel Messi's suspension by the French club as he spoke to reporters on Friday, insisting the decision was not his to take in the first place.

"I was informed at the begin-

ning of the week by management about the decision to suspend Leo. Once they had let me know, I took the responsibility to not comment as a paid member of staff of the club," Galtier said during a press conference at PSG's training ground Paris. "It wasn't my decision to take. I was informed of the decision and I defer to it."

Saudi Arabia having cancelled it previously. This time I couldn't cancel it. I am sorry for what I did and I wait to see what the club decides to do."

The affair has made it increasingly unlikely that Messi will remain at PSG beyond this season, when his two-year contract with the club expires.

## Nadal to miss Rome Masters

AP ■ ROME

Rafael Nadal on Friday withdrew from the Rome Masters tournament as he continues his recovery from injury, casting serious doubts over his fitness for the French Open.

The 22-time Grand Slam winner has not played since suffering a hip injury at the Australian Open in January.

The French Open, which the 36-year-old has won on a record 14 occasions, gets underway in Paris in three weeks' time.

Nadal said his injury situation has improved in the past few days but not sufficiently to be able to compete next week in the Italian capital.

"I am very sorry to announce that I will not be able to be in Rome," Nadal wrote on his social media accounts.

"You all know how much it hurts me to miss another of the tournaments that have marked my



professional and personal career because of all the love and support of the Italian tifosi (fans).

"Although I have noticed an improvement in the last few days, it has been many months without being able to train at a high level and the process of readjustment takes a certain amount of time, and I have no choice but to accept that and continue working."

The 22-time Grand Slam champion — he shares the men's record with Novak Djokovic — had originally thought he would be out for up to two months.

He pulled out of hard-court tournaments at Indian Wells and Miami, with his sights set on a return at the start of the clay-court season, but it did not come to fruition.

Nadal had to withdraw from events in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid, before eventually adding Rome, the final French Open warm-up event, to the list.

# GT CRUSH ROYALS BY 9 WICKETS

**PTI ■ JAIPUR**  
Gujarat Titans made light work of a 119-run target set by Rajasthan Royals as the defending champions romped home with a commanding nine-wicket win in a one-sided Indian Premier League match here on Friday.  
After bundling Rajasthan Royals out for a mere 118 in 17.5 overs, a 71-run resolute opening stand between Shubman Gill (36) and Wriddhiman Saha (41 not out off 34 balls) set the platform for the huge victory, which was also accomplished with captain Hardik Pandya's brisk 15-ball 39 not out (3x4s, 3x6s).  
Gujarat Titans finished at 119 for one in 13.5 overs, winning with 37 balls to spare.  
Gujarat Titans thus also got back to winning ways against last year's finalists Rajasthan Royals, handing them their fourth defeat in an overall five meetings, while consolidating their position at the top of the points table.  
The Pandya-led side took their tally to 14 points in 10 matches with

seven wins and only three losses, while Sanju Samson's Royals remained fourth with five wins and as many losses in 10 games.  
Both Saha and Gill got off the blocks quickly against RR pacer Trent Boult, hitting the left-armed for a couple of fours each inside the powerplay, at the end of which GT were 49 for no loss. Yuzvendra Chahal got Gill stumped for a 35-ball 36 (4x4s) in the 10th over but the breakthrough had no impact on the Gujarat Titans' juggernaut.  
Pandya was severe on RR's Adam Zampa, hitting the Australian leg-spinner for three sixes and a four to collect 24 runs in the 11th over and hasten the process. Earlier in the first half, Rajasthan Royals surrendered against the Gujarat Titans' duo of Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad to be bundled out for a poor total, as the two Afghan spinners shared five wickets.  
Rajasthan Royals' decision to bat after winning the toss backfired as their batting crumbled against Rashid, who returned 4-0-14-3 to spark a collapse, and Noor, who registered 3-0-25-2.



Rajasthan looked in control until the fifth over of the innings at 47 for one, but the home side collapsed without any resistance to lose nine wickets for a mere 71 runs and was bowled out in 17.5 overs, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.  
Hardik Pandya had Jos Buttler (8) caught by Mohit Sharma at short third man after the batter cracked two fours in a row in the second over.  
The pair of Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal (14) tried providing RR with momentum, but their 36-run second-wicket stand was broken in the final over of the powerplay with Abhinav Manohar putting in a dive to stop a cut from Samson.  
Mohit threw the ball to Rashid, who broke the stumps with Jaiswal far out from the crease. The Rashid-led bowling attack then took firm control of the proceedings. Little ended Samson's promising start at 30 off 20 balls (3x4s, 1x6s), getting the RR captain caught inside the ring off a mistimed stroke.  
Samson moved across the line to play on the on side but could only get

a leading edge, collected by Pandya as the RR skipper looked at the surface in disbelief. Rashid then outgunned his counterpart Ravichandran Ashwin (2) for the majority of the eighth over, dismantling his off-stump on the final ball.  
Riyan Parag (4) continued to disappoint as he failed to read the Afghan leggie's googly in the 10th over and appealed unsuccessfully against the umpire's leg-before call.  
At the halfway mark, RR were stuttering at 72 for five.  
Noor got into the act to keep RR under the pump, casting the left-handed Devdutt Padikkal (12) in the 12th over and trapping the dangerous Dhruv Jurel (9) leg-before in his next.  
Rashid returned in the 15th over to dismiss Shimron Hetmyer (7) leg-before, with the Caribbean batter's horrendous run continuing in this IPL.  
With scores of 3, 2, 8, 8 and 7, Hetmyer has now recorded five single-digit scores on the trot. Rashid nearly had his fourth wicket in his final over but a return shot off Trent Boult's bat was a bit too far away for his reach in the follow-through.

## CSK face MI in IPL Clasico

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**  
Their confidence low after earning just a point from the last three games, Chennai Super Kings will look to get their campaign back on track when they host a resurgent Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.  
The four-time champions will, however, be wary of MI, which has a superior record at M A Chidambaram stadium here and has claimed victories in the last two matches.  
The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led Super Kings lost the two matches they played against five-time champions MI in 2019 and will be playing their arch-rivals at home after nearly four years.  
CSK head into Saturday's game on the back of a rained off fixture (vs LSG) and two losses.  
Having endured a defeat at the hands of Punjab Kings in a last-ball thriller on April 30, CSK will hope their fortunes change in the second afternoon match at home.  
Devon Conway (414 runs) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (354 runs) have provided strong starts but the middle-order has not been able to build on them on occasions, leaving the think-tank and fans flummoxed.  
While the experienced Ajinkya Rahane has pulled his weight as has Shivam Dube, CSK will be hoping Ambati Rayudu and Moeen Ali can rise to the occasion as the tournament winds down towards the business end.  
The talismanic Dhoni, batting way too low down the order, has smacked a few out of the park to boost the score. However, as many wonder, it remains a mystery as to why the out of form Rayudu and



CSK vs MI  
Live from 3:30 pm IST  
JioCinema

Ravindra Jadeja bat ahead of him.  
Rahane was in brilliant form as CSK won the first game in Mumbai and would be raring to do an encore here.  
The bowling department has been boosted with the return of Deepak Chahar. However, bowlers like Tushar Deshpande (17 wickets, economy rate: 12.11) leaking runs despite picking up wickets has hurt the team's cause.  
Jadeja, who has been brilliant with the ball though not so with the bat, like always would be key for CSK along with fellow spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Moeen Ali.  
There have been calls for playing Mitchell Santner in the XI as he can be handy with the bat apart from his bowling exploits but it remains to be seen

## Rahane will make most of Test recall: Ganguly

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Hailing the Team India comeback of Ajinkya Rahane, former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly hoped that the seasoned batter makes "most" of the opportunity in next month's World Test Championship final against Australia.  
On the back of his splendid show in the ongoing Indian Premier League, the 34-year-old has earned a Test recall after 18 months. The WTC final is scheduled to be held from June 7-11 at the Oval in London.  
"I have always liked him. He has always been a good player for India," said the former India captain during a promotional event here.  
The Chennai Super Kings batter has scored 224 runs in six innings this IPL at an average of 44.80 and with an astonishing 189-plus strike-rate. "Opportunities don't come everyday and if he

gets the chance to feature in the playing XI during the WTC final, he will make the most of it. So, I wish him all the best," said Ganguly.  
Ganguly further termed India opener KL Rahul's injury unfortunate as he has pulled out of the WTC final to undergo a thigh surgery.  
"It's unfortunate, I have read that it's an injury that will keep him out of the IPL as well as the WTC final. Only physios can tell the extent of the injury. Injuries are part of the sport. "These boys keep playing all the years, so injuries will happen. So, I wish him a speedy recovery," Ganguly said.  
The mentor of Delhi Capitals said they have not given up on making the playoffs in the IPL.  
"In the last five games, we have won three. We have five more games to go, it could well be that we win five. So, let's not jump the gun and take it one match at a time," he said.



**USP**  
**SJVN bags another 100 MW Solar Project in Rajasthan**

**SHIMLA:** Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN informed that SJVN has bagged 100 MW State Transmission Utility (STU) Connected Solar Power Project in Rajasthan. SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN participated in Open Competitive Tariff bidding process followed by e-Reverse Auction (e-RA) organized by Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (RUVNL). Sh. Nand Lal Sharma informed that RUVNL had floated a Request for Selection (RfS) for setting up of 1000 MW STU Connected Solar PV Power Plant anywhere in the state of Rajasthan. Against the above RfS, eight companies qualified the Technical and Financial criteria. SGEL has bagged 100 MW at a tariff of Rs. 2.62 per unit on Build Own and Operate (BOO) basis in Open Competitive Tariff bidding process.



Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur visits Raizada Hansraj Badminton Stadium. 1st Union Minister to visit the Stadium in the past 60 years. Played Badminton, interacted with players, visited Restaurant, Yoga & Aerobic Centre, Gymnasium, Sports Shop, and Physiotherapy Centre. Expressed his happiness & congratulated the entire Interim Committee of the DBA for upliftment of the stadium.



**MP Vikramjit Sahney launches Mission Hope to rescue Punjabi Girls from Oman at his expense. MP Vikramjit Sahney after paying obeisance at Golden Temple launched # Mission Hope to rescue poor girls from Punjab stranded in Oman by paying penalty and compensation etc. to sponsors. Vikramjit Sahney, Member of Parliament from Punjab has taken up on himself in co-ordination with Indian Embassy in Muscat to bring back these poor Punjabi girls from Oman by bearing the entire penalties and compensation on behalf of them. Shri Sahney said it is my utmost duty to help these needy girls who because of their poor economic condition had to leave their home and fell prey to these fraudulent agents. Shri Sahney also revealed that currently 20 such poor girls are stranded needing immediate help and evacuation. Shri Sahney is hopeful of bringing them back with full honour and dignity by next week to India and to be reunited with their families.**

## Delhi, RCB look to end their batting woes

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Coming on the back of improbable wins, both Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore will not want to leave anything to chance and put up a better batting display in a crucial IPL contest here on Saturday.  
While RCB are better placed than Delhi in the standings, the Faf du Plessis-led side can't afford any slip ups as the IPL reaches its business end.  
Delhi, who have had a tournament to forget up till now, needed something to go their way and it did in the low-scoring thriller against table leaders Gujarat Titans.  
Back in action after three weeks, pacer Khaleel Ahmed and veteran Ishant Sharma got Delhi out of a hole and kept them alive in the competition.  
After a win like that, the morale of any team would be on the higher side but Delhi will need to find a way to bat well against the star studded RCB.  
Skipper David Warner was at pains to explain their batting troubles after the previous game. The performance of Indian batters remain a big concern but the effort of Aman Hakim Khan and Rival Patel after a batting collapse offers hope to the struggling outfit.  
Phil Salt at the top has either gone boom or bust in the four chances he has got so far while Warner has not got runs in his last three innings. The captain's strike rate has also been a subject of debate but that can be attributed to the collective batting failure of the side.  
Batting at three, Priyam Garg looked out of place against high quality fast bowling and he would want to prove his doubters wrong. The team also expects a lot more from the experienced Manish Pandey.  
The in form Axar Patel batted at six against Gujarat but there is a case for him to bat higher up the order.  
Considering the game involves Virat Kohli,



DC vs RCB  
Live from 7:30 pm IST  
JioCinema

the stadium is expected to be packed to the rafters.  
The RCB star had a lengthy net session on Thursday before he headed back into the pavilion named after him. Following an ugly spat with Gautam Gambhir after the win over LSG, Kohli will be fired up as ever to let his bat do the talking.  
Kedar Jadhav, who not so long ago was commenting on the game, finds himself in the thick of action after getting a surprise call up from RCB head coach Sanjay Bangar midway into the tournament.  
The former India batter is expected to solve RCB's middle-order issues, something which has plagued them all through the season. On a tacky wicket at Lucknow, the bowlers bailed the team out of trouble. Mohammad Siraj got much needed support from a fit again Josh Hazlewood who both made impact with the new ball.  
The spinners Karn Sharma and Wanindu Hasaranga also revelled in friendly conditions but the strip at Feroz Shah Kotla and small dimensions will make their task much tougher.

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As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below.		
Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower /Mortgagor/Guarantor/ Loan A/c No.	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgage Property
(A/c No.) L9001060112264490 Vicky (Borrower), Vikram Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt.Permi (Co-Borrower)	06-Apr-23 Rs. 534645/- Rs. Five Lac Thirty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Five Only As on 05-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat Waky Khra No 228, Swami Nagar Fatehabad, Dist- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 136.12 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060117177217 Nivesh Choudhary Traders (Borrower), Sunil Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Suman Devi (Co-Borrower)	06-Apr-23 Rs. 972605/- Rs. Nine Lac Seventy-Two Thousand Six Hundred Five Only As on 05-Apr-23	Property Situated At Freehold - Within Municipal Limit 487/2 Oil Mill Mahendragarh, Narnaul, Dist- Mahendragarh, Haryana Admeasuring 200 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060114700790 Pramod Dixit (Borrower), Smt.Laxmi Dixit (Co-Borrower), Shushan Dixit (Co-Borrower), Devender Dixit (Co-Borrower)	06-Apr-23 Rs. 2842810/- Rs. Twenty-Eight Lac Forty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Only As on 05-Apr-23	Property Situated At Freehold - Within Municipal Limit H No 852, Radha Colony Near Allapur Railway Bridge Faridabad Palwal, Dist-Palwal, Haryana Admeasuring 287.38 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060831364500 Vicky Trading Co (Borrower), Vicky (Co-Borrower), Smt.Permi (Co-Borrower), Vikram Singh (Co-Borrower)	06-Apr-23 Rs. 282549/- Rs. Two Lac Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Nine Only As on 05-Apr-23	Property Situated At Anaj Mandi Near Kalu Ram Daba, Dist-Fatehabad, Haryana, 125050 Admeasuring 136.12 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060123940482 Dimple Trading Company Through It's Proprietor Dharmbir Singh (Borrower), Dharmbir (Co-Borrower), Smt.Vinod Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 973082/- Rs. Nine Lac Seventy-Three Thousand Eighty-Two Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Khawat No 64, Khatuni No 69, Mustli No 49, Killa No 2/1 Vill -Ishrana, Tehsil - Kanina Dist -Mahendragarh, Haryana Admeasuring 12 Marla 4 Sarsai
(A/c No.) L9001060121228597 Shree Shyam Catering Services Through It's Proprietor Ashok Kumar (Borrower), Ashok Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Poonam (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 541281/- Rs. Five Lac Forty-One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-One Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Kh48 K/48, Mustli No 19, Village -Alamgirpur Rajpura, Tehsil & Dist -Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 150 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060122005473 Rakesh Kumar (Borrower), Dhiraj (Co-Borrower),	15-Apr-23 Rs. 623273/- Rs. Six Lac Twenty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Three Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat Kh1531 Kh1751 Kh467 Patauda Jhajjar Haryana Admeasuring 151.25 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060122755278 Manoj Kumar (Borrower), Smt.Savita Devi (Co-Borrower),	15-Apr-23 Rs. 503845/- Rs. Five Lac Three Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Five Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Freehold - Municipal Limit Semi Urban And Rural Ward No 2 Kh6 Kh10 M27 21 1 1 Dhanunda Under Mc Mahendragarh Ateli Mandi, Haryana Admeasuring 92.32 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060124690122 Lekhraj (Borrower), Pawan Kumar (Co-Borrower),	15-Apr-23 Rs. 453934/- Rs. Four Lac Fifty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Four Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat- Bhagtu Ram Kala Patti Bhagal Bhagal Kaithal Haryana, Kaithal, Haryana Admeasuring 750 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060124088246 Maka Car Bazar (Borrower), Amandeep Ji (Co-Borrower), Dilbag Ji (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 678428/- Rs. Six Lac Seventy-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Eight Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat Wakiya Vill Piple Khata No 801 Residential Siska Kalanwali, Haryana Admeasuring 604 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060125010389 Krishan Kumar (Borrower), Smt.Punam Kumari (Co-Borrower), Prtvi (Co-Borrower), Krishan Kumar (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 756164/- Rs. Seven Lac Fifty-Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Four Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat- Khera Murar 53, Dist-Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 200 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001061124276127 Premwati (Borrower), Amit Saini (Co-Borrower), Sanjay Saini (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 173681/- Rs. One Lac Seventy-Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-One Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Om Prakash House No- 425/3 Ward No - 4 Prem Nagar, Near Mamta Hospital, Dist- Gurgaon, Haryana, 122001 Admeasuring 110 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060826710907 Rakesh Dairy (Borrower), Dhiraj (Co-Borrower), Rakesh Kumar (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 296804/- Rs. Two Lac Ninety-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Four Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat-Patoda Patoda (249), Dist- Jhajjar, Haryana Admeasuring 835 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060119747240 Shree Balaji Shoes & General Store (Borrower), Ashok Kumar (Co-Borrower), Phool Chand (Co-Borrower), Smt.Laxmi Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 796257/- Rs. Seven Lac Ninety-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Seven Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat Khe 33 Khat 36 To 38 Village- Garhi Ruthal Ateli Mahendragarh Ateli, Haryana Admeasuring 584.83 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060830552386 Krishan Dairy (Borrower), Smt.Punam Kumari (Co-Borrower), Smt.Prthvi (Co-Borrower), Krishan Kumar (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 302187/- Rs. Three Lac Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat-Khera Murar Bawal Road, Dist-Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 200 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060124015339 Yaduwanshi Catering & Pk Services (Borrower), Smt.Bharwati Devi (Co-Borrower), Rahul Rahul (Co-Borrower), Smt.Neelam (Co-Borrower), Smt.Manta Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Apr-23 Rs. 2019050/- Rs. Twenty Lac Nineteen Thousand Fifty Only As on 12-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat Kh2 Kh2 M33 K8 Rewari Bawal Road Suthani Rewari Bawal, Haryana Admeasuring 460 Ssyds
(A/c No.) L9001060123383551 Bajrang Chauhan (Borrower), Lekham Chauhan (Co-Borrower)	17-Apr-23 Rs. 1403329/- Rs. Fourteen Lac Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Nine Only As on 15-Apr-23	Property Situated At Gram Panchayat Kh35 M58 K7 13 14 Jarhal Rewari Bawal, Dist-Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 150 Ssyds