# 111 farmers to begin indefinite Bring OTS plan for dead loanees' kin, fast at Khanauri border today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

#### PATIALA, JANUARY 14

The indefinite fast by farm leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal entered its 50th day today even as his health deteriorated alarmingly. A team of doctors reached the Khanauri border and checked his blood pressure and sugar levels. They also conducted tests, including

blood sampling, ultrasound.

Avtar Singh Dhillon, a member of the Five Rivers Heart Association, an NGO providing medical treatment to the farm leader, said, "For the past 48 hours, he has been unable to retain water and is throwing up. His body is inching towards multiple organ failure. This is an extremely critical situation."

In solidarity with Dallewal, farm leaders have announced a new phase of protests. A jatha (group) of 111 farmers will start their indefinite fast at 2 pm tomorrow. The group will march to the first police barricade at Dhabi Gujran near the Khanauri border



Farm leaders at a press conference near Khanauri on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

before commencing the fast. Farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohar stated that the 111 farmers, predominantly middle-aged, would wear black attire as a symbol of protest. "This hunger strike will be conducted under the supervision of an SKM (Non-Political) leader," he said.

State BJP chief Sunil Jakhar's comment on MSP drew criticism from farmer unions. Jakhar had argued that a legal MSP guarantee might not be favourable for Punjab farmers. He had said the current MSP regime was tailormade for Punjab and Harvana farmers. Farmer unions flayed Jakhar, accusing BJP leaders of trying to mislead people. "Instead of holding meaningful discussions with protesting farmers, some BJP leaders are trying to divert attention from the core issue," said farm leader

Meanwhile, Congress MP Dharamvira Gandhi extendsupport to Dallewal, expressing grave concern over the government's lack of response. "Are they waiting for Dallewal to die? Any sensible government would have initiated talks and taken steps towards implementing a legal guarantee for MSP. This is not just a protest, it is a grim reminder of the government's stubbornness," said the MP.

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 14 Mohan Singh (name changed) is a big landlord in Basti Ram Lal village of Ferozepur. He owns 25 acres of land, but around 20 acres of his cultivated land gets sub-

merged in water when the Satluj swells during the monsoon. He has to suffer economically as the crop gets damaged. As a result, he is unable to repay the loan of Rs 17 lakh that was taken by his father, Brahm Singh (name changed), in 2004. After his father's death, he

"inherited" that debt liability, with the total dues mounting to around Rs 50 lakh. "Since my annual income comes from only around five acres, I am in no position to clear the entire debt. If the bank gives me some way to settle my debt, I may be able to repay only the principal amount," he said. He is not the only farmer

stuck with an unpaid debt. taken by his family elders, who have now passed away.

#### **SUGGESTION ON LOWER INTEREST**

small farmers: House panel to bank

■ Families of 8,000 farmers, who have died without repaying the loan, are finding it difficult to clear the Ioan dues to Punjab State Cooperative **Development Bank** 

■ To recover ₹366 crore dues from big landlords and wilful defaulters. the Vidhan Sabha panel has suggested to ask them to repay the loan at a lower interest rate

Among the 55,574 defaulters of Punjab State Cooperative Development Bank, who owe the bank around Rs 3,006 crore, are the families of 8,000 farmers who have died without repaying the loan. As the Punjab Vidhan Sab-

ha Committee on Cooperation takes stock of the financial mess created in the state cooperative banks, due to politically well-connected and big landlords wilfully defaulting on repaying their loans worth Rs 366.96 crore, their big worry is whether to force the bank to completely take a business approach to recover the loan amount from the families of 8,000 deceased farmers, or launch a one-time settlement scheme

At a meeting of the committee, headed by Sardulgatrh AAP MLA Gurpreet Singh Banawali, held last week, members told the bank officials to write to the state government, seeking permission to bring an OTS plan for small and marginal farmers and for the families of those

loanees who were now dead. Though the officials were reportedly reluctant, the committee has prevailed upon them to write to the government for bringing an OTS scheme. The committee is learnt to have reasoned that by bringing such a plan, the bank will at least be able to recover a major part of its principal amount (Rs 1,444.45 crore) that has become a nonperforming asset (NPA).

Estimated 8,000 loanees. who are now dead, were given loan by 89 branches of the bank across the state. The loan advanced to these loanees is around Rs 150 crore The interest and penal interest charged on the amount in default is around Rs 100 crore

Similar is the case of Amar Singh and Beant Singh (names changed), two brothers from Kapial village in Bhawanigarh, who had taken a loan of Rs 20 lakh, almost 16 years ago. The brothers are now dead, but the loan liability stands in the names of their kin, including one who has major health issues. "No one wants to die leaving behind a debt, but when the interest surpasses the principal amount, how can we repay that," said one of the family members.

The Vidhan Sabha panel has also suggested that to recover the Rs 366 crore dues from big landlords and politically connected wilful defaulters, they can be asked to repay the loan at a lower interest rate of 9.5 per cent only.

# 6-year-old boy's life

**OUR CORRESPONDENT** 

## TARN TARAN, JANUARY 14

The use of Chinese string, which has been completely banned by the administration, claimed the life of a six-year-old boy in Gali Number 8 of the Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar locality in Tarn Taran

The deceased boy, identified as Diljan Singh, was the son of Ranjit Singh, who is employed in the Army and is currently posted on the border. Diljan, his elder sister Parneet Kaur (7) and grandmother were watching the kites fly in the sky from the rooftop of their house.

Diljan saw a cut kite drifting above their house. He tried to pull that kite towards him with the help of a wooden stick. As the string of the kite was entangled in a highvoltage power cable, it conducted current and Diljan was electrocuted as soon as houses, but to no avail so far.

### **14-YEAR-OLD HURT IN PHILLAUR**

- A 14-year-old boy sustained a major injury on the neck due to Chinese string in Phillaur on Monday
- The injured boy, identified as Shivam of Kalsi Nagar, was taken to a private hospital where the doctors performed a surgery to save his life

he grabbed it.

Diljan's maternal uncle Gurpreet Singh reached the rooftop immediately. He took Diljan to the local Civil Hospital where the doctors declared him "brought dead". The family has informed Ranjit Singh about the tragic incident

and he is on way home. Residents of the locality said they had been demanding the removal of high-voltage power cables running dangerously close to their

## M/s HL Residency (Proprietorship Firm)

(Proprietorship Firm)
Public Notice
Whereas, M/s HL Residency Proprietorship Firm (The Developer) having its regd. office at Shop No. 8. Commercial Complex. HL City, Sector-37. Bahadurgarh 124507 (Hr.) through its Proprietor Mrs. Shailaja Joon is in process o development of Residential Group Housing Colony over area measuring 15.00 acres allotted by HSIIDC through e-auction in Sector 30-B, Phase-III, IMT Rohtak. And whereas vide Memo No. TDR-U236A1/CTP/41914/2024 Dated: 30/12/2024 TDR Certificate No. 1 to 400 of 43/2024 dated 07.11.2024 has been granted in favour of Smt. Shailaja Joon against area measuring 5185.0394 sqm in the revenue estate of village Kheri Sadh, District Rohtak and vide Memo No. TDR-U235A1/CTP/41917/2024 Dated: 30/12/2024 TDR Certificate No. 1 to 249 of 42/2024 dated 07.11.2024 has been granted in favour of Smt. Vikki Devi against area measuring 3237.488 sqm in the revenue estate of village Kheri Sadh, District

And whereas Developer has given undertaking that neither Developer given any advertisement regarding booking of units in the proposed group housing colon nor any bookings have been made in the project till now.

And whereas after submission of undertaking and after utilization of abovementioned TDR by Developer M/s HL Residency Proprietorship Firm Revised building plans for Group Housing Building on Plot No. GF-3, Sector-30B, Phase-II, Rohtak IMT have been approved by HSIIDC.

And whereas, at the time of granting TDR certificates mentioned above, the office of Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objections/ suggestions regarding utilization of TDR at time of approva of revised building plans, wherever applicable.

Accordingly, vide this Public Notice, objection/suggestion are hereby invited or the utilization of TDR & regarding revision of building plans for Group Housing Building on Plot No. GF-3, Sector-30B, Phase-II, Rohtak IMT. This invitation fo objections/suggestions may also be treated for purpose of registration unde HRERA(HRERA Registration No. HRERA-PKL-ROH-592-2024 dtd. 06.06.2024) also. A copy of the abovementioned letters regarding grant of TDR certificate, TDR Utilization Certificates and revised Building Plans are available for perusal on our website www.hlcitv.in & same can also be perused at the site office of the eloper at Shop No. 8, Commercial Complex, HL City, Sector-37, Bahadurgarh 124507. Any allottee/s and/or General Public having any objection/ suggestion on utilization of TDR & regarding revised building plans for Group Housing Building may file the same in the office of Developer and/or in the office of HSIIDC, Industrial Model Township, Rohtak within 30 days of the issuance of, this Public Notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections/suggestion to the proposed utilization of TDR & regarding revised building plans for Group Housing Building. Dated: 14.01.2025 Mrs. Shailaja Joon, Proprietor

HOU/KAR/1217/

## Chinese string claims Sukhbir Badal woos Sikhs, owns up blame if mistakes committed

Former SAD president terms Amritpal, his party 'traitors' of Panth

ARCHIT WATTS

Kaka Singh Kotra.

MUKTSAR, IANUARY 14

Former SAD chief Sukhbir Badal today promised to make all kind of sacrifices for the Panth, Punjab and the Punjabiyat as he urged the Sikh community to forge a bond with his party once again. During his 20-minute

> address at a Maghi Mela rally here, Sukhbir spread out his kurta' from the stage and said he "owns up the responsibility" if his late father former Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal — and he committed any mistakes.

that if you are annoyed with me for any reason, let's rebuild our bond," Sukhbir said stressing that he stands for the state's peace and communal harmony.

This was the first major SAD event after the Akal Takht's punishing decree in early December forced the party to accept Sukhbir's resignation from its chief's post.

The highest temporal seat for the Sikhs had held him and several party leaders guilty of religious misconduct during SAD's decadelong rule from 2007-17.

Sukhbir's remarks have come as the party is struggling to fill the political vacuum left by its decline after the Sikh community drifted from it in recent years. He also flayed jailed Khalistan



"I ask the Sikh community Former Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal addresses a party rally during two-day Maghi Mela in Muktsar on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

## 'RESTORE FAKHR-E-QAUM' TO LATE CM'

- The SAD passed a resolution appealing to the Akal Takht to restore the 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' (pride of the community) title given to the late five-time Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal.
- The former CM was stripped of the title posthumously through the Akal Takht decree after Sukhbir Badal apologised to it for religious misconduct during the SAD-BJP rule. ■ The former CM and SAD patriarch was bestowed with the

title in December 2011 by the Akal Takht. sympathiser and Khadoor

Sahib MP Amritpal Singh, urging the public to be beware of him and his party. "Ask them if they have faith in the Akal Takht. They are traitors of the Sikh Panth. Their agenda is to push the state, especially the youth, into the jaws of fratricidal bloodshed," he added. He alleged that anti-Panthic forces had always targeted his father, who "served the Sikh community more than anybody else".

"Following his death, they are after me. It hurts," Sukhbir said. He once again claimed innocence in cases involving the desecration of religious texts during his party's government in 2015.

Sukhbir said he apologised to the Akal Takht and

## **LEADERS SKIP RALLY**

■ Bathinda MP and Sukhbir's wife Harsimrat Badal was among those conspicuous by absence. SAD MLAs Ganieve Kaur, wife of SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, and Manpreet Singh Ayali, were also absent. Maiithia too skipped

the event.

accepted its punishment as this was the "only way" to end the controversy surrounding the sacrilege cases. "Our party had held a meeting before I admitted everything. We had all answers to the questions, but we thought that the politics over the sacrilege incidents that had trapped our community for 10 years will end only this way," he said.

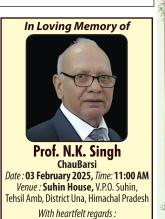
## Sacrilege incident in Faridkot

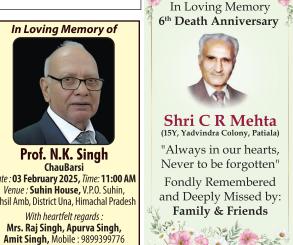
FARIDKOT, JANUARY 14

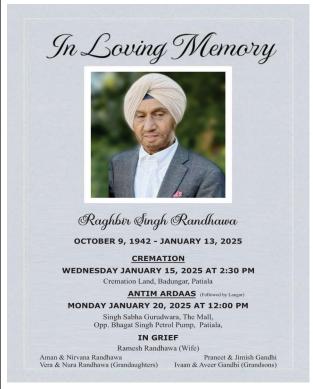
An alleged incident of desecration of 'Gutka' came to light at Golewala village of Faridkot on Tuesday.

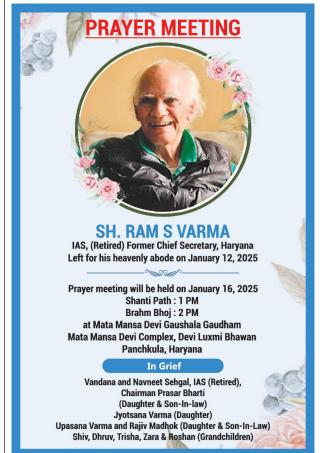
Gurmel Singh, a resident of the village, noticed torn pages scattered in a drain and the

religious book lying nearby. He carefully retrieved the scriptures and brought them home with respect following which he informed the police. A case has been registered.—TNS









# 3 Akali Dals vie to grab Panthic space

JUPINDERJIT SINGH

**CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 14** 

Maghi Mela at Muktsar on Tuesday witnessed rallies by three different Akali Dals, with each of them claiming to be the true saviour of the Sikh Panth. The occasion had been

used in the past by both jailed Khadoor Sahib MP moderate and hardliner Akalis to show their strength.

The Shiromani Akali Dal's attempt to resurrect itself after a string of electoral setbacks since the dislodging of its government in 2017 and the launch of

romani Akali Dal (Anandpur Sahib) as the name of their party. But on Tuesday, they

> the jailed MP's stamp. Waris Punjab De — an organisation that was earlier led by the late actorturned-activist Deep Sidhu – is currently being headed by the Khadoor Sahib MP.

from abroad in the past, which was questioned by Indian security agencies. Meanwhile, the over a century-old Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) tried to

Amritpal's party added hype to the occasion. The launch of the Amrit-

pal's outfit has stirred the Sikh politics. Earlier, his backers had picked the Shi-

announced a different name — Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De). It seems to bear

The organisation had allegedly received funds

through its rally — the first big occasion addressed by its former chief Sukhbir Singh Badal after a punishing Akal Takht decree forced the party to accept his resignation. However, the party contin-

ued to rally behind Sukhbir. SAD leaders, impressed by a large footfall at the rally, vied with each other in praising Sukhbir and even projected him as the future Chief Minister of Punjab. The SAD (Amritsar) led by

former Sangrur Lok Sabha MP Simranjit Singh Mann, a well-known Khalistan ideologue, also held a rally. The party banners continued to claim that it was fighting for a separate homeland for Sikhs. It remains to be seen how the party reacts to the emergence of a new Sikh hardliner group under Amritpal.



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