

4 REGION

NAVEEN JINDAL'S SECOND COMING

Polo player to pet lover, steel tycoon rides on BJP to reclaim poll fray

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

"CAPTAIN COOL" — this is how his teammates at the Jindal Panther Polo Team describe Naveen Jindal, the

The 54-year-old flamboyant industrialist who is making a comeback to electoral politics after a hiatus of 10 years.

A two-time Congress MP from Haryana's Kurukshetra from 2004 to 2014, Naveen sprang a surprise Sunday as he switched to the ruling BJP, which immediately named him its candidate from the constituency in the Lok Sabha elections.

The chairman of the Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL), Naveen is the youngest of four sons of late O P Jindal, who rose from farming in Hisar to found one of the largest steel conglomerates of the country.

Naveen had first hit the headlines in 1992. A freshly minted management graduate from University of Texas where he won the student leader of year award, Naveen had then raised objection when the local deputy commissioner asked him to remove the tricolour flying atop his factory at Raigarh in Chhattisgarh.

He went to the high court seeking a change in the flag code to enable every Indian citizen to fly the tricolour on all days of the year. Finally, in 2004 the Supreme Court gave its judgment in his favour, ruling that flying the national flag was a symbol of freedom of expression. The Jindal family had been



Industrialist Naveen Jindal at the BJP office in Delhi, Sunday. PTI

aligned with the Congress party since patriarch O P Jindal's electoral debut on the party ticket in the 1991 Assembly polls. Both O P and after his death, his wife Savitri also served as ministers in different Congress governments in the state.

However, O P's differences with the then chief minister Bhajan Lal in 1996 led to his shift to ex-CM Bansi Lal's Haryana Vikas Party, on whose ticket he successfully contested the then Lok Sabha elections from the Kurukshetra seat. But he returned to the grand old party in 2000 and decided to usher Naveen into politics from Kurukshetra in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, choosing to contest

himself in the Assembly elections from Hisar. A year later, he died in a helicopter crash at Saharanpur along with Bansi Lal's son Surendra Singh.

Subsequently, Naveen enjoyed a smooth run with then Congress CM Bhopendra Singh Hooda and his son and fellow parliamentarian Deepender Singh Hooda. Locals remember Naveen and Deepender fighting a friendly boxing match in crisp white kurta pyjama to promote the sport in Haryana.

The Jindal family's winning streak in politics ended in 2014, when both Naveen, from Kurukshetra, and his mother Savitri, who contested from her husband's Hisar Assembly seat,

lost the polls.

Ironically, Naveen, who was booked by the CBI and the ED in the alleged coal block allocation scam cases during the Congress-led UPA rule in 2014, was brought down by the strident BJP campaign, with the BJP candidate defeating him by a huge margin in the 2014 polls. The Congress did not give him ticket in the 2019 elections.

However, their political setbacks did not affect the family's fortunes. In 2023, India's wealthiest woman Savitri witnessed an unparalleled surge in her wealth as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

In 2009, Naveen founded the O P Jindal global university at

Sonepat in memory of his father. As an acknowledgment of his donations, his alma mater University of Texas renamed its School of Management Naveen Jindal School of Management in 2011.

When not presiding over the affairs of his steel and power companies and the varsity, Naveen enjoys captaining his polo team Jindal Panther. Last year, he steered his team, which includes Arjuna awardee Simran Shergill, to victory at the Indian Masters Polo Championship. "Polo is not a sports, it's a way of life, it teaches you discipline and team work," is his standard line for anyone he thinks would be remotely interested in the game. He is also known to be a pet lover, thanks to his 13-year-old dog Chester that he calls his "best friend". His steel mills routinely celebrate "Pawsome Days".

A champion skeet shooter in his younger days, Naveen holds a national record in shooting. He also sponsors budding shooters. In 2022, his protegee Mairaj Ahmad Khan won a gold at the International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup held in South Korea.

Naveen also has ties with Punjab through his wife Shalun, an accomplished Kuchipudi dancer, who belongs to the Oswal family of Ludhiana. The couple has a son and a daughter.

As Naveen gears up to fight the upcoming polls on the ticket of the BJP, which had been most vocal in raking up corruption charges against him, it is to be seen what will happen to the "Coalgate" cases pending against him.

Raghav Chadha stirs a row as he meets this UK MP: Who is Preet Kaur Gill?

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

AAM AADMI Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha recently found himself amid a political storm after British Labour Party MP Preet Kaur Gill posted on social media about their meeting in London last week to discuss "global health security".

On Saturday, Union Minister Anurag Thakur targeted the AAP without naming Chadha. "What kind of government is it (in Punjab)? An MP from the state (Punjab) stands with those forces who speak against India and support terrorism. He poses for a picture with them wearing a smile on his face. The AAP did not react to the BJP's criticism of Chadha's UK visit and his meeting with the Labour MP. Gill, the Shadow Minister for Primary Care and Public Health, made history in 2017 when she became the first woman Sikh MP of the United Kingdom. She has also often drawn scrutiny from the Indian government due to her perceived support for Khalistan.

The 51-year-old chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs and serves as Vice Chair for the APPG on International Freedom of Religion or Belief. In February, she alleged in the House of Commons that agents with ties to India were targeting Sikhs in the UK. Gill mentioned that some British Sikhs were even on a "hit list" of what she termed "transnational repression", and questioned Security Minister Tom Tugendhat about the British government's response.

In August 2020, Gill engaged in a public row on X (at the time, Twitter) with Conservative British MP Raminder Singh Ranger who posted that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson does not endorse Khalistan. Gill promptly challenged him citing the principle of self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The eldest of seven siblings, Preet Gill was born to a bus driver father and seamstress mother at Edgbaston, Birmingham, in 1972. Her father Dalvir Singh Shergill who migrated from the village of Jamsheer in Jalandhar to West Midlands in 1962 was known as much for his height — he was a towering 6'4" — as for his work as the president of the first gurdwara in the UK — the Guri Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick — from 1984 to 2004.

Preet Gill had her first taste of



AAP leader Raghav Chadha with British MP Preet Kaur Gill. @PreetGillMP

public life when she was elected college president of Bournville College, where she studied psychology and sociology. She moved to London to get an honours degree in sociology and social work from the University of East London and became a child services manager. After completing her post-graduation, Gill came to India where she spent some time working with street children in Delhi. She also lived in a kibbutz in Israel for some time.

Gill's parliamentary tenure

A very active parliamentarian, Gill is known for her work in public health and environment. She first incurred the ire of the Indian authorities when she called for the release of British national Jagtar Singh Johal, aka Jaggi Johal, who she claimed was being wrongly held and tortured by the police since 2017, the year she was elected MP from Edgbaston, Birmingham. It is one demand she has raised every now and then. Arrested while on a visit to Punjab in 2017, Johal is accused of being involved in targeted killings in Punjab and at present is in Delhi's Tihar jail.

Preet Gill is still known to maintain her ties with her extended family in Jamsheer, where a celebration was held to commemorate her victory in 2017. Around that time she triggered a row when during a visit to Punjab after her election she expressed concern about the prevalence of drugs, a no-go

topic for foreign delegates. She also seemed to endorse the year-long farmers' protest in 2020-21 against the now-repealed farm laws.

In December 2021, soon after a sacrilege and lynching incident at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Indian High Commission in Britain issued a statement slamming Gill when she first wrote and then deleted a post that referred to a "Hindu terrorist" behind the act. Later she posted, "Beadbi incidents are unacceptable but the lynching of another person is also unacceptable."

In 2023, Gill triggered a row in the Sikh community when she defended faith leaders amid a debate on domestic abuse among Sikh women sparked by a report from Sikh Women's Aid. The report surveyed 839 Sikh women in Britain, revealing that nearly two-thirds had experienced domestic abuse, including incidents involving faith leaders. Gill took to the WhatsApp group "Sikhs in Labour" to seek a written apology to the "guru ghar".

Of late, Gill has been at the receiving end of threats, which started coming last year when she got a threatening email. In January, she told BBC that people had been threatening to protest outside her home. "I am really worried in a way I have never been worried before," she told the broadcaster.

The Labour leader is married to fellow social worker Sureash Arora, with whom she has two daughters aged 12 and 14.

Canada's Spousal Open Work Permit restrictions: What options can Indian students still explore?

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA JALANDHAR, MARCH 26

INDIAN STUDENTS in Canada, particularly those from Punjab, are facing heightened uncertainty in the wake of the recent regulations in the North American nation that limit the number of international students and alter the rules concerning Spousal Open Work Permit (SOWP).

Most students who pursue diploma courses in Canada were so far able to bring their spouses along, but the current rules have imposed a virtual ban on the spouse visa. Nevertheless, certain opportunities remain available for Indian students seeking to study in Canada while bringing their spouses along. What are these opportunities, and how do they work? *The Indian Express* explains:

Can Indian students in Canada still take their spouses along despite changes in SOWP?

Yes, students can still bring their spouses along despite the changes, provided their file was submitted before March 19, 2024 under any programme, including diploma and degree



Students can still bring their spouses along despite the changes, provided their file was submitted before March 19, 2024. Express Archives

courses.

Following the changes, who all are still qualified to bring their spouses along?

Students enrolled in specific professional degree programmes can still bring their spouses to Canada despite the new regulations.

Which programmes allow spousal accompaniment?

Kapurthala-based consultant Gurpreet Singh says eligible programmes include Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS, DMD),

Bachelor of Law or Juris Doctor, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Optometry, Pharmacy (PharmD, BS, BSc, BPharm), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Education (BEEd), and Bachelor of Engineering.

Experts say that for medical streams like pharmacy and nursing, additional mathematics requirements are there to apply for a spousal visa. For non-medical fields, there are various offers including doing an engineering degree in any field. Students from the arts stream

are also eligible if they opt for LLB or BED courses, etc.

What about students with pending spouse visa applications?

Experts say the new rules apply to pending applications submitted after March 18, 2024. Additionally, applications filed before March 18 but were turned down are also subject to the new regulations. The new announcement came on March 22. However, certain

options are still available for these students.

Indian students can bring their spouses to Canada after completing their studies when they become eligible for a work permit. In such cases, spouses must wait at least three years for the completion of their partner's studies. Alternatively, students can switch to eligible programmes, including Masters or PhD, that allow immediate spousal sponsorship. This may involve cancelling the previous admission offer and enrolling in a different course, incurring a potential loss ranging from 1,000 to 2,500 Canadian dollars (approximately Rs 61,000 to Rs 1.53 lakh).

What are the options for students unable to switch programmes?

Students unable to change their programmes can still bring their spouses on a Visitor Visa, although spouses cannot work in Canada under this arrangement. Another option is obtaining an LMIA (Labour Market Impact Assessment), enabling students to obtain work permits and subsequently sponsor their spouses.



Webcasting for all polling booths in Punjab: CEO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

AIMING TO make the electoral process more transparent for Lok Sabha elections 2024, Punjab Chief Electoral Office (CEO) Sibin C has introduced major innovative initiatives in the IT sphere, including webcasting at all 24,433 polling stations in the state.

The CEO has already launched several mobile voter-friendly apps and websites, empowering voters to report election violations via phone, and monitoring the transportation of EVMs, along with installing CCTV cameras at polling stations.

Sibin said that they are closely monitoring the election process through 100% webcasting of poll stations. For the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, CCTV surveillance will be ensured inside all 24,433 polling booths, apart from it cameras will be installed outside 1,884 polling stations in all 13 constituencies where there are three or more polling stations.

He added that they have introduced a revamped NextGen District Information System for Elections (DISE) this time. It will be used to manage all aspects of elections, from collecting data of polling staff to scheduling rehearsals, randomizing polling staff and counting staff. The CEO said that this modernization aims to make elections more efficient, transparent, and secure.

The CEO said that this web-based application is utilised to integrate available employee data

from other applications using APIs/CSV/Excel files. It will also assist in managing staff shortages after the initial stage by deploying additional staff.

In another initiative, the CEO said that live streaming from flying squad vehicles (FSV), and static surveillance teams are monitoring violations of the model code of conduct during election process. The poll activity management system (PAMS) used for deploying polling parties and updating voting information, such as the commencement of polling and the status of voter queues at closing hours, has also been revamped to enhance the efficiency of election-related activities. The mobile app will provide real-time data.

The CEO further said that other innovative initiatives by the Election Commission of India, including the Voter Helpline APP, providing citizens with convenience in finding their names in the electoral roll, submitting online forms, downloading their digital photo voter slip, filing complaints, and receiving replies on their mobile app.

Another crucial initiative is the mobile application 'Know Your Candidate', allowing electors to access details and criminal background of any candidate. This app aims to provide wider publicity and greater awareness regarding the criminal background of contesting candidates to ensure transparent elections. It is available for download on Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

Akal Takht Jathedar asks Sikhs to stand united

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR AMRITSAR, MARCH 26

PARTICIPATING IN the Holi-Mohalla festival at the Takht Kesgarh Sahib, Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh on Tuesday asked Sikhs to become armed with knowledge as well as weapons as part of their identity. "It is crucial for Sikhs to stand united in their struggle for their rights. Otherwise, respective governments will continue to oppress community," he said.

The Jathedar alleged that Punjab was being exploited economically by diverting agriculture to corporate houses and asked Pujabis to be aware of the impending danger.

"Today, farmers are being humiliated on roads. So, when those in power will come to seek your votes, you must make them accountable," he said.

On the political Sikh prisoners, he said, "Some Sikh prisoners are behind bars for 30 years. If these prisoners are terrorists for raising weapons for their rights, then the whole Sikh community should be treated as terrorists."

"The government must answer what was the mistake of Warris Punjab De head Amritpal Singh and his companions, who have been imprisoned in the Dibrugarh jail in Assam. They were saving youth from drugs. If preaching religion is a crime, then every Sikh will commit that crime," he said.

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E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISIO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction) of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 25.03.2024	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid
1	47899610000618	1) Mr. Harpreet Singh, S/o. Jawahar Singh (Applicant), 2) Mrs. Manjit Kaur, W/o. Jawahar Singh (Co-Borrower)	24.03.2023	27.06.2023	Rs.12,92,436.07 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six and Seven Paise Only)	12.04.2024 09:00 AM to 05:30 PM	Rs.9,24,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Only)	Rs.92,400/- (Rupees Ninety two Thousand Four Hundred Only)	30.04.2024 @ 11:00 AM	29.04.2024 before 05:00 PM. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Branch Office Address: 16/12, 2nd Floor, W.E.A Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005.

Details of Secured Assets: Plot No. 59, 18/23 Min. Area Village Kala Ghanapur, Sub Urban Near Abadi Raj Avenue Amritsar Punjab-143105. Owned by Mr. Harpreet Singh S/O Jawahar Singh. Bounded as: East: Sukhman Karyana Store, West: S M Medical Shop/ House/ Open Plot, North: Khandwala Kale Road, South: Exg. House.

The properties are being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and the E-Auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s. 4 Closure at the web portal <https://bankauctions.in> & www.foreclosureindia.com. For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Bhaskar Naidu Contact Number: 8142000809/ 8142000661. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / subbarao@bankauctions.in.

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact Jana Small Finance Bank Authorized officers Mr. Rakesh Sharma (Mob No.7230070463), Mr. Shashi Kumar (Mob No.8700277112) & Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249). To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 27.03.2024, Place: Punjab

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited