

WORLD 5

ISRAEL ORDERS NEW EVACUATIONS IN RAFAH

MONEY 6

MEASURES IN PLACE TO MEET PEAK POWER DEMAND: GOVT

SPORT 8

RCB EYE FIFTH WIN IN A ROW AGAINST DC

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY MAY 12, 2024; PAGES 8-4 ₹4



Established 1864 sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



KEJRIWAL SPIRIT BACK IN DELHI

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Filled with energy and high political spirit ever since he walked out from Tihar Jail on Saturday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal while addressing his enthused party workers launched a scathing attack at the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of crushing his and other Opposition parties. Kejriwal, who has launched his Lok Sabha campaign for the May 25 Delhi schedule, alleged that the BJP is on a mission to bring about dictatorship in the country. Besides the "one nation, one leader" jibe, the AAP convenor also accused the BJP of shielding corrupt leaders and asked them if they would live up to the rule of retirement at the age of 75 that was brought about by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kejriwal further claimed that the Prime Minister wants Amit Shah to succeed in his acknowledgement that the party is set to retain power for a third term. At the same time Kejriwal also asserted the BJP will not return to power and said the INDIA Bloc will form the Government on June 4. "In the last 20 hours after release from jail, I talked to poll experts and people and got to know the BJP is not going to form the Government. The AAP will be part of the Government at the Centre. We will get full Statehood for Delhi and it shall have a people's Governor, not a man from Gujarat," he said, while adding that according to his assessment that the BJP is not getting more than 220-230 seats.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Earlier in the morning, Kejriwal along with his wife Sunita and Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann offered prayers at the Hanuman temple in central Delhi's Connaught Place. Hours after the visit, the Chief Minister posted on X about his temple visit. Reciting a verse from Hanuman Chalisa, "Sab sukh lahe tumhari sarna, tum rakshak kahu ko darr na", he said in the post in Hindi, "Reached the ancient Hanuman temple in Connaught Place and received the blessings of Hanuman ji. I prayed to Mahadev in Shiva temple and worshiped Shanidev

Maharaj. I prayed to God for happiness and prosperity of the country and to give strength to free the country from dictatorship. God bless everyone." "The BJP sent four of our top leaders to jail - Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and Satyendar Jain. This was an attempt by them to crush us. PM Modi wants to crush the AAP because he knows that we can bring about a bright future for the country. All Opposition leaders including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin,

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and RJD leader Tejashvi Yadav, will be in jail if BJP wins Lok Sabha polls," Kejriwal said addressing media, a first after his release on bail in the multi crore liquor scam. Kejriwal claimed that PM Modi has not spared his own party's popular leader and will remove Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from his post if the saffron party wins again. "Modi ji has a very dangerous plan - the plan of One Nation One Leader. He doesn't want anyone else to be popular. If they win the Lok Sabha polls, they will change the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in two months. They have tried to crush all the popular leaders in their party. Look at Vasundhara Raje and Shivraj Singh Chauhan. I am sure that Yogi Adityanath is the next," he added. Party workers and supporters gathered in big numbers to welcome Kejriwal after he was granted an interim bail by the Supreme Court till June 1. A supporter was seen standing on the tree at the office with the picture of Bhagat Singh and a copy of the Constitution of India shouting the slogan "Jail ka tale toot gaye, Kejriwal choot gaye". Many others adorned party flags and t-shirts that has "I am also Kejriwal" written on them. This was Kejriwal's first such presser following his release from jail after 50 days. Further, he said that the reason why he did not resign from Chief Minister's post was because he didn't want to give in to the 'dirty politics' of BJP.

Continued on page 2

Stars power Phase IV polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

From cricketer Yusuf Pathan to Akhilesh Yadav and Asaduddin Owaisi to Shatrughan Sinha, five Union Ministers, two World Cup winning cricketers and two Tollywood stars are among the 1,717 candidates for the 96 Lok Sabha constituencies spread across 10 States and one Union Territory to contest in the phase 4, for which campaigning ended on Saturday. The polling will be held on May 13. With the completion of each phase, political leaders, including the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are turning up the heat with all kinds of rhetoric, communal charges, slandering of rivals, and much more. Political barbs like racist slur on Indian people, Pakistan's atom bomb to Balakot strike to Pulwama attack and "humara siddhant hai, hum ghar me ghus ke mareng" (It is our principle to take the attack home), to "Rambhaktis in every street", and "15 seconds the brothers would not know from where they came and where they went", dominated during the fourth phase of campaigning. The stakes are high for the BJP and its allies in the fourth phase polling. Prime Minister Modi and the BJP leaders raised the issues of racist slur on Indian people by Indian Overseas Congress president Sam Pitroda, Pakistan's atom bomb by Mani Shankar Aiyer, "ghar mein ghus kar mareng" during the poll campaign and tried to corner the grand old party saying the Congress tries to instil fear in their own countrymen. In previous rallies, the Prime Minister launched scathing attacks against the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, claiming that he may have some "deal" with "Adani-Ambani".



Continued on page 2

LOK SABHA ELECTION PHASE IV SEATS		
2024 LS voting concludes for States marked in red on May 13		
STATES	NO. OF SEATS	CONSTITUENCY
ANDHRA PRADESH	25	Araku (ST), Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle, Kakinada, Amalapuram (SC), Rajahmundry, Narsapuram, Eluru, Machilipatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Narasaraopet, Bapatla (SC), Ongole, Nandyal, Kurunool, Nellore, Thirupathi (SC), Rajampet, Chittoor (SC), Anantapur, Hindupur, Kadapa.
Bihar	5	Darbhanga, Ujiarpur, Samastipur (SC), Begusarai, Munger
Jammu & Kashmir	1	Srinagar
MADHYA PRADESH	8	Dewas, Ujjain, Mandsour, Ratlam, Dhar, Indore, Khargone (ST), Khandwa
Maharashtra	11	Nandurbar (SC), Jalgaon, Raver, Jalna, Aurangabad, Maval, Pune, Shirur, Ahmednagar, Shirdi, Beed
Odisha	4	Kalahandi, Nabarangpur (ST), Bargarh, Koraput (ST)
TELANGANA	17	Adilabad (ST), Peddapalle (SC), Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Zahirabad, Medak, Malkajigiri, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Chevella, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Nagarkurnool (SC), Bhongir, Warangal (SC), Mahabubabad (ST), Khammam
Uttar Pradesh	13	Shahjahanpur, Kheri, Dhauraha, Sitapur, Hardoi, Mirsikh, Unnao, Farrukhabad, Etawah, Kannauj, Kanpur, Akbarpur, Bahraich (SC)
West Bengal	8	Baharampur, Krishnanagar, Ranaghat, Bardhaman Purba, Bardhaman -Durgapur, Asansol, Bolpur, Birbhum
Jharkhand	4	Singbhum (ST), Khunti (SC), Lohardaga (ST), Palamau (SC)

Akhilesh in Kannauj to avenge wife's defeat

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ KANNAUJ

In the heartland of Uttar Pradesh, the stage is set for a political spectacle as former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav braces himself for an electoral showdown in Kannauj. This battleground holds more than just electoral significance; it is a symbolic arena where familial legacies clash, and political destinies are determined. At the core of this unfolding drama lies a deeply personal quest for redemption. Akhilesh's decision to contest from Kannauj is not merely a strategic move but a poignant attempt to avenge his wife Dimple Yadav's defeat in the previous elections. The sting of that loss still resonates, propelling Akhilesh with a fervent resolve to reclaim Kannauj for the Samajwadi Party (SP), a stronghold nurtured by his father, Mulayam Singh Yadav. "The wounds of defeat run deep, but so does our determination," declares Akhilesh, his voice echoing with unwavering resolve. "Kannauj embodies our legacy, and we will not allow it to slip away." In the 1990s, Mulayam strategically expanded his influence in Kannauj, a constituency dominated by Yadavs and Muslims, transforming it into a bastion for the SP's first family. Over 16 elections held in Kannauj since 1967, Mulayam-affiliated candidates emerged victorious 10 times, while non-Yadav candidates



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav during his campaign for Lok Sabha elections, in Kannauj district, on Saturday PTI Photo

secured victory on six occasions. Notably, the SP clinched victory in this seat seven times, solidifying its significance in Uttar Pradesh's political landscape. On the opposing side, BJP's Subrat Pathak is preparing for what he terms a "high-voltage contest," drawing parallels to an India-Pakistan cricket match. "I am prepared to employ every tactic in the book," asserts Pathak, exuding confidence in his ability to thwart Akhilesh's aspirations. Local observers depict a grudge match, where past defeats fuel present ambitions. "Akhilesh's candidacy this time is fueled by a desire to avenge his wife's loss in the last elections," notes Ram Mani

Mishra, a seasoned journalist in Kannauj. Indeed, the stakes could not be higher. Kannauj, steeped in political history, has long been synonymous with the SP's dominance. For decades, the Yadav family has wielded influence, transforming it into a formidable bastion of their political power. However, cracks surfaced in this fortress in 2019 when Pathak, a BJP candidate, dealt a significant blow by defeating Dimple, disrupting the family's winning streak. The loss reverberated through the Yadav clan, marking a turning point in their political fortunes. Mulayam, the patriarch of the family, witnessed this setback with a heavy heart, passing in 2022, leaving behind a legacy tainted by defeat.

Continued on page 2

Rahul dares Modi to US style Presidential debate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lauding the initiative for a public debate on the Lok Sabha elections, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he or party chief Mallikarjun Kharge would be pleased to participate in such a discussion and expressed hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would also take part. "It would be a positive initiative for the major parties to present their vision to the country from one platform for a healthy democracy," Rahul said in a social media post. He also added that the nation expects Modi to participate in the debate. There is yet any response on the subject from the BJP. The Congress leader shared on social media his reply to Justice (Retd) Madan B Lokur, Justice (Retd) Ajit P Shah and N Ram, who had written to him and the prime minister earlier this week, inviting them to a platform for a debate on the key election issues. In their letter addressed to the



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing an election rally in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday canvassing for Kadapa candidate Sharmila YSR, daughter of former Chief Minister late Y Rajashekhar Reddy

country's leaders, the trio had stated that the proposal for the debate was non-partisan and in the broader interest of every citizen. Rahul said he discussed the invitation with Kharge and they agreed that such a debate would help people understand "our respective vision and enable them to make an informed choice." "It is also critical to put to rest any unsubstantiated allegations

attributed to our respective parties. As the principal parties fighting the election, the public deserve to hear from their leaders directly," he said in his letter replying to the invitation. "Accordingly, either myself or the Congress president would be pleased to participate in such a debate," he added. The former Congress chief also said he looks forward to participating in a productive and historic debate. "Please do let us know if and when the Prime Minister agrees to participate, following which we can discuss the details and format of the debate," he added. In his post, accompanied by the letter, the Gandhi scion said, "Congress welcomes this initiative and accepts the invitation for discussion. The country also expects the Prime Minister to take part in this dialogue." At an event in Lucknow on Friday, answering a question from a member of the audience, Rahul said he was "100 per cent" prepared to take on Modi in a debate and added that he knew the Prime Minister would not agree.

Miss Universe India sees beauty in diversity

SAKSHI PRIYA ■ NEW DELHI

To accommodate more competitors and reflect the diverse nature of the nation, the organisers of the Miss Universe India beauty pageant have announced significant changes in the specifications for the competition, including the elimination of age and height limits. This move aims to open up opportunities for a broader range of women to participate and showcase their talents on the global stage. The announcement was made by Miss Universe 2023 Sheynnis Palacios, Miss Universe Vice President Mario Buraco, and Miss Universe India Director Nikhil Anand. In the midst of these changes, it's worth noting the historical context of the Miss

Universe pageant. Since its inception in 1952, the age limit for participation has been set at 18 to 28 years, with a minimum height requirement of 5 feet 3 inches without heels. These criteria, although intended to uphold certain standards of beauty and eligibility, have also been limiting for many talented individuals. "Simply having a short height prevents many talented girls from moving forward. For talent, we have made this competition even easier," Anand announced at a Press conference last week releasing significant changes for Miss Universe India 2024. He further added that, State-level competitions will be held in all states of India, and the winner will represent India on the global stage. This year, state director



State-level competitions will now be held across all Indian states, ensuring wider participation and representation. This move removes the barrier of limited local audiences and provides a platform for talent regardless of location. The appointment of a state director in each region allows for a more grassroots approach; ensuring local engagement and sighting hidden gems on a national scale. Palacios, the first Nicaraguan to win the Miss Universe title, expressed her admiration for India saying she has spent only a short time in India, but the people here are so lovely where it feels having known them for years. "India is a confluence of great cultures; I feel very at home here," she added, praising Indian

cuisine, particularly butter chicken masala. Mario highlighted the Miss Universe stage's significance in connecting countries worldwide and providing a platform for the exchange of cultures. He emphasised that preparations are underway for a unique event for this year's Miss Universe competition. After seven years, a non-Indian Miss Universe titleholder has visited India. Palacios's visit aimed to inaugurate the Miss Universe India competition under the new management of the Glamour Group. The 2024 Miss Universe competition will be held in Mexico. These changes in the Miss Universe India competition are not just about eliminating age and height limits; they represent

a broader shift towards inclusivity and diversity in beauty pageants. By removing these barriers, the competition aims to provide a platform for women of all ages and heights to showcase their beauty, talent, and intelligence. The decision to introduce state-level competitions in all states of India is also a significant step towards decentralising the pageant and providing opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds to participate. By eliminating age and height limits, introducing State-level competitions, and appointing State directors, the competition is setting a new standard for beauty pageants, one that celebrates the diversity and talent of women from all walks of life.

Continued on page 2



Dust storm, gusty winds claim two lives in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least two people were killed and 23 injured in storm-related incidents as strong winds uprooted trees, electricity poles and led to portions of walls collapsing across Delhi. Power was also disrupted in many areas as the dust storm swept the national Capital late Friday night. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has advised people to stay indoors, close windows and doors and avoid travel if possible. Take safe shelters, do not take shelter under trees and Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls, the IMD said predicting strong wind/hail which may damage plantation, horticulture and standing crops. Hail may injure people and cattle at open places, it said. Nine flights were also diverted at the Delhi airport late Friday evening due to bad weather, an official said. Rain and thunderstorms were witnessed in many areas of Rajasthan as well due to the impact of a western disturbance during the last 24 hours, the local weather office said on Saturday. Thunderstorm activities are likely to continue till May 14, due to which the maximum temperature may fall in most parts. In west Delhi's Vikaspuri, a person on a two-wheeler died after a branch of a tree fell on him near Janakpuri flyover. Police said the branch was removed with the help of cranes and the victim, Jaiprakash, was rushed to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. A car was also damaged in the incident but its occupants were unhurt, a police officer said. In the other incident, a labourer got trapped under a tree which fell on him near IB Block at KN Katju Marg around 11 PM. Hariom was taken to a nearby hospital but the doctors said he was already dead. The police officer said in this incident also a car was damaged but its occupants were safe.

Continued on page 2

Priyanka ups the ante against Modi at rally in Maharashtra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

Pitching her brother Rahul Gandhi as the "real challenger" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was more interested in power politics than the welfare of the people, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday advised Modi to learn lessons of courage and determination from her grandmother and late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who divided Pakistan into two.

Upping the ante against Modi who she said during his electioneering "cries like a kid and complains that he is being abused by his opponents", Priyanka said that even during the election time, the Prime Minister did not have courage to spell out to people across the country the achievements of his government during the last 10 years. Addressing an election rally at the tribal dominated Nandurbar in north Maharashtra where Modi had addressed a rally on Friday, Priyanka said: "Modi ji says I

am fighting corruption alone. How can you say that? The entire government machinery and resources are with you. Your own people say that you are the tallest leader in the world and you hobnob with Prime Ministers and Presidents across the globe. But, when elections come, you start crying like a child. You complain that your opponents are heaping abuses on you," she said.

"Modi ji, show some courage. You should be courageous because you are in public life. Learn from Indira ji. She was a woman like Goddess Durga. She divided Pakistan into two. She was so brave and courageous. Learn from her what courage, determination and bravery are all about. But, you do not want to learn from a great woman leader like Indira ji, who laid down her life for the country, because you call her traitor," Priyanka said.

Accusing Modi of bringing down the stature of the Prime Minister's post, Priyanka said: "The Prime Minister's post has stature and dignity. We



have tall leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Manmohan Singh and A B Vajpayee who conducted themselves so well as Prime Ministers and whom we respect. But, you have brought down the stature and dignity of the office of the

Prime Minister. Even at the time of elections, you do not have the courage to spell out to people the achievements of your government during the last 10 years."

Priyanka, who spoke at length about the much-discussed poll promises made by the

Opposition Congress, pitched her brother Rahul Gandhi as the "real challenger" to Prime Minister Modi, who did not know how to respect the people.

"Tell me who do you want as your leader? You need such a leader who took the trouble

of walking 4,000 kilometers, reached out to people at their doorsteps and tried to understand their problems. You need a leader who is clean and who wants to be amidst you and who wipes your tears or a leader who sheds crocodile tears from the stage," Priyanka said, as she compared her brother with Modi.

"Do you want a leader who understands and lists your problems, who does not get deterred of being disqualified as an MP or against whom people foist false cases in courts. Or a leader who mouths lies after lies while talking to people," she asked. "Do you want such a leader who practises value-based politics and who commits to serve people? or do you want such a leader who practises power politics all the time, who is more interested in glamour and power that the office brings to him and a leader who is more interested about himself and does not know how to honour or respect the people," Priyanka went on to ask. Drawing a comparison

between Modi and Indira Gandhi, Priyanka said that whenever he is on the stage, no leader dares to go near him. "He never goes to meet people at their homes. You would have seen photographs of Indira ji inside the homes of people... See the difference, the greatest among the prime ministers visited your homes and bowed down her head and listened to your problems. Here is a leader (Modi) who has been the Prime Minister for the past ten years but has never visited any home," the Congress general secretary said.

Alluding to a statement made by Modi at a public rally on Friday that he was a worshipper of Shabri, Priyanka said: "Modi ji says he is a worshipper of Shabri. How can Lord Ram who honoured Shabri be compared to Modi who chose to remain silent when hundreds of Shabris were being subjected to atrocities. His government helped those who perpetrated crimes against women".

Accusing Modi of protecting and patronising such people

who indulged in atrocities against women, Priyanka said: "Modi ji did not step out of the prime minister's residence when the victims of sexual assault in UP's Hathras and Unnao died or when India's women wrestlers complained about sexual assault. He kept quiet. Where is Lord Ram and Shabri and where is Modi who protected the perpetrators of sexual crimes and gave tickets to the son of the accused. Modi's words are hollow. They do not carry any weight". Priyanka also lamented that the Narendra Modi government treated President Droupadi Murum, a tribal woman, badly. "Murum is a tribal woman. She has done so much work. Her work has been recognised and she has become the President. She was not invited to inaugurate the new Rashtrapati Bhavan or for the inauguration of Ram Mandir. The government only speaks about honouring tribals. But, when it comes to honouring the Adivasis, they go on the backfoot," Priyanka said.

Modi will continue to lead country post 2024: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

led by Home Minister Amit Shah BJP on Saturday said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's claim that the Prime Minister wants Amit Shah to succeed is his acknowledgement that the party is set to retain power for a third straight term. Mounting a counter-charge on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader following his stinging attack on his party, the ruling party said in a jibe that Kejriwal is speaking of his party's succession but could not have trust in any of his AAP colleagues to succeed him despite being jailed on money laundering charges.

At a rally in Hyderabad, Amit Shah asserted Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to lead the country post 2024 Lok Sabha polls and hit out at Kejriwal for claiming the PM was seeking votes for making Shah his successor, citing the 75 years age 'rule'. There was nothing written in the BJP's constitution on any such age ceiling, Shah told reporters here. There was no confusion in the BJP over the matter.

Shah was responding to Kejriwal's claim that Modi was asking for votes for the Union Home Minister to make him PM as the prime minister



would turn 75 next year. "I would like to tell Arvind Kejriwal and company and the whole Indi alliance, Modi becomes 75, there is no need for you to feel happy. It is not written anywhere in BJP's constitution. Modi will complete the term and will continue to lead the country. There is no confusion in BJP on this," Shah said.

He also said if Kejriwal thinks that Supreme Court's interim bail is a clean chit, then his understanding with regard to law is poor. The home minister also expressed confidence that the BJP would emerge as the largest party in South India in terms of Lok Sabha seats. The BJP is confident of winning more than 10 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana, he said.

BJP spokesman and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said with Kejriwal throwing the dictatorship barb at Prime Minister Modi, it was a case of pot calling the kettle black. Trivedi noted that Kejriwal threw out many of his colleagues like Prashant Bhusan, Yogendra Yadav, Kumar Vishwas and Kiran Bedi and discarded the principles he espoused while joining politics. So many people have been abusive towards Modi and continue to do so, he said. As someone high on liquor at times reveals the truth, so has Kejriwal after being involved in the liquor "scam" and jailed for this, Trivedi said mockingly. Kejriwal has acknowledged, willingly or unwillingly, that Modi is coming back to power.

NIA conducts raids at six locations in Jammu in terror conspiracy case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAMMU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday conducted surprise raids at six locations across Jammu province in the Pakistan-backed conspiracy to spread terror in the region.

The searches were aimed at dismantling the terror network in the Jammu region and scuttling the plans of the banned terrorist organizations to disturb the peace and communal harmony in J&K by radicalizing local youth and mobilizing overground workers.

According to a statement issued by the NIA spokesman, "Extensive searches were conducted in Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts of Jammu province by NIA teams in the case RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU, relating to the conspiracy by banned terrorist organizations and their offshoots to carry out violent attacks with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms etc in Jammu and Kashmir".

The searches led to the seizure of incriminating material including digital devices, documents etc. from premises linked with hybrid terror-



ists, Overground Workers (OGWs), sympathisers and cadres linked with the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of proscribed terrorist outfits, the statement read. These include Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr, Al-Qaeda, etc.

NIA had registered a suo moto case on 21st June 2022 to dismantle the terror network operated by these outfits, as well as their newly launched offshoots, such as The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others.

India to host Bharat Parv for first time at 77th Cannes Film Festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India for the first time will host a "Bharat Parv" at the 77th Cannes Film Festival for eminent dignitaries and delegates from around the world to showcase the myriad creative opportunities in the country.

At the prestigious film gala, a delegation consisting representatives from central and state governments as well as members of the industry will showcase India's creative economy in Marche du Films through a series of significant initiatives, the Information and Broadcasting ministry said on Friday.

It will be for the first time that the country will host a "Bharat Parv" at the Cannes Film Festival to engage with film celebrities, filmmakers, directors, producers, buyers and sales agents from across the world and showcase the creative opportunities and a rich bank of creative talent. The official poster and trailer of the 55th India International Film Festival (IFFI), to be held in Goa on November 20 to 28, will also be unveiled at the Bharat Parv, the release stated.

At the Bharat Parv, the delegation will also see the release of the "Save the Date" for the first edition of the World Audio-Visual and



Entertainment Summit (WAVES), which will take place alongside the 55th IFFI. The Bharat Pavilion, which serves as a platform for the Indian film community to engage in various activities, at the 77th Cannes Film Festival at 108 village International Riviera will be inaugurated on May 15 in the presence of eminent celebrities.

The Pavilion will be organized by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) as industry partner. A 'Bharat Stall' will be put in the Marche du Cannes through the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The Bharat Pavilion has been designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. It is christened on "The Sutradhara" for depict-

ing this year's theme of "Create in India".

At the internationally recognised festival, several Indian movies and productions will be showcased. The highlight will be filmmaker Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine As Light", which has been selected in the Competition section, where it will vie for the top prize Palme d'Or.

British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri's "Santosh" will be showcased at the 77th edition under the Un Certain Regard section.

"Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know", a short film by the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) students, has been shortlisted in the La Cinef Competitive section. Karan Kandhari's "Sister Midnight" will be screened in Directors' Fortnight and Maisam Ali's compelling "In Retreat" in L'Acid.

Dust storm, gusty winds claim two lives...

From Page 1

According to officials, they received 152 calls, including 130 made to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), regarding incidents of uprooting of trees, electricity poles and hoardings. They said 55 calls were also received about collapse of portions of buildings and structures in the city. Additionally, the officials said that 202 calls were received regarding power disruptions during the storms in the national Capital, the officials said.

Stars power Phase...

From Page 1

Similarly, BJP leader raised the issue "Rambhaktis in every street" and "15 seconds the brothers would not know from where they came and where they went", during campaign which created a controversy later.

The Prime Minister's rally held for the four Mahayuti candidates drew quite the attention as he targeted Sharad Pawar, describing him as a "bhatakti atma (wandering soul)". The NDA is eyeing its third consecutive term this general election, with echoes of "abki baar 400 paar", while the Opposition INDIA bloc is taking an economical approach to their campaign, promising MSP for farmers and cash handouts to women in their manifesto.

The States in the fourth phase are Andhra Pradesh (25), Bihar (5), Jammu and Kashmir (1), Jharkhand (4), Madhya Pradesh (8), Maharashtra (11), Odisha (4), Telangana (17), Uttar

Pradesh (13), and West Bengal (8). This includes the entire regions of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, this phase marks the commencement of polling in Jharkhand and Odisha. Andhra Pradesh will also conduct Assembly elections on May 13.

Two World Cup-winning cricketers will be testing the political pitch in Bengal. The 65-year-old former Indian cricketer Kirti Azad, who was part of the 1983 World Cup winning squad is contesting from Bardhaman-Durgapur Lok Sabha Constituency while Yusuf Pathan, 41-year-old former member of the Indian cricket team that won the World Cup in 2011, is testing political waters from Baharampur seat in Murshidabad. While Pathan is new in politics, Azad has got some previous experience. But both of them are facing the charge of being "outsiders". Moreover their opponents are heavyweights. Chowdhury is a seven-time MP while Ghosh is also an MP and former State president. They are also ready to bet their political career on this election.

The big fight in this phase is between Owaisi of the AIMIM party and Madhvi Latha of the BJP party for the Hyderabad seat. Although Latha has been active on

social media and on the ground, it won't be easy for her to defeat Owaisi.

Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra, who was expelled from Lok Sabha in December 2023, is in the race to win the Krishnanagar constituency in West Bengal for a second time. Up against her is BJP leader Amrita Roy, the Rajmata of the Krishnanagar royal family. For the INDIA bloc, SM Saadi of CPI (M) will be contesting the election.

Trinamool candidate Shatrughan Sinha, also known as the "Bihari Babu" of the Indian film industry, will face BJP candidate Surinderjeet Singh Ahluwalia from West Bengal's Anasol. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Babul Supriyo, a popular singer, who was then with the BJP won the seat.

Voting is scheduled on Monday in Begusarai and Ujiarpur, represented by Giriraj Singh, the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and Nityanand Rai, the Minister of State for Home, respectively. Both BJP leaders seek to retain their seats. One of Bihar's pivotal Lok Sabha constituencies, Begusarai is a general seat not reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs). It is currently represented by Singh. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections,

Singh defeated CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar (now a Congress leader) by a substantial margin. Before 2004, this seat was a stronghold of the Congress. The INDIA bloc has fielded Awadhesh Kumar Rai as their joint candidate against Singh. Union Minister Nityanand Rai is contesting from Ujiarpur. Three of the seats are currently held by the BJP and the party is optimistic following the rallies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Darbhanga and Munger, which is held by ally JD (U) but where the PM had also called Singh and sought votes for his cabinet colleague.

Andhra Pradesh Congress President YS Sharmila, daughter of former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy, and sister of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, will contest from Kadapa Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh. Kadapa has been a YS family bastion since 1989. Sharmila will lock horns with her cousin and YSRC MP YS Avinash Reddy. YSRC president and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy (Pulivendla), TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu (Kuppam) and Janasena chief and actor Pawan Kalyan (Pithapuram), among others, are in the Assembly poll race.

KEJRIWAL SPIRIT...

From Page 1

"I don't have any love for posts. When I became the Chief Minister for the first time, I resigned within 49 days. However, everyone keeps asking as to why I never resigned when I was arrested? The AAP has won in Delhi with unprecedented margins. They know they cannot defeat us even for the next 20 years. They conspired so that I would resign and the AAP Govt will fall. I said that I won't resign and will run the government from jail," he said while adding that even former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren shouldn't have resigned.

Akhilesh in Kannauj to...

From Page 1

Now, as Akhilesh returns to Kannauj for the fourth time, he faces a Herculean task to reclaim what was once his family's stronghold. It is a battle not just for political supremacy but for the preservation of Mulayam legacy, a legacy hanging in the balance.

"I see this as a fight for our very identity," remarks Vijay Singh Yadav, a veteran in the SP. "Kannauj is synonymous with the Yadav family, and we cannot afford to lose it." But the road to redemption is riddled with challenges. BJP's Pathak, hailed as a 'giant killer', leaves no stone unturned in his bid to retain the constituency. With the BJP's formidable machinery backing him, Pathak poses a formidable obstacle to Akhilesh's ambitions.

"It may come down to a razor-thin margin deciding the winner and the loser," remarks Dharendra Mishra, a

prominent 'attar trader. In the 2014 election, Dimple secured victory over Pathak by a significant margin of 18,107 votes. However, in 2019, Pathak turned the tables, narrowly defeating Dimple by a margin of 12,353 votes.

Yet, amidst the political jousting, the spirit of Kannauj remains undaunted. The fragrance of its famed perfume industry permeates the air, a testament to the region's resilience amidst changing political tides. For generations, Kannauj's perfume makers have persevered, their craft transcending the transient nature of politics.

"In Kannauj, our roots run deep," asserts Shailendra Saxena, a local eatery owner. "Regardless of political affiliations, our allegiance lies with those who uphold our values and traditions." Polling in Kannauj is scheduled for May 13th.

International Nurses Day 2024 celebrated in Army Hospital



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

International Nurses Day 2024 was celebrated here on Saturday at Ayurvignyan Auditorium, Army Hospital (R & R) Major General Kanwarjit Singh, Offg Commandant Army Hospital (R&R) attended the occasion as the Chief Guest. Major General Sheena P D, Principal Matron welcomed the gathering.

International Nurses Day is celebrated across the world, every year on the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale to mark the contributions of nurses towards society. International Council of Nurses has declared the theme for this year as 'Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care' and the theme was unveiled by Major General I D Flora, Additional DGMNS. To commemorate the occasion, a debate on 'Artificial

Intelligence in Nursing: Boon or a Bane' and a panel discussion on the theme was conducted. The eminent panelists discussed various aspects including challenges in the nursing profession, approaches to empower nurses, the leadership role of nurses, nursing education, digitalization in health care and nurse burn out.

The Chief Guest felicitated the panelists and awarded the meritorious Nursing Officers with Appreciation certificates. Captain Deepa Shajan was awarded with the Pushpnanjan Award. The Chief Guest also addressed the gathering and motivated them to uphold the professional standards and ethos set by Military Nursing Officers. He complimented the MNS Officers for working tirelessly in endless shifts taking care of patients with utmost compassion and empathy.

Kejriwal holds first roadshow after big comeback in poll campaigning

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

In Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's first roadshow in the national Capital on Saturday after his big "comeback" in the election campaigning of Lok Sabha elections 2024, enthusiasm among the party workers and supporters were visible as his interim bail has energised the cadre on ground. He held his first roadshow for the Lok Sabha election campaign along with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann in the South Delhi constituency, a day after his release from Tihar jail.

Party leaders and workers gathered in large numbers while Kejriwal and Mann mounted an open-roof vehicle waving and greeting people. "I have come straight to you after being released from jail. I missed Delhi people a lot. I want to thank crores of people who prayed and sent

blessings to me," Kejriwal said.

AAP supporters danced to the 'dhol' beats with pahadi musicals and bhangra performances setting the stage to welcome the chief minister in South Delhi's Mehrauli. Supporters across ages came to shower him with rose petals including a considerable number of women and children. 'Dekho sher aaya hai' and 'Jail ka tale toot gaye, Kejriwal choot gaye' were some of the slogans being chanted by the people.

A man painted himself as the flag of India with the national flag and party flag in his hand with 'I love you Kejriwal' and 'Jail ka jawab vote se' written on his chest and back as he awaited the arrival of Kejriwal in the assembly constituency for the first time since his release from Tihar jail on Friday.

The AAP chief was joined by his Punjab counterpart



Bhagwant Mann and the party's south Delhi candidate Sahiram Pahalwan in the roadshow. While Kejriwal and Mann carried out the roadshow together in one car, following them was the Gurdjari leader who contested elections against Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Budhuri. Asserting that the Modi government will not be formed on June 4, Kejriwal said, "It is a historic moment. History is taking a turn. If the INDIA bloc forms a government, the direction and fate of the country will change. I am fighting against dictatorship with all my power. I need your support. The country never accepted any dictator and people removed them. I have come to seek your support to fight the dictatorship."

"They are losing seats everywhere, be it Karnataka, Haryana. In Punjab, they will not win anything and even in Delhi, all the seven seats will

be won by the INDIA bloc," he claimed.

Flags of AAP swarmed the roadshow will situation of stampede emerged at Mehrauli's narrow lanes. Later the AAP workers were also joined by few of their alliance partner in Delhi Congress' workers who also made their visit to the roadshow to back INDIA and AAP's joint candidate in the Lok Sabha constituency.

Along with that, people also stood on their buildings and houses to shower flowers for Kejriwal, Mann and Pahalwan. Party scarfs and party caps were sported by many supporters who kept waiting to see the AAP Convener. The area saw a lot of decorations with balloons coloured blue and yellow.

Police including ones from Delhi Police, CISF and CRPF were deployed at the roadshow. Earlier in the day, he launched a scathing attack

from the AAP headquarters at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of 'dictatorship' and crushing all popular leaders in the country under his 'One Nation, One leader' mission on Saturday. In the chief minister's absence, his wife Sunita Kejriwal led several roadshows garnering support for the AAP candidates for the Lok Sabha polls. Kejriwal is on an interim bail till June 1 to participate in the Lok Sabha elections. He is facing charges in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. In the chief minister's absence, his wife Sunita Kejriwal led several roadshows garnering support for the AAP candidates for the Lok Sabha polls. Kejriwal is on an interim bail till June 1 to participate in the Lok Sabha elections. He is facing charges in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

BJP slams Kejriwal for accusing PM of furthering dictatorship in country

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday hit back at AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal who accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of furthering "dictatorship" in the country and said it was Delhi's "misfortune" that it got a Chief Minister who cannot sign files and go to the Secretariat. Kejriwal, who is out on bail on a bond of Rs 50,000 has started spreading lies, alleged Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

"A decent behaviour cannot be expected of Kejriwal. It was unfortunate that Delhi has got a Chief Minister who cannot sign a file or go to the Secretariat now," said. The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail to Kejriwal in a money laundering case, with conditions that he cannot visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat while being out on bail till June 1.

The apex court also asked Kejriwal to not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary



to obtain the Lieutenant Governor's sanction during the 21-day interim bail period. Sachdeva alleged "corruption" is Kejriwal's ideology and the AAP was "mother of corruption".

"His ideology has made Delhi the most polluted capital city and sub standard medicines were given to people from government hospitals, corruption happened in health and education sectors and the biggest plan was to push Delhi's youth into addiction through

the liquor policy," Sachdeva charged.

Kejriwal needs to think about himself and his party because four of his top colleagues were in jail under corruption charges, he said.

Sachdeva said the people of Delhi have to now decide whether they want to vote for the "corrupt" out on bail or for the Modi government, which has written a new definition of development in the last 10 years benefitting all through its welfare schemes.

Rajasthan Ministers address public in support of BJP candidates in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa and Rajasthan Minister Rajvardhan Singh Rathore addressed the public in the national Capital on Saturday to support and facilitate the BJP candidate's win in the Lok Sabha in Delhi, which is slated to be held on May 25.

Kumari addressed the public in two times MP and Lok Sabha candidate Manoj Tiwari's constituency of North East Delhi along with MP Dr. Kalpana Saini and President of Delhi Mahila Morcha Mrs. Richa Pandey. Addressing the women's conference of North Eastern District of BJP in Burari, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "The women of Delhi and the country are with BJP, the empowerment rights received from Modi government is the pride of every woman and she is the victory shield of BJP in this election."



Further, Bairwa addressed the Yuva Morcha conference of Naveen Shahdara district and the Scheduled Caste Morcha conference of Shahdara district while stating that even the last person of the society got the opportunity for progress in the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Today under the Modi government, the Scheduled Caste youth of the country are also getting every opportunity and

they are progressing in every field," Bairwa claimed. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva addressed the workers conference of South Delhi parliamentary constituency along with the BJP candidate Ramveer Singh Bidhuri. On this occasion, Sachdeva said "This Lok Sabha election is now an opportunity to choose between nationalism and corruption and the people are choosing BJP, the symbol of nationalism."

Lone city third gender LS pick woos community on plank of civic amenities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the national Capital's South Delhi constituency, 26-year-old Rajan Singh has been reaching out to the electorate with the slogan "sauchalay se, Sansad tak". The poll plank for Singh, the lone third-gender candidate in the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, is the lack of basic amenities for the transgender community such as separate public toilets.

"I am participating in the Lok Sabha election to address our community's basic needs which are so fundamental and necessary. Yet we still have to fight for them," Singh said. "Beginning with the demand for separate toilets to advocating for seats for transgender people in Parliament, our journey ahead is long. It begins with the motto 'sauchalay se, sansad tak,'" the candidate said.

A native of Bihar, Singh who lives in the Sangam Vihar area of the city, is fighting the election on the polls symbol "buck-

et" and plans to take out a march in the constituency on May 12 with a few people.

While filing poll nomination on May 3, Singh had said the reason behind participating in the parliamentary elections was to "draw the attention of people as well as the authorities towards the problems faced by the third gender persons due to lack of separate civic amenities for them and also for their social acceptance and rights".

"I want the government to set up a national trans-gender commission so that our basic needs and necessities, such as separate washrooms and queues at government offices and service providers, and also at least one per cent reservation in jobs and education could materialise," Singh had said. "My father was an electrician when we shifted to Delhi from Bihar in 2010. Life is tough for everyone, but for us, it is tougher as we also have to fight for our identity, acceptance and equal rights."

Kejriwal visits Hanuman temple

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal along with his wife Sunita and Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann on Saturday offered prayers at the Hanuman temple in central Delhi's Connaught Place.

A day after getting released from Tihar jail on interim bail, Kejriwal reached the historic temple to pay his obeisance. Kejriwal was accompanied by AAP leaders, including Saurabh Bharadwaj, Atishi and Sanjay Singh.

Hours after the visit, the chief minister posted on X about his temple visit. Reciting a verse from Hanuman Chalisa, 'Sab sukh lahe tumhari sarna, tum rakshak kahu ko darr na', he said in the post in Hindi.

"Reached the ancient Hanuman temple in Connaught Place and received the blessings of Hanuman ji. I prayed to Mahadev in Shiva temple and worshipped Shandev Maharaj. I prayed to God for happiness and prosperity of the country and to give strength to free the country from dictatorship. God bless everyone."



On Friday, the chief minister thanked Lord Hanuman as he stepped out of Tihar Jail on interim bail and sought people's support in his "fight against dictatorship".

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor condemned Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party for spreading lies in the name of visiting the temple of Shri Hanuman Ji and politicizing the name of Hanuman Ji.

Kapoor said on Friday night, while getting released on bail from jail, Kejriwal announced that on Saturday morning at 11:30, he would visit the ancient Shri Hanuman Temple at Connaught Place and invited the people of Delhi to join him for the temple visit.

Not only did the people of Delhi reject Kejriwal's announcement to visit Hanuman Temple, but also his party workers did not show up,

and when Kejriwal arrived at the temple premises there were only 100 people with him, Kapoor claimed.

He said it is condemnable that Kejriwal lied even about visiting the Shri Hanuman Temple. Kejriwal said, "I have come directly from jail to have darshan of Hanuman Ji," which is an outright lie. Kejriwal spent the night before making political statements after getting bail from jail and

made an event out of visiting the temple, Kapoor said. BJP spokesperson said it is shameful that Kejriwal, who opposed the construction of the Ram Temple until a year and a half ago, is now making announcements in the name of Shri Hanuman Ji, whereas no BJP leader ever misused the name of Hanuman Ji in politics.

Vijay Kumar Malhotra, who visited Hanuman Temple regularly from 1951 to 2021 (until unwell), former Chief Minister i Madan Lal Khurana used to stand in line with all devotees during his lifetime to enter the temple.

Even today, senior BJP leaders like Shri P. K. Chandra and Shri Dushyant Gautam stand in line every Tuesday to have darshan.

Similarly, BJP candidate Praveen Khandelwal from Chandni Chowk has been visiting Hanuman Temple daily for the past 25 years, and "I myself have been visiting every Tuesday and Saturday for almost three decades, but we have never turned Shri Hanuman Temple into a political platform," he said.

AAP will be part of Central Government in June: Mann

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday asserted the AAP will be part of the Government that will be formed at the Centre on June 4 and said the BJP will not cross 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers a day after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was released on interim bail, Mann called him "dictatorship's nemesis". "I had said it everywhere, Kejriwal is not a person but a thought. You can arrest a person but not a thought. Dictatorship's nemesis is Kejriwal," he said.

Mann thanked the "revolutionary people of Delhi who stood with the party in difficult times".

"The people want to hear what Kejriwal will say about the condition and direction of the country's politics," he said. Mann commended the people of Delhi for standing rock solid with his party in the time of crisis.



"Your company does not let us feel tired. You people are organic," he said. Mann said there is a need to "work hard" since there are only 20 days left for the polls. "We have to work hard. There are only 20 days left for polls. We have work for 18 hours against 12 hours. The first three rounds of polls have revealed 400 par is not possible for Modi ji," said Mann.

"You cannot win the elections by arresting the opposition leaders and sending the ED, CBI after them," he charged. Using cricket analogy, Mann said Kejriwal was only "retired hurt" and will hit "sixes and

fours with the same fervour". "He was only retired hurt and not out. He has come back for batting. The bat is the same, the pitch is the same. He will hit the same sixes and fours," he added.

Exuding confidence about the results there, Mann said, "BJP and Congress will be wiped out in Punjab and all 13 seats will go to AAP." In Punjab, the AAP is fighting the polls solo.

After Mann, Kejriwal addressed the party workers and launched a scathing attack on the BJP. Slogans in support of Kejriwal and the AAP were raised during Mann's address.

Eco friendly earthen pots in demand as temperature soars in Capital

ABHI SINGHAL ■ NEW DELHI

In the Capital where the temperature is rising, some people drink refrigerated water while some have found earthen pots (mitti ke garhe) to combat the heat and to keep themselves connected to the traditional and environment-friendly ways of cooling water naturally. Some Rajasthani Banjara women who sell pots on footpath in the J Block market, Ashok Vihar are getting a good business as the clay and earthen pots are in demand. Over time the surging demand for these pots, they are now also sold in different colors, innovative designs, and decorated motifs.

Talking to Sharmila, a Rajasthani woman who has been selling her pots on the footpath, from the last 7 years at the entry of the J Block market said, "The customers start coming from April (start of summer season) and there is a good number of buyers." She further added that she sold two to three whole trucks, that is around 20,000 of earthen pots during the lockdown because people avoided the refrigerator water to prevent the COVID-19 virus.

The people after the lockdown phase haven't stopped this trend, some of the sellers of such earthen pots said. People now have increased in numbers to buy such pots.



Ramesh, who had come to buy these pots with her wife, said they have been drinking water from these matkas for a very long time and whenever the summer season takes a peak then only they buy these matkas. He said, "Hum to shuru se yahi paani peete hain" (They drink water from earthen pots from the beginning).

These pots are made up of natural clay, and have the ability to keep water cool for longer periods without the need for electricity. The prices of these pots are between Rs. 200 - 250 depending on size. Kellu, whose seasonal work for the past 10 years is selling earthen pots in North Delhi said that the continuous buy-

ers of traditional items like pots in the summer season are keeping their work alive. A new hawker of the earthen pots Santoshi and her husband said, "abhi do mahine pehle shuru kiya hai kaam but pet pal jata hai" (They started this work two months back and are able to earn their living.) She further said clay contains minerals and the water kept in earthen pots automatically generates unique flavors. The water in these earthen pots tastes better because of this delicate earthiness, which makes it more appetizing, revitalizing, and refreshing. The buying of the clay and earthen pots have kept the traditional and healthy culture alive.

BJP questions Rahul knowledge, standing to debate against Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday made light of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's readiness for a debate with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as it questioned his knowledge of issues and his standing, noting that he is neither the president of his party nor the leader of the Opposition. Making this assertion in a news conference here BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi also took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi over his claim that the Opposition INDIA bloc will win the Lok Sabha polls, saying someone who could not file his nomination from Amethi is speaking about forming government at the Centre. "Phenomenon thy name is Rahul Gandhi," he said mockingly. Trivedi asked that in what capacity Rahul is looking to debate with Modi as he is merely an MP of his party. In the Congress, one MP heads a yatra while its leaders in both the Houses of Parliament stand behind him. While Mallikarjun Kharge is its president, Rahul's posters are visible, he said, jeering at the opposition party.



Some prominent citizens, including a former Supreme Court judge, had recently written to Modi and Rahul, urging them to engage in a public debate on the Lok Sabha elections. The former Congress president said he was ready for such a debate and claimed that the prime minister would not agree to it. Targeting Rahul, Trivedi told reporters that he recently dragged the issue of upper castes and Dalit representation while speaking about IITs, which, the BJP leader said, were set up by Jawaharlal Nehru in collaboration with different foreign countries. Whether one can debate with him can be understood with the level of his knowledge on

different issues, he said, adding that many people have challenged Gandhi for a debate as well. Trivedi also had a go at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over jubilation in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) following his interim bail, saying he has joined a elite club of politicians who have returned from jail. Earlier, Anna Hazare was his guru and now it is Lalu Prasad Yadav, the RJD president who has been convicted in multiple corruption cases, and its impact is clearly visible, he said. One can see how the so-called new politics Kejriwal claimed to launch has become the same old politics in the company of the Congress, Trivedi said. At the press conference, the BJP

leader alleged that Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole had insulted President Droupadi Murmu, who comes from a tribal community, with his comments that the Ram mandir will be purified once the opposition comes to power. Patole had accused Modi of violating religious protocol in the temple's inauguration. Trivedi said his comments have come soon after Murmu has visited the temple. It is a deep insult of Murmu and has brought forth the malice the Congress has for the deprived community, he alleged. With Patole referring to the critical remarks of some Shankaracharya about the inauguration ceremony, Trivedi said all religious leaders drawn from across the country had supported the demand for a Ram temple at a "Dharam Sansad" in 1989 and that one of the persons chosen for the "shilanyas" ceremony was a Dalit. The Congress opposed these developments, he added. It is organisations with similar ideological bent as the BJP which worked to promote and preserve the culture and traditions of the disadvantaged communities, Trivedi said.

EC responded to my letter to INDIA Bloc, ignored my complaints: Kharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said it is surprising that the Election Commission (EC) chose to respond to a letter he wrote to INDIA Bloc leaders but ignored several other complaints he raised directly to it. In a letter addressed to the CEC and other election commissioners, he said the poll panel is showing no urgency in dealing with "blatantly communal and casteist" statements being made by leaders of the ruling party and this is puzzling. In response to the letter written by Kharge to INDIA bloc leaders expressing concerns over EC's delay in releasing voter turnout figures for first two phases of polls, the Commission had on Friday called it an attempt to push a biased narrative under the guise of seeking clarifications. Kharge, in his response, said it was an open letter clearly addressed to the alliance partners and not to the Commission. "It is surprising that the Election Commission of India



wanted to respond to this letter while ignoring several other complaints given directly to it. I have certain misgivings about the language of the letter, but I will not press on that issue as I understand the pressures they are working under," Kharge said in his letter sent to the EC on Saturday. He said the EC letter on the one hand says the Commission respects citizens' right to ask questions and on the other hand, "threatens citizens in the form of an

advise to exercise caution". The Congress chief also said he is puzzled by the need to write that the Commission is "not legally bound to publish any voter turnout data at aggregate level of a constituency or state", even though it is factual. The Election Commission in its statement had dubbed Kharge's letter an "aggression on the vitals of live conduct of elections". In a five-page response with a series of annexures, the poll panel rejected charges of mismanagement and delay in

the release of voter turnout data in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections and termed Kharge's allegations "unwarranted", "without facts" and "reflective of a biased and deliberate attempt to spread confusion". In his letter to INDIA bloc leaders, Kharge had said "apart from the delay, the voter turnout data released by the Commission does not mention crucial yet related figures, such as the votes polled in each parliamentary constituency and in the respective assembly constituencies". He also said if the voter turnout data was published within 24 hours of voting along with the crucial figures, then people would have known if the increase of "5 per cent" had been witnessed across constituencies or only in constituencies where the ruling regime had not performed well in the 2019 elections. Opposition leaders had also met the EC top brass on Friday and raised the issue of voter turnout figures and the complaints given by them on various incidents of model code violation by ruling party leaders.

BJP will win all four LS seat in Himachal Pradesh: Thakur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SHIMLA/NEW DELHI

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said the BJP will hit a four and

six in Himachal Pradesh by winning all the four Lok Sabha seats and bypolls in six Assembly constituencies in the State. Thakur, the BJP candidate from Hamirpur Lok Sabha

seat, said that people were happy with the performance of the BJP led government at the Centre and wanted to make Narendra Modi the prime minister for the term. "We constructed the Ram Mandir. The Congress says it will build a mosque. The

opposition parties said that they would crush Sanatan and equated it with HIV Aids and malaria," Thakur said addressing a huge gathering at Gandhi Chowk in Hamirpur. "Like the Mughals and Britishers came and left, the Congress is also going. Sanatan tha, sanatan hai and sanatan rahaga", he added. Thakur said the Congress says Pakistan has nuclear



bomb, but the truth is that Islamabad is struggling for food as the grand old party is

struggling for votes. "We defeated Pakistan in 1965, 1971 and the Kargil war and if Pakistan would raise eye on India we will not take time to raise it to the ground," said Thakur and dubbed the Congress as Pakistan stating that it would be defeated

again. They say that Pakistan is 'not wearing bangles' and let me tell you that our sisters who wear bangles and carry AK-47 rifles have the guts to kill infiltrators," he added. Thakur said the BJP never changed its ideology and kept its promise. The BJP leader said the people of the country ousted the "corrupt" Congress in 2014 and made a tea seller Narendra Modi the country's prime minister. Launching a scathing attack on the Congress government in the state, Thakur said that 15 months have passed but Rs 1,500 per month as promised by the party on the eve of the last assembly polls has neither been deposited in the banks of the women nor it will be deposited and accused it of cheating the public. He asked the youth whether they got five lakh jobs as promised or not and whether the Congress government bought milk for Rs 100 per litre and cow dung for Rs 2 per kg or not. Thakur, the BJP candidate from Hamirpur, has disowned their son Jatinder Singh from their movable and immovable assets, my clients will not be responsible for any kind of acts, done by him in future.

Thakur shared the stage with Thakur along with state BJP chief Rajeev Bindal and state party in-charge Saurabh Singh. Jai Ram Thakur, the Leader of Opposition, said that the results would be announced on June 4 but the people have already expected Modi as the prime minister and Anurag Thakur will win from Hamirpur with a margin of over five lakhs. Bindal exhorted the party workers to go to every household to ensure the BJP's victory. Earlier, Anurag Thakur took out a massive roadshow "Vijay Sankalp Yatra" in Hamirpur district and said the enthusiasm of the people clearly suggests that they have made up their mind to vote for the BJP. Thakur, a four time MP from Hamirpur, started his programme in the early morning hours and visited the Kuldevi - Awahdevi temple to seek blessings for himself and the party. He also took blessings from his parents. He took out the roadshow in an open jeep from Awahdevi to Hamirpur. He also offered prayers at the Shiva temple where hundreds of local party leaders and workers were present.

FORMAT C-7 (FOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO PUBLISH IN THE NEWSPAPERS, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS & WEBSITES OF THE PARTY)	
Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedent could not be selected as candidates" (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Contempt Petition (C) No. 2192 of 2018 in WP (C) No. 536 of 2011.)	
Name of the Political Party	: INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
Name of the Election	: GENERAL ELECTION LOKSABHA 2024
Name of State/UT	: DELHI
(1) Name of the Constituency	: NORTH - WEST DELHI
Name of the Candidate	: DR. UDIT RAJ
S. No.	
1	Criminal antecedents
Nature of Offences	1. Criminal U/S188/269/283 IPC R/WSEC 3 Epidemic Diseases Act R/W 51(b) Disaster Management Act. 2. Criminal U/S 188 IPC 3. Criminal U/S 153 IPC R/W61(D) IT ACT
Case no.	1. FIR NO. 150/21 Dated 12/08/2021 Parliament Street PS- 2. FIR NO. 12/24 Dated 22/02/2024 PS-Parliament Street, and so 3. FIR NO. 158/2021 PS-Kotwali Sadar, Unnao
Name of the Court	1. Case FIR No 150/2021 was pending in the Court Ms. Anamika, MM,PHC but Vide order dated 28/02/2024 the case was transferred for the Court Rouse Avenue and Vide order dated 05/03/2024 H.d. Principal District Judge sent the same to Delhi High Court for the assignment in MP / MLA Court but till date no case has been assigned for the adjudication of the case. 2. Charge-sheet has not been filed in Case FIR No.12/2024 PS-Parliament Street and matter is pending investigation at PS-Parliament street 3. Charge has not been framed in case FIR no.158/2021 PS kotwali sadar.
Whether Charges have been Framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
Detail of punishment undergone, if any	N/A
Any other information required to be given	The above-stated cases are false, fabricated and politically motivated,
The reasons for the selection of the Dr. Udit Raj is former candidate. Selection shall be with reference IRS and his vast knowledge in public service and impeccable character were inter-alia reasons for his selection as Candidate for North-West constituency.	Dr. Udit Raj is former IRS and his vast knowledge in public service and impeccable character were inter-alia reasons for his selection as Candidate for North-West constituency.
Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	works for the welfare of the Common people and hence on the demand of the people of North-West Delhi, he was preferred over other candidates.
(2) Name of the constituency	NORTH - WEST DELHI
Name of the Candidate	: DR. UDIT RAJ
Signature of office bearer of the political party Name and designation.....	

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

- DL3CAJ258, DL7SS277, DL4SAF5324, UK07BB6515, DL7SU5904, DL6SP3315, DL2CQ3615, DL6SQ2215, DL4ST4992, HR02T5799, DL4SB19934, DL6SQ9255, PB12Q0074, DL4SAM6278, DL4SBE1826, MAKG0853, DL4SNC1436, HR34A6197, A6N302024, DL4SNC4225, DL4SB16760, DL2CAF6906, UP80AN1535, DL4S897362, WB0252386, DL6SAE0702, DL4SAH2824, DL1CJ4283, DL4SNC0540, DL9SH3234, DL6SAD0455, DL4SNC3861, HR34A65896, DL6SAC2332, DL4SAM9834, DL6SX4212, HR01S6777, DL4SBJ9744, DL9SQ4286, DL6SE5072, DL4SB15838, DL6SX8014, DLBSF4074, DL4SND2999, DL3SAY9882, DLASU7121, DL3SBF2614, MH01AF2921, DL4SBE6919, DL4SBE6980, DL4CAH4841, DL1SM0756, DL4SQ9458, DL3C8F5722, DL4SBE8493, DBX190, DL7CFF154, DL6SAC1601, DL8SAJ9008, WB3AE6242, DL4SDF8770, DL9SBA4100, DL4SAG2208, DL4SNA4248, DAF5992, PB07AN8002, DL4SBC2464, DL8SW0838, DL4CNE0170, DL1SR6516, DL4SNC0516, DL2CAH9689, DL4SNB2962, DL4SND4123, DL4CNE1177, DL7SAF5447, DL9SL3239, DL1LW6150, DL1SR8428, BR04E4340, DL4SAE1980, DL6SAA9750, DL9SX5294, DL1S1J1172, DL4SMB2576, UP32CB5715, DL7SFB2387, MP09LF4282, UP85A3164, DL9SX1825, UP2218779, DL9CQ51899, DL4SBO6982, DL4SAK7799, MH06V3217, DL4SNA2351, GJ1JC1037, MP04NU2144, DL4SBB8485, DL4SBC6918, DL4CNC3380, DL4SNA2534, DL9SL8241, DL4CND7169, DL4SAQ5661, DL4SX9518, DL4CH6781, HR29S1605, DL1SR8719, DL8SAAM2551, DL3SNC3422, DL1LL2914, DL6SAD1826, DL3SFA9058, UP80AC0816, DL6SAB4094, DL4SAB7325, HR14D2906, DL6SAD0308, DL4SAB9048, DL4SQ2209, DL4SFB3113, DL4SAB3635, UP70AN2647, DL7SAF9321, HR05S6702, DL7SA7133, DL2SL3378, DL8SAG7549, DL4CAL4967, DL4S4838, DL4SBA3798, DL9CS8946, DL4SB18955, DL6SQ10111, DL7CES125, DL9SAA1562, DL4SNC1950, SB309N, DL4SAC0920, DL4SBE9191, 329068, DL4SAL8638, DL6SM3353, DL9CK5805, CG04DF8749, DL1CL4400, DL4CS8273, MH43W1466, 38951, DL6SY0273, DL4SBM3816, DL2CAK0426, DL6SY7846, DL4SB12833, HR26W3244, DL6ST4610, DL6S27794, P665804, DL6SG1459, DL4SFB3113, RJ12M4652, DL6SP9152, DL4SAM2846, CDEBHJ31456, BR1AF721, DL4SNC1753, DL6SAC3374, DL4SBE9135, DL8SAE3617, DL4SAF1724, DL4SND2912, DL8SD8709, DL7SAE6698, DL4SBE4970, HR26X1284, DL6ST6687, DL4SAC9720, DL8SAC06216, GJ2AA2497, DL4SNA1443, DL6S28280, DL6S58276, DL6SAA7851, DL6SV5772, PB0706276, VEEXH028359, DL7SA9681, DL1TSA8652, HR01T2996, DL4SAB0823, DL3SAC8759, DL4SNA2611, DL6SG1203, DL6SBE6245, DL4SY3729, MALA451, DL6Z3336, DL4SBE9928, HR8M341919, DL4S89363, DL6SAS0155, MAKG0862, DL6S6F335, CH03V6997, HRN401405, DL8SBN5840, DL9SX0703, DL9SX4000, DL4SU1261, HR26AM7228, DL4SFB7822, RJ0114M3387, DL4CND6995, DL4CAH9027, DL6SA02745, DL8CQ4699, DL2CAE2705, DL6S8Y8163, DL6SFC8618, DL2CB1134, HR26AM0668, UP13AE1111, HP26A00123, DL4SNA6348, DL2CAJ0519, UP62X7169, DL4SFB9251, HR13E9191, DL6S97929, DL6S79393, PB2SE0207, DL6S8Y712, DL6S9P9701, DL4SMB1334, DL6SU1260, DL8SA13279, DL6S11677, DL6S9P7981, DL6S1Y579, DL6S79439, DL6SH0677, DL5CB8393, DL1SH4908, DL6SAB7262, DL1CR0128, DL4SAB4935, DL4SBE2187.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I NARENDER S/o: Raghuvveer Singh, R/O H.no -109, NARENDER, JAWAHRENAGER, MOHINDER GHRE, Patharwa (2), PO: Patherwa, DIST: Mahendragarh, Haryana, 123024 have changed the name of my minor son Yash aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as Yesh Rathore.

PD(439)A It is for general information that I NARENDER SHARMA S/o SATYADEV SHARMA R/o 625a/33, Janta Colony ROHTAK, ROHTAK, HARYANA - 124001, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NARENDER KUMAR in my Pan card no AIZPK5775B and NARENDER SINGH in my service book record. The actual name of mine is NARENDER SHARMA, respectively which may be amended accordingly. PD(440)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Ravi Goyal S/o Mr. R.N. Goyal H. No. 429, Garhi, Prakash Mohalla East of Kailash, South Delhi, Srinivasapur, Delhi-110065 do hereby notify for public at large that he is executing the Will Dated 08.08.2019 of her mother Late Shakuntla Goyal, after her death, who expired on 22.09.2019 and as per her will deed made on dated 08.08.2019 in favour of my client. Any person/s have objection/claim (s), interest for the proposed Will Deed Registration of aforesaid Late Shakuntla Goyal may contact the undersigned within 2 days from the publication of the notice, failing which the claim of any such person will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and the Will Deed shall be Registered and implemented with immediate effect. Amit Anand (Advocate), 102, G.K. House, Plot No. 187/A, Sant Nagar, Delhi-65 M.No. 9958068885

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public that the GPA dated 7th March, 2007 executed by Sh. Manabendra Nath in favour of Rakesh Gupta for the property bearing address at II-A-296, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad which was registered vide book no. 12, SN.572 at Registrar Office Bardhaman west Bengal has been lost/misplaced. Besides GPA, Allotment letter dated 3.9.1971 and possession letter dated 10.12.1975 have also been misplaced. All person are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction on the basis of the said missing documents. If any one find these documents kindly inform in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this date. Sanjeev Kumar Sapra Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh and Mr. Siddhant Kumar Singh has executed Plot No. 82-B-33, R-Block, Kirti, New Q/603/C, area 45.98 Sq. Mtr, Village Bindpur, Charanya Palace Part-II, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi vide regd. Conveyance deed dt. 16.02.2024 executed by P.O. and GPA dt. 16.05.1988 & Will executed by Mrs. Bharati Devi, GPA dt. 31.01.1989 & Will executed by Mr. Bir Singh, GPA dt. 12.04.1989 & Will executed by Mrs. Krishna Devi and GPA dt. 20.06.1991 & Will executed by Mr. Gurdhara Dass are lost in Original. Now Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh and Mr. Siddhant Kumar Singh are the undisputed owners of above said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or otherwise, is requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Vijay Kumar Giti No. 28/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024 Dhruv Kumar, Advocate

COAL WASHRY UNIT AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

Coal Washery unit situated at Village Barpali Tahsil Hemgir (Odisha) having pollution consent for 0.96 Million Ton of Coal Washry unit is available for lease. Tender document with terms and conditions is available on website www.washerylease.com and interested party may apply within 7 days from the date of this advertisement to the following address: Advocate Tarendra Kumar Jha Shivannad Kutir, E-22, 53/7 New Rajendra Nagar Raipur (CG) Email:- tkjha55@gmail.com. Mobile 9424279077, 9340126744

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Krishna Devi is the owner of Property bearing No. RZ85-B (old) and New No. R2161, area measuring 48 sq. yds., situated in the area of Village Khyasia, in the abode of Vishnu Garden West Block, New Delhi, vide GPA. AT & Will dated 25.06.2012 executed by Mrs. Kuldeep Kaur. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/lien/charge, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Sector 16, Saket, New Delhi-110025 Ph: 011-41112527-28, legal@knallegat.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Amit Anand Advocate acting on behalf of my client Mr. Satish Saini S/o Lt. Sh. K.C. Saini R/O A-98, Defence Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110024. That my client is national resident of this country. That my client is very disturbed and anguished about continued misbehavior, irresponsible conduct of his daughter and her family and decided to give a public notice to disown his daughter Mrs. Sainidha Saini and her husband Gaurav Saini, and their children from all of my movable and immovable properties. Amit Anand (Advocate) 102/G.K. House, Plot No. 187A, Sant Nagar, ND-65

P R HOLDINGS LIMITED CIN: L7310DL1982PLC314402 Regd. Office: R-483, GF-C, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060 Tel: 011-42475489 Website: www.prholding.in Email: prholding1983@gmail.com

Pursuant to Listing Agreement(s) with MSEI Ltd. & CSE, Notice is hereby given that Meetings of Audit Committee & Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on TUESDAY - 21.05.2024 at 12:30 & 01:30 P.M. respectively at its Regd. Office inter-alia to consider, approve & adopt Audited Financial Results of QUARTER & HALF-YEAR & YEAR ended 31.03.2024 alongwith half-yearly 'Statement of Assets & Liabilities' as at 31.03.2024, Audit Report & Limited Review Report from Statutory Auditors, Trading Window in equity shares will remain closed from 01/04/2024 to 25/05/2024 for all insiders, to consider & adopt Secretarial Audit Report & Secretarial Compliance Report from PCS, to consider & appoint suitable & competent Non-Executive & Non-Independent Additional Director, To re-constitute various statutory Committee(s) and Any other matter with the permission of Chair. New Delhi 11.05.2024 SAKSHI GUPTA, WTD & CFO - DIN: 09773654 Members are requested to update their contact details

DECOROUS INVESTMENT & TRADING CO. LTD. CIN: L67120DL1982PLC289090 Regd. Office: R-483, GF-C, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060 Tel No.: 9910003638, Email Id: decorous1982@gmail.com Website: www.ditco.in

Pursuant to Listing Agreement(s) with BSE Ltd. & CSE, Notice is hereby given that Meetings of Nomination & Remuneration Committee & Audit Committee & Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on TUESDAY - 21.05.2024 at 10:00 & 11:30 A.M. respectively at its Regd. Office inter-alia to consider, approve & adopt Audited Financial Results of QUARTER & HALF-YEAR & YEAR ended 31.03.2024 alongwith half-yearly 'Statement of Assets & Liabilities' as at 31.03.2024, Audit Report & Limited Review Report from Statutory Auditors, Trading Window in equity shares will remain closed from 01/04/2024 to 25/05/2024 for all insiders, to consider & adopt Secretarial Audit Report & Secretarial Compliance Report from PCS, to consider & appoint suitable & competent Non-Executive & Non-Independent Additional Director, To re-constitute various statutory Committee(s) and Any other matter with the permission of Chair. New Delhi 11.05.2024 Raj Kumar Gupta WTD & CFO - DIN: 00074532 Members are requested to update their contact details

Sharp pain, numbness may signal nerve damage condition: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Feeling sharp, prickling pain and numbness in your hands and feet may signal a nerve damage condition, according to a study. The condition known as neuropathy can lead to falls, infection and even amputation. The findings, published in the journal Neurology, showed that even after being very common, it often goes underdiagnosed. Conducted by researchers from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, US, the study aimed to elucidate the prevalence of neuropathy and its associated risk factors, particularly in individuals with diabetes, a known risk factor for the condition. The research involved 169 participants, half of whom had diabetes. Among this group, a staggering 73% were diagnosed with neuropathy. What's more alarming is that 75% of those diagnosed had not been previously identified with the condition, underscoring the likelihood of underdiagnosis in clinical settings. One of the key findings of the study was the significant association between neuropathy and metabolic syndrome. Metabolic syndrome, characterized by excess abdominal fat and other risk factors such as hypertension, elevated triglycerides, diabetes, and low levels

of HDL (good) cholesterol, was found to increase the risk of neuropathy. This highlights the intricate interplay between metabolic health and nerve function, emphasizing the need for comprehensive management of metabolic risk factors to mitigate neuropathic complications. The implications of neuropathy are profound, extending beyond mere discomfort to potentially life-threatening consequences. Individuals with neuropathy face an elevated risk of falls, infections, and even limb amputation, underscoring the urgency of early detection and intervention. Melissa A. Elafros, one of the researchers involved in the study, emphasized the critical importance of identifying and treating neuropathy promptly to prevent these adverse outcomes and improve patients' quality of life. In summary, the study underscores the pervasive nature of neuropathy, its underdiagnosis in clinical practice, and its significant association with metabolic syndrome. By elucidating these connections, the research highlights the imperative for proactive screening, comprehensive management of metabolic risk factors, and early intervention to mitigate the debilitating effects of neuropathy and enhance patient outcomes.

Flash floods kill hundreds, injure many in Afghanistan, Taliban says

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Flash floods from seasonal rains in Afghanistan have killed hundreds of people and injured a "substantial number," a Taliban official said Saturday, without giving exact figures.

The floods hit mostly the northern region of the country. The province of Baghlan bore the brunt of the deluges Friday with officials preliminary reporting at least 50 people dead and properties destroyed in multiple districts.

In neighbouring Takhar province, state-owned media outlets reported the floods killing at least 20 people.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the chief spokesman for the Taliban government posted on social media platform X on Saturday, saying that "hundreds ... have succumbed to these calamitous floods, while a substantial number have sustained injuries."

Mujahid underscored the provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Ghor and Herat as the worst hit. He added that "the extensive devastation" has



resulted in "significant financial losses." He also said the government had ordered all available resources mobilized to rescue people, transport the injured and recover the bodies of the deceased.

The Taliban defence ministry said in a statement Saturday that the country's air force has already begun evacuating people in Baghlan and has so far rescued a large number of people stuck in flooded and transported a hundred injured people to military hospitals in the region. Officials previously said that in April, before Friday's floods, at least 70 people died from heavy rains and flash flooding in the country. About 2,000 homes, three mosques, and four schools were also damaged.

Israel orders new evacuations in Rafah

AP ■ RAFAH

Israel ordered new evacuations in Gaza's southern city of Rafah on Saturday, forcing tens of thousands more people to move as it prepares to expand its operation and adding that it is also moving into an area in northern Gaza where Hamas has regrouped. Israel has now evacuated the eastern third of Rafah, pushing the operation to the edges of the heavily populated central area, although Israel's move into the city has so far been short of the full-scale invasion

that it planned. The order comes in the face of heavy international opposition and criticism. US President Joe Biden has already said he will not provide offensive weapons to Israel for Rafah, and on Friday the US said there was "reasonable" evidence that Israel had breached international law protecting civilians in the way it conducted its war against Hamas — the strongest statement that the Biden administration has yet made on the matter. The United Nations and other agencies have warned for weeks

that an Israeli assault on Rafah, which borders Egypt near the main aid entry points, would cripple humanitarian operations and cause a disastrous surge in civilian casualties. More than 1.4 million Palestinians — half of Gaza's population — have been sheltering in Rafah, most after fleeing Israel's offensives elsewhere. Considered the last refuge in the strip, the evacuations are forcing people to return north where areas are devastated by previous Israeli attacks. Aid agencies estimate that 110,000 had done so before

Saturday's order that adds a further 40,000 to that number. People have been displaced multiple times and there are few places left in the embattled strip to move to. Those fleeing fighting earlier this week erected new tent camps in the city of Khan Younis — which was half destroyed in an earlier Israeli offensive — and the city of Deir al-Balah, straining infrastructure. Georgios Petropoulos, an official with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Rafah, said humanitarian workers had no sup-

plies to help them set up in new locations. "We simply have no tents, we have no blankets, no bedding, none of the items that you would expect a population on the move to be able to get from the humanitarian system," he said. Israeli troops have captured the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing with Egypt, forcing it to shut down. Rafah was the main point of entry for fuel. The World Food Program has warned that it will run out of food for distribution in southern Gaza by Saturday, Petropoulos said.

Russian offensive in Kharkiv forces about 1700 civilians to evacuate

AP ■ KYIV

Renewed ground assault on Ukraine's northeast, killing and injuring several and forcing more than 1,700 civilians to evacuate from the Kharkiv region, local officials said on Saturday. Artillery, mortar, and aerial bombardments hit more than 30 different towns and villages, leaving at least three people dead and five others injured, said Kharkiv governor, Oleh Syniehubov.

Ukraine rushed reinforcements to the Kharkiv region on Friday to hold off a Russian attempt to breach local defences, authorities said. Russian forces stepped up their bombardment of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, in late March. Friday's attack signalled a tactical switch in the war by Moscow that Ukrainian officials had been expecting for weeks. Russian military bloggers said the assault could mark the start of a Russian attempt to carve out a "buffer

zone" that President Vladimir Putin vowed to create earlier this year to halt frequent Ukrainian attacks on Belgorod and other Russian border regions. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed on Friday evening that Russian forces were expanding their operations. He also called on the country's Western allies to ensure that promised deliveries of military aid would swiftly reach the country's frontlines. "It is critical that partners support our warriors

and Ukrainian resilience with timely deliveries. Truly timely ones," he said in a video statement on X. "A package that truly helps is the actual delivery of weapons to Ukraine, rather than just the announcement of a package." The Kremlin's forces have repeatedly sought to exploit Ukraine's shortages of ammunition and manpower as the flow of Western military aid to Kyiv has tapered off in recent months, with promised new support still yet to arrive. Ukraine previous-

ly said it was aware that Russia was assembling thousands of troops along the northeastern border, close to the Kharkiv and Sumy regions. Intelligence officials also said they had expected an attack there though Russia's most recent ground offensive had been focused on parts of eastern Ukraine farther south. While Russia's gains in the region have so far been limited, analysts at the US think tank Institute of the Study of War (ISW) described them Friday as "tactically significant."

Pak President Zardari gets immunity in two corruption cases

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday received immunity from prosecution as a head of state in two cases of alleged corruption.

The Park Lane and Toshakhana cases were filed against him by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the national anti-corruption watchdog. Islamabad-based Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana was hearing the cases.

The Express Tribune reported

that Zardari, 68, had sought immunity in the two cases and the judge issued a written decision on the president's petition and halted all proceedings against him.

Zaradi, co-chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was elected in March as the 14th President of Pakistan for five years.

The judge noted that the president sought immunity under Article 248 (2) of the Constitution, following which no case can be registered or action taken against the peti-

tioner. The prosecution did not object to the president's plea, hence it was approved and case proceedings were halted until the end of Zardari's tenure as president of Pakistan, according to the written order.

The Park Lane case accused Zardari of influencing relevant authorities during his tenure as the president during his first term from 2008 to 2013 allegedly obtaining loans for his front companies and allegedly causing a loss of Rs 3.77 billion to the country.

Office of the Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh
 Email : sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 2181 / 208C(Yata'D)-03/2024 Dated : 10/05/2024

National Competitive E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" for following works. All other information will be available online from date 15-05-2024 at 5.00 PM onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Upgradation work of Circuit House Building located in Champawat.	10.50	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	09	Category 'A' and above for Building works, in any state Govt./Govt. of India /Govt. undertaking.

PPGCL
 PRAYAGRAJ POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED

Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301
 Plant Address: PO- Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj(Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107
 Phone : +91-120-6102000/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for "Procurement of NDCT Annual Overhauling Spares" for 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL- <https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 23rd May 2024.

PPGCL
 PRAYAGRAJ POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED

Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301
 Plant Address: PO- Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj(Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107
 Phone : +91-120-6102000/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for "Supply, erection and commissioning of Self-Cleaning strainer (02 set) along with control panel" for 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL- <https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 23rd May 2024.

पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक Punjab & Sind Bank
 (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

ZONAL OFFICE : GURUGRAM
 Institutional Plot No.- 151, Sector- 44, Gurugram-122003 Ph.- 0124-4843537

E-AUCTION
 (Sale through E-Auction only)

SALE NOTICE (SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION ONLY)
 Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002). Whereas, the Authorized Officers of PUNJAB & SIND BANK has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan account/s with our Branch with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: <https://www.bankeauctions.com>.

S.No.	Name of the Borrower/ Bank Branch	Demand Notice Date & Outstanding amount mentioned therein	Description of property along with name of mortgagor (Owner of property)	Status of possession (Physical or Symbolic)	Reserve Price/EMD/Bid Incremental Amount	EMD Submission Account Details (deposit through RTGS/NEFT)	Property Inspection Date & Time	The Last Date of EMD & E-Auction Date	Name & Contact N. of Authorized Officer
1.	Ushma and sanjay kumar Sector 31 Gurugram	02.08.2023 Rs.6216148.68	All Part and parcel of the immovable property bearing House No 670/28, Measuring 100 Sq. yards, Part of Khasra No. 882 Gali No 13 New Jyoti Park, Gurugram	Physical	Rs.7350000.00	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 11:00 - 11.30 AM	Sh. Atul Kumar (Chief Manager) Mobile No-8607925026 G1509@psb.co.in
					Rs.735000.00				
					Rs.735000.00				
2.	Ushma, sanjay kumar & RPM Aircon Sector 31 Gurugram	02.08.2023 Rs.5752457.00	All Part and parcel of the immovable property bearing House No 675/28, Measuring 100 Sq. yards, Gali No 13 Jyoti Park, Gurugram	Symbolic	Rs.7200000.00	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 11:30 - 12:00 PM	Sh. Atul Kumar (Chief Manager) Mobile No-8607925026 G1509@psb.co.in
					Rs.720000.00				
					Rs.720000.00				
3.	Sunita Sharma and Subhash Chander Sharma Sector 31 Gurugram	01.06.2023 Rs.1917561.36	All Part and parcel of the immovable property House No 263, Measuring 50 Sq. Yards Part of Khasra No. 8/7,26,15/19,17/4/2,123,1234,316,317 Situated at Gali No 6, Surat Nagar-II, Village- Dhawanpur, Tehsil- Kadipur, Near Bharat Communication, Gurgaon	Symbolic	Rs.2850000.00	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 12:00-12:30 PM	Sh. Atul Kumar (Chief Manager) Mobile No-8607925026 G1509@psb.co.in
					Rs.285000.00				
					Rs.285000.00				
4.	Padma Bista Sehgal & Bharat Deep Sehgal Gurudwara road Gurugram	04/02/2023 Rs.3143739.49	All part and parcel of built up second floor without roof rights out of built up property bearing no. 68,69 and 70, Land area measuring 100.00 sq.yds out of khasra no. 78/14, situated in the area of village Hastal and colony known as OM Vihar Extension Phase-3 Uttam Nagar, New Delhi	Symbolic	Rs.3400000.00/	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 12:30-01:00 PM	Sh. Atul Kumar (Chief Manager) Mobile No-8607925026 G1509@psb.co.in
					Rs.340000.00/				
					Rs.340000.00/				
5.	Gulshan Kumar and Geeta Rani	03/03/2023 Rs.734952.00	All the part and parcel of the immovable property bearing House No. 273 A, khasra no.814-15 Krishna colony Gurgaon, Haryana-122001	Symbolic	Rs.4000000.00/	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 01:00 - 01:30 PM	Sh. Atul Kumar (Chief Manager) Mobile No-8607925026 G1509@psb.co.in
					Rs.400000.00/				
					Rs.400000.00/				
6.	Jawahar Singh NO 5 NIT Faridabad	08.05.2023 Rs.641362.79	All the part and parcel of the mortgaged property bearing part of plot no 183, Measuring 51 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Rect No. 14/10/2, Mauza Gaunchi, tehsil-Ballabhgarh, disit-Faridabad	Symbolic	Rs.1900000.00	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 10:00 - 10:30 AM	SH. ROHIT BASWALA (Chief Manager); Mobile No-8607925026 Email id-ROHIT.BASWALA@PSB.CO.IN
					Rs.1900000.00				
					Rs.190000.00				
7.	Lalita Sehgal and M/s pragya Beauty Parlour Ajronda Faridabad	07.12.2018 Rs.4503677.00	Front side First Floor Without Roof/ Terrace Rights of Build up property bearing No A-20 Area measuring 75 Sq. Yards with one car parking space in common parking area at still. Out of khasra no 945, 946, 956 to 960, situated in the area of village Nawada Colony known as OM vihar, A- Block, Uttam Nagar on Najafgarh road, New Delhi-110059	Physical	RS.3000000.00	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 10:00 -10:30 AM	Smt. Suman Sharma (Chief Manager) Mobile: 9899748099 Email Id:A0121@psb.co.in
					RS.3000000.00				
					RS.300000.00				
8.	Shamu & Beena/ Sector 31/, Gurugram	22.06.2022/ Rs.15,76,965.17	All Part and parcel of the immovable property bearing House No 72, Measuring 58 Sq. yards comprising khasra no 88,278,179 Surat Nagar within MC area of Gurgaon	Symbolic	Rs.3100000.00	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 10:00-10:30 AM	Sh. Atul Kumar (Chief Manager) Mobile No-8607925026 G1509@psb.co.in
					Rs.3100000.00				
					Rs.310000.00				
9.	Sh. Rajan Kumar/ Manesar	15.06.2023/ Rs.1549338.04	Residential House No. 1890/29, part of khasra no. 4669/4096/308, Gali No.17, Near Dhanuka Factory, Surat Nagar Phase-1, Gurgaon	Symbolic	Rs.3500000.00	Account no. 80235040070003 IFSC Code-PSIB0008023 SUNDRY CR- FUNDS/ASSETS	22.05.2024 10:00am to 4:00pm	28.05.2024/ 29.05.2024/ 10:30-11:00 AM	Sh. Atul Kumar (Chief Manager) Mobile No-8607925026 G1509@psb.co.in
					Rs.3500000.00				
					Rs.350000.00				

Terms & Conditions:-

- The e-auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".
- Auction sale/bidding shall only be done through "Online Electronic Mode" through Bank's approved service provider M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd. (Tel. +91-124-4302020/21, 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126, M: +91-9813887931, Email-Delhi@c1india.com) at the web portal <https://www.bankeauctions.com>. E-auction tender document containing online e-auction bid form, declaration, general terms & conditions of online auction sale are available at portal site. This notice is also to be treated as sale notice to Borrowers and Guarantors under Rule 8 (6) Security Interest (enforcement) Rule, 2002
- The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property is being sold with all the existing & future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be possible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. However, the intending bidder should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the property.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately including the earnest amount already deposited. The remaining 75% of the bid amount be deposit within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.
- In case of default in depositing 25% of bid amount & balance 75% of the prescribed amount within the time limit as mentioned at point no. 4, the amount already deposited will be forfeited and secured asset will be resold.
- As per Income Tax Rule, TDS @rate of 1% of Auction price is payable by the successful auction purchaser, wherever applicable.

The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002.
 The other terms and conditions of the e-auction are published in the websites- 1. <https://www.bankeauctions.com>, 2. <https://punjabandsindbank.co.in>

Date- 12.05.2024 Place- GURGAON Authorized Officer Punjab & Sind Bank

Measures in place to meet peak power demand in May, June: Government

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has taken adequate measures to meet the estimated 235 GW peak power demand in May and 240 GW in June, according to an official statement. "With various measures, we have been able to successfully meet the peak evening power demand of 224 GW during April 2024," the Ministry of Power on Friday.

The power demand is projected to peak at 235 GW during the day-time and 225 GW during evening hours for May and 240 GW during day-time and 235 GW during evening hours for June 2024, it said in the statement. The power ministry has estimated around 260 GW of peak demand during this summer season. Elaborating on the measures, the ministry said section 11 directions have been issued



to gas-based power plants besides coal-based units to make full capacity available for electricity generation. The optimisation of hydropower generation has made available an additional 4 GW for meeting the demand during May and June. Further, the shifting of planned maintenance and minimisation of partial and forced outages of thermal power plants have made available another 5 GW for

the summer season, the ministry said. Besides, power generated from wind is expected to increase by 4 GW to 5 GW during May and June. "With these measures in place and the current generation trend...It is expected that the power demand would be adequately met both during the day and during night hours in the summer months of May and June 2024," the statement said.

Union Bank of India Q4 net profit rises 18 per cent on lower provisions

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State-owned Union Bank of India on Saturday reported an 18.36 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter to Rs 3,328 crore, helped by lower provisions. For the fiscal 2023-24, the lender reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 13,797 crore against Rs 8,512 crore in the year-ago period. In the quarter under review, its standalone net profit increased to Rs 3,311 crore from Rs 2,782 crore a year ago.



The core net interest income grew 14.38 per cent to Rs 9,437 crore on an 11.7 per cent growth in advances and widening of net interest margin to 3.10 per cent from 2.97 per cent in the year-ago period. Its managing director and chief executive A Manimekhalai told reporters that for FY25, it is aiming for a credit growth of 11-13 per cent and deposit growth to be between 9-11 per cent compared to 9.3 per cent in FY24.

It, however, expects a fall in NIMs to 2.8-3 per cent, she said, adding that the targets will be reviewed midway through the year. The non-interest income declined by over 10 per cent to Rs 4,707 crore, primarily due to halving of recoveries from written off accounts. For FY25, the bank is targeting the overall recoveries to come at Rs 16,000 crore against over Rs 18,000 crore in FY24. The overall provisions declined to Rs 3,222 crore from Rs 4,041 crore in the year-ago period. The fresh slippages increased to Rs 3,202 crore from the Rs 2,687 crore a year ago, but the final stock of gross NPAs was lower because of help coming in on recoveries, upgradation and write-offs. The bank's gross NPA ratio declined to 4.76 per cent against 7.53 per cent in the year-ago period, and Manimekhalai said it will be

targeting to close FY25 with the number under 4 per cent. The RBI's newly introduced proposals on the project finance front will not have a big impact on the bank's financials, she said, adding that the position will be "manageable" even if the draft is implemented in the present form. She said about 28 per cent of the corporate loan book is project finance loans at present, of which 68 per cent is to projects that have been completed. Also, the RBI is proposing for a phased implementation of the provisioning requirements, which will be of help. The bank has an overall pipeline of over Rs 40,000 crore, which will ensure that the credit growth aims are met, she said, adding that there is demand from sectors like data centres, real estate, steel and renewables. When asked about the tech initiatives, Manimekhalai said it is revamping its mobile app at present, and exuded confidence about not being impacted by any challenges on the technology front. The overall capital adequacy of the bank stood at 16.97 per cent, with the core buffer at 13.65 per cent. Manimekhalai said the bank will not need any new fund infusion unless there is a huge private capex improvement, which ups the demand. The bank plans to open 250-300 branches in FY25, she said.

Eicher Motors Q4 PAT rises 18 per cent to ₹1,070 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Eicher Motors on Saturday reported an 18 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1,070 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024, driven by higher sales. The company posted a profit after tax of Rs 906 crore in the same period last year. Its total revenue rose 12 per cent to Rs 4,256 crore in the January-March quarter of FY24 compared to Rs 3,804 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2022-23, Eicher



Motors said in a statement. Royal Enfield, the two-wheeler division of the company, recorded sales of 2,27,925 motorcycles in the fourth quarter, up 6 per cent from 2,14,685 units in the year-ago period.

For fiscal 2024, the company reported a 37 per cent rise in PAT to Rs 4,001 crore against Rs 2,914 crore for FY23. The company's revenue from operations grew 14.5 per cent to Rs 16,536 crore from Rs 14,442 crore recorded in FY23. During the last fiscal, Royal Enfield's registered sales rose 9 per cent to 9,12,732 units from 8,34,895 units in 2022-23. The company said its board recommended a final dividend aggregating to Rs 1,396.41 crore at Rs 51 per share for the financial year ended March 31, 2024.

Air India appoints SIA Engineering as partner to develop maintenance facilities

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Air India on Saturday announced it has appointed SIA Engineering Company Limited as its strategic partner for the development of its base maintenance facilities here. As part of the partnership, Air India will work closely with SIA Engineering Company Limited (SIAEC) on the planning, construction, development and operationalisation of its base maintenance facilities here, they said. In a statement, Air India said,

"Projected to be ready in 2026, the facilities will comprise both wide-body and narrow-body hangars, including associated repair shops, to support the growing Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) needs of the aircraft fleet in Air India Group." "The collaboration with SIA Engineering Company will not only help Air India become more self-reliant for the maintenance of its own fleet but it also reiterates our commitment to strengthen India's aviation infrastructure by boosting the growth of the

country's MRO industry," Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Air India, said. Air India had earlier announced setting up a state-of-the-art Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (operated by Bangalore International Airport Ltd) starting with aircraft maintenance through the development of wide-body and narrow-body aircraft hangars for all checks.

Property brokerage firm InvestoXpert revenue up 56 per cent in FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Real estate brokerage firm InvestoXpert's revenue rose 56 per cent in the last fiscal to Rs 56 crore as it facilitated sales of properties valued more than Rs 2,000 crore on strong housing demand. Its revenue stood at Rs 36 crore in 2022-23. In a statement, Noida-based InvestoXpert said the company facilitated sales amounting to Rs 2,050 crore during the last fiscal, up 95 per cent year-on-year. The better performance in sales translated into robust revenue growth, it added. Vishal Raheja, Founder & MD of InvestoXpert said, "This achievement underscores our commitment to excellence and innovation in the real estate sector. As we look ahead, we are confident in our ability to continue this upward trajectory, with ambitious targets set for the upcoming financial year". He said the demand for luxury homes has risen significantly. Raheja said the second and fourth quarters collectively accounted for almost 70 per cent of the business, underscoring the seasonal variations in the real estate market.

Khanij Bidesh India may acquire lithium asset in Australia this fiscal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) hopes to acquire a lithium block in Australia this year, a top official said on Saturday. KABIL, a joint venture of three PSUs to scout for mineral assets overseas, has been working in Australia for the last year, Mines secretary V L Kantha Rao said. "KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) has the responsibility to look at other countries. We have to increase our efforts in

Australia. We will have to ensure that during this financial year, we target one more asset," Rao said at the inauguration of the registered office of KABIL here. KABIL is owned by three public sector undertakings -- National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd (MECL). "I am hoping that it should be Australia because we have been working (there) for the last year," he explained.



But unlike Argentina, Australia would be a bit costly so the paid-up capital of KABIL will have to be increased. KABIL has a paid-up capital of Rs 100 crore at present. "We are authorised to go up to Rs 500 crore and I think we have approval of up to Rs 200 crore," he explained. Rao further said that target has been set to begin mining in the lithium blocks in Argentina in another two to three years. Lithium is the most

important mineral for the energy transition, a fundamental component of lithium-ion batteries, which power electric vehicles and battery energy storage systems. The government had earlier said that India would pump in about Rs 200 crore to explore and develop five lithium mines in Argentina. Argentina is part of the 'lithium triangle' along with Chile and Bolivia with more than half of the world's total lithium resources.

PropEquity FY24 profit up 10 per cent to ₹12 crore in FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PE Analytics Ltd, which runs real estate data platform PropEquity, has reported 10 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 11.67 crore for the last fiscal year on better income. Its net profit stood at Rs 10.6 crore in the preceding year. According to a regulatory filing on Friday, total income grew 37 per cent to Rs 44.17 crore last fiscal from Rs 32.3 crore in 2022-23. Samir Jasuja, Founder and CEO of PropEquity, said, "We have done reasonably well in FY 2024, with 10.4 per cent

growth in our profits before tax (PBT) compared to the preceding financial year. Our overall revenues also continue to rise by 37 per cent to Rs 44.1 crore." He said the valuation business vertical has performed well as revenue grew by 106 per cent since the last financial year. "We are adding new verticals in the valuation business which are auto valuations and plant and machinery valuations in FY 24-25 which will help us grow our business manifold," he said. Jasuja said the company is setting up a new firm in the Middle East in partnership

with local partners to launch its services. Along with this, he said the company would be launching two more verticals -- B2C project monitoring and developer asset management -- to boost revenue. PropEquity is an online provider of analytics, data and deal flows covering the Indian real estate industry. The company tracks over 1,73,000 projects of 57,500 developers across 44 cities in India on a real time basis. Its search platform generates analysis for all verticals under residential, commercial and retail sectors.

India's cotton exports may rise 27 per cent in 2023-24 season: CAI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Cotton Association of India (CAI) on Saturday estimated cotton exports to rise about 27 per cent to 28 lakh bales during 2023-24 crop year ending September. In 2022-23 crop season (October-September), cotton exports were at 22 lakh bales, CAI said. One bale is equal to 170 kilogram. "The demand for Indian cotton went up as the prices ruled 8-10 per cent lower than the international prices during December 2023 till March 2024. Our cotton is mainly exported to countries like Bangladesh, China and

Vietnam," CAI President Atul Ganatra told PTI. Meanwhile, CAI pegged the cotton production for 2023-24 at 309.70 lakh bales, same as estimated in the previous month. The production is however expected to be lower than the previous season's 318.90 lakh bales. The total cotton supply till end of April 2024 is estimated at 315.86 lakh bales, which consists of pressing at 281.96 lakh bales, import of 5 lakh bales and the opening stock of 28.90 lakh bales. The estimated cotton consumption till April 2024 is 192.50 lakh bales while export is pegged at 21.50 lakh bales.

Jaipur based entrepreneur features on Fortune's 40 Under 40 list

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Jaipur-based entrepreneur Yogesh Chaudhary, the director of Jaipur Rugs, has been included in the list of emerging leaders from India by Fortune, a statement said. Chaudhary has been included in the '40 Under 40' list, an annual list of influential young individuals under the age of 40 who changed the

course of business and economy in India. Isha Ambani, Director, Reliance Retail, Harshad Reddy, Director, Apollo Hospitals, and Akash Ambani, Chairman, Reliance Jio Infocomm, are the other young entrepreneurs who have featured on the list. Chaudhary joined the family business at 19 to assist his father, Nand Kishore

Chaudhary. He said that in 2016, Jaipur Rugs forayed into retail and now sells in more than 90 countries. "The company collaborates with designers such as Shantanu Garg and Gauri Khan. The artisanal rugs are a result of 40,000 artisans in 600 villages, out of which 80 per cent are females," he said in a release here.

Zydus gets USFDA nod to market generic arthritis drug in US

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Zydus Lifesciences on Saturday said it has received approval from the US health regulator to market a generic medication for arthritis and other conditions in the American market. The company has received final approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market Dexamethasone



tablets (1mg), the drug maker said in a statement. Dexamethasone is used to treat conditions like arthritis, blood/hormone disorders, allergic reactions, skin diseases, eye problems, breathing problems, bowel disorders, cancer and immune system disorders. As per IQVIA data, Dexamethasone tablets had an annual sales of USD 1.8 million in the US.

D2C fashion brand Powerlook aims ₹300 crore GMV this fiscal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fashion brand Powerlook looks to hit a gross merchandise value (GMV) of Rs 300 crore this financial year, clocking a more than twofold growth over the last year, a top official of the company said on Saturday. The fashion brand which markets products mainly on

leading ecommerce platforms like Myntra and Flipkart recorded a GMV of Rs 130 crore in the last financial year. GMV refers to the total value of products or merchandise sold over a certain period through a customer-to-customer exchange site. The brand also has a stronghold in the offline



market with good operating revenue, Powerlook said in a statement. Powerlook co-founder Raghav Pawar said that the brand's focus is on customer satisfaction and delivering products on time. "By prioritizing quality products and personalized shopping experiences, the brand continuously

endeavours to exceed customer expectations," he added. The men's fashion brand has maintained 35-40 per cent growth quarter-on-quarter last year, Pawar said. It witnessed a 30 per cent quarterly increase in sales and revenue. Powerlook's focused marketing campaigns,

strategic collaborations with renowned influencers, and a dynamic pricing strategy and customer retention policy have propelled growth, Pawar said. Thw brand has leveraged social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook to engage with its audience and cultivate a robust online presence.

BUSINESS BRIEF

BSES GETS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AWARD

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) has been conferred the prestigious "Women Empowerment" award at the 17th Star of the Industry Awards for its impactful community outreach programs. The award was adjudicated by a distinguished jury. BRPL's CSR initiatives have positively impacted lakhs of beneficiaries, with over 50% being women. These programs focus on empowering women across various areas like healthcare, education, skill development and sanitation BSES conducts various CSR programs across its licensed areas (South, West, East & Central Delhi), including vocational training, self-defense training for women, scholarships to students, setting-up mini science centres, Water ATMs, manufacturing and distribution of sanitary napkins.



ANTI BRIBERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION



Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, has been awarded Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) IS/ISO 37001 certification by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in a program held on May 8, 2024 at POWERGRID Corporate Centre, Gurugram. The ABMS Certificate was handed over by Lalthan Pari, Director, Management System Certification (Central), BIS to Dharmendra Kumar Madan, Chief Vigilance Officer, POWERGRID in the august presence of Ajay Tewari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, R K Tyagi, CMD, Abhay Choudhary, Director (Projects), G. Ravisankar, Director (Finance), Dr. Yatindra Dwivedi, Director (Personnel), Shri Ashish Tripathi, Chief Vigilance Officer, BIS, Anish Anand, Dy. CVO, POWERGRID and senior officers of POWERGRID and BIS.

YASHODA KAUSHAMBI HOLDS PROGRAMME TO ENHANCE INDIA, AFRICA COLLABORATION

Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital-Kaushambi, in association with FICCI, organised a momentous event at Taj Maan Singh, as it hosted a gathering of distinguished Heads of Missions and Diplomats from African nations. The focus of the event was the burgeoning sector of Medical Value Travel (MVT) and its potential to foster stronger ties between India and Africa in the healthcare domain. The event was graced by Dr. PN Arora, CMD and Dr. Upasana Arora, MD of Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital, who shed light on the significance of Medical Value Travel and its implications for international patients. The event also witnessed the special felicitation of guests by Mr. P.N. Arora, welcoming the participation of countries such as Mauritius, South Africa, Kenya, Algeria, Uganda, Madagascar, Ethiopia, and many other African nations.

Mbappé confirms he will leave PSG ahead of move to Real Madrid

AP ■ PARIS
Kylian Mbappé confirmed what the soccer world was long expecting to hear, announcing that he is leaving Paris Saint-Germain ahead of a widely expected move to Real Madrid. Mbappé said on Friday that his final home game for PSG will be on Sunday against Toulouse.

"I never thought it would be this difficult to leave my country," he said in the video post.

"I think I needed this, a new challenge after seven years."

An emotional-looking Mbappé gulped and paused for breath as he addressed PSG's fans.

"It's a club I will keep in my mind for my entire life. I will tell everybody I had the chance to play here."

He added, "You will stay in my heart forever," then winked and raised a thumb.

According to sports daily L'Equipe, Mbappé went to meet and dine with PSG ultras known as CUP (Paris Ultras Collective) shortly after making his announcement. They were set to discuss tributes to him at Parc des Princes on Sunday night.

After that game, French champion PSG has league games to follow at Nice and Metz. He is once more the French league top scorer, with 26 goals.

The 25-year-old Mbappé now captains France and won the World Cup in 2018, becoming the second teenager, after Pelé, to score in a World Cup final. He top-scored at the 2022 World Cup, including a rare hat trick in the final.

Mbappé joined PSG in 2017 from Monaco in a deal worth 180 million euros (USD 194 million). He is expected to be bought by 14-time Champions League winner Real Madrid.

In 2021, PSG turned down a bid of 180 million euros from Madrid for Mbappé. He renewed his contract with PSG but didn't take up the option for an extra year. Earlier this year, he told PSG he's leaving at the end of the season.

On Friday, he confirmed it.

"I wanted to announce to you all that it's my last year (season) with Paris Saint-Germain. I will not extend (my contract) and the adventure will come to an end in a few weeks," he said.

"First of all, I want to thank my teammates, all the teammates I had, all the coaches: Unai Emery, Thomas Tuchel,



Mauricio Pochettino, Christophe Galtier and Luis Enrique."

He has 255 goals for PSG, many of them featuring his trademark move: Sprinting down the left wing, cutting inside a wrong-footed defender and curling the ball into the right corner with speed and precision.

While his prolific output helped to deliver six league titles in seven years, it also often masked glaring deficiencies that were exposed at the highest level in the Champions League.

On Tuesday night, he trudged off the field when PSG went out of the semifinals of the Champions League after losing to Borussia Dortmund 1-0 in each leg.

Mbappé's departure will end the superstar era at PSG.

He arrived at the club along with Neymar, who cost a world record 222 million euros (USD 239 million). PSG was also a stop for Zlatan Ibrahimovic (156 goals for the club), Edinson Cavani (200 goals for PSG) and Lionel Messi (won his seventh of eight Ballon d'Ors).

None could win the Champions League with PSG, which has spent more than 2 billion euros (USD 2.15 billion) in transfer fees and paid massive wages. The fact Mbappé played under so many coaches also underlined the hire-and-fire attitude of the club's cash-rich Qatari owner QSI, which took over the club in June 2011.

Mbappé starred for Monaco as an 18-year-old sensation when it reached the semifinals of the Champions League seven years ago. PSG beat Madrid to his signature then, but things seem to have come full circle, and he will leave as a free transfer.

By the time Madrid likely signs him, the Spanish powerhouse may have clinched a record-extending 15th Champions League title.

Madrid plays Dortmund in the final on June 1 at Wembley, one week after Mbappé's last ever game for PSG in the French Cup final against Lyon. It wasn't the way he hoped to bow out of French club soccer.

But joining a massive club like Madrid surely gives him a better shot at winning the Ballon d'Or he so craves.

PSG has to find a new leader. After Mbappé wears the No. 7 jersey for the last time, PSG will face a huge rebuilding task without him.

Strong technical training will help India get good results in Paris: archery coach Kim Hyung Tak

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
After sealing a historic World Cup gold recently, the Indian archers, who are undergoing "strong technical training," can land a maiden Olympic gold medal in Paris, reckoned renowned coach and mentor Kim Hyung Tak.

Dhiraj Bommadevara is the lone Indian to seal the Paris 2024 quota place for India in archery so far.

"The Indian recurve team is undergoing very strong technical training. This will definitely help get good results in the Olympics," Kim said after conducting a coaches' seminar at the Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence in Sonapat.

"By keeping this consistency in training and preparation, I think it is very much possible to get a medal in Paris," he added.

The Indian recurve archers are striving for a team quota in the final qualification tournament to be held in Antalya, Turkey from June 14 to 17.

The hopes are quite high after the Indian team of Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav shocked reigning Olympic champions South Korea to clinch a World Cup gold after 14 years in Shanghai on April 28.

Kim, who also supervised a two-day national team preparatory camp at Sonapat, said the constant training has helped the side raise its standards.

"The average level of the team has got a notch higher because of the talented men's and women's recurve team here."

"The frequent coaching camps by SAI and Archery Association of India too are contributing to the cause," said



Kim, who led the Korean women's recurve team to its first Olympic gold at the Los Angeles Games in 1984.

Giving an insight into the training programme at SAI, Kim said the synergy between different departments has given the archers a fresh momentum.

"Since I've come here, I've seen more high level and detailed training provided to the archers. The training programmes, which use a lot of technology, are also very well-crafted."

"The coaches are continuously mentoring the archers on managing training schedules to training times. The psychology team is also working around the clock and good mentoring is being provided as a whole," he said.

Kim, who has the experience of working with over 500 archers from across 30 nations, said the senior Indian archers have been lending a helping hand to the budding stars.

"There are many young archers. The experienced heads like Deepika (Kumari) and Tarundeep are guiding them. This helps a lot in team building and this is very important in the build-up to the Paris Games," noted Kim,

who had a special session with three-time Olympian Deepika, who is trying to punch her ticket to Paris riding on some strong performances after motherhood.

Djokovic says he's "fine" after being hit on the head by a water bottle

Rome, (AP) Novak Djokovic said he was "fine" after accidentally getting knocked on the head by a water bottle after a win at the Italian Open.

A man was leaning over the railing to hand Djokovic a notebook for a signature and an aluminum-type water bottle fell out of his backpack and hit the top-ranked player on the top of his head on Friday.

"Thank you for the messages of concern. This was an accident and I am fine resting at the hotel with an ice pack," Djokovic posted on X.

"See you all on Sunday."

After getting hit, Djokovic placed both of his hands on his head and then curled up on the ground as a security guard shielded him. Then he was helped down the tunnel into the locker room.

Djokovic had a bump on his head and he was checked by doctors, tournament organizers said. He did not hold his usual post-match

news conference.

"While leaving center court after his match, Novak Djokovic was hit on the head by a water bottle while signing autographs. He received medical attention and has already left the Foro Italico to return to his hotel. His

condition is not a cause for concern," organisers said in a statement.

Djokovic had a bit of blood on his head but did not require stitches, Italian Tennis Federation spokesman Alessandro Catapano said.

"He was upset, but he seems

OK," Catapano said.

"We're also very upset about what happened and we are trying to figure out who it was and understand the dynamics."

"The police came and asked for information but the person who did it had already left," Catapano added.

"We're going through all of the video and camera angles to see if we can determine what exactly happened."

The incident occurred shortly after Djokovic's 6-3 6-1 win over French qualifier Corentin Moutet in his opening match.

The 24-time Grand Slam

champion was returning after nearly a month off. Djokovic has a day off before his next scheduled match at the clay-court tournament on Sunday.

The 36-year-old Serb is preparing to defend his title at the French Open, which starts May 26.

Anderson to retire after Lord's Test against West Indies

PTI ■ LONDON
Legendary pacer James Anderson on Saturday announced that the first Test against the West Indies this summer will be his final appearance for England, bringing down the curtains on an illustrious career spanning over 20 years.

Regarded as one of the greatest bowlers of all times, the 41-year-old is England's leading wicket-takers and is one of only three bowlers to take over 700 Test scalps.

"Hi everyone. Just a note to say that the first Test of the summer at Lord's will be my last Test," Anderson wrote on his Instagram.

"It's been an incredible 20 years representing my country, playing the game I've loved since I was a kid. I'm going to miss walking out for England so much."

"But I know the time is right to step aside and let others realise their dreams just like I got to, because there is no greater feeling," he added.



Anderson's announcement comes after England red-ball coach Brendon McCullum conveyed to the seamer that they are looking at the future, with an eye on the Ashes 2025-26 in Australia.

Anderson made his Test debut back in 2003 and has since claimed a remarkable 700 wickets in 187 Test matches. He currently ranks third on the all-time list of Test wicket-takers, trailing behind spinners Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka and Australia's Shane Warne.

However, whether Anderson will continue playing for his county side Lancashire

remains unclear.

"I couldn't have done it without the love and support of Daniella, Lola, Ruby and my parents. A huge thank you to them. Also, thank you to the players and coaches who have made this the best job in the world."

"Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years, it's always meant a lot, even if my face often doesn't show it. See you at the Test. Go well Jimmy x," Anderson wrote.

England are set to play a three-Test series against the West Indies, starting with the opener at Lord's on July 10.

(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & websites of the party.)	
Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal could not be selected as candidates	
(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Contempt Petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP (C) no.536 of 2011.)	
Name of Political Party: INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	
Name of Election : General Election to Lok Sabha 2024	
Name of State/UT: NCT of Delhi	
Name of the Constituency :02- Northeast Delhi FORMAT:CT	
Name of Candidate: KANHAIYA KUMAR	
Sl No.	
1.	<p>Nature of offences</p> <p>1. Charge sheet filed under section 124A/143/147/149/323/120 B IPC.</p> <p>This was a case arising out of the candidate's alleged involvement in an incident relating to allegedly seditious slogans made by students of Jawaharlal Nehru University. In the present case, the Candidate was summoned as an accused by the Court of Ld. CMM, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi in February 2021. The case was later committed to the court of Ld. ASJ, Patiala House Court. However, in the meantime, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 11.05.2022 in Writ Petition (C) No. 682 of 2021, titled S.G.Vombakere v Union of India had stayed the operation of trials under section 124A, IPC, which also one of the sections that the Candidate was charge sheeted under in the present case by the Investigating Agency. Owing to the said directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, trial in this matter was stayed pending further directions from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Subsequent to the same, vide order 12.09.2023, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India referred the matter in Writ Petition (C) No. 682 of 2021, titled S.G. Vombakere v Union of India to a 5-judge Constitutional Bench and continued the operations of directions passed by it vide earlier order dated 11.05.2022 in the same matter as a result of which, the trial in the present case remains stayed. The next date of hearing in the matter, as on the date of filing of this form, is 22.07.2024.</p> <p>2. Named in FIR No. 856/18 u/s 143/353/379/504/506 IPC registered at PS Phulwari Shrif, District Patna. This was a case arising out of alleged misconduct by the Candidate with a Doctor-on-Duty at AI India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna. However, the Candidate has neither been summoned nor is he aware of being charge-sheeted as an accused in the present case. This case has been mentioned as a measure of abundant.</p> <p>3. Named in FIR No. 3412019 u/s 188 ? PC registered at PS Mansurchak, District teff Begusarai. (Later registered as GR No.1069/2019)</p> <p>This case arises out of the Candidate's alleged role, in relation to violation of Model Code of Conduct during the 2019 General-Elections, Case arises out of alleged campaigning and holding a rally in Mansurchak by the Candidate, without the prerequisite permission. A charge-sheet has been filed in the instant case. The next date of hearing is 08.05.2024 at 4.00 PM. Named in FIR No: 73/2019 u/s 188/171H IPC registered at PS Bachchwada, District Begusarai. (Later registered as GR No.1397/2019) E/S nsurckak, EAGUC: The case arises out of the Candidate's alleged role in relation to violation of Model Code of Conduct during the 2019 General Elections, and the usage of vote-seeking posters in public places without permission. A charge-sheet has been filed in the instant case. The last date of hearing was 30.04.2024.</p> <p>5. Summoned in FIR No. 53/2019 (Later registered as Trial No. 1613/2020 (GR No.1046/19))</p> <p>This case is pending before Judicial Magistrate-I, Civil Court, Begusarai, Bihar registered at PS Bachchwada, District Begusarai u/s 188/171H IPC in relation to violation of Model Code of Conduct during Elections. The Candidate has been summoned to appear before this Court on the next date of hearing (02.09.2024). 6. Named in FIR No. 55/2024 registered at PS Basistha, District Kamrup (M). Case is in the Investigation phase. This case has been mentioned as a measure of abundant caution.</p> <p>7. Named in FIR No. 214/2018 registered as Trial No. 1613/2020 (GR No.1046/19) [PC registered at PS Bhagwanpur, District Begusarai. (Later registered as GR No. 4533/2018)]</p> <p>This case arises out of alleged assault by Candidate and associates using lathis on civilians, obstruction of roads, and attempt to stop Durga Puja ceremony While a charge sheet has been filed in the case, but the Candidate has not been charge-sheeted as an accused, neither has he been summoned to appear before the Court in the said matter. This case has been mentioned as a measure of abundant caution.</p>
b	<p>Case no.</p> <p>1. Sessions Case No. 116/2022 (FIR No.0110/2016; PS Vasant Kunj) Noth (Investigated by Special Cell, Delhi Police)</p> <p>2. FIR No. 856/18: PS Phulwari Sharif, District Patna. The candidate is unaware whether the FIR has been formally registered with a Case Number by the Court subsequently.</p> <p>3. FIR No. 34/2019; PS Mansurchak, District Begusarai. (Later registered as GR No.1069/2019)</p> <p>4. FIR No. 73/2019; PS Bachchwada, District Begusarai. (Later registered as GR No.1397/2019)</p> <p>5. FIR No. 53/2019; PS Bachchwada, District Begusarai; Trial No. 1613/2020 (GR No.1046/19), Judicial Magistrate-I, Civil Court, Begusara, Bihar</p> <p>6. FIR No. 55/2024; PS Basistha, District-Kamrup (M). Case is in the Investigation phase.</p> <p>7. FIR No. 214/2018; PS Bhagwanpur, District Begusarai, (Later registered as GR No.4533/2018)</p>
	<p>Name of the court</p> <p>1. Kiran Gupta, Additional Sessions Judge 04, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi District, New Delhi.</p> <p>2. As per last information available with the candidate at the time of filing this Form, pending before the Court of Sub-Judge XV, Patna</p> <p>3. As per last information available with the candidate at the time of filing this Form, pending in the Court of Additional CJM-Ist Class, Begusarai</p> <p>4. As per last information available with the candidate at the time of filing this Form, pending in the Court of Additional CJM-Ist Class, Begusarai</p> <p>5. As per last information available with the candidate at the time of filing this Form, pending in the Court of Additional CJM-Ist Class, Begusarai</p> <p>6. As per last information available with the candidate at the time of filing this Form, SDJM (Sadar No. 2), Kamrup (M), District Guwahati</p> <p>7. As per last information available with the candidate at the time of filing this Form, pending in the Court of CJM, Begusarai</p>
	<p>Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)</p> <p>1. No 2. No 3. No 4. No 5. No 6. No 7. No</p>
	<p>Date of conviction, if any</p> <p>1. Not applicable 2. Not applicable 3. Not applicable 4. Not applicable 5. Not applicable 6. Not applicable 7. Not applicable</p>
	<p>Date of punishment undergone, if any</p> <p>1. Not applicable 2. Not applicable 3. Not applicable 4. Not applicable 5. Not applicable 6. Not applicable 7. Not applicable</p>
	<p>Any other information required to be given</p> <p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>
	<p>The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the candidate.</p> <p>The candidate has a long-standing record of political activity, He has a Doctorate in Philosophy in the field of International Relations and socio-political transformation. He has served as elected President of Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union. The merit of the candidate, candidate possesses brilliant organizational, political and electoral acumen.</p>
	<p>Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)</p> <p>Cases against the candidate are political motivated and charges have NOT been framed any of the cases.</p>

In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council EAs, mention the election concerned in place of the name of Constituency.



In form RCB eye fifth win in a row against Pant-less DC

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Pushed into a tight corner, Royal Challengers Bengaluru rose above their frailties to notch four wins on the trot to stay alive in the race to play-offs, but Delhi Capitals even sans their suspended skipper Rishabh Pant offer them a different challenge in the IPL match here on Sunday.

Pant was suspended for one match and handed a fine of Rs 30 lakh for maintaining slow over rate against Rajasthan Royals at Delhi on May 7.

It was DC's third offence of the season; hence the suspension came in vogue immediately leading to Pant missing the match against RCB.

While the absence of Pant will certainly give RCB an edge, they can't get themselves lulled into a comfort zone.

In the run-up to this match, RCB defeated Gujarat Titans twice, Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad once

each. While the victory over SRH was valiant, RCB did not face much challenge from the floundering Titans and Kings. But the Capitals are a team unlike any other as they have oscillated between brilliant and ordinary in the span of a few days.

On April 27, the Pant-led side posted a hefty 257/4 in their 10-run win over Mumbai Indians and on April 29, they made a lowly 153/9 while capitulating against Kolkata Knight Riders.

The RCB, currently seventh with 10 points from 12 matches, will desperately hope not to run into that brilliant Capitals as a defeat can undo their good work in the last four matches.

But their confidence will be high, courtesy strong and consistent batting effort led by talisman Virat Kohli.

Kohli is the leading run-getter in this IPL with 634 runs but, more importantly, those runs

have come at a brisk rate of 153, giving RCB early momentum while setting or chasing targets.

Along with Kohli, additional runs from skipper Faf du Plessis, Rajat Patidar, Cameron Green and Dinesh Karthik have provided their bowlers, who have responded to the call splendidly, with a cushion.

The transformation of RCB bowlers in the last four matches have been nothing short of remarkable.

Mohammed Siraj has found his mojo after a 10-day break, and he has received excellent backing from fellow pacer Yash Dayal and left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh.

After the match against PBKS, the overall run-rate of Siraj (9.4) and Dayal (9) have gone under 10 for the first time this season, not a mean feat in a tournament where runs were scored at a breakneck pace.

Their skills will be tested first by Jack Fraser-McGurk, who has teed off to make 309 runs



from seven matches at an impressive strike-rate of 235.87.

McGurk took the opener's slot once David Warner - 167 runs from 7 matches at a strike rate

of 135 - had to sit out with an injury, and he has not made the absence of the veteran felt even once.

His opening partner Abhishek Porel too has made runs at 157

strike rate, though the DC management will be happier to see him adding more consistency to his game.

Pant and Tristan Stubbs too have been among runs made at

a fair clip but now without the skipper the DC middle-order will further lean on Stubbs for momentum.

But in the bowling department, DC will feel that they might have a slight edge.

Spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel have been thrifty while sharing 24 wickets among them as they have maintained economy rates of 8.2 and 7.3 respectively - gold dust while others have gone above 10.

Their combined eight overs will have a massive say in the match, as the wrist-spinner and his left-arm comrade will have to contain the free-flowing RCB batters in the middle phase.

If pacers Khaleel Ahmed (14 wickets, 9.68) and Mukesh Kumar (15 wickets, 10.94) can inflict some blows upfront, DC can hope to contain the home side.

Glenn Maxwell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Cameron Green, Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson, Swapnil Singh, Saurav Chauhan.

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Abhishek Porel, Shai Hope, Rishabh Pant (wk/c, suspended and unavailable), Sumit Kumar, Tristan Stubbs, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mukesh Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed, Kumar Kushagra, Praveen Dubey, Lalit Yadav, Lizaada Williams, David Warner, Jhye Richardson, Anrich Nortje, Yash Dhull, Mitchell Marsh, Ricky Bhui, Rasikh Dar Salam, Vicky Ostwal, Swastik Chikara.

TEAMS (FROM):
Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Faf du Plessis (c),



CSK look to rekindle playoffs hopes against a strong but hurt RR

PTI ■ CHENNAI

In need of a win to firm-up their position in the IPL playoff race, Chennai Super Kings have the heavy task of nullifying a deeply hurt and frustrated Rajasthan Royals here on Sunday.

Let's take a quick assessment of the two protagonists' situations. The Super Kings are currently fourth in the standings with 12 points from as many games but the defeat against Gujarat Titans on Friday has added dollops of pressure on them, and now they need victory in their remaining two matches.

The Royals, on the other hand, are second with 16 points but they are smarting from two successive defeats against Sunrisers Hyderabad, which was by just a run, and Delhi Capitals.

They are in no real danger of missing the playoff spot, but the Sanju Samson-led side will be eager to return to the winning ways at the earliest and enter the knockouts.

What had hurt CSK against GT was the malfunction of their top-order consisting Ajinkya Rahane, Rachin Ravindra and skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and they would be desperate to regain the momentum in Chepauk.

Ravindra might be given another go against Royals, but it could be a make-or-break situation for him.

Although it was pleasing to see Daryl Mitchell and Moeen Ali among runs, Shivam Dube, who has been CSK's bulwark this season, has gone silent ever since he was selected to the Indian team for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Having scored a 13-ball 21 against GT, he has twin causes to fire — to justify his selection for the World Cup and carry his team closer to the playoffs.

As for the CSK's bowling, Tushar Deshpande once again fired against GT while Shardul Thakur surprised all with his economical outing.

However, the Chennai bowlers are expected to buckle up and do well in this fixture at home, their strong area.

The low amount of dew in this afternoon clash might help CSK spinners.

On the other hand, desperate to end the losing streak, Rajasthan could not have asked for a more suitable opponent than an unsteady CSK.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has not been at his best this season, will be desperate to prove his mettle before travelling to the Americas for the T20 World Cup.

GT can make it to play offs, miracles do happen: Skipper Gill

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill is optimistic about sneaking into the IPL play-offs, even though odds are heavily against them despite the 35-run win over Chennai Super Kings here. Gill (104 off 55b) and B Sai Sudharsan (103 off 51b) notched up destructive centuries to propel GT to 231/3 and then restricted the defending champions to 196/8 to stay alive in the play-off race. The win lifted GT from the bottom of the table to the eighth spot. They have 10 points from 12 games, while CSK remained fourth with 12 points.

"The chances of us qualifying was 0.1 or 1 per cent. I think all of us, all 25-30 of us, believe that we can still make it into the play-offs."

"Because I have seen miracles happen with this team in the past couple of years and we all do believe in that," Gill said in the post-match press conference on Friday night.

Gill, however, felt that GT were some runs short despite piling up a huge total.

"When I got out, I was a bit frustrated. I thought as a batting unit, we left 10-25 runs out there. At one point we were 195/0 in 15 overs, so I thought that 250 was a pretty gettable score and I was thinking about that."

"It is as satisfactory as any hundred. We lost our last three games and it was important for us to win this one and that is what me and Sai were



discussing. We were trying to maximise every opportunity and every challenge that was thrown at us."

The young skipper also had words of appreciation for his opening partner Sudharsan.

"Last year he (Sudharsan) missed a hundred in the final, having come back and the way he played in the middle overs is exceptional."

"He is someone who works very hard on his game and for someone like him to be able to execute those shots was just magnificent," Gill said.

Talking about the talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who played a 11-ball 26-run cameo with three sixes, and his fan following, Gill said, "Wherever Mahi bhai plays, it is their (CSK) home ground, so nothing different with that."

"But at least, when we were scoring, people were cheering for us and when we visited Chepauk, it was complete silence when we hit boundaries or took a wicket," he concluded.

Calm under pressure Sudharsan needs to be spoken about more: Smith, Moody

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

B Sai Sudharsan broke away from the mould of anchor with a brilliantly crafted hundred against Chennai Super Kings, and the "calm under pressure" demeanour of the Gujarat Titans' opener has left stalwarts Graeme Smith and Tom Moody impressed.

Till the match on Friday, Sudharsan struck runs at a moderate strike rate of 131.67 while coming at No. 3, but the promotion to the opener's slot seemed to have liberated him.

Against CSK, the Tamil Nadu left-hander made 103 off 51 balls (5x4s, 7x6s) and his strike-rate read 201.96.

Smith said Sudharsan should be given more opportunities.

"Sudharsan is so under the radar, he is the leading run-scorer for GT this season, the fastest Indian to a thousand IPL runs with a difference of six innings. He needs to start being spoken about a bit more," said Smith on JIO Cinema.



Former Australian all-rounder and a revered coach Tom Moody praised Sudharsan for maintaining his composure in the match against a tough opponent.

"The way this young player goes about his business is a joy to watch. He seems so calm under pressure. He seems to have the right answers at the right time."

"He knows when to go big to look for that boundary to take pressure out of an over and he seems to be able to keep pace with the game," Moody told Star Sports Cricket Live show.

Former South Africa skipper Smith lauded the partnership between Sudharsan and Shubman Gill that was worth 210 runs, joint highest for the opening wicket this season.

"The partnership was excellent, left-hand-right-hand combination, they ran between the wickets well; they picked their targets, and their matchups were just outstanding," he added.

Moody also underscored the importance of the alliance between Gill and Sudharsan.

"The partnership was nothing short of extraordinary. They complemented each other exceptionally well, evident in their visible enjoyment on the field, as Gill expressed during the post-match presentation."

"This camaraderie is crucial for any backing and partnership," added Moody.

Pant to miss RCB game due to suspension for slow over rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant will miss Sunday's crucial match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru after he was handed a one-match suspension for maintaining a slow over-rate for the third time this IPL season.

Pant was also fined Rs 30 lakh for the Code of Conduct breach that took place during DC's 20-run win against Rajasthan Royals on May 7 here.

DC were 10 minutes behind time at the start of the final over in that game.

"Mr Rishabh Pant, Captain, Delhi Capitals has been fined has been fined and suspended for one match for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct after his team maintained a slow over-rate against Rajasthan Royals at the Arun Jaitley



Stadium, Delhi on May 07, 2024," an IPL statement read. The Capitals had been found guilty of maintaining slow over rates against Chennai Super Kings (March 31) and Kolkata Knight Riders (April 3) earlier in the season.

"As it was his team's third offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences,

Rishabh Pant was fined INR 30 lakh and suspended for one match."

All other DC players were also penalised.

"The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either INR 12 lakh or 50 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser."

DC filed an appeal challenging this ruling of the match referee which was referred to the BCCI Ombudsman for review. The Ombudsman conducted a virtual hearing and stated that the decision of the match referee is final and binding.

"As per Article 8 of the IPL Code of Conduct, the Delhi Capitals filed an appeal challenging the ruling of the Match Referee. Following this, the appeal was referred to the BCCI Ombudsman for review."



High calibre batting from Gill, Sudharsan disrupted our plans: CSK coach Fleming

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming said the defending champions were undone by the "high calibre" batting effort of Gujarat Titans' openers — skipper Shubman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan — during their 35-run defeat in an IPL match here.

Gill (104 off 55b) and Sudharsan (103 off 51b) notched up destructive centuries in an opening stand of 210 runs to propel GT to 231/3 and then restricted the defending champions to 196/8 to stay alive in the play-off race. The win lifted GT from the bottom of the table to the eighth spot. They have 10 points from 12 games, while CSK remained fourth with 12 points.

"It was a good onslaught and the batting was of the highest calibre. Right from the first over they disrupted our plans. It wasn't till the latter stages we got some control," Fleming said at the post-match press

conference on Friday night.

"We didn't execute as well as we could but the other part was the sublime batting from two very good players."

The former New Zealand captain praised Sudharsan for his effort.

"In the final last year, he (Sudharsan) played beautifully, he got 96. I have watched him closely, he has got good connections around the Chennai area. He is a wonderful player and today he proved that." Fleming said CSK were put under immense pressure by the onslaught of GT openers, resulting in errors in bowling and fielding.

"We were a little bit handicapped by the absence of some players. The players who were playing today did really well in the last game, so the confidence was high."

"Sometimes you do all the right things but good batting can put you under pressure. It was some high calibre hitting, just the pressure of that onslaught made us a bit sloppy," he said.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

With the sheer momentum they had in the first half of IPL 2024, Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Donovan Ferreira said on Saturday the team should have qualified for the playoffs by now but with three more games still remaining, the side had a great chance to make the top-two.

The Royals, who were leading the IPL table till just a few days back, have slipped to second spot following two consecutive defeats and would be desperate to get back to winning ways when they take on defending champion Chennai Super Kings here on Sunday.

"We should have already qualified for the playoffs by now. But, the IPL is a long tournament, and obviously, the second half is important," said Ferreira during a pre-match press conference here on Saturday.

The Royals are currently on 16 points, the same as leaders Kolkata Knight Riders but the latter have a far

RR should have qualified for playoffs by now: Ferreira ahead of CSK tie

superior net run rate. "We had set out nicely by winning most of the games in the first half, and this game (against CSK) is quite important. We have three games left, but we don't want to leave it too late and put pressure on ourselves," he added.

After they play CSK on Sunday, Royals have games against Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders.

"If we win this game, it will give us an even better chance of finishing first or second. Anyone playing against Chennai knows they are a good team. The past few games have been close, and these small margins can go either way. But hopefully, we can get over the line tomorrow by playing the brand of cricket that we have been



playing."

The Royals' middle order is a bit of a concern as it has not been tested much this season but Ferreira said the

order has put us in good positions and got us over the line. But, we have got capable batters and a deep batting line-up to pull us through.

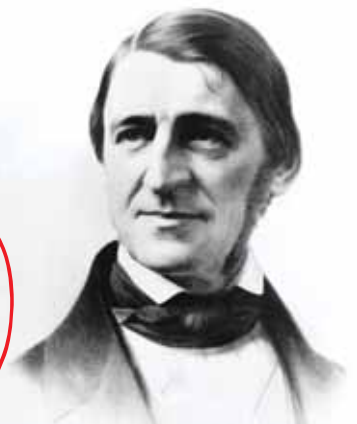
"We just need to keep backing ourselves. With three games to go, we don't want to test ourselves but keep the momentum going. It's about training with the match intensity with the middle order so that when the moment arrives, your skills are sharpened, and you back yourself to pull the game through."

Sunday's fixture will be the first afternoon game at Chepauk this season, and the South African reckoned that spin would play a crucial role, especially with R. Ashwin returning at his home venue.

training intensity had ensured all the batters were in good shape.

"It's (middle order) not much of a concern. We are grateful that our top

“Though we travel
the world over to find
the beautiful, we must
carry it with us or
we find it not”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Of the 150 villages that exist in West Garo Hills of Meghalaya, only 13 to 15 are Songsarek villages. In these, only five or six houses continue to uphold the ancient Garo traditions and follow the rituals related to the animist society. Wangala dance, brewing of Chubitchi being a few, writes **NAVNEET MENDIRATTA**

VIBING TO THE DANCE OF A 100 DRUMS

It is clearly the road less travelled. The West Garo Hills of Meghalaya in Northeast India may not have attracted the fancy of the tourists as their Khasi hills counterparts (yet), but that could well be a blessing in disguise for a region that is holding on to the last bit of ancient Garo traditions — the Songsarek practices.

Songsarek is a pre-Christian animist religion that is fast losing out to conversions to Christianity, that spread in the region in the second half of the nineteenth century and intensified throughout the twentieth century.

Currently, of the 150 villages that exist in the region, only 13 to 15 are Songsarek villages. In these, only five or six houses continue to actively practise the rituals related to the ancient Garo society.

A narrow hill road leads us to the Songsarek village of Gondenggre. Located in the Rongram subdivision of West Garo Hills district in Meghalaya, the village is located 18 kms from sub-district headquarter Rongram and some 36 kms from district headquarter of Tura.

Our entourage comprises a group of nine Royal Enfield bikers and content crew who are here to document the living heritage of the communities in these regions as part of a unique partnership between Royal Enfield and UNESCO.

The project titled, The Great Himalayan Exploration, involves engaging with Royal Enfield's motorcycling community and inspiring them to come forward to not just explore the landscape but to help preserve and promote the living heritage of the communities in these regions. Documentation is the first step in this direction.

These practices range from performing arts (dance forms, songs, etc) to tangible crafts (handmade paper from tree bark, specific types of hats, etc), food practices (preservation techniques, culinary cultures), agricultural practices, local medicinal practices, body art and even indigenous spiritual and social systems.

KEEPERS OF THE TRADITION

Upon reaching the village, we are greeted by the Nokma or the village headman with a generous serving of *Chubitchi* or

the traditionally fermented (but weak) alcoholic rice beverage that is poured right into our mouths from an *abet* or a hollowed dried bottle gourd. It is the locals' way of welcoming the guests and must be accepted by them as a mark of honour. *Chubitchi* flows freely in Garo villages. There is no age or stigma attached to its consumption. It is an important part of every Garo celebration — be it religious rituals, meetings, social gatherings, birth, marriage, during *Wangala* (harvest festival) or even a house warming ceremony. It is said that in pre-modern era, the Garos would serve the drink before taking off for a hunt or to fight enemies.

The traditional ways of making *Chubitchi* are said to have been passed down orally among the Garos until the arrival of Baptist American Missionaries. In the present day, though the knowledge of brewing *Chubitchi* continues to be shared in the interiors of Garo Hills, it is no longer a preferred practice in urban areas.

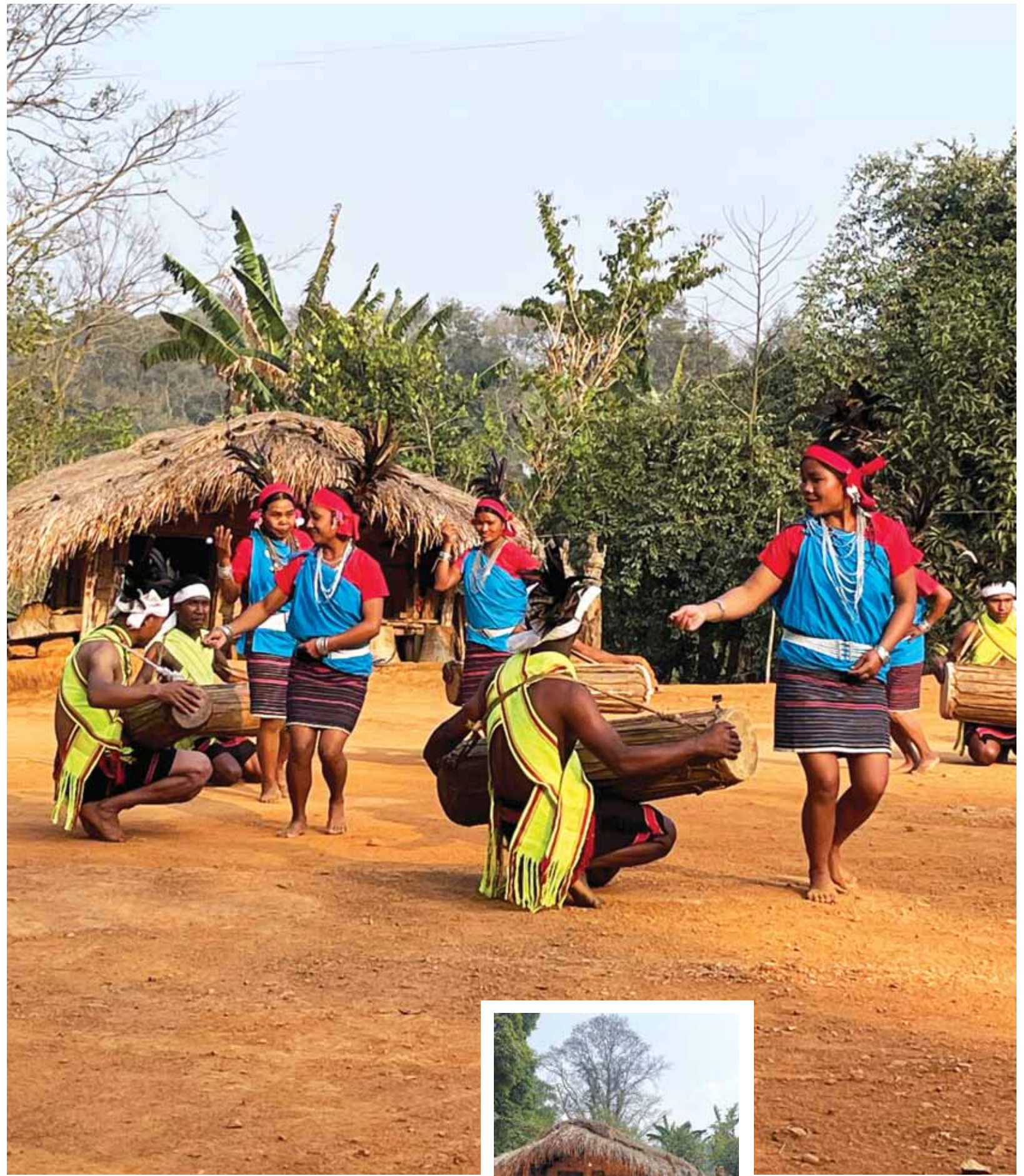
Songsareks of Gondenggre are friendly albeit private people. Curiously is writ large on their faces as language holds them back from communicating freely with the outsiders. Rakkan M Sangma, Joint Secretary of the 100 Drums Wangala Festival Committee and Secretary of Garo Heritage Village plays interpreter and takes us through the rituals and practices of the villagers.

“*Song* in the local language means village or a native place and *Warek* means houses built in a line. By that definition, *Gondenggre* is a spread out village with houses that are built in a single line,” says Sangma. “About 5-7 kms from the village, there exists a strong sacred grove called *A Song Kosi*. It is a special place where outsiders are forbidden from entering. No one is allowed to speak in that forest let alone pluck a single leaf. No one, not even a member of our tribe, can cause any harm to the trees, flowers, or animals there,” he shared.

Cleanliness is a buzzword in most parts of Meghalaya. Made from bamboo, Garo houses typically last for about four to five years. The kitchen is usually located outside the house. A complete set up comprising kitchen and dining space at the entrance of the village is meant

to be used by the community for celebrations and meetings. The rooms are usually spread out. According to Sangma, a lot of taboos including “untouchability” *vis-a-vis* the outsiders are practiced even today. The outsiders are not allowed to enter or touch anything inside the Garo spaces. Sacrifice remains an inherent part of Songsarek practices. There is a sacrifice to mark everything that is considered important — it could be a wedding or any celebration, a big announcement, to appease the Gods, to ward off evil or even to fight a disease. The blood marks are like trophies in the village. The Songsareks believe in keeping their Gods happy.

“The aim is to document and safeguard the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas and thereby, raise awareness about the living treasures that make up the beating heart of India,” says Bidisha Dey, Executive Director, Eicher Group Foundation — the CSR and Sustainability arm of Royal Enfield. According to her, over two editions and 16 curated rides, 119 rider-researchers have already documented 66 practices across the Eastern Himalayan states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, North Bengal, Sikkim and Tripura. “We are now set to extend our exploration to the Western Himalayas in 2024,” says Dey. “We conduct a detailed on-ground reece before rolling out the riders to ensure the assent of the locals and as respect for their privacy. We are especially careful to follow the community protocols on how to approach the community and then conduct capacity building programmes to educate the rider researchers before they set out on their journeys,” she shares. Among the practices recorded are: The black pottery of Tyr Shang village in the West Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, *Muga* silk threads of Assam, *Mon Shugu*, the ancient art of making paper of Arunachal Pradesh, living roots bridges of Meghalaya, handmade mask art of Majuli island, Assam. “For us, the partnership is not just about the documentation. It's also about creating awareness about the intangible cultural heritage practices,” concludes Dey.



to be used by the community for celebrations and meetings. The rooms are usually spread out. According to Sangma, a lot of taboos including “untouchability” *vis-a-vis* the outsiders are practiced even today. The outsiders are not allowed to enter or touch anything inside the Garo spaces. Sacrifice remains an inherent part of Songsarek practices. There is a sacrifice to mark everything that is considered important — it could be a wedding or any celebration, a big announcement, to appease the Gods, to ward off evil or even to fight a disease. The blood marks are like trophies in the village. The Songsareks believe in keeping their Gods happy.

DANCING TO A HUNDRED DRUMS

Wangala, the Garo traditional dance dedicated to their main Deity and the God of Sun, crops and fertility, *Misi-Saaljong*, features as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) practice.

Inspired by the wagtail bird, the dance imitates the bird's behaviour, using musical instruments such as a flute made from buffalo horn and drums. It is a group dance where pairs of men and women wearing wagtail feathers in their headgear line up and move along a circle in short, slow but forceful steps. The dance is led by the Nokma who sings the traditional songs in a high pitch while the rest of the men play the drums. The Garo women folk make traditional dance gestures imitating the bird or even animals and clap. The women wear skirts made from handwoven cloth woven on looms. The typical pattern is that of the eye of the Goddess of wealth, *Susime*, resembling a diamond. Wagtail bird holds a special meaning in the Songsarek beliefs. The villagers closely observe the flight of the bird



to predict the waterfall for the season. Every *Wangala* or the harvest festival, the Songsareks put handprints on their doors (using three fingers) with rice flour indicating the water level and for good harvest. These imprints are usually made by the male members of the community outside the house of the Nokma, where most rituals are conducted. The Garos are a matrilineal, matrilineal and matrilineal society. They continue to carry forward the surname of the women of the family. The boys live with their parents till they reach puberty and then shift into a dormitory style bachelor home in the village till they get married into a girl's family. While the matrilineal aspect remains strong, the rules surrounding bachelor homes are somewhat easing out, shares Sangma.

“SONG IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE MEANS VILLAGE OR A NATIVE PLACE AND WAREK MEANS HOUSES BUILT IN A LINE. BY THAT DEFINITION, GONDENGGRE IS A SPREAD OUT VILLAGE WITH HOUSES THAT ARE BUILT IN A SINGLE LINE”

ENCALM'S WARM EMBRACE OF ATITHI DAIVO BHAVA



In an informative tête-à-tête with **SHOBORI GANGULI**, Encalm Hospitality CEO **VIKAS SHARMA** outlines his vision of revolutionising the world of airport hospitality

Possibly never before in history has the global hospitality industry and its ecosystem been as severely hit as it was during the 2021 Pandemic. Not even the two World Wars in the last century left nations gasping for breath as Covid did, with its lethal tentacles paralysing MSMEs, travel and tourism businesses, and their subsidiary industries. Unannounced lockdowns and travel restrictions drilled unparalleled fear into the human psyche, with no end in sight. But, as Charles Dickens put it in *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." Clawing back for survival under such adversity, the hospitality industry was quick to innovate. Mr Vikas Sharma, the Chief Executive Officer of Encalm Hospitality, entered this volatile world as a beacon of hope in the year 2021, in a territory unexplored and uncharted and at a time when fear of human contact reigned supreme.

Armed with the vision to infuse fresh life into the business of hospitality, and, of course, with an enviable arsenal of 25 years of experience in the trade, Sharma went about restructuring the landscape of airport hospitality through an unparalleled experience — much like the American Pioneer who wanted "to go where no man has gone before." Air travel, even for those going business class, has its attendant share of anxiety and restlessness. Seeking to ease this, Mr Sharma, through Encalm, concretised a novel definition of airport services. "Hospitality" is the key word in this endeavour, says a proud Sharma.

In a short span of three years, Sharma today heads a 200 plus team which, according to him, is crucial in taking the organisation's long term objectives forward through "strategic thinking and effective communication." At a time when most airlines provide their Business Class passengers with state of the art lounges and customized relaxation plans without overheads, what does



VIKAS sharma, CEO, ENCALM HOSPITALITY PVT LTD

Encalm bring to the table, especially if the passenger has to pay for it? Sharma is quick to enumerate that, "Encalm Hospitality has become synonymous with exceptional hospitality and top-of-the-line services right from Atithya to the

Encalm Lounges and Spa." Available in all three terminals of the Delhi Airport, Encalm Lounges are also available in Hyderabad and Goa. To ensure an "elevated airport experience" Sharma lists out the services the company has on offer.

Penetrating into the luxury realm of a regular lounge and Spa, Encalm's services and hospitality combine a range of assisted services, incorporating basic non-aviation chores such as assistance service, buggy services, and porter assistance. The company's offerings go beyond the aesthetics of bespoke carved lounges and Spas with a personalised "Atithya Meet and Greet" — constructed on the foundation of *Atithi Daivo Bhava* (Guests are equivalent to the Almighty), taking airport experience to another level altogether.

As the Encalm CEO proudly asserts, his knowledge and experiences help synergise the operational and management foundations of the Encalm brand. Needless to add, he has an impressive portfolio having served as the General Manager of Sheraton Hotel and Resorts, Director of Operations at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company and the Director of F&B at Four Seasons Hotel and Resorts. Operations, sales and marketing, finance and revenue management are his core competence. He was felicitated as the General Manager of the Year 2019 award by HOSI in association with Sheraton Hotel and Resorts, and Leadership Excellence Award by Marriott Hotel, again in 2019. An MBA graduate from INSEAD, Sharma has a bachelor's degree from IHM, Gwalior.

Interestingly, Sharma is also an avid cricket follower of cricket and badminton, the former fructifying into reality when Encalm became the Hospitality partner with the Delhi Capitals for IPL 2024. Talking about the partnership Sharma says, "As a lifelong cricket enthusiast, the sport embodies more than mere competition — it's a fervent passion fostering camaraderie and excitement. Partnering with Delhi Capitals underscores my enduring dedication to cricket and its profound community impact. Through Encalm Hospitality's alliance with this dynamic IPL team, we embrace cricket's essence, engaging with fans authentically and enriching the sport's vibrant legacy."

PAWAN SONI pens down his personal experience at the airport with Encalm's services to provide a 360 degree view of what this innovation brings to the table

The hustle and bustle of travel can often leave one weary and longing for a moment of respite. Gone are the days when travelling was mundane. We are at a time when journeys in fact can be as exhilarating as the destination themselves.

During my recent trip to Italy, while passing through Terminal 3 (T3) International Airport in New Delhi, I stumbled upon the Encalm Prive Lounge — a sanctuary of luxury and comfort that undoubtedly ranks among the world's finest.

With a staggering capacity of over 550 guests, the Encalm Prive Lounge caters exclusively to business travelers, accessible either through business class tickets or higher with various airlines, or by paying an entry fee. Unlike other lounges, complimentary card benefits do not apply here; however, cardholders can access another Encalm lounge, albeit not as lavish as the Prive lounge.

Culinary delights await at the extensive buffet which is rivalling with the leading star hotels selection and offers separate selections for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians. I loved the watermelon cheese as a canape, prawns and garlic cream kebabs, Chicken biryani and even the simple but tasty beetroot halwa. The lounge's leaf-shaped bar is a visual delight, offering a range of complimentary and paid options that cater to every palate. Given current Delhi's excise policy issue, there were many brands including Prosecco that weren't available at the time of my visit.

The lounge boasts of four sleeping pods, providing weary travellers with a private sanctuary to rest and rejuvenate before their next journey. Of course this is a paid facility at ₹1000 plus taxes per hour.

One of the standout features of the Encalm Prive Lounge is its expansive conference room, which doubles as a personal dining room, perfect for business travelers or senior bureaucrats and VIPs looking to conduct meetings or enjoy a meal in a private setting.

For those looking for entertainment, the lounge offers a small gaming zone and a dedicated kids area, ensuring that travellers of all ages have something to enjoy during their visit. The virtual gaming zone and Xbox games comes as a chargeable feature separate from the lounge charge though it can be availed by only the lounge users. A small fitness centre and kids play area comes complimentary along with the lounge facility.

In addition to its luxurious amenities, the Encalm Prive Lounge also offers



excellent spa services. I had the pleasure of trying their 30-minute foot massage, which left me feeling relaxed and rejuvenated, ready to embark on the next leg of my journey. Currently this 30-minute spa came complimentary by using my DreamFolks card; else one will have to shell out ₹1500 for using this facility. Had there been a provision of complimentary foot massage machines and the massage chairs like at Singapore airport, I would have rated Encalm Prive lounge the best in the world without even blinking an eye.

While the lounge service came complimentary with my flight tickets, Encalm has another facility called Atithya Meet and Greet Service. So if you are a first time traveller or just worried about your parents or kids traveling alone, just avail this service from their portal that comes in various options — Silver, Gold and Elite. This service provides you with a guest manager who will escort you from the entrance without having to wait in the queue, help you through check-in and immigration services. They try to help you go through business class immigration service but it depends upon the government official to allow it. And then they help you get the buggy till your boarding gate. If you have a business class ticket or are planning to use the lounge through credit cards, in my opinion, Silver tier option gives you the best value for money.

Overall, my experience at the Encalm Prive Lounge and Atithya Meet and Greet service was nothing short of exceptional. From its elegant ambience to its impeccable service, the lounge sets a new standard for airport hospitality. Next time you travel, consider experiencing the luxury and comfort of Atithya Meet and Greet Service and Encalm Prive Lounge apart from the usual shopping.

(Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com)

Splendid Expedition Across Switzerland

Switzerland calls out to travelers with a taste for stunning mountain views, picturesque landmarks, and unique adventures. Step onto the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland for an incredible voyage through the country's rich culture and breathtaking landscapes. This train journey guarantees an unforgettable encounter with Switzerland's captivating charm

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

As travelers, we set off to find new horizons, discover new cultures, savor delicious foods, and create lasting memories. Switzerland is a great choice for explorers, with stunning mountain views and charming villages that become part of every traveler's dream vacation. While Switzerland offers many ways to explore, taking a train journey is a truly magical experience. The Grand Train Tour of Switzerland is an adventure not to be missed. This remarkable trip reveals the beauty of Switzerland's mountains and its rich history. You can start and end your journey wherever you please, with destinations like Zermatt, St. Moritz, Lucerne, and Lugano awaiting your exploration. For those eager to visit every stop on the journey, the Swiss Travel Pass is the perfect solution. This ticket gives you access to all the destinations along the route. Covering 1,280 kilometers, passing by 11 serene lakes, and revealing five UNESCO World Heritage Sites set against the stunning alpine backdrop, this train journey ensures an engaging and unforgettable experience.



MOST POPULAR TRAIN JOURNEYS THAT ARE A PART OF THE GRAND ROUTE

Hop on the Glacier Express, a legendary trip winding through the breathtaking Swiss Alps from Zermatt to St. Moritz. Take a journey on the Bernina Express to discover the Bernina Pass, Bernina Range, and the UNESCO World Heritage Rhaetian Railway. Travel along the Golden Pass Line, linking Lucerne to Montreux through stunning scenery. Enjoy the

Gotthard Panorama Express as it traverses the famous Gotthard Pass. Lastly, ride the Lucerne-Interlaken Express for captivating views of the Jungfrau region.

MUST KNOW

Switzerland presents a rich array of experiences, from enchanting urban centers to tranquil mountain hamlets, crystal-clear lakes to towering peaks, and from ancient vineyards to fine dining destinations. The Swiss Travel

System offers a smooth, comfortable, and upscale way for tourists to discover this enchanting nation. With the Swiss Travel Pass, visitors gain access to Switzerland's comprehensive public transportation network, enabling them to seamlessly traverse the country by train, bus, boat, or mountain railway.

Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer

LET'S GOA...

BY PAWAN SONI

Goa remains an ever-popular destination, with its property prices soaring post-COVID and a surge in demand for new eateries and nightspots. Each visit to Goa reveals new experiences, making it a perennial favorite. During a brief 3-day break from work, my wife and I opted for a villa stay over a traditional hotel, choosing the relatively new Villa Heliconia in Siolim.

LOCATION

Villa Heliconia is conveniently located near the MOPA airport, making it easily accessible from most places in North Goa. Situated close to the buzzing spots in North Goa, it even shares a wall with the popular restaurant Hosa, known for its innovative take on traditional South Indian cuisine. I recommend trying Hosa for its exquisite interiors, great cocktails, and inventive dishes. However, ensure you have a reservation to avoid disappointment, as we found ourselves seated at an inconvenient high bar table for the last minute booking.

AMENITIES

The villa is spacious, boasting two large living areas and six rooms, along with a swimming pool and lifts. Ideal for groups of friends or extended families, the private



pool is definitely a highlight. Decent-sized rooms, with at least two rooms featuring personal balconies ensures accommodation for kids and elderly as well.

HOUSEKEEPING

We were impressed by the attentive housekeeper, Shuvendu Kashyap, whose knowledge extended beyond housekeeping to include coffee and a variety of subjects. The entire team was polite and eager to please.

FOOD

One of the highlights was the option to have the staff

FACT SHEET

Villa Heliconia, 9 Ground Floor, Landmark, Plot No Syno.329, Vaddy, near the church, Siolim, Goa

Phone Number: 9350009000

prepare food of your choice, perfect for when you want a break from outside meals. I particularly enjoyed their dal, paneer, and tawa roti. Breakfast offered a variety of options, including eggs,

paranathas, cut fruits, poori-aloo, and poha apart from beverages like fresh juice, tea and coffee. During my visit, I discovered that the owner, Abhishek Aggarwal, and I are both from Gurgaon. I reached out to him to share my pleasant experience with the villa. Abhishek, an excellent hospitality professional turned real estate entrepreneur, shared his journey of success. His hard work and good fortune not only led to the opening of Villa Heliconia but also to several upcoming luxury projects in Goa, including a 4-bedroom villa in Morjim, a 5-bedroom super luxury Bali-themed villa in Siolim, and a 10-bedroom boutique property in Calangute, which will be rented out as individual rooms rather than a villa. Villa Heliconia, a dream fulfilled for Abhishek, is a testament to the fact that some dreams do come true.

(Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com)

SAVING THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

The Great Indian Bustard critically endangered and integral to India's wildlife heritage, faces multifaceted threats including habitat loss, collisions with infrastructure, and poaching. As efforts to safeguard the species intensify, the imperative to reconcile competing interests between development and conservation grows more urgent



BKP SINHA



ARVIND K JHA

The Supreme Court of India in *MK Ranjitsinh and Ors vs. Union of India* has constituted a seven-member committee and tasked it with addressing the delicate balance between conservation initiatives for the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and the installation of renewable energy projects in its habitat. This decision follows the Court's acknowledgement of the challenges posed by its April 2021 directive mandating the burial of all power lines within the GIB habitat, a measure claimed to be expensive and impractical over extensive distances by Power companies and the Central Government. With the complex interplay between development and conservation at the forefront, the committee has to assess primarily the viability of reducing the area banned for overhead powerlines from 80,000 to 13,663 square kilometres. The GIB figures in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in Appendix I of CITES and is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Included in the National Wildlife Action Plan, it has been earmarked for a recovery program under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India. During the Mughal and British periods, the GIB was one of the top game birds. Historical accounts suggest that tribal Bhils used to set fire to the bushes surrounding their nests to trap females. The species has been facing numerous threats to its survival including occasional poaching, collisions with high-tension electric wires, fast-moving vehicles, and free-ranging dogs in villages. Additionally, habitat loss and alteration due to the diversion of grasslands and scrublands, extensive agricultural expansion, mechanized farming practices, and infrastructural developments such as irrigation systems, roads, and windmills pose significant challenges.

Weighing approximately 15 kilograms each, their bulk poses a challenge when navigating around electricity lines or windmills, often resulting in fatalities or injuries. The dry semi-desert regions where the bustard once thrived, particularly in parts of Rajasthan, have also undergone significant transformation due to irrigation canals, converting the landscape into highly cultivated areas. Present-day threats include further expansion of linear infrastructure such as roads and electric power transmission lines leading to collision-related mortality. The proposed expansion of renewable energy infrastructure, including large-scale deployment of solar panels across desert and grassland areas, further jeopardizes the bird's habitat.

In its historical range, the great Indian bustard once existed across Western India, spanning 11 states, including parts of Pakistan, with strongholds in the Thar desert and the Deccan plateau. Known for its preference for flat, open landscapes with minimal disturbance, it thrives in grasslands. Their numbers, however, have dwindled dramatically, with only around 150 individuals estimated to survive as of 2018, down from around 250 in 2011. Most of the population, estimated at around 120, is concentrated in the arid grasslands of Thar, Rajasthan, particularly in the Desert National Park and the Pokhran Field Firing Range, with smaller populations reportedly scattered elsewhere in the country. In Maharashtra, two individuals had been reported in Nanaj, Solapur district, where the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) is actively involved in conservation efforts. Concerningly, however, the absence of the great Indian bustard in Nanaj in Maharashtra as well as in the Rollopadu Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh for the past few years suggests a looming risk of local-level extinctions.

Known for their slow reproductive rate, GIBs lay only a few eggs and invest nearly a year in caring for their chicks. Establishing a founder population requires a minimum of 20 breeding females and 5 to 10 breeding males. In the relatively better populated Thar region, specifically focused upon in the



Supreme Court case, the looming risks of the maze of infrastructural development, food insecurity, conflicts, and climate change-induced impacts exacerbate the challenges faced by them. As regards actions taken to safeguard the dwindling population of the GIB, the MoEFCC, Rajasthan Forest Department, and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), came together in 2018 to initiate conservation breeding programs and conduct scientific research for GIB's conservation. Notably, the WII had already identified ten potential locations for GIB breeding centres in 2017, setting the stage for proactive conservation measures. Drawing on expertise beyond borders, the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) from Abu Dhabi was enlisted as a technical partner due to its successful track record in breeding other bustard species. The collective efforts resulted in the establishment of two breeding centres in Rajasthan, housing a total of 29 GIBs, bolstering hopes for the species' survival. Further support poured in from WWF-India, which helped in crafting guidelines for a comprehensive State Action Plan for Resident Bustard Recovery Programme and backed future expansion plans in Gujarat. In Karnataka's Siruguppa taluka, the Ballari Forest division proposed a Detailed Project Report with an

investment of INR 24 crores for a research centre dedicated to the GIB cause. In Maharashtra, with GIB sighted in recent years neither in Nanaj of Solapur nor in Warora of Vidarbha region, a proposed collaboration with Rajasthan aims to exchange tigers for GIBs, with plans to establish a breeding centre in Nanaj. Assessment of the overall strength, budgetary outlay, and position of the MoEFCC and forest departments in decision-making in the Government reflects that the effectiveness of efforts to secure the future of the GIB is just inadequate. The weakening of statutory instruments and establishments related to forest and wildlife conservation in the recent past is quite revealing in this regard. In the case of GIB also, on an uneven field, stakeholders grapple with the urgent need to balance developmental agendas with conservation imperatives, claiming to be providing a sustainable coexistence for this emblematic avian species. However, amidst endeavours by some professional foresters, a pressing challenge looms large today. About 66,337 sq. km of land for overhead transmission lines are considered despite WII's recommendation that mitigation of powerline-linked mortality required a ban on high tension wires,

undergrounding of <66 kv wires, and retrofitting of existing wires with bird diverters. WII's findings also underscored the perilous predicament, with an estimated 16 GIB fatalities annually due to collisions with high-tension lines in the Thar region alone. Such alarming mortality rates, validated by tagging efforts by WII, are in sharp contrast to the indication of the number of recorded mortality cases as insignificant before the highest court. Using a lower number of collision deaths as a basis for allowing a network of overhead powerlines in GIB habitats will be akin to advocating the discontinuance of medicines in a pandemic situation where due to a reduced number of survivors, deaths per day may be lowered. An approach of balancing conservation and development by permitting power projects, in a critically endangered species' habitat with just about 140 survivors, currently less polluting than non-renewable resources deserves perhaps a second look. The idea of development and its impact created and sold by the most selfish species on earth pitted against the right to life of a species at the brink of extinction needs to adopt a much wider and multi-sectoral perspective. India's insolation data in many areas, not natural habitats of GIB, presents

similar ranges as in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Annual Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation (AMDGSR) map indicates 6.8 to 5.6 kWh/ m²/ day in different parts of Rajasthan and Gujrat; 6.0 to 5.8 in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Ladakh; and 5.8 to 5.6 in states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. India's solar power generation capacity having reached about 76 GW in FY24, is concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat with 17.8 GW and 10.1 GW. Large states like MP and UR are major disappointments. Authorities should consider the country-wide spread and benefits, site-specific costs on infrastructure, and the capacity utilization factor (CUF) figures reported to be 20 for Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh; 19 for Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Madhya Pradesh; and 18 for Gujarat. Considering this scenario, any honest concern for balancing conservation and development must, instead of compromising GIB's future, explore and exploit the potential spread out in the country for solar projects. That would be true climate justice! (The writers are Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views are personal)

The WII had already identified ten potential locations for GIB breeding centres in 2017, setting the stage for proactive conservation measures. Drawing on expertise beyond borders, the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) from Abu Dhabi was enlisted as a technical partner due to its successful track record in breeding other bustard species. The collective efforts resulted in the establishment of two breeding centres in Rajasthan, housing a total of 29 GIBs, bolstering hopes for the species' survival



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week promises a wealth of positive developments. A surge of spiritual energy is set to enhance your awareness, enveloping you in a glowing aura. Listen closely to your intuition—it will guide you confidently forward. Expect a time rich in affection, joyous celebrations, and meaningful connections. Inspirational creativity and artistic achievements will flourish, alongside significant personal milestones and unexpected blessings. The care and attention from others will deepen your experience of heartfelt connections. Your life will be enriched by the realization of your deepest aspirations. Your adept handling of situations in love, friendship, or career will seem almost magical. This period also offers a perfect opportunity to delve into new learning and refine your abilities across various disciplines. Embrace this time of growth and fulfillment.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

The week begins on a challenging note, particularly in your personal connections. High hopes might lead to emotional reactions due to unexpected behaviors from close ones, compelling a desire for solitude. As the week progresses, obstacles persist, demanding sharp focus and keen observation to stay aligned with your ambitions. Travel could become necessary, possibly involving leisure trips with loved ones, blending routine with refreshing experiences. Your demeanor shifts from serene to vibrant as the week advances, rejuvenating your spirit and approach to life. At home, you'll exhibit care and attentiveness, while in professional settings, you'll show dynamism and fairness. This balanced approach fosters respect from peers and admiration from superiors. By the week's end, a sense of harmony pervades all aspects of life, leading to financial upliftment.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You have a vibrant energy and a keen interest in acquiring new skills, with a practical focus on financial stability. Prioritize clear communication about practical matters and values. A new venture or project is on the horizon, so it's important to stay organized by taking detailed notes and maintaining secure records. Your dedication and patience will enhance your awareness and personal growth. Mid-week brings opportunities for advancement, possibly including job offers or new income sources, and even potential romantic connections. However, exercise caution as the week ends; challenges and disagreements in professional settings may arise, potentially causing frustration. Despite these obstacles, support from a family member will be a bright spot, offering help or a cherished gift. Expect positive outcomes from any health evaluations.

Lucky number 21 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You have a knack for confronting reality, even when it's tough, and you can assess circumstances quickly. Your innate ability to perceive the underlying intentions and wishes of others is remarkable. You have a direct, clever, and pragmatic approach to matters. You have little patience for deceit or frivolity. However, achieving a healthier internal equilibrium is crucial, including finding the right mix of activity and rest, maintaining good health practices, and managing your emotions. It's important to make discerning choices that align with your best interests. In any legal situations, anticipate a fair resolution. You'll find that your dedication often leads to public praise and appreciation. In scenarios that once seemed disordered, you will find yourself in control, bringing order and clarity.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This period invites you to deepen your connections with those you hold dear. As your relationships bloom, you'll find increased stability and emotional satisfaction, making it an ideal time to let go of any lingering doubts. Your career, too, is poised for growth. As the week progresses, you'll feel a strong desire for personal autonomy and recognition. You shine as a nurturing presence in the lives of those you care about, provided your leadership is respected. Your attributes of ambition, resilience, and discipline steer you towards positive outcomes, making it a favorable period for making sound decisions and reaping the rewards of diligent effort. However, as the week closes, unexpected challenges might disrupt your peace. Reassess these situations carefully.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are on the brink of gaining fresh insights into a pressing concern. Embracing intellectual achievement is worthwhile, as the power of thought holds immense potential. However, it's important to balance sharp intellect with empathy. Your determination to pursue your aspirations is unyielding, despite the numerous obstacles and opposition you may encounter. At your workplace, you'll find others showing interest in your projects, creating a competitive environment. Tensions at home might escalate, making communication challenging and leaving you contemplating a drastic decision to leave. However, remain patient, as positive changes are on the horizon. With determination and thoughtful strategy, no challenge is too great to overcome. Influential guidance, possibly from a mentor or a family member like a father or elder brother, will significantly enhance your ability to realize your goals.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Sharing your work with a like-minded and diligent partner could prove beneficial for you. You may find yourself engaging with more tasks and projects, which will keep you actively occupied. Effective teamwork, involving strategizing and leveraging collective skills, is crucial for achieving objectives. Your emotional equilibrium allows you to access deeper insights and understanding. This period emphasizes your nurturing side; you offer support through empathetic actions and soothing words, contributing positively to others' well-being. Your composed demeanor helps you maintain a steady approach in various situations, reinforcing your influence in professional settings where structure is appreciated. Potential travel may be on the horizon, reflecting a readiness to embrace new experiences. This phase is marked by a commitment to personal and spiritual development, as you engage in meditative practices, yoga, and participate in communal spiritual gatherings.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you will experience profound fulfillment as your efforts begin to bear fruit. Deep connections and emotional openness may lead to significant new bonds. Your dreams align with reality, bringing satisfaction and contentment. You may feel torn between emotions and logic, yet you'll successfully navigate towards your goals. Mid-week, a sense of adventure could inspire a new project or journey, pushing you to step out of your comfort zone. Your energy levels remain high, fueling your pursuits. As the week ends, you'll enjoy a harmonious balance, reaping rewards across all life facets—social, financial, and personal, culminating in a deep sense of fulfillment and well-being. The weekend promises relaxation and a vibrant social life, enhancing your overall joy.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You feel emotionally balanced and exhibit confidence and generosity, often caring deeply for others. Your natural charisma makes you an engaging diplomat and an enchanting partner, whether in conversations or relationships. However, it's crucial to avoid the extremes of your passionate or emotional sides. Leaning too heavily towards passion might lead to self-inflicted stress, whereas excessive emotionality could leave you feeling submerged and lost. This week, the atmosphere at work might become challenging, marked by fierce competition and potential conflicts. Be vigilant as colleagues might attempt to take credit for your efforts. Stay focused on your professional responsibilities, requiring much creativity and attention. Opt for tactful interactions and embrace diverse perspectives rather than using force. Accountability is key; avoid placing blame on others for setbacks.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Off White
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you stand at a crossroads, facing a significant choice that will influence your path forward. As you navigate this decision, the key lies in recognizing the hidden opportunities that may initially appear as setbacks. Trusting in the strong, balanced bond you share with those around you will empower you and bring clarity to your decisions. Your innate confidence and dynamic presence will guide you in executing your plans effectively. Social interactions, particularly celebrations or gatherings, will prove beneficial, enhancing your connections and opening doors to new possibilities. As the week draws to a close, expect to receive affirmations of your efforts and achievements. An unexpected acknowledgment or positive news will highlight your success, fostering further growth in areas that align with your best interests.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week finds you deeply attuned to your spiritual ambitions, seeking a mentor to enhance your connection with the higher realms. Your commitment transcends specific beliefs, embracing a collective spirit through community engagement. Midweek, your attention shifts to professional endeavors where dynamic interactions and bold initiatives pave the way for success. Your efforts are characterized by determination and are likely to yield professional advancement and harmonious interactions with colleagues. Presently, you embody kindness and authority, garnering respect and influence. A strong sense of self-awareness guides you, as your inner wisdom steers you towards beneficial decisions. Overall, your approach to life is well-rounded and thoughtful, positioning you ideally to navigate choices that align closely with your values and goals.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You are enveloped in a nurturing atmosphere of love and unity, with strong connections enhancing your environment with joy and solidarity. Creativity enriches your interactions, making family time rewarding, especially as younger members excel. Those hoping to expand their family may soon receive joyful news, and a significant celebration could further uplift spirits. This week encourages a structured approach in your personal and professional life, urging optimal organization and efficiency. It's a crucial period to assertively pursue your ambitions while maintaining a balanced perspective. Embrace this as a chance for personal growth and transformation, perhaps by shedding outdated habits. This focused approach will not only advance your goals but also stabilize your inner sense of security.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Fuchsia
Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



Shape your destiny through conscious efforts

What is in store of my son's destiny? How far he will study? Will he land up in a good job?" Someone came asking a couple of years back. He informed that his son was insistent on pursuing engineering course. But given his performance at school, it looks difficult. He was advised an easier option of pursuing Commerce. For, with lesser efforts, he could take the course to its logical end, which may at least secure him a decent job. But he won't listen. At the outset, let me assure you that your son is a potential guy. Don't underestimate him. His performance would not have been up to mark so far. Should he address his few weaknesses, following the process suggested, his positives will bloom out in full, which is immense. In fact, he carries the potential to complete higher studies. For, 4th cusp sub-lord Venus, identified with graduate studies is tenanted in the nakshatra owned by Rahu occupying the 9th house, marked with higher studies. 9th sub-lord Mars is again in the 9th house and posited in the nakshatra owned by 9th lord

Sun. Such a close connect of the houses referred promises higher education. Benevolent Jupiter is beautifully aligned with the Sun. It implies that he is a responsible guy who is promised an honourable and dignified life. He enjoys good executive ability and can hold a position of trust. Even more because Karmic Saturn extends its benefic aspect on the Sun, which grants him with excellent organising skill having his eyes even on finer details. Intelligence signifying Mercury is well aligned to intellectually ordained Uranus. That offers him a scientific bent of mind and is highly intelligent. Mercury being well disposed towards Mars grants him analytical abilities worth pursuing Engineering. He could do well particularly in Computer Science, as would Saturn and Ketu, together placed in the 3rd house marked with his basal instincts mean. What further adds to his potential is that 3rd cusp sub-lord Venus is posited in the nakshatra owned by Rahu in the 9th house, both occupying Mercury owned sign Virgo. He does also carry the



potential to do well in commerce as 10th lord Venus has benefic association with mind signifying Moon. But it will be still better if he pursues Computer Engineering. Now it is up to him to take the final call.

How well your son utilises the above virtues will define his future course of destiny. "I feel good to hear about my son's indwelling potential. Why then it doesn't reflect in his performance as

on date?" Countered the man. Well, if he carries positive qualities, there are enough of inherent weaknesses also that stand in way of his potential side from blooming out in full. Mind signifying Moon, incidentally the 8th lord makes him habitually suspicious even of his own worth. Still more because Saturn is ill-disposed off to Moon, which further creates self-doubt. Moon is placed adverse to Mercury, which implies that he lacks focus. He would be engaged in conflicting thoughts and has a worrisome mind. Jupiter placed adverse to Venus makes him comfort loving. If that would not be enough, Saturn and Ketu together also bring in an escapist tendency, which may not allow him taking timely initiatives. Mars and Rahu together in a Mercury owned sign makes him dissipate his energies towards varied unproductive ends. "Sir, is it possible to change his habit tendencies, as they die hard?" Asked the man. Don't forget that human beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their action by choice and discrimination. It is, however, equally

true that choice option carries equal probability of use and misuse. That's the premise on which destiny stands. But here again, the choice option also enjoins upon a being to self-reflect, identify one's own weaknesses, acknowledge them, and then address them by making conscientious choice. One more good thing about your son is that his spiritual quotient is quite high. For, the lagna sub-lord Mars happens to be the 9th sub-lord as well, which is conjunct Rahu, the 5th sub-lord. When guided properly, he will be keen to pursue meditative technique suggested. If he does that especially before he sits for studies, he will be able to remain focused for long. With time, his mind will stabilise and will be able to overcome his inherent weaknesses. His indwelling potential will then play out unhindered to his full advantage. He may then be able to do justice to whatever discipline he opts for.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com