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RCB EYE FIFTH WIN IN A ROW AGAINST DC

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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.

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".

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, Dhaurahra, 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.

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.



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.

Biofest 2024: Medical minds and creative canvas MTMC

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In a spectacular showcase of intellect and creativity, Manipal Tata Medical College (MTMC) in Jamshedpur hosted the Biofest 2024 event, a celebration of intellectual brilliance and creative genius. The college welcomed participants from prestigious institutions across Jharkhand for a state-level quiz and poster-making extravaganza.

The event provided a platform for budding medical minds to display their prowess in medicine and artistic talents. After rigorous preliminary rounds, 28 finalists from seven teams emerged, representing esteemed institutions such as MGM Medical College Jamshedpur, Lakshmi



Chandravanshi Medical College Palamu, SBMCH Hazaribagh, and PJMCH Dumka, along with teams of MTMC Jamshedpur.

Under the keen eyes of esteemed judges, Dr. Matin Ahmad Khan, Professor and HOD Biochemistry of LCMCH Palamu, and the presence of

dignitaries like Dean of MTMC, Director academics and quality and Associate Deans, and HOD Biochemistry the competition unfolded

across six challenging rounds. MTMC Jamshedpur clinched both first and second place, with LCMCH Palamu securing a commendable third place, showcasing their dominance in the field.

The victory of the team Rosalind from MTMC was a testament to their teamwork, quick thinking, and profound knowledge of medical sciences. Despite facing stiff competition, they displayed remarkable resilience, ultimately claiming the top spot and earning well-deserved recognition.

Beyond the quiz, the poster-making competition added another layer of excitement, highlighting the artistic talents within the medical community. Elice Topno from RIMS Ranchi emerged as the

champion, with Tanishqa Garg from MTMC Jamshedpur and Ankit Maity from LCMCH Palamu securing second and third positions, respectively.

The success of the event can be attributed to the dedication of the Biochemistry department, whose seamless execution left an indelible mark on participants and audience alike.

The Biofest-2024 Jharkhand State-level Quiz and Poster Making Competition not only celebrated knowledge and creativity but also fostered camaraderie among young medical enthusiasts. It stands as a benchmark for future events in the field, inspiring the next generation of healthcare leaders to strive for excellence.

14 polling parties leave by helicopter to conduct voting

VINOD PRASAD : LOHARDAGA:

For the upcoming Lok Sabha general election in Lohardaga Lok Sabha constituency on 13 May 2024 from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, 14 polling parties will be



organized on Saturday for a total of 14 polling centers located in remote and remote areas of Lohardaga district. Was dispatched by helicopter. In the morning, before departure, polling parties were matched with their EVMs, matched with security forces and provided with voting material. Out of total 14 polling stations, 03 polling parties for 03 polling stations were transported to their designated clusters through helicopter from BS College Stadium. Polling parties for the remaining polling stations will leave from the Collectorate Complex, Lohardaga on Sunday, May 12, in designated vehicles.

Bokaro club elections set for may 12th: Members gear up for democratic process



R SHARMA : BOKARO

The election for the managing committee of the Bokaro Club for the 2024-26 term is set to take place on May 12. Hari Mohan Jha, the Chief General Manager (Personnel) of BSL, will serve as the election Incharge for the Bokaro Club elections. Approximately 1400 permanent members of the Bokaro Club will be eligible to cast their votes in this election, with the results expected to be announced on May 13.

The deadline for nominations for the various positions within the Bokaro Club was May 4. Candidates are vying for the positions of

General Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors. Eligibility criteria vary for each position, with candidates needing to have a minimum number of years of membership and experience serving on the club's managing committee.

The race for key positions within the Bokaro Club is heating up as candidates vie for roles crucial to the club's management. In the race for General Secretary, Vinay Anand and Ashok Kumar are contenders with visions for the club's future. Meanwhile, Jeevan Das and Pushpendu Kumar Bharti are competing for the Treasurer position, each promising financial

stewardship. The Director positions see a plethora of hopefuls including Sudhanshu Shekhar, Dr. Jaynath Kumar, Alok Kumar, Fazal Mahmood, Krishna Chandra Gagrai, and others, all aiming to bring diverse expertise to the table. With such a wide array of candidates, the future direction of the Bokaro Club hangs in the balance, awaiting the outcome of the upcoming elections.

It is notable that the Bokaro Club Limited was established under the Companies Act, 1956, and came into existence in 1967-68 with nine founding members.

Jharkhand students excel in academics with Adani Foundation's help

PNS : RANCHI

Palni Kumari, the daughter of a single mother, is brimming with pride after scoring 75.8% in the Class 10 board exams this year. The mother-daughter duo barely makes ends meet with the money they earn selling chickpeas on the roadside in their locality in Simdega village of Jharkhand. But it does not stop them from dreaming big. The mother wants to see Palni get educated, realise her dreams and become economically independent.

Palni was selling chickpeas with her mother in her school uniform when a local reporter spotted her in 2021. He approached her and asked her what she was doing outside during school hours. The news of the hardships the meritorious girl faced was shared on X (formerly Twitter) and did not go unnoticed.

The Chairman of the Adani Group, Gautam Adani, was moved by her story and tweeted that the Adani Foundation would extend all possible help to her so that she could continue her studies and realise her dream of becoming a nurse to serve the poor. The Foundation helped her with a scholarship that pays for her school fees and

educational material.

People of Godda and surrounding areas are happy that the 1,600 MW Adani power plant in Motia village, which supplies power to Bangladesh, has brought about development in the region. From the beginning of the project, Adani Power Jharkhand Limited began work towards community welfare under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, particularly in the areas of education, women's empowerment, and healthcare.

The Adani Foundation, the CSR arm of the Adani Portfolio, aims to mainstream poor and marginalised children, who are deprived of quality education. There are many such stories that show how lives turned around after children were helped in getting access to quality education, bringing about meaningful change and helping lift them out of hardship.

The Adani Foundation strives to enhance the quality of education and improve the learning outcomes of over 2 lakh students of primary, secondary, and higher education in 9 blocks of Godda and improve their ranking at the district-level across 24 districts of Jharkhand. The programme aims to provide stu-



dents access to adequate learning space, availability of teaching-learning resources, and skilled teachers, followed by rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up of students' performance.

Of the several initiatives in Godda, the Gyanodaya project, a digital learning programme that promotes e-learning through smart classes, benefited over 90,000 children in 338 government schools. This led to an enormous leap in the school rankings of Godda district from 21st position (2018) to 12th in 2024 in the Class 10 board examination, with 90% pass percentage this year as compared to 50% in 2018. The visually appealing, easy-to-grasp and retainable concepts covered in the study materials

51 dropouts in the Godda power plant core area, facilitated Aadhar cards for them and got them enrolled in schools.

Coaching programmes, like Super 30 for Class 9 and 10 students and for the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) entrance exam for Class 6 students, have a success rate of over 90%. Eight such coaching centres are operational in 8 core and pipeline villages of Godda district. Students are getting assistance in preparing for and qualifying in the examination of the JNV entrance examination for the 2024-25 academic session. "Without the support of teachers at the coaching centre and learning materials, I could not have secured 90.4% in the Class 10 board exam," says Aakash Shivam, a Super 30 student of Motia High School who passed out in 2023. The Foundation has upgraded the school infrastructure, which boasts 6 classrooms, separate washrooms for boys and girls, drinking water facility and play area. The school, which now has 453 students, has a capacity to enroll 500. Notably, Godda ranks at 12th position out of 24 districts in the Jharkhand Academic Council's secondary examination 2024.

Workshop on Cyber Security sheds light on business security

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Jharkhand on Saturday organised a workshop focusing on Cyber Security titled "Ensuring Business Security in the Modern Era." The event brought together industry leaders, cybersecurity professionals, and stakeholders to deliberate on the pressing need for heightened cybersecurity measures in today's digital landscape.

Diloo Parikh, Chairman of CII Jamshedpur Zonal Council and Managing Director of Vaidehi Motors Pvt Ltd, set the tone by underlining the remarkable growth in the adoption of digital technologies across Indian businesses. He emphasized how technological advancements have empowered businesses, especially Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), enabling them to enhance efficiency and expand their global reach.

Sarajit Jha, Convener of CII Jharkhand ICT, Startup, and Innovation Panel, and Chief Business Transformation and Business Solutions at TATA Steel, drew attention to the alarming rise of global cyber fraud, now a \$300 billion industry. He spotlighted India's position, with 40% of global digital transactions occurring within its borders, making cybersecurity a critical priority. Jha stressed the need for heightened awareness, particularly among MSMEs, as a vital countermeasure against evolving cyber threats.

Shivam Kamani, Co-Convener of CII ICT, Startup, and Innovation Panel, and

Associate President at Sparx Technologies Pvt Ltd, echoed concerns about the escalating cybercrime menace facing both individuals and corporations. He emphasized the omnipresence of internet-connected tasks, with 99% of activities having some online component. Kamani underscored instances where MSMEs suffered substantial losses due to cybersecurity negligence and commended CII's proactive stance in organizing workshops to address this urgent need.

The workshop provided a platform for participants to engage with cybersecurity professionals, partake in interactive group activities, and glean insights into best practices in the cybersecurity domain. Eminent speakers, including Mrinal K Pal, Chief IT Infra, Network, and Cybersecurity at Tata Steel Ltd; Bhargo Dev Chakraborty, Network and IT Security Consultant at Skylink Communications; and Vidya Shankar, DSP (Cyber Crime) at Jamshedpur, shared their expertise and perspectives on bolstering cybersecurity frameworks and combating cyber threats effectively.

The CII Jharkhand Workshop on Cyber Security served as a pivotal forum for industry stakeholders to deepen their understanding of cybersecurity challenges and solutions in the modern business landscape. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, the event underscored the imperative of collective action in fortifying India's cybersecurity posture and safeguarding businesses against evolving cyber threats.



Garhwa ready for Lok Sabha election: DC

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

District election officer Garhwa today said that all the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections to be held on June 13 have been completed. Giving the details in a joint press conference DEO cum Garhwa DC ShekharJamar and SP Dipak Kumar Pandey said that for the free and fair poll of Lok Sabha election 2024 scheduled on Monday all preparations have been completed.

There are a total of 854370 voters in the 80-Garhwa and 81-Bhawanathpur assembly constituencies of the district. The voting period is fixed from 07:00 am to 05:00 pm on 13.05.2024. In view of the above, all the polling parties, sector officers, sector police officers and micro observers will be dispatched from Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Namdhari College on 12.05.2024, from where all the parties will leave for their respective polling stations with adequate security. Polling parties have been sent to some polling stations even today.

The DEO said that under the Model Code of Conduct, all election campaigning in the district will stop after 5:00 pm today. As per the SOP prescribed by the Election Commission of India, people from outside assembly con-



stituencies will not be allowed to stay in the district 48 hours before the day of election, an intensive checking campaign will be conducted for this. The Model Code of Conduct Cell is monitoring the compliance of the Model Code of Conduct in the district and various reports are being prepared and sent to the department on time. EVMs and polling material will be handed over to polling parties at the dispatch centre and reserve EVMs and polling material will be handed over to sector officers. One facilitation centre will be established at the dispatch centre for voting by postal ballot, where facility of voting by postal ballot will be available. For the convenience of polling personnel, security forces and other concerned, adequate arrangements of drinking water, chairs, tables,

fans, sheds, snacks etc. have been made at the dispatch centre. Adequate vehicles have been arranged at the dispatch centre to go from the dispatch centre to the polling centre and to go to the receiving centre after polling.

A total of 854370 Voter Information Slips were made available from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, which were handed over to 830814 voters who were present in the district through BLOs and the remaining 23556 voters were found absent/shifted/dead. After depositing their Voter Information Slips in the office of the concerned Electoral Registration Officer, a polling station-wise ASD list has been prepared, which will be sent to the polling stations, DEO added. Superintendent of Police Deepak Kumar Pandey

informed that after the declaration of Model Code of Conduct in the district, till now around 22 unlicensed arms and around 100 illegal cartridges have been seized in the district, whereas continuous action has been taken under other acts including Non-Bailable Warrant. Adequate number of forces have been provided to us to conduct the voting in a peaceful and fear free environment. Adequate accommodation arrangements have been made for CRPF, Jharkhand Jaguar, District Force and other security forces. With the help of around 7000 security forces of CRPF, Jharkhand Jaguar and JAP Team, we will ensure voting in a fear free environment in the district. He appealed to the voters to cast their vote ethically in a fear free environment.

Biometric RFID Cards Issued to Contract Workers in BSL

PNS : BOKARO

In an effort to streamline identification and ensure comprehensive welfare benefits, the Health Department's contract workers in the non-core areas of the Bokaro Steel Plant were provided with biometric RFID cards on May 11th. This initiative, inaugurated in the presence of senior officials including Chief General Manager (Personnel) Hari Mohan Jha and Chief General Manager (Town Administration) Kundan Kumar, marks a significant step towards



enhancing the efficiency of contract management.

It's noteworthy that the distribution of biometric

RFID cards to contract workers in non-core departments commenced last month under the auspices of the Bokaro Steel Plant. The systematic rollout aims to provide this facility to all contract workers, ensuring not only their identification but also guaranteeing comprehensive welfare benefits.

This initiative underscores the commitment of the Bokaro Steel Plant towards further optimizing the contract management system through innovative measures like biometric RFID cards.

Bajaj Finserv Multi Asset Allocation Fund launched

The fund is an open-ended scheme investing in equity and equity related instruments, debt & debt derivatives and money market instruments, Gold ETFs, Silver ETFs, exchange traded commodity derivatives and in units of REITs and InvITs. The Fund offers attractive current valuation to investors eyeing high dividend-yield companies, aiming to capitalize on compounding growth through dividend reinvestment, especially amid expected declining interest rates and anticipated growth in dividend value. The NFO opens on 13th May 2024, and closes on 27th May 2024. The Benchmark of the fund is 65% Nifty 50 TRI + 25% NIFTY Short Duration Debt Index + 10% Domestic Prices of Gold. Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited (BFAML) is a 100% subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv Limited. It is backed by one of India's most respected and oldest brands.

Trucking Partner with Amazon becomes successful entrepreneur

Prema, a single mother, embarked on her journey as a trucking partner with Amazon in 2017 after her husband's passing. Despite personal challenges, she displayed unwavering determination, transitioning from finance to logistics. With Amazon's support, her small operation, Simar Express Solutions, thrived, experiencing a remarkable 55% revenue growth. Prema's resilience shone during the pandemic, adapting her business to seize opportunities. She balanced motherhood and entrepreneurship, nurturing her daughter's aspirations while excelling in her career. Her story inspires women to explore non-traditional fields like logistics, highlighting the potential for growth and independence. Amazon collaborates with over 350 trucking partners in India, empowering them with benefits and technology-driven solutions. Arun Kumar Singh, Director of Amazon Transportation Services, India, praises Prema's inspiring journey and encourages more women to consider similar opportunities. Amazon remains committed to diversity and inclusivity, with women leading critical initiatives, driving innovation and growth.

BAFTA Breakthrough India Returns for a Fourth Year

BAFTA Breakthrough India, in collaboration with Netflix, returns for its fourth year, welcoming applications until July 2, 2024. The initiative, part of BAFTA's ongoing commitment to fostering emerging talent, targets professionals in India's film, games, and television sectors. Recipients gain access to mentorship, industry meetings, and networking opportunities, facilitated by BAFTA and Netflix. Notable past participants include Tanya Maniktala and Alokandana Dasgupta, whose careers flourished after their involvement. Interested candidates, aged 18 or older and primarily residing in India, can apply until the deadline, meeting specific criteria including professional credits and fluency in English. Successful applicants receive a year-long membership to BAFTA, career coaching, and international networking opportunities. The programme aims to support and elevate Indian talent on a global scale, contributing to the country's creative landscape. For details and applications, visit www.bafta.org/supporting-talent/breakthrough/bafta-breakthrough-india. BAFTA Breakthrough has become a pivotal platform for emerging creatives, nurturing careers and fostering collaboration within the industry.

JMM-Congress set up only Opium Industry in Jharkhand: Modi

PM Modi attacks INDI alliance for disrespecting President Droupadi Murmu

PNS : RANCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that the JMM-Congress coalition in Jharkhand is engaged in deep rooted corruption and have set up only one industry in Jharkhand that is of Opium. He said that the coalition wants to ruin the future of the youth for their own interests. Addressing a rally at Simaria in Chatra, PM Modi said, "You remember, before the elections, JMM had promised to provide 5 lakh jobs every year. What jobs did you give? JMM Congress has established only one industry in Jharkhand, opium industry. What will opium do? It will destroy generations. Black business is running under the protection of the government. They want to throw your children into the quagmire of drugs. Congress and its allies do not care about your feelings at all." Modi further said that the JMM and Congress have the same agenda, neither will they work nor will they allow anyone to work.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to gathering during a public meeting for Lok Sabha election in Chatra on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

"There is no name for work without a price. This is their game. They do nothing except corruption. They keep trying

to stop whatever work Modi does. Modi gave free ration to 80 crore people in the country. Friends, I was born in a

poor family. I have seen poverty. I have come out after experiencing what hunger is. I do not want any child in the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during a public meeting for Lok Sabha election in Chatra on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

country to sleep hungry. That's why I want that the stove in the houses of the poor of the country should keep

burning. Therefore, the central government bears the cost of providing free ration to 80 crore people," he said.

The PM said that these people have destroyed the system of distribution of ration in Jharkhand. They want that you should not get the ration sent by Modi. When the poor bless Modi, the people of INDI Alliance get irritated with the poor. Modi started the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide water to every household. The Jharkhand government indulges in corruption in that also.

"You can imagine that pipes could be laid but arrangements for water supply were not made. Our government works day and night to create new opportunities for the youth of Jharkhand. Eklavya schools are being opened in tribal areas. Central University was also opened here in Simaria. Our effort is to build good roads in this area. Industries grew. A network of modern roads like Hazaribagh to Ranchi Highway, Hazaribagh to Koderma Highway and Manji Jaina Mode Expressway is being built. Tori-Shivpuri railway line started. NTPC plant

started and its foundation was also laid by Atal ji's government. Our government also inaugurated the plant, but the INDI alliance government, which is deeply mired in corruption, creates hurdles in the development works. I want to ask, what will be your loss if Jharkhand develops? Why are you closing employment opportunities?" he asked.

The PM further said that the INDI Alliance is not worried about your livelihood. They only want to live in the corridors of power to loot. They only look out for their own interests. "You know why JMM and Congress want to stop the development of Jharkhand because there is a fear that what will happen to the shops of Dalit, backward and tribal children if they move ahead. Modi is starting education for doctors and engineers in local languages. I want more and more children of tribal brothers and sisters to become doctors and engineers, but JMM-Congress do not care about the future of your children," said Modi.

Amit Shah is a boon for INDI Alliance: JMM



JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya addresses media persons at the party office in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI

Ruling party of the State Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), on Saturday, mocked Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah and said that he has been proved lucky for the opposition and he will ensure victory of candidates of INDI Alliance.

Addressing media persons in a press conference, JMM's Central General Secretary, Supriyo Bhattacharya said that Amit Shah is a boon for JMM. "Wherever he comes, two to four thousand people will gather there. From tomorrow till May 30, Shah should remain in Jharkhand. So that it can be ensured that the India Alliance gets 14 seats," he added.

"The language of Shah is very strange. He would straighten it by hanging it upside down. This is not Gujarat but Jharkhand. No one can threaten here. The public will answer. Here BJP will be turned upside down

and made straight. The answer will be received only on May 13," said Bhattacharya.

The JMM General Secretary also said that there is a direct electoral fight with BJP in all four seats of the first phase. "Incidentally, these four seats are reserved seats. These four seats will clearly come in favour of INDI Alliance. BJP will be wiped out. I am saying this because yesterday Home Minister Amit Shah addressed a public meeting in Khunti. There were only 5,000 people transported there. People of Jharkhand are simple. This is the land of Birsu Munda. He fought with the British. This is not Gujarat. He will be driven away," he added.

Hitting hard on BJP, Bhattacharya said that if you have courage in 2024, then show it by holding assembly elections in Kashmir. "Only jackals are worried about everything. Language will have to be controlled. Be thankful that there were no tribals there. BJP does not talk on issues. Since he has become the minister of paramilitary force, he thought that he would threaten and leave. Why don't you go to Srinagar? Amit Shah please answer. Only and only blackmailing is being done. The Finance Minister comes here. Meets the land scam accused. Papers are exchanged.

One can vote without Voter ID card, 12 alternative cards recognised

Campaigning for fourth phase for polls ends in Jharkhand



CEO K Ravi Kumar addresses media persons at his office in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Electoral Officer K. Ravi Kumar has appealed to the voters of the Lok Sabha constituencies voting in the fourth phase that they should consider voting as a matter of top priority and go to vote on May 13.

He said that even if someone does not have a Voter ID card or it is lost somewhere, they do not need to worry because if their name is registered in the voter list, they can vote even without a Voter ID card. For this, they will have to come to the polling station with any one of the 12 alternative identity cards prescribed by the Commission.

It was told that these alternative identity cards include Aadhaar card, MGNREGA job card, bank passbook/post office passbook with photo, health insurance smart card issued by the Ministry of Labour, driving license, PAN card, smart card issued under NPR, Indian passport, with photo. These include pension documents, service ID cards with photographs issued by the Centre, State or government undertaking, government identity cards issued to MPs, MLAs and Legislative Council members and unique disability ID cards.

Therefore, he made a public appeal that even if a registered voter does not have a voter identity card, he should still go to vote with one of the above 12 alternative identity cards.

Meanwhile, campaigning for the fourth phase of elections in the Country and first phase of Jharkhand ended in Singhbhum, Khunti, Lohardaga and Palamu on Saturday. No gathering, rally, meeting or campaigning through loudspeakers will be allowed in the concerned areas from 5 pm onwards.

However, the candidates will be able to continue door-to-door campaigning. The voting will be held in all four

Lok Sabha constituencies of the State on May 13. CEO K Ravi Kumar said that the process of deployment of security forces at the polling booths has started. Adequate numbers of EVMs have been made available at the booths for voting work, he added.

These four seats cover 10 districts and 23 assembly constituencies of the state. Today Saturday is the last day of campaigning for this phase. There are 45 candidates in the electoral fray from these four Lok Sabha constituencies. These include 4 candidates from Singhbhum, 15 from Lohardaga, 9 from Palamu and 7 from Khunti.

According to the Election Commission data, 64 lakh 37 thousand 460 voters of Jharkhand will exercise their franchise in the fourth phase. There are 32 lakh 29 thousand 480 male voters and 32 lakh 07 thousand 938 female voters. Palamu has the highest number of voters 22 lakh 38 thousand 460. Whereas 14 lakh 36 thousand 351 voters in Lohardaga, 14 lakh 41 thousand 841 voters in Singhbhum and 13 lakh 20 thousand 808 voters in Khunti will participate in the elections.

Out of fourteen Lok Sabha seats in the State, these four

seats are reserved for Schedule Tribes (ST) and Schedule Cast (SC). Palamu seat is reserved for SC and Lohardaga, Khunti and Singhbhum seats are reserved for ST. As soon as the election campaign ends, the candidates will go door-to-door and appeal to the people to vote in their favor. Union Minister Arjun Munda, former Minister in the State Government, Joba Manjhi and three sitting MPs are in the fray on all four seats of the State. The current MPs include Vishnu Dayal Ram from Palamu, Arjun Munda from Khunti, Geeta Koda from Singhbhum.

Only BJP candidates are in the electoral fray from NDA side. Two candidates from Congress and one each from JMM and RJD are contesting from the India Alliance. Arjun Munda from Khunti, Geeta Koda from Singhbhum, Sameer Oraon from Lohardaga and Vishnu Dayal Ram from Palamu are in the fray from BJP. Congress has fielded Kalicharan Munda from Khunti and Sukhdeo Bhagat from Lohardaga. JMM has fielded Joba Manjhi from Singhbhum and RJD has fielded Mamta Bhuiyan from Palamu.

Empowering Women and Professionals: Program Shakti held in City



PNS : RANCHI

The Program Shakti, organized under the leadership of Aditya Vikram Jaiswal, former president of Jharkhand Pradesh Professionals Congress, took place today at the Press Club, Karamtoli Chowk, Ranchi. The event aimed to create a platform where technological companies, industrial houses, software companies, and professionals from various fields could be invited to collaborate and develop skills, thereby generating employment opportunities for new professionals.

Sushri Yashaswini Sahay, Congress candidate from the Ranchi Lok Sabha constituency, graced the occasion along with Vidya Kar Kunwar, the state coordinator of Jharkhand Professionals Congress War Room, who conducted the program. The event witnessed the presence of a large number of professionals including representatives from Abhyudaya NGO, chartered accountants, doctors, lawyers, and others.

Aditya Vikram Jaiswal stressed the importance of creating a think tank platform for professionals from all walks of life in Jharkhand. He emphasized the necessity of women's empowerment for building a strong society and nation.

Various topics such as employment generation for youth, ensuring safety for women, increasing farmers' income, and providing food for the needy were discussed during the Shakti Program.

'Vote Karega Ranchi' song encourages voters to step out and vote

DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

In a bid to create voter awareness for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections no stone is being left unturned this election season. In this regard various activities have been launched under the Systematic Voters Educational and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) encouraging maximum voter turnout in the State capital on May 25.

Resonating with this year's election theme 'Chunav ka Parv Desh ka Garv' the Ranchi Voter Anthem 'Vote Karega Ranchi' is crafted to infuse a sense of celebration and pride in the act of voting. The song was launched by the Ranchi Deputy Commissioner at Ranchi Women's College ensures that young and first time voters who comprise a significant part of the popula-

tion understand the importance of their participation in the democratic process.

"The district SVEEP team is continuously organising programmes to create awareness. The voters of Ranchi should understand the importance of one vote, vote themselves and also bring others from their neighbourhood to the polling booths," said District Election Officer Rahul Kumar Sinha.

With its catchy tune, the song aims to make the act of voting into a celebration. Glimpses of the local community, the City and its people and also the importance of voting, the Ranchi Voter Anthem has the potential to instantly connect with the residents across all age groups and encourage them to exercise their democratic right. The audio clip of the song is

being frequently played at all the major crossroads in the City to reach the masses.

"Music is a very good way of communicating a message. The song has the potential to deeply connect with residents and inspire them to exercise their right to vote. The lyrics of the song conveys vital information like filling Form 6 for inclusion in the voter list and in case of any malpractice at a polling booth to immediately file a complaint on the cVIGIL app," said composer and singer Dr Neha Kaur.

The song has been tweeted and shared on social media platforms by various officials of the district administration. The video clip of 'Vote Karega Ranchi' can be found on the singer's YouTube channel and also the social media pages of SVEEP Ranchi.

State likely to witness rain between May 12 and 14



PNS : RANCHI

The weather is changing rapidly in Jharkhand. On Saturday afternoon, there was rain along with a hail-storm in Tamad adjacent to Ranchi.

Ranchi Meteorological Center informed that, there has been a warning of rain with thunder from May 12 to 14 May.

The Meteorological Department has issued an immediate alert for many districts. As per the information provided by the weather center, there is a possibility of strong wind blowing at some places in the State. Its speed is likely to be 40 to 50 kilometers per hour. Its impact will be seen in some parts of

Chatra, Hazaribagh, Latehar, Lohardaga, East Singhbhum, Giridih, Gumla, Khunti, Ramgarh, Ranchi, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Simdega, West Singhbhum, Koderma, Palamu districts.

According to the weather center, the weather patterns of the state will continue to change till May 15. During this period, it may rain intermittently at some places. Maximum and minimum temperatures may remain below normal. There may be light to moderate rain at many places in the state from May 12 to 15. There may be rain with thunder at some places. During this period the maximum temperature can be up to 35 degrees Celsius.



State BJP leader Yogendra Pratap Singh welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Birsu Munda Airport in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS



DWA celebrates Mother's Day

The Doctors' Wives Association organised Mother's Day on Saturday at IMA Hall to commemorate the selfless love of mothers for their children. The Chairperson extended her warm felicitations to all the members. The President delivered the welcome address. The agenda for the forthcoming charity work was read out by the Secretary. The programme kicked off with a beautiful poem recitation making every mother feel very special on the occasion. The ramp walk by the beautiful mothers stole the show proving "age is just a number". A speech on child development and parenting was praiseworthy. Finally a dance performance was presented. The members enthusiastically participated in the fun games and enjoyed the delicious spread of refreshments.

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

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 Shankaracharyas 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 Block, 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

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. 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. 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.

Congress has soft approach towards terrorism: Sitharaman

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday attacked the Congress, saying the approach of the party towards terrorism has been "soft". "You saw it during the ten years of UPA rule led by the Congress how terror attacks were tolerated... Proper response was not given," the senior BJP leader here said. "They believed in sending dossiers to Pakistan to the extent that you will recall that handlers of the Mumbai attack are still not punished," she said after an interaction with youths from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana here. "So, the attitude and approach of the Congress party towards terror has always been weak and soft," Sitharaman said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress of not taking swift action after the 26/11 terror attacks over fears that their "vote bank" will shift. He also said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have



struggled for decades because of the Congress' "weak mindset". "India will never forget the times when the country used to suffer frequent terrorist attacks and the Congress leaders would sit with the perpetrators of terrorism," he said. During her interaction with youths, Sitharaman answered various questions including on her journey to the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and how she could not complete her PhD as she took up a job overseas. She also talked about the

BJP will win all four LS seats in Himachal: 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 third 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 rahega," 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 Lok Sabha seat, said the love of his people is his earning of 20 years. Former chief ministers Prem Kumar Dhumal and Jai Ram Thakur shared the stage with Thakur along with state BJP chief Rajeev Bindal and state party in-charge Saudan 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. The BJP flags, banners and hoardings were seen all around the town. Carrying placards and photos of Thakur in their hands, the BJP workers and supporters raised slogans in support of the minister and the party. Thousands of men, women and youngsters from Una, Bilaspur, Mandi and Kangra districts also joined the procession. The procession was so large that commuters faced difficulty crossing through Hamirpur town. The roadshow was organized a day after a show of strength by the Congress after its candidate Satpal Raizada filed his nomination papers from the Hamirpur seat on Friday.

CDS stresses need for expediting jointness process

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has stressed the need for expediting the jointness process to create multi domain response capable Indian armed forces. He made this assertion during the two-day 'Parivartan Chintan II' held here on May 09 - 10. The event was attended by the officers from the three Services Headquarters, Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and members of various sub-committees of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), mandated to oversee the initiatives undertaken to and generate novel ideas to give impetus to the ongoing process of theaterisation. The CDS initiated the 'Chintan' on both days by addressing various committees. He

emphasized the need for expediting the progress of the initiatives as these were to pave the way to theaterisation and hence creation of a Multi Domain Response capable Indian Armed Forces. General Chauhan expressed confidence that such brainstorming would help the Armed Forces evolve into a theaterized force capable of Multi-Domain Operations and strengthen the resolve and capability to safeguard our territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Various COSC Sub-Committees gave an update on the progress of initiatives considered imperative for Jointness and Integration. There was active deliberation on the vital reforms critical towards the fruition of the goals envisioned to achieve the desired "Joint & Integrated" end state towards transformation.

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

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 depicting 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. A restored version of veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal's 1976 film "Manthan" will be screened under Cannes Classics, a section created 20 years ago which features celebrations, restored prints and documentaries. National Award-winning cinematographer Santosh Sivan will be the recipient of the prestigious Pierre Angenieux tribute at the festival, where he will also deliver a masterclass, becoming the first Indian to be recognised with the honour.

Sharp pain, numbness may signal nerve damage condition: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Feeling sharp, pricking 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 more than four-fold. 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.

Media associations ask ECI to hold press conference after every phase



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Media associations demanded on Saturday that the Election Commission (EC) hold press conferences after every voting phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. Media associations Press Club of India, Indian Women Press Corps, Press Association, Foreign Correspondents Club and Delhi Union of Journalists also asked the poll authority to release the entire election data, including the absolute number of votes cast in each phase and percentage of voting, by the next day of the polling date. "It should be noted that at press conferences, the journalists get their doubts and confusions, if any, cleared which helps them report and their error-free copy for their readers," the media associations said in a joint statement. They noted that till the 2019 general election, it was normal practice for the EC to hold press conferences after each phase of voting.

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



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.

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
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 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
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 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>.

SCHEDULE OF SALE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

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 Rs.7350000.00 Rs.735000.00	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
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 Rs.7200000.00 Rs.720000.00	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
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 Rs.2850000.00 Rs.285000.00	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
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/ Rs.3400000.00/ Rs.340000.00/	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
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/ Rs.4000000.00/ Rs.400000.00/	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
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-Balabhagar, disit-Faridabad	Symbolic	Rs.1900000.00 Rs.1900000.00 Rs.190000.00	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
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 RS.3000000.00 RS.300000.00	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
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 Rs.3100000.00 Rs.310000.00	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
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 Rs.3500000.00 Rs.350000.00	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

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 side 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.

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 airframe maintenance through the development of wide-body and narrow-body aircraft hangars for all checks.

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.

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.

This may be published in Newspapers and TV form the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidature and upto two days before the date of poll

Format C-2

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

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

Name of Political Party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY**
 *Name of Election : **LOKSABHA- 2024**
 Name of State/UT : **JHARKHAND**

1	2	3	4	5	
Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Name of Candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases	(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
			Name of Court, case no. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	
				Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	
				Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	
				Maximum Punishment Imposed	
1.	CHATRA	KALI CHARAN SINGH	CJM Chatra Sadar PS Case no. 195/2022 Pending	Sec. 13 of JMMC Act 2017, 21, 21 of MMDR Act 1957, 37 and 38 of Air Prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1981	
2.			CJM Chatra Complain Case No. 695/2020 Pending	Section 21 Mines & Minerals Act 1957 Under 54(5) Jharkhand Mineral Regulation 2017	

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

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Format C-2

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Declaration about criminal cases

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

Name of Political Party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY**
 *Name of Election : **LOKSABHA- 2024**
 Name of State/UT : **JHARKHAND**

1	2	3	4	5	
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				Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	
				Maximum Punishment Imposed	
1	HAZARIBAGH	MANISH JAISAWAL	Sri Sushil Kumar Pingua, (Now S.S. Minz) JM Hazaribagh Katkamdag PS Case no. 131/2021 Pending	U/S 147, 149, 323, 341, 325, 337, 379 IPC.	
2			Miss Arpita Narayan (MP/MLA) Court Sadar PS Case no. 380/21 Pending	U/S 188 IPC, 51 Disaster Management Act 2005 and 3 Jharkhand State Epidemic (Covid-19) Act 2020.	

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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

"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 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.

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Name of Political Party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY**

*Name of Election : **GANDEY ASSEMBLY SEAT BYE-ELECTION- 2024**

Name of State/UT : **JHARKHAND**

1	2	3	4	5
Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Name of Candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases	(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences
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1	GANDEY	DILIP KUMAR VERMA	Smt. Saquia Koshar J.M. 1st Class Giridih GRD(T) P.S. 161/2021 Pending	U/S 188, 269 of IPC and 51 of Disaster Management Act. allegation for participating in a Public Protest against State Government

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Name of State/UT : **JHARKHAND**

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1	Kodarma	Annpurna Devi	MP/MLA Spl. Court Hazaribagh Kodarma PS 66/19 Pending	Sec. 130 (E) People of Representation on Act 1951
2			Smt. Nutan Ekka Spl. JMFC, MP, MLA, Civil Court Ranchi Dhurwa (Ranchi) PS Case no. 107/23 Pending	Under Sec. 147, 148, 188, 353, 332, 109, 427, 323 of IPC
3			CJM Dhanbad Dhanbad PS case no. 454/21 Pending	Sec 269/270 /34 IPC

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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,



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.

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.

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Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party
 (As per the judgment dated 25 September. 2018 of hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 211 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr)

Name of Political Party : **JHARKHAND MUKTI MORCHA**
 *Name of the Election : **PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION 2024**
 Name of State/UT : **JHARKHAND**

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Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Name of Candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases		(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
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1.	02, Dumka	NALIN SOREN	Learned Special Judge, Vigilance-cum-A.C.B., Ranchi. Special Case No.15A of 2009. Charge Not Framed	406, 409, 423, 424, 420, 465, 468, 467, 471 & 477A, 109, 201, and 120B IPC	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.			Learned Special Judge, Vigilance cum-A.C.B., Ranchi. Special Case No. 13 of 2013. Charge Not Framed	420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B IPC	N/A	N/A	N/A

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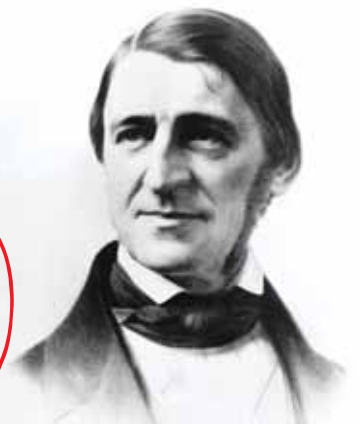
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1.	09, Jamshedpur	Samir Kumar Mohanty	SDJM, Ghatsila C.No. GR867/2021, Charged framed on 05/01/2008	147, 149, 341, 383, 353, 431 IPC	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.			SDJM, Sadar at Spl. Court for MP/MLA, Chaibasa C.No.GR 23/2020, Charge Not framed	379, 384, 353 IPC	N/A	N/A	N/A

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"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.

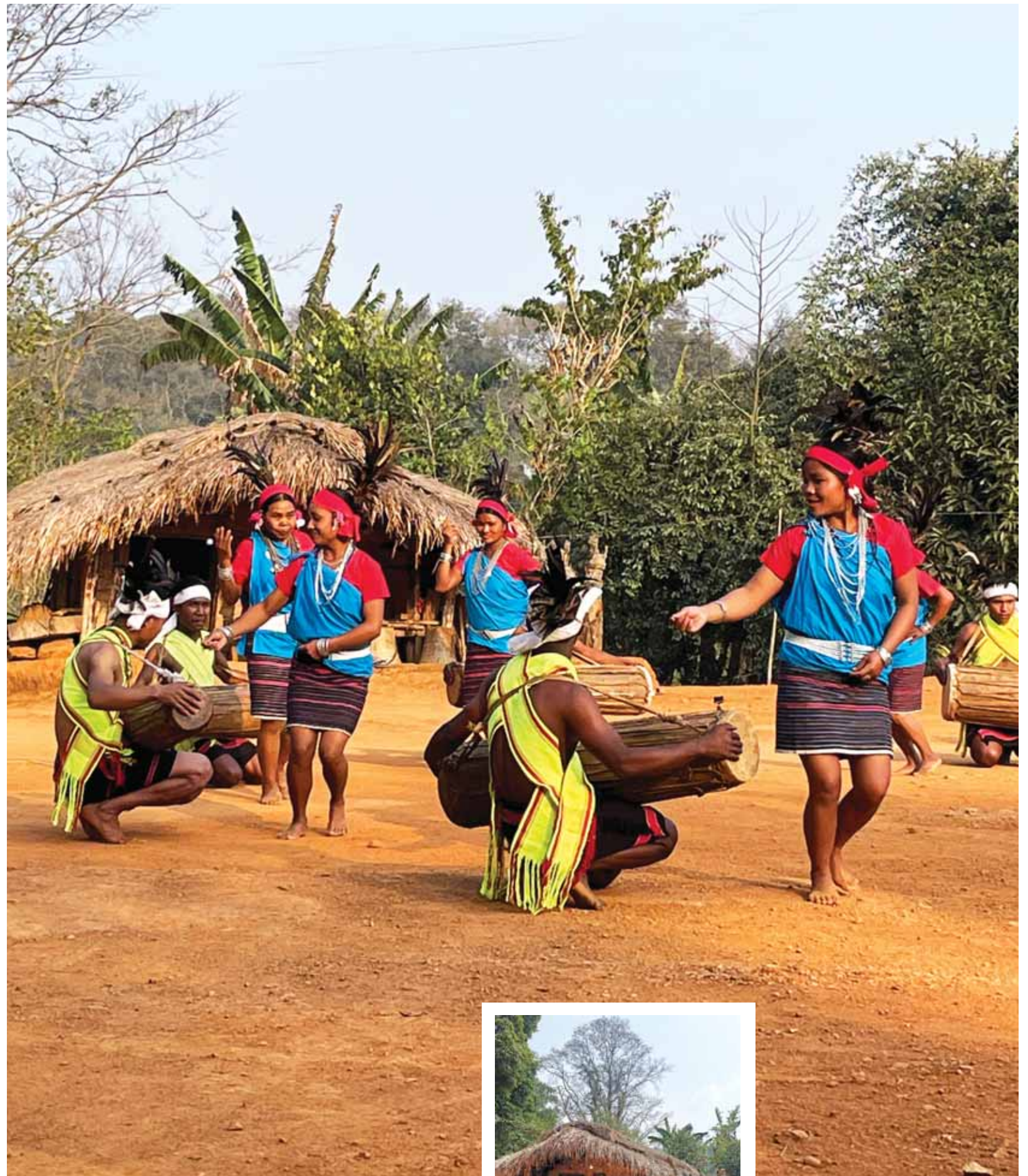
These practices range from performing arts (dance forms, songs, etc) to tangible crafts (handmade paper from tree bark, specific types of hats, etc), food practices (preservation techniques, culinary cultures), agricultural practices, local medicinal practices, body art and even indigenous spiritual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

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

“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”



THE GREAT HIMALAYAN EXPLORATION PROJECT

Royal Enfield's partnership project with UNESCO, The Great Himalayan Exploration, draws rider-researchers to document the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas.

"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 recce 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 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.

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 Gujarat; 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

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

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