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BJP, Cong spar, EC responds

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday wrote to the national presidents of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress, asking them to comment on complaints lodged by both parties against each other for poll code violations by star campaigners. In separate letters to BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, the Commission asked them to comment on the alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during campaigns for the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, as well as bypolls in West Bengal, Punjab, Karnataka and several other states. The Commission shared the complaints with the two parties while seeking their responses. The EC has sought formal responses from both the party presidents by 1 pm on Monday (November 18), while reminding them of the Commission's earlier advisory to them during the Lok Sabha election to keep star campaigners and leaders under check so that public decorum is not flouted and the model code is followed in its letter and spirit during campaigning. Top leaders of the two parties are campaigning in Jharkhand and Maharashtra for the ongoing Assembly polls in the two states. During the Lok Sabha election too, the poll authority had shared complaints filed by the two parties against the other's star campaigners, including Modi, Shah, Gandhi and Kharge. The BJP filed a complaint



against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks during a rally, where he allegedly accused the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of "promoting hate" and indirectly linked them to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. The BJP argued that the comments violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by inciting hatred and making unsubstantiated allegations. The BJP had demanded that Rahul be reprimanded, censured and restrained from "handing out lies" during the election campaign. They also wanted an FIR against Rahul and Kharge. While seeking action, they had cited Rahul's comments at a meeting in Mumbai on November 6 where he said that the BJP-RSS wants abolition of the Constitution. They also cited his comments about projects going out of Maharashtra to Gujarat, where the BJP claimed was wrong. Conversely, the Congress had complained to the EC on November 13 against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union

Home Minister Amit Shah alleging violation of Model Code of Conduct. Party leader Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, accused the two BJP leaders of "divisive, false, and malicious speeches" in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The Congress claimed that Shah's comments were inflammatory and divisive, breaching MCC guidelines. Complaining against Modi, the Congress had referred to Modi's remarks in Nashik and Dhule in Maharashtra on November 8 where the Prime Minister claimed that Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were opposed to quotas for Dalits, tribals and Other Backward Classes (OBC), promoting terrorism in the country, the Congress has said. The Congress said this was "false, malicious and slanderous". On Shah, they said the Home Minister accused the Congress and its allies of being against Dalits, tribals and OBCs and promoting terrorism in the country. Shah also claimed that the Congress was planning to do

away with the quota regime. The Congress called these allegations "false, divisive, malicious and slanderous". Meanwhile, a war of words continued between the BJP and the Congress on Sunday. Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday attacked Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren saying he is "conspiring to provide reservations to Muslims through backdoor channels with the help of Congress" and warned that the BJP would thwart any such attempt. He also held Soren "responsible" for the declining tribal population. "Hemant Soren is trying to provide reservations to Muslims through the backdoor with the support from Congress. I warn that BJP will not allow any such plans of Hemant Soren and Rahul Gandhi to succeed," Shah said addressing a rally at Jharkhand's Dumka. In Ranchi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday launched a fresh attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of "eliminating freedom of speech" and imprisoning those who speak out against his mistakes. Kharge also labelled former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, who joined the BJP from JMM, a "traitor," claiming there were many such people who betrayed those who nurtured them. "PM Modi has eliminated 'freedom of speech' from the country; he jails those who point out his mistakes. You are snatching people's rights. Is this democracy that you jail a tribal CM? They want to crush us, but we will keep raising our heads," Kharge said while addressing a rally in Ranchi's Ormanjhi.

JHANSI HOSPITAL FIRE Negligence claimed 10 newborn lives



Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak with others inside the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College where a fire broke out, in Jhansi district, Saturday

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

A devastating fire at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College claimed the lives of 10 newborns late Friday night. Even as the Uttar Pradesh government has ordered a probe, initial investigations reveal glaring lapses in fire safety protocols, including expired fire extinguishers and non-functional fire alarms, which significantly delayed rescue operations. The ward housed 55 newborns at the time of the incident. While 45 babies were rescued, the remaining succumbed to severe burns and asphyxiation. The fire quickly spread, engulfing the ward and cutting off access routes, leaving staff and firefighters scrambling to save the infants. Evidence gathered from the site highlights that the fire extinguishers in the SNCU ward had expired years ago. One extinguisher bore a refill date of 2019 with an expiry in

2020, making it non-operational for nearly four years. Many others had exceeded their service life by one to two years. Instead of being functional safety tools, these extinguishers were mere decorative relics, rendering them useless in containing the fire.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak refuted these claims saying hospital's fire safety systems were last inspected in February 2024, followed by a mock drill in June. "If what government claiming is true, one thing is true that these measures failed to prevent Friday's tragedy, exposing the negligence in maintaining critical equipment," Amarnath Agarwal, a Congress leader said. Further compounding the tragedy was the failure of the fire alarms installed in the SNCU. Witnesses reported no alarm sounding when the fire broke out, delaying immediate evacuation efforts. By the time smoke engulfed the ward, panic and confusion had spread, making rescue efforts more challenging.

PM announces ₹2 lakh ex-gratia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday condoled the death of children in a fire that engulfed the children's ward of a medical college in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi district and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased. At least 10 children died in a fire that engulfed the children's ward of the medical college in Jhansi district, officials said, as 16 others injured battled for life on Saturday. "Heartbreaking! The fire accident at Jhansi Medical

College in Uttar Pradesh is heart-wrenching. My deepest condolences to those who lost their innocent children in this. I pray to God to give them the strength to bear this immense loss," PM Modi was quoted as saying in a post in Hindi on X by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). In another post, the PMO said Prime Minister Modi has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each deceased in the mishap in the fire accident at the Jhansi Medical College in Uttar Pradesh. The injured would be given Rs 50,000, the PMO said.



Prohibitory orders clamped in Imphal

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Protesters stormed the residences of two ministers and three MLAs in Manipur's Imphal on Saturday, demanding justice for the murder of three persons in Jiribam district, police said. The mob attacks on legislators' houses prompted the Imphal West administration to impose prohibitory orders in the district for an indefinite period. According to an order issued by Imphal West District Magistrate Th Kirankumar, the curfew was imposed from 4.30 pm on Saturday. A mob stormed the residence of Health and Family Welfare Minister Sapam Ranjan in Lamphel Sanakeithel area, a senior officer said. Lamphel Sanakeithel Development Authority's representative David told reporters, "Sapam assured us that the issues related to the killing of three persons will be discussed at a cabinet meeting and that the minister will tender his resignation if the government fails to honour the sentiment of the public."

Temperature dips, AQI & challans rise in NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As colder winds swept through the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi witnessed a dip in temperature on Saturday with a recorded minimum of 15.3 degrees Celsius at 8.30 am, marking a drop of nearly 0.3 degrees in just 24 hours, the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in the severe category for the fourth consecutive days. A dense layer of smog continued to envelop the national capital, Noida,



Ghaziabad, Gurugram and other areas of NCR. An average AQI stood at 417, in the 'severe' category on Saturday. Sainik Farm was the work affected area, where the

AQI stood at 458. Meanwhile, Delhi Traffic Police has issued around 550 challans, imposing a total fine of over Rs one crore, to BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles on Friday on the first day of the ban on these vehicles under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) III. A senior police officer said that they have issued a total of 293 challans for BS-III and BS-IV vehicles in the Eastern, Central and Northern ranges of the city. A total of 2,404 challans have been issued for not having Pollution Under

Control (PUC) certificates. While the New Delhi range has issued 63 such challans, the Western range issued 73 and the southern range issued 121 challans, the officials said. The New Delhi, southern, and western ranges have also issued 322, 894, and 1,235 challans respectively for not having PUC, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Rajiv Kumar Rawal said that they checked around 3,000 vehicles in the three ranges of the traffic police on Friday.

PM Modi leaves for three-nation tour, G20 summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said he is looking forward to "meaningful" discussions at the upcoming G20 summit in Brazil that built upon its agenda for the grouping on India's presidency of the bloc last year. Modi made the comments in a statement ahead of his five day visit to Nigeria, Brazil and Guyana. The prime minister's first destination will be Nigeria from where he will travel to Brazil. "In Brazil, I will attend the 19th G-20 Summit as a troika member. Last year, India's successful presidency elevated the G-20 to people's G-20 and mainstreamed the priorities of the Global South into its agenda," the PM said.

JNU becomes first univ to introduce Indian knowledge traditions course



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Country's top university, Jawaharlal Nehru University, has taken the lead to introduce 'Indian knowledge traditions' (IKT) for students across all disciplines, including engineering and management, which will be taught as part of an elective course. The course will be offered across all schools and centres, with each department customising the content to suit its specific field. 'Indian Knowledge Traditions' refer to indigenous systems of knowledge

developed in India over centuries, covering areas like Vedic sciences, ancient engineering, traditional medicine and philosophical texts. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been advocating for the inclusion of IKT in academic curricula as part of its efforts to acquaint students with India's intellectual heritage and values and sources said several Central universities and institutions are drafting and designing similar courses to impart IKT in their campus. At JNU, engineering students will study traditional practices of engineering, while management students may delve into ancient economic and administrative systems under the new course, the source said. Schools and centres will design syllabi tailored to their disciplines, ensuring relevance for students across various academic backgrounds, they added.

US returns over 1,400 Indian antiques

PTI ■ NEW YORK

A sandstone sculpture looted from Madhya Pradesh in 1980s and another in green-grey schist, looted from Rajasthan in 1960s are among the over 1,400 antiques collectively valued at USD 10 Million that the US returned to India. More than 600 more antiques looted from India are scheduled to be repatriated in coming months. The pieces were returned at a ceremony with Manish Kulhara from the Consulate General of India here and Alexandra deArmas,



Group Supervisor from the Homeland Security Investigation of New York Cultural Property, Art, and Antiquities Group, according to a statement from Manhattan District Attorney

Alvin L Bragg, Jr. At least 1,440 antiquities collectively valued at USD 10 million were returned to India at the event, Bragg said in a statement. The sandstone sculpture depicting a celestial dancer was looted from a temple in Madhya Pradesh in the early 1980s. The looters had cleaved the sculpture into two halves to facilitate smuggling and illicit sale and by February 1992, the two halves were illegally imported from London into New York, professionally reassembled, and donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met).

It remained on display at the Met, until it was seized by the Antiquities Traffic Unit (ATU) in 2023. The second sculpture, Tanesar Mother Goddess, carved from green-grey schist, was looted from a village of Tanesara-Mahadeva in Rajasthan. First documented in the late 1950s by an Indian archaeologist along with 11 other sculptures of mother goddesses, the Tanesar Mother Goddess and her fellow mother goddesses were stolen one evening in the early 1960s, the statement said on Wednesday.

सशक्त युवा भाजपा का प्रण

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भाजपा को जिताएं

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, झारखंड प्रदेश

Governor inaugurates Industry-Academia Conclave at NIT Jamshedpur

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar inaugurated the second edition of the Industry-Academia Conclave at the Diamond Jubilee Lekkar Hall Complex, NIT Jamshedpur. The event, scheduled from November 15-17, 2024, aims to strengthen collaboration between industry leaders, academic institutions, policymakers, and students.

Highlighting the theme "Developed India Developed Jharkhand 2047", the conclave envisions a progressive roadmap for India's centenary year of independence. Institute Director, Prof. Dr. Gautam Sutradhar, emphasized the significance of bridging the gap between academic research and real-world industrial challenges to foster innovation and economic growth.

The conclave has attracted representatives from 60 prestigious institutions,



including IITs, NITs, and industry giants like Tata Steel, NTPC, ONGC, GAIL, and Coal India. Over 30 stalls showcased advancements in technology and research. Sponsors include SBI, HDFC, Elsevier, and Cambridge Press.

Addressing the audience,

Governor Gangwar underscored the importance of aligning academic programs with industrial needs and urged stakeholders to use this platform for effective collaborations. He expressed hope that the event's outcomes would address critical industrial challenges

through advanced academic research.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President, S.K. Behera, highlighted the benefits of such collaborations, citing the successful partnership between Tata Steel and IIT Mumbai. He noted how these alliances contribute to

advanced R&D, job readiness, and entrepreneurship.

On the first day, NIT Jamshedpur signed MoUs with IIT Jodhpur and RVSCET Jamshedpur. Technical events included a panel discussion on "Renewable Energy Integration with Grid for Sustainable Energy Future" and a lecture by MSME Ranchi Director, Mr. Indrajit Yadav, on fostering MSME-academia collaborations.

The day concluded with a cultural program by NIT Jamshedpur students. The conclave is led by senior advisor Dr. Suvokamal Dutta, with key contributions from Prof. Amresh Kumar, Prof. M.K. Sinha, Registrar Col. Nishith Kumar Rai, and other faculty members.

This three-day event promises to be a landmark initiative, paving the way for a self-reliant and developed India, while fostering Jharkhand's growth as an industrial and academic hub.

Tributes paid to Birsa Munda on Jharkhand Foundation Day

BSL DIC Appeals for Election Participation

PNS : BOKARO

Marking Jharkhand Foundation Day and the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda, a symbol of Jharkhand's identity and resilience, Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) Director-in-Charge (DIC) Mr. B.K. Tiwari, along with senior officials, paid heartfelt tributes at the statue of Lord Birsa Munda at Naya Mod on November 15.

Prominent dignitaries present included Executive Director (Projects) C.R. Mahapatra, Executive Director (Finance & Accounts) Suresh Rangani, Executive Director (SRU) P.K. Rath, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. B.B. Karunamay.

During the event, DIC Tiwari lauded the life and contributions of Lord Birsa Munda, highlighting his enduring legacy of inspiring people to face challenges and strive for progress. He extended warm wishes to all on Birsa Jayanti and Jharkhand Foundation Day, encouraging the public to reflect on and uphold the values of the tribal leader.

In addition, DIC Tiwari made a heartfelt appeal to the citizens to actively participate in the upcoming elections on November 20,



emphasizing the importance of casting votes to strengthen democracy and contribute to Jharkhand's progress.

DPS, Ranchi wins Zonal level Basketball Tournament

PNS: RANCHI

Delhi Public School Ranchi has been bestowed with the championship title in the Zonal Inter-DPS Basketball Tournament (Girls) 2024, which was hosted at DPS Gaya. The spirited DPS Ranchi team triumphed in the final match with a dominant 26-05 victory over DPS Ruby Park, Kolkata. This remarkable performance capped off a series of stellar wins, securing the team's place as the undisputed champions in the zonal competition.

Team DPS Ranchi's journey to the final was marked by impressive victories in both the league and knockout stages. In the semifinals, the DPS Ranchi girls displayed clinical precision, overpowering DPS Megacity, Kolkata with a convincing 26-04 scoreline. Their quarter-final match against DPS Patna East was equally com-



manding, as they sailed through with a 26-04 victory.

Earlier in the league stages, DPS Ranchi showcased exceptional skill and teamwork. The team began the tournament with a thumping 50-04 win against DPS Farakka, followed by a strong 18-08 victory over DPS Bokaro. In a thrilling

encounter with DPS Ruby Park in the league stage, the Ranchi girls narrowly edged past their opponents with a 26-23 scoreline, before securing a comprehensive 32-06 win over DPS Megacity, Kolkata. Also, Alisha Singh of DPS Ranchi was bestowed with Best Player award for two consecutive years.

With this victory, DPS Ranchi has not only claimed the zonal title but has also earned a spot in the prestigious National Inter-DPS Basketball Tournament, which is scheduled to take place at DPS Vasant Kunj, New Delhi from 4th to 6th December 2024.

Dr. R.K. Jha, Principal of DPS Ranchi, expressed immense pride and congratulated the team for their outstanding performance. In his message, he said, "I am extremely proud of our girls for their remarkable achievements in the Zonal Inter-DPS Basketball Tournament. Their dedication, hard work, and sportsmanship have been exemplary. As they now head to the Nationals, I am confident they will continue to shine and bring glory to DPS Ranchi. I wish them all the best and hope they emerge victorious at the National level as well."

Man dies in road accident in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

On Saturday, a tragic incident claimed the life of 43-year-old motorcycle rider Vikas Ranjan Pandey after he collided with a JCB near Bhikhai Mor in the Garhwa police station area along the Garhwa-Shahpur road. Pandey, who was the son of Ravindra Pandey and resided in Rajwadih village in the Palamu district, served as a peon at the Garhwa Civil Court. Eyewitnesses report that the accident took place while Pandey was traveling from Palamu to the Garhwa court on his motorcycle. A JCB allegedly struck his bike, resulting in severe injuries. A passerby, along with other locals, quickly took him to Sadar Hospital, where he was pronounced dead by doctors upon arrival. In response to the incident, local police promptly secured Pandey's body for investigation. An autopsy was performed before returning the body to his mourning family. Authorities have seized the damaged motorcycle and the JCB involved in the accident for further examination.



PNS : BOKARO

Bokaro BJP held a press conference at the residential office of MLA Biranchi Narayan, attended by prominent leaders and spokespersons of the party. National BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia, Himachal Pradesh BJP President Rajeev Bindal (a five-time MLA and former Health Minister), and Etala Rajender (a seven-time MLA from Telangana, the state's first Finance Minister, and currently a Lok Sabha MP) were key figures at the event.

During the press conference, Gaurav Bhatia criticized Congress for its policies, claiming they favor infiltrators over the people of

Jharkhand. He referred to Congress leader Ghulam Ahmed Mir's statement in Bermo, which, according to Bhatia, reflected Congress's "real policy" of prioritizing infiltrators. He alleged that Congress's promise to provide subsidized 450 LPG cylinders to all, including infiltrators, highlights this approach. Bhatia challenged Rahul Gandhi, currently in Bermo, to clarify Congress's stance on this policy.

He further accused the ruling Jharkhand government of failing to deliver on its promises made in 2019, such as providing five lakh jobs, unemployment allowances, and timely pensions. He asserted that BJP's

policy reflects its commitment to fulfilling promises, unlike Congress, which he accused of misleading the public in states like Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, and Karnataka. Bhatia claimed that the State government has resorted to initiatives like the "Maiya Samman Yojana" as a last-minute attempt to regain public trust ahead of the elections. Overall, the press conference showcased the BJP's critique of its political opponents, emphasizing governance failures and unfulfilled promises while reiterating its own commitment to delivering on its pledges. The leaders presented a unified front, expressing confidence in gaining public trust and securing victory in the upcoming elections on November 23.

During the media briefing other attendees included Bokaro BJP candidate Biranchi Narayan, BJP media in-charge Mahendra Rai, and senior leaders Sanjay Tyagi, Kamlesh Rai and others.

Leopard attacks cow herd, kills six cows



VINOD PRASAD : LOHARDAGA

A leopard suddenly attacked a herd of cows grazing in Belga forest under Barwatoli Panchayat of Chandwa-Kudru block bordering Lohardaga-Latehar dis-

trict. The knocking of the leopard created a stampede in the herd. Meanwhile, the leopard killed six cows, while one cow was badly injured. The incident is said to have happened around 5 pm. Navgeshwar Yadav, a resident of Bellanga village, was grazing about a dozen cows of his elder brother Arun Yadav in the forest when suddenly the leopard attacked him.

Due to a sudden stampede in the cow herd, he went down towards the forest and seeing the leopard attacking the cow, he ran towards the village on the reverse side, saved his life and informed the villagers. Here, due to the news of the leopard attack in the forest adjacent to the village, there is an atmosphere of

panic in dozens of nearby villages including Januari, Hosalang, Madma, Ucharinga.

After receiving information about the attack, forest guard Luv Jha of the forest area and Belanga of the forest department reached the forest late in the evening, searched some nearby areas and collected the footprints of the wild animal that attacked the cow. The forest guard said that it was not a tiger but a leopard. However, according to eyewitness villagers, they have clearly seen the tiger. Now the people of the department are calling the tiger a leopard on the basis of footprints without even seeing it, only the department will be able to explain the reasons behind this.

Man commits suicides in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

A tragedy happened in Lavachampa village near Bardiha police station. Bablu Chaudhary, 22, allegedly took his own life. This followed his girlfriend not answering his calls. Bablu, son of Munna Chaudhary, lived in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh, with his family for 15 years. He worked as a driver and laborer.

The family went back to Bardiha for the Chhath festival. On Thursday night, Bablu tried to call his girlfriend many times. After she didn't answer, he sent her a message. When he got no reply, he sadly chose to end his life. Bablu hanged himself with a saree in the house after cutting his arms with a blade, and he filmed the event.

Bablu's family couldn't reach him on Friday. Neighbors, sent by the family, found his body hanging. They quickly informed the family, who had not returned yet. Local police took the body and began post-mortem procedures.

IUCN and XLRI collaborate to train corporate India



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In a groundbreaking initiative, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and XLRI Jamshedpur have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance corporate India's understanding of integrating nature and biodiversity into business strategies.

The MoU was signed at XLRI's Delhi-NCR campus in the presence of the Board of Governors and key dignitaries, including T.V. Narandran, Chairman of XLRI's Board and CEO & MD of Tata Steel Ltd., alongside eminent business leaders such as Madhav B Kalyan (JP Morgan), Jaspal Bindra (Centrum Group), Ajay Kaul (Everstone Capital), and Jose Parayanken (Mozambique Holdings).

among corporate executives working in sustainability, environmental management, and CSR domains. Training programs will focus on: Integrating nature and biodiversity concerns into business decision-making processes. Demonstrating business responsibility towards nature. Measuring, monitoring, and reporting biodiversity interactions under global frameworks such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

IUCN and XLRI will establish a knowledge repository featuring good practices and case studies to guide businesses in adopting sustainable approaches. Additionally, XLRI students will benefit from summer internship opportunities with IUCN, enhancing their expertise in business-biodiversity leadership.

IUCN India Country Representative, emphasized, "This collaboration is a significant step towards equipping businesses with tools to prioritize biodiversity while achieving their goals." Dr. Tata L. Raghu Ram, Chairperson of FACES-XLRI, added, "Through this partnership, we aim to foster a generation of corporate leaders who balance profitability with ecological responsibility." XLRI's Director, Fr. S. George, and other dignitaries applauded the initiative, calling it a crucial step towards sustainable corporate governance in India. This collaboration underscores the urgency of aligning business strategies with global best practices to address biodiversity loss and environmental challenges, setting a new benchmark for sustainable corporate leadership in India.

This may be published in Newspapers and TV from the day following the last day of withdrawal of candidature and up to two days before the date of poll

Format C – 1
(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 and address of Candidate:- **Biranchi Narayan, 33A, Sonatand, PS. BS City, PO.-GPO, Dist.-Bokaro-82700**

Name of Political Party :- **Jharkhand Janta party**

Name of Election :- **BHARTIYA ASSEMBLY ELECTION - 2024**

Name of Constituency :- **36 – Bokaro**

I, **Biranchi Narayan**, (name of candidate), a candidate for the abovementioned election declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases

Sl No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences

Sl No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment imposed
NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA

*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.

JMM-Cong responsible for decreasing population, land of tribals: Amit Shah

'Congress fired bullets, charged lathis on Jharkhand revolutionaries'

PNS : RANCHI

Union Home and Social Welfare Minister Amit Shah today addressed huge election rallies in Dumka and Madhupur. During this, Shah fiercely attacked the Congress and said that when the people of Jharkhand were struggling to form a separate state, then the Congress fired bullets and lathis on them. The Congress government did not give Jharkhand its rights. But today Hemant Soren is sitting in the lap of the Congress for the post of Chief Minister. Hemant Soren has forgotten that the youth of Jharkhand had received lathis.

The Home Minister said that Jharkhand was made a

separate state by our former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. But now the work of improving Jharkhand is being done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda, we installed the statue of Lord Birsa Munda at Sarai Kale Khan Chowk in Delhi, but Hemant Soren opposed it. Shah said that, I want to tell Hemant Soren that on 15 November 2021, Prime Minister Modi ji did the work of celebrating Adivasi Gaurav Diwas.

Shah said, from Jawaharlal Nehru of Congress to Manmohan Singh, no Prime Minister has visited Dharti Aaba's village till date. But our Prime



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Annapurna Devi, BJP Jharkhand President Babulal Marandi and others during an election campaign rally at Doranda Maidan Rajdhanwar in support of party candidates on Saturday. PNS

Minister Narendra Modi is the only PM who has visited Dharti Aaba's village and paid his respects to him. He said that Dharti Aaba's dream was to protect water-forest-land. Prime Minister Modi has worked to give respect and security along with water-forest-land. For the first time in the country, BJP-NDA has done the work of making a poor tribal daughter Draupadi Murmu the President.

The Home Minister said, during the UPA government, there was a budget of only Rs 28 thousand crore for the tribals. But our Modi ji worked to increase it to 1 lakh 33 thousand crores. He said that Hemant Babu should give an account of the UPA government to the peo-

ple of the state. The JMM-Congress-RJD government has reduced both the land and population of the tribals by settling intruders. But as soon as the BJP government is formed, all the intruders will be thrown out one by one.

He said that PM Modi has built 10 tribal museums at a cost of 200 crores. Sido Kanho's statue is also going to be installed in all these museums. He said, Hemant Babu, you were asking for an account from us, we have given an account of what we have done in the memory of Dharti Aaba. If you have the courage, then you too should give an account of the UPA government to our tribal brothers and sisters. The population of tribals is

decreasing, who is responsible for this, Hemant Soren, you are responsible.

Shah said, the Hemant government cannot protect the bread-daughter-land of Jharkhand. Even after the court order, the Hemant government did not identify the corrupt people. But as soon as the BJP government is formed, a law will be made to get the tribals their land back. The 350 crore rupees recovered from the house of a Congress leader and the 35 crore rupees recovered from another person's house was the money of the people of Jharkhand. As soon as the BJP-NDA government is formed, every single penny will be recovered from the corrupt people and kept in the treasury of Jharkhand.

INDIA block confident of triumph after first phase: Kharge

PNS : RANCHI

Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge, State President Keshav Mahto Kamlesh, CLP Leader Rameshwar Oraon, State Incharge Ghulam Ahmed Mir said in a press conference today that after voting on 43 seats it is clear that the India Alliance is going to form the government again in Jharkhand.



AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge along with others during a press conference at a city based hotel in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

Kharge thanked women, who voted in large numbers. He said that women have shown enthusiasm for the government scheme Maiyaan Samman Yojana. From December it will be increased to Rs 2500. BJP has gone to the court to stop this. They have implemented their schemes in many places but we never filed a court case. They are against women and the poor.

He said that Modi is inaugurating schemes at many places. He wants to tell the people that we have implemented the new scheme. After seeing this, it seems that the PM is giving so many assurances and roaming around in the elections of a small state. So it seems that

he will roam around in the Panchayat elections too. The PM should rule in his own place and think about employment and farmers. Is he worried about the welfare of the country, the progress of the country or is he busy in making elections to save his

chair 24 hours a day?

Addressing election meetings in Jamtara and Khijri on Saturday Kharge took BJP to task and said that we don't have to fear BJP. These people are engaged in a conspiracy to break the society. We all have to unite and save the country.

Kharge said that Congress built IIT, EKMS, Engineering College and it was Congress that gave the Constitution to the country in which these people are doing politics.

The Congress National Chief said that if the India alliance government is formed, 10 lakh youth will be given employment. There will be health insurance up to Rs 15 lakh for the treatment of the poor, farmers and laborers. Under the Mainiya Samman Yojana, Rs 2500 will be given every month from December. Every

family will be given a gas cylinder for Rs 450. He appealed to vote in favour of the India alliance on November 20.

He said that first BJP should tell what the PM did for 11 years and CM for 13 years. He has experience of 25 years but could not remove poverty from Gujarat. They blame the Gandhi family. These people sat like princes for 25 years, but did not think about the poor. They talk like this about the person who is connected to the public and is meeting everyone by going among the public. These people are lying just to save their chair and lie about Congress. We do this about the PM but when he blames us, we also have to retaliate. Here, loans of 1 lakh 75 thousand farmers have been waived. Every month people are being given money for pension.

BAU to focus on climate resilient development and bio fortified crop varieties: Dr Dubey

PNS : RANCHI



BAU Vice Chancellor Dr SC Dubey along with others during the 44th Kharif Research Council meeting of the university on Saturday. PNS

Birsa Agricultural University (BAU) will now focus on development of climate resilient and biofortified varieties of crops so that residual moisture of kharif could be gainfully utilized in rabi season. Similarly, conservation agriculture with minimum use of water and special emphasis on oilseed and pulse crops will be promoted.

BAU Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr SC Dubey made these remarks while addressing the 44th Kharif Research Council meeting of the university on Saturday.

Since the university is suffering from acute shortage of scientific manpower, every scientist should try to win an externally funded project so that additional manpower in the form of Research Associate and Senior Research Fellow is available in the university. Dubey said adding "despite scarcity of irrigation, every effort should be made to increase crop coverage under rabi especially oilseeds, pulses and vegetables."

Each department should set a target to publish at least two research papers per scientist in high rated national/international journals and release one technology as per local needs and farmers' priority," the VC said.

Dr Dubey said that Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding should conduct a study about coverage of Jharkhand arable area by BAU-bred crop varieties so that state government could be apprised with the study outcome and university could get proper recognition and

support. He said a lot of fund is available with the centre and state government for biodiversity conservation and scientists should come forward with suitable project proposals.

Director Research of Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi Dr SK Chaturvedi stressed on developing integrated farming system models for natural farming keeping in view the socio-economic conditions of Jharkhand farmers. He said 10 years data should be prepared regarding seed production in the university, government indent and lifting year to year. He advocated that varieties released during last 10 years only should be used and such list can be easily downloaded from Central Variety Release Committee (CVRC) website. He stressed that seed should be procured from most reliable sources so that desired germination and growth is there.

Earlier, welcoming the guests Director Research Dr PK Singh outlined the

research highlights of last rabi and informed that six new research projects worth about Rs 9.42 crore funded by RKVY, Tata Steel, Government of India and ICRISAT were received by the university during last one year. He also detailed the crop varieties recommended for Jharkhand and said that coverage of horticultural crops in Jharkhand was higher than that of the national average.

Dr Sujay Rakshit, Director IAB, Ranchi, former BAU VC Dr GS Dubey, head of Ranchi Centre of ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region Dr AK Singh, former Director Research Dr A Wadood and Chief Scientist of Dryland Agriculture Project Dr DN Singh also participated in the deliberations. Dr CS Mahto proposed a vote of thanks. Shashi Singh anchored the event. Dr N Kudada, Dr Jaylal Mahto and Dr PK Jha, scheduled to superannuate within next couple of months were felicitated in recognition of their lifetime contribution to the university.

State readies for second phase of polls

FST and SST are being deployed intensively in the second phase constituencies

PNS : RANCHI



Chief electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar during a press conference in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand K Ravi Kumar has said that the work of distribution of voter slips for the second phase of Assembly Elections 2024 has been completed. The remaining voter slips have been deposited in the RO's office. FST and SST are being deployed in the second phase areas. In the areas where the first phase of polling has been completed, relaxation is being given under the provisions of the Election Commission of India, but still the borders and checkpoints of the district have been kept active. He was addressing media representatives at the Election House on Saturday.

Kumar said that 83 cases related to violation of the Model Code of Conduct have been registered. The maximum number of 33 cases has been registered in Garhwa. He has requested all the candidates to follow the model code of conduct and also keep their polling agents and workers alert about it. He said that many complaints have been received regarding unauthorized use of candidates' symbols in the first phase of elections. As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the use of any kind of symbol related to the election symbol of the candidates is completely prohibited at all

polling stations and within its 200 meter radius. He said that no message appealing to the voters by any candidate should be broadcast in the silent period 48 hours before the end of polling. Media representatives can cover the voting of the candidates, but no kind of appeal or political rhetoric should be broadcast by them. He said that on the day of polling, no kind of pamphlet related to the candidates should be distributed by the polling agents of the candidates. The polling agent is allowed to give only the serial number of the candidate to the voter on a plain paper. Apart from this, giving the name of the candidate or any kind of symbol is prohibited.

He said that since the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct in the state, a total of illegal material and cash worth more than Rs 2 billion 14 crores has been seized by various agencies.

Sirmatoli-Mecon flyover construction work restarts

PNS : RANCHI



Railways has given a block of 238 hours for Sirmatoli-Mecon flyover. With the block, the construction of the cable stay bridge has also been started rapidly.

On Saturday morning, a team of engineers from Road Construction department and L&T inspected the works. The work was done at a fast pace. The time period for completing this work has been fixed for about five months i.e. by March 2025. After this, this bridge will be opened for the general public. Rail block will be available at different times in February also, during which the work will be expedited.

L&T has also increased the construction of steel girder from Patel Chowk side. At the same time, the work of Sirmatoli, MECON flyover has been completed by more than 80 per cent. The cable bridge is completely ready from the side of Nivaranpur. As soon as the railway block is available, the work will speed up.

The work on both sides of the flyover is complete, only the ramp has not been built yet. The construction of this flyover will solve the traffic problem of Sujata Chowk. With the construction of this bridge, it will take only five to seven minutes to travel from Sirmatoli to MECON, currently it takes more than half an hour.

Himanta sings 'unity' tune, asks people to support BJP



Assam Chief Minister and co-election in-charge Himanta Biswa Sarma addresses an election rally on Saturday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI

While addressing a public meeting in Jamtara, Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jharkhand assembly election co- incharge and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that this time the election is for the protection of roti-beti-mati.

Fiercely targeting the JMM-Congress- RJD regarding the statement given against Sita Soren, Sarma said that people like Irfan Ansari do not respect women.

Sarma said that if our society remains united, will people like Irfan Ansari be able to win the election. Our society gets divided, but this time we will not divide. If we remain united, Irfan Ansari will never win the election from here. If we remain united, no one will dare to stop the Ram Navami procession. Sarma once again repeated the slogan 'Ek rahenge to Safe rahenge' (If we remain united, we will be safe). Sarma said that those

who vote for Irfan Ansari, if tomorrow your daughter is kidnapped, they will not help you. Before voting for Irfan Ansari, think that we too have a daughter in our house. Sarma also said that if you remain united, Irfan Ansari and Alamgir Alam cannot harm us.

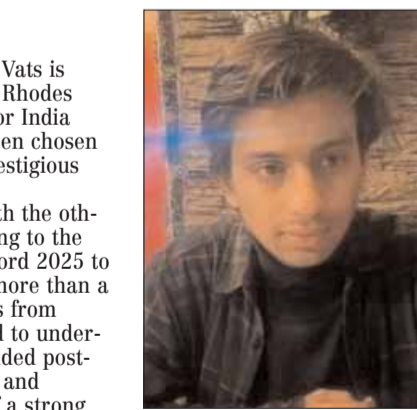
Sarma said that this time the election in Jamtara is between Sita Soren and Irfan Ansari and that this election is a fight for our identity. In areas like Pakur, Sahibganj and Jamtara, schools are closed on Fridays because Namaz is offered on that day. "I would like to ask that the Constitution of our India was made by Hindu people so schools should also be closed on Tuesdays for us, so that we will also worship Hanumanji."

Sarma said that Alamgir Alam and Irfan Ansari are trying to run Jharkhand according to their own wishes. He said that I had read that a Namaaz room was made in the assembly. Our people protested so it could not happen but the government had proposed that arrangements should be made for Namaaz in the Jharkhand assembly. Sarma also said that arrangements should also be made for Hanuman Chalisa. Today Ramnavami procession is not allowed, permission is not given for immersion of idols in Durga Maa temple. But the procession of Muharram has never been stopped. Sarma said that we have no objection to the procession of Muharram, but Ramnavami procession will also be taken out.

Sarma said that during the rule of Aurangzeb and Babar has also been seen and no one obstructed the procession of Ramnavami, but Irfan Ansari and Alamgir Alam have fallen even lower than Aurangzeb and Babar.

Ranchi lad selected among Indian Rhodes Scholars for 2025

PNS : RANCHI



City boy Avinash Vats is amongst the five Rhodes Scholars- Elect for India 2025 who has been chosen to receive the prestigious scholarship.

Vats along with the others will be heading to the University of Oxford 2025 to join a cohort of more than a hundred scholars from around the world to undertake the fully funded post-graduate studies and become a part of a strong community of people determined to make a positive difference in the world.

The top five candidate's names were revealed on November 9 after a rigorous national selection procedure comprising of a competitive application process and two rounds of preliminary interviews. The shortlisted finalists were interviewed and the names of the top five including Vats was announced for the scholarship.

Hailing from Ranchi, Vats has completed his bachelors in Philosophy from St Stephen's College, Delhi. He conducted a research on accessibility in

education and healthcare for disabled individuals in Jharkhand under the State Disability Commissioner's Office in Ranchi. A table player by passion, Vats has written and directed short films as well. His academic interests include epistemology and making philosophy accessible to disabled people.

"It is heartening to see candidate from diverse disciplines, institutions and parts of the country apply to the Rhodes Scholarship. We are always impressed by the level of intellect as well as the character and empathy that they all display. As is the case each year, we had



a diverse and talented field of applicants. We are very grateful to all the selectors who assisted us through a rigorous selection process and very proud of the five Rhodes Scholars- Elect who have emerged from the process. They will benefit from the rich intellectual resources of the University of Oxford and will join a lifelong community determined to change the world for the better," read the Statement from the Rhodes India Secretariat.

The Rhodes Scholarship is the world's preeminent and oldest graduate fellowship based at the University of Oxford since 1903. The

Scholarship from India began in 1947 and is awarded to five outstanding applicants each year.

The winners are from various parts of the country including Ranchi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Kurukshetra and Ghaziabad. Amongst them, Vats is also the third scholar with a visual impairment while another one Shubham Narwal is the first Indian scholar- elect from veterinary medicine.

"The Rhodes Trust is delighted to introduce the extraordinary 2025 Class of Rhodes Scholars Elect who represent cultures and perspectives from every corner

of the world. For more than a century, the Rhodes Trust has brought exceptional individuals to Oxford and fostered a vibrant global community. We eagerly anticipate the invaluable contributions these scholars will make not just during their studies but throughout their lives as they join of the community of Rhodes Scholar alumni who are creating a more equitable and sustainable future for the world," said Dr Elizabeth Kiss, CEO, Rhodes Trust.

The other three candidates from India are Rayan Chakrabarti, Vibha Swaminathan, and Pal Aggarwal.

Home Ministry urges peace in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Urging people to maintain peace in Manipur, Union Home Ministry on Saturday said all security forces deployed in Manipur have been directed to take necessary steps to restore order and peace in the State as the security scenario remained "fragile" in the past few days.

"The security scenario in Manipur has remained fragile for the past few days. Armed miscreants from both communities in conflict have been indulging in violence leading to unfortunate loss of lives and disruption in public order," said the Ministry in a statement.

The Home Ministry said strict action would be initiated against anyone trying to indulge in violent and disruptive activities. It said important cases have been handed over to the NIA



for effective investigation. "The security forces have been directed to take necessary steps to restore order and peace. Strict action would be initiated against anyone trying to indulge in violent and disruptive activities," said Ministry, requesting people to maintain peace, not believe in rumours and cooperate with

the security forces to maintain law and order in the State. A fresh cycle of violence erupted in Manipur last Monday after 11 suspected militants, who allegedly attacked a police station and adjoining CRPF camp with sophisticated weapons in Manipur's Jiribam district, were killed in an exchange of

fire. A day later, six civilians, including women and children were abducted by armed militants from the same district. Seeing the fragile situation, the Centre reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam on Thursday. The fresh order came after the Manipur government imposed AFSPA in the entire state on October 1, barring 19 police station areas that include these six. The police stations excluded from the Manipur government's October 1 order were Imphal, Lamphal, City, Singjamei, Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsoi, Wangoi, Porompat, Heingang, Lamlai, Iriblung, Leimakhong, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Nambol, Moirang, Kakching, Jiribam. An area or district is notified as "disturbed" under AFSPA to facilitate the operations of

the armed forces. AFSPA gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary for the "maintenance of public order". The police station areas where AFSPA has been reimposed are Sekmai and Lamsang in Imphal West district, Lamlai in Imphal East district, Jiribam in Jiribam district, Leimakhong in Kangpokpi and Moirang in Bishnupur. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year. The ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by the clashes in Imphal Valley and the adjoining hills, witnessed violence after the mutilated body of a farmer was found in a field in June this year.

BJP claims some Muslim bodies asking community to vote for INDIA bloc, demands strict action

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday alleged that some Muslim bodies are trying to vitiate the poll atmosphere in Maharashtra and Jharkhand by appealing to their community members to vote for the INDIA bloc on the lines of religion, and urged the Election Commission and the Supreme Court to take action in the matter. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said All India Muslim Personal Law Board's functionary Maulana Sajjad Nomani has said that the outfit has decided to support Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on 269 seats and other non-BJP parties on a few seats in Maharashtra Assembly polls. He said that Nomani has appealed to the Muslims to vote for the MVA, saying the outcome of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections will have an impact



not only on the future of the state but also on the future of the entire country. Earlier the Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind's Lohardaga unit appealed to the Muslims to vote en bloc for the Congress-JMM-RJD-CPI (ML) Liberation combine in Jharkhand, Bhatia claimed. "This is called vote jihad," he said, adding, "This is the height of appeasement politics" by the MVA in Maharashtra and Congress-JMM in Jharkhand. Bhatia said that an appeal for votes made on the basis of religion amounts to corrupt practices. "It cannot be tolerated in a democracy like ours where

elections have to be as pure as Mother Ganges. It's a very worrisome trend that we have seen that for the lust of power, the Congress, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray are ready to appease, adopt infiltrators and say 'I love you' to illegal immigrants," he said. He said illegal immigrants can be a threat to national security but it doesn't matter to the INDIA bloc parties. Bhatia said when Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a "positive slogan" for national unity, saying "ek rahoge toh, safe rahoge", the INDIA bloc raised objections even though "a wise person, even a child would say this is the mool mantra for the progress of the country". "When Ulema, All India Muslim Personal Law Board and other (Muslim) outfits come out in the open and appeal to all Muslims to come together, it's our appeal to the Election Commission and the Supreme Court to ensure that no political party vitiates the elections.

Anurag Srivastava appointed as India's next high commissioner to Mauritius



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Seasoned diplomat Anurag Srivastava has been appointed as India's next high commissioner to Mauritius, an island nation that has emerged as a strategic player in the Indian Ocean region. Srivastava, a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) diplomat, is currently serving as a joint secretary helming the Nepal-Bhutan division at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He will succeed incumbent K Nandini Singla. Srivastava is expected to take up the assignment shortly, the MEA said in a brief statement on Saturday. Prior to his appointment as joint secretary in the Nepal-Bhutan

division in March 2021, he served as the spokesperson in the MEA for nearly a year. Srivastava also served as India's ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union from September 2016 to February 2020. In his nearly 25-year-long career as a diplomat, he also served in many Indian missions abroad, including as the head of the political wing at New Delhi's High Commission in Colombo and had a stint at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. In Colombo, he was closely involved in the formulation and implementation of India's development projects in Sri Lanka. He has also held different positions in the foreign office in New Delhi, including in the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division. Srivastava obtained degrees in engineering and business management followed by a brief stint in the corporate sector before joining the foreign service. He also has a postgraduate diploma in diplomatic studies from Oxford University.

Own-source revenue for panchayats remains low at ₹59 per capita

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation for panchayats remains low, with the income through tax collected by the rural local governance bodies on an average being just Rs 59 per capita between 2017 and 2022, according to government data. Even as the generation of OSR for panchayats has come into focus to give these rural bodies more financial autonomy, according to the data compiled by the Panchayati Raj ministry, between 2017 and 2022, only an amount of Rs 5,118.98 crore was raised as OSR by the panchayats. This comes down to Rs 59 per capita and Rs 2.27 lakh per panchayat over the five-year period for 2.25 lakh gram panchayats across the country. The total population coming under these panchayats was more than 86.95 crore in the said period. Among the states, Gujarat collected the highest amount as OSR at Rs 829.75 crore, while Kerala came second



collecting Rs 802.95 crore. Andhra Pradesh, which raised Rs 791.93 crore, occupied the third position, followed by Karnataka (Rs 627.56 crore), Tamil Nadu (Rs 516.3 crore) and West Bengal (Rs 435.17 crore). In terms of the per capita OSR raised by the panchayats, Goa topped the list with Rs 1,635 raised in taxes per person, followed by Puducherry, which raised Rs 757 per capita. However, according to the information shared by the

ministry at the conclave, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep are among the states and Union territories that do not have OSR rules. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab,

Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Puducherry, meanwhile, have framed these rules. The total 15th Finance Commission fund allocation to rural bodies is around Rs 2.36 lakh crore (2021-22 to 2025-26). Of this, around 60 per cent is "Tied Grants", which include heads like drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, sanitation and maintenance services, while around 40 per cent is "Untied Grants" for improving basic services. For panchayats to generate OSR, the states may authorise them to levy taxes, duties, tolls and fees, and it strengthens the panchayat identity as a local government through tax-based OSR. However, limited elected representatives' hesitance and administrative limitations often restrict it. Matching grants based on OSR have been used as one of the ways by the Centre to encourage panchayats, like in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, up to three times of the OSR is given as incentive.

RaGa criticises Yogi's Government over newborns death in Jhansi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Saturday condoled the death of children in a fire at a medical college in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi district and demanded a probe into the matter as well as strict legal action against those found guilty of negligence. Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath government, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said such tragic incidents happening one after another in Uttar Pradesh raise many serious questions about the negligence of the government and administration. At least 10 children died in a fire that engulfed the children's ward of the medical college in Jhansi, officials said, as 16 injured children battled for life on Saturday. District Magistrate (DM) Avinash Kumar told reporters that the fire broke out around 10.45 pm on Friday in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College possibly due to an electrical

short circuit. In a social media post Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "The news of the death of innocent children in the accident that took place at the medical college in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh is extremely painful. Our deepest condolences to the families of all the children who died in this heartbreaking accident. May god give their families the strength to bear this sorrow." "We demand from the government that the causes of this accident be investigated and strict legal action should be taken against whoever is guilty of such negligence," he said. Rahul Gandhi also condoled the loss of lives in the tragic accident. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the death and injury of several newborn children in the tragic accident at Jhansi Medical College. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Such tragic incidents happening one after another in Uttar Pradesh raise many serious questions about the negligence of the government and administration," said Rahul.

CAG Murmu urges officers to think out of the box while addressing 4th Audit Diwas celebrations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Saturday urged officers to think out of the box, experiment with new techniques, and adapt to the changing technological and governance environment. With the increasing use of AI and emerging technologies to provide services, he said there are numerous risks, ranging from privacy breaches and algorithmic biases to social exclusion. "...As an organisation, we are deeply cognisant of these developments and are engaging closely with emerging technological trends for enhancing the effectiveness of auditing and accounting practices in such a landscape," he said at the 4th Audit Diwas celebrations here.



Murmu emphasised that in the quest for strengthening auditing and accounting practices, "all offices of the CAG's organisation are encouraged to think out-of-the-box and adapt to changing technological and governance environment" by experimenting with new techniques, which help in nurturing creativity in methodologies, economy in operations and result in better execution of functions. Inaugurating the 4th Audit Diwas celebrations, Lok

Sabha Speaker Om Birla lauded the CAG's rich legacy, highlighting its evolution into a globally recognised institution known for its distinctiveness and credibility. He also praised the CAG's proactive adoption of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, which has strengthened its audit processes and enhanced transparency. The speaker stressed that auditing has transformed over the years and become a guiding force in

improving financial discipline, transparency and governance. Birla also highlighted the critical role of parliamentary committees, chaired by senior opposition members, in scrutinising audit reports, fostering constructive discussions and ensuring financial accountability. In his speech, Murmu elaborated on the institution's focus on audits of social relevance that have a bearing on people's lives and livelihoods. He also mentioned the institutional mechanism, which was set up to synchronise the audit efforts right through the audit process. The CAG also talked about the significant milestone achieved by assuming the chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the 2024-2027 term.

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi to visit Nepal, conferred honorary rank of 'General of Nepal Army'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi will embark on a four-day visit to Nepal starting November 20 to explore ways to further expand the already close defence and strategic ties between the two countries and review the evolving regional security situation. In Kathmandu, Gen. Dwivedi will be conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepal Army" by Nepalese President Ramchandra Paudel in continuation of an age-old tradition that first started in 1950, reflecting the strong ties between the two militaries. The Army chief's visit to Nepal from November 20 to November 24 will mark another significant chapter in the evolving military diplomacy between the two neighbouring countries, sources in the defence establishment said. It is expected to strengthen the defence ties, paving the way for continued collaboration on multiple fronts, including military exercises, training programmes and strategic discussions on regional security concerns, they said. General Dwivedi is set to hold extensive talks with his Nepalese counterpart, General Ashok Raj Sigdel, and likely to meet Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and other key leaders in the Nepalese government. Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti-Beti" relationship. Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and



services. Nepal's access to the sea is through India and it imports a predominant proportion of its requirements from and through India. India and Nepal share a special relationship, reinforced by cultural, historical and geographical factors. This bond has evolved into a robust military partnership that plays a key role in enhancing regional security, the sources said. General Dwivedi is also likely to visit the Shri Muktinath temple in Nepal's Mustang region. It is learnt that India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, also wanted to visit the temple. In his memory, a bell named "Bipin Bell" was installed in the temple in February 2023. Nepal has continued its close ties with India, with regular exchanges of military training, visits and defence modernisation. India and Nepal are critical partners in enhancing mutual military capabilities,

particularly through training programmes. General Dwivedi's visit is expected to focus on the ongoing defence modernisation in both militaries through various initiatives. Both countries offer courses to military personnel in reputed military institutions. This collaboration has seen more than 300 Nepali Army personnel undergoing training in India this year alone in specialised fields. Similarly, Indian Army personnel also undergo courses in Nepal. A key pillar of the India-Nepal military cooperation is the annual "Surya Kiran" joint military exercise, which enhances interoperability between the two armed forces. The exercise, which focuses on counterterrorism, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, will see its 18th edition in December in Nepal, the sources said. The scope and complexity of the exercise are set to be expanded, providing an opportunity to

further improve the operational synergy between the two armies, they said. India has been supporting Nepal in its military modernisation by supplying various forms of military hardware, including small arms, vehicles and advanced training simulators. Through the Nepal-India bilateral consultative group on security issues, the two countries have held 15 meetings to discuss defence cooperation and several equipment needs have also been met under this forum, the sources said. General Dwivedi's visit will provide an opportunity to further enhance these engagements, including discussions on improving disaster response mechanisms and expanding regional security cooperation, they said. The large population of Indian ex-servicemen in Nepal also plays an important role in strengthening the ties between the two countries.

All work pending for last 28 years in Gidderbaha will be finished in next two-and-a-half years: Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All work pending for the last 28 years in Gidderbaha will be finished within the next two and half years, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday, as urged voters to cast their ballot to the party candidate. Kejriwal made the promise campaigning for party nominee Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, who is pitted against Congress nominee Amrita Warring, and BJP candidate Manpreet Singh Badal. The bypolls to the four assembly seats - Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal and Barnala - will take place on November 20 and counting of votes will be held on November 23. The Gidderbaha seat fell vacant after Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, who was a Congress MLA, was elected to the

Lok Sabha from the Ludhiana seat in the 2024 parliamentary elections. "The work which was held up in the last 28 years will be done in two and half years. There will not be any shortage of funds," Kejriwal said, referring to the tenure of Badal and Warring, who between them represented the seat in Muktsar for close to three decades. Manpreet Badal represented the Gidderbaha seat in 1995, 1997, 2002 and 2007 on Shiromani Akali Dal tickets. Warring won the seat in 2012, 2017 and 2022. "If you elect an MLA of the party which is at the helm, then your work will be done. If an MLA is of the AAP, then all your work will be done," said the AAP leader. He promised that his government would resolve the problems of sewage and drinking water, repair all roads,

including Gidderbaha-Lambi, and build sports stadiums in the constituency. The AAP government in Punjab in the first half of its term made electricity free for domestic consumers, he said. "Your support to the Aam Aadmi Party has been historic. Never before has any party received such overwhelming backing in Punjab. You gave us 92 seats out of 117 in 2022. "Over the past two and a half years, we have been working relentlessly for the people of Punjab, ensuring zero electricity bills for households and offering free treatment and medicine at Mohalla Clinics," Kejriwal said. He said that before his party came to power, the people of Punjab were beset with huge electricity bills, but the AAP government waived the old bills and made future electricity free.

Kerala BJP leader Sandeep Varier joins Congress



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kerala suffered a jolt on Saturday as Sandeep Varier, a prominent spokesperson of the Hindutva party, declaring his decision to join the Indian National Congress, dumping his parent party. According to Varier, it was the cold shouldering by the BJP leadership in the state that forced him to quit the party and open an account with the shop that sells love and affection. "The BJP's Kerala president K Surendran is responsible for my action. He never liked me for reasons best known to him only. Surendran is emblematic of the state of affairs in the Kerala BJP which is the worst political system in the country," said Varier after joining the Congress party at Palakkad, where he was accorded a ceremonial welcome. Varier said that the ideology he was pursuing till yesterday was full of mistakes and errors. "I was never a follower of Narendra Modi. From this moment on, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are my leaders," said Varier. The BJP leader, who had put in years of work in the CPI(M) and the BJP before joining the Congress chose the grand old party overlooking the offers made by the comrades as well as Congress leaders. Surendran remained silent and jovial and initially, though he opened up following the charges by Varier. "Sandeep is upset because he could not be offered a seat in the last Lok Sabha Election. Anyway we hope that the Congress party would offer him a seat from Thrithala Assembly constituency in the next General Election," said Surendran.

LG hints at J and K local bodies poll early next year

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After the successful conduct of the Assembly election of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) is headed for another round of electioneering to elect urban local bodies and representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday dropped clear hints that the UT administration is gearing up to conduct Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies polls in the region early next year after the winter season.



Sinha made this statement while addressing a gathering of farmers at the venue of the annual Jhiri Mela in Jammu. LG also paid obeisance to Baba Jitto at his Samadhi in Jhiri Village.

Sinha made a categorical announcement that Panchayat and urban local body elections will be held soon. The revision of electoral rolls is already underway in the region. The last panchayat elections were held in November 2019. The term of the existing panchayats ended in December-January, 2023-24. J and K has a total of 4,292 panchayats which include 2,182 in Kashmir and 2,110 in Jammu valley. Also, the terms of office of the municipal corporations in both Jammu and Srinagar expired last

November. After the conduct of panchayat and urban body polls, all democratic processes, including those at the grassroots level, will be completed in J and K post abrogation of Article 370. Political parties are also gearing up in advance and have already launched their mass contact programs to reach out to the electorate. The National Conference, which won the maximum number of seats across the Kashmir valley, is now focusing on expanding its base across the Jammu region.

BJP using Article 370 to win polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand: Farooq Abdullah



PTI ■ JAMMU

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) onslaught on the Congress over Article 370 of the Constitution is aimed at weakening the opposition party and winning elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, Farooq Abdullah, president of the National Conference (NC) said on Saturday. However, the veteran leader said they will not allow the Congress to be weakened and hoped that the INDIA bloc will emerge victorious in the Assembly polls in both the states. Talking to reporters after attending a private function in Jammu, Abdullah said he has no doubt about the return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Asked about the statements of Congress leaders that there is no mention of restoration of Article 370 in a recently-passed resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) Assembly, Abdullah said they have their own purpose

because their party is under attack from the BJP, with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah 'shouting repeatedly at them just to win the elections'. "They (BJP) are thinking that they will weaken the Congress but we will not allow that to happen," the former J and K chief minister said. "We are hopeful that they (INDIA alliance) will win the elections," he added. On the criticism of Kashmir-based political parties for allegedly misleading people on the resolution by linking it to Article 370, Abdullah said they are free to raise questions. "Our (election) manifesto is before the public and we are following it," he said. Abdullah responded angrily to a question about the restoration of statehood to J and K and asked, "What type of a response do you want from the Centre to the resolution for restoration of statehood? How long has this (NC) government been

formed? Do you want statehood to fall from the sky?" "Statehood will be returned (to Jammu and Kashmir) and I have no doubt over it. Earlier, some people used to say that (Assembly) polls will not take place (in Jammu and Kashmir) but the elections happened. They (BJP) launched a propaganda that they will form the government but what happened?" he asked. On Shah's statement that Modi is determined to amend the Waqf Act despite resistance from key opposition leaders, Abdullah said, "He is the owner of India. Let him do what he wants. He is the king." Asked about the BJP's "Batenge Toh Katenge" slogan, the NC leader said, "What is the meaning of this slogan? Aren't we one? Is India not united? India is about unity in diversity. As long as we strengthen our diversity, India will be strong. We have to strengthen the diversity for a strong India."

Forget about Article 370: J and K BJP to NC

PTI ■ JAMMU

Sat Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday called on the National Conference (NC) to focus on the region's development and not persistently focus on the Article 370, which, he said, is a part of history. "The National Conference must shift its focus from the abrogation of Article 370 to more important issues of development and public welfare for J and K and its people. They should forget Article 370," Sharma said addressing at party meeting in the evening. He also criticised the NC and other Kashmiri parties for

using Article 370 as an "emotional tool" to mislead the people for political gains. Sharma said the controversial provision had, in fact, deprived several sections of society of their basic rights. "The clock cannot be turned back. Much water has flowed down the Jhelum, and no force on Earth can reverse it. Article 370 was abrogated constitutionally and legally. It's time for the NC to accept this reality," Sharma asserted. Since the abrogation, Sharma said, the Union Territory has witnessed "significant advancements" in road, rail, and air connectivity, as well as improvements in health, education, and communication sectors. "Prestigious projects and

social welfare schemes introduced in the last decade, particularly after Article 370's abrogation, have transformed lives. Grievances of marginalised sections have been resolved, enabling them to lead dignified lives," he said. The politician urged the NC to draw inspiration from "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance model" and focus on making J-K a hub of peace, progress, and prosperity. Sharma also claimed that a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism implemented under PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has restored peace and normalcy in the region.

Issues of land compensation delaying development: DyCM Zeliang

PTI ■ DIMAPUR

TR Zeliang, Nagaland deputy chief minister (DyCM), said land compensation has been a major factor behind delays in infrastructure projects. Zeliang recently visited Phek, Kiphire, Shamator, Tuensang, and Mokochung districts to review National Highway projects. The DyCM on Friday said land compensation is one of the major hindrances in infrastructure development in Nagaland and appealed to the public to avoid obstructing national highway projects over land-related disputes, stressing that cooperation from all stakeholders is crucial for the timely completion of these vital projects. Zeliang called on the public to continue their support when projects are officially sanctioned.

Clarify Kharge's remarks on Article 370: Mufti

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Mehbooba Mufti, president of People's Democratic Party (PDP), on Saturday sought a clarification from Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) government after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks that his party never talked about restoration of Article 370. Mehbooba was reacting to Kharge's remarks in Pune on the return of Article 370 during a press conference on Thursday. "This government has been given a huge mandate by the people. They have reposed huge faith in it. (Article) 370 is an emotional issue for the

people of J-K, and people's sentiments are connected to it," Mufti told reporters in Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. During the Pune press conference, Kharge said, "Amit Shah, in his poll rallies, accuses the Congress of spreading lies. (But) He (himself) is saying the Congress wants to bring back Article 370 (in J&K). Tell me, who said that and when?" "You are raking up an issue. If it (resolution to repeal Article 370) had been already passed in the Parliament, why are you raking up the issue again? It means you want to keep the issue alive to divide. If you want to say this, go to

Kashmir and say it. Elections are over in Kashmir," the Congress president had said. The PDP chief said the resolution passed by the ruling National Conference (NC) in the J and K assembly asking the Centre to work out a mechanism for restoring special status of the erstwhile state, was vague and not clear (on Article 370) and it was mentioned vaguely. This government has 50 members, they should have said this while holding their head high," she added.

Kerala police ensure smooth darshan for Sabarimala devotees



PTI ■ PATHANAMTHITTA

The Kerala Police on Saturday said that the rush of devotees at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple, following the opening of the hill shrine for this year's Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage, is well under control. Chief Police Coordinator ADGP S Sreejith stated that the situation is under control and the force is equipped to handle even a heavy rush of

devotees. "The police are fully prepared to manage the situation, even if the number of devotees reaches one lakh," he said. The 41-day-long pilgrimage season, commenced on Saturday the first day of the auspicious Malayalam month of Vrichikam. The sanctum sanctorum was opened at 4 pm on Friday under the aegis of current temple head priest, Kandararu Rajeevaru, and his son, Kandararu Brahmadathan, who will be

replacing him, while chief priest P Mahesh Namboothiri led the rituals. Even before the shrine was opened a few hours before Saturday for the beginning of the annual festivities, Sabarimala and its premises already witnessed a heavy rush of devotees. ADGP Sreejith stated that 30,000 devotees had already completed darshan by Saturday morning. He added that the flow of devotees has been smooth with 15,000 receiving darshan

early in the morning alone. Extensive arrangements have been put in place by the various government departments and the police to ensure smooth and safe darshan for devotees during the pilgrimage season. The government has said that 70,000 devotees will be permitted to have darshan each day through the virtual queue booking system. Additionally, 10,000 devotees will be allowed to book slots for darshan at counters set up on the way to the shrine.

Congress rebel spices up contest in Ramtek

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The Ramtek Assembly constituency in Maharashtra's Nagpur, once a Congress bastion, which later became a saffron citadel, is witnessing an interesting electoral battle this time with a former minister contesting as an independent. Ramtek, which is one of 12 Assembly constituencies in Nagpur district, is part of the Ramtek Lok Sabha seat that was won by the Congress in this year's General elections. Sitting MLA Ashish Jaiswal, who had won this seat in the 2019 Assembly polls as an independent candidate, has now been fielded by the Shiv Shinde led by chief minister Eknath Shinde as a Mahayuti nominee. Vishal Barbate of Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT), who is contesting his maiden Assembly election, has

challenged Jaiswal. But Rajendra Mulak, who was suspended by the Congress for anti-party activities recently, is posing a challenge and has an edge over both the MahaYuti and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidates, political experts feel. Ramtek houses a historic temple of Lord Ram. It is believed that Ramtek was the place where Lord Ram rested during his exile. There are around 2.85 lakh voters in the constituency. This seat remained with the Congress for over two decades from 1962, and was won by the party again in 1991. Ashish Jaiswal breached this Congress bastion for the first time when he won the seat as a candidate of the undivided Shiv Sena in 1999. He retained the seat in 2004 and 2009 as well. But in 2014, the BJP fielded Mallikarjun Reddy, who won it. However,

Reddy was defeated by Jaiswal in 2019 after the latter contested as an independent. Mulak is a protégé of former chief minister and Congress veteran Prithviraj Chavan and is also related to him. His father Bhau Mulak was state minister in the 1970s. Mulak has also served as a minister of state for finance and planning, energy and water resources in the Chavan-led cabinet. Ramu Bhagwat, political analyst and senior journalist, said Ramtek was once known as the safe haven for the Congress. "It achieved political importance when former prime minister late PV Narasimha Rao contested from Ramtek Lok Sabha seat once. But ironically, the Congress symbol will be missing from this election scene for the first time as the party had to bow down before an adamant Shiv Sena (UBT)

and give the seat to it in the seat-sharing talks," he said. "So although it may look like a straight fight between Sena (UBT)'s Barbate and Shiv Sena's Jaiswal, Mulak has jumped into the fray and has a good rapport in Nagpur's rural pockets," he said. Mulak had earlier contested and won from the Umred Assembly constituency in Nagpur district. But after delimitation in 2009 the seat was reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates and turned out of bounds for Mulak, who is a Kunbi Maratha, Bhagwat said. "Since then he worked for the party organisation in other parts of rural Nagpur" he added. According to Bhagwat, Mulak's clout can be gauged by the fact that even as he has been expelled from the Congress for six years, he is being actively supported by some party leaders.

ECoR to install Kavach' system

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) plans to install the Kavach, train collision avoidance system, an official said. The Kavach system will be installed between Ranit (Bhadrak) in Odisha and Duvvada (Visakhapatnam) in Andhra Pradesh, a vital section of the Howrah-Chennai main line covering a distance of 595 km. Kavach, an indigenously developed automatic train protection (ATP) system, is designed to prevent train collisions and ensure enhanced operational safety.

Morbi bridge collapse accused honoured, kin of victims upset

PTI ■ MORBI

Industrialist Jaysukh Patel, the main accused in the 2020 Gujarat suspension bridge collapse that claimed 135 lives, received criticism after he was felicitated at an event organised by the Patidar community in Morbi district. While the victims' kin expressed anguish over the event, the organisers said that Patel, currently out on bail, was honoured in his capacity as the son of late OR Patel, a philanthropist who founded the Ajanta Group. Patel was weighed in modak (sweet dumpling) on a scale at the function organised by Kadva Patidar Kanya Kelavani

Mandal on the outskirts of Morbi town on Friday to mark the Pran Pratishtha of the Uma Sanskardham temple. The modak will be packed in 60,000 boxes and distributed among Patidar families, the organisers said. "It is a matter of sadness for us to see the main accused in the Morbi suspension bridge collapse being honoured like that," said Narendra Parmar, a member of the association representing victims and their families. A court recently relaxed Patel's bail condition barring him from entering the Morbi district, making it possible for him to attend the event. His firm Oreva Group was



responsible for the operation and maintenance of a British-era suspension bridge on river Machchhu in Morbi town that collapsed on October 30,

2020, killing 135 persons, including women and children, and injuring 56 others. "I learnt about Patel's

felicitation through a news report and felt sad. He was barred from entering Morbi being secured the court's permission for the event. The incident and losing a child is not something one forgets in his lifetime," said Parmar, whose 10-year-old daughter was killed in the tragedy. AK Patel, a member of the organisation that held the programme, said they honoured Jaysukh Patel to pay respects to his late father OR Patel, who founded the Ajanta Group, describing him as "the father of wall clocks". "We decided to felicitate Jaysukh Patel and his brothers at the event as a tribute to their father OR Patel's service to society," he said.

Former Congress MLA Lalit Kagathara said there was nothing wrong with Patel being honoured by his community, stressing that the industrialist's family has made significant contributions to society through philanthropy. "I have been saying that Jaysukh Patel is innocent. Morbi's then collector and civic officials are responsible for the tragedy. Why an FIR was not registered against them? OR Patel was the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of the Patridar community and a philanthropist. There is nothing wrong with his son being honoured by the community," he said. A total of ten persons,

including Patel, two managers of his firm, two sub-contractors who had repaired the bridge, three security guards and two ticket booking clerks, were arrested on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and for endangering human life after the accident. The Supreme Court on March 22, 2024, ordered Patel's release and directed the trial court to frame his bail conditions. Among the bail conditions, Patel was barred from entering Morbi till the pendency of the trial. Patel had moved court after the Gujarat High Court in December last year rejected his regular bail plea.

Biden to press Xi on N Korea's ties with Russia

AP ■ LIMA (PERU)

President Joe Biden is expected to use his final meeting with China's leader, Xi Jinping, to urge him to dissuade North Korea from further deepening its support for Russia's war on Ukraine. Saturday's talks on the sidelines of the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru come just over two months before Biden leaves office and makes way for Republican President-elect Donald Trump. It will be Biden's last check-in with Xi — someone the Democrat saw as his most consequential peer on the world stage.

With the final meeting, officials say Biden will be looking for Xi to step up Chinese engagement to prevent an already dangerous moment with North Korea from further escalating.

Biden on Friday, along with South Korean President Yoon Seok Yul and Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, condemned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's decision to send thousands of troops to help Moscow repel Ukrainian forces who have seized territory in Russia's Kursk border region. Biden called it "dangerous and destabilising cooperation".

White House officials also have expressed frustration with Beijing, which accounts for the vast majority of North Korea's trade, for not doing more to rein in Pyongyang.

Japan's minister visits Ukraine to stress concern over North Korean troops

Kyiv (AP): Japan's foreign minister arrived in Kyiv on Saturday to discuss North Korea's deepening military alliance with Russia, including the deployment of thousands of troops to support Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya will meet his Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiha, to reaffirm Japan's "strong support" for Ukraine against Russia's invasion and to discuss further sanctions against Moscow, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

High on the agenda was Tokyo's "grave concern" over growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, the ministry said. According to US, South

Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, up to 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia as part of a major defence treaty between the countries. Last week, Ukrainian officials said Ukraine and North Korean troops engaged in small-scale fighting while Ukraine's army fired artillery at North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk border region, where Ukraine launched a surprise push on August 6. The agreement requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance if either is attacked.

Iwaya's visit comes after the Ukrainian capital was attacked overnight by Russian

drones, damaging residential buildings and infrastructure in Kyiv's Obolon district. No casualties were reported. Ukrainian air defences neutralised up to a dozen drones, said the head of Kyiv's military administration, Serhiy Popko. Russia attacked Ukraine with 83 Shahed drones in the early hours of Saturday morning, the Ukrainian air force reported. Of those, 55 were shot down, while another 30 veered off course or were lost after electronic jamming, it said.

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defense said that it had destroyed 35 Ukrainian drones, including 20 over the western Kursk region and 11 over the Bryansk region.

Biden, Yoon and Ishiba spent most of their 50-minute discussion focused on the issue, agreeing it "should not be in Beijing's interest to have this destabilising cooperation in the region", according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss their private conversations.

The North Koreans also have provided Russia with artillery

and other munitions, according to US and South Korean intelligence officials. And the US, Japan and South Korea have expressed alarm over Pyongyang's stepped-up cadence of ballistic missile tests.

Kim ordered testing exercises in the lead-up to this month's US election and is claiming progress on efforts to build capability to strike the US

mainland.

Biden and Xi have much beyond North Korea to discuss, including China's indirect support for Russia, human rights issues, technology and Taiwan, the self-ruled democracy that Beijing claims as its own. There's also much uncertainty about what lies ahead in the US-China relationship under Trump, who campaigned promising to levy 60 per cent

tariffs on Chinese imports. Already, many American companies, including Nike and eyewear retailer Warby Parker, have been diversifying their sourcing away from China.

Shoe brand Steve Madden says it plans to cut imports from China by as much as 45 per cent next year.

"When Xi meets with Biden, part of his audience is not solely the White House or the US government," said Victor Cha, an analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "It's about American CEOs and continued US investment or trying to renew US investment in China and get rid of the perception that there's a hostile business environment in China."

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Biden administration officials will advise the Trump team that managing the intense competition with Beijing will likely be the most significant foreign policy challenge they will face. Administration officials are concerned that tensions between China and Taiwan could devolve into all-out war if there is a miscalculation by either side, with catastrophic consequences for the world.

Sullivan said the Trump administration will have to deal with the Chinese military's frequent harassment of its regional neighbors.

Protesters gather at UN climate talks in global day of action

AP ■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Hundreds of activists formed a human chain outside one of the main plenary halls at the United Nations climate summit on what is traditionally their biggest protest day during the two-week talks. The demonstration in Baku, Azerbaijan will be echoed at sites around the world in a global "day of action" for climate justice that's become an annual event. Activists waved flags, snapped their fingers, and hummed and mumbled chants in a silent protest, with many covering their mouths with the word "Silenced".

Demonstrators held up signs calling for more money to be pledged for climate finance, which involves cash for transitioning to clean energy and adapting to climate change. It comes as negotiators at the venue try to hammer out a deal for exactly that — but progress has been slow and observers say the direction of any agreement is still unclear.

loss and damage fund that gives developing nations cash after extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change — keep organisers going, said Nacpil, a coordinator with the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development. "The role we play is to increase the pressure," she said of the action. "We know we're not going to get the results that the world needs in this round of negotiations, but at least to bring us many steps closer to our hope, is our aim." She added: "I think we have no option but to keep fighting... It's the instinctive response that anyone, any living being, living creatures will have, which is to fight for life and fight for survival."

Tasneem Essop said she was inspired by the action, which was challenging to organise. "To be able to pull off something where people feel their own power, exercise their own power and get inspired in this creative way, I'm super excited about this," she said. Essop says she's "not very" optimistic about an outcome on finance, but knows next week will be pivotal. "We can't end up with a bad deal for the peoples of the world, those who are already suffering the impacts of climate change, those who

need to adapt to an increasing and escalating crisis," she said. "We fight until the end."

ON A DEAL FOR CLIMATE CASH, THERE'S NOT MUCH PROGRESS

Negotiators at COP29, the talks are known, are working on a deal that might be worth hundreds of billions of dollars to poorer nations. Many are in the Global South and already suffering the costly impacts of weather disasters fueled by climate change.

Several experts have said USD 1 trillion a year or more is needed both to compensate for such damages and to pay for a clean-energy transition that most countries can't afford on their own. Samir Bejanov, deputy lead negotiator of this year's climate talks said in a press conference that the climate finance talks were moving too slowly. "I want to repeat our strong encouragement to all parties to make as much progress as possible," he said. "We need everyone to approach the task with urgency and determination."

Observers were also disappointed at the pace of progress. "This has been the worst first week of a COP in my 15 years of attending this summit," said Mohamed Adow, of climate think tank Power Shift Africa.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that one Geeta Rani Aggarwal W/o Late Suresh Kumar Aggarwal R/o 74-75, 2nd Floor, Pocket-16, Sector-24, Ritahla, North-West Delhi is the owner of Residential Entire Second Floor, without roof rights, Part of Property bearing No. 74, area measuring 60 sq. mtr. in Pocket-16, situated at Sector-24, in the layout plan of Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi. That the original title deeds/Sale Deed No. 3441 dated 05.12.2014 executed by M/s Raja Ram Narang Buildmart Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Rajesh Narang and original title deeds/sale deed No. 9102 dated 05-06-2010 executed by Hemant Bajaj in favour of M/s Raja Ram Narang Buildmart Pvt. Ltd. has been lost. A FIR in this effect has been lodged to police station LR No. 2285276/2024 dated 09-11-2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write to Saurabh Alawadhi Advocate Chamber No. 217, Civil Court, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar (Haryana)-124507 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally contact to Saurabh Alawadhi (Advocate), Ch. No.-17, New Court Complex, Bahadurgarh, Distt.-Jhajjar, Mob.: 9017074029

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Rukmani Devi Khandelwal had acquired Pkt. Flat No. 4 on Third Floor area measuring 40 sq. yds., Built on property bearing M.C.D. No. 705/E/B-5, Ward No. 6, Kharsa No. 1151/3, situated at Mehrauli Teltai Hazu Khas, New Delhi vide regd. GPA Dt: 08.12.2005 along with AT's and Regd. will executed by Mr. Satish Kumar Gupta and Now Mrs. Rukmani Devi Khandelwal is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person/firm/institution/company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance whatsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi - 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that Shri Charanjit Narula S/o Late Shri Udho Dass Narula and Ms. Chandar Narula W/o Shri Charanjit Narula has agreed to extend equitable mortgage existing with Bank of Baroda, Kingsway Camp Branch, New Delhi in respect of Ground Floor and First Floor of unit on roof/terrace rights of freehold build up property bearing no. 655, area admeasuring 160 sq. yards, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar in the layout plan of redevelopment scheme of Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110029. In an event anyone claims any rights/interests by virtue of above documents in such event he/she should make it within 15 days of this notice by approaching the undersigned thereafter any claim/use/right of or by any person shall be illegal and no reliance ought to be placed on the same and shall be deemed to be encumbered and non-marketable title.

Branch Head, Kingsway Camp Branch, Bank of Baroda, Email id: tdnking@bankofbaroda.com Phone No. 9130999131

ANSHU PRIYANKA (Advocate) Ch. No. Y-6, Chiral Wing Tis Hazari Courts Delhi-54, Mob: 9313832982.

'Gazprom stops flow of natural gas to Austria'

Vienna (AP): Russia's state-owned natural gas company Gazprom stopped supplies to Austria early Saturday, according to the Vienna-based utility OMV after it said it would stop payments for the gas following an arbitration award.

The official cutoff of supplies before dawn Saturday came after Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer on Friday held a news conference to emphasise his country has a secure supply of alternative fuel for this winter. OMV said it would stop paying for Gazprom gas to its Austrian arm to offset a 230 million-euro (USD 242 million) arbitration award it won from the International Chamber of Commerce over an earlier cutoff of gas to its German subsidiary. The Austrian utility said in an email that no gas delivery was made from 6 am on Saturday. OMV said it has sufficient stocks to provide gas to its customers in case of a potential disruption by Gazprom, and said storage in Austria was at more than 90%.

Israeli troops reach deepest point in Lebanon since Oct 1

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israeli ground forces reached their deepest point in Lebanon since they invaded six weeks ago, before pulling back early Saturday after fierce battles with Hezbollah militants, Lebanese state media reported.

Israeli troops captured a strategic hill in the southern Lebanese village of Chamaa, about 5 kilometres from the Israeli border early Saturday, the state-run National News Agency reported. It said Israeli troops were later pushed back from the hill.

It added that Israeli troops detonated the Shrine of Shimon the Prophet in Chamaa as well as several homes before they withdrew, but the claim could not be immediately verified.

Israel's military said in a statement that its troops "continue their limited, localised, and targeted operational activity in southern Lebanon." The military did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the Lebanese media reports. The push on the ground came as Israeli warplanes pounded Beirut's southern suburbs as well as several other areas in southern Lebanon, including the port city of Tyre. The morning strike in Beirut hit an area known as Dahiyeh, which the Israeli military called a Hezbollah stronghold, saying its planes had hit multiple sites used by the militant group.



Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday. AP/PTI

Residents were given advance warning by Israel, and it was not immediately clear whether there were any casualties.

The increase of violence came as Lebanese and Hezbollah officials are studying a draft proposal presented by the US earlier this week on ending the war. Since late September, Israel dramatically escalated its bombardment of Lebanon, vowing to cripple Hezbollah and end its barracks in Israel. More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon by Israeli fire — 80 per cent of them in the eight weeks — according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

On Friday, Lebanon's caretaker prime minister apparently urged Iran to try and convince Hezbollah to agree to a cease-fire deal with Israel, which would require the group to pull back

from the Israel-Lebanon border. The proposal is based on UN Security Council resolution 1701, which ended the last Israel-Hezbollah war in the summer of 2006.

A copy of the draft proposal was handed over earlier this week by the US ambassador to Lebanon to Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who has been negotiating on behalf of Hezbollah, according to a Lebanese official.

The official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak about the secret talks said Berri is expected to give Lebanon's response on Monday. Another Lebanese politician said Hezbollah officials had received the draft, were studying it and would express their opinion on it to Berri.

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Under CIRP)

Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
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ANNEXURE I
Format for publishing financial results in newspapers
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

(Amounts in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)				
S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter Ended		
		30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	1.68	1.13	4.26
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(96.44)	(14.62)	(49.47)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(96.44)	(14.62)	(49.47)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(95.61)	(12.27)	(527.83)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(95.61)	(12.27)	(527.83)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(3,364.74)	(2,762.54)	(3,267.57)
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
9	Net worth	(3,363.74)	(2,761.54)	(3,266.57)
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,46,487.96	2,27,939.41	2,33,446.74
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	(73.28)	(68.70)	(71.47)
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic:	(956.06)	(122.72)	(5,278.33)
	2. Diluted:	(956.06)	(122.72)	(5,278.33)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.0004)	(0.002)	(0.0002)
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	-	(0.089)	(1.180)

Note:
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity
b) For the other line items referred in the Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).
c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

Kashinath Jha sd/- Director DIN: 09834435 Gaurav Katiyar Interim Resolution Professional Reg. No.: IBB1/IPA001/IP-PO0209/2017-18/10409	Santosh Kumar sd/- Director DIN: 09835334
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Place: Noida
Date: 14.11.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all at you that Sh. Sunil Kukreti S/o Sh. Sukhdev Prasad Kukreti is missing since 15/04/2017 and case is pending for Misc. Civil Death Declaration and Mandatory Injunction before the Hon'ble Court of Sh. Gauray Sharma, LD. ASCJ, East Karkardooma Courts Delhi in Civil Suit bearing No. 787/2024, an interested person or party can join the proceeding on the NDOH 21/11/2024.

JONEY (ADVOCATE) CHAMBER No.: 377, Lawyers Chambers' Block -II, Delhi High Court, New Delhi - 110003, 7701908791

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice Hereby Given That, Sanjeev Kumar Goel, S/o late Kanwar Bhan Goel, R/o C/8/15 3rd Floor Model Town Delhi-110009, Have lost my original Rectification deed dated 07/01/2021, by 1. Mrs. Birmia Garg W/o Mr. Surennder Kumar Garg 2. Mrs. Nirmal Garg W/o Mr. Teekaram Gupta, 3. Mrs. Kmalish W/o Mr. Rishi Prakash, 4. Mrs. Meera Jindal W/o Mr. Ved Prakash and 5. Mrs. Kaushal Devi W/o Mr. Vinay, all above mentioned are daughters of Late. Shri Kanwar Bhan Goel in favour of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Goel S/o Late. Shri Kanwar Bhan Goel vide rectification deed Registration No-240, in Book No-1 Vol No-9530 on page 51 to 54 dated 07/01/2021, property address R/o C/8/15, 3rd Floor Model Town-3 Delhi-110009. If found pls contact Mr. Sanjeev Goel-9810010625.

Vijay Aggarwal (Advocate)
Ph: 9810190238, 9858887943

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance,
(Department of Financial Services)
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK. 248171
PUBLICATION NOTICE IN O.A. No. 330 OF 2024
Summons Under Sub-section (4) Of Section 19 Of The Recovery Of Debts And Bankruptcy Act, 1993. Read With Sub-Rule (2A) Of Rule 5 Of The Debt Recovery Tribunal (procedure) Rules, 1993 As Amended From Time To Time)
Dy. No. 1057/2024 Dated: 12.11.2024
HDFC Bank Limited V/s M/s Technomach Engineering and Projects & Ors.
To,
2. Shri Chandar Dev Uraw S/o of Shri Sanichra Uraw resident of P Block Beni, Pant Nagar, D.F. Nagla, District U.S. Nagar
4. Shri Avinash Kumar S/o Shri Vijendra Pandey R/o Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045.
Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted OA No. 330 of 2024 against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 45,24,989.29 /- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 08.11.2024.
Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on 06.11.2025. Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence or claim for set off, counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 12th day of November, 2024
By Order Of Tribunal Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohd Jasim S/o. Zulfiqar Husain, R/o. G-10/12, 2nd floor, Sir Syed Road, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have Changed my name to Mohammad Jasim for all future purposes.
PD(939)A
I, Sanjay Kumar Yadav s/o Shri Vir Bahadur Singh R/o House No. 145, Gali No. 3, Shakti Vihar, Dayalpur, Delhi-110094, Aadhar No. 2276 5113 6789, PAN No. ABKPY9510C, inform that I have changed my name from Sanjay Yadav to Sanjay Kumar Yadav for all future purposes. Sanjay Kumar Yadav and Sanjay Yadav both is same and single person
PD(939)A
I, Guddu, S/o. Shri Badari, R/o, B-1441, Jahangirpuri Delhi-33, that I have changed my name from Suresh to Guddu, for all purposes.
PD(940)C
My name is Rukhsana Begum alias Khushboo Naaz, husband Mohammed Qayum, address A-119, Sector-2 Rohini North West, New Delhi-85, Rukhsana Begum alias Khushboo Naaz is the same name. In future I should be known as Rukhsana Begum only.
PD(941)C

Ramaswamy indicates massive job cuts in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Entrepreneur-turned politician Vivek Ramaswamy, who along with Tesla owner Elon Musk has been nominated in-charge of the Department of Government Efficiency, has indicated a massive cut in federal government jobs in the United States. "Elon Musk and I are in a position to start the mass deportations of millions of unselected federal bureaucrats out of the DC bureaucracy. That, too, is how we're going to save this country," Ramaswamy, an Indian American, said at an event in Mar-a-Lago in Florida on Thursday.

"I don't know if you've got to know Elon yet, but he doesn't bring a chisel. He brings a chainsaw. We are going to be taking it to that bureaucracy. It's going to be a lot of fun," he said. "We've been taught to believe over the last four years that we have become a nation in decline, that we're at the end of the ancient Roman Empire. All we have is to fight over the scraps of some shrinking pie. I don't think we have to stay as that nation in decline. I think with what happened last week, we're back to being a nation in our ascent. A nation whose best days are actually still ahead of us," Ramaswamy said.

India stun Olympic silver medallist China 3-0 to book semis berth

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Defending champions India stunned Olympic silver medallist China 2-0 to seal a semifinal spot at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Saturday.

India scored two field goals through Sangita Kumari (32nd minute) and skipper Salima Tete (37th) before tournament's highest scorer Deepika (60th) converted a penalty corner in the final minute.

The win against world No. 6 China was India's fourth consecutive win in the tournament. The hosts are now on top of the standings with eight points from four games. China have dropped to the second place with six points from four matches.

India will square off their round robin campaign against Japan on Sunday.

The top four teams from the six

team continental tournament will qualify for the semifinals. India were the offensive from the word go and created most of the opportunities without any success as the Chinese defended deep into their own territory and relied on counter attacks.

India secured their first real chance in the opening minute of the game in the form of back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both the opportunities.

Minutes later, Sharmila Devi essayed a precision pass to Sunelita Toppo, whose first-touch opened up the Chinese defence, giving Deepika a one-on-one situation with the opposition goalkeeper, who came out on top to deny the Indian forward.

China also secured a penalty corner in the first quarter but the Indian defence stood tall.

Both the sides were cagey in the first quarter with India making



some silly mistakes after a bright start.

India secured their second penalty corner in the 21st minute but to no avail.

Five minutes later, India secured another penalty corner but Manisha Chauhan's flick was saved by second Chinese goalkeeper Ting Li and Lalremsiami's try from the rebound went wide as the deadlock continued after half time.

The Indians came out with the same tempo after the change of ends and controlled the proceedings of the match.

Their efforts finally bore fruit in the 32nd minute when Sangita deftly met with Sushila Chanu's defence splitting pass from the midfield.

Five minutes later, the Indians doubled their lead with another fine field goal. It was skipper Salima who found the target after she was neatly set up by Beauty Dung Dung and Preeti Dubey's combined effort.

The Indians continued their domination with relentless attacks on the Chinese citadel but was denied by the rival goalkeeper on several occasions.

The Chinese too tried their best but credit must go to the resolute Indian defence which stood firm.

Desperate for goals, China withdrew their goalkeeper with little over three minutes to go and the move backfired as India scored their third goal in the final minute of the game. Sangita secured India's fourth penalty corner with her smart stickwork in the final minute and Deepika rose to the occasion flicking the ball to the right corner for her seventh goal of the tournament.

Meanwhile in other matches of the day, Japan beat Malaysia 2-1 while Korea defeated Thailand 4-0.



Blow for India as Shubman Gill fractures left thumb, all but out of Perth Test

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/PERTH

India were dealt a telling blow on Saturday after star top-order batter Shubman Gill sustained a left thumb fracture which is likely to rule him out of the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Optus Stadium in Perth, starting November 22.

Gill, one of the young heroes of India's last Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph, is a batting mainstay and in case skipper Rohit Sharma opts out of the first Test, India's top-order could look very thin.

Gill got hurt while fielding on the second day of the intra-squad match simulation. He was seen in considerable pain and immediately left the field for further scans.

According to a BCCI source privy to the development, Gill has indeed fractured his left thumb and with less than a week left for the Test to start, it will be near impossible for the stylish right-hander to get fit in time for the opening match.

A thumb fracture generally takes around 14 days to heal after which one is expected to start his regular net sessions. Since the second Test in Adelaide starts from December 6, there remains a possibility that he will get fit in time for that match.

Gill's absence could be massive for the national team as he is not only a stable number three batter but in case of Rohit's absence, he

could be considered for opening the innings with Yashasvi Jaiswal.

The other man in contention, Lokesh Rahul, has a bruised elbow after getting hit by a Prasidh Krishna short ball on the opening day of the intra-squad match and was forced to leave the field.

Rahul's bruised area needed icing and he didn't take the field on the second day of the match simulation on Saturday although it is being seen more as a precautionary measure.

In case Gill is absent, Abhimanyu Easwaran could be in line for his Test debut as India do not have too many options left.

However, if skipper Rohit, who was blessed with a baby boy, decides to join forces with three days of training, then it would be a different story.

Mohammed Shami, who has bowled more than 43.2 overs, took seven wickets and scored 37 runs in Ranji Trophy, is certainly going to join the team before the second Test.

The last day of the match simulation will happen at the WACA on Sunday after which India A squad, barring reserve players, will be back to India and join their respective state teams for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

The main squad will then move to Optus Stadium in Perth where they will have three net sessions from Tuesday to Thursday before going into the Test starting Friday.

ICC begins Trophy Tour for Champions Trophy in Pakistan, POK cities dropped

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Cities in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) found no mention in the Champions Trophy tour unveiled by the ICC on Saturday as the world body moved in swiftly to have them dropped from the host country's itinerary following India's strong objection.

The Trophy Tour will now comprise Karachi, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, apart from Abbottabad in the Khyber Pakhtunwala Region.

The Trophy Tour starts in Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, and will travel to other cities of the nation -- Taxila and Khanpur (November 17), Abbottabad (November 18), Murree (November 19) and Nathia Gali (November 20) before concluding in Karachi (November 22-25). Most of these cities are tourist attractions.

Earlier, on November 14, the PCB had announced the Trophy Tour, which included cities like Skardu, Hunza and Muzaffarabad, which fall in the PoK region, a disputed territory between India and Pakistan.



The PTI reported on Friday that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah had raised strong objections with the ICC to PCB's Trophy Tour plans in the PoK region. However, the global body took swift action to eliminate those cities from the tour as revealed on Saturday.

Following the Trophy Tour in Pakistan, it will tour Afghanistan (November 26-28), followed by Bangladesh (December 10-13), South Africa (December 15-22), Australia (December 25-January 5), New Zealand (January 6-11), England

(January 12-14) and India (January 15-26).

The cities for the Trophy Tour outside Pakistan will be announced in due course.

"A series of physical and digital engagements traversing iconic destinations, sporting events and key battles in the international cricket calendar form the Trophy Tour schedule, during which fans will also be treated to a content series titled 'Champion on Tour' that will document the Trophy Tour's journey around the world through the lens of food, music and cricket," ICC said in a release.

Pakistan is the defending champion of the event, having won the title at The Oval in London in 2017, defeating India in the final.

As for this edition, India has reportedly denied travelling to Pakistan for the tournament, and the ICC is working with PCB to find a possible solution to it, including hosting it in a hybrid model or shifting the competition out of Pakistan, possibly the United Arab Emirates (UAE) or South Africa.

Sources in the PCB yesterday said the trophy tour was planned in consultation and with the approval of the ICC and it was not a unilateral decision of the PCB.

"If they had issues they should have notified the PCB immediately before announcing the trophy tour. Anyways the PCB as hosts and commercial partners of the ICC is cooperating as always with them," another source said.

The trophy would now be taken to Islamabad, Taxila, Abbottabad, Murree, Nathiagali and Karachi with the trophy tour ending on November 22.

India Blitz 2024: Carlsen, Lagno lead; Praggnanandhaa close second

PTI ■ KOLKATA

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and three-time World Women's Blitz champion Kateryna Lagno occupied the top spot while India's R Praggnanandhaa took second place at the halfway mark of the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz 2024 here on Saturday.

Carlsen concluded the first nine rounds with an impressive 6.5 points out of a possible 9.

The Norwegian maestro had a dominant start, but his momentum was halted in round eight by Arjun Erigaisi, who defeated him in spectacular fashion in just 20 moves.

In the final round of the day, Carlsen settled for a draw against Vidit Gujarathi.

Young Indian prodigy Praggnanandhaa tailed him closely in second place with 6 points, recovering remarkably after losing his first three games to register six consecutive wins.

Erigaisi and Russia's Daniil Dubov are tied for third with 5.5 points each.

In the women's section, Lagno led the field with 7 points, maintaining an undefeated streak with five wins and four



draws.

Valentina Gunina trails her by a single point in second place, while Rapid Champion Aleksandra Goryachkina occupies third with 5 points.

Goryachkina had a strong start with three consecutive wins but managed only four draws in the remaining six games.

Standings (Round 9): Open Section: Magnus Carlsen (6.5); R Praggnanandhaa (6); Arjun Erigaisi (5.5); Daniil Dubov (5.5); Vidit Santosh Gujarathi (5); Abdusattorov Nodirbek (4); Wesley So (3.5); Narayanan S L (3.5); Nihal Sarin (3.5) and Keymer Vincent (2).

Women's Section: Kateryna Lagno (7); Valentina Gunina (6); Aleksandra Goryachkina (5); Divya Deshmukh (4.5); Vantika Agrawal (4.5); Koneru Humpy (4.5); Harika Dronavalli (4); Alexandra Kosteniuk (4); Vaishali R (3.5) and Nana Dzagnidze (2).

Jake Paul beats 58-year-old Mike Tyson as the hits don't match the hype

AP ■ ARLINGTON (USA)

The boos from a crowd wanting more action were growing again when Jake Paul dropped his gloves before the final bell, and bowed toward 58-year-old Mike Tyson.

Paying homage to one of the biggest names in boxing history didn't do much for the fans that filled the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys on Friday night.

Paul won a unanimous decision over Tyson as the hits didn't match the hype in a fight between the 27-year-old YouTuber-turned-boxer and the former heavyweight champion in his first sanctioned pro fight in almost 20 years.

All the hate from the pre-fight buildup was gone, replaced by boos from bewildered fans hoping for more action in a fight that drew plenty of questions about its legitimacy long before it happened.

The fight wasn't close on the judge's cards, with one giving Paul an 80-72



edge and the other two calling it 79-73.

Tyson came after Paul immediately after the opening bell and landed a couple of quick punches but didn't try much else the rest of the way.

Even fewer rounds and shorter rounds, along with heavier gloves designed to lessen the power of

punches, couldn't do much to generate action.

Paul was more aggressive after the quick burst from Tyson in the opening seconds, but the punching wasn't very efficient. There were quite a few wild swings and misses.

Tyson mostly sat back and waited for Paul to come to him, with a few exceptions. It was quite the contrast to the co-main event, another slugfest between Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano in which Taylor kept her undisputed super lightweight championship with another disputed decision.

It was the first sanctioned fight since 2005 for Tyson, who fought Roy Jones in a much more entertaining exhibition in 2020. Paul started fighting a little more than four years ago.

The fight was originally scheduled for July 20 but had to be postponed when Tyson was treated for a stomach ulcer after falling ill on a flight.

Johnson's 5-26 earns Australia a 13-run win over Pakistan to clinch T20I series

AP ■ SYDNEY

Fast bowler Spencer Johnson grabbed a career-best 5-26 and propelled Australia to a 13-run win over Pakistan as the home team clinched the three-match T20I series with a game to spare Saturday.

Johnson sliced through the top order and Pakistan crumbled to 134 all out in the final over that gave Australia a decisive 2-0 lead in Josh Inglis' first series as skipper.

Usman Khan made a fighting 52 and Irfan Khan scored unbeaten 37 but the visitors otherwise struggled with Johnson's pace on a bouncy wicket with captain Mohammad Rizwan (16) the only other batter to cross the double-figure mark.

Australia, beaten by Pakistan 2-1 in the preceding ODI series, will eye a sweep Monday at Hobart.

The home team couldn't capitalize on a whirlwind start and ended up at 147-9 after Inglis won the toss and elected to bat. Fast bowler Haris Rauf put the brakes on Australia's rapid start with 4-22 and Abbas Afridi bowled well in the death overs to finish with 3-17.

Matthew Short (32) and Jake Fraser-McGurk (20) posted Australia's fastest-ever 50 in T20s off 20 balls with both Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah going for plenty of runs inside the power play.

Pakistan was sloppy in the field without at least four dropped catches. Fraser-McGurk was dropped by Naseem at third man in



Afridi's expensive first over which went for 21 and Shah conceded 16 in his first over. Haris struck twice in his first over when Fraser-McGurk couldn't clear Salman Ali Agha at cover and Sufiyan Muqem, playing his first T20 since making his debut at the Asian Games last year, took a splendid catch at point to dismiss Inglis for zero.

Abbas Afridi then ended Short's 17-ball knock with a

brilliant slower ball to knock back the stumps as Australia slipped to 61-3 in six overs.

Marcus Stoinis (14) was also twice dropped on 0 and 6 before he played a reverse sweep to Muqem's left-arm spin straight to deep point and Glenn Maxwell, whose 43 had earned Australia a 29-run win Thursday, holed out to deep mid-wicket after scoring a 20-ball 21.

Rauf picked up the wickets of Tim David (18) and Xavier Bartlett (5) in his return spell before Aaron Hardie made 28 runs off 23 balls to lift Australia's total.

Babar (3) flicked Bartlett's first ball straight to Nathan Ellis at deep square leg and Australia didn't allow Pakistan to score a boundary off the bat for nine overs. Rizwan tried to break the shackles and smashed the

first boundary off Spencer in the 10th over but was caught by a diving David at mid-on off the next ball.

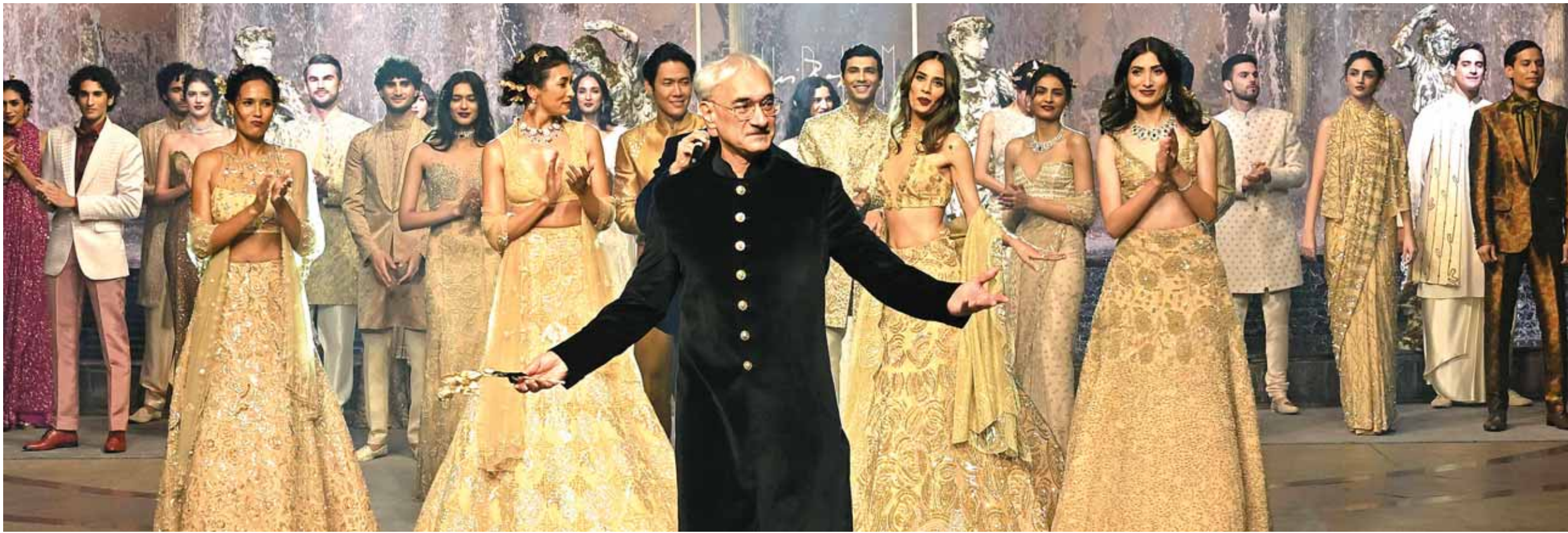
Spencer then found the edge of Agha's bat off the next delivery before Usman and Irfan combined in a 58-run stand. Inglis couldn't hold on to a sharp edge of Usman against Adam Zampa's leg-spin when he was on 12 and then Short misjudged a catch over his head when the batter reached 41 before he completed his half-century off 34 balls.

Johnson broke the threatening stand when he had Usman caught at short fine leg with a sharp short delivery in the 16th over.

Zampa took two wickets in his last over to finish with economical figures of 2-19 before last man Rauf got run-out in the last over.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that immovable property of **Sri Dipak Agrawal S/o Bijay Prasad Agrawal**, land measuring an area 10 decimals in plot no. 746 under khata no. 61, khewat no. 01, Tauzi no. 28, situated in Mouza Kaitha, P.S. Ramgarh, Pergana Chaingadha Thana no. 85, sub registry office at Gola, District Ramgarh, is being mortgage of HDFC Bank Ltd., Ranchi Branch Ranchi. Any person/s who has/have any claim, right, title and interest in the said property are hereby requested to intimate HDFC Bank LTD forthwith about the same at the below mentioned contact number within 14 days from the publication of this notice, failing to do so no claim will be entertained by HDFC Bank Ltd. Contact details- **K. Rakesh (Advocate)** Mb. No.-9431343381.



BY SAKSHI PRIYA

The unveiling of new label 'Aurum' by Ravi Bajaj at DLF Emporio was a stunning show filled with elegance and style. This exclusive fashion show highlighted Ravi Bajaj's newest collection, which focused on Indian wedding wear with a fresh twist. Known for combining traditional Indian elements with modern style, Bajaj's 'Aurum' collection was truly eye-catching. The fashion show set was a true masterpiece. A grand sculpture and an elegant fountain served as the central backdrop, creating a luxurious atmosphere that perfectly matched the opulence of the 'Aurum' collection. These elements added to the evening's sophistication, making it a visual delight for all who attended. Models graced the runway in stunning outfits from the 'Aurum' collection, complemented by beautiful jewellery from Rose, the official jewellery partner. The jewellery added an extra layer of elegance to the ensembles, enhancing the overall look with a balance of modern flair and traditional touches. The collection itself was a blend of opulence and refinement, showcasing innovative designs while respecting classic Indian traditions. Bajaj introduced unique elements like lace and organza in menswear, with some outfits even featuring pearls - a subtle yet luxurious detail. The womenswear was equally captivating, featuring lehengas that stayed true to the Ravi



SCULPTING WEDDING GLAMOUR IN GOLD

Ravi Bajaj's 'Aurum' collection, unveiled at DLF Emporio, showcased elegant designs that celebrated modern Indian wedding fashion in a luxurious setting

Bajaj style, with intricate designs that were both elegant and timeless. The audience was treated to another surprise when Mr. Ajay Bijli, Founder of PVR Cinemas and a close friend of Ravi Bajaj, made a special appearance to close the show with a memorable performance. This unexpected moment added excitement to the evening, leaving the crowd in awe. One of the standout pieces in the collection was a white saree paired with a richly embroidered golden blouse. The blend of simplicity and luxury in this outfit captured the essence of 'Aurum' - a collection designed to make a statement while maintaining elegance. For men, the collection included beautifully tailored kurtas with golden details, ideal for those who appreciate traditional Indian attire with a modern edge. Throughout the collection, a gold and white colour palette symbolised the joy and prosperity associated with Indian weddings. This theme offered a refreshing take on bridal wear, balancing traditional and



“ONE OF THE STANDOUT PIECES IN THE COLLECTION WAS A WHITE SAREE PAIRED WITH A RICHLY EMBROIDERED GOLDEN BLOUSE. THE BLEND OF SIMPLICITY AND LUXURY IN THIS OUTFIT CAPTURED THE ESSENCE OF AURUM - A COLLECTION DESIGNED TO MAKE A STATEMENT WHILE MAINTAINING ELEGANCE”



contemporary styles to suit the tastes of modern brides and grooms. The show also marked the grand reopening of the 'Aurum' boutique at DLF Emporio, which now houses a stunning range of meticulously crafted menswear and womenswear. From regal sherwanis to luxurious lehengas, the boutique is a destination for those seeking elegant wedding attire that stands out for both quality and style. The launch of 'Aurum' was not just a fashion show but a celebration of Indian culture, heritage and modern luxury. Ravi Bajaj's ability to seamlessly combine traditional and modern elements made this collection a standout in the Indian fashion scene. With its focus on detailed craftsmanship and elegant design, Aurum offers a fresh perspective on wedding wear, making it a must-see for anyone interested in the finest Indian couture.



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

Chor Bizarre reopens its doors with Hosa Pop-Up

Chor Bizarre, the iconic restaurant celebrating its 34th anniversary this year, reopens its doors with an exciting two-day pop-up featuring Hosa, a celebrated South Indian restaurant from Goa. Hosa is bringing its unique culinary experience to New Delhi, offering a special set menu at Chor Bizarre before continuing its journey to Comorin in Gurugram. Known for its creative take on traditional South Indian flavours, Hosa will offer a special set menu for two days at each location, giving guests the chance to indulge in the bold and intricate tastes of South India. Located in Stolim, Goa, Hosa is part of EHV International and is situated opposite the iconic St. Anthony's Church. The



name "Hosa," meaning "new" in Kannada, reflects the restaurant's innovative approach to South Indian cuisine. Blending old-world charm with contemporary design, Hosa offers a dining experience that celebrates the diverse and rich flavours of the region. Awarded 'Best Restaurant' and 'Best Restobar' in Goa at the 2023 Times Food & Nightlife Awards, Hosa has also earned accolades for 'Best Modern South Indian' and 'Best Cocktails' in 2024. The



CHEF HARISH RAO

much-anticipated pop-up event will take place at Chor Bizarre in New Delhi and Comorin in Gurugram. The set menu is designed to introduce diners to Hosa's inventive South Indian cuisine. The menu, curated by Brand Chef Harish Rao, will feature signature dishes like Cracked Potatoes with cauliflower mousse, Andhra Okra Masala with peanut sesame curry and Kari Dosa with poached egg and bone marrow hollandaise. Highlights also include Toddy Shop Prawns with raw mango salad and a dessert of Coconut Jasmine, combining coconut ice cream, jasmine granita and almond crumble. This is a unique opportunity for food lovers in Delhi and Gurugram to experience the bold and vibrant flavours that have

made Hosa a favourite in Goa. Chef Harish Rao says, "We're excited to bring Hosa's South Indian flavours to New Delhi and Gurugram, reimagining traditional dishes for the food lovers in these cities. Collaborating with our own group restaurants, Chor Bizarre and Comorin, allows us to showcase the depth and variety of South Indian cuisine in two dynamic settings."

EVENT DETAILS
Chor Bizarre, New Delhi - November 17th, Comorin, Gurugram - November 19th & 20th
Pricing: INR 1600 (non-vegetarian) | INR 1300 (vegetarian)
Reservations: Chor Bizarre: +91 99106 01574, Comorin: 0124 4984 224

11:11 (GYARAH GYARAH)

Gyarah Gyarah, showcases brilliant acting and explosives cases to keep you gripped to the screens, says ABHI SINGHAL

As 2024 draws to a close, it's the perfect time to reflect on the Indian gems the year offered in the world of entertainment. One such standout is Gyarah Gyarah, streaming on Zee5. This web series has captured the audience with its gripping narrative, complex characters, and masterful storytelling, making it an absolute must-watch before the year ends. Directed by Umesh Bist, this Indian adaptation of the acclaimed South Korean series Signal blends time travel, suspense, and crime drama across eight thrilling episodes. The show takes viewers on an engaging journey through timelines set in 1990, 2001, and 2016, cleverly weaving out past and present events. The narrative centers around ACP Vamika Rawat, played by Kritika Kamra, a rookie inspector Yug Arya acted by Raghav Juyal, and seasoned cop Shaurya Anthwal (Dhairya Karwa). The plot unfolds as Yug stumbles upon an old walkie-talkie that mysteriously allows him to communicate with Shaurya from 2001. Together, they work to solve cold cases while grappling with the paradoxes of time travel. Kritika Kamra delivers a nuanced performance as the determined and layered Vamika. Raghav Juyal impresses as the enthusiastic and headstrong Yug, showcasing his brilliant acting



skills. Dhairya Karwa, portraying Shaurya, brings a grounded depth to his role as the conflicted and persistent investigator. Harsh Chhaya, Gautami Kapoor, and Nitesh Pandey contribute strong supporting performances, adding richness to the screenplay. One of the standout elements of Gyarah Gyarah is its well-crafted dialogues, which successfully blend intensity and relatability, enhancing character depth. The exchanges between the leads, particularly during high-stakes moments, are impactful and elevate the drama but feel forcefully like the abusive words. Additionally, shot in dark places the series benefits

from a background score that amplifies its tension and emotional resonance. The music subtly shifts across timelines, reflecting the tonal changes in each era, and helps immerse the audience further into the narrative. The show captures the intricacies of its genre by keeping audiences engaged with constant twists and cliffhangers, tying them to different cases in the past and present. While inspired by Signal, Gyarah Gyarah incorporates a distinctly Indian flavour, setting it apart from the original. Critics praised its gripping screenplay, atmospheric cinematography, and suspenseful pacing. However, there were shortcomings, including inconsistent rules of time travel and underdeveloped minor characters. The lack of resolution in its finale also left viewers yearning for closure, yet it effectively sets the stage for a potential second season. With a runtime of 4.5 hours, this series is an ideal binge-watch for fans of mystery and time-travel dramas. Its combination of stellar performances, intriguing storytelling, sharp dialogues, and immersive music ensures it remains a highlight of 2024's streaming lineup. Whether you're a fan of thrillers or innovative storytelling, Gyarah Gyarah offers an experience that shouldn't be missed.



Abhishek Sathoo, General Manager, Shangri-la Eros New Delhi at Grappa Bar, Shangri-la Eros New Delhi with Chef Brian Chang, Corporate Development Chef at Burger and Lobster and the culinary team.



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

SHANGRI-LA OPENS TO BURGERS AND LOBSTERS

For the first time in India, the seafood epicureans Burger & Lobster have debuted at Grappa Bar, Shangri-la Eros New Delhi. The Burger & Lobster have been known globally for perfecting two ingredients, promising to delight food lovers with a playful yet elegant dining experience that has delighted palates from London to New York. So, crack into claws, indulge in buttery goodness, and savour juicy burgers without hesitation.

the pioneer agenda

"Hum Dono" was accepted in a very big way. It was the official entry at the 1962 Berlin Film Festival"
— Dev Anand



In the enchanting Coastal city of Goa, where the sea whispers the dream and the sand carries the tale, the grand curtains would be raised for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) for the world. The IFFI is the only South Asian festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF).

Now, being held in Goa since 2004, IFFI is not only the grand festival for the films showcase but it's a platform, where Indian cinema interacts with world cinema, where filmmakers connect with audiences, and where the magic of storytelling is truly celebrated.

This year, IFFI has received 1,676 submissions from 101 countries, highlighting its expanding global influence after all these years. The International Film Festival of India 2024 will showcase over 180 international films from 81 countries, including 15 world premieres, 3 international premieres, 40 Asian premieres, and 106 Indian premieres. Featuring celebrated titles and award-winning films from around the world, this year's festival promises to make a powerful impression on audiences and on the world of cinema.

Talking about the past, the journey of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) dates back to 1952 when India was struggling to find its cinematic voice post-independence. The Government of India had organised the first IFFI which was held in Mumbai, and it showcased 40 films from 23 countries. The IFFI 1952 marked the first time India had its own international film festival, bringing global cinema to Indian shores. The initial editions of IFFI were held across various Indian cities, including Delhi, Chennai, and Kolkata, with the festival traveling from one city to another to reach a broader audience.

The past 20 years spent by IFFI in Goa, contributed to Goa being the official place for the IFFI keeping in mind the advantage of its cultural vibrancy and scenic beauty. IFFI is a unique one distinct from other film festivals worldwide. Known as the "Film Festival of Goa," IFFI blends seamlessly with Goa's local culture, attracting an international audience to India's favourite tourist destination.

Goa's vibrant art scene, beach culture, and heritage architecture complement the festival's spirit, creating an inviting space where cinema lovers from all corners of the world can gather for a shared celebration. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), is set to host the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa from 20th to 28th November 2024.

With IFFI continuously taking place in Goa, has helped the state develop a thriving ecosystem that supports film tourism. Local businesses, artists, and artisans benefit from the influx of visitors, and the festival has become a key driver of economic and cultural growth in the region. During the curtain raiser event for the IFFI in New Delhi, Dr. L. Murugan, highlighted the festival's prestigious role on the global stage. He said, "IFFI has become a landmark event, not just for India but internationally, comparable to global festivals such as Cannes."

The 55th edition of IFFI in 2024 will showcase the theme of "Young Filmmakers" - "The Future is Now". The theme asks to embrace the timeless and the young talent in our country and recognising their potential in shaping the future of creativity. The initiative of the Creative Minds of Tomorrow platform has been enhanced to support 100 young talents from 75 in the previous editions. 400 young film students, from Film Schools across the country, are being facilitated by the Ministry to attend IFFI.

The festival will give tributes to cinema legends, and retrospectives on iconic careers. The Country Focus section will allow viewers to experience the best of international cinema, linking to cultural exchange.

The Country of Focus for IFFI 2024 will be Australia. This will be made sure by a dedicated package of Australian films giving a strong presence at the festival. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Screen Australia & NFDC, for participation by leading Australian filmmakers in the festival and the Film Bazaar, and a showcase by AusFilm, promoting Australia's unique filming locations & co-productions.

Apart from Australia, in partnership with the British Film Institute, the United Kingdom will be showcased as the "Treaty Country," presenting British cinema through a carefully crafted package.

Celebration of the pioneers is very important to lead the way, give examples, and keep the generations inspired by looking over to the people who have done it no others. Like every other year, the stars of the cinema, keeping up with the entertainment industry would be facilitated by awards at the IFFI 2024. The IFFI's prestigious Golden Peacock Award, granted for Best Film will remain one of the

As every year, uniting global storytellers, the International Film Festival of India 2024, is an allure and will transform Goa into a vibrant heaven for film enthusiasts, cinema pioneers, and aspiring young talents, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

GRAND CELEBRATION OF CINEMA



Also, through workshops, masterclasses, panel discussions, and networking events, IFFI 2024 will provide a learning platform for aspiring filmmakers, creating an inclusive space for cinematic celebration and growth.

Panel Discussions like *Women Safety and Cinema* with renowned panelists Imtiaz Ali, Suhasini Manirathnam, Kushboo Sundar, Bhumi Pednekar; *Stories that Travel*, a panel that would explore the art of storytelling that travels beyond its origins, addressing the themes, techniques, and emotional core that allow films to reach and impact diverse audiences worldwide with Farrukh Dhondy, Anna Saura, Tanishta Chatterjee, Vani Tripathi Tikoo and Lucy Walker. Each panel discussion would be a new learning for all present at the festival. *Culture As Context for Cinematic Storytelling* with panelist Dr. Sacchidanad Joshi, Amish Tripathi, Bharat Bala will be a major learning

experience for the audience. *Mastering the Unseen* with Manoj Bajpayee, Sunil Srinivasan; *Centenary Special: ANR - Celebrating the Life and Works of Akkineni Nageswara Rao*. This centenary special will celebrate the legendary actor & producer Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR), whose contributions to Indian cinema have been unparalleled, with celebrated actor and his son Nagarajna being the speaker; *From Big Screen to Streaming* in conversation with Manisha Koirala and Vikramaditya Motwane; *Celebrating the Life and Works of Raj Kapoor - 'The Greatest Showman'* with Ranbir Kapoor; *Empowering Change: Women Leading the Way in Cinema* with giving women led hits Kriti Sanon and Rudrani Chatteraj. Addition will be *Lata Mangeshkar Memorial Talk: Musical Theatre in India* with A R Rahman.

Masterclasses by the pioneers in the cinema industry, giving insights about the highs and lows will be conducted every year on all the days of the 7-day festival. *Power of Failure*, a masterclass by Anupam Kher will be sharing his journey, highlighting how failures acted as the catalyst for his growth and success. Another one by Philip Noyce on *How to Succeed in New Hollywood*. To all this will be the addition of Stephen Woolley an English filmmaker giving a masterclass on *Film Production and its Stages* will be valuable. The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) will also be hosting the much-anticipated *Film Bazaar* from November 20 to 24, transforming Goa into a bustling hub for filmmakers, producers, distributors, and cinema enthusiasts from across the globe. Since its inception, *Film Bazaar* has established itself as South Asia's premier film market, providing a platform for fresh voices and unique cinematic narratives from the region to take the global stage. The *Film Bazaar* has since grown to become the international film market for South Asia. It serves as a meeting place for prospective creative and financial cooperation between South Asian and foreign filmmakers, producers, sales representatives, and festival programmers. From November 20 to 24, 2024, the 18th *Film Bazaar* at IFFI 2024 will take place at the Marriott Resort in Goa. This year, the IFFI promises not just a cinematic showcase but a festival brimming with cultural exchange, artistic celebration, and an unwavering commitment to the future of films in the country and globally. From illuminating conversations to inspiring mentorship and unforgettable screenings, IFFI 2024 is set to transcend expectations, offering a truly transformative experience for film lovers worldwide.

most revered honours, while the Silver Peacock Awards for Best Director, Actor, and Actress highlight individual excellence. In recent years, IFFI has expanded its awards to reflect evolving cinematic trends. A new award of Best Debut Indian Director has been an addition this year to recognise young filmmaking talent across India. The ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal honours films promoting peace and tolerance, and the Special Jury Award highlights outstanding narrative and technical achievements, often bringing unique works into the spotlight. The festival's commitment to fresh talent shines through the Best Debut Feature Film award, which encourages bold new voices, while the Indian Panorama section fosters Indian cinematic diversity. To embrace modern storytelling forms, IFFI introduced awards for animation, VR, and documentaries, alongside the "Excellence in Film Craft" award for behind-the-scenes talent. The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award will be awarded to the Philip Noyce of Australia. This year, new categories—such as the "Innovative Use of Technology" and a sustainability-focused award—honour advancements like CGI and address global issues, positioning IFFI as a festival at the forefront of positive change.

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RESTORED CLASSICS OF THEIR ICONIC FILMS, INCLUDING AWARA (1951), HUM DONO (1961), DEVADASU (1953), DADASAHEB PHALKE'S KALIYA MARDAN (1919), AMITABH BACHCHAN'S DEBUT MOVIE SAAT HINDUSTANI (1969), AND SEEMABADDHA (1971) WILL BE SCREENED AT THE FESTIVAL.
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Screenings, as usual, will remain a core attraction, with highly anticipated films like the world premiere of *Zero Se Restart* on 21st November 2024 in INOX Panjim, *Jab Khuli Kitaab* by Saurabh Shukla on 26th November 2024 in INOX Panjim, Asia premiere of *Hazaar Vela Sholay Pehlila Manus* on 24th November 2024 in INOX Panjim, Asia premiere of *The Mehta Boys*, directed by Boman Irani on 25th November 2024 in INOX Panjim. *Michael Gracey's Better Man*, an Australian film that provides an engrossing look at the life of music artist Robbie Williams, who is played as a chimpanzee by Jonno Davies in a ground-breaking motion-capture performance, will have its Asia premiere to kick off the festival. The honours of the opening feature film of the 55th edition of the IFFI will be done by *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*, directed by Randeep Hooda, a powerful portrayal of a revolutionary figure. Adding to that the opening non-feature film will be *Ghar Jaisa Kuch* directed by Harsh Sangani. Restored classics of their iconic films, including *Awara* (1951), *Hum Dono* (1961), *Devadasu* (1953), *Dadasaheb Phalke's Kaliya Mardan* (1919), *Amitabh Bachchan's debut movie Saat Hindustani* (1969), and *Seemabaddha* (1971) will be screened at the festival.

Chef Pillai takes you to experience Kerala's rich flavours with modern twists at his first-ever North India pop-up at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



SAVOURING KERALA'S RICH FLAVOURS



Dispelling the long-held notion that South Indian cuisine revolves solely around idli, dosa, and sambar, 21 Michelin-star Chef Suresh Pillai brought a culinary extravaganza to North India with his first-ever pop-up at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi. The experience was a symphony of Kerala's authentic flavours, masterfully infused with Chef Pillai's signature modern tweaks and twists. From the aromatic embrace of the South spices to the delicate finesse of seafood delicacies, the pop-up menu was an ode to South India's rich gastronomic heritage taste. The extraordinary culinary journey took the eaters through the vibrant flavours of Kerala, in collaboration with renowned Restaurant Chef Pillai (RCP). The mouth-watering dishes were a presentation through an exclusive 10-course tasting menu curated by Chef Pillai. It all started with the welcome drink of the season, *Aarambam*, a bit of a sour drink. The meticulously curated vegetarian and non-vegetarian menus transported guests straight to the heart of Kerala, offering a true taste of the region's culinary treasures. Each dish was crafted with precision and passion, showcasing the soul of Kerala's



“THE METICULOUSLY CURATED VEGETARIAN AND NON-VEGETARIAN MENUS TRANSPORTED GUESTS STRAIGHT TO THE HEART OF KERALA, OFFERING A TRUE TASTE OF THE REGION'S CULINARY TREASURES”

cuisine, from its spices blending to its delicate yet robust flavours. For the Hors d'oeuvres, there was the mouth watering *Sambharam Kadumanga*, blending the Kerala summer butter milk & pickled mango inside paani poori. One sitting in North India would never imagine blending paani poori with a South Indian twist, which stole the show. “We created a menu from the Kerala essence, for example, our paani poori, one of the starters, actually, it's a North Indian paani poori out of it's a buttermilk we used to serve in Kerala along with a mango pickle. So the puri, we stuff with the mango and the cold buttermilk generally you say chach.” explained Chef Suresh Pillai, excited about his first pop up in the north side. As guests savoured the thoughtfully crafted hors d'oeuvres, the starters gracefully took center stage, led by the *Pazham Pori Chaat*. This Kerala-inspired masterpiece featured golden, batter-fried banana fritters a bit crispy on the outside, tender within, elevated by a drizzle of honey-yogurt blend that perfectly balanced sweetness and creaminess. Following this, guests were treated to *Cauliflower Porippu*, a dish that beautifully showcased Kerala's rich spicy taste. Crispy, marinated cauliflower florets were deep-fried to golden perfection and then stirred with *thenga porippu*—an aromatic blend of grated coconut, fragrant curry leaves, and a hint of chili powder. The starters in both the vegetarian and the non-vegetarian segments were a delightful interplay of textures and flavours, with the crunch of the cauliflower perfectly complementing the earthy, spicy-sweet coconut mixture. The main course featured Chef Suresh Pillai's signature dishes recommended by himself, offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options that embodied the essence of Kerala's culinary artistry. For vegetarians, there was *Paneer Nirvana*: tender marinated cottage cheese, pan-fried to perfection, and then slow-cooked in creamy coconut milk. The dish was elevated with the earthy flavours of ginger, green chilies, and aromatic curry leaves, all beautifully encased in a banana leaf for a touch of traditional authenticity. For non-



Coconut Pudding, a light and fluffy treat infused with the delicate flavour and soft flesh of the tender coconut, alongside the *Coco Nutty Choco Brownie*, a decadent eggless chocolate dessert enriched with crunchy nuts and fragrant coconut, served with a scoop of creamy ice cream. Non-vegetarian diners were treated to the *Palada Cheesecake*, a unique fusion dessert layering the traditional Kerala *Palada* (rice flakes) flavour atop a crisp, crusty base, offering a delightful blend of tradition and sophistication to end the meal on a sweet note. The evening was further elevated by a curated selection of handcrafted cocktails, each a testament to artistry in mixology. Highlights included the refreshing *Toki Highball*, blending Toki Suntory Whisky with soda water and a grapefruit twist, and the zesty *Toki Orchard Sour*, featuring green apple, lemon, and a silky egg white foam. Gin enthusiasts indulged in the crisp *Roku Gin & Tonic* with ginger accents and the floral *Roku Hibiscus Highball* with hibiscus cordial and fizz. Whiskey lovers relished the bold *Jim Beam Orange Fashioned* with aromatic bitters, while the indulgent *Haku Caramel Espresso Martini*, combining Haku Japanese Craft Vodka with caramel and espresso, provided a decadent finish to the cocktail lineup. Chef Suresh Pillai's pop-up at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi was an experience that will redefine the perception of South Indian cuisine. With his signature modern twists on Kerala's rich culinary traditions, Chef Pillai transported guests on a culinary journey that celebrated both the simplicity and complexity of Kerala's vibrant flavours.

vegetarians, the highlight was the *Neymeen Nirvana*, Chef Pillai's iconic creation. The main course also offered a rich tapestry of Kerala's culinary heritage, featuring dishes like *Ulli Theeyal*, a dark, flavourful curry of slow-roasted coconut, shallots, and tamarind, and *Baby Corn Vendaka Manga Muringa Charu*, an Alleppey-style coconut mango curry with baby corn, okra, and tender drumsticks. *Kathrikai Thakkali Roast* brought tangy and spicy South Indian flavours to life with marinated brinjal and tomatoes in a rich onion-tomato gravy. Accompaniments included the delicate, lacy-edged *Appams*, perfect for mopping up curries, and the soft, flaky *Malabar Nool Porotta*, rounding out a meal that celebrated Kerala's diverse and bold flavours. For dessert, the menu delighted both vegetarian and non-vegetarian guests with indulgent creations. Vegetarians savoured the *Tender*

The Vibrant Flavours OF KOREA

Le Meridien brings Korea's rich flavours, authentic dishes, and timeless traditions to the heart of New Delhi

TEAM AGENDA

Korean food is a vibrant and flavourful cuisine celebrated for its unique balance of colors, textures, and tastes. Rooted in centuries-old traditions, it emphasises fresh, seasonal ingredients, often fermented, to create deep, savoury flavours and nutritional richness. The Korean dining experience is distinctive, with meals commonly featuring a variety of side dishes, or *banchan*, that range from spicy kimchi to delicate pickled vegetables. Key staples like rice, vegetables, and meats are skillfully combined with ingredients like *gochujang* (a spicy-sweet red pepper paste) and *doenjang* (fermented soybean paste) to create dishes that are as visually stunning as they are delicious. From the sizzling sounds of *bulgogi* on a grill to the comforting warmth of a bubbling *jjigae* stew, Korean food offers a sensory journey into a culture that values harmony, balance, and bold, memorable flavours. Food lovers in New Delhi had a culinary treat from Korea right in New Delhi as Le Meridien celebrated the unique flavours of Korean cuisine with its much-anticipated Korean Food Festival. Running till November 17th, 2024, this gastronomic event was an immersive dining experience, highlighting traditional and contemporary Korean dishes at its 'The One' restaurant. The festival is a feature of *Le Meridien New Delhi's* annual '+1 Celebrating Flavours of the Globe' initiative under the '+1 for the Leap Year' campaign, bringing exotic, authentic global flavours to the heart of India. The Korean Food Festival's dinner buffet had been meticulously curated by Chef Young-Hwan Jang, Chef de Partie at AC Hotel by Marriott Seoul Gangnam. With over two decades of culinary expertise and a deep-rooted passion for Korean cuisine, Chef Jang has flown in from Seoul to offer guests an authentic taste of his homeland, blending



“FOOD LOVERS IN NEW DELHI HAD A CULINARY TREAT FROM KOREA RIGHT IN NEW DELHI AS LE MERIDIEN CELEBRATED THE UNIQUE FLAVOURS OF KOREAN CUISINE WITH ITS MUCH-ANTICIPATED KOREAN FOOD FESTIVAL”

traditional Korean staples with innovative techniques to appeal to a global palate. “We are thrilled to showcase the diverse and flavourful cuisine of Korea through this festival,” said Meena Bhatia, Vice President and General Manager of Le Meridien New Delhi. “This event aligns perfectly with our +1 Celebrating Flavours of the Globe initiative, a highlight of our annual '+1 for the Leap Year' initiative, and we believe it will offer our guests a truly unforgettable dining experience,” she added. The menu showcased a range of traditional Korean dishes, crafted to deliver the distinctive flavours and textures that define this cuisine. Guests can look forward to sampling dishes like *Acorn Salad*, a refreshing and nutritious delicacy; *Gimbap Avocado*, Korea's beloved seaweed rice rolls with a modern twist; *Spring Onion Pancake*, a savoury delight that's perfect for

sharing; the spicy and comforting *Stir-fried Rice Cake (Teokbokki)*; and a cooling *Chilled Seafood Salad*, perfect for Delhi's warm evenings. Each dish on the buffet spread has been carefully prepared by Chef Jang to ensure an authentic taste of Korea. “I am excited to bring the vibrant flavours of Korea to Le Meridien New Delhi,” shared Chef Young-Hwan Jang. “Through this festival, we aim to introduce guests to the diverse range of Korean dishes, from classic comfort foods to innovative culinary creations,” he quips with a smile. This unique dining experience went beyond just food—it invited guests to embark on a journey through Korea's rich culinary heritage. From the spicy and savoury flavours that Korean cuisine is known for, to innovative twists on traditional dishes, the festival offers a deep and delicious dive into Korean culture and flavours.



A Meal Worth Revisiting

Located in Sector 66, Gurugram, Poiz is an inviting dining destination that combines a vibrant atmosphere with a diverse menu. After three visits, it's evident that Poiz offers a delightful experience for food enthusiasts and social diners alike, writes **PAWAN SONI**

It's rare for me to visit a restaurant multiple times before writing a review, but Poiz, a beautiful new addition to the dining scene, compelled me to return three times to fully capture its essence. Poiz boasts an artistic, expansive interior, blending elegant indoor seating with a spacious patio featuring its own bar and an inviting open dining area. While many restaurants of this size tend to cater heavily to the nightlife crowd, Poiz strikes a perfect balance: a well-curated bar selection with inventive cocktails for the social set, and a menu that delights families and party goers alike. Certain dishes have become my go-to orders, each offering something special. The *Lychee Chaat*, a Thai-inspired creation, is an absolute must-try. Bits of lychee and avocado sit atop a crispy rice puff base, accompanied by a flavourful *Nam Jim Sauce*—one bite, and you won't want to stop. The *Chicken Chilli Dim Sum* features a delicate wrapper and pairs perfectly with the accompanying sauces. Another standout is the *Taiwanese Mushrooms*, crisp-coated and served with pickled chilli



and a sweet-sour sauce, accented by crunchy peanuts for extra texture. Not every dish was flawless. The nachos were slightly too salty for my taste. However, the ramen from their global menu made up for it with its rich, layered flavours. It's a generous portion, perfect for a hearty appetite or sharing with friends. My companions thoroughly enjoyed the *Lamb Adana Kebab* as much as they did the sushi. While Poiz has a wide range of Indian dishes, I found myself drawn to the global offerings, including their expertly crafted *Neapolitan pizza*. A meal here would be incomplete without the *Belgian Nutella Chocolate*. This dessert not only excels in taste but also impresses in presentation. The smooth *Belgian chocolate* and *Nutella sweetness* are cleverly balanced with blueberries and hazelnuts, creating a perfect finale. For those in the area, Poiz is well worth a visit. Ratings: (Out of 5) Food: 4.25 Ambience: 4.25 Service: 4.0 Drinks: 4.0 Overall: 4.25 Address: Poiz, 2nd Floor, AIPL Joy Street, Sector 66, Gurugram

I HAVE PLACED MY FAITH IN HUMANITY, BUT FAITH IN THE UNIVERSAL BECOMES MEANINGLESS WITHOUT FAITH IN THE INDIVIDUAL
— PANCHALI DRAUPADI



A SPIRITUAL GETAWAY

Kurukshetra, one of Hinduism's most revered pilgrimage destinations, is where ancient spirituality converges with modern comforts, writes **SANTANU GANGULY**

Though Kurukshetra is a significant pilgrimage site for Hindus and is located close to Delhi, it has not always attracted large numbers of visitors. Mentioned in various Hindu scriptures, particularly the *Mahabharata*, Kurukshetra holds great spiritual importance. According to *Acharya Some Nath Gautam*, priest at the *Katyayani Temple*, visiting all the ancient temples here would require at least a year. This journey, known as the *Kurukshetra 84 Kos Parikrama*, encompasses numerous sacred and historical sites. However, modern pilgrims often focus on the most important temples, holy places, and archaeological monuments due to time constraints.

The city offers a variety of accommodation options, from budget-friendly 2- and 3- star hotels to numerous dharamshalas. For those seeking luxury, the *Noormahal Palace* in Karnal stands out as Haryana's only 5-star hotel, offering exceptional amenities such as a spa, jacuzzi, modern gym, and fine dining. Blending heritage with modern comforts, this ultra-luxurious hotel features the *Frontier Mail* restaurant, housed in a life-sized train compartment from the historic *Frontier Mail*. The restaurant's ambience evokes the 19th century, with interiors reflecting the Mumbai-Peshawar route.

A visit to Kurukshetra typically begins at *Brahma Sarovar*, Asia's largest man-made water body, stretching 3,600 feet long, 1,500 feet wide, and 45 feet deep. According to Hindu mythology, the lake was created by Lord Brahma at the dawn of the universe. *Brahma Sarovar*, along with the nearby *Sannihit Sarovar*, is fed by underground channels from the *Bhakra Nangal Dam*. The ancient *Shiva Temple* here is believed to have been established by Lord Shiva himself. Between the two lakes lies the



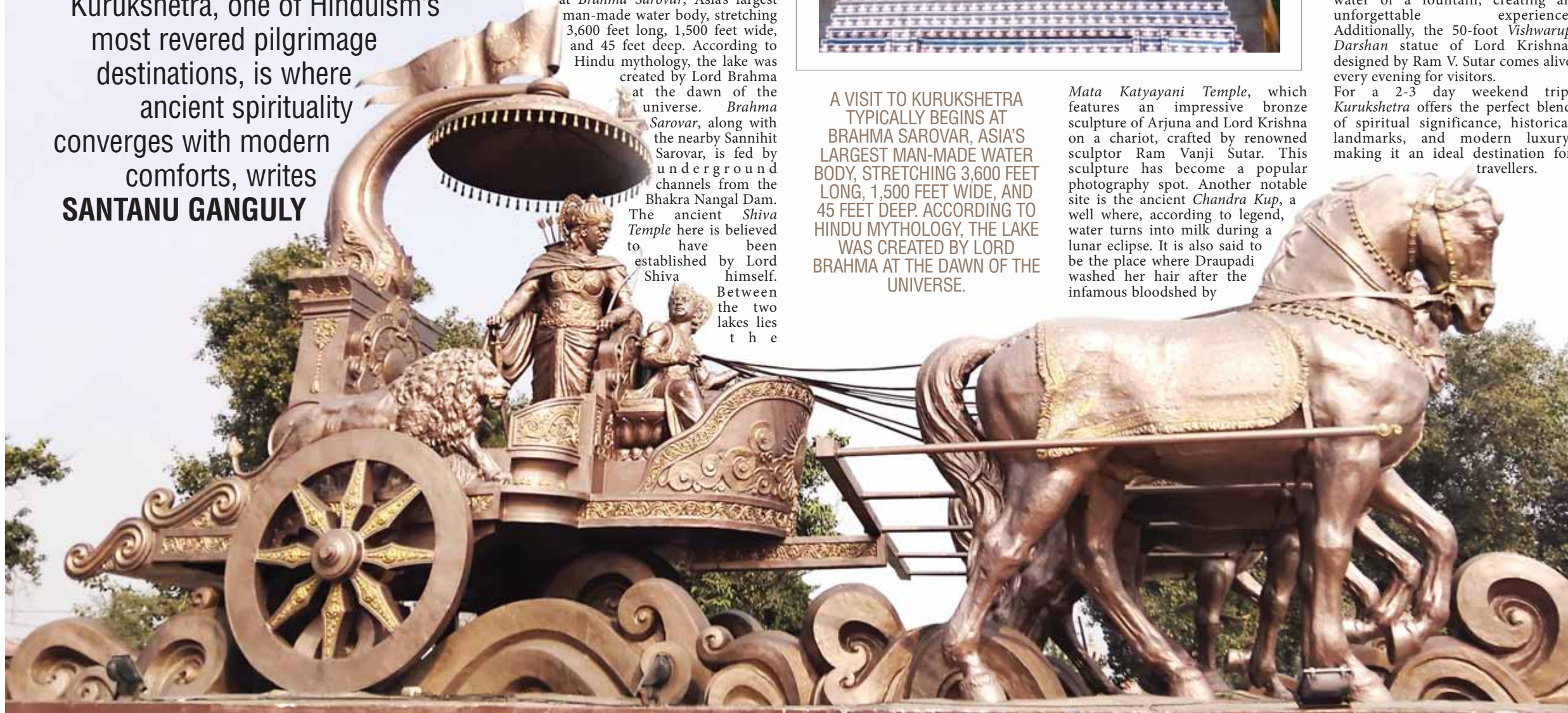
A VISIT TO KURUKSHETRA TYPICALLY BEGINS AT BRAHMA SAROVAR, ASIA'S LARGEST MAN-MADE WATER BODY, STRETCHING 3,600 FEET LONG, 1,500 FEET WIDE, AND 45 FEET DEEP. ACCORDING TO HINDU MYTHOLOGY, THE LAKE WAS CREATED BY LORD BRAHMA AT THE DAWN OF THE UNIVERSE.

Mata Katyayani Temple, which features an impressive bronze sculpture of Arjuna and Lord Krishna on a chariot, crafted by renowned sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar. This sculpture has become a popular photography spot. Another notable site is the ancient *Chandra Kup*, a well where, according to legend, water turns into milk during a lunar eclipse. It is also said to be the place where Draupadi washed her hair after the infamous bloodshed by

Dushasana. The *Kali Kamli Temple*, built by Kali Baba of Bengal in the 19th century, is a siddha peeth located near *Brahma Sarovar*. *Devi Kup*, also known as the *BhadraKali Temple*, is one of the 51 *Shakti Peethas* and Haryana's only such temple. *Pandit Satpal Sharma* explains that the temple holds significance for Lord Krishna and Balarama, who visited before the *Kurukshetra War*. Devotees continue to donate clay, ceramic, or silver horses here, a tradition rooted in sacred history. Special pujas for *Maa Kali* and *Lord Shani* are held every Saturday.

The *Shthanu Mahadev Temple* is another important site, where Lord Krishna and the Pandavas sought Lord Shiva's blessings before the war. Nearby, the historical *Harsh ka Tilla* and *Sheikh Chillli's Tomb* offer fascinating insights into the region's past. History enthusiasts can also explore the *Sri Krishna Museum* and *Kurukshetra Panorama*, which showcases key artifacts. For children and astronomy lovers, the *Kalpna Chawla Planetarium* provides a fun and educational experience. In the coming years, the *ISKCON Temple*, currently under construction and expected to be completed by 2026, will be a must-visit site. At *Jyotisar*, where Lord Krishna delivered the *Bhagavad Gita* to Arjuna, visitors can enjoy an impressive light and sound show, which reflects on the water of a fountain, creating an unforgettable experience. Additionally, the 50-foot *Vishwarup Darshan* statue of Lord Krishna, designed by Ram V. Sutar comes alive every evening for visitors.

For a 2-3 day weekend trip, *Kurukshetra* offers the perfect blend of spiritual significance, historical landmarks, and modern luxury, making it an ideal destination for travellers.



EXPLORING DAMAN

A Coastal Escape with Cultural Riches

Nestled between Gujarat and Maharashtra, Daman enchants travellers with its unique blend of colonial allure, scenic beaches, and relaxed vibe, writes **NEETA LAL**

The lovely city of Daman, an erstwhile Portuguese colony, offers a unique blend of colonial charm with a laid-back vibe. The administrative capital of the union territory of *Dadra and Nagar Haveli*, it is located between Gujarat and Maharashtra and attracts high footfall from a diverse set of travellers. Peppered with colonial buildings showcasing a rich syncretic culture, the city's stately *Nani Daman Fort* and the *Church of Bom Jesus* give one a taste of history, while *Jampore Beach* and *Devka Beach* make for Instagram-friendly settings for a day of relaxation.

But perhaps what makes Daman such a terrific destination for weekend getaways is its tourism infrastructure, including smooth interconnecting motorways, buzzy restaurants, and good hotels. Our abode for a staycation is the award-winning *The Deltin Daman*, the city's only five-star hotel. Known for its stellar service and facilities, it mercifully comes without the high tariff of upscale hotels in Mumbai and other metros. A world-class spa, gourmet cuisine at its multiple restaurants, a large swimming pool, health club, gym, and plush accommodation ticked all the boxes for a fabulous and memorable stay. For business travellers, the hotel houses 30,000 sq ft of business space catering to large events such as corporate conferences and weddings. The hotel's sustainability efforts are also commendable, with strict



procedures in place to prevent water waste in kitchens, guest rooms, and laundry, along with recycling used water for its expansive gardens. As the *Deltin* group is synonymous with world-class casinos, the theme is reflected in the hotel's design and architectural elements. Its stunning lobby flaunts a chandelier featuring hearts, spades, diamonds, and clubs (the four suits in a deck of cards) strung together. This theme is also reflected in the glass walls enclosing the lobby. The hotel's ergonomic and well-furnished rooms are equipped with HD TVs, HD satellite programming, mini-bars, high-speed internet connectivity, in-room safes, 24x7 room service, and early check-in options, among others. Our Presidential Suite also came with an efficient butler who took care of our every need, including



restaurant and spa bookings as well as sightseeing tours. Close proximity to *Jampore Beach*, *Mirasol Water Park*, *Devka Beach*, *Dominican Monastery*, and *Moti Daman Fort* made our local explorations seamless and pleasurable.



What's a good vacation without good food? Indeed, for gastronomes like us, the hotel turned out to be a delight with three award-winning restaurants to explore. One of our lunches was at the *Emperor* restaurant, which features an extensive menu with *Korean*, *Chinese*, *Thai*, and *Japanese* offerings. Interestingly, the chefs here have reinvented many dishes to offer an imaginative take on classics. Thus, our fusion lunch featured *pillowy soft lotus stem and chicken Chettinad baos* as well as *black sesame chicken tikka baos*. The *prawn and chicken dim sums* were similarly delicious, while the *garlic-infused noodles and chicken in Hainanese sauce* transported us to China, sans passports and air tickets! Another lunch at *The Vegas all-day dining* was also a treat for the taste buds. The spacious eatery offers multi-cuisine buffets with a vast selection of salads, Indian and continental dishes, desserts, and more. The buffet includes a separate section for Jain food – so vegetarians can rejoice too. Being unabashed carnivores, we dug

into flavour-packed *laal maas*, piping hot *breads*, *gobhi and bhindi sabzi*, *raita*, and *salad*. Dessert was the *creamiest ras malai* on this side of the *Daman Ganga river*, garnished with a silver varq and date syrup!

Semi-comatose from so much good food, we pledged to skip dinner. But that was not to be, as we were informed that the chefs had prepared choice delicacies for us at the poolside *Mediterranean-inspired BBQ and grill restaurant, Sky High*. After eyeing the selection of inventive dips with *Middle Eastern snacks*, *empanadas*, and *pizzas* with innovative toppings, our pledge to "go easy" on food went out the window!

To slake our thirst, we visited *Whiskys Bar*, which offers an exclusive collection of single malts. The *Poolside Bar* and *Juice Bar* kept us refreshed with health drinks and fresh juices. There's no shortage of entertainment at the hotel either. *The Den* – an atmospheric indoor family space – features foosball, billiards, carom, chess, and more. There's even a creche for young parents who want to leave their little ones under supervised care while they unwind. The property's three azure swimming pools (including a kids' pool) are a major attraction. After a quick swim on day two, we headed to the spa, where a

rejuvenating body massage and facial left us feeling reborn!

After spending three wonderful days at *The Deltin Daman*, we're led to wonder how, in today's fiercely competitive hospitality landscape, the hotel consistently maintains such high standards. "As ours is the only five-star hotel in Daman, our top-notch service and facilities are unmatched by any other hotel in the area," says the hotel's dynamic general manager, *Akarsh Mathur*. "We cater to all requirements, whether it's a weekend getaway or an ideal wedding, by customising our services to suit all needs. Our spacious rooms are the largest in their category, and our ample indoor and outdoor event spaces, as well as our large river-shaped swimming pool, are among the features that make our hotel a top choice for discerning guests. Our F&B has also received rave reviews."

Mathur believes that with higher disposable incomes and "revenge travel," Indian guests are prepared to pay competitive rates for excellent services. "The demand for upscale local tourism destinations has grown exponentially, and hotels no longer have to rely on foreign tourists from overseas to fill their rooms. If you provide great service and pay attention to guests' needs, the property will always be buzzing," he adds. Indeed, who can fault that flawless logic?

Neeta Lal is an international award-nominated, Delhi-based editor and senior journalist.

TRUE PRAYER IS NEITHER A MERE MENTAL EXERCISE NOR A VOCAL PERFORMANCE. IT IS FAR DEEPER THAN THAT - IT IS SPIRITUAL TRANSACTION WITH THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH — CHARLES SPURGEON

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week might fall short of your expectations, especially in financial matters. At work, you may find yourself grappling with indecision, leading to a backlog of uncompleted tasks and disorganized planning. It may seem wise to delay certain commitments or travels due to confusion. However, as the week progresses, you'll discover a more grounded approach, helping you manage your responsibilities better. You may also benefit from distant connections, which could open new avenues. It's important to engage more actively with your team, as they'll be relying on your guidance. This proactive stance will boost your confidence and encourage networking. Nevertheless, the week could end on a challenging note with family tensions or health issues within the household demanding both your time and resources, potentially causing setbacks at work.

Lucky number 12 | **Lucky colour** Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week presents a challenging period marked by a strong drive and a somewhat confrontational demeanor. Your focus is intensely set on professional achievements, leaving little room for emotional considerations. The workload is heavy, creating a sense of being weighed down by responsibilities. Progress may seem distant and difficult to grasp, leading to frustration. Midweek, expect a notable change in your personal or professional life, possibly involving the arrival or departure of a key figure. This could stir impulsive reactions or decisions, adding to the already high stress levels. While travel might be on your agenda, it's important to seek moments of calm. Meditation could prove beneficial in restoring your sense of balance and enhancing decision-making.

Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Rose Red
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week emphasizes the need for structured efforts and self-discipline. A sense of disarray might cloud your interactions, particularly with a significant other. Although solutions and clarity are within reach, you might find yourself hesitating to embrace the truth, possibly due to apprehension about the consequences. Midweek could bring challenges, potentially involving legal matters that may not be in your favor. These situations could lead to disappointment, so it's crucial to stay composed and maintain your health. Be cautious with your words and avoid confrontations. This period calls for introspection and recuperation. Take this time to rest, reassess your strategies, and heal. By withdrawing momentarily, you can regain strength and return ready to tackle any obstacles. Remember, this is just a transient phase, and with patience, things will stabilize.

Lucky number 17 | **Lucky colour** White
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week is set to be particularly rewarding for you. A longstanding project is likely to reach completion, bringing a sense of achievement and relief. The opportunity to move into a new residence might present itself, whether through a winning bid, a housing scheme, or relocating to a newly built home. Expect social gatherings to enrich your days, as you reconnect with family and friends, creating a nurturing and joyful environment. Your innate confidence and charisma serve as a beacon, inspiring those around you. Your persuasive communication skills will draw people towards you, encouraging more sincere and cooperative interactions. Your leadership qualities shine, making you a central figure in your community. As the week closes, a deepened spiritual practice through rituals and meditation will further enhance your creative energies, rounding off a fulfilling week.

Lucky number 21 | **Lucky colour** Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week promises substantial financial growth and contentment. You excel in your professional arena, applying your knowledge practically and efficiently. Known for your meticulous approach, you adhere strictly to schedules and protocols, ensuring every task is managed with precision. This disciplined approach secures a stable financial foundation, enhancing both security and comfort. There's potential for significant financial gains, possibly from unexpected sources, boosting both your finances and self-esteem. Consider this period a prime time for career advancement, possibly through a promotion, or explore new opportunities such as a fresh project or role. Embrace this phase of self-reflection and celebrate your achievements. Resourcefulness will be key; use what you have wisely and remain open to learning. This zest for new knowledge will prove beneficial in your career.

Lucky number 13 | **Lucky colour** Lavender
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week heralds a period of fruition for your consistent efforts. It kicks off with a focus on diligence and improvement in your professional endeavors. You will find yourself engaging more deeply with the intricacies of your tasks, showing enhanced dedication and sharpening your focus. Your challenges, though demanding, will enrich you with valuable insights and professional growth. As you navigate these complexities with your skills and intelligence, you will find reasons to celebrate your achievements and feel a sense of pride. Additionally, this week offers a profound opportunity for spiritual renewal and deeper connections. As the week draws to a close, powerful transformative energies emerge, potentially leading to significant personal healing. For some, this period might also bring joyful affirmations in personal relationships, including commitments or unions.

Lucky number 16 | **Lucky colour** Mint
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week promises a diverse range of experiences, touching on personal connections, empathy, fulfillment, assertiveness, and significant material gains. As you begin your week, you'll notice early successes in your financial endeavors, with an uptick in profitability as days pass. Your balanced and open-handed approach at work will foster a harmonious atmosphere. Travel also features prominently in your plans, potentially including international or leisure trips on water. Midweek, domestic responsibilities will demand your attention, yet you'll manage to strike a harmonious balance between your career and home life. As the week draws to a close, you will be in a position to reap the rewards of your hard work. You'll find yourself in good health, brimming with creativity and surrounded by positivity.

Lucky number 18 | **Lucky colour** Forest Green
Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week unfolds with a quest for strategies and solutions to help navigate and complete significant challenges effectively. You might find yourself on the brink of completion, grappling with the final hurdles but ultimately discovering the resilience to push through. As the days progress, a sense of romance permeates, prompting quality time with your loved ones. The latter part of the week turns auspicious for exploring investments in real estate or other significant acquisitions. Many will experience a fortunate phase, with promising opportunities enhancing overall well-being and zest for life. The support and camaraderie of family members will significantly uplift your spirits, leading to joyful interactions and memorable outings.

Lucky number 1 | **Lucky colour** Brown
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week heralds a period rich with fulfillment and opportunities. Blessings seem to be plentiful, enhancing all aspects of life—be it love, prosperity, or overall contentment. There's also a notable surge in organizational skills and creative inspiration, paired with a sharp intuition. Harness this vibrant energy to bolster your cognitive faculties. Across the board, from finances to spiritual and emotional wellness, expect gratifying outcomes. Matters of relationships take a front seat, aligning well with your intentions and plans. If you're eyeing new professional ventures, this period could bring promising developments. Your health and ability to influence, coupled with strong communication and leadership traits, are at their peak, making it easier to navigate through challenges with grace and effectiveness.

Lucky number 3 | **Lucky colour** Slate Grey
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Surprising shifts are about to unfold in your life, leading you to a place of pride and confidence, empowering you to face the world's challenges. You will find success in an area where hope had previously dwindled. Your achievements might spark envy among others, yet those who truly support you will celebrate your victories. This period marks a successful overcoming of past struggles, with your accomplishments being recognized and openly celebrated. Joy and fulfillment draw from previous experiences, enriching your present. As the week closes, you'll find comfort in cherished memories of earlier days, reconnecting with the essence of your youth and enjoying moments with younger companions. Embrace this time of personal evolution and community connection.

Lucky number 20 | **Lucky colour** Coral
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, your focus intensifies around professional endeavors. Embrace risk as a pathway to potential gains. Your innovative ideas are ripe for execution, allowing you to tackle projects that seemed daunting before. Your boldness is your greatest asset now, pushing you to transcend usual limitations effortlessly. A significant challenge has captured your attention, and you possess the flair to master this task with distinct finesse. As the week progresses, prepare for a rigid, yet beneficial, interaction with a senior female relative. Heeding her practical advice could prove advantageous. Enhance your cognitive abilities by engaging in intellectually stimulating activities. Delve into thought-provoking literature or tackle complex puzzles, paving the way for profound revelations in your personal growth journey.

Lucky number 15 | **Lucky colour** Peach
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Partnerships and collaborative efforts will pave the way for achievement, fostering a sense of unity and smooth cooperation in your professional environment. You will embrace your values and uphold your dignity, infusing your career and lifestyle with creativity and vibrancy. The horizon appears promising with opportunities that signal prosperity, especially as recent ventures show signs of success and growth. In your professional life, the possibility of a new role may soon materialize. Collaboration is crucial at this time, and any discussions are likely to yield positive outcomes. There is also a touch of the spiritual influencing your journey. Families anticipating the joy of a new addition will likely receive joyful news. With a clear vision and foresight, you approach future possibilities with confidence, ready to explore new territories without fear.

Lucky number 22 | **Lucky colour** Orange
Lucky day Thursday

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Rekindle your spirit with silence

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Spiritual Guru

"The words that do not rattle the minds of people and which is truth; truth which is benevolent and which is pleasant, those type of words are to be spoken. That is called the penance of speech"

KEEPING silence is very useful. It purifies our speech. Deep silence is the mother of creativity. No creativity can come out of one who is too busy, worried, over-ambitious or lethargic. There is no need to maintain silence in our daily routine but there is also no need to speak too much. If you maintain some silence, you will think before you speak. If you keep talking, you yourself will not understand what you are saying.

Have you ever observed the impact of your speech on others? Often we do not bother to notice this, we go on blabbering. We just want to say all that we want to say and become free. No, you must see what impact your speech has on others. There is a beautiful couplet in the Bhagavad Gita which says, "The words that do not rattle the minds of people and which is truth; truth which is benevolent and which is pleasant, those type of words are to be spoken. That is called the penance of speech."

Tapas (penance) for the speech is to speak only those words that do not rattle the minds of others. Krishna was the most skillful because his silence was so deep. Sometimes we think we are right and, perhaps, we are right. You may be speaking the truth, it may be benevolent, it may be good for the other person as well but if it is not pleasant and it is rattling the other person's mind then it is not



complete. This is not an easy thing to do. It requires skill — not to rattle anyone's mind or give them pain. So speak words that are pleasant, true and benevolent but ensure that you don't speak pleasing lies. Don't crush the minds and hearts of others with your unpleasant words. Now how do we do this? You may say, "I don't intend to hurt anybody but hurtful words just fly out of my mouth. What do I do?"

Silence and meditation awaken our potential and abilities. That is why everyone should remain silent and meditate for a while. Yog and Vedanta have been referred to as the highest forms of knowledge and that is what they are. The inner space or your inner form can be

experienced through them. Your brain benefits so much from this. Depending on the situation, we must accept whatever is happening around us. If we are sitting in meditation and a phone is ringing somewhere, we must accept it instead of getting irritated. Take it as background music. As Shri Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, as long as something or the other is occupying our mind, we cannot go into meditation. So surrender your sankalpa (intention) during meditation. Afterwards, when you are working on something, put everything into it. We do the opposite; during meditation we keep thinking about all we have to do and while working we think that God will look after

everything. Put everything into any work you do.

Take a sankalpa (intention) about what you want in the future. Then form a plan accordingly. Worry drains you of energy and strength. You don't gain anything. You acquire inner strength through silence. In spite of all that, if it comes, if it happens then you can't do anything about it, then just ask for forgiveness. When you are getting into silence ask for forgiveness — "By my thought, word or deed if I have done anything or caused any hurt to someone, may I be forgiven." That completely uplifts us from being bogged down.

Some questions can be answered only in silence. It is the goal of all answers. If an answer does not silence the mind it is "no" answer. Thoughts are not the goal in themselves. Their goal is silence. Deep silence is the mother or source of creativity. When the body, mind and spirit are in tune with each other, then creativity happens. When you are tired, exhausted, stressed, over-ambitious or lethargic, when you are not in touch with yourself, your creativity and talents are stifled. When feverishness clogs your head, your mind is not clear; poetry cannot dawn, no creative thought will come. Meditation and yoga can clear your mind and kindle skills and creativity in you. It puts you in touch with the space of silence within you and

becomes an unending well-spring of creativity. It relieves you of stress and strain, strengthens your nervous system and mind, releases toxins, makes you more capable and enhances you in every way. The easy way to silence the thoughts is to arouse feelings. For through feelings only peace, joy and love dawn. And they are all your very nature.

To the question, "Who am I?" the only relevant answer is silence. You need to discard all answers in words, including "I am Nothing" or "I am the Cosmic Self" or "I am the Self" — and just stick to the question "Who am I?" All other answers are just thoughts. Thoughts can never be complete. Only silence is complete. And spirituality is a harmonious blend of outer silence and inner celebration; and inner silence and outer celebration. When you ask the question, "Who am I?" you get no answer, there is silence. That is the real answer. This solidified silence is wisdom, is knowledge. You are solidified silence, awareness. A thousand hours of speech cannot equal one glance; a hundred glances cannot equal a minute of silence. Prayer within breath is silence. Love within Infinity is silence. Wisdom without word is silence. Compassion without aim is silence. Action without doing is silence. Smiling with all the Existence is silence. And God is nothing but solidified silence.

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com