



Established 1865 sunday pioneer

BHOPAL, SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

magazine

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA



Yamuna grows toxic veggies?

BISWAJEET BANERJEE
LUCKNOW

The Yamuna River's water has become so polluted that it is no longer safe for drinking, bathing, or even irrigation, a shocking revelation made by the Central Water Commission's latest report, 'Status of Trace and Toxic Metals in Indian Rivers'.

The study exposes dangerously high concentrations of heavy metals such as chromium, nickel, and lead, threatening to unleash a public health crisis in cities like Agra and Mathura.

According to the report, water samples collected from three locations in Agra, including Poyia Ghat, and one in Mathura revealed alarming levels of these toxic metals. Agra and Mathura are now ranked among 187 worst-hit cities nationwide, where three or more hazardous metals were found in river water, earning them the grim distinction of having the "worst" water quality in the country.

The data is damning. In Agra, nickel levels touched 28.87 micrograms per liter, chromium soared to a staggering 135.15 micrograms per liter, while lead reached 23.41 micrograms per liter—several times above permissible limits. In Mathura, chromium was recorded at 138.02 and 0.55 micrograms per liter at different sites, while nickel stood at 56.04 micrograms per liter. Experts have warned that prolonged exposure to such contamination can trigger



skin diseases, ulcers, lung damage, weakened immunity, heart conditions, kidney failure, liver malfunction, and even cancer.

What makes the situation worse is that Agra's water treatment facilities are woefully unequipped to handle such a toxic onslaught. The city's two major water treatment plants, Jiwani Mandi and Sikandra Water Works, are still stuck with outdated technologies that can only test for basic parameters like turbidity, color, pH, TDS, hardness, coliform, and E. coli. Heavy metal detection is entirely outside their scope. Sikandra's 144 MLD MBRR plant, which supplies water to nearly half the city, lacks the necessary filtration systems to remove deadly metals. "We currently don't have equipment to detect heavy

metals in Yamuna water. Samples are tested at external labs occasionally, but there's no real-time monitoring," admitted Arvendra Rajput, General Manager of the Waterworks Department.

The root cause of this toxicity is an unchecked flow of industrial waste into the Yamuna. Electroplating units, chemical factories, welding and refining plants, foundries, and even the automotive industry are said to be dumping hazardous waste into the river with impunity. Pollution from pesticides, detergents, and fertilizers has further aggravated the crisis.

Environmentalists have slammed regulatory bodies for failing to enforce pollution norms. "If the Pollution Control Board claims to have stopped factories from discharging waste into the

Yamuna, how are such dangerous levels of heavy metals still present in the river? This report exposes regulatory failures and calls for immediate corrective action," said Dr. Sanjay Kulshreshtha, an environmental expert.

Echoing similar concerns, environmentalist Shachindra Sharma issued a stark warning: "The toxic state of the Yamuna River is a ticking time bomb for both public health and the environment. Strict regulations and immediate steps are essential to prevent irreversible damage."

With the specter of a full-blown environmental disaster looming large, experts are urging swift government action before the Yamuna turns into an irreversible toxic nightmare.

Special SC Bench to hear validity of Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

With multiple petitions seeking surveys in mosques, claiming they were once temples, the Supreme Court has constituted a special Bench of three judges headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna to hear a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 on December 12 at 3.30 pm.

Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan are the part of the special Bench. The 1991 law prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. The law, however, made only one exception -- dispute over the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. The petitions filed by many Hindu organisations argue that the 1991 law created an "arbitrary and irrational retrospective cut-off date" of August 15, 1947, for maintaining the character of the places of worship or pilgrimage against encroachment done by "fundamentalist-barbaric invaders and law-breakers".

The Union Government has yet to file its counter-affidavit in the matter, despite the several extension times given by the Supreme Court. On July 11, 2023, the Court asked the Union to file the counter by October 31, 2023. The SC is already seized about six petitions, including the PIL



File photo: Ranjan Dimri

filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Subramanian Swamy and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay against certain provisions of the law. The management committee of, Anjuman Intezamia Masajid, Varanasi, in its plea filed through lawyer Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi, filed an intervention application in the top court seeking dismissal of the pending pleas against the 1991 law on the ground that they were based on "rhetorical and communal claims" that could disrupt communal harmony and the rule of law.

Upadhyay, in his PIL, sought setting aside of Sections 2, 3, 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 on various grounds, including that these provisions took away the right of judicial remedy to reclaim a place of worship of any person or a religious group. While Swamy wanted the apex court to "read down" certain provisions to enable Hindus to stake claim over the

Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and the Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura.

The Managing Committee of the Gyanvapi Mosque has filed an intervention before the Supreme Court on Friday on pleas challenging the validity of the Places of Worship Act 1991. It said that the consequences of the declaration sought by the petitioner that the Act was unconstitutional "are bound to be drastic."

The mosque committee further underscored the potential "drastic consequences" of overturning the law, citing incidents like the Sambhal case, where a recent survey order reportedly triggered widespread protests and resulted in six fatalities. The committee warned that repealing the Act could lead to a surge in disputes over religious sites across the country, prompting tensions in "every nook and corner" while threatening communal harmony.

Repatriate B'deshis staying illegally: Nizamuddin locals

RAJESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

Amid the killing of Hindus in Bangladesh, a delegation of prominent Ulemas and residents of the Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah and Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin area met with Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday and demanded a special drive to identify and repatriate Bangladeshis staying illegally in the city. The delegation further demanded that Bangladeshi people should not be given employment by any establishment and those who have given employment to them should remove them.

Meanwhile, sources in the Delhi police said there is not much information about the exact number of Bangladeshis in Delhi. In a statement, the Lieutenant Governor's office said, reiterating that they were worried about the situation of their Hindu brethren and other minorities in Bangladesh and worsening state-of-affairs in the country, the delegation demanded stringent action against Bangladesh nationals illegally staying in Delhi. In a letter submitted to Saxena, the delegation said they should not be provided rented accommodation or jobs in any establishment.

According to the statement, the delegation demanded that illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators should not be given houses on rent and those houses who have already rented out their premises should evict them.

US denies backing anti-India agenda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The United States Embassy on Saturday rejected the Bharatiya Janata Party's allegations that organisations funded by the US State Department, and elements in the American "deep state" were behind attempts to destabilise India through targeted attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and business tycoon Gautam Adani. A spokesperson at the US embassy described the allegations as "disappointing" and asserted that the US government has been a champion of media freedom around the world.



Two murders in a day, AAP raises law and order issue

PNS
NEW DELHI

Two murders in different colonies rocked Delhi on Saturday, with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government blasting the Centre over the law and order situation in the National Capital. A 52-year-old businessman was shot dead by two unidentified assailants during his morning walk in Shahdara while a man was stabbed to death during a brawl in South Delhi's Govindpuri. The brazen killings and increased criminal activities have raised concerns about public safety and the efficacy of law enforcement in Delhi.

Reacting to the two incidents, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said that criminals have become "fearless" under the BJP rule. "After the firing in Vishwas Nagar, now news of stabbing is coming from Govindpuri. Under the BJP rule, criminals have become completely fearless," he wrote on X.

These latest crimes are sure to result in a major slugfest between the Centre and other political parties over the increasing lawlessness as the Delhi Police and law and order in the national Capital come under the jurisdiction of the Union Home Ministry. The AAP is going to make law and order an electoral issue when Delhi holds Assembly polls in February.

In Shahdara, at least eight rounds were fired at the victim, identified as Sunil Jain, near the Yamuna Sports complex. Jain who ran a business of utensils, was returning home on a scooter, when two motorcycle-borne unidentified attackers opened fire at him in the Farsh Bazar area.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Prashant Gautam confirmed that the police received a PCR call at 8.36 am, and at least seven bullets were fired at Jain after which the accused fled the scene.

Industrialists and investors participate in MP's development journey: CM

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Investment proposals worth Rs 31,800 crore were received at the Narmadapuram Regional Investment Conclave on Friday, prompting Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to observe that industrialists and investors are partners in the state's journey towards development.

Speaking at the conclave, Chief Minister Yadav said that the state government is committed to doubling the state budget within the next five years. Along with promoting entrepreneurs, every effort will be made to expand activities in sectors like IT, tourism, mining, and energy. Farmers are being encouraged to install solar pumps to make them self-reliant in electricity. There are 52 private universities operating in the state. Through coordinated efforts across all sectors, our goal is to make Madhya Pradesh the best state in the country, attracting investors and industrial groups to expand their activities, thus accelerating the state's development.

Yadav underlined the proposed establishment of a fully equipped office of the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC) in Narmadapuram to promote industrial activities and investment. The Regional Industrial Conclaves are meant to



change the industrial culture in the state, said Yadav, adding that they reflect the state government's commitment to industrial development. The aim is balanced and equitable development of the state, and such conclaves are being organized at the divisional level to involve the public in the process. Chief Minister Yadav inaugurated the 6th Regional Industrial Conclave with the theme "New Horizons, New Possibilities" by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

He said that investment proposals to the tune of Rs 31,800 crore have been received at the Narmadapuram Industrial Conclave. He transferred financial assistance worth Rs 367 crore for over 1,200 MSMEs under the MSME Promotion Scheme via a single click. Additionally, he virtually performed the groundbreaking and inauguration of 82 units worth Rs 2,585 crore, which will create nearly 5,800 employment opportunities.

The Chief Minister also issued intent letters for 98 units covering 163 acres of land, expected to create 4,000 job opportunities with an investment of Rs 911 crore. Yadav also virtually inaugurated infrastructure development works in the industrial area of Maan (Budhmi).

Describing the Regional Industrial Conclaves as a milestone in improving the lives of youth, farmers, and women, Yadav said that his government remains steadfast in its promise to create better investment opportunities in the state. Yadav extended a humble invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Ken-Betwa project. He lauded the leadership of PM Modi, stating that under his guidance, India has become the fifth-largest economy in the world. Madhya Pradesh is also progressing steadily, with the state's agricultural growth rate increasing by 25% in the last 20 years.



ISKCON centre in Bangladesh burnt down: Radharaman Das

PTI
KOLKATA

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) on Saturday alleged that its centre in Dhaka district in neighbouring Bangladesh was burnt down earlier in the day. Iskcon Kolkata vice president Radharaman Das told PTI that the targeted attack on members of the community and members of the Vaishnavite order goes unabated as "vandals set ablaze idols inside the temple at the Namhatta property."

He said in a post on X handle, "ISKCON Namhatta Centre burned down in Bangladesh. The deities of Sri Sri Laxmi Narayan and all items inside the temple were burned down completely. The centre is located in Dhaka. Early morning today, between 2-3 AM, miscreants set fire to the Shri Shri Radha Krishna Temple and the Shri Shri Mahabhagya Lakshmi Narayan Temple, which fall under the Hare Krishna Namhatta Sangha, located in

Dhour village, under the jurisdiction of Turag Police Station, Dhaka district. The fire was initiated by lifting the tin roof at the back of the temple and using petrol or octane. Address: H-02, R-05, Ward-54," he said in the post. Das claimed that attacks are continuing and despite the ISKCON drawing the attention of the interim government in Bangladesh, not much is being done by the police and administration to assuage their grievances and address their concern. "Iskcon India has expressed concern about the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh and urged its monks and followers from Bangladesh not to wear 'tilaks' and practice their faith discreetly. The targeted attacks continue," he had earlier said.

The Iskcon Kolkata vice president also expressed concern over arrested Hindu community leader Chinmoy Krishna Das's safety following his denial of bail and the violent attacks.

Dubai returned dulha brings baraat, but dulhan gayab...

RANI SINGH RAJPUT
CHANDIGARH/ NEW DELHI

The stage was set and the wedding party was ready to bring home the beautiful bride chosen by their Dubai-returned groom. The wedding had been planned online and this was the first time everyone, including the groom, would be meeting the lawyer-bride, or so they thought.

However, Deepak Kumar (24) and his entourage of 150 'baraatis' were shocked when they arrived in Moga, Punjab, only to find his

bride "missing", adding insult to injury they also realised that the wedding venue did not exist. A month ago returned from Dubai to Jalandhar, Punjab to marry one Manpreet Kaur. Kumar had been talking to her via Instagram for three years, but had never met her in person, the police said. After realising he had been duped, Kumar lodged a police complaint against Kaur.

Kumar told the police that he along with his family had travelled all the way from Mandiali village in Jalandhar to Moga for the

wedding at the venue that had been chosen by the bride and her family. Upon reaching Moga, the bride's family reportedly told Kumar that some people will escort him and his family to the wedding venue. However, even after waiting till 5 pm, no one showed up. Kumar said. He added that they had asked the locals about the wedding venue named 'Rose Garden Palace' but were told that there was no such place in Moga. The groom said that he worked as a labourer in Dubai and had been in



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

touch with Kaur through the platform Instagram for the past three years. Kumar said he had seen Kaur's photos but never met her in person. Their parents had arranged the wedding over phone calls, police officials said, adding that Kumar also claimed to have transferred Rs 50,000 to Kaur earlier.

His father Prem Chand said that 150 'baraatis' came for the wedding, and that he had already hired taxis, paid for catering and a videographer. Kaur reportedly hails from Moga and had earlier told

Kumar that she works in Ferozepur, he said. The groom's father said that the marriage was fixed after speaking to Kaur's parents over the phone, and guests were invited for the wedding.

Meanwhile, Moga Assistant Sub-Inspector Harjinder Singh said they have received a complaint from Deepak Kumar. Singh said that the complaint was lodged after the groom's family could not reach the bride as her phone was switched off. Further investigation in the matter is underway, he said.

Tremendous success for industrial development efforts: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that the industrial area of Mohasa-Babai will become the centre of development for the entire Narmadapuram region. This area in the Satpura range is about to make history. Narmadapuram has achieved tremendous success in the Regional Industrial Conclave (RIC). The land for the Mohasa-Babai Solar Energy Park has expanded from 227 acres to 884 acres. Land allotment letters were also distributed for the establishment of 20 industrial units in the RIC. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the groundbreaking ceremony for power and renewable energy equipment manufacturing units in the Mohasa-Babai industrial area.

The ceremony was attended by Public Works Department and Narmadapuram district in-charge Minister Rakesh Singh, Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, Member of Parliament Darshan Singh Choudhary, Rajya Sabha MP Smt. Maya Naroliya, MLAs Dr. Sitasaran Sharma, Vijaypal Singh, Prem Shankar Verma, Principal Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Investment and Promotion Department Raghendra Singh, along with other public representatives, industrial unit representatives, and a large crowd. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav emphasized that the Mohasa-Babai industrial area is poised to create a new history in the renewable energy sector. Over 2,000 crore rupees are being invested in industrial units being set up in this area. Local youths from Sohagpur, Itarsi,

Seoni Malwa, Pipariya, and Pachmarhi will benefit from employment opportunities, and migration for jobs from these areas will be halted. Due to the investments made in the RIC, the entire economic landscape of the Narmadapuram region will change in just 2 to 3 years. The hardworking people of Narmadapuram will play a key role in this industrial development. With its rich forest resources, land, and better road and rail connectivity, Narmadapuram is highly suitable for industrial growth. Yadav further stated that after Ujjain, Jabalpur, Rewa, Gwalior, and Sagar, the 6th Regional Industry Conclave is being held in Narmadapuram. Narmadapuram has achieved the most success in industrial development within a short time. The government has

decided to pass on the direct benefits of the industrial park's unique features and financial incentives to investors. In addition, land has been made available to investors at very low rates. The In-charge Minister for the district and Public Works Minister, Rakesh Singh, said that under the tireless efforts and visionary leadership of Chief Minister Yadav, Narmadapuram is set to undergo a transformation. Dr. Yadav has traveled across the country and abroad, attracting industrial investment and generating employment in the state. With the investment of thousands of crores in Narmadapuram, not only will the youth of the region get employment, but Narmadapuram will also be established as an industrial development hub globally.

Chief Secretary Anurag Jain congratulated the people of the region on the allocation of land for industrial units and said that the establishment of industries in the region would create significant employment. He also thanked Chief Minister Yadav for approving the 884-acre Mohasa-Babai industrial park in such a short time, giving the area a new identity and speeding up industrial development. He mentioned that a multi-modal logistics park would also be planned here, which would be developed into an ideal industrial park. The entire team, along with industrialists, will work together on this initiative. Jain also highlighted that due to Chief Minister Dr. Yadav's efforts, investors are continuously being attracted to Madhya Pradesh.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav witnessed a MoU signed between the MP Tourism department and FICCI during the Regional Industry Conclave in Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Jubilant scenes witnessed at MANIT convocation

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Scenes of jubilation marked the 21st Convocation Ceremony of Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) in the state capital on Saturday. A total of 1,558 students were conferred degrees across disciplines, including B Tech, B Arch, B Planning, M Tech, MCA, MBA, M Plan, MSc, and PhD. The highest number of graduates emerged from the B Tech Computer Science and Engineering programme, with 239 students receiving their degrees. Other significant numbers included 246 M Tech graduates, 167 from B Tech Electronics and Communication Engineering, 80 B Arch graduates, and 40 PhD recipients.

On the occasion, Aleti Venkata Santosh was awarded the prestigious President's Gold Medal for academic excellence. Santosh achieved a CGPA of 9.7 in his B Tech degree programme in Electronics & Communication Engineering. A total of 11 gold medals were awarded across various streams. Notable recipients included Ashutosh Jha (Civil Engineering - CGPA 9.59), Namrata Dwivedi (Mechanical Engineering - CGPA 9.57), Devansh Kapadia (Computer Science & Engineering - CGPA 9.63), and Kalpana Agarwal (MCA - CGPA 9.64). Six sponsored gold medals recognised exceptional achievements in specialised categories. Namrata Dwivedi also received the H.B. Khurasiya Gold Medal for

being the most meritorious female student. Silver medals were awarded to 11 students for their remarkable academic performances. Animesh Singh (Civil Engineering - CGPA 9.55), Pranav Parashar (Electronics & Communication Engineering - CGPA 9.28), and Shivani Tomar (MCA - CGPA 9.64) were among the recipients. Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. Special guests included Virendra Prakash Rath, Co-Founder of Paratech Group of Industries, and Amitabh Jain, Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh. Notably, Jain, an alumnus of MANIT, was also honoured with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Youth opposing harassment of sister, abducted and murdered

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a chilling incident, 22-year-old Sandeep Prajapati was abducted and murdered for standing up to a man who was harassing his sister. Sandeep's body was discovered in the Ratapani forest, around 50 kilometers from the state capital, five days after he was kidnapped on December 2. The accused, identified as Awakesh alias Awadesh, is a wanted criminal from Bihar who had been hiding in the Chola Mandir area of Bhopal. Awakesh, who had been harassing Sandeep's sister, reportedly became enraged after Sandeep confronted him and warned him to stay away. Police suspect that Awakesh orchestrated the abduction and murder to exact revenge. Sandeep, an auto-rickshaw driver, lived in a rented room in the Chola Mandir

area, where he first came into contact with Awakesh. The two had known each other for six years and shared family connections. However, trouble began when Awakesh began harassing Sandeep's sister, leading to a dispute between the two men. According to Chola Mandir police station in-charge Suresh Chandra Nagar, Awakesh lured Sandeep on the pretext of meeting him on December 2. Later, Sandeep's family received a call from his phone, with the caller claiming that Sandeep had met with an accident. The phone was then switched off. The following day, Awakesh called Sandeep's sister, Vandana, demanding a ransom of ₹1 lakh for Sandeep's release. However, Vandana recognized Awakesh's voice during the call, as he had been a frequent visitor to their home. She immediately informed her father,

who reported the incident to the police. Police tracked the ransom call to Morena, while subsequent calls were traced to Nagpur. Investigations revealed that the SIM card used for the calls was registered in the name of a constable posted in Gwalior, who had blocked the number two years earlier. Despite a massive search operation across Delawadi forest, Nagpur, and Morena, Sandeep's body was found on December 6 in Ratapani forest. Authorities believe he was killed three to four days prior to the discovery. Awakesh has a history of serious criminal offenses and has been absconding from Bihar for two years, with several cases registered against him. Police suspect that the murder was premeditated, as Awakesh sought to retaliate after being confronted by Sandeep. Sandeep's grieving family revealed that Awakesh had

been close to them for years, and they were unaware of his criminal background. Vandana, who identified the suspect, expressed shock that someone they trusted could commit such a heinous crime. Sandeep's mother is reportedly devastated and has fainted multiple times since the news of his death. Four police teams, including the Crime Branch, are working tirelessly to locate Awakesh. Raids have been conducted in Kerala, Patna, Morena, and Uttar Pradesh. Inputs have also been shared with Bihar Police to aid in his capture. This case highlights the devastating consequences of unchecked criminal activity and underscores the bravery of a young man who stood up to injustice, paying the ultimate price. The investigation is ongoing, and authorities remain determined to bring the accused to justice.

MLA inspects development works on Kolar road

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Residents in the Kolar Road area of the state capital were in for a surprise on Saturday morning as legislator Rameshwar Sharma conducted a nearly four-hour-long walking inspection of ongoing development projects in their neighbourhood. Sharma oversaw the ongoing construction of the Rs 305 crore Kolar six-lane road project, which is nearing completion. The legislator issued directives to officials to iron out deficiencies in the ongoing work and instructed them to expedite the opening of the old Sarvdharma Bridge. Officials from PWD, the Municipal Corporation, Police, and the electricity company accompanied Sharma as he inspected the Kolar six-lane and Danish Kunj-Shahpura four-lane roads. The MLA instructed that the work on the Sarvdharma Bridge be completed immediately. He also called for the completion and activation of the street lighting work. The new Sarvdharma Bridge is fully operational, while repairs are being carried out on the old bridge. One part of the old bridge is still not open to traffic. Other notable instructions issued by the BJP leader include the rapid construction of parking spaces in the area and the installation of street lights in the high-traffic zones between Sarvdharma and Chuna Bhatti. Speaking at the conclusion of the inspection, Sharma expressed optimism that the entire project would be completed by the New Year.



Recipients of the gold medal students pose for a group photograph after receiving their degrees during 21st convocation ceremony of Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Unstable youth strangled to death by his father

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 28-year-old mentally ill youth was strangled to death by his father at Hanumanganj area of the state capital on Friday; the deceased was demanding Rs 30000 from his father. The mother of the deceased reached the police station and revealed the whole thing to the police. After this, the police reached the house and arrested the accused father, the police have registered a murder case against the accused father. The incident occurred on Friday evening. According to TI Awadesh Singh Bhadauria, Hemant's father Vrindavan Namdev lived in Bal Vihar. He was mentally ill. His father Vrindavan Namdev worked as a tailor. On Friday evening, Hemant's mother Durga Bai reached the police station and told the police that her son was killed

by her husband. As soon as the news of the incident was received, the police reached the house and took the accused father into custody. Also, the police recovered the body of the deceased and sent it for postmortem. The deceased's father told the police that his son was mentally ill and used to beat up his parents every day. On Friday evening, the son first demanded beer, on which the father brought beer for him. After this, Hemant asked his father to give him Rs 30,000 when he refused, he started beating him. Frustrated by this, he strangled his son with a nylon rope and killed him. Police have registered a case against the husband on the woman's complaint. After the post-mortem today, the body will be handed over to the family. At present, the police are investigating the matter. According to the family,

Hemant alias Honey was mentally ill since childhood. Ever since he became an adult, he fell into bad company. He became addicted to drugs. He used to demand money from the family repeatedly. Honey's father is a tailor and his younger brother works in Yogesh's shop. The financial condition of the family is also weak. Due to which they could not fulfill Honey's demands. Due to which he used to beat his parents. The mother informed the police about the murder of the son after reaching the police station. She told that her husband has killed her son. He was beating us, and had broken all the household items. He used to trouble us every day. At around 8 o'clock in the evening, he had a fight with his father in an inebriated state, he was upset and in the fight he killed him.

Boys beat up children, force to chant Hindu slogan; police register FIR

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A deeply troubling video from Ratlam has surfaced, showing a 16-year-old boy assaulting three young children, aged 6, 9, and 11, while forcing them to chant a religious slogan. The video, recorded about a month and a half ago, has sparked widespread outrage after it recently began circulating online. In the video, the teenager can be seen repeatedly hitting the terrified children with a slipper, verbally abusing them, and accusing them of smoking cigarettes. He also demands the phone numbers of their relatives while the children, visibly distressed, cry and shield their faces, pledging not to repeat their alleged actions. The incident reportedly took place near an under-construction amusement park close to Amritsagar Pond in Ratlam. The victims, residents of the city's Manakchowk area, endured the ordeal as another teenager, a 14-year-old boy, filmed the act. The video's circulation led to public outrage, culminating

The incident reportedly took place near an under-construction amusement park close to Amritsagar Pond in Ratlam

in a large crowd gathering outside a local police station on Thursday night to demand swift action. Police promptly registered a case against the two teenagers involved, charging them with assault, issuing threats, abuse, and actions that hurt religious sentiments. Both have since been taken into custody, and the police have assured the public that appropriate legal action will be taken. Authorities have deployed additional personnel to maintain order in the area and ensure the safety of all parties involved. The incident has raised significant concerns about the safety and well-being of children and the misuse of social media to amplify such harmful acts.

CM opens women operated Hotel Amaltas

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that it is a matter of pride for Madhya Pradesh that Hotel Amaltas is being run only by women. This effort reflects our resolve toward the empowerment of women. Other states will also take inspiration from this initiative. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the inauguration programme of 'MPT Amaltas' the first hotel run by women in Pachmarhi. Yadav said that the culture of our country is women-oriented. Mother has been given priority in our constellation and solar system also. All the planets are male-dominant but Vasundhara i.e. Mother Earth is dominant. We worship the earth as our mother and seek its blessings. Similarly, in society also the backbone of the family is our mother and sisters. There are more than 200 countries in the world, but India has been given the place of mother. As soon as anyone says Bharat Mata, the slogan of Jai automatically comes. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that our maternal culture and tradition is also reflected in the remembrance of Gods and Goddesses.

106-year-old woman regains her vision after cataract surgery

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 106-year-old Piraki Bai, a resident of Jamunia Johar village near Narsinghgarh, successfully regained her vision following cataract surgery at Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital on Friday. The surgery was performed by glaucoma and cataract specialist Dr Sapna Srivastava. Piraki Bai's vision had been deteriorating in both eyes for some time. Doctors had advised operating on one eye at a time to restore her sight, but she initially refused due to a deep fear of surgery. Tragically, her hesitation led to permanent damage in one eye, rendering it inoperable. As her remaining eye also began to fail, doctors informed her that surgery could potentially restore her vision. Despite this, Piraki Bai was still reluctant to undergo the procedure. It took persistent counseling from the doctors and encouragement from her family to overcome her fear. Ultimately, she agreed to the operation.

The surgery was performed by glaucoma and cataract specialist Dr Sapna Srivastava

On Saturday, when the bandages were removed, Piraki Bai's vision was restored, and her joy was uncontrollable. She expressed her happiness and gratitude for the successful procedure. Her nephew, 67-year-old retired teacher Shivcharan Chaudhary, accompanied her to Sewa Sadan. A staunch believer in the hospital's treatment quality, Shivcharan shared that many members of his family have trusted Sewa Sadan for their eye care needs. However, he expressed regret that his aunt lost vision in one eye due to her initial hesitation. The success of this surgery underscores the importance of timely medical intervention and the exceptional services provided by Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital.



Visitors go through an art exhibition on 40 years of Bhopal Gas Tragedy at Alliance Francaise in Bhopal on Saturday.

AIIMS to introduce hybrid cardiac operating room

Bhopal: The AIIMS has taken significant strides in research and medicine. Under his guidance, Dr. Vikram Watti, Assistant Professor in the Department of Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, successfully participated in the Congenital and Structural Heart (CASH) Interventional Training Program. The prestigious program, organized by The Madras

Medical Mission in Chennai, took place from November 29 to December 1, 2024. Prof. Singh extended his heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Vikram Watti on this achievement. He stated, "Dr. Watti's participation in this esteemed program is a testament to the caliber of our faculty and the emphasis AIIMS Bhopal places on continuous professional

development. Such opportunities are vital for advancing specialized medical care and ensuring our institute remains at the forefront of healthcare innovation in India." During this event, Dr. Watti shared insights on the transformative concept of Hybrid Cardiac Operating Rooms (ORs) and their growing role in modern heart care.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Bhopal only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Everyone's participation essential in making MP TB-free CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched the "100-Day Ni-Kshay Campaign" on Saturday from Narmadapuram. He stated that this campaign is a positive step towards making the state tuberculosis (TB) free. To make this campaign successful, it is essential to turn it into a mass movement with the participation of all sections of society.



Dr. Yadav emphasized that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had committed in 2018 to eradicate TB from the country by 2025. This campaign is playing a meaningful role in achieving that goal. He mentioned that this initiative, which is starting today, will be launched across 347 districts in the country, including 23 districts in Madhya Pradesh. The objective

of the campaign is to identify TB cases, reduce the mortality rate, and decrease the number of new TB cases. The Chief Minister also highlighted the "Ni-Kshay Mitra" initiative, under which the state provides nutritional support to TB patients. As part of this program, TB patients receive a

monthly supplementary food basket to help strengthen their bodies to fight the disease. He assured the public that TB is no longer an incurable disease and can be treated, urging people not to fear TB. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav mentioned that according to the United Nations' Sustainable

Development Goals, all countries have set a target to eliminate TB by 2030, but the central government has set an earlier target of 2025. Efforts are being made at every level to achieve this goal. He further stated that from the year 2015 to 2023, the number of TB cases in India decreased by 17.7%, which is more than double the global decline of 8.3%. This is a remarkable achievement, as the number of TB cases per 1 lakh population in India was 237 in 2015, which has now reduced to 195 in 2023. Madhya Pradesh has played a significant role in this achievement. He also mentioned that the TB mortality rate per 1 lakh population in 2015 was 28, which has now reduced to 22 in 2023. The target is to reduce it to just 3 by 2025. Chief Minister Yadav high-

CM inspects Raj Bhavan and Ravishankar Bhavan (CM residence) at Pachmarhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav arrived at the Raj Bhavan and Ravishankar Bhavan (CM's residence) in Pachmarhi on Saturday morning and inspected the buildings. On this occasion, he also had a look at the Chauragarh temple and Dhoopgarh from Ravishankar Bhavan premises. He also enjoyed playing billiards in Raj Bhavan. After staying for a short time, CM Dr. Yadav left for Narmadapuram. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav arrived to attend the 6th Regional Industry Conclave organised in Narmadapuram on Saturday. CM Dr. Yadav was accorded a warm welcome by public representatives and offi-

cial on reaching Mohasa Makhannagar helipad. On this occasion, the Minister in charge of the district Rakesh Singh, MP Darshan Singh Chaudhary, Rajya Sabha MP Maya Nardolia, Narmadapuram MLA Sitasaran Sharma, Sohagpur MLA Vijaypal Singh and other public representatives and officials welcomed him.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during one-to-one discussion with industrialists during the Regional Industry Conclave in Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo

CM holds One-on-One meetings with investors

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav held one-on-one meetings with investors and leading industry leaders at the Regional Industry Conclave (RIC) in Narmadapuram and discussed the vast investment opportunities in the Narmadapuram division. The industrial activities in Narmadapuram will gain further momentum due to the RIC. The state government will extend all possible support to entrepreneurs. Dr. Yadav provided detailed insights on investment opportunities in key sectors like renewable energy, agribusiness, textiles, healthcare, and IT. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav met with prominent leaders, including S.P. Oswal, Chairman and MD of

Vardhman Group, Rajinder Gupta, Chairman of Trident Limited, Dinesh Patidar, Chairman and MD of Shakti Pumps India Limited, Rajesh Bansal, Director of Sagar Cement, Sarang Lakhani, Executive Director of Vishwaraj Group, Vivek Maheshwari, MD of Narmada Sugars Pvt. Ltd., Anurag Srivastava of Netlink, Pawan Garg, Joint MD of Fuse Energy Supply, Sanjay Shrimali, Director of KN Group, Subbu Natarajan of Bhuvu IT Group, and Abhishek Chokse of Jamna Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. During these discussions, the Chief Minister invited them to invest in Madhya Pradesh without hesitation. On this occasion, Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Chaitanya Kashyap, Chief

Secretary Anurag Jain, and the Principal Secretaries of the relevant departments were also present. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav briefed all investors about the state's available labor resources, business-friendly policies, and incentives. He assured that the state government is fully committed to providing an enabling environment for industries, startups, and innovations. The Chief Minister shared his visionary approach to promoting sustainable development and innovation through the state's industrial capabilities, which was well-received by the investors. The investors acknowledged that the state government has strengthened industry-friendly policies for investment, resulting in a rapid increase in economic activities in the state.



Minister of state for Health and Family Welfare Narendra Shivaji Patel, BJP MLA Bhagwan Das Sabrani and others launch a 100 day TB free India campaign during a programme in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Rs 10 crore embezzlement revealed in SIT probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Employees of Seed Certification Institute and officials of Nationalised and private banks colluded to embezzle Rs 10 crores, revealed SIT investigation which arrested six persons involved in the scam. The Zone-03 city police Bhopal exposed the embezzlement of crores of rupees which committed the crime in an organised manner. The accused, on the basis of fabricated documents, withdrew government money of Rs. 10 crore from the bank and purchased land worth crores of rupees, on which land they had planned to avail subsidy under Rashtriya Pashu Samvardhan Yojana run by the government and to repay the embezzled amount by taking a loan of

crores of rupees on the land, which plan was busted by the SIT team in time. The mastermind of the case, B.D., was arrested by the SIT team. Namdev was arrested. The accused committed the fraud in connivance with the top officials of nationalized banks and private banks. Deputy Commissioner of Police Zone-03 Bhopal Riyaz Iqbal gave instructions to constitute an SIT team and take action in the crime as government money of Rs. 10 crore was embezzled. Police said that on September 14, applicant Sukhdev Prasad Ahirwar, Seed Certification Officer, Head Office, M.P. State Certification Institution, Bhopal, lodged a complaint against B.D. Namdev (Peon, Madhya Pradesh Seed Certification Institution) and Noel Singh (Branch

Manager, Central Bank of India, Imami Gate, Bhopal) for embezzling Rs. 10 crore FDR of M.P. State Seed Certification Institution deposited in Central Bank of India, Imami Gate Branch, Bhopal. Based on the complaint, a case was registered and an investigation was started. In the investigation the modus operandi was revealed that M.P. State Seed Certification Organization's peon Bijendra Das Namdev along with his office colleague Deepak Panthee Assistant Grade-03 (Accounting Assistant), his other colleague Agent Barun Kumar, Shailendra Pradhan alias Acharya Baba, Central Bank of India branch Imamigata branch manager Noyal Singh deposited 2 FDRs of MP State Seed Certification worth Rs. 10 crores.

2200 students visit 'Mountains of Life'

Bhopal: Over 2,200 school and college students have so far visited the second edition of Azim Premji University's annual climate festival --Mountains of Life -- a celebration of mountains, brought to life through an ensemble of art installations, photographs captured by young interns, music, movies, artefacts, interactive workshops and more. The festival, being held at the Bhopal campus of the University, will be open to the public until December 9, and entry is free. The festival brings together students, artists, non-governmental organizations, teachers, young professionals and community members and provides a platform for local communities to share their experiences of living and working in the mountains. In all, over 4,000 students and

members of the public are expected to visit the exhibition by Monday evening when curtains are drawn on the annual event. As part of the festival, the University selected a cohort of student interns who travelled across the country, documenting a wide range of stories, from tales of co-existence between humans and nature in Savandurga and Chamundi Hill to the journey of the Nyishi community of Arunachal Pradesh trying to strike a balance between tradition and modernity. The six-day festival offers an immersive and enriching experience. It provides diverse perspectives from urban dwellers and indigenous communities and explores the idea of mountains with school and college students from different parts of the country.

Gatekeepers training for health workers to prevent suicides

Bhopal: In a bid to arrest the rising incidence of suicide, health workers were informed of the mental, physical, social, economic, and emotional aspects related to the issue at the Gatekeepers training for suicide prevention held in the state capital on Saturday. Organised by the office of the District Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) at the People's Hospital campus, the training was attended by Community Health Officers, ANMs, and Asha Supervisors. During the training, Dr. Rajesh Gaur, Dean of People's Medical College, emphasised the impor-

ance of working together to tackle the challenge of suicide. He suggested that efforts should begin at the school level. He highlighted the need to promote healthy competition and stressed that in order to prevent suicides, it is essential to maintain both physical and mental health. Families and society should also be healthy. Health workers must remain vigilant, identify suicidal tendencies in individuals, and provide them with mental and emotional support. Dr. Vaibhav Dubey, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at People's Medical College, Dr. J.P. Agrawal, Head

of the Department of Psychiatry at Gandhi Medical College, Senior Clinical Psychologist and Director of "Digidarshika" Sumit Rai, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at People's Medical College Dr. Vinod Kumar Sahu, Nodal Officer for the District Mental Health Programme Dr. RK Bairagi, and Clinical Psychologist at the District Hospital Bhopal Rahul Sharma, were also present. District CMHO Dr. Prabhakar Tiwari said that under the mental health programme, over 500 field health workers have already been trained in two sessions for suicide prevention.

21 point agenda for BMC in Council meet

Bhopal: Triggering a fresh round of politics, the much-awaited council meeting of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) will now be held on December 13, said Chairperson Kishan Suryavanshi on Saturday. A total of 21 proposals approved by the MIC will be presented at the council meeting, which has suffered a delay of over a month. As per the rules, the meeting should have been convened within two months after it last met on 2 September. Suryavanshi said that council members will meet to discuss the predefined agenda, which includes an extension of ongoing PM Awas Yojana (PMAY) projects in the state capital. On Friday, 21 out of 22 proposals were approved in the MIC (Mayor in Council) meet-

ing. Prominent among the approvals is a development plan for Shahpara Lake with an outlay of Rs 9 crore and the inspection of water pipeline work under AMRUT 2.0. Repeated delays in the council meeting had earlier come in for sharp criticism from the Opposition Congress, who had sought the intervention of Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Singh. Several MIC members have been demanding the replacement of Additional Commissioner Devendra Singh Chauhan. However, the demands were vetoed by Municipal Commissioner Harendra Narayan, who said that the removal of the official would not be appropriate at this juncture due to an impending visit from the Swachh Survekshan team.

BTech student commits suicide by hanging in rented room

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 19-year-old B.Tech student from Chhatrapur, was discovered hanging in his rented room in Anand Nagar's Manak Vihar Colony late Friday night. Police suspect the suicide occurred three to four days earlier, as the last known communication with his family was on Sunday. Jahar, who lived on the third floor of Gangaram Sahu's house, had called his father, Brijmohan Rajak, on Sunday to discuss opening a new bank account. He mentioned issues with his existing account and an inability to withdraw money. Brijmohan reported that

Jahar rarely communicated with him and usually called his mother. After Sunday, Jahar stopped responding to calls, prompting concern from his family. His roommate, Abhay, who was also his maternal uncle, had been away in their village for a week, leaving Jahar alone. On Friday, after repeated calls went unanswered, Jahar's family contacted the landlord and friends to check on him. When the door remained locked, police were notified. Upon entering the room, officers found Jahar hanging from a towel tied to a noose. The landlord stated that he rarely saw Jahar due to the room's location on the top floor. Police are investigating

the circumstances surrounding the death. In a separate incident, 45-year-old Shiv Narayan, a confectioner from BHEL, Bhopal, died after his motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle near Khajuri village on Friday night. According to the family, Shiv Narayan was returning home after attending a Mata Pooja when the accident occurred around 8 p.m. The collision left him with severe head injuries. Despite being rushed to JP Hospital in an ambulance, he succumbed to his injuries. Police are reviewing CCTV footage from the area to identify the vehicle and the driver responsible for the hit-and-run.

Battle against pollution: End of the road for Bhopal's iconic jeeps?

AKBAR KHAN ■ BHOPAL

While they add to the vibrance on the city streets, it may soon be time for Bhopal to bid adieu to its legendary old jeeps, as most of these rehashed beauties fail to conform to prevalent emission standards. Originally built with petrol engines, a vast majority of these famed 4x4s from the 1940s were converted to diesel engines when petroleum prices first skyrocketed during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. A rather basic Kirloskar diesel engine was the first choice for those switching from petrol during the initial years, before refurbished Isuzu and Mahindra DI and DI Turbo engines emerged as the first choice of aficionados supervising these vehicular restora-



tions. Imported from the United States, most of these souped-up jalopies were also converted into right-hand drive to match local preferences. The addition of pilot seats with plush upholstery imbued these wartime builds with a degree of comfort that was never a priority for engineers at Ford and Willys, who originally

put these magnificent machines together. Come winter, an informal junkyard competition plays out in the city, as youngsters lovingly scour the local Kabadkhana to piece together a vehicle that they hope will grab eyeballs and become the talk of the town when they roll out their labour of love in the summer.

In a bid to outdo the competition, some painstakingly restore the vehicles to their original glory, while others rely on modern upgrades like big, fat all-terrain tyres that are often scoffed at by purists who swear by the authentic aerodynamics of the vehicles. Herald the arrival of their owners onto the city scene, these coming-of-age builds are not cheap. A rehash with a diesel engine can cost upwards of five lakhs, while expenses for putting together an authentic jeep with an original petrol engine could cost four times as much. The love, and painstaking efforts, and most of these vehicles only last for about a year due to the need for regular repairs they require after each off-roading expedition. Heartbroken and struggling to keep up with prohibitive maintenance costs, own-

ers often give up on these vehicles, which can be seen gathering dust at kerbsides across the city. Regulations do not allow engine swapping, and any changes to the original vehicle also strip it of the vintage tag that these jeeps would otherwise enjoy. Pollution officials say that soon the government will have to take vehicular emissions into account and ban old and refurbished diesel engines from the city roads. They admit that they are not sure when that will happen but confide that the decision is unlikely to remain on the back burner for too long. At a time when civic administrators are fighting a losing battle against the stagnation of contaminants in the city air, how long these magnificent vehicles will survive is something that only time will tell.

Change of Name
In My previous passport. My first name's spelling was written as AMMAN. Which is incorrect. While my first name correct spelling is AMAAN. Now hereafter I will be known as AMAAN KHAN S/O SUBHAN KHAN. Resident H. No. 07, Gali no. 01, Badaipura, Imami Gate Bhopal 462001 (M.P.)

Change of Name
I Prateek Saxena S/O Suresh Kumar Saxena R/O C-142 Tirupati Abhinav Homes, Ayodhya Bypass Road, Bhopal (M.P.) 462037 have changed the name of my minor Son Lakshya Saxena, aged about 10 months and he shall hereafter be known as Pratham Saxena for all future purposes.



Mayor Malvi Rai felicitated during the 'Shahar Sarkar Kitni Damdaar' programme held at Hotel Taj in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Electrical (General) Branch OPEN TENDER
The Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical General), West Central Railway, Jabalpur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites applications on prescribed tender form for the following works:- NIT No.: JBP/L/T/No.47-2024, Dated 04.12.2024. Name of work with location: Electrification of 03 Miscellaneous work (i) Provision of low level lights in examination lines of departure yard and new yard NKJ, (ii) Provision of general light arrangement at down yard STA, (iii) Provision of Garden lights in Rail Sourabh colony Garden & in Club Garden JBP. Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 5,57,38,398.95. Cost of tender form: 0.00. Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Genl./Jabalpur. Earnest Money: ₹ 4,28,700/-. Completion Period: 6 Months. Date & Time for submission of tender (upto 15.00 Hrs. on): 30.12.2024. Date & Time for opening of tender (at 15.30 Hrs. on): 30.12.2024. Complete details of tender notice available on the Railway website <https://ireps.gov.in>. Complete tender form can also be downloaded from above website.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
By CE (TMC) Line JHS acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tender through E-Tenders with closing date mentioned against each:
E-Tender Notice no. Estimated value (Rs.) Earnest money (Rs.)
JHS-TMC-15-2024 9313917.00 186300.00
Name of work: Supply, erection and commissioning of hydraulic test bench for pump and motor at TMD Jhansi as per scope of work.
Tender Closing Date and Time: 27.12.2024 Period of Completion: 08 months
Tender can be submitted online on date mentioned against each up to 15:00 Hrs. For details description & submission of tender, please see website of Indian Railway www.ireps.gov.in. Detail of Tender notice can also be seen on Notice Board of Dy. CE (TMC) Line office Jhansi. 2089/24 (ADM)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice
No.: JHS/Commercial/E-Auction/25-26/71-72 Date: 03.12.2024
On Behalf of The President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under :-
Category: Parking Asset Details: Parking Contract for Two wheeler, Four wheeler at different category of Railway stations in Jhansi Auction Start Date & Time: 16.12.2024 at 11:00 hrs Auction End Date & Time: 16.12.2024 at 11:30 hrs
Catalogue No.: JHS-PARKING-25 Division:- 1.NSG-4:-DAA
Category: Parking Asset Details: Parking Contract for Two wheeler, Four wheeler at different category of Railway stations in Jhansi Auction Start Date & Time: 17.12.2024 at 11:00 hrs Auction End Date & Time: 17.12.2024 at 11:40 hrs
Catalogue No.: JHS-PARKING-26 Division:- 2.NSG-4:-CKTD 3.NSG-6:-ORC
Note : Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 2078/24 (C)
@ CPRONCR North central railways @cproncr @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Government committed to make school education accessible: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible with the Cabinet approving the opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas.



"Our government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible. Under this, 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas will be opened across the country.

extent," Modi said in another post in Hindi. The prime minister also said his government is determined to improve connectivity across the country. "In this direction, our government has approved the Rithala-Kundli corridor under the fourth phase of Delhi Metro in the National Capital Region. This will make commuting between Delhi and Haryana easier," Modi said.

establishment of the 85 new KVs and the expansion of one existing KV is Rs 5,872.08 crore spread over a period of eight years from 2025-26. As of date, there are 1,256 functional Kendriya Vidyalayas, including three abroad - Moscow, Kathmandu and Tehran - and 13.56 lakh students are studying in these schools, an official statement said.

ED attaches fresh assets worth ₹388 Crore in Mahadev online betting case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has attached fresh assets worth about Rs 388 crore in its ongoing money laundering investigation into the Mahadev online betting case in which various high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh are alleged to have been involved.



of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on December 5 to attach these assets with a total value of Rs 387.99 crore, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said. Tibrewal is being investigated by the agency in this case.

Rajnath Singh to visit Russia on Sunday, witness commissioning of Indian naval warship

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a three-day trip to Russia on Sunday to witness the commissioning of a stealth warship into the Indian Navy and hold talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov on the expansion of bilateral cooperation in co-production of military hardware.

will accompany Singh to the commissioning ceremony. Defence Minister Singh will pay an official visit to the Russian Federation from December 8 to 10, an official readout said on Saturday. It said Singh and Belousov will co-chair the 21st meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) in Moscow on December 10.

industrial cooperation, the defence ministry said in the readout. "They will also exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest," it said. People familiar with Singh's visit said India-Russia cooperation in co-production of military hardware will figure prominently in the talks between the two defence ministers.

Union Health Ministry determines compensation for patients with faulty Johnson & Johnson implants

Giving a ray of hope to patients who received faulty implants manufactured by DePuy International Limited (now Johnson & Johnson Private Limited) in India, the Union Health Ministry has reconstituted a central panel of experts to determine the compensation for affected individuals.

compensation as admissible and medical management for the affected patients who were implanted with faulty ASR hip implants," the notice read. The ASR hip implants were manufactured by M/s DePuy International Limited, UK and imported by M/s DePuy Medical Private, Mumbai - now Johnson and Johnson Private Limited - according to the notice.

CISF sets up Quality Control Unit to enhance aviation security



CISF has set up a quality control unit to "enhance" the "operational efficiency" of its aviation security wing that provides a counter-terrorist cover to 68 civil airports of the country.

establishing "world-class" security procedures and technology for the airports that are used by lakhs of domestic and international passengers every day. The initiative is in compliance with the National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme (NCASQCP) of 2024 issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft (Security) Rules of 2023, he said.

The unit will be part of CISF's Aviation Security Control Center (ASCC) - located in the national capital - which works as a centralised base for coordinating security at all 68 civil airports that are under the security ambit of the force.

Maharashtra opposition stages walkout over EVM manipulation allegations

Still to recover from a shocking defeat in the recent Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Saturday staged a walkout from the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly during the first day of the oath-taking ceremony, alleging that the BJP-led MahaYuti registered a landslide victory in the Assembly polls because of the manipulation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

by the use of EVMs. This is not the mandate of the public, it is the mandate of EVM and the Election Commission of India," said Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray, who is the leader of the legislature party. Meanwhile, pro-tem Speaker Kalidas Kolambkar - who is administering oath to the newly elected members - administered oath to a majority of 235 ruling MVA members on Saturday. He will complete the administration of oath-taking to rest of the new members on Sunday.

Health Minister JP Nadda launches 100-day TB elimination campaign

Health Minister J P Nadda on Saturday said the rate of decline of tuberculosis incidence in India has doubled since 2015 and is ahead of the global average.



Health Minister J P Nadda on Saturday said the rate of decline of tuberculosis incidence in India has doubled since 2015 and is ahead of the global average. Nadda said this while inaugurating a nationwide campaign in Haryana's Panchkula to reduce such cases and mortality due to it. The 100-day TB elimination campaign will be implemented in 347 districts of 33 states where the prevalence of the disease is higher.

He highlighted that the rate of tuberculosis incidence decline in India has doubled from 8.3 per cent in 2015 to 17.7 per cent now, which is much ahead of the global average. Deaths due to tuberculosis have also reduced significantly in India by 21.4 per cent in the last 10 years, he said.

The 100-day campaign underscores the Union government's commitment to achieving the goal of end-TB by addressing the challenges of tuberculosis notification and mortality in India under the National TB Elimination Programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

73 complaints against obscene ads on private TV channels addressed: Govt tells Parliament



Seventy-three complaints have been received against obscene and vulgar advertisements on private television channels by the regulatory bodies over the past three years, the government has told parliament. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan said the complaints were "suitably" addressed by a three-level grievance redress system.

action is taken wherever violation of the Advertising Code is found by issuance of "Advisories, Warnings, 'Apology Scroll' Orders and Off-air orders." In reply to a separate question, Murugan said OTT platforms are required to adhere to the Code of Ethics under Part-III of the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. "These codes are self-regulatory in nature," the minister said.

Opposition Christian MPs urge Church body to support Muslims on Waqf issue

Christian community should take an in-principle stand on the Waqf Bill as it affects minority rights enshrined in the Constitution, Christian MPs are learnt to have told the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) at a meeting in the national capital. CBCI, the apex body of Catholics in India, called a meeting on December 3 of all Christian MPs.

The meeting was attended by around 20 MPs, most of them from opposition parties. TMC's parliamentary party leader Derek O'Brien, Congress MPs Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, Anto Antony, and CPI (M) MP John Brittas were among the MPs who attended the meeting, while Union Minister of State George Kurian joined later, a source who was present at the meeting told PTI. CBCI president Archbishop Andrews chaired the meeting, the first such held in decades. The meeting's agenda included the role of Christian MPs in

supporting and protecting the community and its rights, increasing attacks and threats against minorities, especially Christians, and misuse of FCRA to target Christian institutions. The source said a senior opposition MP suggested that the community leadership should also highlight "positive points, the important role being played by the community today" and "not just be only reactive to negative news." A suggestion made was to convey to the government

and the public that three out of four students in Christian institutions, were in fact from different communities. One MP said that there is a need to put a stop to "photo ops," and stressed that the Christian leadership should take a stand to "call out those who are not protecting the Constitution." Another MP who attended the meeting confirmed that multiple opposition MPs raised strong objections to certain provisions of The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, now under the consideration of

the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The Bill, among other things, changes the composition of the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards to include non-Muslim members. Another MP from Kerala told PTI that the issue of seats for Anglo Indians (all Christians) in Lok Sabha and 10 state assemblies being abolished was also raised, and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licences of some Christian organisations being targeted

and cancelled in recent years was also brought up. "The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere but the MPs sharply criticised the church leadership's handling of its relationship with the government since 2014. One MP even suggested it was getting 'transactional', a leader who attended the meeting told PTI. By the time, Kurien, a BJP leader and Union minister, came most opposition MPs were done speaking, the source said. Two BJP MPs, both Christians, were absent.

President Murmu lays foundation for six projects in Odisha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BANGRIPOSI (ODISHA)



President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday laid the foundation for six projects in Odisha, including three new railway lines, worth a total of Rs 6,400 crore.

The new 100-bed hospital would provide better health facilities to the locals, she said. Noting that Odisha is getting benefitted from the 'Purvodaya' vision of the central government, the President said development of the entire region is getting

accelerated through various welfare schemes on education, skill development, health, tourism and transportation. Murmu said that Eklavya Model Residential Schools are being established for tribal children. She said

more than 100 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools are being established in Odisha, including 23 in Mayurbhanj district.

She expressed confidence that after getting education from these schools, tribal children would be able to contribute towards the progress of society and the country. According to railway sources, the 82-km Badampahar-Kendujharghar line will pass through Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts.

The project will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 2,106 crore. The 86-km-long Bangriposi-Gorumahisani line will be built at an expenditure of Rs 2,549 crore. It will facilitate the movement of passengers and freight and contribute to

the economic growth of Mayurbhanj district, they said.

Similarly, the 60-km Buramara-Chakulia line, connecting Mayurbhanj district with Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, will be built at a cost of Rs 1,639 crore. The new rail line will improve access between these mineral-rich areas and boost the local economy by enhancing the transportation of goods, particularly for the industrial sector.

Broken protocol, undertaken several tours of native Mayurbhanj: Murmu

PNS ■ ODISHA



President Droupadi Murmu said she has broken the protocol and undertaken several tours of Odisha and her native Mayurbhanj district in order to speed up development work. "Generally, there is no provision of visiting own state and district as the President. However, I broke the protocol and came down here frequently because of the difficulties faced by the people of this area. Keeping in view the requirements of this area, I do whatever is possible

on my part," Murmu said. Noting that the love and affection of the people have drawn her to the place, Murmu said she always remains concerned about the development of her native place despite being busy with important work.

Assam CM Himanta expands his Cabinet

PNS ■ GUWAHATI



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday expanded his cabinet with four BJP MLAs sworn in as ministers. Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to the four new ministers - Prasanta Phookan, Kaushik Rai, Krishnendu Paul, and Rupesh Goala at the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra here. The chief minister and members of his cabinet were present on the occasion.

Phukan is a four-time MLA from Dibrugarh, Paul a two-time MLA from Patharkandi while Rai and Goala are first-time MLAs from Lakhimpur and Doom Dooma respectively. Phukan and Goala represent the Upper Assam tea districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia respectively while Paul and Rai are from the two Barak Valley districts of Sribhumi (formerly Karimganj) and

Cachar. Sarma now heads a 19-member council of ministers. Tea Welfare and Labour minister Sanjay Kishan, who represents the Tinsukia constituency, resigned from office on Thursday, to pave the way for Goala with both representing the tea tribe community. Kishan has since been appointed as the Chairman of the Assam Food and Civil Supplies department. Parimal Suklabaidya had resigned from the Himanta

for the development of the state. The ministers are yet to be allocated their portfolios with the chief minister likely to reshuffle and redistribute the departments among the 19 ministers by Saturday evening. The newly sworn-in ministers will attend their first cabinet meeting later tonight.

Sarma heads the NDA alliance government in the state with two Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) ministers Atul Bora and Keshav Mahanta and United Peoples' Party, Liberal (UPPL) U G Brahma members of his cabinet. The ruling NDA has 84 members in the 126-member state assembly. The chief minister and 14 other ministers were sworn in on May 10, 2021. Sarma expanded his ministry on June 9, 2022, with the induction of two BJP legislators Nandita Garlosa and Jayanta Malla Baruah as ministers.

Rock bolt technology successfully treating active landslide zones: BRO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ UTTARKASHI



Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Saturday said the rock bolt technology is successfully treating active landslide zones in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand where landslides occur almost regularly in the hill areas of the State, especially during the monsoon season, blocking roads and causing inconvenience to Chardham pilgrims, and often claiming lives.

Active landslide zones on Gangotri and Yamunotri highways have been a major issue for the Chardham pilgrims as well as the local people for years, the official said. The Australian rock bolt technology involves removing loose landslide debris by soil nailing in soil and rock bolting in bedrock, BRO Commander Vivek Srivastava said. It is being used at present in

the treatment of active landslide zones in Raturisera and Bandarkot on Gangotri highway in Uttarkashi district, he said. The technology was used earlier too in the treatment of Nalupani and Chungi Badethi landslide zones which had long been active along the highway and the good results at the two points encouraged authorities to apply it elsewhere too, he said. The technology is 90 per cent effective in preventing landslides, the BRO official

said. In the widening work done under the Chardham road project, landslide zones active for years have been treated successfully with this technology. The same technique is now being used in Raturisera and Bandarkot, he said. The official said that Rs 19.8 crore is being spent on this work in Raturisera and Rs 9.3 crore in Bandarkot. The target is to complete landslide treatment work at both places using the technology by March next year, he said.

Eight-fold rise in per capita income needs to be achieved to realise goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047: Dhankhar

PNS ■ PATNA/MOTIHARI



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday asserted that an eight-fold rise in per capita income needs to be achieved to realise the goal of "Viksit Bharat" (developed India) by the year 2047. Addressing the second convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Bihar's Motihari, Dhankhar also expressed hope that the country, which was currently the "fifth largest economy" in the world, would "soon leave Germany and Japan behind".

things are looking up and soon we will leave Germany and Japan behind." Lavishing praise on the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, without taking any names, Dhankhar said, "The last 10 years have been marked by eradication of a culture of corruption and middlemen seem to have been eliminated. The world looks at us with surprise as we keep marching towards getting our due place on the global stage. We are the fifth largest economy as of now but

Vice President said, "I was an MP when your current CM was a Union minister. So much has been achieved in the state under his stewardship. He has drawn lessons from our past in which we saw grim episodes like the country's gold reserves being pledged". The allusion was to the Prime Ministership of late Chandra Shekhar in 1990 when, in the wake of a severe financial crisis, the Reserve Bank of India had to pledge several tonnes of gold with foreign banks to raise loans. Earlier, the Vice President planted a sapling in memory of his deceased mother as part of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (One tree for mother)" drive. At the convocation ceremony, he said, "People must not be sceptical of the impact their individual efforts could have. Consider this Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign and imagine how much difference it could make to our environment if all 140 crore people plant just one sapling each".

SP quits MVA alliance in Maharashtra

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



In an expected fallout of the United Opposition front's debacle in the recent Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Samajwadi Party (SP) walks out of the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) citing many reasons, including lack of coordination among the coalition partners on seat-sharing issues and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT)'s stand on the Babri Masjid demolition. Announcing his party's decision to quit the MVA, State SP President Abu Azmi said that there was absolutely no co-ordination between his party and the MVA constituents on the seat-sharing process and there were also differences on various issues during the electioneering. "There was absolutely no co-ordination between my party and the main MVA constituents during the seat-sharing process as well as campaigning.. They never called us for meetings or joint

rallies. They used to avoid sharing each other's campaign platforms and all this resulted in the MVA parties' massive debacle in the Assembly polls," Azmi said. The SP, which had sought 12 seats from the MVA, contested six seats in the State Assembly polls and bagged two. While Azmi himself won from Mankhurd-Shivajinagar (Mumbai), Rais Kasam Shaikh romped home Bhiwandi East in Thane district. "Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, at an

internal meeting, told party colleagues and workers to aggressively pursue the Hindutva agenda (ahead of the civic polls). On December 6, the party posted a message on social media in favour of Babri mosque demolition. How can this be tolerated?" Azmi asked. One of the main reasons for the SP's exit from the MVA is a post put out on micro-blogging site "X" by Uddhav's personal assistant and MLC Milind Narvekar, hailing the demolition of the Babri Masjid. The post carried photographs of late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and MLC Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya Thackeray, who is an MLC from Worli in Mumbai. "Yesterday, (Dec. 6), a SS (UBT) leader posted a social media message claiming credit for the (undivided) party on the razing of the Babri Mosque demolition (1993). How can we tolerate this?" Azmi asked. "Such posts hurt our sentiments and go against the values of unity and respect for all communities. We are here to promote harmony, not divide people," Azmi said. Azmi made it clear that the SP stood for secular values, saving democracy and the Constitution, and hence it would not side with any party adopting such a communal approach. Asked if his party's decision to quit the MVA would affect the status of the SP national party chief Akhilesh Yadav vis-a-vis his equations with INDIA block, Azmi was non-committal.

Mayawati hits out at SP, Congress for 'exploiting' Sambhal violence for political gain

BISWAJEEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW



Muslim community to be wary of such political tactics. The BSP supremo also took aim at Dalit MPs from various political parties, accusing them of remaining silent on issues concerning caste oppression to please their political bosses. She highlighted the plight of Hindu minorities, especially Dalits, in Bangladesh, alleging that they face widespread atrocities. "Despite being elected by the Dalit community, many MPs stay quiet on such issues. Whether it is the oppression of Dalits in

India or the persecution of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh, they have failed to raise their voices," she said. Mayawati linked the historical oppression of Dalits to what she called Congress's "casteist conspiracy" during India's Partition. She alleged that Hindu-majority areas like Jessore and Khulna, from where Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was elected to the Constituent Assembly, were deliberately handed over to Pakistan, forcing Ambedkar to resign and return to India. Demanding urgent action, Mayawati urged the BJP-led central government to facilitate the return of persecuted Dalits and Hindus from Bangladesh. She warned that if the government failed to do, the BSP would see no difference between the BJP and Congress on the issue of Dalit welfare.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief that all work should be done while prioritising the country's interest and urged everyone to rise above individual, societal, sectarian and religious boundaries. "If the country is safe then religion is also safe. If religion is safe then we are also safe," Adityanath said while advocating actions that conform with India's Vedic- spiritual tradition and the values of Sanatan Dharma. The chief minister also spoke about the development works undertaken in Prime Minister Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi in the last 10 years. "Be it health or education, Kashi is shining today in various aspects of development and along with Kashi, the entire UP is moving ahead under the guidance of PM Modi. Now

If country is secure, 'religion is safe': Yogi

we are seeing the vision of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat', where there is development as well as respect for heritage," he said.

"If we get good leadership, the results are pleasant. Today, there is respect for heritage and also a big campaign for public welfare through development," he said. He credited Modi for taking the tradition of Yoga to the global stage. "People in more than 175 countries are associated with Yoga. Whenever Yoga will be discussed, it will inspire a feeling of reverence towards the sages of India in the minds of citizens across the world," Adityanath said. He noted that due to the prime minister's efforts, UNESCO recognised Maha Kumbh as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity in 2017. The UP chief minister paid tributes to Sadhguru Sadafal Dev

Maharaj, who was born in a small village in Ballia in 1888 and founded the Vihangam Yog Sant Samaj in 1924. "Vihangam Yog Sant Samaj is determined to connect crores of devotees through its efforts by building a divine and grand temple through Swarved Mahamandir Trust, as well as to take India's yoga tradition and spiritual flow to the people," he said. "Maharaj took the spiritual campaign forward and also stated that a true yogi-saint cannot sit idle looking at the conditions of the country and society. "When the country was bound by the shackles of slavery, Sadhguru Sadafal Dev Ji Maharaj, with his spiritual practice, participated in the freedom movement to free the country from foreign slavery and associated himself with the call of the country's first freedom struggle from Barrackpore," he said.

BHOPAL | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 8, 2024

Everton vs. Liverpool postponed because of Storm Darragh

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

The Merseyside derby between Everton and Liverpool was postponed on Saturday because of Storm Darragh, which brought dangerous winds and rain to the west coast. The Premier League match was due to kick off at 12.30 p.m. U.K. Time, but Everton issued a statement in the morning to say it would not go ahead.

The Met office said parts of Wales had experienced wind gusts of over 90 mph.

"Storm Darragh continues to bring strong winds across the UK, with red, amber and yellow wind warnings in force," the office said on social media.

Aston Villa will host Southampton in a 3 p.m. Kickoff. The team urged fans to use extra time to get to Villa Park in Birmingham.

"We want to advise all supporters to allow extra time for travel to today's game due to poor weather conditions across the country. Please take extra care and stay safe. We look forward to seeing you at the game," the team said in a statement.

Three other games were scheduled in the Premier League on Saturday. Manchester United was hosting Nottingham Forest at 5.30 p.m. Local time. United has not commented on the storm.

In London, Brentford was hosting Newcastle, and Crystal Palace was hosting Manchester City. Both games are at 3 p.m.

Brentford and Palace both said their games will be played.

"Today's match is still scheduled to go ahead despite the bad weather," Brentford said. "Please travel safely, plan ahead, and allow extra time for your journey."

Storm Darragh was expected to "gradually ease from late morning as it crosses the UK,



so the strongest winds in the west will start to reduce through Saturday," Met Office chief meteorologist Steve Willington said. Everton and league leader Liverpool issued nearly identical statements about the postponement.

"Following a Safety Advisory Group meeting at Goodison Park, attended by officials from both clubs, as well as representatives from Merseyside Police and Liverpool City Council this morning, it was decided that,

due to the risk to safety in the local area due to strong wind gusts, and an amber severe wind warning that remains in place until 6 a.m. On Sunday, today's fixture should be postponed on safety grounds," Everton's statement read.

"We apologize for the inconvenience caused and thank supporters for their understanding. Whilst we appreciate this will be deeply disappointing for supporters, the safety of fans, staff and players is of paramount importance."

Bank of Baroda E-Auction Sale Notice

Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6) & 6(2)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 6 (2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Baroda the Secured Creditor the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of Amount mentioned below plus interest and other expenses due to Bank of Baroda the Secured Creditor from below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors.

Name of the Branch / Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgager	Description of Secured Assets (Movable/Immovable Properties)	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amt.	Date and Time of E-Auction	Demand Notice Date Possession Date Outstanding Amount
Habibganj Branch, Plot No. 9, M.P. Nagar, Zone-II, Bhopal Tel.: 0755-4278087				
Borrowers: 1. Sunita Patel D/o Mr Ambika Prasad Patel, 2. M/S HEELS ON WHEELS	Mortgage of property situated at All That part & Parcel of plot no E-90, situated at My City, Village, Kalapani Patwari Halka no. 36/31 Tehsil Huzur Distt, Bhopal-462042, Area 74.36 sq.Mtr, In the name of Sunita Patel, Boundaries: East-Road, West- Plot no E-10, North- Plot no E-91, South- Plot no E-89	₹ 10,08,000/- ₹ 1,00,800/- ₹ 10,000/-	24-12-2024 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	05-04-2021 23-09-2021 ₹10,41,269.35
Guarantor: Mr. Abhay Kumar Mishra	PHYSICAL POSSESSION			+ Interest & bank others charges thereon

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda website: <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> & <http://BAANKNET> Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on contact numbers as mentioned above in the table. Please Note : For any error(s) the details available on bank's website : <http://BAANKNET> will be final. Date: 07.12.2024, Place: Bhopal

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR

Form No. (See regulation 33(2))
797/2, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001
NOTICE FOR SETTling A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993
RC/180/2016 UCO Bank Versus M/S MAYFAIR WAREHOUSING 03-12-2024

To,
(C01) M/S MAYFAIR WAREHOUSING VILL-KOTHARI, TEH-ASHTA, SEHORE (M.P.)-466001-
(C02) SHEIKH ALIMUDDIN SDX-95, MINAL RESIDENCY, J K ROAD, BHOPAL (M.P.)-462001
(C03) ASHISH KUMAR DIWAN DK-3/13, IPS BUNGLOW, DANISH KUNJ, KOLAR ROAD, BHOPAL (M.P.)-462001
(C04) SANDEEP KUMAR DIWAN DK-3/13, IPS BUNGLOW, DANISH KUNJ, KOLAR ROAD, BHOPAL (M.P.)-462001
(C05) KISHAN KUMAR DIWAN DK-3/13, IPS BUNGLOW, DANISH KUNJ, KOLAR ROAD, BHOPAL (M.P.)-462001

Whereas you the was ordered by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated 14/06/2016 in OA/304/2011 to pay to the Applicant Bank(s)/Financial Institution(s) Name of applicant, the sum of Rs. 6211369.70 (Rupees Six Core Twenty One Lakhs Eleven Thousands Three Hundred Sixty Nine And Paise Seventy Only) along with pendentelite and future interest @ 12.00% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 12/09/2011 till realization and costs of Rs. 150000 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands Only), and whereas the said has not been paid, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned immovable / Immovable property.

2. You are hereby informed that the 15/01/2025 at 10.30 A.M. has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attached to the said properties or any portion thereof.

Specification of property
Agricultural land Kharsa No. 52/1 admeasuring 4.209 hectares at Village Maragaon, Tehsil babai, District Hoshangabad, M.P., property in the name of Ashish Kumar Diwan.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 03/12/2024
Ms. Priti Desai Recovery Officer-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR

Regional Office Bhopal		E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE)	
Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)]			
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES			
E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of movable/ Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.			
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) & guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the Symbolic / Physical Possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Central Bank of India (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 26.12.2024 for recovery of bank dues to the Central Bank of India (secured creditor)			
Name and address of the Borrower	Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner	Demand Notice Date Possession Date Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increment Amt
Shahpura Branch, Bhopal Tel.: 7024115086			
Borrower: Mr. Himanshu Shekhar Jha and Mrs. Kiran Jha House no. 7-D, Paramount Villa, Shyamala Hills, Bhopal	1. Owner of the mortgaged property - (Shri Himanshu Shekhar Jha s/o Shri U. N. Jha) Shop no. M-15, Plot No. 206, Srihiti Complex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1, Bhopal Area-430 sq.ft. Boundaries: North- Property of others, South- Office No. M-01, East- Main Road, West- Office No. M-14	04-09-2018 04-02-2021	₹ 61,56,000/-
Guarantor - 1. Shri Himanshu Shekhar Jha S/o Shri U. N. Jha and 2. Mrs. Akanksha Kashyap D/o Mr. Himanshu Shekhar Jha	2. Owner of the mortgaged property - (Mrs. Akanksha Kashyap D/o Mr. Himanshu Shekhar Jha) Shop no. M-14, Mezzanine Floor, Plot No. 206, Srihiti Complex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1, Bhopal Area-240 sq.ft. Boundaries: North- Property of others, South- Corridor, East- Office No. M-15, West - Office No. M-13	₹ 170,98,281/- +Interest & charges	₹ 6,15,600/- ₹ 10,000/-
Physical Possession			
T.T. Nagar Banch, Bhopal Ph.: 7024115093			
Borrower: (1) Anil Kumar Prajapati S/o Shri Kamala Prasad Prajapati (2) Smt. Shreekanti Prajapati w/o Shri Anil Kumar Prajapati	Fiat no. T-1, 3rd Floor, Godavari Apartment, Sarvadharm Sector-B, Kolar Road, Tehsil Huzur, Plot No. 524, 525 ward no. 82, Village- Damkheda, Bhopal- 462042, Area- 450 sq.ft. Property Owner (1) Anil Kumar Prajapati Father Mr. Kamala Prasad Prajapati (2) Smt. Shreekanti Prajapati W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Prajapati Boundaries: North : Flat No. T-4, South- Plot No. 523, East- Plot No. 531, West- Flat No. T-2	29.09.2022 29.09.2023	₹ 9,46,000/- ₹ 94,600/-
		₹ 7,51,019/- +Interest & charges	₹ 10,000/-
		Physical Possession	
Borrower: (1) Anil Kumar Prajapati S/o Shri Kamala Prasad Prajapati (2) Smt. Shreekanti Prajapati w/o Shri Anil Kumar Prajapati	Fiat no. T-2, 3rd Floor, Godavari Apartment, Sarvadharm Sector-B, Kolar Road, Tehsil Huzur, Plot No. 524, 525 ward no. 82, Village- Damkheda, Bhopal- 462042, Area- 450 sq.ft. Property Owner (1) Anil Kumar Prajapati Father Mr. Kamala Prasad Prajapati (2) Smt. Shreekanti Prajapati W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Prajapati Boundaries: North : Flat No. T-3, South- Plot No. 523, East- Flat No. T-1, West- Colony Road	29.09.2022 29.09.2023	₹ 9,46,000/- ₹ 94,600/-
		₹ 8,76,764/- +Interest & charges	₹ 10,000/-
		Physical Possession	
Mandideep Branch : Mandideep			
Borrower: Uma Shankar Dubey S/o Shri Ramgopal Dubey	Residential Property-House No C-12, Ward No 01, Mandideep, Tehsil Goharganj, Dist Raisen (M.P.) - 462046 Area- 600 sq.ft. Boundaries: North-Plot No. C-11, South- Plot No. C-13, East- Colony Road, West- Others land	30/12/2022 18/12/2023	₹ 20,47,500/-
		₹ 12,98,616.16/- +Interest & charges	₹ 2,04,750/- ₹ 10,000/-
		Symbolic Possession	
Jail Road Branch, Bhopal Tel.: 7024115051			
Borrower: MJ Associates Proprietor- Mrs. Saloni Jivanani W/o Mr. Mahesh Jivanani	Shop no. 06, Ground Floor, Duggal Complex, Plot No. 14-B, Govind Garden, Raisen Road, Ward No. 44, Tehsil- Huzur, District- Bhopal (M.P.) Area- 120 sq.ft. Boundaries- (as per sale deed) North- Shop No. 05, South- Shop No. 07, East- Shop No. 11, West- 10 feet Chaudi Gali Property Owner- Mrs. Saloni Jivanani W/o Mr. Mahesh Jivanani	25/04/2022 12/09/2022	₹ 4,50,000/- ₹ 45,000/-
		₹ 35,06,583.55 +Interest & charges	₹ 10,000/-
		Physical Possession	
Last date for submission of EMD is on or before 24.12.2024 upto 4.00 p.m. Date and Time of e-auction : 26.12.2024, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Property Inspection Date : 23.12.2024, 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.			
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer Central Bank of India website www.centralbankofindia.co.in or http://BAANKNET Date : 07.12.2024, Place : Bhopal			
AUTHORISED OFFICER			

श्रीकृष्ण वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गीता महोत्सव

8 से 12 दिसम्बर 2024
कालिदास संस्कृत अकादमी परिसर, उज्जैन

08 दिसम्बर, 2024 (सायं 7.00 बजे से)
'नारायण मिल जायेंगे' गीता संवाद
मनोज मुन्तारि सुवत्सा. मुम्बई
नृत्य-नाटिका: 'गुरुदक्षिणा'
निर्देशक- सुमन साहा/ आलेख- योगेश त्रिपाठी

09 दिसम्बर, 2024 (सायं 7.00 बजे से)
कृष्णायन- श्रीकृष्ण आधारित महानाट्य
निर्देशक- संजीव मालवीय, उज्जैन

10 दिसम्बर, 2024
प्रतियोगिताएँ (प्रातः 10.00 बजे से)
संवाद (प्रातः 11.00 बजे से)
श्रीकृष्ण भजन (सायं 7.00 बजे से)
सुश्री कलापिनी कोमकली, देवास
श्रीकृष्ण: अनेक नाम-अनेक धाम
श्री कुमार शर्मा एवं दल, मुम्बई

11 दिसम्बर, 2024
सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम (प्रातः 9.00 बजे से)
प्रवचन (प्रातः 10.00 बजे से)
गीता पाठ - 5108 आचार्य (प्रातः 11.00 बजे से)
उद्घोषण (प्रातः 12.00 बजे से)
प्रवचन (अपराह्न 3.00 बजे से)
गीता संवाद (सायं 6.00 बजे से)
श्री विवेक चिन्दा (मोटिवेशनल स्पीकर)
लोकार्पण
पाँच गीताएँ / भारतीय ज्ञान परम्परा / समय का भारतीयकरण / गीता आधारित वीडियो
पुरस्कार वितरण
श्रीकृष्ण गाया (संज्ञि 8.00 बजे से)
सुदर्शन चक्र की संगीतमय यात्रा

12 दिसम्बर, 2024 (प्रातः 8.00 बजे से)
सम्पूर्ण गीता पाठ एवं यज्ञ

8- 12 दिसम्बर, 2024 (प्रातः 11.00 बजे से)
चित्र प्रदर्शनी
गौ एवं गोपाल तथा श्रीमद्भागवत पुराण आधारित

11 दिसम्बर 2024
मध्यप्रदेश के सभी जिला मुख्यालय

सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम
श्रीकृष्ण आधारित नृत्य, नाट्य एवं गायन
प्रदर्शनी
गौ एवं गोपाल तथा श्रीमद्भागवत पुराण आधारित
सम्स्त जिला कारगर
गीता पाठ

18 दिवसीय - कुरुक्षेत्र (हरियाणा)
प्रदर्शनी
गौ एवं गोपाल तथा श्रीमद्भागवत पुराण आधारित
सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम
श्रीकृष्ण आधारित नृत्य, नाट्य एवं गायन

आप सभी सादर आमंत्रित हैं।
प्रवेश निःशुल्क



FEATHERS OF COUTURE

Fashion is a language, a story told through fabric and beads, a canvas that speaks of cultures and dreams. When Suneet Varma takes the stage, the fabric transforms into poetry. His latest collection, *Quetzalli*, unveiled in collaboration with PATRÓN Tequila, is a masterpiece that bridges continents, blending the fiery soul of Mexico with the intricate elegance of Indian couture. The evening sparkled with sophistication at The Upper House by Tivoli as Varma's designs graced the runway. Each model brought the audience into a world where tradition and innovation existed side by side. The inspiration? A journey to the legendary Hacienda PATRÓN in Jalisco, Mexico, where tequila is an art form in itself. *Quetzalli* emerged not as a tribute to tequila but to the shared spirit of meticulous craftsmanship that defines both cultures.

The collection redefined the colour black, giving it depth, allure and richness. Sheer black gowns adorned with intricate lacework were delicately touched with hints of gold that shimmered under the lights, like secrets waiting to be discovered. These weren't just clothes; they were symbols of confidence, elegance, and a celebration of womanhood. Accessories played a crucial role, with statement necklaces gleaming in antique gold and belts cinching the waistlines of capes and gowns, adding structure to the delicate. Ornate headpieces gave the models an almost regal aura, transforming the runway into a scene of modern-day queens.

Suneet Varma's artistry lies in storytelling. In *Quetzalli*, lace represented Mexico's ancient traditions, while embroidery techniques showcased India's unparalleled craftsmanship. The

Suneet Varma's *Quetzalli* collection fuses Mexican craftsmanship with Indian couture, celebrating elegance, heritage and artistry, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



silhouettes flowed effortlessly, structured yet soft, tailored yet fluid. From tiered skirts with voluminous ruffles reminiscent of traditional Mexican dresses to contemporary separates designed for the modern woman, the collection was versatile, sensual and unmistakably Suneet. Silver, drawing inspiration from PATRÓN's meticulous tequila-making process, starting with hand-harvested Weber Blue Agave and crafting exceptional varieties like Silver, Reposado, Añejo and the ultra-premium El Cielo, was used to add a touch of refinement and sophistication to the pieces. Sheer capes adorned with metallic motifs floated behind models, reflecting the mystical energy of the Quetzal bird, after which the collection is named.

The collection also celebrated the art of working with feathers in Mexico, known as plumeria. This technique, highly valued in pre-Hispanic and colonial Mexico, was reflected in the dramatic feather details seen on some pieces in the collection. Suneet Varma's use of this ancient art form was a

reflection of his respect for both Mexican heritage and the craftsmanship behind each element of his designs. The feather details were used not just as decoration but as an integral part of the concept, evoking the elegance and mysticism of Mexico's rich history.

Varma's designs aren't limited by time or trends, they are experiences. *Quetzalli* is for the woman who wants to walk into a room and own it. Whether it's an evening gala, an intimate dinner, or a rooftop soiree, these pieces make the wearer the focus without needing to speak. The grand finale brought the audience to its feet as the designer himself took a bow amidst applause. Dressed impeccably, Suneet Varma acknowledged the partnership that made *Quetzalli* possible. It wasn't just fashion; it was a celebration of how heritage can evolve and adapt without losing its essence.

Fashion is more than just clothes, it's a way of life. *Quetzalli* captures this ethos, blending two cultures while staying true to artistry. It's about reimagining tradition, embracing innovation, and celebrating the craftspeople who bring every stitch and bead to life. As the night ended, the buzz in the air was filled with admiration for Varma's genius and the journey of *Quetzalli*. In the hands of Suneet Varma, fabric becomes a storyteller and *Quetzalli* tells a tale that stays with you long after the runway lights dim. For now, it's not just a collection; it's a legacy waiting to be adorned.

Suneet Varma says, "This collaboration with PATRÓN Tequila brings together our shared passion for artistry and heritage. The *Quetzalli* collection reflects a fusion of refined couture and Mexico's rich culture, honoring both PATRÓN's craftsmanship and my vision for elegance."

jViva la moda, viva la herencia!

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

THE TALE OF LOVE, OBSESSION AND REVENGE RETURNS

After nearly three years, *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein* makes its much-anticipated return to Netflix with Season 2. Directed by Sidharth Sengupta, the web series brings back its gripping narrative style while aiming to keep the audience engaged with a fresh dose of action. The cast features Tahir Raj Bhasin, Shweta Tripathi, and Anchal Singh in the lead roles, supported by notable performances from Saurabh Shukla, Surya Sharma, and Arunoday Singh.

maintain the thrill, the over-reliance on similar storytelling techniques limits its ability to surprise and entertain viewers fully.

The cast of *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein* Season 2 brings their characters to life with relentless dedication, providing the primary reason for viewers to stay invested in the series. Arunoday Singh



Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein Season 2 fascinates with its cast and narrative but falls short of delivering the unpredictability that thriller fans crave, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



delivers a compelling performance as the contract killer Aditya Hafeez, embodying a skilled kidnapper's intense and menacing aura with his brooding demeanor and serious expressions. His portrayal is both convincing and impactful, adding a layer of depth

to the narrative. Tahir Raj Bhasin once again shines as Vikrant Singh Chauhan, the tormented protagonist at the heart of the story. Bhasin's performance is an example of his remarkable acting prowess, as he portrays Vikrant's inner turmoil and

determination with precision. His serious and gritty portrayal further solidifies his reputation as a versatile actor capable of commanding attention with every scene. Shweta Tripathi returns as Sikha, the love interest of Vikrant,



although her role is noticeably reduced in this season. Despite her limited screen time, Tripathi ensures that her presence is felt in all the key moments. The character's development takes an unexpected turn as Sikha finds herself married to a new police officer, adding an intriguing layer to the storyline. A notable new addition to the cast is Gurmeet Choudhary, whose performance as Guru, a close friend of Purva, makes an immediate impression. Choudhary makes out a distinctive space for himself in the series, bringing a fresh dynamic to the plot. His character's arrival stirs up

the narrative, introducing a sense of unpredictability and piquing the audience's curiosity about the unfolding events. While the show's thrilling plot and dramatic twists may resonate with a general audience, it may fall short of expectations for ardent crime and thriller enthusiasts. The plot, while engaging in parts, tends to feel stretched as it goes into repetitive themes, leaving the story feeling somewhat incomplete. Despite these shortcomings, the series manages to sustain interest, largely due to its talented cast and their performances.

RATING: 3/5

the pioneer agenda



"It is in literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression"
— Alfred North Whitehead



Where are the bold, thoughtful voices that once defined Indian literature? As commercial pressures dominate, the true art of writing seems increasingly overshadowed, writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

The write thing!



It is a paradox of sorts: while people's reading habits are at an all-time low, there is a flood of writers producing content on virtually every subject. From fiction and non-fiction to cookbooks and travelogues, the book market is booming like never before. The Indian publishing industry was valued at approximately INR 500 billion in 2019, with projections indicating growth to INR 800 billion by 2024. This sector significantly contributes to India's economic development, fostering learning, education, and employment for over 1.2 million people. Recent reports suggest that the industry is expanding at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 19.4%, with some estimates as high as 25%. This growth is particularly notable in the printbook market, which is anticipated to see substantial increases in value. Educational books dominate the sector, while the increasing adoption of eBooks and digital content is transforming the industry. Despite a decline in print publishing revenues due to shifting consumer preferences towards online books, magazines, and newspapers, the combined revenue from print and digital publishing continues to grow, illustrating that publishing as a whole is not in decline. India has approximately 19,000 publishers. The publishing industry in India is vibrant but scattered, with no single association having more than 1,000 members. Evaluating publishers can be challenging, as it involves considering factors such as market size, reputation, genres covered, and influence on the literary landscape. Among the prominent names in Indian publishing, Penguin Random House India stands out as a major player, recognised for its diverse portfolio, literary excellence, and global reach. It publishes celebrated authors such as Arundhati Roy and Salman Rushdie, establishing itself as a giant in the industry. HarperCollins India, established in 1992, is another notable publisher with a strong presence across genres, including fiction, self-help, and business books. It is home to renowned authors like Amitav Ghosh, Chetan Bhagat, and Paulo Coelho. Rupa Publications, one of India's oldest and most respected publishers, specialises in Indian fiction, biographies, and academic works, with imprints such as Rupa, Oak, and Fingerprint. Bloomsbury India launched in 2002, has also made a mark in the industry with its high-quality literary fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and academic texts. Together, these publishers play a vital role in shaping India's literary landscape and catering to the evolving preferences of readers. But when it comes to writers it is another story. Given the size of the country, even a small percentage of people trying their hand in writing becomes large in absolute terms. However, not all are equally talented or taught. Of course, creativity cannot be taught in school, but style and form can be. With very few institutions that hone the craft of writing the writing suffers and only a handful of writers stand out in the ocean of mediocrity. Of course, Books cannot be strictly categorised as good or bad; they are simply those you cherish and those you don't. Some books resonate deeply, while others leave you wondering who they were written for. Even so, labelling a book as 'bad' feels unfair; what one dislikes might be perfect for someone with different tastes or standards. But having said that it is also true some books leave a bad taste in the mouth for almost all. Though the number of writers is swelling, which is indeed a good thing that cannot be said about the quality of books written by them. There is a

growing trend among new Indian authors to just write and have a book under their name. This is perhaps more true of writers writing in English than in other Indian languages. Many recent books feel amateurish and hastily written. It's frustrating to see many careless writings being passed off as literature, leaving readers feeling duped. Many books are being churned out with similar themes as if other streams have dried up — ala Bollywood which tends to produce similar films after a blockbuster, hoping to cash in on the success. Others who experiment often end up with juvenile themes and shallow characters. It seems the trend began with the overwhelming success of Chetan Bhagat. While Bhagat's book was light and entertaining, its success led many aspiring writers to believe they could replicate his formula without effort—by simply injecting Bollywood-like clichés into their stories. Many times writers succumb to commercial temptations, trying to publish which would get them a filmmaker like Slumdog Millionaire after the film adaptation's Oscar triumph. Thus, we have a trend: literature crafted to satisfy a superficial public demand, rather than to challenge or inspire. No doubt publishing is a business like any other and must make a profit. It also has to compete with the reader's attention span of human goldfish- the GenZ. But that often comes with a big price tag. Where are the bold, thoughtful voices of Indian literature? Where are the Salman Rushdies, Amitav Ghoshes, R.K. Narayan, and Anita Desais of today? Literature thrives on diversity, but the current scene of Indian writing in English seems weighed down by opportunists chasing fame over craft. And make no mistake this trend is here to stay. It is all over -- visible in the literature festivals even in the reputed ones.

As they say, it is easy to write a book but difficult to make a person read it. To make it readable it needs to be worth the time and effort of the reader — give him or her some insights, information or perspective he didn't have or make him laugh or cry if that is intended. Translating thoughts into words is an art that deserves to be approached with seriousness. To do so, one must often seclude themselves, almost in a spiritual sense, and dedicate their focus to the act of writing. Writing retreats are an excellent opportunity to refine your skills, learn the ropes, and gain insight into the publishing industry. Mentors, often editors from the industry, along with established writers, offer valuable tips and guidance. In a world increasingly characterised by distractions, writing retreats have emerged as sanctuaries where budding writers can focus, grow, and thrive. These retreats offer a unique blend of solitude, community, and professional guidance, making them appealing to anyone passionate about honing their craft. Writing retreats often take place in idyllic settings, mountains, beaches, countryside estates, away from the hustle of daily life. This change of scenery not only inspires creativity but also provides the peace needed to concentrate on storytelling. Many retreats combine workshops, one-on-one mentoring, and group discussions, creating a collaborative yet personal environment. Fortunately, we have many literary retreats to choose from, some good, others very good! TheWriteScene's Landour Writers' Retreat recently unfolded as a vibrant tapestry of inspiration and creativity. Founded by award-winning author Deeba Salim Irfan, this retreat was not just a gathering of minds but a sanctuary for writers from across India, offering them the opportunity to refine their craft in the tranquil surroundings that once inspired the renowned author Ruskin Bond. "I founded the Landour Writing Retreat to provide aspiring writers with the support they need to thrive. Drawing from my own experience as a published and award-winning author, I understand the challenges and rewards of the writing journey. The serene setting of Landour inspires creativity and focus. Beyond Landour, I organise retreats in picturesque locations like Kangra Valley, India, Slovenia and Lapland (Northern Lights) fostering a global community of writers. I also



curate the English and Filipino sessions of the Tabbib Literary Festival in Dubai, a platform for diverse voices and literary exchange." Deeba says with a smile and a sense of satisfaction. The sense of community is another powerful draw. Writing can be a solitary endeavour, and retreats allow participants to connect with like-minded individuals. "Writing is a solitary profession. You sit alone with memory and imagination, both equal parts dangerous and exciting. Writing retreats are a warm hand extended in time, nudging you on, picking

you up and sometimes, putting you back on track" says author and lawyer Sonia Chauhan. The Landour Writing Retreat is one such retreat. From the hosts to the sessions to the participants, it was a motivating journey. Sharing ideas, receiving feedback, and networking with peers and mentors can be incredibly motivating and lead to lifelong creative partnerships. What participants feel is indeed writ large on their faces, "the Landour Writing Retreat was more than a getaway, it was a turning point in my writing journey. I discovered the art of truly listening to my inner voice. The retreat's emphasis on discipline balanced with creativity taught me to treat writing as both a craft and a calling. Sessions by seasoned experts from the publishing industry added technical depth, knowledge, and insights into demystifying the process of writing and publishing in India," says Bijetri Roy, an upcoming writer in her own right. Additionally, retreats often invite established authors, editors, and publishers to guide participants. This access to industry professionals offers budding writers' invaluable insights into the craft of writing and the business of getting published.

For many budding talents, the challenge isn't just about writing—it's about finding the time and discipline to do so consistently. Writing retreats provide structured schedules that balance writing time with relaxation, fostering a productive rhythm. They also encourage writers to step out of their comfort zones, experiment with new styles, and confront creative blocks. "The Landour Retreat was a perfect combination of creativity-sparking processes, sufficient unstructured time to allow writing whenever one entered a flow, and quality discussion time with a bunch of like-minded people who write because they love to, and who felt like long-known friends even though we had all just met. The insights shared by publishing industry professionals at the Retreat were invaluable eye-openers for me, says gratified Nilanjana, an avid reader and a writer. In recent years, writing retreats have gained immense popularity, driven partly by the rise of remote work and digital nomadism. People now seek fulfilling, creative experiences that go beyond their day-to-day routines. As more people explore writing as a career or serious hobby, the demand for such retreats has surged. This trend reflects a cultural shift toward valuing personal storytelling and self-expression. Networking at retreats is also a valuable opportunity to build connections that could open doors to literary agents, publishers, and collaborative opportunities. "India's literary scene is a dynamic blend of tradition and modernity, marked by its linguistic diversity and exploration of contemporary themes like gender, mental health, and identity. Regional narratives and translations are gaining prominence, while digital platforms and self-publishing empower emerging voices. Young writers experiment with genres like fantasy and speculative fiction, and women authors tackle issues of patriarchy and empowerment. International accolades, such as Geetanjali Shree's Booker Prize win, highlight India's global literary impact," says Rajul, who is a well-known mentor and editor. Writing retreats are more than just creative getaways; they are transformative experiences that equip writers with the tools, confidence, and connections needed to succeed. Whether you're an aspiring novelist, a poet, or a memoirist, a writing retreat could be the spark that ignites your literary journey.

The Art of Authentic Kashmiri Dining

Kashmirana serves authentic Kashmiri food with a cosy setting, bringing the flavours of Kashmir to Gurugram

FOODFREAK



Pawan Soni
Food critic and
founder of the
Big F Awards

My friends have been dedicated patrons of *Kashmirana*, a Kashmiri restaurant nestled in Rodeo Drive that’s gained a steady following in its five years. They’ve shared their experiences numerous times, so I was eager to see what the buzz was about on my first visit. *Kashmirana* has a cosy vibe with a mix of comfortable table seating and a few low tables for those looking to linger. My wife aptly described the interiors as reminiscent of a houseboat’s warmth and charm. We found ourselves indulging in a variety of dishes, given her vegetarian preference. In the non-vegetarian starters, the Tabakmaaz and mutton seekh kebabs were both outstanding. The Tabakmaaz had that perfect crispiness, yielding to the fatty richness inside, while the mutton seekh had a delicate, hollow centre that retained a satisfying bite - some of the juiciest I’ve had in Gurgaon. My wife, on the other hand, enjoyed the lotus root fritters (nadru chips), cut into long, crispy strips and coated with a flavourful, addictive spice blend. In the mains, the rista and goshtaba were delightful, with the same signature spongy meatballs but distinct gravies that made each dish memorable. I prefer bigger balls but these tasted as good. On the vegetarian side, the haaq, rajma, and nadru yakhani shone brightly, leaving us no choice but to pack up the leftovers - vegetarian for us and non-vegetarian for my friends. And if I say we loved the non-veg, it’s only fair to note the vegetarian options were no less satisfying. Traditional brassware enhanced the authenticity of the experience, and the kehwa added an extra layer of warmth, perfect for the season. Though the phirni was good, I’ve had more refined versions. However, the dry fruit-laden shufta, cooked in desi ghee, was a decadent finale. *Kashmirana’s* portions are ample, the pricing fair, and the food impressive, especially as the restaurant filled with fellow Kashmiris as we dined, a clear testament to its authenticity and popularity among those who truly know this cuisine.

RATINGS (Out of 5):
FOOD: 4.0 | **AMBIENCE:** 3.75 |
SERVICE: 4.0 | **OVERALL:** 4.0

ADDRESS: KASHMIRANA, 1ST FLOOR, RODEO DRIVE, SECTOR 49, GURUGRAM | **PHONE:** 85953 99049



The Heart of Odisha’s Cuisine

Chor Bizarre’s Odia pop-up brings an authentic, unique taste of Odisha, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



Left to right - Culinary Collaborator Mona Lisa Bal, Chef Srinivasulu. A and Actor & Filmmaker Nandita Das

When one thinks of India’s diverse culinary landscape, it’s easy to be drawn to the well-known dishes of the north or the spicy delights of the south. But what about the understated flavours of Odisha? Often overshadowed by its more famous counterparts, Odisha’s cuisine is a hidden gem, rich in taste and steeped in tradition. The recent *Odia pop-up* at Chor Bizarre, the iconic Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi restaurant, offered a rare opportunity to experience the unique vegetarian dishes of Odisha, expertly curated by actor-filmmaker Nandita Das and her culinary collaborator Mona Lisa Bal. The event was an exciting foray into the lesser-known corners of Indian cuisine, offering an authentic glimpse into the simple yet bold flavours of Odisha. With the restaurant’s long-standing reputation for bringing regional Indian cuisines to the forefront, this pop-up felt like a welcome celebration of the state’s rich culinary heritage, especially for those in New Delhi who may not have had the chance to explore it. The carefully crafted vegetarian menu showcased the simplicity and brilliance of Odia cuisine. The meal began with “Ghole Dahi” (Odia Chhas), a traditional yogurt-based drink that was both refreshing and tangy, setting the tone for the meal ahead. It was the perfect introduction to a menu that relied on fresh, local ingredients and a delicate balance of spices. The starters were a real treat, with dishes like “Biri Boda with Dhaniya Chutney” (Lentil Fritters with Coriander) and “Besara Chhatu Potra Poda” (Mushrooms with Mustard in Banana Leaf) capturing the essence of Odisha’s cooking style. The lentil fritters were crispy on the outside, soft on the inside, and paired beautifully with a fresh coriander chutney that added a burst of flavour. The mushrooms, cooked with mustard and wrapped in banana leaves, offered a smoky, earthy flavour that exemplified the depth of Odia culinary techniques. When it came to the main courses, the dishes truly shone. “Dahi Baingan” (Shallow Fried Eggplant with Tempered Yogurt) was a standout, with its crisp, golden eggplant and creamy, tangy yogurt creating a delicious contrast in texture and taste. “Dalma,” a hearty lentil and vegetable stew with coconut, was a comforting dish, light yet full of flavour. The



addition of “Kusala Saaga” (Amaranth Leaves with Garlic) and “Santula” (Sautéed Vegetables with Five Spices) further exemplified the region’s love for vegetables, bringing out the freshness and natural taste of the ingredients in every bite. The accompaniments were the perfect complements to the main dishes. “Chakuli Pita,” a soft, chewy flatbread made with lentils and rice, was ideal for scooping up curries, while the steamed “Bhaata” (rice) acted as a neutral base to balance the complex spices. No meal would be complete without dessert, and Chor Bizarre didn’t disappoint. “Kheer Sagar” (Chhena Balls in Thickened Milk) offered a rich and creamy end to the meal, while “Chhena Poda,” a baked chhena dessert, had a beautiful caramelised flavour that left a lasting impression. The vegetarian menu was, without a doubt, the star of the pop-up. However, it’s worth noting that the non-vegetarian thali also garnered rave reviews, with guests praising its perfect blend of spices and execution. Chor Bizarre’s ability to balance both vegetarian and non-vegetarian offerings with such precision only further cements its reputation as a destination for authentic regional cuisine. The *Odia pop-up* at Chor Bizarre was an enlightening and flavoursome journey into the heart of Odisha’s culinary culture. For those who have yet to explore the delights of Odia cuisine, this pop-up provided a rare and memorable experience, showcasing the region’s unique approach to vegetarian dishes that are as healthy as they are flavourful. With its emphasis on fresh ingredients, simple yet creative preparations, and a deep respect for tradition, this pop-up was a celebration of the incredible variety India’s regional cuisines have to offer.



When it comes to coffee culture, *First Coffee* has always been a name synonymous with quality, creativity and bold flavours. Co-founded by the dynamic trio of Sohrab Sitaram, Shiv Dhawan and Chandini D Purnesh, this café has been a favourite haunt for caffeine enthusiasts and foodies alike. Their latest revamped menu is here to take your coffee and snack experience to the next level. Packed with innovative offerings, trendy beverages and classic delights, the menu is designed to cater to every palate. Whether you’re a matcha enthusiast, a fan of indulgent pastries or someone who loves a good sandwich or wrap, *First Coffee* has you covered.

COMFORT AND CONVERSATIONS: *First Coffee’s* interiors feel like a warm hug. With cosy seating, soothing earthy tones and the irresistible aroma of freshly brewed coffee, the café offers the perfect setting for everything from a quick catch-up to a leisurely workday. The ambience strikes a delicate balance between modern design and laid-back charm, making it a space you’ll want to stay in.

TRENDY SIPS: THE MATCHA LATTE
Among the highlights of the new menu is the Matcha Latte, a drink that’s as vibrant as it is intriguing. Known for its earthy, slightly grassy flavour, matcha has become a favourite among those looking for a trendy yet healthy alternative. While it might take some getting used to for first-timers, it’s a sip worth acquiring. *First Coffee’s* version offers a creamy, balanced taste that pairs beautifully with savoury bites like the paneer tikka sandwich or the chickpea Veggie wrap.

NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE: As much as *First Coffee* excels in innovation, they also understand the value of keeping things classic. Their Classic Iced Coffee remains a cornerstone of the menu, offering a refreshing pick-me-up that’s as dependable as it is delicious. Perfectly brewed and served chilled, it’s a reminder of why *First Coffee* became a beloved name in the first place.

SWEET DREAMS IN EVERY BITE: Sweet tooth? You’re in for a treat. The new menu introduces the incredible range of pastries. First up is the freshly baked Choco-Berry Dream Doughnut, a decadent creation that combines the richness of chocolate and custard with a fresh twist of blueberry jam and shaved chocolate on top. If you’re a fan of chocolate, the Choco Truffle Eclairs are not to be missed. They combine deep, indulgent chocolate flavours with just the right amount



flavour, matcha has become a favourite among those looking for a trendy yet healthy alternative. While it might take some getting used to for first-timers, it’s a sip worth acquiring. *First Coffee’s* version offers a creamy, balanced taste that pairs beautifully with savoury bites like the paneer tikka sandwich or the chickpea Veggie wrap.

NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE: As much as *First Coffee* excels in innovation, they also understand the value of keeping things classic. Their Classic Iced Coffee remains a cornerstone of the menu, offering a refreshing pick-me-up that’s as dependable as it is delicious. Perfectly brewed and served chilled, it’s a reminder of why *First Coffee* became a beloved name in the first place.

SWEET DREAMS IN EVERY BITE: Sweet tooth? You’re in for a treat. The new menu introduces the incredible range of pastries. First up is the freshly baked Choco-Berry Dream Doughnut, a decadent creation that combines the richness of chocolate and custard with a fresh twist of blueberry jam and shaved chocolate on top. If you’re a fan of chocolate, the Choco Truffle Eclairs are not to be missed. They combine deep, indulgent chocolate flavours with just the right amount



MORE THAN JUST A COFFEE!

First Coffee’s revamped menu combines innovative flavours, trendy beverages and classic favourites, creating the perfect coffee and snack experience, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



of berry sweetness, making them the perfect treat for anyone with a sweet tooth. For something a bit more adventurous, the Blueberry Passion Eclairs and the Nutella Cinnamon Roll are a must-try. The cinnamon roll, in particular, is topped with marshmallows and toasted seeds, adding extra texture and sweetness to every bite.

SAVOURY DELIGHTS: The savoury offerings on the menu are just as impressive. The Truffle Mushroom Sandwich is a symphony of flavours, combining truffled mushrooms, caramelised onions and gooey cheese. It’s rich, satisfying, and indulgent. For a spicier kick, the Chipotle Veggie Sandwich features Mexican-inspired vegetables and melted cheese layered on hearty Italian bread. Wrap lovers will adore the Chickpea Veggie Wrap, a flavour-packed burrito-style wrap filled with spicy chickpeas, and tangy pickled onions. Pair it with a side of their crispy Classic Fries for a meal that’s as comforting as it is filling.

SWEET AND SAVOURY PAIRINGS: The new menu is designed with pairings in mind, offering a curated experience that complements every dish. Enjoy their signature Crunchy Hazelnut Smash for a heavenly mix of chocolaty sweetness and nutty richness. Or, pair the bold Flaky Chicken Seekh Wrap with a soothing Ginger Tea and Masala tea for a balance of spice and warmth.

If you’re in the mood to experiment, the Cascara Thunder, a refreshing mix of cascara syrup over ice and lemonade, offers a zesty complement to the bold flavours of wraps. Each pairing has been thoughtfully created to elevate your dining experience.

DESSERTS AND SIDES THAT DELIGHT: *First Coffee* has also introduced indulgent sides and desserts that are worth savouring. The Korean BBQ Potato and Chicken Poppers are perfect companions to their wraps and sandwiches, while the Brookie, a fusion of brownie and cookie, is a dessert dream come true.

WHY YOU’LL LOVE IT: *First Coffee’s* new menu blends trendy offerings like the Matcha Latte with timeless classics like the Iced Coffee, creating a menu that caters to every taste and preference. Add in the cosy, welcoming ambience and you have a café that’s more than just a place to grab a coffee, it’s a destination.

FACT SHEET
LOCATIONS:
Cyberhub, Gurugram
Pacific Mall, Jasola
Pacific Mall, NSP

Co Founders : Sohrab Sitaram and Shiv Dhawan

Nestled gracefully in the foothills of the Kumaon region in Uttarakhand, Mukteshwar is a serene and unspoiled retreat that has yet to gain the limelight it truly deserves. Perched at an elevation of 2,171 meters, this picturesque hill station is located approximately 51 kilometers from the bustling town of Nainital. Mukteshwar offers you an idyllic escape for those seeking solace amidst nature's bounty and a peaceful respite from the chaos of urban life.

The Journey to Mukteshwar

The journey to Mukteshwar is as scenic as the destination itself. Once you cross the town of Nainital and continue your ascent, the winding roads begin to carve through the hills, offering a thrilling experience of hairpin bends and steep curves. The air grows crisper, and the lush greenery surrounding you seems to come alive, offering a visual treat to your senses. The long stretches of forested hills and cascading valleys make the drive a captivating experience, setting the stage for the calm that awaits you.

A Gateway to Himalayan Grandeur Formerly known as Muktesar, Mukteshwar serves as a gateway to the majestic Himalayas, providing breathtaking views of snow-clad peaks. The Himalayan panorama here includes the towering Nanda Devi, the second-highest peak in India, standing tall as a symbol of nature's grandeur. The pristine mountain air and serene ambiance work like a balm, calming your soul and rejuvenating your spirit. Mukteshwar's unspoiled beauty makes it an ideal destination for mindful activities such as meditation, yoga, or simply soaking in the peace of the surroundings.

Mukteshwar Dham: A Spiritual Treat

The town derives its name from the revered Mukteshwar Dham, an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Believed to be over



5,350 years old, this temple is not only a place of worship but also a testament to the spiritual and historical richness of the region. Located 21 kilometres from the town centre, the temple is perched atop a hill, offering mesmerizing views of the valley below. To reach the temple, visitors must embark on a short yet rewarding trek of about 15 minutes. There are two paths leading to the temple: one with well-paved stairs and another with a steep incline, allowing visitors to choose based on their preference and stamina.

Zero Point: A Viewpoint like No Other

Just a short walk from the Mukteshwar Dham lies Zero Point, a spot that offers unparalleled views of the Himalayan range. The 10 to 15-minute walk to this viewpoint is well worth the effort, as the vistas that greet you are nothing short of magical. A small entry fee of Rs. 60 is required, but the sight of the towering peaks bathed in golden sunlight or shrouded in misty clouds is a reward far greater than the cost. Zero Point allows visitors to fully immerse themselves in the raw beauty of the mountains, leaving an indelible mark on their hearts.

Why Mukteshwar?

Mukteshwar is more than just a destination, it is an experience that soothes the mind, body, and soul. Whether you are looking to relax in silence, embrace the beauty of nature, or embark on a spiritual journey, this quaint hill station has something for everyone. With its charming landscapes, rich history, and spiritual essence, Mukteshwar stands as a testament to the timeless beauty of Uttarakhand's Kumaon Hills. The place is a must visit if you want to detox yourself.

THE SCENIC AND SIMPLE MUKTESHWAR

Mukteshwar is a quite destination that will help you discover your calmer self, writes ABHI SINGHAL



WAY TO MUKTESHWAR

Mukteshwar promises not just a tranquil retreat but also a journey filled with stunning views. Whether you prefer flying, riding a train, or driving through scenic routes, the travel itself becomes part of the adventure. From picturesque landscapes to steep turns on the mountain roads, each mode of transport offers a unique charm. Comfortable travel options ensure that reaching this beautiful destination is as delightful as staying there.

Mukteshwar by Road

Mukteshwar is well-connected by road, lying 353 km from Delhi, 51 km from Nainital, and 42 km from Haldwani. State-run buses link Mukteshwar with nearby Uttarakhand cities, including Kathgodam. Luxury buses are also available on the Delhi-Kathgodam route, with buses departing from Delhi's ISBT. The journey from Delhi to Kathgodam takes about 8 hours. For those driving from Delhi, follow NH 24 to Rampur, then NH 87 to Ranibagh. From Ranibagh, take the state highway to Bhowali, and finally another state highway via Ramgarh to Mukteshwar.

Mukteshwar by Train

Kathgodam Railway Station is the closest railhead to Mukteshwar, offering connections to major cities like Delhi, Lucknow, and Kolkata. From Kathgodam, travelers can hire taxis or take buses to reach Mukteshwar conveniently.

Mukteshwar by Air

The nearest airport to Mukteshwar is Pantnagar Airport, located 111 km away. Another option is the Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun. From both airports, travelers can hire taxis to reach Mukteshwar comfortably.



As someone who lives for the thrill of discovering untouched destinations, my recent journey to Jihar Village was a revelation. Nestled in the Almora district of Uttarakhand, this unspoiled hamlet, perched at an elevation, offers a serene escape from the chaos of modern life. It lies about 45 km beyond the ever-popular Jim Corbett National Park, yet few venture this far—a detail that adds to its charm. What awaited me was a perfect blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and heartwarming simplicity.



The drive to Jihar was nothing short of mesmerizing. The winding road was flanked by pine forests and occasional streams that glistened under the sunlight. Accompanied by lovely music in the car, I was lost in the serenity of the place. Two jackals darted across the path at one point, a reminder of the region's rich wildlife. As I drew closer, the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas greeted me, reaffirming that I had made the right choice to explore this lesser-known gem. For accommodation, I opted for Nivriti Summit View, a boutique property near Basot village. Travelling with my family, I needed a place that catered to both comfort and scenic beauty, and this property delivered on all fronts. The first thing that struck me upon arrival was the sheer grandeur of the views. On one side, the majestic Himalayan ranges seemed close enough to touch, while on the other, the endless valley stretched into a picturesque horizon. The sight of the Ramganga River winding its way below added to the allure. The property, with its six thoughtfully designed rooms, was a sanctuary in itself. Each room had large windows that framed the surrounding beauty like a painting. What made the stay even more special was the personal touch of the owner, Randhir Brar, whose love for travel and nature was evident in every corner. From curated books to artistic décor, every detail told a story. My mornings began with the golden glow of Nanda Devi, and my evenings ended with a cup of tea as Trisul's snowy peaks reflected the last light of the day. The highlight for my children was the sprawling garden—a perfect space to play and unwind. For me, it was the property's glasshouse rooms, which allowed me to gaze at the stars from the comfort of my bed. The culinary experience was equally memorable. While I enjoyed

Escape to Peaceful Jihar

From stunning Himalayan vistas and hidden waterfalls to the charm of Nivriti Summit View, my journey to Jihar was a perfect blend of adventure, tranquillity, and warm hospitality, writes DIVYA BHATIA



arranged a picnic lunch for us there, and it was nothing short of magical. Surrounded by the sounds of rustling leaves and flowing water, the experience felt like stepping into another world. The locals mentioned occasional sightings of leopards, though they assured us these majestic creatures had never harmed anyone—a testament to the harmonious coexistence of humans and wildlife here. Evenings back at the property were spent stargazing. The clear skies above Jihar unveiled the Milky Way in all its glory, a humbling reminder of the universe's vastness. It's rare to find a place where time slows down, where each moment invites introspection and wonder. Jihar, with its unpretentious beauty, offers precisely that. In today's fast-paced world, places like Jihar remind us of the beauty of simplicity. It's not just a destination; it's an experience—a chance to slow down, breathe, and reconnect with what truly matters. Whether you're a nature lover, an adventure seeker, or simply someone looking to escape the crowds, Jihar promises memories you'll treasure for a lifetime.

their continental offerings, the Kumaoni dishes—prepared with fresh, local ingredients—stole the show. Don't miss the chance to savour dishes like Bhatt ki Churdhani and Aloo ke

Gutke, prepared with expertise. After a full day of relaxation, we set out the following morning to explore Jihar. Our first stop was the Bhona Devi Temple, a revered shrine nestled deep within the forests. Located about 14 km from Kalason Basot, the temple is more than 250 years old and steeped in local legend. It houses a Shivling, a pillar of Kaal Bhairavnath,

and the sacred hearth of Harju Devta. The moment we stepped into the temple premises, a serene calmness enveloped us, as though the place radiated an abundance of positive energy. However, it wasn't just the spiritual aura that captivated us. The temple offers stunning panoramic views of the Himalayan range and the five regions of Salt—Talla, Malla, Vichalla, Palla, and Valla. Its potential for spiritual tourism is undeniable, but its tranquillity must be preserved. Next on the itinerary was a hidden waterfall, about 25 km from the property, towards Almora. Accessible only on foot, the path to the falls remained elusive until a local guide helped us navigate the terrain. From the road, it appears like a modest stream cascading down the mountainside, but once you hike up, the scene transforms. The effort was worth it. At the top, I was greeted by a crystal-clear pool fed by cascading waters. Taking a dip in the cool, pristine water felt like nature's own therapy. A jungle walk leading to a secluded spot by the Ramganga River was another unforgettable highlight. Nivriti Summit View

HOW TO GET TO JIHAR Reaching Jihar is part of the adventure. The nearest airport is Pantnagar, about 140 km away, while Kathgodam railway station is 100 km from the village. From these points, the scenic drive to Jihar is best enjoyed in a private cab or local bus.

“MAKE YOUR OWN BIBLE. SELECT AND COLLECT ALL THE WORDS AND SENTENCES THAT IN ALL YOUR READINGS HAVE BEEN TO YOU LIKE THE BLAST OF A TRUMPET”
– RALPH WALDO EMERSON

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
This week holds significant promise, particularly in financial matters. You may find yourself receiving substantial gains early in the week. Celebrations are in order, with joyful gatherings that underscore your recent successes in your professional life. Happiness permeates the home front as well, with key contributions from the women in your life, who display remarkable health, creativity, and energy. Their nurturing roles enhance the joy and unity of those around them. The week may also feature meaningful family events such as the joyous arrival of a new family member or the initiation of a lucrative opportunity, bringing loved ones together to share in the collective joy. As the week closes, expect a shift in perspective that could profoundly reshape your approach to life, setting the stage for enduring benefits.
Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Amber
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
This week calls for measured actions and a calm demeanor. Embracing moderation rather than giving in to impulsive reactions will serve you well. Opportunities that could significantly improve your circumstances may arise, yet there's a risk of undermining these prospects through unchecked pride or a dismissive attitude. While self-respect is crucial, maintaining a balance with how others perceive you is equally important. You might find that new beginnings in your endeavors could stir envy among competitors. Stay vigilant as you could become the target of negative intentions. It's wise to be observant and understand the motivations of those around you. Secure your valuable possessions and keep a close eye on those who have access to your personal space or property.
Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
This week, you'll find yourself feeling invigorated and full of life, ready to tackle any obstacles that come your way. There's a sense of cosmic alignment that seems to enhance your efforts, steering you towards successful outcomes. Your energy is well-placed, boosting areas of your life that need the most attention. With a clear vision and unwavering resolve, you're set to conquer your highest aspirations. At home, the atmosphere buzzes with the promise of significant events that bring joy and fulfillment. A deep-seated wish of yours may finally come to fruition, possibly linked to family growth or children's achievements, which might include academic successes or securing opportunities they've eagerly sought. Your belief in your abilities and a higher power greatly shapes your reality, fostering a positive environment that encourages you to achieve remarkable things.
Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
This week is heavily influenced by your emotional and sentimental nature. You may find yourself in a nurturing role, eager to care for those close to you. Your compassionate demeanor makes you a source of solace and advice for many, although this could distract you from your professional responsibilities. Be mindful of those around you, as there's a risk that your straightforward approach might be exploited. It's essential to strategize and act decisively to ensure stability and financial security. Without active efforts and concrete plans, mere wishful thinking won't yield the desired results. Stay focused on your objectives and manage your emotions effectively to navigate through the week successfully.
Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Crimson
Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
This week, individuals born under Virgo may experience a sense of isolation and a disconnection from everyday activities. Challenges in personal relationships, such as a break-up or a marital strain, could be impacting your emotional well-being. You might also find obstacles in your professional life; despite diligent efforts, progress seems stalled. This period requires patience and resilience. Stay prepared to counter any resistance you face as this may be the final test before you achieve your objectives. An influential figure may emerge to assist you, providing the support needed to overcome your current challenges. Expect a shift towards spiritual growth and a surge of new ideas. This fresh perspective will infuse your endeavors with innovation and a stronger sense of self-assurance.
Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week, you may find yourself navigating a mix of emotions and detachment in your personal relationships. Minor irritants could lead to disagreements, but ultimately, decisions will be reached mutually. In your professional life, your kindness and generosity will shine, enhancing your reputation. Unexpected financial gains could provide a sense of security, bolstering your ability to handle both personal and professional challenges with skill and efficiency. Your reliable and devoted nature will make you a trusted figure at work. A natural curiosity will drive your desire to acquire new knowledge, fueling your success and making you a source of inspiration for others. You will uphold strong ethical standards, advocating for your beliefs and demonstrating integrity in all your endeavors.
Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
This week, you demonstrate a compelling sense of authority and determination. Your strength lies not in physical prowess but in your ability to lead and inspire others to action. Your charismatic yet firm approach garners respect, although it leaves little room for emotional considerations. This could lead to some challenges in personal relationships, possibly causing strain or even separation. Family tensions may arise, particularly with maternal figures possibly opposing your choices in personal partnerships, leading to disagreements. Midweek, you might find yourself overwhelmed, struggling to make autonomous decisions due to these pressures. However, by week's end, you will find both financial and emotional enrichment as a respected elder, possibly a paternal figure, steps in to support you. Their fair and generous actions will lay the groundwork for your future achievements.
Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
In the coming period, you may encounter situations that test the strength of your relationships, potentially leading to deep emotional impacts. Embrace these challenges as they arise; they are opportunities for personal growth and resilience. Fear of not meeting expectations or achieving success might loom large, yet remember that true bravery emerges from confronting and mastering these fears. Should a new opportunity present itself, seize it with confidence and move decisively toward your aspirations. Let go of any reservations and clear any obstacles from your path. If recent achievements seem less significant than anticipated, take time to reassess and refresh your strategies. By week's end, you could find yourself in a more prosperous position, with increased financial prospects or an attractive proposal coming your way.
Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
This week presents a dynamic and steady phase for you, marked by significant authority and confidence. You find yourself in a scenario where confronting and engaging with influential individuals is not only possible but likely. This period allows you to relish a surge of energy and maintain strong connections with those around you. You may find yourself acting as a guiding figure, providing advice, setting goals, and fostering a sense of security for others. There's a harmonious alignment of your physical, mental, and emotional states, enhancing your decision-making prowess. Your presence demands respect, as you consistently uphold your principles, make fair judgments, and speak honestly. Your ability to maintain a clear vision ensures that emotions do not cloud your decisions, positioning you as a leader who views the broader context of any situation.
Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Fuchsia
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22
This week is a time for rejuvenation. Step away from the whirlwind of your daily activities and allow yourself some moments of relaxation. Embrace self-care by engaging in activities that refresh both your physical and mental well-being—consider routine health screenings, engage in mindful exercises, take leisurely strolls, and ensure you are getting ample rest. Such practices will equip you to navigate the energetic pace of life that lies ahead. Your professional life may soon pulsate with new opportunities and potential advancements such as raises or promotions. At home, expect to be more involved with family duties, especially in attending to children's needs, which could increase your expenditures. Additionally, consider planning a getaway that promises romantic undertones and quality family time.
Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
Currently, you possess a significant intensity and strength, which enhances your ability to understand the core of any situation distinctly. Your sharp insights and deep perceptiveness are at their peak, simplifying the process of achieving your objectives. This period is optimal for dispelling any confusion that has obscured your inner truths and for releasing the constraints of your past that have impeded your progress. Focus is now essential on your aspirations, accompanied by a profound spiritual enlightenment. Dedicate your time to harmonizing with the natural world—engage in morning or evening walks, embrace practices like yoga and meditation, or even consider participating in sports at a professional level. Embrace the flow of life's currents, allowing them to guide you forward naturally.
Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Sunday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
Individuals born under this sign possess boundless potential, enabling them to transform and craft their reality as they see fit. While it is not feasible for everyone to uncover every mystery, these individuals often lead others to explore and tap into their own depths to unveil untapped capabilities. Known for their deep spiritual focus, they wield considerable power to enrich and fundamentally change lives. They adhere to a strong belief in balance and fairness, understanding that every action triggers a corresponding reaction, echoing the principles of cause and effect. To cultivate positive outcomes, they maintain a mindset geared toward making decisions that align with their desired results. This clarity of thought facilitates the full realization of their goals and alleviates many of life's challenges. Anticipate a significant journey or change in the near future.
Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday

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

The Power of a Thought

THE TUNING FORK



CV Srikanth

Cogito, ergo sum' ... I think therefore I am. ...
René Descartes
If you have decided to read this. Stop. Think what you are thinking now. Because ... Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right! The only thing absolutely in our power is our Thought. It shapes our reality. Influences our emotions. Translates to actions. And ultimately defines the quality of our lives. This concept is deeply embedded in various philosophical and spiritual traditions, including ancient Indian wisdom, emphasizing the profound impact of our mental processes, manifesting into our experiences.
In the realm of Vedic philosophy, the Nature of thoughts is not just merely a fleeting phenomenon. They are powerful forces that can create or destroy. The idea that "you become what you think" resonates with many ancient texts, highlighting the significance of cultivating positive thoughts.

“यथा संकल्पते मनः तदनुसम्यद्यते”
“As the mind thinks, so it becomes.”

The quality of our thoughts directly influences our reality. A positive mindset attracts positive experiences. Positive Thinking is not merely wishful thinking. It is a conscious effort to reshape our cognitive patterns. This idea is echoed in various scriptures that advocate for a mindset centred on optimism and well-being.

“अस्तो मासद्गमय”
“Lead me from the unreal to the real.”

This shloka from the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad encourages individuals to move from ignorance to knowledge. By focusing on positive and truthful thoughts, we navigate through the complexities of life towards clarity, peace and Holistic wellbeing. A thought is energy. Almost impossible to stop from flowing in. Having a sizeable impact effect on every facet of our life. What however is possible and should be the goal is to regulate them conscientiously so as to have them supportively influence and nourish our present moment. How we nurture out thoughts is in our control. Thereby we can manage how they impact us. If we



allow the negative to nest within for a long period, we create a cyclic trap which is detrimental. It is important to emphasize here that when we stay on and nourish thoughts, we become what we think. Yet ... we must recognise that and understand that we are not our thoughts. We

have the ability to rise above them. Meditation and mindfulness practices are vital in harnessing the power of our thoughts. They help in cultivating consciousness, allowing us to observe our thoughts without attachment. This detachment is crucial in

understanding the transient nature of thoughts.

“शान्ताकारं युज शयनं च शुभ्रति योगिनाम्”
“Peaceful in form, resting on a serpent, Lord of all beings, O yogis..”

This shloka refers to Lord Shiva, symbolising inner peace and

mastery over the mind. Through practices that promote mindfulness, we can align our thoughts with tranquillity and purpose. The power of thoughts extends beyond the individual. It influences our ecosystem. The teachings of the Upanishads highlight the interconnectedness of life and the importance of collective positivity. The power of our thoughts is a profound truth recognised in ancient Indian philosophy. By cultivating positive, constructive thoughts, we can transform our reality, contribute to our well-being, and enhance our connections with ourself, others and the Universe. As we navigate through life's challenges, our thoughts hold the key to our experiences, shaping our destinies with each conscious choice we make. As Raman Maharishi said - The degree of freedom from unwanted thoughts and the degree of concentration on a single thought are the measures to gauge spiritual progress. We are the seat of limitless Power - through our thought. Just One Thought can make all the difference!! I think therefore I am.