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dangerous levels of heavy

metals still present in the

river? This report exposes the

regulatory failures and calls

for immediate corrective

action," said Dr. Sanjay

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.

regulations

prevent irreversible

immediate steps are essential

Kulshreshtha,

environmental expert.

magazine

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🗄 DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA

Yamuna grows toxic veggies?

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

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

study 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 Poiva 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 chromium soared to a staggering 135.15 micrograms per liter, while lead reached 23.41 micrograms per literpermissible limits. 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, 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 The city's two major water treatment plants, Jiwani Mandi and Sikandra Water Works, are still stuck with outdated technologies that can only test for basic parameters like turbidity, color, pH, TDS, hardness, coliform, and E. coli.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 MBBR plant, which supplies water to nearly half the city, lacks the necessary filtration systems to remove deadly metals. "We 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 slammed regulatory bodies

With the specter of a fullblown environmental disaster for failing to enforce pollution looming large, experts are "If the Pollution urging swift government Control Board claims to have action before the Yamuna stopped factories from turns into an irreversible toxic discharging waste into the

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 Sanjiv 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 "fundamentalist-barbaric The Union Government has yet to file its counter-affidavit

encroachment done invaders and law-breakers". 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 PILs



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 consequences" of overturning the law, citing incidents like the Sambhal case, where a recent reportedly triggered widespread protests resulted in six fatalities. The committee warned 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

Repatriate B'deshis staying illegally: **Nizamuddin locals**

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the killing of Hindus Bangladesh. 2

delegation of prominent Ulemas and residents of the

Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah

and Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin

Bangladesh,

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 number 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 minorities 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 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 1 on Saturday rejected the Bharativa Ianata Party's allegations that organisations funded by the US State Department, and elements in the American "deep state" 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



The BJP had alleged on Thursday that the US deep state colluded with the media portal OCCRP (Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project) and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to "damage" India's image. The BJP had cited Gandhi's use of reports by OCCRP to attack the Adani Group and to accuse it of having closeness with the government.

disappointing that the ruling party in India would make these kinds of accusations," the US embassy spokesperson



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

PNS NEW DELHI

Two murders in different L colonies rocked Delhi on Saturday, with the ruling Aam Party 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, national convenor 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 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 scooty, when two motorcycle-borne unidentified attackers opened fire at him in the Farsh Bazar

Shahdara 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

riving from the National High-

way side, making the station

December 21 is World Meditation Day, UNGA adopts resolution co-sponsored by India "testimony to its



Representative photo

PTI UNITED NATIONS

India co-sponsored a UN General Assembly draft resolution unanimously adopted proclaim December 21 as World Meditation Day. India, including Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico and Andorra, was a member of the core group of countries that guided the unanimous adoption of the resolution titled 'World Meditation Day' in the 193-member UN General Assembly on Friday. "A day for comprehensive well-being and inner transformation! Glad that India along with other nations of the core group guided the unanimous adoption of the resolution on the declaration of December 21 as World Meditation Day @UN General Assembly today (Friday)," Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said in a post on X.

overall human wellbeing stems from "our civilisational

#VasudhaivaKutumbakam the whole world is one family". Harish noted that December 21 marks the Winter Solstice, which in Indian tradition is the beginning of "Uttarayana an auspicious time of the year, especially for inner reflection" and meditation. It also falls exactly six months after the International Day of Yoga commemorated on June 21, which is the Summer Solstice. Recalling that India had in 2014 taken the lead in declaring June 21 as International Day of Yoga, Harish said that in a decade, it has become a global movement which has led to common people across the globe practising yoga and making it part of their daily

press release by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN said India's instrumental role in the adoption of the resolution on

World Meditation Day was a commitment to overall human wellness and global leadership on this front in tune with our civilisational dictum of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". declaration of World time when various regions of the globe witness conflicts and growing tensions, the mission said.

It underlined that meditation is rooted in ancient practises and is an effective tool to achieve inner transformation and peace in the modern day. It is aimed at comprehensive human well-being, including mental, emotional, physical and spiritual dimensions. It prepares human beings to cope with several modernday issues such as heightened anxiety and stress and brings about harmony between mind and body, humans and nature.

"Modern science attests to the numerous benefits meditation and its profound impact on our lives. It has been scientifically proven that regular meditation significantly reduces stress, and enhances cognitive and physical functions," the Indian mission added.

The resolution, introduced by Liechtenstein, was also cosponsored by Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Iceland, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Portugal and Slovenia.



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 Radharamn Das told PTI that the targetted attack members of the community and members of the Vaishnavite order goes on unabated as "vandals set ablaze idols inside the temple at the Namhatta property." He said in a post on X handle, "ISKCON Ñamhatta 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 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

Cuttack rly stations 2nd entry opened

Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the second entry of Cuttack railway station on Saturday, marking a significant milestone in the station's redevelopment under the Amrit Stations Scheme.

This new entry, along with the East Side Station Building, is set to transform passenger travel, offering improved accessibility, safety



The second entry is designed to provide seamless

hassle-free access. This development is part of an ambitious ?303 crore project aimed at redeveloping the Cuttack railway station into a modern transportation hub with world-class amenities. Vaishnaw said the project

He said India's leadership in

would also contribute to socioeconomic growth by boosting trade and commerce, making the Cuttack railway station a key hub in the region.

'ASO jobs on sale' BJD protests CM Majhi's remark in Assembly

PNS BHUBANESWAR

A day after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi accused the previous Naveen Patnaikled BJD government of selling Assistant Section Officer (ASO) jobs for Rs 30 lakh, the opposition BJD created a ruckus in the State Legislative Assembly as soon as the House assembled for the journed the Assembly till 4 Question Hour session on Sat-

The BJD MLAs stormed into the Well of the House and started sloganeering forcing Speaker Surama Padhy to adjourn the Assembly till 11.30 am. After the proceeding of the House resumed, the BJD MLAs again created unrest in the House over the Chief Minister's statement, following which the Speaker ad-

Targeting CM Majhi over

his statement, Opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik said, "The Chief Minister came up with a statement that jobs are being sold in the market for Rs 20-30 lakh. I want to ask whether he can tell me the shop and market where the jobs are on sale. If the CM is claiming that he knows the persons involved in the job scam, why no action has been taken against them even after six months have passed since the BJP came

to power in the State?" Mallik "This is a conspiracy to tar-

nish the image of the previous BJD government," she added. Responding to Mallik's

statement, BJP MLA Manas Dutta said, "CM Mohan Majhi is well aware of the irregularities done during the 24 years of ruling by the BJD as he is not new to the House. I request the Opposition to refrain themselves from cheap politics."

Controversial Asish Singh appointed ITBP IG | Prez lays stone for 3 railway lines

Controversial Odishacadre IPS officer Ashish Kumar Singh has been transferred and appointed as the Inspector General (IG) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

According to a letter issued by the Union Home Ministry to Odisha Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Ahuja, the IPS officer would remain in the post for a period of five years from the date of assumption of the charge or until further orders. "It is, therefore, re-



Singh, IPS (OD:2004) may be relieved immediately to enable

him to take up his new assignment at the Centre," the letter stated. Singh was surrounded by controversies for allegedly acting as a BJD campaigner during the general elections 2024. He was accused of unduly interfering in the general election process in the State.

After the BJP approached the Election Commission of India (ECI) accusing Singh of unduly interfering in the general election process, he was removed from IG (Central Range) position and appointed as IG (CM Security), which was a non-election-re-

The ECI, in June, also directed the Odisha Government to take appropriate action against the IPS officer for misrepresentation of facts about his health.

The directive from the ECI came after his health report was submitted by the Special Medical Board of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar following his health checkups.

Later, Singh joined duty on July 3. However, he was removed from IG (CM Security) position and posted as OSD, Home Department.

 $P_{{\scriptsize \mathsf{resident}}}$ Droupadi Murmu on Saturday laid the foundation-stone for three new railway lines Mayurbhanj district.

The event took place at the Bangiriposi railway station in Mayurbhanj on the fifth and final day of the President's five-day visit to Odisha.

The railway projects consist of three new lines-Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani, Buramara-Chakulia and Badampahar-Kendujhargarh



Rairangpur. She also laid a

A day after Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi accused

the previous BJD government

of selling Assistant Section Of-

ficer (ASO) posts for Rs 30

lakh, job aspirants here have

demanded a CBI probe into

the alleged scam. They said

their futures have been pushed

"Over 5.5 lakh job aspirants

have been protesting since last

two months demanding can-

cellation of RI, Amin recruit-

into the dark.

The President also virtually inaugurated a Tribal Research and Development Centre in

'ASO jobs on sale'

foundation-stone upgradation of the Dandbose airport and for construction of a new block at the Rairangpur Sub-Divisional

12-13 hours and rely on Rs-5

Aahaar meal to achieve their

dreams. The aspirants should

get justice," said a job aspir-

Another aspirant said, "The

CBI should investigate the job

scam done during the previ-

Notably, CM Majhi on Fri-

day accused the former BJD

government of ruining the fu-

"Irregularities in recruit-

ment practices extended into

the State's secretariat as well.

ous BJD government."

ture of students.

Vig arrests ACF after detecting multiple buildings



he Vigilance police on Saturday arrested Rebati Raman Joshi, Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) of Hirakud Wild Life Division in Sambalpur, after huge assets were unearthed during raids on his properties on Friday.

Vigilance officials had conducted raids at nine places linked to Joshi in Bargarh and Sambalpur and unearthed disproportionate assets in his name.

During the raid, the Vigilance found Joshi in possession of disproportionate assets comprising three build-

ings including a triple-storied house in Sambalpur town worth about Rs 1.80 crore.

Besides, four flats including one in Bhubaneswar and three in Sambalpur town were found in the name of Joshi. Moreover, seven high-value plots and Rs 14.71 lakh in cash were also detected.

The ACF will be produced before a court for the possession of disproportionate as-

The Sambalpur Vigilance has registered a case against Joshi and further investigation in this connection was underway, officials said in a

Centurion University holds 12th Convocation

Celebrates excellence and inclusion

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Centurion University held its Twelfth Convocation at its Bhubaneswar campus on Saturday with 2,738 students from the 2024 batch and 138 students from previous batches receiving their degrees, besides 47 doctoral graduates.

Presided over by Odisha Governor and Visitor to the University Raghubar Das, the event was graced by chief guest Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court, and guest of honour Dr Sreedhar Panicker Somanath, Secretary and Chairman of ISRO.

Dr Somanath inspired the graduates to embrace innovation and leverage cutting-edge



technology for societal benefit.

University Vice-Chancellor Dr Supriya Pattanayak commended the graduates for their hard work and perseverance. She emphasised Centurion University's commitment to sustainable development and its ongoing efforts to empower underrepresented communities through innovative education and vocational

programmes.

As the university marked its 12th Convocation, the institution remained committed to fostering a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship and academic rigour. The ceremony also served as a reflection of the university's dedication to shaping the future

The convocation was also

attended by Prof Mukti Kanta Mishra, President of the University, Professor D.N. Rao, the Vice President of the University; Prof Anita Patra, Registrar; and Dr Biswajit Mishra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

districts of Mayurbhanj and

Keonjhar to several other

parts of Odisha. It is expected

to be a major boost for indus-

Notably, the attendees in-

cluded guardians of the graduating students, adding a sense of familial support to the

ment examination conducted Assistant Section Officer by OSSSC. This is a very sen-(ASO) jobs were sold at Rs 25 sitive matter. There are many lakh to Rs 30 lakh each," Majhi candidates who study hard for

Aspirants demand CBI

probe into CM's remark

11.8% rise in State excise revenue in 2024 Earning hits Rs 7,217 crore

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Saturday informed the State Assembly that Odisha registered a steady rise in the sale of alcohol in the 2023-2024 financial year as compared to the previous year.

Analysing the figures, it was noted that the sale of foreign liquor increased by a whopping five lakh forty-one thousand litres in the State.

This was evident after the minister's statement that 5.83 crore litres of foreign liquor were sold in the 2022-23 financial year. However, the sale surged to 5.88 crore litres in 2023-24.

from 12.9 crore litres in 2022-23 to 15.35 crore litres in 2023-24, an increase of 3.26 crore

Besides, the demand for country liquor also increased from 84.37 lakh litres in 2022-23 to 98.43 lakh litres in the next financial year.

It is pertinent to note that these statistics were recorded before the new excise policy of the State Government came into effect on September 1, 2024. As per the new laws, no new FL 'ON' liquor shops will be opened in the current financial year.

In the same address, the Excise Minister also noted that excise revenue also saw a significant growth, reaching

Search for rented house Dentist duped by fraudster in city

PNS BHUBANESWAR

A dentist in Bhubaneswar was allegedly duped of a large sum of money by a man posing as a broker while the former was in search for a rented accommodation.

The incident came to light after the victim, identified as Jyoti Prakash Sahu, lodged a complaint at the Infocity police station on Saturday.

Sahu alleged that the broker vanished after taking a large sum of money from him as an advance payment for a

Sahu, who originally hails from Jajpur, had come to from the capital city.

Bhubaneswar for an internship at a private hospital. While looking for accommodation, he noticed a 'To Let' poster and subsequently contacted the number listed.

He then met the broker in Nandan Vihar and paid two months of advance rent for an apartment via UPI. However, after the payment, the broker neither provided the house nor returned the money; and the dentist realised that he had been duped.

Several such instances of people looking for rented accommodation being duped by fraudsters have been reported



cationist and founder of KIIT & KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta was conferred with his 62nd honorary doctorate by the Poornima University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, at the university's 11th convocation ceremony on Saturday.

While conferring the degree, the university commended his exceptional efforts in transforming lives through education and community development.

Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Samanta said, "For the last



relentlessly for the betterment awarded 62 honorary doctorof society. This honorary doctorate will remain a cherished

ates by prestigious universities and institutions worldwide in acknowledgment of his dian Army, as chief guest.

outstanding contributions. The ceremony was graced by Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani,

Vice-Chief of Army Staff, In-

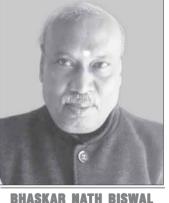
Similarly, beer sales surged

approximately Rs 7,217 crore in 2023-24 compared to Rs 6,455 crore in 2022-23 (11.8%).

Dual degree: Balancing academics, finances, future prospects

≺ he National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was ap proved by the Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020. This historic move replaced the 34-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE) of 1986, paving the way for a transformative change in India's education system. The NEP 2020 envisions a transformative overhaul of India's school and higher education systems, ushering in a new era of educational excellence and re-

The NEP 2020 was formulated after an extensive consultation process that initiated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in January 2015 The process drew in nearly 2 lakh suggestions from a staggering 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks, 6,000 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and 676 districts. This collaborative process was a testament to the government's commitment to crafting an education policy that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the people. By engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders, the MHRD ensured that the NEP 2020 is a comprehensive and forward-looking document that addresses the complex challenges facing India's education system. The NEP 2020 has introduced



BHASKAR NATH BISWAL

several groundbreaking reforms aimed at transforming India's education landscape. Key reforms include a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure, increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035 and introducing multiple entry and exit points with certification. Additionally, undergraduate education will be offered in three or four-year formats with multiple exit options, and an Academic Bank of Credits will facilitate credit transfer. Other reforms include promoting multidisciplinary education and research, establishing a National Research Foundation and Higher Education Commission of India and introducing Twinning, Joint

Degree and Dual Degree Programmes for international collaborations.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) released comprehensive guidelines for pursuing two simultaneous academic programmes in 2022, directing higher education institutions to promote this scheme for students' benefit. However, due to a lukewarm response, the UGC issued follow-up letters in 2023. Most recently, on November 20, 2024, the UGC urged institutions to establish supportive mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the dual degree programme.

Pursuing two degrees simultaneously, either at the same university or at different universities with different modes is known as a duel degree or joint degree. This approach allows for a broader and more diverse educational experi-

The UGC has outlined guidelines for pursuing multiple academic programmes. Students can pursue two full-time programmes in physical mode, provided there's no overlap in class timings. Alternatively, they can pursue one fulltime physical programme and one Open and Distance Learning (ODL)/Online programme or up to

two ODL/Online programmes simultaneously. However, ODL/ Online programmes must be from UGC-recognised Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). These programmes will be governed by UGC regulations and respective statutory/professional councils. The guidelines are effective from the date of notification by the UGC with no retrospective benefits applicable

The dual degree system in India offers numerous benefits, including enhanced employability as holders of two degrees have a competitive edge in the job market. Additionally, this system enables students to earn two degrees in a shorter duration, resulting in significant time and cost savings. Dual degree programs also provide increased specialisation, allowing students to develop expertise in two fields and become more versatile. Furthermore, these programmes offer improved research opportunities, exposing students to diverse fields and fostering a more comprehensive understanding of their chosen subjects.

The Post Graduate Programme (PGP) in Management at IIM Bangalore offers students a unique opportunity to earn two degrees through its Dual Degree (DD)

Programm, in collaboration with prestigious international institutions, including Bocconi University, Italy, ESCP Business School, France, Groupe Kedge Business School, France, and Hitotsubashi University Business School, Japan. Selected students spend their first academic year at IIM Bangalore before transferring to the partner institution for their second year, and upon meeting the academic requirements set by both institutions, can earn two academic degrees, enhancing their global per-

spective and career prospects. The University of Delhi has introduced a pioneering dual degree programme enabling students to pursue two concurrent courses within the institution. This innovative initiative allows eligible students to enroll in a regular degree programme offered by any college or department at DU while simultaneously pursuing a second degree through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode at the School of Open Learning.

While the UGC's objective to introduce dual degree programmes is commendable, its implementation in India poses significant challenges. Many students, due to limited knowledge, economic constraints and time limitations, prefer to pursue a single degree. Consequently, only a select few, who are academically brilliant and financially stable, are likely to opt for dual degrees. Further, the rigid requirements for submitting migration and transfer certificates can hinder smooth admission to the second degree programme. Similarly, managing the demands of two programmes, including timely submissions of assignments, attending classes and sitting for examinations, can be mentally taxing for students. Additionally, the disparity between dual degree and single degree holders may lead to social challenges in the future.

A significant hurdle in implementing the NEP 2020 is the widespread lack of awareness among students, teachers and administrators about the policy's provisions and goals. Despite the policy's well-intentioned recommendations for transforming India's education system, there is a glaring gap in understanding and awareness, particularly at the grassroots level.

The success of NEP 2020 hinges on the ability of all stakeholders to grasp its principles and objectives. Until then, implementing the policy's guidelines will remain a

the NEP 2020, it is imperative that

institutions dedicate a specific time slot for discussions and awareness sessions. A suggested approach would be to allocate one hour each week for students to engage in discussions about the policy's reforms, choices, and opportunities. This would empower students to make informed decisions and capitalise on the available opportuni-

To harness the full potential of

Similarly, a separate one-hour program should be conducted for teachers and administrators to deliberate on the implementation of the new guidelines. This platform would also serve as an opportunity to address any doubts or concerns among staff members, enabling them to effectively communicate the policy's provisions to students.

Ultimately, the success of NEP 2020 rests on the synergy and coordination among stakeholders, including the government. Fostering a clear understanding and cooperation among all parties involved is crucial to realising the policy's intended benefits.

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Printed and published by Sarada Prasanna Nanda for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 1067, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012. Tel: 0674-2560355. e-mail: orissapioneer@gmail.com. Printed at WEBLINE, D-2/19, Sector-A, Zone-D, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010. Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli. Resident Editor: S.P. Nanda. RNI Regn. No. ORIENG/2007/22475. AIR SURCHARGE of Re. 1.00 East: Calcutta, Ranchi, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central: Khajuraho, Delhi Office: 100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Corporate Office: -201-205, 208-210, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow 226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445

S Odisha forum's 'Bhubaneswar Chala' on Dec 10

With host of demands

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The South Odisha Development Steering Committee convened a meeting in Brahmapur on Friday to finalise arrangements for the upcoming Bhubaneswar Chala Abhiyan slated for December 10.

Scheduled with the International Human Rights Day, the Bhubaneswar Chala Abhiyan aims to spotlight the rights and developmental aspirations of south Odisha.

Key demands include constructing new railway lines to connect districts such as Rayagada, Gajapati, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Koraput, Kalahandi, Boudh, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur with major cities like Brahmapur, Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai.

The formation of a South Odisha Development Council is seen as critical for ensuring integrated and sustainable growth in the region. Additionally, the committee underscored the need for the creation of Greater Brahmapur merging Brahmapur, Chhatrapur and Gopalpur with 26 adjoining panchayats under the Brahmapur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) to facilitate unified governance and development.

Another major demand is the immediate construction of national airport in Brahmapur to improve connectivity and boost economic

The committee also highlighted the importance of protecting ecological landmarks such as Mahendragiri, Niyamgiri and Gandhamardan while pursuing infrastructural advance-

Pragatisheela Utkal Samai Convenor Saroj Ranjan Patnaik called for collective efforts to achieve justice and equality for south Odisha. "This movement is more than a protest; it is a fight for the dignity and rightful development of south Odisha," he re-

The rally is expected to draw a large gathering of activists, intellectuals, lawyers, and citizens. Organizations like the Dakhina Odisha Unnayana Milita

Kriyanusthan Committee, Pragatisila Utkal Samaj, Ganjam Jilla Bikas Manch, Ganjam District Chamber of Commerce, Odisha Development Forum, Forum for Ganjam, Gopalpur Nagarika

Manch, Ama Sankruti Ama Parampara, Bahumukhi Samaj Mangal, Rayagada Jila Nagarik Samukhya, Stayee Bikasha Lakshya, Manab Adhikar Surakhya Manch, and Ghumusar Bikas Samiti have extended their full support to make the event a suc-

organisers have The warned that if the 50 core demands are not addressed, they will intensify their agitation, including reviving calls for the creation of Ghumusara district and the revival of a separate "Kalinga State".

JRC Cuttack holds block-level orientation

Under the guidance of District Education Officer (DEO) Santosh Kumar Rout and ADEO Sonamika Ray, a blocklevel Junior Red Cross orientation programme for blocks like Cuttack Sadar, CMC and Tangi Choudwar was organised at Ranihat Government High School, Cuttack.

92 JRC counsellors from different schools joined the programme and oriented on different topics like History of Red Cross, First Aid, Disaster Management and HIV AIDS etc. The main objective of the programme was to disseminate the Red Cross activities and strengthen JRC units at school level so that emergency services can be rendered at the



time of bare need.

Headmistress of the school Pallavi Mahajan presided over the meeting. Junior Red Cross Officer Laxman Swain demonstrated different life survival skills and also motivated counsellors for more activities at school level. JRCO Cuttack Partha Sarathi Mallick and JRC secretary coordinated.

Former JRCO Cuttack Mihir Kumar Parida, Paresh Kumar Malla, Ananta Khatei and former headmaster Sukanta Sarangi were present.

Baleswar Main Branch by

fraudulently issuing letters for

transfer of huge sum of money

to the tune of more than Rs

1.23 crore from the account of

the branch in different phases.

Sonkar in order to facilitate

the transfer of money from the

aforesaid branch had made

unauthorised transfer of the

required amount from the

CGTSME and TA

INBRIEF

Excise Dy Commissioner gets 2-yr

Cuttack: The Special Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack on Saturday convicted Swayambhu Prasad Mishra, former Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Division, Sambalpur for possessing disproportionate assets (DA) and sentenced him to two years' rigorous imprisonment (RI). The court also directed Mishra to pay a fine of Rs 1 lakh. The Vigilance would now move the competent authority for stoppage of pension of Mishra following his conviction. Special Public Prosecutor Biren Kumar Panda of the Special Court conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution.

Ambedkar death anniversary held by PPA

Paradip: Commemorating the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar, the Paradip Port Authority celebrated his legacy with the PPA fraternity led by PPA Chairman PL



Haranadh offering floral tributes at the statue of Dr Ambedkar. They remembered how his pioneering vision united Indians in the spirit of equality and justice. The meeting was also attended by PPA Deputy Chairman Nilabhra Dasgupta, CME Susil Chandra Nahak and Gangadhar Sethy and Dhuna Chandra Tarai, general secretaries, PPT SC & ST Employees' Welfare

Hemp plants destroyed in Boudh forests

on



a similar operation in Pindhapadar jungle by destroying 51,162 cannabis plants. Boudh SP Nagaraj Devarakonda led the 'Green Clean Oporation.'

Boudh: In a significant crack-

down illegal marijuana(ganja) cultivation, a joint operation by Police, Forest, and Revenue officials in Boudh successfully destroyed marijuana plants in various parts inside forests on November 24. Boudh police targeted Bramhanipali village jungle and destroyed 32,633 ganja plants in 32.67 decimal area, while Manamunda police carried out

In Baleswar Man gets 20-yr RI for raping minor girl

Special Judge POCSO Rajan Kumar Sutar on Friday convicted a person for raping a minor girl in Baleswar district and awarded him 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Balijhar village under the to undergo another two years' imprisonment.

The convict Mantu had

sexually assaulted an 11-yearold girl. The mother of the victim lodged an FIR on March 18, 2024 that Mantu had sexually assaulted the girl when she was alone at a relative's place, said Special Public Prosecutor

The court also directed the convict Mantu Singh of Berhampur (Nilgiri) police station in the district to pay a fine of Rs 3,000 and in default

Pranab Kumar Panda.

"The court delivered the judgement aftr hearing 11 witnesses and 21 exhibits. The court further ordered a Rs 4-lakh compensation for the victim to be paid through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)," said Panda.

In Baleswar Spurious tea factory unearthed during raid



BALESWAR

Police on Friday busted a factory in Baleswar district that was allegedly engaged in the manufacturing and selling of spurious tea by fraudulently using the labels of several reputed brands from

Several repeated complaints had flagged the matter including petitioners like Tata Tea, following which the Delhi High Court had ordered a crackdown.

A special team in coordination with Baleswar police then raided the spurious tea packaging factory near Agrawala Chowk along NH-60 under Jaleswar police station in the branded with logos of reputed companies was found to be The operation also revealed

that local tea was purchased at low prices from the market and packaged with the logos of well-known brands.

Sources also added that the factory was operating from a rented place under the guise of an auto parts shop, with a signboard displayed outside to keep it away from suspicion. However, counterfeit tea packaging activities were underway.

ties seized packaging machines and polythene bags printed with logos of various tea companies, mostly of well-known brands. Additionally, the unit also manufactured tea that carried labels with brand trademarks.

Following the raid, authori-

'Utilise 1,500-acre unused salt making land in Ganjam'

Ex-Dy Speaker Panda writes to Prez

PNS ■ B RAHMAPUR

Senior BJP leader and former Assembly Deputy Speaker Rama Chandra Panda has urged the Central Government for fruitful use of about 1,500 acres of salt land lying unused between Ganjam and Huma by side of NH-16.

Notably, the land owned by the Salt Commissioner was used for salt production but for the last 15 years the salt production has been stopped. Consequently, about 2,000 salt workers have lost their livelihood. The vast land is strategically located between Brahmapur city, Gopalpur AD College and Chilika Naval

In a letter to President Droupadi Murmu, Panda said that some salt workers being deprived of their livelihood

The body of a man was

Patpur village of Kundhei

Panchayat in Kakatpur under

While his wife says the de-

ceased committed suicide by

hanging, the latter's family al-

leged it to be a case of murder.

The police meanwhile after

postmortem has launched an

The deceased was identified

as Ranjit Naik (Sola). He had

investigation into the case.

In Sundargarh

suspicious circumstances.

had approached the Orissa High Court with their grievance after which, the Salt Commissioner issued an order laying down guidelines for due handover of the land to individuals /interested parties or the State Government for its

He said the people of Ganjam have long been demanding for an airfield while the district's unemployment rate is high

He requested Murmu to advise the Central government to establish a green air field in President that he had also drawn the attention of the Prime Minister to the issue during his historic visit to Brahmapur on May 6.

the area by acquiring another 500 acre private land available in the adjacent area or to establish a modern salt manufacturing unit or any appropriate industry under PPP mode to generate employment. He also reminded the

married Kabita Naik of

Panimal 20 years ago. Later,

they had two children, a son

On December 5, Kavita in-

formed the police that her hus-

band had committed suicide

by hanging. Ranjit was a driver

bus. However, Ranjit's relatives

alleged that he was murdered

and doubted the role of his wife

Kavita and another person of

the same village. Kakatpur po-

lice has registered a case and

launched a probe.

private

Man's body seized; probe on in Kakatpur

seized from his home in (17) and a daughter (16).

Rs 1.23-crore fraud

Odisha EOW arrests ex-PNB Manager from WB

 ${
m T}$ he Odisha Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has arrested a former Punjab National Bank (PNB) Manager of Circle Office in Baleswar district in connection with a fraud of more than Rs 1.23 crore.

The accused, identified as Vinay Sonkar, was arrested from Burdwan in West Bengal and produced before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Purba Burdwan in West Bengal and then brought on transit remand and produced before the Designated Court under the OPID Act in Baleswar.

The EOW had earlier registered a case on the written report of Mrinal Kanti Mohanti, Chief Manager, Punjab Na-

Baleswar, tional Bank, wherein it has been alleged that Vinay Sonkar during his incumbency issued directions

to the Branch Manager, Baleswar, for transfer of Rs 1,23 crore to unauthorised accounts in a most fraudulent

Vinay Sonkar was posted as

Manager in Circle Office, PNB, Baleswar during August 31, 2020 to June 4.2022 and assigned with General Services Administration Department (GSAD). He was also incharge of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

He had issued directions to

Earlier, Sonkar while posted at Rishra Morepukur branch in Hooghly in West Bengal during 2022, had also committed similar type of fraud to the tune of Rs.80 lakh for which the bank authority removed him from service on March 24, 2024.

Further, investigation of the

case was ongoing.

she was admitted to a hospi-

Following her complaint,

the Rairakhol police arrested

the accused and launched an

medical examination while the

accused is currently in our

custody. The medical reports

would help ascertain the truth

behind the allegations," said

Rairkhol SDPO Prashant

tal in Rairakhol.

investigation.

In Sambalpur

'Godman' held for raping tribal woman teriorating health condition,

Police on Friday arrested a self-proclaimed godman on the charge of raping a woman on the pretext of offering traditional medicine in the district.

The accused, identified as Prafulla Mahala, allegedly raped an unmarried tribal woman when she approached him seeking treatment for her health problems.

As per sources, the accused hailed from Bhalaipadar village under the Manamunda police station in Boudh dis-



trict and he had been presenting himself as a spiritual leader and living in a monastery at Baishnabjholi under the Rairakhol police station for several years.

It is alleged that when the woman approached Mahala for treatment, he administered some intoxicating substances to her and subsequently raped

Sources also added that de-

spite the ordeal, the woman managed to escape from the s[pot. However, due to her de-

The SDPO further said the woman approached the godman because of a previous acquaintance.

tation over mines to Adani continues



Police forces deployed

PNS SUNDARGARH

he agitation over the 25year contract between the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Adani Group for an iron mine in Taldih locality under Koida block in Sundargarh district entered ninth day on Saturday, severely disrupting the transportation of minerals.

While many men and women from three affected panchayats have been staging a demonstration in front of the mine gate of the mines for the last nine days over fulfillment of their 15-point charter of demands, it has yielded no results yet.

The demonstrators allege that promises made during public hearings for the welfare of the affected locals are not met. The demands include employment to 1,133 people affected by the mining activities and ensuring healthcare, education and

Sasyakala

"We request the SAIL to fulfill our demands; otherwise we will continue our protest," said an agitator.

"Only 143 local people are engaged in mines. After getting 25 years contract, the Adani Group is showing no interest for the employment of locals," alleged a leader of the demonstrators

As palpable tension continues in the region, three platoons of police forces have been deployed at the spot to avoid any kind of untoward





PNS ■ BARIPADA

 $T_{
m he\ newly-floated\ Hindu}$ Suraksha Manch on Thursday held a protest march here on the issue of continued incidents of loot, arson, rape and murder of innocent Hindus in Bangladesh. The protestors also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of ISKCON Sadhu Mahant Chinmay Krushna Das.

Madhuban ground and reached the district collectorate, after covering the major streets and the market areas of the town. Upon their arrival in the collectorate premises, a meeting was held, where the speakers lambasted the Bangladesh government, blaming it for its fanatic approach and the continued atrocities on Hindus and other

tual organisations began their

march from the local

ten to the Prime Minister was handed over to Mayurbhanj ADM Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak. The memorandum urges for India's immediate diplomatic influence and intervention to stop forthwith the unfortunate happenings in the neighbouring country.

Remarkably, the protest rally and the meeting saw the participation of cross-section of society, including the Mayurbhanj Maharaja and the common public, youths and women, senior citizens and Bajrang Dal workers.

across the country.

Reports stated that during the operation, counterfeit tea

district.

Hundreds of protestors transportation facilities for that included members of minorities in neighbouring the three affected panchayats VHP, RSS, BJP and several country. Immediately after the of Tensa, Chordhara and other socio-cultural and spirimeeting, a memorandum writ-

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.

He asserted that while the step will benefit a large number of students, many employment opportunities will also be created.

"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.

While this step will benefit a large number of students,



created," Modi said in a social media post.

The prime minister said the government is committed to providing school education to every section of the many new employment society in accordance with residential and quality opportunities will also be the National Education school education to a larger

"As part of that, our government has approved Navodaya new Vidyalayas across the country. This will expand

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

approved on Friday the 26.463-km Rithala-Kundli corridor of the Delhi Metro's Phase-IV project that will further enhance connectivity between the national capital neighbouring Haryana.

elevated. decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by

The Union Cabinet also operator"

The entire stretch will comprise 21 stations, all of

statement.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Enforcement 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.

These include movable assets investment made by Mauritius-based company Tano Investment Opportunities Fund related to Dubai-based "hawala to Dubai-based Shankar Hari Tibrewal through FPI and FDI - and properties in Chhattisgarh, Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh in the name of promoters of multiple betting apps and websites, panel operators and associates of the promoters, the federal agency said in a

A provisional order was issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act past that its probe into the (PMLA) on December 5 to attach these assets with a has

total value of Rs 387.99 crore, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said

Tibrewal investigated by the agency in this case.

The ED has issued multiple such orders during this investigation and with the latest order, assets worth Rs 2,295.61 crore have been either frozen, attached or seized so far.

Eleven people have been arrested in this case and the has

chargesheets. The agency has alleged in the

Mahadev Online Betting (MOB) gaming and betting shown the involvement of various highranking politicians bureaucrats Chhattisgarh.

The app's main promoters, Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal, hail from the state.

According to the ED, the MOB app is an umbrella syndicate arranging online platforms for enabling illegal betting websites to enrol new users, create user IDs and launder money through a layered web of benami bank

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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.

The Russian-manufactured multi-role stealth guided missile frigate INS Tushil will be commissioned on Monday in the coastal city of Kaliningrad. The warship, billed as one of the most technologically advanced frigates globally, is expected to significantly bolster the Indian Navy's operational capability in the Indian Ocean, a region that has witnessed increasing Chinese forays. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

will accompany Singh to the industrial cooperation, 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)

Moscow on December 10. The defence minister's visit to Russia comes five months Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Moscow and held summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In the talks, both sides decided to further bolster two-way defence ties. Singh and Belousov will review the entire range of multi-faceted relations between the two countries in the field of defence, including military-to-military

defence ministry said in the readout. "They will also exchange views contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest," it said.

People familiar with Singh's said India-Russia visit cooperation in co-production of military hardware will figure prominently in the talks between the two defence ministers. "As part of the visit, the defence minister will also commission the Indian Navy's latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate 'INS Tushil' at Yantra Shipyard, Kaliningrad on December 9, the ministry said.

It said Singh will also pay tributes at 'The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Moscow to honour the Soviet soldiers killed during the Second War. He is also World scheduled to interact with the members of the Indian community in Moscow.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

another post in Hindi.

The prime minister also said

determined to improve

country. "In this direction,

government

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. The Union Cabinet

approved on Friday the

opening of 85 new KVs and

The opening of these new

opportunity for over 82,000

to

affordable and high-quality

country. The total estimated

requirement of funds for the

across

provide an

receive

It also gave its nod

expanding one KV.

28 new NVs.

KVs will

students

education

government

across the

viving a ray of hope to Upatients 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.

A recent public notice issued by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) informed the public about the reconstitution of committee.

'The central committee is reconstituted under the chairmanship of Dr Ajay Kumar Shukla, Professor Orthopaedics, Hospital (New Delhi), to determine the quantum of

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.

In 2010, the company issued a global recall on the product following complaints related to hip implants from other parts of the world.

The affected patients who were implanted with faulty ASR hip implants and are suffering from disability and other losses may approach either the Central Expert Committee or the state-level committee in accordance with

CISF sets up Quality Control Unit to enhance aviation security



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

An spokesperson for the paramilitary force said on Saturday that the Internal Quality Control Unit (IQCU) will play a "crucial" role in

security procedures and technology for the airports that are used by lakhs of domestic and international passengers every day.

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 BCAS, under the civil

initiative

aviation ministry, frames security policies for the Indian civil aviation sector. The new unit will bring about uniformity in civil aviation security procedures and training, recommend new technology available world over, allow internal audits of CISF security units and their protocols and identify "gaps"

for improvement.

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. The latest system will also

The unit will be part of CISF's

under Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAAN), the spokesperson said. "The IQCU will be led by a senior CISF officer and a

cover the airports that come

team of certified aviation security instructors will run it," he said. The about 1.80 lakh people-

strong Central Industrial Security Force, under the Union home ministry, is the national civil aviation security force and it has deployed around 50,000 personnel to guard the 68

Maharashtra opposition stages walkout over EVM manipulation allegations

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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).

However, the MLAs belonging to the MVA - comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) may take oath on Sunday, the second and final day of the oath-taking ceremony. While the MVA MLAs staged a walk out en masse from the State Assembly, two MLAs belonging to the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party took oath. The three MVA constituents collectively account for 46 MLAs in a 288member State Assembly as against the combined strength of the ruling MahaYuti -comprising BJP, Shiv Sena (ES) and NCP (Ajit Pawar-of 235 in the House. After staging a walkout from the House, the MVA leaders gathered near the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and explained their stage a walk from the State Assembly,

Talking to media persons, state Congress President and senior party MLA Nana Patole said: "Despite the BJP alliance forming the government after the state assembly elections, the public sentiment is that this government does not reflect their votes. It is not a government of the people's mandate. The sentiment of the people in Markadwadi mirrors that of the majority in the public of the state. Respecting opinion, members Mahavikas Aghadi (MVA) have decided not to take their oath today". "We boycotted the oath-taking ceremony as democracy is being murdered

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. On Monday, there will be

election to the post of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, which is a mere formality considering the small strength of the Opposition.

This is for the first time in the history of Maharashtra, that there would not be a Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the state Assembly.

The Opposition MVA comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar) -put up a pathetic performance by winning a meagre 46 seats. While the Shiv Sena (UBT) secured 20 seats, the Congress and NCP (SP) won 16 and 10 seats respectively. Such was the rout of the MVA in the polls that there will be no Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the State Assembly. Because, none of the MVA constituents -Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT)

and NCP (Sharad Pawar) - has won 10 per cent of the total 288 seats in the House to stake a claim for the LoP's post. In view of the fact that none of the Opposition parties including Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) managed to get even ten per cent of the total 288 seats, Fadnavis was earlier asked if there will be a leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly. "We will treat the Opposition with respect. As far as LoP is concerned, it is a decision to be taken by the Speaker," the chief minister

Health Minister JP Nadda launches 100-day TB elimination campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

non 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 implemented in 347 districts of 33 states where the prevalence of the disease is higher.

The campaign is focused on enhancing detection, reducing diagnostic delays and improving treatment outcomes.

Under this programme, we have taken detection, tests, treatment and supportive strategies forward in an accelerated way.

100-day feel this programme will prove to be a milestone in making a 'TBmukt Bharat' and it will have far-reaching impact," Nadda said.

The Union health minister highlighted the country's long struggle in its fight against tuberculosis, saying that at one time TB meant a slow death'.

"Even family members



suffering from TB were isolated to prevent its spread. Since 1962, there have been many campaigns against tuberculosis, but in 2018 the Services have treat tuberculosis,"

prime minister put forth a vision to end TB much the Sustainable Development Goals." "We changed the facilities to detect and Union health minister said. He also informed the gathering that molecular compliance and fight TB, he

before the 2030 deadline of strategies to achieve the aim. decentralised and now, 1,73,000 AAMs (Ayushman Arogya Mandirs) will have technologies have been introduced for TB detection. Also, a new and shorter regimen of tuberculosis treatment has been started which will help increase

In 2014, there were 120 laboratories for TB detection and their number has now reached 8,293, said Nadda.

17.7 per cent now, which is much ahead of the global

Deaths due to tuberculosis also reduced significantly in India by 21.4 per cent in the last 10 years,

"Ni-kshay support worth Rs crore has been provided through direct benefit transfer to over 1.17 crore tuberculosis patients," the minister said and underscored the government has increased Ni-kshay poshan amount recently from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 and added energy boosters for the nourishment support for TB patients.

Ni-kshay Poshan is not only a policy decision, this is a financial commitment for people in the health sector to eliminate TB, he said.

Nadda said the government has now made it mandatory for even private practitioners notify any tuberculosis patient so that their treatment can be followed up immediately.

"This might look like a small step but it has led to an eight-fold increase in the rate of TB notifications in the private sector," Nadda

He highlighted that the rate The 100-day campaign of tuberculosis incidence underscores the Union decline in India has doubled government's commitment 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.

Some of the key focus areas of the campaign are increasing advanced diagnostics, targeted screening among vulnerable specialized care for high-risk individuals, and provision of expanded nutritional support. Speaking about Haryana, he said earlier, there were only six medical colleges and now the number has grown to 15.

The Haryana chief minister has announced to opening a medical college in each district, he said. Nadda further said the

number of undergraduate seats for doctors has increased from 650 in 2014 to 2,185 in Haryana. Similarly, the number of post-graduate increased from 243 to 889

On this occasion, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and state Health Minister Arti Singh Rao were also present.

now, he added.

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

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 parlia-

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Murugan said the

complaints were "suitably addressed by a three-level grievance redress system. Murugan said the mechanism, established under the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, includes self-regulation

broadcasters, self-regulation by self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and an oversight mechanism of the central government. The minister said appropriate

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

action is taken wherever

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 selfregulatory in nature," the

minister said. Murugan said these Code of Ethics require the publishers not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law and to undertake age-based self-classification of content into five categories, based on

general guidelines provided in

the Rules

The guidelines provide that while undertaking such self classification, the context of the period depicted in such content and the contemporary standards of the country and people to which such content relate, are to be kept in mind, he said. Murugan said the Code also provides that the OTT platforms will put in place adequate safeguard for restricting age inappropriate content for children.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

hristian community Should take an in-principle stand on the Waqf Bill as it affects minority rights enshrined in 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

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 president Archbishop Andrews chaired the meeting, the first such held in decades. meeting's agenda

included the role

Christian

MPs

of

supporting and protecting the community and its rights, increasing attacks threats against minorities, especially Christians, and misuse of FCRA to target Christian institutions. The source said a senior opposition MP suggested that leadership community should also highlig<u></u>ht "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 in convey to the government under the consideration of

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 Constitution." Another MP who attended the meeting confirmed that multiple opposition MPs raised strong objections to certain provisions of The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, now

Committee (JPC). The Bill, among other things, changes composition of the Central Waqf Council and Waqf

the Joint Parliamentary

Boards to include non-Muslim members. Another MP from Kerela told PTI that the issue of seats for Anglo Indians Christians) in Lok Sabha and 10 state assemblies being abolished was also Foreign raised, and Regulation Contribution 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 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 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)

 $P_{\text{Murmu on Saturday laid}}^{\text{resident}} \quad \text{Droupadi}$ the foundation for six Odisha, including three new railway lines, worth a total of Rs 6,400 crore. Bangriposi-Gorumahisani, Buramara-Chakulia and Badampahar-Keonjhargarh are the railway for which the foundation stones were laid by Murmu in the presence of Chief Minister Odisha Charan Majhi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, among others.

The President also virtually laid the foundation for three other projects in Rairangpur Tribal Research and Development



Dandbose Airport and a hospital. sub-divisional Addressing a gathering on expressed confidence that the rail projects and the airport would boost transportation, commerce, and business in the region.

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

accelerated through various welfare education, health, development, tourism and transportation. Murmu said that Eklavya Model Residential Schools

progress of society and the According the sources, 82-km Badampahar-Kendujhargarh line will pass through Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar

districts.

more than 100 new Eklavya

that after getting education

from these schools, tribal children would be able to

contribute towards 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 Model Residential Schools are being established in said. Odisha, including 23 in Mayurbhanj district.
She expressed confidence 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

> industrial sector. Murmu on Saturday ended her five-day tour of Odisha during which she attended a

areas and boost the local

economy by enhancing the

transportation of goods,

for

particularly

series of events including the Indian Navy Day celebration at Blue Flag Beach in Puri on December 4 and OUAT's convocation

Bhubaneswar on December

Broken protocol, undertaken several tours of native Mayurbhanj: Murmu

 $P^{\text{resident Droupadi Murmu}}_{\text{said she has broken the protocol}} \text{ and undertaken}$ several tours of Odisha and her native Mayurbhani 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



remains concerned about the development of her native place despite being busy with important work

Assam CM Himanta expands his Cabinet

PNS GUWAHAT

ssam Chief Minister Asam Chief Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday expanded his cabinet with four BJP MLAs sworn in as ministers. Governor Laxman Prasad Acharva administered the oath of office to the four new ministers Prasanta Kaushik Phookan, Rai, Krishnendu Paul, and Rupesh Goala Sankardeva Srimanta 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 twotime MLA from Patharkandi while Rai and Goala are first-time MLAs from Lakhipur and Doom Dooma respectively. Phukan and Goala represent the Upper Assam tea districts of Dibruagah and Tinsukia respectively while Paul and Rai are from the two Barak Valley districts of Sribhumi (formerly Karimganj) and



Cachar. Sarma now heads a 19council ministers. Tea Welfare and Labour minister Sanjay Kishan, who represents the constituency,

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. resigned from office on Parimal Suklabaidya had Thursday, to pave the way resigned from the Himanta Parimal Suklabaidya had

Biswa Sarma cabinet after he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Silchar constituency earlier this year. All the new ministers thanked the chief minister for including them in his ministry. They also pledged

to serve the people and work

for the development of the

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 swornin 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 and Mahanta United Party, U G Liberal Brahma members of his cabinet.

The ruling NDA has 84 members in the 126member 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

Rock bolt technology successfully treating active landslide zones: BRO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $B_{(BRO)}^{\rm order\ Roads\ Organisation}$ 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 monsoon blocking roads and causing inconvenience to Chardham pilgrims, and often claiming

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 It is being used at present in

and Bandarkot on Gangotri highway in Utt district, he said. Uttarkashi 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 elsewhere too, he said.

the treatment of active

landslide zones in Raturisera

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. technique is now being used in Raturisera and Bandarkot,

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 be achieved to realise the goal of "Viksit Bharat" (developed India) by the year 2047.

Addressing the second convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Central Bihar's University in Dhankar also Motihari, expressed hope that the country, which was currently the "fifth largest economy" in the world, would "soon 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



things are looking up and soon we will leave Germany and Japan behind," said the Vice President.

He was speaking in presence of Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar and local MP and former union minister Radha Mohan Singh. Dhankhar also pointed out that the nation needs to cover a lot of ground if the goal of "Viksit Bharat" is realized by the time 100 years of Independence is celebrated

in 2047. Without mentioning the "I am not likely to live to see JD(U) supremo by name, the

that day", said the 74-year-old Vice President, adding: "The

require our youth to make sacrifices.' Dhankhar also spoke of the progress made in Bihar under the Chief Ministership of Nitish Kumar, who was not present on the occasion.

onus is on young people like

the students present here. We

must strive to raise the per

capita income to eight times of what it is today. This would

Vice President said, "I was an MP when your current CM was a Union minister. So much has been achieved in state under his rdship. 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

In an expected fallout of the

Lunited Opposition front's debacle in the recent Maharashtra Assembly polls, 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 seatsharing process and there were also differences on various issues during the

electioneering.
"There was absolutely no coordination between my party and the main MVA and the main MVA constituents during the seatsharing process as well as campaigning.. They never called us for meetings or joint Uddhav Thackeray, at an



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 from the MVA, contested six seats in the St4ate Assembly polls and bagged two. While Azmi himself won from Mankhurd-Shivajinagar (Mumbai), Rais Kasam Shaikh romped home Bhiwandi East in Thane

internal meeting, told party colleagues and workers to aggressively pursue 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. (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

Asked if his party's decision to quit the MVA would affect the status of the SP national party chief Akhilesh Yadav vis-à-vis his equations with INDIA block, Azmi was non-committal.

approach.

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Chief Mayawati on Saturday lashed out at the opposition parties, accusing the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress of using the recent violence in Sambhal for political gains. She alleged that instead of raising public welfare issues in Parliament, the opposition was focused on manipulating Muslim voters by creating divisions within the community.

Speaking at a press conference Lucknow, Mayawati SP and claimed, "The Congress are not concerned about national issues. They are using the Sambhal violence as a political tool to serve their vested interests. They are even trying to create a divide between Turk and non-Turk Muslims." She urged the



wary of such political tactics. The BSP supremo also took aim at Dalit MPs from various political parties, accusing them of remaining silent on concerning oppression to please their political bosses. 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

India or the persecution of minorities 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 the return of facilitate persecuted Dalits and Hindus from Bangladesh. She warned that if the government failed to act, the BSP would see no difference between the BJP and Congress on the issue of it is the oppression of Dalits in Dalit welfare.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said if the country is secure, then "religion is safe" which will ensure that "we also are safe". He stressed that "Bharativata (Indianness) and Sanatan have the power to unite everyone' Adityanath was speaking at the centenary celebration of the establishment of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

said in a statement. Praising the contributions of Sadhguru Sadafal Dev Maharaj, who founded the Vihangam Yog Sant Samaj, the chief minister said he told the world that a true yogi cannot sit idle looking at the conditions of the country and

Adityanath emphasised



Vihangam Yog Sant Samaj held at Swarved Mahamandir Dham, the UP government 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

religious boundaries. "If the country is safe then religion is also safe. If religion is safe then we are also safe, Adityanath said advocating actions that conform with India's Vedic-

spiritual tradition and the values of Sanatan Dharma. Modi's

The chief minister also spoke about the development works undertaken in Prime Minister 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 we are seeing the vision of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat', where there is development as well as respect for heritage," he said.

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

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. "Maĥaraj took the spiritual

campaign forward and also stated that a true yogi-saint cannot sit idle looking at the conditions of the country and

"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.

South Korean President Yoon's impeachment fails

Ruling party boycotts vote, public protest likely to intensify

South Korean legisla-A tive push to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over his short-lived imposition of martial law fell through on Saturday after most lawmakers from his conservative governing party boycotted the vote. The defeat of the motion is

expected to intensify public protests calling for Yoon's ouster and deepen political chaos in South Korea, with a survey suggesting a majority of South Koreans support the president's impeachment. Yoon's martial law declaration

drew criticism from his own ruling conservative party, but it is also determined to oppose Yoon's impeachment apparently because it fears losing the presidency to liberals.

Impeaching Yoon required support from two-thirds of the National Assembly, or 200 of its 300 members. The opposition parties who brought the impeachment motion had 192 seats, but only three lawmakers from PPP participated in the vote. The motion was scrapped without ballot counting because the number of votes didn't reach 200.

National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik called the result "very regrettable" and an embarrassing moment for the country's democracy that has

been closely watched by the world. "The failure to hold a qualified vote on this matter means we were not even able to exercise the democratic procedure of deciding on a critical national issue," he said.

Opposition parties could submit a new impeachment motion after a new parliamentary session opens next Wednesday.

There are worries that Yoon won't be able to serve out his remaining 2 ½ years in office because his leadership took a huge hit. Many experts say some ruling party lawmakers could eventually join opposition parties' efforts to impeach Yoon if public demands for it grow further.

If Yoon is impeached, his powers will be suspended until the Constitutional Court decides whether to remove him from office. If he is removed, an election to replace him must take place within 60 days.

Woo repeatedly urged ruling party members to return to the chamber to participate in the vote, waiting several hours for them to come.

At one point, Democratic Party leaders visited a hall on the floor below the main chamber where PPP lawmakers were gathered, attempting to persuade them to vote. After being blocked from entering, they angrily accused the conservatives' leadership of preventing its lawmakers from voting

Earlier Saturday, Yoon issued a public apology over the martial law decree, saying he won't shirk legal or political responsibility for the declaration and promising not to make another attempt to impose martial law. He said would leave it to his party to chart a course through the country's political turmoil, "including matters related to my term in office." The declaration of this martial law was made out of my des-

peration. But in the course of its implementation, it caused anxiety and inconveniences to the public. I feel very sorry over that and truly apologise to the people who must have been shocked a lot," Yoon said. Since taking office in 2022, Yoon has struggled to push his agenda through an opposi-

tion-controlled parliament and

grappled with low approval

ratings amid scandals involving himself and his wife. In his martial law announcement on Tuesday night, Yoon called parliament a "den of criminals" bogging down state affairs and vowed to eliminate "shameless North Korea follow-

ers and anti-state forces." The turmoil resulting from Yoon's bizarre and poorlythought-out stunt has paralysed South Korean politics and sparked alarm among key diplomatic partners like the US and Japan.

Tuesday night saw special forces troops encircling the parliament building and army helicopters hovering over it, but the military withdrew after the National Assembly unanimously voted to overturn the decree, forcing Yoon to lift it before daybreak Wednesday. The declaration of martial law was the first of its kind in more than 40 years in South Korea. Eighteen lawmakers from the ruling party voted to reject Yoon's martial law decree along with opposition lawmakers. Yoon's speech fuelled specula-

tion that he and his party may push for a constitutional amendment to shorten his term, instead of accepting impeachment, as a way to ease public anger over the marital law and facilitate Yoon's early exit from office.

Lee Jae-myung, the leader of the main liberal opposition Democratic Party, told reporters that Yoon's speech was "greatly disappointing" and that the only way forward is his immediate resignation or impeachment. His party called Yoon's martial law "unconstitutional, illegal rebellion or coup." The passage of Yoon's impeachment motion appeared more likely Friday when the chair of Yoon's party called for his

have started leaving Syria. He

added that Iran-backed fight-

ers in eastern Syria, mainly

from Afghanistan and Pakistan

have withdrawn into central

The shock offensive began November 27 led by the jihadi

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group, or

HTS, during which gunmen captured the northern city of

Aleppo, Syria's largest, and the

central city of Hama, the coun-

try's fourth largest city. The

group has its origins in al-

Qaida and is considered a terror-

ist organisation by the US and

HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-

to overthrow Assad's govern-

The Britain-based Observatory

said Syrian troops have with-

drawn from much of the two

the United Nations

removal on Friday, but the party remained formally opposed to impeachment.

On Saturday, tens of thousands of people densely packed several blocks of roads leading up to the National Assembly, waving banners, shouting slogans and dancing and singing along to K-pop songs with lyrics changed to call for Yoon's ouster. Protesters also gathered in front of PPP's headquarters near the Assembly, angrily shouting for its lawmakers to vote to impeach Yoon.

A smaller crowd of Yoon's supporters, which still seemed to be in the thousands, rallied in

sending reinforcements to

Homs, where a battle is looming.

If the insurgents capture Homs,

they would cut the link between

Damascus, Assad's seat of power,

and the coastal region where the

president enjoys wide support.

The Syrian army said in a state

ment Saturday that it has carried

out redeployment and repositioning in Sweida and Daraa

after its checkpoints came under

attack by "terrorists." The army

said it is setting up a "strong and

coherent defensive and securi-

ty belt in the area," apparently to

defend Damascus from the

south. Since Syria's conflict broke

out in March 2011, the Syrian

government has been referring

to opposition gunmen as terror-

ists. In the gas-rich nation of

Qatar, the foreign ministers of

Iran, Russia and Turkey were

scheduled to meet to discuss the

situation in Syria. Turkey is a

main backer of the rebels seek-

ing to overthrow Assad.

separate streets in Seoul, decrying the impeachment attempt they saw as unconstitutional. Lawmakers on Saturday first voted on a bill appointing a special prosecutor to investigate stock price manipulation allegations surrounding Yoon's wife. Some lawmakers from Yoon's party were seen leaving the hall after that vote, triggering angry shouts from opposi-

apology over Tuesday's martial law declaration at the National Assembly in Seoul on Saturday. The signs read, 'Punish'.

South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung, bottom centre, and his party members stage a rally to denounce President Yoon Suk Yeol's

On Friday, PPP chair Han Dong-hun, who criticised Yoon's martial law declaration. said he had received intelligence that during the brief period of martial law Yoon

tion lawmakers.

ordered the country's defence counterintelligence commander to arrest and detain unspecified key politicians based on accusations of "anti-state activ-

Hong Jang-won, first deputy director of South Korea's National Intelligence Service, told lawmakers in a closeddoor briefing Friday that Yoon had ordered him to help the defence counterintelligence unit to detain key politicians. The targeted politicians included Han, Lee and Woo, according to Kim Byung-kee, one of the lawmakers who attended

The Defence Ministry said Friday it suspended three military commanders including the head of the defence counterintelligence unit over their involvement in enforcing mar-

Vice Defence Minister Kim Seon Ho has told parliament that Defence Minister Kim Yong Hyun ordered the deploy ment of troops to the National Assembly after Yoon imposed martial law. Opposition parties accused Kim of recommending to Yoon to enforce martial law Kim resigned Thursday, and prosecutors imposed an over-

Syrian troops rush to defend Homs

Ukraine, and Lebanon's power-

ful Hezbollah, which at one

point sent thousands of fight-

ers to shore up his forces, has

been weakened by a yearlong

Iran, meanwhile, has seen its

proxies across the region

degraded by Israeli regular

Rami Abdurrahman, who

heads the Syrian Observatory

for Human Rights, a Syria war

monitor, reported Saturday

conflict with Israel.

airstrikes.

The Syrian army withdrew I from much of southern Syria on Saturday, leaving more areas of the country, including two provincial capitals, under the control of opposition fighters, the military and an opposition war monitor said.

The redeployment away from the provinces of Daraa and

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at larg that Mohammad Zahid who is/are purchasir the Plot bearing no. B-91, New No. B-91-A, are the Ptot bearing no. B-91, New No. B-91-A, area measuring 50 sq. Yds. Out of khasra no. 576, situated in the area of Village Bindapur, Delhi state Delhi colony known as Partap Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 from Roop Narayan S/o Sh. Ganga Ram Goyal & Sh. Rakesh Kurnar Goyal S/o Sh. Ami Chand who was the owner by virtue of Notarized GPA. ATS & Will dated 21.12.2021 and the subject property is going to be mortgage by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd.

inance Ltd.

f Sh. Ram Prasad Chaurasia S/o Mr. Shiv shankar Prasad, Mr. Naveen Kumar S/o Sh. fund Kumar Agna & Mr. Mohit Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. Aurari Lal & Mr. Manoj Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Raj umar Jain are alive and any person having any per of claim/ight/tile/interest over the said roperty is/are may inform undersigned within 7 days at below mentioned address. SOCIATES

A-98, Sector-9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P.)-201009

PROPOSAL FOR ADVANCE INSPECTION CENTER

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: EL TRD_12_24-25; Dated: 05-12-2024 E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work Tender No: EL_TRD_12_24-25 Name of work: Malda Town- Proposa for Advance Inspection Center Phase-2 for maintenance of Electric Locomotives at Diesel Loco Shed Malda Town, N.F. Railway (Electrical TRD). Tender Value: ₹1,40,04,837.58 Earnest Money: ₹2,20,000.00. E tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs on 10-01-2025 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 10-01-2025. The complete information with the tender documen 15.00 hrs of 10-01-2025 in website www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. DEE/TRD & GS/Katihar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sunita Arora, W/o, late Shri Naresh Kumar Arora, R/o, B-19 Ist Floor, Prashant Vihar Sector-14, Rohini, New Delhi-110085, that, I have evict my son namely Bharat Arora and his wife Manpreet Nagpal (Naina Nagpal) from my moveable and immovable properties. If anybody will contact them. He will be legally obliged and responsible.

PD(1037)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suman Sharma W/o Late Som Dutt Sharma have lost my original Allotment and Possession Letter of Flat No.Y-3, Hans Bhawan Friends CGHS Ltd., Plot No.6, Road No.57, East Arjun Nagar, CBD Shahdara, Delhi, finder please contact: 9136123475

Sweida came as Svria's military sent large numbers of reinforcements to defend the key central city of Homs, Syria's third largest, as insurgents approached its outskirts.

The rapid advances by insurgents is a stunning reversal of fortunes for Syria's President Bashar Assad, who appears to be largely on his own, with erstwhile allies preoccupied with other conflicts. His chief international backer,

Russia, is busy with its war in

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all, RAVINDER KUMAR
MONGA 5/0 SH.NARENDER KUMAR MONGA

Housing) or Director (Housing),Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New

scoe75society@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

DHRUV KABIR S/o MS. JYOTI KUMARI

R/o Usha Sadan New Ulao Colony, Ulao

Pokharia, Ulao, Begusarai, Bihar-851134

nas rescinded all relations from his father

MR. Amiad Alam with immediate effect

officially and unofficially. He also declares

that his mother MS. JYOTI KUMARI will be

treated as only his parent. He will not be

responsible for any act and consequences

Ch No.: 440, Lawyers Block,

Saket Courts, New Delhi.-110017 M: 9891774116, 8851271895.

www.aryabhattacollege.ac.in.

College website.

(Ganpat Singh)

Advt. No. AC/Advt.(T)/2024/001 Date:07.12.2024

Advocate

आर्यभट्ट महाविद्यालय

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

ARYABHATTA COLLEGE

(UNIVERSITY OF DELHI)

(Accredited with grade A+by NAAC)

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application

Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post

of Assistant Professor, in the Academic Pay Level 10 of the

7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in the College

The last date for receipt of application is 27.12.2024 or

within 21 days from the date of publication of the

advertisement in the Employment News, whichever is

later. For details, please visit the College website

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the

elated with Mr. Amjad Alam.

(राधेश्याम ऐरन), अध्यक्ष

SARASWATI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SOCIETY®

सरस्वती कालेज ऑफ एजुकेशन सोसाइटी, चरखी दादरी के आजीवन सदस्यों को

सूचित किया जाता है कि सोसाइटी की सदस्य सूची को सोसाइटी एक्ट 2012 के अनुसा

पूर्णे करने हेतु आज़ीवन सदस्यों से पंजीकृत डाके के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में सूचन्

भेरकर मांगी गई थी । लेकिन काफी सदस्यों की सचना निर्धारित प्रपत्र के माध्यम से अर्थ

तक उपलब्ध नहीं हुई है। इस संदर्भ में सोसाइटी की कार्यकारिणी की मीटिंग एवं सोसाइटी की

आम सभा में भी सर्देस्य सूची को सोसाइटी एक्ट 2012 के अनुसार पूर्ण करने के सेंदर्भ में प्रस्ताव को अनुमोदित किया हुआ है। जिन सदस्यों ने अभी तक निर्धारित प्रपत्र के अनुसार

सूचना नहीं दी है। उन सभी सदस्यों को सूचित किया जाता है कि सोसाइटी कार्यालय मे

संपर्क करे और अपना प्रपत्र भरकर दिनांक 28-12-2024 तक जमा करवाए । अन्यथ

आपको तब तक सोसाइटी के चनाव में वोट डालने का अधिकार नहीं होगा जब तक आ

अपनी सदस्यता की सचना प्रपत्र में भरकर सोसाइटी कार्यालय में जमा नहीं करवा देते है

इस संदर्भ में यदि आपको कोई जानकारी लेनी है तो आप सोसाइटी के महासचिव से मोबाइल

एवं ईमेल के माध्यम से संपर्क कर सकते है संपर्क सूत्र 9812122440 व ईमेल

that Iran's military advisers

109/07/2001 in favour of Sh. Harpal Singh S/o Late Sh. Rishal Singh R/o Village Khuram Pur P.O. Aterena, Dist. Sonipat Haryana and Smt. Pushp Lata D/o Late Sh. Tahar Singh R/o I-2, Sector-22, Noida dated 09/07/2001 and Registered G.P.A. in favour of Smt. Pushp Lata D/o late Sh. Tahar Singh R/o I-2, Sector-22, Noida in Book no. IV volume no. 311 on page no. 109 to 112, Document no. 762 Dated 09/07/2001 at Sub. Degistra (1) Noida New the said above Plot is going Registrar (1), Noida.Now the said above Plot is going to be transferred through the said above registered GPA in favour of Sh. Shantanu S/c Sh. Baney Singh

PUBLIC NOTICE

Plot No. A-25, Sector-56, Noida G.B. Nagar U.P. He has executed a Notarized Agreement to sell dated 09/07/2001 in favour of Sh. Harpal Singh S/o Late Sh.

(सुरेश अग्रवाल), महासचिव

public is hereby informed through noti client Mr. Madan Gopal, S/o Radh s hereby given that Madan gopal h

PUBLIC NOTICE

agreed to mortgage the residential property 4/2621 Street No -7 Bihari Colony, Shahdara Delhi-110032 free from all encumbrances. The

ight, title, ownership, interest in this property

right, title, ownership, interest in this property lies with me. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said flat, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof there of, to the undersigned at E BLOCK E-622, LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK KARKARDOOMA COURT-110032 within fourteen days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed. without any reference to

shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be

KAPIL SHARMA (Advocate)

PRINCIPAL

eemed to have been given up or waive

Golani told CNN in an exclusive interview Thursday from Syria that the aim of the offensive is

southern provinces and are

I Mr. Shaeed Ahmed (Aadhar No. 9198-0907-9948) S/o Mr. Basheer Ahemed R/o F-400-A, Gai No. 15, Jawahar Park, Laxm Nagar, Delhi-110092. I the above name Nagar, Delin-110092. I the above named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and inform that I have dis-owned my son Mr. Intjar Ahmed, my daughter-in-law Mrs. Kaushar and their children Mr. Ayan Ahemed and Ms. Altasha Beebi from my all moveable and immoveable properties due to their mis-behave and non co-

wi-53 Saket, New Dellin-10017 have been los misplaced the Demandcum allotment letter, Handing over the possession letter and possession Slip Ar FIR/N.C.R No-2376576/2024 dated 07/12/2024 has been lodged. Any person(s) claiming any righ interest and having any objection or found the original documents may write/contact it Sh. Pramo original documents may white/contact it Sh. Prish for the Man Tyagi (M) No 9971798710 within 15 day from the date of publication of this notice or cat personally inform/ write Deputy Director (LA), L.A-E (RESL), DDA, C-2 Block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan INA New Delhi-110023. Shaeed Ahemed

छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण सरक्षण मडल

पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002, Email add-hocecb@gmail.com

//सर्वसंबंधितों को सचना//

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स हाई टेक सुपर सीमेंट एण्ड स्टील प्राईवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम-बिल्हा व मोहभट्ठा, तहसील-बिल्हा, जिला-बिलासपुर स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 302/1/क, 302/1/ग, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327/2, एवं 17 (पार्ट), कुल क्षेत्रफल-7.22 एकड़ (2.92 हेक्टेयर) में पूर्व में जारी पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति अनसार स्टैंड एलोन सीमेंट ग्राईडिंग यूनिट क्षमता-1,000 (2 गुणा 500 टन) टन प्रतिदिन में परिवर्तन किये बिना 90 प्रतिशत से अधिक रॉ मटेरियल एवं 100 प्रतिशत उत्पाद का परिवहन रेलमार्ग के स्थान पर 'रॉ मटेरियल एवं उत्पाद का परिवहन सड़क एवं रेलमार्ग से किये जाने के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकित हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत् छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव/टीका-टिप्पणी इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 10/01/2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे, ग्राम मोहभट्ठा, प०ह०नं० 10, रा०नि०मं० बिल्हा, तहसील-बोदरी, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित भूमि ख०नं0 322, 325 में नियत की गई है। सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के आफिस मेमोरेंडम F No. 22-25/2000-IA, III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशो का अक्षरशः पालन कराय

ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों वे अनुसार ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालकसार की प्रति (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन/पठन हेत कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला-बिलासपुर, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, कार्यालय, जिला पंचायत बिलासपुर, जिला बिलासपुर, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा०), कार्यालय, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) बिल्हा, जिला-बिलासपुर, कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र बिलासपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर, मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी, कार्यालय नगर पंचायत-बिल्हा / बोदरी, जिला-बिलासपुर, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विहार पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास बिलासपुर, सरपंच/सचिव कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत-मोहभट्ठा, झल्फा, मुढीपार, मुरकुटा तिलसरा, बोडसरा, नगरौढी, धमनी, धौराभाटा, परसदा, रहंगी, बिटकुली, बरतोरी केवांछी, गमा, बोहारडीह, नवागांव, हथनी, करही, सिलयारी, उदंताल, अमेरी अकबरी अमेरीकांपाँ, उतगन, गोढही, सेंगर, काया, पेण्ड्रीडीह, घोघरा, उमरिया, दगौरी, निपनिया हरदी, हिरी, अर्टरा, सम्बलपुरी, तहसील-बिल्हा / बोदरी, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग, जोरबाग रोड़, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन व एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Road mishap in Ivory Coast leaves 26 dead

AP ■ ABIDJAN (IVORY COAST)

A fiery crash involving two minibuses in Ivory Coast on Friday killed at least 26 people and injured 28 more, authorities said. The two vehicles collided in

Brokoua, a village in the centre west of the country, the transportation ministry said in a statement without providing further details. However, the statement said an investigation was launched.

Ten of the 26 killed died in a fire that followed the collision, according to the ministry. Videos from the scene from local media outlets showed the two vehicles in flames.

The Minister of Transport invites, once again, all road users to be more vigilant in road traffic, by respecting traffic regulations," the statement read. Accidents are common in dilapidated roads and reckless driving, killing over 1,000 people annually, according to the ministry.

Last month, 21 people were killed and at least 10 others injured in a road accident. Earlier this year, a tanker truck crashed into a bus in northern Ivory Coast, leaving 13 people dead and injuring 44.

Iran poised to raise stock of weapons-grade **Uranium: IAEA chief**

AP MANAMA (BAHRAIN)

Iran is poised to "quite dra-matically" increase its stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium as it has started cascades of advanced centrifuges, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency warned Friday.

The comments from Rafael Mariano Grossi came just hours after Iran said it conducted a successful space launch with its heaviest payload ever, the latest for its programme that the West alleges improves Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

The launch of the Simorgh rocket comes as Iran's nuclear nium at 60%, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%. While Iran maintains its programme is peaceful, officials in the Islamic Republic increasingly threaten to potentially seek the bomb and an intercontinental ballistic missile that would allow Tehran to use the weapon against distant foes like the

The moves are likely to further raise tensions gripping the wider Middle East over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip and as an uneasy ceasefire holds in Lebanon.

However, Iran may as well be preparing the ground for possible talks with the incoming administration of Presidentelect Donald Trump, who in his first term unilaterally with-drew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world pow-

The US intelligence community in a report released Thursday said that while "Iran is not building a nuclear weapon" it ertaken activ better position it to produce one, if it so chooses.

The Iranian debate over seeking the bomb "risks emboldening nuclear weapons advocates within Iran's decision-making apparatus and shifting the thinking of current and future Iranian elites about the utility of nuclear weapons," the report

NY cops push to identify CEO killer, FBI offers reward

The gunman who killed the CEO of the largest ■ US health insurer likely left New York City on a bus soon after the brazen ambush that has shaken corporate America, police officials said. But he left something behind: a backpack that was discovered in Central Park.

Nearly four days after the shooting of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, police still did not know the gunman's name or whereabouts or have a motive for the killing. Investigators were looking at whether the shooter may have been a disgruntled employee or client of the insurer, Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny told reporters.

The FBI announced Friday night it was offering a USD 50,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

Video of the gunman fleeing Wednesday's shooting showed him riding a bicycle into Central Park and later taking a taxi to a bus terminal that offers commuter service to New Jersey and Greyhound routes to Philadelphia, Boston and Washington, D.C, according to Kenny.

Police have video of the man entering the bus station but no video of him exiting, leading them to believe he left the city, Kenny said. Investigators on Friday found a backpack in the

park that had been worn by the gunman during the shooting, police said, following a massive sweep to find it in a vast area with lakes and ponds, meadows, playgrounds and woods. Police didn't immediately reveal what, if any-

thing, it contained but said it would be analyzed The gunman made sure to conceal his identity

with a mask during almost all of his time in the city, including during the attack and while he ate, yet left a trail of evidence in view of the nation's biggest city and its network of securi-

The gunman arrived in New York City on Nov 24 and shot Thompson 10 days later outside his company's annual investor conference at a hotel just blocks from Radio City Music Hall and

The gunman got off a bus that originated in Atlanta and made several stops along the way, Kenny said. Police have not determined where he got on the bus. Investigators have a list of passengers, but none of them would have had to provide an ID when they climbed aboard, Kenny

Rockefeller Center.

Investigators believe the suspect used a fake identification card and paid cash, Kenny said, when he checked in at the hostel, which has a café along with shared and private rooms and is blocks from Columbia University.

Investigators have tested a discarded water bottle and protein bar wrapper in a hunt for his DNA. They also were trying to obtain additional information from a cellphone found along the

gunman's escape route. Photos of the suspected shooter that were taken in the lobby of a hostel on Manhattan's Upper West Side appear to from the only time he

removed his mask, Kenny said. The images showing a man smiling in the lobby of the HI New York City hostel. They are among a collection of photos and video circulated since the shooting — including footage of the attack, as well as images of the suspected gunman at a Starbucks beforehand. "From every indication we have from witness-

es, from the Starbucks, from the hostel, he kept his mask on at all times except for the one instance where we have him photographed with the mask off," Kenny said. His roommates at the hostel also said he didn't

speak to them. Nothing of investigative value was found in a search of the suspected shooter's hotel

Focus on batting as demoralised India look to avoid series defeat against Aus

PTI ■ BRISBANE

desperate India will Aneed their under-fire batters to step up in the Women's ODI against Australia here on Sunday, as the visitors aim to avoid yet another series loss Down Under.

India's batting woes continued as the tourists were bundled out for 100 in the series opener, leading to a demoralising five-wicket defeat, their heaviest in terms of balls remaining since ODIs were reduced to 50 overs a side.

India have never won a series Down Under and they will have their task cut out against a quality Australian side, which showed no signs of rust despite playing in the format after a gap of nine

On the other hand, it was the Indians who appeared under-prepared as the squad

was unable to train together as some of the players were competing in domestic T20 tournaments while others played in the Women's Big Bash League.

Additionally, one of their two practice sessions here was washed out due to rain.

After opting to bat, the Indian batters were unable to capitalise on good batting conditions.

They lost wickets at regular intervals, were unable to stitch partnerships, and were done in by Megan Schutt's brilliant spell with the new

"We were expecting a good score if our batters had applied themselves better. If we had more runs on the scoreboard, anything could have happened." India coach Amol Muzumdar conceded after the match.

batting With the inconsistencies continuing from the



series, time is running out for India, who will host the ODI Wold Cup next year.

The Indian think tank will be keen to stabilise their batting and bowling lineup ahead of the marquee

Even though the bowlers had a small target to defend, they did well to pick five wickets. The only silver lining in an otherwise forgettable outing for India was pacer Renuka Thakur and young leg-spinner Priya Mishra. The tourists will have to

regroup fast and having already played a game here, they will hope to give a account themselves.

The major thing we talked about was that one match doesn't make you a good team or a bad team. We played a match and it did not go our way. It's fine, we'll take a step back and evaluate what we could have done better. We have played some good cricket this year we will take it from there.

"The conditions are a little different then we are used to but we will be able to adjust to it," pacer Titas Sadhu said on the eve of the second ODI.

Meanwhile, Australia produced an almost flawless performance despite missing regular skipper Alyssa Healy.

Veteran pacer Schutt registered career-best figures of 5/19 before young Georgia opener impressed on debut. Australia will be keen on

putting up a similar display to seal another series win against India but the hosts are unlikely to take Harmanpreet Kaur and Co lightly. "Índia

cannot underestimated and we will not make the mistake of

new ball the moment it was made available to them, and

their lead pacer Bumrah too was brought back into the

Bumrah, however, pulled up and was seen holding his adductor muscle as the physio

attended to him. Fortunately

being complacent. I think the Indian batsmen will come back strongly in the next match but I have worked a lot on my bowling and I hope to maintain this rhythm, she had said after the first match, Schutt had said after the opener. Teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Priya Punia, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Uma Chetry, Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Saima Thakor

Australia: Tahlia McGrath (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Darcie Brown, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Phoebe Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll,

Rohidas is world's best rusher, says TN Dragons head coach Van Eijk

PTI NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu Dragons Dutch head coach Rein Van Eijk Olympic-medal winning India defender Amit Rohidas is the best "first rusher" in the world and hopes his multiple skills will benefit the franchise in the upcoming revamped Hockey India League (HIL).

Two-time Olympic bronze medallist, Rohidas is one of the best first rushers in the world when it comes to defending penalty corners. As if that was not enough, the player from Odisha is also a potent dragflicker and a senior member of the Indian men's team.

"For us, getting Amit (Rohidas) was obviously the one thing that we wished for. He's the number one rusher in the world and a warrior in his style of play. He defends and leads by action, which will be a great motivation for the team. He is able to play multiple positions, can also dragflick," Van Eijk told PTI video in an exclusive interview.

Rohidas has international caps to his credit and has scored more

The Merseyside derby between Everton and

Liverpool was postponed on

Saturday because of Storm

Darragh, which brought

dangerous winds and rain to

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

The Met office said parts of Wales had experienced wind

Storm Darragh continues to

bring strong winds across the

UK, with red, amber and

vellow 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

"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

hosting Nottingham Forest at 5:30 p.M. Local time. United

has not commented on the

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

the bad weather," Brentford said. "Please travel safely, plan

ahead, and allow extra time for

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

your journey."

their games will be played. "Today's match is still scheduled to go ahead despite

League on Saturday.

storm.

Manchester United

Park in Birmingham.

gusts of over 90 mph.

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

the west coast.

ahead.



than 25 goals. Rohidas

will complemented by Paris Olympics silver medalist Moritz Ludwig of Germany, another elite rusher, ensuring a solid defence for Tamil Nadu Dragons from set

"I think there are four top rushers in the world. Obviously, Amit Rohidas is probably the number one of those four, but Moritz Ludwig, the German player that we've gotten, is in the top four as well. So our corner defense should be very solid, said Van Eijk, coach of Germany's 2023 Under-21 World Cup-winning side.

The coach reserved special

Everton and league leader

Liverpool issued nearly

identical statements about the

Willington said.

praise for young India striker and Tamil Nadu player Karthi Selvam.

"With Karthi, we have a very talented forward. performances in the 2022 Asia Cup and Asian Champions Trophy showed his strength. His goal-scoring ability and explosiveness bring all the good. He's also physically very imposing and very strong on the ball.

"I think scoring nine goals in the game where they won 43-0 with the Tamil Nadu hockey unit says a lot about his qualities. I hope that this can be his way back into the Indian men's national team to solidify his spot," Van Eijk

India's nemesis Head powers Australia with blazing ton

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Travis Head continued to be a thorn in India's flesh with a counterattacking 141ball 140 and powered Australia to a dominant 332 for eight at dinner on the second day of the pink ball Test here on Saturday

century, which he reached in 111 balls after toying with India's formidable bowling attack, Australia have taken a 152-run first innings lead as they looked to restore parity in the five-match series after the 295-run hammering in the opener at Perth.

with a cracking boundary off Jasprit Bumrah (4/59), got a reprieve on 76 as Mohammed Amid the rejoicing around Head's century at the Adelaide Oval, Siraj was rewarded for his discipline as he had Alex Carey caught behind following a faint outside edge with Australia's lead crossing 100. Desperate to prevent Australia

GOVT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, GAJAPATI. AT/PO: PARALAKHEMUNDI, DIST: GAJAPATI. PHONE NO: 06815-222365, e-mail-eemi gajapati@yahoo.co.in e-Procurement Notice No. 3131 Date. 04/12/2024
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. MIDGJP-07/2024-25

The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Paralakhemundi on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of following works as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N.

Name of the work: Construction of Check Dams under MATY Scheme- 2024-25. No of works: 3 Nos. (Three)

Estimated cost Rs. 50.00 to 62.00 Lakhs.

from the eligible class of contractors.

Period of completion: 6 (Six) calendar months (Including Rain Season) Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal: from 10.30 Hours of 10.12.2024 to 17.00 Hours of 20.12.2024.

Last date/ time for receipt of bids in the portal: 17.30 Hours of 20.12.2024 Date of opening of Bid: 11.00 Hours on 21.12.2024.

Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid: Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Gajapati, At/Po- Paralakhemundi, Dist.- Gajapati. PIN-761200

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- 04.12.2024 Superintending Engine MI Division, Gajapat Paralakhemundi

0-792

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

e-Procurement for Road works Date: 04.12.2024

:: Road works

:: 04 (Four) No:

:: Rs. 8.40 Lakhs to Rs. 31.93 lakhs (ar

: "D", "C" & "B" Class

time of seeking Opening ingineer, R.W Division, 16,12,2023 at 18.12.2024 a RWD-JYP/2024-25 5.00 P.M. 01.30 P.M

Addl. Chief Engineer, *N.B. Any Addendum or Corrigendum will be available in the Website only

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER



: State CAMPA Annual Plan of Operation 2024-25. 2. Total No. of works : 03 (Three) No.(Percentage rate Tender) 3. Estimated cost : Approx. Estimate Cost 6.10 Lakhs to 18.66 Lakhs.

4. Class of Contractor : 'C' Class & 'D' Class

Procurement Officer	Identification		y of Tender or bidding	Last Date & Time of	Date & Time of	Date & Place of	
	No.	From	То	seeking tender clarification	opening of tender: Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur	receipt of bid cost & bid security	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife	On line DFO-KJR WL-02 of 2024-25	09.12.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	18.12.2024 upto 5.30P.M.	17.12.2024 up to 5.30 P.M.	19.12.2024 11.30 A.M.	1% of Estimated Cost	

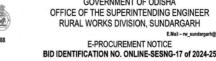
Anandapur Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in & www.tenders.ori.nic.in Divisional Forest Officer Keonjhar Wildlife Division for India, Bumrah was up on his feet quickly and ready to bowl again, even as Head GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

During his knock, Head played some incredible shots, including a pick-up six over Siraj over deep square leg, but the pacer had the last laugh as he brought his innings to an end when he cleaned him up with a vorker. In all, Head struck 17 fours

flicked him for two boundaries

in between.

and four sixes.



:- Road Works

Total No. of works :- 3 nos Road :- From Rs. 16.54 Lakhs to Rs.33.61 Lakhs

:- 'B', 'C' & 'D'

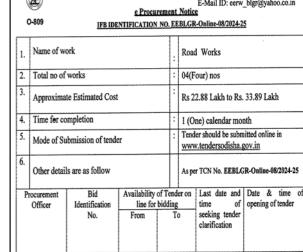
Period of completion :- 01 calendar months

Type of Tender :- Single Cover Other details

Availability of Tender On-line fo Online-SESNG-1 10.12.2024 18.12.2024

Rural Works Division Sundara

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION: BOLANGIR



A.M · Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

at 11.00

· Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

OIPR-25068/11/0008/2425

12.12.2024 23.12.2024

21.12.2024

upto 1.00PM

11.00A.M



Engineer, R.W.

EEBLGR-online

08/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION.ROURKELA email ld :- seridrkl@gmail.com

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO - SERID-RKL-09/2024-25 (ONLINE)

erintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela on behalf of Governor of Odisha wites Percenatge Rate Bid in single cover system to be received in online mode from the eligible contractors gistered with the State Government, contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class Registered with Central rnment/ MES/ Railways/CPWD work as detailed below

1.	Nature of Work	:	CIVIL WORKS
2.	Total Number of works	1	08(Eight) nos
3.	Bid Identification No.	:	BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERID-RKL-09/2024-25 (ONLINE)
4.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 0.89 lakh to 33.85 lakh
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'D' & 'C' and 'C' & 'B' class Contractor
6.	Cost of Tender Paper	:	Referred to DTCN
7.	Earnest Money Deposit	:	Referred to DTCN
8.	Period of completion	:	Referred to DTCN
9.	Date & time of Availability of Bid documents in the portal	:	From dt 10.12.2024 at 10.00 A.M to dt. 19.12.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.
10.	Last Date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	Dt. 19.12.2024 at 05.00 P.M
11.	Date and time of Opening of Bids	:	Dt.20.12.2024 at 11.30 hours
12.	Last date & time of seeking of clarification	:	Dt 16.12.2024 at 5.00 P.M
13.	Place of Opening	:	Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela
14.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said website 2. Further details can be seen from Government Website http://tenderodisha.gov.in SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION ROURKELA

Tender Call Notice Sealed tenders (Percentage rate) are invited from the interested "B & C" Class Contractors

eligible criteria and the details of the tender documents which can be downloaded from the website www.mayurbhanj.odisha.gov.in Interested bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposals to the O/o: BDO Bisoi. Proposal(s) complete in all respect should reach the undersigned on or before 27.12.2024 up-to 05.00 PM through Regd. & Speed post and the same will be opened on 31.12.2024 at 11.00A.M.in the Conference Hall of the Panchayat Samiti, Bisoi. The undersigned on 31.12.2024 at 11.000.m.m. the Control of the state of the state of the reserves the right to reject any or all the tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

Block Development Officer, Bisoi Mayurbhanj

Thanks to Head's eighth Test

Head, who got off the mark

Siraj failed to complete the catch despite getting both hands to it after the batter tried to slog-sweep R Ashwin, having just smashed his third six against the off-spinner.

from swelling their lead further, India took the second

Everton vs. Liverpool postponed because of Storm Darragh Park, attended by officials from both clubs, as well as

morning, it was decided that,

Police

from

and

:16.12.2024 at 10.00 AM to 30.12.2024 upto 5.00 PM

Rs. 10.17 Lakhs to Rs. 40.04 Lakhs

05 Nos. Road Worl

D,C&B Class

05 Nos.

local area due to strong wind gusts, and an amber severe wind warning that remains in place until 6 a.M. On Sunday Liverpool City Council this today's fixture should be postponed on safety grounds,"

ersodisha.gov.in Superintendíng Enginee R.W. Division, Jajpur

Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o S.E., R.W. Division-I, Keonjhar.

postponement.
"Following a Safety Advisory Everton's statement read. Group meeting at Goodison due to the risk to safety in the GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JAJPUR e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. Tender Online 07 JJPT of 2024-25

representatives

Merseyside

Name of work Estimated Cost (Approx.) Period of Completion

Availability of tender online & submission of bid

Procurement officer Rural Works Division, Jajpur

: Building Works. : 21 No. Buildings Work. : Rs. 41.26 to 41.27 Lakhs

Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification

: 30.12.2024 up to 1.00 PM Opening of Technical Bid : 31.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M. Further details can be se

OIPR-25047/11/0013/2425 GOVT. OF ODISHA

Mail: TAL ADDISTANCE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, KEONJHAR

1. Name of the Work

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No Online NCB - 06/2024-25. 2. Total Number of Work

3. Estimated Cost

Dt.10.12.2024 Dt.19.12.202

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tenderorissa.gov.in

Additional Chief Engineer R.W. Division-I, Keonjhar OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BISOI At/P.o.- Bisoi,Dist.- Mayurbhanj, Odisha, Pin-757033 E-Mail: ori-bisoi@nic.in

Advt. No. 01/PSB/2024 Dt: 05/12/2024

registered with the Govt. for execution of Civil work under Panchayat Samiti, Bisoi, Mayurbhanj. The

OIPR-19280/11/0001/2425

i-348

ınday pioneer





ashion 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 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

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 elegance, and a celebration of womanhood. Accessories played a crucial role, with statement gleaming 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, represented Mexico's ancient traditions, while

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 vet fluid. From tiered skirts with voluminous ruffles reminiscent of traditional Mexican dresses to contemporary separates 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

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

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 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

e m b r o i d e r y plumeria. This technique, highly valued in techniques pre-Hispanic and colonial Mexico, was showcased my vision for elegance." ¡Viva la moda, viva la herencia! reflected in the dramatic feather details seen India's unparalleled on some pieces in the collection. Suneet PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR Varma's use of this ancient art form was a OF LOVE, OBSESSION AND REVENGE RETURNS fter nearly three years, Yeh maintain the thrill, the over-Kaali Kaali Ankhein makes reliance on similar storytelling its much-anticipated return techniques limits its ability to Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein Season 2 fascinates with its cast and reliance on similar storytelling techniques limits its ability to narrative but falls short of delivering the unpredictability that surprise and entertain viewers

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.

The second season picks up right where the first left off, resuming the suspenseful narrative with the abduction of Purva, played by Anchal Singh. The creators have consciously tried to maintain the series' intensity, diving straight into the action from the first episode. This decision sets a fastpaced tone that remains consistent throughout the season.

While the relentless action sequences and tightly woven plot aim to fascinate the audience, the series struggles to break new ground. While effective in parts, the continuous focus on action begins to feel repetitive, causing the narrative to lose the unique spark that made the first season stand out. Despite the attempt to

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



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 commanding attention with every

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

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"It is in literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression"

- Alfred North Whitehead



t 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

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 thing!

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 duned.

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 awardwinning 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 Tahbib 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

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 Landoux Petroet was a perfect."

"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 selfexpression. 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

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.

Art of Authentic

agazine the pioneer 1990 the pioneer

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

Pawan Soni Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards



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 we round 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 bitesome of the juiciest I've had in Gurgaon. My wife, on the other hand enjoyed the latter root faithers (no days think) 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





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

Then 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 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. collaborator Mona Lisa Bal.

The event was an exciting foray into the lesserknown corners of Indian cuisine, offering an authentic glimpse into the simple yet bold flavours of Odisha. With the restaurant's longstanding reputation for bringing regional Indian cuisines to the forefront, this pop-up felt like a welcome celebration of the states 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 in banana leaves, offered a smoky, earthy flavour that exemplified the depth of Odia culinary

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

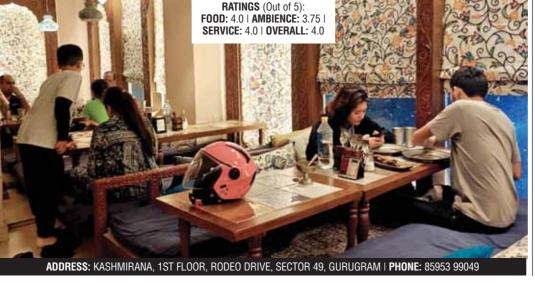
to balance the complex spices. No meal would be complete without dessert, and Chor Bizarre didn't disappoint. "Kheer Sagar" (Chhena Balls in Thickened

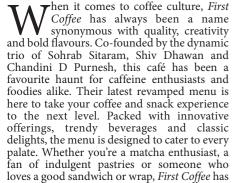
> end to the meal, while "Chhena Podo," a baked chhena dessert, had a beautiful caramelised flavour that left a lasting impression. The vegetarian menu was, without a doubt, the star of the pop-up. However, it's worth noting that the non-vegetarian thali also garnered rave reviews, with

Milk) offered a rich and creamy

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 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.





AND COFFEE, **COMFORT** 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 covered.

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



Co Founders: Sohrab Sitaram and Shiv Dhawar



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 Éclairs are not to be missed. They combine deep, indulgent chocolate flavours with just the right amount





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:**

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 chocolatey 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 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

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

estled 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

the pioneer

Mukteshwar offers you an idyllic escape for those seeking solace amidst nature's bounty and a peaceful respite from the chaos of urban life.

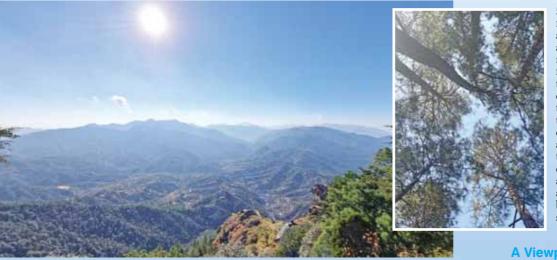
The Journey to Mukteshwar

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 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





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



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

A Viewpoint like No Other

Tust a short walk from the Mukteshwar Dham lays Zero Point, a spot that offers unparalleled views of the Himalayan range. The 10 to 15minute 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.

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 by Koau

Mukteshwar is well-connected by road, lying 353 km from Delhi, 51 km from Nainital, and 42 km from Haldwani. Staterun 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.



s someone who lives for the thrill of **A**discovering untouched destinations, my recent journey to Jihar Village was a revelation. Nestled in the Almora district Uttarakhand, this unspoiled hamlet, perched at 5,400 feet, 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 mesmerising. 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



picturesque horizon. The sight of the Ramganga River winding its way below added to the allure.

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.

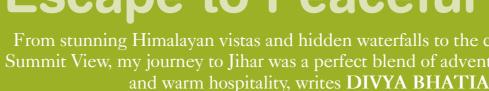
The highlight for my children was the sprawling garden—a

experience was memorable. While I enjoyed

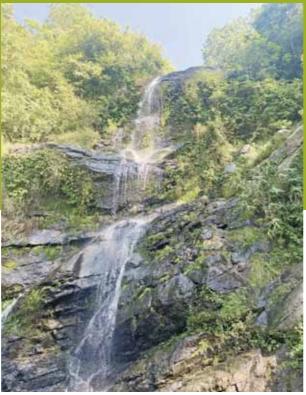
endless valley stretched into a

The property, with its six

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 bed. The culinary Churdkani and Aloo ke



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



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

Gutke, prepared 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 and the sacred hearth of forests. Located about 14 km Harju Devta. The moment we 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,

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 undeniable, but tranquillity must 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. Summit Nivriti

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

there, and it was nothing

short of magical. Surrounded

by the sounds of rustling

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.





















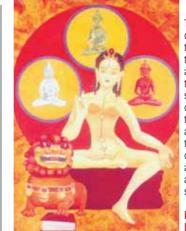




ARIES March 21-April 19

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

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-

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 anticinated 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

ogito, ergo sum' ... I

René Descartes

If you have decided to read this

Whether you think you can or

you think you can't, you're right!

The only thing absolutely in our

It shapes our reality. Influences

our emotions. Translates to actions. And ultimately defines

the quality of our lives. This

various philosophical and

emphasizing the profound

ancient Indian wisdom,

manifesting into our

experiences.

thoughts.

concept is deeply embedded in

spiritual traditions, including

impact of our mental processes,

In the realm of Vedic philosophy,

the Nature of thoughts is not just

They are powerful forces that can

significance of cultivating positive

merely a fleeting phenomenon.

create or destroy. The idea that

"you become what you think"

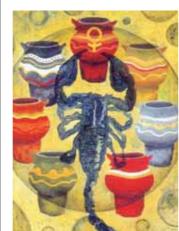
resonates with many ancient

Stop. Think what you are

thinking now. Because ...

power is our Thought.

Think therefore I am. ...



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 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.

ucky 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 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.

ucky number 17 | Lucky colour Purple

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C V Srikanth

Thoughts shape reality; regulate them to transform your destiny.

The Power of a Thought The quality of our thoughts directly influences our reality. A

positive mindsetattracts positive experiences. Positive Thinkingis 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.

"असतोमासदगमय' "Lead me from the unreal to the

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 nourishthoughts, 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 cultivatingconsciousness, allowing us to observe our thoughts without attachment. This detachment is crucial in

understanding the transient nature of thoughts.

'शान्ताकारंभुजगशयनंपशुपतिंयोगिनाम" "Peaceful in form, resting on a serpent, Lord of all beings, O

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 wellbeing, 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

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.

"यथा संकल्पतेमनःतदनुसम्पद्यते" "As the mind thinks, so it becomes?

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