



WORLD 5

RUSSIA REPORTS 5 DEAD IN UKRAINIAN STRIKE

MONEY 6

EXPORTERS URGE GOYAL TO RESTORE IES BENEFITS

SPORT 7

HI NAMES CORE PROBABLE GROUP FOR WOMEN COACHING CAMP

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INDIA LIFTS DREAM WORLD CUP



Team India erupts in celebration after South Africa's Reeza Hendricks, right, leaves the field after losing his wicket to India's Jasprit Bumrah, centre, with his arms raised, during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match between India and South Africa at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Saturday

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

On an emotion-filled day, India ended their years' wait for a global trophy, overcoming South Africa, who choked at the business end of the match by seven runs to emerge champions in the T20 World Cup here. It was India's second T20 World Cup victory after they had won it in 2007 under the legendary MS Dhoni in South Africa, and first since winning the Champions Trophy in 2013. Star batter Virat Kohli, who was an upcoming cricketer 17

years ago, made his first fifty of this tournament in the final — a classy 76 off 59 balls with six fours and two sixes that carried India to a competitive 176 for seven. Then the Indian bowlers, led by Arshdeep Singh (2/20) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/18), worked their magic as they did throughout this tournament, limiting South Africa to 169 for eight to propel India to their second T20 World Cup. There were pockets of fight from the Proteas, who were playing in their maiden World Cup final. Heinrich Klaasen threatened

India with a 52 off 27 balls (2x4, 5x6) but Hardik Pandya (3/20) snatched the crucial wicket to bring the game decisively in favour of India. But a large chunk of the credit should go to Kohli for anchoring the innings and pushing India to a fighting total. He completed his fifty in 48 balls, but the knock was what precisely India needed the early dismissals of skipper Rohit Sharma (9), Rishabh Pant (0) and Suryakumar Yadav (3), which had reduced India to a worrying 34 for three.

However, Kohli had an able partner in Axar Patel (47, 31 balls, 1x4, 6x4) during the fourth wicket alliance that produced precious 72 runs to ease the early nerves. After the run-out of Axar, who took on SA bowlers bravely, another left-hander Shivam Dube (27 off 16 balls, 3x4 1x6) gave some late steam to Indian innings. Brief scores: India: 176/7 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 76, Axar Patel 47; Keshav Maharaj 2/23) beat South Africa: 169/8 in 20 overs (Henrich Klaasen 52, Jasprit Bumrah 2/18, Arshdeep Singh 2/20) by 7 runs.

JD(U) invokes Bihar Package Bond

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Janata Dal (U), a major partner in the NDA Government at the Centre, on Saturday urged the Central Government to consider either special category status or a special package for Bihar underlining the party's important role in the formation of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government. The party's national executive meeting held in the national Capital flagged price rise and unemployment as "burning issues", as its political resolution expressed the confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government would take more effective steps to handle them. In the meeting chaired by JD (U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the party appointed Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha as its working president since he enjoys good rapport with the BJP leadership and is considered to be very good at crisis management. Meanwhile, Congress took the opportunity to ask JD (U) to pass a Cabinet resolution for the special status in Bihar where it's in alliance with the BJP and simultaneously hoped that another major partner of NDA, TDP, too would gather courage to press demand for a special package.



Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar during the party's National Executive Meeting in New Delhi on Saturday

JD (U) was part of Congress-led INDIA Bloc before the Lok Sabha polls while TDP was looking for a Third Front until it joined hands with BJP. The JD (U) resolution called for extensive probe into paper leak cases to ensure stringent action against the guilty and maintain the credibility of central competitive exams. "There is also a need for Parliament to enact a strong law against leaks of examination papers," it added. The JD (U)'s decision to include a special package as an alternative to its historical push for special category status for Bihar marked a pragmatic climbdown as the Modi Government had cited the 14th Finance Commission's report to rule out special category status for any more states.

Kumar's decision to appoint his confidant Jha as the party's working president, a position not held by anyone, gives ample hint of his inclination to maintain better coordination with the BJP and drive a helpful bargain as Jha has good ties with the party's national leadership. A former Minister in Bihar, Jha was originally in the BJP and served as its link with Kumar before crossing over to the JD (U). Seen as competent, likeable and low-profiled, the Mithilanchal leader has long been a trusted aide of his ageing mentor who has burnt his fingers in the past due to shifting loyalties of his ostensibly reliable colleagues, including former JD(U) president RCP Singh, now in the BJP.



Fresh dates for UGC NET

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Alleged irregularities in the conduct of competitive exams, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has released fresh dates for cancelled and postponed examinations, announcing the UGC-NET will now be held from August 21-September 4. The University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) was cancelled a day after being conducted on June 18 as the Education Ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam was compromised. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the question paper was leaked on the darknet and circulated on the Telegram app. The matter is being probed by the CBI. The UGC-NET is a test to determine the eligibility for the award of Junior Research Fellowship, for appointment of assistant professors and admission to PhD courses.

Tragedy hits Army in Ladakh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and four other soldiers returning from a military training exercise were reportedly swept away by a flash flood while crossing the Shyok river near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Nyoma-Chushul area of Ladakh early Saturday morning. The soldiers, belonging to the field artillery unit, were crossing the river bed in a T-72 Tank at the time of the incident. Due to the sudden rise in water levels, the soldiers could not move out of the tank which was stuck in the river bed and were swept away by strong currents. Rescue teams were rushed to the location but they failed to save them. The soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty have been identified as Ris MR K Reddy, Dfr Bhupender Negi, LD Ekeidaung Teibam, Hav Subhan Khan (6255 Fd workshop) and Cfn S Nagraju. In a post on X, Fire and Fury Corps said, "GOC Fire and Fury Corps and All Ranks salute the Bravehearts who made supreme sacrifice, in the line of duty in Ladakh on 29 Jun 24 and offer deep condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief." "Rescue teams rushed to the location but due to high water level and strong currents the rescue mission didn't succeed and the tank crew lost their



lives. The Indian Army regrets the loss of five brave personnel while being operationally deployed in eastern Ladakh. Rescue operations are still underway," the post explained. Earlier, on August 19, 2023, a JCO, along with eight other soldiers, lost their lives when an Army truck they were travelling in veered off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near Kiari in Leh district. Since the May 2020 stand-off between the Indian and Chinese troops several soldiers of the Indian Army have sacrificed their lives during operational duties in the region. Even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and

military parleys, the stand-off continues in the cold desert region. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed grief over the unfortunate accident. In a post on X, the Defence Minister said, "Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of five of our brave soldiers in an unfortunate accident while getting the tank across a river in Ladakh. We will never forget the exemplary services of our gallant soldiers to the nation. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief." Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said he was deeply distressed by the news of the accident and the loss of lives.

Exchange of fire reported along LoC

PTI ■ MENDHAR/JAMMU

A brief exchange of fire was reported along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, official sources said on Saturday. The firing from across the border was reported on a forward Indian post in Krishna Ghati sector late Friday night, prompting retaliation by the Army troops guarding the LoC, the sources said. They said there was no casualty in the firing, which lasted for a brief period. The vigil was intensified to ensure that there is no infiltration by terrorists.

Delhi siblings rescued Bollywood style

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two siblings, aged three and eleven, kidnapped from Laxmi Nagar on Saturday by a man posing as a parking attendant, were rescued after a dramatic three-hour car pursuit by the Delhi Police, straight out of a Bollywood thriller. The daring rescue unfolded as officers chased the suspect across the city, ultimately saving the children. The suspect, who demanded a staggering ₹50 lakh ransom from the parents, had abducted the children on



Friday night when they had briefly left them in a vehicle while they stepped into a nearby confectionery shop. Little did they know, their

errand would end up in the abduction of their children. According to police, the chase involving around 20 police vehicles culminated in the

kidnapper abandoning the car with the children inside before escaping. The vehicle was eventually found abandoned in the Samaypur Badli area after a relentless pursuit spanning approximately 100 to 150 kilometres. Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Apurva Gupta reported receiving information about the kidnapping at 11:30 pm on Friday. The children's father informed the police that they were sitting in the car in front of Hira Sweets shop on Vikas Marg in the Shakarpur area.

Advertisement for Patanjali Cow's Ghee. It features a woman and children holding a jar of ghee, with text: 'Karoron Maa Ka Bharosa, Pyar se Parosa'. Below it, 'Add flavor and health with Patanjali Cow Ghee to enhance the taste of both traditional and modern dishes.' Images of ghee jars and a plate of food are shown.

Chief Minister addresses public meetings in Amarwada

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav addressed public meetings in support of party candidate Kamlesh Shah in Singodi and Harrai of Amarwara assembly on Saturday.

living in the submerged area did not get compensation, then what kind of Chhindwara model?

Congress people did not do. Municipal council will also be formed, college will also be opened.

then 5000 rupees per quintal. We have also increased the rate of collection of tendu leaves. BJP respects tribal warriors.

pendence, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's government has given a place to the post of President to Draupadi Murmu, a tribal sister from a common family.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in a road show during an election campaign in support of BJP candidate Kamlesh Shah for Amarwara by-poll in Chhindwara district Madhya Pradesh on Saturday

To create awareness World Vitiligo Day observed at AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

AIIMS Bhopal observed World Vitiligo Day with great enthusiasm and purpose today. The event aimed to raise awareness about vitiligo, a condition that causes the skin to lose its natural color.



disease changes the skin's color into spots, and the colorless areas usually grow larger over time. It is crucial to contact a doctor immediately when symptoms appear.

Medicine. For the past month, a series of awareness activities took place in the regions of Bhojpur, D h a m d h u s a r, Bangrasia, and Chiklod. These activities included street plays, poster-making, and patient counseling sessions to educate the public about vitiligo.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Strong monsoon activity was seen in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Heavy rains occurred in many districts including Bhopal. Three people died due to lightning in Rewa.



Bhopal from Saturday afternoon onwards. Heavy rains occurred in many areas including MP Nagar, Tulsi Nagar, New Market, Kolar, Raisen Road. 1 inch of rain was recorded in one day.

In Indore, torrential rains on Saturday afternoon had drenched the city. When the rain started with strong winds, the roads were flooded.

in many areas including Khajrana Square, AB Road BRTS, Canada Bypass Square, Gokul Nagar. There is a long jam at many places.

has occurred for the third time in 10 years. Heavy rain will continue on Sunday as well. In such a situation, the record of the year 2021 is likely to break.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav poses for a group photo graph with the police personnel who got out-of- turn promotion during a programme in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

Police have demonstrated valor in eradicating Naxalism: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that nature has blessed Balaghat, and Naxalite activities will not be tolerated in such a paradise. On April 1 this year, in the Pitkona area of Lanji, Hawkforce and Police Personnel set an example by demonstrating their bravery and courage in uprooting Naxalism.



Yadav honored 28 soldiers for their valor by placing ribbons and stars on their shoulders and granting them out-of-turn promotions. Additionally, he paid floral tributes at the Shaheed Smarak in Police Lines and, along with public representatives, planted a Bel Patra sapling.

the last 5 years, Hawk Force and police personnel have killed 19 Naxalites carrying rewards worth Rs 3 crore 5 lakh in various states. This program is also a day to remember and honor those soldiers who have sacrificed their lives while on duty.

tographs with the families. During the programme, Superintendent of Police Sameer Saurabh gave an outline of the event in his welcome address. Also, Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena explained in detail about the Naxalite incident that took place in Lanji on 1 April 24.

MoU signed between 2 institutions working in the field of culture

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Memorandum of Understanding between Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Bhopal has been signed by Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi and Professor Amritabh Pandey, Director, Indira Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Bhopal.

to provide a platform and reorganization for The Artists and performers.mutual access to library and archival resources. Development of digital resources and joint Publication etc.

Minor girl raped, accused at large

Bhopal: Nishatpura police have booked the accused for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl, the accused lived with the girl's mother. The accused raped the minor when her mother was not at home.

3-member AICC panel to review recent debacle in Lok Sabha polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A three-member Congress committee on Saturday arrived in Bhopal on a two-day visit to review the recently concluded Lok Sabha poll debacle of the party. The committee comprises Prithiviraj Chawan, former Maharashtra Chief Minister; Saptagiri Shankar Ulka, former Odisha MP; and Jignesh Mevani, Gujarat MLA.

The committee visit comes at a crucial time as a major reshuffle of Congress' state unit is on the cards

Sources said that the role of senior party leaders including two former Chief Ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh along with other senior Congress leaders like Ajay Singh (Rahul), Arun Yadav, Kamleshwar Patel, and Kantilal Bhuria will also be investigated. The committee will also visit different parts of the state and hold meetings with senior leaders, district heads and candidates of the Lok Sabha elections.

Safety manual available for MP Transco employees



Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company (MP Transco) has taken another step towards maintaining its zero accident target, under which a safety manual has been implemented in the company. In this manual, the methods to follow the guide lines to be adopted for maintenance work in trans-

mission lines, substations etc. with complete safety, vigilance and awareness have been explained point wise. In preparing this manual, the team of engineers Mr. Atul Nabar, Mr. Deepak Kumar, Mr. Chandrakant Srivastava and Mr. Jitendra Tiwari contributed under the direction of M.P Transco Chief Engineer Praveen Gargava. This manual has been prepared in both digi-

tal and print versions. In speech M.P. Transco's Managing Director Er. Sunil Tiwari expressed hope that this manual will prove to be very useful in maintaining the company's zero accident target. He said that there is nothing more important than human life. Therefore M.P. Transco's maintenance team performs its work adhering to the highest standards of safety.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Bhopal only.

The govt is equally and fully committed to all sectors: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, addressing farmers at the Shri Anna Mahotsav and Kisan Samman Ceremony held under the Rani Durgavati Shri Anna Promotion Scheme, emphasized that Millets is an integral part of our cultural heritage. He highlighted Balaghat district's unique identity in Millets production, noting its 3,000-year history of Kodo cultivation.

ensuring that progress continues rapidly throughout the state. Yadav announced that the Central Government has set a support price of Rs 4,290 for Kodo this year. He noted that the efforts of the government and the Millet Mission have led to an increase in the cultivation area of Millet crops. Previously, Millets were grown on 10,000 hectares in Balaghat district, but due to the growing interest of farmers, the target is now to expand this area to 15,200 hectares. Balaghat plays a significant role in contributing to the country's total cultivation area of one lakh hectares. To economically empower farmers, the Central Government provides Rs 25,000 crore annually to 80 lakh farmers under the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. Additionally, the Madhya Pradesh government transfers Rs 12,500 crore directly to the

accounts of eligible farmers each year under the Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav emphasized that, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, efforts are underway to increase farmers' incomes. Yadav said that Balaghat is a district rich in forest and mineral resources. Here minerals like manganese, dolomite, and copper are in abundance along with the flowing nectar of Wainganga. GI tagged Chinnor rice is the heritage of the district. He said that Naxalite activities will not be tolerated under any circumstances in such a land. 28 soldiers who played an important role in the security and peace of the country were honored today. The government stands with such brave soldiers. Prime Minister Modi's government has put an end to Naxal activities in

ten years. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that along with providing food, farmers will also become producers of electricity. By promoting solar energy, farmers will be motivated to produce electricity from solar energy. He said that remarkable work has been done towards conservation of water structures in Balaghat district. All these works will be documented. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that no negligence will be tolerated in the matter of conservation and promotion of Bovines. Recently, 7500 cows have been freed in the state and 1000 people who were transporting them have been arrested. He said that in the direction of conservation and promotion of Bovines, grazing land in the state will now be freed from encroachment. Construction of cow shelters will be encouraged in Gram Panchayats.

The Chief Minister highlighted that Ayushman cardholders needing treatment in another city will now have access to a free air ambulance service, complete with a doctor, nurse, and advanced medical equipment. Additionally, those without Ayushman cards can avail of this service at concessional rates. He further mentioned that air taxi services have been initiated in cities like Jabalpur, Gwalior, and Rewa, and will soon expand to smaller cities with airstrip facilities. Dr. Yadav also stated that Regional Industry Conclave will be held in Jabalpur on July 20, which is expected to boost regional development and create employment opportunities. Furthermore, the Religious Endowments Department will identify and develop religious sites associated with Lord Ram and Krishna into pilgrimage destinations.



BJP MP Alok Sharma plants a sapling under PM Modi's programme 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' in Bhopal on Saturday.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan being garlanded during a programme in Mandideep, district Raisen at his Lok Sabha constituency, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Vaishali river restoration campaign commences

Gwalior: Restoration campaign of Vaishali river (Mural), which has turned from a river into a drain and is pleading for its existence, will start from July 3. This decision was taken at a meeting held today in the presence of saints. A special meeting was organized under the leadership of saint society in Goyal Vatika Huravali on Saturday to work out an action plan for the restoration of the river. During the meeting, the saints gave blessings and appealed to the people of all sections of the society to unite and make this holy and human life related campaign meaningful and successful. Mahamandaleswar Ramdas Maharaj said that uninterrupted flow of river is necessary for

human life. Ram Bhushan Das Maharaj of Kheneta Dham said that the condition of rivers in India is deteriorating day by day, which is not good for the future. He added that cleaning the river is good for the society. Therefore, we all have to come forward and save the existence of the river. Haridas Nagaji Maharaj of Jaderua Dham said that rivers have great importance in Indian culture and religion. Saint Kripal Singh Maharaj said that along with humans, animals also get life from rivers. He further said that it is our moral duty to save the river, so that the environment and aquatic environment remains pleasant. Along with the saints, people of all the society should do Shramdaan together. Sant Santosh Guru said that

when a man moves towards doing charity, his nature moves towards divinity. The resolution to restore the river, which is yearning for existence, to its original form will be fulfilled only with social participation. Premanand Maharaj of Lalipara Gausala said that in the modern environment, people are forgetting their culture, civilization and traditions. River is like a mother. It should be respected. Human life exists only when the river is alive. Saint Gopal Sharan said that the resolution taken for the restoration of Mural river is excellent. He added that he himself will join in this campaign. He concluded by saying that from cleaning to planting trees, he will cooperate in every possible way with body, mind and money.

MBA student from Gwalior sexually assaulted in Chunabhathi

Bhopal: Chunabhathi police have booked a youth for sexually assaulting a Gwalior based MBA student. On the complaint of the student, Chunabhathi police has registered a case of rape against the youth. The student met the accused six months ago during a train journey. Then both of them started talking by sharing mobile numbers with each other. Chunabhathi police said that an MBA student living in Ayodhya bypass area has lodged a complaint against Gwalior resident Shubham Dubey. The accused youth called the student to a hotel located in front of Bansal Hospital in Shahpura two days ago to meet. When the student protested against the molestation, the youth beat her up. Also, he blackmailed her by threatening to commit suicide by jumping from the roof of the hotel and committed the rape. On Friday, the student came to the police station and complained about Gwalior resident Shubham. After this, a case of rape has been registered against Shubham. Chunabhathi police station in charge Bhupendra Kaul Sidhu said that the MBA student had gone to Mathura with her family six months ago. Here,

while boarding the train at the railway station, the student got separated from her family. In a hurry, she entered the second bogie of the train and her family entered the other coach. The student did not have a mobile phone till then. Due to this, she asked for help to make a call to her family from the mobile phone of the youth (Shubham) traveling in the train. Shubham allowed the student to make a call on his mobile. After this, Shubham started talking to the student by making different excuses. After some time, both of them became friends. The police said that after the train left Mathura, when the train stopped at the next stop, she went to the reserved seat to be with her family.

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WESTERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT OF LEASING OF PARCEL SLR. E-auction for the contract to lease out parcel SLR in trains originating from Mumbai Division has been invited. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website, the details are furnished as under: Type of contract: Parcel, Category: Parcel SLR, Contract period: 2 years.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Shivraj S/o Kailash, Jan Bahadur S/o Gopal, Dev S/o Chattar Singh, Jite S/o Akash, Sita Ram S/o Kanhaiya, Birjeet Singh S/o Bhim Singh, Aryaman S/o Shankar R/o Vill, Biliakhedi, Distt. Guna, Madhya Pradesh, Yuvraj S/o Gopal R/o Patel Colony, Distt. Guna, Madhya Pradesh, Murali S/o Manohar R/o Vill. Gadha, Distt. Guna, Madhya Pradesh, Rajnath S/o Sethi R/o Vill. Sevda, Distt. Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh & Laxhan S/o Ram Prasad R/o Vill. Sevda, Distt. Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 956/2020, U/s 392/395/412/34/ IPC P.S.: Punjabi Bagh Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Shivraj, Jan Bahadur, Dev, Jite, Sita Ram, Birjeet Singh, Aryaman, Yuvraj, Murali, Rajnath & Laxhan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Shivraj, Jan Bahadur, Dev, Jite, Sita Ram, Birjeet Singh, Aryaman, Yuvraj, Murali, Rajnath & Laxhan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Shivraj, Jan Bahadur, Dev, Jite, Sita Ram, Birjeet Singh, Aryaman, Yuvraj, Murali, Rajnath & Laxhan accused of FIR No. 956/2020, U/s 392/395/412/34/ IPC P.S.: Punjabi Bagh Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.07.2024. By Order Sh. Satvir Singh Lamba, ASJ/Special Judge (NDPS) 1st Floor Room No. 132 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi DP/8285/WD/2024 (Court Matter)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Auction Notice. On Behalf of The President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under:- Category : Parking Catalogue No. JHS-PARKING-18

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION. It is notified for the information of general public that regarding Commissioning of double line between TEHARKA-MAURANIPUR section, high speed rail test has to be conducted in this section on 28.06.2024, 29.06.2024 & 30.06.2024 Common public, vehicle drivers, farmers and the cattle grazers of this area are informed not to let their cattle come close to the railway track, to use ROB and RUB to cross the railway track and to take all necessary precautions.

Change of Name. Before Marriage My name was FATEMA ABBASBHAI ATTARWALA D/O ABBAS BHAI ATTARWALA. Written on my previous Passport. After Marriage, I have changed my name. My new name is now known as FATEMA ALI W/O TAHIR ALI. Address H.No.10, opposite Gas Adalat, Near Wahidiya School, Fatehgarh, Bhopal (M.P.) 462001

Name Amendment. I, ASMA SHEIKH, wife of Farid Sheikh, resident of A-19, Housing Board Colony, Behind CI TVS Showroom Koh-e-Fiza, Bhopal, PIN 462001, Madhya Pradesh, India, mistakenly had written my name as Sheikh Asma in my passport. Presently, I am correcting the mistake and making my name as Asma Sheikh, wife of Farid Sheikh as per all my documents- Aadhar card, PAN card, driving licence and Voter Card. I should be considered as Asma Sheikh, wife of Farid Sheikh from today onwards.

Punjab & Sind Bank Hoshangabad Road Branch : Bhopal. POSSESSION NOTICE. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on date 01.03.2024 calling upon the below mentioned borrowers and guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon and other charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name Amendment. I, ASMA SHEIKH, wife of Farid Sheikh, resident of A-19, Housing Board Colony, Behind CI TVS Showroom Koh-e-Fiza, Bhopal, PIN 462001, Madhya Pradesh, India, mistakenly had written my name as Sheikh Asma in my passport. Presently, I am correcting the mistake and making my name as Asma Sheikh, wife of Farid Sheikh as per all my documents- Aadhar card, PAN card, driving licence and Voter Card. I should be considered as Asma Sheikh, wife of Farid Sheikh from today onwards.

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015. HOUSING FINANCE Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010. Appendix IV : Symbolic Possession NOTICE (for Immovable property). Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Demand Notice (s) issued by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Iran goes to a runoff election between reformist Pezeshkian, hard-liner Jalili

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran will hold a runoff presidential election to replace the late hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, an official said Saturday, after an initial vote saw the top candidates not securing an outright win.

over 206,000 votes. Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than 50% of all votes cast. If not, the race's top two candidates will advance to a runoff a week later.

nized monitors. There had been calls for a boycott, including from imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi.

the country's foreign minister and others. He was seen as a protégé of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and a potential successor.

Lebanese Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels — are engaged in the fighting and have escalated their attacks.

US media expects Biden to withdraw from Pres race

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A day after Joe Biden's dismal showing at the first presidential debate against Donald Trump, leading US media outlets have commented that the incumbent US President should leave the race for the White House for the future of American democracy.

prospered and begun to address a range of long-term challenges, and the wounds ripped open by Mr. Trump have begun to heal.

tion — a scenario fraught with its own problems for the Democratic Party. However, it does mean that the president has to reassure Americans who might now have doubts about his fitness for another term.



Elton John speaks as President Joe Biden listens at the grand opening ceremony for the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center in New York. AP/PTI

Attacker wounds guard at Israeli embassy in Serbia, before being shot dead

AP ■ BELGRADE (SERBIA)

An attacker with a crossbow wounded a Serbian police officer guarding the Israeli Embassy in Belgrade on Saturday, Serbia's interior ministry said.

The officer responded by fatally shooting the assailant. Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said in a statement that the attacker fired a bolt at the officer, hitting him in the neck. He said the officer then "used a weapon in self-defense to shoot the attacker, who died as a result of his injuries."

10 Ukrainians held prisoner for years in Russia return home

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

Ten Ukrainian civilians held prisoner for years by Russia arrived in Kyiv overnight Saturday after the mediation of the Vatican, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

physical, are very frightening there." The former prisoners, wrapped in blue and yellow flags, reunited with families in Kyiv and called those who couldn't be there. For some, the separation had lasted many years.

Heleta, was detained in 2022 in his church in the occupied city of Berdiansk in the southeastern region of Zaporizhzhia.

Pak court asks PMO to restrain intelligence agencies from interfering in judicial matters

PTI ■ LAHORE

A top Pakistani court on Saturday directed the Prime Minister's Office to issue directives to the country's powerful intelligence agencies, including Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), from approaching any judge or member of their staff to obtain favourable verdicts.

have written to the chief justice of Pakistan and chief justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC), respectively, drawing their attention towards the intelligence agencies' open interference in judicial matters forcing them to get desired verdicts.

Office to all civil or military agencies, including the ISI and IB, regarding strict directions not to approach or contact any judge whether of the superior judiciary or subordinate judiciary or any member of their staff for any purpose in the future," the judge said in his written order.

some PTI leaders including opposition leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub when he was told that a senior ISI officer wanted to meet him at his chamber.

9 dead in Nepal landslide

AP ■ KATHMANDU

Landslides triggered by heavy rainfall on Saturday killed at least nine people including an entire family while they were sleeping in Nepal's mountainous districts, officials said.

Russia reports 5 dead in Ukrainian drone strike

AP ■ KYIV

A Ukrainian drone strike killed at least five people in Russia's Kursk region, local officials said Saturday, while rescuers in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro dug through rubble after a Russian attack ripped through a nine-story residential building, leaving one dead.

up airstrikes in a bid to drain Ukraine's resources, often targeting energy facilities and other vital infrastructure. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the country had lost about 80% of its thermal power and one-third of its hydroelectric power in Russian strikes.

Pakistan seeks small arms from US for 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON / ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's ambassador to the US has urged the US to provide small arms and modern equipment to his country to ensure the success of Operation Azm-i-Istehkam.

equipment." Ambassador Masood Khan was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. He made these remarks while addressing US policymakers, scholars, intelligentsia, and corporate leaders at a Washington think tank, the Wilson Centre, earlier this week.

strong security links, enhance intelligence cooperation, resume sales of advanced military platforms, and work on "the sustainment of US-origin defence equipment".

Khan also suggested that the US should consider Pakistan as a partner in its diplomatic efforts in Kabul and collaborate on counterterrorism and the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

UNESCO finds IS-era bombs in Mosul mosque walls

AP ■ BAGHDAD

The UN cultural agency has discovered five bombs hidden within the walls of the historic al-Nouri Mosque in the city of Mosul in northern Iraq, a remnant of the Islamic State militant group's rule over the area, UNESCO said in a statement on Saturday.

and has been a focal point of UNESCO's restoration efforts since 2020. The UN agency said that five large-scale explosive devices, designed for significant destruction, were found inside the southern wall of the Prayer Hall on Tuesday.

secured the area, and the situation is now fully under control." It added that "one bomb has been defused and removed, while the remaining four are interconnected and will be safely disposed of in the coming days."

disarmed. IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared an Islamic caliphate from the mosque a decade ago on June 29, 2014, leading to its destruction when extremists blew it up during the battle to liberate Mosul in 2017.

UP to promote rooftop solar subsidy scheme

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will launch an awareness campaign to promote the Centre's 'PM Surya Ghar Yojana' a rooftop solar subsidy scheme in Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Gorakhpur.

The new initiative will add to the state's ongoing programmes and schemes to boost generation and use of solar energy. The campaign will be based on the Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) module. In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Agency (UPNEDA) has begun implementing the



action plan, according to an official statement. The state government has allocated Rs 2 crore for the two months long campaign and started the process of roping in an agency to manage and execute the initiative. Initially, UPNEDA will run

the campaign in three major cities, including Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Gorakhpur, to increase public awareness and acceptance of the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana and boost the number of beneficiaries under this scheme, the statement said. The promotional activities

will include displaying banners, installing billboards at strategic locations, setting up booth camps, and distributing pamphlets during various events at universities, colleges, and schools. Besides, UPNEDA will also use radio and newspaper advertisements in Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, and Varanasi. Ayodhya and Varanasi are already being developed as solar cities, and this comprehensive campaign will now pave the way for increased awareness and promotion of solar energy in Gorakhpur as well, the statement said. According to officials, a solar city could fulfil at least 10 per cent of its energy demand through solar power.

MVN Aero One pre-leases 3 lakh sq ft to co-working operator in Gurugram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm MVN Aero One has pre-leased 3 lakh square feet office space to co-working operator Spring House in its upcoming project in Gurugram. The office space has been given in the upcoming project 'MVN Aero One Mall' located in Sector-37 D, Dwarka Expressway, Gurugram, Haryana. The company will develop 15 lakh square feet area over the next 4 years in the first phase of this mixed-use project comprising retail and workspaces.



"Today's workforce seeks more than just a workspace; they desire an environment that inspires creativity, enhances productivity, and

integrates seamlessly with lifestyle amenities. By integrating Spring House Co-Working with our luxury retail experience, we're meeting this demand head-on..." said Varun Sharma, Founder and Managing Director, MVN Aero One. This concept not only redefines the traditional office space but also sets a new standard for integrated, upscale commercial environments, he added. The company expects an annual rental income of Rs 40-45 crore from this 3 lakh square feet area. The company, which develops luxury projects, is building a

housing project in Bengaluru. According to real estate consultant Vestian, there are around 50 major flexible space operators in the country. The top 10 players hold more than 80 per cent of the total flexible office space portfolio. A Vestian report mentioned that flexible office spaces broadly include dedicated desks, hot desking, co-working spaces, and serviced and managed office spaces. While co-working centres are at the most flexible end of the spectrum, managed offices would be at the less flexible end, Vestian noted.

European jewellers using services of Mega CFC for quality testing

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The services of a modern common facility centre developed at a special economic zone (SEZ) here are now being used by European jewellers for quality testing, an industry official said. The Bharat Ratnam Mega CFC (Common Facility Centre) at the SEEPZ (Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone) SEZ in Mumbai was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January. The centre has been operational since March 15.

Ravi Menon, CEO, Mega CFC, said that the CFC has state-of-the-art machines and technology and it is helping improve the output in terms of quality, productivity and yield of the finished jewellery and further boosting gem and jewellery exports. "Besides Indian players using this facility, now European jewellers have also started using the services of the CFC for quality testing," Menon said. He said that a team of senior officials of certain European jewellery firms has visited the



centre earlier this month. Their lab managers have also visited the CFC, Menon added. SEEPZ accounts for 10.26 per cent of total gem and jewellery exports from India and 85 per cent of studded jewellery exports. Colin Shah, Head - Working Group, Bharat Ratnam Mega CFC said that the centre houses modern equipment, including Asia's first 3D metal printer, and smaller units can use these machines at a nominal fee which helps

simplify manufacturing and boost productivity. He said that the centre, set up at a cost of Rs 93 crore, also provides training to jewellery makers besides having a software centre and a tool room. Shah also said that a proper system is there to protect designs of jewellers. He said: "We are not here to make profits. This will help to create more jobs in MSMEs and it helps to make world standard products and not affected jobs.

Confident of over USD 800 bn exports in goods, services this fiscal: Goyal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's goods and services exports are expected to cross USD 800 billion this fiscal despite global challenges, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday. In 2023-24, the shipments stood at USD 778.2 billion (goods USD 437.1 billion and services USD 341 billion). He said that the global situation is serious as war is still ongoing between Ukraine-Russia and Israel-Hamas, and the Red sea crisis. The minister added that there are also elections in some of the major democracies like in Europe. "In such a situation it's a positive sign that our exports are growing (9 per cent growth in May) and ... This also reflects that the world wants to do trade and investments with India. We are confident that this year we will have over USD 800 billion exports and it will be a historic record," Goyal told reporters here. He was here to participate in a programme of gems and jewellery exporters.



Goyal added that for the USD 800 billion exports, the ministry is working on specifics with Indian missions abroad and export promotion councils. He added that last year the current account deficit (CAD) has also reduced... Our exports will increase, manufacturing will get a boost India recorded a current account surplus of USD 5.7 billion or 0.6 per cent of GDP in the March quarter. This is the first time in ten quarters

that the crucial metric of the country's external strength has turned into surplus mode. In the year-ago period, the current account deficit stood at USD 1.3 billion or 0.2 per cent of GDP, and the same was USD 8.7 billion or 1 per cent of GDP in the preceding quarter ending December 2023. India's merchandise exports rose by 9.1 per cent to USD 38.13 billion in May even as the trade deficit widened to a seven-month high of USD 23.78 billion during the

month, according to the latest government data. He added that focus on electric vehicles will help in reducing oil imports. The ministry is also holding a series of meetings with plantation boards, including spices, rubber, tobacco, tea and coffee, to promote exports especially those of value added goods. Further, he said that India has taken up on priority the issue of ban on imports of Russian-origin unpolished diamonds by the European Union (EU) and G7 nations to protect the interest of the domestic diamond polishing industry. "Our ministry and the gems and jewellery export promotion council are continuously in touch with the European Union and G7 nations," Goyal said, adding in the last meeting, India took up the matter strongly. "Still we are in touch with them to ensure that Indian industry does not have an impact," the minister said. G7 countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US — are major markets for Indian diamond exports.

Setty to become new chairman of SBI; FSIB recommends him as successor of Khara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Government appointment selection panel FSIB on Saturday selected senior-most managing director Challa Sreenivasulu Setty for the position of Chairman of country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI). Setty, who was appointed managing director in January 2020, currently looks after International Banking, Global Markets and Technology verticals. He will succeed Dinesh Kumar Khara, who will be superannuating on August 28, when he turns 63, the upper age limit for the position of SBI Chairman. Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, interviewed three candidates on June 29, 2024 for the position. "Keeping in view their performance in the interface, their overall experience and the extant parameters, the Bureau recommends Challa Sreenivasulu Setty for the position of Chairman in SBI," FSIB said in a statement.

As per the convention, the chairman is appointed from a pool of serving managing directors of SBI. Usually, senior-most managing director becomes chairman of the bank. The final decision on FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Setty, who also headed various task forces/committees formed by the Government of India, had earlier looked after the retail and digital banking portfolio of the bank. A Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and also, a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers, he started his career with SBI in 1988 as a Probationary Officer. Across a career spanning over three decades, he has rich experience in corporate credit, retail, digital and international banking and banking in developed markets. Setty has held key assignments in State Bank of India, including Deputy Managing Director - Stressed Assets Resolution Group, Chief General Manager and General Manager in Corporate Accounts Group, Deputy General Manager in Commercial Branch, Indore and VP & Head (Syndications) in SBI, New York Branch. FSIB is headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former secretary of Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The members of the government-appointed selection panel are Financial Services Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises Secretary and an RBI Deputy Governor. Other members of the headhunter are Animesh Chauhan, former chairman and MD of erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce, RBI's ex-executive director Deepak Singhal, and others.

Gujarat Govt signs MoUs with IBM, Microsoft for enhancing AI capabilities

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government on Saturday signed memorandums of understanding with software giants IBM and Microsoft, and the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) for promoting the use of Artificial Intelligence technologies in the state. The MoUs were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, a government release said. IBM and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat, entered into a MoU to establish and promote an "AI Cluster" to foster innovation and collaboration among financial institutions at Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City, it said. Microsoft and the Department of Science and Technology signed an MoU to establish an Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence in GIFT City. The



AI Center will focus on key technologies such as machine learning, cognitive services and bot services. The department also signed another MoU with NASSCOM to enhance AI capabilities in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has prioritized futuristic technology to propel India towards becoming the world's third-largest economy, chief minister Patel said. "Our aim is to keep Gujarat among the

top industrial states by promoting futuristic technology such as AI," he said. "Gujarat has emerged as a global gateway to the future. In response to the growing demand for skilled workforce in emerging industries leveraging advanced technologies, the state government has launched the Up Skilling Industry Ready Talent Program under the IT and ITES policy," the CM added. Sandeep Patel, Managing Director of IBM

India-South Asia, said AI is a "pivotal need of the hour" and would be a driving force for India's development. Through IBM's advanced AI platform and cloud infrastructure, fintech firms in GIFT City can develop actionable AI software, bolstering their ability to provide AI-driven digital solutions across the banking, financial services, and insurance sectors. Additionally, IBM will collaborate on developing AI curriculum for state schools and universities, the release said. This program has invited expressions of interest from universities and course providers across the state to participate in training youth in deep technology. IBM, NVIDIA, AWS, TCS, and L&T EduTech have committed to providing courses under this initiative, the release added. Additionally, four state universities - GTU, IITRAM, P.D.E.U and Ganpat University - have joined as aggregators, it said.

Exporters' body urges Minister to restore IES benefits for all

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A body of exporters has written to Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, expressing concerns over the extension of the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for only two months and exclusively for MSMEs. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president Ashwani Kumar highlighted that the scheme has so far benefitted not only MSMEs but also merchant exporters and large manufacturing companies at a lower rate of two per cent for 410 tariff lines, covering labour-intensive products. The current scheme, valid till June, provides pre and post-shipment rupee export credit, offers a two per cent interest equalisation rate for manufacturers and merchant exporters dealing with specified 410 export items, and a higher rate of three per cent for MSME manufacturers exporting under any of these items.



Kumar pointed out that the exclusion of these categories from the extended scheme will severely impact labour-intensive exports, which have already been struggling in recent years. He urged the minister to intervene and restore the status quo, citing the export sector's challenges, including increased freight rates, longer voyage times, and rising interest rates.

Kumar warned that the withdrawal of IES benefits will blunt the competitive edge of exporters and hinder growth momentum. In contrast to FIEO's demand for an extension of the scheme benefits at a higher rate, the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) restricted the benefits to MSMEs and capped the total outlay of the scheme at Rs 750 crore.



Bollywood actress Deepshikha Nagwal, along with Dr HBS Lamba MD Welcome New Wembley products LLP, Sanjay Aggarwal, MD Sirca Paints India Ltd during the signature agreement of both the company at Aerocity in New Delhi on Saturday

Titan launches jewellery brand Tanishq in Bangladesh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Titan Company on Saturday said it is launching its jewellery brand Tanishq in Bangladesh as part of expansion plans in the international market. On Friday, the Tata Group-managed firm signed a JV agreement to this effect with Rhythm Group which will make Tanishq available across the Bangladesh market, according to a joint statement. The joint venture will commence with the opening of the manufacturing facility in Narayanganj, in Bangladesh, it added. Besides the domestic market, Titan is expanding Tanishq's presence in the international



market and operates 17 stores across the UAE, US, Qatar, Singapore and Oman. Its watch business has a presence in SAARC, MENA (Middle East and North Africa), Southeast Asian regions. In the last few years, it has focused on growing its

flagship jewellery brand Tanishq overseas. Rhythm Group is a prominent entity in Bangladesh that was established in 1972 to produce desi textile fabrics and since then it has expanded into several verticals. "Through this joint venture

Titan aims to combine Tanishq's unparalleled artisanship and brand legacy with Rhythm Group's strong market presence and local expertise in Bangladesh, to manufacture and sell jewellery to discerning Bangladeshi consumers," it said. Titan Company MD C K Venkataraman said: "Together, we will leverage our combined strengths to elevate the jewellery industry in Bangladesh and make Bangladesh the hub for making Tanishq Exquisite Jewellery for the world." Titan Company is a joint venture between Tata Group and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



मध्यप्रदेश की समृद्धि का नया अध्याय

पार्वती-कालीसिंध-चंबल
अंतरराज्यीय नदी लिंक परियोजना

परियोजना के कार्यान्वयन के लिए संयुक्त पहल

मुख्य अतिथि

भजनलाल शर्मा

मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

अध्यक्षता

डॉ. मोहन यादव

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

30 जून, 2024 | सायं 5:00 बजे
कुशाभाऊ ठाकरे सभागार, भोपाल



जल संवर्धन एवं सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास की अभूतपूर्व पहल

- परियोजना का रु. 35 हजार करोड़ की लागत से होगा कार्यान्वयन
- 4 लाख हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में होगा सिंचाई सुविधा का विस्तार
- प्रदेश के 3.15 लाख किसान परिवार होंगे लाभान्वित एवं 10 जिलों उज्जैन, इंदौर, धार, गुना, श्योपुर, शिवपुरी, ग्वालियर, भिण्ड, शाजापुर, आगर-मालवा में मिलेंगी पेयजल एवं सिंचाई सुविधाएं
- चार जिलों उज्जैन, देवास, शाजापुर, आगर-मालवा को प्राप्त होगी औद्योगिक विकास की नई गति
- परियोजना से पर्यटन विकास को मिलेगा प्रोत्साहन
- सांस्कृतिक विरासत के संरक्षण और विकास को मिलेंगे नए आयाम

“ लगभग दो दशक के बाद पार्वती-कालीसिंध-चंबल अंतरराज्यीय नदी लिंक परियोजना, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी की पहल से अब मूर्त रूप ले सकेगी। इससे मध्यप्रदेश के मालवा और चंबल क्षेत्र के 11 जिले लाभान्वित होंगे। इन जिलों में पेयजल और सिंचाई के लिए जल की उपलब्धता बढ़ेगी और औद्योगिक विकास को नई गति मिलेगी। ”

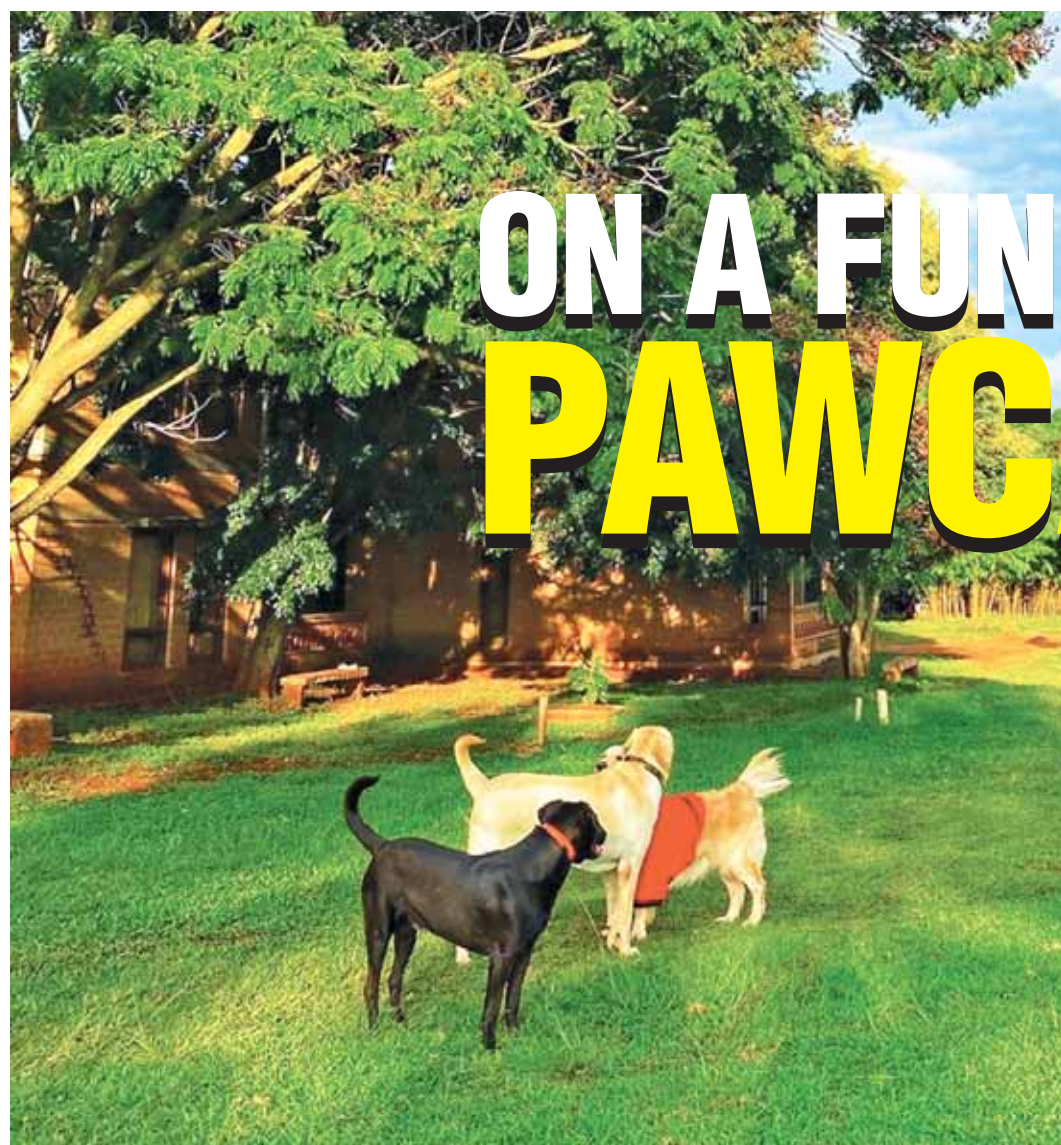
- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



भजनलाल शर्मा, मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

the pioneer agenda

"Disease is an experience of a so-called mortal mind. It is fear made manifest on the body"
— Mary Baker Eddy



ON A FUN FILLED PAWCATION!

Indulge in exciting activities with your pets and make a holiday with them truly special, writes SHARMILA CHAND

Whether indulging in gourmet cuisine for your pets, celebrating their birthdays, pampering them with grooming sessions or participating in fun activities, there's something to enrich every experience during a vacation with furry members. There are a range of pet-friendly hotels and resorts that are more than happy to welcome you and your loyal companion. From luxury resorts to cozy retreats, these properties ensure complete comfort and are a haven both for you and your four-legged buddy.

COMFORT MEETS LUXURY AT PRESIDENT, MUMBAI - IHCL SELEQIONS

Looking to celebrate your pet's birthday? Go for a Pawcation at President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQions.

"We have curated a well thought out pet-friendly vacation concept known as Pawcations," says Afzal Khan, General Manager. "We understand that pets are cherished members of the family, and we strive to create a comfortable and enriching environment for them during their stay. Hence we provide pet-friendly amenities like plush pet beds and bedding, engaging toys, and a gourmet pet menu crafted by our culinary experts." Embracing a pet-friendly policy, the hotel team makes sure the guests' comfort is enhanced by offering the services of on-call pet caretakers, as per specific requirements. Moreover, if there is any health related issue, there is a specialist veterinarian on call. Not to forget pet grooming services with prior appointments, exclusive pet toiletries, and designated pet-friendly zones. "We not only organize elaborate party with delightful high tea and fun outdoor activities for furry birthday boys and girls but also make sure the service is professional with warmth and care. Our team undergoes regular comprehensive training programs to understand animal behavior, hygiene protocols, and proper handling procedures. We also invite external pet trainers and behaviorists to train our staff regularly, ensuring they are well-equipped to interact with pets and provide top-notch service. Hence, we take great pride in being a pet-friendly destination," concludes Khan with a smile.



PAMPERING PETS AT 'OUR NATIVE VILLAGE ECO RESORT', BENGALURU

At 'Our Native Village Eco Resort', nestled in the serene village of Hesaraghatta, guests can indulge in a memorable vacay with the joy of bonding with their beloved pets amidst nature's embrace. "Whether exploring our sprawling grounds or immersing yourself in our cultural experiences, every moment promises a harmonious blend of luxury, responsible tourism and eco-conscious living, adhering to our pet-friendly policy," tells Antharaj A, The Operations Manager. He adds, "We get repeat guests who have enjoyed their staycation in seamless harmony with their furry companions. As a proud pet-friendly establishment, the retreat provides essential amenities, including a variety of dog foods, water bowls, leashes, floor mats, and cozy blankets. The sprawling grounds offer ample space for pets to roam freely amidst lush lawns and village paths, perfect for leisurely strolls and bonding moments." Designed with meticulous care, the dedicated pet bathing area combines comfort with rustic charm, ensuring a refreshing bath experience for furry companions. Specially prepared food ensures pets receive nutritious meals, supporting the commitment to sustainability by minimizing environmental impact. "Complete with all necessary amenities, the resort's natural charm

reflects our dedication to pampering pets just as we do for our human guests. While the guests rediscover childhood joys playing village games like gilli danda and kite flying, their pets act as best cheerleaders!" Antharaj says with a smile.

DISCOVER PET-FRIENDLY RETREAT AT MYSA ZINC JOURNEY BY THE FERN

Pet parents looking to take a break and hit the road with their fur babies, look no further than MYSA Zinc Journey by The Fern, a premier resort located in Nani Devati, Gujarat. Renowned for its serene ambiance and top-notch amenities, this resort stands out as a haven for pet lovers, offering an exceptional blend of comfort, luxury, and pet-friendly hospitality. Naveen Vaishnav, Squad Champion at the Resort says, "Committed to pampering four legged guests, at MYSA Zinc Journey by The Fern, pets are warmly welcomed and cherished. Furthermore, the property offers a range of facilities, making this resort the ideal choice for travellers with pets. The resort offers 24 elegantly designed rooms and villas, each providing ample space for you and your pets to relax." Spread across 9 acres within the scenic Glade One Golf Resort, the resort features beautifully landscaped gardens and open spaces perfect for the four legged to explore and enjoy. For a leisurely stroll or a brisk walk, the serene pathways and green expanses offer a perfect retreat for their owners.

"At the resort we offer dedicated services and facilities that include comfortable bedding and special dietary options for your furry friends. Our chefs cook as per pets' liking and specifications, we don't have printed menus as we believe in curating for them. While your pets enjoy the outdoors, you can indulge in a variety of resort activities. From the challenging 9-hole Gary Player-designed golf course to rejuvenating spa treatments and a sparkling swimming pool, here is the unique blend of luxury and pet-friendly hospitality. Located just a short drive from Ahmedabad, this resort provides a tranquil retreat where you and your pets can relax and rejuvenate," adds Vaishnav.

BONDING IN A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

Nestled amidst the serene landscapes of Taj Fort Aguada Resort & Spa, Taj Holiday Village Resort & Spa and The Yellow House, lies a haven not just for humans but also for their beloved furry companions. Embracing the bond between pets and their owners, we proudly declare ourselves a pet-friendly resort, where wagging tails and happy barks are as much a part of the atmosphere as the rustling of leaves and gentle lapping of waves. "As the pet's comfort is paramount, we provide cozy & comfortable beddings to ensure their good night's sleep. Offering a range of soothing amenities such as gentle shampoo, conditioner, and nourishing paw and nose butter - these products are carefully chosen to keep your pet looking and feeling their best throughout their stay. Beyond physical comfort, we cultivate a nurturing environment where every aspect of your pet's experience is thoughtfully considered. Our dedicated staff is trained to provide attentive care and ensure that all pets receive personalized attention and affection, says Sanchita Banerjee Rodrigues, MarCom for North Goa Resorts. Fitness is of utmost importance. Whether it's a leisurely morning walk or an evening romp under the setting sun, the scenic surroundings provide the perfect backdrop for the pets to stay active and happy. "Understanding that pets thrive when they can engage in physical activities, we offer a variety of opportunities for them to stay active and happy amidst our scenic

surroundings. Whether it's a leisurely morning walk along our lush trails or an energetic romp during the enchanting sunset hours, every moment outdoors is tailored to keep pets healthy and stimulated. Providing designated areas where they can engage in interactive play and socialize with other furry companions under the watchful eye of our attentive staff. These supervised activities not only keep pets physically fit but also mentally stimulated, ensuring a well-rounded experience during their stay." When it comes to pets' dining, Chef Nishant Diwakar Executive Sous Chef of Taj Fort Aguada being a pet parent himself takes keen interest in designing and planning of the pet menus of Taj North Goa Resorts. He firmly believes as important a balanced diet is to us humans, our furry friends require the same amount of attention. We provide specially curated menu for them to get the perfect amount of nutrient & a tasty treat. From dishes made with bacon & chicken bones to drool over to waffles made of yoghurt, banana & pumpkin. The team goes beyond basic sustenance to provide culinary experiences that enhance their stay and contribute to their overall enjoyment.

A PERFECT GETAWAY WITH PETS!

At Bengaluru Marriott Hotel Whitefield, there are special pet fiestas and brunches that create memorable moments for pets and owners alike. For long-staying guests, there is a unique touch of companionship—a small fish in a pot to keep them company. "At our hotel, we pride ourselves on providing an immersive experience with cozy beds, engaging toys, and meticulously sanitized play areas, creating a haven for our four-legged guests," tells Anjali Naik, Director of Sales and Marketing. She adds, "Pets have access to our dining outlets and lush lawns, where they can relax and play freely. Our exclusive pet menu offers health-centric, salt-free options for their dining pleasure. Our commitment to creating a pet-friendly environment goes beyond mere accommodation, offering a truly immersive and delightful experience for both you and your beloved companion." —Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel, Food and Lifestyle



FROM THE PEN OF A GROUNDED POET

It is important to note that Neerada is as much a Nature poet as she is a people's poet, says SWATI PAL

How many of us have had to be admonished for things not being aligned? The books in our book case in the days when books were bought and read? The clothes in our cupboard? The shoes in the closet? How many of us were ticked off at school perhaps for the tie being askew or the pair of socks not climbing up at the same place on each leg? Or the writing in our notebooks being asymmetrical? For the better part of my childhood and those of my friends, there was a constant, relentless push and shove towards alignment and well, we certainly rebelled at it as young people! A part of me still does and thus when I chance upon a poppy flower for example, in a neat bed of chrysanthemums in the college gardens, I cannot deny that my heart lights up with joy at this break in the order of things!

So when I was invited to read and speak on this utterly delightful collection of poems called 'Alignment' by Neerada Suresh, I cannot deny that my interest was instantly piqued by the title and I immediately read the title poem. Rohan Kaul's home and his partner, Promilla simply came alive by the word picture painted by Neerada Suresh in her rib tickling comparisons between the state of the house in the absence and presence of Rohan. There is a certain glee in the air when Rohan is away as things lie unaligned and unfettered; the same things, to quote, *But when Rohan Kaul is in, Newspapers stand stacked, Compressed, breathing in. Shoes align themselves Awed, open mouthed. Paintings, curtains, Cushions, sofas All tell a tamed tale.*

The fact is that while alignment is not only, politically speaking an important credo that nations strive for and while it may have its merits, alignment can often come at great cost. It may be the cost of freedom, it may be about being 'tamed' as Neerada put it; it may leave us in gaping fear and thus 'open mouthed'. The hope perhaps lies in Promilla who, as the poem ends with *defies A certain kind of alignment.* Don't let the light and bubbling language deceive you, this poem has far greater implications if we read it closely and it is this deceptive mirth that the

poem has which makes the poem, like many others by her, such a joy to read. Neerada is a grounded soul. Her poems reflect that and she makes poetry out of the ordinary quirky eccentricities and foibles that fill all of our lives. A poem that really clicked with me is *Of Lists*. It has that elegant humour that seems to be a characteristic trait of Neerada's, the wonderful ability to laugh at one's self. It begins with the declaration *I am one For lists.* And then, with great good humour she narrates how fishing out her list from her bag full of things makes the list redundant as she involuntarily lists from memory and then she swears, *Under my breath Now to list down A set of instructions How not to forget Getting across The list you make.* I cannot recall the uncountable times that I have had to strip my entire bag to find a list and then found it much later. It is such a relatable experience and that is what endears the reader to Neerada's poetry, the sheer relatability of the experiences.

Life and the times as we live them are the focus of Neerada's poetry. We talk for example about how communication between people now is held ransom by the cell phone. Neerada converts our trite conversations into a poem which she entitles, *The New Normal. New normal is Sitting side by side On a sofa With no eye contact Chatting of this and that These are the first few lines and the poem ends with the sad fact that the new normal is: And at all times Not facing each other But thumb twitching On the mobile through Inane vicarious clips Of far and near ones And total strangers Never once glancing Directly or even sideways Smiling at each other.* Modes of communication or rather the language of communication comes up again in another poem called *Version 3.0* where the poet talks about her journey from the deep south up north 'travelling light with nothing/more than



a bilingual tongue'. Subtly yet strongly commenting upon the Rashtrabhasha issue, she says, *At the workplace, monolingual, mute Biding time mastering a language National though notional, Opening floodgates of ecstasy mouthing My own tongue, my mother tongue, At regional gatherings.* This is such striking comment upon the way in which so much in our relationships with people, so much of our identity, so many of our needs, are determined by the fluency with which we speak different languages. But are we accepted because we speak the required language or do we remain strangers divided by our regional differences, not explicitly stated but always there? Do we, in turn, become one with the region of our profession or adoption or do we still dream of lands we associate most with the tongue that comes easiest and naturally to us, our mother tongue? These are questions to think about. Neerada makes you think.

She makes you laugh and cry as well, sometimes together. One such poem is *When my brother fell sick* in which the poet describes her brother who was bedridden after a botched up eye surgery. She writes about his courage, *He still smiles as always. Not once did he Lament this plight, foul mouth The surgeon or contemplate Suing. Resigned at once To a possible, partial vision In his bad eye, pacified His wife, my raging sisier in law. His expressive eyes Now inscrutable Behind the dark glasses. But his smile had the same texture and tinge Of the smile he sported When Mother died And he lingered by her one last time.* The poem is such a beautiful reminder that warriors are not found only on the battlefield; there are many who soldier on heroically confronted by the vicissitudes of life. The brother you read about will surely capture your heart and become your hero.

One of the characteristics of Neerada's poems in 'Alignment' is that there is a lot said through implication which is sometimes sensuous and can get your heart beating a bit faster. For example, in the poem *Delete*, the poet writes about *Your unsolicited Picture on FB And she goes on to say, The familiar contours Of your face Traced out a trillion times Through summer and winter Stood out embossed On my finger tips. The best option now For the photo shopped version, Press delete To wipe out that sting Of dormant memories Off my fingertips.* This is a brilliant use of synesthetic imagery and one can literally feel the tingling in the tips of one's fingers. A poem that ends with a delightful twist is *Chrysanthemums* where the unnamed 'he' always came when the chrysanthemums bloomed and he always asked if they were dahlias or marigolds, and the poet says *Too polite to correct She'd smile- a wide smile*

Her lashes lowered and The chrysanthemums paled Into insignificance. The evening Stretched to its elastic limits Catapulted into night. What she didn't know was That he had always known They were chrysanthemums. There is the sweetness of romance in these lines that is unmistakable and so appealing; one can almost imagine the whole scene played out in one's head. Tea 1 carries the same fragrance of romance very delicately framed, implied through such lines as *While I made tea On a rusty stove He stood watching Leaning by the door When Mother died, I like the cut of your dress As though it were a cue To turn the stove on to sim And let the simmering within Come to a boil.* Coming back to the pictorial quality of the poems, a reason why many of the poems in fact can be almost dramatically played out in the imagination is the kind of detailing that Neerada works into her poems. Take the poem *Of Haystacks*. This entire poem is literally painted with an eye for the minutest of details and it reads *The cotton tree stood In its slender trunk With its bursting pods Of parachuting blobs As the turbaned, earth hued Cart man, cushioned On bales and bales Of golden yellow straw Came swaying, swinging Whistling to the orchestra of The hoof clicking clap dance Of the ambling bullocks.* Colour, sound, movement all seemed fused almost like a motion picture being played out on the printed page. And of course the symbolism, the personification is discernible, as is the use of alliteration in the swaying swinging, cart cushioned, clicking clap. This lends a wonderful rhythmic motion to the scene and has been really cleverly used.

Again, in *The Breadfruit Tree*, the poet describes the tree, *We didn't make much Of the breadfruit tree That stood sentry like*

By the boundary wall Spilling its bickering spread Over the neighbour's roof Dropping yellow leaves Plopping crow eaten messy fruits Like I said, the tree, pretty much like the haystacks in the previous poem, comes to life in the mind's eye. If brevity is the soul of wit, Neerada really aces it in her short poems, two of which are *Absence* and *Sorrows*. *Absence, Distance Were surefire Terminators Of whatever was Between us I thought, But they Like rings in trees Add girth, depth Linking the past With the present, Casting shadows Of decay Into the future* Direct and simple, the simile is so apt and new- the rings on the trees and the passage of time. It's important to note that Neerada is as much a Nature poet as she is a people's poet. In *Sorrows* she says, *Sorrows Like a newborn Arranged itself In my arms Purring in content As if to say Never let me go For the reward Of great truths To be reaped And revealed In the future.* Those who carry their sorrows with them will feel that the poem is made for them. But that's the magic of Neerada's pen, she will make her readers feel that the people, places, thoughts and experiences are theirs that she writes about. Read her, you will feel at home.

— Swati Pal, Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, has been a Charles Wallace; John McGrath Theatre Studies and Fulbright Nehru fellowship, scholar. She has published on theatre, creative and academic writing, education and translates from Hindi to English. In *Absentia* is a collection of her poems

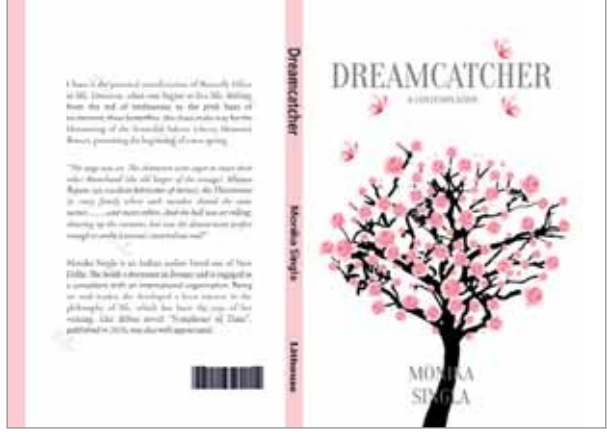
Journey to an expanded self awareness

The book opens in the present-day scenario, where a rather unsure Loveena of mid-thirties is boarding a train to Pathankot. Her already raw senses are over burdened by the onslaught of experience of a train station environment.

Yet her insecurities are deep seated in her psyche and are result of the generational trauma she endured during her growing up years by the hands of her equally tormented mother Neena, reviews DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

The ("Dreamcatcher") is the story of Loveena, the protagonist of the book who is a sensitive soul. It beautifully narrates the journey through her trials and tribulations, her realisations, her pains and her metamorphosis and an ultimate 'coming of age' which leaves her in a state of expanded awareness of self as well as her surroundings and people there in. Author Monika has orchestrated her sound knowledge of literature, language and the subject & object to bring on paper the story of a child Loveena, till she finds solace passing through life's labyrinth, unfortunately all nurtured in close walls of her family. The just published book revolves around Loveena's mother Neena who attained motherhood through Loveena after a long wait of ten years. Neena's intensity

thus shifted to being extra protective about her daughter from the negativities of the world. Having brought up in a rather affluent and rich family, she desires nothing less for her daughter. And even though Loveena had both her parents-Neena and her father Dev, it was her mother and mother's stories which were to carve her life and make her the person that she would become. And the story's trajectory thus turns to Loveena's mother Neena's life. Neena's husband Dev was a victim of his own sense of helplessness for his lack of understanding the business of Neena's father and inability to take it up for posterity, even though he was the sole son-in-law the family had. His job as an assistant professor of history in the university projected him as most suitable boy for Neena, when a friend of Neena's



father told him about Dev and his docile nature. Quite obviously Neena's father believed it to be the significant trait suitable for her pampered daughter. As Neena entered Dev's life and his house after her wedding, it was bustling with Dev's family. Neena was immediately overwhelmed by the sheer number



of people and was unable to adjust to this new environment which was totally unlike her solitary and exclusive upbringing in an affluent household. Sensing Neena's hesitation and reservations, Dev's family too accepted her into their family but without completely absorbing her into their lives. So, even though

Neena was married into Dev's family she could never truly become a part of it. Dev's detachment or lack of desire to correct this situation further acerbated the relationships. Troubled relations with in-laws, Dev's indifference clubbed with an anguishing wait of ten years to attain motherhood further fed Neena's sense of mistrust and suspicions and her belief that the world was a dangerously bad place. Loveena who was born as a happy child with a calm, pleasing, innocent disposition was always eager to embrace everybody, never earned approval for her behaviour from her mother. Neena always dismissed these traits as incompatible with the ways of world. Thus, growing up, Loveena's world protected by her mother, remained confined within the four walls of the palatial house with the house help Babli as a constant companion who

too gets married leaving behind a void in Loveena's life. Finally, Loveena finds her suitor in Sanand and her engagement to him was greeted as the most welcome news by everyone later on which did not worked due to triggers of Neena's fears. For Loveena this incident proved to be the one which augmented her belief in Neena's words that world is a bad place. Her father Dev too gone followed by passing of Neena. Loveena finally married, not to start a family but only to drown the haunting hollowness of her soul into joys and laughter. Vikram was a colleague of Loveena and the only thing she knew about him was that he was a divorcee with two grown up kids. Soon this too developed a marital conflict. Unable to handle this situation any longer Loveena decides that she needs to get

respite from her choppy life that and decides to leave the house and Vikram. She goes looking for solitude in a place away from all her life challenges a long time back. Her tumultuous relationship with Vikram's place was when she had shunned everything to cross over into next phase of her life. She was now ready to go meet Vikram as a new person. But this time she isn't running away. This time she is running towards meeting life head-on.

DREAMCATCHER
Author: Monika Singla
Publisher: ISPCK
Price: ₹295

TANGRA TALES

Kolkata, Bengalis the world over, and Tangra, share a very special culinary heritage and culture, going far back in history. **SHOBORI GANGULI** got to relive the bond at the Westin Gurgaon recently



Most people familiar with the trademark Chinese cuisine of Kolkata would know about Tangra. An erstwhile tannery on the eastern outskirts of then British Calcutta, soon to become famous as the city's Chinatown, this tiny colony was populated by Hakka origin Chinese folk who came to India to work in the tanneries, their craft and art soon to become synonymous with the finest leather accessories in the subcontinent. The womenfolk worked home kitchens to supplement meager household incomes. Today, the tanneries are all gone but Tangra has left its signature on a cuisine now globally known as Hakka Chinese. Recently, I had the fortune to relive some childhood memories of anniversaries and birthdays most often spent at some restaurant or the other in Tangra, wolfing down Golden Fried Prawns, Chicken dimsums, Hakka noodles, prawns sauted in garlic and red chillies, the list goes on. The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi, hosted a



CHEF HO CHI MING

nine day culinary pop up aptly called Tales of Tangra which promised an "explosion of flavours" from Kolkata's Chinatown. The event featured a specially curated menu by Guest Chef Ho Chi Ming from The Westin Pune Koregaon Park. By sheer geography, one can easily identify the unique Kolkata-Chinese culinary bond, the two regions in such close physical proximity, underlining the very special nature of the food not be found anywhere else in the world despite Tangra's journey as an Oriental cuisine beyond the frontiers of Bengal. The menu at Westin was indeed meticulously planned by the Chef to capture the essence of this legendary fusion cuisine, tracing its roots back to an era long ago when Chinese immigrants in then Calcutta, blending their traditions with Indian culture to script and create Chinatown's culinary

proress. Unfortunately, none of that history now remains, except in the hands of home and professional chefs, who still keep the history of Chinatown resonating with contemporary approaches, and of course, special twists given to recipes long lost. While Chef Ho did put up a great show with his Scallion Crepes, Homestyle Taro Cakes, Kari Fish Dumplings, Sweet and Sour Prawns, Four Season Green Beans, Crispy Chilli Garlic Potatoes, Tangra style authentic Hakka noodles, the menu had a huge vegetarian accent. With the world turning to vegetarianism each passing day, this is only understandable. But one fervently hopes that Hakka Chinese seafood will always have its patrons surviving in some corner or the other in the world. Chef Ho's passion for Asian cuisine was apparent in the innovations he brought to each dish. His approach, affability and commitment to authenticity were truly welcome. Chef Amit Dash, Multi Property Executive Chef for The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi said, "We are



excited to host Chef Ho Chi Ming and present Tales of Tangra to our patrons. This pop-up is a tribute to the rich cultural tapestry and culinary excellence of Tangra and a testament to our commitment to continue offering our guests diverse and exceptional dining experiences." The soups ranged from Manchow, Assorted Vegetables, Ginger, Cilantro Broth, Hot and Sour soup, non vegetarian bits like prawns and chickens were only add-ons. Personally, I feel a soup or broth must stew in its original juices and not be relegated to add-ons for a vegetable broth. It makes a critical culinary difference in terms of taste, texture and aromas. All in all, it felt good to taste a bit of Tangra far away from its original shores of Kolkata right in the heart of Delhi. Long live Tangra's signature Hakka cuisine.

Disappointing Service Mars Fine Dining Experiences



PAWAN SONI ventures to The China Kitchen at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi, famed for its peking Duck. While the star dish impressed, but the experience is marred by inattentive services

I recently visited The China Kitchen at Hyatt Regency New Delhi, renowned for its exquisite Peking Duck, which I consider among the best in the National Capital Region. Some might argue that Hakkasan in Mumbai outshines it, but my personal experiences at Hakkasan in Abu Dhabi and a pop-up at Shangri-La Delhi didn't include the duck, so I can't compare. Nonetheless, my recent dining experience at The China Kitchen, despite the superb duck, left me dissatisfied, primarily due to subpar service. The evening began on a sour note with a lackluster welcome. We received no warm greetings or guidance to our table, and no one offered us menus or water, despite the sweltering Delhi summer. The absence of hospitality was in stark contrast to the standards one expects at a 5-star property. When we ordered our first dish, a gomaï salad, I specifically requested extra sesame dressing on the side, a preference I had made clear to the server. However, the salad arrived without the extra dressing and was neither cold nor flavorful, lacking the acidity and vibrant tastes I anticipated. The China Kitchen could learn a thing or two from China Garden, which excels at this dish in the city. Fortunately, the other dishes like chicken shao mai dumplings, edamame dim sum, and honey chilli lotus roots were much better. Yet, the service remained mechanical and impersonal. There were no smiles, no proactive plate changes, and no clearing of the



table. Even the chef who came to carve the duck remained silent, possibly due to a language barrier, but a smile would have gone a long way. The hostess who prepared the pancake rolls also wore a stony expression while she stood near our table for some time preparing the pancakes. Despite enjoying most of our meal, we quickly finished and left, paying over Rs18,000 (including a 10% service charge) without any drinks. I contemplated asking for the service charge to be waived but refrained, considering how dependent the staff might be on these tips. I was particularly disappointed when my request for duck salt and pepper was denied because we had ordered only half a duck, a decision that seemed unnecessarily rigid. A little more flexibility and hospitality could have made all the difference, especially when very few order it. Attentive and friendly



service could have transformed our dining experience. Even though the food was largely enjoyable, the lack of warmth and attention overshadowed it. Similar was our experience just a day prior at Pullman hotel where a friend hosted his daughter's

birthday party at their all-day dining restaurant Pluck. Orders were mixed up, a sparkling wine cork flew in the air missing the patrons without any apology from the server, prawns vanished from the buffet spread, and orders either took a lot of time or were

completely missed. Something has happened to that smiley and polite star hotel service, especially after COVID. Fresh batches are seeing fewer takers, most experienced staff have either left the industry or are moving abroad for better wages and work

conditions. What remains is the new service levels. Either we will get used to it or start paying them the wages they truly deserve to retain deserving candidates. — Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, you'll find yourself in a cheerful state of mind, enjoying a sense of fulfillment and contentment. Expect a swift victory of some kind, such as a successful outcome in a competition or interview, where your dedication and strategic planning will be rewarded. You'll experience a surge of prosperity coupled with spiritual growth. Any previous limitations or obstacles you faced will start to fade away, enhancing your sense of liberation and tranquility. There's a hint of upcoming travel, possibly international, that could enrich your experiences. Midweek brings a period of relaxation; you may choose to step back from certain activities during this reflective phase. In the coming weeks or months, you'll find opportunities to resolve disputes or engage in significant discussions.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Last week was a whirlwind of activity for you, balancing both home and work with remarkable determination. Your methodical approach ensured that everything was handled without compromising the quality, allowing you now to step back and enjoy a well-deserved break. It's a time to savor the results of your diligence. As you've managed to uphold both your professional and personal commitments successfully, you find your environment more supportive and harmonious. Your capabilities in handling relationships and business matters have not only strengthened your stature but have also set you as an inspiration for others. This period marks a significant opportunity for growth in your ventures, and any work-related travel could bring back rewarding outcomes, boosting both your professional standing and familial pride.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you may find yourself on a quest for fairness in various areas of your life. However, the journey won't be straightforward, as it is marked by conflicts and confrontations. You might experience feelings of restriction, both mentally and physically, leading to a sense of demoralization and irritation. Amidst this chaos, with opposing forces at play, it becomes crucial to focus on maintaining balanced health habits and making discerning choices that favor personal well-being. Assume accountability for your actions and interactions, thoughtfully considering the advantages and disadvantages. Despite these obstacles, a sense of triumph is within reach. You'll navigate through this tough phase, emerging better equipped to handle future challenges. As the week concludes, opportunities for new beginnings or travel may arise, promising resolution to issues related to relationships or personal assets.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Ivory
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week brings a focus on emotional expression and deep connections. You naturally wear your heart on your sleeve, showcasing your emotions openly, which will enhance the bonds in your relationship. Expect a surge of closeness and mutual understanding with your partner, reinforcing your emotional ties. Additionally, this period is marked by potential gains in wisdom and the possibility of influential learning opportunities or mentorships that can guide you through significant life decisions. Your ability to articulate your thoughts impressively will serve you well, making you feel effective and acknowledged in your endeavors. High-ranking professionals can anticipate recognition and accolades. It's a pivotal time where your choices will significantly shape your journey, emphasizing the importance of focused decision-making.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

At this moment, you stand at a pivotal juncture, faced with the need to make an important decision quickly. This period proves favorable for professionals like doctors and judges, who are likely to achieve recognition in their fields. A disciplined approach is essential to master the challenges ahead. You might face some health concerns and feelings of frustration; however, remember to appreciate the positives in your life. As the week progresses, expect a subtle shift that brings equilibrium. You'll experience renewed energy and a brighter outlook. Peace and joy will follow, enhancing your personal achievements. Support from others will play a key role in your accomplishments, leading to tangible rewards. Expect to receive what is rightfully yours, reinforcing a sense of justice and fulfillment.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are entering a phase that calls for relaxation and recuperation. Embrace the serenity and strength this period offers. If you've recently experienced physical or emotional challenges, this is a time for healing. Soon, you may encounter a scenario requiring critical thinking, where clarity and understanding will emerge. Stay observant, as resolving such matters can be complex, possibly leading to confusion or a standstill. However, the latter part of the week promises a shift towards positivity. You may find yourself contemplating a new endeavor that demands quick action and courage. This is your moment to shine—step forward confidently and tap into your innate ability to navigate exciting challenges. There may also be joyful personal developments, possibly related to family expansion. Harness this burst of creativity and enthusiasm to maximize your opportunities.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, your emotions may feel overwhelming, potentially overshadowing your usual judgment. Minor household issues could escalate, causing significant stress and leading you to seek solace away from worldly concerns. You might find yourself pondering drastic changes in your personal life, which could divert your focus from day-to-day duties. However, this period of turmoil is only temporary. As the week progresses, your previous endeavors will start to bear fruit. Recent investments are likely to yield substantial rewards. It's crucial to shake off any lingering confusion and gain a clearer perspective on your life's direction. This might involve stepping back from your typical patterns of thought and behavior to explore new ideas and perspectives. Such shifts will not only enhance your performance but also guide you toward a more balanced and impartial outlook.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You often seek harmony, elegance, and the finer things in life, yet sometimes these seem just out of reach. Recently, you may find yourself overwhelmed by fears and worries, grappling with sleep disturbances, feelings of guilt, and emotional distress. Despite these challenges, it's important to remember that not all is lost. There's a gleam of hope, a fresh perspective or opportunity on the horizon that can help you emerge from this phase. Around the middle of the week, expect a surge of positive news—perhaps a heartfelt gesture or a new opening that could enhance your relationships and bring you emotional and physical strength. Stay patient; with time, the clouds will clear, and stability will return.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week presents a mix of challenges and opportunities, weaving through periods of emotional intensity and conflicting desires. You might start the week feeling a dip in financial stability, as incoming resources could be inconsistent. It's essential to navigate this time with patience, recognizing that this phase is only temporary. Engaging in meditation, yoga, or creative pursuits could prove beneficial in restoring your balance and helping you navigate through these turbulent times. Adopting a measured approach in your interactions, especially with those in senior positions, will be crucial. Avoid letting impulsive reactions disrupt the harmony and progress you've achieved thus far. Stay grounded and cautious, steering clear of misguided beliefs, and consider refreshing your perspective to better face the challenges ahead.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Forest Green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you may notice a significant shift in your demeanor, transitioning from a reflective and intense state to a more affectionate and nurturing one. Those in leadership roles, particularly at the helm of large organizations, might find their natural empathy tested as they encourage independence in others. Your loyalty remains unwavering to those you hold dear, yet it's wise to remain cautious with boundaries. By mid-week, your creativity and imagination could soar, allowing you to delight in a blend of fantasy and reality. This inner transformation will likely bring you a sense of fulfillment, enriching both your material and spiritual life, leaving you feeling content and joyful. Embrace these changes as they come, viewing them as opportunities for personal growth and deeper connections.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

A shift in location or a new beginning is on the horizon, bringing with it a rise in your current standing or role. You're prepared to embrace challenges to achieve your goals, driven by a restless desire for progress and excitement. A new, intense romantic or artistic connection might soon make its way into your life. As the week progresses, expect an influx of joy, achievements, and possibly some thoughtful gifts, enhancing friendships and personal contentment. A sense of nostalgia may wash over you, prompting reunions with old friends and family members. A positive energy surrounds you, rejuvenating your spirit. Signs point towards harmonious domestic life, with potential celebrations like home renovations or family gatherings, allowing for meaningful moments with those you cherish.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Rust
Lucky day Sunday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week marks a transition as you move away from a challenging phase, feeling a sense of relief and lightness. Family matters will take precedence, demanding more attention amidst less than ideal circumstances. You might find yourself at a crossroads, having held on to a situation that no longer serves your well-being, and it's time to embrace change. This moment holds considerable weight in determining your future; the decisions you make now are crucial. Challenges may arise from unresolved issues or lingering negative feelings towards someone. The coming days offer a chance to address and settle these conflicts, paving the way for healing and growth. Embrace your natural instincts and creativity to navigate through this. By week's end, a significant breakthrough promises to reignite your enthusiasm and determination, bolstering your spirit to pursue your aspirations boldly.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Cherry Red
Lucky day Thursday

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GURUSPEAK
SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

Do you pray?



where you are. Unless you are lit in devotion to the Divine, your life will remain restless. In devotion, longing will arise in you. And when there is longing, true prayer happens by itself. Be sincere in your prayers. Do not try to outsmart the Divine. The mind has the tendency to forget the Divine. What type of time do you give the Divine? Usually, you give the leftover time; when you have nothing else to do, no guests to attend to, no parties to attend to, you go to the Divine. This is not quality time. Give prime time to the Divine. You will be rewarded. If your prayers are not answered, it is because you have never given quality time. Four types of people go to God. One, is those who seek the truth (knowledge and freedom). Two, the wise ones (gyanis). Three, the ones who seek material comforts (wealth). Four, the ones who are in misery. The wise one does not pray for something. His life itself is a prayer. If at all you have to pray for something, pray for the happiness of all the people in the world. 'Loka Samastha Sukhinou Bhavantu' (May Everybody Be Happy). — He is a Spiritual Guru

Prayer is a vital tool to improve your life. Wherever you can put your effort, put it. Where you cannot, pray for it! Whatever you do, know that a Higher Power has the final say and you can tap that power through your prayers. You don't need any special qualifications or abilities to pray. Whether a fool or a wise person, whether rich or poor, anybody can pray. Prayer doesn't mean just sitting and chanting some words. It's about being in that serene, calm, and meditative state. That is why, in the Vedic tradition, dhyana (meditation) is done before prayer as well as afterward. When the mind is focused, the prayer becomes far more powerful. Prayer is the cry of a soul. To whom you pray is not important. Whereas religion puts words to the prayer, and adds symbols and rituals to it, the prayer itself transcends them. It happens on the subtle level of feelings; and feelings transcend words and religion. The act of praying itself has the power to bring transformation. When you pray there should be total

involvement. If the mind is preoccupied elsewhere then that is no prayer at all. When there is pain, there is more involvement. That's why people turn to prayer when they are in pain. Prayer happens when you feel grateful or when you feel utterly helpless. In either case, your prayers will be answered. When you feel helpless, prayer happens by itself. That's why in Hindi we say 'Nirbal toh Balram'. If you are weak, God is your strength. Prayer is that moment when you come in touch with your limitations and your boundaries. In today's fast-paced world, people often pray out of fear and greed. Usually, when you love something, you want to possess it and you pray for it. True prayer, however, is just the opposite of wanting to possess. It's about honouring and offering everything to the Divine. Honouring brings devotion and leads to surrender. Devotion brings a healing touch to life. Devotion and faith are at the core of a sincere prayer. A true prayer can't happen without devotion and faith. Having faith is to realize that God's protection is there for you. Devotion is inner flowering. Devotion starts from