agenda

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MEA summons Canadian diplomat



MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI NEW DELHI

ndia on Saturday said it summoned the Canadian high commission representative and lodged a strong protest over Ottawa's allegations against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"We had summoned the representative of the Canadian High Commission yesterday, a diplomatic note was handed over in reference to the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security in Ottawa on October 29, 2024," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

India protested in the strongest possible terms the references made by a Canadian minister about Shah and said that such "absurd and baseless" allegations will have serious consequences for bilateral ties between the two

countries, the MEA said on Saturday.

The comments came after Canada's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison on Tuesday alleged that Shah ordered campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligencetargeting Sikh inside Canada. gathering separatists Morrison had also told Canadian Parliament members of the national security committee that he had confirmed Shah's name to The Washington Post, which first reported the allegations.

Jaiswal said this revelation that high Canadian government officials deliberately leaked unfounded insinuations to international media as part of a conscious strategy to discredit India and influence other nations only confirms the view that the Indian government has long held about the current Canadian government's political agenda and behavioural pattern.

Image Source : VIDEO SCREENGRAB

Replying to queries during a weekly Press briefing, Jaiswal said such irresponsible actions will have serious consequences for bilateral ties. He said India summoned a Canadian High Commission representative on Friday and the official was served a diplomatic note to lodge the protest in strongest terms on the "absurd and baseless" references made by the Canadian deputy minister about India's Union Home Minister. While addressing the Parliament members, Morrison did not say

how Canada knew of Shah's alleged involvement. The diplomatic relations between India and Canada deteriorated after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a year ago that Canada had credible evidence agents of the Indian government was involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia

in June 2023. Dismissing the allegations as absurd, Indian government officials have consistently denied that Canada provided evidence. Last month, India recalled its high commissioner Sanjay Verma after the diplomat was named as

person of interest by Canada in its probe into Nijjar's killing. New Delhi withdrew its high commissioner and expelled six Canadian diplomats from its soil. Calling Canada's behaviour "the pits", Verma in an interview last week said India was backstabbed and treated in a most unprofessional manner by a country that is supposed to be a friendly democracy. "A handful of supporters of Khalistan have turned the ideology into a criminal enterprise, which indulges in a range of activities such as gun-running and human trafficking and yet the Canadian authorities turn a blind eye because they comprise a vocal electoral bank for local politicians," Verma said.

Îndia also accused Canada of indulging in "harassment and intimidation" of Indian consular staff by putting them under audio and video surveillance in "flagrant violation" of diplomatic conventions. "Yes, some of our consular officials were recently informed by the Canadian government that they have been and continued to be under audio and video surveillance. Their communications have also been intercepted. We have formally protested to the Canadian government, as we deem these actions to be in flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions" Jaiswal mentioned during the briefing. "By citing technicalities, the Canadian government cannot

justify the fact that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation," he alleged.



Patrolling begins at Depsang PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has commenced verification patrolling at Depsang, the second friction point in eastern Ladakh, the government said on Saturday. Patrolling at Demchok had begun on Friday, a day after the Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Replying to a query at a weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said following the disengagement agreement with China, the verification patrolling has begun on mutually agreed terms in both Demchok and Depsang.

On Thursday, Indian and Chinese troops also exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali. The traditional practice was observed a day after both countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties. Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to

pre-April 2020 level.

Forces gun down three terrorists in Kashmir

magazine

MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

A day after a large number of residents, and tourists were seen bursting crackers and lighting diyas during Deepawali celebrations at Lal Chowk, the old city area of Khanyar in Srinagar witnessed its first anti-terrorist operation in the last 30 months. The forces gunned down Usman Lashkari, a commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) by the joint team of security forces and four jawans including two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and two Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) personnel received injuries in an over eight hour-long operation on Saturday.

Meanwhile, two more terrorists, one suspected to be a foreign terrorist, were neutralised by the security forces in the Halkan Gali area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday. Of the two terrorists killed, one was a foreigner, and the other a local. Their group affiliation was yet to be ascertained, official sources said.

In another terror-related incident, a search operation was launched on Saturday after the movement of terrorists was observed in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district.

According to preliminary reports, a joint team of the Special Operations Group of JKP and the CRPF jawans had launched a cordon-and-search operation in Khanyar early Saturday morning, following inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area. The search operation turned into an encounter as the terrorists opened fire at the search party, which retaliated, they said. The residential house, where a group of terrorists were hiding, was completely raised to the ground after it caught fire in the heavy



"the day-long operation has been completed. Security forces have killed a terrorist, who has been identified as Usman Lashkari. IGP said the slain terrorist was the commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). He is a foreign terrorist and his role and involvement in the murder of Inspector Masroor has come to light and further investigation is being done in this regard.

While the encounter was still going on President of the Jammu Kashmir National and Conference Dr Farooq Abdullah sparked off a fresh controversy by suggesting that terrorists should be captured rather than killed, to uncover the masterminds behind the recent surge in terror attacks across Jammu and Kashmir.

Farooq Abdullah also demanded an investigation into the Budgam terror attack and said he doubted that it was done by the people who were trying to destabilise the government in Jammu and Kashmir.



Four sanitary

BJD, BJP harangue over Naveen's security

NALINI SAHU 📕 BHUBANESWAR

L he downgrading of Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's security from Z to Y category has fuelled a war of words between the opposition BJD and the ruling BJP.

Taking strong exception to the government's move, BJD leader

time Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition. Unfortunately, his security has been downgraded. I hope the government would amend the fault it has made," said Dasburma.

Responding to Dasburma's statement, BJP leader Jaynarayan Mishra said what the government has done is according to the rule applicable to an Opposition leader. "When I was the



workers run over by Kerala Express PNS KOCHI

Four sanitary workers were run over by speeding New Delhi-**T** the speeding New Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram Kerala Express at 3 pm on Saturday.

The dead hailed from Tamil Nadu and were working for a firm hired by the Railways to remove the garbage and waste from railway tracks. Three bodies have been recovered and taken to the Government Hospital Shoranur for autopsy. Search for the fourth body, of that of a male, was called off by evening because of strong undercurrents in the river and fading lights. The Fire Brigade told media persons that a scuba team would be deployed on Sunday morning to retrieve the body.

All the victims hailed from Villupuram in Tamil Nadu. The incident occurred when the workers were collecting plastic garbage thrown at the tracks by passengers of trains. They were working at Kochin Bridge built over the Bharathapuzha which comes immediately after the Shoranur Railway Station.

Sanjay Dasburma on Saturday said the government should make sure that no lapses are there in Patnaik's security.

"It should be the government's accountability that there is no lapse in the security of Naveen Patnaik, a fiveLeader of Opposition, they hadn't provided me any security. Then, why are they expecting security for him? There is a rule as to who will get Z security and who will get Y security. And the government has acted in accordance with the rule," said Mishra.

Cyclone damage assessment report today

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he State Government would complete its assessment of the damages caused due to the severe cyclonic storm Dana by Sunday (November 3), Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said on Saturday.

"Three districts have been majorly damaged including Baleswar, Bhadrak and Kendrapada. Baleswar was worst-affected and it was more due to floodwater rather than the cyclone. After getting reports from the districts concerned by tomorrow, the State Government will make a final damage assessment, which will be sent to the Central Government thereafter. After submitting the final report, a Central team will visit the cycloneaffected districts," Pujari stated.

"The process of the Central government's grant, which is to be released in this regard, will follow the submission of a final cyclone damage assessment report. However, we are prepared that the State Government will immediately start disbursement of the compensation amount when the final report is complete," he added.

Locals block road, mishap. The incident sparked left hand. The driver was drivtension as irate locals inter-

allege reckless driving PNS BHUBANESWAR

A girl lost her left hand while another person sustained grievous injuries after tal Hospital. they were hit by a 'Mo Bus' near the Chandrasekharpur petrol pump in Bhubaneswar

on Saturday morning. Eyewitness said recklessness of the driver led to the

cepted two Mo Buses and staged a demonstration, leading to severe traffic congestion from Jayadev Vihar to Nandankanan Road. The injured girl and another pedestrian were rushed to the Capi-

As many as 15 Mo Buses were stranded as locals did not allow them to ply through the route.

"The bus ran over the girl's

ing recklessly and trying to flee the spot after hitting the girl. So, angry locals intercepted the bus. The CRUT authorities should arrive at the spot and provide necessary compensation to the girl. They should also bear all the expenses," the agitators demanded.

"This is not the first time; most of the Mo Bus drivers are driving recklessly. We demand that their licences be checked properly. The young girl is battling for her life now," he added. Another eyewitness alleged,

'We tried to stop the bus at the bus-stand. But the driver did not stop and hit the girl while trying to speed away. The speed limit here is 45 kmph, but he was driving at 60 to 65 kmph."

Locals further alleged that most of the drivers are drunk and very rude. When asked to drive carefully, they often misbehave with the passengers.

Diwali takes ugly turn **Mock Indo-Pak fight with crackers by VIMSAR students**

NIMAI CHARAN SAHU SAMBALPUR

he celebration of Diwali took an ugly turn on Thursday night when students from two hostels at VIMSAR, Burla engaged in a mock fight armed with crackers.

Inspired by online war games, students got them divided into two groups, with one hostel calling themselves "India" and the other "Pakistan". They then engaged in a mock conflict, firing rockets and firecrackers at each other.

The intense exchange, which resembled a war zone,

was captured on video and quickly went viral, drawing widespread concern from the public. In the video, students, wearing helmets, are seen aiming fireworks at the opposing hostel, creating a potentially dangerous situation.

The VIMSAR Director expressed disappointment over the incident, stating, "Such reckless behavior is unacceptable, especially during a festival that should be celebrated ture. peacefully." He added that the



event highlights the need for stricter measures to prevent similar occurrences in the fu-Many on social media

condemned the activity as reckless, while others argued that the influence of popular battle games might have encouraged the students' ac-

tions. One local resident commented, "Festivals should bring people together, not encourage risky behaviour."

The incident has sparked a broader conversation on the need for responsible celebrations and the dangers of imitating violent games in real life. Concerns have been raised about safety and the potential harm these actions could cause, urging both students and authorities to exercise caution during future festivals.

PNS BHUBANESWAR

In State

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will quiz all the engineers trapped in the Vigilance net in Odisha over disproportionate assets (DA) to their known sources of income soon

As per Vigilance sources, the anti-corruption agency has provided all the information about the engineers, whose houses and other properties were raided in the last four months, to the ED.

The ED will summon those

engineers soon under the Money Laundering Act. The ED has already prepared a list of the corrupt engineers and taken the files from the Vigilance Department.

ED to quiz all Vigilance-trapped engineers

"We have shared details about all the important cases detected by us with all the related agencies like Income Tax and ED. We have also interacted with each other to take further courses of action," Vigilance Director Yeshwant Jethwa said.

Notably, the Vigilance has arrested six Chief Engineers along with several other topcadre officers over DA charges in the last four months.

Besides the six Chief Engineers, a Joint Commissioner of Excise, an Assistant Commissioner of CT&GST, a Chief Accounts Officer of OSRTC, a Deputy Director of Fisheries Department, a Chief Civil Supplies Officer, two tehsildars, two BDOs, a Forest Range Officer, a Jail Superintendent, a doctor and seven police officers have so far been arrested on DA, bribery and government fund embezzlement charges.



Bombs hurled; vehicles vandalised in BBSR

Old enmity suspected behind incident PNS BHUBANESWAR

In a glaring example of youth gangs' ruling the roost in Bhubaneswar, a group on Friday night hurled bombs in Saheed Nagar, triggering panic among the locals.

The incident, which occurred near the Shaheed Nagar Winners' Association, was suspected to be fallout of past enmity.

A car and a two-wheeler were damaged in the bomb attack.

The incident occurred at around 11 pm when at least 30 to 40 youths on several motorbikes reached the area and

the spot. They were even heard hurling abuses and issuing death threats. The entire incident has been caught on a

hurled bombs before fleeing CCTV camera installed in the area. As per reports, the miscreants had got into an argument with a few local youths over some issue on Thursday

night. Seeking revenge, the miscreants returned on Friday night and hurled bombs.

They came from nowhere and started hurling bombs. They also had swords and other sharp-edged weapons and damaged the vehicles parked there. They even set a vehicle on fire," an eyewitness said.

"There was no fight or anything here. Everyone was in a Diwali celebratory mood. But they came all of a sudden and wreaked havoc here," alleged another local.

The Shaheed Nagar police rushed to the spot and launched a probe into the incident. Steps are being taken to identify the miscreants through the CCTV footage, police said.

AIREF holds talks with Rail Min Vaishnaw

State-level stakeholders' meet Dy CM stresses on 4P to curb child trafficking

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Wednesday emphasized the need for 4P proactive approach to address child trafficking in the State. Speaking at a State-level

Stakeholder Consultation on Eliminating Child Trafficking organised by the Department of Women and Child Development in collaboration with Uincef, Parida stressed the importance of the 4P-Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership approach to curb trafficking of children.

Highlighting child trafficking as a critical and sensitive

strengthen child protection laws and regulate children's digital behaviour.

In light of the current situation, she reiterated the need for a proactive approach in handling child protection issues, including conducting awareness programmes and implementing a helpline for immediate response.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for the support of all stakeholders to join in a mission-mode effort to eradicate child trafficking.

Principal Secretary of Women and Child Development, Shubha Sarma, expressed that combating serious crimes like child and

Subhadra phase-3 money by Nov-end

women trafficking requires collective partnership. She added that the department is committed to making every effort to prevent child trafficking. The event was attended by officials from various concerned departments of the State government, Chairpersons of District Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Officers, Child Helpline coordinators and representatives from major non-governmental organisations involved in child protection. Representatives from the Kharagpur Railway Protection Force and the State Police also participated

in the discussion

capital 02

In Twin City Air quality poor after heavy cracker bursting PNS BHUBANESWAR

he twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar on Saturday woke up to thick smoke, which decreased visibility after Diwali celebrations.

The air quality in the cities fell to 'poor' after firecrackers were burst for two days on Thursday and Friday.

Despite strict guidelines by the State Pollution Control Board limiting firecracker bursting to 9 pm., residents continued celebrating with fireworks until late night, adding to the thick smog that covered the twin cities. As per early reports, the air quality

NSD Regional Branch to come up in BBSR PNS BHUBANESWAR of Odia theatre tradition is

resident said.

 ${
m A}$ Regional Branch of the National School of Drama (NSD) will be set up in Bhubaneswar. The State Government has given its approval in this regard.

Initially, it will be implemented temporarily at the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre.

Minister for Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Suryabanshi Suraj held discussions with Chief Minster Mohan Charan Majhi and proposed to set up a regional branch of the NSD in the State. "It is a matter of pride and pride for us that the regional branch of the Rashtriya Natya Vidyalaya will be established in Odisha," Surai said. Principal Secretary Odia Language, Culture and Litrature Bishnupada Sethi and Director Odia Language, Culture and Literature Bijay Ketan Upadhyay have been chalking out the modus operandi in this regard.

index (AQI) breached 200mark from 60 to70 in Bhubaneswar.

This is categorised as 'poor', raising health concerns for residents.

"I'm wearing a mask because I know no one bothers to follow the guidelines. As it is a day for celebration, we cannot stop anyone from bursting firecrackers. But people should understand their responsibilities. We should ensure proper celebration because there are hospitals around and hundreds of children and elderly people can face problems," a

On various engineers

dia Railway Engineers Federation (AIREF) called on Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and discussed about various demands at the Railway Board in New Delhi. Delegates from different parts of the country participated in the meeting under the leadereral Er Bishnu Prasad Dash. President of East Coast Railway Engineers Association Er Bobin Mohanty from Bhubaneswar, Er MK Pandey from Mumbai, Er B Sarith Kumar from Chennai and Er SK Pandey from Lucknow were part of the delegation. The discussion focused

mainly on the poor promotional prospects of railway engineers. The Railway Minister highly appreciated the role of railway engineers and

realised the genuineness of the demands put forth before him and promised to work on and other leaders placed by the engineers.

Announces Pravati Parida PNS BHUBANESWAR

issue, she said that the State

government is prioritizing all

aspects of child and women

Women and Child Develop-

ment Department, further

said there is an urgent need to

Parida, who is in-charge of

trafficking.

Pravati Parida on Saturday announced that the thirdphase Subhadra Yojana money would be credited directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries by the end of November.

"However, there will be a fourth phase too. Our aim is to credit the amount to the bank accounts of around 1.20 crore women beneficiaries by December-end," Parida announced.

Further, she cleared the air about the inclusion of Anganwadi Workers and said all those excluded would get assistance in the third phase. Parida said, "A high-level committee meeting was held

women beneficiaries have been discarded for various reasons. In the meeting, it was concluded that a three-member committee constituting BDOs, tehsildars and DSWs will re-check the details of all the rejected applicants. All eligible candidates will get their money after the re-checking. Not a single genuine beneficiary will be excluded in the

yesterday. Around 2.67 lakh

scheme." "We have also received allegations of government job holders availing the benefit. Steps are being taken to verify the allegations and necessary action will be taken later," she revealed.

Notably, under the Subhadra Yojana, eligible beneficiaries under the age group of 21 to 60 years will get Rs 50,000 in 10 instalments (Rs 5,000 each).

'Ensure proper utilisation of public funds Urges DGP at through implementation of Odisha Rights to Public Ser-**CVOs' conference** vice Act, timeframe is fixed to PNS BHUBANESWAR

ensure public services in dif- ${
m D}_{
m GP}$ YB Khurania on Satferent government departments to enhance transparurday, attending a conference ency and efficiency in public of Chief Vigilance Officers service delivery. He insisted (CVOs) here, urged them to upon technology-based inensure proper utilisation of terventions to ensure transgovernment funds and simulparency in service delivery taneously focus on internal and prevent corruption vigilance. Vigilance

Following this, the ISKCON

In Champua

PNS CHAMPIIA

branch would play a major U nidentified miscreants on role in the performance, pro-Friday vandalised the motion and expansion of Nilakantheswar Shiva temple on the bank of Baitarani river He further said the NSD in Champua in Keonjhar dis-Regional Branch would protrict. The miscreants broke the Shiva Linga into pieces. After the incident was discovered on Saturday, it triggered deep resentment among the locals. protest blocked National Highway-20 by burning tyres. banks in Champua and in adremained closed. Police conducted a flag march and intensified patrolling to prevent the situation from worsening.



demands of rly PNS BHUBANESWAR

On October 30, the All In-

Tension as Shiva temple vandalised

Some Hindu organisations in The shops, offices and jacent Jharkhand State also

ISKCON won't go ahead with its planed Rath Yatra

PNS BHUBANESWAR he International Society

them. Ashok Kumar Shukla of Bharativa Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) were also present during the meeting and they also extended their support to the demands of railway engineers and requested Vaishnaw to get them resolved at the earliest. AIREF thanked the Railway Minister and the BMS for fully agreeing to the demands

Deputy Chief Minister



The minister said the role

e an opportunity for the students who want to build a future in the field of drama and acting

verv important in promoting

the history, literature, art and

culture of Odisha. From the

Puranas till now, the story,

glorious history and culture

of Odia soil have reached the

people through the prepara-

tion and performance of

plays. The NSD regional

Odia drama.

Established in 1959, the NSD, Delhi has been functioning as an autonomous institution under the Union Ministry of Culture. Eminent actor Paresh Rawal is its Chairman and noted actor Chittaranjan Tripathy from Odisha is serving as its Director. Prominent actors from Odisha like Bijoy Mohanty, Ajit Das and Surya Mohanty have been prominent students of this school.

The Chmpua police are in-

won't go ahead with the Rath Yatra plan, said Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan on Saturday.

for Krishna Consciousness

(ISKCON) has stopped the

proposed Snan Yatra and they

The ISKCON had whipped up a controversy with its Houston unit in the US announcing to hold the Snan Yatra and Rath Yatra of the Holy Trinity on November 3 and 9, respectively.

This created a widespread resentment among devotees and servitors. The situation came to such a pass that Puri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb had to write Houston unit is learnt to have cancelled its plan.

letters to the chairman of the

governing body commission,

ISKCON Mayapuri and the

president of ISKCON temple,

Houston, asking them to can-

cel the scheduled Rath Yatra.

But on its website, while there is no information relating to the Snan Yatra, it still mentions the 'Festival of Bliss-Rath Yatra' to be held from 10 am to 4 pm on November 9. As it has not deleted the information regarding the Rath Yatra, it is still believed that it may go ahead with its plan. However, Minister Harichandan believed that they wouldn't proceed with their plan to hold the Rath Yatra.

Khurania stressed on en suring that rules and procedures are free from loopholes which may give scope to corrupt activities. He urged that the institution of CVO in every government department or State PSUs should create an environment of transparency and accountability in the organisation.

He advised the CVOs for taking tangible steps in coordination with Vigilance organisation for combating corruption in public domain. He also mentioned that

Yeshwant Jethwa enlightened the CVOs about the structure and functioning of Vigilance organisation and highlighted the exemplary action taken by the Vigilance police through registration of disproportionate assets and trap cases, unearthing of huge immovable and movable assets and seizure of cash and gold.

Director

The DGP unveiled an e-Book on Preventive Vigilance on functioning of the CVO system in Odisha.

Regularising Block Grant employees Is Mohan-led BJP govt playing truant?

Hundreds of schools, colleges may close with no manpower within a few years?

SRIKANTA TRIPATHY

BHUBANESWAR

▲ he 662 non-government colleges' association re cently met new Director of Higher Education Kali Prasanna Mohapatra and submitted a memorandum to him. The association leader reiterated their very old demands like service conditions, pension, promotion, transfer, besides formulation of common cadre

etc for the employees of the 662 category colleges which are getting Block Grant since 2008 without any measures to regularise their service. The association leaders also met Law Minister Prithivraj Harichandan and gave him their Dewali wishes. Earlier, the leaders of the association had met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Keonjhar and Dhenkanal and drew his attention to the long pending demands of the employees.

It may be noted that the previous Naveen Patnaik Government had framed the Block Grant policy in 2004 considering a very deplorable situation prevailing in the educational sector in the State. The preceding Congress Government

which was in the State till the BJD

led by Naveen Patnaik took over had not continued with the Grant-In-Aid (GIA) Policy framed during 1994 to cover hundreds of schools and colleges set up since 1989. Their number was in thousands then and the economy of the State was not well-off enough to extend the grant to the educational institutions. So, regular grant was in a way stopped by the then Congress Government between 1996 and 2000 under the pleas of freezing and capping. Consequently, the Naveen Patnaik Government was burdened with the task of providing grant to the educational institutions which were running without grant.

In 2004, the State Government started an irregular grant policy in place of the regular grant prevalent in the State for years. While framing the Block Grant which means allowing only a certain percentage of the salary due to an employee and keeping the job in irregular mode, the Government had promised to reverse it with the old regular grant once the financial conditions of the State improved. However, subsequently, the BJD Government did not fulfil its promise after regularising only the first batch of Block Grant employees. Neither did it show any seriousness to address the issues afflicting the educational institutions in the State, which was moving from frying pan into fire. Former CM Patnaik only resorted to hoodwinking the employees under one plea or the other. The bureaucrats, whom Patnaik relied

heavily on, cut a sorry figure as regards fixing the rots and only concentrated on how to tide over difficult situations by piecemeal measures, especially when the teachers and employees in thousands took to the streets. Consequently, Block Grant was not replaced with regular Grant.

After the BJP Government led by Mohan Majhi took over, these educational institutions are again repeating their demands. The CM and other leaders of the BJP are fully aware of the issue and even acknowledge that justice was denied to the Block Grant employees, but in the last few months since the new Government was formed, hardly has anything been done concerning the Block Grant system.

It may be noted here that the prominent leaders of the BJP including Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, CM Majhi among others used to rally round the Block Grant teachers and employees when they had been agitating against the past Naveen Patnaik Government, justifying their demands as genuine.

Now the question is why is the BJP, after coming to power, following the same line of the past BID Government in dealing with the contentious Block Grant issue? The Patnaik Government just passed off 20 years in vain since the Block Grant was launched without replacing the Block Grant with regular GIA. On the contrary, it did not hesitate to politicize the educational institutions for votes during elections.

The Majhi Government may be new, but it is not new to the Block Grant issue; so it should refrain from following a policy of procrastination.

The Block Grant employees, in the meanwhile, have already reached their retirement time. Maximum number of them will be retiring by 2030. The larger and more complex problem that will haunt the Government then is how to run hundreds of schools and colleges without manpower. If the Government does not regularise the Block Grant posts now, it would not be able to fill the vacancies with regular postings. Maybe, the time is not far when thousands of schools and colleges would collapse under the very weight of having no manpower.

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vestigating into the incident.

inday pioneer BHUBANESWAR I SUNDAY I NOVEMBER 3, 2024

'Breast cancer not death sentence but a challenge' CM raps previous govt over Suktel project delay Awareness drive

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the previous BJD government over the fact that the Lower Suktel irrigation project, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1998, is yet to be fully functional.

Addressing a meeting at Belapada in Balangir district, Majhi said the Lower Suktel irrigation project was inaugurated in a hasty manner. However, it is yet to be fully operational and as a result, farmers are not getting any benefit out of it.

"How much water the farmers are getting in their farmlands? Where was the money spent meant for the construc-



tion of the project?" asked Majhi.

He alleged that buildings, mistakes committed by the flats, farmhouses and ornaprevious government and it would fulfil all its promises. ments were purchased with the project money. He further "A particular government alleged that Balangir has been

ruled Odisha continuously neglected for the last 24 years. for 24 years. However, farm-

Majhi assured that his gov-

ernment would not make the

ers in each block of the State could not get 35 per cent water for irrigation. Irrigation facilities are limited in Balangir though the district gets less amount of rainfall," said Majhi.

"The district has less than 20-per cent irrigation facilities. Many political leaders in the district talk a lot, but their work is almost zero. The previous government continuously neglected Balangir during its tenure," he added.

However, no reactions could be obtained from the BJD in response to the allegations of the Chief Minister. Majhi inaugurated and laid the foundation-stones of as many as 26 projects worth Rs

621 crore during his Balangir

visit.

held in Brahmapur **PNS** ■ BRAHMAPUR

October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, often referred to as "Pink October". In this context, a motivational and informative breast cancer awareness programme was organised here jointly by voluntary organisation Kranti, Brahmapur, Government ITI and Mahatma Gandhi Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Visakhapatnam.

The main objective of the programme was to raise awareness about breast cancer diagnosis, treatment, and to empower individuals, especially women, with the message "Breast cancer is not a



death sentence but a challenge ers aware. Dr P Srilekha, gythat with proper support and necologist of MKCG Medical awareness a cancer free India College and Hospital spoke on is possible!" The awareness "Breastfeeding and Cancer programme was conducted Risk". under the chairmanship of Dr Chief Radiation Oncologist, Debananda Dash. Dr Das Mahatma Gandhi Cancer welcomed everyone and intro-Hospital and Research Center, duced the guests. Nirmala Visakhapatnam, Dr Kanhu Das, member of Karanti, wel-Charan Patro and Clinical comed the guests by offering Hematologist Dr Aeshrat "Upadhaukan" and flower Bano called for awareness about the cause, diagnosis

bouquets. First, ITI Principal Ranjan Kumar Parida gave a comprehensive information on breast cancer and advised the students to be aware of themselves and to make oth-

Data-driven Design Think-

ing," which he presented at the

HCI International Conference

in Copenhagen in 2023. His

findings demonstrated how

AI could reduce innovation

time by nearly half using his

Innovators" at Futuring De-

in March 2024, with support

from Dr Amar Behera and

Prof Nachiketa Tiwari, he led

the first-ever in-person design-

thinking workshop facilitated

by AI. "Through my newly de-

approach.

vor, shared her own experience of surviving breast cancer and advised students to continue awareness. The theme of Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2024 is 'No

capital 03

One Faces Breast Cancer Alone'. One of the guests, Swami Nirliptaananda, Chinmay Mission, revealed how cancer can be cured through spirituality. In this context, Dr Dash of Karanti, suffering from cancer, shared his experience and how cancer treatment is now very easy.

University and a cancer survi-

Kranti members Nirmala Das , Snigdha Rani Maharana, Sanjay Patra and Government ITI staff Ratikant Parida, Ranjan Mallik, Samrat Naik, Swapna Swain and Samikhya Mohanty were major contributors of the programme.

cused their seniors of switch-

ing off the hostel lights and

beating them up, abusing

them and even forcing them to

dance. The students further

alleged that they were being

brutally thrashed by the se-

niors whenever they tried to

Sources said first-year stu-

dents, on their promotion to

second year, have been lodged

in hostels (1, 3, and 4). How-

resist the torture.

In Sundargarh 6 die, 5 hurt as van rams into trailer



Low visibility due to fog blamed for mishap PNS SUNDARGARH

 ${f A}$ s many as six persons were killed and five others iniured in the wee hours of Saturday as a Tata Magic rammed into a trailer near Gaikanapali under the Hemagiri police sta-

tion in Sundargarh district. The accident occurred due to fog-induced low visibility. The identities of the deceased were yet to be ascertained.

According to sources, the victims were returning home after a Kirtan programme on

the occasion of Diwali. They were very close to their village when the mishap occurred, killing the six people and leaving five others critically in-

jured. The driver of the van could not spot the trailer due to fog.

On being informed, a police team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to hospital with the help of local residents The bodies were seized and

sent for postmortem. The mishap triggered tension in the area as locals alleged that the trailer was parked in the middle of the road. The irate locals blocked the road demanding compensation for the families of the deceased.

Al-facilitated design thinking software by R'kela techie a paper titled "AI Facilitated

MALAY RAY ROURKELA

A researcher and product designer, who hails from Rourkela, has made a first of its kind AI-facilitated design thinking software, using Artificial Intelligence (AI), to solve challenges like water scarcity, women empowerment, bringing innovation mindset among students and solving sustainability environmental challenges etc.

Samir Kumar Dash (42) is the son of late Chandra Sekhar Dash who had worked at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). He is an MA in English at Ravenshaw College. Alongside his studies, Samir selftaught computer programming in classic ASP, Flash, PHP, Symbian mobile and Action Script and web technologies and published many software components that were available in Macromedia's online software store, which led him to a career in technology as a Systems Consultant at ESSPL, a software firm in 2005. He further completed an MBA and became a Certified Product Manager from AIPMM. While working at the com-



pany, he developed world's first mobile m-greetings application named "mobilewish", along with Pocket Travel Assistant (PTA), a travel mobile applications for Nokia Mobile phones, with a user base of over a 2000 users across the globe. For these initiatives, his efforts were recognised by Manthan Awards 2009 and M-Billionth 2010 by Digital Empowerment Foundation along with Nokia Siemens and later recognised with the "Outstanding Regional Achievement Award" at the 2010 World Summit Award Mobile by the International Center for New Media (ICNM) in col-

many global software organizations including Xerox, Dell, IBM, Samsung, RedHat and Cisco in various roles in design and innovation consulting fields. Samir currently works as a Lead Product Designer at Cisco Systems at Bengaluru, Karnataka.

He published several books on design operations, user experience, and innovation, focusing on integrating automation into design thinking, a framework used to accelerate product and service innovation. In 2021, he expanded his skills in data science and AI, developing an initial prototype to automate aspects of design thinking. Collaborating with industry experts, he conducted research that led to

veloped AI facilitated design thinking software, I plan to contribute to the IndiaAI Mission's AI4E (AI for Education) Initiative by the Government of India, which aims to leverage AI to transform the Indian school and higher education system." said Samir.

Ragging allegation in MKCG 5 senior students expelled from hostel forever

PNS BRAHMAPUR

In a significant move, the five senior students accused of ragging their juniors at the Brahmapur-based MKCG Medical College have been expelled from the hostel forever.

and society, which later takes

Anita Kumari Patro, Assis-

tant Professor, Department of

Commerce, Khalikote Unitary

the form of cancer.

Samir presented a paper The punishment was imtitled "Revolutionizing Design posed on the five students af-Education: AI-Powered Deter a thorough probe by the sign-Thinking for Tomorrow's college's anti-ragging committee into the allegations. This sign Education (FDE) 2024 in apart, the five students have New Delhi, addressing how AI also been barred from any could help mitigate the shortkind of scholarships, fellowage of design educators under ship and other facilities pro-NEP 2020. Based on this, he vided by the prestigious mediwas invited to conduct a pilot session at IIT Kanpur, where

cal institute. Earlier, the five were barred from entering the medical campus for six months.

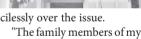
Of late, the MKCG Medical College has been in the midst of ragging controversy. Many second-year students have ac-



NAYAGARH: A youth was tied to a tree and thrashed severely by three to four persons at Badasahara village under the Fategarh police station in Nayagarh district on Friday. The video of the incident has gone viral over various social media platforms.

ever, their shift to the new hostels has led to an increase in their alleged torture, harassment and ragging by their seniors, forcing them to move the National Medical Commission (NMC) and the antiragging committee.

cilessly over the issue.



husband's elder brother tied

him to a tree and thrashed him

mercilessly with lathis. My

husband has sustained severe

PNS NAYAGARH

PNS CUTTACK

ne more case has been instituted against Sanyasi Nayak, former PEO, Kaniguma gram panchayat under Th Rampur block in Kalahandi (now under suspension) for possessing disproportionate assets (DA).

The Vigilance police during raids unearthed more than 68 lakh following his trap on May 27, 2024 and during simultaneous house searches linked to

his properties. In this connection, Vigilance has registered a case against Nayak and his wife. He was arrested on Friday and forwarded to court. Earlier, he was arrested and forwarded to court for being

trapped, while demanding and taking bribe of Rs 10,000 from a person (Gram Sathi) for processing Muster Roll and to facilitate the labour payment in connection with construction of check dam under MGNREG Scheme.

Probe on as murder alleged PNS 🔳 JAJPUR

Police recovered the decomposed body of contractual worker Silu Pradhan late on Friday night, who was missing for the past four days. Pradhan was found buried under the bleaching plant of the private company he was

Worker's decomposed body seized in Jajpur

employed in.

Nations.

From preliminary investigation, police has deduced that he was murdered by a group of friends. The deceased Pradhan, son of Akhay Pradhan, was a resident of Brahmanbati village under Gandiya police station limits

laboration with the United

Samir later worked with

in Jajpur district. According to the sources, police seized the body in the presence of Pradhan's family

members who confirmed his identity. Forensic team reached the spot and collected the samples following the identification of the deceased.

Police sent the body for post mortem to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) on Saturday morning. On the other hand, police are grilling the employees of the private company concerning the death. Further investiga-

tion will unravel the details of the crime. According to the family members, Silu went to work four days ago and did not return home. The worried family members asked for help from the police only to be neglected. They protested in front of the private company to know about the whereabouts of Silu following which police started an investigation into the matter.

The victim was identified as Arun Muli, who is a driver by profession and resides in Bhubaneswar.

As per the allegation by Arun's wife Barsha, her husband had a rift with his elder brother over ancestral property and he was beaten up merinjuries in the attack," said Barsha. Arun was admitted to the Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar in a critical condition.

An FIR in this connection has been lodged at the Fategarh police station. The accused are absconding after the incident.

BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra gets death threats

Another case lodged

against PEO; arrested

Case lodged PNS BRAHMAPUR

 ${
m B}_{
m rahmapur}$ Sanghamitra Dalei on Saturday opened up about being the target of threat calls. A caller from an unknown number allegedly abused her using filthy language and threatened to kill her.

Based on her complaint, police registered a case and launched a probe into the matter.

During the police probe, the unknown number was known to belong to former BeMC (Berhampur Municipal Corporation) Executive Engineer Lalit Mohan Das, who was recently shunned from his position for some reasons. However, no comments could be obtained from Das in this connection.

BJD's Notably Sanghamitra Dalei grabbed the Mayor post with a huge



margin by defeating her BJP rival Sabita Suar. Earlier, she held the post of Ganjam BJD Mahila wing and had won as a Councillor thrice and once as a Corporator.

In her long political career, Dalei has held different posts in both Congress and BJD. However, in 2008, she fought the municipality election as an Independent when the Con-

gress denied her ticket. She later joined the BJD in 2013.

This Paradip Port engineer creates 3 mangrove forests

By massive plantations in JSpur, K'pada coasts in 15 vears

RAJESH BEHERA KENDRAPADA

For the last one and a half decades, a middle-aged man, by profession an engineer, with the support of local youths, has created three mangrove forests at the Mahanadi mouth and its catchment areas of coastal districts of Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur.

Under the fold of "Baba Balunkeshwar Gramya Bikash Parishad", he took up plantation work in 130 acres of land. In the last 15 years, he and other volunteers planted one lakh mangrove saplings and seeds of different mangrove varieties and distributed mangrove saplings to the



locals and school students to plant them.

Amaresh Naresh Samant works in the electrical and mechanical division of Paradip Port Authority. With his dedicated efforts, he not only created mangrove forests but also created awareness about the forests by motivating the local people to chip in. The plantations were carried out near Paradip, Balidia, Aambaghola, Singitalijora, Godampat and some parts near Sobala under Mahanadi catchment areas in Mahakalpada.

"In each year we plant the mangrove seeds and saplings in two phases. In our coastal area mainly cyclones hit between May and November. Initially, we start the first phase of planting in the beginning of the year, which is April to July. After the above cyclonic period is over, our second and final phase of plantation starts from December to February and we try to recover the damaged percentage of the massive plantation. Many a time, the saplings and big mangroves are affected due to lack of common sense of communities who depend on the Mahanadi river and its embankment for collecting their livelihoods," stated Samant.

When asked why he has been creating mangrove forests at the coast, Samant stated that the mangrove forests protect the coastal areas from cyclones and tsunamis. They stand as a natural barrier against the storm by reducing its wind velocity and tidal surges to the nearby coastal villages. Mangrove's deep root system is a deterrent against sea erosion and wards off the coast from tidal waves and sea-current.

Samant said he spends money from his own purse for converting the area into a mangrove patch. Besides this, more than 27 village and urban forests have been created by him and his team, he stated.

"The massive plantation initiative started with the most mournful tragic situation, with the unforgettable memory of the 1999 Super Cyclone. It was quite a heartbreaking and unbearable experience for us. We came forward to take care of our people and land by creating jungles," stated the members of the Parishad

Meanwhile, Samant has got a series of awards from various organisations in recognition of his green initiatives. He was patted on the back by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th "Mann Ki Baat" Episode in 2021. He also got appreciation from the Governor and CM of Odisha, besides he is also a two-time recipient of Prakruti Mitra and Prakruti Bandhu awards from the State Government along with receiving the Subdivisional level "Biju Patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation-2019" which is given by the State Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department.

nation 04

BJP says it stands for credibility of promises under PM Modi, Congress for crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 3, 2024

BIP on Saturday asserted that it stood for credibility of promises made to people under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the Congress for crisis of credibility, as the ruling party fired a fresh salvo at its rival in a war of words between them over unkept poll pledges.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told the media that the ruling party had gradually stepped up the scope of its welfare schemes, ranging from health ranging from health insurance to free grains and cash transfer for farmers, by resorting to first creation of wealth followed by its

distribution as the size of the made a fresh charge. Indian economy grew over Was Kharge speaking the the past decade.

"We believe in first the creation of wealth and distribution. The Congress stands for creation of corruption and destruction of wealth," he said, citing a host of alleged unfulfilled promises of Congress-led governments in different states. A day after Mallikarjun

sunday pioneer

Kharge claimed that "Modi ki guarantee" was a cruel joke on people after the prime minister had seized on the Congress president's advice to his state colleagues that they should be guided by budgetary constraints in making poll announcements, the BJP

truth on Friday or a day before, Trivedi said before, mockingly, suggesting that

the Congress president's attack on the BJP was made under pressure to cover up for what he had said earlier. Trivedi cited the construction of the Ram temple, abolition of Article 370, construction of more than 14 crore houses for the poor, opening of over 51 crore Jan Dhan accounts, and India's tough stand against Pakistan on

terrorism under Modi to assert that his government had walked the talk. As a veteran Congress

member who has served in senior positions, Kharge has



Naxals due to Rahul Gandhi's influence, Trivedi seen leaders such as PV Narasimha Rao and Pranab Mukherjee, who deftly said. Rebutting Kharge's charges handled the economy under

on a host of issues, Trivedi difficult circumstances, and EPFO (Employees' is now seeing the party said under the grip of urban Provident Fund

Organisation) data suggested that its account holders had grown to 25 crore compared to 11 crore a decade ago.

He also cited a host of infrastructure work, including the construction of houses for the poor, 74 airports and 37 kilometres of road per day, and asserted that all these activities had led to a lot of employment. India is now third in auto manufacturing and second mobile phones in manufacturing and if anyone still cannot see the country's development, then there is some serious weakness in their sight and

mindset, the BJP spokesperson said. When the BJP was in power

in Karnataka, it was the top state in attracting investment while

under the Maharashtra Congress-led alliance's rule had slipped, he said, adding that the situation was reversed after the BJP came to power in the western state while losing to the Congress in the southern state. "The brains of some parties are so empty that they end up emptying the treasury when in power," he said.

The Congress, Trivedi alleged, had lost the ability to govern, noting that its promise to provide one woman in every household Rs 1 lakh annually would have cost the country Rs 31 lakh crore even though its entire budget was only about

SC to hear Rajoana's plea seeking

commutation of death sentence

Rs 27 lakh crore. It was like a Ponzi scheme promise and could be part of a well thought-out conspiracy as the Congress believes in

triggering chaos, he said. Citing the welcome Modi received recently in the US, Russia and Ukraine from their top leaders, the BJP spokesperson said it was a testimony to the prime minister's standing. Any attempt to belittle him will have no impact on his popularity, reputation and image, he added.

To a question, he refuted opposition MP Asaduddin Owaisi's claim on Waqf boards, saying these were not religious bodies but constituted for land management.

has undergone a total

sentence of about 28 years

and eight months, of which he

served 17 years as a death row convict. It has been over a

year since the top court directed the competent authority to decide on his mercy petition, he said. The plea referred to an April 2023 order of the top court in a

order of the top court in a

separate matter in which it directed all States and

appropriate authorities to

decide the pending mercy

petitions at the earliest and

without any inordinate delay.

"Despite the above directions,

the mercy petition of the

petitioner herein has been

kept pending. It is submitted

that this extraordinary and

inordinate delay in deciding

his mercy petition, for reasons beyond the

petitioner's control and not

attributable to him, is an

infringement of his right to

life guaranteed under Article

21," said the plea, adding that the issue of keeping mercy

petitions pending for long

and the incarceration of the

convict has come up for

consideration before the apex

court in numerous cases.

India records 17.7 per cent decline in TB incidence from 2015 to 2023: WHO report

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

India has recorded a 17.7 per cent decline in tuberculosis incidence from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 195 in 2023, which is more than double the global decline of 8.3 per cent, Health Ministry sources have said citing a WHO report.

In its Global TB Report 2024 released on October 29, WHO has acknowledged the tremendous progress India has made in closing the gap of missed tuberculosis cases since 2015, the sources said.

"In 2023, India is estimated to have had 27 lakh TB cases, of which 25.1 lakh were diagnosed and put on treatment. This has buoyed India's treatment coverage to 89 per cent in 2023 from 72 per cent in 2015, thereby bridging the gap of missing cases," an official source said. The source said WHO has "acknowledged a drop in India's tuberculosis incidence from 237 per lakh population in 2015, to 195 per lakh population in 2023 accounting for a 17.7 per cent

decline. "This is more than double the pace of decline as compared to the global decline of 8.3 per cent," the source said.

The Health Ministry sources asserted that the leap in coverage has been due to the momentum India has created around tuberculosis case finding and reflects the efforts

decentralisation of thcare services th over 1.7 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in the country. While WHO had downsized its estimation of tuberculosis mortality in India last year, the current report documents the sustained reduction in deaths due to the disease achieved by India from 28 per lakh population to 22 per lakh population, a 21.4 per cent decline, they said. The government has been able to strengthen and expand the National TB Elimination Programme with sustained domestic financing, official sources said.

The tuberculosis budget saw a historic 5.3 times leap in allocation from R 640 crores in 2015 to Rs 3400 crores in 2022-23. The WHO report noted that a majority of the funding for the TB programme comes from government resources. Over the years, India has been able to scale up state-of-the-art molecular diagnostic tools, introduce newer and

more efficacious treatment regimens and provide free screening, diagnosis and treatment to all tuberculosis patients. The government is procuring 800 artificial over

intelligence-enabled portable chest x-ray machines to complement India's extensive TB laboratory network, the largest in the world with 7,767 rapid molecular testing facilities and 87 culture and drug susceptibility testing laboratories, the sources said. This acknowledgement by WHO signifies the paradigm shift India has brought to tuberculosis care over the past

In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra eight years. In October, the government announced the Modi, Congress leader Kharge's comments that the Privar support under Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) from Rs 500 per month to each patient for the entire duration of the treatment to Rs 1,000," another source said. To date, Rs 3,202 crore has been disbursed to 1.13 crore beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer under the scheme. While enhancement of NPY support will benefit all 25 lakh tuberculosis patients in a year, the introduction of Energy Dense Nutritional Supplementation would (EDNS) cover approximately 12 lakh under-nourished TB patients.

Jaishankar, Thai counterpart discuss bilateral ties, multilateral cooperation



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Thai Maris counterpart Sangiampongsa discussed bilateral ties, multilateral cooperation and regional developments during a meeting in Delhi on Saturday. In a social media post, Iaishankar said Sangiampongsa's visit for the Royal Kathina ceremony

"exemplifies the longstanding historical and cultural relations" between the two countries. The Thai minister is scheduled to depart India on Sunday. Jaishankar also shared pictures of the meeting at the South Block.

"Delighted to meet FM @AmbPoohMaris of Thailand today in Delhi. His visit for the Royal Kathina ceremony exemplifies the longstanding historical and cultural relations between our two discussed countries. We India-Thailand ties, multilateral cooperation and regional developments," he

said. Royal Kathina is a traditional Buddhist ceremony.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI



Sangiampongsa's first official visit to India was during July 11-13 for the second BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat, hosted by the external affairs minister in New Delhi. On July 12, Jaishankar held a

bilateral meeting with Sangiampongsa and hosted a lunch in his honour. During that meeting, the two ministers reviewed progress across various areas of partnership.

The two ministers also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and reiterated their commitment to closer cooperation in sub-regional, regional and multilateral fora, the Ministry of External Affairs had said. In accordance with the vision of the two prime ministers, the ministers reaffirmed the mutual desire for a stronger India-Thailand partnership, it had said.

to further

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on November 4 a plea by Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of the then Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, seeking commutation of his death sentence to life term due to an "inordinate delay" in deciding his mercy petition. A special bench of Justices B R Gavai, P Mishra and K V

Viswanathan will hear the plea of the former Punjab Police constable. On September 25, the top

court had sought responses from the Centre, the Punjab and Government the administration of the Union Territory of Chandigarh on Rajoana's plea. In his plea, Rajoana has sought directions to the Centre and the Punjab government to commute his death sentence "due to inordinate delay" in its execution and in deciding the "mercy petition filed on his

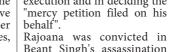
Beant Singh's assassination top court, Rajoana has said he



case. The former chief

minister and 16 others were killed in a blast at the entrance of the civil secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. A special court had sentenced Rajoana to death in July 2007. Rajoana has said that in March 2012, a mercy petition under Article 72 of the Constitution was moved by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on his behalf. On May 3 last year, the apex court had refused to commute his death sentence and said the competent authority could deal with his mercy plea. In his fresh plea filed in the

> 'bringing back black money' 'reducing inflation and unemployment', 'doubling 'bringing 'Achche Din' -promises what have been proven false and now the people of the country have no faith in them.



Modi destroyed dignity of PM's post with repeated hollow promises: Priyanka

Congress started fulfilling the promises made to the people as soon as it farmers' income', 'bringing formed the government, rupee at par with dollar' and to the people as soon as it without waiting for the next arnataka Telangana or Himachal Pradesh, people's money is being put into their pockets everyday through guarantees," the Congress general secretary said in the post. The prime minister has understood that his words no longer have any value before the country's people, she claimed.

Thailand is a key partner for India in the ASEAN. India's 'Act East' policy, which is in its tenth year, finds convergence with Thailand's Act West' policy. Interactions between Jaishankar and the Thai foreign minister have contributed

strengthening of bilateral ties, it had added.

and Cono Saturday said the prime minister has "destroyed" the dignity of the highest post of the country by repeatedly making "hollow promises" to

140 crore Indians. She also said that instead of worrying about the Congress, Modi should work on "restoring the dignity of his post by resorting to truth". Her remarks came after Modi on Friday said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of the people for promising to them what the party knows it will never be able to deliver.

make promises that are properly budgeted.

launched a fierce attack on

the opposition party as he

seized on Congress President Mallikarjun

He also said the developmental trajectory and fiscal health in the Congress-ruled states of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana is going from bad to worse. Hitting back at the prime

minister, Priyanka Gandhi said in a post in X in Hindi, "Mahatma Gandhi used to 'Truth is God'. say 'Satyameva Jayate' written in Mundaka Upanishad is our national motto. These



Indian freedom movement, the reconstruction of India and public life. sitting on the highest post should not resort to falsehood." The allegations

"In a country where truth is levelled the basis of thousands of minister levelled by the prime mottos establishing truth the basis of thousands of minister against the became the ideals of the years of culture, the person Congress are far from the

Sharpening her attack on Modi, Priyanka Gandhi continued, "The '100 days plan', 'taking opinion of 20 lakh people for the roadmap for 2047', '2 crore jobs every year', '100 smart cities',

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera also slammed the prime minister, saying the latter has lowered the dignity of his post by claiming that the Congress governments have fulfilled

their promises in the states ruled by them, Khera alleged in a video statement that Modi had to even delete a post attacking the party out of fear of being fact-checked.

We are in touch with US authorities: India committed to Sendai Framework for MEA on sanctions on Indian entities disaster risk reduction: Principal Secretary to PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In the wake of the US imposing sanctions on several individuals and entities, including from India, for allegedly India, supporting Russia's military-industrial base, the MEA Saturday said New Delhi is in touch with Washington to clarify issues MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in response to a query during his weekly briefing, also said India has a "robust legal and regulatory framework" on strategic trade and non-

proliferation controls. "We are also a member of three key multilateral nonproliferation export control regimes," he added. "In keeping with India's keeping established with nonproliferation credentials, we are working with all relevant departments and agencies to sensitise Indian companies on applicable export control provisions as also inform them on new measures sanction being implemented that Russia



could Indian impact that it desperately needs to companies in certain circumstances," Jaiswal said. support its war machine. The US has imposed sanctions on 275 individuals The In addition to disrupting global evasion networks, this action also targets and entities, including 15 from India, for allegedly domestic Russian importers supporting Russia's military-industrial base. The US Department of Treasury and producers of key inputs and other material for Russia's military-industrial base, the statement said. said in a statement on Thursday that companies from China, Switzerland, Jaiswal on Saturday said, "We have seen these reports of US sanctions." "We are of US sanctions." Thailand, and Turkiye have also been slapped with also in touch with the US sanctions for supplying authoritie Russia with advanced he added. authorities to clarify issues,"

PNS NEW DELHI

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra has affirmed India's commitment to the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and called for increased international collaboration on knowledge sharing, technology transfer and sustainable development to enhance disaster resilience globally.

globally. Mishra said this while participating in the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) ministerial meeting in Belem, Brazil, according to an official release. He led a high-level Indian delegation which took Indian delegation which took part in the meeting held from October 30 to November 1. With the active participation of the Indian delegation, a consensus was arrived at on finalising the first ministerial declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the release issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said. During various sessions, Mishra shared the progress made by the government of India in



reducing disaster risks and in upscaling disaster financing. India's He emphasised proactive approach to disaster risk reduction on five priorities of the DRRWG which were enunciated during India's presidency of G20 -- early warning systems, disaster resilient infrastructure, DRR financing, resilient recovery and nature-based solutions. On disaster resilient infrastructure, he spoke about Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's global initiative of Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), which now has 40 and countries seven international organisations as world, the release said.

members, the release said. The Indian delegation also participated in a troika meeting with the ministers of Brazil and South Africa. It also held bilateral meetings with ministers from Brazil and other countries, namely Japan, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Germany, and heads of invited international organisations. Responding to discussions on extreme heat, Mishra shared experience and steps being taken, including the focus on promoting traditional practices, to suit local conditions.

The first DRRWG was established on India's initiative during its G20 presidency in 2023. Mishra congratulated Brazil on its continuation of the DRRWG and scaling it up to the ministerial level and affirmed India's support to South Africa on the DRRWG during their G20 presidency next year. India's participation underscores its growing role in global DRR efforts and its commitment to building a safer and more resilient

CPI(M) slams Government for denying permission to its MP to attend Venezuela event

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Saturday slammed the Government for not granting political clearance to party MP V Sivadasan to participate in a parliamentary forum in Venezuela and called it an attempt to stifle the voices of those who did not conform with the ruling party's views. Terming the denial of permission "political discrimination", the CPI(M) said this should be a matter of concern for all opposition parties and their MPs.

The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) condemns the Central Government's decision denying political clearance to Dr V Sivadasan, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), to attend the Forum Parliamentarian's Against Fascism, being held in Venezuela," Caracas, the CPI(M) said in a statement. "This is an attempt to stifle any voice that does not conform with the ruling party's views,' it said.

The statement said the CPI(M) received an invitation from the National Assembly Venezuela to nominate its Parliament members for the forum. The party nominated Sivadasan to participate in the forum, where parliamentarians from many countries are going to be present. "It is highly deplorable that in spite of getting the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) clearance, the Ministry of External Affairs denied political clearance to Sivadasan, thus infringing his rights as a Member of Parliament," the CPI(M) said. MPs are required to obtain prior permission of the Centre for accepting any foreign hospitality during their private visits abroad or visits abroad in their personal capacity under the FCRA. The CPI(M)

further said, "The Government is following a policy of political discrimination, where differing voices are prevented from expressing their views. This should be a matter of concern for all opposition parties and their members of Parliament.'



Elephant attack leaves two dead in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, locals believe 'it's an act of revenge'

AKBAR KHAN BHOPAI

In an incident that is sure to echo in the sal-covered forests of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve for generations, three wild elephants trampled three men. killing two, on Saturday morning, barely four kilometres from Salakhaniya, where ten elephants have died in less than a week.

Attribute it to Bollywood or a local penchant for folklore, but many in the area are absolutely convinced that the elephant attack is an act of revenge.

Forest officials have neither confirmed nor denied that the attacking wild mammals belonged to the herd of thirteen, of which ten have perished this week.

They said that the remaining three from the herd are believed to have made their

Katni district, and efforts are underway to track their movement. Forest officials camping in the area since the outbreak of the elephantine tragedy have ordered the destruction of the Kodo millet harvest and crops in the area.

way into the neighbouring The little-known grain has emerged as the flashpoint of the controversy, as officials believe that grazing on contaminated Kodo has led to the loss of pachyderm lives. research Contradicting suggesting that Kodo crops harvested in damp conditions

the

drawn

are deadly for human and animal health, indigenous tribals who have grown the grain for generations say that they have never encountered any such issue with the crop. The order for the destruction of 'contaminated' Kodo is causing heartburn among the marginal farmers that dot the area, especially as there is no official word on how they would be compensated for their loss of earnings. Kodo has been widely grown

in the region for decades, if not centuries, but the little-known millet came into the limelight last year when the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The crop is now added to multigrain atta preferred by the health-conscious, and the

government state incentivised its production by offering an MSP on the yield. People in the area concede that fungus-infested Kodo does cause intoxication but refute claims and research suggesting that the tiny grain is detrimental to human or animal health.

With the controversy gaining mammoth proportions, Pradesh Madhya Chief Mohan Minister Yadav convened top forest administration officials at his residence late on Friday evening.

A brief released to the media stated that Chief Minister Yadav has dispatched a highlevel team, including MoS for Faorets Dilip Ahirwar, to Bandhavgarh to supervise investigations and present their report in 24 hours.

Gangotri temple to close for winter season

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN

The portals of the Gangotri temple at Uttarkashi were closed on Saturday for the winter season when it remains snowbound, an official of the temple committee said.

All temples located in the Garhwal Himalayas, also known as Char Dham, are closed during the winter.

Gangotri temple committee secretary Suresh Semwal said the gates of the temple located at a height of around 10,000 feet above sea level were closed amid rituals at 12.14 pm on the auspicious occasion of the Annakoot festival.

After the ceremonial closure of the temple gates amid chants of "Har Har Gange, Jai Ma Gange" by devotees and priests, the idol of

Goddess Ganga left in a this season. The doors o palanquin for Mukhba where she will be worshipped for the whole of

nation 05

Gangotri is the first of the Char Dham temples to be closed. More than eight lakh

winter, he said.

Yamunotri and Kedarnath temples will be closed on Sunday while those of Badrinath will be shut on November 17.

These famous Himalayan

devotees visited the temple

temples are reopened in April-May each year with the onset of summer.

and

senior

officials.

BJP faces tough battle for Seesamau seat in UP by-elections as SP's Solanki family holds firm ground

visited

has

BISWAJEET BANERJEE KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh is set to wit-ness high-stakes by-elections on nine seats, including the Seesamau constituency in Kanpur. For the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), this seat has become a matter of prestige as it has been a stronghold of the Samajwadi Party (SP) for over two decades.

Adding to the challenge, a single Muslim family-the Solankis-has held onto this seat for the last 22 years, indicating not only their political influence but also the support they enjoy across all communities. With nearly 40% of the

Seesamau constituency's population being Muslim and the rest comprising various other communities, the Solanki family's ability to secure continuous victories



highlights their broad-based appeal and strong presence. The sustained hold on this seat reflects the trust the electorate places in the family, regardless of religious affiliations.

Naseem Solanki, the SP candidate and wife of former SP MLA Irfan Solanki, recently underscored this image of inclusivity during her campaign. Despite being a Muslim candidate. Naseem

historic Bankhandeshwar Shiv Temple in Kanpur on Diwali, offering a traditional oil lamp and performing a 'jalabhishek' on the Shiva Lingam, seeking stunts." blessings for victory. This act significant in Seesamau

attention and is seen as a symbol of the Solanki family's philosophy of "sabka saath, sabka vishwas" (unity and trust of all communities). The temple visit is just one among several steps taken by

Naseem Solanki to reach out to voters across religious lines. She also visited a Gurudwara to offer her respects before continuing with her campaign. Her husband, former MLA Irfan Solanki, and father-in-law, Haji Mushtaq, have historically contributed towards the development of religious places of all faiths, using their resources to fund various

symbolic gestures from the Solanki family have surfaced publicly for the first time, prompting the BJP to label these actions as mere "election A legacy of the Solanki family

The legacy of the Solanki family in Seesamau dates back

to 22 years ago when the patriarch, family Haji Mushtaq Solanki, first won the seat. Though Haji Mushtaq is no longer alive, his goodwill and communityfocused contributions remain fresh in the minds of Seesamau residents. His son Irfan Solanki, who is currently in jail, has also carried forward the legacy, and now, his wife Naseem is seeking to continue the family's representation. By reaching out to people from all walks of life, Naseem Solanki aims to secure her victory in this

Karnataka CM withdraws notices on farmers related to Waqf land issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Minister 'Chief BENGALURU Siddaramaiah has issued a

strict directive for the immediate retraction of all notices sent to farmers about Waqf land, emphasising that no disruption should be caused to them," a statement from the Chief Minister's

statement noted Siddaramaiah's dissatisfaction with recent actions by certain officials and highlighted concerns that the JD(S) and BJP were

"Siddaramaiah has urged the public to ignore any misinformation and directed officials to handle the matter with sensitivity," it added.

also The statement emphasised that all notices issued to farmers regarding land records tied to Waq properties must be promptly withdrawn.

avoid harassing farmers or causing any issues related to lands under their possession. The CM further directed that any unauthorised changes made to land records (Pahani or RTC) without prior notice or legal procedures should be immediately nullified.

The meeting was attended by Karnataka Law and Affairs Parliamentary

> locals and tourists alike, the Tourism Department has launched a training program focused on customer service skills and stand s So far 600 street vendors and 600 taxi drivers in Prayagraj have enrolled, with 250 vendors and 120 drivers already completing their training. With the Mahakumbh serving as a catalyst, Uttar Pradesh's tourism sector is undergoing a transformative phase, with skill development programs creating a wide range of employment opportunities for local youth. Singh estimates that over 45,000 families will benefit from this initiative, securing income through tourism-related roles and fostering a sustainable environment for the industry's well. growth around key religious sites.

Mumbai Police BISWAJEET BANERJEE files extradition PRAYAGRAJ The Yogi Adityanath gov-ernment is set to elevate of Anmol Bishnoi Uttar Pradesh's tourism industry through a focused initiative

projects. However, such significant electoral contest. Mahakumbh set to boost tourism in Uttar Pradesh, creating jobs for over 45,000 families



from

the

tourist-facing roles. From giving them the skills to boatmen and tour guides to enhance the tourist experience vendors, street providers are being trained in area's cultural and spiritual hospitality, hygiene, and significance. "We are dedicated communication skills to to preparing a robust, skilled • visito experience

service by sharing insights about the significance. "We are dedicated rce for the Mahakumbh WO

providing accessible goods to cleanliness

allegedly using the Waqf issue for political gains, potentially disrupting peace Minister H K Patil, Revenue Krishna Byre Minister Gowda, in the state. government However, Minority Welfare and Waqf Minister B Z Zameer Âhmed Khan was not present. Earlier, Karnataka Home

Minister G Parameshwara said all District Deputy Commissioners have been directed not to issue notices to farmers under the Waqf Act.

He affirmed that revenue Officials were instructed to records would be considered final, and administrative actions would adhere to them. The Chief Minister has instructed all deputy commissioners to withdraw

such notices or letters. The matter is now resolved though we are unsure of any future developments, Parameshwara told reporters.

arnataka Chief Minister KSiddaramaiah on Saturday instructed officials to immediately withdraw all notices sent to farmers concerning Waqf land issues. A decision to this effect was Office (CMO) read. taken during a high-level The

meeting, with senior officials Revenue department, the Minority Welfare department, and the Karnataka Board of Waqfs.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI

The Mumbai police have forwarded a proposal for extradition of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother Anmol Bishnoi, who has been named as an accused in some high-profile crimes, including the Baba Siddique murder case, an official said. The proposal was sent after the US authorities informed the Mumbai police about Anmol Bishnoi's presence in their country, the senior police official said on Saturday.

Last month, the Mumbai police's crime branch moved the special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court here stating that it intends to "initiate the extradition procedure of fugitive criminal Anmol Bishnoi". Mumbai police filed an affidavit "for further necessary action", which was allowed by the special court. Both Lawrence and Anmol Bishnoi have been named as wanted accused in the April 14 firing incident outside the Bollywood actor Salman Khan's Galaxy Apartment in Mumbai's Bandra area. Vicky Gupta and Sagar Pal had carried out the firing. They, along with Sonukumar Bishnoi, Mohammed Rafiq Choudhary and Harpal Singh, were arrested and are currently in judicial custody. One accused Anujkumar prominent persons".

Thapan committed suicide during his police custody. In the chargesheet filed in

the case, police have shown Lawrence Bishnoi and Anmol Bishnoi as wanted accused in the case. NCP leader and former MLA Baba Siddique was

shot dead by three gunmen near the office of his MLAson Zeeshan Siddique on October 12. The police have so far

arrested 15 persons in connection with the murder. The role of Bishnoi brothers, who hail from Fazilka in Punjab, is suspected in the case.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) recently announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Anmol Bishnoi.

Bishnoi Lawrence currently lodged in a jail in Sabarmati in Gujarat. A lookout circular was

issued in April against Anmol Bishnoi, who had claimed responsibility for the firing incident outside Salman Khan's residence. An FIR was also registered by the NIA against nine accused, including both the Bishnoi brothers, in August 2022 for being part of a conspiracy to "raise funds, recruit youth to carry out terrorist acts in the Union Territory of Delhi and other parts of the country" besides "targeted killings of

upcoming Mahakumbh in Prayagraj anticipated to generate direct or indirect employment for over 45,000 families This monumental event, scheduled for 2025, is expected to attract millions of pilgrims and tourists, creating a significant demand for trained local service providers.

on skill development, with the

In an effort to prepare for this surge, extensive training programs are underway across Prayagraj. These programs aim to upskill local vendors, boatmen, street vendors, and tour guides, ensuring they are equipped to meet the needs of



By empowering these service providers, the government is not only supporting existing businesses but also laying the foundation for new employment opportunities around religious tourist destinations, contributing to the region's economic growth. The Yogi administration's comprehensive tourism strategy took root with the launch of the Tourism Policy-2022, approved on November visitors with professionalism 16, 2022. This policy envisions and customer-friendly service. a substantial investment

central PSUs, like Coal India,

are "rightful" to the state and

path of state's development.

Jharkhand's development".

inflow of Rs 20,000 crore and aims to generate 10 lakh jobs, cementing Uttar Pradesh's position as a tourism-friendly state. A key pillar of this strategy is to connect local service providers with targeted skill development programs, equipping them with essential skills in service and management. Regional Tourism Officer Aparajita Singh emphasized the campaign's reach, saying that training sessions have been launched for a broad range of

The government is also promoting responsible tourism by raising awareness among service providers about maintaining a clean and welcoming environment at tourist sites. A notable initiative within this campaign focuses on boatmen who navigate the rivers near religious sites. The Tourism Department is providing training to 2,000 boatmen to broaden their skill set, enabling them to take on dual roles as river guides. This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with Manyavar Kanshiram Tourism Management Institute, has already trained 300 boatmen,

2025," Singh said. "Our goal is to support livelihoods while enhancing the quality of services provided to our visitors." The training for tour guides is also progressing rapidly. Assistant Professor Prakhar Tiwari from the Manyavar Kanshiram Tourism Management Institute, who is overseeing the program, reported that seven batches of guides have completed the course, resulting in 420 welltrained tour guides ready to assist pilgrims and tourists. The government's efforts extend to street vendors and taxi drivers as Recognizing the important role of street vendors in

AQI 'poor', 'very poor' in several Jharkhand CM urges PM Modi parts of Himachal post-Diwali to pay coal dues of 1.36 lakh crore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE RANCHI

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m head\,\,of\,\,the\,\,scheduled\,\,vis-}_{
m its\,\,of\,\,Prime\,\,Minister}$ Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to pollbound Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday urged the Centre with "folded hands" to clear Rs 1.36 lakh-crore coal dues to the State. Modi is scheduled to address two rallies in Jharkhand on November 4

while Shah will address three public meetings on November

"The PM and the Home Minister are coming to Jharkhand. I once again request them with folded hands to clear the outstanding (coal dues) of Rs 1.36 lakh crore to Jharkhandis. This amount is crucial for Jharkhand," Soren posted on X. He also appealed to BJP MPs to facilitate clearance of the amount. "I would also appeal to my

BJP colleagues, especially the

companies stand at Rs 1.36 lakh crore," Soren wrote in the letter to the PM. "In spite of provisions in the law and judicial pronouncements, coal companies are not making any payment... These questions have been raised at various forums, including your kind office, Finance Ministry and NITI Aayog. But till now this compensation (Rs 1.36 lakh crore) has not yet been paid, he said.

A recent ruling by a nine-judge Supreme Court bench affirmed the State's right to sharing a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister. Soren collect its mining and royalty emphasised that the dues with dues. Soren pointed out that development the Jharkhand and essential claimed that "non-clearance is socio-economic projects are causing irreparable harm to getting hampered owing to the non-clearance of dues. "Jharkhand is an under-developed state and there are "I, Hemant Soren, the Chief minister of Jharkhand, am drawing your attention lots of social economic towards a serious issue which development projects which is creating obstacles in the are getting hampered due to

non-payment of

our

justifiable demands," Soren wrote. Last month, he state, similar to arrangements made disparity

place on November 23.

suggested a direct debit from Coal India's account to the the for Jharkhand State Electricity Board dues to the DVC. "This delay in payment of the just demand raised by the state has constrained me to write to you that this negligence is causing irreparable damage to Jharkhand and its people. Various social sector schemes in education, health, women & child development, clean drinking water and last mile connectivity are unable to be translated on the ground because of lack of funds," Soren said. Earlier, he accused the Central Government of indifference to the state's plight, highlighting the in treatment regarding dues. The Jharkhand assembly polls will be held in two phases -November 13 and 20. The and above 450 'severe plus'. The air quality of Shimla counting of votes will take was satisfactory with AQI 66

PTI SHIMLA

The air quality at various The air quality at various places across Himachal Pradesh deteriorated post-Diwali due to bursting of crackers, officials said. This year the average AQI in the state was at 140 (moderate) as compared to

92 last year. As per the data from the pollution department, industrial areas in the state recorded air quality ranging between moderate to very poor and Baddi (industrial area) was the most polluted with a "very poor" AQI of 392 followed by Parwanoo at 217, Poanta Sahib at 145, Barotiwala at 139, Nalagarh at 128 and Una at 122. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe'

against 78 last year as the

norms, they added. Meanwhile, Dharamshala recorded AQI at 109 against 140 last year. However, Manali saw an increase in air pollution with AQi increasing from 55 in 2023 to 80 in 2024 on Diwali day. Industrial areas of Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh, Poanta Sahib, Una, Damtak and Kala Amb have witnessed AQI above 100 but overall air quality in the state is average, the data indicated.

district administration had allowed the bursting of firecrackers from 8 pm to 10

pm only. Though some

violations were seen but majority of the residents

abided by the directions,

The production of green crackers and its supply chain has increased. With people

environmental hazards and

the regulations in place,

people generally have preferred bursting green

crackers and adhering to the

being aware of

officials said.

Our dues from coal MPs, to help Jharkhandis in getting our dues," Soren posted on Social Media,



Attack on central Israel injures 11 as Iran's leader promises punishing response

AP JERUSAI EM

n attack on a central Israeli Atown early Saturday injured 11 people as Iran's Supreme Leader vowed a punishing response to Israel's attack last week

The predawn strike on Tira, which followed air raid sirens across central Israel, was one of several barrages fired from Lebanon early in the day. Many of the projectiles were intercepted by Israeli air defences, while others landed in unpopulated areas

The Magen David Adom emergency service said 11 people were hurt by shrapnel and glass shards in a direct strike on a building in Tira, a predominantly Israeli Arab town. Three were in moderate condition, while the others suffered milder injuries.

AP 📕 BEIRUT

Ministry reported.

Footage showed significant damage to the roof and top floor of the three-storey build-

Tsrael launched dozens of intense

Lairstrikes across Lebanon's north-

eastern farming villages on Friday,

killing at least 52 people and wounding scores more, the Lebanese Health

In central Gaza, Palestinians recovered

the bodies of 25 people killed in a bar-

rage of Israeli aerial attacks that began

The latest violence comes against the backdrop of a renewed diplomatic push by United States President Joe

Biden's administration, days before the

presidential election, to reach temporary

cease-fire deals. Israel's emergency ser-

vices said seven people were injured

before dawn Saturday in attack in the

central town of Tira. Three projectiles

crossed into Israel from Lebanon,

Israel's military said, and some were

The Magen David Adom service said

ers had milder injuries. A photo the ser-

Thursday, hospital officials said.

ing and cars below.

Lebanon's Hezbollah group claimed responsibility for firing missiles toward the Israeli military's Unit 8200 base in Glilot on the edge of Tel Aviv and for attacking central Israel's Palmachim Air Base with explosive drones, saying they "scored precise hits on targets." Israel's military has

not confirmed either base was targeted or hit. Hezbollah said the Saturday dawn missile attack directed at

Glilot was in retaliation for the "massacres" that are being committed by Israel. It was likely that the claim was linked to the strike on Tira, which is about 20 kilometres away from Glilot. Tamar Abdel Hai, a resident of

Tira, said that the attack was frightening. "I call upon all the leaders in the Arab world and the leaders in Israel and to everyone who can help to end this war. It's enough," he said.

Hezbollah also said that its Iran-backed fighters have fired salvos of rockets into northern Israeli towns including Dalton, Yesud HaMa'ala and Bar Yohai. The early Saturday attacks may be only a precursor to a more severe strike against Israel.

Meanwhile, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, on Saturday threatened Israel and the US with a punishing response over attacks on Iran and its allies following Israel's October 26 airstrikes that targeted Iran's military bases and other locations.

The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a crushing response to what they are doing to Iran and the Iranian nation and to the resistance front," Khamenei said in video released by

Iranian state media. A further attack by Iran, which has already launched two direct attacks against Israel this year,

Israel pummels Lebanon and Gaza

could push the wider Middle East closer to a broader conflict. Israel is already battling the Iran-backed militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The fight against Hezbollah has weakened the group but has also taken a heavy toll on southern Lebanon and other

parts of the country. On Friday, Israel launched dozens of intense airstrikes across Lebanon's northeastern farming villages, killing at least 52 people and wounding scores more, the Lebanese Health Ministry reported.

Since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted in 2023, more than 2,897 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, according to a Health Ministry update early Friday. United Nations agencies estimate that Israel's ground invasion and bombardment of Lebanon has displaced 1.4 million people.

Residents of Israel's northern communities near Lebanon, roughly 60,000 people, have also been displaced for more than a year.

Israel has also stepped up its offensive against Hamas' remaining fighters in Gaza, raising concerns about humanitarian conditions for civilians still there. The World Health Organisation has said it plans to finally resume its polio vaccination campaign on Saturday, but only in Gaza City as towns further north remain inaccessible as Israel tightens its siege Israel's war in Gaza has killed more than 43,000 Palestinians since October 7, 2023, when Hamas militants killed roughly 1,200 people in Israel and took some 250 hostages back to Gaza. Health officials inside Hamas-run Gaza do not distinguish between civilians and combatants, but say more than half of the dead in the enclave are women and children.



world 06

Usha Vance smiles as her husband Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, speaks at a campaign rally on Friday in Selma, NC

It's fight to finish in races that will determine control of Congress

AP WASHINGTON

The final doors are being knocked, ads are blaring and candidates are making a last pitch to voters. Even with the high-energy final push, the races for control of Congress are at a stalemate, essentially a toss-up for the House and fight to the finish for the Senate.

The outcome of Tuesday's election will shape the country's future, determining whether the new White House has allies or sceptics on Capitol Hill - or faces a divided Congress like this past session, which has been among the most tumultuous and unproductive in modern times.

As voters assess their presidential options between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris, they also are sizing up who will represent them in Congress.

This is why I'm an independent," said voter Gary Motta of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, who isn't happy with either choice for president, as he showed up at an early Sunday morning event for Republican Kevin

Coughlin, who is trying to unseat Democratic Rep. Emilia Sykes. The struggle for control of Congress has gone on for months. Candidates have tussled over the big issues — the economy, the border, reproductive health care and the future of democracy - but also over Congress itself, which had a chaotic session as the GOP-led House ousted its speaker and barely fended off government shutdowns. This is the first presidential election since the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, and many Republican lawmakers who voted against certifying Democrat Joe Biden's

White House win over Trump are up for reelection. Republican candidates, many backed by the former president, are finding themselves having to answer for him on several fronts. Among them is the decision by the Supreme Court, with three justices who were nominated by Trump, that ended the right to abortion access

Democrats face tough questions over the Biden-Harris record on the US-Mexico border and on inflation during

> Rescuers end search after canopy collapse

AP 📕 NOVI SAD

Novi Sad.

Zelenskyy urges allies to take steps before N Korean troops reach front

intercepted.

weapons to hit targets deep Ukraine's border and are prepar-**T** Tkraine's President inside Russia. its allies to stop "watching" and take steps before North Koreans troops deployed in Russia reach the battlefield Zelenskyy raised the prospect of a preemptive Ukrainian strike on camps where the North Korean troops are being trained, and said ing app Kyiv knows their location. But he said Ukraine can't do it without permission from allies to use

appeared to be an apartment building. Israel has stepped up its offensive against Hamas' remaining fighters in Gaza, pulverizing areas in the north and raising fears of worsening humanitarian conditions for civilians still there. In Lebanon, Israel has broadened its strikes in recent weeks to bigger urban hubs, like the town of Baalbek, home to 80,000 people, after initially targeting smaller border villages in the south, where Hezbollah conducts operations. Iran-backed Hezbollah doubles as a major political party and provider of

social services in Lebanon. Hezbollah began firing rockets, drones and missiles from Lebanon into Israel in solidarity with Hamas immediately after the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which triggered the war in Gaza. The yearlong cross-border fighting boiled over to full-blown war on Oct. 1, when Israeli forces launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon

for the first time since 2006. two of those injured were in moderate In Lebanon's Bekaa Valley - where condition from the attack, and the oth- small villages, olive groves and wineries nestled between the country's mounvice released showed damage to what tain ranges had largely been spared the

worst of Israeli bombardment until recently - Israel conducted a series of heavy airstrikes Friday, killing at least 52 people, driving more families to flee with whatever they could carry and sending thick plumes of smoke over the horizon

Intensified Israeli airstrikes on and around the northeastern city of Baalbek after Israel issued evacuation warnings have prompted 60,000 people to flee, emptying nearby villages, said Hussein Haj Hassan, a Lebanese lawmaker representing the region.

In Lebanon, rescuers searched for survivors after airstrikes killed nine people and brought down a building that had housed 20 people in the town of Younine. Further Israeli strikes killed 12 people in the town of Amhaz and 31 others across at least a dozen villages in Lebanon's northeast, bringing the total death toll to 52, the Health Ministry said. The bombardment left 72 people wounded, the ministry added.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the deadly strikes. In Lebanon's capital, İsraeli planes pounded the southern suburb of Dahiyeh overnight and early Friday for the first time in four days, spreading panic after a rare lull. The Israeli mili tary, which warned residents to evacuate at least nine locations in Dahiyeh said it hit Hezbollah weapons manufacturing sites and command centers. There were no reports of casualties from

Dahiyeh, where fears of Israeli bombings drive a mass outflow of residents each night. Bulldozers rumbled through clouds of dust and smoke Friday, clearing rubble from the pulverized roads where Israeli warplanes had reduced dozens of buildings to their skeletal remains. Formerly home to families and businesses, mid-rise apartment blocks were left open to the breeze, walls blown off and furniture buried. Hezbollah supporters in several locations raised the group's bright yellow banner atop the rubble. Since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted in 2023, more than 2,897 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, the Health Ministry reports, not including Friday's rising toll. Health authorities say

that a quarter of those killed were women and children

Kemi Badenoch elected new Conservative Party chief, UK Opposition Leader

AP LONDON

ing to help the Kremlin fight Kemi Badenoch on Saturday became the Conservative Party as she succeeded Rishi Sunak in the House of Commons as the Leader of Opposition.



"Our party is critical to the success of our country. But to be heard, we have to be honest, honest about the fact that we made onest standards slip. The time has come to tell the truth... to stand up for our principles, to plan for our future, to reset our politics and our thinking, and to give our party and our country the new start that they deserve. It is time to get down to business, it is time to renew," she said, pledging to get the party ready for government in time for the next election in 2029. Having previously served as business and trade secretary and dealt with free trade agreement (FTA) talks with India, Badenoch indicated during the course of the Tory leadership campaign that she blocked the deal over demands for more visas. "As business secretary, even as I was trying to do things to limit immigration, we had an India FTA where they kept trying to bring in migration and I said no. It's one of the reasons why we didn't sign it," Badenoch reportedly told 'The Telegraph'. Both candidates had put immigration in the spotlight during the campaign, with Jenrick singling out India as one of the countries that should be subjected to tough visa restrictions across all categories unless it takes back its nationals who enter Britain illegally.

Campaign Committee, in an interview from Omaha, Nebraska, a surprising battleground, after a swing through New York. "We're just working hard to get out the vote." She said there are "tons of volunteers on the ground, lots of energy, people very, very focused. They understand there's a lot at stake.

their time at the White House

Most of the closely contested

House campaigns are being waged beyond the presidential

swing states, including in New York and California, where Republican Kevin McCarthy,

who was ousted as speaker and

then left Congress, had made

inroads in his home state.

Democrats under New York's

Hakeem Jeffries, the party's

House leader, are now trying to

Starting Saturday, California

Rep. Pete Aguilar, the

Democratic caucus chairman,

is making a nine-stop swing

through the Golden State to

"There's a lot of energy out there," said Washington Rep.

Suzan DelBene, who leads the

Democratic Congressional

win them back.

win back seats.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is informed to the public at large that Smt. Kiranjeet Kaur Bhasin Bhatia is absolute "Title holderin possession of Entire Third Floor BEARING No.80, BLOCK-S, GREATER KAILASH-11, NEW DELHI.That the Original Safe Deed dated 50.41.973 executed by DLF united Pvt Ltd in favour of Smt. Parmodh Arora 2.Original Safe Deed dated 21.01.1976 executed by DLF. Namedh Arora & Sh. Smt. Pathioun rotra 2011 01.1976 executed by Smt. Parmodh Arora & ilochan Singh Arora-Contirming Party in favour N. Neepesh Chandra Talukdar 3.Original Sale D. 1ed 13.12.2016 executed by Smt. Shiniana f Osmt. Shebanti Ray in Javour of Smt. Sanyu ambhir have been lost/misplaced and thraceable. The RH/ Lost report to this effect tready, been lodged dated 02.11.2024 R. no.2526/296/2024 and It. no.855241/2021. rson(s)/company(ies)/authority(ies)/society(ie ganisation(s)/financialinstitution(s)/bank aiming any right/interest having any objection und in possession of the original document in tic/contact to the above name and address wit days from the date of publication of this not st expiration Any claims(s) or objection(s) ised or received shall be treated as null & void a checking.

SUCH Granns. Brijesh Tiwari (ADVOCATE) Near Tehsil Building, Delhi High Court Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054 (M): 7011083614



LOST & FOUND

Lost my original Allotment letter, Possession letter & other documents of Property 1201 Urvashi, Amrapali Roval, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad from Indirapuram Kala Pathar Market on 24 th Oct. 2024. Finder may contact Marut Jindal 9818498787

PD(891)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pallavi Mathur, W/o Muhitt Umesh Vij, R/o A-23, Gujranwala Town Part-I, Gujranwala Colony, GTB Nagar Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Pallavi Mathur Vij for all purposes. PD(892)C

'But instead watching, Britain is watching, Germany is watching. Everyone is just waiting for the North Korean military to start attacking Ukrainians as well," Zelenskyy said in a post late Friday on the Telegram messag-

The Biden administration said Thursday that some 8,000 North Korean soldiers are now in

by the undersigned for the follow

₹74,200.00; E-ten

ENGINEERING WORKS E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 33 of 2024; Date: 30-10-2024. E-tenders are invited

On Saturday, Ukraine's military intelligence said that more than 7,000 North Koreans equipped with Russian gear and weapons had been transported to areas near Ukraine. The

Western-made long-range Russia's Kursk region near

coming days.

gency, known by its acronym GUR, said that North Korean troops were being trained at five locations in Russia's Far East. It

did not specify its source of nformation. Western leaders have described the North Korean troop deployment as a significant escalation that could works: Tender No.: DCESTMLG-23 also jolt relations in the Indo-2024. Name of work & Location Pacific region, and open the Procurement and installations work for door to technology transfers from Moscow to Pyongyang replacement of worn out Basketball cour no. 2 synthetic flooring. Tender Value ₹37.09.771.94: Earnest Money that could advance the threat der will be closed a oosed by North Korea's nuclear 13:00 hrs. on 21-11-2024 and will be weapons and missile proopened at 13:00 hrs. on 21-11-2024. Fo gramme. North Korean Foreign details please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Minister Choe Son Hui met with Dy. Chief Engineer/Estate Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY ner Russian counterpart in Moscow in Friday. Ukrainian eaders have repeatedly said

rainian troops ir

hey need permission to use PUBLIC NOTICE Western weapons to strike arms "PLUS 91 SECURIT lepots, airfields and military SOLUTIONS" have changed registered office from First Floor, Office no. 104 pases far from the border to 105, Balaji Chamber, D-246/10, Laxm motivate Russia to seek peace.

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preparation/submission of detailed

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data, generating alarms/SMS and

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vahati- 781011 (Assam). For Detail

Dy. CE/Bridge-Line/

0

Nagar, Delhi-110092 to Room no. 203 Second Floor Front Side, Stirring Mind ffice Space, Aruna Asaf Ali Road Turkman Gate, Delhi-110002. No any claim(s) or objection(s) from old address shall be entertained after 15 lays from publication of this notice. Mukesh Kumar (Advocate)

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORK AT MALIGAON

E-Tender Notice No. 08 of 2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works E-Tender No. N-2024-25-08-Dv CSTE-NW. Name of work: Repair and maintenance of various telecom gears installed at N. F. Railway H.Q. premises including complete

Also integrating it with BMS for continuo Maligaon and Pandu area. Tender data and report generation for two year Value: ₹33.34.669/-, Earnest Money at different Bridges under Dy. CE/Bridge Line/Maligaon. Approximate Tende ₹66,700/-. Date & Time of Closing /alue: ₹3,79,82,364.00; Bid Security of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 21-11-2024 3,39,900.00. Date of closing of Tende & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 21-11 22-11-2024 at 15.00 hrs. Date o 2024. The complete information Opening of Tenders: 22-11-2024 at with tender documents of above 15.05 hrs. at office of the Deputy Chie e-tender will be available in website Engineer/Bridge-Line/Maligaon www.ireps.gov.in lease visit www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Signal & Telecom Engineer Network, Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY The 44-year-old Nigerian-heritage parliamentarian defeated former Cabinet minister Robert Jenrick after a three-monthlong leadership election following Sunak's resignation after the Tories suffered a bruising general election defeat on July 4. The shadow secretary of state for Housing, Communities and Local Government began by thanking her predecessor - who was the first British Indian leader of the party

'I want to thank Rishi, no one could have worked harder in such difficult times. Rishi, thank you for everything you did. We all wish you and your wonderful family the very best for the future," said Badenoch in her acceptance speech.

Sunak took to social media to extend his support. "Congratulations to Kemi Badenoch on being elected Conservative Party leader. I know that she will be a superb leader of our great party. She will renew our party, stand up for Conservative values, and take the fight to Labour. Let's unite behind her," he said.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also congratulated the new Opposition leader and welcomed her as the "first Black leader of a Westminster party" as a proud moment for the country.

"I look forward to working with you and your party in the interests of the British people," he said.

After a phased election process that had whittled down the finalists in the leadership race to just two, Badenoch bagged 53,806 votes to beat Jenrick who won 41,388 from the Tory membership who had voted via online and postal ballots over the last month.

Bob Blackman, the chair of the influential Tory 1922 Committee of backbench MPs, announced the result in London as the returning officer.

He revealed that the election had 131.680 eligible electorate of Conservative Party members up and down the UK, with a turnout of 72.8 per cent.

"Another glass ceiling shattered," Blackman said as he announced the party's new leader.

Badenoch, Member of Parliament for North West Essex, has long been popular among the Tories since she ran in a previous leadership race in 2022.

Badenoch, meanwhile, condemned new migrants bringing their disputes from India to cause unrest on the streets of the country.

Saturday after pulling out 14 bodies from underneath tons of concrete from a fallen canopy at the entrance of a railway sta tion in the northern city of

Cerbian rescuers stopped

Serbia's government declared Saturday a day of mourning as officials promised a thorough investigation into Friday's collapse of the roof that fell on people sitting below it. The dead included a 6-year-old girl and a citizen of North Macedonia while three people were seriously injured, Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said.

Doctors said the injured ranged from 18 to 24 years old and remained in life-threatening condition on Saturday.

The train station has been renovated twice in recent years, and critics of Serbia's populist government attributed the disaster to corruption and sloppy renovations. Members of the opposition planned to protest in front of the station later on Saturday

Officials have insisted that the canopy had not been part of the renovation work.

CONDUCTING "CONTINUOUS SCOUR Monitoring" of foundations of bridges Pak parliamentary body approves bill to USING "SONAR ECHO-RANGE TECHNOLOGY" E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/14 raise number of SC judges to 25 2024/MLG. dated: 30-09-2024. Open E enders are invited by the undersigned or the following works: Tender No. DCBL242024MLG; Name of works Conducting "Continuous Scour Monitoring" of foundations of bridges

PTI ISLAMABAD using "Sonar Echo-range technology" by Alrmar Echo Range SS510 Smart sensor

Apanel has approved a controversial bill to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court from 17 to 25 despite its disapproval by the opposition lawmakers who termed it an attempt to manipulate the judiciary

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Act 2024' which sought to increase the number of judges from 17 to 25 was moved in the Senate last month by independent senator Abdul Qadir to deal with the ris-NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY ing number of "pending cases" It was then referred to the

Senate Standing Committee on ernment would pack the court Justice, which met on Friday and its meeting was chaired by Senator Farooq H Naek of the Pakistan Peoples Party.

The committee approved a bill proposing an increase in the number of judges in the Supreme Court (SC) from 17 to 25 despite opposition from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) After the committee's approval, the bill would be presented to the Senate for discussion. The bill aims to address the issue

of delay in cases. About 60,000 cases are pending in the apex court. However, the

opposition alleges that the gov-

with the choicest judges to influence cases about leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf.

After the bill was moved last month, PTI leader Ali Zafar said that the government should have introduced reforms in the lower judiciary instead of talking about increasing the number of judges in the SC.

This is called court-stacking," he said, adding that several African, Latin American, and Asian countries in the past had increased the number of judges in the superior judiciary in line with the same practice.

'The purpose is to take over the court system by bringing those

judges who are favourable to a certain regime."

Separately, the government on Friday presented in the Senate a controversial ordinance promulgated by President Asif Ali Zardari in September giving a dominant role to the Chief Justice of Pakistan in the formation of benches.

The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, was laid in the house by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and referred to the standing committee concerned by the deputy chairman.

The ordinance changed the composition of the committee

that forms benches and fixes cases under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023.

The three-member committee originally comprised the Chief Justice and two senior judges of the court. Now it will consist of the Chief Justice, the next most senior judge, and a judge to be picked by the Chief Justice. Another significant change is the handling of cases under Section 184(3) of the Constitution, as the ordinance makes it mandatory to document why a particular case is considered a matter of public importance before it is taken up by the court.

sports 07

where at times he has plundered

Sarfaraz failed to read the length of his first ball and went for a mighty

sweep against Patel in his pomp, but was beaten by the bounce and turn

on the next. He might have fallen on the third ball when it bounced off his glove but there was no silly point. But he had to walk back when the bounce and turn had the ball

settling in 'keeper Tom Blundell's gloves after kissing the shoulder of

his bat. Gill, who showed no flaws in his 146-ball stay with seven fours and a six - longest for any batter in this Test - was also among Patel's victims on the day as the Mumbai-origin Kiwi spinner had him caught at the first slip after a fine knock. Jadeja (14) too was caught at first slip, albeit off Glenn Phillips, as Washington waged a lone battle

Washington waged a lone battle among the three all-rounders scoring a brisk 36-ball 38 not out with four boundaries and two sixes.

Having ceded control to New Zealand in final minutes of the

opening day's play with an embarrassing collapse, India

showed better resolve to make a

Pant's quickfire 60, laced with eight

speedy recovery.

runs for fun.

on the next.

his bat.



SPINNERS DO THEIR JOB WELL, TIME FOR BATTERS TO SALVAGE PRIDE

PTI MUMBAI

Econditions, Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin chiselled through the New Zealand batting line-up to bring India to a stage from where they can force a face-saving victory in the third Test which is now headed for an intriguing finish.

New Zealand ended day two at 171 for nine with an overall lead of 143, which might look small but even a which might 100K small but even a target in the vicinity of 150 will pose serious challenge for the Indian batters, considering the fast deteriorating Wankhede track. This was after holf contained.

This was after half-centuries from Shubman Gill (90) and Rishabh Pant (60) and a crucial 38 not out from Washington Sundar gave India a slender 28-run lead as they put on board 263.

A total of 15 wickets fell on the second day, underlining the fact that life won't be easy for the hosts while betting fourth

while batting fourth. Ashwin (3/63) found his rhythm while Jadeja (4/52) added four more dismissals after his 5/65 in the first essay to keep India's hopes alive to avert a clean sweep at home for the first time.

Ajaz Patel (7) was at the crease when Jadeja cleaned up Matt Henry (10) for the penultimate wicket on the final ball on the second day.

Will Young's gutsy 51 was the only resistance from the Kiwis who succumbed to pressure, after Patel (5/103) recorded yet another five-wicket haul.

Two-time Olympic

Owsley signs for

medallist Lily

Having made a subdued impact so far, Ashwin's delight on getting Rachin Ravindra (4) stumped was evident as he beat the charge of the batter with bounce and turn. With Glenn Phillips (26) using the long handle to a good effect, Ashwin cleaned up the New Zealand batter for another crucial

Zealand batter for another crucial breakthrough. Young, who batted as solid as he did in the first innings, was Ashwin's third victim giving the bowler catching practice after being outfoxed on a carrom ball. The 37-year-old Ashwin made impact beyond his bowling when he took an outstanding catch to end a stubborn 50-run association

stubborn 50-run association between Young and Daryl Mitchell (21), who, for a passage of play, threatened to take the game away. Young and Mitchell had steadied the ship after New Zealand's top-order was blown away, but the latter's charge against Jadeja proved costly as he did not get the distance in his stroke. Errom mid-off Ashwin covered 19

From mid-off, Ashwin covered 19 rrom mid-oil, Ashwin covered 19 metres running sideways to his left and put in a fabulous dive to complete the dismissal, post which New Zealand crumbled further. Tom Blundell (4) chopped one onto his stumps off Iadeia while Ashwin

his stumps off Jadeja while Ashwin cleaned up Phillips, who had switched to aggressive batting knowing New Zealand desperately

needed more runs. At the start of Kiwis' reply, Akash provided a rare sight of a pacer disturbing a batter's furniture on turning track when he dismantled DRERITH

stumps in the first over. Earlier, India's progress suffered a severe blow with the exit of Pant towards the end of the morning session, as its effects were felt acutely when play resumed post

lunch. From Pant's dismissal in the 38th over to India eventually folding in the 60th, the team managed eight fours and two sixes - the Wankhede Stadium, followin wicketkeeper-batter alone hit that many during his brisk half-century innings of the 2021 Test here.

earlier.

Patel, finding the right length, reaped rewards as the Kiwi spinner claimed another five-for at the Wankhede Stadium, following up his world record 10/119 in the first

others continued to disappoint. Perhaps, there was no greater disappointment than to see Sarfaraz Khan looking like a fish out of water during his four-ball struggle, failing to open his account at his home turf

fours and two sixes, was Gill fell short of his century while instrumental in taking the

advantage away from the Kiwis who were gifted three unexpected wickets by the Indians with batting mainstays Virat Kohli (4) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (30) committing harakiri.

Virat Kohli drops hints of Zverev beats Tsitsipas and joined by Rune, staying with RCB till 2027 Humbert, Khachanov in Paris Masters sem Humbert, Khachanov in Paris Masters semis The 10th-seeded Tsitsipas, who reached

the ATP Finals for five consecutive years, had 28 unforced errors to 18 winners. Rune outlasted Alex de Minaur 6-4, 4-6, 7-

5 in a 2 1/2-hour baseline fight. Rune improved to 3-2 against the Australian. Grigor Dimitrov's hopes of making the ATP Finals were set back after the 2023 finalist was upset by 2018 champion Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-3 for the first time. Khachanov lost their four previous matches.

Dimitrov was 10th in the race to the top-eight ATP Finals in Turin.

Khachanov improved to 12-1 in the last three weeks after winning the Almaty title

three weeks after Winning the Almaty title and reaching the Vienna final. He'll face in the semifinals local hope Ugo Humbert, who defeated Jordan Thompson of Australia 6-2, 7-6 (4) a day after stunning Carlos Alcaraz. Humbert has reached his first Masters semifinal, and he's the first Frenchman to on this far in Paris in seven years

go this far in Paris in seven years.

Delhi SG Pipers PTI BENGALURU PTI – NEW DELHI $V^{\mathrm{irat}\ \mathrm{Kohli}\ \mathrm{has}\ \mathrm{dropped}}_{\mathrm{elaborate}\ \mathrm{hints}\ \mathrm{that}\ \mathrm{he}}$ would like to continue playing competitive cricket till 2027 with an aim to complete 20 years with Royal Challengers Bengaluru after being retained by the franchise for a hefty fee of Rs 21 crore.

Delhi SG Pipers on Saturday announced the acquisition of England's woman hockey midfielder and superstar Lily Owsley for the upcoming season of Hockey India League (HIL). The 29-year-old two-time Olympic medallist will be replacing 28-year-old Dutch midfielder Xan de Waard following her pull-out from following her pull-out from HIL this season due to personal reasons.

Owsley is one of the most highly decorated players in English hockey, having won the gold medal at the Rio Olympics 2016, followed by the bronze in Tokyo 2020. Besides, she also won the gold

Kohli has been playing for RCB ever since IPLs inception in 2008 and is the leading run-scorer competition, amassing over and silver at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham 2022 and Glasgow 2014, respectively. Championship European gold in London medals — 2015 and bronze in Amstelveen 2017. "Losing Xan de Waard, undoubtedly one of the best players in the world, is a setback for the team. But, being able to replace her with a 2-time Olympic medal winner, Lily Owsley, is a big relief," said Delhi SG Pipers women's team coach Dave Smolenaars in a statement



Tom Latham's (1) off and middle

He also pondered on the fact that he shared a close bond with the franchise and its fans, while his goal would be to win the elusive title.

"I am super excited as ever as 8,000 runs at a healthy if not spectacular strike rate of means to me. It's been a very,

following Kohli's retention, RCB head coach Andy Flower admitted that while the retention itself is not surprising, he would be the key to RCB's success in the

coming years. "Virat's retention won't come 131.97, including eight very special relationship over as much of a surprise to hundreds and 55 fifties. so many years, which anyone in India. He is and will

AP PARIS

Alexander Zverev advanced to the Semifinals of the Paris Masters by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-4 and knocking the Greek player out of contention for the ATP Finals. The third-seeded German saved the only break point he faced. Zverev, the French Open runner-up, next faces 2022 champion Holger Rune for a shot at the title. He's into his third Paris semifinals in the past four years though

semifinals in the past four years, though he's never won the hard-court tournament.

The first break point opportunity came in the 11th game as Tsitsipas struggled with his first serve. Zverev got the break for 6-5 on an unforced error.

Tsitsipas then saved two set points but squandered his only break point chance with his 17th unforced error before Zverev

closed out the set. Zverev broke again in the third game of

Mohun Bagan SG say AFC



rattled off 12 straight points in his final three service games.

With the victory, Zverev became the first player born in the 1990s to record 100 wins over top-20 players. Daniil Medvedev is on 99



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, JAJPUR AT JARAKA 1st CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.

"She will bring in her experience, leadership and high-speed play to help the team reach its potential."

It will be the inaugural edition of the Women's HIL, slated to get underway on December 28, comprising four teams, with the other three sides being Odisha Warriors, Rarh Bengal Tigers and Soorma Hockey Club. The tournament final takes place in Ranchi on February 1 next year.

"At the end of this cycle, it is going to be 20 years that I am going to be playing for RCB and that in itself is a very, very special feeling for me," Kohli told 'RCB Bold Diaries' indicating that he aims to continue for at least another

in

the

Having entered the twilight

zone of his illustrious career,

speculations are rife about how long the 36-year-old would continue in top flight cricket having endured a prolonged lull for the last four years since the start of

COVID-19.

three years till 2027. "I have never thought that I am going to play so many years for one team, but the relationship has truly become special over so many years. He reiterated that he doesn't

see himself playing for any other franchise.

"I don't see myself anywhere other than RCB, and I am very happy that it happened. I am very excited that I got a

looking forward to as a franchise, as a team," Kohli said in RCB's Bold Diaries

video

continues to grow stronger, and what I have experienced playing for RCB is truly special. I hope that the fans and everyone connected to the franchise feel the same way," he continued.

"I am also just looking forward to this cycle. Obviously, the goal is to win the IPL title at least once in the next cycle. He promised that RCB will

leave no stone unturned to win their elusive IPL title.

We are going to give it our best shot as always and try to make everyone proud of the way we play our cricket. A big shout out to the fans for your chance to create a strong new unwavering support over so squad in this auction, many years. I am really something that we are really grateful, really thankful," Kohli concluded.

KOHLI WILL BE A KEY TO **RCB'S SUCCESS: ANDY** Meanwhile. FLOWER:

be a key to RCB's success in the future. He was sensational last year. He was one of the leaders who propelled us into the playoffs despite a poor first half of the season," he who's told JioCinema.

Besides Kohli, RCB has also retained two more players — Rajat Patidar (Rs 11 crore) and Yash Daval (Rs 5 crore). As a result, RCB will have a purse of Rs 83 crore heading into the mega auction tentatively scheduled later this month.

The franchise would also contain three Right To Match (RTM) cards, allowing it to retain three more players (an uncapped player and two capped players, or three capped players).

Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Siraj, Faf du Plessis and Cameron Green are among the top RCB players set to go under the hammer.

'recognised' club's decision to forego match in Iran PTI 📕 KOLKATA

ohun Bagan Super Giant Mohun Bagan Super Giant football Confederation has "recognised" the top Indian club's pullout from their AFC Champions League 2 match in Iran last month as a case of force majeure. Keeping the players' "safety and security" in mind, Mohun Bagan SG last month decided to forgo their October 2 match against Tractor FC in Iran due to the volatile situation prevailing in the West Asian

nation at the time. The continental body reacted promptly and the Kolkata-based club was withdrawn from the tournament, pending further

decision on the matter. According to the MBSG, the

AFC has now recognised their concerns but added the club remained withdrawn from the tournament

On 2nd November 2024, Mohun Bagan Super Giant has been communicated by the Asian Football Federation (AFC) that in response to the club's appeal, the AFC Competitions Committee has decided to recognise the matters raised by Mohun Bagan SG as an event of force majeure," the club said in a statement.

AL.

TENDER	ONLINE JJPR	-II -03	OF 2024-	25			
some unavoid	able circumstan	ces, the	following	roads	from	the	Annexu

sheet are to be deleted and dropped from this current tender call notice (i.e. from the Notice N

"Tender Online JJPR-II-03 of 2024-25")

Due to

Sl. no.	Sl. No. as per Annexure sheet of TCN-03/2024-25	Name of the Work	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	S/R. to Gobandia Bikramatirana Road for the year 2024-25	25.30
2	13	S/R. to Dharmasala to Bhubana Road for the year 2024-25	8.42
3	14	S/R. to Kalando to Bichhakhandi Road for the year 2024-25	16.83
4	15	S/R. to Antia to Gadamadhupur Old Railway Station Road for the year 2024-25	8.42
5	16	S/R. to RD road - Mahisara Road for the year 2024-25	12.63
6	17	S/R. to RD Road (Chakroda) to Sunduria Road for the year 2024-25	29.43
	All othe	r terms & conditions remain unchanged.	
The a	above corrigendu	ım shall only be published in the Govt. website www.tend	ersodisha.go
		Yours Fai	
		Executive 1	
OIPR	-25080/11/0006/2425	Rural Works Jajpur At	
		Jajpur At-	Jaraka

			E. GTN (R&B) - 14/2024-25 tagaon2015@gmail.com		
B-555	Letter No.	-			
1. The Executive E rate Bids in Sin below.	ngineer, Ghatagaon (R&B) Div gle Cover system in online mo	visio de	on on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage from the eligible contractor for El works as mentioned		
2. Nature of the w	ork:		- El Works		
3. Numbers of wo	rk		- 01 (One) No.		
4. Estimated cost:			- Rs. 16.01 Lakhs		
5. Period of completion		- 01 (One) Calendar Month.			
6. Date & Time of	availability of bid document in	the	portal- From 11.30 A.M of dt.05.11.2024_to 05.00 P.M of dt.14.11.2024		
7. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal			- 05.00 P.M of dt. 14.11.2024		
8. Date of opening	g of Bid		- 11.00 A.M of dt.16.11.2024		
OIPR-34140/11/0007/2425			Executive Engineer Ghatagaon (R&B) Division		
			EVELOPMENT OFFICER A. BALANGIR		
i-270			i-saintala@nic.in		
1-270	INVITATION FOR	BI	DS THROUGH e-Procurement		
	TENDER CALL	NO	DTICE NO- 3/2024-25/SNTL		
	<u>Invitat</u>	ic	<u>on for Bids</u>		
1. The BLO	CK DEVELOPMENT OFFIC	ER	SAINTALA, BALANGIR, on behalf of Governor of		
			ingle cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for		
	ion of Building work as detail	ed			
2. Nature of		:	Civil Works		
3. No. of wo	rk	:	03 Nos.		
4. Bid Cost.		:	₹ 6,000 & 10,000		
5. Class of C		:	"D & "C' & 'B' License		
6. Availabili	ty of Bid Documents in the	:	From 10.00 AM of 04.11.2024 to 5.00 PM of		

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e "- PROCUREMENT NOTICE

2.	Nature of work	:	Civil Works
3.	No. of work	:	03 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost.	:	₹ 6,000 & 10,000
5.	Class of Contractor	:	"D & "C' & 'B' License
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From 10.00 AM of 04.11.2024 to 5.00 PM of 18.11.2024
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 19.11.2024 at 11:00 AM.
8.	 The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website :<u>https://tendersodisha.gov.in</u>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only. 		
OIPR-	19095/11/0002/2425		BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, SAINTALA, BALANGIR

F1 braces for more Verstappen-Norri drama and Hamilton to drive Senna's car

penalties to the Dutchman

AP SAO PAULO

Max Verstappen suggests he won't change his aggressive driving this weekend at the Brazilian Grand Prix as he bids for a fourth successive Formula 1 title. Lando Norris needs a win at Interlagos in Sao Paulo to maintain any realistic title hopes

New elements could spice up the clash between the drivers, who have received penalties in the past two races in Austin, Texas and Mexico for their boldness on the track. Interlagos has a new tarmac, rain is expected all weekend, and Verstappen received a fiveplace penalty on the grid after he and Red Bull decided to use a new engine.

Friday's free practice was not a



good omen for Verstappen; he Saturday will feature the finished 15th, more than one penultimate sprint race of the season and a tribute to threetime world champion Ayrton Senna, who died 30 years ago. Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton will drive a McLaren once steered by Senna in front of 60,000 fans. Norris closed the gap on Verstappen to 47 points in

second behind Norris, who clocked the best lap in his McLaren. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who also has a shot at the title, was sixth. The sprint race qualifier in the

afternoon was better for Verstappen; he was fourth but almost one second behind leader and Norris teammate Mexico after a furious encounter that caused Oscar Piastri. Norris was second

amounting to 20 seconds. The British driver was penalized in the previous race at the U.S. Grand Prix as he battled the

defending champion. Leclerc, 70 points behind Verstappen, told media on Thursday he was not expecting a leading performance by his team this weekend.

The Monegasque driver also had to face the stewards in Brazil for swearing in a press conference after the Mexican GP last weekend. He was fined 10.000 euros (almost \$11,000), of which half is suspended as long as there is no further breach of a similar nature within the next 12 months. "During the hearing Leclerc expressed his regret for his momentary lack of judgment and shared that he understood his responsibility as a role

model for the sport," the stewards' decision said. Verstappen was punished with one day of community service for the same reason during the

Singapore GP. CHALLENGES FOR VERSTAPPEN AND MCLAREN: Verstappen said

in Mexico that F1 has become over-policed. Upon his arrival in Brazil, he said he didn't care about critics of his aggressive driving. Though he and Norris claim to have a respectful relationship, another is showdown expected between the two in Sunday's race. The McLarens are expected to have the upper hand

Verstappen has won twice at the 84-year-old Interlagos circuit, including last year, when Norris finished second.

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REFLECTIONS CHASING CUUTUKE

Sara Ali Khan lit up the runway as the showstopper for *Abhinav Mishra's* latest collection, '*The Man in* the Mirror'. Drawing inspiration from Rajasthan's Kalbeliya dance, the collection showcased vibrant colours, intricate mirror-work, and elegant silhouettes, says SAKSHI PRIYA

he runway lights illuminated the venue and as the audience held their breath, the showstopper Sara Ali *Khan* emerged, radiating elegance and confidence. Dressed in a breathtaking ensemble from *Abhinav Mishra's* latest collection, she set the

tone for a night that celebrated not just fashion but a rich blend of Indian culture. Her stunning ensemble featured delicate floral motifs beautifully embellished with mirrors, sequins and crystals, adding a touch of opulence to the

muted tones. The regal silhouette flowed gracefully while maintaining a refined structure, with each detail thoughtfully executed to create a harmonious blend of artistry and sophistication. Runway Couture titled Showcase. *"The Man in the Mirror,"* was a stunning ode to the

craftsmanship of mirror-work, which has become a hallmark of his designs. This year, the collection arrived just in time for the festive season, captivating guests with its vibrant celebration of weddings and

cultural traditions. A standout segment of the collection was 'Kalbeliya, inspired by the folk dance of name rooted in Rajasthani culture. Each piece drew from the Kalbeliya tribe's distinctive style, showcasing colourful motifs and intricat patterns that reflect their intricate nomadic heritage. This

segment was not only a visual delight but also a tribute to the artistry that often goes overlooked in modern fashion. *Mishra's* designs in '*Kalbeliya'* captured the essence of the tribe, incorporating a palette of bold colours like black and ivory, paired with unexpected combinations found in traditional attire. Each ensemble was meticulously handcrafted, adorned with floral motifs, geometric patterns and an array but also a tribute to the artistry that

geometric patterns and an array of embellishments, including pearls, sequins and his signature mirrors.The luxurious fabrics, silks, soft wool, and sheer materials flowed beautifully, ensuring that every piece felt ethereal and festive. Silhouettes varied traditional from lehengas and anarkalis to contemporary kaftans, r something tor wedding The every function. The blouses featured daring necklines and chic short kurtas, while the kaftans introduced a modern twist to the classic designs. This

fusion of styles ensured that the collection appealed to a wide audience, from brides to modern women seeking elegance. In addition to bridal wear, Mishra's collection highlighted the versatility of menswear and womenswear. The show reflected his commitment to reviving this ancient craft while seamlessly blending it contemporary with aesthetics.



EACH ENSEMBLE WAS METICULOUSLY HANDCRAFTED, ADORNED WITH FLORAL MOTIFS, **GEOMETRIC PATTERNS AND** AN ARRAY OF **EMBELLISHMENTS INCLUDING PEARLS** SEQUINS AND HIS SIGNATURE MIRRORS.THE

Reflecting on the significance of the event, *Mishra* expressed his excitement: "I'm thrilled to present 'The Man in the Mirror,' a personal presentation that invites you into my imaginative world, where the craft of mirror-work takes centre mirror-work takes centre stage. This showcase is a serene, star-lit wonderland blending tradition and modernity." The atmosphere was enhanced by exquisite jewellery from The House of Rambhajos, known for its stunning polki and diamond pieces. The décor, envisioned by Rani Pink, transformed the venue into a mesmerising oasis, reminiscent of a desert under a starlit sky. As the final looks hit the runway, Abhinav Mishra's "The Man in the Mirror" revealed itself Abhinav as more than just a collection; it was a nod to the rich stories and traditions of Indian couture. The show captivated the audience with its emphasis on the beauty of mirror work and the importance of preserving heritage crafts in modern fashion. With his blend of classic and contemporary elements, Mishra once again proved why he's а standout

LUXURIOUS FABRICS, SILKS, SOFT WOOL, AND SHEER MATERIALS FLOWED **BEAUTIFULLY, ENSURING** THAT EVERY PIECE FELT ETHEREAL AND FESTIVE

couture ensuring that Indian craftsmanship continues to s h i n e worldwide.



COLOURS VIVACILY 08

OFFERINGS



THE WRITTEN CANVAS

Art Konsult presents "The Written Canvas: Letters to Keshav Malik from Artists and Thinkers," an exhibition honoring the birth centenary of acclaimed art critic and nonoring the birth centenary of acclaimed art critic and poet Keshav Malik. This rare collection of letters, featuring correspondences with cultural icons like Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Krishen Khanna and F.N. Souza reveals Malik's profound influence on Indian art and thought. Dive into the timeless art of letter-writing and experience the cultural dialogues that shaped India's articities the presence artistic heritage.

EVENT DETAILS

Venue: Annexe Art Gallery, India International Centre, New Delhi Dates: November 4 - November 9 Timings: 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m

REDISCOVER AUTHENTIC CHINESE FLAVOURS

Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida is thrilled to introduce an all-new menu at RED (Rare Eastern Dining), offering an authentic journey into the world of Chinese cuisine. Curated by Executive Chef Sachin Malik and Master Chef Ghanshyam Thapa, the menu presents a range of dishes from delicate dim sums to bold Sichuan flavours and creative reinterpretations of classic recipes. Standouts include Truffle Edamame, Exotic Green Vegetables with Liquorice, and Sichuan specialities like Mapo Tofu and Braised Aubergine with Peppercorn. Enjoy these dishes with cocktails inspired by Chinese heritage, including the Dragon on the Sky and Junshan Island Sundowner.

DETAILS

Venue: RED, Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida Timings: 7:00 -11:30 PM Price for Two: Rs 4500 (plus taxes) For reservations : 8585907779

FACES OF RESILIENCE

FACES OF RESILIENCE Faces in my Window by Nelofar Currimbhoy, at the Open Palm Court Gallery, Habitat Centre, captures the resilience and spirit of those often overlooked. With each photo Currimbhore lang photo, Currimbhoy's lens brings viewers face-to-face with the untold stories of survival on the streets of Delhi. An entrepreneur,



Faces in my win

author and photographer, Currimbhoy's work extends beyond photography. Her docu-stories, like Ratni's Red Lipstick, highlight lives of perseverance, reflecting her passion for capturing human resilience. Influenced by Gandhi and Mother Teresa, her art is both an homage to her subjects and a call for empathy.Step into Faces in my Window for a poignant glimpse into lives that often go unseen.

EVENT DETAILS

Exhibition Open Till: November 5, 2024 Venue: Open Palm Court Gallery, Habitat Centre, New Delhi

LONELY PLANET **FAILED ROMANTIC DELIVERY**

A lacklustre narrative undermines *Lonely Planet's* visual appeal, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

→ hot with landscapes around Morocco giving a beautiful backdrop, *Lonely Planet* is an addition to the old woman young man romantics list. The film is an American Netflix romantic drama directed by Susannah Grant. The movie stars Laura Dern as Katherine Loewe and Liam Hemsworth as Owen Brophy. The film plots around a writer, Laura Dern and explores her romantic angle with *Owen Brophy* after they meet on a retreat of writers. Laura Dern as Katherine Loewe has been shown as a successful female novelist who comes on a writers retreat to overcome a struggling love life due to a separation from her longtime partner. *Liam Hemsworth* as *Owen Brophy* comes on the same retreat with her girlfriend *Lily Kemp* (played by *Diana Silvers*), whose first novel becomes a back coller. Charging

becomes a best seller. Changing attitude of *Lily Kemp* on the retreat

creates a rift between her and her boyfriend Owen Brophy, after which Owen finds himself attracted towards Katherine Loewe after

meeting her closely in some sudden

understanding romance between

Laura and Liam. The story tries to

emphasise on the importance and

explores

an

circumstances.

story

fall up to the point.

The



part due to the weak plot. Owen doesn't have deep talks with his love interest, which is the want of the movie. *Laura's* character has been too into herself killing the expectations of what the audience really wants. *Lily Kemp's* character feels like a character played without an effort.

need of having an understanding partner with whom you can feel light and help you grow, but doesn't *Lonely Planet* fails to deliver the truly wanting script because of its weak plot. It tries to land up to a Talking about the characters the cast seems to have overplayed their space of the fantasy world where

the guy meets the woman and they fall in love, with all the butterflies which is actually not the demand of the film.

The film's pacing is uneven, with certain scenes dragging while others feel rushed. The ending doesn't compliment the story at all and becomes too flat. The movie can be too boring for the people who love the romantic genre as it doesn't live up to the standards. The 96 minutes drama has been failing

to deliver a desired thoughtful romance being a romantic genre. Summarising, Lonely Planet is a missed opportunity. It has the potential to be a poignant and thought-provoking exploration of love and loss, but it settles for a generic and formulaic approach. While the stunning Moroccan landscape are a viscul treat the landscapes are a visual treat, the film's lackluster script and characters ultimately leave a lot to be desired Rating - 2.5/5

sunday November 3, 2024 November 3, 2024 November 3, 2024 November 3, 2024

> SHAMI FINISHED THE ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2023 AS THE TOURNAMENT'S LEADING WICKET-TAKER, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE 24 WICKETS ACROSS SEVEN MATCHES. HIS REMARKABLE PERFORMANCES INCLUDED THREE FIVE-WICKET

HAULS AND A FOUR-WICKET HAUL, HIGHLIGHTED BY A CAREER-BEST 7/57 AGAINST NEW ZEALAND IN THE SEMI-FINALS Mohammad Shami has been pushing the boundaries of pace and redefining the role of fast bowlers. His comeback adds depth to India's bowling attack, and his journey inspires the youngsters writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

> THE COMEBACK NAN

fter nearly a year away from the field, 34-yearold Indian pacer Mohammad Shami is set to make his highly anticipated comeback. Having missed out due to an ankle injury that sidelined him since November last year, Shami has been seen practicing hard on the main pitch at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, following the first Test between India and New Zealand. With a five-Test tour of Australia approaching this November, fans are eagerly awaiting the return of one of India's most formidable fast bowlers.

After a year-long hiatus, Mohammad Shami, India's lethal pace bowler, has returned to international cricket with renewed vigour, reminding fans of his remarkable skill and unyielding determination. Shami's journey back to the pitch is not just a testament to his resilience, but also an inspiring comeback story that showcases his

unwavering commitment to the game. With career-defining spells and an uncanny knack for turning games in India's favor, Shami's return has once again fortified the Indian bowling lineup.

In 2023, Shami delivered an outstanding season, claiming 56 wickets in 27 innings and earning the prestigious Purple Cap in the IPL. He finished the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 as the tournament's leading wicket-taker, with an impressive 24 wickets across seven matches. His remarkable performances included three five-wicket hauls and Shami has remained dedicated to refining his craft, training rigorously to ensure his return was one for the books. His work with renowned trainers and sports psychologists was instrumental in fortifying both his physical and mental resilience, setting the stage for a triumphant return to the Indian squad.

Returning from a prolonged injury is always a test of resilience, particularly for a cricketer under the global lens. The mental challenges of injury can be as tough as the physical ones, with constant scrutiny adding to the pressure. Shami's journey reflects the dedication required to overcome these obstacles, as he not only returns to the sport but does so with a renewed sense of self-belief.

Comeback after an injury is not easy, the biggest setback is psychological apart from the physical challenge. And if it extends for a year the challenge is immense. "I had one resolve to be back on the field and play for the country. And if the goal is clear God gives you resilience and courage to withstand the storm. I practiced and maintained my poise and worked on my game and fitness and my overall wellbeing." Says Shami with a smile. Shami's transformation has not been limited to his athletic pursuits. In addition to his rehabilitation, he recently underwent a hair transplant as his hairline had thinned. Now when he will be back on the field he would be sporting the look of a younger man with flowing hair. "Indeed it was his perseverance and health regime that the results were better than we expected," says Dr Arika Bansal, at Eugenix Hair Sciences Shami's choice of Eugenix highlights the clinic's reputation for delivering outstanding hair restoration results. Dr. Pradeep Bansal also expresses his gratification working with Shami, calling it "an honour to serve an eminent cricketer who exemplifies resilience." Indeed, the results have not only enhanced Shami's appearance but also reignited his confidence, adding a renewed energy to his presence on and off the field.

best 7/57 against New Zealand in the semi-finals.

> Despite battling a persistent heel issue, Shami's dedication to cricket was unwavering, playing a crucial role in India's World Cup journey. Since India's defeat to Australia in the ODI World Cup final in November 2023, Shami has been sidelined. He was initially selected for India's two-Test series in South Africa in December 2023, but fitness concerns prevented his participation. In January 2024, Shami travelled to London for specialized injections to treat his ankle. Following this treatment, he was advised to gradually resume physical activity. Unfortunately, the injections did not bring the desired relief, leading to surgery on his Achilles tendon. Following a prolonged break due to injuries and personal challenges, Shami's return has been nothing short of extraordinary, proving that his time away from the game did little to diminish his prowess. "Every comeback has its own set of challenges but cricket has always been my calling. Being on the field and playing for the country puts me on cloud nine", Says Shami. Known for his high-velocity deliveries and pinpoint accuracy,

ohammed Shami's home ground is Eden Gardens in Kolkata, where he made his Test debut against the West Indies in 2013. Shami has always had a special connection with India's cricketing venues, with the Eden Gardens, his home ground in Kolkata being particularly close to his heart. He considers the iconic stadium to be his lucky ground, where he has delivered several memorable performances. "Eden Gardens has a special vibe; the crowd and atmosphere push you to go that extra mile. There's no place quite like it." He quips. Shami has now earned a name for him as a right-arm fastmedium bowler. He's known for his ability to swing the ball at pace, and for his reverse swing. He hails from Amroha, Uttar Pradesh. Shami was a mainstay in India's T20 World Cup teams in 2021 and 2022. In the 2023 World Cup, he was India's highest wicket-taker. The Uttar Pradesh government is building a mini-stadium and gymnasium in Shami's village, Sahaspur Alinagar, to honor him. The stadium will be built on one hectare of land and will also include an open gym and race track. Shami's journey has been marked by significant challenges, both on and off the field. Despite setbacks, he has shown a profound level of mental toughness, using the time off to focus on his inner resilience. He once remarked, "The game of cricket teaches you a lot about life. It's a test of patience, hard work, and mental strength." His perspective has evolved to not only focus on physical fitness but also to prioritize mental well-being, which has been a key element in his recent comeback. When asked who he finds the hardest batsman to ball, he simply smiles and replies, "No one!"

Shami's return has not only bolstered India's pace attack but has also brought in a seasoned leader for the

younger bowlers. His experience and ability to read the game are assets that elevate the team's overall performance. Known for his tactical approach, Shami's presence is invaluable, particularly in highstakes matches, where his sharp instincts and seasoned techniques shine.

As Shami steps back into the limelight, his journey stands as a testament to grit and resilience. The Indian cricket fraternity and millions of fans eagerly watch as he once again takes to the pitch, embodying the spirit of Indian cricket at its finest.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



IF YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE A FRIEND, GO TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE AND EAT WITH HIM... THE PEOPLE WHO GIVE YOU THEIR FOOD GIVE YOU THEIR HEART — CESAR CHAVEZ





Wynn Macau's Drunken Fish redefines Chinese dining with bold seafood creations and Moutai-infused dishes crafted by Executive Chef Henry Zhang, writes RUPALI DEAN



vibrant tribute to Chinese culture, Drunken Fish at Wynn Macau, led by

A Drunken Fish at Wynn Macau, led by Executive Chef Henry Zhang, redefines luxury dining by marrying tradition with contemporary flair. Chef Zhang's innovative approach spotlights the ocean's rarest treasures, enhanced with China's revered national liquor, Moutai, creating an exceptional culinary experience. In Chinese mythology, the creature Kun lives in deep, shadowed waters, where light barely reaches its vast form. Rising to the ocean's surface, Kun morphs into Peng, a radiant bird soaring to lofty altitudes and casting its expansive shadow below. Symbolising transformation and boundless ambition, this legend mirrors ambition, this legend mirrors human potential, urging us to transcend limitations. Inspired by this myth, Wynn Macau presents its latest venture, Drunken Fish, or 'Jiu Kun,' under Zhang's expert vision. This dining experience showcases a lavish seafood spread featuring prized ingredients such as French blue

lobsters, Sri

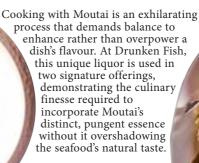
Lankan crabs, and



Malaysia's famed 'king of river fish,' all crafted using traditional Chinese techniques with modern twists. "Our philosophy respects tradition while embracing innovation," Zhang affirms.

EXCEPTIONAL SEAFOOD, ARTFULLY CRAFTED

Drunken Fish employs an array of traditional Chinese techniques that amplify the natural flavours and nutrients of the seafood. Steaming preserves freshness, while stir-frying ensures a delightful texture, and braising and poaching add layers of aromatic richness. The restaurant offers a wide range of preparations, inviting guests to explore local and global flavours, including spicy Sichuan, Hong Kong-style, and a fusion of Singaporean, Thai, and Japanese influences. This diverse approach results in a stunning variety of dishes designed to satisfy every palate.



SAVOUR THE EXPERIENCE

A highlight of the menu is the Moutai flambé crispy chicken, a dish that harmonises tradition with innovation. The crispy skin and tender meat, infused with the distinct flavour of Moutai, create an unforgettable taste experience. Another standout is the red-spotted grouper with pickled tomato, chili, and bean sprouts—a nod

to the traditional sour soup of the Miao and Dong ethnic groups of Guizhou, where the liquor subtly enhances the fish's freshness. Additionally, the empurau, a rare Malaysian fish steamed in soy sauce using Cantonese methods,

presents a remarkable delicacy, available only in select seasons and prized for its exquisite taste.

Drunken Fish at Wynn Macau offers a captivating dining experience that celebrates traditional Chinese flavours while embracing innovative culinary techniques. The warm and welcoming setting, accentuated by custom hand-bent aquariums and a chic turquoise Moutai bar, creates an ideal atmosphere for seafood lovers. With a menu that skilfully blends familiar and daring dishes, each visit promises a memorable journey for the senses. Interactive auctions of fresh seafood and exclusive liquors on weekend evenings add to the allure, ensuring each dining experience is as engaging as it is delectable.

(Awarded the "Best Food Writer in the Country" by the Indian Culinary Forum, WACS, and the Ministry of Tourism, Rúpali Dean writes on food and travel.)



This Oktoberfest season, Smoke House Deli, in collaboration with United Breweries, brings a month-long celebration featuring a host of special culinary delights

BY SHARMILA CHAND

SIGNATURE COCKTAILS



ur Oktoberfest menu captures the essence of the celebration elevate the beer experience," says Chef Shamsul Wahid, Group Executive Chef, Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality Pvt Ltd. "We've curated a unique selection, including Pizza Dogs, Panuzzos, and Tramezzas, blending tradition modern with innovation. It's a menu designed to surprise and delight, offering a fresh, exciting take on exciting Oktoberfest while staying true to the festive spirit," he adds.

SPECIAL MENU

The well-crafted menu offers a variety of small plates, hearty mains and indulgent desserts, all crafted to pair perfectly with your favourite brews. There's a selection of Pizza Dogs, Panuzzos, anđ Tramezzas, alongside other delectable dishes. It's more than just a meal-it's a festive feast in true Smoke House Deli fashion, where great food meets great beer for a celebration you won't forget.

Start your feast with a delicious selection of Pizza Dogs, each offering a unique twist on a classic favourite. Try the Plant-Based Sausage Dog, topped with mozzarella and tomato. For a smoky kick, the Smokin' Chicken Frank is loaded with ketchup, mustard, citrus chilli, and gherkin relish. Meat lovers won't want to miss the Bolognese Dream Dog, featuring a chicken frank and bold paprika for an unforgettable flavour.

Next, indulge in Panuzzos—a lineup of hearty sandwiches that bring bold flavours and fresh ingredients to the table. Enjoy the Mediterranean, packed with nutty hummus, grilled vegetables, and finished with tahina, or the Classic Caprese, featuring tomato, mozzarella, herby basil, and

more savoury, try the Chicken Balsamico with balsamic chicken, tomato, onion, and fresh greens, or through bold, vibrant the A-BLT, with crispy bacon, flavours thoughtfully crafted to lettuce, avocado, and tomato for a satisfying crunch.

Tramezzas truly pack a punch of flavour in every bite, perfect for those who crave a satisfying yet balanced meal.

Do not miss the Truffle Shuffle, a decadent mix of brie and truffle oil tossed with oyster, shiitake, button and mushrooms. For a more comforting option, the Deli Roast brings together roast chicken with hollandaise and caramelised onions. If you're craving something richer, try the BLT Molten Brie, combining bacon, brie, tomato, and lettuce, or go for

the crispy, creamy combination of The Pollo Frito, featuring fried chicken and a creamy egg salad. For á heartier choice, the Shroom Smash blends tenderloin patty with grilled mushrooms for a deliciously savoury experience.

And of course, no Oktoberfest is complete without beer! Pair these delicious dishes with a variety of beers from United Breweries, available in buckets of 4 and 8, specially selected to enhance your dining experience and bring the festive spirit to life.

SIGNATURE VEG DISHES

•

- Plant Power Frank (Pizza Dog) -Italian-style hot dogs served with French Fries (Plant-based sausage, mozzarella and tomato). (Plant-based
 - Classic Caprese (Panuzzo) -Crispy, stuffed turnover pizza NON-VEG DISHES sandwiches served with French • Fries (Tomato, fresh mozzarella, basil, EVOO & ground black pepper). Truffle Shuffle (Tramezza) –



Folded pizza sandwiches served • with French Fries (Brie, truffle oil tossed oyster, shiitake & button mushrooms).

Bolognese Dream Dog (Pizza • Dog) - Italian-style hot dogs served with French Fries (Minced mutton bolognese, chicken frank and paprika).

- Chicken Balsamico (Panuzzo) -Crispy, stuffed turnover pizza sandwiches served with French Fries (Creamy, diced balsamic chicken, tomato, onion & fresh greens).
- The Shroom Smash (Tramezza) -Folded pizza sandwiches served with French Fries (Smashed tenderloin patty & grilled mushroom).

- Peach House Bitter Ginger Roku Gin, Peach Schnapps & Ginger Beer.
- Nobel Nectar Hendrick's Gin with Fresh Cucumber Juice & Elderflower Tonic.
- Gimlet Di Basilico Roku Gin, Limoncello, Basil Oil & Shiso Leaf.

COMFORT MEETS SOPHISTICATION

Smoke House Deli is renowned for contemporary culinary its experience, offering guests comfort food in a casual and relaxed ambience. The menu is curated using locally sourced ingredients, elevating familiar dishes into gastronomic masterpieces. Smoke House Deli is celebrated for its diverse range of modern European cuisine, featuring exceptional grills, artisanal pizzas, exquisite charcuterie, fine spirits, delectable bakes, sumptuous desserts, and a variety of pastas. Each outlet reflects a Deli-style architecture, telling the tales of the unique history and landmarks of its locale, adorned with whimsical décor, creating the perfect setting for memorable dining experiences. It's an ideal destination for a family meal, a romantic date, or a catch-up with friends, offering a versatile and inviting atmosphere for any occasion.

'For over a decade, Smoke House Deli has evolved from a café into a cherished classic, known for its beautifully crafted food and memorable experiences," says Chef Shamsul. "At the core of our ethos is a deep commitment to serving comfort food made from ethically sourced, wholesome ingredients. What truly sets us apart is the attention to detail-whether it's sourcing organic produce from local farms or handcrafting every dish with care. Our whimsical décor, combined with novel offerings and a thoughtfully curated, ever-changing menu, strikes the perfect balance between indulgence and mindful eating. This creates a warm, inviting space that has been cherished by our guests for years."

Sharmila Chand is an author, columnist, and journalist who writes on Food, Travel, Culture, and Lifestyle.

Vegan Wonders: Where to Eat Next!

BY TEAM AGENDA

MISS MARGARITA

Miss Margarita features a newly launched menu with a dedicated section for vegetarian and vegan dishes, showcasing its commitment to inclusive dining. Highlights include Classic Guac 'N' Chips with fresh guacamole, Avocado Agua Chile, Charred Sweet Potato & Crispy Cauliflower Tacos, and Stuffed Chilli and Chipotle Potato Skewers, all designed to please plant-based diners.

BEEYOUNG BREWGARDEN

BeeYoung Brewgarden offers an exciting range of vegan cocktails that emphasise innovative drinking options. Signature drinks include Hearts on Fire, Pulp Fiction, and Nuttea Sour, along with unique choices like Trufflesome and To Beer, or Not to Beer. These cocktails reflect the venue's dedication to flavourful, inclusive beverages.

ROSE CAFE

Located in Malviya Nagar, Rose Cafe is known for its extensive vegan menu featuring hearty soups, fresh salads, and delicious pastas and pizzas. Diners can enjoy options like Roasted Tomato & Basil soup, Big Greek salad, and Aubergine Parmigiana, all within a cosy atmosphere that makes it a must-visit for vegans.

GUPPY AND THE GRAMMAR ROOM

Guppy and The Grammar Room are celebrated for their creative vegan offerings, focusing on fresh, seasonal ingredients. These restaurants provide inviting spaces for diners to enjoy delightful plant-based meals that highlight vibrant flavours and sustainability.



OWN ONLY WHAT YOU CAN ALWAYS CARRY WITH YOU: KNOW LANGUAGES, KNOW COUNTRIES, KNOW PEOPLE. LET YOUR MEMORY BE YOUR TRAVEL BAG — ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN



LIVING IT UP IN AN AIRBNB IN LONDON

When planning my trip to London, selecting the perfect Airbnb was crucial. I focused on vibrant neighbourhoods, safety and charming details to ensure an unforgettable experience in this bustling city

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

RELYING ON AIRBNB

For my travels, I have relied on Airbnb with unwavering confidence. Whether transitioning between flat shares or advising friends, it remains my top choice. The perks include local insights, a genuine neighbourhood experience, and costs often lower than hotels but far superior to hostels. While some listings require minimum stays, and occasionally hosts can be problematic, the advantages far outweigh the drawbacks. Thus, I enthusiastically recommend London Airbnbs.

SELECTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

When selecting my Airbnb in London, the area was my first consideration. If you have a specific itinerary in mind, staying nearby is a no-brainer. Each neighbourhood in London feels like its own city, so I explored options that sparked my excitement. For a taste of the hipster scene, Hackney, Brixton, and Shoreditch were perfect choices. For luxury, Westminster, Soho, Fitzrovia, or Kensington beckoned, while Hampstead, Islington, and Greenwich offered a cosy, local vibe. These insights gave me a clearer picture of what each neighbourhood had to offer.

I opted for a two-bedroom flat in Marylebone. Nestled between Hyde Park and Regent's Park, this area embodies serene sophistication in London's heart. Its upscale charm provided easy access to Mayfair, Westminster, and The City, as well as the captivating shopping, dining, and majestic architecture of the iconic West End. It's truly a refined oasis amidst the bustle. My Airbnb was within walking distance of Marylebone Station, Tesco, and a couple of delightful restaurants, including one that served amazing Vietnamese food and another renowned for its Fish and Chips.

DETAILS MATTER

When considering my stay, I focused on price points, assessing my overall budget and daily accommodation expenses. In London, Airbnbs typically range from £30 for a private room to £80-£100 for an entire unit. Prices climb as you approach Central London. I always seek discounts for -time stays, ensure my kitchen to save on meals, and choose a location within walking distance of must-see sites. This time, the Airbnb I liked was



roughly £300 over my budget for the entire stay. I messaged the host on the app, and they kindly waived the extra cost. While it may not be paramount for everyone, the details matter when finding the perfect Airbnb in London. I prioritise essentials like Wi-Fi, a washing machine, a tea kettle, microwave, toaster, hairdryer, lift, and air conditioning. I also appreciate visually appealing rooms, often with a splash of colour or, if I'm fortunate, a lovely view. This time, I enjoyed a spacious terrace adjacent to the living room, offering beautiful views and sunlight.

SUPERHOST FOR THE WIN

When browsing for an Airbnb, I always make it a point to delve into the reviews. No matter how visually appealing a property might be, a poor host can mar the entire experience. I pay particular attention to feedback from other women, as safety is my foremost concern when selecting accommodations. While security measures are in place, one can never be too cautious. If I encounter a single negative review over something trivial, I typically brush it off. However, if there are multiple red flags, it's wise to take your hard-earned pounds elsewhere. I personally favour the "Superhost" glowing reviews and little extras that enhance the stay dramatically. Though some might say it's controversial, I recommend booking your London



Airbnb well in advance — falling in love with a place only to discover it's fully booked is disheartening. Once you find an Airbnb that fits your budget and has good reviews, seize the opportunity and don't look back. After finalising my travel plans, I saved two or three potential Airbnb options. I compared them and made my booking a month in advance. highlight of my trip. Visiting London without indulging in afternoon tea is akin to going to Paris and skipping the Eiffel Tower



discovered the modern European flair of The Ivy Cafe Marylebone, the Art Deco elegance of The Wolseley, the fresh seafood at Scotts Mayfair, and the decadent Austrian charm of Fischer's Marylebone. No shopping spree is complete without a visit to Selfridges on Oxford Street, a landmark since 1909, followed by a stroll down Marylebone High Street, where boutiques like Le Labo and Lululemon await. Culturally, I explored The Wallace Collection, housed in a historic Marylebone townhouse, featuring masterpieces by Titian, Rubens, and Rembrandt. I also visited the renowned British Museum nearby. I discovered a world of luxury at the UK's premier shopping destination, Bicester Village. Just a train ride from Marvle explored over 150 chic boutiques in the charming Oxfordshire countryside. With brands like Gucci, Armani, and Givenchy, I indulged in a rich retail

experience and enjoyed savings of up to 60%. As a special guest, I even received an extra 10% off the Village price-truly a shopper's paradise. Surrounded by beautiful parks, my London experience was truly unforgettable.

THE LAST LEG

As my journey from London began, I couldn't help but feel excitement for my return home after a good two weeks in London. I had chosen a Premium Economy seat with Virgin Atlantic after extensive research. For those who don't know, Virgin Atlantic, founded by Richard Branson in 1984, stands out as a refreshing alternative to conventional carriers. Flying in Premium, simply called Premium, was a transformative experience. The leather seats offered noticeably more space than standard Economy, with an extra inch of width and enhanced recline, making the longhaul flight far more comfortable. I appreciated the adjustable headrest and the additional luxuries, like a pull-out footrest. The in-seat entertainment system, Vera, featured a 13-inch screen packed with an impressive selection of films.

Ultimately, my upgrade was a brilliant choice, making the journey back home a truly enjoyable experience. Akanksha Dean is an independent food She is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in 2016 and 2018.

building in Mayfair. I was the restaurant's signature pink dining room, adorned with whimsical artwork by David Shrigley. By night, this charming tea room transformed into a

My tea experience began at Sketch,

nestled in a stunning 18th-century

LONDON EXPERIENCES



Srisailam: A journey to spiritual splendour

Discover Srisailam, the "Kailash of the South," where spirituality meets natural beauty. This sacred Andhra Pradesh town offers a profound journey through ancient temples, serene landscapes and cultural wonders, says VISHESH SHUKLA



rith a spirit of adventure and a heart full of curiosity, I set out from Bhubaneswar, the vibrant capital of Odisha, on a journey that promised to be extraordinary. Boarding the Yesvantpur Superfast Express, excitement coursed through me as I made my way to a small town in Andhra Pradesh, often called the "Kailash of the South." This enchanting place is home to Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy, one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlingas, and Goddess Bhramaramba, one of the eighteen Mahashakti Goddess Peethas, giving it an aura of deep spiritual significance. Nestled in the picturesque Nandyal district, Srisailam is a town where natural beauty and profound spirituality merge, offering a treasure trove of experiences waiting to be uncovered.

Markapur Road railway station serves as the gateway for devotees bound for Srisailam, with convenient connections to this revered destination. Upon arrival, travellers can hire autos for ?30 to reach Markapuram bus stand, where buses run regularly to Srisailam. The 2.5-hour journey, costing ₹250, offers breathtaking views of the lush landscape, especially during the monsoon season. After arrival, the Shiva temple is within walking distance from the bus stand. Affordable accommodations, such as Kakatiya Anna Satra Sangam (?1100), cater to pilgrims' needs



The Mallikariun Swami and Mata temple, a primary attraction, welcomes devotees until late evening. Local eateries like Trishul Family Restaurant provide delicious refreshments. Srisailam's well-organised transport and amenities ensure a hassle-free experience for pilgrims, making the spiritual journey truly unforgettable.

JOURNEY TO SERENITY

After a refreshing night's sleep, one can start





Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple, where Lord Shiva defeated the demon Tripurasura. Following the blessings of Lord Shiva, visitors often head to the unique Sakshi Ganpati Swamy temple, where Lord Ganesha is the morning with a visit to the ancient depicted seated with a pen and paper, journey.

recording devotees' wishes to fulfil them. As the sunlight gently touches the mountains, the Paldhara-Panchdhara waterfall awaits, captivating visitors with its serene beauty. Covering all the scenic spots, I proceeded to Pathal Ganga, where I enjoyed a ropeway ride and boating on the Krishna River, savouring the serene view of the Srisailam reservoir. After visiting the major sites, I stopped for brunch at a local hotel serving delicious idli, dosa, and menduvada. Satisfied with my meal, I returned to my place to rest and took a twohour nap.

SOUVENIRS OF SRISAILAM

The next morning began at 5 AM. After checking out of the hotel, I enjoyed a hearty dosa breakfast before taking an express bus from Srisailam to Markapur for ?200. I reached Markapur railway station around 10:15 PM to board the Vasco-da-Gama Shalimar Express. With around eight hours left in my journey, I had breakfast from the train's pantry car and spent some time reading. As the journey concluded, I was met with an enchanting surprise-the breathtaking beauty of Chilika Lake, which unfolded before me as the train traversed its waters. Unaware of its majesty, I found myself mesmerised by this unexpected sight, a perfect conclusion to an extraordinary





ARIES March 21-April 19

This week holds promise, particularly in the realm of finances, where opportunities to enhance your resources appear promising, especially at the start of the week. Celebrations and gatherings underscore your achievements, bringing joy and festivity to your social and work life. At home, the atmosphere is cheerful, with significant contributions from women who bring vitality, creativity, and joy, enriching the lives of those around them with their nurturing roles. The week might also herald joyul family events, such as welcoming new beginnings or celebrating expansions that bring family members closer. As the week closes, expect a shift in your perspective, leading to fresh insights that could significantly benefit your future path. This period is marked by positive transitions and communal happiness.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Rose Pink Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

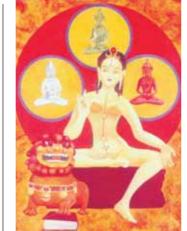
This week, your emotional and sentimental nature will be particularly prominent, offering you an opportunity to express nurturing qualities towards those you care about. Your instinctive ability to heal and counsel will draw others to seek your guidance. However, amidst this emotional engagement, there's a risk of overlooking your professional obligations. Stay vigilant as your straightforward nature could be exploited. It's crucial to strategize and implement new plans aimed at enhancing stability and securing your financial future. Passive daydreaming won't suffice; staying focused on your objectives and managing your emotions effectively are essential to making tangible progress. Keep an eye on your goals and temper your sensitivities to navigate this period successfully.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Lemon Yellow Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week finds you wielding significant influence and determination. Your ability to lead and inspire others stems not from physical prowess but from your strategic position and charisma. You maintain a strict and disciplined approach, leaving little room for emotional considerations. This may lead to challenges in your personal relationships, potentially causing rifts or disappointments in romantic connections. Family dynamics may become strained, particularly regarding significant life choices, as disagreements over such decisions could emerge, possibly involving maternal opposition. Midweek, you might feel overwhelmed by pressure, finding it difficult to make decisions autonomously. However, as the week concludes, you will experience both financial and emotional enrichment. Support from an elder, likely a paternal figure, will provide you with both balance and guidance, setting a foundation for future achievements. Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Grass Green Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week calls for a balanced approach, especially for those who naturally lead with charisma and passion. Emotions may run high, but it's crucial to channel this energy wisely rather than letting impulsiveness or a rigid stance guide your actions. Opportunities may arise that could significantly enhance your circumstances. However, these same opportunities could slip through your fingers if not handled with care due to tendencies toward stubbornness or indifference. Respect for oneself is important, but it's equally vital to maintain respect towards others. Watch for new developments that might stir envy among competitors. Be cautious, as you might also attract negative intentions from others. Remain vigilant about your environment and the motivations of people around you, especially those you employ or who assist you in your daily activities.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Violet Lucky day Monday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you might experience a sense of isolation and a disconnect from daily engagements. This could stem from romantic disappointments or a break in a close relationship, impacting your emotional state. Challenges in your professional life are also evident, as your diligent efforts seem to yield little to no progress. Patience is key during this period. It's important to stay prepared and alert, as you may face some opposition. Recognizing and harnessing your strengths will be crucial in navigating these obstacles. As you approach the resolution of these challenges, expect a transformative shift within yourself. Support may arrive in the form of an influential individual who will play a significant role in guiding you. This guidance will spark a renewal in creativity and optimism, prompting innovative approaches in various aspects of your life.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Burgundy Lucky day Wednesday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Currently, you may experience a strained relationship, which could bring significant emotional discomfort. However, embracing these challenges can fortify your resilience and prepare you for future hurdles. Remember, true bravery emerges only in the presence of fear. Should an opportunity arise, it's essential to push past your uncertainties and seize it with determination. Now is the moment to pursue your aspirations vigorously, casting aside all doubts and obstacles. If you sense that your efforts have fallen short or the outcomes aren't as fulfilling as anticipated, take time to reassess your strategies and explore alternative avenues. By doing so, you're more likely to align yourself with a path that leads to success. By week's end, you may find yourself encountering opportunities for increased financial gain or an enticing proposal.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Saturday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You possess remarkable strength, potentially even overwhelming at times. Your deep perceptiveness and sharp intuition enable you to penetrate to the core of any matter. Your analytical abilities are at their peak, making the

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you will experience a noticeable surge in vitality and purpose. Your endeavors are backed by a universal alignment that propels you toward success. All your energies are harnessed effectively, guiding you to make significant progress in important areas of your life. You possess both the clarity and the resolve to tackle challenges and turn your ambitions into achievements. A joyful event at home may also occur, bringing fulfillment to a longstanding wish. This could relate to family joy, particularly through children, who may achieve significant academic success or secure opportunities they have been hoping for. Your confidence in your abilities and spiritual support is robust, fostering a conducive environment for positive developments. The possibility of significant transactions involving real estate could also arise, marking a prosperous period.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Saffron Lucky day Sunday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, you may find yourself navigating a mix of emotions and detachment in personal relationships. Couples might face several challenges that seem minor but can evoke strong reactions like tears, loud arguments, and eventual agreement. In professional settings, your approach is kind and benevolent, contributing positively to your reputation. You might experience some unexpected financial benefits, enhancing your sense of security. Your ability to effectively handle both personal and financial matters will be evident, showcasing your competence. Your commitment and reliability make you a trusted figure at work. A natural curiosity drives your desire to learn and succeed, potentially making you a source of inspiration for others. Throughout this period, your integrity and courage in standing up for your beliefs could set a powerful example for those around you.

Lucky number 81 Lucky colour Aqua Lucky day Friday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18



This week presents an opportunity for profound influence and decisive actions. You'll find yourself in scenarios where engaging directly with influential figures is not only possible but beneficial. Your ability to navigate these interactions showcases your knack for leadership and strategic thinking. You'll be seen as a source of inspiration, providing guidance and stability to those around you. Enjoy a sense of control and respect, as your balanced approach to life's challenges allows you to make sound decisions. Your presence commands respect, as your balanced nor your fairness and unwavering commitment to your principles. This period highlights your talent for overseeing the bigger picture without losing sight of your core values, ensuring that emotions do not cloud your decision-making process.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Tuesday

2

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Individuals born under your sign possess an expansive potential that enables profound transformations and creations according to their will. While unraveling all mysteries may not be feasible for everyone, you excel as a mentor to those



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, take some time to unwind and recharge. Prioritize healing through various wellness practices, from mindful exercises to enjoying nature's subtle offerings and ensuring adequate rest. This will equip you to handle the brisk pace of upcoming events. Your professional life appears dynamic, with potential positive shifts in your current role, possibly signaling a promotion or financial reward. Responsibilities at home, particularly involving children, will also demand your attention, bringing both joy and some additional expenditure. Romantic gestures could lead to planning special getaways with loved ones. For those unattached, the period is ripe for encountering significant connections that could lead to longterm commitments. Enjoy a sense of closeness with your partner as the weekend approaches, reinforcing your bond.







Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Tuesday realization of your ambitions significantly more attainable. This period marks an excellent opportunity to dispel any obscurities that have obscured your true understanding and to sever ties with past constraints that have limited your progress. It's an ideal time to prioritize your objectives and pursue personal growth. A profound spiritual renewal is also on the horizon. Engage in activities that harmonize you with the natural world, such as walking, yoga, meditation, or even pursuing a sport at a professional level. Rather than resisting life's flow, allow it to guide you forward.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Burgundy Lucky day Thursday



eager to delve into their psyche to unlock their latent capabilities. Your focus on spiritual growth and introspection can significantly enrich lives and bring about transformative changes. You hold a strong belief in the principle of fairness and the reciprocal nature of actions. The choices you make continuously shape your future outcomes, advocating for deliberate and positive decisions to cultivate desirable experiences. Such clarity in thought ensures the realization of goals and resolves many of life's challenges. A significant journey may soon be forthcoming, presenting new opportunities for growth and exploration.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Friday

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Pursuit of happiness

Let us welcome the new year with open arms and alet go of the negativity that holds us back. Only a heart bereft of pessimism can embrace happiness

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Spiritual Guru

APPINESS is the one thing that everybody is seeking. People do find happiness but it is momentary; for couple of hours or days. True happiness is when you find inner stability and comfort. You know you are connected to something unimaginably bigger and that there is an unshakable power within you. Here are a few pointers to ensure that happiness simply wells up in you. HEALTH: In India, "swastha" refers to one who is established in oneself. A healthy person has a smile on the face, love in the heart and strength and vitality in the body. Seeing life with the eyes of wisdom makes negative emotions go away and you start smiling from the core of your being. ATTACHMENTS: These cause feverishness that take away peace of mind. You are in pieces and fall prey to misery. Your first step is directing your attachment to the



feverishness that take away peace of mind. You are in pieces and fall prey to misery. Your first step is directing your attachment to the Knowledge and the Divine. Your

the problem and see it as a challenge. 2) Know that the problem is not real. 3) Know that nature has provided you the solution even before giving you

the problem. 4) If it concerns people, keep in touch with them instead of avoiding them. 5) Talk less and give time a chance. INSECURITY: How much time have you spent being insecure and gloomy? It builds up toxins in your body. Know that there are good people in the world who will come to your help. There is a power which will guide you and help you out. With this wisdom and understanding, get over your insecurity.

NEGATÍVITY: This mindset needs a hook to hang on — this person or that thing. Negativity or aversion for even one person can guarantee a one-way ticket to hell — you need nothing else! Don't focus on the support of negativity; look at the seed. In a negative atmosphere, be like a drop of *ghee* and float.

SUCCESS: My parameter for success is an undying smile, a confidence that cannot be shaken and a fearless attitude. Take life not as a struggle but as a challenge; not as a suffering but a way to express the multitude of emotions.

Break through all the barriers and feel that you are Blessed. This is the one and only step you have to take — the rest will happen happily enough.

(www.artofliving.org)