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magazine



# MAHA GAINS FOR BJP, CONG CUT TO SIZE

### MAHAYUTI STUMPS MAHA VIKAS AGHADI



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde with Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar flashes victory sign during a press conference as the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance secures victory. PTI

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Stunning a united Opposition that was confident of unseating the ruling alliance from power, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led MahaYuti on Saturday scored a historic victory over the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), by winning an astounding 233 seats out of the total 288 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly polls.

superlative feat than is far better than its own earlier stupendous wins in the 2014 and 2019 Assembly polls when 122 and 105 seats respectively. The BJP's allies, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-headed NCP — that won 57 and 41 seats respectively, also contributed to the MahaYuti's thumping victory. With 133 seats in its kitty, the ruling BJP has become a natural claimant for the Chief Minister's post. Notwithstanding Eknath Shinde's lobbying to retain the CM's post, it is quite likely that the BJP's central leadership will choose the current Dy CM as the new CM. The new CM will be

sworn into office on Monday. On the other hand, the Opposition MVA, comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar), put up a pathetic performance by winning a meagre 45 seats. While the Shiv Sena (UBT) secured 20 seats, the Congress and NCP (SP) won 15 and 10 seats respectively. Such is the rout of the MVA in the polls that there will be no Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the State Assembly. Because, none of the MVA constituencies, Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar), has won 10 per cent of the total 288 seats in the House to stake a claim for the LoP's post. Chief Minister Eknath

Shinde, his deputies Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar attributed a large share of the MahaYuti victory to its 'Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin Yojana' (Chief Minister's Beloved Sister Scheme) which was announced in the State Budget 2024-25. Under the scheme, the MahaYuti government had doled out an assistance of Rs 1,500 per month to all women (age 21-65 years) across state. Launched in August this year, a total assistance of Rs 7,500 reached 2.34 crore women across the state during the last five months at the rate of Rs 1,500 per woman per month. "I salute women across the state. The Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin Yojana proved to be a game-changer for us... Remember everyone wrote us off after the Lok Sabha polls. If the people, especially women across the state, have given us resounding victory, it is because of the development work and welfare schemes like the Ladki Bahin scheme, which helped us script an unprecedented win in the polls," Shinde said. One of the biggest takeaways from the polls that the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-headed NCP, which are off-shoots of the vertical splits that took place in the united parties in June 2022 and July 2023 respectively — have proved electorally that they are better parties than the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawar-led NCP in terms of strength in the State Assembly.

### JHARKHAND SAYS JOHAR TO JMM



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren with his wife and JMM leader Kalpana Soren, and Congress Jharkhand in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir during a press conference after JMM-led INDIA Bloc won PTI

PRANAV PRATYUSH ■ RANCHI

In contrast to its Maharashtra Miracle, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faced a huge setback in Jharkhand with the INDIA Bloc coming back with a resounding victory in the Assembly polls, results of which were announced on Saturday. The INDIA Bloc led by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Jharkhand registered victory in 56 constituencies. The JMM won 34 seats, four more than its 2019 polls tally, while the Congress managed to win 16 seats in the 81 member Assembly. The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), two other members of the coalition, also performed well by clinching four and two seats respectively. Both the parties had won just one seat in the 2019 Assembly polls. On the other hand, the BJP could barely secure 21 seats, which are four less than that of its 2019 performance. The NDA's major partner All Jharkhand Students Union

Party (AJSU), which contested on 10 seats, could only win one. AJSU Party president Sudesh Mahto was also defeated from his traditional seat Silli. Two other partners of NDA, Janata Dal (United), and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), won one seat each making the NDA reach a tally of 24. Jharkhand Krantikari Lok Morcha (JKLM), a new political party formed by youth leader Jairam Mahto, won only one seat, but it made a significant dent into the traditional vote bank of both BJP and AJSU party, said political experts. Chief Minister Hemant Soren's wife, and MLA, Kalpana Murmu Soren, and his brother and MLA Basant Soren won their seats from Gandey and Dumka respectively, while his sister in law Sita Murmu Soren, who contested on a BJP ticket from Jamtara had to face defeat. State BJP president Babul Marandi retained his seat, while former CM Champai Soren also won from Saraikeela. However, former CM Arjun Munda's wife Meera Munda and former CM Madhu Koda's wife Geeta Koda had to face defeat in the polls.

### WAYANAD SENDS PRIYANKA TO PARLIAMENT

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra began her parliamentary career in style by registering an impressive win in the by-poll held from Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala, the results of which were announced on Saturday. When reports last came, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was leading by a mammoth majority of 4,10, 931 over her rivals Sathyan Mokeri Communist Party of India (CPI) and Navya Haridas Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The election of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was a foregone conclusion from the word go, and the only question asked was whether she would overtake the brute majority bagged by her brother Rahul Gandhi in the constituency. Priyanka Gandhi created a record by polling 6,22, 338 breaking the tally of Rahul Gandhi in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll from the constituency. Rahul Gandhi had won the seat by a majority of 3,64,422 votes and he quit Wayanad seat in favour of the family fiefdom of Rae Bareilly from where he had contested. Rahul Mamkoottathil of the Congress retained the Palakkad Assembly constituency by a thumping majority of 18,840 votes, defeating his nearest rival C Krishnakumar of the BJP. While Mamkoottathil polled 58, 389 votes, the BJP candidate had to contend with 39, 549 votes. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) supported independent P Sarin, who had crossed over to the Left Democratic Front (LDF) from the Congress, was relegated to the third position as he polled 37, 298 votes. What made the victory sweeter for the Congress candidate was the majority with which he won the by-poll.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, and state BJP President Bhanupendra Singh Chaudhary addresses a press conference after the party won at least five of the state bypolls at party headquarters, in Lucknow PTI

## BJP dominates by-polls across 15 diverse states

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies emerged victorious in by-elections across 15 states, securing 28 of the 48 Assembly seats contested. Among the most significant results were those from Uttar Pradesh, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's slogan "Bantenge Toh Katenge" (Division leads to defeat) delivered a decisive 7-2 victory over the Samajwadi Party (SP), dealing a blow to Akhilesh Yadav's PDA (Pichhra, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) caste-based alliance. The by-polls, held shortly after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, were viewed as a crucial test of political strategies ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls in UP. The BJP's victory in Uttar Pradesh

reinforced the party's recovery after its diminished performance in the general elections, where the NDA won only 36 of the state's 80 parliamentary seats, a significant drop from 66 in 2019. For Adityanath, the by-elections were a matter of prestige, and the results showcased his ability to consolidate voter support across caste and community lines. The BJP's triumph in the Muslim-dominated Kundarki constituency in Moradabad was particularly striking. Despite the constituency's 65 per cent Muslim voter base, BJP candidate Ramveer Singh defeated SP's Mohammad Rizwan by over 96,000 votes. The SP retained its strongholds of Karhal and Sisamau, constituencies it has held for over three decades, but struggled to expand beyond these bastions.

## The lotus blooms yet again

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is back with vengeance, crushed the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to retain power, with an outstanding strike rate of over 86 per cent with 133 seats in Maharashtra indicates a tactical shift in the backdrop of the stunning victory in Haryana as its lacklustre show in Lok Sabha elections in the two states. This is the best ever performance of the BJP in the state. With 26.57 per cent vote share, the BJP got votes of 16, 642, 993 which is more than the vote's shares of Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT). The stunning victory for the Mahayuti in Maharashtra clearly suggests that the brand of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is still the most powerful ammo that the BJP has in its armoury, which trounced the Opposition alliance that was clearly a frontrunner in the battle at the hustings in India's wealthiest state just about five months back. The victory has again put a seal of approval on Home Minister Amit Shah's tag as a "modern-day Chanakya and master strategist". The extent of BJP's dominance in this election can be gauged by the fact that the saffron party's projected score is more than double the tally of the opposition's MVA, which includes the Congress, Shiv Sena(UBT) and NCP(SP). But the million dollar question that arises in



PM Narendra Modi during the celebration of BJP's victory in the Maharashtra Assembly, several bypoll elections, at BJP headquarters in New Delhi PTI

Maharashtra now is who will be the chief minister of the state. Will Eknath Shinde continue to be the CM or his deputy and BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, who played a pivotal role in ensuring the saffron party's resounding win? The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance won the majority in 2019 assembly elections. The BJP won 105 seats, while the Shiv Sena (undivided) grabbed 56 seats. Overall, the two parties won 151 seats in 2019. The BJP had won 122 seats in 2014 assembly elections and 46 seats in 2009 and 54 in 2004. The BJP's strike rate is way ahead of all the other five players in the fray, including two of its allies. While the Shiv Sena is ahead in 56 of the 81 seats it contested, the NCP is leading in 38 out of 59 seats. There are other reasons which worked in favour of the BJP. It was also Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's "Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" launched in

June that turned the tide in favour of the three-party ruling dispensation. Under the scheme, women in the state got five instalments of Rs 1,500 each till the elections. The impact was visible during polls as women came out in large numbers to cast ballots in the state, apparently helping the Mahayuti to register a landslide. The BJP also revisited its roots by working closely with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The RSS has held over 60,000 small meetings in the state and mobilised the BJP voters to come out and vote. The RSS, through special 65 friendly organisations, launched a campaign called 'Sajag Raho' - be vigilant, be awake, bolstering BJP's push in the assembly polls. The RSS had not been as much on ground in Lok Sabha elections with the BJP reportedly deciding not to field Sangh-recommended candidates in some seats. Worse, BJP

President JP Nadda sparked a row when he said, in an interview, that the BJP didn't depend on the RSS. Amid turmoil in Maharashtra, the decision to appoint rebel leader Eknath Shinde as the chief minister of the state also worked in favour of BJP. Rarely in India's political history has a rebel leader become a chief minister of a state with the support of the Opposition members. The decision was perceived as a move to elevate the Shiv Sena leader as an alternative to Uddhav Thackeray. And as things stand on Saturday, the Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction of Mahayuti won 55 seats as opposed to Thackeray faction's 21 seats. The BJP effectively capitalised on the growing religious polarisation in Maharashtra. It focused on the so-called 'vote jihad', 'Batenge to Katenge' and 'Ek Hain to Safe Hain' rhetoric. This strategy resonated with a section of the electorate. BJP top leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath, used slogans like "Ek hain toh safe hain" and "Batenge toh katenge" during the campaign in the recent election. Despite the controversy surrounding these slogans, the underlying message was a call for Hindu unity and OBC consolidation in favour of the ruling alliance. The BJP successfully painted the Opposition as appeasing Muslim vote banks.

## Biopic on Mahtab to be made: CM



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The contributions of Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab for the social, political and economical development of Odisha are an important chapter in the State's history. He is the Biswakarma of modern Odisha, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the 125th birth anniversary memorial meeting of Mahtab here on Saturday. Majhi said Mahtab was a freedom fighter, politician, journalist and historian, all at a time. He had brought a revolution in the freedom move-

ment in Odisha. A biopic on the life-history of Mahtab would be made to keep his achievements fresh in the minds of the people. Besides, a statue and a museum would be constructed at his birth-place Agarpada in Bhadrak district. Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo said the new generation should know about the contributions of Mahtab for the State. Odia Language and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj also spoke. Dr Mahtab's son Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab was present.

## How safe are EVs? Electric scooter reduced to ashes in Cuttack

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The world is rapidly moving towards green energy and there has been a massive rise in the sales of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country. However, concerns are now being expressed over the safety of EVs after one such hybrid vehicle caught fire on the Trishulia bridge in Cuttack on Saturday. The electric vehicle scooter caught fire when the rider was on its way towards Cuttack in morning. Though the rider escaped unhurt, the vehicle



was reduced to ashes. The exact reason of the fire was not known immediately. It was suspected that the incident might have occurred due to some electric short-circuit. The electric vehicle manufacturers seem to be in a competition mode and coming up with different models, promising comfort and extra mileage, but several safety aspects

appear to be neglected, it is alleged. Today's fire mishap is nothing new as similar incidents have been reported from other parts of Odisha and other States. At present, an electric scooter costs between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh. "We are switching to electric vehicles so that our dependency on petrol and diesel vehicles is reduced which is crucial in protecting our environment. But regular incidents of electric vehicles catching fire is certainly concerning," said a local resident.

## Head of Keonjhar's largest joint family dies

The family has 64 members thriving with love, affection RAJENDFRA K SAHU ■ KEONJHAR

Dashrathi Mishra, head of Mishra family, famous in the locality as the largest joint family of the district having as many as 64 members, situated at Jalbanga village in Raisuan GP under Sadar block of Keonjhar district, died at the age of 91 on Thursday. He was

active till the end of his life. Sources said that the late Radhakanta Mishra had five sons and Dashrathi was the eldest among all siblings. Dashrathi was working in the district administration and had retired as head clerk in the Revenue Department. He had earned a good reputation for his simplicity and good behaviour. In India, nuclear family has been the order of the day where immediate family members mean parents and their children living together and joint family concept is a passe. But the Mishra family was distinct

and managed to maintain cohesion with undiminished love and affection and harmony among the family members over generations. Radhakanta had five sons and one daughter, but the numbers grew to 64. All the members are well-established in their respective professions. This is possible due to strong family values which had been inculcated by Dashrathi being the eldest son of his family. Dasharathi's last rites were performed at his village graveyard in the presence of his family members, relatives, kith and kin and well-wishers.

## In Sambalpur Tusker kills man guarding paddy field

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

A 35-year-old man was trampled to death by a wild tusker in Jumoloi village under the Padiabahal Forest Range in Sambalpur district on Thursday night while chasing into elephants with other villagers to save their paddy. He was identified as Purnachandra Dehuri. According to sources, a herd of elephants entered the village to eat crops. The villagers chased away the elephants and returned. Purna legged

behind while returning when the tusker came to his front and trampled him. The elephant lifted Purna and slammed to the ground, killing him on the spot. The villagers found his body on Friday morning and informed forest officials. Range Officer Sunil Kumar Khilari said, "Purna thought the elephant herd had passed and started to return when he encountered the tusker that attacked and killed him. The villagers said he should have remained in the group."



# Shocking! 11 rape cases reported in State in 50 days

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
The rape of minor girls has now emerged as a major concern at a time when everybody believes that there is an urgent need to arrest such crimes that are being reported almost every day. As per available data, Odisha has witnessed over 11 rape cases in the past 50 days. On Wednesday, the people of the State woke up to a heart-breaking incident in which an eight-year-old girl was raped in Trisulia area under Barang police limits in Cuttack district. The little girl is now battling with her life due to severe bleeding and has been admitted to Sishubhawan, sources said. The parents of the victim reportedly work at a nearby brick kiln. It is suspected the miscreant abducted her and

took her to an isolated place where he outraged her modesty. This is not the sole incident as such incidents continue to shake the conscience of people in society. On November 16, a seven-year-old girl was allegedly subjected to sexual assault after being kidnapped in Bhubaneswar. As per initial reports, the minor girl went missing in the morning. After the minor girl was untraceable, her parents launched a search operation. Later, she was found by a woman near an under-construction house near a temple. As the girl had some injury marks on her body, Lingaraj police rushed her to the hospital. On November 15, palpable tension prevailed at

Padmapur area in Bargarh district after body of a minor girl was found from an isolated place inside Dunguri forest. As the deceased minor girl's body was found naked, it was suspected that she was murdered after sexual assault. On November 4, the entire State was shocked over the gang rape of a college student during Dussehra. As per the allegations, the girl student had gone to a cafe with her boyfriend in the Puri Ghat police station area during Dussehra to celebrate her birthday. However, the boyfriend allegedly with the help of the cafe owner filmed some of their intimate moments on his phone there. With that video, the boyfriend and his friends blackmailed her and raped her multiple times. The complaint was lodged on No-

vember 4, and the accused were arrested over the next two days. On November 2, a 32-year-old widow was allegedly raped by her neighbour in Kendrapada district. A 36-year-old man was arrested after the woman lodged an FIR stating that her neighbour raped her when she was alone at home. On October 31, a minor girl was allegedly gang-raped by four persons under the Nayapalli Police Station area in Bhubaneswar. Even the accused shot the video of the heinous crime. Moreover, they also sought money from the victim's mother by threatening to make the video viral. As many as 3 persons were arrested by Nayapalli Police in connection with the incident. On October 27, in a bone-

chilling incident, an eight-year-old girl was brutally raped by her neighbour. Shockingly, the accused was an elderly man. He lured the little girl on some pretext and committed the heinous crime, family members of the victim alleged. October 20, a 21-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by three unidentified persons in front of her fiancé in a forest in Nayagarh district. Though the incident took place on October 20, it came to light when the survivor lodged a complaint with the Fategarh police station on October 25. On October 14, a woman was allegedly raped at a village under Motu Police limits in Malkangiri. On the fateful Dussehra night, she was alone in her house as her father was away to catch fish.

On October 6, a man allegedly raped her minor niece at a place under Raghunathpali police limits in Rourkela. The matter came to the fore after the family members of the victim lodged a complaint against the accused, who is a distant relative of the victim, at the police station. On October 1, two unidentified miscreants allegedly robbed a flat and raped a woman finding her alone inside the flat in an apartment in Maitri Vihar police limits in Bhubaneswar. The list of such crimes is unending. To combat the rising tide of crime against women and rape, collective efforts from governments, civil society, and individuals are imperative. We must prioritize women's safety, well-being, and empowerment.



The Naval Officer-in-Charge (Odisha) organises a Naval Band Concert at the Town Hall in Puri on Saturday.  
Photo: Ranjan Ganguly

## ED raids real estate company 'Z' in city

**Illegal foreign currency transactions alleged**  
**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday conducted simultaneous raids on the offices and residence of the real estate company 'Z' director over the allegations of illegal foreign currency transactions. According to sources, the ED conducted raids at 11 places associated with the real estate firm. The ED action followed allegations of illegal transactions and large-scale investments with the help of forex deposits for years, sources informed. The sources mentioned that large amounts of hard cash were seized from 'Z' estate offices at Acharya Vihar and Z One apartment in Patia areas of Bhubaneswar. Investigations were being carried out by the Enforcement Directorate team into the seized documents, bank passbooks, statements, investment papers and foreign exchange (forex) records in both paper and digital forms. Sources of income, origin of transaction initiation points and contacts through which forex transfers took place are being inquired of by the agency. Meanwhile, the possibility of influential people being associated with the 'Z' estate group in enabling illegal transactions is also being probed. However, the company director said the ED inspected three locations of the company and not 11. The investigating agency did not seize any cash, jewellery or incriminating documents. The company has adhered to the rule while receiving FDI and has nothing to hide.

## Odisha to be partner for Int'l Gita Mahotsav

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
Odisha will be the partner State for the upcoming International Gita Mahotsav-2024 scheduled to take place in Kurukshetra from November 28 to December 15 coinciding with the Sarasa and Shilpa Fairs. Minister of State for Languages, Literature and Culture Suryabanshi Suraj made the announcement on Saturday. "The festival will officially commence with a Gita Yajna and worship at Brahasarovar on December 5. A highlight of the celebration will be on Gita Jayanti, December 11, when 18,000 students will come together for a grand recitation of the Bhagavad Gita at the sacred site of Jyotisar," he said. Earlier, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini had said the United Republic

of Tanzania would be the partner country for the Mahotsav and Odisha will be the partner State. "The International Gita Mahotsav this year will showcase a divine confluence of spirituality, culture and art. The timeless message of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita will be shared with all of humanity during the grand event," he said. The first International Gita Mahotsav had been held in Mauritius and London in 2019 followed by celebrations in Canada in September 2022, Australia in April 2023 and Sri Lanka and England in 2024. The Mahotsav has achieved immense success over the past eight years. Last year, 45-50 lakh people took part in it. Suraj said Haryana is the land of the Gita while Odisha is the land of Mahaprabhu Jagannath, who is regarded as an avatar of Lord Krishna.

## State prepares for 5-day Prez visit from Dec 3

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
President Droupadi Murmu will embark on a five-day visit to Odisha from December 3. The State Government has started necessary preparations for her visit. A control room operated by the Home Department will coordinate all activities in connection with the President's visit. Murmu will arrive in Bhubaneswar on December 3 by a special Indian Air Force flight and unveil a statue of Pandit Raghunath Murmu at Niladri Vihar here in the evening. On December 4, she will visit Puri for darshan at the Jagannath Temple and then to attend the 75th-anniversary celebration of Gopabandhu Ayurveda College. She will also



witness a naval strength demonstration by the Indian Navy at the Puri Blue Flag beach. On December 5, the President will attend the 40th convocation of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology in Bhubaneswar and inaugurate a new judicial court complex later in the day. On December 6, she will pay homage to the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar at AG Chhak in Bhubaneswar on his death anniversary and then proceed to Mayurbhanj via the Kalaikunda Airport in West Bengal. Upon her arrival in Mayurbhanj, Murmu will interact with students and teachers at the Uparbeda Government Higher Secondary School, engage with villagers at her former residence and flag off a vehicle donated by the SLS Trust Board for the Sub-Divisional Hospital in Rairangpur. Murmu will also visit the local women's college and perform puja and aarti at the Punyeshwar Mahadev Temple. On December 7, the President will travel to Bangriposhi to lay the foundation-stones for several railway projects and development initiatives. Then, she will return to New Delhi via the Kalaikunda Airport.

## Bobby Das' bro held for assaulting vegetable vendor

**PNS ■ JAJPUR**  
The Jajpur police on Saturday arrested and forwarded to court senior BJD leader Pranab Prakash (Bobby) Das' brother Bhaba Prakash on the charge of assaulting and threatening a vegetable vendor. Based on a complaint by the vegetable vendor, police have booked Bhaba under several sections of the BNS. The complainant also alleged that Bhaba and his associates snatched away Rs 1,200 from him. Jajpur has been hitting the headlines over the Biraja Haat

in the Parikrama project area of Maa Biraja. The Biraja Haat was shifted to Santmadhab for the Biraja Parikrama Project. However, people and organisations are divided over the shifting of the haat to the previous location. As per reports, when the district administration was trying to shift the haat to its earlier place, some people in the area staged protests by blocking the road. When a vegetable vendor identified as Nagan Nayak came to the haat to sell vegetables, Bhaba, his cousin Balabhadra Das along with 50 other persons allegedly

thrashed him. They also allegedly damaged his vegetables and snatched some money from him. Following the development, the vegetable vendor lodged an FIR against Bhaba, Balabhadra and 48 others at the Jajpur police station. Based on the FIR, police arrested Bhaba and produced him before the SDJM. Notably, 10 persons have been sent to jail for allegedly attacking Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sahoo, who was attacked allegedly by supporters of Bobby Das near Budhapola area of the district on Wednesday evening.

## AIIMS BBS' Tamang gets prestigious award

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
Dr Manita Tamang, a final-year Senior Resident from the Department of Paediatric Surgery, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, has been awarded the UC Chakroorty Award at the recently-concluded IAPSCON 2024 held at AIIMS Rishikesh. This honour is considered the pinnacle of recognition for outstanding research by paediatric surgery residents across India. AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr Ashutosh Biswas felicitated Dr Tamang in a special ceremony and remarked, "Achievements like these not only recognise the



dedication and hard work of our young doctors but also bring immense pride to our institute." The UC Chakroorty Award is determined by a distinguished committee comprising the Chief Editor of the Journal of the Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons and other eminent experts in the field. Out of numerous applications nationwide, only seven candidates were shortlisted to compete, making Dr Tamang's victory a testament to her exceptional research and dedication.

# Convocation of KISS University held Rs 8.96-cr assistance released to 66 Goshalas

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
The 4th Annual Convocation of the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS-DU) was held here on Saturday. The highlight of the event was the conferment of honorary D.Litt upon three luminaries for their outstanding achievements and contributions. They are Padma Shri Dr Mukesh Batra, founder of Dr Batra's Group of Companies, a pioneer in homeopathy and healthcare, and Padma Shri Savji Dholakia, founder and Chairman of Hari Krishna Exports, known for his leadership in the diamond industry and philanthropic initiatives. The other recipient was Dr Pradipta Mohanty, chairman of SN Mohanty Group of Companies, a stalwart in Odisha's industrial and edu-



cational landscape. In his convocation address, former Minister of State for Schools Nick Gibb lauded the KISS as "one of India's top academic institutions". Guest of Eminence Alan Gammel, MP, UK, hailed Dr Achyuta Samanta, founder of KISS and KIIT, as "a true visionary and social transformer" for his dedication to empowering marginalised communities through education. Dr Jeffrey B Liebman and Robert W Scrivner, Professor of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, USA, underscored the KISS' unique mission.

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
The State Government has provided Rs 8.96 crore as a first-phase assistance to 66 registered Goshalas (cowsheds) for the financial year 2024-25 for giving shelter and taking care of about 20,000 destitute cattle. Minister for Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Gokulananda Mallik distributed financial assistance to the Goshalas in a programme here. Mallik said, "It is our duty and responsibility to ensure the health and security of animals and birds which are very loyal to us and have played an integral role in our society." He said the assistance is provided under the initiative of the Mukhyamantri Prantikalyan Yojana for the care and maintenance of cattle resources.



The minister also distributed work orders to 13 animal welfare organisations for establishment of new Goshalas for rehabilitation of about 1,300 stray and destitute cattle. The organisations would be provided with an assistance of about Rs 5 crore when they become operational, he informed. Under the Mukhyamantri Prantikalyan Yojana, assistance ranging from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 52 lakh is being provided for establishment of new Goshalas for the purpose of rehabilitation and shelter of 50 to 150 destitute cattle. The government has also distributed go-ahead letters for establishment of 47 vermi-compost units. After establishment, an assistance of Rs 2.15 crore will be provided to these units and about 3,000 tonnes of vermi-compost can be produced annually.

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# MKCG issues: MLA holds review meet 2 Maoist dumps unearthed in Boudh

**RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAPUR**  
Brahmapur MLA K Anil Kumar has reviewed various problems of MKCG Medical College and Hospital in a review meeting here.  
The main issue, appointment of doctors and nurses in Blood Bank, Casualty, ICU, Labour Room, Dialysis, Radiology, Trauma Care, Plastic Surgery, Burn Unit, Orthopaedic and other departments was discussed. While Principal and Dean of MKCG Medical College Professor Dr Suchitra Dash presided over the meeting, Vice Principal Professor Dr Narendra



Behera, Registrar Sangram Sekhar Panda, HODs of different departments, Casualty Medical Officer, PWD Officer, representatives of Junior Doctors Association and Hospital Manager were present.

doctors in Casualty, ICU and other departments, PG students are attending serious patients. In this connection, the MLA drew the attention of Principal and Dean and advised to resolve the issue.  
It was decided to prepare an SOP for dispensing blood to patients. Opening of help desks in various disciplines, controlling illegal parking of ambulance and other vehicles, repairs of defective machines and accessories etc were discussed. In order to curb the menace of the middlemen/agents in hospital, it was resolved to form a multidisciplinary squad.

**PNS ■ BOUDH**  
Even as the Maoists are making an attempt to infiltrate into Odisha due to the spate of encounters by security forces in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, two Maoist dumps have been unearthed by police in Boudh district.  
The Maoist dumps were busted following a special operation launched by the Special Operations Group, District Voluntary Force and BD Squad in Bahabalakhol Reserve Forest area under the Manamunda police station in Boudh district on Thursday.  
The search operation was



carried out based on input and a dump was located near Kanpa village. Police said the security forces accessed the dumping point, demolished the dump yard with proper sanitation and recovered the Maoist articles.  
Later, the team received additional input from a source and proceeded to another location 3 km east of

Kuakumuda and excavated the dump with the assistance of the available team, ensuring proper sanitation.  
Several Maoist articles including detonators, wires, mobile chargers, walkie-talkies, radio antennae, batteries, grocery items and other literature were recovered from the dumps.  
It is not for the first time that the Maoist dumps have been busted by security forces in the State. On August 31, jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) had busted a Maoist dump and seized huge quantities of explosives in Malkangiri district.

## UTP death in custody NHRC asks CS to pay Rs 5L to victim's kin

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recommended the Odisha Chief Secretary to provide a Rs 5-lakh compensation to the family members of an under trial prisoner (UTP) Gobinda Sahu, who died in the Kantabanji Sub-Jail in Balangir district.  
The NHRC passed the order taking cognisance of a petition filed by advocate and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.  
Tripathy had earlier alleged that the death of Sahu in custody is violation of human rights laws. He sought for an independent and impartial investigation of the incident and heavy compensation to the bereaved family members, with legal action against the jail officials if they are found guilty.

Tripathy further stated that the cause of death of the UTP is given as asphyxia due to hanging. Though the inquiry Magistrate did not find negligence in the death of deceased, it is apparent that the deceased had committed suicide while in judicial custody.  
The legal position with respect to the custodial death due to suicide or assault by other co-inmates or due to medical negligence is quite clear and well settled. The Supreme Court and High Courts in number of judgments have upheld the vicarious liability of the State to pay compensation to the next of the kin of the deceased in such cases, the petitioner stated.  
The NHRC asked the Chief Secretary to submit the compliance report along with the proof of payment to the commission within eight weeks.

## Mishra honoured at Conf of Pulmonologists

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**  
Dr Narayan Mishra was bestowed with the highest national honour of the "Indian Chest Society-Lifetime Achievement Award 2024" during the National Conference of Pulmonologists at Coimbatore on November 21.  
The prestigious national award was given to him for his dedication, innovation, and excellence in the field of respiratory medicine throughout his career.  
His remarkable contributions to the advancement of respiratory care, research, and education have left an indelible mark in the field and inspired generations of medical professionals.  
The conference was attended by more than 2,500 chest physicians of India as



well as from abroad. The award was handed over to him in the inaugural function by the chief guest, former President, World Association of Bronchology and Professor of Medicine at Cleveland, USA Prof Atul C Meheta.  
It is worth mentioning that Mishra is a recipient of two international awards and more than 100 national awards for his academic activities in the field of respiratory medicine. He is known for his anti-tobacco movement in the country and has conducted more than 670 anti-tobacco awareness workshop. One of his huge anti-tobacco rallies on World Cancer Day on 4.2.2009 with more than ten thousand students at Brahmapur was the largest rally of its kind and was placed in the Limca Book of Records.

## LinkedIn Career Kickstarter workshop at BU



250 students join 2-day event  
**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**  
The Career Counseling Cell, Berhampur University, conducted a two-day workshop on LinkedIn Career Kickstarter on November 18 and 19 at Bhanja Bihar in collaboration with M/s 4D Career Education Private Limited, Coimbatore, a skill development organisation.  
More than 250 students from different PG Departments participated in the workshop which was formally inaugurated by the in Charge Vice Chancellor cum Chairman, Post Graduate Council of the university Prof Sukant K Tripathy. Two trainers, namely Nissi Teppali and Vyshnavi R conducted the workshop through lively discussions. The students appreciated the role of organisers for successful conduct of such workshop and valuable inputs. Dr SP Sahu offered the vote of thanks.

## Paradip 'Best Port of the Year-East Coast'

**PNS ■ PARADIP**  
The 11th International Samudra Manthan Awards 2024 was held recently in Mumbai to honour maritime excellence.  
The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) was adjudged as 'Major Port of the Year-East Coast' by the jury members in recognition of its exceptional services to maritime trade. PPA Chairman PL Haranadh received the award.  
Haranadh said the award stands testimony to the PPA's relentless efforts to achieve new milestones in operational excellence across the port industry. The prestigious award is testament to hard work and dedication of Team PPA. This port looks forward to continue its Numero Uno status among



the Indian Major Ports in coming times. Aiming to cross the 100-MMT cargo handling mark next month, much earlier than previous fiscal, this achievement highlights the Paradip Port's growing role as a critical hub in India's maritime sector. The port has consistently focused on enhancing its infrastructure, streamlining operations and embracing technological innovations to serve its stakeholders better.

## In JSpur No Mahaprayan vehicle: Body taken for cremation in trolley!

**KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSINGHPUR**  
In an unfortunate incident, a body was carried on a trolley from Raghunathpur CHC to the deceased's village, Sidhabhuin, for cremation on Wednesday due to lack of a Mahaprayan vehicle.  
Reports said one Babaji Bhoi of Sidhabhuin village under Raghunathpur block had been ill due to fever. After his condition turned critical on Wednesday morning, family members called an ambulance to shift the patient to the Raghunathpur CHC. But after a long period, the ambulance did not reach the village. As a result, ailing Bhoi was taken to Raghunathpur CHC on a trolley by a group of villagers.



As per the deceased's family members' complaint, the patient remained abandoned in the hospital for hours. At long last, a doctor who came to deliver treatment declared the patient as dead.  
Though the deceased's family members called the Mahaprayan vehicle several times, they didn't get any response. Finally, they were forced to carry the body on a trolley back to the village for cremation.  
After the body reached the village, interestingly an ambulance reached the village, which triggered a sharp reaction from the villagers.  
The unfortunate incident has disclosed the ugly underbelly of the health system in Odisha.

## Khan Academy's AI tool 'Khanmigo' for teachers

**Khan Academy**  
For free  
**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
Khan Academy, the global nonprofit committed to providing a free, world-class education to anyone, anywhere, has launched its AI-powered tool, Khanmigo, free for all teachers in India on November 14. As part of the launch, teachers will be able to access Khanmigo as a teaching assistant for free.  
Available in both English and Hindi, Khanmigo is an AI teaching assistant and student tutor designed to enhance teacher productivity and student learning. The launch builds on Khan Academy's commitment to making high-quality educational resources accessible and impactful across languages.  
Swati Vasudevan, Managing Director of Khan Academy India, said, "At Khan Academy, we believe that teachers are the key to unlocking each child's potential, and by providing Khanmigo, we're empowering educators to create personalized and impactful learning experiences for every student. Our goal is to break down barriers to technology access, enabling teachers to inspire and support the children of India in reaching their full potential."  
The tool is also available in over 40 countries.

# Green is new gold: Reclaiming India's environmental heritage

**PRADEEP KUMAR RATH**  
India, a land where nature has long been revered, now faces the daunting reality of being one of the most polluted countries in the world.  
Despite its rich cultural and spiritual traditions, which emphasize living in harmony with the environment, India has struggled to protect its natural resources. This disconnect between ancient wisdom and modern practices raises critical questions: How did we arrive at this point, and what can we do to realign with our environmental heritage?  
The Puranas and ancient Indian scriptures offer a profound ecological vision. They depict the natural world as sacred, with rivers, mountains, and forests personified as deities. This reverence for nature is not merely symbolic; it serves as a practical guide for sustainable living. The Puranas advocate for dharmic (righteous) use of resources, emphasizing that humanity must live in balance with nature to ensure its own survival. For instance, the concept of Prithvi Sukta in the Atharva Veda highlights the

importance of preserving the Earth's resources, warning against exploitation. The ancient wisdom aligns with modern principles of sustainability, where the overuse of natural resources leads to environmental degradation. Yet, despite these teachings, India today faces severe challenges in maintaining ecological balance.  
Mahatma Gandhi, often referred to as the Father of the Nation, had a vision of India that was deeply intertwined with nature. His philosophy of Swaraj (self-rule) emphasised not just political independence but also self-sufficiency at the community level, where people lived in harmony with their environment. Mahatma Gandhi's vision was simple living and ethical stewardship. Gandhi believed that true progress lay in reducing consumption and living simply. His famous quote, "The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed," reflects his belief in the ethical stewardship of resources. Gandhi's focus on village industries and decentralized economies was a blueprint for

sustainable living-one that minimized waste, promoted local resources, and respected the environment.  
However, Gandhi's vision of a self-sufficient, environmentally conscious India has been overshadowed by the demands of modernization and industrialization. The shift from rural to urban economies, coupled with the pursuit of economic growth, has led to unsustainable practices that Gandhi warned against.  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's environmental policies reflect a modern interpretation of India's traditional values. Under his leadership, India has launched several ambitious initiatives aimed at reducing its environmental impact and promoting sustainability. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), launched in 2014, is one of the largest cleanliness drives in the world. It aims to eliminate open defecation, improve solid waste management, and promote cleanliness across India. The initiative aligns with the Puranic concept of cleanliness as a spiritual practice, while also addressing

modern health and environmental concerns. Another significant initiative is the National Solar Mission, which aims to increase India's solar power capacity to 100 GW by 2022. This shift towards renewable energy is crucial in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions. As of 2023, India's solar capacity has reached over 60 GW, making it one of the fastest-growing solar markets in the world.  
Modi's vision also extends to water conservation with projects like Jal Shakti Abhiyan, which focuses on rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and rejuvenation of water bodies. These efforts resonate with ancient practices of water conservation, such as those mentioned in the Puranas, which emphasized the preservation of natural water sources.  
Despite these efforts, India continues to face significant environmental challenges. The reasons for this disconnect are multifaceted. The pursuit of economic growth has often come at the expense of environmental sustainability. Industries, mining activities,

and urban expansion have led to deforestation, pollution, and habitat destruction. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion, the demand for resources such as water, energy, and land is immense. This pressure has resulted in overexploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation. While India has a robust framework of environmental laws, enforcement has been inconsistent. Corruption, lack of political will, and bureaucratic inefficiencies have hampered effective action.  
India is home to 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities. The capital, Delhi, frequently records hazardous air quality levels, with PM2.5 concentrations far exceeding safe limits. According to the World Air Quality Report 2022, India's average PM2.5 level was 58.1 µg/m, nearly 12 times higher than the WHO guideline. India is facing a sewerage crisis, with over 600 million people experiencing high to extreme water stress. Groundwater, which provides 40% of India's water needs, is being depleted at an alarming rate, and nearly 70% of the country's water

is contaminated, making it a leading cause of death and disease. Between 2000 and 2020, India lost around 1.93 million hectares of tree cover, primarily due to agricultural expansion, logging, and infrastructure development. The deforestation has contributed to loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, and climate change.  
Despite challenges, India is making strides in renewable energy. The country has installed over 60 GW of solar capacity, but this is still short of the 100 GW target. Renewable energy accounts for 23% of India's total installed power capacity, showing progress but also highlighting the need for further expansion. To address these challenges and align India with its environmental heritage, a comprehensive approach is needed.  
The government must prioritize stricter enforcement of environmental laws. Corruption needs to be tackled, and penalties for environmental violations must be severe enough to deter offenders. Sustainable development requires collaboration between the

government, private sector, and civil society. Private companies should be incentivized to adopt green technologies, and public campaigns should be launched to raise awareness about environmental conservation. Practices like rainwater harvesting, organic farming, and afforestation, which are rooted in ancient wisdom, should be supported and scaled up. These methods are both environmentally sustainable and economically viable.  
Environmental education should be integrated into school curricula, and public awareness campaigns should emphasize the importance of sustainable living. This cultural shift must also involve a return to the values espoused in the Puranas and by Gandhi, where simplicity and ethical stewardship are paramount.  
India stands at a critical juncture where its rich environmental heritage and modern aspirations must converge. By embracing the philosophy that "Green is the New Gold," India can lead the world in sustainable development. (Mob: 9437500556)

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## NHRC notice to Telangana chief secretary, police head

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Taking cognisance of a complaint from the residents of Lagacharla village of Vikarabad district in Telangana, alleging police harassment, physical abuse, and false criminal charges, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of the Southern State, calling for a detailed report in the matter within two weeks. In a statement issued here, the commission has observed that the contents of the complaint, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights, which is indeed a matter of concern. The report is expected to include the status of the FIRs, persons in judicial custody and the villagers who, out of fear, are allegedly hiding in the forest areas without basic amenities. Citing media reports, the NHRC said that these actions allegedly occurred after the villagers protested the state's land acquisition for a proposed "Pharma Village" without following proper procedures. Most of the victims of the alleged atrocities claim to be from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities. The complaint has been submitted by at least 12 victims who visited the Commission praying for its intervention to save them from starvation in the matter.

# SC panel on farmers protests suggests MSP, income support

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

A Supreme Court (SC)-appointed panel on farmers' grievances and protests has filed its interim report, listing reasons for agrarian distress, which among others include stagnant yield, rising costs and debts and inadequate marketing system. The high-powered committee, constituted on September 2 under former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nawab Singh to resolve the grievances of farmers agitating at the Shambhu border, also suggested solutions including examining the possibility of giving legal sanctity to Minimum Support Price and offering direct income support. While forming the committee, the SC had observed farmers' protest should not be politicised. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan on Friday took the interim report on record and praised the committee for its efforts and framing of the issues to be examined and defuse the agitation. In its 11-page interim report, the panel said, "It is a well-known fact that the farming community in the country in general and that of Punjab and Haryana in particular has been facing an ever-increasing crisis over the last more than two decades." The stagnation in yield and production growth since the mid-1990s, after the initial higher gains of the Green Revolution, marked the beginning of the crisis, said the report. The panel said the debt



on farmers and farm workers increased manifold in recent decades. "In 2022-23, institutional debt of farmers in Punjab was Rs 73,673 crore, while in Haryana it was even higher at Rs 76,630 crore as per National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 2023. In addition, there is a significant burden of non-institutional debt on farmers, which is estimated to be 21.3 per cent of total outstanding debt on farmers in Punjab and 32 per cent in Haryana, according to 2019 report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)," the committee flagged. The committee also comprised retired IPS officer BS Sandhu, Mohali resident Devinder Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman and Punjab Agriculture University agricultural economist Dr Sukhpal Singh. It said that declining net farm productivity, rising production costs, inadequate marketing system and shrinking farm employment have contributed to the deceleration in

farm income growth. Small and marginal farmers along with farm workers are the most affected and vulnerable segments of this economic squeeze, it said. "As a matter of fact, rural society as a whole is under severe economic stress. At the national level, 46 per cent of total workers are absorbed in agriculture whose share in income is only 15 per cent," it said. "Not only this, there is a very high rate of disguised unemployment and a large number of unpaid family workers. A significant proportion among them is working-poor." The panel also said climate catastrophe and the resulting severity of the environmental changes, including depleting water table, frequent dry spells, excess rainfall pattern in some regions, heat waves etc., are impacting the farm sector and the food security in a big way. Management of crop-residue too has become a serious challenge in agriculture, it said. In its 11-page interim report, the panel said that additional

# AAP wrests Congress seats in Punjab by-poll

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH**



In a boost to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab, the party wrested three Assembly by-polls in Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Chabbewal, all three of which were vacated by Congress MLAs who were elected to the Lok Sabha while the Congress won the Barnala seat in the by-polls. With this victory, the AAP will have 94 seats and the Congress will have 16 in the 117-member Assembly. The AAP managed to breach the Congress bastion in Gidderbaha and Dera Baba Nanak segments, however, it lost its own stronghold of Barnala Assembly segment to the main Opposition party. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) drew a blank in the by-polls as its candidates remained at a distant third spot in the four seats. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) had stayed away from the by-polls. The by-polls, which took place on November 20, were necessitated after the incumbent legislators were elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year. The by-polls were seen as a litmus test for Punjab Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann, as a victory was important for him because his party faced a drubbing in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, in which it could win just three of the 13 Parliamentary constituencies in Punjab. The stakes were also high for the main opposition, Congress. Prestige was at stake for its MPs, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and Sukhjinder Randhawa, whose wives contested the by-polls from Gidderbaha and Dera Baba Nanak seats, respectively. The BJP was also looking to put up a strong show in the by-polls after it drew a blank in the General Election from the state. As the results came in, AAP leaders and workers burst fire-crackers, distributed sweets and danced to the beats of dhol, while victory marches were

taken out by the successful candidates in their respective constituencies. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann congratulated the people of Punjab for the "spectacular" victory in the by-polls. "Under the leadership of @ArvindKejriwal ji, Aam Aadmi Party is touching new heights day by day across the country. We are working day and night honestly and without any discrimination for the progress and prosperity of Punjab. We will fulfil every promise made to Punjabis during the by-elections on a priority basis. Best wishes to everyone," he posted on X. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, posted on X, the people of Punjab have once again expressed their faith in the ideology of the AAP and the work of the state government by giving three out of four seats to his party in the by-polls. In Gidderbaha, AAP candidate Hardeep Singh Dhillon defeated his nearest rival Congress nominee Amrita Warring, who is the wife of Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. In a three-cornered contest, Dhillon defeated Congress nominee Amrita Warring by a margin of 21,969 votes. Dhillon secured 71,644 votes while Amrita got 49,675 votes. BJP candidate and former finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal secured 12,227 votes while SAD candidate Sukhraj Singh got only 715 votes. AAP nominee Ishank Kumar Chabbewal won the Chabbewal segment in Hoshiarpur. He defeated his nearest rival and Congress nominee Ranjit Kumar by a margin of 28,690 votes. Ishank polled 51,904 votes while Congress party candidate Kumar secured 23,214 votes. BJP's Sohan Singh Thandal was on the third spot with 8,692 votes. The Chabbewal by-poll was necessitated after Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal, who was a Congress MLA but later joined the AAP, was elected to the Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur. Ishank, who is the son of Raj Kumar Chabbewal who represented the Chabbewal segment in 2017 and 2022 on Congress tickets. AAP candidate Gurdeep Singh Randhawa won the Dera Baba Nanak seat after he defeated Congress nominee Jatinder Kaur by a margin of 5,699 votes. In the fierce contest between the Congress and the AAP, Randhawa secured 59,104 votes while Kaur polled 53,405 votes. BJP candidate Ravi Karan Singh Kahlon could manage just 6,505 votes as he trailed at third spot. In the neck-and-neck contest, Kaur was leading from the third to the eighth round of counting. But later, Randhawa maintained the lead in the following rounds. Kaur is the wife of Congress MP from Gurdaspur Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who represented this seat in 2002, 2012, 2017 and 2022.

## Campaign against gender-based violence by Shivraj

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will launch the third edition of Nayi Chetna-Pahal Badlaav Ki, a national campaign against gender-based violence on November 25, an official statement said. Minister of Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi will also be present at the event in "a collective effort of the government to eliminate gender-based violence," a statement from the Rural Development Ministry said. The month-long campaign, organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, will run across the country until December 23. This initiative, led by DAY-NRLM's extensive Self-Help Group (SHG) network, embodies the spirit of Jan Andolan. The campaign is a collaborative effort and will witness participation of nine ministries and departments, including Ministry of Women and Child Development;

Health and Family Welfare; Department of School Education and Literacy; Home Affairs; Panchayati Raj; Social Justice and Empowerment and Information and Broadcasting. The Nayi Chetna campaign aims to amplify awareness and drive informed action against gender-based violence through grassroots initiatives. Since its inception, Nayi Chetna has mobilized millions nationwide, fostering a significant movement for gender equality and women's empowerment," Rural Development Ministry said in the statement. They said the first edition reached 3.5 crore people, supported by multiple ministries, while Nayi Chetna 2.0 engaged 5.5 crore participants across 31 States and Union Territories, with over nine lakh awareness activities on gender-based violence conducted nationwide. "The objectives of the campaign include raising awareness of all forms of gender-based violence, encouraging communities to speak out and demand action, providing access to support systems for timely assistance and empowering local institutions to act decisively against violence," the Ministry said.

## National Cadet Corps completes 76 years today

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has completed 76 years of its existence and made commendable efforts in increasing the strength of cadets, the defence ministry said on Saturday asserting that the Corps will touch the strength of 20 lakh in coming years. The largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, the NCC was raised in 1948. The Corps celebrate its 76th Raising Day on Sunday, November 24, 2024 the ministry said in a statement. The NCC has made commendable "efforts in increasing the strength of cadets by 3 lakh and will be touching the strength of 20 lakh in coming years", Rajesh Kumar Singh, defence secretary was quoted. He laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes on behalf of the entire NCC fraternity at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. On the 76th Raising Day, cadets are participating in march past at various cities and are involved in various cultural activities. As per tradition, pan-India blood donation camps are being organised.

## Ex-MLA files defamation case against complainant

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SHIMLA**

Chaitanya Sharma, a former MLA from Gagret in Himachal Pradesh's Una district, has filed a criminal defamation case against a contractor for accusing him and two others of cheating. Addressing a press conference in Gagret, Sharma said he has filed a criminal defamation case against Surendra Kumar who should be booked for offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act. On November 18, police filed a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy against Sharma based on a complaint lodged by Kumar accusing the BJP leader of cheating to the tune of Rs 8 lakh on the pretext of securing work in the Public Works Department (PWD). In his complaint, the builder alleged that Sharma's aides, Mahesh Yadav and Harshit Tiwari, got him to deposit Rs 6

lakh in an account besides taking Rs 2 lakh in cash from him for securing a contract in the PWD. However, he did not get the contract nor was the money refunded, Kumar claimed. Responding to the charges, Sharma said, "I did not receive any money and no amount was deposited in any of my accounts. I don't even know the person in whose account the money was supposedly deposited. If someone took money (for securing a contract), action should be taken against that person as per the law." "This is a political conspiracy against me, but I will fight against it," he added. Sharma was among six Congress MLAs who along with three Independents voted in favour of BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha elections held in February this year. Later, he joined the BJP and unsuccessfully contested the Assembly bypoll in Gagret necessitated by his disqualification from the Congress.

## We are all minorities: Justice KV Vishwanath

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**



Supreme Court judge Justice SKV Viswanathan on Saturday said lot of misinformation is spread through mobile apps such as WhatsApp University. "Nowadays a lot of misconception is there. We have this WhatsApp University. We should not get carried away by such messages. Lot of truth decay is happening," Justice Viswanathan said. The judge was speaking at an event at OP Jindal Global Law University. In his speech, the judge spoke about the importance of defending the rights of minorities. He

encompassed with religion; but it includes linguistic minorities also. It is very important to protect these rights also. Whether we are judges, legislature or executive, have to defend to hilt," he said. Justice Viswanathan said that the performance of India's Constitution can be seen in its smooth functioning and greatness of its citizens. "There has never been any threat of secession and that shows the greatness of our people. Because our Constitution recognised equality, diversity and guarantees rights. We have course corrected on ADM Jabalpur," Justice Viswanathan added.

## Kerala CM assures no one will be evicted from Munambam

**PTI ■ THIRUVANATHAPURAM**



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday assured that no one would be evicted from Munambam village, emphasizing his government's commitment to resolving the issues in the coastal hamlet without causing any hardship to its residents. The Chief Minister gave this assurance during an online discussion with the Munambam Struggle Committee (Munambam Samara Samiti). He also said that the government is working to find a permanent solution to the land issue and assured that no one with proper documents will be evicted. In order to ensure this, Vijayan informed the committee that the government has decided to form a judicial commission. In the villages of Cherai and Munambam in Ernakulam district, residents have alleged the Waqf Board was unlawfully claiming their land

and properties, despite the people holding registered deeds and land tax payment receipts. The state government has requested the Waqf Board not to take any action, including issuing notices, and the Board has agreed to this. The residents of the land will have the opportunity to present their claims and concerns before the commission, he said. Vijayan assured that his government will clarify its stance in the case currently pending before the court. The government will implead itself as a party in the ongoing cases of the residents before the High

Court on this matter, he stated. The government will initiate all possible steps to vacate the stay order by High Court preventing the residents from paying the land tax, CM added. The concerns of the residents will be presented before the court, he assured. The CM also requested the full cooperation of the residents to expedite the functioning of the commission. Revenue Minister K Rajan, Law Minister P Rajeev, Waqf and Minority Welfare Minister V Abdurahiman, Chief Secretary Saradha Muralidharan, Ernakulam District Collector N S K Umesh and Yypin MLA K N Unnikrishnan, Varappuzha Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil, Kottaparambil Bishop Ambrose Puthenveetil, Munambam Samara Samiti Chairman Joseph Sebastian, Convener Joseph Benny, K N Murugan (SNDP Yogam), and P J Joseph (local resident) also took part in the discussion.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, on Saturday hailed the party's grand win in Maharashtra as people's faith in the "double-engine" government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Thinking people for the "historic victory" of the Mahayuti alliance, Shah said that by giving such a "huge mandate amidst illusion and lies," people have shut shops of "fake well-wishers" of the Constitution -- a swipe at the opposition-led alliance, which had flagged the alleged threat to the Constitution from the saffron party and used claim as its main call to voters. BJP president JP Nadda said the landslide victory of the alliance was a reflection of the people's unwavering faith in the welfare policies and good governance of the double-engine government under Modi's able leadership. Rajnath Singh said the mandate underscored the people's trust in the BJP's commitment to good governance and development, and the credibility of the PM's stewardship. Amit Shah on X said, "Jai Maharashtra! Heartfelt gratitude to the people of Maharashtra for this historic



mandate." Maharashtra, the holy land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, B R Ambedkar, Jyotiba Phule and Veer Savarkar, has always kept culture and nation supreme along with development, the BJP leader said. By giving such a huge mandate amidst illusion and lies, people have shut down shops of those who are fake well-wishers of the Constitution. This is the victory of every Maharashtra resident," he said. Mahayuti alliance's victory is the victory of "politics of performance" of the double-engine government, he added. Nadda said people of the state completely rejected the dynas-

tic, appeasement and divisive politics of the opposition, including the Congress. The BJP president said his party accepted the mandate received in the Jharkhand assembly elections, where it suffered a big defeat from the incumbent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led alliance. In a democracy, people's mandate is paramount, he said. Shah praised the BJP workers in Jharkhand and asserted that fulfilling the aspirations of tribal society and protecting their identity was the top priority for his party. "The NDA's central government is committed to the development, progress and

protection of tribal heritage of the people of Jharkhand and under the leadership of Modi ji, we will continue to work in this direction. The BJP will play the role of a positive opposition in Jharkhand," he said. Union minister Nitin Gadkari said the BJP-led alliance consistently prioritised development. "I firmly believe that the double-engine government, inspired by PM Modi's vision, will accelerate the state's growth to greater heights," he said. The former BJP president also expressed sincere gratitude to the voluntary organisations that worked "tirelessly" to raise voters' awareness, a likely reference to the RSS and other

Hindutva organisations. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal termed his party's win in three out of four seats in the Punjab by-polls a "semifinal", asserting that the party is on course for another historic mandate in Delhi. "Over the past decade, we have established the Delhi model of governance that focuses on making life easier for the common man," he said. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, referring to the AAP's election symbol broom, said the party, which "used to clean homes and shops with a broom", was now cleaning "all of India" under Arvind Kejriwal's leadership.



# Dole and polarisation carry the day for Didi in by-polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The post RG Kar narrative failed to move the Trinamool Congress an inch from its place of strength even as the Bengal ruling outfit on Saturday clinched all the six Assembly seats that went to by-elections on November 13 by a bigger margin than what was recorded in 2021 Assembly elections.

Elections were held to six Assembly seats of Sitai, Madarihat, Naihati, Haroa --- in Coochbehar, Alipurduar and North 24 Parganas districts and Medinipur and Taldangra in West Midnapore and Bankura districts respectively. The by-elections tended to underscore the big point that rural and urban Bengal thought differently when it came to social-political issues and hardcore economics, experts said marveling at how Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's electoral strategies once again got the better of a burning woman-centric issue like post rape and murder of a lady doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital that led to Statewide stir for more than three months.

This, even as TMC's Sangita Roy won the Sitai seat by defeating BJP's Dipak Kumar Roy by a margin of 1,30,156 votes. In 201 the TMC won the seat by a margin of about 10,000. In neighbouring Madarihat also in North Bengal TMC's JP Toppo too won by a big margin winning the seat for the first time since its formation in 2000 and wresting it from the sitting BJP MLA.



In Haroa, TMC's Sk Rabul Islam won by defeating ISF nominee Piyarul Islam by 1,31,388 votes, The BJP's Bimal Das here got 13,570 votes. In Naihati, Sanat Dey defeated BJP's Rupak Mitra by a landslide margin of 48,912 votes, surpassing the 18,675-vote.

Similarly TMC's Falguni Singha Roy won the Taldangra seat in Bankura district by a margin of 34,000 votes. Medinipur seat in the neighbouring West Midnapore district was also won by the TMC by a whopping margin of 1.15 lakh votes.

With the Saturday's results the BJP's strength in Bengal Assembly came down to 67 in comparison to TMC's 226. The ISF has one seat and Left and Congress have none. Thanking the people for the victory the Chief Minister said, "we are not zamindars but watchmen of people adding "this is the victory of the people ... I would like to thank the 'Maa, Mati, Manush... Your blessings will help us continue working for the people... I will preserve this blessings in the core of my heart."

"We told you that the TMC will win all the six seats by sweeping margins and we proved that... this is because there is no leader who can challenge Mamata Banerjee's charisma and development works... in fact Narendra Modi is imitating Mamata Banerjee by instituting Laadli Behna and such other schemes which are just PR and advertisement exercises... but here in Bengal the Chief Minister is doing things from the core of her heart and the people are loving and appreciating it." TMC leader Kunla Ghosh said adding, "some people thought that the disinformation campaign post RG Kar would go against the TMC... but such stray movements I urban centres do not impact rural India."

Dismissing the victory Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said that his party was not worried about such results. "Don't worry we will win in 2026... such by-elections are conducted with money and muscle-power and often the ruling party wins so this will not have any impact on 2026 Assembly elections," he said. Union Minister and State BJP president said that his party would definitely form the Government in 2026. "In Kaliaganj by-elections we lost to BJP but in subsequent Assembly election in 2021 we won and even in the parliamentary elections we secured lead from there... so these by-elections do not matter much for us," he said. Meanwhile, in a related development the TMC congratulated the Congress candidate from Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi for winning the Kerala seat by a record margin. "They are a different party... I must not comment much on them but Priyanka Gandhi is the descendant of a historical family... she is the son of Rajiv Gandhi and granddaughter of Indira Gandhi... her victory demands congratulations... we congratulate her... there is not much to say," TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said.

## Gujarat: BJP wrestles Vav Assembly seat from Congress in close contest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD



BJP leader Swarupji Thakor on Saturday defeated his nearest Congress rival, Gulabsinh Rajput, by 2,442 votes in the bypoll to the Vav Assembly constituency in Gujarat, as per the ECI. Thakor surged past Rajput in the last two rounds. He bagged 92,176 votes, restricting Rajput to 89,734. Independent candidate Mavji Patel finished third with 27,195 votes. A total of 10 candidates were in the fray. The by-poll to the Vav assembly segment was necessitated following the resignation of Congress MLA Geniben Thakor after her victory from the Banaskantha Lok Sabha constituency. With the Vav victory, the BJP's tally in the

work put in by party workers. He had lost to Geniben Thakor in the 2022 assembly polls, which the BJP had swept. The seat is a Congress stronghold that had been won by Geniben Thakor in 2017 as well, and the presence of Mavji Patel, from the dominant Chaudhary community, was a cause of concern for the ruling party. Patel was suspended from the BJP for going against the party directives and contesting as an independent. Geniben Thakor won the Banaskantha Lok Sabha seat in June by defeating BJP's Rekhaben Chaudhary by more than 30,000 votes. Her win was the sole won for the Congress from the state in the 2024 general elections. The BJP won the remaining 25.

## Karnataka by-poll results: Have won in people's court, says CM Siddaramaiah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU



Buoyed by the assembly election by-polls, which saw the ruling Congress sweeping in all the three seats, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said he won in the 'people's court'. He gave credit to the guarantee schemes for the party's victory in the Assembly by-polls in Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna. "You know what Mahatma Gandhi said. He said people's court is better than the courts. Now people's court has given me its verdict," Siddaramaiah told reporters. This victory was significant for the Congress as the BJP and JD(S) formed an alliance, he explained. "We won from Kalyana Karnataka (Sandur), Kittur

Karnataka region (Shiggaon), and old Mysuru region (Channapatna). In all the places we won. So, this is very significant." "After our government came to power about one and half years ago, the BJP made false allegations on me and my government. They also spread lies about our schemes," Siddaramaiah said. The CM is an accused in the MUDA site allotment

scam where 14 sites in upmarket of Mysuru was allotted to his wife, Parvathi. After the controversy broke out, Parvathi returned the sites to MUDA. He also came down heavily on the opposition BJP and JD(S) for their lies and 'baseless allegations'. The Chief Minister also took a swipe at JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda and his son Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy for "crying" in public during elections. "Deve Gowda and his sons cry, but didn't their heart melt when several women cried in the Prajwal Revanna case in Hassan?" he asked. Former JD(S) MP and grandson of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, Prajwal Revanna is in jail for allegedly sexually assaulting several women and filming them.

## Bizzare twist: MP BJP Minister loses by-election

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL



In a bizarre turn of events in Madhya Pradesh, the minister Ramniwas Rawat lost by-election. Rawat's defeat is an embarrassment not to himself but to the entire BJP at State and national levels, and to Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. It is learnt that Rawat had insisted upon becoming a minister before getting himself elected as MLA. Rawat had contested the by-election being a

Forest Minister in the State Government. Rawat lost the by-election from his Vijaypur constituency by more than 7,300 votes. He was five-term MLA from Congress and before 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he has quit Congress and joined the BJP. Soon after the Lok Sabha elections, he was inducted in the State cabinet as Forest Minister. This outcome is a severe blow to Rawat himself and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the State.

# BJP-led Mahayuti's massive victory in Maharashtra to bolster Adani's Dharavi redevelopment project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

The massive victory for ruling BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra will bolster billionaire Gautam Adani-led group's more than Rs 26,000 crore project to redevelop Mumbai slum of Dharavi into a "world-class" district. Opposition Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) had pledged to reclaim all land given to the Adani group for redeveloping Asia's largest slum and promised to scrap the project altogether, if voted to power.

Nationalist Congress Party factions led by Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, winning more than three-fourths of the 288 seats in the Maharashtra assembly, those anxieties have now been set to rest. Adani plans to turn 620 acres of prime land, about three quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, into a glitzy urban hub. About seven lakh living in rickety shanties with open sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums located close to Mumbai's international airport, are to be given flats of up to 350 sq ft free of cost. The redevelopment had become a political hot potato with the opposition alleging that that group received undue favours from the state government in awarding the contract. The group has

denied benefiting from the government's favouritism. Project supporters in the ruling dispensation say the project holds out promise to make it a global model for slum redevelopment. While an estimated 1 million (10 lakh) reside in Dharavi, about 700,000 are thought to be eligible because of the resident definition of ones having proof of living in the area prior to January 1, 2000. The rest will get homes in other parts of the city, a proposal some locals opposed as they want no resident or business owner to be uprooted. Adani had in 2022 won a contract to remake the slum, which sits on prime real estate in the overcrowded financial capital, in seven years. Weeks before the poll, the Maharashtra Government had approved



the acquisition of 256 acres of salt-pan land for the Dharavi redevelopment. The salt-pan land is to be acquired from the central government and leased to the government of Maharashtra, which is redeveloping the 620-acre slum, the largest in Asia. The Dharavi Redevelopment

Project Pvt, in which the Adani Group holds an 80 per cent stake, along with the state government, is implementing the project. The land will be used to build low-cost and affordable housing for residents of Dharavi. A survey of existing residents and businesses is being done

to determine who would be rehoused in Dharavi or be relocated. The slums -- key backdrop in Oscar winner Slumdog Millionaire -- houses shanties where often eight people are squeezed in a 100-sq ft tenement and ten times that number sharing a toilet. Dharavi is also a massive hub for small-scale businesses ranging from leather goods to pottery and textiles. The Maharashtra Government in 2022 issued a new tender to redevelop Dharavi after an earlier remake deal was cancelled. Adani Group, which also runs Mumbai's airport and distributes electricity in the city, had in 2022 won the project by offering to pay Rs 5,070 crore -- more than 2.5 times the sum quoted by the next highest bidder -- to provide houses, with a

kitchen and a toilet, to eligible slum dwellers in revamped Dharavi. The group has an 80 per cent stake in the firm executing the project, with the remainder held by the state. Starting from the 1950s, the several state Governments had floated tenders to redevelop Dharavi, but none took off. The redevelopment essentially required acquiring large tracts of land, attracting investors to build modern utilities and resettlement of local residents. The current redevelopment plan -- the state government's fourth attempt via a global tender -- has made the most progress. The project aims to transform the slum, which is around the size of Monaco, into modern apartments, offices, and malls. Dharavi started as an

informal settlement for Muslim leather tanners but soon turned into a cosmopolitan melting pot with migrants from across India making it their home. As Mumbai expanded, the slum was no longer on the fringes of the city and is now home to a large collection of cottage industries. The Adani-led redevelopment project includes initiatives like sustainable transportation systems and modern infrastructure utilities. It includes vocational training to empower youth and aspiring workers in Dharavi, helping them secure eco-friendly jobs and improve their earning capabilities. These efforts are designed to create a more prosperous and environmentally friendly future for the community.

## Externed Meerut gangster ties knot in Bulandshahr, to miss wedding reception

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MEERUT (UP)

A notorious gangster recently externed from Meerut district, tied the knot in Sikandrabad, a neighbouring town in Bulandshahr. However, Salman who got married on Friday night will miss his own wedding reception, scheduled for November 26 in Meerut, due to the district ban imposed just a day before the 'nikah' (wedding). Externment is the prohibition of a prisoner from residing in any specified area or locality for a specified period. Sikandrabad Station House Officer (SHO) Ravi Ratan Singh, when asked about the wedding in Bulandshahr district, feigned ignorance. "We have no information about Salman's marriage," he said. Salman's brother, Aamir, however told PTI that the 'nikah' happened on Friday around 11 PM. "The walima (wedding reception) will take place at Castle View Mandap in Meerut, but Salman will not attend because of the district ban. The bride's family will bring her to the reception," he said. Aamir also alleged that



police and administrative officials arrived at their home on Thursday to deliver from the district ban notice, leaving the family no time to respond. "We were not given any prior notice about Salman's expulsion. Had we been informed earlier, we could have presented our case in court. But this sudden action has left us helpless," he said. The brother added that Salman has been living in Delhi for the past six months, working in the crockery business. "Over the last five years, no new cases have been registered against Salman. Despite this, the administration took a harsh action," Aamir claimed. Circle Officer (Kotwali Meerut) Ashutosh Kumar said,

booked under the Goonda Act by the district administration. On Thursday, the administration banned him from entering Meerut for six months. The Kotwali police pasted the notice at his home the same day. Salman had been released on bail six months ago and had since shifted to Delhi. However, he managed to reach the bride's house in Sikandrabad quietly before the wedding. Meanwhile, police have upped vigilance for the reception ceremony. "Police teams in uniform and plain clothes will monitor the walima and Salman's activities. If he enters Meerut, further action will be taken," Circle Officer (Kotwali Meerut) Ashutosh Kumar said.

## Congress sweeps by-polls to three Assembly segments in Karnataka

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU

In a boost to the ruling Congress in Karnataka, the party on Saturday swept the by-polls to three Assembly segments, causing a major setback to the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the state. The Congress has retained Sandur, the seat considered to be its strong hold, and has also bagged Shiggaon and Channapatna segments, which were earlier held by BJP and JD(S) respectively. The November 13 by-polls to Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna Assembly segments had witnessed a fierce fight between the ruling Congress and a combative BJP-JD(S) alliance. The by-polls to Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna were necessitated as the seats fell vacant following the election of their respective representatives -- E Tukaram of Congress, former CM Basavaraj Bommai of BJP, and Union Minister Kumaraswamy of JD(S) to Lok Sabha in May elections. The by-polls witnessed a straight fight between the ruling Congress and BJP in Sandur and Shiggaon segments, while in Channapatna, JD(S) which is part of the NDA alliance took

on the grand old party. Congress' C P Yogeeshwara won the Channapatna segment, defeating JD(S) candidate and Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy, by a margin of 25,413 votes. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai's son Bharath Bommai of BJP faced defeat against Congress' Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan in Shiggaon Assembly segment by a margin of 13,448 votes. In Sandur, Congress candidate E Annappa, the wife of Bellary MP E Tukaram, won the seat vacated by her husband, by a margin of 9,649 votes. Congress' win in the by-poll is seen as an endorsement of both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar's leadership, and the government's programmes, especially the five guarantee schemes. Nikhil Kumaraswamy and Bharath Bommai, the third generation of Gowda and Bommai family respectively, who contested this bypolls, have lost. Their fathers and grandfathers had served as Karnataka's Chief Ministers in the past. While for Bharath Bommai this was his electoral debut, for Nikhil it was his third electoral loss. Among the three segments, Channapatna was considered to be a high profile battle, where the

contest was between C P Yogeeshwara and actor-turned-politician Nikhil Kumaraswamy. A five-time MLA from the segment and a former Minister, Yogeeshwara had joined the Congress after quitting BJP ahead of nomination. There were plans to field Yogeeshwara on a JD(S) ticket, but he was not interested in it, and instead wanted Kumaraswamy to support him as BJP candidate. This was not acceptable to Kumaraswamy and his party, following which Yogeeshwara jumped ship. However, Kumaraswamy had subsequently said he had agreed to Yogeeshwara contesting from BJP, and despite that he jumped ship to Congress, under the influence of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and his brother and former MP D K Suresh. Nikhil had faced defeat in 2019 Lok Sabha and 2023 Assembly polls. It is seen as a setback for Kumaraswamy too, as he could not ensure son's win from the Channapatna, the seat he had twice represented in the past. Congress' win is crucial for Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress chief and his brother Suresh to strengthen their position in their home district of Ramanagara, a Vokkaliga heartland.

## Defamation case against Rahul Gandhi: Hearing postponed to December 4

PTI ■ SULTANPUR (UP)



The hearing in a defamation case against Congress leader and Rae Bareilly MP Rahul Gandhi was postponed on Saturday due to a legal workshop being organised at the civil court here, according to a lawyer. The special MP-MLA court has now scheduled the next hearing for December 4, said Santosh Kumar Pandey, the legal counsel of the plaintiff Vijay Mishra. The case was filed in 2018 by Mishra, a local BJP politician, who alleged that during the Karnataka assembly election campaign, Gandhi had made objectionable remarks against BJP leader Amit Shah. Over the past five years, the case has seen significant delays. In December 2023, the presiding judge issued a warrant for Rahul Gandhi after he failed to appear in court. In February 2024, he finally appeared and was granted bail on two bonds of Rs 25,000 each. The court later summoned him to record his statement. After multiple adjournments, Rahul Gandhi appeared on July 26, 2024, where he recorded his statement, declared his innocence, and called the case a "political

conspiracy." Following this, the court instructed the complainant to submit evidence. Since then, the case has been repeatedly postponed for various reasons, including the absence of judges, health issues of the complainant, and administrative reasons such as a medical camp organised by the Bar Association and Diwali vacations. The complainant had previously submitted an application citing his ill health on multiple occasions, leading to adjournments on several hearing dates, including October 1 and October 9. On October 9, Gandhi's lawyer Kashi Prasad Shukla cross-examined Mishra, during which he also submitted evidence. However, further hearings were delayed as the presiding judge was on leave on October 17, and October 31 was a holiday for Diwali.



# At least 11 killed, dozens injured in Israeli strikes in Beirut

### Diplomats push for ceasefire

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israeli airstrikes Saturday killed at least 11 people and injured dozens in central Beirut, officials said, as diplomats scrambled to broker a ceasefire. Lebanon's Health Ministry said the death toll could rise as emergency responders dug through the rubble looking for survivors. DNA tests are being used to identify the victims, it said, adding that 63 people were wounded. The strikes were the fourth in the Lebanese capital in less than a week. The escalation comes after US envoy Amos Hochstein traveled to the region this week in an attempt to broker a cease-fire deal to end the more than 13 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which has erupted into full-on war in the past two months.

Israeli bombardment has killed more than 3,500 people in Lebanon and wounded more than 15,000, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million, or a quarter of

Lebanon's population. On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by rockets, drones and missiles in northern Israel and in fighting in Lebanon.

### AIRSTRIKES REDUCE A BUILDING INTO RUBBLE

The strikes at 4 am destroyed an eight-story building and left a crater in the ground. Also on Saturday, a drone strike killed one person and injured another in the southern port city of Tyre, according to the state-run National News Agency. The agency said the victims were fishermen. An Associated Press journalist, who saw the strike from a nearby hotel overlooking the beach, said he had watched the fishermen set up nets beforehand and both appeared to be young teenagers. Israel's military did not issue a warning for residents prior to the strikes in central Beirut and did not comment on the casualties.

It warned residents Saturday in parts of Beirut's southern suburbs that they were residing near Hezbollah facilities, which the army would target in the near future. The warning, posted on X, told people to evacuate at least 500 metres (yards) away. The army said that over the past day it had conducted intelligence-based strikes on Hezbollah targets in Dahiyeh, in Beirut's

southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence. It said it hit several command centres and weapons storage facilities.

### AT LEAST 6, INCLUDING CHILDREN, DEAD IN GAZA

Strikes also continued in Gaza on Saturday. At least six people, half of them children and including two women, were killed in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to AP reporters and staff at Nasser Hospital. The death toll from the 13-month-long war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas has surpassed 44,000 this week, according to local health officials. The Gaza Health Ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count, but it has said that more than half of the fatalities are women and children.

The Israeli military says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead. Most of the rest were released during a cease-fire last year. The Israeli offensive in Gaza



Rescue workers and people search for victims at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon, early Saturday morning AP/PTI

has caused heavy destruction across wide areas of the coastal territory, leading many to wonder when or how it will ever be rebuilt. Around 90 per cent of the population of 2.3 million people has been displaced, often multiple times, and hundreds of thousands are living in squalid tent camps with little food, water or basic services. The United Nations humanitarian office warned of a 'stark increase' in the number of

households experiencing severe hunger in central and southern Gaza. In Deir al-Balah, local bakeries shut down for five days this week and the price of a bag of bread climbed above USD 13, as bread and flour vanished from shelves before more supplies arrived. At least two women were fatally shot on Saturday while waiting in a line for bread in the city, relatives and witnesses told the AP.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform the public at large that Mr. Ashok Khandekar wishes to purchase a plot of land bearing no. 1224, area measuring 48,375 Sq. Meters, Situated at Sector-7 Extn., Residential Colony to be known as Urban Estate, Tehsil and Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana from Mr. Narendra Kumar owner vide Sale Deed dated 14.10.2004 (vide Doc. No.14693) executed by Mr. Sanjay Arya and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. That, (1) Original Possession Certificate in favour of Mr. Kulkarni Mohan, (2) Original ATS in favour of Mr. Sanjay Dudeja, (3) Original WILL in favour of Mr. Sanjay Dudeja, (4) Original Conveyance Deed dated 17.11.2003 (Vide Document No.11029) in favour of Mr. Kulkarni Mohan through GPA Mr. Sanjay Dudeja, (5) Original Transfer Letter in favour of Mr. Sanjay Arya are lost/not available. If any person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Lucien Legale, Notary Public, Second Floor, Top, Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301>ContactNo:9120-4299379

### THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohd Idrees Qureshi S/o. Haji Shabbir Ahmad, R/o. D-01, 1st floor, Pocket 9-A, DDA (HIG) Flats, Jasola Heights, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 have declared that my name is mentioned as Mohammad Idrees Qureshi in my passport No.M6528586 but my correct name is Mohd Idrees Qureshi.

PD(961)A

I, Mourani Bera Maity W/o-14857705H NK/SHT Swadesh Kumar Maity, R/o- Vill+Post-Mohar, R.S.- Sabang, Dist-Paschim Medinipur, W.B.-721161, declare that in my husband's service records, my name is erroneously written as Mourani Maity, whereas my correct name is Mourani Bera Maity which may be amended accordingly.

PD(962)C

I, Arun Bajpai Mother of- JC-709135P Nb/Sub Satish Kumar, R/o- Vill- Ghatampur Khurd, Post+Teh- Bighapur Patan, Dist- Unnao, U.P.-209865, have changed my name from Arun Bajpai to Arun Kumari, vide affidavit dated 23/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(963)C

I, hitherto known as Chandra Kanta W/o- Late Shri Manohar Lal, R/o- Near Hanuman Mandir, D - 11, Maya Vihar Nangal Raya, Janak Puri South West Delhi-110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rani Chander Kanta.

PD(964)C

I, Farhat Rahman W/o. Tafsir Mohammad Khurshid Uzzaman, R/o. E-154/4, 2nd Floor, Shaheen Bagh, AFE Part-2, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 declare that my husband's name has been wrongly mentioned in my old Passport Application form as Mohammad Tafsir Uzzaman instead of Tafsir Mohammad Khurshid Uzzaman.

PD(965)A

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed through this notice that, Indrajit Sharma S/O, Vaid Shri Mukesh Raj Sharma R/O, 524, Pocket No 2 Paschim Puri, Madipur, Delhi and Gauri P/Sri Ghanasham Singh S/O, Shri Asa Ram R/O, 525, Pocket No 2 Paschim Puri, Madipur, Delhi, has lost the original documents i.e. the original title, confirmation letter and the possession slip, handed over to me by Sh. Ghanasham Singh on account of sale of L.P. Flat to me in the year 1977. Anybody who find or gets to locate or trace the said documents is requested to please deliver/send them at my above name and address.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Ram Ji Gupta is in process to purchase the property bearing No. 113, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., Situated in the area of Village Sirohara Khurd, in the abt. known as Gali No. Kousha No. 1036, in Block B, Amrit Nagar, Meerut (having loan from PCHFL from Nagpur) Shri. Ramji Gupta having acquired the said property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 15/10/2024. (Document No. 110080) by way Sale Deed executed by Virender Kumar Singh Malik, Jitender Singh Malik, Sarita Dhary and Anita. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property, or any part thereof, or any type of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us within 7 days from the date of receipt of the said notice mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower Sector 4, Vashtahi, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9811009355

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sonika has acquired Portion bearing P. no. G-4, on Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to be used for the purpose of the said Act, in an area measuring 900 sq. fts., but on Old Property bearing nos. 659 and New No. 659/3, area measuring 350 sq. yds., comprising of Khassra No. 659, situated at Village Devli, New Delhi 110040 by way Sale Deed dated 27.08.2021. Doco no. 5983.

Documents related to the above said property has been misplaced i.e. Original Sale Deed dated 27.08.2021 executed by Mr. Sanjay Kaushik in favour of Mrs. Sonika in respect of the above said Property, registered as Document No. 5983, anyone who find the said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Khassra Housing Finance Ltd., Plot No. 113, Office No. 167-169, 3rd Floor, Little Mount, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015 or handover the same to Mrs. Sonika W/o. Deepak Kumar R/o. Kirti Colony, Faridabad, Haryana - 121003. Contact: +91-8860334483 or +91-982727587.

### CORRIGENDUM NO. 03 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. : CPM-MLG-HQ-GC-2024-01

The following changes have been made in Tender Notice No. CPM-MLG-HQ-GC-2024-01 (open tender): Date: 21-11-2024. Name of work: Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of General Consultant for N.F. Railway, Gati Shakti Unit. Approx. value: ₹14,88,08,535.16. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. on 09-12-2024. For details please visit www.irps.gov.in. Please read the modified conditions after pre bid meeting and clarifications of query of bidders.

### CPM/GSU/Mailgaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"Serving Customers with a smile"

### POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer Akasa Finance Limited (formerly known as Pojia Finance Ltd.), under the Sanitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 11.11.2023, calling upon the addressee to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs.7,07,45,808/- (Rupees Seven Crore Seven Lakhs Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Only) due as on 18th October, 2023 along with full and final interest at the rate of 18% per annum from the date of receipt of the said notice. The said borrower, co-borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, co-borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to be used for the purpose of the said Act, in an area measuring 900 sq. fts., but on Old Property bearing nos. 659 and New No. 659/3, area measuring 350 sq. yds., comprising of Khassra No. 659, situated at Village Devli, New Delhi 110040 by way Sale Deed dated 27.08.2021. Doco no. 5983. The attention of borrower, co-borrower and mortgagor is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to be used for the purpose of the said Act, in an area measuring 900 sq. fts., but on Old Property bearing nos. 659 and New No. 659/3, area measuring 350 sq. yds., comprising of Khassra No. 659, situated at Village Devli, New Delhi 110040 by way Sale Deed dated 27.08.2021. Doco no. 5983. The borrower/mortgagor/Guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Akasa Finance Limited, for the amount of Rs.7,07,45,808/- (Rupees Seven Crore Seven Lakhs Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Only) due as on 18th October, 2023, subject to the deduction of the amount of Rs.52,50,000/- paid on 9th Feb 2024, 9th Feb 2024 & 10th Feb 2024 with full and final interest at the rate of 18% per annum from the date of receipt of the said notice. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SECURED ASSET WITH OTHER DETAILS:

1. Shri Rajnish Kanti S/o Shri J.S. Kanti (Borrower/Mortgagor) 2. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 3. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 4. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 5. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 6. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 7. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 8. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 9. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 10. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 11. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 12. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 13. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 14. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 15. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 16. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 17. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 18. Smt. Manisha Rajnish Kanti (Co-borrower/Mortgagor) 19. Smt. 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# Team India take commanding 218-run lead against Australia

PTI ■ PERTH

Yashasvi Jaiswal combined game awareness with perfect shot selection while KL Rahul remained technically unflappable in an unbroken opening stand of 172 as India looked set to bat Australia out of the match with an overall lead of 218 runs on the second day of the opening Test here. After skipper Jasprit Bumrah's game-changing 11th five-wicket haul decimated Australia for 104, young Jaiswal (90 batting, 193 balls) and seasoned Rahul (62 batting, 154 balls) decided to grind it out with some old fashioned Test match batting by waiting for the loose deliveries and respecting good fast bowling. The Indians showed their compact defense by scoring 88 runs in 31 overs during the post-tea session as Jaiswal inched towards a coveted ton on his maiden outing on Australian soil. With enough time at their disposal and signs of cracks appearing on the surface,

this is going to be India's Test match to lose. The way Rahul wore down the Australian attack was a sight to behold. There was no chatter from the slip cordon and at one point, the stitches of the Kookaburra came out. The live grass died by the second afternoon and the seam movement also went out of equation making batting easier. But no one can take away any credit from the two who were hardly troubled except for a mix-up that could have led to Rahul's run-out. Jaiswal also showed that he had learnt his lessons from the first innings and curbed his urge to drive on the up initially, which was the best part about his batting. Each of his seven fours and two sixes were well-executed shots. Once he had defended enough deliveries, the Australian pacers didn't have any option but to try either short or full length which he utilised well. The whip over mid-wicket to hit Starc for one-bounce four and then induce a grin from



the pacer by telling him "you are slow," spoke volumes about how fearless the

current generation of Indian cricketers is. In the final session, he

flicked him for good measure for a maximum. Rahul's back-drive off Pat

Cummins can easily be called the shot of the match but it was heartening to see

Jaiswal put in a big stride forward while driving Mitchell Starc through covers apart from getting under the bounce and playing the ramp shot. In case of Rahul, he kept a very loose bottom-hand and that helped with the deliveries, even the ones that took the thickish edge only to fall way in front of the slip cordon. There was a spell of play in the post-tea session when Indians were kept quiet by Nathan Lyon but neither Jaiswal nor Rahul ran out of patience. Jaiswal's half-century came off 123 balls, his slowest in 15 Tests and spoke volumes about his adaptability. For Rahul, it was about forgetting the unfortunate dismissal on Friday and concentrate, which he did splendidly. Any target above 300 would be very difficult to chase on this track and Washington Sundar can come into play if those cracks open up, not to forget the three quicks who can use the variable bounce to good effect. In the morning, India

captain Bumrah deservedly got his 11th five-wicket haul while debutant Harshit Rana bowled a fiery opening spell to dismiss the hosts for 104 at the stroke of lunch despite a stiff last-wicket resistance from Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood. Starc (26 off 113 balls) shielded Hazlewood (7 not out off 31 balls) admirably during their 25-run last-wicket stand that lasted 18 overs. The day began with Bumrah (5/30 in 18 overs) getting one to rear up from back of the length and Carey's edge carried at a good height to Rishabh Pant behind stumps. The skipper's celebration was understated as he purposefully strode back to his bowling mark even before Nathan Lyon had arrived. At the other end, the burly Harshit Rana (3/48 in 15.2 overs) carried on from where he had left off on the opening day. The rookie speedster used more short balls, and one such well-directed delivery accounted for Lyon, who was pounced at gully by KL Rahul.



## I'll make Deepika world's best drag-flicker: Harendra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's hockey team's chief coach Harendra Singh says fast-rising striker Deepika has the potential to be a brilliant drag-flicker as well and helping her realise that potential will be one of his primary targets along with ensuring that the team's fitness levels never fall on his watch. Unlike most dragflickers in the world, who are defenders, Deepika is a striker and showed her brilliance with field goals in the recently-concluded Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, Bihar. She emerged as the highest goal-scorer in the tournament with 11 strikes, mostly field efforts. "I am not concerned about PCs because I know we are working and we are going to eradicate this problem very soon. I know we are looking at instant coffee from Deepika but I am sure I will make her one of the best drag-flickers of the world in women's hockey just like I made Harman," Harendra told PTI in an exclusive interview referring to his stint with men's team and the work done with its star captain Harmanpreet Singh.

"We need to give her some time, she is just 21. She has already become a star. She is a good scorer from field play, and she will become a very good drag-flicker as well," he said. Harendra described Deepika as "special" but he said her approach to drag-flick needs to be work on. "I am sure very soon she will get the results," he said. "Mentality matters and her mentality has changed and she wants to be the best player. But it's always a process, we can't jump so fast. I am working on small details with her." The chief coach, however, was satisfied with the performance of the players in the ACT and said it is just the first step towards his mission for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "Whatever was the target, we have achieved but there are a lot of things which we need to achieve. We have improved on our attacking style, defence and circle penetrations. Whatever we took shots on goals were quality ones. "Paris is past...There was no point sitting and crying over it, rather it was important to move forward and work on the areas where we needed to

improve," he said. "We had one-on-one fruitful meetings with the players where we got in-depth details on all aspects and made a chart about what needs to be done and worked on what was in our hands." Fitness is one area which Harendra had emphasised on since taking over in April this year and he is quite happy with the results although he feels there is still scope for improvement. "The icing in the cake was the one-week camp in the INA (Indian Naval Academy) which Hockey India provided us. It played big role in team-building and team unity. But to be frank the journey has just started, we can't be happy," he said. "Fitness is the biggest concern. The first day I joined, I made it clear that whoever you may be, how bigger players you might be but if you are not fit you won't be part of the side. Whoever is not fit can't board this bus, this was my clear directive." Harendra said his vision is LA 2028 and earning a direct ticket to the quadrennial event through the World Cup, to be jointly hosted by Belgium and Netherlands and the Asian Games in Japan, both in 2026.

## Harshit Rana has potential to become multi-format bowler for India: Coach Negi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Harshit Rana's meteoric rise might have come as a surprise to many but not his coach in his formative years, NS Negi, who has seen the strapping youngster mature into a pacer with the "potential to become a multi-format bowler for India." Starting as a net bowler for Gujarat Titans in 2022, Harshit played a key role in guiding Kolkata Knight Riders to IPL glory in 2024, and announced his arrival on the international stage with a dream debut in the opening Border-Gavaskar Test at Perth, where he returned figures of 48 for 3 in the first innings. Negi, Harshit's coach from his U19 days in Delhi, couldn't hide his joy on seeing his ward's exploits on a bouncy and seaming Perth pitch. "Harshit is a very talented bowler. He had been bowling extremely well in the last two seasons of the Ranji Trophy. Last year, when I was the



fielding coach of the Delhi Ranji team, he made his debut and bowled extremely well. "It is just the beginning; he is one such player who should go on and play at least 70-80 Test matches for India... In fact he should go on and play all three formats for India," Negi told PTI Videos in an interview. Rana inclusion in the side raised many eyebrows given the fact that he had

just 10-odd first-class games under his belt. But Negi felt this was the right time to debut him in Tests given his amazing bowling statistics. In 10 first-class matches, Harshit has taken 43 wickets at 24.00 and has an impressive batting average of 42.63, including a blazing unbeaten 122 against North-East Zone. Negi and Rana met in 2018 when the fast bowler was selected to play for the Delhi U19 team. Negi, who has also been associated as a fielding coach with Gujarat Titans in the IPL, said that Harshit always had the drive to bowl fast but gradual improvements in fitness played a big role in his success. "In 2018, when I was the head coach of the Delhi U19 team, I noted that he had a very smooth action and a good rhythm. He could bat well. He worked on his fitness and pace and gradually improved as a bowler. "The most important thing is that he is a fighter. When I first picked

Mayank (Yadav) and Harshit in the team, they were both very raw but promising. I just hope that he continues to work on his fitness and gradually keeps increasing his pace," said Negi. Negi believes that Harshit has the ability to come good with the bat lower down the order. His advice to the youngster is to learn as much as possible from pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and keep bowling to his strengths to succeed in international cricket. "He is a good batter as well and in the coming years may perform well with the bat as well. He is someone who can easily score 30-40 odd runs batting lower down the order for India. "Harshit should keep a check on his fitness and try to learn a lot from the modern-day legend, Jasprit Bumrah. He just needs to back his strengths while bowling and that will help him succeed in the international cricket... He has the talent, bounce and pace," concluded Negi.

## Tilak Varma makes record-setting hundred; Shreyas smashes ton ahead of IPL auction

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tilak Varma became the first batter ever to notch three successive hundreds in T20s, while Shreyas Iyer underlined his credentials with a smooth century ahead of the IPL mega auction, as the two Indian batters hogged the limelight in the first round of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy on Saturday. In a Group A match, Tilak, who made hundreds recently against South Africa at Centurion and Johannesburg, added one more three-figure knock to the list against Meghalaya in Rajkot. The left-hander made 151 off just 67 balls with 14 fours and 10 sixes to guide Hyderabad to 248 for four in 20 overs. In the process, he also became the first Indian male cricketer to score a 150-plus score in T20s. India woman batter Kiran Navgire had made a 162 for Nagaland against



Arunachal Pradesh in the senior Women's T20 Trophy in 2022. Opener Tanmay Agarwal supported his skipper Tilak with a 55 off 23

balls. Anikethreddy and Tanay Thyagarajan shared seven wickets among them as Hyderabad bundled

out their rivals for 69 to celebrate a massive 179-run victory. Shreyas shines Shreyas, who was released by Kolkata Knight Riders despite leading them to the IPL 2024 title, made a timely reminder about his skills with an unbeaten 57-ball 130 (11x4, 10x6) for Mumbai against Goa in a Group E match. Shreyas' hundred led Mumbai to 250 for four, but Goa made a spirited chase before ending up at 224 for eight, going down by 26 runs. Suyash Prabhudesai was their top-scorer with a 52 off 36 balls. Brief scores Hyderabad 248/4; 20 overs (Tilak Varma 151, Tanmay Agarwal 55) beat Meghalaya: 69; 15.1 overs (G Anikethreddy 4/11, Tanay Thyagarajan 3/15) by 179 runs. Mumbai 250/4; 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 130 not out) beat Goa 224/8; 20 overs (Suyash Prabhudesai 52, Vikash Singh 47 not out; Suyansh Shedge 2/18) by 26 runs.

## Australia coach McDonald surprised about behaviour of wicket on day two

PTI ■ PERTH

The home team bowlers did not put a foot wrong but the pitch dried up quite quickly at the Optus stadium on the second day, eventually helping the Indian batters, and Australia head coach Andrew McDonald. India opens Yashasvi Jaiswal (90) and KL Rahul (62) frustrated the hosts with their dogged unbeaten 172-run stand that has put the game in firm control of the visitors, who now lead by 218 runs. While the wickets fell in heap on the opening day with as many as 17 batters getting out, only three Australian tail-enders were dismissed on the second day. "The surface looked considerably dry today. It dried out fairly quickly," said McDonald during the post-day press conference.

"We thought there may have been a little bit more there. So, I suppose if you want to say that we were a little bit surprised, yeah, there wasn't as much seam movement or swing. "The bowlers were presenting the seam in a similar fashion to they were yesterday. So I think the conditions may have had some say in that." McDonald said there was hardly any assistance for seam or swing, compared to the first day. "If you look at the seam and swing, it was down comparative to yesterday. Yesterday was difficult work, I thought KL (Rahul) and Jaiswal played extremely well also. "You need to ride your luck a little bit. Our guys got the balls in the right areas, and there was some plays and misses as well, so anything can happen if you get some edges on

that. It could be a totally different day, but I think the conditions have changed, I'll state that," he said. "In terms of the way that we bowled, I don't think it was too dissimilar, potentially early on we may have been a fraction short, if it was to be critical, but I thought they went about their work well, it could have been a different day." However, McDonald does not stand a chance in the series-opener, pinning hopes on the nature of Test cricket that keeps both the teams in hunt till the end. "You've got the driver's seat at the moment, but that's not to say that tomorrow can't change very quickly. Test cricket ebbs and flows, we've all been a part of a game when you've been well ahead of the game and it can twist and turn, so we've got to get to work on what it looks like for us tomorrow morning,"



he said. "It's about 20 odd overs to the second new ball, we've got to work out a way to navigate through a few batters before that second new ball arrives and that could be our entry point back into the game." He thought admitted that they have to "get tactics right". "If we're too aggressive then the scoreboard runs and then you put yourself right up against it. So it's a real combination about

controlling the tempo of the game and creating opportunities within that." From the situation that India have batted themselves into, it is real a possibility that the hosts maybe looking at stiff chase of beyond 400 but McDonald would prefer not to look that far ahead. "We're not looking that far ahead, we've got 10 wickets to take first, so that's our first focus. No, no targets, clearly 10

wickets to get, first priority, then we'll move from there." Talking about the frantic first day, the Australia coach admitted that it could be due to the nerves the players of both the teams felt due to the occasion.

"No doubt both the teams would have had some nerves there leading into a big series, so there might have been some error on the back of that, but I think as a batting unit when you get a look at a wicket and

then obviously your bowlers go about their work and you get a second up opportunity, I think it looks a little bit different in terms of your mindset, your knowing what to expect and you can work from there."

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, WATCO DIVISION, PURI, ODISHA**  
 Phone: 06752-223447 / E-Mail: eephpuri@gmail.com  
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
 Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice  
 Bid Identification No. 18 of 2024-25 Dated. 14.11.24.

- Name of the Work: - Implementation of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) 2.0 in STP Mangalaghat, Puri.
- Estimated Cost: - Rs 42.47 Lakhs
- Period of Completion: - 6 Months
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal :- 26.11.2024 (11.00A.M) to 11.12.2024 (5.00P.M)
- Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal :- 5.00P.M of 30.11.2024
- Date and time of opening of bids:- 12.30 P.M of 12.12.2024
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- General Manager, WATCO Division, Puri Phone: 06752-223447, Fax: 06752-223447, E-Mail: eephpuri@gmail.com

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. **gsl**  
 OIPR-18206/11/00772425 General Manager, (WATCO, PURI)





# THE SABARMATI REPORT



THE FILM UNVEILS THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL CLOUT AND JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY IN THE WAKE OF A HISTORICAL TRAGEDY, SAYS **ABHI SINGHAL**

**D**irected initially by *Ranjan Chandel* and later helmed by *Dheeraj Sarna*, *The Sabarmati Report* intricately explores the interplay of political dominance and media influence against the backdrop of one of India's most contentious events—the *Godhra train* burning incident of February 27, 2002. This film, inspired by real-life events surrounding the *Sabarmati Express* tragedy, delivers a compelling narrative steeped in investigative journalism, political

dynamics, and the moral dilemmas of media reporting. The movie begins with an electrifying depiction of the bustling newsroom environment, immediately pulling viewers into the heart of the journalistic world. The talented cast, led by *Vikrant Massey* as *Samar Kumar*, *Raashii Khanna* as *Amrita Gill*, and *Riddhi Dogra* as *Manika Rajpurohit*, along with *Barkha Singh's* impactful cameo as *Shloka*, infuses life into the gripping storyline. The plot meticulously recreates the harrowing events of the

*Godhra train* incident, where 59 individuals, predominantly Hindu pilgrims and karsevaks returning from Ayodhya, tragically perished in a devastating fire. With a meticulous portrayal of the horrific aftermath, the movie confronts viewers with the sheer magnitude of the tragedy while shedding light on the media's struggle to strike a balance between truth and sensationalism. *Riddhi Dogra's* portrayal of *Manika Rajpurohit*, an English news anchor with an air of arrogance and confidence in her abilities,

adds depth to the media-focused narrative. The first half captivates audiences with its vivid storytelling and intricate character development. However, it is post-intermission where the film takes a gripping turn, delving into the core of the investigative efforts to uncover the truth behind the train-burning case. *Vikrant Massey* delivers a masterful performance as *Samar Kumar*, transitioning from an idealistic journalist to a relentless investigator with remarkable ease. His character's transformation is

riveting, offering a nuanced look at the challenges faced by those who dare to question authority. *Raashii Khanna* shines as *Amrita Gill*, a determined intern navigating the salted waters of media politics. Her journey alongside *Samar* not only drives the narrative forward but also marks a significant milestone in her acting career. While the film boasts strong performances and a compelling storyline, it does falter slightly in its attempt to inject humour into serious moments, which at times feels forced and disrupts the

intensity. The background score, however, compensates by effectively amplifying the gravity of each investigative sequence, adding a layer of immersion for the audience. *The Sabarmati Report* follows in the footsteps of recent titles like *The Kashmir Files* and *The Kerala Story* of having hits and more profits. The film has a crafting a fiery and provocative narrative designed to resonate with viewers on an emotional level. However, it stands apart by striving to present a nuanced perspective on media

ethics, to take out the truth and the complex interplay of truth and political agendas. With good performances which could have been improved while playing the characters, a thought-provoking storyline, and a reflection on the moral quandaries of journalism, *The Sabarmati Report* is a cinematic endeavour that not only entertains but also compels viewers to question the very fabric of truth and power in today's world. **RATING: 4/5**



By **SAKSHI PRIYA**

**S**hoppers Stop, one of India's premier destinations for fashion and lifestyle, recently unveiled its much-anticipated wedding collection with a show-stopping fashion event at Ambience Mall in Delhi. Choreographed by the renowned *Marc Robinson*, the runway was set ablaze with a stunning display of elegance, tradition and contemporary glamour, making it a night to remember for fashion enthusiasts and wedding planners alike. The fashion show was a celebration of the multifaceted world of Indian weddings. With each look carefully curated to reflect the different stages of a wedding celebration, the show presented a variety of styles, from vibrant Haldi attire to intricate Mehendi looks. There were regal Wedding ensembles, striking Reception pieces and chic Cocktail attire that perfectly balanced tradition with modern aesthetics. The collection also included sophisticated outfits for Destination weddings, catering to the growing trend of weddings in exotic locales. What truly stood out was the sheer attention to detail in every outfit. The models strutted down the runway in exquisitely crafted garments, flamboyant lehengas, royal sherwanis, and embellished sarees, each reflecting the intricacy of Indian craftsmanship. Rich fabrics such as silks, velvet and brocade were paired with delicate embroidery, beadwork and sequins, making the outfits feel both luxurious and timeless. The Haldi outfits in shades of yellow were a burst of joy, while the Wedding and Reception ensembles in regal reds and golds exuded grandeur and sophistication. The choreography of the show also played a crucial role in enhancing the storytelling of the

## SHOWCASING THE FUTURE OF WEDDING FASHION



evening. Each segment flowed effortlessly into the next, with the models movements reflecting the celebratory mood of the wedding journey. The beauty of the outfits was complemented by the elegant styling, with hair and makeup that ranged from soft, natural looks for Mehendi to bold and glamorous statements for the Reception. Adding to the grandeur were the accessories statement jewellery, intricately designed clutches and shoes that perfectly matched the bridal looks. These final touches elevated the overall aesthetic, making each ensemble feel complete. The show wasn't just about clothes; it was about showcasing the essence of Indian wedding traditions with a modern twist. *Shoppers Stop's* new wedding collection, available across its stores and online, is more than just a display of luxury fashion; it is a celebration of every aspect of Indian weddings. From the first haldi ceremony to the grand reception, the collection offers something for every moment, ensuring that customers can find the perfect ensemble for every wedding occasion. With over 500 premium brands to choose from, it has positioned itself as the ultimate destination for wedding shopping, combining high-quality craftsmanship with contemporary flair. The fashion show was an impressive showcase of the brand's dedication to providing stylish, accessible and diverse options for wedding wear. **PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR**

## Preserving India's Constitutional Legacy

O.P. Jindal Global University inaugurates India's first Constitution Museum, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

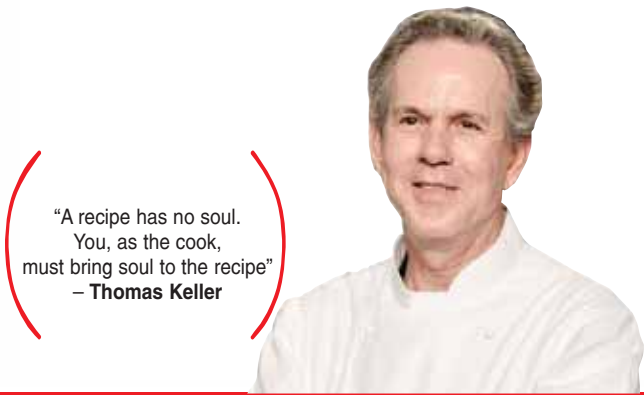


**I**ndia's political history is a tapestry of landmark events, judicial milestones, and moments that merit broader recognition. Yet, a significant portion of the population, including children, remains unaware of the profound influence the Constitution has on their lives. To bridge this gap, *O.P. Jindal Global University* (JGU) has established India's *First Constitution Museum*, inaugurated on Saturday, at its *Sonipat* campus. The museum aims to deepen the understanding of the Constitution through diverse sections that highlight its historical significance and the pivotal debates shaping its formation. Designed to be a hub for education and reflection, the museum employs innovative approaches to engage visitors, offering a vivid narrative of the Constitution's 75-year journey. Through interactive installations, cutting-edge

technology, and AI-driven displays, the museum will bring history to life. Visitors will get to experience 3D installations, progressive displays, and guided tours powered by the S.A.M.V.I.D. Project, a collaboration between JGU and IIT Madras. This advanced language model enhances the visitor experience by providing in-depth insights into every exhibit, including profiles of Constituent Assembly members and their contributions. The museum will integrate textual, audio-visual, and experiential formats, ensuring an engaging and immersive experience for all. Visitors can explore sections dedicated to each part of the Constitution, its evolution, and its enduring significance. *The Constitution Gardens* would add an artistic dimension, with sculptures symbolising the core principles of liberty, equality, justice, and fraternity.

Drawing inspiration from illustrated manuscripts and original excerpts, these artworks also celebrate India's geographical diversity while reflecting the unifying ethos of the Constitution. A highlight of the museum is the art display featuring pieces from the original handcrafted document and artworks inspired by it. The museum will also house an archive of expert interviews exploring various aspects of the Constitution, making it an invaluable resource for scholars and enthusiasts alike. As the first initiative of its kind at an educational institution, the *Constitution Museum* underscores JGU's commitment to integrating education, culture, and technology. Open to the public with free entry via app-based pre-registration, it promises to be a transformative space for growing constitutional awareness and pride in India's democratic heritage.





"A recipe has no soul. You, as the cook, must bring soul to the recipe"  
- Thomas Keller



# LOBSTERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT GRAPPA POP-UP



FOODFREAK



**Pawan Soni**  
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards



**E**xciting culinary happenings continue to enrich NCR's food scene, with innovative pop-ups and eateries introducing diverse menus. The latest buzz? The celebrated London-based chain *Burger & Lobster* has brought its famous flavours to Delhi with an exclusive pop-up at *Grappa, Shangri-La Eros Hotel*.  
As a seafood enthusiast, I couldn't resist the allure of this pop-up, and I'm thrilled to say it didn't disappoint. These aren't the usual *lobsters* found locally, which primarily offer meat in the tail. Instead, these are exquisite *Atlantic lobsters flown* in from Canada, boasting sweet, chunky meat in both the claws and the tail. For the uninitiated, their texture and flavour might even be mistaken for crab—but one bite will make their unique charm unmistakable.  
Served steamed or grilled, these *lobsters* are paired with a delightful *lemon butter garlic sauce* that compliments their natural sweetness without overpowering it. Every bite was pure indulgence. Priced at ₹5,800, they're a luxurious yet fairly priced treat, especially given the five-star ambiance. The European-style patio



PHOTOS: PANIKAJ KUMAR

(Left to right): Abhishek Sadhoo, General Manager, Shangri-La Eros New Delhi; Chef Brian Chang, Corporate Development Chef, Burger and Lobster and Chef Gagandeep Singh Sawhney, Executive Chef, Shangri-La Eros New Delhi

seating overlooking lush greenery further elevates the experience. For those who crave a pasta twist, the *Lobster Mac & Cheese* is a must-try. Even as someone who typically steers clear of pasta, I found it irresistible. Rich with *lobster meat* and coated in a decadent three-cheese sauce blended with *lobster bisque*, the dish is creamy and perfectly balanced. At ₹1,800, it's a satisfying portion worth every rupee.  
The menu also offers a variety of burgers. I shared the *Waffle Chicken Burger* with a friend, and it was a delightful surprise. A *crispy fried chicken thigh* nestled in a Belgian waffle and drizzled with ranch sauce, simple yet satisfying.  
If you're intrigued, don't wait too long. Book your slot before this pop-up ends, or you might find yourself chasing these lobsters all the way to London!





FOOD, IN THE END, IN OUR OWN TRADITION, IS SOMETHING HOLY. IT'S NOT ABOUT NUTRIENTS AND CALORIES. IT'S ABOUT SHARING. IT'S ABOUT HONESTY. IT'S ABOUT IDENTITY  
— LOUISE FRESCO



Step into Melt House for a warm ambiance with culinary delights, from cheesy grilled sandwiches to delightful desserts, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

**T**ucked on a road full of cafés and eateries, between the streets of Greater Kailash II, the Melt House café invites you to step inside and have the essence of a cozy vibes like you feel on the mountains while enjoying inside. The warm yellow colour mixed with brown, with bulbs hanging above the wooden tables, while the aroma of fresh ground coffee and wine mingles with the soft humming of acoustic music. Melt House is the kind of place where time seems to slow, promising a cozy experience with posters of coffee and scenic beauty giving you a beautiful time. From the dishes to the bar menu to malted milkshakes the Melt House caters everyone for a quality time and quality treat. Beginning with the grilled cheese speciality of the café, the Piri Piri Cottage Cheese Grilled Cheese sandwich is zesty containing pulled cottage cheese with onions, peppers, cheddar, mozzarella and American cheese. The Piri Piri Cottage Cheese Grilled Cheese sandwich gave a texture of firm and crunchy on the outside but the cheese enhanced the taste of the same. After the mouth-watering sandwich, you can embrace yourself and order the flavourful Smoky Cajun Penne Alfredo under the Big Plates menu. Indulged with a luscious blend of butter, heavy cream, and freshly grated

Parmesan for that perfect creamy Alfredo sauce, the pasta with garlic bread will activate your taste buds. If you are a pizza lover and a vegetarian, trying Burrata Margherita will be a delicious one. Bursting with vibrant, tangy flavour, balancing richness with just the right amount of acidity, Burrata Margherita is filled with Burrata cheese, red and yellow cherry tomato and fresh basil which will not be very visually appealing but is tasty and soft. Jumping into the small plates menu, Pink Garlic Aioli Parmesan Truffle Fries with russet potatoes cut into matchsticks with freshly grated Parmesan cheese, black truffle oil and mayonnaise for the aioli are moreish. Reflecting on the history and the aura of the café Chef Rohit Negi said, "The Melt House basically started from Gururam itself as an artisanal sandwich shop and then we have opened to big places having the speciality of cheese. There is the melted cheese concept we infuse in our dishes. Now, after we have all the totally cheesy flavours in our food, and we have differentiated it from any other restaurant you get on to. We have some Italian cuisine in it, and we have mixed it with cheese for the cheese lovers." The café also has different offerings in Vodka, Tequila, Red Wines, White Wines, Gin and more. For the milkshake enthusiasts and the



hot chocolate connoisseurs, the Classic Hot Chocolate at the Melt House is a must try beverage. The Cold coffee at the Melt House is a refreshing blend of smooth, chilled coffee, served with ice for an invigorating lift. Its rich, bold flavour comes alive with each sip, perfectly balanced between the sweetness and

# COZY ESCAPE



the robust, aromatic essence of freshly brewed coffee for the caffeine kick. This signals a shift towards indulgence, setting the stage for dessert as the grand finale. So, Nutella lovers assemble as the Chocochip Walnut Nutella is a treat that combines the richness of Nutella with the satisfying crunch of toasted walnuts and the delight of chocolate chips. Each bite bursts with soft and nutty layers of flavour, balanced perfectly by the sugar content. The ones looking for mouth watery chocolate and high sugar Melt's Matilda Cake is a decadent masterpiece that promises to satisfy even the most discerning sweet tooth. With its spongy layers of chocolate sponge, every bite melts effortlessly in your mouth, leaving behind a trail of luxurious sweetness. In conclusion, the Melt House Café offers more than just a meal; it provides an experience. Whether you're seeking a cozy corner to unwind with a cup of freshly brewed coffee, wanting the cheesy delights, or treating yourself to decadent desserts, Melt House promises to deliver warmth and comfort with every visit.

**T**errai attributes its inception to the terrain and rich historical culture and culinary legacy of the State of Telangana. Situated in the southern-central part of the Indian peninsula on the high Deccan Plateau, cuisine of Telangana is influenced by the region's rich history of Deccan and Telugu culture. Nizam culture is a blend of opulent traditions, art, and cuisine that reflects the historical grandeur and diverse heritage of Telangana. Founded by the visionary restaurateur, Rohit Kasuganti and the creative powerhouse, Anisha Deevakonda, Terrai derives its name from terrain defining the topography of the young-historical State. Reinventing traditional cuisine, propagating the culture and community is the ethos of this new restaurant, Terrai.



From terrain to table, Terrai presents the evolution of Telangana Cuisine, says **SHARMILA CHAND**



you step in Terrai, you are enveloped in an ambiance that exudes sophistication and warmth. Influenced by and representing the rich crafts of the State, the terracotta walls, adorned with intricate Ikkat mouldings and exquisite Dokra art, radiate an earthy elegance, while the captivating Bhatukamma-inspired ceiling lights create a mesmerising glow throughout the space. Crafted by the renowned Sona Reddy Studio, every detail - from the repurposed traditional doors to the stunning original artworks by Narahari invites guests on an enchanting journey through Telangana's rich cultural tapestry. "Terrai is a creative canvas where we weave the rich cultural and artistic elements of Telangana into every detail. From collaborating with local artisans on the stunning Dokra art to sourcing textiles for our Ikat-inspired decor, every partnership reflects the soul of Telangana, bringing its stories to life. Our mission is to ensure that every guest experiences the essence of our heritage through innovative and traditional cuisine", adds Anisha Deevakonda, Creative Head and Partner, Terrai.



### THE COMMUNITY NARRATIVE

Community is integral to the Terrai experience. The founders prioritise partnerships with local women farmers, artisans, and home cooks, ensuring that every ingredient is fresh, ethically sourced and imbued with the spirit of Telangana. This commitment to collaboration extends beyond the kitchen, celebrating the invaluable contributions these communities make to the state's culinary legacy, transforming each meal into a traditional story of connection. Terrai aspires to elevate Telangana's cuisine to its rightful place on the global gastronomic stage, offering a dining experience that transcends mere nourishment. It embodies a modern renaissance, a movement dedicated to establishing a



distinctive identity for Telangana's culinary traditions, free from the shadows of other Indian influences. Guests are invited to embark on a glorious culinary adventure, reconnecting with the land through an exquisite array of flavours.

### A MELANGE OF FLAVOURS & TEXTURES

**P**icture indulging in the Karim Nagar Fried Chicken Wings, a fiery sensation complemented by tangy pickled onions, or experiencing the opulence of Terai Mutton Curry paired with spiced Masala Pooris. The Golichina Mamsam, crowned with crispy fried curry leaves, is a flavour explosion, while the refreshing Not So Mirchi Cocktail adds a zesty flourish. Round off your culinary adventure on a sweet note with the delectable Saffron Cheesecake, Kandha Doodh, adorned with delicate saffron pearls, each a testament to the glory of Telangana's rich culinary heritage. Terrai is more than just a celebration of exquisite flavours; it is a cultural sanctuary where the stories of Telangana come alive. Each dish encapsulates the region's unique traditions and customs, inviting diners to embark on a journey that honours the past while embracing contemporary flair. Here, every bite is a narrative, woven from the intricate tapestry of spices and age-old recipes passed down through generations, all set against a backdrop that resonates with the soul of the Deccan. In a world brimming with dining options, Terrai emerges as a splendid celebration of Telangana's heritage, inviting food enthusiasts to partake in an unforgettable journey that captures the very essence of the region. It's not merely a meal; it's a resplendent experience that delights the senses and nourishes the soul.

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

ADDRESS: Terrai, Sattva Knowledge Park, Silpa Gram Craft Village,HITECH CITY, Hyderabad

## THE ART AND SPIRIT OF CAKE MIXING

### TEAM AGENDA

#### AT CROWN PLAZA, MAYUR VIHAR

**T**he Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar recently hosted its annual Cake Mixing Ceremony, embracing the charming theme of an English Country Christmas. This delightful event transformed the hotel into a festive wonderland, inviting guests to partake in a time-honoured tradition that has brought people together for centuries.

The roots of cake mixing trace back to 17th-century Britain, where this delightful ceremony marked the end of the harvest season. Farmers would gather to soak fruits and nuts in spirits, preserving them for the rich Christmas cakes that would grace tables during the cold winter months. This joyful gathering symbolised abundance, gratitude and the spirit of community, a celebration of nature's bounty and the warmth of togetherness.

At the Crowne Plaza, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and laughter as guests rolled up their sleeves and joined in the festive fun. The delightful aromas of dried fruits, fragrant spices and rich spirits filled the air, creating an inviting and warm environment. This year's theme of an 'English Countryside Christmas' was beautifully reflected in the décor, featuring the traditional red, white and green colours that evoke feelings of warmth and festivity. The venue was adorned with charming elements reminiscent of the British countryside, where cosy cottages and snow-covered landscapes create a magical setting for the holiday season. This theme perfectly encapsulated the simplicity of nature, celebrating the spirit of family and community gatherings that are central to the festive season. As guests stirred the mixture, they shared stories and laughter, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and family. This camaraderie mirrored the gatherings of the past, where communities would unite to prepare for the joyous celebrations ahead. Once the mixing was complete, the cakes created during the ceremony would be set aside to mature in their rich blend of flavours, ready to be enjoyed during the Christmas festivities. The sharing of these cakes with the wider community reflects the



essence of the occasion, joy is amplified when shared with others. The Cake Mixing Ceremony at Crowne Plaza embodies the essence of tradition, community and connection. In our fast-paced world, such events encourage us to pause, reflect and appreciate the simple pleasures that life offers. As attendees departed, they left not only with a sense of festivity but also with cherished memories of laughter and connection.

#### AT LE MERIDIEN, NEW DELHI

**I**n recent years, cake mixing has become a much-anticipated ritual in the culinary calendar, where the joy of the holiday season is brought to life through the vibrant mixing of ingredients that will eventually turn into Christmas cakes. Traditionally marking the beginning of Christmas preparations, cake-mixing ceremonies have their roots in the mediaeval custom of feeding the Christmas cake with spirits and fruits, infusing it with rich flavours that are synonymous with the festive season. In hotels, restaurants and homes around the world, cake mixing symbolises warmth, joy, and a shared experience of holiday spirit. The cake mixing ceremony serves as a festive kick-off, celebrating togetherness and the joy of giving. This tradition often includes the blending of dried fruits, such as raisins, cherries, apricots, and

nuts, along with a blend of warming spices and a generous pour of spirits. The ingredients are then left to mature, allowing the fruits to soak in flavours, adding depth and complexity to the Christmas cakes and other holiday treats that will be shared with family and friends. Each year, Le Meridien New Delhi joins in this timeless tradition, creating a unique and memorable experience for guests and locals alike. This year, the hotel launched its '#WinterOfJoy' celebration with a magical cake mixing ceremony at their elegant venue, Longitude. The event drew food enthusiasts, media, and hotel guests together, where they witnessed the rhythmic blending of exotic fruits, spices, and luxurious ingredients, building anticipation for the holiday treats that await. Meena Bhatia, Vice President and General Manager of Le Meridien New Delhi, remarked on the occasion, "We are thrilled to embark on our '#WinterOfJoy' celebration with this heart-warming timeless tradition. We invite everyone to join us in experiencing a symphony of flavours, sights, and sounds as we embark on a festive journey." The cake-mixing ceremony at Le Meridien New Delhi symbolises more than just the beginning of Christmas preparations; it represents a celebration of life, tradition and community.



### ELEGANT WITH LOCAL CRAFTS

**S**prawling in 12000 sq. ft., here is the dining destination, offering a luxurious experience with seating for 250 guests across four distinct dining halls, each designed to provide a unique ambiance. As





**E**nvision a captivating tale of luxury and sophistication in the heart of Hong Kong. This exquisite five-star harbour front gem has been a beacon of elegance since its inception over a decade ago, hosting a prestigious clientele of celebrities, dignitaries, and CEOs. Its allure knows no bounds, boasting flawless service, state-of-the-art amenities, and a culinary experience that is simply unparalleled.

# LUXURY CONVERGE AT HONG KONG

**HARBOUR VIEWS, URBAN VIBES**

**N**estled against the stunning backdrop of Victoria Harbour, with the vibrant pulse of Hong Kong Island at its core, Four Seasons Hong Kong effortlessly combines opulence with convenience. Step outside to breath-taking views of the harbour, while being seamlessly connected to the glamour of the IFC mall via air-conditioned walkways. Stroll along these pathways to access the Central Ferry and Star Ferry piers, the bustling Central business district, the Macau ferry terminal, as well as the Airport Express and Central MTR subway station. A flawless fusion of luxury and accessibility awaits at this unforgettable destination. As I approach the hotel's majestic entrance, I am immediately enveloped by the brilliance of its gleaming surfaces and soaring three-story windows, illuminated by the warm embrace of the sunlight. It feels as though I am stepping directly into the vibrant heart of the harbour itself. I find the hustle and bustle of people-watching utterly delightful—there are elegantly attired billionaires in Ferragamos gliding gracefully across the polished marble, while men in dark suits engage in hushed, intense negotiations, their powerful presence palpable. The air is rich with accents from around the globe, creating a symphony of cultures converging in this one place. Settling into



the Glass Room lobby lounge with a steaming cup of coffee in hand, I immerse myself in the spectacle of Hong Kong at its glamorous, cosmopolitan best.

**INDULGE IN LUXURY**

**S**tepping into my superior harbour front suite feels like entering a serene sanctuary bathed in natural light. The elegance of the space is unmistakable, with its clean, contemporary lines and a harmonious palette of neutral tones. I am instantly drawn to the inviting textures—the pale gold lozenge-patterned headboard, the sleek glossy lacquer cabinetry, and the softly striped carpeting that added warmth beneath my feet. The sumptuous bed beckons, flanked by high-tech panels equipped with sockets, USB ports, and intuitive touch-button controls for lighting and curtains, making it easy to transition from day to night. The bathroom is a lavish escape, adorned in rich honey marble that tempted me to



Experience an unparalleled luxury at the prestigious harbour front 'Four Seasons' hotel in Hong Kong, where elegance meets world-class amenities and panoramic views of Victoria Harbour, writes **AKANKSHA DEAN**



indulge in long, relaxing soaks. As a guest with access to a suite, I also enjoy the privilege of the Four Seasons remarkable 45th-floor Executive Club Lounge. It is an absolute delight, offering complimentary breakfast and afternoon tea, along with all-day refreshments, including beer, wine, soft drinks, and hot beverages. As evening approaches, the lounge transforms into a vibrant social space, serving champagne, cocktails, and a delightful array of both hot and cold buffet options—truly one of the city's best-kept secrets.

**SIP, SAVOUR, CELEBRATE**

**T**he Four Seasons is an extraordinary culinary haven, boasting an impressive eight Michelin stars spread across three of its exceptional restaurants. I am fortunate enough to indulge in Lung King Heen, the first three-Michelin-star Chinese restaurant, delivering exceptional Cantonese cuisine through teamwork, quality ingredients, and outstanding hospitality, presenting

each dish as a masterpiece. Caprice, under Chef Guillaume Galliot, masterfully blends classic French cuisine with global influences, showcasing fresh ingredients, inventive techniques, and an exceptional wine and cheese selection for a remarkable dining experience. The French fine dining restaurant mesmerises me with a stunning visual and culinary symphony, also graced with three stars. Then there is the renowned Sushi Saito, where the expertise of Japanese seafood truly shines, earning its well-deserved two stars. Each morning, I savour a sumptuous international breakfast served in The Lounge on the ground floor. The offerings are nothing short of delightful: a vibrant selection of tropical fruits, delicate dim sum, eggs cooked to order, and an endless array of breads and pastries that set a luxurious tone for the day ahead. In the evenings, I discovered cocktail bar Argo, one of the world's best bars, presenting a new cocktail menu featuring 12 creations that celebrate familiar Hong Kong fruits and botanicals, showcasing their versatility. Its deco-inspired interior of glass and mirrors creates an enchanting atmosphere as I relish some sensational mixology. The Silver Fox, a remarkable concoction featuring Havana Club rum, fig leaf, oak lactone cordial, preserved lemon, and tonka, feels like drinking a piece of bliss. Each moment at The Four Seasons Hong Kong is a celebration of the finest flavours and experiences.



— The author is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category

## Discovering the World's True Essence

In a landmark celebration, Mercure Hotels recently unveiled its 1,000th address worldwide at Mercure Dubai Deira last month. This flagship location introduced the innovative '1,000-Hours of Local Flavours,' a 42-day culinary experience designed to showcase the rich tapestry of local food and beverages. This initiative underscores Mercure's commitment to unveiling the authentic tastes of each destination.

By **RUPALI DEAN**

**S**ince its inception in 1973, Mercure has been a champion of wanderlust, inviting globetrotters to embrace their inner local in every corner of the world. With a footprint spanning 65 countries and boasting 1,000 distinctive addresses, Mercure is dedicated to enveloping guests in a tapestry of local charm while upholding the highest hospitality standards.



**EMBRACING COMMUNITY THROUGH CUISINE:**

I was absolutely delighted to join the celebration at Mercure Dubai Deira for the grand occasion of their 1,000th hotel opening worldwide. With 1,000 locations under its belt, Mercure's mid-scale brand truly excels in forging authentic connections to local cultures around the globe. The evening's theme, 'Discover Local Elements,' set the stage for an exquisite culinary experience brimming with dishes crafted from locally sourced ingredients. The standout moment for me was savouring the cinnamon-infused UAE rack of lamb, clay-cooked to perfection, delivering unmatched tenderness and flavour. For dessert, we indulged in a delicious pistachio honey cake—a refreshing take on the beloved pistachio chocolate trend. To heighten the excitement, we got a sneak peek at the '1,000 Local Flavours' menu, launched on 1st November and delighting taste buds for 42 days. A highlight was

the desert salad, featuring the iconic ghaf leaves of the UAE, a beautiful homage to local culture and heritage. This gathering not only celebrated Mercure's unwavering commitment to showcasing local flavours but also strengthened community connections in a vibrant and fulfilling way. Paul Stevens, the chief operating wizard at Accor for the premium, mid-scale, and economy realms across the Middle East, Africa, and Türkiye, exclaimed, "Hitting the 1,000-address mark isn't just a number; it's a vibrant badge of Mercure's unwavering commitment to authentic, locally-inspired hospitality around the globe! The '1,000-Hours of Local Flavours' is a delightful dive into cultural richness and community bonds, whisking guests away on a culinary



adventure that truly captures the heart and soul of each destination. And the excitement doesn't stop there—Mercure is rolling out the welcome mat for over 200 new hotels by 2028!"

**SUSTAINABLE LUXURY REDEFINED:**

Julia Schamne, cluster general manager, has truly transformed Mercure Dubai Deira into a beacon of sustainability since its January opening. With an unwavering commitment to eco-friendly practices, the hotel has embraced compostable materials, bid farewell to plastics, and ensures guests enjoy unlimited, filtered water right in their rooms. The garden-to-table concept in the main restaurant beautifully showcases partnerships with local suppliers, including Hatta's Honeybee Farm, emphasising our dedication to sustainability. Nearly half of the menu is dedicated to delightful plant-based options, underlining our focus on health and environmental care. Moreover, Mercure's diverse team, representing 31 nationalities, embodies the 'heartist' spirit, highlighted by strong female leadership in critical roles such as HR and rooms management. The changes instigated under Julia's guidance reflect a holistic approach to hospitality, integrating sustainability and inclusivity at every level.

**COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FUTURE AHEAD:**

Having learned about the hotel's future

plans, I am truly excited about what lies ahead! The focus remains firmly on members, ensuring their needs are never overlooked. "The fantastic feedback we've received from our loyal Accor members speaks volumes about our robust loyalty programme. In fact, we rank among the top contributors in terms of member stays and direct bookings, thanks to Mercure's well-recognised and widespread brand. As one of the largest and fastest-growing mid-scale brands, we thrive on strong storytelling and high standards. Looking forward, we're committed to enhancing our personalised approach for members, providing them with dedicated attention and individual spaces," shares Julia Schamne. Accor is also eager to increase their community contributions, which is essential for them as a group. Additionally, they are exploring ways to deepen their involvement in charity work, allowing them to give back in significant ways. Their vision is to become the go-to spot for the community, whether it's for a cosy cup of coffee or laundry services. They want to be a place where neighbours can comfortably connect to Wi-Fi or hold quick meetings. Ultimately, the goal is to be the neighbourhood hub where everyone feels at home, capturing the essence of 'Discover Local' for the community.

— Awarded the "Best food writer in the country" by the Indian culinary forum, WACS and the Ministry of Tourism, Rupali Dean writes on food and travel



"A SACRIFICE TO BE REAL MUST COST, MUST HURT, AND MUST EMPTY OURSELVES. GIVE YOURSELF FULLY TO GOD. HE WILL USE YOU TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU BELIEVE MUCH MORE IN HIS LOVE THAN IN YOUR WEAKNESS"  
- MOTHER TERESA

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

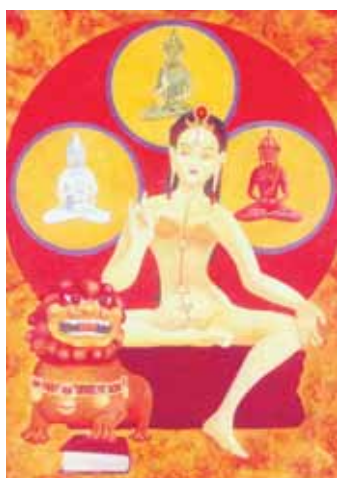
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week, you'll find yourself in a joyful state of mind, feeling content and complete. There's a chance for unexpected success, such as coming out ahead in a competition or achieving a significant milestone. Your efforts and dedication are about to bear fruit, bringing both material gains and spiritual fulfillment. Previous limitations will fade away, ushering in a sense of liberation and tranquility. Travel might be on the horizon, particularly journeys abroad. Mid-week provides a perfect moment for relaxation. You might step back from certain activities during this time of reflection. In the coming weeks or months, opportunities to resolve disputes or engage in crucial negotiations will arise. By week's end, there might be a slight sense of disappointment regarding anticipated gains, yet the overall progress remains substantial.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Mustard  
Lucky day Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

Last week was bustling with activity for you, balancing home duties and professional demands efficiently. Your determination to handle every task methodically ensured high-quality outcomes and a positive environment. Having navigated through these challenges, it's now time for you to unwind and reap the rewards of your efforts. Congratulations on a successful period! The dedication you showed is about to pay off beautifully. You'll find yourself in a prosperous phase, enjoying both material gains and harmonious relationships. Your ability to foster cooperation and understanding among those around you bolsters your business and personal connections, boosting your reputation as an influential figure. Expect mid-week opportunities for expansion and work-related travel, returning with accomplishments that will fill your loved ones with pride.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Sapphire Blue  
Lucky day Wednesday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week signals a time of fair outcomes in your pursuits, despite not being straightforward. You may encounter several challenges, including disputes and significant opposition, which could leave you feeling mentally and physically constrained, disheartened, and agitated. It's essential to focus on nurturing healthier habits and making thoughtful choices that prioritize your well-being. Taking ownership of your decisions and interpersonal connections is crucial. Assessing the advantages and disadvantages of your situation will guide you. Despite the hurdles, you will navigate through these testing times successfully and gain the strength to handle upcoming challenges. As the week concludes, the opportunity for new beginnings or travel may arise, leading to resolutions in personal and professional relationships or issues related to personal assets, steering you towards a more positive path.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Turquoise  
Lucky day Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week is shaped by a profound emotional awareness and a tendency to express your feelings openly, enhancing personal connections. For those already in partnerships, there's an opportunity to deepen bonds through greater intimacy and mutual understanding. This period also brings a potential for gaining knowledge or authority, possibly through established educational or mentoring avenues. Seeking guidance could be beneficial as you contemplate significant life decisions. The impact of your choices is emphasized, reminding you that you have considerable control over your destiny. Your effective communication skills likely contribute to a positive impression on others, adding to your sense of productivity. For those in leadership roles, recognition and success are within reach, marking a notable period for career achievements.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Yellow  
Lucky day Monday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

In your current circumstances, you face an immediate need to make a critical decision. This period promises recognition and success for professionals like doctors and judges in their fields. To navigate through challenges effectively, adopting a disciplined approach is crucial. Health concerns might arise, potentially leading to moments of frustration. It's important to focus on the positives during such times. Midweek brings a subtle yet positive shift, marking a renewal of energy and a return to equilibrium. You will likely experience a surge of optimism and revitalization. A calm and joyful atmosphere prevails, paving the way for personal benefits. Collaborations may prove fruitful, enhancing your achievements. Expect to receive what is justly or rightfully yours, including tangible rewards.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Amber  
Lucky day Saturday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This period calls for a rejuvenating break, allowing for recovery and reflection. Some may need to heal from recent health setbacks. You might soon discover solutions and insights that were previously obscured, so stay observant of your environment. Navigating through such challenges often requires patience as they can initially lead to confusion or a standstill. Yet, the latter part of the week promises a shift towards positivity. You'll feel energized to embark on a new venture that demands quick action and daring decisions. This is your moment to pursue achievements with your inherent capabilities. There might even be signs of new beginnings in your personal life, perhaps hinting at major family developments. Embrace this surge of vitality and creativity, using it to maximize your advantages and seize the emerging opportunities.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Blush Pink  
Lucky day Tuesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week, your emotional landscape may feel overwhelming, overshadowing your usual pragmatic approach. Minor domestic challenges could escalate into significant stressors, leading you to contemplate disengaging from day-to-day concerns. Thoughts of drastic changes in your personal life could divert your focus from current responsibilities. However, recognize that these feelings are transient. As the week progresses, the efforts you've put forth recently will begin to show positive outcomes, particularly in areas where you've recently invested energy or resources. To navigate through this period of uncertainty, strive to clear the fog of confusion. Gaining a clearer understanding of your goals will enhance your effectiveness. A fresh approach and unbiased thinking will guide you toward a more balanced path.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour White  
Lucky day Friday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

At times, you may feel as if harmony, beauty, and the finer things in life are just out of reach, causing you to experience excessive worry or fear. You might be dealing with sleep disturbances, unsettling dreams, and emotional turmoil. However, it's important to remember that hope is never truly lost. Soon, you'll find fresh opportunities and beginnings that could reignite your spirit and bring light to your situation. Midweek brings promising developments that could include affectionate messages, romantic gestures, or new ventures. Any current relationships you have will also start to strengthen, enhancing your emotional and physical resilience. Remember, maintaining patience is crucial; everything will settle into place in due time.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Ivory  
Lucky day Thursday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week is characterized by fluctuating emotions and heightened tensions between rationality and passion. You might experience a temporary dip in financial stability at the week's onset, suggesting a period where income flows may be disrupted. Patience is essential during this transient phase. Engaging in meditation, yoga, or creative pursuits could prove beneficial in restoring your inner balance and navigating through these challenges effectively. It's crucial to avoid confrontations with superiors or colleagues, as an overly assertive demeanor could jeopardize the progress and goodwill you've previously established. The period calls for caution, urging you to maintain a grounded perspective. Distance yourself from misconceptions and consider adjusting your viewpoint to better adapt to the current circumstances.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Yellow  
Lucky day Friday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week, individuals born under the sign traditionally associated with the crab will notice a significant shift in their emotional disposition, transitioning from reflective and serious to warm and caring. Those in leadership roles may find their capacity for empathy challenged as they encourage others to become more self-sufficient. Loyalty defines their relationships, and they respond sharply to any perceived threats. By midweek, their creative and dreamy side takes precedence, allowing them to reveal in a personal transformation. Balancing the tangible and intangible aspects of life, they will find themselves feeling fulfilled and joyful, experiencing a satisfying blend of material success and spiritual peace. This newfound equilibrium enhances their relationships and personal growth.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Coral  
Lucky day Sunday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

You are on the brink of a transformative period, signaling both a physical move and a rise in your current circumstances. You possess a dynamic energy, eager for progress and quick results. This phase also hints at the potential for a new, invigorating romantic or creative chapter in your life. The middle of the week promises joy, celebrations, and success, enhancing your social connections and bringing cherished memories to the forefront. Encounters with old friends and family are likely, adding a warm, nostalgic touch. The atmosphere around you will be uplifting, infusing you with vitality. Expect harmonious family dynamics and significant gatherings, possibly marking new beginnings at home. This period offers a wonderful opportunity for meaningful engagement with those close to you.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Maroon  
Lucky day Tuesday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This period marks the conclusion of a challenging phase, and you'll find yourself feeling relieved and unburdened. Family matters will capture more of your attention, and the overall environment may not be optimal. You might have been grappling with a tough choice or holding on to something that wasn't beneficial for you, and now it's time to release it. This is a significant moment where the choices you make will shape your future. If you're feeling tested, it could be due to unresolved issues or negative feelings towards someone. The week ahead offers a chance to address and settle these conflicts once and for all. Embrace the power of affection and understanding—it has the strength to overcome even the most profound challenges. Trust your instincts, embrace your creative side, and approach situations with enthusiasm.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Copper  
Lucky day Monday

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# Manage stress

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar  
Spiritual Guru

A combination of different measures is needed to relieve work-related tension so that it does not affect life at home

As times are getting tougher in the corporate world, many feel the pinch. Stress impacts the way we think, feel and behave, thus, affecting all aspects of our life. The consequences of letting stress rule are nothing short of disastrous and tragic. First of all, do you know what stress is? Stress is too much to do and too little time or energy. So either you reduce your workload — which doesn't seem to be a possibility these days. Or you increase your time — which is not possible either. So let us look at some ways to not only increase our energy levels but also to change our mind and outlook, just a little bit. This will enable a less stressful and more productive work life. Here is an easy and simple 10-point solution.

❑ **Strike a work-life balance:** It's like riding a bicycle. What is the secret to riding a bicycle? Balance! It's about staying at the centre: not letting it fall to the right or left. When it's falling on one side, you bring it to balance. When you go out of balance, you feel the pinch. Listen to that. Don't just ignore it, acknowledge it and come to the centre. Whenever you go out of balance in any aspect of life, listen to your inner voice, and come to the centre. If you have ignored your family, it pinches you. If you have ignored your social commitment, it pinches you. If you are ignoring your business, it pinches you. If you are ignoring your spiritual practices,

it pinches you. So wherever anything pinches you, come back to the centre.

❑ **The right amount of food and sleep:** Not too much and not too little. A balanced diet with enough carbohydrates and proteins along with six-eight hours of sleep is advisable.

❑ **Meditation:** Learn some deep breathing exercises to increase your energy level, relax your mind and relieve all types of stress. Meditation also enhances your abilities, strengthens your nervous system and mind and releases toxins from the body. Usually, I recommend afternoon meditation and meals in the workplace. When people sit together and meditate for a few minutes and then share a meal together, they find it so refreshing and are able to carry on through the day with the same energy which they came to the office.

❑ **Don't let time manage you:** First of all, you must see to it that you have the feeling that you have time. When you put this thought in your mind that you don't have time, then that itself becomes a block. Everybody has only 24 hours, whether it is the Prime Minister or a clerk working in the bank. You have to hold on to this aphorism 'I can do it' because the pressure of time is more when you do not feel confident of accomplishing your work. Even when it appears to be impossible, even then you should have confidence; probably give miracles a chance. This very confidence



in yourself that 'I will be able to manage' will take you through.

❑ **Take interest in some art form:** In the corporate world, you are loaded with left-brain activities like logical thinking, planning, analysis and so on. So you need to balance the left-brain activity with the right-brain activity. Painting, music, poetry or any other kind of creative and recreational activities activate the right brain. When the two hemispheres of the brains are balanced, you can experience higher clarity, creativity, relaxation, efficiency and productivity.

❑ **Establish a congenial work atmosphere:** Peace and prosperity are interlinked. Prosperity cannot flourish in a disturbed atmosphere. While working with others, you need to function as a team. Have a sense of respect for your

team members, and do not indulge in blame games. Create an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, a sense of belonging, and celebration. Nothing can last if the focus is only on productivity and net result.

❑ **15-second gap:** Another clue, another technique you can follow. Whenever you have to do any important job, good or bad, give a fifteen seconds gap. A C.E.O. once wrote a very nasty letter to his boss. He was going to sign off and send it, when suddenly he remembered to give a 15-second gap. When he went through the letter again it was so nasty, he himself could not read it. That time lag made so much of a difference! Take home this technique. From today or tomorrow, practise this technique. The mind has a very strange tendency. Anything wrong it wants to do immediately. From now on, you postpone it. If you want to shout at somebody, postpone it to next week. We have a tendency of postponing doing something good. Anything that is good we tend to postpone it to later, to our next lifetime. So, we postpone doing something good and do immediately something that is harmful. So leave a 15-second gap and just pause and reflect. Be calm. Can you do it?

❑ **Do not worry about gaining position:** Remember that the respect which you gain through virtue and the respect you gain through position are different. The respect you get through a

position is short-lived and temporary. But the respect that you gain just because of your smile, your attitude, your virtues are with you for all time. Are you a chairman of this committee, president of that committee, a barrister or governor of a state? These are all momentary and temporary. They come and they go. And the respect you get because of this position is short-lived, it is not genuine, it is not from the heart, it is not true. But the respect you gain because you are a nice person is genuine, it lasts long. It is spontaneous.

❑ **Extend your comfort zone:** Anything creative, dynamic and great things can happen when you stretch beyond your comfort zone. We are often stuck in our little comfort zone and we cannot go beyond that. And we think we cannot just make an effort and put one step ahead, and you will see that you can expand your comfort zone and not shrink it. Creativity expands your comfort zone. Or, when you step out of the comfort zone, your creativity comes into play.

❑ **Do acts of service:** Be useful to people around you. It's the best antidote to stress. You must contribute to society. When you do some act of service and kindness, it brings an immediate feeling of inner rejuvenation. So, believe in yourself and remember that success is an attitude, not just a phenomenon.

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