



# Established 1865 sunday pioneer



magazine

DEHRADUN, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

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



## BJP, Cong spar, EC responds

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday wrote to the national presidents of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress, asking them to comment on complaints lodged by both parties against each other for poll code violations by star campaigners. In separate letters to BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, the Commission asked them to comment on the alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during campaigns for the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, as well as bypolls in West Bengal, Punjab, Karnataka and several other states. The Commission shared the complaints with the two parties while seeking their responses. The EC has sought formal responses from both the party presidents by 1 pm on Monday (November 18), while reminding them of the Commission's earlier advisory to them during the Lok Sabha election to keep star campaigners and leaders under check so that public decorum is not flouted and the model code is followed in its letter and spirit during campaigning. Top leaders of the two parties are campaigning in Jharkhand and Maharashtra for the ongoing Assembly polls in the two states. During the Lok Sabha election too, the poll authority had shared complaints filed by the two parties against the other's star campaigners, including Modi, Shah, Gandhi and Kharge. The BJP filed a complaint



against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks during a rally, where he allegedly accused the BJP and the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh (RSS) of "promoting hate" and indirectly linked them to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. The BJP argued that the comments violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by inciting hatred and making unsubstantiated allegations. The BJP had demanded that Rahul be reprimanded, censured and restrained from "handing out lies" during the election campaign. They also wanted an FIR against Rahul and Kharge. While seeking action, they had cited Rahul's comments at a meeting in Mumbai on November 6 where he said that the BJP-RSS wants abolition of the Constitution. They also cited his comments about projects going out of Maharashtra to Gujarat, which the BJP claimed was wrong. Conversely, the Congress had complained to the EC on November 13 against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union

Home Minister Amit Shah alleging violation of Model Code of Conduct. Party leader Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, accused the two BJP leaders of "divisive, false, and malicious speeches" in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The Congress claimed that Shah's comments were inflammatory and divisive, breaching MCC guidelines. Complaining against Modi, the Congress had referred to Modi's remarks in Nashik and Dhule in Maharashtra on November 8 where the Prime Minister claimed that Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were opposed to quotas for Dalits, tribals and Other Backward Classes (OBC), promoting terrorism in the country, the Congress has told the poll panel. Congress said this was "false, malicious and slanderous". On Shah, they said the Home Minister accused the Congress and its allies of being against Dalits, tribals and OBCs and promoting terrorism in the country. Shah also claimed that the Congress was planning to do

away with the quota regime. The Congress called these allegations "false, divisive, malicious and slanderous". Meanwhile, a war of words continued between the BJP and the Congress on Sunday. Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday attacked Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren saying he is "conspiring to provide reservations to Muslims through backdoor channels with the help of Congress" and warned that the BJP would thwart any such attempt. He also held Soren "responsible" for the declining tribal population. "Hemant Soren is trying to provide reservations to Muslims through the backdoor with the support from Congress. I warn that BJP will not allow any such plans of Hemant Soren and Rahul Gandhi to succeed," Shah said addressing a rally at Jharkhand's Dumka. In Ranchi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday launched a fresh attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of "eliminating freedom of speech" and imprisoning those who speak out against his mistakes. Kharge also labelled former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, who joined the BJP from JMM, a "traitor," claiming there were many such people who betrayed those who nurtured them. "PM Modi has eliminated 'freedom of speech' from the country; he jails those who point out his mistakes. You are snatching people's rights. Is this democracy that you jail a tribal CM? They want to crush us, but we will keep raising our heads," Kharge said while addressing a rally in Ranchi's Ormanjhi.

## JHANSI HOSPITAL FIRE Negligence claimed 10 newborn lives



Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak with others inside the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College where a fire broke out, in Jhansi district, Saturday

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

A devastating fire at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College claimed the lives of 10 newborns late Friday night. Even as the Uttar Pradesh government has ordered a probe, initial investigations reveal glaring lapses in fire safety protocols, including expired fire extinguishers and non-functional fire alarms, which significantly delayed rescue operations. The ward housed 55 newborns at the time of the incident. While 45 babies were rescued, the remaining succumbed to severe burns and asphyxiation. The fire quickly spread, engulfing the ward and cutting off access routes, leaving staff and firefighters scrambling to save the infants. Evidence gathered from the site highlights that the fire extinguishers in the SNCU ward had expired years ago. One extinguisher bore a refill date of 2019 with an expiry in 2020, making it non-

operational for nearly four years. Many others had exceeded their service life by one to two years. Instead of being functional safety tools, these extinguishers were mere decorative relics, rendering them useless in containing the fire.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak refuted these claims saying hospital's fire safety systems were last inspected in February 2024, followed by a mock drill in June. "If what government claiming is true, one thing is true that these measures failed to prevent Friday's tragedy, exposing the negligence in maintaining critical equipment," Amarnath Agarwal, a Congress leader said. Further compounding the tragedy was the failure of the fire alarms installed in the SNCU. Witnesses reported no alarm sounding when the fire broke out, delaying immediate evacuation efforts. By the time smoke engulfed the ward, panic and confusion had spread, making rescue efforts more challenging.



## Prohibitory orders clamped in Imphal

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Protesters stormed the residences of two ministers and three MLAs in Manipur's Imphal on Saturday, demanding justice for the murder of three persons in Jiribam district, police said. The mob attacks on legislators' houses prompted the Imphal West administration to impose prohibitory orders in the district for an indefinite period. According to an order issued by Imphal West District Magistrate Th Kirankumar, the curfew was imposed from 4.30 pm on Saturday. A mob stormed the residence of Health and Family Welfare Minister Sapam Ranjan in Lamphel Sanakeithel area, a senior officer said. Lamphel Sanakeithel Development Authority's representative David told reporters, "Sapam assured us that the issues related to the killing of three persons will be discussed at a cabinet meeting and that the minister will tender his resignation if the government fails to honour the sentiment of the public."

## Temperature dips, AQI & challans rise in NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As colder winds swept through the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi witnessed a dip in temperature on Saturday with a recorded minimum of 15.3 degrees Celsius at 8.30 am, marking a drop of nearly 0.3 degrees in just 24 hours, the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in the severe category for the fourth consecutive days. A dense layer of smog continued to envelop the national capital, Noida,



Ghaziabad, Gurugram and other areas of NCR. An average AQI stood at 417, in the 'severe' category on Saturday. Sainik Farm was the work affected area, where the

AQI stood at 458. Meanwhile, Delhi Traffic Police has issued around 550 challans, imposing a total fine of over Rs one Crore, to BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles on Friday on the first day of the ban on these vehicles under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) III. A senior police officer said that they have issued a total of 293 challans for BS-III and BS-IV vehicles in the Eastern, Central and Northern ranges of the city. A total of 2,404 challans have been issued for not having Pollution Under

Control (PUCC) certificates. While the New Delhi range has issued 63 such challans, the Western range issued 73 and the southern range issued 121 challans, the officials said. The New Delhi, southern, and western ranges have also issued 322, 894, and 1,235 challans respectively for not having PUCC, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Rajiv Kumar Rawal said that they checked around 3,000 vehicles in the three ranges of the traffic police on Friday.

## PM Modi leaves for three-nation tour, G20 summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said he is looking forward to "meaningful" discussions at the upcoming G20 summit in Brazil that built upon its agenda for the grouping on India's presidency of the bloc last year. Modi made the comments in a statement ahead of his five day visit to Nigeria, Brazil and Guyana. The prime minister's first destination will be Nigeria from where he will travel to Brazil. "In Brazil, I will attend the 19th G-20 Summit as a troika member. Last year, India's successful presidency elevated the G-20 to people's G-20 and mainstreamed the priorities of the Global South into its agenda," the PM said.

## JNU becomes first univ to introduce Indian knowledge traditions course



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Country's top university, Jawaharlal Nehru University, has taken the lead to introduce 'Indian knowledge traditions' (IKT) for students across all disciplines, including engineering and management, which will be taught as part of an elective course. The course will be offered across all schools and centres, with each department customising the content to suit its specific field. 'Indian Knowledge Traditions' refer to indigenous systems of knowledge

developed in India over centuries, covering areas like Vedic sciences, ancient engineering, traditional medicine and philosophical texts. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been advocating for the inclusion of IKT in academic curricula as part of its efforts to acquaint students with India's intellectual heritage and values and sources said several Central universities and institutions are drafting and designing similar courses to impart IKT in their campus. At JNU, engineering students will study traditional practices of engineering, while management students may delve into ancient economic and administrative systems under the new course, the source said. Schools and centres will design syllabi tailored to their disciplines, ensuring relevance for students across various academic backgrounds, they added.

## US returns over 1,400 Indian antiques

PTI ■ NEW YORK

A sandstone sculpture looted from Madhya Pradesh in 1980s and another in green-grey schist, looted from Rajasthan in 1960s are among the over 1,400 antiques collectively valued at USD 10 Million that the US returned to India. More than 600 more antiques looted from India are scheduled to be repatriated in coming months. The pieces were returned at a ceremony with Manish Kulhary from the Consulate General of India here and Alexandra deArmas,



Group Supervisor from the Homeland Security Investigation of New York Cultural Property, Art, and Antiquities Group, according to a statement from Manhattan District Attorney

Alvin L Bragg, Jr. At least 1,440 antiques collectively valued at USD 10 million were returned to India at the event, Bragg said in a statement. The sandstone sculpture depicting a celestial dancer was looted from a temple in Madhya Pradesh in the early 1980s. The looters had cleaved the sculpture into two halves to facilitate smuggling and illicit sale and by February 1992, the two halves were illegally imported from London into New York, professionally reassembled, and donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met).

It remained on display at the Met, until it was seized by the Antiquities Traffic Unit (ATU) in 2023. The second sculpture, Tanesar Mother Goddess, carved from green-grey schist, was looted from a village of Tanesara-Mahadeva in Rajasthan. First documented in the late 1950s by an Indian archaeologist along with 11 other sculptures of mother goddesses, the Tanesar Mother Goddess and her fellow mother goddesses were stolen one evening in the early 1960s, the statement said on Wednesday.



A team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) during a bicycle expedition to Adi Kailash, Om Parvat and Lipulekh Pass. On Nov. 11, ten IAF cyclists reached Adi Kailash (16,000 ft), Om Parvat viewpoint (15,500 ft), and then accomplished Lipulekh Pass (16,750 ft)

## CJI expresses concern over exodus of young talent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna has expressed concern over the "exodus of young talent" from litigation practice and said there is a need to ensure their financial and social security. Speaking at the "Felicitation Function" organised by the Bar Council of India, Khanna said there is a need to create a minimum remuneration standard for young advocates in the first few years of their career. "The exodus of young talent from litigation practice is not merely about personal choice rather it is symptomatic of the structural issues, such as meagre financial and social security in the profession, especially for the first-generation lawyers. To attract the community of young lawyers dedicated to serving the public, we must work towards making the profession a more conducive space, address entry-level barriers and promote support," the CJI said. Khanna said a concerning trend is being witnessed where bright young legal minds are increasingly gravitating towards corporate



law firms or quitting law altogether to pursue managerial roles. "While corporate practice or house roles certainly come with their own merit, we must ask ourselves -- are we, the torch-bearers of the legal community, somehow failing to guide young lawyers towards public interest work? Who will represent the common citizens in the future?" he said. Khanna commended the Bar Council of India's recent recommendation for paying a stipend or remuneration to young lawyers in urban and rural areas. "This would hopefully give early exposures to the young lawyers in the courtroom practice so that they can make informed career choices rather than defaulting towards the corporate path," he said.



## Ayush Ministry's Yoga at Work is iGOT topper

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The much hailed Yoga Break at Workplace (Y-Break) programme of the AYUSH Ministry has been awarded a certificate of appreciation for its "outstanding performance on the iGOT Karmayogi Bharat Platform". The award was presented by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), to Dr Kashinath Samagandi, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), during the Valedictory Ceremony of the National Learning Week Karmayogi Saptah, held at Vignyan Bhawan. The Y-Break course had been completed by around 868,094 government officials. The five-minute yoga break is aimed at easy workouts that help people relax, destress, refresh, and refocus both mind and body during their

workday. That in turn helps improve mood, and increases focus without being stressed. According to the official statement AYUSH introduced this protocol to focus on employees' health at workplaces. It is said to be beneficial across professions. Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav said, "Fitness is essential for better workplace performance, and the Ministry of Ayush is committed to motivating and facilitating self-care through yoga. I congratulate Team Ayush and MDNIY for designing this impactful Y-Break programme." The Secretary of the Ministry of AYUSH, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha added, "Our efforts are dedicated to designing practical yoga initiatives, like the Y-Break programme, that effortlessly fit into employees' schedules, helping them stay energized and productive throughout the day."





# VIEWPOINT

## AICC's fateful Partition meet: What happened inside?



Romit Bagchi

One Sunday morning, I was turning the pages of late Jaswant Singh's controversial book: Jinnah-India-Partition-Independence. One chapter drew my particular attention. It was about the eventual All India Congress Committee meeting held in Delhi on June 14 and 15, 1947 during which the Congress ratified the Partition Plan mooted by Lord Mountbatten. All the bigwigs of the party attended it and many presented their views either in favour of or against the scheme. Among the major voices of dissent were those of Purushottam Das Tandon and the leader from Sindh Chothram Gidwani. They minced no words while taking the leadership to task for supinely accepting the Mountbatten Plan without putting up even the semblance of a fight. Their fiery speeches courted applause from the majority of the party members.

But what were the top leaders doing? Maulana Abul Kalam Azad quite intriguingly sat in a chair in a small corner of the room, puffing away his endless cigarettes. He chose to maintain a studied silence on these two critical days. The Congress president during that portentous period of India's history Acharya JB Kripalani sat sleepily - a picture of weary indifference. Mahatma Gandhi saw him in that

drowsy state and referred to him as the bone-tired president. This prompted the socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia to nudge him out of his somnolence. Kripalani sat up and said he was having a bad headache. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan now stood up and spoke briefly. While venting his deep sorrow and consternation with his comrades having accepted the Partition, he pleaded for a small mercy: inclusion in the plebiscite slated in the North West Frontier Province of the alternative of independence alongside the two other choices: accession to India or Pakistan. Jayaprakash Narayan too chose to confine his speech to a few sentences, voicing his anguish against the proposed Partition. He though appeared to have completely given in to the fait accompli.

Now Mahatma Gandhi stood up. While speaking, he turned to Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel and said they had not informed him about the Partition Plan before committing themselves double quick to it. Cut to the quick, Nehru interrupted Gandhi and said emotionally he had kept him fully informed. Gandhi shook his head and repeated he had no inkling of the Partition scheme. Now taken aback, Nehru softened his earlier rigid observation and said that as he was far away from Delhi in Noakhali in Bengal, he could not have described the details but broadly written to him about the Partition Plan. Lohia was, however, unconvinced. He was severely critical in his observation in his insightful book 'Guilty Men of India's Partition'. He wrote that Nehru might have written vague letters doling out hypothetical and insubstantial information. In his opinion, Nehru and Patel had obviously decided between them-



selves not to scare Gandhi away before the deal was finally resolved upon. He further wrote that Nehru and Patel had been aggressively offensive towards Gandhi at this meeting. "I had a few sharp exchanges with both of them...What appeared to be astonishing then, as now, though I can today understand it somewhat better, was the exceedingly rough behaviour of these two chosen disciples towards their master. There was something psychopathic about it. They seemed to have set their heart on something and whenever they scented that Gandhi was preparing to obstruct them, they shouted violently," he wrote.

While addressing the meeting on the second day, Nehru asserted that the most urgent task at the moment was to arrest the swift drift towards anarchy and chaos by the establishment of a strong Central government. He rejected the view outright that Congress had been coerced into

surrendering to the Muslim League's riot-mongering belligerence. In the same breath, he, however, admitted that they were indeed rattled by the prevailing madness and partition was better than the endless carnage of innocent citizens.

Then Sardar Patel stood up. Lending his unflinching support to the Partition Plan, he said that no airy-fairy formula could work amidst the communally poisonous atmosphere. Pleading for pragmatism, he said that instead of chasing a chimera, they should rather focus themselves on developing what they would get as India according to her cultural genius, leaving the rest for the League to govern. Then, in his presidential address, Kripalani recounted the horrors unleashed by the communal elements in the two communities. He said he had seen a well where women with their children, 107 in all, had thrown themselves to save their honour. In another

place-a place of worship, 50 young women had been killed by their men folk for the same reason. He further said he had seen heaps of bones in a house where 307 persons, mainly women and children, had been locked up and then burnt alive by an invading mob. He then admitted that it was indeed fear that had propelled them into giving in to the Partition Plan. But it was not a nervous weakness, a weak-kneed capitulation before the macabre narratives of massacres but a chilling apprehension that if they were to let this state of things go on they might be reduced to cannibalism and even worse.

When the time came for the members to approve the resolution Nehru had introduced on the Partition Plan, Lohia suggested an amendment strongly repudiating the Two-Nation Theory while affirming that India was indivisibly one nation as Nature and culture had fashioned it over millennia

## Experts discuss healing aspects of spirituality and Yoga at SRHU

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A two-day international conference on spiritual neuroscience started at Swami Rama Himalayan University, Jolly Grant on Saturday. The conference was jointly inaugurated by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh director Dr Meenu Singh, president of SRHU Vijay



has amalgamated spirituality with healthcare. He said that while science helps in meeting one's physical needs, spirituality caters to mental health. The professor and head department of neurology and organising chairman of the conference Dr Deepak Goel said that the objective of the conference is to decode the wisdom hidden in our scriptures in the common man's language with evidence from medical science. Addressing the plenary session in virtual mode the chairman of the National Medical Council (NMC) Dr BN Gangadhar stressed on the need for linking spirituality with clinical healthcare. He said that by observing a yogic lifestyle one can move from illness to wellness.

Dhasmana and Swami Dayadhyananda from Ramkrishna Mission Mumbai. AIIMS director Dr Meenu Singh said practicing Raj Yoga is known to change brain circuits and the flow of thoughts. She said that the late Swami Rama realised this long ago and built this university on the basis of integrating India's ancient wisdom with modern medical science. In his address Swami Dayadhyananda said that by adopting a healthy lifestyle and practicing Yoga one can get rid of many diseases. Quoting from the Bhagwad Geeta, the SRHU president Vijay Dhasmana said that the mind is one's enemy and also one's friend. There is a need to balance it and India's ancient wisdom provides a solution for it. The director general of academics at SRHU, VD Chauhan said the SRHU

### IN BRIEF

#### Guv inaugurates Vedic conference in Haridwar

HARIDWAR: Governor Lt Gen (ret'd) Gurmit Singh inaugurated the All India Vedic Conference hosted by Surat Bangla Ashram in Kankhal in Haridwar on Saturday. He threw light on the significance of the Vedic traditions and the foundations of Indian culture. Singh also underscored the importance of organising such conferences in preserving the essence of the Vedic culture. A number of ascetics and scholars from across the country, including Acharya Balkrishna, participated in it. They deliberated on religious, spiritual and social issues. They also hailed the governor's initiatives for preserving the Vedic traditions.

#### Roadways bus hits pillar, several injured

DEHRADUN: An Uttarakhand Transport Corporation bus rammmed a pillar at the Doiwala-Lacchiwala toll barrier, injuring some of the passengers. They were taken to the nearest community health centre. The bus was heading to Moradabad from Dehradun. Police said that some passengers had sustained minor injuries and were being treated.

#### Vehicle checking drive intensified following spate of accidents

DEHRADUN: In view of the back-to-back road mishaps occurring across Uttarakhand, the Dehradun police started an intensive checking drive for incoming and outgoing vehicles under the directive of the SSP Ajai Singh. Breathalysers are being used to check the drivers' level of alcohol. This is meant to stop drunk driving which is responsible for most of the deadly mishaps.

#### SDRF rescues injured driver after cutting car's cabin

NAINITAL: A vehicle met with an accident on the Bhowali-Almora road at Niglat village near Kainchi Dham on Saturday. The SDRF personnel who reached the spot upon being informed said that the car had plunged into a gorge after the driver lost control, adding that they had to cut the cabin of the vehicle to rescue the driver who was found dangerously trapped in the wreckage. Police said that Dayal Singh from Bageshwar was injured in the mishap.

## Paediatrician's post vacant at SNCU ward of Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Even though the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) ward has been opened at the Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital, one of the two approved paediatrician positions in the ward remains vacant. Recently, the Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat, together with the district magistrate Savin Bansal had inaugurated the SNCU ward for infants at the Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital. The establishment of this ward was carried out at the hospital following instructions from the State administration.

Informing about this, the medical superintendent of the hospital Dr VS Chauhan informed that the ward currently consists of six beds and will receive enhancements in the future. To ensure the smooth functioning of the SNCU ward, the hospital has hired two doctors and ten nurses through the National Health Mission (NHM). Additionally, a paediatrician has been specifically hired for the ward, along with six security guards and six medical attendants to support its operations. However, one of the sanctioned positions for a paediatrician at the hospital remains vacant due to unavoidable circumstances. The process of hiring another paediatrician has been initiated by the authorities and will be filled soon. The delay in hiring the paediatrician is attributed to the lower salary offered at the government hospital compared to private hospitals, he added. Regarding the functioning of the SNCU ward,

he said that four infants were admitted on the day of inauguration. Currently, three infants are under care in the ward.

It will be recalled that prior to the commencement of operations in the SNCU ward, the officials concerned had employed two paediatricians. However, upon completion of the recruitment process, they decided to resign from their positions before commencing work at the hospital due to a lower salary offered compared to what they could potentially earn at a private healthcare facility. This situation had led to challenges in securing replacements, ultimately resulting in a delay in the launch of the SNCU ward at the hospital.

## SCPCR holds meeting with children on their rights

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) organised a virtual meeting on Saturday to discuss child rights with children from all districts. Departments in attendance included the Women Empowerment and Child Welfare department, Police, Education department and others. The meeting engaged about 400 to 500 children from the districts. During the meeting, SCPCR chairwoman Geeta Khanna provided detailed information about children's rights and the importance of their protection. She emphasised the historical background of child rights and the roles that both society and government play in safeguarding these rights. The meeting fostered dialogue between the children, their families and representatives from various departments. Special efforts were made to emphasise the sig-

nificance of child rights. Regarding this, Khanna stated that this initiative is essential for educating children about their rights and taking meaningful steps toward their protection. She also noted the efforts of the commission with the aim to raise awareness about children's rights in the State and implement concrete measures to ensure their safety.



### कार्यालय नगरपालिका परिषद विकासनगर - देहरादून

पत्रांक 709 / खे0भ0नि0 / 2024-25 निविदा सूचना दिनांक 16 नवम्बर, 2024

नगर पालिका परिषद विकासनगर जिला-देहरादून द्वारा पालिका स्वामित्व के खेल भवन को किराये पर संचालन हेतु सक्षम एजेंसी/टेकेंदार से दिनांक 05.12.2024 समय 02:00 बजे तक (टू-बिड सिस्टम) तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय सीलबन्ध निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं, जो उसी दिन सां 4:00 बजे निविदाताओं अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी, निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 04.12.2024 को अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क नगर पालिका परिषद विकासनगर कार्यालय में जमा कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं, धरोहर धनराशि की एफंडींग/आरंभ अधिशासी अधिकारी नगर पालिका परिषद विकासनगर जिला देहरादून के पद नाम से बन्धक कर देनी होगी। किसी एक या समस्त निविदादाताओं को स्वीकार / अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को होगा, निविदा शर्तें एवं अन्य जानकारी किसी भी कार्यालय दिवस पर देखी जा प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

क्र० सं०	सम्पत्ति का विवरण	जमानत धनराशि	निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क	खेल भवन किराये आबंटन की अवधि
1	नगर पालिका परिषद विकासनगर का खेल भवन	1,50,000.00	1,500+GST	05 वर्ष

(बदी प्रसाद मट्ट) अधिशासी अधिकारी (विनोद कुमार) प्रशासक

### THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

In military records my father's name is Ram Laot Chaurasia which is wrong correct name is Ram Laut, Aadhaar Number is 887239884418 F/o Army Number is 18021963P SPR Suraj Kumar Chaurasiya Village Sarai Majra Post Harigtonganj District Ayodhya Uttar Pradesh 224208

My name is registered as Godambari Devi Rawat in passport number-S6893452. Whereas in other documents it is Godambari Devi, which is correct. Let me be known by this name. Godambari Devi wife Nandan Singh resident of P-40, Yamunotri Enclave, Badripur, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

In my military records, my wife's name is erroneously recorded as Meena, which is wrong. My wife's correct name is Meena Devi. Army No.-4095798N-Rank/NK Darshan Singh son of late Nandan Singh resident of village Ganiyal PO Farkande, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
In the school record of my son Arpit Bahuguna Roll No 25107969, student of Class-X, SGRR School Bindal, Dehradun passing year 2024, his father's name Sangeeta Bahuguna and his mother's name Rajeev Bahuguna has been mistakenly recorded whereas correct name of father is RAJEEV PRASAD BAHUGUNA and mother's correct name is SANGEETA BAHUGUNA. It should be updated in his school records for all future purposes. Rajeev Bahuguna, F/o Arpit Bahuguna, resident of Vill + Post Odgaon, Tehsil Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I am Afsha Jabi wife of Shri Mohammad Tahir, purchasing a property bearing Khata No 945 from the previous owner Shri Mohammad Tahir S/o Shri Mohammad Ayub and Shri Majeed Ali S/o Shri Kabul Hasan by taking loan from SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited. (1) The property is recorded and registered in the Sub Registrar office vide Book No. 1 Jild 4078, Page No 131 to 156 dated 14.01.2021 and (2) The property is recorded and registered in the Sub Registrar office vide Book No. 1 Jild 4078, Page No 105 to 130 dated 14.01.2021. If any person has any objection, he/she can contact at the address given below.  
Advocate Shri Alok Singh Pundir Address:- 184/71 West Canal Road Majra, Mobile No. 9412054582

**Disclaimer**  
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.  
For advertisement booking 9045057787, 8909212518 Email: pioneerdoon@gmail.com





# Congress promoting land, love & spit Jihad in U'khand: Dhama

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched a scathing attack on the Congress party at an election rally in Chopta (Talla Nagpur) of Rudraprayag district on Saturday by accusing it of promoting and abetting land, love and spit Jihad in Uttarakhand.

Addressing a well attended public meeting in support

in large numbers which changed the demography. The CM said that his government has freed more than 5,000 hectares of land from the clutches of the land Jihadis in the State. He averred that the BJP government will not allow any of the infiltrators to succeed in the nefarious intentions they have towards women. "My government has acted against

promise of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State and implemented a strict anti-copying law due which more than 19,000 youngsters have got government jobs in the past three years. He claimed that more than 100 people associated with the copying mafia are behind bars. He said that Uttarakhand and Kedar valley are moving forward on

those who were talking about setting up a Muslim university in the State are now talking about Kedarnath. The CM said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an ardent follower of Baba Kedar and he is the first PM to have visited Kedarnath shrine seven times.

Dhama said that he stands with the people during the disaster by going to ground zero and this time also more than 16,000 pilgrims were safely evacuated during the disaster in Kedarnath. He also accused the Congress of spreading lies and dividing the people.

Dhama said that the BJP has always given respect to women and has provided 30 per cent reservation to women of the State in government jobs. The ticket to Asha Nautiyal shows the respect the party has for the women, he said. The CM appealed to people to ensure victory of the BJP candidate in Kedarnath.



of BJP candidate for Kedarnath Assembly bypoll Asha Nautiyal, Dhama said that the Congress party engaged in politics of appeasement during its rule in the State due to which infiltrators entered the State

the land, love and spit Jihad in Uttarakhand and we will not allow anyone to tamper with the faith and aspirations of the State. We will soon table a strict land law in the State," he said. Dhama said that he has fulfilled his

the path of development and this year more than 16 lakh pilgrims have undertaken the Yatra. The CM said that the Congress has become restless at the development activities undertaken in Kedarnath and it is a pity that

The BJP national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam, candidate Asha Nautiyal, Rudraprayag MLA Bharat Chaudhary and other leaders were present in the meeting.

# Badrinath to be closed for winters today, rituals underway

PNS ■ JYOTIRMATH

The Badrinath Dham will be ceremoniously closed to the public for the winter on Sunday night. Meanwhile, the ritual process for closure of the shrine continued on the fourth day on Saturday. As part of the ceremonies on Saturday, Kadhai Bhog was offered in the Mata Lakshmi Mandir and special prayers were offered. Thereafter, prayers were offered to the goddess asking her to sit in the Garbh Grah of the

Sudhir Dimri and Arvind Dimri offered Kadhai Bhog in the Mata Lakshmi temple on Saturday afternoon.

The Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) media in-charge Harish Gaur informed that as part of the ritual process for closure of the Badrinath temple for the winter, the Rawal will dress up as a woman and install goddess Lakshmi in the sanctum sanctorum of the



Badrinath temple.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Badrinath temple will be closed for the winters at 9:07 PM on Sunday. The temple is being decked up in flowers for the occasion. As part of the Panch Pooja ritual for closure of the temple, the Rawal Amarnath Namboodari, Dharmadhikari Radhakrishna Thapliyal, Vedpathi Ravindra Bhatt and Amit Bandoliya along with the Lakshmi Mandir priests

Badrinath temple on Sunday. Shortly before this, Uddhav and Kuber will arrive in the temple. Later at night, the final process for closing the portals of the temple will be started. The idol of the lord will be wrapped in a ghee coated woollen blanket after which the temple will be closed to the public at 9:07 PM. The closure of the Badrinath temple to the public will mark the formal end of the Char Dham Yatra this year.

# Good samaritan honoured for helping ONGC Chowk mishap victim

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Dehradun police felicitated a youth who had come forward to help one person who was injured in the road accident which killed six others in Dehradun on November 11. According to the police, Atul Panwar was passing by the site of the mishap when with the help of the police and another youth Deepak Pandey, he took the injured youth Siddhesh Agrawal in

Dehradun on holiday. At the time of the accident in question, he was returning home after dropping a friend. Noticing the scene of the accident at ONGC Chowk, he approached the wreckage to provide assistance. Understanding the value of life, he did not wait for an ambulance but transported an injured youth to the hospital with the help of the police and another



his vehicle to the hospital. Meeting Panwar on Saturday, senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh appreciated his deed and felicitated him under the Good Samaritan scheme. Panwar said that he currently working in Dubai and had come to his home

youth present at the site. This ensured timely treatment to the injured youth, who is the sole survivor of the mishap. Panwar has also appealed to the general public to come forward to help the injured persons at the time of an accident.

# LoP Arya corners BJP govt for using bulldozer to raze shops in Chopta

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The leader of opposition (LoP) in the Assembly, Yashpal Arya and other leaders addressed many public meetings in support of Congress party candidate Manoj Rawat for Kedarnath Assembly by-election in the Talla Nagpur area of the constituency on Saturday.

Addressing the public, Arya alleged that atrocities are being committed on the weaker sections of society under the BJP rule in the State. He said that the canteens and tea shops used to be the source of employment for local people in Chopta which is so rich in natural beauty that it is called mini Switzerland. Arya said that it is unfortunate that the government razed these shops in the name of an anti-encroachment drive. He said that the government is working in an autocratic manner and using bull-

dozers on the employment of people. The LoP also attacked the BJP government for rendering a blow to the pride of Kedarnath and its people.

Taking a dig at the BJP candidate Asha Nautiyal for crying on the stage in CM's public meeting on Saturday, the Congress candidate Manoj Rawat questioned as to where she was when every daughter was crying for Ankit Bhandari and where she was when the shops in Chopta were being demolished. Rawat said that allegations of rape were levelled against various BJP leaders but Nautiyal kept quite even though she is the State president of BJP Mahila Morcha. He alleged that the BJP government is removing people from Chopta as part of a deep root-cause conspiracy and it is planning to hand over the area into private hands.

# No more serving alcohol till midnight on weekends in Dehradun, orders DM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Considering the rising number of road accidents due to drunk driving late at night and to maintain the law and peace in the district, the Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal has used the powers under section 59 of the Excise Manual and cancelled the practice of alcohol being served for one hour extra on weekends in hotels, restaurants, bars, pubs and other licensed businesses. According to officials, this is the first instance in the State wherein a district magistrate has used the powers under this section of the Excise Manual to discontinue the long standing practice of allowing the serving of liquor for an additional hour on weekends. Now the liquor will be served till 11 PM on weekdays. With orders to this effect being issued by the district magistrate, legal action will be taken against any business found serving liquor

beyond the permitted 11 PM, officials said.

In a related development, on the DM's recommendation, the Excise commissioner HC Semwal has cancelled the 24-hour bar license issued earlier to the Hyatt Residency hotel. Before Bansal assumed charge as the DM, the Excise commissioner had allowed the establishment to operate its bar 24 hours in August this year. Following the cancellation of this permission by the commissioner, this bar too will remain open only till 11 PM.

It is pertinent to mention here that the district administration and police have stepped up action to check irresponsible alcohol consumption and drunk driving in the district considering a rise in road accidents in which drunk driving is suspected of being a factor.

# DM orders effective steps to curb road accidents, seeks proposals within a week

## Rs 30 lakh approved for safety measures at vulnerable spots

PNS ■ UTTARKASHI

Stating that every life is precious, Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal has directed the departments concerned to take concrete steps to prevent road accidents in the district. Chairing a meeting of the district-level road safety committee along with senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh on Saturday, the DM directed the departments concerned to identify factors responsible for road accidents and prepare action plans on a war footing to address these issues. Directing the Public Works Department to prepare a work plan for three-dimensional marking speed breakers at vulnerable spots within a week, while also approving Rs 30 lakh on the spot for this task. Further, budget was approved from the untied fund for a three-year annual maintenance contract for some CCTV cameras of the police which are not functioning properly. The Traffic Police superintendent has been directed to submit a proposal for this. The district administration has also made preparations for installation of 14 new traffic lights under the zero investment model, for which the tender process has been undertaken. Bansal also directed the regional transport office to not delay on works like zebra crossings and stoppage signs, sought proposals and approved the necessary funds. Regarding the road accident which resulted in six deaths on November 11 at ONGC Chowk in the city, the DM directed the Dehradun Smart City Limited (DSCL) to submit an inquiry report within a week on why the CCTV cameras were not recording in the area at the time of the accident. He also directed that the



impaired Smart City CCTV cameras should be repaired within 10 days and a report should be submitted on the same. He also directed officials to link CCTV cameras in the city areas of the district with the Smart City integrated command and control centre. The PWD officials were directed to install high mast lights at Asharodi. It will be recalled that one person had died and three had been injured in a multiple vehicle collision recently at the Asharodi checkpoint on the outskirts of the city. Apart from this, the Police department was directed to link the speed monitor cameras with the Smart City's integrated command and control centre. The DM also directed officials of DSCL and other departments concerned to work in

coordination to link the CCTV cameras to the Smart City's integrated command and con-

trol centre, adding that funds will be provided for this task.

# AAP announces work on 15 guarantees to public on winning local body polls

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Aam Aadmi Party announced 15 guarantees to the public including free education and free health facilities, which it will work on if it wins in the coming local body elections in the State. Releasing the 15 guarantees of the party here at the Press Club on Saturday, the AAP MLA from Trilokpuri, Delhi and its co-in-charge in Uttarakhand, Rohit Mehroliya said that if the people of the State elect AAP candidates in the coming local body elections to give a majority to the party, the AAP guarantees to work on 15 important issues in the local body areas. He said, "On winning, we will build schools and Mohalla clinics to provide free education and free health facilities to the people. We will also construct marriage halls and provide these to the public at minimal rates in addition to ensuring the regularisation of sanitation workers and reading



rooms for senior citizens in the cities. The AAP will also create vending zones for the street vendors in the areas under the purview of the local bodies," he said. Mehroliya claimed that the use of the word 'guarantee' in

Indian politics originated in the AAP and that its governments in Delhi and Punjab had fulfilled the guarantees it had given to the public. He said, "The people of Uttarakhand have been suffering due to issues related to basic fac-

ilities for the past 24 years. The successive local governments under the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress failed to ensure basic facilities for the public in their cities and localities. Today, AAP is the only viable option available to the public as it is capable of developing Uttarakhand as envisioned by those who laid down their lives in the statehood movement," Mehroliya claimed.

Addressing the media, the party's State officiating head SS Kaler said that if the BJP and Congress have been doing their

politics with honesty, the AAP challenges the two parties to approach the public with their election manifesto for the previous election. They should inform the people about the 2018 local body election manifesto promises which they have fulfilled. He said, "The AAP is ready to contest the coming local body elections. We have built up our organisation to the booth level. In each of the local bodies, AAP workers, office bearers and persons from non-political organisations and socially active persons have staked their claim to contest in the election. Our party workers will visit the people in the wards in all the districts from Monday to assure them of fulfilling the 15 guarantees announced by the party. We will also work on boosting the party's membership through our missed call number," he added.

**टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड**  
**THDC INDIA LIMITED**  
(श्रेणी - क, मिनी रत्न, उपक्रम)  
(Schedule - A, Mini Ratna, PSU)

**Form 14**  
[To be published in pursuance of Clause (7) of Regulation 23 of Conduct of Business Regulations, 2023]

1. The Petitioner above-named has filed a petition before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for Tehri Hydroelectric Power Plant (1000 MW) for the period 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2029. 2. The beneficiaries of the generating station are: i. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, Punjab. ii. Haryana Power Utilities (DHBVNL & UHBVNL), Haryana. iii. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited, Uttar Pradesh. iv. Delhi Discoms (a) BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, Delhi (b) BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi (c) TATA Power Delhi Distribution Limited, Delhi v. Engineering Deptt., Chandigarh Administration, UT of Chandigarh, Chandigarh vi. Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited, Uttarakhand vii. Rajasthan Discoms: (a) Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Jaipur (b) Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Ajmer (c) Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Jodhpur (d) Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, Jaipur viii. (a) Power Development Department (PDD), J&K. (b) Jammu and Kashmir State Power Trading Company Limited, J&K ix. Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Limited, Madhya Pradesh x. New Delhi Municipal Council, New Delhi 3. Capacity of the generating station : 1000 MW (4 x 250 MW) 4. Approved capital cost of the project : Final Completion Cost (Rs. In cr.): 8392.45 (at March'08 price level). Authority which has approved the Capital Cost: C.C.E.A, Government of India 5. Scheduled date of commercial operation : First three units by June'05 and fourth unit by July'05. 6. Actual date of commercial operation : 1st Unit (Unit-I) - 22.09.2006, 2nd Unit (Unit-II)-09.11.2006, 3rd Unit (Unit-III)-30.03.2007, 4th Unit (Unit-IV)-09.07.2007. 7. Capital cost (Power Component) on the date of commercial operation (Rs. in Cr.): 6510.19. 8. Details of tariff for the Tariff period 2024-29:

Sl. No.	Description	Submitted tariff for the previous year (2023-24)	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
			1st Year 2024-25	2nd Year 2025-26	3rd Year 2026-27	4th Year 2027-28	5th Year 2028-29
1.	Annual Fixed Cost	116397.46	112921.78	121368.46	123441.79	125990.43	129028.18

9. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on THDCIL's website <thdc.co.in>. 10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through the e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

(H. S. Bhattal)

Date: 17.11.2024 Additional General Manager (Commercial)

Bypass Road, Pragatipuram, Rishikesh-249201 (Uttarakhand)



# Home Ministry urges peace in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Urging people to maintain peace in Manipur, Union Home Ministry on Saturday said all security forces deployed in Manipur have been directed to take necessary steps to restore order and peace in the State as the security scenario remained "fragile" in the past few days.

"The security scenario in Manipur has remained fragile for the past few days. Armed miscreants from both communities in conflict have been indulging in violence leading to unfortunate loss of lives and disruption in public order," said the Ministry in a statement.

The Home Ministry said strict action would be initiated against anyone trying to indulge in violent and disruptive activities. It said important cases have been handed over to the NIA



for effective investigation. "The security forces have been directed to take necessary steps to restore order and peace. Strict action would be initiated against anyone trying to indulge in violent and disruptive activities," said Ministry, requesting people to maintain peace, not believe in rumours and cooperate with

the security forces to maintain law and order in the State. A fresh cycle of violence erupted in Manipur last Monday after 11 suspected militants, who allegedly attacked a police station and adjoining CRPF camp with sophisticated weapons in Manipur's Jiribam district, were killed in an exchange of

fire. A day later, six civilians, including women and children were abducted by armed militants from the same district. Seeing the fragile situation, the Centre reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam on Thursday. The fresh order came after the Manipur government imposed AFSPA in the entire state on October 1, barring 19 police station areas that include these six. The police stations excluded from the Manipur government's October 1 order were Imphal, Lamphal, City, Singjamei, Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsoi, Wangoi, Porompat, Heingang, Lamlai, Iriblung, Leimakhong, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Nambol, Moirang, Kakching, Jiribam. An area or district is notified as "disturbed" under AFSPA to facilitate the operations of

the armed forces. AFSPA gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary for the "maintenance of public order". The police station areas where AFSPA has been reimposed are Sekmai and Lamsang in Imphal West district, Lamlai in Imphal East district, Jiribam in Jiribam district, Leimakhong in Kangpokpi and Moirang in Bishnupur. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year. The ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by the clashes in Imphal Valley and the adjoining hills, witnessed violence after the mutilated body of a farmer was found in a field in June this year.

# BJP claims some Muslim bodies asking community to vote for INDIA bloc, demands strict action

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday alleged that some Muslim bodies are trying to vitiate the poll atmosphere in Maharashtra and Jharkhand by appealing to their community members to vote for the INDIA bloc on the lines of religion, and urged the Election Commission and the Supreme Court to take action in the matter. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said All India Muslim Personal Law Board's functionary Maulana Sajjad Nomani has said that the outfit has decided to support Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on 269 seats and other non-BJP parties on a few seats in Maharashtra Assembly polls. He said that Nomani has appealed to the Muslims to vote for the MVA, saying the outcome of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections will have an impact



not only on the future of the state but also on the future of the entire country. Earlier the Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind's Lohardaga unit appealed to the Muslims to vote en bloc for the Congress-JMM-RJD-CPI (ML) Liberation combine in Jharkhand, Bhatia claimed. "This is called vote jihad," he said, adding, "This is the height of appeasement politics" by the MVA in Maharashtra and Congress-JMM in Jharkhand. Bhatia said that an appeal for votes made on the basis of religion amounts to corrupt practices. "It cannot be tolerated in a democracy like ours where

elections have to be as pure as Mother Ganges. It's a very worrisome trend that we have seen that for the lust of power, the Congress, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray are ready to appease, adopt infiltrators and say 'I love you' to illegal immigrants," he said. He said illegal immigrants can be a threat to national security but it doesn't matter to the INDIA bloc parties. Bhatia said when Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a "positive slogan" for national unity, saying "ek rahoge toh, safe rahoge", the INDIA bloc raised objections even though "a wise person, even a child would say this is the mool mantra for the progress of the country". "When Ulema, All India Muslim Personal Law Board and other (Muslim) outfits come out in the open and appeal to all Muslims to come together, it's our appeal to the Election Commission and the Supreme Court to ensure that no political party vitiates the elections.

# Anurag Srivastava appointed as India's next high commissioner to Mauritius



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Seasoned diplomat Anurag Srivastava has been appointed as India's next high commissioner to Mauritius, an island nation that has emerged as a strategic player in the Indian Ocean region. Srivastava, a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) diplomat, is currently serving as a joint secretary helming the Nepal-Bhutan division at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He will succeed incumbent K Nandini Singla. Srivastava is expected to take up the assignment shortly, the MEA said in a brief statement on Saturday. Prior to his appointment as joint secretary in the Nepal-Bhutan

division in March 2021, he served as the spokesperson in the MEA for nearly a year. Srivastava also served as India's ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union from September 2016 to February 2020. In his nearly 25-year-long career as a diplomat, he also served in many Indian missions abroad, including as the head of the political wing at New Delhi's High Commission in Colombo and had a stint at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. In Colombo, he was closely involved in the formulation and implementation of India's development projects in Sri Lanka. He has also held different positions in the foreign office in New Delhi, including in the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division. Srivastava obtained degrees in engineering and business management followed by a brief stint in the corporate sector before joining the foreign service. He also has a postgraduate diploma in diplomatic studies from Oxford University.

# Own-source revenue for panchayats remains low at ₹59 per capita

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation for panchayats remains low, with the income through tax collected by the rural local governance bodies on an average being just Rs 59 per capita between 2017 and 2022, according to government data. Even as the generation of OSR for panchayats has come into focus to give these rural bodies more financial autonomy, according to the data compiled by the Panchayati Raj ministry, between 2017 and 2022, only an amount of Rs 5,118.98 crore was raised as OSR by the panchayats. This comes down to Rs 59 per capita and Rs 2.27 lakh per panchayat over the five-year period for 2.25 lakh gram panchayats across the country. The total population coming under these panchayats was more than 86.95 crore in the said period. Among the states, Gujarat collected the highest amount as OSR at Rs 829.75 crore, while Kerala came second



collecting Rs 802.95 crore. Andhra Pradesh, which raised Rs 791.93 crore, occupied the third position, followed by Karnataka (Rs 627.56 crore), Tamil Nadu (Rs 516.3 crore) and West Bengal (Rs 435.17 crore). In terms of the per capita OSR raised by the panchayats, Goa topped the list with Rs 1,635 raised in taxes per person, followed by Puducherry, which raised Rs 757 per capita. However, according to the information shared by the

ministry at the conclave, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep are among the states and Union territories that do not have OSR rules. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab,

Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Puducherry, meanwhile, have framed these rules. The total 15th Finance Commission fund allocation to rural bodies is around Rs 2.36 lakh crore (2021-22 to 2025-26). Of this, around 60 per cent is "Tied Grants", which include heads like drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, sanitation and maintenance services, while around 40 per cent is "Untied Grants" for improving basic services. For panchayats to generate OSR, the states may authorise them to levy taxes, duties, tolls and fees, and it strengthens the panchayat identity as a local government through tax-based OSR. However, limited elected representatives' hesitance and administrative limitations often restrict it. Matching grants based on OSR have been used as one of the ways by the Centre to encourage panchayats, like in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, up to three times of the OSR is given as incentive.

# RaGa criticises Yogi's Government over newborns death in Jhansi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Saturday condoled the death of children in a fire at a medical college in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi district and demanded a probe into the matter as well as strict legal action against those found guilty of negligence. Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath government, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said such tragic incidents happening one after another in Uttar Pradesh raise many serious questions about the negligence of the government and administration. At least 10 children died in a fire that engulfed the children's ward of the medical college in Jhansi, officials said, as 16 injured children battled for life on Saturday. District Magistrate (DM) Avinash Kumar told reporters that the fire broke out around 10.45 pm on Friday in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College possibly due to an electrical

short circuit. In a social media post Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "The news of the death of innocent children in the accident that took place at the medical college in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh is extremely painful. Our deepest condolences to the families of all the children who died in this heartbreaking accident. May god give their families the strength to bear this sorrow." "We demand from the government that the causes of this accident be investigated and strict legal action should be taken against whoever is guilty of such negligence," he said. Rahul Gandhi also condoled the loss of lives in the tragic accident. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the death and injury of several newborn children in the tragic accident at Jhansi Medical College. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Such tragic incidents happening one after another in Uttar Pradesh raise many serious questions about the negligence of the government and administration," said Rahul.

# CAG Murmu urges officers to think out of the box while addressing 4th Audit Diwas celebrations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Saturday urged officers to think out of the box, experiment with new techniques, and adapt to the changing technological and governance environment. With the increasing use of AI and emerging technologies to provide services, he said there are numerous risks, ranging from privacy breaches and algorithmic biases to social exclusion. "...As an organisation, we are deeply cognisant of these developments and are engaging closely with emerging technological trends for enhancing the effectiveness of auditing and accounting practices in such a landscape," he said at the 4th Audit Diwas celebrations here.



Murmu emphasised that in the quest for strengthening auditing and accounting practices, "all offices of the CAG's organisation are encouraged to think-out-of-the-box and adapt to changing technological and governance environment" by experimenting with new techniques, which help in nurturing creativity in methodologies, economy in operations and result in better execution of functions. Inaugurating the 4th Audit Diwas celebrations, Lok

Sabha Speaker Om Birla lauded the CAG's rich legacy, highlighting its evolution into a globally recognised institution known for its distinctiveness and credibility. He also praised the CAG's proactive adoption of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, which has strengthened its audit processes and enhanced transparency. The speaker stressed that auditing has transformed over the years and become a guiding force in

improving financial discipline, transparency and governance. Birla also highlighted the critical role of parliamentary committees, chaired by senior opposition members, in scrutinising audit reports, fostering constructive discussions and ensuring financial accountability. In his speech, Murmu elaborated on the institution's focus on audits of social relevance that have a bearing on people's lives and livelihoods. He also mentioned the institutional mechanism, which was set up to synchronise the audit efforts right through the audit process. The CAG also talked about the significant milestone achieved by assuming the chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the 2024-2027 term.

# Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi to visit Nepal, conferred honorary rank of 'General of Nepal Army'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi will embark on a four-day visit to Nepal starting November 20 to explore ways to further expand the already close defence and strategic ties between the two countries and review the evolving regional security situation. In Kathmandu, Gen. Dwivedi will be conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepal Army" by Nepalese President Ramchandra Paudel in continuation of an age-old tradition that first started in 1950, reflecting the strong ties between the two militaries. The Army chief's visit to Nepal from November 20 to November 24 will mark another significant chapter in the evolving military diplomacy between the two neighbouring countries, sources in the defence establishment said. It is expected to strengthen the defence ties, paving the way for continued collaboration on multiple fronts, including military exercises, training programmes and strategic discussions on regional security concerns, they said. General Dwivedi is set to hold extensive talks with his Nepalese counterpart, General Ashok Raj Sigdel, and likely to meet Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and other key leaders in the Nepalese government. Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti-Beti" relationship. Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and



services. Nepal's access to the sea is through India and it imports a predominant proportion of its requirements from and through India. India and Nepal share a special relationship, reinforced by cultural, historical and geographical factors. This bond has evolved into a robust military partnership that plays a key role in enhancing regional security, the sources said. General Dwivedi is also likely to visit the Shri Muktinath temple in Nepal's Mustang region. It is learnt that India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, also wanted to visit the temple. In his memory, a bell named "Bipin Bell" was installed in the temple in February 2023. Nepal has continued its close ties with India, with regular exchanges of military training, visits and defence modernisation. India and Nepal are critical partners in enhancing mutual military capabilities,

particularly through training programmes. General Dwivedi's visit is expected to focus on the ongoing defence modernisation in both militaries through various initiatives. Both countries offer courses to military personnel in reputed military institutions. This collaboration has seen more than 300 Nepali Army personnel undergoing training in India this year alone in specialised fields. Similarly, Indian Army personnel also undergo courses in Nepal. A key pillar of the India-Nepal military cooperation is the annual "Surya Kiran" joint military exercise, which enhances interoperability between the two armed forces. The exercise, which focuses on counterterrorism, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, will see its 18th edition in December in Nepal, the sources said. The scope and complexity of the exercise are set to be expanded, providing an opportunity to

further improve the operational synergy between the two armies, they said. India has been supporting Nepal in its military modernisation by supplying various forms of military hardware, including small arms, vehicles and advanced training simulators. Through the Nepal-India bilateral consultative group on security issues, the two countries have held 15 meetings to discuss defence cooperation and several equipment needs have also been met under this forum, the sources said. General Dwivedi's visit will provide an opportunity to further enhance these engagements, including discussions on improving disaster response mechanisms and expanding regional security cooperation, they said. The large population of Indian ex-servicemen in Nepal also plays an important role in strengthening the ties between the two countries.

# All work pending for last 28 years in Gidderbaha will be finished in next two-and-a-half years: Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All work pending for the last 28 years in Gidderbaha will be finished within the next two and half years, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday, as urged voters to cast their ballot to the party candidate. Kejriwal made the promise campaigning for party nominee Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, who is pitted against Congress nominee Amrita Warring, and BJP candidate Manpreet Singh Badal. The bypolls to the four assembly seats - Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal and Barnala - will take place on November 20 and counting of votes will be held on November 23. The Gidderbaha seat fell vacant after Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, who was a Congress MLA, was elected to the

Lok Sabha from the Ludhiana seat in the 2024 parliamentary elections. "The work which was held up in the last 28 years will be done in two and half years. There will not be any shortage of funds," Kejriwal said, referring to the tenure of Badal and Warring, who between them represented the seat in Muktsar for close to three decades. Manpreet Badal represented the Gidderbaha seat in 1995, 1997, 2002 and 2007 on Shiromani Akali Dal tickets. Warring won the seat in 2012, 2017 and 2022. "If you elect an MLA of the party which is at the helm, then your work will be done. If an MLA is of the AAP, then all your work will be done," said the AAP leader. He promised that his government would resolve the problems of sewage and drinking water, repair all roads,

including Gidderbaha-Lambi, and build sports stadiums in the constituency. The AAP government in Punjab in the first half of its term made electricity free for domestic consumers, he said. "Your support to the Aam Aadmi Party has been historic. Never before has any party received such overwhelming backing in Punjab. You gave us 92 seats out of 117 in 2022. "Over the past two and a half years, we have been working relentlessly for the people of Punjab, ensuring zero electricity bills for households and offering free treatment and medicine at Mohalla Clinics," Kejriwal said. He said that before his party came to power, the people of Punjab were beset with huge electricity bills, but the AAP government waived the old bills and made future electricity free.



## Kerala BJP leader Sandeep Varier joins Congress



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kerala suffered a jolt on Saturday as Sandeep Varier, a prominent spokesperson of the Hindutva party, declaring his decision to join the Indian National Congress, dumping his parent party. According to Varier, it was the cold shouldering by the BJP leadership in the state that forced him to quit the party and open an account with the shop that sells love and affection. "The BJP's Kerala president K Surendran is responsible for my action. He never liked me for reasons best known to him only. Surendran is emblematic of the state of affairs in the Kerala BJP which is the worst political system in the country," said Varier after joining the Congress party at Palakkad, where he was accorded a ceremonial welcome. Varier said that the ideology he was pursuing till yesterday was full of mistakes and errors. "I was never a follower of Narendra Modi. From this moment on, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are my leaders," said Varier. The BJP leader, who had put in years of work in the CPI(M) and the BJP before joining the Congress chose the grand old party overlooking the offers made by the comrades as well as Congress leaders. Surendran remained silent and jovial and initially, though he opened up following the charges by Varier. "Sandeep is upset because he could not be offered a seat in the last Lok Sabha Election. Anyway we hope that the Congress party would offer him a seat from Thrithala Assembly constituency in the next General Election," said Surendran.

## LG hints at J and K local bodies poll early next year

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After the successful conduct of the Assembly election of Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) is headed for another round of electioneering to elect urban local bodies and representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday dropped clear hints that the UT administration is gearing up to conduct Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies polls in the region early next year after the winter season.



Sinha made this statement while addressing a gathering of farmers at the venue of the annual Jhiri Mela in Jammu. LG also paid obeisance to Baba Jitto at his Samadhi in Jhiri Village.

Sinha made a categorical announcement that Panchayat and urban local body elections will be held soon. The revision of electoral rolls is already underway in the region. The last panchayat elections were held in November 2019. The term of the existing panchayats ended in December-January, 2023-24. J and K has a total of 4,292 panchayats which include 2,182 in Kashmir and 2,110 in Jammu valley. Also, the terms of office of the municipal corporations in both Jammu and Srinagar expired last

November. After the conduct of panchayat and urban body polls, all democratic processes, including those at the grassroots level, will be completed in J and K post abrogation of Article 370. Political parties are also gearing up in advance and have already launched their mass contact programs to reach out to the electorate. The National Conference, which won the maximum number of seats across the Kashmir valley, is now focusing on expanding its base across the Jammu region.

## BJP using Article 370 to win polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand: Farooq Abdullah



PTI ■ JAMMU

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) onslaught on the Congress over Article 370 of the Constitution is aimed at weakening the opposition party and winning elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, Farooq Abdullah, president of the National Conference (NC) said on Saturday. However, the veteran leader said they will not allow the Congress to be weakened and hoped that the INDIA bloc will emerge victorious in the Assembly polls in both the states. Talking to reporters after attending a private function in Jammu, Abdullah said he has no doubt about the return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Asked about the statements of Congress leaders that there is no mention of restoration of Article 370 in a recently-passed resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) Assembly, Abdullah said they have their own purpose

because their party is under attack from the BJP, with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah 'shouting repeatedly at them just to win the elections'. "They (BJP) are thinking that they will weaken the Congress but we will not allow that to happen," the former J and K chief minister said. "We are hopeful that they (INDIA alliance) will win the elections," he added. On the criticism of Kashmir-based political parties for allegedly misleading people on the resolution by linking it to Article 370, Abdullah said they are free to raise questions. "Our (election) manifesto is before the public and we are following it," he said. Abdullah responded angrily to a question about the restoration of statehood to J and K and asked, "What type of a response do you want from the Centre to the resolution for restoration of statehood? How long has this (NC) government been

formed? Do you want statehood to fall from the sky?" "Statehood will be returned (to Jammu and Kashmir) and I have no doubt over it. Earlier, some people used to say that (Assembly) polls will not take place (in Jammu and Kashmir) but the elections happened. They (BJP) launched a propaganda that they will form the government but what happened?" he asked. On Shah's statement that Modi is determined to amend the Waqf Act despite resistance from key opposition leaders, Abdullah said, "He is the owner of India. Let him do what he wants. He is the king." Asked about the BJP's "Batenge Toh Katenge" slogan, the NC leader said, "What is the meaning of this slogan? Aren't we one? Is India not united? India is about unity in diversity. As long as we strengthen our diversity, India will be strong. We have to strengthen the diversity for a strong India."

## Forget about Article 370: J and K BJP to NC

PTI ■ JAMMU

Sat Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday called on the National Conference (NC) to focus on the region's development and not persistently focus on the Article 370, which, he said, is a part of history. "The National Conference must shift its focus from the abrogation of Article 370 to more important issues of development and public welfare for J and K and its people. They should forget Article 370," Sharma said addressing at party meeting in the evening. He also criticised the NC and other Kashmiri parties for

using Article 370 as an "emotional tool" to mislead the people for political gains. Sharma said the controversial provision had, in fact, deprived several sections of society of their basic rights. "The clock cannot be turned back. Much water has flowed down the Jhelum, and no force on Earth can reverse it. Article 370 was abrogated constitutionally and legally. It's time for the NC to accept this reality," Sharma asserted. Since the abrogation, Sharma said, the Union Territory has witnessed "significant advancements" in road, rail, and air connectivity, as well as improvements in health, education, and communication sectors. "Prestigious projects and

social welfare schemes introduced in the last decade, particularly after Article 370's abrogation, have transformed lives. Grievances of marginalised sections have been resolved, enabling them to lead dignified lives," he said. The politician urged the NC to draw inspiration from "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance model" and focus on making J-K a hub of peace, progress, and prosperity. Sharma also claimed that a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism implemented under PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has restored peace and normalcy in the region.

## Issues of land compensation delaying development: DyCM Zeliang

PTI ■ DIMAPUR

TR Zeliang, Nagaland deputy chief minister (DyCM), said land compensation has been a major factor behind delays in infrastructure projects. Zeliang recently visited Phek, Kiphire, Shamator, Tuensang, and Mokochung districts to review National Highway projects. The DyCM on Friday said land compensation is one of the major hindrances in infrastructure development in Nagaland and appealed to the public to avoid obstructing national highway projects over land-related disputes, stressing that cooperation from all stakeholders is crucial for the timely completion of these vital projects. Zeliang called on the public to continue their support when projects are officially sanctioned.

## Clarify Kharge's remarks on Article 370: Mufti

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Mehbooba Mufti, president of People's Democratic Party (PDP), on Saturday sought a clarification from Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) government after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks that his party never talked about restoration of Article 370. Mehbooba was reacting to Kharge's remarks in Pune on the return of Article 370 during a press conference on Thursday. "This government has been given a huge mandate by the people. They have reposed huge faith in it. (Article) 370 is an emotional issue for the

people of J-K, and people's sentiments are connected to it," Mufti told reporters in Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. During the Pune press conference, Kharge said, "Amit Shah, in his poll rallies, accuses the Congress of spreading lies. (But) He (himself) is saying the Congress wants to bring back Article 370 (in J&K). Tell me, who said that and when?" "You are raking up an issue. If it (resolution to repeal Article 370) had been already passed in the Parliament, why are you raking up the issue again? It means you want to keep the issue alive to divide. If you want to say this, go to

Kashmir and say it. Elections are over in Kashmir," the Congress president had said. The PDP chief said the resolution passed by the ruling National Conference (NC) in the J and K assembly asking the Centre to work out a mechanism for restoring special status of the erstwhile state, was vague and not clear (on Article 370) and it was mentioned vaguely. This government has 50 members, they should have said this while holding their head high," she added.

## Kerala police ensure smooth darshan for Sabarimala devotees



PTI ■ PATHANAMTHITTA

The Kerala Police on Saturday said that the rush of devotees at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple, following the opening of the hill shrine for this year's Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage, is well under control. Chief Police Coordinator ADGP S Sreejith stated that the situation is under control and the force is equipped to handle even a heavy rush of

devotees. "The police are fully prepared to manage the situation, even if the number of devotees reaches one lakh," he said. The 41-day-long pilgrimage season, commenced on Saturday the first day of the auspicious Malayalam month of Vrichikam. The sanctum sanctorum was opened at 4 pm on Friday under the aegis of current temple head priest, Kandararu Rajeevaru, and his son, Kandararu Brahmadathan, who will be

replacing him, while chief priest P Mahesh Namboothiri led the rituals. Even before the shrine was opened a few hours before Saturday for the beginning of the annual festivities, Sabarimala and its premises already witnessed a heavy rush of devotees. ADGP Sreejith stated that 30,000 devotees had already completed darshan by Saturday morning. He added that the flow of devotees has been smooth with 15,000 receiving darshan

early in the morning alone. Extensive arrangements have been put in place by the various government departments and the police to ensure smooth and safe darshan for devotees during the pilgrimage season. The government has said that 70,000 devotees will be permitted to have darshan each day through the virtual queue booking system. Additionally, 10,000 devotees will be allowed to book slots for darshan at counters set up on the way to the shrine.

## Congress rebel spices up contest in Ramtek

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The Ramtek Assembly constituency in Maharashtra's Nagpur, once a Congress bastion, which later became a saffron citadel, is witnessing an interesting electoral battle this time with a former minister contesting as an independent. Ramtek, which is one of 12 Assembly constituencies in Nagpur district, is part of the Ramtek Lok Sabha seat that was won by the Congress in this year's General elections. Sitting MLA Ashish Jaiswal, who had won this seat in the 2019 Assembly polls as an independent candidate, has now been fielded by the Shiv Shinde led by chief minister Eknath Shinde as a Mahayuti nominee. Vishal Barbate of Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT), who is contesting his maiden Assembly election, has

challenged Jaiswal. But Rajendra Mulak, who was suspended by the Congress for anti-party activities recently, is posing a challenge and has an edge over both the MahaYuti and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidates, political experts feel. Ramtek houses a historic temple of Lord Ram. It is believed that Ramtek was the place where Lord Ram rested during his exile. There are around 2.85 lakh voters in the constituency. This seat remained with the Congress for over two decades from 1962, and was won by the party again in 1991. Ashish Jaiswal breached this Congress bastion for the first time when he won the seat as a candidate of the undivided Shiv Sena in 1999. He retained the seat in 2004 and 2009 as well. But in 2014, the BJP fielded Mallikarjun Reddy, who won it. However,

Reddy was defeated by Jaiswal in 2019 after the latter contested as an independent. Mulak is a protégé of former chief minister and Congress veteran Prithviraj Chavan and is also related to him. His father Bhau Mulak was state minister in the 1970s. Mulak has also served as a minister of state for finance and planning, energy and water resources in the Chavan-led cabinet. Ramu Bhagwat, political analyst and senior journalist, said Ramtek was once known as the safe haven for the Congress. "It achieved political importance when former prime minister late PV Narasimha Rao contested from Ramtek Lok Sabha seat once. But ironically, the Congress symbol will be missing from this election scene for the first time as the party had to bow down before an adamant Shiv Sena (UBT)

and give the seat to it in the seat-sharing talks," he said. "So although it may look like a straight fight between Sena (UBT)'s Barbate and Shiv Sena's Jaiswal, Mulak has jumped into the fray and has a good rapport in Nagpur's rural pockets," he said. Mulak had earlier contested and won from the Umred Assembly constituency in Nagpur district. But after delimitation in 2009 the seat was reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates and turned out of bounds for Mulak, who is a Kunbi Maratha, Bhagwat said. "Since then he worked for the party organisation in other parts of rural Nagpur" he added. According to Bhagwat, Mulak's clout can be gauged by the fact that even as he has been expelled from the Congress for six years, he is being actively supported by some party leaders.

## ECoR to install Kavach' system

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) plans to install the Kavach, train collision avoidance system, an official said. The Kavach system will be installed between Ranitak (Bhadrak) in Odisha and Duvvada (Visakhapatnam) in Andhra Pradesh, a vital section of the Howrah-Chennai main line covering a distance of 595 km. Kavach, an indigenously developed automatic train protection (ATP) system, is designed to prevent train collisions and ensure enhanced operational safety.

## Morbi bridge collapse accused honoured, kin of victims upset

PTI ■ MORBI

Industrialist Jaysukh Patel, the main accused in the 2020 Gujarat suspension bridge collapse that claimed 135 lives, received criticism after he was felicitated at an event organised by the Patidar community in Morbi district. While the victims' kin expressed anguish over the event, the organisers said that Patel, currently out on bail, was honoured in his capacity as the son of late OR Patel, a philanthropist who founded the Ajanta Group. Patel was weighed in modak (sweet dumpling) on a scale at the function organised by Kadva Patidar Kanya Kelavani

Mandal on the outskirts of Morbi town on Friday to mark the Pran Pratishtha of the Uma Sanskardham temple. The modak will be packed in 60,000 boxes and distributed among Patidar families, the organisers said. "It is a matter of sadness for us to see the main accused in the Morbi suspension bridge collapse being honoured like that," said Narendra Parmar, a member of the association representing victims and their families. A court recently relaxed Patel's bail condition barring him from entering the Morbi district, making it possible for him to attend the event. His firm Oreva Group was



responsible for the operation and maintenance of a British-era suspension bridge on river Machchhu in Morbi town that collapsed on October 30,

2020, killing 135 persons, including women and children, and injuring 56 others. "I learnt about Patel's

felicitation through a news report and felt sad. He was barred from entering Morbi but secured the court's permission for the event. The incident and losing a child is not something one forgets in his lifetime," said Parmar, whose 10-year-old daughter was killed in the tragedy. AK Patel, a member of the organisation that held the programme, said they honoured Jaysukh Patel to pay respects to his late father OR Patel, who founded the Ajanta Group, describing him as "the father of wall clocks". "We decided to felicitate Jaysukh Patel and his brothers at the event as a tribute to their father OR Patel's service to society," he said.

Former Congress MLA Lalit Kagathara said there was nothing wrong with Patel being honoured by his community, stressing that the industrialist's family has made significant contributions to society through philanthropy. "I have been saying that Jaysukh Patel is innocent. Morbi's then collector and civic officials are responsible for the tragedy. Why an FIR was not registered against them? OR Patel was the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of the Patridar community and a philanthropist. There is nothing wrong with his son being honoured by the community," he said. A total of ten persons,

including Patel, two managers of his firm, two sub-contractors who had repaired the bridge, three security guards and two ticket booking clerks, were arrested on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and for endangering human life after the accident. The Supreme Court on March 22, 2024, ordered Patel's release and directed the trial court to frame his bail conditions. Among the bail conditions, Patel was barred from entering Morbi till the pendency of the trial. Patel had moved court after the Gujarat High Court in December last year rejected his regular bail plea.



# Biden to press Xi on N Korea's ties with Russia

AP ■ LIMA (PERU)

President Joe Biden is expected to use his final meeting with China's leader, Xi Jinping, to urge him to dissuade North Korea from further deepening its support for Russia's war on Ukraine. Saturday's talks on the sidelines of the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru come just over two months before Biden leaves office and makes way for Republican President-elect Donald Trump. It will be Biden's last check-in with Xi — someone the Democrat saw as his most consequential peer on the world stage.

With the final meeting, officials say Biden will be looking for Xi to step up Chinese engagement to prevent an already dangerous moment with North Korea from further escalating.

Biden on Friday, along with South Korean President Yoon Seok Yul and Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, condemned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's decision to send thousands of troops to help Moscow repel Ukrainian forces who have seized territory in Russia's Kursk border region. Biden called it "dangerous and destabilising cooperation".

White House officials also have expressed frustration with Beijing, which accounts for the vast majority of North Korea's trade, for not doing more to rein in Pyongyang.

## Japan's minister visits Ukraine to stress concern over North Korean troops

Kyiv (AP): Japan's foreign minister arrived in Kyiv on Saturday to discuss North Korea's deepening military alliance with Russia, including the deployment of thousands of troops to support Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya will meet his Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiha, to reaffirm Japan's "strong support" for Ukraine against Russia's invasion and to discuss further sanctions against Moscow, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

High on the agenda was Tokyo's "grave concern" over growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, the ministry said. According to US, South

Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, up to 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia as part of a major defence treaty between the countries. Last week, Ukrainian officials said Ukraine and North Korean troops engaged in small-scale fighting while Ukraine's army fired artillery at North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk border region, where Ukraine launched a surprise push on August 6. The agreement requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance if either is attacked.

Iwaya's visit comes after the Ukrainian capital was attacked overnight by Russian

drones, damaging residential buildings and infrastructure in Kyiv's Obolon district. No casualties were reported. Ukrainian air defences neutralised up to a dozen drones, said the head of Kyiv's military administration, Serhiy Popko. Russia attacked Ukraine with 83 Shahed drones in the early hours of Saturday morning, the Ukrainian air force reported. Of those, 55 were shot down, while another 30 veered off course or were lost after electronic jamming, it said.

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defense said that it had destroyed 35 Ukrainian drones, including 20 over the western Kursk region and 11 over the Bryansk region.

Biden, Yoon and Ishiba spent most of their 50-minute discussion focused on the issue, agreeing it "should not be in Beijing's interest to have this destabilising cooperation in the region", according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss their private conversations.

The North Koreans also have provided Russia with artillery

and other munitions, according to US and South Korean intelligence officials. And the US, Japan and South Korea have expressed alarm over Pyongyang's stepped-up cadence of ballistic missile tests.

Kim ordered testing exercises in the lead-up to this month's US election and is claiming progress on efforts to build capability to strike the US

mainland. Biden and Xi have much beyond North Korea to discuss, including China's indirect support for Russia, human rights issues, technology and Taiwan, the self-ruled democracy that Beijing claims as its own. There's also much uncertainty about what lies ahead in the US-China relationship under Trump, who campaigned promising to levy 60 per cent

tariffs on Chinese imports. Already, many American companies, including Nike and eyewear retailer Warby Parker, have been diversifying their sourcing away from China. Shoe brand Steve Madden says it plans to cut imports from China by as much as 45 per cent next year.

"When Xi meets with Biden, part of his audience is not solely the White House or the US government," said Victor Cha, an analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "It's about American CEOs and continued US investment or trying to renew US investment in China and get rid of the perception that there's a hostile business environment in China."

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Biden administration officials will advise the Trump team that managing the intense competition with Beijing will likely be the most significant foreign policy challenge they will face. Administration officials are concerned that tensions between China and Taiwan could devolve into all-out war if there is a miscalculation by either side, with catastrophic consequences for the world. Sullivan said the Trump administration will have to deal with the Chinese military's frequent harassment of its regional neighbors.

# Protesters gather at UN climate talks in global day of action

AP ■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Hundreds of activists formed a human chain outside one of the main plenary halls at the United Nations climate summit on what is traditionally their biggest protest day during the two-week talks. The demonstration in Baku, Azerbaijan will be echoed at sites around the world in a global "day of action" for climate justice that's become an annual event. Activists waved flags, snapped their fingers, and hummed and mumbled chants in a silent protest, with many covering their mouths with the word "Silenced".

Demonstrators held up signs calling for more money to be pledged for climate finance, which involves cash for transitioning to clean energy and adapting to climate change. It comes as negotiators at the venue try to hammer out a deal for exactly that — but progress has been slow and observers say the direction of any agreement is still unclear.

loss and damage fund that gives developing nations cash after extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change — keep organisers going, said Nacpil, a coordinator with the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development. "The role we play is to increase the pressure," she said of the action. "We know we're not going to get the results that the world needs in this round of negotiations, but at least to bring us many steps closer to our hope, is our aim." She added: "I think we have no option but to keep fighting... It's the instinctive response that anyone, any living being, living creatures will have, which is to fight for life and fight for survival."

Tasneem Essop said she was inspired by the action, which was challenging to organise. "To be able to pull off something where people feel their own power, exercise their own power and get inspired in this creative way, I'm super excited about this," she said. Essop says she's "not very" optimistic about an outcome on finance, but knows next week will be pivotal. "We can't end up with a bad deal for the peoples of the world, those who are already suffering the impacts of climate change, those who

need to adapt to an increasing and escalating crisis," she said. "We fight until the end."

**ON A DEAL FOR CLIMATE CASH, THERE'S NOT MUCH PROGRESS**

Negotiators at COP29, the talks are known, are working on a deal that might be worth hundreds of billions of dollars to poorer nations. Many are in the Global South and already suffering the costly impacts of weather disasters fueled by climate change. Several experts have said USD 1 trillion a year or more is needed both to compensate for such damages and to pay for a clean-energy transition that most countries can't afford on their own. Samir Bejanov, deputy lead negotiator of this year's climate talks said in a press conference that the climate finance talks were moving too slowly. "I want to repeat our strong encouragement to all parties to make as much progress as possible," he said. "We need everyone to approach the task with urgency and determination." Observers were also disappointed at the pace of progress. "This has been the worst first week of a COP in my 15 years of attending this summit," said Mohamed Adow, of climate think tank Power Shift Africa.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that one Geeta Rani Aggarwal W/o Late Suresh Kumar Aggarwal R/o 74-75, 2nd Floor, Pocket-16, Sector-24, Ritahla, North-West Delhi is the owner of Residential Entire Second Floor, without roof rights, Part of Property bearing No. 74, area measuring 60 sq. mtr. in Pocket-16, situated at Sector-24, in the layout plan of Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi. That the original title deeds/Sale Deed No. 3441 dated 05.12.2014 executed by M/s Raja Ram Narang Buildmart Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Rajesh Narang and original title deeds/sale deed No. 9102 dated 05-06-2010 executed by Hemant Bajaj in favour of M/s Raja Ram Narang Buildmart Pvt. Ltd. has been lost. A FIR to this effect has been lodged to police station LR No. 2285276/2024 dated 09-11-2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write to Saurabh Alawadhi Advocate Chamber No. 217, Civil Court, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar (Haryana)-124507 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally contact to Saurabh Alawadhi (Advocate), Ch. No.-17, New Court Complex, Bahadurgarh, Distt.-Jhajjar, Mob.: 9017074029

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Rukmani Devi Khandelwal had acquired Pkt. Flat No. 4 on Third Floor area measuring 40 sq. yds., Built on property bearing M.C.D. No. 705/E/B-5, Ward No. 6, Kharsa No. 1151/3, situated at Mehrauli Tehsil Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi vide regd. G.P.A. Dt. 08.12.2005 along with AT's and Regd. will executed by Mr. Satish Kumar Gupta and Now Mrs. Rukmani Devi Khandelwal is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person/firm/institution/company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance whatsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi - 110024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform general public that Shri Charanjit Narula S/o Late Shri Udho Dass Narula and Ms. Chandar Narula W/o Shri Charanjit Narula has agreed to extend equitable mortgage existing with Bank of Baroda, Kingsway Camp Branch, New Delhi in respect of Ground Floor and First Floor of unit on roof/terrace rights of freehold build up property bearing no. 655, area admeasuring 160 sq. yards, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar in the layout plan of redevelopment scheme of Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110029. In an event anyone claims any rights/interests by virtue of above documents in such event he/she should make it within 15 days of this notice by approaching the undersigned thereafter any claim/use/right of or by any person shall be illegal and no reliance ought to be placed on the same and shall be deemed to be encumbered and non-marketable title.

Branch Head, Kingsway Camp Branch, Bank of Baroda, Email id: tdnking@bankofbaroda.com Phone No. 9130999131

ANSHU PRIYANKA (Advocate) Ch. No. Y-6, Chiral Wing Tis Hazari Courts Delhi-54, Mob: 9313832982.

## 'Gazprom stops flow of natural gas to Austria'

Vienna (AP): Russia's state-owned natural gas company Gazprom stopped supplies to Austria early Saturday, according to the Vienna-based utility OMV after it said it would stop payments for the gas following an arbitration award.

The official cutoff of supplies before dawn Saturday came after Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer on Friday held a news conference to emphasise his country has a secure supply of alternative fuel for this winter. OMV said it would stop paying for Gazprom gas to its Austrian arm to offset a 230 million-euro (USD 242 million) arbitration award it won from the International Chamber of Commerce over an earlier cutoff of gas to its German subsidiary. The Austrian utility said in an email that no gas delivery was made from 6 am on Saturday. OMV said it has sufficient stocks to provide gas to its customers in case of a potential disruption by Gazprom, and said storage in Austria was at more than 90%.

# Israeli troops reach deepest point in Lebanon since Oct 1

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israeli ground forces reached their deepest point in Lebanon since they invaded six weeks ago, before pulling back early Saturday after fierce battles with Hezbollah militants, Lebanese state media reported.

Israeli troops captured a strategic hill in the southern Lebanese village of Chamaa, about 5 kilometres from the Israeli border early Saturday, the state-run National News Agency reported. It said Israeli troops were later pushed back from the hill.

It added that Israeli troops detonated the Shrine of Shimon the Prophet in Chamaa as well as several homes before they withdrew, but the claim could not be immediately verified.

Israel's military said in a statement that its troops "continue their limited, localised, and targeted operational activity in southern Lebanon." The military did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the Lebanese media reports. The push on the ground came as Israeli warplanes pounded Beirut's southern suburbs as well as several other areas in southern Lebanon, including the port city of Tyre. The morning strike in Beirut hit an area known as Dahiyeh, which the Israeli military called a Hezbollah stronghold, saying its planes had hit multiple sites used by the militant group.



Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday

Residents were given advance warning by Israel, and it was not immediately clear whether there were any casualties.

The increase of violence came as Lebanese and Hezbollah officials are studying a draft proposal presented by the US earlier this week on ending the war. Since late September, Israel dramatically escalated its bombardment of Lebanon, vowing to cripple Hezbollah and end its barracks in Israel. More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon by Israeli fire — 80 per cent of them in the eight weeks — according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

On Friday, Lebanon's caretaker prime minister apparently urged Iran to try and convince Hezbollah to agree to a cease-fire deal with Israel, which would require the group to pull back

from the Israel-Lebanon border. The proposal is based on UN Security Council resolution 1701, which ended the last Israel-Hezbollah war in the summer of 2006.

A copy of the draft proposal was handed over earlier this week by the US ambassador to Lebanon to Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who has been negotiating on behalf of Hezbollah, according to a Lebanese official.

The official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak about the secret talks said Berri is expected to give Lebanon's response on Monday. Another Lebanese politician said Hezbollah officials had received the draft, were studying it and would express their opinion on it to Berri.

**ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Under CIRP)**

Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019  
CIN: U70200DL2010PTC205410; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550  
Email Id.: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com

**ANNEXURE I**

Format for publishing financial results in newspapers  
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

(Amounts in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)				
S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter Ended	For the Quarter Ended	For the Year ended
		30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	1.68	1.13	4.26
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(96.44)	(14.62)	(49.47)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(96.44)	(14.62)	(49.47)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(95.61)	(12.27)	(527.83)
	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(95.61)	(12.27)	(527.83)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(3,364.74)	(2,762.54)	(3,267.57)
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
9	Net worth	(3,363.74)	(2,761.54)	(3,266.57)
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,46,487.96	2,27,939.41	2,33,446.74
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	(73.28)	(68.70)	(71.47)
	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
13	1. Basic:	(956.06)	(122.72)	(5,278.33)
	2. Diluted:	(956.06)	(122.72)	(5,278.33)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.0004)	(0.002)	(0.0002)
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	-	(0.089)	(1.180)

**Note:**

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity

b) For the other line items referred in the Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).

c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

<p><b>Kashinath Jha</b> sd/-</p> <p>Director DIN: 09834435</p> <p><b>Gaurav Katiyar</b> Interim Registration Professional Reg. No.: IBB1/IPA001/IP-P00209/2017-18/10409</p>	<p><b>Santosh Kumar</b> sd/-</p> <p>Director DIN: 09835334</p>
---	--

Place: Noida  
Date: 14.11.2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform all at you that Sh. Sunil Kukreti S/o Sh. Sukhdev Prasad Kukreti is missing since 15/04/2017 and case is pending for Misc. Civil Death Declaration and Mandatory Injunction before the Hon'ble Court of Sh. Gauray Sharma, LD. ASCJ, East Karkardooma Courts Delhi in Civil Suit bearing No. 787/2024, an interested person or party can join the proceeding on the NDOH 21/11/2024.

**JONEY (ADVOCATE) CHAMBER No.: 377, Lawyers Chambers' Block -II, Delhi High Court, New Delhi - 110003, 7701908791**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice Hereby Given That, Sanjeev Kumar Goel, S/o late Kanwar Bhan Goel, R/o C/15 3rd Floor Model Town Delhi-110009. Have lost my original Rectification deed dated 07/01/2021, by 1. Mrs. Birmia Garg W/o Mr. Suren Kumar Garg 2. Mrs. Nirmal Garg W/o Mr. Teekaram Gupta, 3. Mrs. Kmalish W/o Mr. Rishi Prakash, 4. Mrs. Meera Jindal W/o Mr. Ved Prakash and 5. Mrs. Kaushal Devi W/o Mr. Vinay, all above mentioned are daughters of Late. Shri Kanwar Bhan Goel in favour of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Goel S/o Late. Shri Kanwar Bhan Goel vide rectification deed Registration No-240, in Book No-1 Vol No-9530 on page 51 to 54 dated 07/01/2021, property address R/o C/15, 3rd Floor Model Town-3 Delhi-110009. If found pls contact Mr. Sanjeev Goel-9810010625.

**Vijay Aggarwal (Advocate)**  
Ph: 9810190238, 9858887943

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN**  
Government of India, Ministry of Finance,  
(Department of Financial Services)

2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK. 248171  
PUBLICATION NOTICE IN O.A. No. 330 OF 2024

Summons Under sub-section (4) Of Section 19 Of The Recovery Of Debts And Bankruptcy Act, 1993. Read With Sub-Rule (2A) Of Rule 5 Of The Debt Recovery Tribunal (procedure) Rules, 1993 As Amended From Time To Time)

Dy. No. 1057/2024 Dated: 12.11.2024  
HDFC Bank Limited V/s M/s Technomach Engineering and Projects & Ors.

To,

2. Shri Chandar Dev Uraw S/o of Shri Sanichra Uraw resident of P Block Beni, Pant Nagar, D.F. Nagla, District U.S. Nagar  
4. Shri Avinash Kumar S/o Shri Vijendra Pandey R/o Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045.

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted OA No. 330 of 2024 against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 45,24,989.29 /- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 08.11.2024.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on 06.11.2025. Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence or claim for set off, counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 12th day of November, 2024

By Order Of Tribunal Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun

## Ramaswamy indicates massive job cuts in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Entrepreneur-turned politician Vivek Ramaswamy, who along with Tesla owner Elon Musk has been nominated in-charge of the Department of Government Efficiency, has indicated a massive cut in federal government jobs in the United States. "Elon Musk and I are in a position to start the mass deportations of millions of unselected federal bureaucrats out of the DC bureaucracy. That, too, is how we're going to save this country," Ramaswamy, an Indian American, said at an event in Mar-a-Lago in Florida on Thursday.

"I don't know if you've got to know Elon yet, but he doesn't bring a chisel. He brings a chainsaw. We are going to be taking it to that bureaucracy. It's going to be a lot of fun," he said. "We've been taught to believe over the last four years that we have become a nation in decline, that we're at the end of the ancient Roman Empire. All we have is to fight over the scraps of some shrinking pie. I don't think we have to stay as that nation in decline. I think with what happened last week, we're back to being a nation in our ascent. A nation whose best days are actually still ahead of us," Ramaswamy said.

PD(939)A  
**I, Mohd Jasim S/o. Zulfiqar Husain, R/o. G-10/12, 2nd floor, Sir Syed Road, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have Changed my name to Mohammad Jasim for all future purposes.**

PD(938)A  
**I, Sanjay Kumar Yadav s/o Shri Vir Bahadur Singh R/o House No. 145, Gali No. 3, Shakti Vihar, Dayalpur, Delhi-110094, Aadhar No. 2276 5113 6789, PAN No. ABKPY9510C, inform that I have changed my name from Sanjay Yadav to Sanjay Kumar Yadav for all future purposes. Sanjay Kumar Yadav and Sanjay Yadav both is same and single person**

PD(940)C  
**My name is Rukhsana Begum alias Khushboo Naaz, husband Mohammed Qayum, address A-119, Sector-2 Rohini North West, New Delhi-85, Rukhsana Begum alias Khushboo Naaz is the same name. In future I should be known as Rukhsana Begum only.**

PD(941)C



# India stun Olympic silver medallist China 3-0 to book semis berth

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Defending champions India stunned Olympic silver medallist China 2-0 to seal a semifinal spot at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Saturday.

India scored two field goals through Sangita Kumari (32nd minute) and skipper Salima Tete (37th) before tournament's highest scorer Deepika (60th) converted a penalty corner in the final minute.

The win against world No. 6 China was India's fourth consecutive win in the tournament. The hosts are now on top of the standings with eight points from four games. China have dropped to the second place with six points from four matches.

India will square off their round robin campaign against Japan on Sunday.

The top four teams from the six

team continental tournament will qualify for the semifinals. India were the offensive from the word go and created most of the opportunities without any success as the Chinese defended deep into their own territory and relied on counter attacks.

India secured their first real chance in the opening minute of the game in the form of back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both the opportunities.

Minutes later, Sharmila Devi essayed a precision pass to Sunelita Toppo, whose first-touch opened up the Chinese defence, giving Deepika a one-on-one situation with the opposition goalkeeper, who came out on top to deny the Indian forward.

China also secured a penalty corner in the first quarter but the Indian defence stood tall.

Both the sides were cagey in the first quarter with India making



some silly mistakes after a bright start.

India secured their second penalty corner in the 21st minute but to no avail.

Five minutes later, India secured another penalty corner but Manisha Chauhan's flick was saved by second Chinese goalkeeper Ting Li and Lalremsiami's try from the rebound went wide as the deadlock continued after half time.

The Indians came out with the same tempo after the change of ends and controlled the proceedings of the match.

Their efforts finally bore fruit in the 32nd minute when Sangita deftly met with Sushila Chanu's defence splitting pass from the midfield.

Five minutes later, the Indians doubled their lead with another fine field goal. It was skipper Salima who found the target after she was neatly set up by Beauty Dung Dung and Preeti

Dubey's combined effort.

The Indians continued their domination with relentless attacks on the Chinese citadel but was denied by the rival goalkeeper on several occasions.

The Chinese too tried their best but credit must go to the resolute Indian defence which stood firm.

Desperate for goals, China withdrew their goalkeeper with little over three minutes to go and the move backfired as India scored their third goal in the final minute of the game. Sangita secured India's fourth penalty corner with her smart stickwork in the final minute and Deepika rose to the occasion flicking the ball to the right corner for her seventh goal of the tournament.

Meanwhile in other matches of the day, Japan beat Malaysia 2-1 while Korea defeated Thailand 4-0.



## Blow for India as Shubman Gill fractures left thumb, all but out of Perth Test

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/PERTH

India were dealt a telling blow on Saturday after star top-order batter Shubman Gill sustained a left thumb fracture which is likely to rule him out of the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Optus Stadium in Perth, starting November 22.

Gill, one of the young heroes of India's last Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph, is a batting mainstay and in case skipper Rohit Sharma opts out of the first Test, India's top-order could look very thin.

Gill got hurt while fielding on the second day of the intra-squad match simulation. He was seen in considerable pain and immediately left the field for further scans.

According to a BCCI source privy to the development, Gill has indeed fractured his left thumb and with less than a week left for the Test to start, it will be near impossible for the stylish right-hander to get fit in time for the opening match.

A thumb fracture generally takes around 14 days to heal after which one is expected to start his regular net sessions. Since the second Test in Adelaide starts from December 6, there remains a possibility that he will get fit in time for that match.

Gill's absence could be massive for the national team as he is not only a stable number three batter but in case of Rohit's absence, he

could be considered for opening the innings with Yashasvi Jaiswal.

The other man in contention, Lokesh Rahul, has a bruised elbow after getting hit by a Prasad Krishna short ball on the opening day of the intra-squad match and was forced to leave the field.

Rahul's bruised area needed icing and he didn't take the field on the second day of the match simulation on Saturday although it is being seen more as a precautionary measure.

In case Gill is absent, Abhimanyu Easwaran could be in line for his Test debut as India do not have too many options left.

However, if skipper Rohit, who was blessed with a baby boy, decides to join forces with three days of training, then it would be a different story.

Mohammed Shami, who has bowled more than 43.2 overs, took seven wickets and scored 37 runs in Ranji Trophy, is certainly going to join the team before the second Test.

The last day of the match simulation will happen at the WACA on Sunday after which India A squad, barring reserve players, will be back to India and join their respective state teams for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

The main squad will then move to Optus Stadium in Perth where they will have three net sessions from Tuesday to Thursday before going into the Test starting Friday.

## ICC begins Trophy Tour for Champions Trophy in Pakistan, POK cities dropped

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Cities in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) found no mention in the Champions Trophy tour unveiled by the ICC on Saturday as the world body moved in swiftly to have them dropped from the host country's itinerary following India's strong objection.

The Trophy Tour will now comprise Karachi, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, apart from Abbottabad in the Khyber Pakhtunwala Region.

The Trophy Tour starts in Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, and will travel to other cities of the nation -- Taxila and Khanpur (November 17), Abbottabad (November 18), Murree (November 19) and Nathia Gali (November 20) before concluding in Karachi (November 22-25). Most of these cities are tourist attractions.

Earlier, on November 14, the PCB had announced the Trophy Tour, which included cities like Skardu, Hunza and Muzaffarabad, which fall in the PoK region, a disputed territory between India and Pakistan.



The PTI reported on Friday that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah had raised strong objections with the ICC to PCB's Trophy Tour plans in the PoK region. However, the global body took swift action to eliminate those cities from the tour as revealed on Saturday.

Following the Trophy Tour in Pakistan, it will tour Afghanistan (November 26-28), followed by Bangladesh (December 10-13), South Africa (December 15-22), Australia (December 25-January 5), New Zealand (January 6-11), England

(January 12-14) and India (January 15-26).

The cities for the Trophy Tour outside Pakistan will be announced in due course.

"A series of physical and digital engagements traversing iconic destinations, sporting events and key battles in the international cricket calendar form the Trophy Tour schedule, during which fans will also be treated to a content series titled 'Champion on Tour' that will document the Trophy Tour's journey around the world through the lens of food, music and cricket," ICC said in a release.

Pakistan is the defending champion of the event, having won the title at The Oval in London in 2017, defeating India in the final.

As for this edition, India has reportedly denied travelling to Pakistan for the tournament, and the ICC is working with PCB to find a possible solution to it, including hosting it in a hybrid model or shifting the competition out of Pakistan, possibly the United Arab Emirates (UAE) or South Africa.

Sources in the PCB yesterday said the trophy tour was planned in consultation and with the approval of the ICC and it was not a unilateral decision of the PCB.

"If they had issues they should have notified the PCB immediately before announcing the trophy tour. Anyways the PCB as hosts and commercial partners of the ICC is cooperating as always with them," another source said.

The trophy would now be taken to Islamabad, Taxila, Abbottabad, Murree, Nathiagali and Karachi with the trophy tour ending on November 22.

## India Blitz 2024: Carlsen, Lagno lead; Praggnanandhaa close second

PTI ■ KOLKATA

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and three-time World Women's Blitz champion Kateryna Lagno occupied the top spot while India's R Praggnanandhaa took second place at the halfway mark of the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz 2024 here on Saturday.

Carlsen concluded the first nine rounds with an impressive 6.5 points out of a possible 9.

The Norwegian maestro had a dominant start, but his momentum was halted in round eight by Arjun Erigaisi, who defeated him in spectacular fashion in just 20 moves.

In the final round of the day, Carlsen settled for a draw against Vidit Gujarathi.

Young Indian prodigy Praggnanandhaa tailed him closely in second place with 6 points, recovering remarkably after losing his first three games to register six consecutive wins.

Erigaisi and Russia's Daniil Dubov are tied for third with 5.5 points each.

In the women's section, Lagno led the field with 7 points, maintaining an undefeated streak with five wins and four



draws.

Valentina Gunina trails her by a single point in second place, while Rapid Champion Aleksandra Goryachkina occupies third with 5 points.

Goryachkina had a strong start with three consecutive wins but managed only four draws in the remaining six games.

Standings (Round 9): Open Section: Magnus Carlsen (6.5); R Praggnanandhaa (6); Arjun Erigaisi (5.5); Daniil Dubov (5.5); Vidit Santosh Gujrathi (5); Abdusattorov Nodirbek (4); Wesley So (3.5); Narayanan S L (3.5); Nihal Sarin (3.5) and Keymer Vincent (2).

Women's Section: Kateryna Lagno (7); Valentina Gunina (6); Aleksandra Goryachkina (5); Divya Deshmukh (4.5); Vantika Agrawal (4.5); Koneru Humpy (4.5); Harika Dronavalli (4); Alexandra Kosteniuk (4); Vaishali R (3.5) and Nana Dzagnidze (2).

## Jake Paul beats 58-year-old Mike Tyson as the hits don't match the hype

AP ■ ARLINGTON (USA)

The boos from a crowd wanting more action were growing again when Jake Paul dropped his gloves before the final bell, and bowed toward 58-year-old Mike Tyson.

Paying homage to one of the biggest names in boxing history didn't do much for the fans that filled the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys on Friday night.

Paul won a unanimous decision over Tyson as the hits didn't match the hype in a fight between the 27-year-old YouTuber-turned-boxer and the former heavyweight champion in his first sanctioned pro fight in almost 20 years.

All the hate from the pre-fight buildup was gone, replaced by boos from bewildered fans hoping for more action in a fight that drew plenty of questions about its legitimacy long before it happened.

The fight wasn't close on the judge's cards, with one giving Paul an 80-72



edge and the other two calling it 79-73.

Tyson came after Paul immediately

after the opening bell and landed a couple of quick punches but didn't try much else the rest of the way.

Even fewer rounds and shorter rounds, along with heavier gloves designed to lessen the power of

punches, couldn't do much to generate action.

Paul was more aggressive after the quick burst from Tyson in the opening seconds, but the punching wasn't very efficient. There were quite a few wild swings and misses.

Tyson mostly sat back and waited for Paul to come to him, with a few exceptions. It was quite the contrast to the co-main event, another slugfest between Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano in which Taylor kept her undisputed super lightweight championship with another disputed decision.

It was the first sanctioned fight since 2005 for Tyson, who fought Roy Jones in a much more entertaining exhibition in 2020. Paul started fighting a little more than four years ago.

The fight was originally scheduled for July 20 but had to be postponed when Tyson was treated for a stomach ulcer after falling ill on a flight.

## Johnson's 5-26 earns Australia a 13-run win over Pakistan to clinch T20I series

AP ■ SYDNEY

Fast bowler Spencer Johnson grabbed a career-best 5-26 and propelled Australia to a 13-run win over Pakistan as the home team clinched the three-match T20I series with a game to spare Saturday.

Johnson sliced through the top order and Pakistan crumbled to 134 all out in the final over that gave Australia a decisive 2-0 lead in Josh Inglis' first series as skipper.

Usman Khan made a fighting 52 and Irfan Khan scored unbeaten 37 but the visitors otherwise struggled with Johnson's pace on a bouncy wicket with captain Mohammad Rizwan (16) the only other batter to cross the double-figure mark.

Australia, beaten by Pakistan 2-1 in the preceding ODI series, will eye a sweep Monday at Hobart.

The home team couldn't

capitalize on a whirlwind start and ended up at 147-9 after Inglis won the toss and elected to bat.

Fast bowler Haris Rauf put the brakes on Australia's rapid start with 4-22 and Abbas Afridi bowled well in the death overs to finish with 3-17.

Matthew Short (32) and Jake Fraser-McGurk (20) posted Australia's fastest-ever 50 in T20s off 20 balls with both Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah going for plenty of runs inside the power play.

Pakistan was sloppy in the field with at least four dropped catches. Fraser-McGurk was dropped by Naseem at third man in Afridi's expensive first over which went for 21 and Shah conceded 16 in his first over.

Haris struck twice in his first over when Fraser-McGurk couldn't clear Salman Ali Agha at cover and Sufiyan Muqeem, playing his first T20 since making his debut



at the Asian Games last year, took a splendid catch at point to dismiss Inglis for zero.

Abbas Afridi then ended Short's 17-ball knock with a brilliant slower ball to knock back the stumps as Australia slipped to 61-3 in six overs.

Marcus Stoinis (14) was also twice dropped on 0 and 6 before he played a reverse sweep to Muqeem's left-arm spin straight to deep point and Glenn Maxwell, whose 43 had earned Australia a 29-run win Thursday, holed out to deep mid-wicket after scoring a 20-ball 21.

Rauf picked up the wickets of Tim David (18) and Xavier Bartlett (5) in his return spell before Aaron Hardie made 28 runs off 23 balls to lift Australia's total.

Babar (3) flicked Bartlett's first ball straight to Nathan Ellis at deep square leg and Australia didn't allow Pakistan to score a

boundary off the bat for nine overs. Rizwan tried to break the shackles and smashed the first boundary off Spencer in the 10th over but was caught by a diving David at mid-on off the next ball.

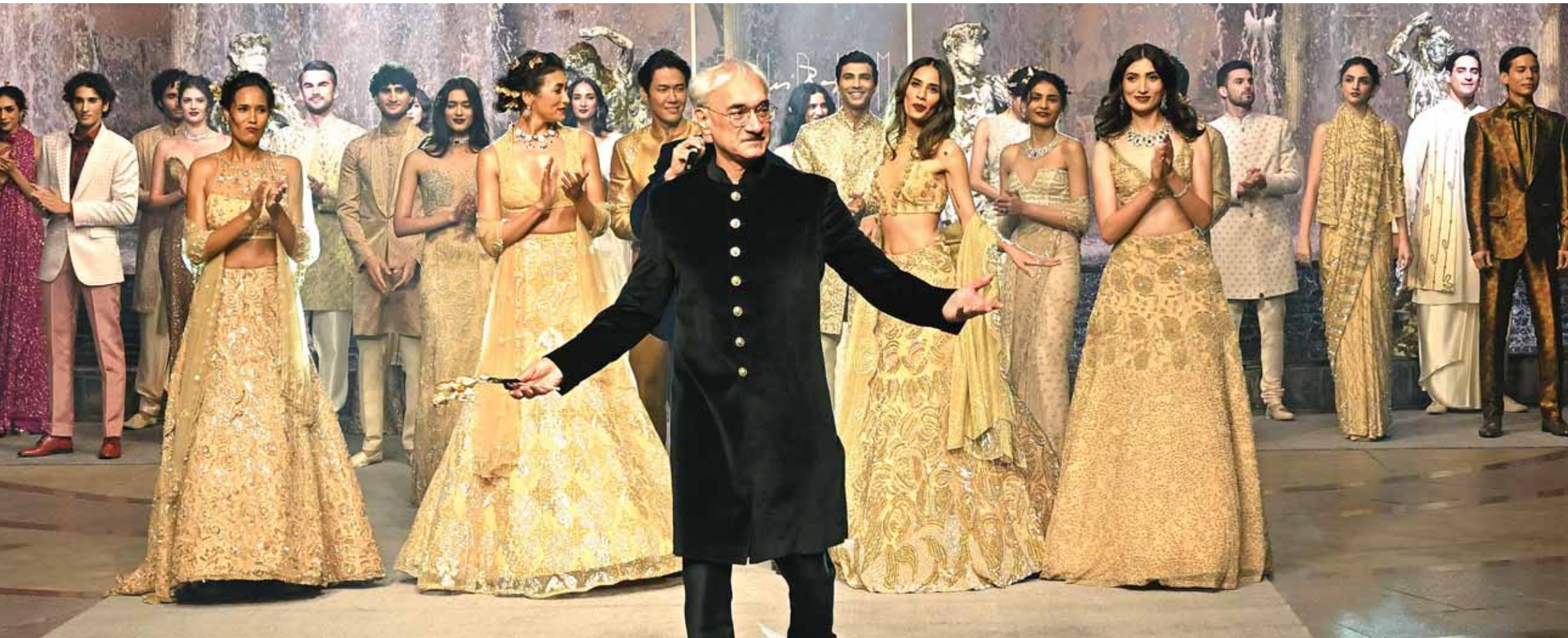
Spencer then found the edge of Agha's bat off the next delivery before Usman and Irfan combined in a 58-run stand.

Inglis couldn't hold on to a sharp edge of Usman against Adam Zampa's leg-spin when he was on 12 and then Short misjudged a catch over his head when the batter reached 41 before he completed his half-century off 34 balls.

Johnson broke the threatening stand when he had Usman caught at short fine leg with a sharp short delivery in the 16th over.

Zampa took two wickets in his last over to finish with economical figures of 2-19 before last man Rauf got run-out in the last over.





BY SAKSHI PRIYA

The unveiling of new label 'Aurum' by Ravi Bajaj at DLF Emporio was a stunning show filled with elegance and style. This exclusive fashion show highlighted Ravi Bajaj's newest collection, which focused on Indian wedding wear with a fresh twist. Known for combining traditional Indian elements with modern style, Bajaj's 'Aurum' collection was truly eye-catching. The fashion show set was a true masterpiece. A grand sculpture and an elegant fountain served as the central backdrop, creating a luxurious atmosphere that perfectly matched the opulence of the Aurum collection. These elements added to the evening's sophistication, making it a visual delight for all who attended. Models graced the runway in stunning outfits from the Aurum collection, complemented by beautiful jewellery from Rose, the official jewellery partner. The jewellery added an extra layer of elegance to the ensembles, enhancing the overall look with a balance of modern flair and traditional touches. The collection itself was a blend of opulence and refinement, showcasing innovative designs while respecting classic Indian traditions. Bajaj introduced unique elements like lace and organza in menswear, with some outfits even featuring pearls - a subtle yet luxurious detail. The womenswear was equally captivating, featuring lehengas that stayed true to the Ravi Bajaj style, with intricate designs that



# SCULPTING WEDDING GLAMOUR IN GOLD

Ravi Bajaj's 'Aurum' collection, unveiled at DLF Emporio, showcased elegant designs that celebrated modern Indian wedding fashion in a luxurious setting.

were both elegant and timeless. The audience was treated to another surprise when Mr. Ajay Bijli, Founder of PVR Cinemas and a close friend of Ravi Bajaj, made a special appearance to close the show with a memorable performance. This unexpected moment added excitement to the evening, leaving the crowd in awe. One of the standout pieces in the collection was a white saree paired with a richly embroidered golden blouse. The blend of simplicity and luxury in this outfit captured the essence of Aurum - a collection designed to make a statement while maintaining elegance. For men, the collection included beautifully tailored kurtas with golden details, ideal for those who appreciate traditional Indian attire with a modern edge. Throughout the collection, a gold and white colour palette symbolised the joy and prosperity associated with Indian weddings. This theme offered a refreshing take on bridal wear, balancing traditional and contemporary styles to suit the



“ONE OF THE STANDOUT PIECES IN THE COLLECTION WAS A WHITE SAREE PAIRED WITH A RICHLY EMBROIDERED GOLDEN BLOUSE. THE BLEND OF SIMPLICITY AND LUXURY IN THIS OUTFIT CAPTURED THE ESSENCE OF AURUM - A COLLECTION DESIGNED TO MAKE A STATEMENT WHILE MAINTAINING ELEGANCE”



tastes of modern brides and grooms. The show also marked the grand reopening of the Aurum boutique at DLF Emporio, which now houses a stunning range of meticulously crafted menswear and womenswear. From regal sherwanis to luxurious lehengas, the boutique is a destination for those seeking elegant wedding attire that stands out for both quality and style. The launch of Aurum was not just a fashion show but a celebration of Indian culture, heritage, and modern luxury. Ravi Bajaj's ability to seamlessly combine traditional and modern elements made this collection a standout in the Indian fashion scene. With its focus on detailed craftsmanship and elegant design, Aurum offers a fresh perspective on wedding wear, making it a must-see for anyone interested in the finest Indian couture.



## Chor Bizarre reopens its doors with Hosa Pop-Up

Chor Bizarre, the iconic restaurant celebrating its 34th anniversary this year, reopens its doors with an exciting two-day pop-up featuring *Hosa*, a celebrated South Indian restaurant from Goa. *Hosa* is bringing its unique culinary experience to New Delhi, offering a special set menu at Chor Bizarre before continuing its journey to Comorin in Gurugram. Known for its creative take on traditional South Indian flavours, *Hosa* will offer a special set menu for two days at each location, giving guests the chance to indulge in the bold and intricate tastes of South India. Located in *Siolim, Goa*, *Hosa* is part of *EHV International* and is situated opposite the iconic



*St. Anthony's Church*. The name "*Hosa*," meaning "new" in Kannada, reflects the restaurant's innovative approach to South Indian cuisine. Blending old-world charm with contemporary design, *Hosa* offers a dining experience that celebrates the diverse and rich flavours of the region. Awarded 'Best Modern Indian Restaurant' and 'Best Restobar' in Goa at the 2023 *Times Food & Nightlife Awards*, *Hosa* has also earned accolades for 'Best Modern



CHEF HARISH RAO

South Indian' and 'Best Cocktails' in 2024. The much-anticipated pop-up event will take place at *Chor Bizarre in New Delhi and Comorin in Gurugram*. The set menu is designed to introduce diners to *Hosa's* inventive South Indian cuisine. The menu, curated by *Brand Chef Harish Rao*, will feature signature dishes like *Cracked Potatoes* with cauliflower mousse, *Andhra Okra Masala* with peanut sesame curry and *Kari Dosa* with poached egg and bone marrow hollandaise. Highlights also include *Toddy Shop Prawns* with raw mango salad and a dessert of *Coconut Jasmine*, combining coconut ice cream, jasmine granita and almond crumble. This is a unique opportunity for food lovers in *Delhi* and *Gurugram*

to experience the bold and vibrant flavours that have made *Hosa* a favourite in Goa. *Chor Bizarre* and *Comorin*, allows us to showcase the depth and variety of South Indian cuisine in two dynamic settings."

**EVENT DETAILS**  
Chor Bizarre, New Delhi - November 17th, Comorin, Gurugram - November 19th & 20th  
**Pricing:** INR 1600 (non-vegetarian) | INR 1300 (vegetarian)  
**Reservations:** Chor Bizarre:

## 11:11 (GYARAH GYARAH)

Gyarah Gyarah, showcases brilliant acting and explosives cases to keep you gripped to the screens, says **ABHI SINGHAL**

As 2024 draws to a close, it's the perfect time to reflect on the Indian gems of the year offered in the world of entertainment. One such standout is *Gyarah Gyarah*, streaming on Zee5. This web series has captured the audience with its gripping narrative, complex characters, and masterful storytelling, making it an absolute must-watch before the year ends. Directed by *Umesh Bist*, this Indian adaptation of the acclaimed South Korean series *Signal* blends time travel, suspense, and crime drama across eight thrilling episodes. The show takes viewers on an engaging journey through timelines set in 1990, 2001, and 2016, cleverly weaving out past and present events.



The narrative centers around *ACP Vamika Rawat* played by *Kritika Kamra*, rookie inspector *Yug Arya* acted by *Raghav Juyal*, and seasoned cop *Shaurya Anthwal* (*Dhairya Karwa*). The plot unfolds as *Yug* stumbles upon an old walkie-talkie that mysteriously allows him to communicate with *Shaurya* from 2001. Together, they work to solve cold cases while grappling with the paradoxes of time travel. *Kritika Kamra* delivers a nuanced performance as the determined and layered *Vamika*. *Raghav Juyal* impresses as the enthusiastic and headstrong *Yug*, showcasing his brilliant acting skills. *Dhairya Karwa*, portraying *Shaurya*, brings a grounded depth to his role as the conflicted and persistent investigator. *Harsh Chhaya*, *Gautami Kapoor*, and *Nitesh Pandey* contribute strong supporting performances, adding richness to the screenplay. One of the standout elements of *Gyarah Gyarah* is its well-crafted dialogues, which successfully blend intensity and relatability, enhancing character depth. The exchanges between the leads, particularly during high-stakes moments, are impactful and elevate the drama but feel forcefully like the abusive words. Additionally, shot in dark places the series benefits from a background score that amplifies its tension and emotional resonance. The music subtly shifts across timelines, reflecting the tonal changes in each era, and helps immerse the audience further into the narrative. The show captures the intricacies of its genre by keeping audiences engaged with constant twists and cliffhangers, tying them to different cases in the past and present. While inspired by *Signal*, *Gyarah Gyarah* incorporates a distinctly Indian flavour, setting it apart from the original. Critics praised its gripping screenplay, atmospheric cinematography, and suspenseful pacing. However, there were shortcomings, including inconsistent rules of time travel and underdeveloped minor characters. The lack of resolution in its finale also left viewers yearning for closure, yet it effectively sets the stage for a potential second season. With a runtime of 4.5 hours, this series is an ideal binge-watch for fans of mystery and time-travel dramas. Its combination of stellar performances, intriguing storytelling, sharp dialogues, and immersive music ensures it remains a highlight of 2024's streaming lineup. Whether you're a fan of thrillers or innovative storytelling, *Gyarah Gyarah* offers an experience that shouldn't be missed.



Abhishek Sadhoo, General Manager, Shangi-la Eros New Delhi at Grappa with Chef Brian Chang, Corporate Development Chef at Burger and Lobster and the culinary team.



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

## SHANGRI-LA OPENS TO BURGERS AND LOBSTERS

For the first time in India, the seafood epicureans *Burger & Lobster* have debuted at *Grappa Bar, Shangi-la Eros New Delhi*. The *Burger & Lobster* have been known globally for perfecting two ingredients, promising to delight food lovers with a playful yet elegant dining experience that has delighted palates from *London* to *New York*. So, crack into claws, indulge in buttery goodness, and savour juicy burgers without hesitation.



# the pioneer agenda

"Hum Dono" was accepted in a very big way. It was the official entry at the 1962 Berlin Film Festival"  
— Dev Anand



In the enchanting Coastal city of Goa, where the sea whispers the dream and the sand carries the tale, the grand curtains would be raised for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) for the world. The IFFI is the only South Asian festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF).

Now, being held in Goa since 2004, IFFI is not only the grand festival for the films showcase but it's a platform, where Indian cinema interacts with world cinema, where filmmakers connect with audiences, and where the magic of storytelling is truly celebrated.

This year, IFFI has received 1,676 submissions from 101 countries, highlighting its expanding global influence after all these years. The International Film Festival of India 2024 will showcase over 180 international films from 81 countries, including 15 world premieres, 3 international premieres, 40 Asian premieres, and 106 Indian premieres. Featuring celebrated titles and award-winning films from around the world, this year's festival promises to make a powerful impression on audiences and on the world of cinema.

Talking about the past, the journey of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) dates back to 1952 when India was struggling to find its cinematic voice post-independence. The Government of India had organised the first IFFI which was held in Mumbai, and it showcased 40 films from 23 countries. The IFFI 1952 marked the first time India had its own international film festival, bringing global cinema to Indian shores. The initial editions of IFFI were held across various Indian cities, including Delhi, Chennai, and Kolkata, with the festival traveling from one city to another to reach a broader audience.

The past 20 years spent by IFFI in Goa, contributed to Goa being the official place for the IFFI keeping in mind the advantage of its cultural vibrancy and scenic beauty. IFFI is a unique one distinct from other film festivals worldwide. Known as the "Film Festival of Goa," IFFI blends seamlessly with Goa's local culture, attracting an international audience to India's favourite tourist destination.

Goa's vibrant art scene, beach culture, and heritage architecture complement the festival's spirit, creating an inviting space where cinema lovers from all corners of the world can gather for a shared celebration. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), is set to host the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa from 20th to 28th November 2024.

With IFFI continuously taking place in Goa, has helped the state develop a thriving ecosystem that supports film tourism. Local businesses, artists, and artisans benefit from the influx of visitors, and the festival has become a key driver of economic and cultural growth in the region. During the curtain raiser event for the IFFI in New Delhi, Dr. L. Murugan, highlighted the festival's prestigious role on the global stage. He said, "IFFI has become a landmark event, not just for India but internationally, comparable to global festivals such as Cannes."

The 55th edition of IFFI in 2024 will showcase the theme of "Young Filmmakers" - "The Future is Now". The theme asks to embrace the timeless and the young talent in our country and recognising their potential in shaping the future of creativity. The initiative of the Creative Minds of Tomorrow platform has been enhanced to support 100 young talents from 75 in the previous editions. 400 young film students, from Film Schools across the country, are being facilitated by the Ministry to attend IFFI.

The festival will give tributes to cinema legends, and retrospectives on iconic careers. The Country Focus section will allow viewers to experience the best of international cinema, linking to cultural exchange.

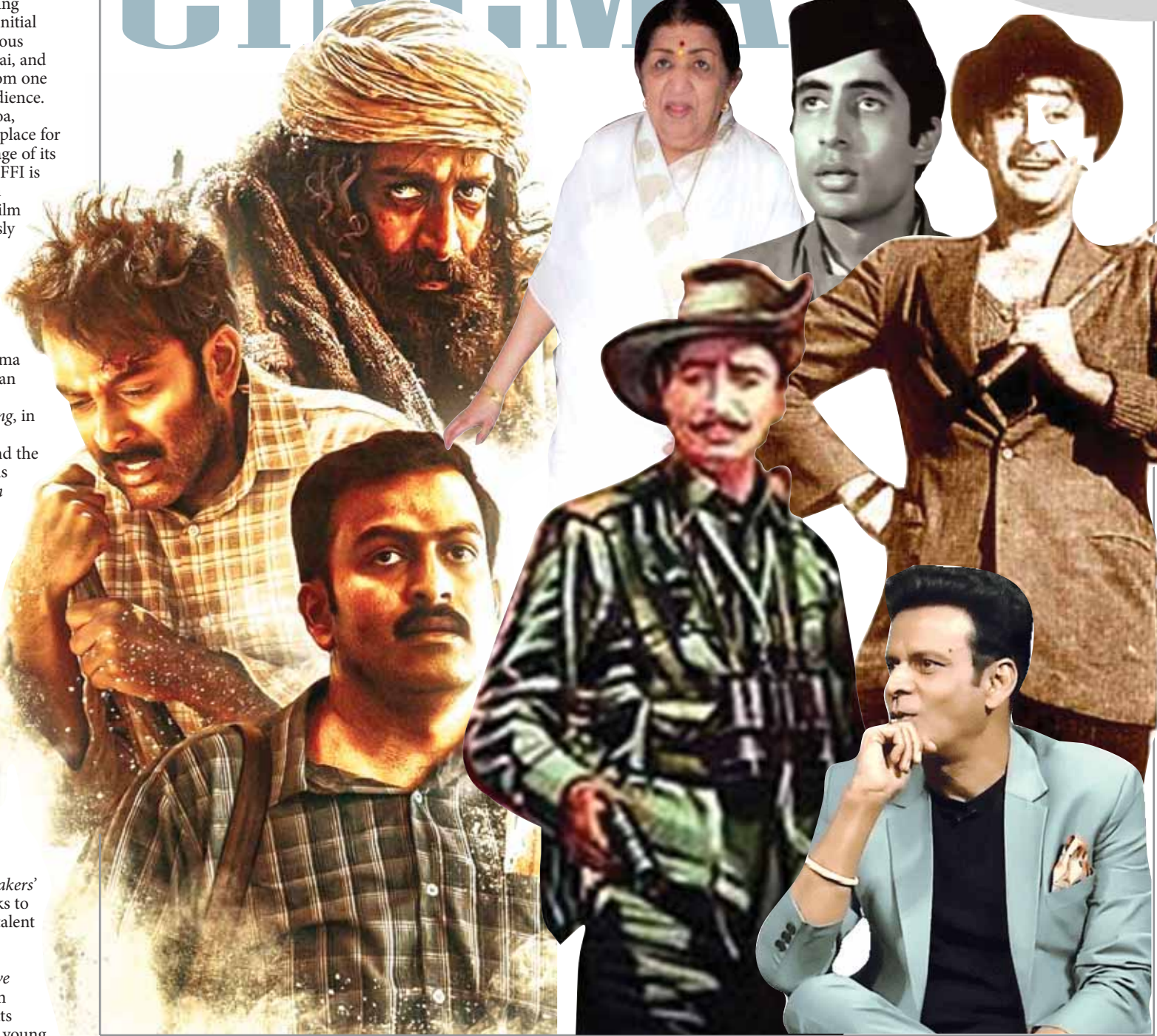
The Country of Focus for IFFI 2024 will be Australia. This will be made sure by a dedicated package of Australian films giving a strong presence at the festival. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Screen Australia & NFDC, for participation by leading Australian filmmakers in the festival and the Film Bazaar, and a showcase by AusFilm, promoting Australia's unique filming locations & co-productions.

Apart from Australia, in partnership with the British Film Institute, the United Kingdom will be showcased as the "Treaty Country," presenting British cinema through a carefully crafted package.

Celebration of the pioneers is very important to lead the way, give examples, and keep the generations inspired by looking over to the people who have done it no others. Like every other year, the stars of the cinema, keeping up with the entertainment industry would be facilitated by awards at the IFFI 2024. The IFFI's prestigious Golden Peacock Award, granted for Best Film will remain one of the

As every year, uniting global storytellers, the International Film Festival of India 2024, is an allure and will transform Goa into a vibrant heaven for film enthusiasts, cinema pioneers, and aspiring young talents, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

## GRAND CELEBRATION OF CINEMA



Also, through workshops, masterclasses, panel discussions, and networking events, IFFI 2024 will provide a learning platform for aspiring filmmakers, creating an inclusive space for cinematic celebration and growth.

Panel Discussions like *Women Safety and Cinema* with renowned panelists Imtiaz Ali, Suhasini Manirathnam, Kushboo Sundar, Bhumi Pednekar; *Stories that Travel*, a panel that would explore the art of storytelling that travels beyond its origins, addressing the themes, techniques, and emotional core that allow films to reach and impact diverse audiences worldwide with Farrukh Dhondy, Anna Saura, Tanishta Chatterjee, Vani Tripathi Tikoo and Lucy Walker. Each panel discussion would be a new learning for all present at the festival. *Culture As Context for Cinematic Storytelling* with panelist Dr. Sacchidanad Joshi, Amish Tripathi, Bharat Bala will be a major learning

experience for the audience. *Mastering the Unseen* with Manoj Bajpayee, Sunil Srinivasan; *Centenary Special: ANR - Celebrating the Life and Works of Akkineni Nageswara Rao*. This centenary special will celebrate the legendary actor & producer Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR), whose contributions to Indian cinema have been unparalleled, with celebrated actor and his son Nagarajuna being the speaker; *From Big Screen to Streaming* in conversation with Manisha Koirala and Vikramaditya Motwane; *Celebrating the Life and Works of Raj Kapoor - 'The Greatest Showman'* with Ranbir Kapoor; *Empowering Change: Women Leading the Way in Cinema* with giving women led hits Kriti Sanon and Rudrani Chatteraj. Addition will be *Lata Mangeshkar Memorial Talk: Musical Theatre in India* with A R Rahman.

Masterclasses by the pioneers in the cinema industry, giving insights about the highs and lows will be conducted every year on all the days of the 7-day festival. *Power of Failure*, a masterclass by Anupam Kher will be sharing his journey, highlighting how failures acted as the catalyst for his growth and success. Another one by Philip Noyce on *How to Succeed in New Hollywood*. To all this will be the addition of Stephen Woolley an English filmmaker giving a masterclass on *Film Production and its Stages* will be valuable. The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) will also be hosting the much-anticipated *Film Bazaar* from November 20 to 24, transforming Goa into a bustling hub for filmmakers, producers, distributors, and cinema enthusiasts from across the globe. Since its inception, *Film Bazaar* has established itself as South Asia's premier film market, providing a platform for fresh voices and unique cinematic narratives from the region to take the global stage. The *Film Bazaar* has since grown to become the international film market for South Asia. It serves as a meeting place for prospective creative and financial cooperation between South Asian and foreign filmmakers, producers, sales representatives, and festival programmers. From November 20 to 24, 2024, the 18th *Film Bazaar* at IFFI 2024 will take place at the Marriott Resort in Goa. This year, the IFFI promises not just a cinematic showcase but a festival brimming with cultural exchange, artistic celebration, and an unwavering commitment to the future of films in the country and globally. From illuminating conversations to inspiring mentorship and unforgettable screenings, IFFI 2024 is set to transcend expectations, offering a truly transformative experience for film lovers worldwide.



RESTORED CLASSICS OF THEIR ICONIC FILMS, INCLUDING AWARA (1951), HUM DONO (1961), DEVADASU (1953), DADASAHEB PHALKE'S KALIYA MARDAN (1919), AMITABH BACHCHAN'S DEBUT MOVIE SAAT HINDUSTANI (1969), AND SEEMABADDHA (1971) WILL BE SCREENED AT THE FESTIVAL.



Screenings, as usual, will remain a core attraction, with highly anticipated films like the world premiere of *Zero Se Restart* on 21st November 2024 in INOX Panjim, *Jab Khuli Kitaab* by Saurabh Shukla on 26th November 2024 in INOX Panjim, Asia premiere of *Hazaar Vela Sholay Pehlila Manus* on 24th November 2024 in INOX Panjim, Asia premiere of *The Mehta Boys*, directed by Boman Irani on 25th November 2024 in INOX Panjim. *Michael Gracey's Better Man*, an Australian film that provides an engrossing look at the life of music artist Robbie Williams, who is played as a chimpanzee by Jonno Davies in a ground-breaking motion-capture performance, will have its Asia premiere to kick off the festival. The honours of the opening feature film of the 55th edition of the IFFI will be done by *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*, directed by Randeep Hooda, a powerful portrayal of a revolutionary figure. Adding to that the opening non-feature film will be *Ghar Jaisa Kuch* directed by Harsh Sangani. Restored classics of their iconic films, including *Awara* (1951), *Hum Dono* (1961), *Devadasu* (1953), *Dadasaheb Phalke's Kaliya Mardan* (1919), *Amitabh Bachchan's debut movie Saat Hindustani* (1969), and *Seemabaddha* (1971) will be screened at the festival.

most revered honours, while the *Silver Peacock Awards* for Best Director, Actor, and Actress highlight individual excellence. In recent years, IFFI has expanded its awards to reflect evolving cinematic trends. A new award of *Best Debut Indian Director* has been an addition this year to recognise young filmmaking talent across India. The *ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal* honours films promoting peace and tolerance, and the *Special Jury Award* highlights outstanding narrative and technical achievements, often bringing unique works into the spotlight. The festival's commitment to fresh talent shines through the *Best Debut Feature Film* award, which encourages bold new voices, while the Indian Panorama section fosters Indian cinematic diversity. To embrace modern storytelling forms, IFFI introduced awards for animation, VR, and documentaries, alongside the "Excellence in Film Craft" award for behind-the-scenes talent. The *Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award* will be awarded to the Philip Noyce of Australia. This year, new categories—such as the "Innovative Use of Technology" and a sustainability-focused award—honour advancements like CGI and address global issues, positioning IFFI as a festival at the forefront of positive change.



Chef Pillai takes you to experience Kerala's rich flavours with modern twists at his first-ever North India pop-up at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



# SAVOURING KERALA'S RICH FLAVOURS



Dispelling the long-held notion that South Indian cuisine revolves solely around idli, dosa, and sambar, 21 Michelin-star Chef Suresh Pillai brought a culinary extravaganza to North India with his first-ever pop-up at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi. The experience was a symphony of Kerala's authentic flavours, masterfully infused with Chef Pillai's signature modern tweaks and twists. From the aromatic embrace of the South spices to the delicate finesse of seafood delicacies, the pop-up menu was an ode to South India's rich gastronomic heritage taste. The extraordinary culinary journey took the eaters through the vibrant flavours of Kerala, in collaboration with renowned Restaurant Chef Pillai (RCP). The mouth-watering dishes were a presentation through an exclusive 10-course tasting menu curated by Chef Pillai. It all started with the welcome drink of the season, *Aarambam*, a bit of a sour drink. The meticulously curated vegetarian and non-vegetarian menus transported guests straight to the heart of Kerala, offering a true taste of the region's culinary treasures. Each dish was crafted with precision and passion, showcasing the soul of Kerala's



“THE METICULOUSLY CURATED VEGETARIAN AND NON-VEGETARIAN MENUS TRANSPORTED GUESTS STRAIGHT TO THE HEART OF KERALA, OFFERING A TRUE TASTE OF THE REGION'S CULINARY TREASURES”

cuisine, from its spices blending to its delicate yet robust flavours. For the Hors d'oeuvres, there was the mouth watering *Sambharam Kadumanga*, blending the Kerala summer butter milk & pickled mango inside paani poori. One sitting in North India would never imagine blending paani poori with a South Indian twist, which stole the show. “We created a menu from the Kerala essence, for example, our paani poori, one of the starters, actually, it's a North Indian paani poori out of it's a buttermilk we used to serve in Kerala along with a mango pickle. So the puri, we stuff with the mango and the cold buttermilk generally you say chach,” explained Chef Suresh Pillai, excited about his first pop up in the north side. As guests savoured the thoughtfully crafted hors d'oeuvres, the starters gracefully took center stage, led by the *Pazham Pori Chaat*. This Kerala-inspired masterpiece featured golden, batter-fried banana fritters a bit crispy on the outside, tender within, elevated by a drizzle of honey-yogurt blend that perfectly balanced sweetness and creaminess. Following this, guests were treated to *Cauliflower Porippu*, a dish that beautifully showcased Kerala's rich spicy taste. Crispy, marinated cauliflower florets were deep-fried to golden perfection and then stirred with *thenga porippu*—an aromatic blend of grated coconut, fragrant curry leaves, and a hint of chili powder. The starters in both the vegetarian and the non-vegetarian segments were a delightful interplay of textures and flavours, with the crunch of the cauliflower perfectly complementing the earthy, spicy-sweet coconut mixture. The main course featured Chef Suresh Pillai's signature dishes recommended by himself, offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options that embodied the essence of Kerala's culinary artistry. For vegetarians, there was *Paneer Nirvana*: tender marinated cottage cheese, pan-fried to perfection, and then slow-cooked in creamy coconut milk. The dish was elevated with the earthy flavours of ginger, green chilies, and aromatic curry leaves, all beautifully encased in a banana leaf for a touch of traditional authenticity. For non-



*Coconut Pudding*, a light and fluffy treat infused with the delicate flavour and soft flesh of the tender coconut, alongside the *Coco Nutty Choco Brownie*, a decadent eggless chocolate dessert enriched with crunchy nuts and fragrant coconut, served with a scoop of creamy ice cream. Non-vegetarian diners were treated to the *Palada Cheesecake*, a unique fusion dessert layering the traditional Kerala *Palada* (rice flakes) flavour atop a crisp, crusty base, offering a delightful blend of tradition and sophistication to end the meal on a sweet note. The evening was further elevated by a curated selection of handcrafted cocktails, each a testament to artistry in mixology. Highlights included the refreshing *Toki Highball*, blending Toki Suntory Whisky with soda water and a grapefruit twist, and the zesty *Toki Orchard Sour*, featuring green apple, lemon, and a silky egg white foam. Gin enthusiasts indulged in the crisp *Roku Gin & Tonic* with ginger accents and the floral *Roku Hibiscus Highball* with hibiscus cordial and fizz. Whiskey lovers relished the bold *Jim Beam Orange Fashioned* with aromatic bitters, while the indulgent *Haku Caramel Espresso Martini*, combining Haku Japanese Craft Vodka with caramel and espresso, provided a decadent finish to the cocktail lineup. Chef Suresh Pillai's pop-up at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi was an experience that will redefine the perception of South Indian cuisine. With his signature modern twists on Kerala's rich culinary traditions, Chef Pillai transported guests on a culinary journey that celebrated both the simplicity and complexity of Kerala's vibrant flavours.

vegetarians, the highlight was the *Neymeen Nirvana*, Chef Pillai's iconic creation. The main course also offered a rich tapestry of Kerala's culinary heritage, featuring dishes like *Ulli Theeyal*, a dark, flavourful curry of slow-roasted coconut, shallots, and tamarind, and *Baby Corn Vendaka Manga Muringa Charu*, an Alleppey-style coconut mango curry with baby corn, okra, and tender drumsticks. *Kathrikai Thakkali Roast* brought tangy and spicy South Indian flavours to life with marinated brinjal and tomatoes in a rich onion-tomato gravy. Accompaniments included the delicate, lacy-edged *Appams*, perfect for mopping up curries, and the soft, flaky *Malabar Nool Porotta*, rounding out a meal that celebrated Kerala's diverse and bold flavours. For dessert, the menu delighted both vegetarian and non-vegetarian guests with indulgent creations. Vegetarians savoured the *Tender*

# The Vibrant Flavours OF KOREA

Le Meridien brings Korea's rich flavours, authentic dishes, and timeless traditions to the heart of New Delhi

TEAM AGENDA



Korean food is a vibrant and flavourful cuisine celebrated for its unique balance of colors, textures, and tastes. Rooted in centuries-old traditions, it emphasises fresh, seasonal ingredients, often fermented, to create deep, savoury flavours and nutritional richness. The Korean dining experience is distinctive, with meals commonly featuring a variety of side dishes, or *banchan*, that range from spicy kimchi to delicate pickled vegetables. Key staples like rice, vegetables, and meats are skillfully combined with ingredients like *gochujang* (a spicy-sweet red pepper paste) and *doenjang* (fermented soybean paste) to create dishes that are as visually stunning as they are delicious. From the sizzling sounds of *bulgogi* on a grill to the comforting warmth of a bubbling *jjigae* stew, Korean food offers a sensory journey into a culture that values harmony, balance, and bold, memorable flavours. Food lovers in New Delhi had a culinary treat from Korea right in New Delhi as Le Meridien celebrated the unique flavours of Korean cuisine with its much-anticipated Korean Food Festival. Running till November 17th, 2024, this gastronomic event was an immersive dining experience, highlighting traditional and contemporary Korean dishes at its 'The One' restaurant. The festival is a feature of *Le Meridien New Delhi's* annual '+1 Celebrating Flavours of the Globe' initiative under the '+1 for the Leap Year' campaign, bringing exotic, authentic global flavours to the heart of India. The Korean Food Festival's dinner buffet had been meticulously curated by Chef Young-Hwan Jang, Chef de Partie at AC Hotel by Marriott Seoul Gangnam. With over two decades of culinary expertise and a deep-rooted passion for Korean cuisine, Chef Jang has flown in from Seoul to offer guests an authentic taste of his homeland, blending

“FOOD LOVERS IN NEW DELHI HAD A CULINARY TREAT FROM KOREA RIGHT IN NEW DELHI AS LE MERIDIEN CELEBRATED THE UNIQUE FLAVOURS OF KOREAN CUISINE WITH ITS MUCH-ANTICIPATED KOREAN FOOD FESTIVAL”

traditional Korean staples with innovative techniques to appeal to a global palate. “We are thrilled to showcase the diverse and flavourful cuisine of Korea through this festival,” said Meena Bhatia, Vice President and General Manager of Le Meridien New Delhi. “This event aligns perfectly with our +1 Celebrating Flavours of the Globe initiative, a highlight of our annual '+1 for the Leap Year' initiative, and we believe it will offer our guests a truly unforgettable dining experience,” she added. The menu showcased a range of traditional Korean dishes, crafted to deliver the distinctive flavours and textures that define this cuisine. Guests can look forward to sampling dishes like *Acorn Salad*, a refreshing and nutritious delicacy; *Gimbap Avocado*, Korea's beloved seaweed rice rolls with a modern twist; *Spring Onion Pancake*, a savoury delight that's perfect for

sharing; the spicy and comforting *Stir-fried Rice Cake (Teokbokki)*; and a cooling *Chilled Seafood Salad*, perfect for Delhi's warm evenings. Each dish on the buffet spread has been carefully prepared by Chef Jang to ensure an authentic taste of Korea. “I am excited to bring the vibrant flavours of Korea to Le Meridien New Delhi,” shared Chef Young-Hwan Jang. “Through this festival, we aim to introduce guests to the diverse range of Korean dishes, from classic comfort foods to innovative culinary creations,” he quips with a smile. This unique dining experience went beyond just food—it invited guests to embark on a journey through Korea's rich culinary heritage. From the spicy and savoury flavours that Korean cuisine is known for, to innovative twists on traditional dishes, the festival offers a deep and delicious dive into Korean culture and flavours.



# A Meal Worth Revisiting

Located in Sector 66, Gurugram, Poiz is an inviting dining destination that combines a vibrant atmosphere with a diverse menu. After three visits, it's evident that Poiz offers a delightful experience for food enthusiasts and social diners alike, writes **PAWAN SONI**

It's rare for me to visit a restaurant multiple times before writing a review, but Poiz, a beautiful new addition to the dining scene, compelled me to return three times to fully capture its essence. Poiz boasts an artistic, expansive interior, blending elegant indoor seating with a spacious patio featuring its own bar and an inviting open dining area. While many restaurants of this size tend to cater heavily to the nightlife crowd, Poiz strikes a perfect balance: a well-curated bar selection with inventive cocktails for the social set, and a menu that delights families and party goers alike. Certain dishes have become my go-to orders, each offering something special. The *Lychee Chaat*, a Thai-inspired creation, is an absolute must-try. Bits of lychee and avocado sit atop a crispy rice puff base, accompanied by a flavourful *Nam Jim Sauce*—one bite, and you won't want to stop. The *Chicken Chilli Dim Sum* features a delicate wrapper and pairs perfectly with the accompanying sauces. Another standout is the *Taiwanese Mushrooms*, crisp-coated and served with pickled chilli



and a sweet-sour sauce, accented by crunchy peanuts for extra texture. Not every dish was flawless. The nachos were slightly too salty for my taste. However, the ramen from their global menu made up for it with its rich, layered flavours. It's a generous portion, perfect for a hearty appetite or sharing with friends. My companions thoroughly enjoyed the *Lamb Adana Kebab* as much as they did the sushi. While Poiz has a wide range of Indian dishes, I found myself drawn to the global offerings, including their expertly crafted *Neapolitan pizza*. A meal here would be incomplete without the *Belgian Nutella Chocolate*. This dessert not only excels in taste but also impresses in presentation. The smooth *Belgian chocolate* and *Nutella sweetness* are cleverly balanced with blueberries and hazelnuts, creating a perfect finale. For those in the area, Poiz is well worth a visit. Ratings: (Out of 5) Food: 4.25 Ambience: 4.25 Service: 4.0 Drinks: 4.0 Overall: 4.25 Address: Poiz, 2nd Floor, AIPL Joy Street, Sector 66, Gurugram



I HAVE PLACED MY FAITH IN HUMANITY, BUT FAITH IN THE UNIVERSAL BECOMES MEANINGLESS WITHOUT FAITH IN THE INDIVIDUAL  
— PANCHALI DRAUPADI



# A SPIRITUAL GETAWAY

Kurukshetra, one of Hinduism's most revered pilgrimage destinations, is where ancient spirituality converges with modern comforts, writes **SANTANU GANGULY**

Though Kurukshetra is a significant pilgrimage site for Hindus and is located close to Delhi, it has not always attracted large numbers of visitors. Mentioned in various Hindu scriptures, particularly the *Mahabharata*, Kurukshetra holds great spiritual importance. According to *Acharya Some Nath Gautam*, priest at the *Katyayani Temple*, visiting all the ancient temples here would require at least a year. This journey, known as the *Kurukshetra 84 Kos Parikrama*, encompasses numerous sacred and historical sites. However, modern pilgrims often focus on the most important temples, holy places, and archaeological monuments due to time constraints.

The city offers a variety of accommodation options, from budget-friendly 2- and 3- star hotels to numerous dharamshalas. For those seeking luxury, the *Noormahal Palace* in Karnal stands out as Haryana's only 5-star hotel, offering exceptional amenities such as a spa, jacuzzi, modern gym, and fine dining. Blending heritage with modern comforts, this ultra-luxurious hotel features the *Frontier Mail* restaurant, housed in a life-sized train compartment from the historic *Frontier Mail*. The restaurant's ambience evokes the 19th century, with interiors reflecting the Mumbai-Peshawar route.

A visit to Kurukshetra typically begins at *Brahma Sarovar*, Asia's largest man-made water body, stretching 3,600 feet long, 1,500 feet wide, and 45 feet deep. According to Hindu mythology, the lake was created by Lord Brahma at the dawn of the universe. *Brahma Sarovar*, along with the nearby *Sannihit Sarovar*, is fed by underground channels from the *Bhakra Nangal Dam*. The ancient *Shiva Temple* here is believed to have been established by Lord Shiva himself. Between the two lakes lies the



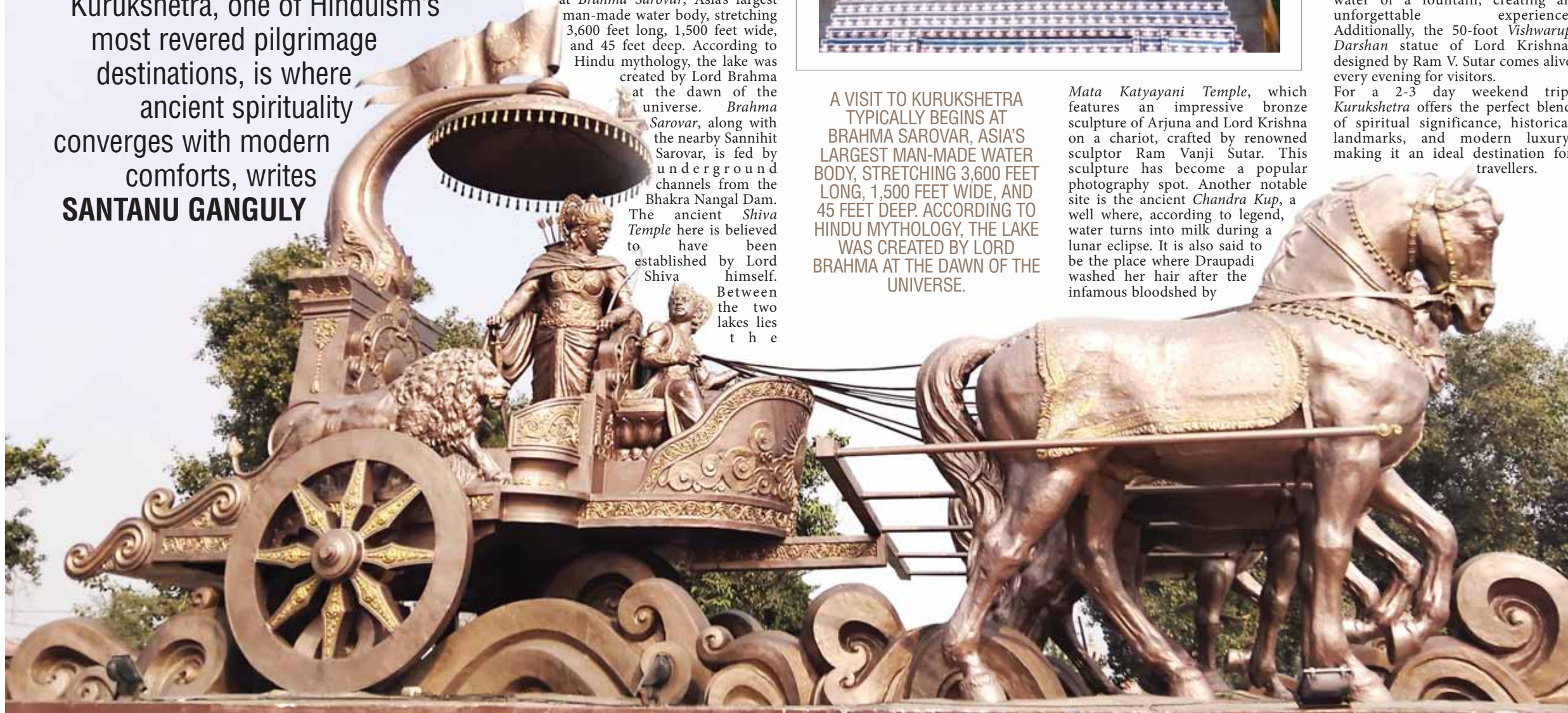
A VISIT TO KURUKSHETRA TYPICALLY BEGINS AT BRAHMA SAROVAR, ASIA'S LARGEST MAN-MADE WATER BODY, STRETCHING 3,600 FEET LONG, 1,500 FEET WIDE, AND 45 FEET DEEP. ACCORDING TO HINDU MYTHOLOGY, THE LAKE WAS CREATED BY LORD BRAHMA AT THE DAWN OF THE UNIVERSE.

*Mata Katyayani Temple*, which features an impressive bronze sculpture of Arjuna and Lord Krishna on a chariot, crafted by renowned sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar. This sculpture has become a popular photography spot. Another notable site is the ancient *Chandra Kup*, a well where, according to legend, water turns into milk during a lunar eclipse. It is also said to be the place where Draupadi washed her hair after the infamous bloodshed by

Dushasana. The *Kali Kamli Temple*, built by Kali Baba of Bengal in the 19th century, is a siddha peeth located near *Brahma Sarovar*. *Devi Kup*, also known as the *BhadraKali Temple*, is one of the 51 *Shakti Peethas* and Haryana's only such temple. *Pandit Satpal Sharma* explains that the temple holds significance for Lord Krishna and Balarama, who visited before the *Kurukshetra War*. Devotees continue to donate clay, ceramic, or silver horses here, a tradition rooted in sacred history. Special pujas for *Maa Kali* and *Lord Shani* are held every Saturday.

The *Shthanu Mahadev Temple* is another important site, where Lord Krishna and the Pandavas sought Lord Shiva's blessings before the war. Nearby, the historical *Harsh ka Tilla* and *Sheikh Chillli's Tomb* offer fascinating insights into the region's past. History enthusiasts can also explore the *Sri Krishna Museum* and *Kurukshetra Panorama*, which showcases key artifacts. For children and astronomy lovers, the *Kalpna Chawla Planetarium* provides a fun and educational experience. In the coming years, the *ISKCON Temple*, currently under construction and expected to be completed by 2026, will be a must-visit site. At *Jyotisar*, where Lord Krishna delivered the *Bhagavad Gita* to Arjuna, visitors can enjoy an impressive light and sound show, which reflects on the water of a fountain, creating an unforgettable experience. Additionally, the 50-foot *Vishwarup Darshan* statue of Lord Krishna, designed by Ram V. Sutar comes alive every evening for visitors.

For a 2-3 day weekend trip, *Kurukshetra* offers the perfect blend of spiritual significance, historical landmarks, and modern luxury, making it an ideal destination for travellers.



## EXPLORING DAMAN

# A Coastal Escape with Cultural Riches

Nestled between Gujarat and Maharashtra, Daman enchants travellers with its unique blend of colonial allure, scenic beaches, and relaxed vibe, writes **NEETA LAL**

The lovely city of Daman, an erstwhile Portuguese colony, offers a unique blend of colonial charm with a laid-back vibe. The administrative capital of the union territory of *Dadra and Nagar Haveli*, it is located between Gujarat and Maharashtra and attracts high footfall from a diverse set of travellers. Peppered with colonial buildings showcasing a rich syncretic culture, the city's stately *Nani Daman Fort* and the *Church of Bom Jesus* give one a taste of history, while *Jampore Beach* and *Devka Beach* make for Instagram-friendly settings for a day of relaxation.

But perhaps what makes Daman such a terrific destination for weekend getaways is its tourism infrastructure, including smooth interconnecting motorways, buzzy restaurants, and good hotels. Our abode for a staycation is the award-winning *The Deltin Daman*, the city's only five-star hotel. Known for its stellar service and facilities, it mercifully comes without the high tariff of upscale hotels in Mumbai and other metros. A world-class spa, gourmet cuisine at its multiple restaurants, a large swimming pool, health club, gym, and plush accommodation ticked all the boxes for a fabulous and memorable stay. For business travellers, the hotel houses 30,000 sq ft of business space catering to large events such as corporate conferences and weddings. The hotel's sustainability efforts are also commendable, with strict



procedures in place to prevent water waste in kitchens, guest rooms, and laundry, along with recycling used water for its expansive gardens. As the *Deltin* group is synonymous with world-class casinos, the theme is reflected in the hotel's design and architectural elements. Its stunning lobby flaunts a chandelier featuring hearts, spades, diamonds, and clubs (the four suits in a deck of cards) strung together. This theme is also reflected in the glass walls enclosing the lobby. The hotel's ergonomic and well-furnished rooms are equipped with HD TVs, HD satellite programming, mini-bars, high-speed internet connectivity, in-room safes, 24x7 room service, and early check-in options, among others. Our Presidential Suite also came with an efficient butler who took care of our every need, including



restaurant and spa bookings as well as sightseeing tours. Close proximity to *Jampore Beach*, *Mirasol Water Park*, *Devka Beach*, *Dominican Monastery*, and *Moti Daman Fort* made our local explorations seamless and pleasurable.



What's a good vacation without good food? Indeed, for gastronomes like us, the hotel turned out to be a delight with three award-winning restaurants to explore. One of our lunches was at the *Emperor* restaurant, which features an extensive menu with *Korean*, *Chinese*, *Thai*, and *Japanese* offerings. Interestingly, the chefs here have reinvented many dishes to offer an imaginative take on classics. Thus, our fusion lunch featured *pillowy soft lotus stem and chicken Chettinad baos* as well as *black sesame chicken tikka baos*. The *prawn and chicken dim sums* were similarly delicious, while the *garlic-infused noodles and chicken in Hainanese sauce* transported us to China, sans passports and air tickets! Another lunch at *The Vegas all-day dining* was also a treat for the taste buds. The spacious eatery offers multi-cuisine buffets with a vast selection of salads, Indian and continental dishes, desserts, and more. The buffet includes a separate section for Jain food – so vegetarians can rejoice too. Being unabashed carnivores, we dug

into flavour-packed *laal maas*, piping hot *breads*, *gobhi and bhindi sabzi*, *raita*, and *salad*. Dessert was the *creamiest ras malai* on this side of the *Daman Ganga river*, garnished with a silver varq and date syrup!

Semi-comatose from so much good food, we pledged to skip dinner. But that was not to be, as we were informed that the chefs had prepared choice delicacies for us at the poolside *Mediterranean-inspired BBQ and grill restaurant, Sky High*. After eyeing the selection of inventive dips with *Middle Eastern snacks*, *empanadas*, and *pizzas* with innovative toppings, our pledge to "go easy" on food went out the window!

To slake our thirst, we visited *Whiskys Bar*, which offers an exclusive collection of single malts. The *Poolside Bar* and *Juice Bar* kept us refreshed with health drinks and fresh juices. There's no shortage of entertainment at the hotel either. *The Den* – an atmospheric indoor family space – features foosball, billiards, carom, chess, and more. There's even a creche for young parents who want to leave their little ones under supervised care while they unwind. The property's three azure swimming pools (including a kids' pool) are a major attraction. After a quick swim on day two, we headed to the spa, where a

rejuvenating body massage and facial left us feeling reborn!

After spending three wonderful days at *The Deltin Daman*, we're led to wonder how, in today's fiercely competitive hospitality landscape, the hotel consistently maintains such high standards. "As ours is the only five-star hotel in Daman, our top-notch service and facilities are unmatched by any other hotel in the area," says the hotel's dynamic general manager, *Akarsh Mathur*. "We cater to all requirements, whether it's a weekend getaway or an ideal wedding, by customising our services to suit all needs. Our spacious rooms are the largest in their category, and our ample indoor and outdoor event spaces, as well as our large river-shaped swimming pool, are among the features that make our hotel a top choice for discerning guests. Our F&B has also received rave reviews."

*Mathur* believes that with higher disposable incomes and "revenge travel," Indian guests are prepared to pay competitive rates for excellent services. "The demand for upscale local tourism destinations has grown exponentially, and hotels no longer have to rely on foreign tourists from overseas to fill their rooms. If you provide great service and pay attention to guests' needs, the property will always be buzzing," he adds. Indeed, who can fault that flawless logic?

*Neeta Lal is an international award-nominated, Delhi-based editor and senior journalist.*



TRUE PRAYER IS NEITHER A MERE MENTAL EXERCISE NOR A VOCAL PERFORMANCE. IT IS FAR DEEPER THAN THAT - IT IS SPIRITUAL TRANSACTION WITH THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH — CHARLES SPURGEON

**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week might fall short of your expectations, especially in financial matters. At work, you may find yourself grappling with indecision, leading to a backlog of uncompleted tasks and disorganized planning. It may seem wise to delay certain commitments or travels due to confusion. However, as the week progresses, you'll discover a more grounded approach, helping you manage your responsibilities better. You may also benefit from distant connections, which could open new avenues. It's important to engage more actively with your team, as they'll be relying on your guidance. This proactive stance will boost your confidence and encourage networking. Nevertheless, the week could end on a challenging note with family tensions or health issues within the household demanding both your time and resources, potentially causing setbacks at work.

**Lucky number** 12 | **Lucky colour** Sky Blue  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week presents a challenging period marked by a strong drive and a somewhat confrontational demeanor. Your focus is intensely set on professional achievements, leaving little room for emotional considerations. The workload is heavy, creating a sense of being weighed down by responsibilities. Progress may seem distant and difficult to grasp, leading to frustration. Midweek, expect a notable change in your personal or professional life, possibly involving the arrival or departure of a key figure. This could stir impulsive reactions or decisions, adding to the already high stress levels. While travel might be on your agenda, it's important to seek moments of calm. Meditation could prove beneficial in restoring your sense of balance and enhancing decision-making.

**Lucky number** 11 | **Lucky colour** Rose Red  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week emphasizes the need for structured efforts and self-discipline. A sense of disarray might cloud your interactions, particularly with a significant other. Although solutions and clarity are within reach, you might find yourself hesitating to embrace the truth, possibly due to apprehension about the consequences. Midweek could bring challenges, potentially involving legal matters that may not be in your favor. These situations could lead to disappointment, so it's crucial to stay composed and maintain your health. Be cautious with your words and avoid confrontations. This period calls for introspection and recuperation. Take this time to rest, reassess your strategies, and heal. By withdrawing momentarily, you can regain strength and return ready to tackle any obstacles. Remember, this is just a transient phase, and with patience, things will stabilize.

**Lucky number** 17 | **Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Monday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week is set to be particularly rewarding for you. A longstanding project is likely to reach completion, bringing a sense of achievement and relief. The opportunity to move into a new residence might present itself, whether through a winning bid, a housing scheme, or relocating to a newly built home. Expect social gatherings to enrich your days, as you reconnect with family and friends, creating a nurturing and joyful environment. Your innate confidence and charisma serve as a beacon, inspiring those around you. Your persuasive communication skills will draw people towards you, encouraging more sincere and cooperative interactions. Your leadership qualities shine, making you a central figure in your community. As the week closes, a deepened spiritual practice through rituals and meditation will further enhance your creative energies, rounding off a fulfilling week.

**Lucky number** 21 | **Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week promises substantial financial growth and contentment. You excel in your professional arena, applying your knowledge practically and efficiently. Known for your meticulous approach, you adhere strictly to schedules and protocols, ensuring every task is managed with precision. This disciplined approach secures a stable financial foundation, enhancing both security and comfort. There's potential for significant financial gains, possibly from unexpected sources, boosting both your finances and self-esteem. Consider this period a prime time for career advancement, possibly through a promotion, or explore new opportunities such as a fresh project or role. Embrace this phase of self-reflection and celebrate your achievements. Resourcefulness will be key; use what you have wisely and remain open to learning. This zest for new knowledge will prove beneficial in your career.

**Lucky number** 13 | **Lucky colour** Lavender  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week heralds a period of fruition for your consistent efforts. It kicks off with a focus on diligence and improvement in your professional endeavors. You will find yourself engaging more deeply with the intricacies of your tasks, showing enhanced dedication and sharpening your focus. Your challenges, though demanding, will enrich you with valuable insights and professional growth. As you navigate these complexities with your skills and intelligence, you will find reasons to celebrate your achievements and feel a sense of pride. Additionally, this week offers a profound opportunity for spiritual renewal and deeper connections. As the week draws to a close, powerful transformative energies emerge, potentially leading to significant personal healing. For some, this period might also bring joyful affirmations in personal relationships, including commitments or unions.

**Lucky number** 16 | **Lucky colour** Mint  
**Lucky day** Friday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week promises a diverse range of experiences, touching on personal connections, empathy, fulfillment, assertiveness, and significant material gains. As you begin your week, you'll notice early successes in your financial endeavors, with an uptick in profitability as days pass. Your balanced and open-handed approach at work will foster a harmonious atmosphere. Travel also features prominently in your plans, potentially including international or leisure trips on water. Midweek, domestic responsibilities will demand your attention, yet you'll manage to strike a harmonious balance between your career and home life. As the week draws to a close, you will be in a position to reap the rewards of your hard work. You'll find yourself in good health, brimming with creativity and surrounded by positivity.

**Lucky number** 18 | **Lucky colour** Forest Green  
**Lucky day** Monday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week unfolds with a quest for strategies and solutions to help navigate and complete significant challenges effectively. You might find yourself on the brink of completion, grappling with the final hurdles but ultimately discovering the resilience to push through. As the days progress, a sense of romance permeates, prompting quality time with your loved ones. The latter part of the week turns auspicious for exploring investments in real estate or other significant acquisitions. Many will experience a fortunate phase, with promising opportunities enhancing overall well-being and zest for life. The support and camaraderie of family members will significantly uplift your spirits, leading to joyful interactions and memorable outings.

**Lucky number** 1 | **Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week heralds a period rich with fulfillment and opportunities. Blessings seem to be plentiful, enhancing all aspects of life—be it love, prosperity, or overall contentment. There's also a notable surge in organizational skills and creative inspiration, paired with a sharp intuition. Harness this vibrant energy to bolster your cognitive faculties. Across the board, from finances to spiritual and emotional wellness, expect gratifying outcomes. Matters of relationships take a front seat, aligning well with your intentions and plans. If you're eyeing new professional ventures, this period could bring promising developments. Your health and ability to influence, coupled with strong communication and leadership traits, are at their peak, making it easier to navigate through challenges with grace and effectiveness.

**Lucky number** 3 | **Lucky colour** Slate Grey  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

Surprising shifts are about to unfold in your life, leading you to a place of pride and confidence, empowering you to face the world's challenges. You will find success in an area where hope had previously dwindled. Your achievements might spark envy among others, yet those who truly support you will celebrate your victories. This period marks a successful overcoming of past struggles, with your accomplishments being recognized and openly celebrated. Joy and fulfillment draw from previous experiences, enriching your present. As the week closes, you'll find comfort in cherished memories of earlier days, reconnecting with the essence of your youth and enjoying moments with younger companions. Embrace this time of personal evolution and community connection.

**Lucky number** 20 | **Lucky colour** Coral  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, your focus intensifies around professional endeavors. Embrace risk as a pathway to potential gains. Your innovative ideas are ripe for execution, allowing you to tackle projects that seemed daunting before. Your boldness is your greatest asset now, pushing you to transcend usual limitations effortlessly. A significant challenge has captured your attention, and you possess the flair to master this task with distinct finesse. As the week progresses, prepare for a rigid, yet beneficial, interaction with a senior female relative. Heeding her practical advice could prove advantageous. Enhance your cognitive abilities by engaging in intellectually stimulating activities. Delve into thought-provoking literature or tackle complex puzzles, paving the way for profound revelations in your personal growth journey.

**Lucky number** 15 | **Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Partnerships and collaborative efforts will pave the way for achievement, fostering a sense of unity and smooth cooperation in your professional environment. You will embrace your values and uphold your dignity, infusing your career and lifestyle with creativity and vibrancy. The horizon appears promising with opportunities that signal prosperity, especially as recent ventures show signs of success and growth. In your professional life, the possibility of a new role may soon materialize. Collaboration is crucial at this time, and any discussions are likely to yield positive outcomes. There is also a touch of the spiritual influencing your journey. Families anticipating the joy of a new addition will likely receive joyful news. With a clear vision and foresight, you approach future possibilities with confidence, ready to explore new territories without fear.

**Lucky number** 22 | **Lucky colour** Orange  
**Lucky day** Thursday

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

# Rekindle your spirit with silence



**Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**  
Spiritual Guru

*"The words that do not rattle the minds of people and which is truth; truth which is benevolent and which is pleasant, those type of words are to be spoken. That is called the penance of speech"*

**K**EEPING silence is very useful. It purifies our speech. Deep silence is the mother of creativity. No creativity can come out of one who is too busy, worried, over-ambitious or lethargic. There is no need to maintain silence in our daily routine but there is also no need to speak too much. If you maintain some silence, you will think before you speak. If you keep talking, you yourself will not understand what you are saying.

Have you ever observed the impact of your speech on others? Often we do not bother to notice this, we go on blabbering. We just want to say all that we want to say and become free. No, you must see what impact your speech has on others. There is a beautiful couplet in the Bhagavad Gita which says, "The words that do not rattle the minds of people and which is truth; truth which is benevolent and which is pleasant, those type of words are to be spoken. That is called the penance of speech."

Tapas (penance) for the speech is to speak only those words that do not rattle the minds of others. Krishna was the most skillful because his silence was so deep. Sometimes we think we are right and, perhaps, we are right. You may be speaking the truth, it may be benevolent, it may be good for the other person as well but if it is not pleasant and it is rattling the other person's mind then it is not



complete. This is not an easy thing to do. It requires skill — not to rattle anyone's mind or give them pain. So speak words that are pleasant, true and benevolent but ensure that you don't speak pleasing lies. Don't crush the minds and hearts of others with your unpleasant words. Now how do we do this? You may say, "I don't intend to hurt anybody but hurtful words just fly out of my mouth. What do I do?"

Silence and meditation awaken our potential and abilities. That is why everyone should remain silent and meditate for a while. Yog and Vedanta have been referred to as the highest forms of knowledge and that is what they are. The inner space or your inner form can be

experienced through them. Your brain benefits so much from this. Depending on the situation, we must accept whatever is happening around us. If we are sitting in meditation and a phone is ringing somewhere, we must accept it instead of getting irritated. Take it as background music. As Shri Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, as long as something or the other is occupying our mind, we cannot go into meditation. So surrender your sankalpa (intention) during meditation. Afterwards, when you are working on something, put everything into it. We do the opposite; during meditation we keep thinking about all we have to do and while working we think that God will look after

everything. Put everything into any work you do.

Take a sankalpa (intention) about what you want in the future. Then form a plan accordingly. Worry drains you of energy and strength. You don't gain anything. You acquire inner strength through silence. In spite of all that, if it comes, if it happens then you can't do anything about it, then just ask for forgiveness. When you are getting into silence ask for forgiveness — "By my thought, word or deed if I have done anything or caused any hurt to someone, may I be forgiven." That completely uplifts us from being bogged down.

Some questions can be answered only in silence. It is the goal of all answers. If an answer does not silence the mind it is "no" answer. Thoughts are not the goal in themselves. Their goal is silence. Deep silence is the mother or source of creativity. When the body, mind and spirit are in tune with each other, then creativity happens. When you are tired, exhausted, stressed, over-ambitious or lethargic, when you are not in touch with yourself, your creativity and talents are stifled. When feverishness clogs your head, your mind is not clear; poetry cannot dawn, no creative thought will come. Meditation and yoga can clear your mind and kindle skills and creativity in you. It puts you in touch with the space of silence within you and

becomes an unending well-spring of creativity. It relieves you of stress and strain, strengthens your nervous system and mind, releases toxins, makes you more capable and enhances you in every way. The easy way to silence the thoughts is to arouse feelings. For through feelings only peace, joy and love dawn. And they are all your very nature.

To the question, "Who am I?" the only relevant answer is silence. You need to discard all answers in words, including "I am Nothing" or "I am the Cosmic Self" or "I am the Self" — and just stick to the question "Who am I?" All other answers are just thoughts. Thoughts can never be complete. Only silence is complete. And spirituality is a harmonious blend of outer silence and inner celebration; and inner silence and outer celebration. When you ask the question, "Who am I?" you get no answer, there is silence. That is the real answer. This solidified silence is wisdom, is knowledge. You are solidified silence, awareness. A thousand hours of speech cannot equal one glance; a hundred glances cannot equal a minute of silence. Prayer within breath is silence. Love within Infinity is silence. Wisdom without word is silence. Compassion without aim is silence. Action without doing is silence. Smiling with all the Existence is silence. And God is nothing but solidified silence.