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• Established 1865

# **MEA summons Canadian diplomat**



MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

countries, the MEA said on Saturday.

а

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

reported the allegations. Jaiswal said this revelation that high Canadian government officials deliberately leaked unfounded insinuations to international media as part of a conscious strategy to discredit India and influence other nations only confirms the view that the Indian government has long held about the current Canadian government's political agenda and behavioural pattern. in June 2023. Dismissing the allegations as absurd, Indian government officials have consistently denied that Canada provided evidence. Last month, India recalled its high commissioner Sanjay Verma after

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

India also accused Canada of indulging in "harassment and intimidation" of Indian consular staff by putting them under audio and video surveillance in "flagrant violation" of diplomatic conventions. "Yes, some of our consular officials were recently informed by the Canadian government that they have been and continued to be under audio and video surveillance. Their communications have also been intercepted. We have formally protested to the Canadian government, as we deem these actions to be in flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions" Jaiswal mentioned during the briefing. "By citing technicalities, the

Canadian government cannot justify the fact that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation," he alleged.



## Patrolling begins at Depsang

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has commenced verification patrolling at Depsang, the second friction point in eastern Ladakh, Ladakh.

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

and Depsang. On Thursday, Indian and Chinese troops also exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali. The traditional practice was observed a day after both countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties. Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

Continued on page 2

# Forces gun down three terrorists in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Continued on page 2



**Four sanitary** 

Replying to queries during a weekly Press briefing, Jaiswal said such irresponsible actions will have serious consequences for bilateral ties.

He said India summoned a Canadian High Commission representative on Friday and the official was served a diplomatic note to lodge the protest in strongest terms on the "absurd and baseless" references made by the Canadian deputy minister about India's Union Home Minister. While addressing the Parliament members, Morrison did not say how Canada knew of Shah's

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

## No longer a hoax, live cartridge Gasp! PM 2.5 is 92 per cent higher this year

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The 12-hour (from 8 pm to 8 am) reading of Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) concentration on Diwali night was 34 per cent higher than Diwali night in October 2022, going from 289  $\mu$ g/m to 386  $\mu$ g/m . Moreover, PM2.5 levels this year were more than twice as high as the average nighttime pollution recorded over the seven nights before Diwali In its Diwali air pollution analysis, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has highlighted that the average concentration of PM 2.5 during this Diwali (6 am to 4 pm) was 92 per cent higher, compared to last year. However, the unique pattern of Diwali trend this year was sudden sharp increase at night and also quicker dissipation the day



daytime average that was affected by the deeper inversion conditions of the winter. This reflects high local and regional pollution aided by the sharp increase in the share of farm fires. further analysis The

highlighted that there was a massive build-up of pollution in different parts of Diwal hitting severe levels and increasing the peak exposure levels for a large section of the population. This year, 9 out of 38 air quality monitoring stations recorded PM2.5 concentrations exceeding the critical threshold of 900  $\mu$ g/m on Diwali night. The highest levels were observed at Nehru Nagar, reaching 994 Nehru Nagar, reaching 754 µg/m , followed closely by Anand Vihar at 992 µg/m , Pusa IMD at 985 µg/m , Wazirpur at 980 µg/m , and JLN Stadium at 963  $\mu g/m$  . Other affected areas are Okhla, CRRI-Mathura Road, Karni Singh Stadium, Lodi Road, Siri Fort. According to analysis, there was sudden and sharp escalation in farm fire count on the day of Diwali and that combined with the change of wind direction to north westerly. This increased the share of its contribution to Delhi's air quality by 27 per cent.

## workers run over by Kerala Express

## PNS KOCHI

Four sanitary workers were run over by the speeding New Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram Kerala Express at 3 pm on Saturday. The dead hailed from Tamil Nadu and were

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

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

Continued on page 2

in the national capital, with all passengers safely leaving the plane. Following this, an FIR was registered under the Arms Act and a probe has been initiated.

n a major security breach, Air India on Saturday reported the

on flight AI916 after it had landed at

andhi Internationa

"One ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat of our the case is under investigation and flight AI916 after it had landed from Dubai at Delhi on October 27, and all passengers had safely disembarked," an Air India spokesperson confirmed. The airline emphasised that passenger and crew safety is its top priority and assured the public that it is working closely with airport security and law enforcement to ensure all protocols are observed and the matter is thoroughly investigated.

The police shared news on Saturday, an Air India staff found the live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on a flight on October 27. Deputy Commissioner of Police Gandhi International (Indira Àirport) Usha Rangnani said, "On October 27, Indira Gandhi International Airport Police Act after Air India staff found a live creating panic among round of ammunition during routine passengers. cleaning on a flight. "She added that



further details will be shared as the

investigation progresses. However, this incident raises questions about potential lapses in security measures either at the Dubai departure airport or during the screening process, and investigators are expected to examine surveillance footage and passenger records as part of their probe.

This comes after over 500 threat messages received by Indian carriers, many of which turned out to be hoaxes. Several air operators have reported such threats on their social media platforms, resulting in flight delays as thorough searches were conducted. To date, most of these threats have proven to be false alarms. Besides huge financial losses Police to airlines, these threats were spread registered an FIR under the Arms across social media platforms, the

Continued on page 2

after. The reasons behind this late build up and early dissipation of pollution on Diwali day were warm atmospheric conditions with relatively more efficient natural ventilation and adequate wind in the city. According to analysis, the This is supposed to be one of the warmest October this year. afternoon of October 31. But

"PM 2.5 levels that were the evening build-up peaked already rising steadily to hit the severe levels

during the preceding five days leading up to Diwali, showed a marked increase of 46 per cent from October 28 through October 31. By midnight on October 31, PM2.5 hit a peak of 603 microgram per cubic metre  $(\mu g/m)$ -13 per cent higher than Diwali peaks observed in both 2022 (when Diwali had occurred on October 24) and 2023 (on November 12)," it said.

than last year's Diwali

during midnight, and stayed elevated until early morning next day. This time the dissipation has occurred quicker compared to previous years - not lasting as a smog episode (that is remaining elevated at severe level for at least three consecutive days). It came down to more moderate levels of 97 µg/m by noon. Interestingly, the daytime (6 AM to 4 PM) air pollution on Diwali day showed comparatively higher levels. The average PM2.5 concentration during the day was 92 per cent higher

Continued on page 2

# Goodbye Gudda, your legacy lives on Rohit Bal was a storyteller, weaving his experiences and emotions into timeless garments

## BY SAKSHI PRIYA

India's fashion world bid a heartfelt farewell to Rohit Bal, the visionary designer and cultural icon who transformed Indian couture with unmatched elegance, imagination and artistry. On Friday, the fashion industry mourned the loss of Bal, a legend whose work defined Indian fashion for over three decades. Affectionately called "Gudda" as in the fashion community, he passed away at 63, in Delhi after a prolonged illness, leaving behind a legacy that will resonate through generations.

A true pioneer, Bal redefined

Indian fashion with his bold yet refined approach. Renowned for his exquisite craftsmanship and meticulous attention to detail, he blended traditional Indian aesthetics with modern sensibilities. From designing costumes for the popular Indian game show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' to creating breathtaking couture, Bal infused a sense of cultural poetry into each piece. His creations were more than garments, they were expressions of identity and creativity that made every wearer feel special. His passing marks a profound loss not only for the fashion world but also for countless admirers who were



captivated by his ability to turn fabric into art.

Bal's final show in October, titled Kaavnaat: A Bloom in the Universe, was a moving tribute to his creative spirit, celebrating the beauty of nature and cosmic wonder. Concluding Lakmé Fashion Week X FDCI with this enchanting finale felt like a poignant farewell from a designer who made elegance look effortless. Actress Ananya Panday wore the showstopper outfit that embodied Bal's timeless, graceful vision. Each piece showcased that day was an example of his devotion to beauty, detail and imagination. It was a fitting close to a career dedicated to

redefining luxury in India. The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) honoured Bal with a heartfelt statement: "We mourn the passing of legendary designer Rohit Bal. As a founding member of the FDCI, his blend of traditional patterns and modern sensibilities redefined Indian fashion, inspiring generations. His legacy of artistry and innovation will endure. Rest in peace, Gudda you are a legend." Bal's influence extended beyond the runway, celebrated for his gift

of connecting with audiences and bringing his designs to life through stories. His work featured intricate embroideries and rich fabrics,

celebrating India's diverse heritage. In an industry often driven by fleeting trends, Bal's designs stood out for their timelessness and

authenticity. More than just a designer, Bal was a storyteller, weaving his experiences and emotions into each creation. His passing serves as a reminder of life's fragility and the lasting power of true artistry. As India bids farewell to Rohit Bal, his creations, vision and spirit will continue to live on, ensuring his influence endures in every piece that tells his story. His legacy will inspire future generations of designers, honouring his extraordinary journey in the world of couture.

# **BJP to elect its leader of legislative** party in J and K Assembly on Sunday

sunday pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 📕 .IAMMII

A head of the five-day long session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on November 4, Bharatiya Janta Party is set to elect its leader of the legislative party in Srinagar on Sunday.

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 3, 2024

The newly elected legislators are scheduled to meet in Srinagar to elect the leader of the legislative party. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

and National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, Central observers appointed by the Parliamentary board of the party, are expected to reach Srinagar to finalize the name of the legislative party leader. According to party insiders,

BJP legislator Sunil Sharma is tipped to be elected as the CLP leader.

According communication issued here by the Pro-tem Speaker of the J&K Assembly, the five-day session will begin with the election of the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor's address to the House on November 4. references for Obituary former legislators who passed

territories, such as Delhi, Goa and Puducherry, have

achieved 100 per cent targets and complied with the

It has also informed the

court that 16 lakh toilets for

bovs and 17.5 lakh toilets for

girls have been constructed

in more than 10 lakh

government schools and 2.5

lakh toilets for boys and 2.9

lakh toilets for girls have

been made available in

government-aided schools.

The Centre has pointed out

that in West Bengal, separate

toilet facilities have been

provided for girl students in 99.9 per cent schools and in

Uttar Pradesh, 98.8 per cent

separate

have

Mangaluru police bust multi-state scam

targeting e-commerce giant; two arrested

schools

earlier orders of the court.

to а

away since the last session of the erstwhile J&K Assembly will be held on November 5. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the LG's address will be held on November 6 and 7 while the session will conclude on November 8 with the Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the LG's address and the reply thereto.

Kerala, 99.5 per cent in

Sikkim, Gujarat, Punjab,

99.6 per cent in Chhattisgarh, 98.7 per cent

in Karnataka, 98.6 per cent

in Madhya Pradesh, 97.8 per

cent in Maharashtra, 98 per

cent in Rajasthan, 98.5 per

cent in Bihar and 96.1 per

cent in Odisha, it has

The northeastern states lag

behind the national average

of 98 per cent, the Centre

has said, adding that even

Jammu and Kashmir has

provided separate toilet facilities for girls in 89.2 per

On July 8, the Centre

informed the top court that

a national policy on the

distribution of menstrual

products

informed the court.

cent schools.

hygiene

against principles, calling her a "criminal under Sharia law" and asking her to seek forgiveness and recite the kalma anew. Naseem Solanki recently visited the Vankhandeshwar Temple and offered jalabhishek'. She also lit Temple diyas in the temple as part of

PNS LUCKNOW

election

Diwali.

were

A Barelvi Sunni Muslim against Samajwadi Party

candidate Naseem Solanki

who is contesting by-

assembly constituency in

Kanpur Nagar. Her fault was

that she visited a Hindu

temple and performed puja rituals on the occasion of

The fatwa was issued by Maulana Mufti Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi, president of All India Muslim Jamaat, He

ruled that Solanki's actions

Sisamau

Islamic

from

the Diwali celebrations. Videos of her acts were



Fatwa issued against SP candidate Naseem Solanki

widely circulated on social strictly forbidden. media by Samajwadi Party "In Islam, only Allah is supporters. However, the considered worship, and any form of video sparked controversy among Muslim voters and idol worship, be it by a man or woman, is 'haram' and impermissible," he added. within the Muslim community. He stated that the practice of

Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi said in a statement worshipping idols in any form is seen as a 'fitna' or that as per the basic tenets of deviation from Islam, idol worship was

principles, rendering the person a "criminal" in the eyes of Sharia.

He added that Solanki's actions were self-chosen and not performed under any pressure. apparent suggesting she willingly participated in the rituals. The maluna urged her to repent, stating, "As per Sharia, she must ask for forgiveness and read the kalma again to reaffirm her faith."

The cleric said that if someone, regardless of gender, engages in such acts under compulsion or without understanding the implications, they could repent without severe penalties under Islamic law.

In such cases, individuals are advised to seek forgiveness through prayer and refrain from similar acts in future, as these may otherwise endanger their faith and alignment with Islamic teachings, he added.

"If done unknowingly or under duress, they should repent and recite the kalma, reinforcing their commitment to Islam," he said.

Naseem Solanki is the wife of jailed former MLA Irfan Solanki. She is contesting the by-election for the Sisamau assembly constituency following her husband's conviction in a criminal and his disqualification from the membership of the UP

assembly. In June this year, Irfan Solanki was imprisoned for harassing a woman, setting her house on fire and beating her son in an attempt to grab her land in Kanpur in 2022.

Since her nomination, Solanki has Naseem participated in several community events, including the

Vankhandeshwar Temple visit, after which controversy erupted.

female toilets for residential

and non-residential schools

respective

appropriate

their

their

More than 97.5 per cent schools have provided separate toilets for female students, Centre tells HC court that states and Union Tamil Nadu, 99.6 per cent in

## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that more than 97.5 per cent schools in the country, including government, government-aided and private ones, have provided separate toilets facilities for girl students.

I thas filed an affidavit in a pending PIL moved by Congress leader and social activist Jaya Thakur seeking directions to the Centre and states to provide free sanitary pads to girl students of Classes 6 to 12 and ensure separate female toilet facilities in all government, government-aided and residential schools.

facilities for girls. The figure is 99.7 per cent in The Centre has told the top

PTI MANGALURU

The Mangaluru police have uncovered a multi-state, multi-crore scam with the arrest of two men accused of defrauding an e-commerce giant across India, officials said on Saturday. The suspects, Raj Kumar

Meena (23) and Subhash 27) from Rajasthau are alleged to be part of a large-scale fraud spanning over 10 states, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. Police Mangaluru City Anupam Commissioner Agarwal described the arrests as a significant breakthrough. A case has been registered at Urwa police station in



## **Two Bangladeshis** arrested in Meghalaya

backgrounds in schools.

collating all

The Centre had earlier said

it was in the process of

material to form a national

policy on the distribution of

## PTI SHILLONG

Meghalaya Police and BSF in a joint operation on Saturday arrested two Bangladeshis from East Khasi Hills district for entering Indian territory without any valid travel document,

# adolescent girls from poor to schoolgoing girls in terms

necessary

formulation.

difficulties

to

officials said.

adolescent schoolgoing girls

is at an advanced stage of

The public interest litigation

(PIL) plea moved by Thakur has highlighted the

faced

by

of the court's orders dated April 10, 2023 and collect relevant data for formulating a national November 6, 2023. policy. It noted that the MoHFW, the Ministry of

on management.

the states to submit their menstrual - hygiene management strategies and plans that are being executed with the help of funds provided by the Centre or through their own resources to the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission within four weeks.

The court said the states shall also indicate to the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission the appropriate ratio of

Can't figure out what to do with Rs 450-crore Rushikonda Palace: Andhra CM

## PTI VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said that he is unable to figure out what to do with the Rs 450-crore palatial mansion built on Rushikonda hill during the • YSRCP rstwhi promised to spark a public debate over it for a logical conclusion. The sea-view mansion overlooking the Bay of Bengal in Visakhapatnam is built with ultra luxury amenities preventing such as Italian marble, 200 chandeliers, 12 bedrooms, multi-hued illumination and others. The CM reminded that initially the construction of the palace was projected as a tourism project and later it was claimed to be a facility being built as a guest house for visiting dignitaries such as the Prime Minister or the President.

visited several countries but never saw something of this magnitude. Naidu said that everybody would be surprised and angered at the alleged recklessness of Reddy for splurging public money to At the cost of Rs 450 crore, he asserted that irrigation works of entire North Andhra could have been completed. Questioning Reddy if he assumed himself to be a king or emperor, Naidu noted that a bathtub cost Rs 36 lakh and a commode Rs 12 lakh.

The CM said that he had

residential schools across the country While emphasising a uniform procedure, it had also asked the Centre about school students nationally.

The top court had directed the Centre to lay down a national model for local states national model for building toilets commensurate with the number of girl students in all government-aided and

the policy it has formulated for the distribution of sanitary napkins to female On April 10, the court appointed the secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as the nodal officer to menstrual hygiene products coordinate with the states and Union territories, and

worthy

of

Islamic

in territories. It asked all the states and Education and the Ministry Union territories to also of Jal Shakti have schemes menstrual-hygiene indicate the steps that have been taken to provide low-The court also ordered all cost sanitary pads and vending machines in schools and disposal.

The plea has said girls aged between 11 and 18 years from poor backgrounds face serious difficulties in receiving education, a right guaranteed under Article 21A of the Constitution.

These are adolescent females who are not equipped with and are also not educated by their parents about menstruation and menstrual hygien".

Mangaluru. The scam, reportedly, involved orders worth Rs 11.45 lakh placed under a false identity. The accused used the name Amith, to place orders, for two highvalue cameras and other items, providing a fictitious address near the KSRTC bus stand in Mangaluru. Meena Upon delivery,

collected collected the items and provided the OTP while the Gurjar distracted the delivery personnel. then, They, swapped the original stickers on the Sony camera boxes, with those of other items in the order, delaying delivery confirmation by using an incorrect OTP and arranging to collect the cameras the next day.

Suspicion arose when the accused later canceled the camera order, prompting the private logistics, the ecommerce platform's delivery partner, to inspect the boxes and uncover the sticker swapping. Investigation confirmed that the accused had taken the cameras, leaving behind tampered boxes, police said.

The Urwa Police initiated an investigation, seizing Rs 11.45 lakh obtained from the sale of fraudulently acquired goods. Meena was first detained by Salem Police in Tamil Nadu before being taken into Urwa Police custody on October 18. Gurjar was subsequently apprehended in Mangaluru on October 28 following

Meena's interrogation. Meena had previously been arrested on October 4 in a similar case involving the ecommerce giant. Both suspects face charges across multiple states, including Assam, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. The investigation continues with authorities coordinating with police in states where additional cases are pending.

the BSF and Meghalaya Police jointly launched an operation and stopped a vehicle at Pynursla town about 50 km from the international border, they said. "During the search of the vehicle two Bangladesh nationals and an Indian taxi driver, suspected of facilitating the crossing over

on int



of the two Bangladeshis, were of the land. "Today's incident is one of the apprehended, and the vehicle was seized," the BSF said in a many in which the BSF and the state police collaborated statement. Police confirmed that the two

in securing the international Bangladeshis and their taxi border unauthorised entries," the driver were arrested and charged under relevant laws BSF said.

## Massive fire at factory in Delhi's Alipur, 30 fire tenders rushed in

**Patrolling begins at Depsang** 

## PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

From page 1

A massive fire broke out in a fire in factory located in outer Delhi's Alipur area on Saturday evening, an official said. A call regarding the fire at the factory in the Firni area of Alipur was received around 4 pm and 30 fire tenders were pressed into service, the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official said.

No one has been injured in the blaze and a dousing operation is underway, he said.

Accompanied by a group of NDA leaders, the chief minister visited the sea-facing empty palace for the first time today and surveyed it.

"It surprises me to see if something like this is even possible in a democratic country. Nobody would have even dreamt in their dreams. It is mind boggling that one person (Jagan Mohan Reddy) for his extravagant life and selfishness could do this. Heart shattering truths are coming out," said Naidu, addressing a press conference during his visit.

The CM identified that the entire complex was built in survey number 19 of Yendada village, housed on a 61-acre land parcel on the hill with a built up area of 13,542 sq metres in four blocks in nearly 10 acres.

Using Japanese technology, Naidu said, the hill was treated in such a fashion that landslides would never occur while the blocks were named Gajapati, Kalinga and Vengi. Besides multiple lavish bedrooms, he said a 300member conference hall was built in Kalinga block while the sea view is guaranteed from every place in the palace

"I don't think even kings would build an office like this. I think a corridor like this does not even exist in the White House. Even the Rashtrapathi Bhavan has a smaller corridor," said Naidu.

complex.

## **Forces gun down three** terrorists in Kashmir

### From page 1

"It should be investigated. How is it that the government has come and this is happening? I doubt that it was done by the people who were trying to the destabilise government...If they (terrorists) are caught then we will get to know who is doing this. They should not be killed, they should be caught and asked who is behind them ... We should check if there is an agency who is trying to destabilise Omar Abdullah," Dr Abdullah observed.

Reacting Abdullah's strongly to statement questioning the rise of terror attacks in J&K, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary Tarun Chugh said Abdullah should ask his mentors across the border about spilling blood in J&K. He said "everyone knows that Pakistan is a factory of

terrorism and has been disrupting peace in J&K for so long. People also know that Abdullah has been siding with Pakistan openly asking the Indian government to hold talks. Abdullah's double standards must be exposed to make sure that J&K does not stop growing on its path of peace and development." The Army's Srinagar-based Chinar Corps said in the late

evening on Friday that troops spotted "suspicious movement" in the general area Panar in north Kashmir's Bandipora. ʻOn being challenged,

terrorists opened indiscriminate fire and escaped into the jungle," the Army said. A search operation is underway in the area, it added. In the Jammu

region, Officer General Commanding of Jammubased White Knight Corps Lieutenant General Navin said.

Sachdeva on Saturday visited Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Rajouri and reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness.

Lt. General Sachdeva's visit to Songri in the Rajouri sector comes a day after his tour of Navapanchhi in the Kishtwar district. Many parts of the Jammu region, including Rajouri and Kishtwar districts, have recorded terrorist movements over the past several months, prompting police and other security agencies to intensify anti-insurgency operations. In a post on X, the White Knight Corps said Lt Gen. Sachdeva was accompanied by the general officer commanding counter-insurgency force 'Romeo' to Songri in the Rajouri sector. "GOC underscored the need for unwavering commitment in maintaining peace and security in the region," it

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on October 21 said in Delhi that an agreement was finalised between India and China following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that

arose in 2020. The agreement was firmed on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff. The move marked a significant development in the pursuit of reduced

tension along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. The ties between the two Asian giants had nosedived following the clash.

and

## No longer a hoax, live cartridge... From page 1

According to a police officer, an Air India staff found the live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on a flight on October 27. "A complaint was immediately lodged with the Airport Police by Air India, strictly adhering to the laid down security protocols" the airlines added on action taken. A cartridge, commonly known as a round or shell, is a type of preassembled ammunition packaging a projectile (bullet), propellant, and primer within a casing, typically made of metal. Cartridges are designed to be fired from firearms, and their presence on an aircraft is strictly prohibited due to security

concerns. Earlier, an Air India flight AI 216 which was set to return to New Delhi on Monday received a bomb threat. It is the second hoax call that Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport has received within a week, officials confirmed. The Air India flight which landed at 2.41 pm (Nepal Standard Time) on Monday afternoon at Tribhuvan International Airport had received a bomb threat prompting authorities to activate the emergency protocol.

# Gasp! PM 2.5 is 92 per cent higher...

## From page 1

According to the Ministry of Agriculture data the fire count had increased from 60 on October 30 to 605 on October 31. Punjab accounted for the highest share at 80 percent, followed by Uttar Pradesh at 13 percent, and Haryana at 7 percent. North-westerly winds prevailed during the day on October 31, amplifying the impact of stubble burning on Delhi's air quality. According to an analysis, Diwali night this year had higher NO2 levels compared

NO2 levels in the last three years have been higher on Diwali night and also the nights preceding it, which is indicative of congestion and high traffic conditions in the city leading to the festival night. ITO had the highest NO2 levels in the city with a night-time average of 182  $\mu$ g/m . JLN Stadium and Patparganj with 104 µg/m\_and  $101 \,\mu\text{g/m}$  were the other NO2 hotspots on Diwali night. Lodhi Road with just 2 µg/m of NO2 was the least affected area in the city.

## Four sanitary workers run over From page 1

speeding train.

the Railways remained tightlipped about the details of the accident. The Railways had no answers to queries like whether the workers had been informed to stay away from the bridge as the super-fast train was approaching the bridge.

to last year's Diwali night.

by Kerala Express Though there were ten workers

in the team, six of them ran to safety while the remaining four (Lakshmanan, Valli, Rani and Lakshmanan) could not make it and were run over by the

Till the time of going to press,



# Layer of smog covers city, AQI on higher end of 'very poor'

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Alayer of smog covered Delhi-NCR on Saturday morning, with the air quality index (AQI) level was in the higher end of the "very poor" category on Saturday after two days of Diwali festivities. According to data from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the contribution of residue burning to Delhi's air pollution surged to 35.2 percent on November 1 from 27.6 percent the previous day, marking the highest level for this season. This alarming highlighted rise the worsening impact of farm fires in Punjab and Haryana. Meanwhile, a thin layer of toxic foam was also seen floating in river Yamuna as the pollution level in the river remained high.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board, the national capital recorded an average air quality index of 297 at 1 pm and settled at 316 at 4 pm. recording 379 cases.

The most affected areas included Anand Vihar (380), IGI Airport (341), RK Puram (340), and Punjabi Bagh (335). Additionally, AQI levels between 200 and 300, indicating 'poor' air quality, were recorded in 19 other areas, including Alipur (295), Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (284), and Mundka (288).

(284), and Mundka (288). In Delhi's neighbouring cities, Faridabad in Haryana recorded a 'moderate' AQI of 165 while Gurugram recorded a 'poor' AQI of 219. In Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad the AQI was 308 which falls in the 'very poor' category, in Greater Noida it was 'poor' at 202, and in Noida it touched 250, reflecting similarly 'poor' air quality across the region. air quality across the region. Meanwhile, satellite remote sensing has revealed a significant surge in residue burning events associated with rice harvests in six Indian states. On November 2, satellites detected 861 such incidents, with Punjab notably at the forefront,



The breakdown for the other states included 19 in Haryana, 87 in Uttar Pradesh, none in Delhi, 80 in Rajasthan, and 296 in Madhya Pradesh. This discovery underscored the ongoing challenge of stubble burning as a major environmental concern. From September 15 to November 2, a total of 9,376 residue burning incidents were reported across these states. Punjab led the figures with 3,916 incidents, highlighting its longstanding struggle with

managing post-harvest waste. MP followed with 2,302 incidents, UP with 1,272, Rajasthan with 1,036, and Haryana with 838. The data indicated a worrying trend, particularly with Punjab witnessing a sharp increase,

October 31. This significant rise over successive days points to urgent needs for intervention and effective management.

A latest survey has revealed that 69 per cent of families have one or more members suffering from pollutionrelated ailments including sore throat, and cough. Conducted by LocalCircles, a digital platform the survey gathered over 21,000 responses from residents of Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad.

The survey results are alarming: 69 percent of families reported at least one member suffering from sore throat or cough, while 62 percent experienced burning sensations in their eyes due to the high pollution levels. Additionally, 46 percent reported symptoms such as a running nose or congestion, showcasing a widespread impact on health. The Air

reaching its seasonal highest with 587 cases on November 1, compared to 484 on Diwali, night of Diwali, marking one of the highest levels recorded in the area.

The survey also revealed that 31 percent of families reported breathing difficulties or asthma, while headaches affected another 31 percent. Furthermore, 23 percent of respondents noted experiencing anxiety or difficulty concentrating, and 15 percent reported trouble sleeping. On a slightly positive note, 31 percent of families indicated that no one in their households faced health issues related to pollution.

The survey also explored how residents plan to cope with the ongoing pollution crisis. Only 23 percent of respondents intend to use air purifiers to mitigate the effects of poor air quality, while an equal number stated they would "just live with it. With many already having cough and cold and some even suffering or already

suffering from respiratory disorders like asthma, bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the severe or hazardous AQI levels post Diwali are likely to make things worse," the survey reads

capital 03

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, has accused the Aam Aadmi Party government of not being serious about tackling pollution in the city. Gupta stated that the Delhi government is indifferent to the Lieutenant Governor's directive to reinstate marshals, previously dismissed by Kejriwal, to help combat pollution. Despite this order, the Delhi government has shown no urgency in reinstating them. Gupta criticized the AAP government, claiming that it resorts to politics on every issue to shirk its responsibilities, covering up its failures and corruption by shifting blame.

## Yet to receive proposal for reinstatement of CDVs: LG writes

had sought

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Atishi saying he is yet to receive any proposal for the re-appointment of civil defence volunteers (CDVs) who were removed as bus marshals last year. Around 10,000 CDVs working as marshals in public transport buses in Delhi were removed from their jobs in November last year after objections were raised by the Revenue and Finance departments. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP has threatened to gherao the chief Minister Atishi if she did not send the proposal on reemployment of CDVs.

"Of course, you and your party leaders may continue to do the politics of taking credit for their reinstatement but any more delay in the welfare of these economically weaker and helpless people, is not right in any way," Saxena stated in the letter.

In a post on X, the Raj Niwas said the LG has again written to the chief minister



underling the minister on October 24, nonengagement of CDVs till now Saxena said he had directed to has asked her for their ensure the re-appointment of and immediate re-appointment. the CDVs from November 1 The LG has also asked for a and concrete scheme to be formulated by the comprehensive proposal for formulated by government for their long-term engagement. He said he had ordered the their immediate as well as longreinforcement of the CDVs to term engagement, it said. help the national capital Saxena in his letter to Atishi combat air pollution. "The air pollution in Delhi is at its peak and if these accused that leaders of her Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) volunteers were timely reappointed, they would have engaged in "undesirable politics" over the issue, yet

"unfortunately he has not received any proposal from her so far". Citing his earlier communication to the chief

address the matter and direct officials to present a proposal for the reinstatement of the volunteers.

volunteers. Lambasting the Atishi led AAP government, South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that AAP government has been exposed. "Despite LG's directions, Chief Minister Atishi did not send the proposal on reemployment of CDVs. They have time to address press conferences address press conferences thrice or four times in a day to get media coverage. But they don't have time to prepare a proposal on CDVs," he added. Bidhuri said that all these leaders of AAP know that these volunteers lost their jobs in October 2023 due to the decision of the then Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Bidhuri said that what could be more unfortunate than this that the Lieutenant Governor has to Delhi remind the government that they are entangled in credit politics and have not been able to send the proposal till now. Delhi BJP president Virendra

Kejriwal promises to waive inflated water, Sachdeva said the the Kejriwal-Atishi government has no intention of reinstating these volunteers, and even if a proposal is made today, if "AAP" comes back to power,

they will dismiss them again in March. Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said that the Aam Aadmi Party Government has been shedding crocodile tears for the sacked Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs)/Bus Marshals. Yadav said that the AAP legislators had created a hue and cry during the two-day session of the Delhi Assembly last month by raising the issue of the marshals, and even passing a joint resolution demanding the marshals' reemployment, who were sacked by the Kejriwal Government. He said that the AAP Ministers also created a big drama when Saurav Bharadwaj fell at the feet of Opposition leader Vijender Gupta. leader Vijender Gupta, pleading with him to Gupta, accompany the AAP leaders to meet the LG to take up the bus marshals' case.

power bills if he is elected to power again

work.'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI The AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Saturday promised to waive inflated bills for water and electricity

if he comes to power again following next year's Delhi assembly elections. Taking part in an event on the occasion of Vishwakarma Day at Transport Nagar, he said, "I am not a politician like leaders from other parties. For the past 10 years, I have worked for the development of the people. I have been educated by the institute of the country, so I know how to

Taking a dig at Kejriwal, South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said his government is in power in Delhi. Why don't he waive off their inflated bills of water and electricity. Who stop him? Actually, he is befooling people again which he did last timem" Bidhuri added. The AAP convener said that

when he was in jail in connection with a case related



to the Delhi liquor policy scam case, the Lieutenant Governor was running the city government and people got inflated water and electricity bills.

received 'Those who incorrect water bills, you don't need to pay them. Just let my government be formed again in February, and I will waive everyone's water bills, and you will start getting zero bills for water, just like before.Now I am out and your bills will be waived when the AAP comes into power in February,' Kejriwal said.

The AAP supremo claimed that the party's government in Delhi has achieved all-round development in the national capital that ranges from education to health along

with free buses for women. "Vote for those who have worked. I am not saying that vote for the AAP. Ask the BJP what they have done for your children; I challenge them to show one single work they have done for the people of Delhi," he said. The elections for the Delhi Legislative Assembly are due in February next year.

## 50 people spotted near MCD claims to have removed over 18,152 MT of waste in October

## CRPF school auestioned in Rohini blast case

an

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has **I** questioned over 50 people spotted near the CRPF school in Rohini before a blast occurred there last month. Those rounded up include a local resident who dropped a cigarette butt at the spot few minutes before the explosion.

"Whether the blast took off due to the cigarette butt is yet to established as we still don't know the exact composition of the explosive," a senior police officer said on Saturday, adding that forensic reports from the National Security Guard (NSG) and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) are still awaited.

He also said it is yet to be confirmed if the white powdery material found at the spot after the blast was industrial waste. The police said they are yet to find any leads in the probe into the explosion.

According to the officer, over 50 people were spotted near the school in the CCTV footage of 10 days preceding the blast, but none of them have been identified as suspects.

A man walking with his dog was found to be the last person at the spot, which is usually used for dumping waste and public urinal.

He was seen smoking a cigarette, after which he threw the butt and left.

A few minutes later, the blast took place, according to the CCTV footage, the officer said. The man, a resident of Prashant Vihar, has been questioned and the police do not suspect his involvement in the blast, he said.

The strong blast ripped through the wall of the school in Rohini's Prashant Vihar area on October 20. While no one was hurt in the explosion, it damaged the hoardings of nearby shops and window panes of some vehicles parked in the area. The police suspected that the explosion was caused by (improvised IED explosive device) that was planted to give a message to the government authorities. They also suspected that the explosive, wrapped in a brown coloured packet, was made using a mixture of three chemicals -- hydrogen peroxide, borate and nitrate weighing more than 2 kg. Another senior officer privy to the investigation said, "There are multiple theories

we are yet reach a conclusion as we don't know its (the bomb's) composition." "Our further probe depends on the forensic report from NSG and FSL," the officer added.

spotted near the spot.

officer also said the police have still not ruled out the possibility of a terror angle into the case.

After the blast, the Delhi Police forensic teams and experts from the NSG collected samples from the spot. A day after the incident, a team of Central Reserve Police Force from Pune also visited the spot and collected samples.

 $A^{s}_{grapples}$  with severe air pollution, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ruled Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has claimed to remove over 18,152 metric tons of waste from prominent locations in October. As per data shared by the MCD, over 2,800 metric tons of waste was cleared in the Central Zone, making it the highestperforming zone in the city. sites such as ddin West, Major Nizamuddin Nizamudani Barapullah Nallah, Amar Colony and Kalkaji Extension Main Road were the focus of intensive cleaning efforts, which improved significantly sanitation and traffic flow in densely populated

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI Similarly,

these regarding people seen near the spot and speculations about industrial waste but areas.

He said as of now ten days of CCTV footage has been thoroughly checked, in which over 50 people were

"All have been verified and no one was found as a suspect," he added. The

A pro-Khalistani group had posted the blast's CCTV footage on social media

Keshavpuram Zone, MCD removed nearly 2,350 metric tons of waste, covering locations such as Shalimar Bagh, Saraswati Vihar. Paschim Vihar, and Ashok Vihar. In the West Zone, over 2,700 metric tons of waste was removed from key areas, including Vishnu Hari Garden, Nagar, Janakpuri, and Uttam Nagar. Karol Bagh Zone, known for its bustling commercial activity, saw a significant cleanup effort as well, with nearly 1,700 metric tons of waste removed from hightraffic areas like New Moti Nagar, Kirti Nagar, and East Patel Nagar Road.

In Shahdara North Zone, MCD removed approximately 900 metric tons of waste from highdensity residential areas such

Maujpur Road, Sonia Lines Zone benefited from Vihar, and Ashok Nagar. Meanwhile, the Shahdara South Zone recorded nearly 1,500 metric tons of waste cleared, with major efforts concentrated in residential areas like Anand Vihar and

waste clearance, covering crucial locations such as University Road, Bhalswa and Jahangirpuri. The Rohini Zone saw the

removal of around 540 I.P. Extension. The Civil metric tons of waste,

primarily in Burari and developed urban zon Rohini Sector areas. The Narela Zone saw nearly 865 metric tons of waste removed from regions like Mandi, Č Village Narela Bankner, and Alipur. In South Delhi, MCD cleared nearly 965 metric tons of waste from neighborhoods such as Malviya Nagar, Dakshin Puri, and Vasant Kunj. The City-SP Zone, over 1,250 metric tons of

Talking about the special drive, Mayor Dr Shelly Oberoi stated that the civic body had taken up a special drive to clear Construction

which includes iconic and heritage-rich locations, saw over 1,070 metric tons of waste cleared from high footfall areas like Chandni Chowk as well as Ram Bagh, and Shastri Nagar. The Najafgarh Zone recorded over 1,450 metric tons of waste cleared from locations report instances on MCD311 like Dwarka, Chandan Park, App to get waste lifted from and Rewla Khanpur, improving sanitation for their surroundings," she both rural and newly added.

& Demolition waste from key locations throughout the last month. The Mayor said pollution is an issue in the national capital every year and C&D waste is a major contributor. "By geo-tagging waste clearance sites, the AAP Government in MCD has enhanced transparency and accountability, ensuring precise data on waste removal across each location. We will continue to clear C&D waste from all over Delhi and residents can

intelligence

Vishnuswaroop Shahi was

hiding in Himachal Pradesh's

Suket valley, from where he

planned to escape to Nepal. Shahi came to meet his wife

and daughter who are residing

in Solan, Himachal Pradesh,

after spending months in

Nepal. The accused fled to Dehradun before a police

team reached his Himachal

According to police, the

accused was previously found

to be involved in two cases of

Himachal in which he was

declared proclaimed offender.

He used to socialize with

Nepalese maids to get details

Further investigation is in progress. The doctor, Yogesh Chandra Paul, 63, was found

murdered in his Jangpura

house where he lived with his

of house owners.

hideout, the police said.

AAP supremo Kejriwal's popularity on decline, claims BJP

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor on Saturday said that AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal's popularity is on decline which can be corroborated from the fact that the Delhi's ruling party has now started covering the program organiser's backdrop with their party's banner to make it appear that the crowd is

there for them. Delhi BJP said that in an by event organized transporters in Badli in north west Delhi where a large crowd had gathered to enjoy a performance by popular folk singer Anjali Raghav with a corporate firm banner displayed as the sponsor backdrop.

claiming the explosion was in retaliation to the alleged "targeting" of pro-Khalistan separatists by Indian agents.



Arvind Kejriwal was about to arrive. Shortly after the announcement, two or three AAP workers stood up and placed an AAP banner over the corporate backdrop, while the performance continued," Kapoor said. The Delhi BJP spokesperson stated that the crowd at the transporters' event in Badli had come to watch Anjali Raghav's performance, but Kejriwal, in his desperation, turned the stage into an Party's Aam Aadmi Vishwakarma Day event by up his party's putting banner

Kapoor further said that multiple video clips of this event are publicly available, and the people of Delhi want to know from Arvind Kejriwal why he engaged in such a patty act by putting such a petty act by putting up his party's banner over the organizer's board.

## Nepalese man with Rs 50,000 reward on head for killing doctor arrested from Uttarakhand-Nepal border

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A <sup>38</sup>-year-old Nepalese man on whom the Delhi police has put a reward of Rs 50,000 for killing a doctor in south Delhi's Jangpura area during a robbery bid. He was arrested from Uttarakhand -Nepal border. During investigation, it was revealed that the accused after commission of crime has changed around eight mobile sets and nearly 20 SIMs. Further a tip off was received that he is presently in Sunder Nagar, Himachal Pradesh and trying to flee to Nepal. In the meantime he boarded a bus to Banbasa, Indo-Nepal border from where he was nabbed. The Crime Branch team travelled nearly 1600 km continuously in 24 hrs to nab the accused. It was also revealed that Shahi also changed his name six times and used fake identity papers wherever he went, the police said, adding they found

papers with the names Vishnu Swaroop Shahi, Shakti Sai, Satya Sai, Surya Prakash Shahi, Gagan Oli, and Krishna Shahi.He was carrying the fictional identity 'Gagan Oli' when he was arrested, the police said. DCP (Crime) Sanjay Kumar

Sain said, the accused Vishnuswaroop Shahi a native of Kalikot, Nepal was absconding in a murder cum robbery case of Hazrat Nizamuddin police station. DCP said, in May earlier this vear, a doctor was killed during a robbery. During the probe, it was found that there were many accused persons behind the crime. The police had already nabbed three accused including the maid and two other accused Akash Kumar and Himanshu Joshi while mastermind Vishnuswaroop Shahi and his four associates were still at large. The

police received

wife. While his body was found in the kitchen, the rooms bore signs of vandalism suggesting robbery.

## nation 04

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

## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 3, 2024

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

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

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

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

sunday pioneer

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

truth on Friday or a day before, Trivedi said before,

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

As a veteran Congress member who has served in senior positions, Kharge has

had walked the talk.



Naxals due to Rahul Gandhi's influence, Trivedi seen leaders such as PV Narasimha Rao and Pranab Mukherjee, who deftly said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SC to hear Rajoana's plea seeking

commutation of death sentence

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

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

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

has undergone a total

sentence of about 28 years and eight months, of which he

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

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

order of the top court in a

separate matter in which it directed all States and

appropriate authorities to

decide the pending mercy

petitions at the earliest and

without any inordinate delay.

"Despite the above directions,

the mercy petition of the

petitioner herein has been

kept pending. It is submitted

that this extraordinary and

inordinate delay in deciding

his mercy petition, for reasons beyond the

petitioner's control and not

attributable to him, is an

infringement of his right to

life guaranteed under Article

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

## PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

screening, diagnosis and treatment to all tuberculosis patients. The government is procuring 800 artificial over intelligence-enabled portable

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

## Jaishankar, Thai counterpart discuss bilateral ties, multilateral cooperation

## PNS NEW DELHI

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

Sangiampongsa's visit for the Royal Kathina ceremony "exemplifies the longstanding historical and cultural relations" between the two countries. The Thai minister is scheduled to depart India on Sunday. Jaishankar also shared pictures of the meeting at the South Block. New Delhi.

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

said. Royal Kathina is a traditional Buddhist ceremony.



Sangiampongsa's first official regional and multilateral fora, the Ministry of External visit to India was during July Affairs had 11-13 for the second BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat, hosted by the accordance with the vision of the two prime ministers, the external affairs minister in ministers reaffirmed the mutual desire for a stronger On July 12, Jaishankar held a India-Thailand partnership, it bilateral meeting with Sangiampongsa and hosted a had said.

Thailand is a key partner for India in the ASEAN. India's 'Act East' policy, which is in its tenth year, finds convergence with Thailand's Act West' policy. Interactions between Jaishankar and the Thai foreign minister have contributed to further strengthening of bilateral ties, it had added.

said.

In

## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

Mishra and K Viswanathan will hear the plea of the former Punjab Police constable.

On September 25, the top court had sought responses from the Centre, the Punjab and Government the administration of the Union Territory of Chandigarh on Rajoana's plea. In his plea, Rajoana has sought directions to the Centre and the Punjab government to commute his death sentence "due to inordinate delay" in its execution and in deciding the "mercy petition filed on his behalf

Rajoana was convicted in



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

In his fresh plea filed in the Beant Singh's assassination top court, Rajoana has said he

21," said the plea, adding that the issue of keeping mercy petitions pending for long and the incarceration of the convict has come up for consideration before the apex court in numerous cases. 'bringing back black money'

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

## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Kharge's comments that the Privar and Cono Saturday said the prime minister has "destroyed" the dignity of the highest post of the country by repeatedly making "hollow promises" to 140 crore Indians. She also said that instead of worrying about the Congress, Modi should work on "restoring the dignity of his post by resorting to truth". Her remarks came after Modi on Friday said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of the people for promising to them what the party knows it will never be able to deliver.

launched a fierce attack on the opposition party as he seized on Congress President Mallikarjun

lunch in his honour. During

that meeting, the two

ministers reviewed progress

across various areas of

The two ministers also

exchanged views on issues of

mutual interest and reiterated

their commitment to closer

cooperation in sub-regional,

partnership.



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

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



support under Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) from Rs 500 per month to each patient for the entire duration of the treatment to Rs 1,000,"

another source said. To date, Rs 3,202 crore has been disbursed to 1.13 crore beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer under the scheme. While enhancement of NPY support will benefit all 25 lakh tuberculosis patients in a year, the introduction of Energy Dense Nutritional Supplementation would (EDNS) cover approximately 12 lakh under-nourished TB patients.

make promises that are properly budgeted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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



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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

## AKBAR KHAN BHOPAI

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

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

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

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

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



way into the neighbouring The little-known grain has emerged as the flashpoint of the controversy, as officials believe that grazing on contaminated Kodo has led to the loss of pachyderm lives. research Contradicting suggesting that Kodo crops harvested in damp conditions are deadly for human and animal health, indigenous tribals who have grown the grain for generations say that they have never encountered any such issue with the crop. The order for the destruction of 'contaminated' Kodo is causing heartburn among the marginal farmers that dot the area, especially as there is no official word on how they would be compensated for their loss of earnings. Kodo has been widely grown

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

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

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

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

instructed officials to imme-

taken during a high-level

meeting, with senior officials

department, the Minority

Welfare department, and the

Karnataka Board of Waqfs.

Revenue

the

Waqf land issues.

from

Gangotri temple to close for winter season

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN

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

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

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

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



Goddess Ganga left in a palanquin for Mukhba where she will be worshipped for the whole of winter, he said.

Gangotri is the first of the Char Dham temples to be closed.

devotees visited the temple

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

this season. The doors o

nation 05

April-May each year with the onset of summer.

These famous Himalayan temples are reopened in

More than eight lakh

Krishna Byre

senior

officials.

and

However, Minority Welfare

and Waqf Minister B Z Zameer Âhmed Khan was

Minister

government

not present.

Gowda,

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

visited

has

### BISWAJEET BANERJEE KANPUR

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

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

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



highlights their broad-based

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

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

the historic Bankhandeshwar Shiv Temple in Kanpur on Diwali, offering a traditional oil lamp and performing a 'jalabhishek' on the Shiva Lingam, seeking stunts." blessings for victory. This act drawn significant attention and is seen as a symbol of the Solanki family's

philosophy of "sabka saath, sabka vishwas" (unity and trust of all communities).

The temple visit is just one among several steps taken by Naseem Solanki to reach out to voters across religious lines. She also visited a Gurudwara to offer her respects before continuing with her campaign. Her husband, former MLA Irfan Solanki, and father-in-law, Haji Mushtaq, have historically contributed towards the development of religious places of all faiths, using their resources to fund various projects. However, such

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

A legacy of the Solanki family in Seesamau

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

# Karnataka CM withdraws notices on farmers related to Waqf land issues Minister H K Patil, Revenue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Minister 'Chief BENGALURU Siddaramaiah has issued a

strict directive for the arnataka Chief Minister immediate retraction of all KSiddaramaiah on Saturday notices sent to farmers about Waqf land, emphasising that diately withdraw all notices no disruption should be caused to them," a statement from the Chief Minister's sent to farmers concerning A decision to this effect was Office (CMO) read.

The statement noted Siddaramaiah's dissatisfaction with recent actions by certain officials and highlighted concerns that the JD(S) and BJP were allegedly using the Waqf issue for political gains, potentially disrupting peace in the state.

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

Earlier, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara also statement said all District Deputy emphasised that all notices issued to farmers regarding Commissioners have been land records tied to Waq directed not to issue notices to farmers under the Waqf properties must be promptly withdrawn. Act. He affirmed that revenue

Officials were instructed to records would be considered avoid harassing farmers or causing any issues related to final, and administrative lands under their possession. actions would adhere to The CM further directed that them. The Chief Minister has any unauthorised changes made to land records (Pahani instructed all deputy or RTC) without prior notice commissioners to withdraw or legal procedures should be immediately nullified.

The meeting was attended by Karnataka Law and Affairs Parliamentary

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

# Mumbai Police files extradition of Anmol Bishnoi

## Mahakumbh set to boost tourism in Uttar Pradesh, creating jobs for over 45,000 families BISWAJEET BANERJEE PRAYAGRAJ

The Yogi Adityanath gov-ernment is set to elevate Uttar Pradesh's tourism industry through a focused initiative

on skill development, with the



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

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

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

The



## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

central PSUs, like Coal India,

are "rightful" to the state and

path of state's development.

Jharkhand's development".

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE RANCHI

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

while Shah will address three public meetings on November

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

BJP colleagues, especially the

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

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

non-payment of

our

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

place on November 23.

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

### PTI SHIMLA

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

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

against 78 last year as the

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

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

pm only. Though some

violations were seen but majority of the residents

abided by the directions,

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

environmental hazards and

the regulations in place,

people generally have preferred bursting green

crackers and adhering to the

being aware of

officials said.

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

## world 06



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

#### AP JERUSAI EM

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

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

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

AP 📕 BEIRUT

Ministry reported.

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

Tsrael launched dozens of intense

Lairstrikes across Lebanon's north-

eastern farming villages on Friday,

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

In central Gaza, Palestinians recovered

the bodies of 25 people killed in a bar-

rage of Israeli aerial attacks that began

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

Biden's administration, days before the

presidential election, to reach temporary

cease-fire deals. Israel's emergency ser-

vices said seven people were injured

before dawn Saturday in attack in the

central town of Tira. Three projectiles

crossed into Israel from Lebanon,

Israel's military said, and some were

The Magen David Adom service said

ers had milder injuries. A photo the ser-

Thursday, hospital officials said.

ing and cars below.

Iran-backed Lebanon's Hezbollah group claimed responsibility for firing missiles toward the Israeli military's Unit 8200 base in Glilot on the edge of Tel Aviv and for attacking central Israel's Palmachim Air Base with explosive drones,

saying they "scored precise hits on targets." Israel's military has not confirmed either base was targeted or hit. Hezbollah said the Saturday

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

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

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

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

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

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

Israel pummels Lebanon and Gaza

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

### AP WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

Democrats face tough questions over the Biden-Harris record on the US-Mexico bor-

their time at the White House Most of the closely contested House campaigns are being waged beyond the presidential swing states, including in New York and California, where Republican Kevin McCarthy, who was ousted as speaker and then left Congress, had made inroads in his home state. Democrats under New York's Hakeem Jeffries, the party's House leader, are now trying to win them back.

Starting Saturday, California Rep. Pete Aguilar, the Democratic caucus chairman, is making a nine-stop swing through the Golden State to win back seats.

"There's a lot of energy out there," said Washington Rep. Suzan DelBene, who leads the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, in an interview from Omaha, Nebraska, a surprising battleground, after a swing through New York. "We're just working hard to get out the vote."

She said there are "tons of volunteers on the ground, lots of energy, people very, very focused. They understand there's a lot at stake.

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

intercepted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There were no reports of casualties from Dahiyeh, where fears of Israeli bombings drive a mass outflow of residents each night. Bulldozers rumbled through clouds of dust and smoke Friday, clearing rubble from the pulverized roads where Israeli warplanes had reduced dozens of buildings to their skeletal remains. Formerly home to families and businesses, mid-rise apartment blocks were left open to the breeze, walls blown off and furniture buried. Hezbollah supporters in several locations raised the group's bright yellow banner atop the rubble. Since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted in 2023, more than 2,897 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, the Health Ministry reports, not including Friday's rising toll. Health authorities say

that a quarter of those killed were women and children

## Kemi Badenoch elected new Conservative Party chief, UK Opposition Leader

Western-made long-range Russia's Kursk region near weapons to hit targets deep Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight rainian troops ir

### AP LONDON

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



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

der and on inflation during Rescuers end search after canopy collapse

## AP 📕 NOVI SAD Cerbian rescuers stopped

Novi Sad.

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

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



## LOST & FOUND

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

## PD(891)C

## CHANGE OF NAME

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

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

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

by the undersigned for the follow

₹74,200.00; E-ten

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

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

coming days.

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

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

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

or similar equipment and submittin

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data, generating alarms/SMS and

alidation of reports with grounds levels

vahati- 781011 (Assam). For Detail

Dy. CE/Bridge-Line/

0

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

## REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORK AT MALIGAON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

opposition alleges that the gov-

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

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

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

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

judges who are favourable to a certain regime."

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

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

The ordinance changed the composition of the committee

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

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

## sports 07

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

### PTI MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tom Latham's (1) off and middle stumps in the first over. Earlier, India's progress suffered a severe blow with the exit of Pant towards the end of the morning session, as its effects were felt acutely when play resumed post

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

Patel, finding the right length, reaped rewards as the Kiwi spinner claimed another five-for at the Wankhede Stadium, following up his world record 10/119 in the first innings of the 2021 Test here.

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

#### where at times he has plundered runs for fun.

Sarfaraz failed to read the length of his first ball and went for a mighty sweep against Patel in his pomp, but was beaten by the bounce and turn on the next.

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

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

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

Washington waged a lone battle among the three all-rounders scoring a brisk 36-ball 38 not out with four boundaries and two sixes. Having ceded control to New Zealand in final minutes of the opening day's play with an embarrassing collapse, India showed better resolve to make a

speedy recovery. Pant's quickfire 60, laced with eight fours and two sixes, was instrumental in taking the advantage away from the Kiwis who were gifted three unexpected wickets by the Indians with batting mainstays Virat Kohli (4) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (30) committing harakiri.

## **Two-time Olympic** Virat Kohli drops hints of Zverev beats Tsitsipas and joined by Rune, medallist Lily staying with RCB till 2027 Humbert, Khachanov in Paris Masters semis **Owsley signs for** had 28 unforced errors to 18 winners. **Delhi SG Pipers**

### PTI BENGALURU

Virat Kohli has dropped elaborate hints that he would like to continue playing competitive cricket till 2027 with an aim to complete 20 years with Royal Challengers Bengaluru after being retained by the franchise for a hefty fee of Rs 21 crore. Having entered the twilight zone of his illustrious career,

zone of his illustrious career, speculations are rife about how long the 36-year-old would continue in top flight cricket having endured a prolonged lull for the last four years since the start of COVID-19.

Kohli has been playing for RCB ever since IPL's inception in 2008 and is the leading run-scorer in the competition, amassing over 8,000 runs at a healthy if not spectacular strike rate of 131.97, including eight hundred and 55 fr "At the end of this cycle, it is going to be 20 years that I am going to be playing for RCB and that in itself is a very, very special feeling for me," Kohli told 'RCB Bold Diaries' indicating that he aims to continue for at least another three years till 2027.



following Kohli's retention, RCB head coach Andy Flower admitted that while the retention itself is not surprising, he would be the key to RCB's success in the He also pondered on the fact that he shared a close bond with the franchise and its fans, while his goal would be to win the elusive title. "I am super excited as ever as everyone knows what RCB coming years. means to me. It's been a very, "Virat's retention won't come

very special relationship over as much of a surprise to so many years, which anyone in India. He is and will be a key to RCB's success in the future. He was sensational last year. He was one of the leaders who propelled us into the playoffs despite a poor first half of the season," he told JioCinema. Besides Kohli, RCB has also retained two more players — Rajat Patidar (Rs 11 crore) and Yash Daval (Rs 5 crore). As a result, RCB will have a purse of Rs 83 crore heading into the mega auction tentatively scheduled later this month. The franchise would also contain three Right To Match (RTM) cards, allowing it to retain three more players (an uncapped player and two capped players, or three capped players). Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Siraj, Faf du Plessis and Cameron Green are among the top RCB players set to go Meanwhile, under the hammer.

## AP 📕 PARIS

Alexander Zverev advanced to the Semifinals of the Paris Masters by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-4 and knocking the Greek player out of contention for the ATP Finals. The third-seeded German saved the only

break point he faced. Zverev, the French Open runner-up, next faces 2022 champion Holger Rune for a shot at the title. He's into his third Paris semifinals in the past four years, though he's never won the hard-court tournament.

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

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



closed out the set.

Zverev broke again in the third game of the second set to take full control. He rattled off 12 straight points in his final three service games.

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

The 10th-seeded Tsitsipas, who reached the ATP Finals for five consecutive years,

Mohun Bagan SG say AFC 'recognised'

Rune outlasted Alex de Minaur 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in a 2 1/2-hour baseline fight. Rune improved to 3-2 against the Australian. Grigor Dimitrov's hopes of making the ATP Finals were set back after the 2023 finalist was upset by 2018 champion Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-3 for the first time. Khachanov lost their four previous matches.

Dimitrov was 10th in the race to the topeight ATP Finals in Turin. Khachanov improved to 12-1 in the last

three weeks after winning the Almaty title and reaching the Vienna final. He'll face in the semifinals local hope Ugo

Humbert, who defeated Jordan Thompson of Australia 6-2, 7-6 (4) a day Jordan after stunning Carlos Alcaraz.

Humbert has reached his first Masters semifinal, and he's the first Frenchman to go this far in Paris in seven years

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

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Owsley is one of the most highly decorated players in English hockey, having won the gold medal at the Rio Olympics 2016, followed by the bronze in Tokyo 2020. Besides, she also won the gold and silver at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham 2022 and Glasgow 2014, respectively. Ow clinched

"I have never thought that I am going to play so many years for one team, but the relationship has truly become special over so many years. He reiterated that he doesn't see himself playing for any other franchise.

"I don't see myself anywhere other than RCB, and I am very happy that it happened. I am very excited that I got a chance to create a strong new squad in this auction, something that we are really looking forward to as a franchise, as a team," Kohli said in RCB's Bold Diaries video.

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

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

leave no stone unturned to win their elusive IPL title. We are going to give it our

best shot as always and try to make everyone proud of the way we play our cricket. A big shout out to the fans for your unwavering support over so many years. I am really grateful, really thankful," Kohli concluded́. KOHLI WILL BE A KEY TO RCB'S SUCCESS: ANDY

FLOWER:

## club's decision to forego match in Iran

## PTI KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant Asian Football Confederation the top has "recognised" Indian club's pullout from their AFC Champions League 2 match in Iran last month as a case of force majeure.

Keeping the players' "safety and security" in mind, Mohun Bagan SG last month decided to forgo their October 2 match against Tractor FC in Iran due to the volatile situation prevailing in the West Asian nation at the time

The continental body reacted promptly and the Kolkatabased club was withdrawn from the tournament, pending further decision on the matter. According to the MBSG, the AFC has now recognised their concerns but added the club remained withdrawn from the



tournament

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

"Consequently penal consequences, as per clause 5.7

of AFC Champions League 2 Competition Regulations shall not apply to Mohun Bagan SG." MBSG added in their statement, "However, in terms of AFC Champions League 2 Competition Regulation clauses 5.5 and 5.6 even in case of force majeure events MBSG shall stand withdrawn from the tournament for ongoing season?

Mohun Bagan SG were scheduled to play Tractor FC on October 2 in a Group A

European Championship match of the ACL - the gold in London medals and continent's second-tier club 2015 Amstelveen 2017.

competition. However, the players expressed their unwillingness to travel to Iran, which was then in a state of mourning following the death of a prominent general of the Revolutionary Guard in an Israeli air strike.

Mohun Bagan had taken the decision to not travel to the country after Iran launched missiles on Israel, escalating political tensions between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the AFC had rescheduled matches across its tournaments due to the security situation in Iran, weeks after Mohun Bagan Super Giants were "withdrawn" from

competitions, forcing the Indian club to accuse the continental football body of "unequal treatment".

bronze "Losing Xan de Waard, undoubtedly one of the best players in the world, is a setback for the team. But, being able to replace her with a 2-time Olympic medal winner,

Lily Owsley, is a big relief," said Delhi SG Pipers women's team coach Dave Smolenaars in a statement.

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

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

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

## AP SAO PAULO

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

New elements could spice up the clash between the drivers, who have received penalties in the past two races in Austin, Texas and Mexico for their boldness on the track. Interlagos has a new tarmac, rain is expected all weekend, and Verstappen received a five-place penalty on the grid after he and Red Bull decided to use a new engine. Friday's free practice was not a good omen for Verstappen; he finished 15th, more than one second behind Norris, who clocked the best lap in his McLaren. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who also has a shot at the title, was sixth.

The sprint race qualifier in the afternoon was

and Norris teammate Oscar Piastri. Norris was second.

Saturday will feature the penultimate sprint race of the season and a tribute to three-time world champion Ayrton Senna, who died 30 years ago. Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton will drive a McLaren once steered by

Senna in front of 60,000 fans. Norris closed the gap on Verstappen to 47 points in Mexico after a furious encounter that caused penalties to the Dutchman amounting to 20 seconds. The British driver was penalized in the previous race at the U.S. Grand Prix as he battled the defending

champion. Leclerc, 70 points behind Verstappen, told media on Thursday he was not expecting a leading performance by his team this weekend. The Monegasque driver also had to

face the stewards in Brazil for better for swearing in a press conference after

Verstappen; he was fourth but the Mexican GP last weekend. He almost one second behind leader was fined 10,000 euros (almost \$11,000), of which half is suspended as long as there is no further breach of a similar nature within the next

12 months. "During the hearing Leclerc expressed his regret for his momentary lack of judgment and shared that he understood his responsibility as a role model for the sport," the stewards' decision said. Verstappen was punished with one

day of community service for the same reason during the Singapore CHALLENGES FOR

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

expected to have the upper hand. Verstappen has won twice at the 84-



year-old Interlagos circuit, including last year, when Norris finished second Verstappen's last victory was 10

races ago in Spain in June, after a period of seven wins in the first 10 races.

"We want to do well, but of course it also needs to be possible. We still

by Verstappen is in Las Vegas on Nov. 24. For Norris to have a chance, he will likely have to take the title fight to the December finale

in Abu Dhabi.

Norris' bid is a tough one, and McLaren has a better chance of dethroning Red Bull in the constructors' championship. Ferrari jumped ahead of Red Bull to second in the standings after Carlos Sainz Ir.'s win in Mexico.

Red Bull, which has won the last two constructors' titles, is third. Another challenge for drivers at Interlagos is the new asphalt. McLaren's Piastri was not excited about it on the first day of practice. "I think everybody was thrown off a bit by just how bumpy the track was," Piastri said.

HAMILTON HONORS SENNA: For the second time in his life, Mercedes' Hamilton will be on board a McLaren once driven by Senna, who died in 1994 after crashing during the San Marino GP. Hamilton will steer Senna's titlewinning MP4/5B after Saturday's sprint race. Weeks ago, Honda and McLaren said they would bring the car that allowed the Brazilian to clinch the 1990 drivers'

#### championship.

During his time at McLaren, Hamilton drove Senna's MP4/4 car around Silverstone in 2009 for a British TV program.

"It will be an emotional experience," Hamilton said in Sao Paulo. He arrived at Interlagos for Thursday's media day wearing a shirt that read "rest in peace, Ayrton Senna" and pants in the color of the Brazilian flag. "Every time we come here it's an opportunity to do that (honor Senna), and I think so many of the drivers also do that," Hamilton said. "But I never in a million years thought I'd ever get to drive Senna's car here."

Not everyone was excited about Hamilton driving Senna's car.

We have a lot of love for Hamilton, but he will be racing anyway, former driver Rubens Barrichello told TV Band. "I have Interlagos in my heart. The thing is, I think it should be a Brazilian driver." Senna won six races in the season he drove the car that Hamilton will steer around Interlagos.

have a good lead," Verstappen said. "I just try to enjoy the moment, try to just always optimize the performance."

The earliest the title could be won

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# sunday pioneer



# **REFLECTIONS CHASING** A CUUTURE IR

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

he runway lights illuminated the venue and as the audience held their breath, the showstopper *Sara Ali Khan* emerged, radiating elegance and confidence. Dressed in a breathtaking ensemble from Abhinav Mishra's latest collection, she set the tone for a night that celebrated not just fashion but a rich blend of Indian culture. Her stunning ensemble

featured delicate floral motifs beautifully embellished with mirrors, sequins and crystals, adding a touch of opulence to the muted tones. The regal cibouette flowed gracefully muted tones. The regal silhouette flowed gracefully while maintaining a refined structure, with

each detail thoughtfully executed to create a harmonious blend of artistry and sophistication. Runway Couture

Showcase, titled "The Man in the Mirror," was a stunning ode to the craftsmanship of mirror-work, which has become a hallmark of his designs. This year, the collection arrived just in time for the festive season, captivating guests with its vibrant celebration of weddings and cultural traditions.

A standout segment of the collection was 'Kalbeliya,' inspired by the folk dance of the same name, deeply rooted in Rajasthani culture. Each piece drew from the Kalbeliya tribe's distinctive style, showcasing colourful motifs

and intricate pattern

reflect their nomadic heritage. This segment was not only a visual delight but also a tribute to the artistry that out also a tribute to the artistry that often goes overlooked in modern fashion. *Mishra's* designs in '*Kalbeliya*' captured the essence of the tribe, incorporating a palette of bold colours like black and ivory, paired with unexpected combinations found in traditional attire. Each ensemble was meticulously handcrafted

meticulously handcrafted, adorned with floral motifs, adorned with horar mounts, geometric patterns and an array of embellishments, including pearls, sequins and his signature mirrors. The luxurious fabrics, silks, soft wool, and sheer materials flowed beautifully, ensuring that every piece felt ethereal and festive.

Silhouettes varied from traditional lehengas and anarkalis to contemporary kaftans, providing something for every wedding function. The blouses featured daring necklines and chic short kurtas, while the kaftans introduced a modern twist to the classic designs. This fusion of styles ensured that the

collection appealed to a wide audience, from brides to modern women seeking elegance. In addition to bridal wear, *Mishra's* collection highlighted the versatility of mirror-work across both menswear and womenswear. The show reflected his commitment to reviving this



EACH ENSEMBLE WAS METICULOUSLY HANDCRAFTED, ADORNED WITH FLORAL MOTIFS, **GEOMETRIC PATTERNS AND** AN ARRAY OF **EMBELLISHMENTS** INCLUDING PEARLS, SEQUINS AND HIS SIGNATURE MIRRORS.THE LUXURIOUS FABRICS, SILKS, SOFT WOOL. AND SHEER MATERIALS FLOWED **BEAUTIFULLY. ENSURING** THAT EVERY PIECE FELT ETHEREAL AND FESTIVE

seamlessly blending it with contemporary aesthetics. contemporary aesthetics. Reflecting on the significance of the event, *Mishra* expressed his excitement: "I'm thrilled to present "*The Man in the Mirror*," a personal presentation that invites you into my imaginative world, where the craft of mirror-work takes centre craft of mirror-work takes centre stage. This showcase is a serene, star-lit wonderland blending tradition and modernity." The atmosphere was enhanced by exquisite jewellery from The *House of Rambhajos*, known for its stunning polki and diamond pieces. The décor, envisioned by Rani Pink, transformed the venue into a mesmerising oasis, mesmerising oasis, reminiscent of a desert under a starlit sky. As the final looks hit the runway, Abhinav Mishra's "The Man in the Mirror" revealed itself as more than just a collection; it was a nod to the rich stories and traditions of Indian couture. The show couture. The show captivated the audience with its emphasis on the beauty of mirror work and the importance of preserving heritage crafts modern in fashion. With his blend classic of and c o n t e m p o r a r y Mishra elements, once again proved why he's a standout in couture, ensuring that Indian craftsmanship continues to shine

## OFFERINGS

## THE WRITTEN CANVAS

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

## EVENT DETAILS

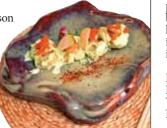
Venue: Annexe Art Gallery, India International Centre, New Delhi Dates: November 4 - November 9 Timings: 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m

## **REDISCOVER AUTHENTIC CHINESE FLAVOURS**

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

### DETAILS

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





FACES OF RESILIENCE



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

## **EVENT DETAILS**

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

## LONELY PLANET **A FAILED ROMANTIC DELIVERY**

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

Shot with landscapes around Morocco giving a beautiful backdrop, *Lonely Planet* is an addition to the old woman young man romantics list. The film is an American Netflix romantic drama directed by *Susannah Grant*. The movie stars *Laura Dern* as *Katherine Loewe* and *Liam* Hemsworth as Owen Brophy. The film plots around a writer, *Laura Dern* and explores her romantic angle with *Owen Brophy* after they meet on a retreat of writers.

Laura Dern as Katherine Loewe has been shown as a successful female novelist who comes on a writers retreat to overcome a struggling love life due to a separation from love life due to a separation from her longtime partner. *Liam Hemsworth* as *Owen Brophy* comes on the same retreat with her girlfriend *Lily Kemp* (played by *Diana Silvers*), whose first novel becomes a best seller. Changing attitude of *Lily Kemp* on the retreat creates a rift between her and her boyfriend *Owen Brophy*. after boyfriend Owen Brophy, after which Owen finds himself attracted towards *Katherine Loewe* after meeting her closely in some sudden circumstances.

The story explores an understanding romance between *Laura and Liam*. The story tries to emphasise on the importance and need of having an understanding partner with whom you can feel light and help you grow, but doesn't fall up to the point.

Talking about the characters the cast seems to have overplayed their

 [COLOURS]

 VIVACILY

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

truly wanting script because of its weak plot. It tries to land up to a space of the fantasy world where

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

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

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

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

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magazine New Delhi, November 3, 2024

sunday

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

HAULS AND A FOUR-WICKET HAUL, HIGHLIGHTED BY A CAREER-BEST 7/57 AGAINST NEW ZEALAND IN THE SEMI-FINALS

Mohammad Shami has been pushing the boundaries of pace and redefining the role of fast bowlers. His comeback adds depth to India's bowling attack, and his journey inspires the youngsters writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

"Nothing is easy in cricket. Maybe when you watch it on TV, it looks easy. But it is not. You have to use your brain and time the ball

the pioneer

ТНЕ COMEBACK

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

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

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

In 2023, Shami delivered an outstanding season, claiming 56 wickets in 27 innings and earning the prestigious Purple Cap in the IPL. He finished the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 as the tournament's leading wicket-taker, with an impressive 24 wickets across seven matches. His remarkable performances included three five-wicket hauls and

Shami has remained dedicated to refining his craft, training rigorously to ensure his return was one for the books. His work with renowned trainers and sports psychologists was instrumental in fortifying both his physical and mental resilience, setting the stage for a triumphant return to the Indian squad.

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

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

a four-wicket haul, highlighted by a careei best 7/57 against New Zealand in the semi-finals.

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

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

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

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

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

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



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







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

vibrant tribute to Chinese culture, Drunken Fish at Wynn Macau, led by Executive Chef Henry Zhang, redefines luxury dining by marrying

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



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

## EXCEPTIONAL SEAFOOD, ARTFULLY CRAFTED

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

Cooking with Moutai is an exhilarating process that demands balance to enhance rather than overpower a dish's flavour. At Drunken Fish, this unique liquor is used in two signature offerings, demonstrating the culinary finesse required to incorporate Moutai's distinct, pungent essence without it overshadowing the seafood's natural taste

## SAVOUR THE EXPERIENCE

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

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

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

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

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



# Oktoberfest on a Platter

Lankan crabs, and

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

BY SHARMILA CHAND

black pepper. For something a bit

SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

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

## **SPECIAL MENU**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **SIGNATURE VEG DISHES**

•

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



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

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

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

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

## **COMFORT MEETS SOPHISTICATION**

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

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

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

## Vegan Wonders: Where to Eat Next!

## **BY TEAM AGENDA**

## **MISS MARGARITA**

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

## **BEEYOUNG BREWGARDEN**

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

## **ROSE CAFE**

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

## **GUPPY AND THE GRAMMAR ROOM**

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



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



# LIVING IT UP IN AN AIRBNB IN LONDON

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

## **BY AKANKSHA DEAN**

## **RELYING ON AIRBNB**

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

## SELECTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

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

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

## **DETAILS MATTER**

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



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

## **SUPERHOST FOR THE WIN**

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



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



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

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

## **THE LAST LEG**

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

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

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

My tea experience began at Sketch,

nestled in a stunning 18th-century

LONDON EXPERIENCES



# **Srisailam: A journey to spiritual splendour**

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



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

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



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

## **JOURNEY TO SERENITY**

After a refreshing night's sleep, one can start





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

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

### **SOUVENIRS OF SRISAILAM**

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





## ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Rose Pink Lucky day Sunday



## TAURUS April 20-May 20

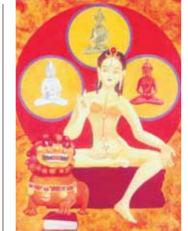
This week, your emotional and sentimental nature will be particularly prominent, offering you an opportunity to express nurturing qualities towards those you care about. Your instinctive ability to heal and counsel will draw others to seek your guidance. However, amidst this emotional engagement, there's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

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Lemon Yellow Lucky day Wednesday



## GEMINI May 21-June 20

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



## LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Violet Lucky day Monday

## VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Burgundy Lucky day Wednesday

## LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Saturday

## SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

## SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Saffron Lucky day Sunday

## CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 81 Lucky colour Aqua Lucky day Friday

## AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18



This week presents an opportunity for profound influence and decisive actions. You'll find yourself in scenarios where engaging directly with influential figures is not only possible but beneficial. Your ability to navigate these interactions showcases your knack for leadership and strategic thinking. You'll be seen as a source of inspiration, providing guidance and stability to those around you. Enjoy a sense of control and respect, as your balanced approach to life's challenges allows you to make sound decisions. Your presence commands respect, as you are known for your fairness and unwavering commitment to your principles. This period highlights your talent for overseeing the bigger picture without losing sight of your core values, ensuring that emotions do not cloud your decision-making process.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Tuesday



## PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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



## CANCER June 21-July 22

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







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

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Burgundy Lucky day Thursday eager to delve into their psyche to unlock their latent capabilities. Your focus on spiritual growth and introspection can significantly enrich lives and bring about transformative changes. You hold a strong belief in the principle of fairness and the reciprocal nature of actions. The choices you make continuously shape your future outcomes, advocating for deliberate and positive decisions to cultivate desirable experiences. Such clarity in thought ensures the realization of goals and resolves many of life's challenges. A significant journey may soon be forthcoming, presenting new opportunities for growth and exploration.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Friday

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# **Pursuit of happiness**

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

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Spiritual Guru

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

(www.artofliving.org)