



MEA summons Canadian diplomat



MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

Image Source: VIDEO SCREENGAB

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Saturday said it summoned the Canadian high commission representative and lodged a strong protest over Ottawa's allegations against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "We had summoned the representative of the Canadian High Commission yesterday, a diplomatic note was handed over in reference to the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security in Ottawa on October 29, 2024," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. India protested in the strongest possible terms the references made by a Canadian minister about Shah and said that such "absurd and baseless" allegations will have serious consequences for bilateral ties between the two

countries, the MEA said on Saturday. The comments came after Canada's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison on Tuesday alleged that Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada. 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.

Replying to queries during a weekly Press briefing, Jaiswal said such irresponsible actions will have serious consequences for bilateral ties. He said India summoned a Canadian High Commission representative on Friday and the official was served a diplomatic note to lodge the protest in strongest terms on the "absurd and baseless" references made by the Canadian deputy minister about India's Union Home Minister. While addressing the Parliament members, Morrison did not say how Canada knew of Shah's alleged involvement. The diplomatic relations between India and Canada deteriorated after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a year ago that Canada had credible evidence agents of the Indian government was involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia

in June 2023. Dismissing the allegations as absurd, Indian government officials have consistently denied that Canada provided evidence. Last month, India recalled its high commissioner Sanjay Verma after the diplomat was named as 'person of interest' by Canada in its probe into Nijjar's killing. New Delhi withdrew its high commissioner and expelled six Canadian diplomats from its soil. Calling Canada's behaviour "the pits", Verma in an interview last week said India was backstabbed and treated in a most unprofessional manner by a country that is supposed to be a friendly democracy. "A handful of supporters of Khalistan have turned the ideology into a criminal enterprise, which indulges in a range of activities such as gun-running and human trafficking and yet the Canadian authorities turn a blind eye because they comprise a vocal electoral bank for local politicians," Verma said. 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, the government said on Saturday. Patrolling at Demchok had begun on Friday, a day after the Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh. Replying to a query at a weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said following the disengagement agreement with China, the verification patrolling has begun on mutually agreed terms in both Demchok and Depsang. On Thursday, Indian and Chinese troops also exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali. The traditional practice was observed a day after both countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties. Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

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Forces gun down three terrorists in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A day after a large number of residents, and tourists were seen bursting crackers and lighting diyas during Deepawali celebrations at Lal Chowk, the old city area of Khanar 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 Khanar 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.

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No longer a hoax, live cartridge found on Dubai-Delhi flight

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major security breach, Air India on Saturday reported the discovery of an ammunition cartridge in the pocket of a seat on a flight from Dubai to Delhi on October 27. The cartridge was found on flight AI916 after it had landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport 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. "One ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat of our 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 (Indira Gandhi International Airport) Usha Rangani said, "On October 27, Indira Gandhi International Airport Police registered an FIR under the Arms Act after Air India staff found a live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on a flight." She added that



the case is under investigation and 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 to airlines, these threats were spread across social media platforms, creating panic among the passengers.

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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 µg/m to 386 µg/m. Moreover, PM2.5 levels this year were more than twice as high as the average night-time 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 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. This is supposed to be one of the warmest October this year. "PM 2.5 levels that were already rising steadily



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 (µg/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. According to analysis, the PM2.5 was in the poor category during the afternoon of October 31. But the evening build-up peaked to hit the severe levels

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 than last year's Diwali

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. The analysis further highlighted that there was a massive build-up of pollution in different parts of the city on Diwali night - 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 µg/m on Diwali night. The highest levels were observed at Nehru Nagar, reaching 994 µg/m, followed closely by Anand Vilhar at 992 µg/m, Pusa IMD at 985 µg/m, Wazirpur at 980 µg/m, and JLN Stadium at 963 µg/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.

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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



8 MAY 1961
1 NOVEMBER 2024

captivated by his ability to turn fabric into art. Bal's final show in October, titled 'Kaaynaat: 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 Pandey 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.

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A layer 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.

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).



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.

reaching its seasonal highest with 587 cases on November 1, compared to 484 on Diwali, October 31. This significant rise over successive days points to urgent needs for intervention and effective management.

Quality Index (AQI) surged to a staggering 999 on the 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.

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.

Yet to receive proposal for reinstatement of CDVs: LG writes to CM Atishi

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.



underling the non-engagement of CDVs till now and has asked her for their immediate re-appointment. The LG has also asked for a concrete scheme to be formulated by the government for their immediate as well as long-term engagement, it said.

minister on October 24, Saxena said he had directed to ensure the re-appointment of the CDVs from November 1 and had sought a comprehensive proposal for their long-term engagement. He said he had ordered the reinforcement of the CDVs to help the national capital combat air pollution.

address the matter and direct officials to present a proposal for the reinstatement of the volunteers. Lambasting the Atishi led AAP government, South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that AAP government has been exposed.

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.

Kejriwal promises to waive inflated water, power bills if he is elected to power again

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.



to the Delhi liquor policy scam case, the Lieutenant Governor was running the city government and people got inflated water and electricity bills. "Those who received incorrect water bills, you don't need to pay them."

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.

50 people spotted near CRPF school questioned in Rohini blast case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has 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.

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 an IED (improvised explosive device) that was planted to give a message to the government authorities.

MCD claims to have removed over 18,152 MT of waste in October

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the national capital 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.

Similarly, in the Keshavpuram Zone, MCD removed nearly 2,350 metric tons of waste, covering locations such as Shalimar Bagh, Saraswati Vihar, Paschim Vihar, and Ashok Vihar.



as Majpur Road, Sonia 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 I.P. Extension.

primarily in Burari and Rohini Sector areas. The Narela Zone saw nearly 865 metric tons of waste removed from regions like Narela Mandi, Village Banker, and Alipur.

developed urban zones. Talking about the special drive, Mayor Dr Shelly Oberoi stated that the civic body had taken up a special drive to clear Construction & Demolition waste from key locations throughout the last month.

AAP supremo Kejriwal's popularity on decline, claims BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP spokesperson Praveen BShankar 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.

delivered the program with a corporate firm banner displayed as the sponsor backdrop. "People were enjoying the program when suddenly an announcement was made that former Chief Minister



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.

turned the stage into an Aam Aadmi Party's Vishwakarma Day event by putting up his party's 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 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 38-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.

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.

intelligence that 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.

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

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

ing and cars below. Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group claimed responsibility for firing missiles toward the Israeli military's Unit 8200 base in Gilot 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."

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.

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.

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.



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

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.

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.

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.

Israel pummels Lebanon and Gaza

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

It 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.

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.

Dahiyeh overnight and early Friday for the first time in four days, spreading panic after a rare lull. The Israeli military, which warned residents to evacuate at least nine locations in Dahiyeh, said it hit Hezbollah weapons manufacturing sites and command centers.

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.

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

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky urged his allies to stop "watching" and take steps before North Koreans troops deployed in Russia reach the battlefield.

Western-made long-range weapons to hit targets deep inside Russia. "But instead ... America is watching, Britain is watching, Germany is watching. Everyone is just waiting for the North Korean military to start attacking Ukrainians as well," Zelensky said in a post late Friday on the Telegram messaging app.

Russia's Kursk region near Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against Ukrainian troops in the coming days.

Kemi Badenoch elected new Conservative Party chief, UK Opposition Leader

Kemi Badenoch on Saturday became the first Black woman to lead Britain's Conservative Party as she succeeded Rishi Sunak in the House of Commons as the Leader of Opposition. The 44-year-old Nigerian-heritage parliamentarian defeated former Cabinet minister Robert Jenrick after a three-month leadership election following Sunak's resignation after the Tories suffered a bruising general election defeat on July 4.



"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 mistakes, honest about the fact that we let 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."

Rescuers end search after canopy collapse

Serbian rescuers stopped searching for survivors on Saturday after pulling out 14 bodies from underneath tons of concrete from a fallen canopy at the entrance of a railway station in the northern city of Novi Sad.

Engineering Works: E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 33 OF 2024. Date: 30-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of Work: DCSTMLG-23-2024. Procurement and installations work for replacement of worn out Basketball court no. 2 synthetic flooring. Tender Value: ₹37,09,771.94. Earnest Money: ₹74,200.00. E-tender will be closed at 13:00 hrs. on 21-11-2024 and will be opened at 13:00 hrs. on 21-11-2024.

Public Notice: The undersigned "PLUS 91 SECURITY SOLUTIONS" have changed registered office from First Floor, Office no. 104-105, Balaji Chamber, D-246/10, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 to Room no. 203, Second Floor Front Side, Stirring Mind Office Space, Aruna Asaf Ali Road, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110002. No any claim(s) or objection(s) on old address shall be entertained after 15 days from publication of this notice.

Engineering Works: E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 08 OF 2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of Work: CSTE-NW. Name of work: Repair and maintenance of various telecom gear installed at N. F. Railway H.O. premises including complete Maligaon and Pandu area. Tender Value: ₹33,34,669/- Earnest Money: ₹66,700/-. Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 21-11-2024 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 21-11-2024.

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THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS. LOST & FOUND. 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.

Engineering Works: E-TENDER NOTICE NO. DCBL141/2024/MLG, dated: 30-09-2024. Open E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: DCBL242024MLG. Conducting "Continuous Scour Monitoring" of foundations of bridges using "Sonar Echo-Range Technology".

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Pak parliamentary body approves bill to raise number of SC judges to 25

A Pakistan parliamentary panel 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.

Senate Standing Committee on 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.

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.

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CHASING REFLECTIONS A COUTURE DREAM

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**

The runway lights illuminated the venue and as the audience held their breath, the showstopper *Sara Ali Khan* emerged, radiating elegance and confidence. Dressed in a breathtaking ensemble from *Abhinav Mishra's* latest collection, she set the tone for a night that celebrated not just fashion but a rich blend of Indian culture. Her stunning ensemble featured delicate floral motifs beautifully embellished with mirrors, sequins and crystals, adding a touch of opulence to the muted tones. The regal silhouette flowed gracefully while maintaining a refined structure, with each detail thoughtfully executed to create a harmonious blend of artistry and sophistication.

Couture Runway 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 patterns that

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



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. 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 stage. This showcase is a serene, star-lit wonderland blending tradition and modernity." The atmosphere was enhanced by exquisite jewellery from *The House of Rambhajos*, known for its stunning polki and diamond pieces. The décor, envisioned by *Rani Pink*, transformed the venue into a mesmerising oasis, reminiscent of a desert under a starlit sky. As the final looks hit the runway, *Abhinav Mishra's* "The Man in the Mirror" revealed itself as more than just a collection; it was a nod to the rich stories and traditions of Indian couture. The show captivated the audience with its emphasis on the beauty of mirror work and the importance of preserving heritage crafts in modern fashion. With his blend of classic and contemporary elements, *Mishra* once again proved why he's a standout in couture, ensuring that Indian craftsmanship continues to shine worldwide.



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

NEW OFFERINGS



THE WRITTEN CANVAS

Art Konsult presents "The Written Canvas: Letters to Keshav Malik from Artists and Thinkers," an exhibition honoring the birth centenary of acclaimed art critic and poet Keshav Malik. This rare collection of letters, featuring correspondences with cultural icons like Hariyansh 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 heritage.

EVENT DETAILS

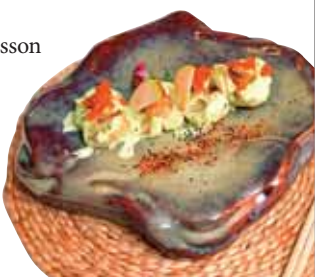
Venue: Annexe Art Gallery, India International Centre, New Delhi
Dates: November 4 – November 9
Timings: 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m

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 specialties like Mapo Tofu and Braised Aubergine with Peppercorn. Enjoy these dishes with cocktails inspired by Chinese heritage, including the Dragon on the Sky and Junshan Island Sundowner.

DETAILS

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



FACES OF RESILIENCE

Faces in my Window by Nelofar Currimbhoy, at the Open Palm Court Gallery, Habitat Centre, captures the resilience and spirit of those often overlooked. With each photo, Currimbhoy's lens brings viewers face-to-face with the untold stories of survival on the streets of Delhi. An entrepreneur, author and photographer, Currimbhoy's work extends beyond photography. Her docu-stories, like *Ratni's Red Lipstick*, highlight lives of perseverance, reflecting her passion for capturing human resilience. Influenced by Gandhi and Mother Teresa, her art is both an homage to her subjects and a call for empathy. Step into *Faces in my Window* for a poignant glimpse into lives that often go unseen.



EVENT DETAILS

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

LONELY PLANET 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 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 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



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 boring for the people who love the romantic genre as it doesn't live up to the standards. The 96 minutes drama has been failing

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



"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"
— Rohit Sharma

SHAMI FINISHED THE **ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2023** AS THE TOURNAMENT'S LEADING WICKET-TAKER, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE **24 WICKETS** ACROSS SEVEN MATCHES. HIS REMARKABLE PERFORMANCES INCLUDED **THREE FIVE-WICKET HAULS** AND A **FOUR-WICKET HAUL**, HIGHLIGHTED BY A **CAREER-BEST 7/57** AGAINST NEW ZEALAND IN THE SEMI-FINALS

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

THE COMEBACK MIAN

After nearly a year away from the field, 34-year-old 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 a four-wicket haul, highlighted by a career-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,



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.

Mohammed 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 fast-medium 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 high-stakes 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



WYNN MACAU DEBUTS DRUNKEN FISH

DINING REDEFINED!



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



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

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

EXCEPTIONAL SEAFOOD, ARTFULLY CRAFTED

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

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 flambe' 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 skillfully 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, Rupali Dean writes on food and travel.)

Oktoberfest on a Platter

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

Our Oktoberfest menu captures the essence of the celebration through bold, vibrant flavours thoughtfully crafted to 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 with modern innovation. It's a menu designed to surprise and delight, offering a fresh, exciting take on Oktoberfest while staying true to the festive spirit," he adds.

black pepper. For something a bit more savoury, try the Chicken Balsamico with balsamic chicken, tomato, onion, and fresh greens, or the A-BLT, with crispy bacon, 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, and button 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 a heartier choice, the Shroom Smash blends a 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).
- Classic Caprese (Panuzzo) – Crispy, stuffed turnover pizza 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).

NON-VEG DISHES

- 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).

SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

- 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 its contemporary culinary 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.

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 first-time stays, ensure my flat has a 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" option. These hosts often come with 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. Exploring London was the true highlight of my trip. Visiting London without indulging in afternoon tea is akin to going to Paris and skipping the Eiffel Tower.



LONDON EXPERIENCES

My tea experience began at Sketch, nestled in a stunning 18th-century building in Mayfair. I was enchanted by the restaurant's signature pink dining room, adorned with whimsical artwork by David Shrigley. By night, this charming tea room transformed into a

vibrant restaurant and cocktail bar led by renowned French chef Pierre Gagnaire. For more culinary adventures, I 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 Marylebone, I 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 long-haul 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 & travel writer, a chef, and a catalyst. 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.



Srisailem: A journey to spiritual splendour

Discover Srisailem, 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

With 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 Peethas, giving it an aura of deep spiritual significance. Nestled in the picturesque Nandyal district, Srisailem 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 Srisailem, 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 Srisailem. 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 Mallikarjun Swami and Mata temple, a primary attraction, welcomes devotees until late evening. Local eateries like Trishul Family Restaurant provide delicious refreshments. Srisailem'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 the morning with a visit to the ancient



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

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 Srisailem 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 two-hour nap.

SOUVENIRS OF SRISAILEM

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 Srisailem 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 journey.





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



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



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



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



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



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



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 8 | Lucky colour Aqua
Lucky day Friday



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



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



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



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



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 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



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 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

HAPPINESS 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 Knowledge and the Divine. Your



non-attachment to the mundane is your charm. Your attachment to the Divine is your beauty.
PROBLEM: Five steps to solve a problem are as follows: 1) Accept

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.
NEGATIVITY: 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)