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# MAHA GAINS FOR BJP, CONG CUT TO SIZE

MAHAYUTI STUMPS MAHA VIKAS AGHADI



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

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

În a landslide win that even surprised the ruling alliance leaders, the BJP, which heads the MahaYuti, put up a bestever performance in the Assembly polls by bagging as many as 133 seats out of the total 288 seats on its own, a

superlative feat than is far better than its own earlier stupendous wins in the 2014 and 2019 Assembly polls when 122 and 105 seats respectively.

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

sworn into office on Monday. On the other hand, the Opposition MVA, comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar), put up a pathetic performance by winning a meagre 45 seats. While the Shiv Sena (UBT) secured 20 seats, the Congress and NCP (SP) won 15 and 10

seats respectively. Such is the rout of the MVA in the polls that there will be no Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the State Assembly. Because, none of the MVA constituents, Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar), has won 10 per cent of the total 288 seats in the House to stake a claim for the LoP's post.

Minister Eknath

Shinde, his deputies Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar attributed a large share of the MahaYuti victory to its 'Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin (Chief Minister's Beloved Sister Scheme) which was announced in the State

Budget 2024-25. Under the scheme, the MahaYuti government had doled out an assistance of Rs 1,500 per month to all women (age 21-65 years) across state. Launched in August this year, a total assistance of Rs 7,500 reached 2.34 crore women across the state during the last five months at the rate of Rs 1,500 per woman per month. "I salute women across the state. The Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin Yojana' proved to be a game-changer for us... Remember everyone wrote us off after the Lok Sabha polls.

If the people, especially women across the state, have given us resounding victory, it is because of the development work and welfare schemes like the Ladki Bahin scheme, which helped us script an unprecedented win in the

polls," Shinde said.

One of the biggest takeaways from the polls that the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-headed NCP, which are off-shoots of the vertical splits that took place in the united parties in June 2022 and July 2023 respectively have proved electorally that they are better parties than the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawarled NCP in terms of strength in the State Assembly.

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

PRANAV PRATYLISH RANCHI

Tn contrast to its Maharashtra **⊥**miracle, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faced a huge setback in Jharkhand with the INDIA Bloc coming back with a resounding victory in the Assembly polls, results of which were announced on Saturday.

The INDIA Bloc led by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Jharkhand registered victory in 56 constituencies. The JMM won 34 seats, four more than its 2019 polls tally, while the Congress managed to win 16 seats in the 81 member Assembly

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), two other members of the coalition, also performed well by clinching four and two seats respectively. Both the parties had won just one seat in the 2019 Assembly polls. On the other hand, the BJP could barely secure 21 seats, which are four less than that of its 2019 performance. The NDA's major partner All Jharkhand Students Union

Party (AJSU), which contested on 10 seats, could only win one. AJSU Party president Sudesh Mahto was also defeated from his traditional seat Silli. Two other partners of NDA, Janata Dal (United), and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), won one seat each making the NDA reach a tally of 24. Jharkhand Krantikari Lok Morcha (JKLM), a new political party formed by youth leader airam Mahto, won only one seat, but it made a significant dent into the traditional vote bank of both BJP and AJSU party, said political experts. Chief Minister Hemant Soren's wife,

and his brother and MLA Basant Soren won their seats from Gandey and Dumka respectively, while his sister in law Sita Murmu Soren, who contested on a BJP ticket from Jamtara had to face defeat. State BJP president Babulal Marandi

and MLA, Kalpana Murmu Soren,

retained his seat, while former CM Champai Soren also won from Saraikela. However, former CM Arjun Munda's wife Meera Munda and former CM Madhu Koda's wife Geeta Koda had to face defeat in the polls. Continued on page 2

#### WAYANAD SENDS PRIYANKA TO PARLIAMENT

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra began her parliamentary career in style by registering an impressive win in the by-poll held from Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala, the results of which were announced on

When Saturday. reports last came, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was leading by a mammoth majority of 4,10, 931 over her rivals Sathyan Mokeri Communist Party of India (CPI) and Navya Haridas Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The election of Privanka Gandhi Vadra was a foregone conclusion from the word go,

and the only question asked was whether she would overtake the brute majority bagged by her brother Rahul Gandhi in the constituency Priyanka Gandhi created a record by polling 6,22, 338 breaking the tally of Rahul Gandhi in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll from the constituency. Rahul Gandhi had won the seat by a majority of 3,64,422 votes and he quit Wayanad seat in favour of the family fiefdom of Rae Bareli from where he had contested. Rahul Mamkoottathil of the Congress retained the Palakkad Assembly constituency by a thumping majority of 18,840 votes, defeating his nearest

rival C Krishnakumar of the BJP. While Mamkoottathil polled 58, 389 votes, the BJP candidate had to contend with 39, 549 votes. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) supported independent P Sarin, who had crossed over to the Left Democratic Front (LDF) from the Congress, was relegated to the third position as he polled 37, 298 votes. What made the victory sweeter for the Congress candidate was the majority with which he won the by-poll.

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Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, and state BJP President Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary addresses a press conference after the party won at least five of the

### **BJP** dominates by-polls across 15 diverse states

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies emerged victorious in byelections across 15 states, securing 28 of the 48 Assembly seats contested. Among the most significant results were those from Uttar Pradesh, where Minister Yogi Adityanath's slogan "Bantenge Katenge" (Division leads to defeat) delivered a decisive 7-2 victory over the Samajwadi Party (SP), dealing a blow to Akhilesh Yadav's Dalit, (Pichchra, Alpsankhyak) caste-based

alliance. The by-polls, held shortly after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, were viewed as a crucial test of political strategies ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls in UP. The BJP's victory in Uttar Pradesh reinforced the party's

recovery after its diminished performance in the general elections, where the NDA won only 36 of the state's 80 parliamentary seats, significant drop from 66 in 2019. For Adityanath, the byelections were a matter of prestige, and the results showcased his ability to consolidate voter support across caste and community

The BJP's triumph in the Muslim-dominated Kundarki constituency in Moradabad was particularly striking. Despite the constituency's 65 per cent Muslim voter base, BJP candidate Ramveer Singh defeated SP's Mohammad Rizwan by over 96,000 votes. The SP retained its strongholds of Karhal and Sisamau, constituencies it has held for over three decades, but struggled to expand

### The lotus blooms yet again

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

 $\Gamma^{ ext{he Bharatiya Janata Party}}_{ ext{(BJP)}}$  is back with vengeance, crushed the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to retain power, with an outstanding strike rate of over 86 per cent with 133 seats in Maharashtra indicates a tactical shift in the backdrop of the stunning in Harvana as lacklustre show in Lok Sabha elections in the two states. This is the best ever performance of the BJP in the state. With 26.57 percent vote share, the BJP got votes of 16, 642, 993 which is more than the vote's shares of Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT).

The stunning victory for the Mahayuti in Maharashtra clearly suggests that the brand of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is still the most powerful ammo that the BJP has in its armoury, which trounced the Opposition alliance that was clearly a frontrunner in the battle at the hustings in India's wealthiest state just about five months back. The victory has again put a seal of approval on Home Minister Amit Shah's "modern-day tag as a and Chanakya master

strategist". of BIP's extent dominance in this election can be gauged by the fact that the saffron party's projected score is more than double the tally of the opposition's MVA, which includes the Congress, Sena(UBT) NCP(SP).

beyond these bastions.

Continued on page 2

But the million dollar question that arises in



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

Maharashtra now is who will be the chief minister of the state. Will Eknath Shinde continue to be the CM or his deputy and BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, who played a pivotal role in ensuring the saffron party's resounding

The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance won the majority in 2019 assembly elections. The BJP won 105 seats, while the Shiv Sena (undivided) grabbed 56 seats. Overall, the two parties won 151 seats in 2019. The BJP had won 122 seats in 2014 assembly elections and 46 seats in 2009 and 54 in 2004. The BIP's strike rate is way ahead of all the other five players in the fray, including two of its allies. While the Shiv Sena is ahead in 56 of the 81 seats it contested, the NCP is leading in 38 out of 59 seats. There are other reasons which worked in favour of the BJP. It was also Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's "Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" launched in

June that turned the tide in favour of the three-party ruling dispensation. Under the scheme, women in the state got five instalments of Rs 1,500 each till the elections. The impact was visible during polls as women came out in large numbers to cast ballots in the state, apparently helping the Mahayuti to

register a landslide. The BJP also revisited its roots by working closely with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The RSS has held over 60.000 small over 60,000 small meetings in the state and mobilised the BJP voters to come out and vote. The RSS, through special 65 friendly organisations, launched a campaign called 'Sajag Raho' be vigilant, be awake', bolstering BJP's push in the assembly polls. The RSS had not been as much on ground in Lok Sabha elections with the BJP reportedly deciding not to field Sanghrecommended candidates in some seats. Worse, BJP

President JP Nadda sparked a row when he said, in an interview, that the BJP didn't depend on the RSS.

turmoil Maharashtra, the decision to appoint rebel leader Eknath Shinde as the chief minister of the state also worked in favour of BJP. Rarely in India's political history has a rebel minister of a state with the support of the Opposition members. The decision was perceived as a move to elevate the Shiv Sena leader as an alternative to Thackeray. And as things stand on Saturday, the Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction of Mahayuti won 55 seats as Thackeray opposed to faction's 21 seats.

The BJP effectively capitalised on the growing religious polarisation in Maharashtra. It focused on the so-called 'vote jihad', 'Batenge to Katenge' and 'Ek Hain to Safe Hain' rhetoric. This strategy resonated with a section of the electorate. BJP top leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath, used slogans like "Ek hain toh safe hain" and 'Batenge toh katenge" during the campaign in the recent election. Despite controversy surrounding these slogans, the underlying message was a call for Hindu unity and OBC consolidation in favour of the ruling alliance. The BJP successfully painted the Opposition as

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

**NEW DELHI** 

n less than six months of Limproving its 'resounding' tally in the Lok Sabha as an elder brother of its alliance partners, Congress is back to its 'introspection' war room to analyse the electoral losses starting with Haryana followed by Jammu and Kashmir and now in Maharashtra and certain bypolls to give ammunitions to its younger brothers of the INDIA Bloc to rethink of a Third Front to lead the show. "The results of Maharashtra are unexpected and we will analyse those in detail," said party's chief strategist Rahul Gandhi, who shall be again in the scanner after giving a face saving performance in this year's Lok Sabha where he managed to get a Leader of appeasing Muslim vote banks.

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Opposition status which was deprived in the last two Lok

**Cong now back in analysis** 

mode, Third Front on anvil?

The poll results have further diminished the grand old party's role in the Öpposition bloc as compared to its regional alliance partners. The party's strength in Lok Sabha also got reduced to 98 Lok Sabha to the BJP in the bypolls. Congress however attempted to put up a brave front, and celebrate the expected massive Lok Sabha by-election win for Priyanka

Gandhi in Wayanad. "Enough of coalition politics, I think the voters are looking only to the Congress and they are confused with too many cooks in the broth. Near future I also understand the way our electorates are behaving, very soon we will see only Congress and the BJP playing on the electoral turf," said a senior Congress MP on the latest poll results when asked what went wrong again

after Harvana. In Jammu and Kashmir where the polls were held recently and now in Haryana and Maharashtra the grand old party continued losing space as it posted a worst-ever show in Maharashtra and ending

up a distant junior partner to the in Jharkhand. Losing a big state like Maharashtra after the upset in Haryana is likely to weaken the grand old party's broad

bargaining power in this era

of coalition politics. Continued on page 2

### Ummidon Ke Geetkar Shailendra... Yunus Khan's tribute to a titan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{and writer Yunus Khan on}}^{\text{opular radio personality}}$ Saturday said his book "Ummidon Ke Geetkar Shailendra" was born out of his desire to honour the legacy of one of India's most celebrated lyricists.

The book, published by Rajkamal Prakashan, is an ode to Shailendra, who wrote the lyrics of many classic songs that remain iconic to this day, including "Awara Hoon" from Raj Kapoor's "Awara"; "Mera Joota Hai Japani" and "Pyaar Hua Ikraar Hua" from "Shree 420"; and "Gaata Rahe Mera Dil"

from "Guide".

The year 2023 marked the 100th birth anniversary of Shailendra. At the beginning of 2022, I thought about paying tribute to my favourite musician. Then the question arose, what would be the format of this project?

"After much thought, I decided to pick some films and explore how Shailendra's songs reflected his times and the struggles of the 'little man' who had nobody on his side," Khan said. He was speaking at an event at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. Khan said Shailendra's lyrics



was the reason why he titled the book "Ummidon Ke Geetkar Shailendra". "He is always carried hope, even in one songwriter who never let the face of adversity, and that go of hope in any

circumstance," he added. There are 21 chapters in the book, including one that details the role Shailendra

played in Bhojpuri cinema.
"He wrote the songs for Ganga Maiyya Tohe Piyari Chadhaibo, the first Bhojpuri movie, released in 1963, Khan said.

Khan was joined by Sahar Zaman, granddaughter of Talat Mahmood and author of "Talat Mahmood: The Definitive Biography". Zaman said the All India Radio played a huge role in the career of Mehmood, the legendary playback singer and ghazal maestro known for songs such as "Hamse

Aaya Na Gaya" (From "Dekh Kabira Roya"), "Sab Kuchh Loota Ke" (From "Ek Saal") "Har Sham Sham-E-Gham' (From "Mera Salaam") and "Raat Ne Kya Kya Khwab Dikhaye" (From "Ek Gaon Ki Kahani").

'There is a whole section in the book that delves into the significance of radio. In the 1930s, Lucknow AIR was launched after Delhi, Lahore, Karachi, and Kolkata. He was 16 at the time and had always aspired to become a singer. He graduated in music, but his career began with Lucknow AIR, and that became his voice," she said.

Continued on page 2 | Mandir Marg, Narela, Nehru Nagar,

### A weekend of wheezing in NCR

RAJESH KUMAR MEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{esidents of Delhi faced heavy smog and}}_{\text{poor visibility on Saturday morning as air}}$ quality plummeted back to the "severe" category, with an AQI of 412, while the maximum temperature was recorded at 29.4 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, a thick layer of mist and smog blanketed the city during the morning and evening hours, reducing visibility. This decline in air quality comes after a brief respite on November 22, when the AQI was recorded at 371, categorised as "very poor." The National Capital has been logging hazardous air quality for over 20 days. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which provides hourly AQI

updates, 20 monitoring stations, including

Alipur, Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, Bawana,

Chandni Chowk, DTU, Dwarka, Jahangirpuri,



Patparganj, Rohini, Punjabi Bagh, Wazirpur, and Mundka, registered readings above 400, placing them in the 'severe' category. Nine recorded the city's air quality in the 'severe plus' category with AQI exceeding 450. At the same time, IQ Air data showed AQI at 464.PM2.5 concentration recorded 59.9 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value.

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#### AAP turncoat Kailash Gahlot nominated to **BJP** election committee

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Former Delhi BJP president Satish Upadhyaya, AAP turncoat Kailash Gahlot and state general secretary Vishnu Mittal nominated as a member of the BJP's Delhi Assembly election coordination committee. Gahlot, an MLA from Najafgarh seat in West Delhi, stepped down as Transport minister in the Delhi government, and also resigned from the primary membership of the AAP on November 17. Next day he joined the BJP. Gahlot also had a meeting with BJP national president JP Nadda and Union Health Minister to discuss the planning for the upcoming assembly polls which are slated to take place next year. After the meeting, Gahlot termed the discussion as a "courtesy call" where key topics organization goals and public service. In Delhi, the Jat community constitutes about 4-5 per cent of the entire population, mainly spread across northern and western rural belts.

The election for the 70-member Delhi Assembly is due in February next year.

### Fadnavis makes a Maha comeback



TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Not many in Maharashtra political circles can forget his much-discussed statement Me-Punha-Yain-Me-Punha-Yain that he had made repeatedly in the run-up to the 2019 state Assembly polls to suggest that he would return as the chief minister of the state. It did not happen then. But, this time around, Devendra Fadnavis will in all likelihood return as the chief (CM) minister Maharashtra.

Though the incumbent, Eknath Shinde is making a desperate effort to convince his allies in the MahaYuti that he is the best bet for becoming

the CM once again, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) central leadership is unlikely to oblige him - especially after its historic mandate in Maharashtra.

Given that he was the face the BJP in the state Assembly polls and his claims were ignored when it formed a government two-and-a-half years ago with Eknath Shinde at the helm, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah are likely to go with Fadnavis as the CM.

More than the newly-elected MLAs, Shinde, his deputy, Ajit Pawar and Fadnavis, it is Modi and Shah who will ultimately decide as to who

cryptically, "Yes, I have come back after breaking two parties" - a reference to splits of the Shiv Sena and NCP. His supporters say that after the BJP-led MahaYuti's historic victory in the polls, Fadnavis has given a fitting reply to the Opposition Mah.

reply to the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders' earlier criticism: ek-akela-Devendrakya-karega.

Now a six-time MLA, Fadnavis - after losing out on the chief ministership in July 2022 --has redeemed himself. Hailing from Nagpur, Fadnavis has the full backing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). A Brahmin in the Maratha-dominated politics of the state, he has become a force to reckon with in his own w Maharashtra politics. his own way

His father, Gangadhar Rao Fadnavis, was an MLC from Nagpur while his mother, Sarita Fadnavis, was the director of Vidarbha Housing Credit Society.

Born in the year 22nd July, 1970, Fadnavis holds a graduate degree in law from Nagpur University. He also holds a post graduate degree in business management and a diploma in methods and techniques of project management from DSE, Berlin. He began his career as an elected member of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation, and served two consecutive terms, in 1992

### Victory of development, social justice and good governance: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Terming the historic Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the Maharashtra assembly results a victory of development' and 'defeat of lies', saying the mandate was a firm rejection of the negative politics of the Opposition. He further said the election in Maharashtra proved the maxim of "Ek hai toh safe hai (there is safety in unity" which has become a mantra to the whole country.

"It is the victory of development, social justice and good governance in Maharashtra and and it is the defeat of negative politics and dynastic politics," Modi said in his victory speech. Referring to the poll outcome in Maharashtra as a big boost to its cadre, Modi said opposition affected the parivarvad opposition adversely and strengthened the people's resolve for a developed India by choosing Mahayuti.Addressing party workers at BJP headquarters over the historic mandate to the NDA in Maharashtra elections, Modi said, "After Haryana, the biggest message of this election is unity. 'Ek hain toh safe hain' has become the 'maha-mantra' of the country. The sentiment of 'ek hain toh safe hain' has taught

a lesson to those who make people fight in the name of caste, religion, language and region. The Congress and its ecosystem had thought that by spreading lies in the name of the Constitution, they could divide the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) in small groups. This is a solid slap on their faces," Modi said. Modi congratulated and thanked all the workers of alliance in the state and expressed appreciation for Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar. Maharashtra, he said, has become the sixth state to choose the BJP for a third consecutive term, after Goa Gujarat. Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. He also gave a new mantra for Maharashtra. He said in the coming years, Maharashtra will run on the mantra of

Vikas Bhi...Virasat Bhi. Earlier, Modi received rousing welcome at the party headquarters at Deebn Dayal Upadhyay Marg. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance secured a decisive victory in Maharashtra on Saturday,

retaining control over 230 of the 288 Assembly seats. In a scathing attack on Congress, Modi said the latest round of elections has

endorsed the message of development and defeated the

politics of lies and betrayal propounded by the Congress and its allies.

Modi said divisive forces, politics negative dynasticism have defeated in the Maharashtra election and bypolls in various states. He said the people of Maharashtra have voted for stability and taught a lesson to those who tried to create instability.

"Every segment of the country voted for BJP... The Congress

is unable to gauge this

changed mood of the country. They don't want to understand the reality. The voter does not instability. The voter is with the nation first feeling," PM Modi said, in a harsh takedown of the Congress. "People have made divisive forces bite the dust. The Congress and its allies have failed to grasp the changed realities of the country's mood," the prime minister added. He asserted that voters do not want instability and

Voters in Maharashtra also evaluated Congress on the basis of the false promises made in other states like Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, he added. "Neither their false promises nor their genda worked in Maharashtra," Modi said.

they believe in nation first and

do not like those dreaming

about "chair first".

### A weekend of wheezing in NCR

From page 1

In nine areas of Delhi, the AQI level remained above 300 and between 400. It was 394 in Aya Nagar, 384 in Mathura Road, 397 in IGI Airport, 390 in Dilshad Garden, 388 in ITO, 394 in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, 398 in Pusa, and 388 in Sri Aurobindo Marg. In 27 areas of Delhi, the AQI level remained between 400 and above 500.

The AQI was 452 in Alipore, 458 in Anand Vihar, 457 in Ashok Vihar, 458 in Bawana, 422 in Burari Crossing, 440 in Chandni Chowk, 420 in Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, 419 in DTU, 432 in Dwarka Sector 8, 463 in Jahangirpuri, 418 in Major Dhyanchand Stadium, 418 in Mandir Marg, 443 in Mundka, 406 in

Campus 419, 401 in NSIT Dwarka, 420 in Okhla System, 426 in Patparganj, 454 in Punjabi Bagh, 430 in RK Puram, The score is 450 in Rohini, 439 in Shadipur, 406 in Siri Fort, 453 in Vivek Vihar, 467 in Wazirpur. The AQI in Delhi-NCR's

various cities also remained high. Faridabad AQI was at 290, Gurugram was at 324, Ghaziabad at 357, Greater Noida at 295 and Noida was

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, moderate fog was reported at Safdarjung airport early on Saturday morning. Safdarjung airport recorded lowest visibility 300 m during 0630 hours to 0900 hours IST which improved thereafter becoming 500m at 0930 hours IST. Palam airport recorded lowest

hours to 0900 hours IST which improved thereafter, becoming 1000 m at 0930 hours IST. Mainly smooth conditions with wind speed less than 06 kmph variable direction prevailed over the region in the forenoon on Saturday. The Decision Support System for Air Quality Management

in Delhi pointed out that the transport sector is the most significant contributor at 16. 423 per cent. While the residential sector contribution is 4. 051 per cent, industries contributed 3. 125 per cent, construction 2. 35 per cent, energy sector 1.196 per cent, waste burning 1.469 per cent, and road dust 1.249 per cent.

dense smog also impacted visibility, causing delays in train schedules. The Najafgarh, 437 in Narela, 448 airport recorded lowest Shatabdi (Kanpur to New checking; hence I in Nehru Nagar, North visibility 800 m during 0730 Delhi) experienced a delay of inspect the same."

39 minutes, while the Jansadharan Express (Anand Vihar terminal to Danapur) faced a significant delay of 661 minutes. Other trains, the rial. Humsafar including Nizamuddin Express and Runicha Express, also experienced delays. Delhi environment minister

will be the next CM of

Maharashtra. That he wants

to become the next CM is an

open secret. But he has chosen

not to talk about his desire to

return as the CM, because he

realises that there can be a slip

If everything falls in place, Fadnavis will be sworn as the next CM of Maharashtra at

Wankhede stadium in south

Mumbai on Monday. It was

the same venue he had been

sworn in as the CM in front of

a 30,000-strong crowd for the

first time on October 31,

Ahead of the Lok Sabha

Election, when asked about

statement. Fadnavis had said

Me-Punha-Yain....

between cup and lip.

2014.

his

Gopal Rai inspected the Narela-Singhu border on November 22nd to monitor the implementation of GRAP stage IV.Speaking to the media, he stated: "The AAP government is continuously working to mitigate the level of pollution in Delhi. Entry has been banned for those vehicles that cause pollution, as Grap 4 is implemented. Today, we have received several complaints that vehicles are being allowed to enter Delhi without proper checking; hence I am here to

### Delhi policeman stabbed to death

STAFF REPORTER ■

Delhi Police constable A Delhi Ponce consultation of the Ponce Cons three people on Saturday while he was on night patrolling duty in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri area, officials said, adding that one of the attackers was arrested following an

encounter on Saturday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime) Sanjay Sain said Deepak Max, 20, has been arrested by a team of Branch from uri. "Deepak Crime Govindpuri. "Deepak received a bullet wound in his leg in retaliation by our team when he opened fire at them during his arrest near DDA flats in the afternoon," Sain said. A sophisticated weapon has been recovered from him, he said. Constable Kiran Pal (28)

posted at Govindpuri Police Station was on the night patrolling duty when he stopped three people riding on a scooty. Another senior police officer said Pal was on his motorbike when he spotted the trio near Govindpuri's lane number 13 around 5.30 am.

The accused also threw stones at the constable to evade arrest but he managed to waylaid them by putting his bike in front of their vehicle, the officer said. The constable also took away the keys of the scooty and inquired the trio on suspicion. On this, an argument broke between them. The accused whipped out a

knife and stabbed him before leaving the spot," the officer said. The other police personnel Assistant Sub-Inspector

who were present at the nearby police booth rushed him to Majidia Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He had two stab wounds in his chest and abdomen. Sain said soon after the

incident, several teams were formed to nab the accused and one of them has been arrested.

The two other accused at large and will be arrested soon, Sain added. Pal, a native of Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr, is survived by his mother, elder brother and sister in law. He was inducted in Delhi Police as constable in 2018.

Earlier, he was posted at Kishan Garh police station before getting the posting at Govind Puri Police station in March, this year.

On January 4, a Delhi police

Shambhu Dayal was stabbed to death when he nabbed a snatcher in west Delhi's Mayapuri area. On September 29, a constable Sandeep was dragged to death by two men in a car, when he stopped them drinking alcohol in public place in outer Delhi's place in outer Delhi's Nangloi. He was also on patrolling on his bike without the uniform.

On Friday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with senior Delhi Police officers to review the law and order situation in the national capital.

Shah underscored the importance of making every Delhi resident feel safe, stressing that it is the personal responsibility of every police officer to ensure public confidence in the city's security.

#### MAHAYUTI STUMPS MAHA VIKAS AGHADI

From page 1

Such is the MahaYuti victory that the ruling alliance has made gains in all the six regions of the state, including Mumbai. Of the 36 seats in Mumbai, the MahaYuti won 23 seats, as against 12 seats won by the MVA. In the neighbouring Thane and Konkan region, out of the 39 seats, the MahaYuti walked away 32 seats, while the MVA won mere four seats. In western Maharashtra — once considered the stronghold of the erstwhile Sharad Pawar-led NCP, the ruling grand alliance won 42 out of 58 seats, while the MVA won just four seats. In Marathwada where the MVA had performed very well in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the MahaYuti won 36 out of the 46 seats while the MVA won a meagre two seats. In north Maharashtra, the ruling grand alliance walked away with 41 out of 47 seats, while the MVA won just three seats. In Vidarbha - a region on which the Congress was pinning its hopes, the MahaYuti performed exceedingly winning 48 out of the total

### JHARKHAND SAYS JOHAR TO JMM

From page 1

Another former CM and incumbent Governor of Odisha Raghubar Das' daughter in law Poornima Sahu Das managed to win from Jamshedpur East constituency.

Addressing a press conference at his residence Hemant Soren credited the victory of INDIA Bloc to the people of Jharkhand. Soren posted a video on 'X' with a caption "Jharkhand has won". He thanked the people of Jharkhand for believing in the alliance once again and promised to fulfil their aspirations.

You have played a crucial role in fortifying democracy. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this electoral process and those who worked tirelessly to bring the essence of democracy to the people," he

He further remarked, "A new chapter in the history of 'Abua Raj, Abua Sarkar' is being written in Jharkhand. This election is unlike any you have witnessed before. We have successfully upheld the principles of democracy. I extend my sincere gratitude to each one of you."

The BJP's state president Babulal Marandi congratulated Hemant Soren and his party on social media for his win. He said that this election result was unexpected for BIP, but in democracy the decision of the people is paramount. 'We respect the mandate. BJP will thoroughly review these results," he

Political experts credited the conclusive win of INDIA block in Jharkhand to the recently launched "Maiyan Samman Yojna" by the Hemant Soren led government in the State, through which four instalments of Rs 1000 were given as honorarium to more than 45 lakh women of Jharkhand.

Also, they said that the 'Bangladeshi infiltration' rhetoric launched by the BJP to woo party's traditional voters miserably failed in the tribal belts that still long for tribal identity and basic amenities

Notably, this is for the first time in the history of 24 years of formation of Jharkhand that any coalition or a party has secured 56 seats to run the government comfortably for a full term.

#### PARLIAMENT From page 1

WAYANAD SENDS PRIYANKA TO

Shafi Parambil, the sitting MLA from Palakkad had won the 2021 Assembly poll by a majority of 3859 votes and he resigned from the seat on getting elected as Member of Parliament in the 2024 general election.

The ruling CPI-M retained the Chelakkara Assembly constituency from where its nominee UR Pradeep was elected by a majority of 12,201 votes. He defeated his Congress rival Remya Haridas and the BJP candidate K Balakrishnan. Both the by-polls to the Assembly constituencies of Palakkad and Chelakkara saw high voltage campaigns and dramatics. At one stage, it looked like the BJP candidate may make it to the Assembly from Palakkad.

But the Muslim community

in the constituency voted en masse for the Congress candidate and this helped the GOP to score a spectacular win. Though the results from the two constituencies do not make an impact on the Kerala Legislative Assembly, the CPI(M) winning the Chelakkara constituency has come as a morale booster for chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the party's state

chief M V Govindan. The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) had campaigned on the "unholy alliance" between the CPI(M) and the BJP which has been proved a misnomer if the final results are any indication. The support extended by the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), an 'extremist' organisation, to the Congress candidate has taken a lot of sheen from the victory of

Mamkoottathil.

### Ummidon Ke Geetkar...

From page 1

Zaman said as she travels to different corners of the country to promote the book and have discussions with people, she has realised why Mahmood's popularity has stood the test of time.

"People want to know about him, and that's why they attend my events... There are a lot of family stories about him that I've included in the book," she said about the selfpublished book that came out in December last year. She said she also got to talk to many of Mahmood's colleagues, most of whom are now in their 90s.

"What's so interesting is that he was the first Indian musician to introduce the concept of world concerts. He went on his first world tour in 1956, and I got to speak to his concert manager-the person responsible for the orchestra," she added.

fractures and ensured the

### Cong now back in analysis

mode...
From page 1

The outcome revealed that the Congress continued to falter on the slippery electoral landscape, struggling to win or improve in states where it is ruling and failing to uplift alliances where it is the senior partner. In Haryana, where the Congress and BJP were in direct contest, the party could not convert the antiincumbency of BJP's two terms into a win. Now in Maharashtra, it was unable to retain its Lok Sabha gains or help its allies pull through.

Questions are also expected to be raised on the modus operandi of Congress party's chief strategist Rahul Gandhi who has of late focused heavily on caste census as both issues appear to have failed to resonate among the people at large in the poll-

bound states.

In the run up to the General Elections several leaders in the likes of Nitish Kumar, K Chandrashekar Rao, Mamata Banerjee, Akshilesh Yadav, M K Śtalin were hobnobbing to lead a Third Front but Congress finally convinced to lead the family of non-BJP members. Interestingly Mamata and Nitish, both Chief ministers and boss of their party had to call it a day from the Congress hegemony and chose different path. While Nitish's JDU is now part of BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Mamata joined the chorus after Congress "good" performance in the 2024 Lok

### BJP dominates by-polls across 15 diverse states

From page 1

Chief Minister Adityanath celebrated the victory, attributing it to the BJP's governance, welfare policies, policies, and strategic outreach. "The BJP-NDA's and strategic success is a testament to the people's faith in the doubleengine government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. I thank the voters for their unwavering support," he said.

In other states, Congress made notable gains in Karnataka, sweeping all three seats, including the high-profile Channapatna constituency. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar hailed the results as a reflection of public trust in the Congress government. Meanwhile, the Trinamool

dominance in West Bengal, winning all six contested seats, including the BJP stronghold of Madarihat. Congress candidate Gulabsinh Rajput defeated BJP's Swarupji Thakor in the by-elections to the Vav Assembly seat in Gujarat's

Banaskantha district. In Bihar, the ruling NDA retained its grip on four constituencies, with the JD(U) winning key seats and dealing a setback to the INDIA bloc. The BJP also retained two Assembly costs. retained two Assembly seats in Assam and gained leads in three other constituencies. In Rajasthan, BJP won 5 out of

Assembly seat by a margin of 24,370 votes. In a high-stake battle, the BJP

seven seats with Anil Kumar

Katara securing the Chorasi

Congress solidified its by-poll for the Kedarnath Assembly seat. BJP nominee Asha Nautiyal, who got 23,814 votes, defeated Manoj Rawat of the Congress by a margin of 5622 votes.

However, in a setback for the ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh, Forest Minister Ramniwas Rawat lost the Vijaypur Assembly bypoll to Congress candidate Mukesh Malhotra by a margin of 7,364 votes. Rawat, a six-time MLA from Vijaypur in Sheopur district, had won the seat in 2023 as a Congress candidate before defecting to the BJP, which appointed him as a minister in Mohan

Yadav's government. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won three seats in Punjab, Chabbewal, Gidderbaha, and Dera Baba Nanak, while Congress won was successful in winning the the Barnala constituency. In go head-to-head once again.

Meghalaya, the National People's Party (NPP) secured the Gambegre seat with a victory by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's wife, Mehtab Chandee Agitok Sangma. In Sikkim, the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) clinched both the Soreng Chakung an Namchi-Singhithang seats. The by-elections underscored political dynamics across

shifting states, with the BJP regaining momentum in Uttar Pradesh, Congress consolidating its hold in Karnataka, and regional parties like TMC and NPP solidifying their dominance. The results set the stage for intense political battles ahead, particularly in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, where the BJP and SP are likely to

#### The lotus blooms yet again From page 1

back of a strong showing in the Vidarbha region. The BJP contested the highest number of seats (47) in the region, which is home to a large chunk of both large-and small-scale farmers. Following the Lok Sabha rout, the BJP-led Mahayuti focused on its core OBC vote bank that was highly alienated during the general elections. The fall of Sharad Pawar led NCP is another reason to sweep the Maharashtra polls. Another big reason for this is farmers supporting the MY in a big way after BJP reached out to the cotton and soybean farmers with assurances on the MSP issue.

BJP relentlessly The

government and highlighted leaders helped avoid internal alleged corruption, The BJP surge came on the mismanagement and internal strife. The party successfully reminded voters of the 25-month "misrule" of the MVA and pointed to incidents like the Palghar sadhu killings, Antilia case and corruption allegations against NCP leader Anil Deshmukh. The BJP's attacks Uddhav Thackeray's alleged departure from his father's Hindutva legacy and his alliance with the Congress and the NCP further undermined the

Opposition's credibility. Another reason is that the BJP tackled its internal rebellion issues head-on and prevented key figures such as Prakash Mehta and Gopal Shetty from contesting as independent candidates. The campaigned against the MVA strategic withdrawal of rebel

of another round of key elections in Delhi and Bihar

next year.

party's full strength in the election. The BJP also managed dissent within its ranks by persuading potential troublemakers, who include Maratha leader Manoj Jarange-Patil, to step back from the electoral fray. It prevented a split in votes. The Mahayuti's victory in Maharashtra, coming close on the heels of the BJP's win in the Haryana Assembly elections, has come as a morale-booster for the BJP's rank and file which was dejected to an extent after it failed to secure an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha elections. For the BJP, retaining Maharashtra would cement its dominance ahead

# sunday pioneer

### Mahayuti's win gives BJP shot in the arm ahead of city polls

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

With a victory secured in Maharashtra, the BJP received a shot in the arm ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls next year, with its local leaders saying the party is now set to dethrone the AAP government in the national capital with a massive win. Even as the signs of the

landslide victory of the party-led alliance emerged with counting of votes on 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra, the BJP announced a "Parivartan Yatra" to end the 10 yearrule of Aam Aadmi Party in

president Delhi Virendra Sachdeva said the Maharashtra election results were a stamp of public approval to the "Modi

"The recent victory in Haryana polls and now, party's landslide victories in Maharashtra and the bypolls in Uttar Pradesh are big morale boosters for us. "The party workers encouraged by these results will work with redoubled energy to wipe out the era of



corruption led by AAP in Delhi," Sachdeva said

He said the party will launch 'Parivartan Yatra' soon in Delhi, and that it has formed a nine-member committee headed by Satish Upadhyay to firm up the plan.
A confident Delhi BJP

posted an animation video on its X account with caption "The Lotus will bloom in Delhi also" and a background voice of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee saying The darkness will wane, the Sun will rise and the lotus will bloom..." The BJP last won Assembly polls in Delhi way back in 1993.

Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP has dominated the affairs in Delhi for the last one decade, registering back-to-back landslide victories in 2015 and 2020 elections. The BJP was times, both routed managing to scrape through with just three seats in 2015 and eight in 2020.

This time, however, the party is confident of staging a comeback and end a long wait at the helm of affairs in the city. Another party functionary asserted that the signs of a "far better" performance of the BJP in the upcoming assembly polls

"We won all the seven Lok Sabha seats this year and got more votes than AAP in 52 Assembly segments out of 70," said the Delhi BJP

leader.

claimed.

Also, the image of Kejriwal as an honest, capable leader has received a "major dent" with a string of corruption allegations like liquor scam in which he went to jail, "Sheshmahal" scam, and the problems faced by the people due to bad roads, water shortage, pollution, dilapidated dilapidated public transport among others, he

South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that the stunning performance of the party in Maharashtra and bypolls in UP and elsewhere proves that people have chosen a path of progress led down by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He congratulated the people of Maharashtra for the "historic victory" of the BJPled Mahayuti in the assembly polls under Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's

leadership and said the

government

holistic progress and the aspirations of its people. Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta said the "unprecedented and historic victory" in Maharashtra of the BJP-led alliance is a testament to the welfare-

oriented policies of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi

and the capable leadership

committed to the state's

Gupta said that the "grand victory" symbolised the "relentless hard work, indomitable enthusiasm, and dedication" of every BJP worker, who took the party's "principles and development agenda" to every household.

The Mahayuti alliance

according to updates was headed to a landslide victory leading on more than 220 seats out of 288 against the Maha Vikas Aghadi. As per the latest figures from the Election Commission, the BJP has so far won nine seats and is leading in 125, the Shiv Sena has won three and is ahead in 53 seats, while the NCP has won two and is leading in 37 seats.

### Delhi Govt mandates colour-coded stickers on vehicles to combat pollution

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi government's department has mandated vehicle owners in the National Capital Territory to affix colour-coded stickers on their vehicles to help identify fuel types to combat rising pollution levels.

According to a public notice issued by the department, the directive is in line with the Supreme Court's order dated August 12, 2018, and subsequent amendments to Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

The vehicle owners in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi will now be required chromium-based hologram stickers, the notice read.

The colour-coded stickers are designed to assist enforcement personnel in visually identifying a vehicle's fuel type during road checks. The rule applies to both new vehicles, effective from April 1, 2019, and old vehicles, registered before March 31, 2019. Vehicle website or via the Transport Department's portal, the

owners must ensure the stickers are affixed on their windscreens to comply with legal requirements, it said. Owners of older vehicles are advised to contact their respective vehicle dealers for sticker installation, it read. Additionally, an online booking facility is available for home installation of High-Security Registration Plates (HSRP) along with the first based and colour coded. fuel-based colour-coded stickers through the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

statement said.

Non-compliance will attract penalties under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules, and vehicle owners are urged to act promptly to avoid prosecution and ensure their vehicles meet the regulatory standards, it added. The stickers contain details like the registration number, registering authority, a laser-branded PIN, and the engine and chassis numbers of the

### 1.64 lakh challans issued for vehicles lacking PUC certificates October onwards

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

More than 1.64 lakh challans amounting to Rs 164 crore were issued in the national capital against the vehicles lacking valid Pollution Under Control, or PUC, certificates from October 1 to November 22. According to traffic police data, a total of 3.87 lakh such vehicles owners were challaned for the offence this year. The challan for plying without PUCC is Rs 10,000.

Police have impounded 6,531 10-year-old petrol and 15-year-old diesel vehicles this winter season, it stated. Police also prosecuted 872 vehicles carrying construction and demolition waste and other allied material without proper covering this winter season, while the numbers stood at 1,413 for the whole year till November 22.

The fine for the offence is Rs 20,000. Special Commissioner of Police



commitment quality in the city.

Since the implementation of GRAP-4 on November 18, a total of 20,743 challans were issued for not having PUCC. Police have also impounded 736 overage vehicles during this period. Since October 15, a total of 13,762 nondestined trucks approaching Delhi were diverted through Eastern and Western Peripheral expressways. While the numbers stood at 2,944 since ation of GRAP-4. significant according to the data.

#### increase in challans reflects ensuring compliance with pollution norms. Strict enforcement is necessary to curb vehicular pollution and contribute to improving air

### Rising city pollution levels impact health of animals

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $R_{\text{Delhi}}^{\text{ising pollution levels in}} \ \, \text{pollution levels in} \\$ and street animals, causing health issues and behavioural changes that have concerned pet owners and animal welfare activists, veterinarians said. Many animals are experiencing respiratory problems, with symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, and chest congestion attributed to the city's worsening air quality, they said.

Sumit Nagar, a consulting veterinary doctor with the Delhi Forest and Wildlife Department and the different states of the diff Department, said that there has been an increase in cases of respiratory distress among animals. Animals face issues similar to

including humans, suffocation, lung damage, and respiratory inflammation. During Diwali, there are additional cases of shock from noise pollution and burns, particularly in monkeys that accidentally touch wires, he said.

Pet owners are taking measures such as limiting outdoor walks to protect their pets from toxic air, but this has led to behavioural issues like pent-up energy and

aggression in some dogs.
"The morning smog makes it difficult to take my dogs for walks. Exposure to toxic air causes them to cough and vomit," Sujata Bhattacharya, a resident of Pitampura said.

"Since masks are not an option for them, we have reduced outdoor time, but this has made them more aggressive. Outdoor activities are crucial for dogs to release energy, but even bathroom



harmful air," she said. reporting their

outdoor spaces. Ranjana Mukherjee, a pet owner from Gurugram said that her three cats have been sneezing and suffering from eye irritation. She said her cats have stopped going outdoors, which is unusual

For street animals, the situation is even worse. Reduced visibility during smoggy mornings and nights has led to an increase in hitand-run cases, some animal activists visibility makes driving dangerous, and street animals often fall victim to accidents. Without shelter or protection,

are also facing challenges. "The number of feeders has decreased because of the pollution. There's little awareness about how poor air quality impacts animals. Governments often ignore their issues because animals

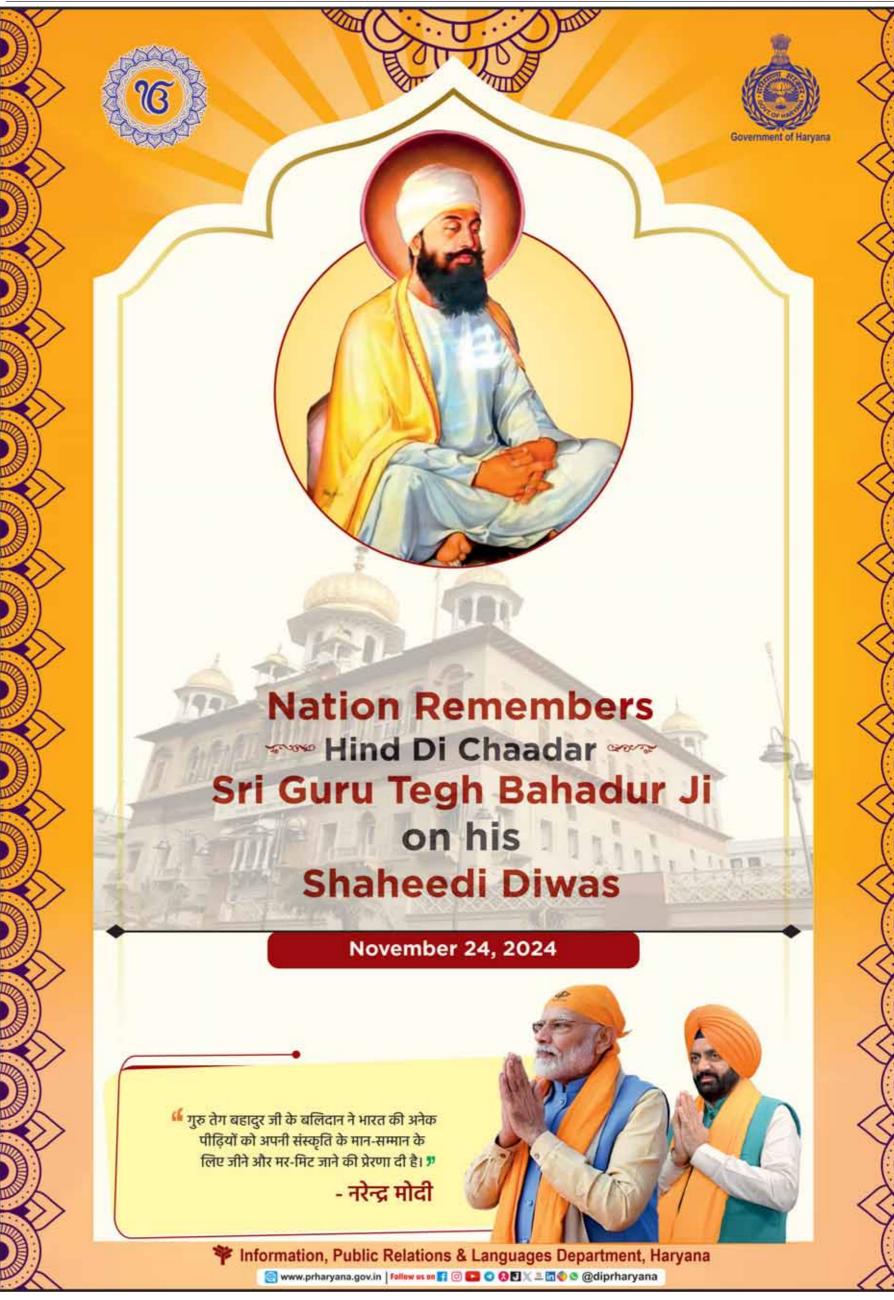




for them and they seem low on energy due to the prevailing conditions.

claimed."Low they are especially vulnerable," said Kanika Diwan, an animal welfare activist. Street animal feeders

don't vote," said Gaurav, a feeder from Dwarka.



#### NHRC notice to Telangana chief secretary, police head

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

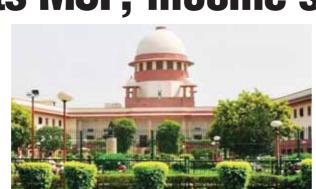
Taking cognisance of a complaint from the residents of Lagacharla village of Vikarabad district in Telangana, alleging police harassment, physical police harassment, physical abuse, and false criminal charges, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director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

### suggests MSP, income support

A Supreme Court (SC)-appointed panel on farmers' grievances and protests has filed its interim report, listing reasons for agrarian distress, which among others include stagnant yield, rising costs and debts and inadequate marketing system. The high-powered committee, constituted on September 2 under former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nawab Singh to resolve the grievances of farmers agitating at the Shambhu border, also suggested solutions including examining the possibility of giving legal sanctity to Minimum Support Price and offering direct income support.

While forming the committee, the SC had observed farmers' protest should not be politicised. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan on Friday took the interim report on record and praised the committee for its efforts and framing of the issues to be examined and defuse the agitation. In its 11-page interim report, the panel said, "It is a well-known fact that the farming community in the country in general and that of Punjab and Haryana in particular has been facing an ever-increasing crisis over the last more than two

The stagnation in yield and production growth since the mid-1990s, after the initial higher gains of the Green Revolution, marked the beginning of the crisis, said the report. The panel said the debt



**SC** panel on farmers protests

on farmers and farm workers increased manifold in recent decades. "In 2022-23, institutional debt of farmers in Punjab was Rs 73,673 crore, while in Haryana it was even higher at Rs 76,630 crore as per National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 2023. In addition, there is a significant burden of non-institutional debt on farmers, which is estimated to be 21.3 per cent of total outstanding debt on farmers in Punjab and 32 per cent in Haryana, according to 2019 report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)," the committee

The committee also comprised retired IPS officer BS Sandhu, Mohali resident Devinder Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman and Punjab Agriculture University agricultural economist Dr Sukhpal Singh. It said that declining net farm productivity, rising production costs, inadequate marketing system and shrinking farm employment have contributed to the deceleration in

flagged.

farm income growth. Small and marginal farmers along with farm workers are the most affected and vulnerable segments of this economic squeeze, it said.

"As a matter of fact, rural society as a whole is under severe economic stress. At the national level, 46 per cent of total workers are absorbed in agriculture whose share in income is only 15 per cent," it said. "Not only this, there is a very high rate of disguised unemployment and a large number of unpaid family workers. A significant proportion among them is working-poor."

The panel also said climate catastrophe and the resulting severity of the environmental changes, including depleting water table, frequent dry spells, excess rainfall pattern in some regions, heat waves etc., are impacting the farm sector and the food security in a big way. Management of crop-residue too has become a serious challenge in agriculture, it said. In its 11-page interim report,

the panel said that additional-

across the country is struggling with a suicide epidemic. "In India, more than 4 lakh farmers and farm workers have committed suicides since 1995 when the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) began collecting the data. In Punjab, a house-to-house survey conducted by three public sector universities recorded a total of 16,606 suicides among farmers and farm workers in 15 years, between 2000 and 2015. The study has revealed that most of the suicides were committed by small and marginal farmers and landless farm workers, high indebtedness being the major reason," it said.

The panel formulated 11 issues for the consideration of the apex court in pursuant to its September 2 order. Among the major issues include measures to revitalise agriculture, examining the systemic and fundamental reasons for increasing indebtedness which is aggravating the agrarian crisis, farmers' distress and the causes behind growing unrest among the farmers and rural society. "This will help in rebuilding trust between farmers and the government," it said, and added that the growing debt crisis needs special attention in order to provide relief to debt-stricken farmers and farm workers.

The panel said there is a need to examine "the profitability of farm sector through the mechanism of assuring remunerative prices that includes inter alia Minimum Support Price (MSP), direct income support and other viable approaches.

### AAP wrests Congress seats in Punjab by-poll

NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH

In a boost to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab, the party wrested three Assembly by-polls in Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Chabbewal, all three of which were vacated by Congress MLAs who were elected to the Lok Sabha while the Congress won the Barnala seat in the by-polls. With this victory, the AAP will have 94 seats and the Congress will have 16 in the 117-member Assembly. The AAP managed to breach the Congress bastion in Gidderbaha and Dera Baba Nanak segments, however, it lost its own stronghold of Barnala Assembly segment to the main Opposition party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) drew a blank in the bypolls as its candidates remained at a distant third spot in the four seats. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) had stayed away from the by-polls. The bypolls, which took place on November 20, were necessitated after the incumbent legislators were elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year. The by-polls were seen as a lit-

mus test for Punjab Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann, as a victory was important for him because his party faced a drubbing in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, in which it could win just three of the 13 Parliamentary constituencies in Punjab. The stakes were also high for the main opposition, Congress. Prestige was at stake for its MPs, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and Sukhjinder Randhawa, whose wives contested the by-polls from Gidderbaha and Dera Baba Nanak seats, respectively. The BJP was also looking to put up a strong show in the by-polls after it drew a blank in the General Election from the state. As the results came in, AAP leaders and workers burst firecrackers, distributed sweets and danced to the beats of dhol, while victory marches were



taken out by the successful candidates in their respective constituencies.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann congratulated the people of Punjab for the "spectacular" victory in the by-polls. "Under leadership @ArvindKejriwal ji, Aam Aadmi Party is touching new heights day by day across the country. We are working day and night honestly and without any discrimination for the progress and prosperity of Punjab. We will fulfil every promise made to Punjabis during the by-elections on a priority basis. Best wishes to everyone," he posted on X.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, posted on X, the people of Punjab have once again expressed their faith in the ideology of the AAP and the work of the state government by giving three out of four seats to his party in the by-polls. In Gidderbaha, AAP candidate

Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon defeated his nearest rival Congress nominee Amrita Warring, who is the wife of Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. In a three-cornered contest, Dhillon defeated Congress nominee Amrita Warring by a margin of 21,969 votes.

Dhillon secured 71,644 votes while Amrita got 49,675 votes. BJP candidate and former finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal secured 12,227 votes while SAD candidate Sukhraj Singh got only 715

We are all minorities: Justice KV Vishwanath

AAP nominee Ishank Kumar Chabbewal won the Chabbewal segment in Hoshiarpur. He defeated his nearest rival and Congress nominee Ranjit Kumar by a margin of 28,690 votes. Ishank polled 51,904 votes while Congress party candidate Kumar secured 23,214 votes. BJP's Sohan Singh Thandal was on the third spot with 8,692 votes. The Chabbewal by-poll was necessitated after Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal, who was a Congress MLA but later joined the AAP, was elected to the Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur.

Ishank, who is the son of Raj Kumar Chabbewal who represented the Chabbewal segment in 2017 and 2022 on Congress tickets. AAP candidate Gurdeep Singh Randhawa won the Dera Baba Nanak seat after he defeated Congress nominee Jatinder Kaur by a margin of 5,699 votes.

In the fierce contest between the Congress and the AAP, Randhawa secured 59,104 votes while Kaur polled 53,405 votes. BJP candidate Ravi Karan Singh Kahlon could manage just 6,505 votes as he trailed at third spot. In the neck-and-neck contest, Kaur was leading from the third to the eighth round of counting. But later, Randhawa maintained the lead in the following

Kaur is the wife of Congress MP from Gurdaspur Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who represented this seat in 2002, 2012, 2017 and 2022.

### Campaign against gender-based violence by Shivraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $\begin{array}{c} R^{ural\ Development\ and} \\ R^{agriculture\ \&\ Farmers} \\ \text{Welfare\ Minister\ Shivraj\ Singh} \end{array}$ Chouhan will launch the third edition of Navi Chetna-Pahal Badlaav Ki, a national campaign against gender-based violence on November 25, an official statement said.

Minister of Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi will also be present at the event in "a collective effort of gender-based violence," a statement from the Rural Development Ministry said . The month-long campaign, organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, will run across the country until December 23. This initiative, led by DAY-NRLM's extensive Self-Help Group (SHG) network, embodies the spirit of Jan Andolan. The campaign is a collaborative effort and will witness participation of nine ministries and departments, including Ministry of Women and Child Development;

Health and Family Welfare; Department of School Education and Literacy; Home Affairs; Panchayati Raj; Social Justice and Empowerment and Information and Broadcasting. The Navi Chetna campaign aims to amplify awareness and drive informed action against gender-based violence through grassroots initiatives. Since its inception, Nayi Chetna has mobilized millions nationwide, fostering a significant movement for gender equality and women's empowerment," Rural the statement.

They said the first edition reached 3.5 crore people, supported by multiple ministries, while Nayi Chetna 2.0 engaged 5.5 crore participants across 31 States and Union Territories, with over nine lakh awareness activities on gender-based violence conducted nationwide. "The objectives of the campaign include raising awareness of all forms of gender-based violence, encouraging communi-ties to speak out and demand action, providing access to support systems for timely assistance and empowering local institutions to act decisively against violence," the

#### National **Cadet Corps** completes 76 years today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The National Cadet Corps I (NCC) has competed 76 years of its existence and made commendable efforts in increasing the strength of cadets, the defence ministry said on Saturday asserting that the Corps will touch the strength of 20 lakh in coming years. The largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, the NCC was raised in 1948. The Corps celebrate its November 24, 2024 the ministry said in a statement.

The NCC has made commendable "efforts in increasing the strength of cadets by 3 lakh and will be touching the strength of 20 lakh in coming years", Rajesh Kumar Singh, defence secretary was quoted. He laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes on behalf of the entire NCC fraternity at the National War Memorial in New Delhi

On the 76th Raising Day, cadets are participating in march past at various cities and are involved in various cultural activities. As per tradition, pan-India blood donation camps are being organised.

### Ex-MLA files defamation case against complainant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

haitanya Sharma, a former MLA from Gagret in Himachal Pradesh's Una district, has filed a criminal defamation case against a contractor for accusing him and two others of cheating.

Addressing a press conference in Gagret, Sharma said he has filed a criminal defamation case against Surendra Kumar who should be booked for offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

On November 18, police filed a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy against Sharma based accusing the BJP leader of cheating to the tune of Rs 8 lakh on the pretext of securing work in the Public Works Department

In his complaint, the builder alleged that Sharma's aides, Mahesh Yadav and Harshit Tiwari, got him to deposit Rs 6 lakh in an account besides taking Rs 2 lakh in cash from him for securing a contract in the

However, he did not get the contract nor was the money refunded, Kumar claimed.

Responding to the charges, Sharma said, "I did not receive any money and no amount was deposited in any of my accounts. I don't even know the person in whose account the money was supposedly deposited. If someone took money (for securing a contract), action should be taken against that person as per the law." "This is a political conspiracy against me, but I will fight against it," he added.

MLAs who along with three Independents voted in favour of BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha elections held in February this year. Later, he joined the BJP and unsuccessfully contested the Assembly bypoll in Gagret necessitated by his disqualification from the Congress.

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Supreme Court judge Justice KV Viswanathan on Saturday said lot of misinformation is spread through mobile apps such as WhatsApp University. "Nowadays a lot of misconception is there. We have this WhatsApp University. by such messages. Lot of truth decay is happening," Justice Viswanathan said.

The judge was speaking at an event at OP Jindal Global Law University.

In his speech, the judge spoke about the importance of defending the rights of minorities. He



also underscored that the term minority does not mean religious minorities alone but also includes linguistic minorities. "We are all minorities. Somehow the term minority has got

it includes linguistic minorities also. It is very important to protect these rights also. Whether we are judges, legislature or executive, have to defend to hilt," he said. Justice Viswanathan said that

encompassed with religion; but

the performance of India's Constitution can be seen in its smooth functioning and great-"There has never been any

threat of secession and that shows the greatness of our people. Because our Constitution recognised equality, diversity and guarantees rights. We have course corrected on ADM Jabalpur," Justice Viswanathan

### **BJP** leaders attribute victory to double engine governmemnt and performance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

 $\begin{array}{c} B \\ \text{haratiya Janata Party (BJP)} \\ \text{leaders, including Union} \\ \text{ministers Amit Shah and} \end{array}$ Rajnath Singh, on Saturday hailed the party's grand win in

Rajnath Singh said the mandate underscored the people's trust in the BJP's commitment to good governance and development, and the credibility of of every Maharashtra resident,"

Mahayuti alliance's victory is the victory of "politics of per-formance" of the double-engine government, he added.

received in the Jharkhand assembly elections, where it suffered a big defeat from the incumbent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led alliance. In a democracy, people's mandate is

paramount, he said.
Shah praised the BJP workers in Jharkhand and asserted that fulfilling the aspirations of tribal society. tribal society and protecting their identity was the top pri-

The NDA's central government is committed to the

sistently prioritised development. "I firmly believe that the double-engine government, inspired by PM Modi's vision,

Hindutva organisations. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal termed his party's win in three out of four seats in the Punjab by-polls a "semifinal", asserting that the party is on course for another historic past decade, we have established the Delhi model of gov-

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

Ministry said.

**PTI** THIRUVANATHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday assured that no one would be evicted from Munambam village, emphasizing his government's commitment to resolving the issues in the coastal hamlet without causing any hardship to its residents. The Chief Minister gave this assurance during an online discussion with the Munambam Struggle Committee (Munambam Samara Samiti). He also said that the government is working to find a permanent solution to the land issue and assured that no one with prop-

er documents will be evicted. In order to ensure this, Vijayan

informed the committee that the

government has decided to form

a judicial commission. In the vil-

lages of Cherai and Munambam

in Ernakulam district, residents

have alleged the Waqf Board was

unlawfully claiming their land



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

Court on this matter, he stated. The government will initiate all possible steps to vacate the stay order by High Court preventing the residents from paying the land tax, CM added. The concerns of the residents will be presented before the court, he assured. The CM also requested the full cooperation of the residents to expedite the functioning of the commission. Revenue Minister K Rajan, Law Minister P Rajeeve, Waqf and Minority Welfare Minister V Abdurahiman, Chief Secretary Saradha Muraleedharan, Ernakulam District Collector N S K Umesh and Vypin MLA K N Unnikrishnan, Varappuzha Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil, Kottapuram Bishop Ambrose Puthenveettil, Munambam Samara Samiti Chairman Joseph Sebastian,

Convener Joseph Benny, K N

Murugan (SNDP Yogam), and

P J Joseph (local resident) also

took part in the discussion.

Maharashtra as people's faith in the "double-engine" govern-ment under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Thanking people for the "historic victory" of the Mahayuti alliance, Shah said that by giving such a "huge mandate amidst illusion and lies," people have shut shops of "fake well-wishers" of the Constitution -- a swipe at the opposition-led alliance, which had flagged the alleged threat to the Constitution from the saffron party and used claim as its main call to voters. BJP president JP Nadda said

the landslide victory of the alliance was a reflection of the people's unwavering faith in the welfare policies and good gov-ernance of the double-engine government under Modi's able leadership.

the PM's stewardship. Amit Shah on X said, "Jai Maharashtra! Heartfelt grati-

mandate." Maharashtra, the holy land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, B R Ambedkar, Jyotiba Phule and Veer Savarkar, has always kept culture and nation supreme along with development, the BJP leader said. By giving such a huge mandate amidst illusion and lies, people have shut down shops of those who are fake well-wishers of the Constitution. This is the victory

Nadda said people of the state tude to the people of Maharashtra for this historic completely rejected the dynas-

tic, appeasement and divisive politics of the opposition, including the Congress. The BJP president said his party accepted the mandate

ority for his party.

development, progress and

protection of tribal heritage of the people of Jharkhand and under the leadership of Modi ji, we will continue to work in this direction. The BJP will play the role of a positive opposition in Jharkhand," he said. Union minister Nitin Gadkari said the BJP-led alliance con-

will accelerate the state's growth to greater heights," he said.

The former BJP president also expressed sincere gratitude to the voluntary organisations that worked "tirelessly" to raise voters' awareness, a likely reference to the RSS and other

mandate in Delhi. "Over the ernance that focuses on making life easier for the common man," he said. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, referring to the AAP's election symbol broom, said the party, which "used to clean homes and shops with a broom", was now cleaning "all of India" under Arvind Kejriwal's

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

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

Elections were held to six Assembly seats of Sitai, Madarihat, Naihati, Haroa --in Coochbehar, Alipurduar and North 24 Parganas districts and Medinipur and Taldangra in West Midnapore and Bankura districts respectively.

The by-elections tended to underscore the big point that thought differently when it came to social-political issues and hardcore economics, experts said marveling at how Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's electoral strategies Mamata once again got the better of a burning woman-centric issue like post rape and murder of a lady doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital that led to Statewide stir for more than

three months. This, even as TMC's Sangita Roy won the Sitai seat by defeating BJP's Dipak Kumar Roy by a margin of 1,30,156 votes. In 201 the TMC won the seat by a martin of about In neighbouring Madarihat also in North Bengal TMC's JP Toppo too

won by a big margin winning the seat for the first time since its formation in 2000 and wresting it from the sitting BJP

In Haroa, TMC's Sk Rabiul Islam won by defeating ISF nominee Piyarul Islam by 1,31,388 votes, The BJP's Bimal Das here got 13,570 votes. In Naihati, Sanat Dey defeated

BJP's Rupak Mitra by a landslide margin of 48,912 votes, surpassing the 18,675-

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



1.15 lakh votes. With the Saturday's results the BJP's strength in Bengal Assembly came down to 67 in comparison to TMC's 226. The ISF has one seat and Left and Congress have none.

Thanking the people for the victory the Chief Minister said, "we are not zamindars but watchmen of people adding "this is the victory of the people ... I would like to thank the 'Maa, Mati, Manush... Your blessings will help us continue working for the people... I will preserve this blessings in the core of my heart."

"We told you that the TMC will win all the six seats by sweeping margins and we proved that... this is because there is no leader who can challenge Mamata Banerjee's charisma and development works... in fact Narendra Modi is imitating Mamata Banerjee by instituting Laadli Behna and such other schemes which are just PR and advertisement exercises... but here in Bengal the Chief Minister is doing things from the core of her heart and the people are loving and appreciating it," TMC leader Kunla Ghosh said adding, "some people thought that the

RG Kar would go against the TMC... but such stray movements I urban centres do not impact rural India."

Dismissing the victory Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said that his party was not worried about such results. "Don't worry we will win in 2026... such by-elections are conducted with money and muscle-power and often the ruling party wins so this will not have any impact on 2026 Assembly elections," he said. Union Minister and State BJP president said that his party would definitely form the Government in 2026. "In Kaliaganj by-elections we lost to BJP but in subsequent Assembly election in 2021 we

parliamentary elections we secured lead from there... so these by-elections do not matter much for us," he said. Meanwhile, in a related development the TMC congratulated the Congress candidate from Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi for winning the Kerale cost by a record the Kerala seat by a record margin. "They are a different party... I must not comment much on them but Privanka Gandhi is the descendent of a historical family... she is the son of Rajiv Gandhi and granddaughter of Indira Gandhi... her victory demands congratulations... we congratulate her... there is not much to say," TMC leader

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD

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



Gujarat 182-member Assembly went up to 162. While Rajput maintained his lead by 370 votes over Thakor in 21 rounds, the latter took pole position by a margin of 1,099 votes in the 22nd round and then consolidated it further to win. There were 24 rounds of vote counting.

The voter turnout in the by poll held on November 13 was 70.55 per cent. Thakor said his win was due to the BJP's central and state leadership as well as the

work put in by party workers. He had lost to Geniben Thakor in the 2022 Geniben Thakor in the 2022 assembly polls, which the BJP had swept. The seat is a Congress stronghold that had been won by Geniben Thakor in 2017 as well, and the presence of Mayji Patel, from the dominant Chaudhary community, was a cause of concern for the

ruling party. Patel was suspended from the BJP for going against the directives Geniben independent.

Banaskantha Lok Sabha seat in June by defeating BJP's Rekhaben Chaudhary by more than 30,000 votes. Her win was the sole won for the Congress from the state in the 2024 general elections. The BJP won the remaining

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Buoyed by the assembly election by-polls, which saw the ruling Congress sweeping in all the three seats, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said he won in the 'people's court'. He gave credit to the guarantee schemes for the party's victory in the Assembly by-polls in Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna.
"You know what Mahatma

Gandhi said. He said people's court is better than the courts. Now people's court has given me its verdict," Siddaramaiah told reporters. This victory was significant for the Congress. significant for the Congress as the BJP and JD(S) formed an alliance, he explained. "We won from Kalyana



Karnataka (Shiggaon), and old Mysuru region (Channapatna). In all the places we won. So, this is very significant.'

"After our government came to power about one and half years ago, the BJP made false allegations on me and my government. They also spread lies about our Siddaramaiah schemes," said. The CM is an accused said. The CM is an accused in the MUDA site allotment and filming them.

scam where 14 sites in upmarket of Mysuru was allotted to his wife, Parvathi. After the controversy broke out, Parvathi returned the sites to MUDA. He also came down heavily on the opposition BJP and JD(S) for their lies and 'baseless allegations'.

The Chief Minister also took a swipe at JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda and his son Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy for "crying" in public during elections. Deve Gowda and his sons cry, but didn't their heart melt when several women cried in the Prajwal Revanna case in Hassan?" he asked. Former JD(S) MP and grandson of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, Prajwal Revanna is in jail for allegedly sexually

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



GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

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

Government. Rawat lost the by-election from Vijaypur constituency by more than 7,300 votes. He was five-term MLA from Congress and before 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he has

quit Congress and joined the

BJP. Soon after the Lok

Sabha elections, he was inducted in the State cabinet

as Forest Minister. This outcome is a severe blow to Rawat himself and the ruling Bharatiya Janata

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

For Adani, who is facing bribery charge and warrant in a US court, the scrapping of his pet Dharavi project would have been a big setback. With election results showing the BJP and its allies Shiv Sena and

Nationalist Congress Party factions led by Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, winning more than threefourths of the 288 seats in the Maharashtra assembly, those anxieties have now been set to rest.

into a glitzy urban hub. having proof of living in the sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums located close to Mumbai's international airport, are to be given flats of up to 350 sq ft free of cost. redevelopment had become a political hot potato with the opposition alleging that that group received undue favours from the state government in awarding the contract. The group has Government had approved

denied benefiting from the government's favouritism. Project supporters in the

ruling dispensation say the project holds out promise to make it a global model for slum redevelopment. While an estimated 1 million (10 Adani plans to turn 620 lakh) reside in Dharavi, acres of prime land, about about 700,000 are thought to about 700,000 are thought to three quarters of the size of be eligible because of the New York's Central Park, resident definition of ones About seven lakh living in area prior to January 1, homes in other parts of the city, a proposal some locals opposed as they want no resident or business owner to be uprooted.

Adani had in 2022 won a contract to remake the slum, which sits on prime real estate in the overcrowded financial capital, in seven years. Weeks before the poll, the Maharashtra

the acquisition of 256 acres of salt-pan land for the Dharavi redevelopment. The salt-pan land is to be acquired from the central government and leased to government Maharashtra, which

Project Pvt, in which the Adani Group holds an 80 per cent stake, along with the state government, is implementing the project. The land will be used to build low-cost affordable housing for redeveloping the 620-acre residents of Dharavi. A slum, the largest in Asia. The Dharavi Redevelopment survey of existing residents

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

The slums -- key backdrop

to determine who would be rehoused in Dharavi or be eligible slum dwellers in Muslim leather tanners but relocated.

The laws hardon revemped Dharavi. The soon turned into a revemped process of the state of the st group has an 80 per cent stake in the firm executing the project, with the remainder held by the state. Starting from the 1950s, the several state Governments had floated tenders to redevelop Dharavi, but none took off. The redevelopment required leather goods to pottery and acquiring large tracts of ivestors to resettlement of rocal The current build modern utilities and redevelopment plan -- the state government's fourth

attempt via a global tender -- has made the most progress. The project aims to transform the slum, which is around the size of Monaco, into modern apartments, offices, and malls. Dharav started as an

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Anotorious gangster recently externed from Meerut district, tied the knot in Sikandrabad, a neighbouring town in Bulandshahr.

However, Salman who got married on Friday night will miss his own wedding reception, scheduled for November 26 in Meerut, due to the district ban imposed just a day before the 'nikah' (wedding).

prohibition of a prisoner from residing in any specified area or locality for

Externment

a specified period. Sikandrabad Station House Officer (SHO) Ravi Ratan Singh, when asked about the wedding in Bulandshahr district, feigned ignorance. "We have no information about Salman's marriage,' he said. Salman's brother, Aamir, however told PTI that the 'nikah' happened on Friday around 11 PM. "The walima (wedding reception) will take place at Castle View Mandap in Meerut, but Salman will not attend because of the district ban. The bride's family will bring her to the reception," he



police and administrative officials arrived at their home on Thursday to deliver the district ban notice, leaving the family no time to respond. "We were not given any prior notice about Salman's expulsion. Had we been informed earlier, we could have presented our case in court. But this sudden action has left us helpless," he said.

The brother added that Salman has been living in Delhi for the past six months, working in the crockery business. "Over the last five years, no new cases have been registered against Salman. Despite this, the administration took a action," Aamir

Salman, a resident of Ismail Aamir also alleged that Nagar, had previously been Ashutosh Kumar said.

booked under the Goonda Act administration. Thursday,

administration banned him from entering Meerut for six months. The Kotwali police pasted the notice at his home the same day. Salman had been released on

bail six months ago and had since shifted to Delhi. However, he managed to reach the bride's house in Sikandrabad quietly before the wedding. Meanwhile, police have upped vigilance for the reception ceremony. "Police teams in uniform and plain clothes will monitor the walima and Salman's activities. If he enters Meerut, further action will be taken," Circle Officer (Kotwali Meerut)

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In a boost to the ruling Congress in Karnataka, the party on Saturday swept the by-polls to three Assembly segments, causing a major setback to the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the state. The Congress has retained Sandur, the seat considered to be its strong hold, and has also bagged Shiggaon and Channapatna segments, which were earlier held by BJP and JD(S) respectively.

The November 13 by-polls to Shiggaon Sandur, Channapatna Assembly segments had witnessed a fierce fight between the ruling Congress and a combative BJP-JD(S) alliance. The bypolls to Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna

necessitated as the seats fell vacant following the election their respective representatives -- E Tukaram of Congress, former CM Basavaraj Bommai of BJP, and Minister Kumaraswamy of JD(S) to Lok Sabha in May elections. The by-polls witnessed a straight fight between the ruling Congress and BJP in Sandur and Shiggaon

on the grand old party. Congress' C P Yogeeshwara won the Channapatna segment, defeating JD(S) candidate

Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy, by a margin of 25,413 votes. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai's son Bharath Bommai of BJP faced defeat against Congress' Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan in Ahmed Khan Pathan in Shiggaon Assembly segment by a margin of 13,448 votes.

In Sandur, Congress candidate E Annapoorna, the wife of Bellary MP E Tukaram, won the seat vacated by her husband, by a margin of 9,649 votes. Congress' win in the bypoll is seen as an endorsement of both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar's leadership, the government's programmes, especially the five guarantee schemes. Nikhil Kumaraswamy and Bharath Bommai, the third generation of Gowda and Bommai family respectively, who contested this bypolls, have lost. Their fathers and grandfathers had served as Karnataka's Chief

Ministers in the past. While for Bharath Bommai this was his electoral debut, for Nikhil it was his third electoral loss. Among the three segments, Channapatna segments, while in Channapatna, JD(S) which is part of the NDA alliance took was considered to be a high profile battle, where the

contest was between C P Yogeeshwara and actorturned-politician Kumaraswamy. A five-time MLA from the segment and a former Minister, Yogeeshwara had joined the Congress after quitting BJP ahead of nomination. There were plans to field Yogeeshwara on a JD(S) ticket, but he was not interested in it, and instead wanted Kumaraswamy to support him as BJP candidate. This was not acceptable to Kumaraswamy and his party, following which Yogeeshwara jumped ship. However, Kumaraswamy had

subsequently said he had to Yogeeshwara agreed contesting from BJP, and despite that he jumped ship to Congress, under the influence of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and his brother and former MP D K Suresh. Nikhil had faced defeat in 2019 Lok Sabha and 2023 Assembly polls. It is seen as a setback for Kumaraswamy too, as he could not ensure son's win from the Channapatna, the seat he had twice represented in the past. Congress' win is crucial for Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress chief and his brother Suresh to strengthen their position in their home district of Ramanagara, a

Vokkaliga heartland.

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

PTI SULTANPUR (UP)

The hearing in a defamation case against Congress leader and Rae Bareli MP Rahul Gandhi was postponed on Saturday due to a legal workshop being organised at the civil court here, according to a lawyer. The special MP-MLA court has now scheduled the next hearing for December 4, said Santosh Kumar Pandey, the

Vijay Mishra. The case was filed in 2018 by Mishra, a local BJP politician, who alleged that during the Karnataka assembly election campaign, Gandhi had made objectionable remarks against BJP leader Amit Shah.

legal counsel of the plaintiff

Over the past five years, the case has seen significant delays. In December 2023, the presiding judge issued a warrant for Rahul Gandhi after he failed to appear in court. In February 2024, he finally appeared and was granted bail on two bonds of

The court later summoned him to record his statement. After multiple adjournments, Rahul Gandhi appeared on July 26, 2024, where he recorded his statement, declared his innocence, and called the case a "political

Rs 25,000 each.

conspiracy." Following this, the court instructed the complainant to submit evidence.

Since then, the case has been repeatedly postponed for various reasons, including the absence of judges, health issues of the complainant, and administrative reasons such as a medical camp organised

by the Bar Association and

Diwali vacations. complainant had previously submitted an application citing his ill health multiple occasions, leading to adjournments on several hearing dates, including October 1 and

October 9. On October 9, Gandhi's lawyer Kashi Prasad Shukla cross-examined Mishra, during which he also submitted evidence. However, further hearings were delayed as the presiding judge was on leave on October 17, and October 31 was a holiday for

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

#### Diplomats push for ceasefire

**AP** ■ BEIRUT

 $\mathbf{I}$ sraeli airstrikes Saturday killed at least 11 people and injured dozens in central Beirut, officials said, as diplomats scrambled to broker a ceasefire. Lebanon's Health Ministry said the death toll could rise as emergency responders dug through the rubble looking for survivors. DNA tests are being used to identify the victims, it said, adding that 63 people were wounded.

The strikes were the fourth in the Lebanese capital in less than a week. The escalation comes after US envoy Amos Hochstein traveled to the region this week in an attempt to broker a cease-fire deal to end the more than 13 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which has erupted into full-on war in the past two months.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE Tis to inform to the public at large that Mr. Ashok Kharbanda who wants to purchase the Housebaring no. 1224, area measuring 48.375 Sq. Meters, Situated at Sector-7 Extn., Residential colony to be Known as Urban Estate, Tehsil and Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana from Mr. Narendra Kumar owner vide Sale Deed dated 14.10.2004 (vide Doc. No. 14693) executed by Mr. Sanjay Arya and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. That, (1) Original Possession Certificate in favour of Mr. Sanjay Dudeja, (3) Original WILL in favour of Mr. Sanjay Dudeja, (3) Original Conveyance Deed dated 17.11.2003 (Vide Document No.11029) in favour of Mr. Kulbir Mohan ntrough GPA Mr. Sanjay Dudeja, (5) Original Transfer Letter in favour of Mr. Sanjay Arya are lost/not available. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienete.

Lucem Legal LLP B-38, Second Folor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301Contact#6120-4269378

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed through this notice that I, Inderjit Sharma S/O. Vaid Shr Mulakh Raj Sharma R/O. 524, Pocket No.2 Paschim Puri, Madipur, Delhi and GPA of Shr Ghansham Singh S/O. Shri Asa Ram R/O 525, Pocket No.2 Paschim Puri, Madipu Delhi, has lost the original documents is Demand letter, confirmation letter and th possession slip, handed over to me by Sh Ghansham Singh on account of sale of said Flat to me in the year 1977. Anybody who find or gets to locate or trace the said documents is above name and address.

Notice is hereby given that my client Ram, if Gupta is in process to purchase the Property Bearing No. 306, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., Situated in the area of Village Sindhor A khurd, in the abadi Known as Gali Mo. 2. Than Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat, Delhi-110005 (availing loan from PCHFL) from Naginder Singh, having acquired the said property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 15/10/2024 (Document No. 2024/19/II/12208) executed by Virender Kumar Singh Malik, Jitender Singh Malik, Sartat Dhaiya and Anits All personis having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, assement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supparting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, falling which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Valshali, Gbt, U.P., Mob. 9810063351 PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sonika has acquired Portion bearing Pvt. no. G-4, on Ground Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 900 sq. fts., built on Old Property bearing nos. 659 and New No. 659/3, area measuring 350 sq. yds., comprising of Khassra no. 659, situated at village Devil, New Delhi 110080 by way Sale Deed dated 27.08.2021, Docno. 5983. Docino, 5983. Documents related to the above said propert

Documents related to the above said properly has been misplaced it.e. Original Sale Deed dated 27.08.2021 executed by Mr. Sanjnay Kaushik in favour of Mrs. Sonika in respect of the above Said Properly, registered as Documen No. 5983. anyone who find the said documents shall handcover the same to the Manager or Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd. Office Address Office No. 167-169, 3rd Floor, Little Mount Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015 or handover the same to Mrs. Sonika Wio. Deepak Kumar Rio House No. 1036, in Blook B, Amarnagar, New Tilpat Colony, Faridabad, Haryana – 121003. Tilpat Colony, Faridabad, Haryana – 12100 Contact: +91-8860334483 or +91-9582727587

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

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

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer Akasa Finance Limited (formerly known as Pooja Finlease Ltd.), under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 1th December 2023, calling upon the addressees to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs. 707, 45,808/Ruppess Seven Crors Seven Lakhs Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Only) due as on 18th October, 2023 along with further interest at contractual rate within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The said borrower, co-borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, co-borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 21st Day of November of the year 2024. The attention of borrower, co-borrower and mortgagor is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets within 30 days from the date of the present possession notice. The borrower/mortgagor/Guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Akasa Finance Limited, for the amount of Rs. 7.07, 45,808/-(Rupees Seven Crore Seven Cr

Date: 21 NOV, 2024

CPM/GSU/Maligaor

L-1/5 & 6

10th Feb 2024 with further interest at contractual rate and with future costs and charges thereon. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/SECURED ASSET WITH OTHER DETAILS:

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

#### **BUILDING INTO RUBBLE**

The strikes at 4 am destroyed an eight-story building and left a crater in the ground. Also on Saturday, a drone strike killed one person and injured another in the southern port city of Tyre, according to the state-run National News Agency.

The agency said the victims were fishermen. An Associated Press journalist, who saw the strike from a nearby hotel overlooking the beach, said he had watched the fishermen set up nets beforehand and both appeared to be young teenagers. Israel's military did not issue a warning for residents prior to the strikes in central Beirut and did not comment on the casualties. It warned residents Saturday in parts of Beirut's southern suburbs that they were residing near Hezbollah facilities, which the army would target in the near future. The warning, posted on X, told people to evacuate at least 500 metres (yards) away. The army said that over the past day it had conducted intelligencebased strikes on Hezbollah targets in Dahiyeh, in Beirut's

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

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

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

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



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

has caused heavy destruction across wide areas of the coastal territory, leading many to wonder when or how it will ever be rebuilt. Around 90 per cent of the population of  $\bar{2}$ .3 million people has been displaced, often multiple times, and hundreds of thousands are living in squalid tent camps with little food, water or basic services. The United Nations humani tarian office warned of a "stark increase" in the number of

households experiencing severe hunger in central and southern Gaza. In Deir al-Balah, local bakeries shut down for five days this week and the price of a bag of bread climbed above USD 13, as bread and flour vanished from shelves before more supplies arrived.

At least two women were fatally shot on Saturday while waiting in a line for bread in the city, relatives and witnesses

### ICC issues arrest warrant for Netanyahu over 'war crimes'

Conversation):

International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence minister, Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leader, Mohammed Deif.

The court claims both sides have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes from the day Hamas attacked Israel on October 7 onwards.

Although a warrant was issued for Deif, Israel has said he was killed in an air strike in July. But Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this claim. If they were ever to be judged at the ICC, a conviction is conceivable. The charges of the court against Netanyahu are severe. The three-judge panel unanimously said that he and Gallant are "co-perpetrators for committing the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare, and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts".

The judges also "found reasonable grounds to believe that they bear criminal responsibil-... "for the war crime of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population". The charges are also backed by the work of the International Court of Justice, recent visit to Mongolia, a which has found that it is "plausible" that Israel has committed acts in Gaza that violate the Genocide Convention If arrested, Netanyahu would

go through a trial, and he could then be acquitted, or convicted. In the latter case, Netanyahu

would join the ranks of leaders considered perpetrators of crimes against humanity, such as Charles Taylor of Liberia, Hissène Habré of Chad, Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Augusto Pinochet of Chile, Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia Radovan Karad⊠ic of Serbia, Idi Amin of Uganda, Pol Pot of Cambodia, Joseph Stalin of the former Soviet Union, Mao Zedong of China, and Adolf Hitler of Germany.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The arrest warrants rely on ICC member states carrying them out. And this is by no means a foregone conclusion. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, has been wanted by the court since 2023 for his role in directing attacks at civilians in Ukraine and illegal deportastate that is party to the ICC, after the Mongolian authorities had assured him he would be safe. That said, he was unable to travel to South Africa when leaders from the Brics economic bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa met in Johannesburg in This was due to the experience in South Africa of former Sudanese president, Omar Al-

Bashir. Bashir, for whom the ICC granted arrest warrants in 2009 and 2010 for allegedly directing a campaign of mass killing, rape and pillage against civilians in Darfur, travelled to South Africa in 2015 to attend an African Union summit. But he had to leave abruptly for fear of arrest. South Africa's Supreme Court

of Appeal ruled in 2016 that the government's failure to arrest him was unlawful. And the ICC ruled against South Africa on its "shameful failure" to arrest Bashir the following vear. He was also able to travel freely to other ICC member states, including Chad, Kenya and Jordan.

### ATHE PIONEER A

#### **CHANGE OF NAME**

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

PD(961)A

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

PD(962)C I, Arun Bajpai Mother of- JC-709135P Nb/Sub Satish Kumar, R/o- Vill- Ghatampur Khurd, Post+Teh- Bighapur

Patan, Dist- Unnao, U.P.-209865, have changed my name from Arun Bajpai to Arun Kumari, vide affidavit dated 23/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(963)C

I, hitherto known as Chandra Kanta W/o- Late Manohar Lal, R/o- Near Hanuman Mandir, D - 11, Maya Vihar Nangal Raya, Janak Puri South West Delhi-110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rani Chander PD(964)C

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

PD(965)A

Public Notice This is to inform the general public that Bank

ne mortgage.

बैंक ऑफ़ बडौदा

शाखा SSI Kundli.

Mob. 8398000988

of Baroda SSI Kundli branch intends to tanding in the name of Mr. Deepak Singla o Mr. Devki Nandan Singla as a security or a loan/credit facility requested by M/s J.E abrics proprietor Mr. Deepak Singla. In ase anyone has got any right / title / interes claims over the under mentioned property ney are advised to approach the Bank withir 05 days along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim. If no response is eceived within 05 days, it is presumed that he property is free of any charge / claim ncumbrance and Bark shall proceed with ne mortgage.

etails of Property: Entire third floor with al ts roof rights out of property bearing no. C-2/2/1, Land underneath, situated in the yout plan of Pankha Road, residential heme, Known as Janakpuri, New Delhi dmeasuring 270 Sq. Mtrs in the name of Mr. Deepak Singla s/o Mr. Devki Nandar ingla.

Shri Rajnish
Karki S/o ShriJ.S
dated 5
Ground Floor erected on LNPA
Mortgagor)

Ne w De Ini-110.01.6
DateAddendum admeasuring 625 sq. yards.
Lo a n East: Plot No. L-1/14, 15 & Agree-ment I6, West: Plot No. L-1/15 & 6, 01.12.2003

Mortgagor)

Rajnish Karki
Mortgagor)

This work of the mount of the second o शाखा प्रबंधक बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Feb 2024 for Akasa Finance Limited गाखा SSI Kundli.

अधिवक्त

#### Pakhtunkhwa province damaged in the fighting and people from various villages have fled to safer locations. All educational institutions in the

At least 37 people have been killed and over two dozen others injured in tribal sectarian violence in northwest Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during the last 24 hours, police said on Saturday. The clashes between Alizai and Bagan tribes in Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan, took place following Thursday's attack on a convoy of passenger vans near Parachinar in which 47 people were killed. Top ranking officials from the administration and police have rushed to the area in a helicopter.

"At least 37 are dead as at now (but) the death toll is still rising," an official tasked with collecting details of the carnage told the media here.

More than 30 people are injured, he added. The tribes are targeting each other with heavy and automatic weapons,

Homes and shops have been **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

I, ABDUL BASAR son of Sameeruddin R/o House no. CN-262, Meerdard Lane, Near 64 Knamba Basti, Takiya Kle Khan I.P.Estate, Delhi-110002 that I am the owner of some valuable, immoveable and moveable properties in which all my family members have the right to inheritance, Due to some reasons, I consequently will fully and willingly without any pressure disown my son Shuhiab and his wife Umm Mahima and his family From the right of inheritance and sale of valuable, immoveable and moveable properties that with immediate

and moveable properties that with immediate effect I and other family members does not have

any relation with Shuhiab and his wife Umm Mahima and his family.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Bank

f Baroda SSI Kundli branch intends to

accept the under mentioned properties

roprietor Mr. Deepak Singla S/o Devki

landan Singla as a security for a loan/ credit

icility requested by M/s JB Fabrics

roprietor Mr. Deepak Singla. In case

nyone has got any right / title / interest

aims over the under mentioned property

ney are advised to approach the Bank within

5 days along with necessary proof to

ubstantiate their claim. If no response is

eceived within 05 days, it is presumed that

he property is free of any charge / claim

ncumbrance and Bank shall proceed with

etails of Property: Industrial plot bearing

no. G-40. Sector- D1 (P-3), Loni, Ghazibad

कुलदीप परमार

Mob. 9812055855

IP admeasuring 8209.98 sq mtrs.

district remained closed on Saturday, confirmed Muhammad Hayat Hassan, chairman of the Private

Education Network.

showed at least six bodies of the attackers and some charred bodies of the victims. Police also said that there were reports of six women taken as captives but "due to limited connectivity, information and communication is scant to ascertain anything more.

Videos shared from the area

continued in Gunfire Balishkhel, Khar Kali, Kunj Alizai and Maqbal through the day, police said, adding, currently there is intermittent firing from at least three areas in the district, while the Thall-Sada-Parachinar Highway remained closed from traffic towards Kohat district.

force peace in the volatile region, communication from

the elders of both the triba sects suggested further intensified attacks. A high-level government delegation comprising Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Minister, Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police, has departed for Kurram tribal district by helicopter, officials said.

The delegation aims to calm the security situation in the district which has been marred by extreme sectarian violence. Tribal leaders have expressed deep concerns as for the past one and a half months, they had been demanding the gov ernment to ensure safe travel for common citizens. Two weeks ago, more than

1,00,000 people participated in a peace march to reopen and secure the main highway, after which the government assured them of safe convoys. In September, more than 50 people were killed and 120 others injured in clashes spread over tht days between Sunni tribes over a piece of land in Kurram district.

### 37 killed in Pak's Khyber | Multiple cases against Bushra for remarks on Saudi Arabia controversy due to the indirect reference towards Saudi Arabia's

Multiple cases have been registered in Punjab province of Pakistan against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi for allegedly speaking against Saudi Arabia, officials said here on Saturday. At least four cases were registered against Bushra Bibi under the Telegraph Act of 1885 and other provisions on the complaint of citizens who blamed her for inciting religious hatred, misleading the public and attacking a brotherly country, Saudi Arabia, officials said.

In a video statement, Bushra Bibi said Khan's problems began when he visited Madina and was seen coming out of his plane without shoes.

She claimed then army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa received calls after the incident. "Soon after Khan's return, Bajwa started getting calls 'Ye tum kya utha key laa aaye ho (whom haye you brought)? We are ending the system in this count you have brought promoters of Sharia," she said, referring to Islamabad but instead kicked up

Khan's September 2018 visit, in the video released on Thursday. Incarcerated at the Adiala Jail since last year, Khan, 72, howeyer. defended his wife on Friday and said she "did not mention Saudi Arabia at all" in the video hours after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa flayed Bushra Bibi over her comments. These multiple cases were registered in Dera Ghazi Khan, Guiranwala, Multan, Rajanpur and Muzaffarghar districts of Punjab after Prime Minister Sharif criticised Bushra Bibi on Friday. As the controversy heated up the political atmosphere in the country, Sharif and many other leaders and ministers from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) said strong action will be taken against those trying to sabotage Pak-Saudi relationship.

The video was meant to motivate supporters of Khan's Pakistan join the protest on Sunday in

father, former President

Rodrigo Duterte, the vice pres-

ident became a vocal critic of

Marcos, his wife Liza Araneta-

Marcos and House Speaker

Martin Romualdez, the presi-

dent's ally and cousin, accusing

them of corruption, incompe-

tence and politically persecut-

ing the Duterte family and its

Her latest tirade was set off by

the decision by House mem-

bers allied with Romualdez

and Marcos to detain her chief

ry sessions in 2026 and 2027,

and three-week negotiating ses-

close supporters.

biggest supporters helping it tide over the economic crisis However, in the 9:27-minute video, which is also available on

alleged role in his ouster from

power. Saudi Arabia and China

have been two of Pakistan's

eek-e-Insaf (PTI) party to

PTI's official X handle, Bushra Biwi did not name any country. Apart from defending his wife, Khan - in a post on PTI's official X account, also asserted that his government's downfall was orchestrated by Bajwa and accused him of preventing investigations into the alleged conspiracy. Prime Minister Sharif, while addressing a ceremony at Islamabad on Friday, warned the propaganda targeting Saudi Arabia was against the national interest. "A statement has come out yesterday, which I think there can be no greater enmity against Pakistan than this that you spew venom against the country that has never demanded anything in return and always said in an apparent reference to

Pak's spl coin to mark Guru Nanak's 555th

Bushra Bibi's remarks.

birth anniv Lahore (PTI): Pakistan has issued a commemorative coin to mark Guru Nanak's 555th birth anniversary as more than 2,500 Indian Sikhs pilgrims who were here to attend the special occa-

sion departed for their homes on Saturday. The celebrations to mark the 555th birth anniversary – which was on November 14 — started last week at the Gurdwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib where the founder of Sikh religion was born. Sikh pilgrims from all over the world, including from India, participated in

the religious rituals at the gurdwara, about 100-odd km from The special commemorative coin of PKR 55 denomination

has on one side a picture of Gurdwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib and '555th Birthday Celebrations' and 'SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI 1469-2024' written above and below it respectively. "On the obverse side, there is the crescent moon and five-pointed star facing north-west in a rising position in the centre. Along the periphery on the top are inscribed 'Islami Jamhuria Pakistan' in Urdu (Islamic Republic of Pakistan) and below the crescent are two springs of wheat with arms curved upward." According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the coin —- released

on Friday — consists of 79 per cent brass, 20 per cent zinc and l per cent nickel; measures 30mm in diameter and weighs 13.5 grams. This commemorative coin will be available at exchange counters across all branches of State Bank of Pakistan, the bank said.

#### S Korea won't attend Sado mines memorial event in Japan

Seoul (AP): South Korea's government said Saturday it will not attend a memorial service near Japan's Sado Island Gold Mines due to disagreements with Tokyo over the event, which stirred longstanding tensions over the abuse of Korean forced labourers at the site before the end of World War II. The decision marked a rare

display of friction between the countries since the 2022 inauguration of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. Yoon has prioritised improving relations with Japan following years of disputes over their bitter history and solidifying three-way security cooperation with Washington to counter North Korean nuclear threats but has faced accusations at home that he was neglecting the suffering of Korean survivors.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement it was impossible to settle the disagreements between both governments before the planned event near the mines on Sunday.

Masashi Mizobuchi, assistant press secretary at Japan's Foreign Ministry, called the South Korean decision "disappointing." He said Japan has thoroughly communicated with the South Korean side, but declined to comment on details of the diplomatic exchanges. Some South Koreans had criticised Yoon's government for throwing its support behind an event without securing a clear Japanese commitment to highlight the plight of Korean labourers.

#### **Philippine vice president threatens** to have president assassinated brazenly in public," a national security issue. The security Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte said Saturday

she has contracted an assassin to kill the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker if she herself is killed, in a brazen public threat that she warned was not a joke.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin referred the "active threat" against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to an elite presidential guards force "for immediate proper action". It was not immediately clear what actions would be taken against the vice president.

The Presidential Security Command immediately boosted Marcos' security and said it considered the vice president's threat, which was "made so

force said it was "coordinating with law enforcement agencies to detect, deter, and defend against any and all threats to the president and the first family". Marcos ran with Duterte as his vice-presidential running mate in the May 2022 elections and both won with landslide victories on a campaign call of national unity. The two leaders and their camps, however, rapidly had a bitter falling-out over key differences, including in their approaches to China's aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea. Duterte resigned from the Marcos Cabinet in June as education secretary and head of an antiinsurgency body. Like her equally outspoken

of staff, Zuleika Lopez, who was accused of hampering a congressional inquiry into the possible misuse of her budget as vice president and education secretary. Lopez was later transferred to a hospital after falling ill and wept when she heard of a plan to temporarily lock her up in a women's prison.

UN motion paves way for first-ever treaty on crimes against humanity bound process with preparato-

man of the committee gaveled

**AP** UNITED NATIONS

key UN General Assembly Acommittee adopted a resolution late Friday paving the way for negotiations on a first-ever treaty on preventing and punishing crimes against humanity after Russia dropped amendments that would have derailed the effort.

The resolution was approved by consensus by the assembly's legal committee, which includes all 193-member UN nations, after tense last-minute negotiations between its supporters and Russia that dragged through the day. There was loud applause when the chair-

the resolution's approval. It is virtually certain to be adopted when the General Assembly puts it to a final vote on Dec 4. Today's agreement to start up negotiations on a much-need ed international treaty is an historic achievement that was a long time coming," Richard Dicker, Human Rights Watch's senior legal adviser for advocacy, told The Associated Press. "It sends a crucial message that impunity for the kinds of crimes inflicted on civilians in Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, southern Israel, Gaza and Myanmar will not go unheeded," he said.

convention," Zabolotskaya told

The resolution calls for a time-

sions in 2028 and 2029 to finalize a treaty on crimes against humanity. Dicker said Russia's proposed amendments left in question whether treaty negotiations would have been completed. Russia's deputy UN ambassador Maria Zabolotskaya said Russia withdrew the amendments "in a spirit of compromise." But she said Russia "dissociates itself from consensus". "This, of course, does not mean that we are not ready to work on this crucial

the committee.

# Team India take commanding 218-run lead against Australia

combined awareness with perfect shot selection while KL Rahul remained technically unflappable in an unbroken opening stand of 172 as India looked set to bat Australia out of the match with an overall lead of 218 runs on the second day of the opening Test here. After skipper ]

Jasprit Bumrah's game-changing
11th five-wicket haul
decimated Australia for 104,
young Jaiswal (90 batting, 193 balls) and seasoned Rahul (62 batting, 154 balls) decided to grind it out with some old fashioned Test match batting by waiting for the loose deliveries and respecting good bowling.

The Indians showed their compact defense by scoring 88 runs in 31 overs during the post-tea session as Jaiswal inched towards a coveted ton on his maiden outing on Australian soil.

With enough time at their disposal and signs of cracks appearing on the surface,

this is going to be India's Test match to lose. The way Rahul wore down

the Australian attack was a sight to behold. There was no chatter from the slip cordon and at one point, the stitches of the Kookaburra came out.

The live grass died by the second afternoon and the seam movement also went out of equation making batting easier.

But no one can take away any credit from the two who were hardly troubled except for a mix-up that could have led to Rahul's run-out.

Jaiswal also showed that he had learnt his lessons from the first innings and curbed his urge to drive on the up initially, which was the best part about his batting. Each of his seven fours and two sixes were well-executed shots.

Once he had defended enough deliveries, the Australian pacers didn't have any option but to try either short or full length which he utilised well.

The whip over mid-wicket to the pacer by telling him "you current generation of Indian hit Starc for one-bounce four are slow," spoke volumes and then induce a grin from about how fearless the



cricketers is.

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

called the shot of the match

Jaiswal put in a big stride forward while driving Mitchell Starc through covers apart from getting under the bounce and

playing the ramp shot. In case of Rahul, he kept a very loose bottom-hand and that helped with the deliveries, even the ones that took the thickish edge only to fall way in front of the slip cordon.

There was a spell of play in the post-tea session when Indians were kept quiet by Nathan Lyon but neither Jaiswal nor Rahul ran out of patience. Jaiswal's half-century came off 123 balls, his slowest in 15 Tests and spoke volumes about his adaptability. For Rahul, it was about

forgetting the unfortunate dismissal on Friday and concentrate, which he did splendidly.

Āny target above 300 would be very difficult to chase on this track and Washington Sundar can come into play if those cracks open up, not to forget the three quicks who can use the variable bounce to good effect.

captain Bumrah deservedly got his 11th five-wicket haul while debutant Harshit Rana bowled a fiery opening spell to dismiss the hosts for 104 at the stroke of lunch despite a stiff last-wicket resistance from Mitchell Starc and Josh

Hazlewood. Starc (26 off 113 balls) shielded Hazlewood (7 not out off 31 balls) admirably during their 25-run lastwicket stand that lasted 18

The day began with Bumrah (5/30 in 18 overs) getting one to rear up from back of the length and Carey's edge carried at a good height to Rishabh Pant behind stumps. The skipper's celebration was understated as he purposefully strode back to his bowling mark even before Nathan Lyon had arrived. At the other end, the burly Harshit Rana (3/48 in 15.2 overs) carried on from where he had left off on the

opening day. The rookie speedster used more short balls, and one such well-directed delivery accounted for Lyon, who was

pouched at gully by KL Rahul.



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's hockey chief coach Harendra Singh says fastrising striker Deepika has the potential to be a brilliant drag-flicker as well and helping her realise that potential will be one of his primary targets along with fitness levels never fall on his

Unlike most dragflickers in the world, who are defenders, Deepika is a striker and showed her brilliance with field goals in the recentlyconcluded Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, Bihar.

She emerged as the highest goal-scorer tournament with 11 mostly field efforts.

"I am not concerned about PCs because I know we are working and we are going to eradicate this problem very soon. I know we are looking at instant coffee from Deepika but I am sure I will make her one of the best drag-flickers of the world in women's hockey just like I made Harman," Harendra told PTI in an exclusive interview referring to his stint with men's team and the work done with its star captain Harmanpreet Singh.

time, she is just 21.

She has already become a star. She is a good scorer from field play, and she will become a very good drag-flicker as well," he said. Harendra described Deepika as "special" but he said her

approach to drag-flick needs to be work on.

get the results," he said. Mentality matters and her

mentality has changed and she wants to be the best player. But it's always a process, we can't jump so fast. I am working on small details with her"

The chief coach, however, was satisfied with the performance of the players in the ACT and said it is just the first step towards his mission for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"Whatever was the target, we have achieved but there are a lot of things which we need to achieve. We have improved on our attacking style, defence and circle penetrations. Whatever we took shots on goals were

quality ones. "Paris is past...There was no point sitting and crying over it, rather it was important to move forward and work or

improve," he said.
"We had one-on-one fruitful meetings with the players where we got in-depth details on all aspects and made a chart about what needs to be done and worked on what was in our hands."

Fitness is one area which Harendra had emphasised on since taking over in April this vear and with the results although he feels there is still scope for improvement.

"The icing in the cake was the one-week camp in the INA (Indian Naval Academy) which Hockey India provided us. It played big role in teambuilding and team unity. But to be frank the journey has just started, we can't be happy," he said.

happy, ne said.
"Fitness is the biggest concern. The first day I joined, I made it clear that whoever you may be, how bigger players you might be but if you are not fit you won't be part of the side. Whoever is not fit can't board this bus, this was my clear directive." Harendra said his vision is LA 2028 and earning a direct

ticket to the quadrennial event through the World 20 overs. In the process, he also became the first Indian male cricketer to score a move forward and work on and the Asian Games in the areas where we needed to Japan, both in 2026.

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

Harshit Rana's meteoric rise might have come as a surprise to many but not his coach in his formative years, NS Negi, who has seen the strapping youngster mature into a pacer with the "potential to become a multi-format bowler for India.'

Starting as a net bowler with Gujarat Titans in 2022, Harshit played a key role in guiding Kolkata Knight Riders to IPL glory in 2024, and announced his arrival on the international stage with a dream debut in the opening Border-Gavaskar Test at Perth, where he returned figures of 48 for 3 in the

first innings.

Negi, Harshit's coach from his U19
days in Delhi, couldn't hide his joy on seeing his ward's exploits on a bouncy and seaming Perth pitch.

"Harshit is a very talented bowler. He had been bowling extremely well in the last two seasons of the Ranji



fielding coach of the Delhi Ranji team, he made his debut and bowled extremely well.

"It is just the beginning; he is one such player who should go on and play at least 70-80 Test matches for India... In fact he should go on and play all three formats for India," Negi told PTI Videos in an interview.

Rana inclusion in the side raised many Trophy. Last year, when I was the eyebrows given the fact that he had just 10-odd first-class games under his belt. But Negi felt this was the right time to debut him in Tests given his

Mayank (Yadav) and Harshit in the team, they were both very raw but promising. I just hope that he amazing bowling statistics. In 10 first-class matches, Harshit has

taken 43 wickets at 24.00 and has an impressive batting average of 42.63, including a blazing unbeaten 122 against North-East Zone. Negi and Rana met in 2018 when the fast bowler was selected to play for the

Delhi U19 team. Negi, who has also been associated as a fielding coach with Gujarat Titans in the IPL, said that Harshit always had the drive to bowl fast but gradual improvements in fitness played a big role in his "In 2018, when I was the head coach of the Delhi U19 team, I noted that he

had a very smooth action and a good rhythm. He could bat well. He worked on his fitness and pace and gradually improved as a bowler.

"The most important thing is that he is a fighter. When I first picked

continues to work on his fitness and gradually keeps increasing his pace," said Negi. Negi believes that Harshit has the ability to come good with the bat lower down the order. His advice to the youngster is to learn as much as possible from pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and keep bowling to his strengths to succeed in international

"He is a good batter as well and in the coming years may perform well with the bat as well. He is someone who can easily score 30-40 odd runs batting lower down the order for India.

"Harshit should keep a check on his fitness and try to learn a lot from the modern-day legend, Jasprit Bumrah. He just needs to back his strengths while bowling and that will help him succeed in the international cricket... He has the talent, bounce and pace",

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

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

Tilak Varma became the first batter ever to notch three successive hundreds in T20s, while Shrevas Iver underlined his credentials with a smooth century ahead of the IPL mega auction, as the two Indian batters hogged the limelight in the first round of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy on Saturday.

In a Group A match, Tilak, who made hundreds recently against South Africa at Centurion and Johannesburg, added one more three-figure knock to the list against Meghalaya in Rajkot.

The left-hander made 151 off just 67 balls with 14 fours and 10 sixes to guide Hyderabad to 248 for four in

150-plus score in T20s.

Arunachal Pradesh in the senior Women's T20 Trophy in 2022. India woman batter Kiran Navigere had made a 162 for Nagaland against Opener Tanmay Agarwal supported his skipper Tilak with a 55 off 23 Thyagarajan shared seven wickets among them as Hyderabad bundled



Anikethreddy and out their rivals for 69 to celebrate a massive 179-run victory

Shreyas shines Shreyas, who was released by Kolkata Knight Riders despite leading them to the IPL 2024 title, made a timely reminder about his skills with an unbeaten 57-ball 130 (11x4, 10x6) for Mumbai against

Goa in a Group E match.
Shreyas' hundred led Mumbai to 250
for four, but Goa made a spirited
chase before ending up at 224 for eight, going down by 26 runs. Suyash Prabhudesai was their top-

scorer with a 52 off 36 balls.

Brief scores Hyderabad 248/4; 20 overs (Tilak

Verma 151, Tanmay Agarwal 55) beat Meghalaya: 69; 15.1 overs (G Anikethreddy 4/11, Tanay Thyagarajan 3/15) by 179 runs. Mumbai 250/4; 20 overs (Shreyas Iver 130 not out) beat Goa 224/8: 20 Iyer 130 not out) beat Goa 224/8; 20 overs (Suyash Prabhudesai 52, Vikash Singh 47 not out; Suyansh Shedge 2/18) by 26 runs.

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

PTI PERTH

The home team bowlers did The nome can be wrong but the pitch dried up quite quickly at the Optus stadium on the second day, eventually helping the Indian batters, reckons Australia head coach Andrew McDonald.

India openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (90) and KL Rahul Yashasvi (62) frustrated the hosts with their dogged unbeaten 172-run stand that has put the game in firm control of the visitors, who now lead by 218

While the wickets fell in heap on the opening day with as many as 17 batters getting out, only three Australian tailenders were dismissed on the second day.

surface considerably dry today. It dried out fairly quickly," said McDonald during the post-

day press conference. "We thought there may have been a little bit more there. So, I suppose if you want to say that we were a little bit surprised, yeah, there wasn't

swing.
"The bowlers were presenting the seam in a similar fashion to they were yesterday. So I think the conditions may have had some say in that." McDonald said there was hardly any assistance for seam or swing, compared to the first day.

as much seam movement or

"If you look at the seam and swing, it was down comparative to yesterday. Yesterday was difficult work, I thought KL (Rahul) and Jaiswal played extremely well

"You need to ride your luck a little bit. Our guys got the balls in the right areas, and there was some plays and said.

misses as well, so anything can happen if you get some edges on that. It could be a totally different day, but I think the conditions have changed, I'll state that," he

"In terms of the way that we bowled, I don't think it was too dissimilar, potentially early on we may have been a fraction short, if it was to be critical, but I thought they went about their work well, it

could have been a different However, McDonald does not

think Australia do not stand a chance in the series-opener, pinning hopes on the nature of Test cricket that keeps both controlling the tempo of the unit when you get a look at a

the teams in hunt till the end. "You've got the driver's seat at the moment, but that's not to say that tomorrow can't change very quickly. Test cricket ebbs and flows, we've all been a part of a game when you've been well ahead of the game and it can twist and turn, so we've got to get to work on what it looks like for us tomorrow morning," he "It's about 20 odd overs to the

second new ball, we've got to work out a way to navigate through a few batters before that second new ball arrives and that could be our entry point back into the game." He though admitted that they

have to "get tactics right". If we're too aggressive then the scoreboard runs and then you put yourself right up against it. So it's a real combination about combination

game and creating opportunities within that." From the situation that India have batted themselves into, it is real a possibility that the hosts maybe looking at stiff chase of beyond 400 but McDonald would prefer not to look that far ahead.

"We're not looking that far ahead, we've got 10 wickets to take first, so that's our first focus. No, no targets, clearly 10 wickets to get, first priority,

then we'll move from there.' Talking about the frantic first day, the Australia coach admitted that it could be due to the nerves the players of both the teams felt due to the occasion. "No doubt both the teams

would have had some nerves

there leading into a big series,

so there might have been

he can learn some lessons from the first innings, like I think both teams' batters. "So he'll be the same in the nets this morning, working

wicket and then obviously your bowlers go about their work and you get a second up opportunity, I think it looks a

little bit different in terms of

your mindset, your knowing

what to expect and you can

McDonald also backed Marnus Labuschagne, who

consumed 52 balls for his two

'He's working his game as

hard as ever. There's no doubt

runs in the first innings.

work from there."

through what his method's going to be in the second innings. And clearly, your mindset changes based upon the conditions as well. So the game plan from the first some error on the back of that, but I think as a batting innings is going to look different from the second

# sunday pioneer



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

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

The plot meticulously recreates the harrowing events of the

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

adds depth to the media-focused narrative. The first half captivates audiences with its vivid storytelling and intricate character development. However, it is postintermission where the film takes a gripping turn, delving into the core of the investigative efforts to uncover the truth behind the train-burning case.

delivers a Vikrant Massey masterful performance as Samar Kumar, transitioning from an idealistic journalist to a relentless investigator with remarkable ease. His character's transformation is

riveting, offering a nuanced look at the challenges faced by those who dare to question authority. Raashii Khanna shines as Amrita Gill, a determined intern navigating the salted waters of media politics. Her journey alongside Samar not only drives the narrative forward but also marks a significant milestone in her acting career.

While the film boasts strong performances and a compelling storyline, it does falter slightly in its attempt to inject humour into serious moments, which at times feels forced and disrupts the

intensity. The background score, however, compensates effectively amplifying the gravity of each investigative sequence, adding a layer of immersion for

the audience. The Sabarmati Report follows in the footsteps of recent titles like The Kashmir Files and The Kerala Story of having hits and more profits. The film has a crafting a fiery and provocative narrative designed to resonate with viewers on an emotional level. However, it stands apart by striving to present a nuanced perspective on media

ethics, to take out the truth and the complex interplay of truth and

political agendas. With good performances which could have been improved while playing the characters, a thoughtprovoking storyline, and a reflection on the moral quandaries of journalism, The Sabarmati Report is a cinematic endeavour that not only entertains but also compels viewers to question the very fabric of truth and power in today's world.

RATING: 4/5









By SAKSHI PRIYA

hoppers Stop, one of India's premier destinations for fashion and lifestyle, recently destinations for tashion and lifestyle, recently unveiled its much-anticipated wedding collection with a show-stopping fashion event at Ambience Mall in Delhi. Choreographed by the renowned *Marc Robinson*, the runway was set ablaze with a stunning display of elegance, tradition and contemporary glamour, making it a night to remember for fashion enthusiasts and wedding planners alike.

The fashion show was a celebration of the multifaceted world of Indian weddings. With each look carefully curated to reflect the different stages of a wedding celebration, the show presented a variety of styles, from vibrant Haldi attire to intricate Mehendi looks. There were regal Wedding ensembles, striking Reception pieces and chic Cocktail attire that perfectly balanced tradition with modern aesthetics. The collection also included sophisticated outfits for Destination weddings, catering to the growing trend of weddings in exotic locales.

What truly stood out was the sheer attention to detail in every outfit. The models strutted down the runway in exquisitely crafted garments, flamboyant lehengas, royal sherwanis, and embellished sarees, each reflecting the intricacy of Indian craftsmanship. Rich fabrics such as silks, velvet and brocade were paired with delicate embroidery, beadwork and sequins, making the outfits feel both luxurious and timeless. The Haldi outfits in shades of yellow were a burst of joy, while the Wedding and Reception Wedding and Reception ensembles in regal reds and golds exuded grandeur

exuded grandeur and sophistication.
The choreography of the show also played a crucial role in

enhancing the storytelling of the evening. Each segment flowed effortlessly into the next, with the models movements reflecting the celebratory mood of the wedding journey. The beauty of the outfits was complemented by the elegant styling, with hair and makeup that ranged from soft, natural looks for Mehendi to bold and

glamorous statements for the Reception. Adding to the grandeur were the accessories statement jewellery, intricately designed clutches and shoes that perfectly matched the bridal looks. These final touches elevated the overall aesthetic, making each ensemble feel complete. The show wasn't just about clothes; it was about showcasing the essence of Indian wedding traditions with a modern twist.

Shoppers Stop's new wedding collection, available across its stores and online, is more than just a display of luxury fachions it is a display of luxury fashion; it is a celebration of every aspect of Indian weddings. From the first haldi ceremony to the grand reception, the collection offers something for every moment, ensuring that customers can find the perfect ensemble for every wedding occasion.

With over 500 premium brands to choose from, it has positioned itself as the ultimate destination wedding shopping, high-quality combining craftsmanship contemporary flair. The fashion show was an impressive showcase of the brand's dedication to providing stylish, accessible and diverse options for wedding wear.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

### Preserving India's Constitutional Legacy



ndia's political history is a tapestry of landmark events, judicial milestones, and moments that merit broader recognition. Yet, a significant portion of the population, including children, remains unaware of the profound influence the Constitution has on their lives. To bridge this gap, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has established Indias First Constitution Museum, inaugurated on

Saturday, at its *Sonipat* campus. The museum aims to deepen the understanding of the Constitution through diverse sections that highlight its historical significance and the pivotal debates shaping its formation. Designed to be a hub for education and reflection, the museum employs innovative approaches to engage visitors, offering a vivid narrative of the Constitution's 75-year journey.

Through interactive installations, cutting-edge technology, and AI-driven displays, the museum will bring history to life. Visitors will get to experience 3D installations, progressive displays, and guided tours powered by the S.A.M.V.I.D. Project, a collaboration between JGU and IIT Madras. This advanced language model enhances the visitor experience by providing in-depth insights into every exhibit, including profiles of Constituent Assembly members and their contributions.

The museum will integrate textual, audiovisual, and experiential formats, ensuring an engaging and immersive experience for all. Visitors can explore sections dedicated to each part of the Constitution, its evolution, and its

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



enduring significance. The Constitution Gardens would add an artistic dimension, with sculptures symbolising the core principles of liberty, equality, justice, and fraternity. Drawing inspiration from illustrated manuscripts and original excerpts, these artworks also celebrate India's geographical diversity while reflecting the unifying ethos of the Constitution.

A highlight of the museum is the art display featuring pieces from the original handcrafted document and artworks inspired by it. The museum will also house an archive of expert interviews exploring various aspects of the Constitution, making it an invaluable resource for scholars and enthusiasts alike.

As the first initiative of its kind at an educational institution, the *Constitution Museum* underscores JGU's commitment to integrating education, culture, and technology. Open to the public with free entry via appbased pre-registration, it promises to be a transformative space for growing constitutional awareness and pride in India's democratic heritage.

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

ucked on a road full of cafe's and eateries, between the streets of Greater Kailash II, the Melt House café invites you to step inside and have the essence of a cozy vibes like you feel on the mountains while enjoying inside.

The warm yellow colour mixed with brown, with bulbs hanging above the wooden tables, while the aroma of fresh ground coffee and wine mingles with the soft humming of acoustic music. *Melt House* is the kind of place where time seems to slow, promising a cozy experience with posters of coffee and scenic beauty giving you a beautiful time. From the dishes to the bar menu to malted milkshakes the Melt House caters everyone for

a quality time and quality treat.

Beginning with the grilled cheese speciality of the café, the Piri Piri Cottage Cheese Grilled Cheese sandwich is zesty containing pulled cottage cheese with onions, peppers, cheddar, mozzarella and American cheese. The Piri Piri Cottage Cheese Grilled Cheese sandwich gave a texture of firm and crunchy on the outside but the cheese enhanced the taste of the same.

After the mouth-watering sandwich, you can embrace yourself and order the flavourful Smoky Cajun Penne Alfredo under the Big Plates menu. Indulged with a luscious blend of butter, heavy cream, and freshly grated

Parmesan for that perfect creamy Alfredo sauce, the pasta with garlic bread will activate your taste buds.

If you are a pizza lover and a vegetarian, trying Burrata Margherita will be a delicious one. Bursting with vibrant, tangy flavour, balancing richness with just the right amount of acidity, Burrata Margherita is filled with Burrata cheese, red and yellow cherry tomato and fresh basil which will not be very visually

appealing but is tasty and soft.

Jumping into the small plates menu, Pink
Garlic Aioli Parmesan Truffle Fries with russet
potatoes cut into matchsticks with freshly grated Parmesan cheese, black truffle oil and mayonnaise for the aioli are moreish.

Reflecting on the history and the aura of the café Chef Rohit Negi said, "The Melt House hesically started from Curricum itself as an

basically started from Gurugram itself as an artisanal sandwich shop and then we have opened to big places having the speciality of cheese. There is the melted cheese concept we infuse in our dishes. Now, after we have all the totally cheesy flavours in our food, and we have differentiated it from any other restaurant you get on to. We have some Italian cuisine in it, and we have mixed it with cheese for the cheese lovers."

The café also has different offerings in Vodka, Tequila, Red Wines, White Wines, Gin and more. For the milkshake enthusiasts and the



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

the robust, aromatic essence of freshly brewed coffee for the caffeine kick.

This signals a shift towards indulgence, setting the stage for dessert as the grand finale. So, Nutella lovers assemble as the Chocochip Walnut Nutela is a treat that combines the richness of Nutella with the satisfying crunch of toasted walnuts and the delight of chocolate chips. Each bite bursts with soft and nutty layers of flavour, balanced

and nutty layers of flavour, balance perfectly by the sugar content. The ones looking for mouth watery chocolate and high sugar *Melt's Matilda Cake* is a decadent masterpiece that promises to satisfy even the most discerning sweet tooth. With its spongy layers of chocolate sponge, every bite melts effortlessly in your mouth, leaving behind a trail of luxurious sweetness. trail of luxurious sweetness. In conclusion, the Melt House Café offers more than just a meal; it provides an experience. Whether you're seeking a cozy corner to unwind with a cup of

freshly brewed coffee, wanting the cheesy delights, or treating yourself to decadent desserts, Melt House promises to deliver warmth and comfort with



errai attributes its inception to the terrain and rich historical culture and culinary legacy of the State of Telangana. Situated in the southern-central part of the Indian peninsula on the high Deccan Plateau, cuisine of Telangana is influenced by the region's rich history of Deccan and Telugu culture. Nizam culture is a blend of opulent traditions, art, and cuisine that reflects the historical grandeur and diverse heritage of Telangana.

restaurateur, Rohit Kasuganti and the creative powerhouse, Anisha Deevakonda, Terrai derives its name from terrain defining the topography of the young-historical State. Reinventing traditional cuisine, propagating the culture and community is the ethos of this new restaurant,

#### **THE VISION**

the objective of Terrai is simple - it aims to propagate the deeply rooted culinary culture of the State, becoming synonymous with it. Terrai is a glorious homage to the rich heritage, culture and culinary prowess of Telangana. At Terrai, every dish serves as a resplendent tribute to the land, celebrating local women farmers and tribal chefs who utilise timehonoured techniques

ingredients. Rohit Kasuganti, Founder and CEO, TSK Food Works, says, "Telangana food has been overshadowed by the popularity of its neighbouring cousin. Taking immense pride in our roots, our thought and vision behind Terrai is to simply showcase the tradition and history behind the food from our State, designed for the modern diner. We want Terrai to lead a revolution, of sorts and to propagate Telangana cuisine to the World and enlighten our colleagues and guests to the rich legacy that it represents."



#### **ELEGANT WITH LOCAL**

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



of Telangana Cuisine, says SHARMILA CHAND



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

Anisha Deevakonda, Creative

Head and Partner, Terrai.



THE COMMUNITY

Community is integral to the Terrai experience. The founders prioritise partnerships with local women farmers, artisans, and home cooks, ensuring that every ingredient is fresh, ethically sourced and imbued with the spirit of Telangana. This commitment to collaboration extends beyond the kitchen, celebrating the invaluable contributions these communities make to the state's culinary legacy, transforming each meal into a traditional story of connection.

Terrai aspires to elevate Telangana's cuisine to its rightful place on the global gastronomic stage, offering dining experience that transcends mere nourishment. It embodies a modern renaissance, a movement dedicated to establishing a

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

#### A MELANGE OF FLAVOURS & TEXTURES

Picture indulging in the Karim Nagar Fried Chicken Wings. a figure Wings, a fiery sensation complemented by tangy pickled onions, or experiencing the opulence of Terai Mutton Curry paired with spiced Masala Pooris The Golichina Mamsum, crowned with crispy fried curry leaves, is a flavour explosion, while the refreshing Not So Mirchi Cocktail adds a zesty flourish. Round off your culinary adventure on a sweet note with the delectable Saffron Cheesecake, Kandha Doodh, adorned with delicate saffron pearls, each a testament to the glory of Telangana's rich

culinary heritage. Terrai is more than just a celebration of exquisite flavours; it is a cultural sanctuary where the stories of Telangana come alive. Each dish encapsulates the region's unique traditions and customs, inviting diners to embark on a journey that honours the past while embracing contemporary flair. Here, every bite is a narrative, woven from the intricate tapestry of spices and age-old recipes down generations, all set against a backdrop that resonates with the soul of the Deccan. In a world brimming with dining

options, Terrai emerges as a splendid celebration Telangana's heritage, inviting food enthusiasts to partake in an unforgettable journey that captures the very essence of the region. It's not merely a meal; it's a resplendent experience that delights the senses and nourishes the soul.

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

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

### THE ART AND SPIRIT CAKE N

#### TEAM **AGENDA**

AT CROWN PLAZA, MAYUR VIHAR
The Crowne Plaza Mayur
Vihar recently hosted its
annual Cake Mixing Ceremony, embracing charming theme of an English Country Christmas. delightful event transform hotel into a festive wonderland, inviting guests to partake in a time-honoured tradition that has brought people together for

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

At the Crowne Plaza, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and laughter as guests rolled up their sleeves and joined in the festive fun. The delightful aromas of dried fruits, fragrant spices and rich spirits filled the air, creating an inviting and warm environment. This year's theme of an 'English Countryside Christmas' was beautifully reflected in the décor, featuring the traditional red, white and green colours that evoke feelings of warmth and festivity. The venue was adorned with charming elements reminiscent of the British countryside, where cosy cottages and snow-covered landscapes create a magical setting for the holiday season. This theme perfectly encapsulated the simplicity of nature, celebrating the spirit of family and community gatherings that are central to the festive season.

As guests stirred the mixture, they shared stories and laughter, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and family. This camaraderie mirrored the gatherings of the past, where communities would unite to prepare for the joyous celebrations ahead. Once the mixing was complete, the cakes created during the ceremony would be set aside to mature in their rich blend of flavours, ready to be enjoyed during the Christmas festivities. The sharing of these cakes with the wider community reflects the





essence of the occasion, joy is amplified when shared with others.

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

#### AT LE MERIDIEN, NEW DELHI

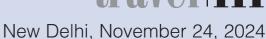
n recent years, cake mixing has become a much-anticipated ritual in the culinary calendar, where the joy of the holiday season is brought to life through the vibrant mixing of ingredients that will eventually turn into Christmas cakes. Traditionally marking the beginning of Christmas preparations, cakemixing ceremonies have their roots in the mediaeval custom of feeding the Christmas cake with spirits and fruits, infusing it with rich flavours that are synonymous with the festive season. In hotels, restaurants and homes around the world, cake mixing symbolises warmth, joy, and a shared experience of holiday spirit.

The cake mixing ceremony serves as a festive kick-off, celebrating togetherness and the joy of giving. This tradition often includes the blending of dried fruits, such as raisins, cherries, apricots, and nuts, along with a blend of warming spices and a generous pour of spirits. The ingredients are then left to mature, allowing the fruits to soak in flavours, adding depth and complexity to the Christmas cakes and other holiday treats that will be shared with family and friends.

Each year, Le Meridien New Delhi joins in this timeless tradition, creating a unique and memorable experience for guests and locals alike. This year, the hotel launched its '#WinterOfJoy' celebration with a magical cake mixing ceremony at their elegant venue, Longitude.

The event drew food enthusiasts, media, and hotel guests together, where they witnessed the rhythmic blending of exotic fruits, spices, and luxurious ingredients, building anticipation for the holiday treats that await. Meena Bhatia, Vice President and General Manager of Le Meridien New Delhi, remarked on the occasion, "We are thrilled to embark on our '#WinterOfJoy' celebration with this heartwarming timeless tradition. We invite everyone to join us in experiencing a symphony of flavours, sights, and sounds as we embark on a festive journey."

The cake-mixing ceremony at Le Meridien New Delhi symbolises more than just the beginning of Christmas preparations; it represents a celebration of life, tradition and community.





the <u>pi</u>oneer



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

HARBOUR VIEWS, URBAN VIBES

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



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

#### **INDULGE IN LUXURY**

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



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



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

SIP, SAVOUR, CELEBRATE

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

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







- The author is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best

### Discovering the World's True Essence

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

By RUPALI DEAN

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

#### EMBRACING COMMUNITY THROUGH CUISINE: I was

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



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









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

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

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FUTURE AHEAD: Having learned about the hotel's future

every level.

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

the country" by the Indian culinary forum, WACS and the Ministry of Tourism, Rupali Dean writes on food and travel





























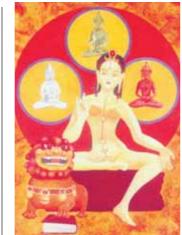
tarot IV



#### ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Thursday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Sapphire Blue Lucky day Wednesday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Friday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

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

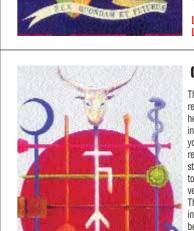
Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Monday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Saturday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Blush Pink Lucky day Tuesday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour White



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Ivory Lucky day Thursday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

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

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Friday



#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Coral **Lucky day** Sunday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

ucky number 10 | Lucky colour Maroon Lucky day Tuesday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

ucky number 6 | Lucky colour Copper Lucky day Monday

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

# 50 Sri Sri Ravi

Shankar Spiritual Guru

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

#### corporate world, many feel the **L**pinch. Stress impacts the way we think, feel and behave, thus, affecting all aspects of our life. The consequences of letting stress rule are nothing short of disastrous and tragic. First of all, do you know what stress is? Stress is too much to do and too little time or energy. So either you reduce your workload which doesn't seem to be a possibility these days. Or you increase your time – which is not possible either. So let us look at some ways to not only increase our energy levels but also to change our

mind and outlook, just a little bit. This

productive work life. Here is an easy and

will enable a less stressful and more

s times are getting tougher in the

simple 10-point solution. Strike a work-life balance: It's like riding a bicycle. What is the secret to riding a bicycle? Balance! It's about staying at the centre: not letting it fall to the right or left. When it's falling on one side, you bring it to balance. When you go out of balance, you feel the pinch. Listen to that. Don't just ignore it, acknowledge it and come to the centre. Whenever you go out of balance in any aspect of life, listen to your inner voice, and come to the centre. If you have ignored your family, it pinches you. If you have ignored your social

commitment, it pinches you. If you are

ignoring your business, it pinches you. If

you are ignoring your spiritual practices,

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

stress. You must contribute to society. When you do some act of service and kindness, it brings an immediate feeling of inner rejuvenation. So, believe in yourself and remember that success is an attitude, not just a

around you. It's the best antidote to

phenomenon.

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com