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Oh Canada! Student Direct Stream service scrapped

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian students dreaming of studying in Canada may face hardship now, as it has ended the fast track visa programme. The decision came in the backdrop of ongoing diplomatic tension between the two countries. The decision to cancel the fast-track visa service known as Student Direct Stream (SDS) raised concerns over delays in processing and uncertainty for many international students from India. In 2023, nearly 200,000 Indian students received study permits. The SDS was launched in 2018 to provide faster processing for eligible post-secondary students. It was introduced to simplify the visa application process for students from 14 countries, which included India.



In the latest measure targeting international students planning to study at a Canadian institution, Ottawa has announced that it is immediately ending the SDS initiative. According to a notice from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) late on Friday, SDS was launched in 2018 to "provide faster processing for eligible post-secondary students" and "eventually opened to legal residents" of 14 nations including India. It stated that "Canada's goal is to strengthen program integrity, address student vulnerability, and give all students equal and fair access to the application process, as well as a positive academic

experience' to "meet this commitment" the SDS was scrapped on November eight. Study permits applied for after the announcement will be processed under the regular stream. The Canadian government has refrained from giving an explanation for ending the fast-track visa service. The move comes at a time when India and Canada's ties are strained due to the Trudeau government blaming the Indian government agents for the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Indian aspirants are now likely to face extended waiting times for their study permits, which can be a significant setback. Indian students now have to navigate additional hurdles to

secure their study permits on time. Meanwhile, a PTI report from Ottawa, on Saturday, said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has acknowledged the presence of Khalistan supporters in Canada but said they do not represent the Sikh community as a whole.

His comments came during Diwali celebrations at Ottawa's Parliament Hill recently amid an ongoing diplomatic row with India over the killing of Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. "There are many supporters of Khalistan in Canada, but they do not represent the Sikh Community as a whole. Similarly, there are supporters of Prime Minister (Narendra

Modi's government in Canada, but they do not represent all Hindu Canadians," Trudeau said. The relations between the two countries came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd".

India expelled six Canadian diplomats and withdrew its high commissioner Sanjay Verma and other "targeted" officials from Canada after strongly dismissing Ottawa's charges. India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity.

Last week, Khalistani supporters disrupted a consular event co-organised by the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton and the Indian Consulate. The incident was condemned by Trudeau who said every Canadian has the right to practise their faith freely and safely. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada. The Indian consulate in Toronto said it was scrapping some of the planned consular events this month because of Canadian "security agencies conveying their inability to provide minimum security protection" to organisers.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the gathering during an election rally for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections, in Akola district

PTI

Congress turns states into its ATMs: PM Modi

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Citing the examples of Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday charged that "wherever the Congress forms the government, that state becomes an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) of the party's shahi parivar" and said that the BJP would not allow the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to turn Maharashtra into the ATM of the grand old party. Addressing an election rally at Akola in Vidarbha region of Assembly poll-bound Maharashtra, Modi accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government of collecting Rs 700 crore from liquor shop owners in Karnataka.

"Wherever Congress forms the government, that state becomes an ATM of the 'shahi parivar' of the Congress. These days, states like Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka have become the ATMs of the royal family of Congress," the Prime Minister said.

"People are saying that these days with elections in Maharashtra, the Congress has doubled the quantum of 'vasooli' (extortion) in Karnataka and neighbouring Telangana. The BJP will not allow MVA to turn Maharashtra into the Congress' ATM for

'Mahaghotalebaaj'," PM Modi said. Singling out the grand old party for allegedly indulging in corruption in states ruled by it, the Prime Minister said that the MVA - comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) - "stands for multi-crore scams, for extortion and token money. It stands for transfer posting racket and is completely immersed in scandals, loot, and corruption."

Repeating the allegations that he had made in his election speeches on Friday that the Congress was dividing the SCs, STs and OBCs, PM Modi said: "The Congress knows the weaker the country becomes, the stronger the Congress will be. That's why the Congress has all along been resorting to the tactics of divide and rule. Over the years, the Congress created rifts within the SC-Dalits, ST-Adivasis and OBCs"

Describing the BJP as "ek hai toh safe hain" party, Modi said: "For a safe and united Maharashtra, people should choose BJP-led Maha Yuti...ek hai toh safe hain".

A day after he dared the MVA to get Rahul Gandhi to speak in praise of Veer Savarkar, Modi invoked Dr. BR Ambedkar's legacy to tear into the Congress to prove its respect for the architect of the constitution and his contributions to the country.

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AMU does not exclusively belong to Muslims, says Yogi Adityanath

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, responding to the recent Supreme Court decision on Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) minority status, asserted that AMU "does not exclusively belong to Muslims." He also invoked his controversial "batenge to katenge" (If Hindus are divided, they will be slaughtered) statement, calling for unity among Hindus to prevent historical divisions.



The Supreme Court recently overturned the 1967 Azeez Basha judgement, with a regular bench set to make the final determination on AMU's minority status. "AMU doesn't belong solely to Muslims," Adityanath stated at an election rally in Khair, Aligarh, questioning AMU's plans to reserve 50 per cent of its seats for minorities despite receiving central government funding. "If AMU is funded by the government, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) should also have reservation there," he added.

Adityanath accused opposition parties - Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and Congress - of denying reservations at AMU to SCs, STs, and OBCs, alleging that these parties prioritised vote bank politics. "These people are playing with your sentiments. Don't be blinded by them. If we are divided, we will be slaughtered," he said, referring to historical incidents of Hindu oppression through division.

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Delhi AQI is likely to worsen



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The air quality index (AQI) in Delhi remained in the "very poor" category with an average AQI of 352 on Saturday, marking the ninth consecutive day of smog due to calm wind, and local factors including vehicular emissions. The AQI is likely to worsen in the coming days as per the forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has held a meeting with Delhi Chief Secretary and directed to intensify efforts to remove highly polluting end-of-life (EoL) vehicles (petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel

vehicles older than 10 years) that are still in use in Delhi. The PM2.5 concentration is currently 32 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value. The transport sector is the most significant contributor at 11.43 per cent, as per the Decision Support System data by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). While the residential sector contribution is 2.872 per cent, industries contributed 2.537 per cent, construction 1.492 per cent, energy sector 1.317 per cent, waste burning 1.043 per cent, and road dust 0.82 per cent. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), numerous areas across Delhi still registered AQI levels between 370 and 400, with some zones even surpassing the 400 mark. Nehru Nagar recorded AQI at 431, New Moti Bagh at 411 and Bhawana at 409. In contrast, other locations like Dilshad Garden (220) and Chandni Chowk (257) reported relatively lower AQI readings.

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Oops! A Diwali greeting that shocked Varanasi



BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ VARANASI

In an unusual incident, around 40 unmarried girls from Ramna village in Varanasi received messages meant for pregnant women from the Ministry of Child Development on Diwali, sparking confusion and concern among villagers. Following complaints, the Chief Development Officer (CDO), Himanshu Nagpal, acknowledged the error and launched an investigation into the matter, delegating it to the District Panchayati Raj Officer (DPRO). The CDO confirmed that all erroneous data entries have been removed from the portal and attributed the incident to a "human error." Nagpal explained that complaints from the village

indicated that 40 unmarried girls were registered incorrectly as pregnant women on a government portal. As a result, these girls received a message from the Ministry of Child Development on Diwali, stating, "Welcome to Poshan Tracker. As a breastfeeding mother, you can avail services like hot cooked meals or ration, consultation, child health monitoring, and breastfeeding support through home visits with the help of Anganwadi Center."

The message, designed to promote services for pregnant and breastfeeding women, caused confusion and anxiety among the girls and their families. The CDO traced the error to an Anganwadi worker from Ramna village who also serves as a Booth Level Officer (BLO). Currently, as part of the ongoing voter list summary revision, BLOs are required to visit households, collect Aadhaar information for residents above 18 years, and help register them for voter ID cards.

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From Tihar, Sukesh Chandrashekar keeps his Bollywood fantasy alive

Offers 1,500 Crore, in cash for 50 per cent stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a development that has left both Bollywood and business circles in shock, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, currently in Tihar Jail on charges of extortion, has made an audacious offer to buy a significant stake in one of India's most prestigious film production houses, Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. In his revised offer to Karan Johar, submitted through the legal firm Anantam Legal, Sukesh said it has been brought to his notice that you (Karan Johar) have finalised

the sale of a 50 per cent stake for Rs 1000 Crore at a company valuation of Rs 2000 Crore. "I am valuing Dharma at a 3,000 Crore valuation. Hereby, I am willing to acquire a 50 per cent stake at 1,500 Crore, all cash deal, this very day. As I mentioned before in my first offer letter to you, I did not want to put a

number as movies are a passion and Dharma comes a legacy, and that is prime to me, and not the value," the letter states.

Sukesh said if the 50 per cent stake is not possible, Dharma could consider offloading a 20 per cent stake. "I am offering Rs. 600 Crore for the 20 per cent stake, at a valuation of 3000 Crores of your company. If the above mentioned offer is accepted or even under considerations, as of today we could Escrow the amount in full for you to understand our seriousness for this deal. If you consider our offer, the structure of your organisation will remain exactly the same, the way you want it to be, there would not be any riders, as we only want to associate and have no interest in the way the company operates, nor we want to appoint any person from our side in the

company," the letter, shared by Sukesh's legal team, states.

"Kindly consider this offer of ours by either offloading the 50 per cent or at least the 20 per cent stake at a valuation, which is way above than anything offered to you. Once again to remind, all our Financials, legality could be produced for your full satisfaction and Due Diligence." This is the second time that Sukesh has sent a 'letter of Intent' to Dharma Productions. The bid, which Chandrashekar claims is motivated by his admiration for Jacqueline Fernandez, has sparked widespread curiosity, scepticism, and controversy across the country. While Sukesh's reputation is mired in controversy and legal issues, his letter portrays a deep-seated passion for films.

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Conspiracy against Yoga and Ayurveda EXPOSED!

Rumours of ban on medicines:

There is no ban, whatsoever, on Swasari Gold, Swasari Vati, Bronchom, Swasari Pravahi, Swasari Avaleha, Mukta Vati Extra Power, BPGrit, Madhugrit, Madhunashini Vati Extra Power, Livamrit Advance, Livogrit, Eyegrit Gold, and Patanjali Drishti Eye Drops.

Jealousy and misleading propaganda:

The entire medical system has levelled baseless allegations against a capable Karmayogi and Sanyasi of Sanatan Dharma who has achieved what the entire medical system could not achieve. In modern medical science, they keep diseases under control, but have no cure. We have ensured relief to patients of every lifestyle diseases to so-called incurable diseases.

Fallacy about side effects of Ayurvedic medicines:

A fallacy was spread that Ayurvedic medicines damage liver and kidneys. But, we have ensured permanent relief to people suffering from diseases like damaged liver and kidneys.

Allegation of lack of research and evidence:

It was said that there is no research-and-evidence-based medicine in Ayurveda. We have made more than 100 research-and-evidence-based medicines by following more than 5,000 research protocols. Anyone can scan the QR code here to get further information about our research and evidence.

For the first time in the world, Patanjali has conducted Cell-line trials, Animal trials and human trials to induce diseases like BP, Diabetes, Thyroid, Asthma, Arthritis and Cancer in test animals and later made them disease-free. Now, more than 500 research scientists and more than 2000 medical practitioners are engaged round-the-clock in Cell-line trials, In-vivo trials, In-vitro trials, human trials and drug discovery for the welfare of the humans. We have spent thousands of crores of rupees on these researches but some selfish elements are continuously working on designs to malign the Yoga and Ayurveda. Patanjali possesses data of more than one crore patients who got rid of diseases with treatments.

आयुःप्रकर्षकृत्सिद्धः प्रयोगः सर्वरोगनुत् (Charak Samhita)

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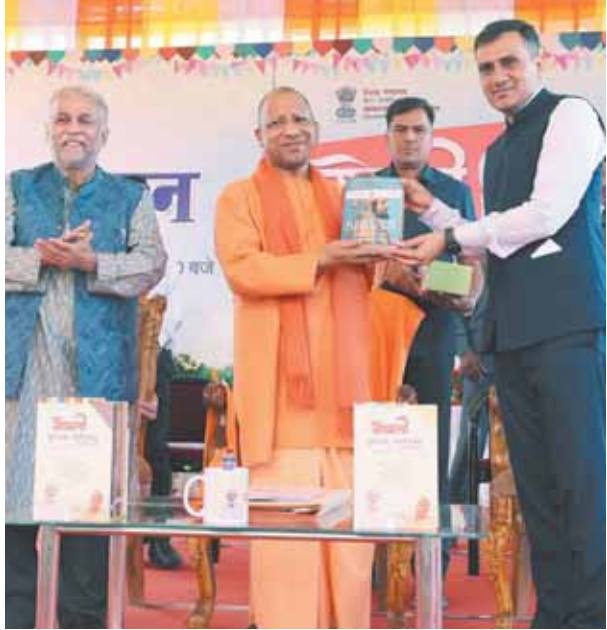
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Use technology as a tool, not become enslaved by it: Yogi CM inaugurates 9-day Gomti Book Fair

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath encouraged children to expand their reading beyond textbooks, urging them to explore creative and informative books to gain broader insights. Yogi inaugurated the Gomti Book Festival at the Gomti Riverfront on Saturday. Organised in collaboration with the National Book Trust and the Lucknow Development Authority, the festival will conclude on November 17. The chief minister appealed to children to buy at least one book from the fair to help foster a lifelong reading habit. Expressing concern about the influence of the digital age, CM Yogi remarked, "Today's youth are spending nearly six hours of their day on smartphones or other digital devices. If this time were redirected towards more meaningful pursuits, it could benefit both society and the younger generation." "We should use technology as a tool, not become enslaved by it," he added. Drawing attention to India's ancient tradition of knowledge, Yogi emphasised the profound significance of the country's Shrutis tradition.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the Gomti Book Fair

He noted that sacred sites like Naimisharanya became pilgrimage centres because sages documented knowledge there. He remarked that listening, reflecting, and putting learned principles into practice has long been a valued tradition in India, which now needs to be revived.

The chief minister also highlighted the rich cultural legacy of Uttar Pradesh, noting its privilege as the birthplace of revered poets like Maharishi Valmiki and Tulsidas. He referenced the Ramcharitmanas, which is cherished and sung in homes throughout India, as well as the Bhagavad Gita,

marking that this profound work of wisdom was composed on the battlefield. Yogi underscored the importance of taking pride in this invaluable heritage and emphasised the need to preserve it for future generations. The chief minister praised the National Book Trust's initiative and suggested that similar book fairs should be organised across all 18 divisions of Uttar Pradesh. He noted that such fairs would benefit all sections of society and help increase people's interest in reading. He emphasised the need to reduce time spent on digital devices and focus more on reading books. "Books broaden our perspectives and make us more aware of society," he stated, stressing the need to inspire the younger generation in this direction. Yogi also visited the book stalls at the fair, reviewed the books, and extended his best wishes to the organisers for this commendable initiative. National Book Trust chairman Profe Milind Sudhakar Marathe, director Col Yuvraj Malik, UP Government Advisor Awanish Awasthi, Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob, and others were present on the occasion.

Student hurt after falling from third floor of school building

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A student sustained critical injuries to his legs and arms after reportedly falling from the third floor of his school building in the PGI police station area of Lucknow on Friday morning. The injured student is currently being treated at Medanta Hospital. According to information from the police, the victim, identified as Arman Ali (18), is a Class XII student at the school located in the South City area of PGI. He had gone to school by van on Friday morning. Around 11.30 am, he suddenly fell from the third floor to the ground, suffering severe injuries. As a result of the fall, both of his legs were broken, and his spinal cord was fractured. The family reported that Arman had mentioned to them that he had been feeling dizzy prior to the incident. "The school staff tried to contact us by phone, but our phone was not reachable. We arrived at the school around 1 pm to pick up Arman and only then learned of the incident," the family said. Initially, the school staff took the injured student to a private hospital, where he received first aid. The family then transferred him to Medanta Hospital, where his condition is now said to be stable and out of danger. The family has not yet made any formal allegations against anyone involved in the incident.

Bizwoman alleges conversion attempt, sexual exploitation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A businesswoman from Gomti Nagar has accused her former acquaintance of concealing his religious identity to deceive her, raping her under the pretext of offering assistance, and attempting religious conversion, police said on Saturday. She has also alleged that the accused swindled Rs 2.5 crore from her, they added. The woman approached the DCP (East) to file a complaint, based on which an FIR has been registered against two men and a woman at Vibhuti Khand police station. According to the complainant, she worked in a beauty parlour and event management company in Mumbai. She stated that in 2020, she met the prime accused, Isha Dewan, a resident of Mira Road East Police Station area in Mumbai, at City Centre Mall in Goregaon. The woman alleged that Isha initially introduced himself with a Hindu identity, even wearing a sacred thread on his wrist during their first meeting. The next day, when they met again, her husband saw her with Isha, leading to an argument between her and

her husband. The woman subsequently travelled to Lucknow. It was further alleged that Isha followed her to Lucknow. He called her, expressing concern about the fight with her husband and offering to resolve it, saying, "Come to the hotel, and I'll clear all misunderstandings." At the hotel, Isha suggested she divorce her husband, promising to marry her afterwards. The accused then allegedly forced her to consume alcohol, and when she was intoxicated, he allegedly raped her. The victim claimed that when she confronted him the following day, he threatened to release a video of the incident if she reported it. Over the next four days, the accused allegedly called her to a hotel and raped her repeatedly. Under pressure, she returned to Mumbai and began living in a rented flat, where he allegedly continued to exploit her. The victim alleged that she later discovered that Isha was married to a woman named Vinita, whom he had forced to convert, renaming her Wasifa. She also alleged that Isha introduced her to Nadia and Tausif Shaikh from Chincholi Bunder Police Station area in Malad, Mumbai, who began

taking control of her business. Isha allegedly forced her to live in his flat, where he frequently assaulted her. The victim claimed that whenever she visited Lucknow, the three would also travel there, calling her to hotels where she was subjected to sexual assault. The victim alleged that on May 23, 2022, while in Lucknow, Isha, Nadia, and Tausif, who were staying at the Novotel Hotel, summoned her there. After giving her wine, Isha and Tausif allegedly raped her, with Nadia supporting their actions. She stated that the accused travelled to places like Kashmir on her money, leaving her in financial distress and depression as they gradually took over her business. According to the FIR, in December 2023, the accused allegedly held her hostage, attempted to force her to convert, and subjected her to unnatural sexual acts. They also forced her to wear a hijab. The accused allegedly either took or spent approximately Rs 2.5 crore of her funds. When she attempted to escape, they allegedly threatened to kill her. Distressed, she confided in her family, leading to a complaint being filed with the police.

Child dies after eye surgery

Lucknow (PNS): A 10-year-old boy died following eye surgery at a private hospital on Friday night. His family members created a ruckus at the hospital on Saturday and filed a complaint at the Ghazipur police station, demanding action against the hospital's founder and the doctors involved in the surgery. The boy, Aman, had been admitted for surgery on Friday but reportedly never regained consciousness after being administered anaesthesia. The bereaved kin alleged that without informing them, the hospital transferred him to another facility 600 metres away in a private vehicle. Later that night, the hospital declared him dead, prompting the family to return to the eye hospital in anger. A heated argument ensued, which led hospital staff and doctors to shut down the facility and leave. Aman's uncle Arjun accused the hospital of negligence, stating that Aman had been brought from Sultanpur after a firecracker injury had caused an eye infection.

Would-be groom among 3 dead in car-truck crash

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three youths, including a would-be groom, died in a road accident on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in the Kakori police station area late Friday night. According to reports, five friends were travelling from Farrukhabad to Lucknow for wedding shopping when their speeding car collided with a truck moving ahead on the Agra Expressway. The accident occurred at around midnight, about one kilometre before the toll plaza on the Agra Expressway in the Kakori police station area. Police arrived at the scene shortly after receiving the report, extricated the injured from the car, and rushed them to the hospital. Upon examination, doctors declared Shashank Rathore, Shivam Yadav, and Anuj Rathore — all residents of Fatehgarh in Farrukhabad district — dead. The injured, Aman and

Anoop Rathore, the brother of Shashank Rathore who died in the road mishap, said the marriage of Shashank was scheduled for December 2

Shantanu, were admitted to the hospital. It was later revealed that Shashank Rathore's marriage was scheduled for December 2. Eyewitnesses told the police that the accident happened so quickly that the driver of the car, who was one of the victims, did not even have a chance to escape. Anoop Rathore from Jaitpur village in Fatehgarh said that his brother Shashank's wedding was scheduled for December 2. Shashank, along with his friends Shivam Yadav, Anuj Rathore, Aman, and Shantanu, was on his way to Lucknow by car for shopping.

"The police called us and informed us about the incident. First, we went to the hospital, and then we came to the post-mortem house," Anoop said, weeping inconsolably. "This incident has destroyed the happiness of our family, especially with Shashank's wedding so close," Anoop said, adding that all five friends had been heading to Lucknow for the wedding shopping. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Omvir Singh confirmed that the accident took place around midnight. "Three people died on the spot in the accident on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway. The police team transported the injured to hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. The family has been informed," he said. Aman aka Aditya Rajput (22) from Central Jai locality in Fatehgarh, and Shantanu (24) are in critical condition and are receiving treatment at the hospital.

'Kidnapping bid' causes a flutter

Lucknow (PNS): A youth was accused of luring four children near Mantri Awasi in Vibhuti Khand on Saturday, allegedly for kidnapping them. The police are reviewing CCTV footage, but the kidnapping allegations were not substantiated in the initial investigation, and the case is still under further investigation. On Saturday morning, a motorcyclist was seen talking to four children in Vibhuti Khand. Later, the children disappeared from the scene. The incident caused a stir in the area, and several people gathered at the scene out of curiosity. The police began investigating by reviewing CCTV footage. According to reports, Asharam, a resident of Vibhuti Khand, was with his 11-year-old son Gulu, along with his 10-year-old friend Vishnu, 9-year-old brother Brahma, and 7-year-old Abdul Rehman. The children were strolling near the

inspector, of having an illicit relationship with his sister-in-law. She has also accused his elder brother of engaging in obscene acts and her husband of attempting to kill her by strangulation. The Mahanagar police have registered an FIR against three individuals in this connection. According to the complainant, her first husband passed away, and she has a son from that marriage. Three years ago, she married an inspector. She alleged that her husband's behaviour changed just a few days after the marriage. She claimed that on the night of September 21, she found her husband in an inappropriate position with his sister-in-law. When she protested, both her sister-in-law and husband allegedly tried to kill her by strangulation. Her elder brother-in-law then reportedly dragged her into a room by her hair and behaved obscenely with her.

LDA to revamp 11 city crossings

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) will re-model 11 major crossings in the city at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore. The project will involve redesigning rotaries and islands at these intersections, improving traffic flow, and enhancing the aesthetics of these critical areas. Additionally, illegal parking and encroachments around the crossings will be cleared, and obstructions such as electric poles, booths, and traffic signals will be relocated to reduce traffic congestion. LDA Vice-Chairman Prathamesh Kumar stated that surveys have been completed for key locations, including IT Crossing, Lok Bandhu Crossing, AKTU Crossing, Atal Tri-Crossing in Jankipuram, Engineering College Crossing, and Hahemann Crossing in Gomti Nagar. Suggestions from these surveys will be implemented in the upcoming re-modelling work, which aims to ensure smoother traffic, especially during peak hours. Kumar also highlighted the traffic concerns at Narora Junction, the entry point from the Agra Expressway, where a lack of a roundabout causes haphazard vehicle movement. A rotary will be constructed, alongside the installation of speed tables and rumble strips to improve safety and traffic flow. At Koneshwar Crossing in Chowk, illegal parking and encroachments will be removed to ease congestion. The Daliganj trisection rotary will be redesigned to accommodate U-turns from both directions, and plans are in place for an island at Madhurima trisection to handle increased traffic due to the new railway station at Vibhuti Khand.

Yogi inaugurates U'Khand Mahotsav

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 10-day Uttarakhand Mahotsav at Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Parvatiya Sanskritik Upvan in Lucknow on Saturday. He expressed special thanks to the Uttarakhand Maha Parishad for preserving the state's cultural heritage by organizing the Uttarakhand Mahotsav every year. He highlighted that the reconstruction and expansion of facilities at Kedarnath Dham have significantly boosted the number of tourists visiting the site.



Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 26 / 2024-25
e-mail : ccekeonjharpdccircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No. 5049 dt. 30.10.2024

- Name of the work: Construction of S Plus 1 of 4 nos. E type quarter at Panposh, Rourkela for the year 2024-25.
- Estimated cost: Rs. 140.60 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor: "B" Class & "A" Class
- Period of completion: 6 (Six) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal: From 11.00 Hours of 12.11.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 26.11.2024
- Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 16.00 Hours of 26.11.2024
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal: 11.30 Hours on 27.11.2024
- Name and address of the officer inviting Bid: Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Chief Construction Engineer
Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited
(CIN: L5110HR2007PLC077999)

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2024 (Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 30-Jun-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-23	Year to date 30-Sep-24	Year to date 30-Sep-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from Operations	-	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.30	3.15
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(5.59)	(5.28)	(5.74)	(10.87)	(11.24)	(21.61)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items))	(5.59)	(5.28)	(5.74)	(10.87)	(11.24)	(21.61)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(5.60)	(5.28)	(5.74)	(10.88)	(11.24)	(21.61)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) or the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(3.75)	4.34	1.35	0.59	1.16	(12.31)
Equity Share Capital	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						(253.50)
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)

Notes:
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 08 November 2024.
2) Key Standalone Financial Information:

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 30-Jun-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-23	Year to date 30-Sep-24	Year to date 30-Sep-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income	0.09	0.59	0.15	0.68	0.33	3.57
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(10.69)	(11.22)	(10.64)	(21.91)	(20.96)	(43.37)
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(10.69)	(11.22)	(10.64)	(21.91)	(20.96)	(43.37)

3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Half Yearly Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.yaari.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Place : Gurugram
Date : 08 November 2024
Kubair Khara
Executive Director & CEO

Indiabulls Enterprises Limited
(CIN: U7129HR2019PLC077579)

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2024 (Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 30-Jun-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-23	Year to date 30-Sep-24	Year to date 30-Sep-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from operations	13.87	15.55	13.82	29.42	30.12	58.76
Net (Loss)/Profit for the period (before Tax, minority interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of associates, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(13.36)	(2.97)	(2.94)	(16.33)	(2.94)	(25.20)
Net (Loss)/Profit for the period (after Tax, minority interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of associates (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items))	(13.36)	(2.97)	(2.94)	(16.33)	(2.94)	(25.20)
Net (Loss)/Profit for the period after Tax, minority interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of associates (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(11.97)	(3.39)	(3.92)	(15.36)	(5.04)	(25.24)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(311.94)	(3.39)	(3.45)	(315.33)	(4.57)	(25.33)
Equity share capital	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						206.07
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each from continuing operations						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.64)	(0.17)	(0.18)	(0.81)	(0.22)	(1.37)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.64)	(0.17)	(0.18)	(0.81)	(0.22)	(1.37)
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each from discontinued operations						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	0.04	(0.00)	(0.02)	0.04	(0.03)	0.10
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	0.04	(0.00)	(0.02)	0.04	(0.03)	0.10

Notes:
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 08 November 2024.
2) Key Standalone Financial Information:

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 30-Jun-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-23	Year to date 30-Sep-24	Year to date 30-Sep-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income	18.56	13.50	10.52	32.06	22.61	48.43
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	0.30	(5.17)	(6.23)	(4.87)	(10.73)	(33.00)
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	1.03	(5.18)	(6.55)	(4.15)	(11.41)	(33.39)

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/half yearly financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/half yearly Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.indiabullsentreprises.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016
By order of the Board of Directors For Indiabulls Enterprises Limited
Place : Gurugram
Date : 08 November 2024
Sargam Kataria
Director

'Babua' has not grown up yet: Yogi

PNS ■ ALIGARH/KANPUR/MAINPURI

In a scathing attack on Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav during an election rally in Karhal on Saturday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that 'Babua has not yet grown up'.

He also said that attempts were being made to turn Kashmir back into a hub of terrorism. Yogi held three rallies on the second day of his Uttar Pradesh assembly by-election campaign. During this, he criticised the leadership, policies and leaders of the Samajwadi Party. He said "while the SP's cap is red, its deeds are dark". He urged people to vote for Surendra Diler from Khair, Suresh Awasthi from Sisamau and Anuj Yadav from Karhal.

Yogi said that Akhilesh Yadav's actions were against the values of his father and Samajwadi Party founder, late Mulayam Singh Yadav. He pointed out that Akhilesh Yadav's SP was now aligned with Congress, a party that had imprisoned Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) during the Emergency.

"Netaji always opposed Congress and believed that they should never be associated with it, even through deceit. But now, the SP has moved away from Netaji's principles. The late Mulayam Singh Yadav must be hurt by the SP leadership's actions, as his son has aligned the party with Congress and is determined to destroy it," Yogi stated.

The chief minister also men-

tioned that some people have a tendency to stay with their past associations for life. He said, "Babua has not grown up yet, and his actions do create problems for the people of Mainpuri."

Yogi said that Mulayam Singh Yadav had made Dr Ram Manohar Lohia his role model, and Lohia believed that a true socialist was someone who had no attachment to wealth or family. However, in the Samajwadi Party, all the important positions are controlled by one family, he added.

He also accused the Samajwadi Party of being anti-Ram, pointing out that its leadership did not visit the Ram temple because of fear of losing their vote bank.

Yogi urged the people of Karhal to ask SP leaders why they seek votes if they cannot respect Lord Krishna. He highlighted that the Bharatiya Janata Party fulfilled its promise to build the Ram temple and now intends to honour the sentiments of the people in Mathura and Vrindavan as well.

He questioned whether the Samajwadi Party supports this vision for Mathura-Vrindavan, criticising it for seeking votes without showing respect for Lord Krishna and remaining silent on the issue.

In contrast, Yogi emphasised that the BJP is actively developing pilgrimage sites such as Mathura, Gokul, Barsana, Baldev and Vrindavan, aiming to restore the spiritual essence of Mathura-Vrindavan to its former glory, as if Lord Krishna

himself were still present there. Yogi said that the actions of the Nishad daughter in Ayodhya and the SP leader in Kannauj were well-known and were stains on a civilised society. He warned against letting the "red cap-black deeds" grow, accusing them of conspiring to bring chaos back to Uttar Pradesh. He pointed out that the SP lies were exposed during the Lok Sabha elections and asked where the promised one lakh rupees for each person had gone. Yogi urged the people to wipe them out in the upcoming elections. "Giving shelter to the wrong person spoils the future of future generations and ruins the present generation," he said.

The chief minister stated in Khair that the results of the Haryana assembly elections show that the public desires a double-engine government. He highlighted that the state has established a university in the name of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh of Aligarh, a figure forgotten by Congress. He said that this university would shape the future of many generations and there should be competition whether this university progresses or the Aligarh Muslim University.

Yogi then raised the issue of whether AMU should remain a minority institution or be recognised as a general institution. He referred to a recent debate in the Supreme Court and questioned why AMU, which is funded by India's resources and public taxes, does not provide reservations

for backward, Scheduled Caste, or tribal people. He pointed out that while the Indian Constitution guarantees reservation for these groups based on the Mandal Commission, AMU offers 50 per cent reservation only for Muslims.

He remarked that when the public's money is invested in such institutions, all people should benefit from reservation in jobs and admissions. He criticised Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party for opposing these changes, accusing them of prioritising their vote banks over national unity and the welfare of the people.

Yogi also lashed out at the National Conference government in Jammu and Kashmir for passing a resolution calling for the reinstatement of Article 370. He reminded the people that Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution, was against Article 370, but it was included due to Jawaharlal Nehru's insistence.

Yogi pointed out that Congress never attempted to remove this provision, but it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, in the national interest, abrogated Articles 35A and 370. He claimed that this decision has led to significant improvements in development and security in Kashmir over the past five years, with an influx of tourists. However, he also alleged that efforts are underway to turn Kashmir back into a stronghold of terrorism.

Urging people to stay united, Yogi cautioned them against Congress' attempts to divide people. He emphasised that when people are divided, they suffer, but unity ensures safety and progress. He also condemned the insults to religious sites like the Ram temple, Lord Vishwanath's temple, and Lord Krishna's birthplace in Mathura. The chief minister also spoke of the hardships faced by mothers, sisters and daughters in the past, warning that if people remain blinded by caste divisions and self-interest, it will lead to a future marked by destruction and division.

He compared Uttar Pradesh before and after 2017, highlighting significant improvements. He explained that earlier, riots and curfews would occur every 10 days in Aligarh, but in the past seven and a half years, no one has dared to create disturbances.

Yogi warned that those who try to cause trouble now will face strict consequences, including punishment and the seizure of their property, which will then be distributed to the poor.

He also pointed out how the state was in chaos under previous governments, with schemes like Indira Awas (PM Awas) being misused, where only one person in the village would receive the benefit. Pensions were also given only to Samajwadi Party supporters.

In contrast, the BJP's double-engine government has ensured that all citizens benefit from government schemes without discrimination.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a rally for UP bypolls in Aligarh on Saturday

Yogi also praised the fulfillment of Kalyan Singh's dream for Aligarh, mentioning the establishment of an airport and the city's transformation into an important hub for the Defence Manufacturing Corridor. The lock industry in Aligarh has been revived, and it is becoming a key center for hardware manufacturing, he added.

Yogi questioned the silence of the Samajwadi Party on the murders of Raju Pal and Umesh Pal. He also questioned the killing of Nishad Jawan, who was involved in securing Umesh Pal, and accused SP of

not giving up its connections with mafia, criminal elements and rioters. Yogi claimed that SP tries to create chaos in the state by siding with these forces. He pointed out that the rioter from Kanpur is in jail, and the former SP minister who had seized land from Dalits and the Valmiki community is currently in Rampur jail. Despite this, SP continues to defend him. Yogi also criticised SP for showing no sympathy towards innocent citizens but instead visiting the homes of criminals, such as the mafia figures in Prayagraj and Ghazipur, to

offer condolences. Referring to the brutal treatment of Sikh brothers in 1984, Yogi highlighted the cruelty of Congress, portraying it as a party that shows its true colours when it comes to such incidents. "SP, BSP and Congress are birds of the same feather," he added.

Yogi mentioned the growing success of Kanpur Metro, noting that it currently serves 12,000-15,000 passengers daily. He predicted that with the opening of the second section in January, the number of daily passengers would rise to 50,000.

50% discount for women on double-decker e-buses



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagging off a double-decker e-bus in Lucknow on Saturday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday announced a 50 per cent discount on tickets for women travelling on double-decker electric buses. He also announced free travel for women on buses operating on the heritage route every Saturday morning.

Inaugurating the state's first double-decker electric bus ser-

vice on Saturday, Yogi said that it will help alleviate traffic congestion and is a significant step towards environmental protection.

He said, "Being electric, this bus service will help reduce pollution. Similar double-decker electric bus services will be launched in other major cities of the state in the near future." The chief minister flagged off the state's first double-decker electric bus and also took a ride

with children, learning about the vehicle's features. Yogi also shared that the Hinduja Group is setting up an electric vehicle plant in the state, with production expected to begin shortly. He further emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to promote local art and handicrafts in the state. He added that these initiatives are providing artisans with new platforms and abundant employment opportunities.

Yogi praises efforts of SHGs, women entrepreneurs

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday emphasised the importance of festivals and traditions as a vital part of India's heritage. Speaking at the launch of 'Aakanksha Haat 2024' at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow, he said the event would play a crucial role in preserving culture and inspiring the younger generation.

"This initiative will empower women entrepreneurs across Uttar Pradesh, offering them valuable skills, fresh ideas, and opportunities to expand their businesses on a larger scale," he remarked.

Encouraging women's empowerment and local entrepreneurship, CM Yogi stated, "The event is an important step towards promoting women entrepreneurship in the state and providing a platform for self-help groups (SHGs) to showcase their creativity and products."

He added that 'Aakanksha Haat 2024' is being organised with the efforts of the Aakanksha Samiti of Uttar Pradesh, which is active in all 75 districts of the state and is committed to making women self-reliant. He also praised the efforts of women entrepreneurs and self-help groups, saying, "The Aakanksha Samiti's initiative

for the economic empowerment of women is commendable. This event will not only promote women entrepreneurship but also help local products gain recognition at national and international levels."

"Products from various states of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, are also being showcased through Aakanksha Haat, which will provide an opportunity for cultural and economic exchange," Yogi said.

He also highlighted the event as a significant platform for the 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) scheme. He stated that women's self-help groups could enhance the quality, packaging, and marketing of local products through ODOP. "This event will not only empower local enterprises but will also help the products under ODOP gain recognition in both national and international markets," he remarked further.

Emphasising the importance of showcasing positive changes, the chief minister urged the media to focus on stories that promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurship. "By highlighting these positive efforts, we can amplify the wave of change in society, encouraging more women to step forward," he added.

GIDA's commercial plan to boost infra development

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) has emerged as a preferred investment destination over the past seven years, providing top-notch infrastructure to facilitate business operations. With crores of rupees already invested in improving facilities, an additional Rs 7.75 crore will be allocated for enhancing road connectivity in Phases 1 and 2 of Sector 22, Transport Nagar, under the commercial development plan. In the seven years of the Yogi government, industrial and commercial activities in the GIDA region have reached new heights. Prior to 2017, the GIDA area faced poor law and order, a severe lack of infra-

structure, and a negligent attitude from previous governments, making investment a distant dream. However, under the Yogi government, GIDA has become a hub for investment. Where entrepreneurs once hesitated to set up units, now a chain of industries is emerging. Since the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023, investment proposals worth approximately Rs 2,800 crore have been successfully implemented in the GIDA region. The government is working to develop GIDA like Noida. With guarantees for the security of entrepreneurs and their capital, industry-friendly policies, strengthened basic infrastructure, and regular engagement with entrepreneurs by the chief minister, the industrial environment has improved, making GIDA an

ideal investment destination, just like Noida. In the growing chain of industries and businesses, the GIDA administration is consistently focusing on infrastructure development. To further strengthen infrastructure, new roads are being constructed, while the widening and reinforcement of existing roads is also being given due attention. Along with the industrial sector, the commercial sector has also been included in these developments. Recently, the GIDA administration has issued tenders for road repairs and construction in Sector 22, Phase 1, Transport Nagar, in the GIDA region, with an allocation of Rs 4.25 crore for Phase 1 and Rs 3.59 crore for Phase 2. All these projects are to be completed within nine months.

Six people killed in road mishap in Firozabad district

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

At least six people were killed and a dozen others were injured when a bus collided with a dumper on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Firozabad district. The bus was carrying over two dozen passengers. According to Firozabad's Superintendent of Police (Rural) Akhilesh Bhadoria, the bus was enroute from Mathura to Lucknow when it collided with a parked vehicle near Nasirpur police station on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. The front part of the bus was badly damaged. Shortly after receiving the information, police reached the spot. SP (Rural) and circle officer of Sirsaganj inspected the spot.

"The injured were immediately sent to the district hospital. In the investigation, it was discovered that the bus lost control due to the negligence of the driver," the SP said. Sharing further details, the SP said, "Sandeep Mohaddipur in Lucknow had gone to Mathura for his four-year-old son Siddharth's munda ceremony. There were about 30 people on the bus, including his family and relatives. The bus met with the mishap while returning from Mathura."

"In the accident, Sandeep, his father Pappu and mother Vitar (45) died on the spot. Police admitted 19 injured to the hospital. Chandrapal, Kajal wife of Akash and Pranshu (16) died during treatment.

Those injured in the accident included Geeta (42), Hrishik (12), Karthik (9), Sanjwan (43), Sushil Kumar (30), Shashi Devi (44), her granddaughter Chamcham (4), Savitri Devi (41), her granddaughter Aarohi (1.5), Riya (16), Poonam (29), Phoolmati (40), Sarika (13) and Ruby (29). All are undergoing treatment.

TRUCK DRIVER, CLEANER SHOT DEAD Meanwhile, a truck driver and his cleaner were shot dead Saturday on a highway in the Nagal Police Station area in Saharanpur, a police officer said. Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajwan said that a caller reported that a Punjab-registered truck was parked on a roadside with two people dead - one inside and the other outside the vehicle. A police team responded to the call and found that the two had died of bullet wounds. The truck driver was identified as Shoaib, 33, and the other person as his cleaner, Husain alias Chota, 35. They were found to have suffered three bullet wounds between them. The truck which was on its way to Punjab with minerals was found parked on Lakhnaur bridge. Shoaib was a native of Gangoh in Saharanpur, while Husain lived in Haridwar's Bhagwanpur. The SSP said police are scanning the CCTV cameras for clues.

'NDA will win all seats in UP bypolls'

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya Lok Dal national spokesperson Anil Dubey said on Saturday that the National Democratic Alliance would win all the seats in the Uttar Pradesh by-elections and INDIA bloc constituent Samajwadi Party would be wiped out completely. He was speaking as a chief guest in Shiva Vivah Mahotsav held in Gonda on Saturday. Dubey pointed out that Lord Shiva looks after the welfare of all and he also is the god of destruction and is famous for both his loving and fierce forms. "Lord Shiva has kept both creation and destruction under his control and he looks at everyone with an equal eye; that is why he is also called Mahadev. By holding poison in his throat, he has inspired the whole world that we should never swallow poison and take everyone along in society," he said while keeping journalists guessing about the political meaning of his citation. Shiv Vivah Mahotsav is organised at Jamtha, the place of penance of Maharishi Jamadagni, for the last 125 years. While addressing the devotees who had come to attend the Shiv Vivah Mahotsav, Dubey said that if people took inspiration from Lord Shiva, then discrimination, untouchability and evil practices would automatically end from society. Earlier, Dubey was honoured by Maharishi Jamadagni Ashram, Jamtha and was given a memento for the work being done by him for society. Dubey appealed to everyone to spread the work being done by the RLD national president and Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary for the farmers and youth.

Akharas blend tradition with modernity

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 will showcase a significant shift as the 13 prominent akharas of Sanatan Hindu Dharma, a major attraction for devotees, embrace eco-friendly practices inspired by the Yogi Adityanath government's vision for a sustainable event. Traditionally dedicated to preserving ancient religious customs, these akharas are now aligning tradition with environmental responsibility, incorporating initiatives for ecological preservation into their practices.

As the government prepares for the grand celebrations, these akharas, known for their pivotal role in promoting Sanatan Hindu Dharma, will be seen integrating green initiatives into their rituals, symbolising a harmonious blend of tradition and ecological mindfulness. The Yogi government is committed to making the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh a plastic-free and environmentally friendly event. While the Kumbh Mela administration is actively working towards this goal, the agenda of the akharas and saints now also includes environmental conservation alongside promoting Sanatan Dharma.

During a meeting of the Akhara Council at Niranjani Akhara's headquarters in Prayagraj on October 5 this year, a resolution

MAHA KUMBH 2025

was passed emphasising environmental preservation. Akhara Parishad president Mahant Ravindra Puri highlighted the importance of protecting nature, stating that humanity depends on it. This Maha Kumbh, the saints will spread awareness among people about environmental conservation. Additionally, a plan is in place to encourage the use of leaf plates and clay utensils instead of plastic and thermocol, promoting sustainable practices among saints and devotees. The origin of the 13 akharas can be traced back to the forces organised by Adi Shankaracharya, who gathered young individuals from intellectual Brahmin and warrior Kshatriya backgrounds to form a defence for the nation and its culture. For centuries, these akharas have followed their traditional path within Sanatan Dharma. For the first time, saints from marginalised and Dalit communities have been elevated to prominent positions within these akharas. This shift began when Kanhaiya Prabhu Nand Giri of Juna Akhara, from a Dalit background, was appointed as a mahamandaleswar in 2019. Continuing this tradition, over 450 saints from marginalised

and Dalit backgrounds will receive titles such as mahamandaleswar, mahant, and mandaleswar in this Maha Kumbh. Juna Akhara alone, under the guidance of patron Mahant Hari Giri, plans to honour 370 such saints, with an organised list already prepared. Shri Mahant Durgadas of Shri Panchayati Akhara Udasin Nirvana confirmed similar plans to elevate Dalit saints in his akhara, while Mahant Jamuna Puri, secretary of Shri Panchayati Akhara Maha Nirvani, credits Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's inclusive vision as an inspiration behind this change. According to him, preserving Sanatan Dharma requires connecting with marginalised communities worldwide, recognising their contribution, and honouring their role in the spiritual legacy. The akharas are seen as symbols of both Shiva and Shakti, with reverence for the divine feminine deeply embedded in their traditions. Women have played an integral role in upholding Sanatan Dharma, and their contributions were especially celebrated during the Kumbh held in Prayagraj in 2019, where many female saints were elevated to the esteemed position of

mahamandaleswar. Mahant Rajendra Das, secretary of the Nirmohi Ani Akhara, highlighted that in the last Kumbh, eight foreign women were granted the title of mahant, marking a significant step toward empowering women within the spiritual realm.

TWO-DAY BIRD FESTIVAL In its bid to reinforce the connection between natural elements and religious symbols to promote nature conservation, the government will organise a Bird Festival during the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj. Divisional Forest Officer Prayagraj, Arvind Kumar, said that the Bird Festival would take place on February 1-2, 2025, during the Maha Kumbh. The proposal for the event is currently being submitted to the government. The festival aims to raise awareness among youth about the importance of nature and wildlife conservation. In addition, the event will promote nature-based ecotourism. The festival will provide an opportunity to share information about Uttar Pradesh's rich biodiversity, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries. The Forest department, in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Tourism, will also

contribute to creating a beautiful circuit that highlights the state's forests, historical sites and natural beauty, further enhancing the region's tourism potential. Notably, Prayagraj is known for its rich bird species, with 90 different species of birds found in the region. Many wetlands in the district provide shelter to these birds. This year, the theme of the Bird Festival is 'Faith of Kumbh, Nature Conservation and Climate'. According to the Prayagraj DFO, this two-day conclave will feature discussions with national and international experts on the theme of the festival. Several panel discussions will also take place, with participation from saints and spiritual leaders.

10,000 SANITATION WORKERS ENGAGED The Uttar Pradesh government has engaged nearly 10,000 sanitation workers to ensure a clean Maha Kumbh 2025. The workers have intensified their efforts to keep the entire Kumbh area pristine as the Maha Kumbh approaches. The government has also prioritised the welfare and dignity of these workers. Through the Swachh Kumbh Fund, the government provides them with accommodation, food and free education for their children.

Shankaracharya sends cow reps to different states

PNS ■ VARANASI

Jyotish Peeth Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati sent his cow representatives to all the states and Union territories on the auspicious occasion of Gopashtami on Saturday. At a function held at Shri Vidya Math (Kedar Ghat), the Shankaracharya, after offering prayers to 'gaumata' (the cow), remembered the cow protection movement held in 1966 under the leadership of Dharma Samrat Swami Karpatri Ji Maharaj and paid tribute to the cow devotees and martyrs. He pointed out that the Vedas and Upanishads and the sacred sentiments of Sanatani Hindus give the status of a mother to cows, but in the law of India, the cow has been insulted and despised as an animal, due to which it is being killed and is being treated badly.

He said to demand protection to cow by including it in the Central list and removing it from the state list, give it the status of 'Mother of the Nation' and to make India cow slaughter free, the Gau Pratishtha Andolan was going on continuously under the blessings of all the four Jagadguru Shankaracharyas. He said that Gau Dhwaaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra was taken out from September 22 to October 27 in all the capitals of 36 states and Union territories. According to him, in the presence of Gopal Mani, the 26,663-kilometre-long journey with cow devotees started from Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya on September 22 and within 36 days, the cow flag was established in the capitals of every state/UT and it culminated at Shri Vrindavan

Gopashtami celebrated with cow worship



PNS ■ VARANASI

On the auspicious occasion of Gopashtami, Dharma Sangh (Mani Mandir), the 'tapobhoomi' of Dharma Samrat Swami Karpatri Ji Maharaj, was abuzz with various events throughout the day on Saturday. On the occasion, cow worship was started by Dharma Sangh general secretary Pandit Jagjit Pandey at 7 am in the Swami Karpatri Adarsh Gausghala established on the premises. Cow worship was done with the Shodashopchar method by 21 Vedic Brahmins and 111

batukas amidst chanting of Shukla Yajurveda in the presence of Dharma Sangh Peethadheeswar Swami Shankardev Chaitanya Brahmachari Ji Maharaj. First of all, Gauri-Ganesh and then Aditya Surya were worshipped. Thereafter, cow worship was done after Lord Vishnu worship. Hundreds of cows like Sahiwal, Gangatri and Gir living in the gausghala were given 'panch-gavya' and 'panchamrit' baths in the morning, after which the cows were decorated with colourful silk clothes, crowns, ornaments etc. After the wor-

ship, all the cows were fed jaggery, fruits and sweets along with green fodder including cucumber, gourd, beans, carrots, radish, green peas etc. At the end, aarti was performed and they were circumambulated. Pandey said that the entire life of Swami Karpatri was dedicated to cow service as he believed that cow is the saviour in this era and all sins are mitigated by cow service and the path of welfare is paved. A large number of devotees were present in the cow worship. The guests were welcomed by Rajmangal Pandey.

Dham on October 27. The Shankaracharya said that in the next phase of the movement, cow flags would be established at the district and assembly constituency levels,

for which the in-charges of 36 states/UTs were given the flags. "During the last Prayagraj Magh Mela, 324 Kundiya Yajnas were organised from January 14 to February 14," he

said, adding that Gau Maha Kumbh will be organised in Varanasi on March 27 next year in which 1.25 crore cow devotees from all over India will participate.

One killed, another hurt as two bikes collide

Prayagraj (PNS): A 30-year-old man was killed and another man seriously injured when the motorcycle they were travelling on collided head-on with another bike near the Bharatganj police outpost in the Meja area of Prayagraj.

The police have sent the injured person for treatment, taken the body of the deceased man into custody, and begun an investigation. Ramesh Harijan, son of Dayashankar, a resident of Sakri Bhausara in the Manda police station area, was a pickup driver. Late on Friday night, he was travelling to his in-laws' house in Shiromanipur, Bharatganj, on his motorcycle. Meanwhile, Mahesh Mishra, a resident of Handia, was riding his bike towards Manda. The two bikes collided head-on after an unknown rider's bike became involved in the incident. Both riders were severely injured as a result of the crash.

Inspector Shailendra Singh, along with Bharatganj post in-charge Vinay Singh, arrived at the scene following the report. The injured were taken to the CHC, where Ramesh was declared dead by doctors. Mahesh, in critical condition, was referred to the district hospital. Upon receiving the news, the deceased's wife, Babita, and their two-year-old daughter, Ananya, arrived at the spot. It is said that Ramesh mostly resided at his in-laws' house, as his father works outside the city. The incident has cast a shadow of grief over both the village and the in-laws' house. Inspector Shailendra said that the body has been sent for a post-mortem examination. Both damaged vehicles have also been seized. Further action is ongoing, and an investigation is underway based on the complaint filed by the deceased's family.

Govt committed to healthcare of elderly, says minister



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal distributing Ayushman card to a senior citizen at the Chowkaghat CHC in Varanasi on Saturday

PNS ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Stamp and Court Registration Fees (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal said that the Yogi Adityanath government was committed to taking care of the health of the elderly. He was addressing senior citizens at a special camp at the community health centre in Chowkaghat here on Saturday. Jaiswal said that Ayushman health card holders could avail free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) by getting admitted to any registered hospital. "To provide health services to all senior citizens, the government is paying special attention to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana," he said, adding that under this scheme, Ayushman cards were being made for people above 70 years of age.

The minister said that the government's intention was that everyone should get the best health services. On this occasion, Dr Falguni Gupta, Dr CB Maurya, hospital staff and people from the community were also present. Meanwhile, the drive to make Ayushman cards for the elderly continued in the district and during the day, 1,067 health cards were made for the beneficiaries above 70 years of age in the district. So far, 5,056 cards have been made for the elderly in a week in the entire district. On the occasion, a special camp was also organised at the CHC Durgakund. Varanasi City South MLA Neelkanth Tiwari distributed Ayushman cards to the beneficiaries in the camp. During this, he made the cards of Pramod Kumar Mishra, a resident of Rashmi Nagar, and Radha Devi of Sudamapur from his mobile phone himself and also

informed the people present in the CHC about it and appealed that the beneficiaries should make their Ayushman cards themselves from their mobile phones. Chief Medical Officer Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that such camps would continue to be organised in the coming days so that maximum number of elderly people get the benefit of Ayushman health card. Additional Chief Medical Officer Dr SS Kanaujia, who is the nodal officer, said that Ayushman cards of 74 elderly people had been made in the camp and 1,067 cards had been made in the entire district on Saturday. So far, 5,056 Ayushman cards of the elderly have been made in the district in a week, he pointed out, adding that Aadhaar-based e-KYC was mandatory for issuing the enrolment of Ayushman card for eligible senior citizens of both existing and new families.

Mishap toll reaches three after couple succumbs

Prayagraj (PNS): The couple, who met a road accident while returning from Ayodhya after darshan, succumbed to injuries during treatment on Saturday. They had been receiving care at a private hospital. Earlier, a 10-year-old boy died on the spot in the accident. Shailendra Kumar Gupta, a resident of Govind Garh, Rewa Galla Mandi in Madhya Pradesh, had travelled to Ayodhya for darshan with his family and relatives in two cars. While returning, their car ramed into trucks parked diagonally near Jogapur Galla Aadhat in the Mauaima police station area around 3 in the morning. The vehicle was severely damaged in the crash. Police, who arrived at the scene after receiving the report, evacuated all the injured. Shivanshu Gupta (10), son of Phoolchand, died before reaching the hospital, while seven others, including Shailendra Kumar (45) and his wife Kamlesh Devi (40), were injured. The couple's condition remained critical, and they both died on Saturday while being treated. The injured — Palak Gupta (18), daughter of Arvind, Sejal (23), daughter of Phoolchand, Tanu (13), and Pihu (19) — are still undergoing treatment.

'Over 2 lakh new cancer patients are diagnosed every year in UP alone'

Prayagraj (PNS): The two-day 35th UPROCON-24 was inaugurated by the Regional Cancer Centre of Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital on Saturday. Cancer specialists from across the country gathered to share their experiences. On the first day, a training workshop was held at Kamla Nehru Hospital focusing on early brachytherapy for mouth, skin, and breast cancer. This treatment method provides excellent cosmetic and functional outcomes while minimising surgical damage. The latest advancements in cancer treatment were also discussed at the Convention Centre of the Allahabad Medical Association. Dr Madanlal Brahmabhatt, Vice-Chancellor of Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Medical Education University, Dehradun, said that cancer is spreading rapidly across the globe and is becoming epidemic in nature. In Uttar Pradesh alone, more than two lakh new cancer patients are diagnosed every year. Despite this alarming figure, the number of treatment centres remains limited. Most cancers are detected at an

advanced stage, by which point it is often too late for effective intervention. He emphasised that 90% of cancers can be treated successfully if detected early. Timely screenings and public awareness, he noted, are crucial in this regard. Dr Brahmabhatt further explained that there are around 200 types of cancer, with tobacco being responsible for two-thirds of these cases. Tobacco use causes 14 different types of cancer. The number of new cancer patients in Uttar Pradesh each year exceeds the capacity of local treatment facilities, with a waiting period of two to three months at most cancer institutes. He called for the establishment of radiotherapy treatment centres in all medical colleges, district hospitals, and major hospitals, to enable earlier detection and treatment. Specific cancers, such as mouth, chest, and cervical cancer, can be identified at an early stage and treated effectively. Dr Satyajit Pradhan, Director of Tata Cancer Hospital in Varanasi, remarked that while India has a higher number of cancer patients, the testing facilities and resources are limited.

IIT-BHU develops CKD diagnostic tool

PNS ■ VARANASI

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) has emerged as a global health crisis, affecting over 800 million people worldwide, or more than 10 per cent of the global population. The alarming rise in CKD-related mortality, recording a 42 per cent increase over the past two decades, has drawn attention to the urgent need for early diagnosis and treatment. CKD is now poised to become the fifth leading cause of death by 2040, as reported by the Global Burden of Disease Study. While factors such as cardiovascular conditions and pregnancy complications in women exacerbate kidney disease, developing nations are struggling with the financial burden of managing this growing epidemic. Despite no current cure for CKD, dialysis and kidney transplants remain the only viable options, both of which are difficult to access in many low-income countries. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-BHU have developed a game-changing diagnostic tool aimed at addressing these challenges. Led by Divya, a PhD scholar, and Prof Pranjal Chandra from the School of Biochemical Engineering, the team has created a cost-effective paper



IIT-BHU scholar Divya with GYTI Award

microchip device designed for point-of-care testing of kidney disease. This novel solution could revolutionise kidney disease detection, offering a simpler, faster, and more affordable alternative to traditional diagnostic methods that require expensive laboratory equipment and skilled personnel. The innovative paper microchip, which uses nanotechnology to modify ordinary filter paper, is capable of detecting two critical biomarkers for kidney health — creatinine and albumin. Creatinine, a key

indicator of kidney function, is measured using a smartphone-based imaging system, while albumin levels are assessed using an indigenously developed 3D-printed cascade. The system incorporates CretCheck, an easy-to-use software that automatically processes results, providing a clear 'green' indication for healthy individuals and 'red' for those with kidney disease. Dr Indrani Nandi, a DST National Postdoctoral fellow under Prof Chandra and Nachiket Mendki, a BTech stu-

dent also contributed in this research, showcasing the research ecosystem of the IIT-BHU. Prof Chandra emphasised that this development aims to bridge the gap in healthcare access, particularly in primary healthcare centres, where resources are limited. Unlike conventional testing methods that require sophisticated instruments and long waiting times, this device delivers results in under 10 minutes, making it a timely and efficient solution for early detection of

kidney disease. The platform has already undergone extensive validation using human serum matrices, and findings have been published in prestigious journals including ACS Biomaterials Science and Engineering by the American Chemical Society. Prof Chandra also explained that this is an integrated system and a platform technology that can be easily adopted for different markers for molecular detection in precision medicine.

DIVYA WINS AWARD Meanwhile, in a remarkable achievement, Divya was honoured with the prestigious Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Award 2023 at the India International Centre in New Delhi recently for developing the paper-based micro device designed to diagnose kidney health. This award, conferred by the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI) in collaboration with the Honey-Bee Network, recognises innovative technological solutions that address pressing healthcare issues, particularly those that align with the principles of Gandhian values — simplicity, sustainability, and affordability.

12 lakh diyas to be lit on Dev Deepawali

PNS ■ VARANASI

With the conclusion of Chhath Puja festival, the internationally famous Ganga ghats of Kashi are being readied for another big festival — Dev Deepawali — when the 84-odd ghats will be illuminated with 12 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) on November 15. To give the festival a grand look, the Tourism department will run 'Ek Diya Kashi Ke Naam' campaign on Dev Deepawali. "If anyone is unable to reach the Ganga ghats of Kashi on Dev Deepawali, the Tourism department will light the lamp donated by anyone on the Ganga ghats," Deputy Director (Tourism) Rajendra Kumar Rawat said, while informing about the plan to run a 'Ek Diya Kashi Ke Naam' campaign. He said that in this campaign, common people could donate lamps to the Tourism department in the name of their ancestors and light them on the



banks of the river Ganga. According to Rawat, under this campaign, the Tourism department is also appealing to people to light lamps on the Ganga ghats and kunds (ponds) in the name of martyrs and ancestors. As this festival is spreading the

light of Sanatan all over the world, the state government has already declared Dev Deepawali as a provincial fair. Rawat said that the people could give lamps at the Tourism department's office located at Dashashwamedh Ghat.

Prior to that, the activities on the Ganga ghats will be started even on the auspicious occasion of Prabodhini Ekadashi on November 12, when thousands of devotees will take a holy dip in river Ganga in the morning and in the evening, the Tourism and Culture departments will organise different programmes at Assi, Rajghat, Rajendra Prasad and Namoh ghats. The most important among them is cultural programmes of the famous Ganga Mahotsav which will be held at Assi Ghat from November 12 to 14. In view of cultural programmes at Assi Ghat, District Magistrate S Rajalingam gave necessary instructions for the preparations along with adequate security arrangements as well as barricading towards the river, especially on the occasion of Dev Deepawali. Besides, laser show fireworks shows will also be held at Ganga ghats during Ganga Mahotsav.

Man suffers electric shock, succumbs

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A middle-aged man switching on the pumping set suffered a fatal electric shock at his house in Sonbarsa village, within the Manda police station area of Prayagraj. Upon receiving the information, the police arrived at the scene and sent the body to the city for a post-mortem. According to reports, Dudhnath Kushwaha (50), who was a resident of Sonbarsa village in the Manda police station area, was starting the pumping set installed at his home on Saturday afternoon. He suddenly came into contact with the current and suffered severe burns. His family members rushed him to the Manda CHC, where doctors pronounced him dead. Upon being informed, Inspector AK Upadhyay arrived at the scene with a team and sent the body for autopsy, while investigations into the matter are ongoing. Meanwhile, the family of the deceased is in a state of grief following the tragic incident. It is believed that the electric wire connected to the pumping machine had

been cut, and Dudhnath did not notice this, which led to the fatal electric shock. In a separate incident, a young man died from a snake bite on Friday night, causing panic among his family. Later, at the Ganga Ghat, during the preparation for his last rites, it was believed that the young man had come back to life. This led the family to rush him to the hospital, but the doctors confirmed he was dead. A video of the incident has gone viral and has become a topic of discussion in the area. Vijay Kesharwani (46), a resident of Sirhir Patehra village in the Meja police station area, was bitten by a poisonous snake on Friday night. His family first took him for an exorcism, but Vijay died, which caused distress among his loved ones. On Saturday afternoon, the family took him to Chhatwa Ganga Ghat in Sirsa for his last rites. While preparing the body for cremation, applying ghee, the family noticed signs of life, as the deceased's heartbeat started. They immediately took him to the hospital, where doctors once again confirmed his death after examination.

Phulpur by-election: Former lawmaker campaigns for son Prayagraj (PNS): Former MP Kesari Devi Patel has started campaigning to ensure her son Deepak's victory in the upcoming by-election to the Phulpur seat in Prayagraj. Kesari Devi, a former MP from the Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency, is now actively working to secure victory for Deepak, who is contesting the by-election on a BJP ticket. She has been campaigning for 15 to 16 hours a day and is engaging with women voters. Not only is she asking for votes, but she is also seeking blessings for her son. Kesari Devi has been participating in various local events to connect with the electorate. She was elected as a BJP MP from the Phulpur seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. However, there is some discontent among the public due to a perceived lack of significant development in the area during her tenure. Everywhere the former MP goes, people have been voicing their concerns. In response, Kesari Devi assures them that any unfinished work will be completed once her son Deepak becomes an MLA. In a conversation with reporters, she expressed confidence, saying: "The voters of Phulpur are going to make the lotus bloom here. Everyone is supporting us. The people here are with us."

Shah likens Jharkhand Govt to 'burnt transformer'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE RANCHI

Taking a jibe at the JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday equated it with a "burnt transformer" that "failed" to relay the power of prosperity sent through the "high tension line" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Centre.

He also appealed to the people to vote for the BJP for peaceful Ram Navami celebrations, promising that he would participate in such festival in Hazaribag if the BJP government was voted to power. "Narendra Modi's government is like an HT (high tension) power line. An HT line cannot supply electricity directly to your homes; a transformer is needed. The Hemant Soren government (Jharkhand CM) is like a burnt transformer. The Centre sends lakhs of



crores of rupees through its HT line for development, but it is not transmitted to you. The time has come to change this burnt transformer," Shah claimed addressing a poll rally in Hazaribag. Shah alleged that the JMM-led regime was involved in multiple scams, including Rs 1,000 crore in MGNREGA, Rs 600 crore in land deals, Rs 1,000 crore in mining, and liquor. He further accused the state

JMM-Congress coalition of "devouring" the free ration sent by PM Modi. "The JMM-led alliance in Jharkhand allowed Maoists to prosper, but PM Modi uprooted them in 10 years," he claimed. Hitting out at the Congress, Shah alleged, "The Congress made Kashmir the hub of terrorism. Its leaders feared going to Lal Chowk, but now I ask them to fearlessly visit Lal Chowk with their grandchildren."

Water quality of Ganga in UP deteriorating due to discharge of sewage, observes NGT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has observed that the water quality in the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh is deteriorating because of the discharge of sewage or sullage into the river. Earlier, while considering the prevention and control of pollution in the Ganga, the green body sought compliance reports from various states, including Uttar Pradesh.



In an order dated November six, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said according to the report from Uttar Pradesh, there was a gap of 128 million litres per day (MLD) in sewage treatment in Prayagraj district. Also, 25 untapped drains discharged untreated sewage into the Ganga in the district and 15 untapped drains discharged the sullage into the Yamuna, the bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel, said. "We find that out of the 326 drains disclosed in the report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) dated October 22, 247 drains are untapped (in the state) and discharging 3,513.16 MLD of waste water into the river Ganga and its tributaries," the tribunal said. Expressing dissatisfaction, it directed the state's chief secretary to file an affidavit disclosing the information regarding each drain across different districts, the sewage generated from those, the sewage treatment plants (STP) to which those were proposed to be connected and the timeline for making the STPs functional. "The affidavit will also disclose the short-term measures that will be adopted to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage in the river in respect of each of the districts and drain till STPs are made fully functional and 100 per cent household connectivity is achieved," the bench said. It also took note of the CPCB report disclosing the status of 41 STPs across 16 Ganga-front towns, which said six plants are non-operational and of the 35 operational STPs, only one complied with the rules.

Demonising Constitutional institutions pastime for some, cautions VP Dhankhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Demonising constitutional institutions and sermonising people is fast becoming a 'pastime', Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Saturday and cautioned that such actions are a recipe for chaos. He also said even those who "constitutionally matter in the political arena" are "sermonising all and demonising our constitutional institutions". Addressing an event of an educational institution here, the vice president said it is time to "bid adieu to this". "Also, I say with utmost restraint -- time for our elites to be elites. To them, I appeal -- to be a worthy elite, you have to be spurred by the fervour of nationalism," he said, without naming anyone. Dhankhar also spoke on the crucial role of the alumni in strengthening the educational ecosystem, urging for active participation and



contributions to alumni associations. "The alumni of an institution are in several ways its lifeline... I strongly urge to have an alumni fund. Making annual contributions is all important. Some of the best institutions globally have been on an upward trajectory because these institutions are fuelled by alumni energy," he said. The vice president said associations of trade, industry, business, and commerce must also come forward to fuel research and spur innovation through liberal financial contributions.

BJP claims Congress' Maharashtra unit has assured Muslim body of 10 per cent reservation, other demands

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday here claimed that the Maharashtra unit of Congress has assured a Muslim body that it will take steps to fulfil its demands including a 10 per cent quota for the minority community in jobs and education and a ban on the RSS if Maha Vikas Aghadi is voted to power in the state assembly polls. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, senior party leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the All India

Ulama Board (AIUB) has written to Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders offering its conditional support in the assembly elections. "In its letter, the organisation has said that if Nana Patole (Congress), Uddhav Thackeray (Shiv Sena-UBT), Sharad Pawar (NCP-SP) and other parties want their support they will have to fulfil their demands which include opposition to Waqf Bill, 10 per cent reservation to Muslims in jobs and education..." he claimed. It has also demanded a ban on the RSS if the MVA is

voted to power in Maharashtra, Prasad claimed, terming the organisation's demands as "divisive and a charter for the disintegration of the country". What is "painful" here is that the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee in its reply to the organisation has assured that it will "definitely" take steps to fulfil their demands if voted to power in Maharashtra, the BJP leader claimed. "We vehemently oppose such disruptive demands. We will never let them be implemented," he said,



adding that the BJP will also "expose the so-called INDIA coalition" before the people and show that they can go to any extent for votes. Prasad said that Muslims cannot be given a 10 per cent quota on the basis of religion as it is not permissible under the Constitution. If a 10 per cent quota is given to Muslims on other grounds it will slash the existing share in reservations meant for the OBCs, SCs and STs, he said and asked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi if it is acceptable to them.

Playing Shiv Sena (UBT) on the issue, Prasad said, "It's no more Shiv Sena, led and founded by late Bala Saheb Thackeray. It's now an organisation out to grab power by making all compromises." He said the RSS is a nationalist organisation that has done "historic work" in the service of the nation and society, and slammed Uddhav Thackeray. "What has happened to you, Uddhav Thackeray? You forgot your own legacy. Balasaheb Thackeray had struggled so much against these things... You are his son."

"We vehemently condemned it. It's very painful because we were once together," the BJP leader said as he accused Uddhav Thackeray of deviating from his party's original ideology. Prasad also took to Sharad Pawar, asking why he has kept silent on the issue. "You are a seasoned player. I know you understand the Constitution. You are 80 plus and you command a lot of respect there. 'Did you make them understand that it's not possible (to fulfil AIUB's demands)... How far will you go for votes,' he said.

LJP (Ram Vilas) to counter RJD's 'MY' combine in Bihar with own support base: Chirag

Tarari (Bihar), Nov 9 (PTI)

Union minister Chirag Paswan on Saturday claimed that his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) would counter the RJD's formidable 'MY' (Muslims and Yadavs) combine in Bihar with its own support base of women and the youth. The NDA partner was talking to reporters in Tarari assembly constituency, on the sidelines of a rally he addressed for BJP candidate Vishal Prashant along with Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, among others.

"I am glad at the candidature of Vishal Prashant who is young. My party had contested and won five seats in Lok Sabha polls. Four of our candidates were young", said Paswan, who himself clinched Hajipur, the pocket borough of his late father Ram Vilas Paswan. The 42-year leader, who did not mention the RJD by name, said "There are some who speak of an MY combination which is just mobilisation along the lines of caste and religion. My party, too, has its own MY combination which stands for mahila and yuva. Our

stance towards women is obvious with two of our MPs being females". Paswan, who is known to have excellent personal relations with the family of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, extended birthday greetings to the latter's son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav, calling himself a "big brother" of the young leader. When asked whether he would like to give any political advice to Yadav, the third-term MP broke into a sheepish grin and remarked "Given his family background, he has no dearth of good advisors".



Paswan, however, deplored a statement by RJD's Buxar MP Sudhakar Singh who recently threatened to "beat up with sticks" BJP workers in Ramgarh assembly constituency where assembly by-poll has been necessitated by his election to Lok Sabha and his party has fielded his younger brother Ajit. Paswan said, "This is the type of language and behaviour that is always associated with RJD, a reason why the party is blamed for jungle raj in Bihar while it was in power. I was a teenager back then and still remember how

much the bad reputation of the state used to rile its self-respecting people". Responding to another query, the Union minister said "Hindus are being targeted, in countries where they are in a minority, by extremists from other faiths. Canada is an example. But, it is disgusting that when Narendra Modi government brought the CAA for persecuted Hindus, the opposition criticized it". "Fear-mongering has become the defining trait of INDIA bloc. They claimed CAA would deprive a section of population of

citizenship though there was no such provision in the Act. They also said Modi, in his third term, will do away with quotas and scrap the Constitution. That too has been proven false", Paswan said. Asked about Independent MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav's claims of getting threatening calls from people posing as aides of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, the Union minister "if he is making such complaints, these must be investigated and he must be provided with adequate security".

Oops! A Diwali greeting...

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In the process, the Anganwadi worker mistakenly entered the Aadhaar details of these unmarried girls on the pregnancy and childcare portal. This unintended crossover of roles appears to have led to the registration error, which has since been corrected. The CDO confirmed that, so far, there is no evidence suggesting that the Anganwadi worker distributed nutritional supplements to the unmarried girls. However, an investigation led by the DPRO is underway to clarify all aspects of the incident. "Though this was a mistake, we are thoroughly investigating it to prevent future errors," Nagpal said.

The issue came to light after Ramna village Pradhan, Aarti Patel, received complaints from the affected families. When Patel approached the Anganwadi worker for clarification, the worker reportedly responded unprofessionally, prompting Patel to escalate the complaint to the District Magistrate (DM). The Anganwadi worker's conduct is now under review as part of the ongoing investigation. "This incident highlights the importance of accurate data handling in government schemes and the need for clarity in responsibilities, especially when employees handle multiple roles. The state has assured that appropriate action will be taken based on the investigation findings," Nagpal said.

AMU does not...

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In his address, Adityanath also referenced the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Iddagah Mosque in Mathura and the Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque disputes, attributing "humiliation" on these issues to Hindu disunity. The Chief Minister highlighted improvements in Uttar Pradesh's law and order since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assumed power, crediting his administration for the progress. Adityanath's remarks were made in Khair, one of nine Uttar Pradesh constituencies facing Assembly bypolls on November 20. The Khair by-poll was triggered when BJP MLA Anoop Valmiki, elected in 2022, won a Lok Sabha seat from Hathras, necessitating his resignation from the Assembly

From Tihar, Suresh Chandrashekar keeps Bollywood fantasy alive

From page 1

In his earlier offer, Suresh has expressed his desire to acquire a controlling stake, between 50-70%, in Dharma Productions. Suresh emphasised that the deal was non-negotiable and could be finalised within 48 hours if Karan Johar agreed to the terms. "This is a letter of intent regarding acquiring a major portion of the stake in your company, Dharma Productions," the letter states. According to the letter, the offer is backed by Suksh's financial advisor, who reportedly informed him that Dharma Productions was seeking investments. Suresh's

company, LS Holdings, is said to be interested in supporting Dharma's expansion plans. Adar Poonawalla led Serene Production recently acquired 50 per cent stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Dharmatic Entertainment, for Rs 1,000 crore, the company said in a press release. Earlier, it was reported Saregama would be doing the same but the reports were refuted. Earlier, on Diwali, Suresh sent a letter to Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandes expressing his love and wrote, "Baby you know I would do everything to make you feel special, irrespective of what the situation is, I hope when you Read this

letter and See your Cute missing to see. I love you like Crazy my Baby Boo. Thank you for loving me and giving me the strength. I can feel every Second around me. Missing you my Baby Can't Wait, Love you My Bomma." He also revealed that he has named a star after Jacqueline and even praised her Cannes 2024 look. "My Baby Girl, Jacqueline, Baby firstly I have been missing you, Super Crazy, falling in love with you Crazy. Baby you stole the Show in Cannes, your look in Gold, was Jazzy and Super Classy Too Pretty to handle my love. Through your other photoshoot pictures, you stole My heart over Again, my CupCake," he wrote.

Delhi AQI likely to worsen

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According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, mainly smog conditions with predominant surface wind from variable directions with wind speed reaching 04-06 kmph prevailed during daytime and calm winds during night. Predicted maximum mixing depth is likely to be 1900 m on November 9. "The maximum mixing depth of wind was recorded at 1750 m on Saturday. The ventilation index lower than 6000 m2/s with average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. Meteorological conditions are likely to be extremely unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants," it said. The CAQM meeting also focused on strict discipline and measures to guard against unauthorised/haphazard parking of private vehicles on metalled roads, markets, public spaces etc. leading to vehicular congestion and high levels of pollution, particularly in winters and called for strict action against violators including for violations of Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate regime. Delhi has been witnessing high levels of air pollution

for the past few weeks which has been primarily blamed on stubble-burning in neighbouring states, Diwali fireworks and low wind speed. Notably, the Centre for Science and Environment has claimed that vehicular pollution is the main reason for Delhi pollution. Interestingly, the National Capital Region is currently experiencing four degrees above normal temperature due to no snowfall in the Himalayan region and lack of Western disturbances. The year 2023 was also the warmest year in 73 years. The Commission has called for a more proactive approach to addressing complaints, saying that delays in resolving issues hinder the effective implementation of air quality management measures. The AQI classifications are as follows: 0-50 is 'good', 51-100 is 'satisfactory', 101-200 is 'moderate', 201-300 is 'poor', 301-400 is 'very poor', and 401-500 is 'severe.' On Friday, it had reached 380, on a scale 0-500, which was the worst of this season as of now. The AQI had reached 390 at 10 am, 387 by noon, and settled at 382 by 3 pm, which increased the concerns of the residents and health officials.

Congress turns states into its ATMs: PM Modi

From page 1

"I challenge the shahi parivar of the Congress to prove if its members had ever visited Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Pantheerth (a term he coined in 2017) the birthplace of late Ambedkar at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, his residence in London (Sikhsha Bhoomi), Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism, Mahaparivran Sthal in Delhi, and Chaitiya Bhoomi in Mumbai," PM Modi said.

Accusing the Congress of insulting the late Ambedkar for years on end, the PM said: "From the time of Nehru till today, the top family of the Congress has repeatedly insulted Baba Saheb Ambedkar. It did not give Baba Saheb Ambedkar credit for any major work done by him" Dwelling upon the achievements of the BJP government at the Centre and the MahaYuti government in the state, PM Modi said that the Centre had given a boost

to industry and infrastructure for cotton cultivators by laying the foundation stone of a textile park in Amravati. The textile park will pave the way for the prosperity of cotton farmers. Charging that the previous MVA government had stalled the irrigation projects undertaken by the previous Devendra Fadnavis-led government, the PM said: "After Mahayuti Alliance came to power in the state, the Wainganga Nalganga and Painganga interlink projects

were sanctioned. The interlink projects will bring all 5 districts in Western Vidarbha including Nagpur and Wardha District under irrigation." The PM said that his government accorded the classical language status to the Marathi language which had raised the prestige of Maharashtra. Referring to a slew of schemes launched by the Centre and MahaYuti government for empowering farmers in the state, Modi said: "Our effort

has been to empower the farmers. If the farmer is empowered, he becomes the hero of the country's progress... We are therefore increasing the farmers' income and reducing their expenditure. The Centre introduced the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi for which the Mahayuti government gave its support. The result is that farmers of Maharashtra are getting Rs 12,000 annually." Touching upon the Ram Mandir issue, the PM said: "I

have come to seek your blessings for the BJP-led Mahayuti (grand alliance) in the Maharashtra assembly elections. You should remember the significance of November 9. It was on this day, the Supreme Court gave its ruling in favour of the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya. After the Supreme Court's verdict, the people from all the religions accepted it and showed great sensitivity in facilitating the Ram temple without any hinderance".

27 killed, 62 hurt in suicide attack on railway station in Pakistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

At least 27 people, including 14 security forces, were killed and 62 others injured on Saturday in a suicide bombing at a railway station in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, officials said.

The explosion ripped through the railway station of the provincial capital Quetta as passengers gathered on the platform before the departure of the Jaffar Express, scheduled to depart for Peshawar at 9:00 am. There were around 100 people on the platform when the blast occurred.

"So far, we have received 27 bodies and at least 62 people are injured, with some in critical condition," said Dr Wasim Baig of the Quetta Trauma Centre.

Dr Arbab Kamran Kasi, Managing Director of the Trauma Centre, warned that the death toll may increase since several wounded individuals, aged 20 to 50, remain in critical condition.

Quetta Division Commissioner Hamza Shafaqat said it was a suicide attack targeting security forces and civilians were also hit badly.

"There are around 14 members of the law enforcement agencies among the dead and dozens more among the wounded," he said.

The suicide bomber had entered the station with luggage, Shafaqat said, adding that was difficult to stop a per-



son coming with an intention to carry out a suicide attack. Earlier, SSP Operations Muhammad Baloch had also said that initial findings point to a possible suicide bombing.

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), an ethnic Baloch separatist group designated as a terrorist organisation, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The BLA alleges that the federal government exploits Balochistan's resources while neglecting the province's development. However, the federal government dismisses these allegations and claims that foreign powers are manipulating disgruntled elements to perpetrate sabotage.

"All bus stations, public spots have been put on high alert and gatherings discouraged," Shafaqat said.

Balochistan Inspector General of Police (IG) Moazzam Ansari said early investigations suggest the terrorists "targeted personnel from the Army Infantry School".

Rescue and law enforcement teams responded immediately, securing the area and transporting the injured and deceased to Civil Hospital Quetta, according to the provincial government spokesperson Shahid Rind.

An emergency was declared at the hospital where additional medical staff was summoned to

deal with the injured. The blast, which also damaged the platform's roof, was heard far and wide in various areas of the city.

BLA has stepped up attacks in the restive Balochistan province in recent months. Saturday's suicide bombing comes a week after a blast near a girl's school and a hospital in Balochistan's Mastung district killed eight people, including five children. The terror group has also been targeting Chinese nationals working in the province and in Karachi. Last month a suicide bombing near the Karachi airport killed two Chinese engineers.

Balochistan Chief Minister

Sarfraz Bugti condemned the attack, terming it as "a horrific act targeting innocent civilians", and ordered an immediate investigation.

He said that terrorists are increasingly aiming civilians, labourers, women, and children, and vowed that those responsible would be pursued relentlessly.

Pakistan, particularly the Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, has seen a sharp uptick in terrorism-related incidents over the past year.

According to the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the third quarter of the ongoing year witnessed a 90 per cent surge in violence in Pakistan, the Geo News reported.

With a total of 722 people being killed, including civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, while 615 others were wounded in as many as 328 incidents recorded during the period under review, 97% of these fatalities occurred in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Over 92% of these incidents of terror attacks and security forces' operations were recorded in the same provinces.

The total fatalities from three quarters of this year have now surpassed the total fatalities recorded for the entire 2023; the number of fatalities rose to at least 1534 in the first three quarters compared to 1523 in 2023, the report said.

B'desh interim govt not to allow Awami League rally

PTI ■ DHAKA

Termining Awami League as "fascist", Bangladesh's interim government on Saturday said it will not permit the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's party to hold Sunday's planned rally.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's press secretary Shafiqul Alam in a Facebook post said that the interim government won't tolerate any violence or any attempt to break the law and order situation in the country.

"The Awami League in its current form is a fascist party. There is no way this fascist party will be allowed to hold protests in Bangladesh," he said.

Alam further cautioned that "anyone who would try to hold rally, gathering and processions by taking orders from the mass murderer and dictator Sheikh Hasina will face full force of the law enforcing agencies".

Alam's statement followed a call from the Awami League on its

verified Facebook page, urging supporters to gather at Shaheed Noor Hossain Chattar, or Zero Point, in Gulistan on Sunday to protest what they described as "misrule".

"Our protest is against the deprivation of the rights of the people of the country; our protest is against the rise of fundamentalist forces; our protest is against the conspiracy to disrupt the lives of the common people," read the Facebook post.

This was the first call for a rally by the Awami League since August 5, when Hasina fled to India amid a mass student-led uprising against her government.

Awami League also urged party men to stage rallies at grassroots levels across the country on Sunday in line with "the spirit of the call" as described in the Facebook post.

The protest venue, Shaheed Noor Hossain Chattar, holds historical significance, as it was where Awami League youth leader Noor Hossain was killed on November 10,

1987 during a demonstration against the autocratic rule of the then military dictator General HM Ershad.

The interim government earlier banned Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League over allegations of its "fascist role" during and before the July-August Anti-Discrimination Students Movement.

Initially launched as a campaign for job quota reforms, the student-led movement intensified into a mass protest that ultimately led to the fall of the Hasina government.

While several political factions have called for the Awami League to be banned, Yunus said such a decision is up to political parties. Some ministers of the interim government also oppose the ban, emphasising political inclusivity.

Awami League's main rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by former prime minister Khaleeda Zia also opposed banning any political party.

Hungry Palestinians in north Gaza search for food, sealed off from aid by Israeli siege

AP ■ JERUSALEM

With virtually no food allowed into the northernmost part of Gaza for the past month, tens of thousands of Palestinians under Israeli siege are rationing their last lentils and flour to survive. As bombardment pounds around them, some say they risk their lives by venturing out in search of cans of food in the rubble of destroyed homes.

Thousands have staggered out of the area, hungry and thin, into Gaza City, where they find the situation little better. One hospital reports seeing thousands of children suffering from malnutrition. A nutritionist said she treated a pregnant woman wasting away at just 40 kg (88 pounds).

"We are being starved to force us to leave our homes," said Mohammed Arqouq, whose family of eight is determined to stay in the north, weathering Israel's siege. "We will die here in our homes."

Medical workers warn that hunger is spiraling to dire proportions under a monthlong siege on north Gaza by the Israeli military, which has been

waging a fierce campaign since the beginning of October, saying it's rooting out militants. Hamas, who are still holding hostages inside Gaza, have regrouped in the area and have been carrying out hit-and-run attacks from tunnels and bombed-out buildings. The military has severed the area with checkpoints, ordering residents to leave. Many Palestinians fear Israel aims to depopulate the north long term.

On Friday, experts from a panel that monitors food security said famine is imminent in the north or may already be happening. The growing desperation comes as the deadline approaches next week for a 30-day ultimatum the Biden administration gave Israel: raise the level of humanitarian assistance allowed into Gaza or risk possible restrictions on US military funding.

The US says Israel must allow a minimum of 350 trucks a day carrying food and other supplies. Israel has fallen far short. In October, 57 trucks a day entered Gaza on average, according to figures from Israel's military agency overseeing

aid entry, known as COGAT. In the first week of November, the average was 81 a day.

The UN puts the number even lower — 37 trucks daily since the beginning of October. It says Israeli military operations and general lawlessness often prevent it from collecting supplies, leaving hundreds of truckloads stranded at the border.

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Israel had made some progress by announcing the opening of a new crossing into central Gaza and approving new delivery routes.

But he said Israel must do more. "It's not just sufficient to open new roads if more humanitarian assistance isn't going through those roads," he said.

A desperate daily struggle: Israeli forces have been hammering the towns of Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya refugee camp. Witnesses report intense fighting between troops and militants.

A trickle of food has reached Gaza City, but as of Thursday,

nothing entered the towns farther north for 30 days, even as an estimated 70,000 people remain there, said Louise Wateridge, spokesperson for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, speaking from Gaza City.

The government acknowledged in late October that it hadn't allowed aid into Jabaliya because of military "operational constraints" in response to a petition by Israeli human rights groups. On Saturday, COGAT said it allowed 11 trucks of food and supplies into Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya. But Alia Zaki, a spokeswoman for the WFP, said Israeli troops at a checkpoint forced the convoy to unload the food before it could reach shelters in Beit Hanoun. It was not clear what then happened to the supplies. Palestinians in the north described to The Associated Press a desperate daily struggle to find food, water and safety, as strikes level buildings, sometimes killing whole families.

Arqouq said he goes out at night to search bombed-out buildings: "Sometimes you find a half-empty package of flour, canned food and lentils."

US contractors fix weapons inside Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Pentagon is easing restrictions to allow a small number of private American defense contractors to work inside Ukraine, helping repair and maintain equipment, US officials said Friday.

The contractors will be far away from the front lines during Russia's invasion and will not be taking part in combat, the officials said. The department is soliciting bids now, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal decisions.

Ukraine has been receiving billions of dollars worth of American weapons and equipment over the past two years, including a number of sophisticated systems. For much of that time, US and allied troops have been providing real-time maintenance advice using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chatrooms with Ukrainian forces.

Officials said the Pentagon is allowing the contractors to go because some equipment — including F-16 fighter jets and air defense systems — requires high-tech expertise to repair.

Justice Dept brings criminal charges in Iranian plot to kill Donald Trump

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Justice Department on Friday disclosed an Iranian murder-for-hire plot to kill Donald Trump, charging a man who said he had been tasked by a government official before this week's election with planning the assassination of the Republican president-elect.

Investigators were told of the plan to kill Trump by Farhad Shakeri, an accused Iranian government asset who spent time in American prisons for robbery and who authorities say maintains a network of criminal associates enlisted by Tehran for surveillance and murder-for-hire plots.

Shakeri told the FBI that a contact in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard instructed him this past September to set aside other work he was doing and assemble a plan within seven days to surveil and ultimately kill Trump, according to a criminal complaint unsealed in federal court in Manhattan.

The official was quoted by

Shakeri as saying, "We have already spent a lot of money" and that "money's not an issue."

Shakeri told investigators the official told him that if he could not put together a plan within the seven-day timeframe, then the plot would be paused until after the election because the official assumed Trump would lose and that it would be easier to kill him then, the complaint said.

Shakeri is at large and remains in Iran. Two other men were arrested on charges that Shakeri recruited them to follow and kill prominent Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad, who has endured multiple Iranian murder-for-hire plots foiled by law enforcement.

"I'm very shocked," said Alinejad, speaking by telephone to The Associated Press from Berlin, where she was about to attend a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the tearing down of the wall. "This is the third attempt against me and that's shocking."

A post on the social media

platform X, she said, "I came to America to practice my First Amendment right to freedom of speech — I don't want to die. I want to fight against tyranny, and I deserve to be safe. Thank you to law enforcement for protecting me, but I urge the US government to protect the national security of America."

Lawyers for the two other defendants, identified as Jonathan Loadholt and Carlisle Rivera, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Iran's UN Mission declined to comment.

Shakeri, an Afghan national who immigrated to the US as a child but was later deported after spending 14 years in prison for robbery, also told investigators that he was tasked by his Revolutionary Guard contact with plotting the killings of two Jewish Americans living in New York and Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka. Officials say he overlapped with Rivera while in prison as well as an unidentified co-conspirator.

Chinese national jailed for trying to enter Mar-a-Lago estate

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE

A Chinese national was ordered held Friday on trespassing charges after police say he tried to enter President-elect Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in violation of a court order that he stay away following previous attempts.

Zijie Li, 39, is being held without bond at the Palm Beach County jail after being arrested Thursday when he arrived at Mar-a-Lago's entrance gate in an Uber, the latest in a series of contacts he's had with police and Secret Service agents at or near the estate since July.

Li, who lives in suburban Los Angeles on a student visa, had just been released from a mental hospital, where he had been placed in late October after police found him near the estate. He is now facing two counts of misdemeanor trespassing.

Li's arrest comes after a sniper nearly killed Trump at a July rally in Pennsylvania and an alleged would-be assassin stalked him in September at his Palm Beach County golf course. On Friday, the US Justice Department announced

it had broken up an Iranian plot to kill Trump.

During Trump's term as president, there were numerous illegal incursions at Mar-a-Lago, including two by Chinese nationals, but none were attempts to harm him.

According to Town of Palm Beach police reports, Li first tried to enter Mar-a-Lago in July, telling Secret Service agents he had information tying China to the Pennsylvania assassination attempt. He was told to leave and not return.

He was arrested the following week after police said he twice tried to enter Mar-a-Lago. He was charged with misdemeanor trespassing and released on bail, with the judge ordering him to stay away from Mar-a-Lago and Trump.

Then Li last week approached a homeowner near Mar-a-Lago who had placed a Trump campaign sign in her yard, records show.

He asked the woman if she was a member of Mar-a-Lago and if she would take him inside. She called the police, who took him to a mental hospital for observation.

Indonesian President Subianto visits China in first overseas trip

AP ■ BEIJING

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto pledged to maintain close ties with China during a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing on Saturday, his first overseas stop since he took office three weeks ago.

Subianto is seeking to strengthen relations with China, Indonesia's largest trading partner and one of its most important foreign investors. This is his second visit to Beijing this year, following a visit in April as president-elect, the first overseas trip he made after winning the Indonesian presidential election in February.

"Indonesia considers China not only as a great power but as a great civilisation," Subianto said at the meeting, adding that the two countries had had close relations for centuries.

"Therefore, I think it is only natural that now in the present situation, geopolitical and economic, that Indonesia and China have become very close partners and in many, many fields."

Xi vowed support for Subianto's administration, thanking him for choosing to visit China first and saying he believed "Indonesia will adhere to an independent development



path, continue to make new achievements in the journey of achieving national prosperity and national rejuvenation, and play an important role on the international and regional stage."

Earlier on Saturday, Subianto met with other top Chinese leaders, including Premier Li Qiang and Zhao Leji, who is chairman of the National People's Congress and considered the No. 3 official in the ruling Communist Party.

Subianto is on the first stop on a multi-country tour. He is scheduled to visit four other nations, including the US and the UK, suggesting that Indonesia will continue its longstanding stance of neutral-

ity between Beijing and Washington. He is scheduled to meet US President Joe Biden and expected also to meet president-elect Donald Trump early next week.

Subianto, 73, is a wealthy ex-general with ties to both Indonesia's popular outgoing president and the country's dictatorial past. He presented himself as heir to the immensely popular President Joko Widodo, the first Indonesian president to emerge from outside the political and military elite. Subianto vowed to continue the modernisation agenda that has brought rapid growth and vaulted Indonesia into the ranks of middle-income countries.

Gunmen kill a navy rear admiral in Mexico

One of the highest-ranking officers slain in a decade

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Gunmen on Friday killed a navy rear admiral in Mexico, one of the highest-ranking officers slain in the country in a decade.

Mexico's navy said that a rear admiral — which is just below full admiral, the navy's highest rank — had been shot to death in the Pacific coast port city of Manzanillo. Local media gave his name as Fernando Guerrero Alcántar, but a navy spokesman would not confirm that or whether he was in uniform at the time.

The navy said in a statement that he was driving in his own

private vehicle when the attack occurred, so it was unclear if the gunman knew who he was. He would be one of the highest-ranking military officers killed in Mexico since 2013.

That year, gunmen in the neighbouring state of Michoacan ambushed and killed Vice Adm. Carlos Miguel Salazar, the top navy commander in the neighbouring Pacific coastal state of Jalisco. Members of the Knights Templar drug cartel were blamed for that killing.

The Vice admiral is a slightly higher rank than the rear admiral.

Attacks by Mexican cartels on

high-ranking officers have occurred, but are relatively rare.

However, the Mexican government has given more law-enforcement responsibility to the navy, army and the militarized National Guard in recent years, and they now represent the front-line forces against the country's drug cartels.

Manzanillo, because it is a Pacific coast port with direct shipments from China and other places in Asia, is highly prized by drug cartels seeking to smuggle in precursor chemicals to produce the deadly opioid fentanyl.

DOUBTED HIS ABILITY AFTER FAILURES BUT SKY, COACH'S SUPPORT HELPED HIM: SAMSON

PTI ■ DURBAN

India batter Sanju Samson reflected on his early struggles in international cricket, saying that a string of failures made him doubt his ability, but self-belief and support of the captain and coach helped him stage a strong comeback. Samson hit back-to-back centuries in T20 Internationals with a breathtaking 50-ball-107 to headline India's comfortable 61-run win over South Africa in the opening game here on Friday. "I have faced a lot of failures in my career. I think when you go through that failure, you have lot of doubts in your mind. People definitely say that social media definitely plays a role," Samson told reporters in the post-match press conference. "But you also think a lot about yourself. Sanju, are you not made for international level? I think you are doing well in IPL. Why are you not doing well internationally? So I have a lot of such thoughts. But after so many years of experience, I know what my ability is. "If I spend some time in the wicket, then I have a shot-making ability in spin and pace and I know that I can

definitely contribute well to the team. I can win the match. This is also a reality. There are definitely a lot of downs happening but the upside is also really good. So I kept telling myself that." Samson, who turns 30 on Monday, has often been criticised for not fulfilling his potential despite abundant talent. He had scored successive ducks in Sri Lanka but responded with a 111 against Bangladesh in the third T20I and followed it up with another ton on Friday. The Kerala batter acknowledged the crucial support he received from Captain Suryakumar Yadav and Coach Gautam Gambhir during his low phase. "When you have a supporting captain like Suryakumar Yadav and Gautam bhai and VVS Laxman sir, they all support you during failures. The way they communicate with you in your failures is very important. Everyone knows that if we are going through a negative phase, then the player can get lost there," he said. "So at that time, I received a lot of phone calls from Gautam bhai and Surya, telling me what to work on. Your spin is a little bit like that. You collect all the



spinners in Kerala and practice in rough wickets there. You do this, you do that. "So if your Indian team's captain is calling you and telling you how to practice after a duck, then

you have confidence that the captain is trusting you. He wants you to do well. So I think all those small, small things plays a huge role, I think, coming back here," Samson said.

"I'm very grateful about the trust shown on me. I think I've been able to give it back to my team management. I feel that it's just a start. I would like to just practice hard, train hard, just be very

grateful walking out to play for my country and just look to contribute and win games for my country every time I walk in." His innings included as many as 10 monstrous sixes which

propelled India to 202 for 8 in 20 overs. "When you score 100 for your country, it's definitely a very special feeling. The wicket was a little more bounced, a little spongy in the beginning. It's

been raining here for 3-4 days, so I think it was a bit more challenging condition," Samson said. "So according to that, we are talking to the team and we are preparing accordingly. Even when it rained for 3-4 days, our team came here and practiced. We did batting for 2-3 hours, so it was a little beneficial." "We're the World Champions and we need to play like that," Samson said they are focused on playing an aggressive brand of cricket, regardless of conditions, to live up to their reputation as world champions. "What we have been talking in the dressing room from so many seasons right after winning the World Cup or even from last 2-3 years is even if you lose the toss and even the conditions are tough, we have to go all in." "We can't think that we will have to look for something like 160-170 in these wickets because I think chasing becomes a bit easier. We were just looking to attack even knowing that the condition is slightly helping the bowlers," he said. "We are definitely the world champions at the moment. So I think we have to play like that and just keep on looking to dominate in this format," he said.



Stewart Cink maintains lead in PGA Tour Champions finale, with 67-year-old Langer 2nd after a 64

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

Stewart Cink shot a 5-under 66 to maintain a three-stroke lead in the PGA Tour Champions' season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Bernhard Langer, the 67-year-old German star who has a Champions-record 46 career victories, was second after a 64 on Friday. He shot his age or better for the 21st time on the tour. "Every once in a while I look back at my career and have to almost pinch myself and say, 'Man, that's pretty amazing what you've done the last whatever so many years,'" Langer said. "Like a day today, to shoot 64 - 3 under my age - not a whole lot of people can do that." The 51-year-old Cink had a 12-under 130 total at

Phoenix Country Club, shooting a 64 of his own in the first round. The Ally Challenge winner in August in Michigan for his first senior title, Cink entered the week 12th in the season standings. "It was actually probably a cleaner round than yesterday as far as just my processes and the quality of the shots was probably a little bit better overall," Cink said. "I just didn't have the hot long putts going in today quite as much, but it was a really solid round. I would love to play golf like that every day." Langer birdied five of the first seven holes and closed strong with birdies on 17 and 18. He's trying to win at least one event for the 18th consecutive year. "It's fun to make some putts,

that's what the game is all about," Langer said. "If you want to score low, you've got to make some putts." Alex Cejka was third at 7 under after a 66. Defending champion Steven Alker, second behind Ernie Els in the season standings, was tied for fourth at 4 under after a 68 - putting himself in position to pass Els for the \$1 million bonus. Vijay Singh (65), Miguel Angel Jimenez (68), Jerry Kelly (70) and Cameron Percy (68) also were 4 under. Els was 3 under after a 70. Stephen Ames, third in the standings, was 2 under after a 72. The top 36 players on the points list qualified for the event, with Steve Stricker the lone qualifier not in the field.

Czech legend Zelezny comes on board as Neeraj's coach ahead of 2025 season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Saturday roped in three-time Olympic champion and world record holder Jan Zelezny as his coach, setting the ball rolling for the upcoming season, where he will defend his World title. Zelezny, 58, is widely considered the greatest javelin thrower of the modern era. The Czech won three Olympic gold medals (1992, 1996, 2000) and as many world titles (1993, 1995, 2001) in his illustrious career. Zelezny holds the world record of 98.48m in the event.

Chopra till recently worked with German biomechanics expert Klaus Bartonietz, who also doubled up as his coach. Neeraj, after becoming the first Indian athlete to win a gold at the Tokyo Olympics, finished second best at the 2024 Paris Games. The star Indian athlete said he was a great admirer of Zelezny in his formative days and watched the Czech legend's videos to hone his skills. "Growing up, I admired Jan's technique and precision and spent a lot of time watching videos of him. He was the best in the sport for so many years, and I believe that working



with him will be invaluable because our throwing styles are similar, and his knowledge is unmatched," Neeraj said. "It's an honour to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I can't wait to get started," he added. Neeraj, who has not crossed

the 90m mark in competition so far, would be eager to break the 'barrier' and Zelezny's experience could come in handy. The collaboration also symbolises a fusion of generations, with the young champion drawing inspiration and expertise from what many consider the greatest javelin thrower of all time. Zelezny's expressed his happiness, saying he was always looking forward to train the Indian star as he still has a lot of potential. "I have already spoken about Neeraj as a great talent many years ago. When I saw him

early in his career, I realised great possibilities for top results," Zelezny said in a statement. "I also said that if I should start to coach somebody from outside Czechia (Republic), my first choice would be Neeraj. I like his story and I see big potential, as he is young and able to improve. "There have been many athletes contacting me for coaching, so for me to take this up means that it is a great honour to have him in my team. We are getting to know each other more closely and will start in person at a traditional winter camp in South Africa.

India needs top-order to bat better in second T20I against South Africa

PTI ■ GOEBERHA

Sanju Samson will look to continue his domination of the bowlers but India need more stability in the top order when they clash with South Africa in the second T20I South Africa, aiming to extend their superior run in the shortest format, here Sunday. Samson's stunning 107 off 50 balls powered India to a commanding 61-run victory in the series opener, but the lack of runs from other key batters remains a concern for the visitors. India need address this issue to ensure that the burden doesn't fall too heavily on their in-form keeper-batter. The continued failure of opener Abhishek Sharma, who has squandered multiple opportunities, would be worrying the team management. Apart from his memorable 47-ball century against Zimbabwe in Harare earlier this year, Sharma has struggled



for runs with scores of 0, 10, 14, 16, 15, 4, and 7 in recent outings. The dashing left-hander's lack of consistency at the top of the order could prompt India to rethink their options moving forward. While the team management is unlikely to make changes to the playing XI, it

will be disappointed with Sharma's continued failure, especially as India look for second-line opening option after Yashasvi Jaiswal following Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format. Tilak Varma showed promise with a quick-fire 33 off just 18 balls in the first match but will need to convert such

cameos into bigger knocks. Varma has been largely off the radar since his last appearance against Afghanistan in January, and with competition for spots in the middle order heating up, the young batter will need to cement his place in the side. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav also got a start but fell cheaply, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya was unable to live up to his potential in the opening match. India's middle-order, which looked solid on paper, struggled to build partnerships as they lost six wickets for just 36 runs, slipping from a commanding 166/2 to 202/8 by the end of their 20 overs. This collapse highlighted the fragility of India's middle and lower order, something that they will aim to address before the second T20I. In the bowling department, India were clinical as they restricted South Africa to just 141 in 17.5 overs in the opening match.

Busquets, once ruled out, now may play alongside Messi for Inter Miami against Atlanta United

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)

Inter Miami practiced thinking there was no way Sergio Busquets was going to play in its win-or-else playoff match against Atlanta United. A few hours later, the team got quite the surprise on Friday. Busquets - who coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said was ruled out for Saturday's game - received medical clearance on Friday afternoon to play and is being listed as questionable. Busquets went through a training session on his own after the rest of the team worked out Friday, meaning Lionel Messi could have one of his most trusted teammates alongside him with the season on the line. "We're confident in the progression of his recovery, and are hopeful he'll be available for (Saturday's)

match," the team said. Busquets was struck somewhere around his midsection in Game 1 of the best-of-three series and developed pneumonia-like symptoms. He didn't play in Game 2 last week - a 2-1 Atlanta win - and Inter Miami has to win Saturday just to extend its season and reach the second round of the MLS Cup playoffs. "At best, there are four finals left," Martino said on Friday morning, in the same interview session during which he revealed that Busquets wouldn't play - because that's what he truly thought at the time. "Each of the remaining games has the characteristics of a final game and we, with the expectations we have, are ready to face it in the best way." Inter Miami hopes to have four games left this season -



Saturday's conclusion to Round 1, and then a conference semifinal, conference final and the MLS

Cup final. If Inter Miami keeps winning, all four of those matches would be at home. If it loses a match, the

season ends there for the team that won the Supporters' Shield and posted the best regular-season

record in MLS history. Atlanta has already won four elimination games this season - their two must-win

matches to keep hope alive at the end of the regular season against the New York Red Bulls and Orlando City, then a wild-card match at Montreal and Game 2 of this series against Inter Miami. The difference is that this one is an elimination match for Messi as well. And when asked this week about how Messi's numbers haven't been great in this series - no goals and one assist in the two matches - Atlanta interim coach Rob Valentino wanted no part of that storyline. "Messi is fantastic," Valentino said. "There is no slander on my end. He's a fantastic player. Whether people say he's produced, not produced, I don't want to hear it because he's fantastic." Atlanta is the only MLS team to beat Inter Miami twice this season, and both wins came with Messi in the lineup; the

club is 2-1-1 so far this season against the No. 1 overall seed. The rest of MLS, combined, went 0-12-5 against Inter Miami when Messi was in the lineup. But Atlanta's plan against Messi seems to have worked; he has one goal on 19 shots, eight of which were on target, in the four matches between the clubs this season. "What he brings to a game, what he brings to a team, just him standing on the field it requires your attention," Atlanta United goalie Brad Guzan said. "There's very few times that Plan A works. It's Plan B and Plan C and Plan D and you have to adjust very quickly." Busquets, the team said, will be listed as questionable, which typically means that the club's medical staff will see how he is feeling on game day before making a final determination.



ROHIT BAL A TRAILBLAZER WHO REDEFINED INDIA'S FASHION

As the fashion world mourns his loss, his legacy lives on in the countless designers, artisans, and fashion enthusiasts inspired by his pioneering spirit and dedication to Indian craftsmanship, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**



Rohit Bal's name is synonymous with elegance, luxury, and a unique fusion of traditional Indian aesthetics with modern sophistication. Over the course of his illustrious career, Bal has not just defined fashion but also revolutionised how India perceives style. His journey, marked by innovation and passion, is one of resilience and unparalleled creativity, shaping not just the Indian fashion scene but also placing it firmly on the global map.

THE EARLY DAYS: DISCOVERING FASHION

Born in 1961 in Srinagar, Kashmir, Rohit Bal's early influences came from the serene beauty of his homeland. The majestic valleys, the rich heritage, and the intricate craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans were integral to his formative years. Little did he know, these elements would later form the core of his designs. Initially, Bal pursued a degree in science before realising that his true calling was in fashion. In the late 1980s, he moved to Delhi to study at the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), where he refined his skills and honed his vision.

In a pivotal moment during his early career, Bal was encouraged by a family friend, the iconic model and former Miss India, Madhu Sapre, to create his first collection for the fashion circuit. His debut at the Indian Fashion Week in the 1990s marked a milestone, both for him and the industry. It was a time when the Indian fashion scene was still finding its identity, and designers like Rohit Bal were about to change the game.

THE RISE TO FAME: PIONEERING LUXURY FASHION IN INDIA

Rohit Bal's first collection was a masterful blend of contemporary design with classical Indian elements. His signature style, which combined luxurious fabrics, intricate embroideries, and a sharp, modern sensibility, quickly set him apart from his contemporaries. His work showcased a perfect juxtaposition between the old and the new, a unique touch that made his designs instantly recognisable.

One of the defining episodes in his career was the launch of his haute couture collection in the early 2000s. His show, featuring garments embroidered with intricate Kashmiri motifs, paid homage to his roots and captured the essence of India's rich textile traditions. Bal's use of luxurious materials like silk, brocade, and velvet created a new kind of opulence that spoke to the Indian elite. His designs were not just clothes; they were expressions of heritage reimagined for the modern world.

What truly set Bal apart from his peers was his ability to blend the modern with the traditional. He took Indian textile traditions, from Kashmiri shawls to Rajasthan's mirror work,

Rohit Bal's Last Show at Lakmé Fashion Week

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

No one could have imagined that Rohit Bal's show at Lakmé Fashion Week would be his last. But after witnessing his breathtaking final collection, *Kaaynaat: A Bloom in the Universe*, it's clear this was a farewell like no other.

The grand finale was a celebration of nature's timeless beauty, as Rohit Bal's signature craftsmanship unfolded on the runway. *Kaaynaat* was a poetic tribute to the delicate elegance of flowers and the boundless beauty of the universe. Inspired by the Lakmé Rouge Bloom launch, the collection embraced the slow, graceful unfolding of life, much like a flower blooming in full glory. The runway featured a beautiful mix of flowing fabrics, detailed embroidery, and bright colours, with each piece reflecting the wonders of the universe. Every garment had a story to tell, with delicate floral motifs symbolising the cycle of life, from the tiniest bud to the full bloom under



the starry sky. The collection's use of colour was bold yet serene, capturing both the wildness and tranquillity of nature. Lakmé muse Ananya Panday walked the ramp as the showstopper, embodying the essence of the collection's celestial beauty. Her presence perfectly complemented the theme of the collection. The entire show was a fusion of fashion, beauty and nature, with Rohit Bal's expert tailoring and design sensibility meeting the elegance of Lakmé's Beauty X Fashion philosophy. It wasn't just a grand finale to Lakmé Fashion

Week, but a tribute to a designer who has shaped India's fashion landscape for decades. Rohit Bal's words about the collection now resonate even more deeply: "*Kaaynaat* was a journey through the wonders of nature, celebrating the bloom of life and beauty. Partnering with Lakmé has been an incredible experience, and this collection reflects both the grace of nature and the enduring power of beauty." This show was not only a fitting farewell but a lasting memory of the artistry and vision of a true icon.

immense talent coming out of India, challenging global perceptions of what Indian fashion could be.

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION: ROHIT BAL'S LASTING IMPACT

Rohit Bal's influence on the Indian fashion scene cannot be overstated. Over the years, he has played an integral role in redefining how India's fashion identity is perceived—both at home and abroad. From his breakthrough collections that fused the traditional with the modern, to his innovative designs that have kept his work relevant through decades, Bal remains at the forefront of Indian luxury fashion.

What makes Bal's legacy even more special is his commitment to the artistry of India. He has continually worked with local craftspeople, helping preserve and promote India's textile traditions. His designs are often crafted using handloom fabrics, making them not just products of high fashion but also instruments of cultural preservation.

Today, as the Indian fashion industry continues to evolve, Rohit Bal's name stands as a symbol of what can be achieved when passion, creativity, and heritage come together. He not only helped put India on the world fashion map but also created a space for future designers to draw from the country's rich history while embracing global trends.

CONCLUSION: A FASHION VISIONARY

Rohit Bal's journey from a young boy in Srinagar to a global fashion icon is a testament to his talent, perseverance, and love for his country's heritage. His impact on the Indian fashion scene has been profound and far-reaching.

Through his creativity, he has reshaped the way the world views Indian fashion, blending artistry with tradition, while continually setting new benchmarks for the industry. Rohit Bal is not just a designer; he is an institution, and his influence on the fashion world will continue to inspire generations to come.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

It Ends With Us

The emotional story of love and abuse, enhanced with the courage of leaving, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

Starring **Blake Lively** and **Justin Baldoni** as the lead actors, *It Ends With Us* is all set to release on Netflix after a phenomenal box-office response from the cinema in August. The film is the cinematic adaptation of the best-seller novel *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover.

Keeping the book aside, and talking about the film baldly for those unfamiliar with the book, the film gives a complete glimpse of a relationship with physical abuse with what comes with mental instability. It is a complete package initially starting from the butterflies of a relationship to the phase of its exciting and it and then beyond.

The characters fit in their role perfectly watching from the movie purpose **Blake Lively** as **Lily Bloom**, **Justin Baldoni** as **Ryle Kincaid**, **Jenny Slate** as **Allysa** (Ryle's sister) and **Brandon Sklenar** as **Atlas Corrigan**.

The plot starts with the dreamy relation between **Lily** and **Ryle**, even after **Lily** being informed about the record of **Ryle** in relationships and his nature with girls. With the movement of the story, **Lily** starts to face abuse from **Ryle**. The temper and aggression is linked to some past experiences in his life and the first abuse incident comes after the first half. Things get worse between **Lily** and **Ryle** when **Atlas** (played by **Brandon Sklenar**) is made to enter their life.



The story beautifully describes **Atlas**, **Lily** having a past and understanding each other without uttering words meeting after years. The unsaid love in the last scenes between **Atlas** and **Lily** is the core strength of the film. The many songs and the background scores in the film add life to the shot scenes categorising

them as sad, loving and broken. The scores like *Opening*, *It Was Nice Meeting You*, *Lily's Past*, *Seeing Atlas* add the needed depth to the scenes with the sensual and reciting tunes.

The dialogues in the film, talking about my favourite one by **Atlas** to **Lily**, "*In the future, if you ever find yourself in the position to fall in love again, fall in love with me*". The dialogue will make your heart heavy and touch your emotional quotient. The characters have well fitted into the frame except **Lily**. **Blake** could have played more with expressions and body language. **Blake's** dressing in the movie seemed like a fashion disaster. **Ryle** aced the game with his reactions and attitude playing an aggressive man.

The climax with **Lily** having a baby and finally deciding if she would continue it with **Ryle** or not (continue to watch the film for the answers) is the whole sort of courage depicted in the film. The film addresses the social issue with the beauty of giving a message of having courage and stepping up to speak up for the steps that personally affect your mind and life.

Overall, the film depicts a journey of physical abuse initiated with romantic days in a relationship. *It Ends With Us* is a must watch with learning and lessons.

Rating - 3.5/5

SINGHAM AGAIN A MIXED COP UNIVERSE CLASH

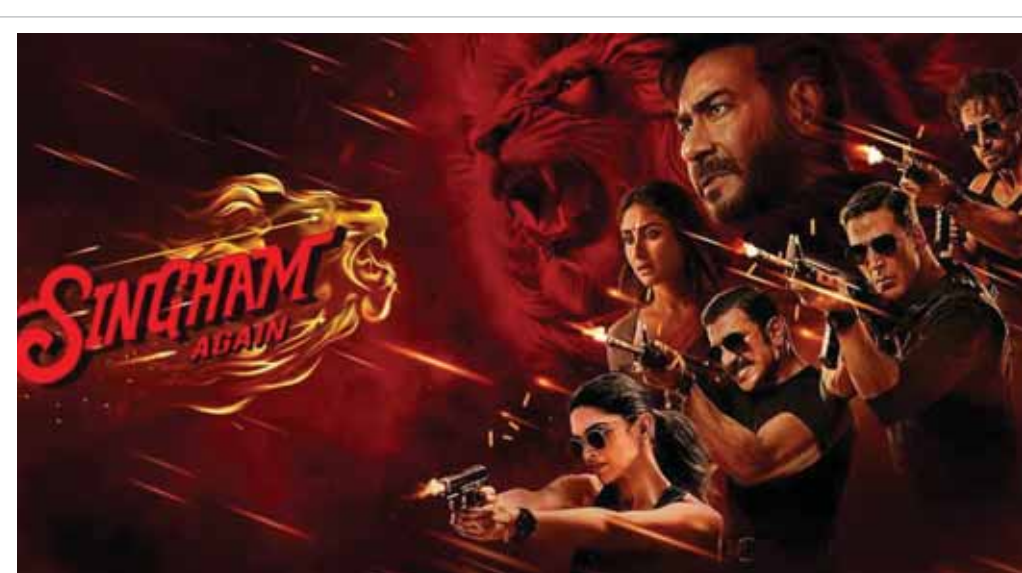
Singham Again is entertaining but falls short of the high standards set by previous sequels, says **ABHI SINGHAL**

Director **Rohit Shetty** expands his cop universe with yet another high-octane sequel, *Singham Again*. This latest installment stars **Ajay Devgan** reprising his iconic role as **DCP Bajirao Singham**, with **Kareena Kapoor Khan** returning as his wife, **Avni**. Joining them in cameo roles are **Akshay Kumar** as **DCP Veer Sooryavanshi** and **Ranveer Singh** as **ACP Sangram 'Simmba' Bhalerao**, adding familiar faces to the cop universe.

The film introduces many fresh elements, linking its storyline loosely to the epic Ramayana, blending it spiritually with its typical action-packed spectacle. New characters include **Arjun Kapoor** as the antagonist, and **Deepika Padukone** as **DCP Shakti Shetty**, along with **Tiger Shroff** as **ACP Satya Bali**.

Ajay Devgan, the hero, felt a little undermined from his role if compared to the super hit cop film *Singham*. **Kareena** played her role well in the movie.

The characters have somewhere done justice to their characters except some. The entry of **Jackie Shroff** as **Omar Hafeez** and **Arjun Kapoor** playing **Zubair Hafeez**, dominate the first half of the film and bring intensity and menace to their roles as the villainous duo. **Jackie Shroff** could have been better in his little time on



the screen. **Deepika Padukone's** role wasn't of much need and looked forceful just to introduce the character to the film.

Tiger Shroff playing **Satya Bali** looked too flat for the film. Enhancement of these two strong actors could have changed the outcome of the film.

Akshay Kumar comes with a dashing helicopter entry in the very end fitting into the well said cameo role. **Ranveer Singh** enters later in the

film, and his comedy grips the audience giving a reason to hold on till the end.

Ranveer as **Simmba** single handedly takes off the second half. His entry linking to the past movie *Simmba* was accepted by whistles and cheers in the cinema hall. The comedy doesn't look forced due to his past introduction as a naughty cop in the cop universe.

The climax with a major action sequence will be loved by the audience as all the characters get

along for the final scene to get **Avni** back from **Zubair Hafeez's** abduction giving it the Sita angle. While *Singham Again* is a visually impressive film with well-executed action sequences, it suffers from a rushed screenplay and inconsistent character development.

It misses the demanded depth in the characters and misses the element of **Rohit Shetty** to be honest.

Rating - 3.5/5

the pioneer agenda

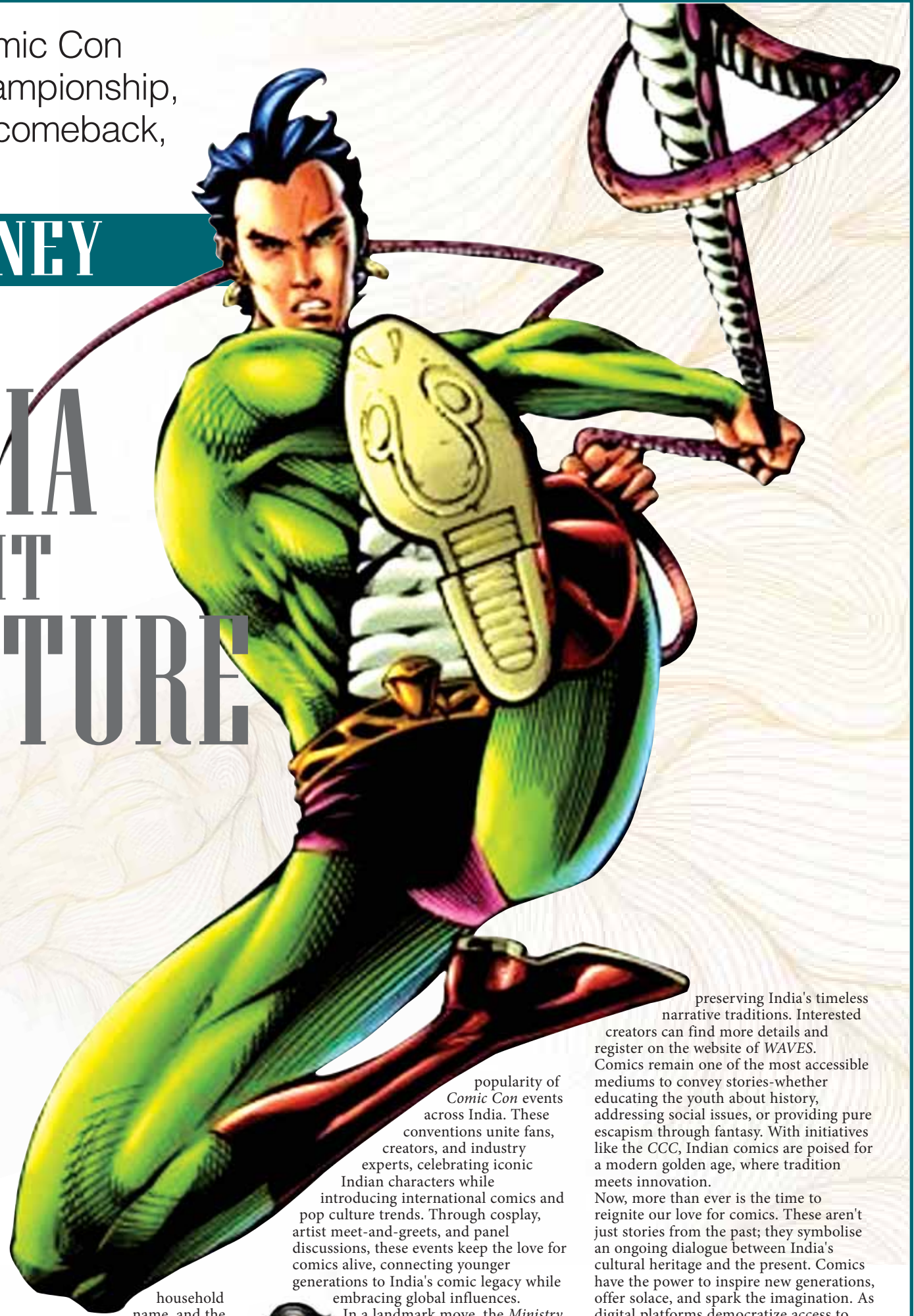
"My family put a lot of emphasis on homework, so there weren't too many comic books or video games for me, when I was growing up"
— Wentworth Miller



With a resurgence fueled by events like Comic Con India and the upcoming Comic Creator Championship, Indian comics are making a powerful comeback, writes SUPRIYA GHAYTADAK



A COMIC JOURNEY FROM NOSTALGIA TO A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE



Growing up, comics were an integral part of my life. My brother and I would save every bit of our pocket money just to buy our favourite comics. Whether it was *Champak*, *Amar Chitra Katha*, *Super Commando Dhruv*, *Nagraj* or *Chacha Chaudhary* stories fueled our imagination and became a key part of our reading journey. Whenever someone asked what we wanted for our birthdays, the answer was always the same—comics! Those colourful pages, filled with heroes and adventures, were more than just entertainment; they were treasured gifts that we eagerly awaited and cherished.



SUPRIYA GHAYTADAK

There was a time when streetside stalls, bookstores, bus stands, and railway stations buzzed with the vibrant display of comic books. The chatter of children and adults alike, poring over pages that transported them to fantastical worlds, was a common scene. Comics like *Amar Chitra Katha's* mythological tales, *Chacha Chaudhary's* wit, or *Raj Comics'* heroic sagas, invoked a sense of wonder and excitement. For many of us, these stories were more than just a form of entertainment; they were an integral part of our childhood—a gateway to imagination and learning.

As years passed, digital platforms gradually replaced the physical charm of these marvels. Yet, in this fast-paced world, the nostalgia for these stories remains strong. Many long for the days when characters like *Bahadur*, *Super Commando Dhruv*, *Parmanu*, *Tenali Raman*, *Suppandi*, and *Shikari Shambu* lived not just in our imagination but in the comic strips that shaped our understanding of bravery, wit, and justice. For older generations, these comics represent a simpler time, filled with cultural knowledge and entertainment. For the younger generation, revisiting them now holds the potential to rediscover India's rich folklore and mythologies while connecting with modern interpretations of these beloved characters.

The Indian comic industry, once a booming sector from the 1970s to the 1990s, produced iconic characters and stories that captured the hearts of millions. The 'Golden Age' of Indian comics brought us legendary creators

“THE INDIAN COMIC INDUSTRY, ONCE A BOOMING SECTOR FROM THE 1970S TO THE 1990S, PRODUCED ICONIC CHARACTERS AND STORIES THAT CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS. THE 'GOLDEN AGE' OF INDIAN COMICS BROUGHT US LEGENDARY CREATORS LIKE PRAN, WHOSE CHACHA CHAUDHARY BECAME A HOUSEHOLD NAME, AND THE RISE OF SUPERHERO GIANTS FROM RAJ COMICS.

household name, and the rise of superhero giants from *Raj Comics*. It was an era when *Indian superheroes*, mythological epics, and social commentary blended seamlessly, creating relatable content that resonated with generations. However, at the turn of the millennium, the industry witnessed a decline. Changing reading habits, the rise of television, and the flood of digital content pushed these comics to the background. Yet, despite this downturn, the comic book medium is quietly experiencing a resurgence, aided by digital platforms and a renewed interest in India's rich storytelling tradition. The resurgence of Indian comics is further boosted by the growing



popularity of *Comic Con* events across India. These conventions unite fans, creators, and industry experts, celebrating iconic Indian characters while introducing international comics and pop culture trends. Through cosplay, artist meet-and-greets, and panel discussions, these events keep the love for comics alive, connecting younger generations to India's comic legacy while embracing global influences.

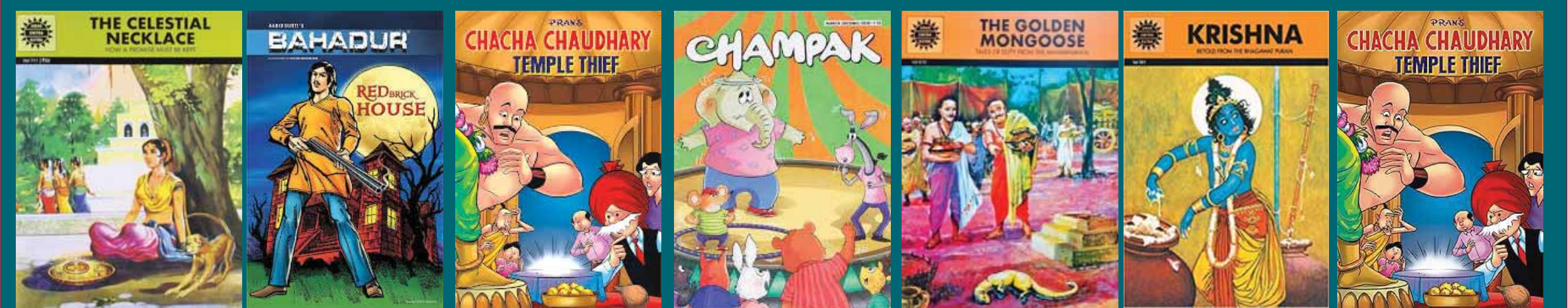
In a landmark move, the *Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B)*, Government of India has partnered with the *Indian Comics Association (ICA)* to spearhead the first-ever *Comic Creator Championship (CCC)*, a centrepiece event at the upcoming *World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES)*. This three-phase comic-making competition is designed to nurture emerging talent and showcase India's creative potential on a global stage. By providing a platform for both amateur and professional creators, the CCC encourages fresh voices to engage in storytelling that tackles contemporary issues while

preserving India's timeless narrative traditions. Interested creators can find more details and register on the website of WAVES. Comics remain one of the most accessible mediums to convey stories—whether educating the youth about history, addressing social issues, or providing pure escapism through fantasy. With initiatives like the CCC, Indian comics are poised for a modern golden age, where tradition meets innovation.

Now, more than ever is the time to reignite our love for comics. These aren't just stories from the past; they symbolise an ongoing dialogue between India's cultural heritage and the present. Comics have the power to inspire new generations, offer solace, and spark the imagination. As digital platforms democratize access to these narratives, an entire world of possibilities opens up for creators and readers alike.

As we look to the future, let us celebrate this revival by participating in the *World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)*, to be held in New Delhi from February 5th to 9th, 2025. This summit promises to be a landmark event, uniting industry experts, creators, and fans. It will also host the final round of the *Comics Creator Championship*, where India's brightest new talents will be showcased. Together, we can ensure that the stories of the past continue to inspire, innovate, and captivate audiences in the future. India's comic industry stands on the threshold of a renaissance, and all are invited to be a part of it. Now is the time to turn the page and start a new chapter in the vibrant world of Indian comics. Let's revive and elevate Indian comics to their rightful place in popular culture. Will you join this journey?

(The writer is an Indian Information Service officer, Ministry of I&B; views are personal)





Photos: Pankaj Kumar

At 'RED', Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida, the new menu brings the vibrant flavours of authentic Chinese cuisine to life. A perfect mix of traditional and modern dishes, it's a dining experience that's bound to excite your taste buds, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

IN RED

Step into 'RED' at Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida and you're instantly transported to the heart of China, where every dish tells a story. With a fresh new menu that celebrates authentic Chinese flavours, the restaurant brings together traditional recipes and innovative twists, promising a dining experience unlike any other. Whether you're a vegetarian or a meat lover, the culinary journey here is one that caters to all tastes, with bold flavours and unforgettable textures that will leave you craving more.

The ambience of 'RED' is equally remarkable. With its dark, red-lit interior, the space exudes a cosy, intimate vibe, evoking the feel of an authentic Chinese restaurant. As you settle in, you know you're in for something special. Ms. Sonica Malhotra Kandhari, Joint Managing Director of MBD Group, shares, "The RED menu has been meticulously crafted with our guests in mind. This menu reengineering underscores our commitment to authentic Chinese flavours. We look forward to welcoming guests to explore this exciting new offering." At the heart of this dining experience are the sauces, a crucial part of any authentic Chinese meal. 'RED' offers a variety of carefully crafted options, including the classic Chilli Black Bean, the Soya Chilli Coriander and

their signature special sauce made with onion, tomato, chilli and garlic. And for those who enjoy a bit of spice and fermentation, the kimchi adds a delightful punch to any dish. The sauces truly elevate the experience and don't forget to master the art of eating with chopsticks - a fun and authentic way to enjoy the full flavours. Next up, I moved on to the Dim Sum & Bao section. The Truffle Edamame offered a delightful twist on the classic, with a subtle truffle flavour that complemented the beans beautifully, giving them a soft yet earthy taste. However, the Tofu Bao with Chilli Bean Relish turned out to be my absolute favourite. The silken tofu paired with the chilli bean relish was a perfect blend of soft and spicy, all encased in a delicate, fluffy bao bun. This dish encapsulated the balance of textures and flavours that make Chinese cuisine such a treat.

Moving into the Appetisers, the Chilled Mould Tofu with Peanut Sauce was a refreshing change, delicate, smooth tofu dressed in a creamy, slightly tangy peanut sauce. As someone who isn't a big tofu fan, I found it intriguing. It's a dish that might take some getting used to, but the pairing of tofu with peanut sauce certainly creates a unique, palate-expanding experience. This dish left a lasting impression, as did the Mogu with Dry Red Chilli and Sichuan Pepper, a crispy fried button mushroom stir-fry that managed to stay crunchy even as it cooled. This level of attention to texture and flavour is a hallmark of authentic Chinese cooking, blending tradition with a modern twist. The bold, balanced flavours in each appetiser felt like a true celebration of Chinese culinary heritage. Moving on to the main course, the Mapo Tofu was a definite standout. Known for its bold, spicy flavours, the tofu here was incredibly silky, bathed in a slightly fiery sauce that



with exotic vegetables and bamboo shoots, was packed with flavour and left a lasting impression. While 'RED' offers a delightful selection of vegetarian dishes, the restaurant's non-vegetarian options are known to truly shine. As a vegetarian, I haven't tried them personally, but from what I've heard, 'RED' delivers on authentic Chinese non-vegetarian flavours. Crafting exceptional Chinese cuisine in a vegetarian style is no easy feat, but Chef Sachin Malik and his team have truly excelled in creating vegetarian dishes that rival their meat counterparts. From Shandong Style Seafood Soup to Kung Pao Chicken and Braised Lamb, each dish offers a window into authentic Chinese cuisine. Reflecting on the culinary vision, Chef Sachin Malik, Executive Chef, reflects, "We aim to celebrate the vibrant flavours of China. Our new menu is a tribute to this culinary heritage, blending traditional elements with modern techniques, with Chef Ghanshyam Thapa's expertise." The dessert menu is a lovely, light way to end the meal. The Matcha Baked Cheesecake stands out, with its creamy, indulgent dessert with earthy matcha notes that balance the sweetness. It's rich, so sharing it with

someone is a great idea to end the meal on a satisfying note without it feeling too heavy. Beyond the food, the drinks at 'RED' deserve a special mention. The beverage selection is inspired by China's rich cultural heritage, with classics like the Lion's Tail and innovative creations like the Dragon on the Sky and Junshan Island Sundowner. For those preferring non-alcoholic options, the Chinese Tonic, with lychee, star anise and lime juice is refreshingly fragrant. Meanwhile, the Silver Tips, a ginger-infused drink garnished with dragon fruit, is the perfect quencher, ideal for pairing with the rich flavours of RED's menu. 'RED' offers a dining experience that celebrates both authenticity and creativity. The vegetarian options are exceptional, proving that creating perfect Chinese dishes without meat is possible. Chef Sachin Malik and his team have truly outdone themselves, making this a must-visit spot for anyone craving a true taste of China. Whether you're a fan of vegetarian or non-vegetarian dishes, the menu offers something for everyone, ensuring that your journey through Chinese flavours will be a memorable one.

was rich yet balanced. For those who prefer their spice with a subtle twist, the Braised Style Eggplant with Sichuan Pepper Corn was another highlight. The tender eggplant soaked up the flavours of the sauce beautifully, creating a comforting dish with just the right amount of heat. If you're after something more filling, the Red Signature Jasmine Bamboo Fried Rice should be your go-to. This fragrant dish, infused



Cranberry Coffee and Beyond

Through Cranberry Coffee, Roastery Coffee House is redefining how the world experiences Indian coffee, placing India firmly on the global coffee map, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

In an impressive feat that showcases Indian ingenuity, Roastery Coffee House has become the first Indian brand to invent and trademark a specialty coffee: Cranberry Coffee. This unique drink—a refreshing combination of cranberry juice, sparkling water, and espresso—has not only captivated coffee lovers across India but is also gaining international attention. With its signature Cranberry Coffee now protected by a trademark, Roastery Coffee House is setting new standards in the coffee industry and redefining how the world experiences Indian coffee.

THE RISE OF CRANBERRY COFFEE: A REFRESHING INNOVATION

A playful yet refined twist on traditional coffee, Cranberry Coffee combines the boldness of espresso with the tartness of cranberry juice and a splash of sparkling water, creating a refreshing, versatile drink suitable for any time of the day. In the last six months alone, over 100,000 cups of Cranberry Coffee have been sold across Roastery outlets, making it one of the fastest-selling specialty coffees in India. Its popularity spans all age groups and has even become a staple on many café menus, signalling a growing demand for creative coffee options in India and beyond.

Roastery Coffee House's founder, Nishant Sinha, is thrilled by the response, noting how Cranberry Coffee has quickly become a customer favourite. "It's very heartwarming to see how positively everyone has responded to this beverage," he said. "The success of is undeniable, and almost every



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



order across our chains includes it. Many coffee brands have drawn inspiration from Roastery's innovative creation, and we are very proud that people have embraced it."



ROASTERY COFFEE HOUSE: PIONEERS OF INDIA'S SPECIALTY COFFEE SCENE

Since opening its doors in 2017, Roastery Coffee House has continuously pushed the boundaries of India's coffee culture. Expanding across six cities, the brand has built a strong reputation for offering diverse, high-quality coffee options paired with mouth-watering snacks and light meals, creating an inclusive space for coffee enthusiasts. The introduction of Cranberry Coffee



“THE SUCCESS OF CRANBERRY COFFEE IS UNDENIABLE, AND ALMOST EVERY ORDER ACROSS OUR CHAINS INCLUDES IT. MANY COFFEE BRANDS HAVE DRAWN INSPIRATION FROM ROASTERY'S INNOVATIVE CREATION, AND WE ARE VERY PROUD THAT PEOPLE HAVE EMBRACED IT”

exemplifies the brand's mission to innovate and cater to the evolving preferences of coffee drinkers while staying rooted in authenticity and quality. Beyond its local success, Roastery Coffee House has recently set its sights on the international stage, opening its first flagship store in Helsinki, Finland. The move reflects Roastery's vision of not only sharing Indian coffee with a global audience but also positioning India as a significant player in the specialty coffee industry. The Cranberry Coffee trademark marks a pivotal milestone, as it is the first Indian-origin coffee to secure a global trademark—a



groundbreaking achievement for an Indian brand in this competitive market.

AN INSPIRING FUTURE FOR INDIAN COFFEE

With Cranberry Coffee, Roastery Coffee House has demonstrated

how Indian coffee can resonate on the global stage by combining local creativity with a deep understanding of customer preferences. This achievement is not just a victory for the brand but for India's coffee industry as a whole, setting a powerful example for other Indian brands and creating opportunities for international recognition. Roastery Coffee House has truly redefined Indian coffee culture and continues to chart a new course for the industry. As it expands internationally, it carries with it a legacy of innovation, quality, and passion, firmly establishing India's place

THE TIMELESS ALLURE OF DELHI BAZAARS

Delhi's bazaars are more than just places to shop, they're vibrant, historical hubs where the city's past and present blend seamlessly, writes KANISHKA SRIVASTAVA



Delhi's bazaars, pulsing with life, colour, and history, are much more than marketplaces. They are a blend of heritage and modernity, places where the past and present meet in a seamless confluence of aromas, sounds, and sights. From the labyrinthine lanes of Chandni Chowk to the bustling avenues of Dilli Haat, Delhi's markets tell stories of centuries gone by and reflect the city's evolving culture.

Delhi's bazaars have been central to the city's identity since its days as the capital of empires. Mughal emperor Shah Jahan established Chandni Chowk in the 17th century as a marketplace that would rival any in the world. Its name, meaning "Moonlight Square," was inspired by a water canal that once reflected the moonlight, lending a magical glow to the surroundings. Chandni Chowk became the heart of trade in Mughal India, where merchants from across Asia brought in silk, spices, and jewels, turning the area into a melting pot of cultures.

As the years passed, other bazaars sprang up, each with its own speciality and charm. For instance, Khari Baoli, the spice market, emerged as a go-to for spices and dried fruits, its intense aromas filling the air and adding a signature fragrance to Delhi's streets. Over time, bazaars like Daryaganj, which once hosted booksellers and publishers, and Sarojini Nagar, famous for its affordable fashion, have added layers to Delhi's shopping culture.

Every festive season, Delhi transforms into a radiant hub of celebration, where joy, traditions, and community take centre stage. Festivals like Diwali, Navratri and Dussehra infuse the city with vibrant energy, filling its streets with lights, colours, and shoppers in search of the perfect outfits, decorations, and gifts. From historic bazaars rich in tradition to modern malls showcasing top designer brands, festival shopping in Delhi is an experience that beautifully combines heritage and contemporary flair.

CHANDNI CHOWK: WHERE HERITAGE MEETS STYLE

Steeped in history, Chandni Chowk is the ultimate destination for exploring Delhi's cultural roots. With narrow lanes lined with shops, this iconic market offers an impressive selection of traditional wear, including bridal lehengas, sarees, and intricate jewellery. The new Omaxe Chowk adds modern amenities to the shopping experience, blending historic charm with contemporary conveniences. Chandni Chowk is a must-visit for



DOWNTOWN BY MANSAN - SOUTH DELHI'S MODERN SHOPPING DESTINATION

Soon to open, Downtown by Mansan Group brings a new shopping experience to South Delhi, conveniently located near the Sarojini Nagar Metro Station. Spread over 2.18 acres, this modern retail complex combines high-street brands with luxury outlets, offering a blend of shopping and contemporary office spaces. With ample parking and a range of dining options, Downtown is set to become a favourite for festival shoppers seeking convenience and a touch of sophistication.



KHAN MARKET: THE UPSCALE MARKET

One of Delhi's upscale markets, Khan Market presents a more sophisticated experience. Although it originated as a market for refugees from Pakistan after Partition, Khan Market has evolved into a high-end shopping hub, known for designer boutiques, international brands, and posh eateries. Its ambience strikes a balance between global trends and Indian tastes, attracting the city's elite and expatriates.

Delhi's bazaars are not just shopping destinations—they are cultural institutions that hold a mirror to the city's diverse population. During festivals like Diwali and Eid, bazaars take on a life of their own, with streets decked in lights, special offerings at every stall, and an air of celebration all around. Vendors and shoppers, coming from varied cultural and economic backgrounds, interact with warmth and camaraderie, making these spaces truly inclusive.

Besides, the food scene in Delhi's markets is an experience in itself. From Paranthi Wali Gali's fried delights to the chaats of INA Market and the kebabs of Jama Masjid, the bazaars have something to tantalise every palate. Street food vendors, often in families for generations, have honed their craft, turning simple snacks into icons of Delhi's culinary landscape.

The Future of Delhi's Bazaars: Balancing Heritage with Modern Needs.

As Delhi modernises, its bazaars are also evolving. The government has initiated efforts to preserve historical markets, restoring facades and improving infrastructure to cater to tourists and preserve heritage. However, challenges persist: rapid urbanisation, increased footfall, and modernisation pressures can sometimes erode the traditional spirit of these markets. Yet, the resilience of Delhi's bazaars lies in their adaptability.

anyone looking to immerse themselves in Delhi's rich heritage during the festive season.

LAJPAT NAGAR: A FESTIVAL SHOPPER'S PARADISE

Known for its affordability and variety, Lajpat Nagar is a favourite among festival shoppers. This lively market offers everything from ethnic wear to home décor and accessories, all at competitive prices. Whether you're after an elegant saree or bridal outfit, Lajpat Nagar's vibrant atmosphere and wallet-friendly options make it a popular spot for families prepping for the festive season.

KAROL BAGH: THE HEART OF TRADITION

Karol Bagh is famous for its mix of traditional and contemporary attire,

making it a top destination for wedding and festival shopping. With stores packed into narrow, bustling streets, shoppers can explore an extensive range of bridal wear, textiles, and unique jewellery. The energetic vibe and variety make Karol Bagh ideal for those seeking traditional attire and festive accessories.

GREATER KAILASH: ELEGANCE IN EVERY CORNER

If you're looking for a more luxurious shopping experience, Greater Kailash is the place to be. Home to designer boutiques and high-end stores, this area is perfect for finding exclusive bridal wear, premium jewellery, and sophisticated trousseau outfits. With its upscale ambience, Greater Kailash attracts festival-goers who want to celebrate in style.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

A Soulful Sojourn in Puri and Konark

Puri and Konark, two jewels of Odisha, offer a rich tapestry of spirituality, history, and culture that captivates the soul of every traveler, writes VISHESH SHUKLA

In quest of spiritual enlightenment, I embarked on a spiritual journey to Jagannath Puri, the revered abode of Lord Krishna. Boarding a local train from Dhenkanal railway station at dawn, I felt a thrill of excitement for the adventure ahead. The weather was beautiful, with the sun just beginning to rise, casting a warm glow over everything. As the train moved along, I found myself pondering my plans for the day once I reached Puri, eagerly anticipating the experiences that awaited me.

After a few hours of the train's rhythmic motion, I finally arrived at my destination. Upon exiting the station, I immediately started looking for a place to stay. Fortunately, I found Hotel Nemili nearby. I settled on renting 1400 to the hotel reception to get a room. The room was cosy and inviting, a perfect spot to rest after my journey. After resting and freshening up for a while, I felt rejuvenated and ready to explore.

Eager to soak in the local ambience, I grabbed a cup of tea from a nearby stall, enjoying the vibrant atmosphere around me. The streets buzzed with life, filled with locals and tourists alike, all making their way to the temple. Soon, I decided to take a shared auto to the famous Jagannath Temple. The driver charged me Rs. 20 and dropped me a short distance from the temple entrance.



TEMPLE

As I walked along Chakratirtha Road, I noticed a significant crowd gathering, likely due to the weekend and the special occasion of Govardhan Puja. A police officer stationed nearby mentioned that it would take at least three hours to have darshan due to the rush. Many brokers approached me, promising faster entry for a fee of Rs. 500, but I decided not to engage with them and continued on my way, determined to experience the authentic essence of the pilgrimage.

The heat was intense, and I felt a bit uneasy, the sun bearing down as I moved through the throngs of people. After a while, I reached the temple's entrance, where I stored my mobile and shoes in the locker provided by the temple trust. I joined the long line for darshan, the anticipation building with

each step. After two hours of waiting and moving through the crowd, I finally had darshan of Lord Jagannath, along with visits to the Sakshi Gopal and Ganesh temples within the premises. The atmosphere was electric with devotion, and I took a moment to soak in the spiritual energy that filled the air. I also made sure to visit the Mahalakshmi Temple before leaving the complex, feeling grateful for the blessings received.

As I emerged from the sacred precincts of the Jagannath Temple, I was blessed with a profound spiritual experience witnessing the live installation of the Patitapabana Bana, a revered flag atop the temple's majestic spire. This sacred ritual, steeped in tradition and significance, left an indelible mark on my soul, with a sense of serenity and connection to the divine. By the time I exited the temple, my stomach growled in protest. I walked down Chakratirtha

Road again and stopped at Ram Lalla restaurant, where I enjoyed a satisfying meal. The flavours were delicious, and I found myself reflecting on the incredible experience of the day—the vibrant sights, the sounds of prayers, and the palpable sense of community.

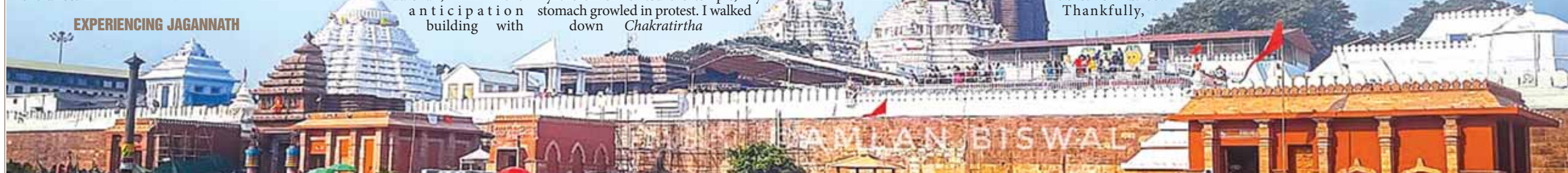
To make the evening even better, I set out for Puri's popular Golden Beach, where many people were already present. After sitting there for a while, I felt a deep sense of peace watching the waves crash against the shore. The sight of the ocean calmed my mind, and I enjoyed an ice cream being sold nearby,

savouring the moment. After spending some more time lost in thought and tranquillity, I decided to call it a day and returned to my hotel to rest.

DISCOVERING KONARK

The next morning, I woke up early, checked out of the hotel, and placed my luggage in the locker room near the station. With excitement bubbling within me, I made my way to Vatika Restaurant for breakfast, relishing the local flavours before setting off for Konark. I took a shared auto to reach there, and as soon as I arrived, I was greeted by intense heat, much stronger than in Puri.

My first stop was the Sun Temple, an incredible historic site under the Archaeological Survey of India, which required an entry ticket for Rs. 35. Thankfully,



ANILAN BISWAL



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week is promising for financial prospects, showcasing notable career advancement and a rewarding sense of monetary gain which contributes to overall satisfaction. Your innate curiosity and inventive outlook keep you energized and impassioned, making you feel vibrant. Additionally, children may become a significant source of joy and pride. Your independent nature keeps you uplifted, unburdened by the heavier aspects of the material world, and you effortlessly embrace transformative experiences. However, the romantic aspects of your life might face challenges. Opportunities to spark new connections or experience budding emotions might arise, yet these do not promise lasting joy. Efforts to enhance existing partnerships may also not yield the desired outcomes, suggesting a need for careful navigation in matters of the heart this week.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you may find yourself drawn to spiritual activities, embracing them with enthusiasm. Despite your positive engagement, you could encounter opposition and negativity from those around you. Some individuals, motivated by their own cunning agendas, may pose challenges to your achievements, creating a complex situation for you. It's essential to manage your interactions carefully, leaving no room for others to disrupt your progress. If you start to doubt the impact of your efforts after a sustained period of hard work, take a moment to reflect on your journey. You'll likely realize that you are indeed progressing well, which should reinvigorate your spirit. Financially, the week looks promising, enhancing your sense of material security. Socially, the week is bustling with celebrations and gatherings, marking a triumph in achieving your personal goals.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you embody remarkable vitality and resilience. Your intellectual prowess peaks, allowing you to envision grand possibilities. Exhibiting courage and the ability to master desires, you demonstrate a resolute spirit. This intrinsic strength illuminates your path. Embracing a spiritual path, you find solace and power in reverence, seeing it as a source of stability and transformation. Such spiritual pursuits enhance your perspective, offering a refreshing shift in how you experience life. Meditation, particularly, serves as a key practice for aligning the body, mind, and spirit, fostering inner peace and connection. As the week concludes, the dedication to your goals begins to manifest, bringing prosperity and robust well-being into your life.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week holds the promise of delightful surprises, including joyful personal milestones that can reshape your future. At your core, you embody romance, exhibiting gentleness and a deep compassion that draws tranquility into your life. You have a natural aversion to conflict and strive for harmony in your interactions. Your outward appearance may seem serene and somewhat distant, but under that calm exterior, you possess a fierce determination and courage. You are not afraid to envision grand possibilities and work toward making them a reality. An unforeseen event may soon bring positive changes, signaling progress in your personal or professional endeavors. Upcoming ventures are likely to be prosperous, enhancing your confidence. After a period of exertion, you now find a much-deserved sense of stability and relaxation.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Monday



VRIGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week calls for quick and decisive action on your part. A fresh surge of clarity is on the horizon, sweeping away any obscurity and negativity. This newfound clarity will enhance your interactions and set important activities in motion. There's a good chance that paperwork, possibly for international travel, will be completed, setting you up for new adventures abroad. You're also on the cusp of a profound transformation in your beliefs and perspectives. Everything in your life is aligning, giving you a clearer understanding of the broader scope of your experiences. It's an ideal time to foster new connections and sweeten your interactions to avoid feelings of isolation. A thoughtful and measured approach to finances and social interactions will yield significant benefits during this advantageous phase.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week heralds a period of exceptional favor, where your path aligns with the unfolding of fortunate events. Embrace your innate capacity to seize these moments, bolstered by an unwavering trust in higher powers. Your creative energies are particularly potent now, signaling a time of significant beginnings—be it a new venture or personal milestones. Expect a surge of success in your projects and endeavors. At home and in your professional life, a sense of peace, prosperity, and joy pervades, enriching every aspect of your existence. There's a profound sense of fulfillment and gratitude for what you currently possess, providing a solid base for future aspirations. Previous concerns fade, making way for a luminous outlook ahead. Enjoy deep satisfaction across emotional, physical, and personal realms, marking a truly auspicious phase.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, you will find yourself deeply immersed in your professional commitments, leaving little room for personal or home life. Your dedication to your responsibilities is commendable, yet you may feel that your objectives are still out of reach, which could lead to a sense of monotony and fatigue. Emotional sensitivity is heightened, causing minor issues to disrupt your mood easily. This fluctuating temperament might necessitate seeking guidance from a counselor or healer to maintain equilibrium. Be aware that competition is particularly intense during this period, with adversaries appearing more proactive and possibly attempting to undermine your standing. It is crucial to handle significant decisions discreetly and independently, as revealing too much could expose you to malicious intentions and potential setbacks.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you may find yourself wrestling with unresolved feelings that are hard to shake off, leading to nights filled with restlessness and a lack of sleep. There's a sensitive area in your life that feels particularly exposed to potential distress. The best approach is to avoid fixating on non-existent issues. Instead, identify the real challenges and address them proactively to prevent further complications. As the week progresses, you'll discover a sense of calm even amidst ongoing stress, setting the stage for a phase of recuperation. This will be a time for healing, clearing away any lingering doubts or confusion. There might be opportunities for travel that help rejuvenate your spirit. By facing and overcoming your fears, you'll find yourself stronger and more self-assured, mastering both uplifting and challenging emotions.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

There's no reason to feel disheartened, as unseen support seems poised to guide you through upcoming challenges. Embrace moments of solitude; these quiet times often lead to profound insights and spur your innovative spirit. You'll soon encounter a new endeavor that demands your quick action and undivided focus. This period is ripe for turning aspirations into achievements. Expect a surge in vitality, and if health concerns have been troubling you, anticipate a shift towards recovery, allowing you to fully leverage your rejuvenated energy. For those collaborating with others, your contributions and the creative atmosphere you foster will earn you well-deserved recognition. Remember, perseverance is your ally, capable of turning potential setbacks into triumphs.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, those of you who resonate with being perceptive and empathetic may find yourselves deeply absorbed in your inner worlds, engaging with vivid imaginations and exploratory thoughts. It's a time where your ability to tap into your subconscious could feel akin to having psychic abilities. To navigate this period effectively, strive to balance your rich intuition with rational decision-making. Consider practicality, especially in financial matters, as there's a tendency to exceed budgetary limits. Prioritize essential expenses and prepare for unexpected ones. Multitasking could become a norm as you juggle various tasks or projects simultaneously, necessitating a future reassessment of commitments. Embrace adaptability and continual self-growth to enhance both mental and physical wellness, thus avoiding potential stress that could impact your emotional well-being profoundly.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you might find yourself in a reflective mood, feeling a bit introspective and possibly downtrodden. During this period, fostering positive relationships with close family members, particularly female relatives, could be particularly beneficial. Engaging in activities like meditation, yoga, or immersing yourself in uplifting literature could greatly assist in rejuvenating your spirit and strengthening your mental resilience. Mid-week, be vigilant about maintaining your health and strive to overcome any feelings of lethargy or passivity. Keeping a hopeful perspective is crucial, as many of your aspirations are still within reach. Those currently employed may see advancements or enhancements in their professional status, while job seekers could find opportunities that align with their skills. By week's end, an unexpected offer from abroad may provide a welcome boost to your self-esteem.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

There's no cause for dismay, as help seems to be on the horizon, guiding you forward. Moments of solitude could bring profound insights and enlightenment, fueling a surge of creativity within you. A new endeavor is on the horizon, demanding quick action and dedicated focus. Now is the moment to channel your energies and drive towards achieving your desired outcomes. You're likely to experience a boost in vitality, enhancing your overall well-being. If health concerns have been troubling you, this period may bring healing, allowing you to relish your renewed strength. For those collaborating with others, your integrity and the inspiring atmosphere you cultivate are likely to earn you admiration and respect. This is a time to appreciate the rewards of diligence and navigate challenges with determination.

Lucky number 21 | Lucky colour Sea Green
Lucky day Friday

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THE INDEBTED LIFE

THE TUNING FORK

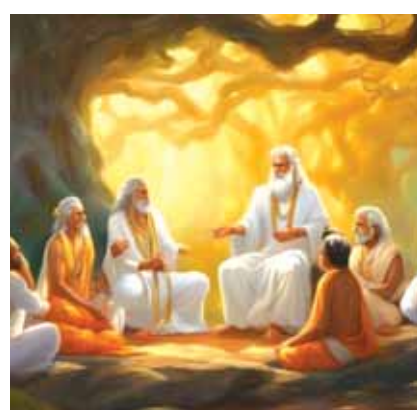


C V Srikanth

Devotion to our rishis, sages, Gurus and following their guidance, one must unfold the meaning of and uphold their teachings, and sacred wisdom

Just like a Financial Balance sheet, Vedic traditions look at another balance sheet - analysing the Karmas of an individual with a focus on our Rina or Debts. Rina (debts) a key concept in Vedic tradition, emphasises the accountabilities and obligations each individual is born with and is compelled to repay-as an obligation towards the karmic inheritance to help understand one's duties for spiritual & material progress. The debts include an obligation towards Deities, seers & sages, ancestors, nature & elements, and community & mankind. We strengthen our karmic balance sheet, when we fulfil our duties with humility and no expectations. Rishi Vyasa Deva says in the Shrimad Bhagwatam says: ऋणसमिर्दिष्टो जातो देवसिपितृणां प्रभो । यज्ञच्यवन-पुत्रेऽसन्निसत्स्यजन्पत ।। ^ isais tribhir dvijo jaato devar" hi-pit" iaa prabho. Yajnaadhyayana-putrais taany anisteerya tyajanpatet. A twice born (Brahamanaa) has three debts: to God, to the sages and to the ancestors. These are cleared by yajnas sacrifice, studying, and learning of the Vedic texts and looking after children. A successful person accomplishes these before forsaking the body. The sacred texts, including the Matsya Purana, elaborate on 5 primary debts -

The first 3 one is born with Debt to the Gods (Deva Rina) Debt to the Ancestors (Pitru Rina) Debt to the Sages (Rishi Rina) Debt to Fellow Humans (Manushya Rina) Debt to Nature and All Living Beings (Bhuta Rina) Deva Rina: The debt to the Gods emphasizes Bhakti devotion, worship, performing rituals and Yajnas sacrifices paying obeisance to the Divine power seen as nourishing and sustaining the cosmic order. यज्ञशिष्टाशिनःसन्तोमुच्यन्तेसर्वकिल्बिः । यज्ञशिशित शिनो सन्तोमुच्यन्तेसर्वकिल्बिः ॥ भुञ्जतेतेत्त्वर्घपापायेपचन्त्यात्मकारणात् ।। Bhunjate te tvagh p p ye pachanty t-mak ra1 t The wise and spiritually-minded, who eat the food that is first offered in sacrifice, are released from all kinds of sin. Others, who cook food for their own enjoyment, verily eat only sin. A reminder to eat food as prasada (sanctified food from the rituals) as a sense of gratitude towards the Divine order that is the provider. Pitru Rina: The debt to ancestors involves rituals like Shraadh and Tarpant ensure the peace and well-being of our forefathers - an expression of reverence and connection to the Cosmic order reinforcing the values of family lineage.



अथैतानिप्राणधारारश्चवर्चससिद्धन्तियस्वयंमुक्त्वा । सर्वोऽपामथसन्तुस्यामिभूतास्थितातस्वाःप्रदत्विजयस्त्ववान्तम् ।। Atha it nipr 1 dh r shcha varchasastish' hanti yas tvaya bhuktv Sarv ap matha santu sy pi bh' t sthit tasva ^ tvija yastev nr ttam "These offerings, rooted in our forefathers, sustain our vitality and merit. Those who partake of these and perform the rites in adherence to tradition, their ancestors are respected, and their lineage remains blessed." Remembering and performing with devotion Shraaddh (rituals for ancestors) is crucial to fulfilling this debt and ensuring their spiritual contentment. Rishi Rina: The debt to sages underscores the obligation to perpetuate the wisdom of

seers. It is about engaging in jigyasa - inquiry and learning the scriptures and living by their teachings. गुरुपितरं वसिष्ठं च स्वधर्मेणोबलात् । सर्वमूलविमुञ्चयस्मिन्गुह्ये तु सदा हिता ।। Guru pitara vasi' h' ha cha svadhar-menayobal t Sarvam' la vimuchchatyasinguhye tu sad hit "He who adheres to his Svadharma - his Dharma duties and responsibilities and respects the Guru, teacher, father, and the sage Vasishta, is freed from all fundamental debts." Devotion to our rishis, sages, Gurus and following their guidance, one must unfold the meaning of and uphold their teachings, and sacred wisdom. Manushya Rina: The debt to humanity highlights virtuous conduct and social responsibility... being compassionate and empathetic to our community. विवेकदृष्टिं प्रजानां पुण्यायेत वयं यथा । गुणानामुपलिच्छन्ति सन्तो च हिता तु ।। Vivekadristi' praj n puayayet vay yatha Gu n m upati " hanti santa "santo cha hit tu "May we always look upon people with discernment and fulfil our duties towards them. The virtuous, by maintaining this, ensure their own welfare and that of others." Fulfilling social duties is vital to maintaining harmonious relationships and societal

balance. Bhuta Rina: The debt to Mother Nature and the elements, is key to our sustenance and evolution. Being sensitive & considerate to all life forms. विवेकदृष्टिं प्रजानां पुण्यायेत वयं यथा । गुणानामुपलिच्छन्ति सन्तो च हिता तु ।। "sa tu p' thivy" pit' 1 ca sarvad " Pitara ca v ^ ' ivy ghra d na ca tuy- anata " "One is always indebted to the Earth and to one's ancestors. Always be diligent in offering reverence and donations to both the Earth and the forefathers." It is our conscientious duty to respect Nature and all the Universal forces. This Balance sheet provides comprehensive framework for understanding one's Dharma towards life and its stakeholders, living authentically, and fulfilling our dues to the Universe. Let us strive to keep the Karmic balance worthy of who we are. — The writer is a versatile professional with three decades in corporate experience & leadership roles, excelling in several areas as a ICF Certified Mentor Life Coach, Corporate Coach, Spiritual Intelligence Coach & CXO Coach. Spiritual counselor, Astro & Vastu consultant (25+ years of grounding in Vedanta philosophy) and a Motivational speaker. He is a Dale Carnegie's T3 graduate