

NATION 5

SPORT 7

UK EVACUATES BRITISH NATIONALS FROM LEBANON AS CONFLICT ESCALATES

INDIA BAG U18 TEAM SILVER IN WOMEN'S SECTION AT ASIAN YOUTH ARCHERY

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

BHOPAL, SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2



Established 1865 sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



Exit Polls indicate upsets

Congress to sweep Haryana

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/HARYANA



Voters wait in a queue to cast their votes at a polling station in Rohtak, Haryana PTI

The exit polls have predicted a thumping majority for Congress in Haryana, after a decade. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is projected to trail significantly. According to the exit polls the regional parties will have considerable losses. With this, the political landscape of Haryana is set for a dramatic shift. The voter turnout was 61.19 percent till 8 pm on Saturday. The results will be declared on October 8. The Dainik Bhaskar poll predicted the Congress getting 44-54 seats and the BJP 15-29 seats in the 90-member Haryana Assembly. The Republic-Matrise poll put the Congress tally even higher at 55-62 seats as against the BJP's 18-24. According to NDTV's Poll of Polls, 55-62 seats are predicted for the Congress while the ruling BJP may win 20-32 seats. The Red Mike-Datansh exit poll gave the Congress 50-55 seats in Haryana and the BJP at 20-25, while the Dhruv Research poll pegged the Congress at 50-64 seats, BJP 22-32 seats, and others 3-8 seats. Peoples' Pulse exit poll

gave the Congress 49-60 seats and the BJP 20-32 seats in Haryana. Most exit polls pegged the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) tally higher than that of the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), while others were seen getting up to 10 seats. The ruling BJP is eyeing a

hat-trick while the Congress is hoping to make a comeback in the state after a decade. The other key contestants are Congress, JJP, INLD, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), INLD, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and Azad Samaj Party (ASP). Key candidates include Chief

Minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP leaders Anil Vij and OP Dhankar, Congress leaders Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Vinesh Phogat, INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala, and JJP's Dushyant Chautala. The BJP's campaign was spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed four rallies, where he attacked the Congress on several issues and said they kept every matter important for the country entangled, including the Ram temple issue. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also addressed many public meetings where he said a "Congress storm" is on its way in Haryana and his party would form the government, which will be one for the poor and farmers, and a "mohabbat ki dukan" will be opened in every corner of the state.

Cliffhanger in Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

If exit polls are to be believed, a hung verdict is likely in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls. An overall voter turnout of 63.88 percent was reported in the polls, the first after post Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. The results will be declared on October 8. The pre-poll alliance partners, the National Conference, and the Congress Party enjoy an edge over the rival Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). However, the exit polls differed



on the question of the single largest political party in the fray. The India Today-CVoter exit poll predicted that the saffron party is likely to secure between 27 and 31 seats. The opposition's INDIA Bloc

(including the National Conference, Congress, and others) may bag around 11 to 15 seats in the region and Mehbooba Mufti's People's Democratic Party (PDP) is likely to get between 0-2 seats. In contrast, the Bhaskar Reporters poll predicted 20-25 seats for the BJP and predicted NC-Cong may get the lion's share of 35-40 seats while giving PDP 4-7 seats. According to their exit poll, 12-18 seats are likely to be bagged by the Independent candidates.



INDIA Bloc hits a rough patch in UP

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The recent camaraderie between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress, fostered through the INDIA bloc, is now under strain as the two parties wrestle over seat-sharing arrangements for the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh. Despite their shared success in the Lok Sabha elections—where the SP-Congress coalition secured 43 out of 80 seats in the state—the upcoming contest for 10 Assembly seats has exposed tensions within the alliance over the Muslim vote bank. The 10 seats up for by-elections—Meerapur, Ghaziabad, Khair, Kundarki, Karhal, Phulpur, Sisamau, Milkipur, Katheri, and Majhwan—were previously held by the SP (five seats), BJP (three), RLD (one), and the NISHAD Party (one) in the 2022 state elections. While the common goal of

defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remains a binding factor for both SP and Congress, a growing struggle for dominance over the Muslim vote bank has created significant friction. Muslim voters, who form a critical part of the electorate in several of these constituencies, have become the focal point of the dispute, particularly in constituencies like Meerapur in Bijnor district, Phulpur in Allahabad, and Majhwan in eastern Uttar Pradesh. "This is an interesting turn of events, as both so-called allies are now competing for Muslim votes and eyeing constituencies where Muslims are in the majority," said Manoj Bhadra, a political analyst familiar with the region. According to Bhadra, the tussle over these key seats is threatening the fragile alliance, with each party vying for control over territories seen as potential game-changers in future elections.

Two terrorists killed in Kupwara



Representational image

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A day after India decided to send External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on October 15-16, alert troops of the Indian army Saturday foiled an infiltration bid along the line of control in which two Pakistani terrorists were killed in the North Kashmir district of Kupwara. A joint operation was launched by the Indian army along with the special operations group of the Jammu and Kashmir police in the forward areas of Gugaldhar, Kupwara based on intelligence inputs about a possible infiltration bid late Friday evening. The troops, after noticing the suspicious movement, challenged the heavily armed group of infiltrators which resulted in a heavy exchange of firing. Two terrorists were neutralised in the ongoing operations. Confirming the same, Srinagar-based China Corps posted on X, "The security forces have eliminated two terrorists in the ongoing Operation Gugaldhar. War-like stores have been recovered. The search of the area is underway and the operation is in progress". So far 16 terrorists have been eliminated in various anti-terrorist/anti-infiltration operations in Kashmir valley this year. The number of active terrorists has also come down to 80 in the region. At the same time, troops continue to remain in a state of high alert to foil infiltration bids from across the line of control as several launch pads remain active in the area.

Teen raped, while out celebrating Navratri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VADODARA

A teenage girl was allegedly raped by two unidentified persons, while another accomplice restrained her male friend, on a deserted stretch on the outskirts of Gujarat's Vadodara city, police said on Saturday. The alleged crime was committed on a Navratri night when revellers come out in large numbers to participate in garba events organised throughout the city. The survivor told the police that she had gone out to meet her childhood male friend at the city's Laximpura area at around 11 pm, said Rohan Anand, Superintendent of Police - Vadodara (rural). "They were returning through the Bhayli locality on a Scooty when at around midnight, five persons on two-wheelers intercepted them on an isolated road," the police officer said. Two of them left after some argument, while three others remained. Of these three, two individuals raped the teenage girl, while the third person restrained her male friend, he said. "As soon as the culprits left, the teens informed the

Another woman raped in Pune



FIR registered 2 years after woman alleges rape

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered in Southwest Delhi's RK Puram area, two years after a 42-year-old woman was allegedly raped in a five star Hyatt Regency hotel. The woman has claimed that the accused threatened her of dire consequences with her nude pictures. A case under section 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at RK Puram police station on October 3. The accused has been

identified as Amit Malik who is also in his 40s. According to the FIR, the victim met the accused, identified as Amit Malik, through Instagram and used to message her frequently on Facebook messenger and met him for the first time on April 21, 2022. "We started talking frequently after the first meeting. We planned for dinner at Hyatt Regency hotel on April 23, 2022 but upon reaching the hotel he insisted that we check-in in room to know each other more personally," the victim claimed.

police. Cops reached the spot, cordoned off the area and collected evidence. Teams have been formed to identify the culprits using technical surveillance and other means," Anand said. The Gujarat government has lifted restrictions on garba celebration timings for this year's Navratri festival. A lot of evidence has been recovered from the site. "It was very dark in this place at night. The victim and her friend could not recognise the faces of the accused, but they have described their style of speech and body build. This incident has nothing to do with Garba," a senior police officer said. An investigation has been initiated based on the complaint of the victim's father. The victim's friend is studying in class 11. Five teams of district police (LCB, SOG, and city police) have been deployed to apprehend the accused. In a similar crime, a 21-year-old woman was allegedly raped by three unidentified persons, who also tied her male friend using his clothes and belt and assaulted him, at an isolated place on the outskirts of Pune in Maharashtra on Thursday night, police had said.

11-year-old raped, killed, villagers clash with Cops

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Another horrific case of rape and murder was reported from the Mahishmari village in South 24 Parganas district. An 11-year-old school girl was abducted, raped and murdered late on Friday night, sources said. Following this, police and villagers fought pitched battles on Saturday, leaving several people injured. The girl was allegedly picked up from around the house of the local village Pradhan, brutalised and killed. The body of the victim was found at the banks of the Hooghly River on Saturday morning leading to mass outrage. The accused was arrested early on Saturday, police said. The villagers reacted after the village Pradhan refused to share the CCTV footage from



outside his house, locals said, adding the "angry villagers then got suspicious and hundreds of them attacked and set the Kripakhali police outpost afire. They alleged that the minor, who was missing since October 4 and that police did not act on their complaint immediately. Following this the police resorted to heavy lathi-charge and bursting tear gas shells to disperse the crowd, sources said adding several men were injured during the clash. The

Friday incident takes place amid an ongoing protests in the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case that took place on August 9. "The police are taking sides of the miscreants," locals said, alleging that "a cousin of the victim had in fact been raped a few years ago and the police did nothing in that case leading to the girl to commit suicide then." District SP PC Dhali said, "we have arrested the culprit within six hours of the victim being abducted," adding that the villagers' allegations of lax handling of the case were unfounded. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Left leaders who reached Mahishmari on Saturday blocked the van carrying the body of the victim for postmortem. According to

CPI(M) leader Meenakshi Mukherjee, this was done "so that an RG Kar like incident, where the body was hurriedly sent for funeral after a fake postmortem to save some big fishes can be prevented." Meanwhile, BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul had heated exchanges with local Trinamool Congress MP Pratima Mondal even as the villagers raised "go-back" slogans against her. "The victim bore injury marks similar to that of Abhaya in RG Kar Medical College," the BJP MLA said. While Paul raised the issue of RG Kar and Sandeshkhali to say that "the law and order of Bengal has completely collapsed," Mondal resorted to counter-sloganeering and cited the instances of Hathras and Unnao.

PATANJALI

Use only Patanjali Cow's Ghee and sesame oil in Pooja lamps

Prepare Prasad at home with pure and Satvik edible oils and other food items to gain Blessings of Goddess Saraswati, and to protect your family from the poison of adulteration.

- Patanjali Cow's Ghee is 100% pure and free from any artificial colour, animal or vegetable fat etc.
- Passed national and international quality tests. Patanjali ghee has proven its 100% purity in more than 60 parameters for testing purity of ghee.

Patanjali's Pure and Satvik Food Products

Shop Online- www.patanjalijayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108
Order Patanjali Products Online from ORDER ME APP Scan to know Patanjali Stores near you

Decision to constitute Madhya Pradesh Jain Welfare Board

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

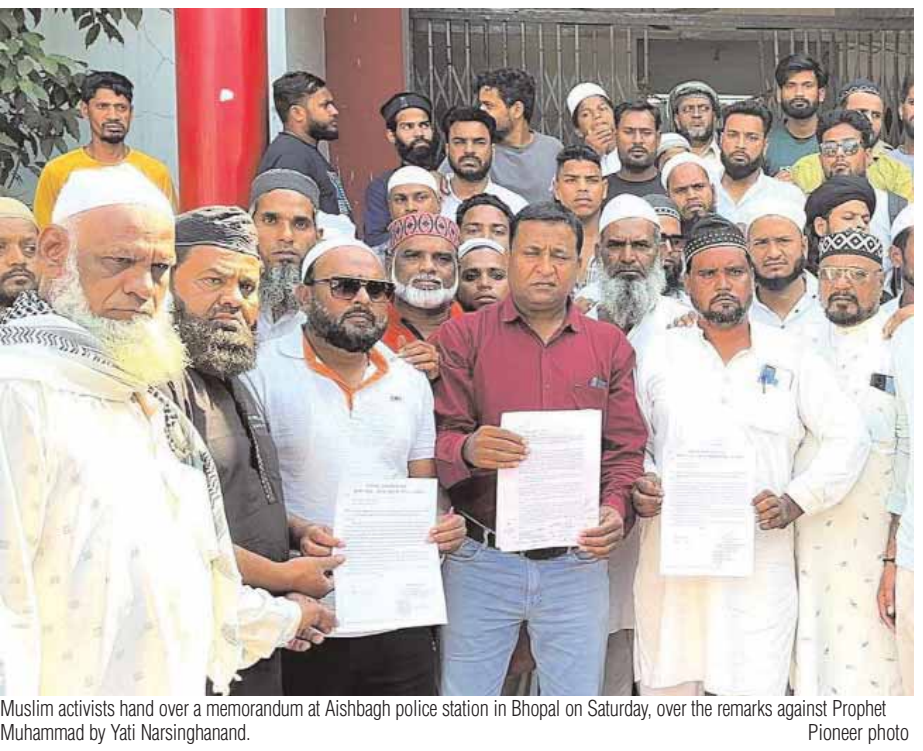
The State Cabinet meeting held on Saturday at Singrampur, Damoh district in honor of Veerangana Rani Durgavati's contributions. During the meeting, the Cabinet approved an additional assistance of up to Rs 3,900 per hectare under the Rani Durgavati Shri Anna Protsahan Yojana. This amount will be provided to farmers in addition to the minimum purchase price paid by the Federation for the purchase of Kodo-Kutki. For the 2024-25 plan year, the assistance will be directly transferred to farmers' accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer). **Approval for continuation of crop loan scheme at zero**

percent interest
The Cabinet decided that the scheme to provide short-term crop loans to farmers at zero percent interest rate through cooperative banks will continue in 2024-25. **Decision to constitute Madhya Pradesh Jain Welfare Board**
The Cabinet has decided to constitute the Madhya Pradesh Jain Welfare Board. This will be the first of its kind in the country. The decision has been taken to effectively implement various schemes of the government regarding the education of talented children and youth of the Jain community, social concerns like the migration of Jain Munis, security during Chaturmas, better education and improvement in conditions etc. with special

reference to the Jain community. The board will have a chairman and two members. Formation of the board will ensure better implementation of welfare/public welfare schemes of the government for the people of the Jain community and class. This will give impetus to the economic, social, and educational development of the Jain community. The tenure of the board will be fixed for 2 years for Shwetambar Samaj and 2 years for Digambar Samaj. **Nod to formation of committee to develop Rani Durgavati Memorial and Garden**
The Cabinet under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, approved the formation of the committee to develop the Rani Durgavati

Memorial and Garden. The Panchayat and Rural Development Minister, Public Works Minister, Tribal Affairs Minister, and Culture and Tourism Minister will be members of the committee. A plan is afoot to develop a 24-acre area of Madan Mahal hill located in Jabalpur as Rani Durgavati Memorial and Garden at a cost of about Rs 100 crore. In this, decisions will be taken by the committee related to a bronze statue of Rani Durgavati, an open-air theatre, an arts and crafts zone (crafts, metal, and terracotta), a food zone with the availability of local food, water-conservation structures, cafeteria, and film production. **Other decisions**

The Cabinet has decided that due to the merger of the erstwhile Medical Education Department and the Public Health and Family Welfare Department, academic uniformity should be brought in the nursing colleges running under both departments. For this, by converting the autonomous nursing training institutes into government nursing training institutes, all the 428 posts already approved for the autonomous nursing college will be administered under the service recruitment rules of the Public Health and Medical Education Department. The Cabinet also gave in-principle consent for the upgradation of the airstrip located in Damoh district.



Muslim activists hand over a memorandum at Aishbagh police station in Bhopal on Saturday, over the remarks against Prophet Muhammad by Yati Narsinghanand. Pioneer photo

Road and gate constructed at illegal colony razed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Illegally constructed road and a gate installed in an illegally constructed residential colony located in Bilkhriya on Raisen Road in Bhopal were demolished with the help of JCB, action will also be taken against 70 such colonies. This action was taken on the instructions of Huzur SDM Vinod Sonkia. According to the information, an illegal colony was being developed in the village Bilkhriyakalan. On receiving the information, the administration team reached the spot and demolished the illegal construction. The structure worth about Rs 65 lakh was removed. SDM Sonkia said, action will be taken against illegal colonies in future as well. The colonies have been identified.

Earlier, action was taken against two colonies being cut on agricultural land in Neelbad without permission. Roads and gates were broken with JCB in Golden Park Colony and Siddhi Vinayak Phase-2. The main gate of illegal colony 'Vatika' was broken in village Semri Bajafat and the paved road was dug up. Action was also taken in Siddhi Vinayak Colony in village Chhapri. Here too the gate and road were broken. Action has also been taken in Rolkhedi. Now FIR will be lodged against those who cut illegal colonies in Bhopal. About 70 colonies have been listed. A few days ago, notices were given to the colonizers. Now orders have started coming from the Collector Court.

Collector Kaushlendra Vikram Singh said, legal action is being taken against those who cut illegal colonies. There are colonies in many areas including Ratibad, Neelbad, Rolkhedi, Kanasaia, Kalapani, Pachama, Pipaliya Barkhedi, Amravdakan, Shobhapur, Thuakheda, Cantonment Plateau. Colonies have also been cut in areas like Berasia Road, Sevania Onkara, Kolia Khurd, Hathaikheda, Raisen Road, Bishankhedi, Kalkheda, Karond, Bairagarh, Bhauri etc. Most of the illegal colonies have developed in the cantonment plateau of Huzur Tehsil. The district administration is now in the mood to take strict action against those who cut these colonies.

Arif Masood submits memo, seeks action against those spreading hatred

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Upset over recent pronouncements targeting Prophet Muhammad, Congress MLA led members of the Muslim community on Saturday in presenting a memorandum—to the city police chief—seeking stern action against those attempting to spread hate. "Hatred is being spread about our Prophet again and again in a sponsored manner," said Bhopal Central MLA Arif Masood after submitting a memorandum to Police Commissioner Harinarayan Chari Mishra. "Joining the chorus seeking the arrest of Mahamandaleswar Yati Narsinghanand of Juna Akhara for his alleged disrespect of the Prophet, several leaders and community elders across the state sought legal action against him. Masood, accompanied by

community members, reached Bhopal Police Commissioner Harinarayan Chari Mishra and presented a memorandum. After submitting the memorandum, Masood told reporters that the work of spreading hatred about our Prophet is being done again and again in a sponsored manner. "As far as I understand, this is not just happening; it's being made to happen. First, someone from Maharashtra spoke; now it is replicated in Ghaziabad. They take advantage of it in such a way that after one or two cases are registered under small sections, they are given freedom. No arrests are made," said the Congress legislator. Calling for stringent action, Masood said that a failure to act will only encourage others and act as an endorsement for such acts. He regretted that the incident had taken place at a time when

people are participating in the festive season of Navratri and said that the timing suggests that the pronouncements were planned to provoke people and fan trouble during the festival. Masood said, "I have told the Police Commissioner that a case should be registered in this matter. He (the Police Commissioner) told me that a case has already been registered. According to the law, there is a problem in registering a second case after one case is registered. We told him that there should not be a problem because there is another reason: a person is continuously doing such acts so that someone gets provoked." "Action should be taken in this matter. CP sahib has assured action after investigation. Such a person should receive strict punishment," he demanded. Masood blamed the BJP for

spreading hatred and alleged that only a thorough investigation into the matter would unravel the full scale of the conspiracy. He again questioned the timing of the incident and said that sermons of holy men have always been sermons of peace, love, and inspiration, and that a person giving statements of hate can never be a holy man. On September 29, a program was organized under the banner of Amar Balidani Major Asaram Vyag Seva Sansthan in Hindi Bhavan in Lohanagar, Ghaziabad, UP. Peethadheeshwar of Dasna Devi Temple, Yati Narasimhanand Giri, also attended it. During this, he commented on Prophet Muhammad. Along with this, Narasimhanand Saraswati had said, "We never understand religion. They talked about countries, nations. They neither have a country nor a nation. Look at

all those who remained steadfast in their religion—how many nations and countries are there? It has been millions of years; we have been burning Ravana. Now such criminals have been born, in front of whom Ravana has no existence. Now Ravana's effigies should not be burnt on Dussehra." In the memorandum given to the Police Commissioner, the Congress MLA wrote, "Various news websites have revealed that the accused Yati Narasimhanand Saraswati released a video on social media making objectionable remarks against Prophet Hazrat Muhammad and Islam on September 29 in Ghaziabad, due to which the sentiments of the Muslim community have been deeply hurt." On September 29 in Dasna district, Ghaziabad, he made baseless statements against Prophet Hazrat Muhammad and Islam.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav releases a brochure of Singorghar fort of Rani Durgavati on her 500th birth anniversary in Singrampur, Damoh district Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Youth's eyesight restored after rare surgery at AIIMS Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a remarkable achievement, a team of doctors at AIIMS Bhopal has successfully performed a rare and complex eye surgery on a 25-year-old patient, restoring vision after a traumatic accident. The patient, hailing from Jaitwara village near Bhopal, was involved in a severe bike accident on August 20, 2024, and had lost vision in both eyes. What made the case even more challenging was that his left eyeball had been traumatically displaced into the ethmoid sinus, a small air-filled space between the eyes. Only a handful of such cases have been reported globally—fewer than ten. Initially treated at a private hospital for ten days, the patient was referred to AIIMS Bhopal on August 26, 2024, after his condition worsened, with persistent headaches, loss of vision, and nasal discharge. Unaware of the severity of the injury, the patient's family believed his left



eye had fallen out in the accident. However, an NCCT scan at AIIMS Bhopal revealed a more severe condition: pneumocephalus (air in the brain) and the left eyeball trapped deep within the ethmoid sinus. Given the critical nature of the injury, the surgery required the collaboration of specialists from neurosurgery, ophthalmology, trauma and emergency medicine, and anesthesia. Dr. Amit Agarwal (Neurosurgery), Dr. Bhavana Sharma (Ophthalmology), Dr. B L Soni

led the surgery. "The patient's condition was critical, but thanks to the multidisciplinary approach, we were able to successfully perform the surgery," Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, lauded the team for their dedication and teamwork. He stated, "At AIIMS Bhopal, we believe in pushing boundaries and taking up new challenges to save lives and restore hope. This case is a testament to our doctors' commitment and the power of collaboration. I always encourage my team to think beyond the ordinary, and this success is a prime example of what can be achieved when we come together as one." The patient is currently recovering and is under close observation. This rare surgery is a significant milestone in the field of ophthalmic and neurosurgical treatment, demonstrating AIIMS Bhopal's commitment to handling even the most challenging medical cases with precision and care.

Govindpura tops in revenue case disposal, Berasia struggles

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A recent review of revenue cases in the Bhopal Division suggests that Govindpura tops the table with a 96 percent resolution rate, while Berasia struggles, with 45 percent of the cases still awaiting disposal. The nine Naib Tehsildar courts resolved a total of 9,817 cases out of 14,120 that were filed, achieving a 70 percent disposal rate. Five Additional Tehsildar courts logged 9,387 cases, of which 7,108 were resolved, resulting in a 76 percent success rate. However, 122 cases in Huzur Tehsil Circle-2 remain pending for over six months, highlighting ongoing challenges. Overall, ten Tehsil courts registered 36,792 cases, resolving 27,007, with a conversion rate of 76 percent. Yet, 302 cases in Huzur Tehsil Circle-1 have remained unresolved for over six months. In a recent meeting, Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Singh stressed the need for immediate action on pending cases. He direct-

The nine Naib Tehsildar courts resolved a total of 9,817 cases out of 14,120 that were filed, achieving a 70 percent disposal rate

ed officials to register all cases on the Revenue Case Management System (RCMCS) portal. Singh emphasized the importance of timely hearings to facilitate swift resolutions, particularly for cases pending for over six months. He instructed Sub-Divisional Officers to regularly inspect their courts for compliance with these directives. Additionally, Singh highlighted the urgency of completing e-KYC for 6,919 farmers under the PM Kisan Scheme as a high priority. The Divisional Commissioner aims to enhance efficiency in revenue case management, ultimately improving service delivery for residents in his jurisdiction.

Lifetime achievement award to Col Dr Madan Deshpandey

Bhopal: Lifetime Achievement Award-2024 is conferred to Sewa Sadan consultant Colonel Dr. Madan Deshpandey by an International NGO Vision 2020: Right to Sight India. This award is given to Dr. Deshpandey for his excellent services in the field of eye care. Colonel Dr. Madan Deshpandey is currently serving as a consultant at Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital based at Sant Hirdaram Nagar Bhopal. Chair person of Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital Trust Sant Siddh Bhauji has congratulated Colonel Deshpandey on receiving this award. Col Madan Deshpandey VSM is Consultant for Development and Systems at Sewa sadan Eye Hospital Bhopal. He joined Army in 1964 and has taken part in Both 65 and 71 Wars at front. He is trained Paratrooper and Cammando. He became Eye specialist in 1971 and gave Highest Quality eye care with Innovation and Modern advancement to Army personal and their Relations with Civilians. For his Dedicated Services with care and Compassion. He was awarded Vishist Sewa Medal by President of India in 1992.

National PR conclave to be held in Raipur this December

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) will host its 46th All India Conference in Raipur from December 20 to 22. National President Ajit Pathak will chair the conference. Manoj Dwivedi, head of the PRSI Bhopal chapter, stated that the theme this year is "National Values: International Competencies - Role of Public Relations." The three-day event will include lectures and discussions on critical topics such as culture, media skills, ethics, artificial intelligence, reputation management, and the role of public relations in promoting a self-reliant India. The conclave will draw communication professionals and public relations practitioners from the government, public, and private sectors. Students in public relations and mass communication are also encouraged to attend. The conference will feature the PRSI National Awards, recognizing excellence in the spheres of in-house jour-



nal publishing, newsletters, corporate films, social media campaigns, public relations case studies, and event management. Nominations are invited for notable achievements—in corporate social responsibility (CSR), science and technology, defense, skill development, and medical research—with a submission deadline of November 10. Additionally, special awards will be presented, including the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee National Awareness Campaign Award and the Pushpendra Pal Singh Mass Communication and PR Teacher of the Year Award. In its 68th year, PRSI has 23 active chapters representing public relations professionals across various sectors in the country.



Students participate in a palm painting competition during the wildlife week celebration at Van Vihar National Park, in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Be a part of building a developed India by 2047: VD

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bharatiya Janata Party's state president and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma addressed entrepreneurs, intellectuals, professionals and intellectuals by inaugurating the 'I am BJP' Future Force' program under the organization festival at Ravindra Bhawan on Saturday. Addressing the program, Vishnudutt Sharma said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

vision is to make India a developed country by 2047. That vision will be led by India's youth, professionals, entrepreneurs, intellectuals and professionals working in various fields of social life. Madhya Pradesh BJP will play an important role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign to bring 1 lakh non-political youth into active politics. Through this program, I appeal to all of you to join the Bharatiya Janata Party to

give strength to the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is working with the resolve to make India a world leader, and to give direction to the developed India of 2047. Sharma said that this question may arise in your minds that what is the vision of the Prime Minister? So the biggest proof of this is that after taking over the reins of the country in 2014, Prime Minister has changed the work culture of politics.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Bhopal only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

BJP leaving nothing to chance in wooing tribal voters

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

Still reeling from an unexpected exodus of tribal voters in the 2024 general elections, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh is leaving no stone unturned as it tries to regain its foothold in the tribal belt. In an attempt to woo community voters, the Mohan Yadav government convened the State Cabinet meeting at Singrampur in Damoh district on Saturday and described it as an honour to Rani Durgavati who was a symbol of patriotism and women empowerment. She ruled the tribal kingdom of Gondwana from 1500-1564 AD. In the last assembly elections in 2023, the BJP had emerged victorious



in 27 of the total 47 tribal dominated seats in the State. However, in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024, the situation was entirely different as the BJP lost around 4 percent in popularity among community voters. The tribal community constitute around 22 percent of the population in Madhya Pradesh and this sizeable

chunk of votes affects as many as 83 of the total 230 assembly segments. The tribals had remained traditional Congress voters, but sustained BJP efforts eventually proved fruitful in 2003, when the party swept to power in 37 of the 41 tribal seats. Many attribute this shift in the mood of the commu-

nity to a Hindu convention organized by the BJP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at Jhabua in 2002. However, in the subsequent elections, the BJP could not continue to hold the tribal votes completely. In 2008, the BJP won 31 out of 47 seats and in 2023 elections, the BJP could only get only 27. The slide continued with the saffron party registering a 4 percent decline in popularity in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024. Taking a serious note of the situation, the BJP had convened a cabinet meeting in Jabalpur in January 2024, and announced several initiatives for the welfare of tribals, and announced the institution of state-level

awards in the name of Rani Durgavati and Rani Avantika Bai Lodhi. It was also decided to establish 194 anganwadis with an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore in tribal areas. While talking to 'The Pioneer' Madhya Pradesh Congress media in-charge Mukesh Nayak said that the BJP government is concentrating more on beneficiary-based schemes and this would completely damage the infrastructure of the State. The present government is redistributing sops to reap political gains. With assembly bypolls in Vijaypur and Budhni looming in the background, it remains to be seen if tribal voters are moved by the efforts of the state government.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during a laddi behna sammelan on the 500th birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati in Singrampur, Damoh district Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo



Visitors go through a lifestyle exhibition cum sale ahead of the Dussehra and Karva Chauth festival at Hotel Jehan Numa Palace in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

MP will become top state in health sector

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has said that work is being done at a fast pace to expand health facilities in the state. The government under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav is striving to make Madhya Pradesh the top state in the country in the field of health. He said that work has been done at an unprecedented pace in the field of roads, electricity, drinking water and irrigation in the state. The state has been the country's leader in the field of agriculture for seven years. Shukla performed the Bhoomi Pujan of the new building of Community Health Center

costing Rs 10 crore in Majhali, Jabalpur. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla said that lakhs of poor people have got free treatment in good hospitals through Ayushman Yojana. Ayushman card holders do not have to depend on anyone for their treatment now, the government is getting them treated. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has decided to give the benefit of Ayushman Yojana to every elderly person above 70 years of age. Income tax payers and retired government officers and employees will also come under its purview, there will be no distinction between rich and poor.

Places related to Rani Durgavati will be redeveloped

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visited the Hathi Darwaza of Singaargarh Fort in Jabera Tehsil, Damoh district on the 500th birth anniversary of Veerangana Rani Durgavati. He inaugurated an exhibition organized by the Archaeology Department that highlights Rani Durgavati's history. Accompanied by other ministers, Yadav explored the exhibition, which showcased the valor and legacy of Rani Durgavati. In the visitor register at Hathi Darwaza, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure at the visit, noting the impressive scenery, the historical significance of the fort, and the connection to Rani Durgavati and other archaeological sites. He remarked that the celebration of Rani Durgavati Jayanti has become truly memorable. The ministers also wrote their best wishes in the register. On this occasion, Yadav said that the birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati is a historic day. Many schemes will also be operated in the name of Rani Durgavati. He said that people from all over the state and country should visit

and become aware of the glorious history of Rani Durgavati. The Chief Minister congratulated all the ministers and said that this place will be redeveloped from the tourism point of view. Despite the fort dating back to several hundred years, its walls still stand strong. The mystery of the Rani Mahal, Hathi Darwaza,

the reservoir built inside the fort for bathing, and the secret paths built in the hills of the fort still seem like a puzzle. There is the Singaargarh Reservoir with water throughout the year, at some distance from the main Hathi Darwaza. The stories and fame of Rani Durgavati's bravery are narrated even today.

VIPPY SPINPRO LTD.
CIN : L01710MP1992PLC007043
Regd. Office : 414, City Center, 570, M.G. Road, Indore-452 001 (M.P.)
Works Office : 14-A, Industrial Area, A.B. Road, Dewas-455 001 (M.P.)
Phone : 91-7272-258251, 52, 405352, Fax : 91-7272-400121
Email : admin@vippspinpro.com, Website : www.vippspinpro.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) issued by the Company are informed to have been lost or misplaced and the registered holder thereof claimant has applied to the Company for issue of Duplicate Share Certificate:

S. No.	Name of Share Holder	No. of Shares	Folio No.	Share Certificate No.	Distinctive No.
1.	Ganeshmal Surana	100	1901	15933	1593201-1593300

Any person(s) who has / have any claim(s) in respect of the said Share Certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the Company's Share Transfer Agent at the Registered Office, at the address given below:
ANKIT CONSULTANCY PVT. LTD.
60, Electronic Complex, Pardeshipura, Indore-452010 (M.P.)
Within 07 days of publication of this notice, after which no claims will be entertained and the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate.
For Vippy Spinpro Ltd.
Sd/-
Pulkit Maheshwari
CS, Compliance Officer & CFO

Place : Indore
Date : 05.10.2024

Janjati Kalyaan Kendra hosts mega medical camp at Bargaon

Bhopal: A mega medical and disability assistance camp was organized at the Janjati Kalyaan Kendra Mahakousal in Bargaon, Dindori district, under the leadership of... About 10000 beneficiaries from Dindori, Mandla, Umaria, and Kundeshwardham tehsil of Jabalpur district availed free health check-ups and treatment services. The camp was divided into two sections: general health services and specialized assistance for persons with disabilities. The primary objective was to ensure healthcare reached even the most remote areas, benefiting a large number of people. The camp was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Public Health Engineering, Sampat Uike, who lit the ceremonial lamp to commence the event. Several dignitaries graced the occasion, including Rajesh Mishra, MP from Sidhi; Ashok

Rohani, MLA from Jabalpur Cantt; Sandeep Rajak, Commissioner for Disabled Persons; Bharat Sharan Singh, Chairperson of the Private University Commission; Harsh Singh, District Collector; Vahini Singh, Superintendent of Police; and Anil Kumar Rathore, CEO of the District Panchayat. Their presence underscored the commitment to improving healthcare access in the region. Uike praised the camp organizers and recalled Governor Mangubhai Patel's emphasis on improving healthcare in tribal areas, inspired by the Gujarat model. She noted significant progress in these regions, particularly in sickle cell anemia screening, with over ten thousand patients from Dindori, Mandla, and Umaria screened through door-to-door surveys. Uike also highlighted the success of the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Vibha criticises BJP for calling Congress anti-women

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In an ongoing verbal duel between the two, Madhya Pradesh Congress women's wing chief Vibha Patel on Saturday hit back at BJP State General Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Kavita Patidar for calling Congress anti-women. Patel said that the RS MP must introspect and review incidents of crime against women under BJP rule before levelling allegations against Congress. "In BJP rule, new cases of atrocities, incest and rape, murder, gang-rape, and subsequent murder of women, beloved sisters, and innocent girls are constantly coming to light from every corner of every district in the state," said Patel. She stated that the BJP leader should remain mindful of her position as an RS MP while



issuing statements to the public. Patel again brought up the recent spurt in incidents of crime against women in the state, saying that during the last fortnight alone, four cases of assault and exploitation against children have been registered in Bhopal. Continuing with her tirade, Patel also mentioned the sexual assault on a young lady accompanying a trainee army officer in Mhow and drew attention to the plight of a young girl recently assaulted and exploited in Dindori.

The former Bhopal mayor said that repeated cases of sexual offences in the state have left lingering questions over the law and order situation under the present government. She questioned the RS MP over her persistent silence on these cases of violence against women and wondered if the leader was even aware of the issues facing women in Madhya Pradesh. Pressing on with her reckoning of recent crimes in the state, the Congress leader said that the state police is in the dock over the rape of a woman in broad daylight in the Chief Minister's home district of Ujjain. Advising Patidar, Patel said that the BJP MP should focus on the shortcomings of the government and refrain from maligning political opponents with baseless allegations.

9 new cases of dengue reported in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

With the withdrawal of monsoon cases of dengue have suddenly spiked, on Friday, 9 new dengue patients were found in the city while 31 dengue patients have been found in the last 4 days. The number of dengue patients in the city has now reached 376. The rise in temperature after the rainfall halt is the most suitable season for mosquito breeding. New patients have been found in AIIMS, Bagh Sevinaya, GMC Campus, Kainchi Chhola, Purushottam Nagar,

Karond, Nehru Nagar, Awadhपुरi, Arif Nagar, Ibrahimपुरa, Bairagarh, Shyamala Hills, Aishbagh, Ashoka Garden, Kotra Sultanabad areas. Similarly, 11 positive patients were found in 273 tests of Chikungunya in three days and 2 positive patients were found in 31 tests on Thursday. Every fourth patient is reaching the OPD of Hamidia Hospital with complaints of cold, cough, sore throat and difficulty in breathing. On Friday, a total of 2358 patients came to the OPD for treatment, out of which 780 were suffering from seasonal diseases.



Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh, AVSM, GOC, Sudarshan Chakra Corps after inaugurating Sudarshan Chakra technology lab at military station in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

35th Battalion of SAF Mandla to be named after Veerangana Rani Durgavati

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that the 35th Battalion of the Special Armed Police Force (SAF) in Mandla will be named in honor of Veerangana Rani Durgavati. During the Cabinet meeting held in Singrampur on the occasion of Rani Durgavati's Jayanti, CM Yadav expressed the privilege of all members to be a part of it. He highlighted that Rani Durgavati was born on Durga Ashtami, and, true to her name, she ruled over an empire of more than 23,000 villages with remarkable skill, valor and bravery. Throughout her lifetime, she embodied the spirit of "Durga," fighting and winning 51 battles while also engaging in welfare work for her people. Tragically, in her 52nd battle, she was martyred while fighting Asaf Khan. Her

sacrifice will forever be remembered and honored in the state. Yadav addressed the ministers ahead of the Cabinet meeting in Singrampur, Damoh district. In honor of Rani Durgavati's extraordinary contributions, the meeting commenced with the recitation of "Vande Mataram." Yadav highlighted the enduring legacy of Veerangana Rani Durgavati's governance, public welfare policies and administration. During the meeting, Culture, Tourism, and Religious Trust and Endowments Minister Shri Dharmendra Singh Lodhi presented Dr. Yadav with a citation recognizing the honor awarded by the Union Ministry of Tourism to Pranpur, Sabarwani, and Ladpura Khas, which were named among the best tourist villages in India. On International Tourism Day, Pranpur was selected in the

Traditional Chanderi Craft category, while Sabarwani and Ladpura Khas were recognized in the Responsible Tourism category. The Chief Minister released a brochure prepared on the history, importance, architecture and other features of Veerangana Rani Durgavati's Singaargarh Fort. During the Cabinet meeting, a video focusing on the Rani Durgavati Memorial and Garden Project, depicting the importance of Veerangana Rani Durgavati's life, struggle and welfare works, was also screened. The memorial and garden will be built on 24 acres of land on Madan Mahal hill in Jabalpur at a cost of Rs 100 crore. Museum, open air theatre, water conservation structures, food zone, bronze statue of Rani Durgavati etc. will be built in the memorial. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav expressed

happiness over the works done by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department for the development and promotion of rural tourism and tourism. Shastra Pujan programme on Vijaydashami in the name of Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai was a powerful symbol of women empowerment, having undertaken numerous initiatives for the empowerment of women during her reign nearly 300 years ago. This year, the Shastra Pujan program on Vijaydashami will be dedicated in her name. Dr. Yadav said that he will personally attend the Shastra Pujan ceremony at Maheshwar, the historic seat of Devi Ahilya Bai's rule. He also urged all members of the Cabinet to participate in the Shastra Pujan events in their respective

assembly constituencies and districts. Special Programmes on Women Empowerment and Awareness Under "Shakti Abhinandan Abhiyan" from October 5 Yadav said that the 'Shakti Abhinandan Abhiyan' is being implemented across the state from October 2 to October 11, featuring various programs aimed at women empowerment and awareness at the district, development block, and village levels. Starting October 5, initiatives such as the Samvad Program, Mental Health Sensitization Program, Social Media Campaign, and Shakti Samvad will be conducted. The Samvad programme will showcase transformation stories, highlight the growing participation of women in employment, business, and entrepreneurship, and honor women and elders.

INDIAN BANK
Gwalior Main Branch, Gwalior

APPENDIX - IV (Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 09.05.2024 to the below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors, calling upon the borrowers and also the owner of the property /surety to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Guarantors / owners of the property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the owner of property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the movable/immovable property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 30th day of September of the year 2024.

The Borrowers and Guarantors / owners of the property in particulars and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Gwalior Main Branch, for the amount mentioned against the borrowers and Interest thereon, costs etc. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Amount Outstanding	Description of Movable / Immovable Property
Borrower : M/s SSD Enterprises (Prop. Sri Murlidhar Daswani), Guarantor: Sri Umesh Daswani Guarantor/Mortgagor: Smt. Geeta Daswani Smt. Sulochna Daswani	₹ 5081773/- + Interest w.e.f. 10.05.2024 & other Charges	EM of House no 3/124 situated at 57/1103/1 Old no 57/1764, 39/124 ward 57 Bala Bai Ka Bazar Near Patwa Gali Gwalior in the name of Smt. Sulochna Daswani and Geeta Daswani Area-413.00 sq.ft., Boundaries: East: house of Pt. Jagannath Prasad, West: house of Sh. Rathore, North: Corporation way, South property of others

Place: Gwalior, Date : 30/09/2024
Authorised Officer, (Indian Bank)

BANK OF INDIA
Zonal Office : Bank of India Bhawan, Arera Hills, Jail Road, Bhopal-462011
Tel.: 0755-2556770/2555167 E-mail: bhopal.assetrecovery@bankofindia.co.in

E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE) (Under Sarfaesi Act 2002)

Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Bank of India (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS BASIS" on 11.11.2024, for recovery of bank dues to the Bank of India (secured creditor) Bidding will be done online through e-auction platform <https://ebkraj.in>

Name of Borrower/Guarantor Demand Notice Date, Notice Amount & Possession Date	Description of Mortgaged Properties & Name of Property Owner	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increment
Borrower : Mr. Brijballabh Maheshwari S/O Tarachand Maheshwari Co-Borrower : Mrs. Nidhi Maheshwari w/o Mr. Brijballabh Maheshwari Guarantor : Mrs. Arti Maheshwari w/o Mr. Manish Maheshwari Demand Notice Amount: Rs. 15,76,273.45/- + interest & other charges Demand Notice date : 05.04.2021 Possession Date : 03.06.2022 (Symbolic)	Flat No. B-01, Ground Floor Silver Apartment Ward No. 4, Survey No. 18, 19, 22, 23, 166, 167, 168, 169, 176, Galav Nagar Sadashiv Nagar ke uttar ki Aur, Ghatampur, Gwalior (M.P.) Property Owner: Mr. Brijballabh Maheshwari S/O Tarachand Maheshwari Area: 800 Sq. Ft. Boundaries: East: Colony Road, West: Plot No. 12, 13, 14, 15, North: Common Passage and Parking, South: Plot No. 01	₹ 14.18 Lakh ₹ 1.42 Lakh ₹ 0.10 Lakh

Date and Time of e-auction : 11/11/2024, 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes duration each)

Other terms and conditions:
1) Auction Sale/bidding would be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHAT EVER THERE IS BASIS" through the website: <https://ebkraj.in> Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms and conditions before taking in the e-auction sale proceeding.
2) The property can be inspected on or before 08-11-2024 between 10 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. with prior permission from Bank Manager of Concern Branch.
3) The Successful tenderer shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on the allotment of tender in his/her favour and balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale in above mentioned branch's account number. If the tenderer fails to pay the sale price as stated above, the deposit made by him/her shall be forfeited without any notice.
4) The bidding will start at a price higher than that of fixed reserve price.
5) For sale proceeds of Rs. 50 Lacs (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank.
6) All statutory dues/non-statutory dues/applicable stamp duty/additional stamp duty/transfer charges/all fees/assessment charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes, applicable TDS etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser.
7) Authorised Officer reserve the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
8) For further details contact Concern branch Manager at above Phone No. or Zonal Office Bhopal, Bhopal Phone: 0755-2556770/2555169, Mobile: 9407447756
Note : This publication is also 30 days notice to Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors as required under Proviso of rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Date : 06.10.2024, Place: Gwalior
Authorised Office, Bank of India

No Indo-Pak talks during SCO Summit: External Affairs Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said here he will not hold bilateral talks with Pakistan during his upcoming visit to Islamabad to participate in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit in mid-October. India on Friday announced that he will travel to Pakistan to attend the conclave. "It (visit) will be for a multi-lateral event. I'm not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations. I'm going there to be a good member of the SCO," he said at the sidelines of an event in the national capital. "But, you know, since I'm a courteous and civil person, I will behave myself accordingly," he added. Jaishankar noted that typically the Prime Minister attends such high-level meetings with

heads of state, but "it changes" sometimes. "So your question, I think, is, what am I planning for? Of course, I'm planning to go. In my business, you plan for everything which you're going to do, and for a lot of things which you're not going to do and which could also happen. I mean, you plan for that as well," he said. Jaishankar made these observations during an interaction with media while attending the Sardar Patel lecture on governance organised by the IC Centre for Governance. The SCO was founded as a political union of Central Asian nations Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan -- to discuss security and economic matters. India and Pakistan became permanent members in 2017. Jaishankar said the situation in

the Middle East is a "great cause of concern," as Israel intensifies its attacks in Lebanon. "The Middle East is not an opportunity. The Middle East is a cause of great concern and deep worry. The conflict is widening what we saw as a terrorist attack, then the response, then we saw what happened in Gaza. Now you are seeing it in exchange in Lebanon, between Israel and Iran. The Houthis are firing on the Red Sea. This is actually costing us. It's not that somebody is neutral and you benefit," he said. The External Affairs Minister added, "I would say honestly today, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the conflict in the Middle East West Asia, these are big factors of instability, big factors of concern. I think the entire world, including us, is worried about it." He also took a veiled dig at Pakistan, holding it responsible



for the derailment of the SAARC initiative. "At the moment SAARC is not moving forward, we haven't had a meeting of SAARC for a very simple reason -- there is one

member of SAARC who is practicing cross-border terrorism at least against one more member of SAARC, maybe more... Terrorism is something which is unacceptable and despite a global view of it if one of our neighbours continues to do it there cannot be business as usual in SAARC. That's the reason why the SAARC meeting has not happened in recent years -- but it doesn't mean that the regional activities have stopped. In fact, in the last 5-6 years, we have seen far more regional integration in the Indian subcontinent," he added. India has all along maintained that it will not hold bilateral dialogues with Pakistan until the latter stops breeding and fostering cross-border terrorism. India on Friday announced that the minister will travel to

Pakistan to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in mid-October. It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's External Affairs Minister will travel to Pakistan even as the ties between the two neighbours remain frosty over cross-border terrorism. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16. The last Indian External Affairs Minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan. The announcement on Jaishankar's visit was made by external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. "The External Affairs Minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit which will be

held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," he said at his weekly media briefing. Meanwhile, speaking at the event, Jaishankar highlighted Sardar Patel's historical stance against involving the United Nations in disputes, particularly concerning Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that such actions could allow external powers to manipulate the situation. He noted that Patel believed it was more effective to address issues directly with Pakistan rather than through international frameworks. He highlighted that, like any other neighbour, India would like to have good relations with Pakistan but not by overlooking cross-border terrorism. Reflecting on Patel's pragmatic approach, he underscored the importance of realism as the foundation of India's foreign policy.

India to host four-nation Malabar naval exercise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India will host the four-nation Malabar naval exercise beginning Tuesday. The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan will carry out a series of complex naval drills during the 'sea phase' of the mega war game. "Exercise Malabar 2024 is scheduled to take place from October 8 to 18, beginning with the Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase," the Indian Navy announced on Saturday. The Malabar exercise, which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between the US and the Indian Navy, has evolved into a key multilateral event aimed at enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region. The exercise will feature the



participation of various Indian naval platforms, including guided missile destroyers, multi-purpose frigates, submarines, fighter aircraft and helicopters. "The exercise will focus on a broad range of activities designed to enhance cooperation and operational capabilities, including discussions on special operations, surface, air,

DRDO conducts successful VSHORADS flight tests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Research and Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three flight-tests of the fourth generation, technically-advanced miniaturised Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on October three and four, defence ministry said here on Saturday. Giving details, officials said the tests were carried out against high speed target, demonstrating very critical parameters of maximum range and maximum altitude interception. These development trials showed repeatable hit-to-kill capability of the weapon system in various target engagement scenarios covering approaching, receding and crossing modes. The development of VSHORADS missiles has been



completed and two production agencies have been engaged in the Development cum Production Partner (DcPP) mode. In these trials, the missiles realised through DcPPs have been successfully used, thus paving the way for early user trials and production in a short time span in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat

ICMR to study PCOS drugs' impact on fertility



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is mulling to conduct a study to evaluate the efficacy of two Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) drugs in improving fertility and birth outcomes among women suffering from the ovarian condition. The drugs that have been recommended by experts for this purpose are Metformin and Inositol which are used in the treatment of PCOS, a hormonal condition that affects women of reproductive age. It's the most common endocrine disorder in women in this age group. A senior official from the apex health research body of the Union Health Ministry said that expression of interest (EOI) have been invited to undertake a multi-centric randomised controlled trial for evaluating the efficacy of Metformin vs Inositol to improve fertility and birth outcomes among PCOS women. PCOS is a complex disorder ranging from mild to severe disruptions in reproductive, endocrine and metabolic functions, with key features including irregular menstrual periods (anovulation), hyperandrogenism, insulin resistance and abnormal gonadotropin secretion. The prevalence of infertility in women with PCOS is high, varying between 70 and 80 per cent, the ICMR said in the EOI document.

Moreover, PCOS women have been found to have increased prevalence of pregnancy complications and less favourable pregnancy outcomes (live births, miscarriage, pregnancy rate) compared with women without PCOS, it stated. In contemporary practice, the use of Metformin and Inositol for the treatment of PCOS is widespread. "However, present evidence on the efficacy of these two drugs in terms of improvement in fertility and other related outcomes is insufficient," the ICMR said in a document. A Finnish study suggested that, as compared to placebo, metformin improved the pregnancy rate, live birth rate and ovulation rate in the studied population, the document said. However, a Cochrane review with meta-analysis including three other smaller studies reported that as compared with placebo, metformin may have only marginal benefit for live birth rate outcome. Additionally, there is very limited data available globally on the effectiveness of Inositol for PCOS women, especially for birth outcome and cycle regulation. "Evidence on the efficacy of both metformin and inositol in the Indian context is almost non-existent. To address the knowledge gap and to generate evidence on the management of PCOS for improving birth outcomes in the Indian context, the current ICMR call is being proposed," the document said.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey accuses Congress of defaming Government

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Public Accounts Committee member and BJP MP Nishikant Dubey has accused the panel's chairman and Congress member K C Venugopal of raking up non-existent issues to defame the central government and destabilise the country's financial structure and economy. Dubey wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against Venugopal for allegedly misusing his position, bypassing the PAC's remit and working as part of a "tool kit" to damage the economy after reports emerged that the committee may summon SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, who has faced allegations of professional impropriety from US-based firm Hindenburg Research. He had written to Birla against Venugopal's "unconstitutional and disdainful" conduct on September 9. Incidentally, the PAC decided on October 4 to call Buch for deposition on



October 24. His strongly worded communication is a clear indication that the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, who are in a majority in the committee, are likely to resist any further move by Venugopal to put the regulator in a spot, signalling that its meetings over the issue will be stormy. Dubey claimed that political motivations were guiding the committee's chairperson after the Congress was "compelled" by voters to sit in

the world's third-biggest economy, devised a "tool kit" to defame it by attacking its financial structure and the economy by dubbing important organisations like SEBI as corrupt. Claiming that unverified allegations by a foreign company like Hindenburg against Buch were part of such a campaign, he alleged that the "India Chapter" of this toolkit has become active. "It used its position as is presently being used by K C Venugopal in the capacity of Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, to further defame the Government and damage the financial prospects of our economy. This time also, unverified allegations have been levelled against the SEBI Chief by a foreign entity viz., Hindenburg Research, which is notorious for targeting business houses, important functionaries and financial institutions of the country," Dubey told Birla. He also accused Venugopal of committing the "unconstitu-

tional and disdainful act of announcing an inquiry against the SEBI Chief by the Committee," which is against the constitutional provisions and in clear violation of parliamentary rules. "I request your goodness to restrain Mr K.C. Venugopal not to play at the hands of aforementioned 'tool kit' and misuse his position as Chairman of Public Accounts Committee," Dubey told the Speaker. Citing rules, the BJP MP said the sole function of the Public Accounts Committee is confined to scrutinising the appropriation accounts of the Government of India and reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The committee, he alleged, has been made as a "surreptitious tool kit of some countries, inimical to the galloping strides which India has witnessed during the last decade under the exemplary leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Antarctica's greening signals alarming climate change effects

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The coldest, windiest and most inhospitable ice-clad Antarctica Peninsula, a vast territory belonging to no one nation is witnessing a dramatic greening! Viewing this trend as a stark warning rather than a hopeful sign, climate change experts have raised alarms. Not without reasons. Vegetation, particularly moss and algae, have surged by more than tenfold over the last four decades from less than one square kilometer in 1986 to nearly 12 square kilometers by 2021. The rapid expansion of plant life highlights the profound impacts of global warming and the potential for cascading effects on the region's ecosystems, said researchers from the universities of Exeter and Hertfordshire, along with the British Antarctic Survey after analysing satellite data to document this phenomenon.

Published in the journal Nature Geoscience, the findings revealed that vegetation cover trend accelerated by over 30 per cent in recent years (2016-2021), adding more than 400,000 square meters annually, as per the study. In a previous study that examined core samples from moss-dominated ecosystems on the Antarctic Peninsula, researchers had found compelling evidence of dramatically increased plant growth rates in recent decades. Building on this base, the new study uses satellite imagery to confirm that a widespread greening trend is not only occurring but also accelerating across the Antarctic Peninsula. "The plants we find on the Antarctic Peninsula mostly mosses grow in perhaps the harshest conditions on Earth," said Dr Thomas Roland, from the University of Exeter. "The landscape is still almost entirely dominated by snow, ice and rock, with only a tiny frac-

tion colonised by plant life. "But that tiny fraction has grown dramatically showing that even this vast and isolated 'wilderness' is being affected by anthropogenic climate change." "As these ecosystems become more established and the climate continues to warm it's likely that the extent of greening will increase. "Soil in Antarctica is mostly poor or non-existent, but this increase in plant life will add organic matter, and facilitate soil formation potentially paving the way for other plants to grow." "This raises the risk of non-native and invasive species arriving, possibly carried by eco-tourists, scientists or other visitors to the continent," said Dr Olly Bartlett, from the University of Hertfordshire. The researchers emphasised the urgent need for further research to establish the specific climate and environmental mechanisms that are driving the "greening" trend.

Supreme Court dismisses electoral bonds review pleas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas seeking review of its February 15 verdict, which had scrapped the Modi government's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said there is no error apparent on the face of the record. The top court also rejected the prayer for listing the review petitions in an open court. "Having perused the review petitions, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013. The review petitions are, therefore, dismissed," the bench said in its order dated September 25 that was uploaded today. The review pleas filed by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara and others contended that the matter related to the scheme falls in the



exclusive domain of legislative and executive policy. "The court failed to notice that even assuming the issue is justiciable, the petitioners there-in having not claimed any specific legal injury exclusive to them, their petition could not have been decided as if a private litigation for the enforcement of rights which are specific and exclusive to them," Nedumpara had submitted in his plea. He had said the court failed to notice that the public opinion could be sharply divided and the majority of the people of this country could probably be in support of the scheme, brought into existence by their elected representatives, and that they too have a right to be heard as much as the petitioners. "The court failed to notice that, if at all it is venturing into the forbidden domain of adju-

dicating upon a matter of legislative policy, they have a duty to hear the public at large and that the proceedings ought to be converted into representative proceedings," the plea had said. Holding that the 2018 electoral bond scheme was "violative" of the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Chandrachud had scrapped the scheme. The top court had also directed the State Bank of India (SBI), the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to submit the details of electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019, to the Election Commission, which was asked to publish the information on its official website. Under the electoral bonds scheme, ruling parties can coerce people and entities to contribute, the apex court had said and rejected as "erroneous" the Centre's argument that it protects the confidentiality of the contributor which is akin to the system of

secret ballot. The electoral bonds scheme, which was notified by the government on January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. On March 13, the SBI told the Supreme Court that a total of 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased and 22,030 redeemed by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year. In a compliance affidavit filed in the apex court, the SBI said as per the court's direction, it has made available the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India before the close of business hours on March 12. The electoral bond controversy had become a major poll issue during the Lok Sabha elections as the opposition alleged it was an "extortion racket", while the ruling BJP defended the scheme, saying it had a laudable objective of bringing transparency in poll funding.

Congress is being run by gang of urban Naxals: PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ WASHIM (MAHARASHTRA)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday alleged that the Congress is being run by a "gang of urban Naxals", and asked people to unite to defeat the "dangerous agenda" of that party. He also accused the Congress of looting the poor and not improving their condition for its selfish politics.

"They (Congress) think that if we all unite, then their agenda to divide the country will fail," Modi said, addressing a rally in Washim district of Maharashtra after launching various projects. "Congress only knows how to loot the poor and keep them poor for its selfish politics. It only knows how to divide people. We have to be alert and remain united. Congress is run by a gang of urban Naxals," he alleged. Everyone can see how closely Congress stands with those people who do not harbour good intentions for India, Modi said. "Drugs worth thousands of crores of rupees were seized in Delhi recently. A Congress leader is suspected to be the kingpin. Congress wants to contest elections from the money it gets by pushing the youth towards drugs," he said. The Indian Youth Congress had said on October 3 that Tushar Goel, the suspected



kingpin, was expelled from the organisation on October 17, 2022, for anti-party activities, soon after BJP spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi charged the opposition party with having links with the drug dealers. Modi alleged that Congress' thinking has been foreign from the very beginning. "Like the British rule, the Congress family also does not consider Dalits, backward and tribals as their equals. They feel that India should be ruled by only one family. That is why they have always maintained a derogatory attitude towards the Banjara community," he said. "Saints from the Banjara community inspired culture and spiritualism. Britishers harassed the community, but

when they left, successive Congress governments continued the trend and prevented the community from coming into the mainstream," the PM alleged. The PM also accused the Congress of leaving no stone unturned to make the lives of farmers miserable. "The governments run by the Congress used the money meant for farmers and irrigation schemes for corruption," he alleged. Modi asked people to beware of the Congress propaganda of false assurance of farm loan waiver. "People in Telangana are still waiting for the loan waiver. In Karnataka, the Congress government stopped the irrigation schemes started by the BJP regime," he said.

Stating that Maharashtra has the capacity to lead the country to economic progress, Modi said the state government was giving double benefit to farmers in terms of financial assistance, in addition to what the central government was providing.

When the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was in power, it put a speed breaker in the work of the Poharadevi pilgrimage centre upgradation, which was started during the chief ministership of Devendra Fadnavis. But it has now been completed at a cost of Rs 700 crore, he said. As long as MVA was in power in Maharashtra, it worked with only two agendas - to stop the projects related to farmers and to commit corruption in the money of these projects. The funds sent by the Centre were being diverted away from the beneficiaries by that government, he claimed. The prime minister, who launched various initiatives of Rs 23,300 crore related to agriculture and animal husbandry sectors, expressed happiness over the completion of the Banjara Virasat Museum in Poharadevi. This museum would introduce future generations to the ancient culture and vast heritage of the Banjara community, he said.

Removing 50 per cent cap on reservation necessary to protect Constitution: Rahul Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said removing the existing 50 per cent cap on reservation is necessary to protect the Constitution, and asserted that the INDIA bloc will ensure the passage of laws to this effect in Parliament. The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha also attacked the BJP-led government, saying there was no use of bowing before Shivaji Maharaj after "scaring people, destroying the Constitution and institutions in the country". Holding a copy of the Constitution during an address in Kolhapur, Gandhi called it a symbol of Shivaji's ideas.

This is Rahul Gandhi's second visit to western Maharashtra in a month. He visited Sangli last month to unveil the statue of late Congress leader Patangrao Kadam. His party wrested the Kolhapur and Sangli Lok Sabha seats from Shiv Sena and BJP, respectively after losing them in 2014 and 2019. Speaking at the 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' here,



Gandhi said the Congress and the INDIA bloc, a coalition of over two dozen opposition parties, will also bring out laws to enable a caste-based census. "We will ensure in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha that the 50 per cent cap on reservation is removed and no power can stop it. Removing this 50 per cent limit is necessary to protect the Constitution," he said. Rahul said when his party talks of caste census, it wants to add two more aspects to it: to identify the population of each community and how much control they have over India's financial system. The caste-based census will help gather data on the population of various

communities. He said the doors of opportunities are being closed on 90 per cent of the country's population. Ninety top IAS officers decide India's budget but only three belong to the Other Backward Class (OBC) communities, which form at least 50 per cent of the country's population. Dalits and Adivasis (tribals) comprise 15 per cent and eight per cent, respectively, of India's population but have only three and one such officer, according to the Congress leader. He said the caste census is like getting an X-ray done to identify anomalies but the BJP and the RSS are opposed to it as they don't want the "truth" to come out.

The history of Dalits or OBCs was not being taught in schools, he said, alleging that efforts are now being made to erase that history. The Congress leader said the public sector is being privatised, and stressed that it should be termed de-reservation. He accused the RSS and BJP of doing this for years. He called the Agniveer scheme - for short-term induction of personnel in the Army, Navy and Air Force - a ploy to snatch pension from 90 per cent of people. Earlier, speaking at an event, where Rahul unveiled a statue of Shivaji, Gandhi alleged that the warrior king's statue collapsed in the state's Sindhudurg district as the intentions and ideology of those in power were wrong. He said the intentions are visible and cannot be hidden.

"They built Shivaji Maharaj's statue and in a few days, it collapsed. Their intentions were not right. The statue gave them the message that if you built Shivaji Maharaj's statue then you have to follow his ideals. Which is why the statue collapsed because their ideology is wrong," he said.

Setting up Justice K Hema Committee unconstitutional: Kerala HC Lawyer

KUMAR CHELAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The setting up of the Justice K Hema Committee by the Kerala Government to study the sexual harassment faced by women artists in Malayalam film industry was an unconstitutional act, according to a highly respected lawyer in Kerala High Court.

K Ramkumar, senior advocate, who has fought many landmark cases including the infamous P Rajan case that shook the nation during the 1975-77 internal emergency days questioned the propriety of setting up a committee at the cost of the public exchequer. He also disclosed that the Government of Kerala cannot make any legislation based on the committee's report as cinematography law was an exclusive domain of the Centre as per the 7th schedule of Indian Constitution. "There are sufficient provisions in our judicial system to undertake investigation into sexual harassment faced by women in all sections of the society including the film industry. The Kerala Government has spent Rs 1.55 crore on the three-member Hema Committee that probed the sexual harassment faced by female artists. It was sheer waste of time and money," the veteran lawyer told The Pioneer in an exclusive interview. He pointed out that the Kerala Government had set up a committee under the chairmanship of Adoor Gopalakrishnan, movie



maker who had been honored with Dada Saheb Phalke Award for his lifelong contribution to the world of cinema. Though Gopalakrishnan had submitted his findings with recommendations to the Government, nothing has happened," said Ramkumar. He said the Indian Parliament itself had passed two legislations, the Vishaka Guidelines in 1997 following a Supreme Court directive against sexual harassment at workplaces and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. Both these guideline and statute have sufficient powers to take on the aggressors and predators who torment women, said Ramkumar. The Kerala Government would have to answer an important question which the court is certain to ask. "The constitution of the Justice Hema Committee itself was an act of transgression as a Centre is the lone authority to enact legislation against

sexual harassment of women at workplaces. The seventh schedule of the Constitution that has enumerated the powers of the Parliament and State Legislatures under Lists 1 and 2 have made it clear that the Centre is the sole authority to enact laws under cinematograph films while the State is left with the responsibility of collecting entertainment tax accrued through exhibition of films," said Ramkumar. The Hema Committee report submitted to the Government in 2020 was kept as a State Secret for four years and it was released by the State under orders from High Court in September. The report opened a floodgate of scandals and spicy reports titled Me Too and has put many leading stars on the defensive. Film actor Mukesh, who is also a CPI(M) MLA, Siddique, film actor with Congress connections, Maniyan Pillai Raju, Idavela Babu, Baburaj and Jayasooraya are running helter-skelter as a consequence of the findings of the Hema Committee.

USD 55 million needed to implement WHO strategic preparedness, response plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A whopping USD 55 million will be needed to implement the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness, and Response Plan (SRPP) over next one year to combat the rising threat of dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviruses, now affecting at least 130 countries.

This plan aims to reduce the burden of disease, suffering, and deaths associated with these viruses, including Zika and chikungunya, by fostering a coordinated global response. Currently, an estimated four billion people are at risk of arbovirus infections, a figure projected to rise to five billion by 2050. Dengue cases have surged across all six WHO regions, with the number of reported cases nearly doubling each year since 2021. As of the end of August this year, there have been over 12.3 million dengue cases—almost double the 6.5 million cases recorded for all of 2023, as per the WHO statement. The plan outlines priority actions to control transmission and offers recommendations to affected countries across various sectors, including disease surveillance, laboratory activities, vector control, community engagement, clinical management, and research and development, through a whole-of-society and



regional approach. Dengue is endemic in tropical and subtropical regions, particularly in South-East Asia, the Western Pacific, and the Americas. The situation is also critical in Africa, where countries face multiple health challenges amid conflict and natural disasters, straining already fragile health systems. In December 2023, the WHO classified the current global dengue upsurge as a grade 3 emergency—the highest level of alert. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, stated, "From maintaining clean environments to supporting vector control and seeking timely medical care, everyone has a role to play in the fight against dengue. This plan is a roadmap to turn the tide against this disease, protect vulnerable populations, and pave the way for a healthier future." Welcoming the WHO's GSRP plan, scientist Dr. Kavita Singh, the South Asia

Director at the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi), emphasised the profound impact of climate change on disease patterns, particularly for dengue and other vector-borne illnesses. She expressed concern that the incidence of these diseases is rising globally, with new countries increasingly becoming hosts to these pathogens, which were once confined to specific regions. This shift is straining health systems, which are often ill-equipped to handle the surge in cases. Dr. Singh underscored the urgent need for coordinated global efforts to address not only the immediate threats posed by these diseases but also the underlying factors that facilitate their spread, including the escalating effects of climate change. Key factors driving the rapid spread of dengue include unplanned urbanization, inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene practices, climate change, and increased international travel, said

Lt General Srivastava assumes charge of Srinagar based Chinar Corps



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava Saturday assumed command of the strategic Srinagar-based Chinar Corps. Lt Gen Srivastava took charge from Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, who assumed command as the director general of military operations at the Army headquarters, a defence spokesperson said. On assumption of command, Lt-Gen Srivastava paid obeisance at the Chinar War Memorial at Badami Bagh Cantonment, Srinagar, honoring the sacrifices of the Bravehearts for the Nation. A battle-hardened soldier, Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava possesses extensive operational experience in Counter Insurgency and Counter terrorist Operations having served in both Jammu and Kashmir as well as the North East. He has commanded

the Counter Insurgency Force (Victor) in South Kashmir. Meanwhile, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai remained at the helm for the last 16 months. The period witnessed a strong security architecture facilitating peace and stability in the region. It saw the conduct of two incident-free Amarnath Yatras, the Parliamentary Elections in May 2024 and the Assembly Elections after a period of 10 years, in September to October 2024. The Corps achieved numerous successes in Counter Infiltration Operations on the Line of Control and Counter Terrorists Operations in the valley, thereby dealing a significant and crippling blow to the terror network. The new Chinar Corps commander said that integrated efforts of the civil society and the security forces are the way forward to dismantle the terror infrastructure and nefarious designs of the adversary.

Verbal spat intensifies before UP by-elections

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

As the by-elections for 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh approach, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav have intensified their verbal attacks, signaling an escalating political showdown. Phrases like "kutte ki puchh (dog's tail)," "mafia," and "naak ragadna (rubbing nose)" have surfaced in this exchange, marking a sharp rise in political rhetoric between the two leaders. Yogi Adityanath, known for his aggressive campaigning style, has focused his attacks on the Samajwadi Party (SP) and its governance record. Meanwhile, Akhilesh Yadav, leveraging social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter), has taken calculated yet increasingly sharp jabs at Yogi's leadership. While Yogi



emphasises his Hindutva agenda and criticises the law-and-order situation under SP's rule, Akhilesh portrays the BJP Government as authoritarian, often accusing it of using police power to stifle dissent. Akhilesh Yadav, traditionally more cautious in his attacks, has shifted to a more confrontational approach following SP's success in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. SP secured 37 out of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh, a significant

gain, while the BJP's count dropped to 33 from 62. This victory has emboldened Akhilesh, fueling his direct confrontations with Yogi Adityanath. The political landscape in Uttar Pradesh saw a dramatic shift with these results. SP's resurgence, after years of electoral setbacks, has positioned Akhilesh as a formidable challenger for the upcoming 2027 Assembly elections. His aggressive stance reflects the party's

determination to build on this momentum. Analysts predict that the verbal sparring between Yogi and Akhilesh will intensify as the 2027 assembly elections approach. Akhilesh has been rallying support through his PDA formula, aiming to consolidate Backward Classes, Dalits, and minorities into a solid voter base. Meanwhile, the BJP continues to rely on its core issues of Hindutva and nationalism, positioning Yogi as the state's face of this narrative. This is not the first time the two leaders have clashed. During the 2022 UP assembly elections, their exchanges were rife with one-liners. Yogi had labelled SP's ideology as a combination of "Chola Samajwadi" and "Tamanchowadi" (gun-culture politics), while Akhilesh responded with his trademark

ridiculing Yogi's governance. With the upcoming by-elections being a matter of prestige for Yogi Adityanath, the stakes are high. Following the BJP's loss of ground in the Lok Sabha elections, winning these by-elections is seen as crucial for Yogi's political standing. His aggressive rhetoric mirrors his campaign style during the national elections, where he positioned SP as the main Opposition to the BJP's governance model. On the other hand, Akhilesh Yadav's growing confidence is evident in his strategies to consolidate voter support, particularly as his party eyes a larger contest in 2027. Political analyst Manoj Bhadra notes that this kind of intense, personal verbal exchange is relatively new in UP's political landscape, signaling not just a fight for power but also control over the narrative that will appeal to voters.

Ramachandran, Malayalam radio's icon breathes his last

KEMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

M Ramachandran, renowned news anchorperson of All India Radio is no more. He passed away at his house in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. Ramachandran (91) was rated as the Melville de Mellow and Surajit Sen of Malayalam radio broadcasting for his diction, articulation, pronunciation and modulation while presenting news bulletins. De Mellow and Surjit Sen were pioneers of Radio broadcasting in the country. During the 1960s to 1990s Ramachandran was the Malayalees' window to the outside world. "Let it be regional, national or international news, Ramachandran had a distinct style of presentation and this made listeners drawn towards his news reading," said former



colleague, broadcaster and literary critic Dr M Rajeev Kumar. Dr Kumar said that his knowledge of Malayalam language and how to use words, sentences and phrases in its correct perspective made him quite different from other radio broadcasters. Ramachandran was the brain behind Kouthuka Varthakal, a bulletin featuring persons, places and events of cultural and historical importance. "His radio news reels based on the day's important events were a treat to the ears and

mind," reminisces Dr Rajeev Kumar. When there was no round-the-clock TV news channels, Ramachandran and his team of broadcasters offered the listeners a birds eye view of the happenings in the world. "The election news bulletins presented by Ramachandran were held in high esteem by political leaders across the spectrum. His news bulletins were as popular as the Malayalam film songs broadcast by the stations of AIR," said M K Harikumar, Malayalam writer and a long-time fan of Ramachandran. There were many Malayalam films in which Ramachandran's news reading was mimicked by lead stars marking his stature as an iconic figure. Ramachandran is survived by his wife Vijayalakshmi and two children.

UK evacuates British nationals from Lebanon as conflict escalates

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government on Saturday confirmed its final charter plane to fly British nationals out of Lebanon as the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel intensifies...



South Korean nationals and their family members arrive after being evacuated from Lebanon with a South Korea's military aircraft at the Seoul airport in Seongnam, South Korea, on Saturday.

Security situation deteriorating, there is no guarantee other options to leave quickly will become available. I urge anyone who wants to leave to register now...

Biden: Don't know if Israel is holding up peace deal to sway US elections

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden had terse words for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, and said he did not know whether the Israeli leader was holding up a Mideast peace deal...

As their views on the Gaza war diverge and their political futures hang in the balance, For Biden, a diplomatic deal would help resolve a deep divide among Democrats over the war...



Assembly that Israel would 'continue degrading Hezbollah until all our objectives are met'. Israel has pressed forward on two fronts, killing top Hezbollah leaders...

decision yet on what type of response there would be toward Iran, though 'I think if I were in their shoes, I would be thinking about other alternatives...

European cities brace for pro-Palestinian rallies

AP ■ ROME

Hundreds of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators were expected to take to the streets across Europe on Saturday calling for a cease-fire...

Events will peak on Monday, the date of the anniversary. By midday Saturday, thousands had gathered in central London's Russell Square amid a significant police presence...

Hezbollah, which holds much of the power in parts of southern Lebanon and some other areas of the country, attacking the militants with exploding pagers, airstrikes and, eventually, incursions into Lebanon...

Italian authorities believed that the timing of the planned rally risked the October 7 attack being 'glorified', local media reported. Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi also stressed that, ahead of the key anniversary, Europe is on high alert for potential terror attacks...

streets in even bigger numbers to stop this carnage and stop Britain being drawn into it, Jamal said. In Berlin, a march is scheduled under the Brandenburg Gate to Bebelplatz on Sunday. Local media reported that security forces have warned of potential overload due to the scale of protests...

Army deployed in Islamabad, Lahore amid PTI protests

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Pakistan authorities on Saturday called in the Army in Islamabad and Lahore to prevent rallies by supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, amid rising tensions. The call for protest was given by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party founder who has been incarcerated at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than a year...

have been blocked and pillion riding has been banned, while mobile phone services remained suspended for the second consecutive day. The authorities also imposed Section 144, banning public gatherings, political assemblies, and demonstrations in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to outlaw any political assembly or protest...

Ukraine downs Russian warplane

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces said they shot down a Russian fighter plane on Saturday

while Russia claimed it made gains in Ukraine's east. The Russian bomber was shot down near the city of Kostyantynivka in the

Donetsk province, head of the Kostyantynivka Military Administration Serhiy Horbunov was quoted as saying by Ukraine's

public broadcaster, Suspilne. Photos showed charred remains of an aircraft after it landed on a house that caught fire.

6 Pak soldiers, ultras killed in gunfight

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Six soldiers, including an off-duty Sacer, and six militants were killed in a gunfight in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said on Saturday. In a statement, the military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the exchange of fire took place on the night between October 4-5 at Spinwala area in North Waziristan district, bordering Afghanistan, during which six soldiers, including a Lieutenant Colonel, and 'six Khwarij' were killed...

The TTP was set up as an umbrella group of several militant outfits in 2007. Pakistan has officially declared TTP as 'Fitrna al-Khawarij' and the notification by the Interior Ministry emphasises the use of the term 'kharaji' (outlawed) along with the names of such terrorists. The Pakistani government has repeatedly accused the TTP of operating from sanctuaries in Afghanistan, a claim denied by the Afghan Taliban. There has been an uptick in the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabul in 2021, dashing hopes in Islamabad that a friendly government in Afghanistan would help to tackle militancy...

Public Notice: Mr. Shakil Ahmad Tamanna... Signal & Telecom Works in Kathihar Division: Tender Notice No. N-2024-K-19... DRMS (S&T), Kathihar

ICICI Bank: PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET... E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002...

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA: POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable Property under Rule 8(1)]... Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002...

Public Notice: Mr. Manohar Singh Gusain, S/o Bhopal Singh, R/O H. No. 100-D, Pocket-A, Mayur Vihar Ph-2, Delhi, has been missing since 29.05.2015... Avanshi Mishra (Advocate) Ch. no. 79, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

INDIA LOOK TO IRON OUT COMBINATION FLAWS, REGAIN FIGHT IN CRUCIAL T20 WC GAME AGAINST PAKISTAN

PTI ■ DUBAI

India will have to regroup quickly and iron out the imbalances in team combination when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in a crucial second group A match of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

An early 58-run defeat to New Zealand on Friday has not just dented India's chances of entering the semifinals of the ICC showpiece, but it certainly has pushed them to a tight corner.

India's run-rate currently stands at a poor -2.99 and it makes big victories mandatory for them in the remaining three matches against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side was wretched in all three departments of the game against the Kiwis in its World Cup opener, and India now need a reversal within 24 hours.

It's tough but that is the path they have to tread against Pakistan, high on confidence after beating a strong Sri Lanka in the first match on Thursday. As a first step, India will have to sort out their combinations



ahead of the Pakistan game. They went a batter light against New Zealand to accommodate an extra pacer in Arundhati Reddy and it meant a wholesale rejigging of the line-up.

It forced the promotion of Harmanpreet to No. 3,

Jemimah Rodrigues to No. 4 and Richa Ghosh to No.5, not the usual slots for these batters. For instance, Harmanpreet, who is a solid presence at No. 4, has never made a fifty in her previous 19 gigs at No.3 and to make her play precisely at that position in a World Cup was

quixotic. The inclusion of three pacers was not wrong move on the hindsight as there was no dew and the Kiwis pacers made full use of a hard deck. But India made a hash of their three-pronged pace attack move, giving just one over to

Pooja Vastrakar, the third-best bowler in T20Is this year with 20 wickets from 16 matches. Also, the decision to go with the pace trio cost India the presence of left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, their second most successful T20I bowler with 22 wickets from 13 matches.

So, head coach Amol Muzumdar will need to take a long look at the combination as another defeat will seriously hamper India's chances of progressing to the last-four stage from Group A. But stats apart, India, particularly batters, looked mentally frozen against the Kiwis, evidenced by the highest individual score in their innings — a 15 by Harmanpreet. In that context, India might just think of adding Dayalan Hemalatha to bolster the batting. Though India have a head-to-head edge over Pakistan in T20Is, winning 12 out of 15 matches so far, they have the ammunition to stun any opposition. Their bowling is especially formidable with the likes of experienced Nida Dhar,

captain Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal leading the pack. However, Pakistan will keep a close eye on the fitness lead pacer Diana Baig after she suffered a calf strain in the match against Sri Lanka, limping out after bowling just one ball.

TEAMS (FROM):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Yastika Bhatia (subject to fitness), Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil (subject to fitness), Sajana Sajeevan
Travelling reserves: Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwer, Saima Thakor.
Pakistan: Fatima Sana (c), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Gull Feroza, Iram Javed, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal (subject to fitness), Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan
Travelling reserve: Najiha Alvi (wk).



Luis Suarez criticises Uruguay coach Bielsa for mistreating team at Copa America

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

Just-retired striker Luis Suárez has criticized Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa for the way he treated players during the Copa America, saying the "friction" hurts. Uruguay finished third at the Copa in July in the United States but Suárez said all was not well behind the scenes. "There were situations at the Copa America that hurt me, but I didn't say them for the sake of coexistence," Suárez told the DSports TV channel. "Many players held a meeting to ask the coach to at least say good morning to us, but he didn't even say hello." The relationship between Bielsa and the players was so bad that some are considering leaving the national squad, Suárez said. He retired his 17-year international career a month ago as Uruguay's all-time leading scorer. "You can see that players go with the team and are not enjoying themselves," he said. "In their (club) teams they are having fun and smiling, but

not with the national team. It hurts to see what is going on." Bielsa, who has coached Argentina and Chile, was hired by Uruguay in May 2023 to the end of the 2026 World Cup. He has Uruguay third in South American qualifying for the World Cup, and is preparing for qualifiers against Peru next Friday and Ecuador four days later. Suárez asked Uruguay supporters "not to take it out on the players if something goes wrong." "We are arriving to a tough situation and very painful situations. The friction is going to keep happening and the players are going to reach their limit before exploding." Despite the team's success, Suárez said the atmosphere cultivated by Bielsa was not good, even at their training facility. "At the Celeste Complex, employees are not allowed to come in and greet us and eat with us," he said. "They have to be careful even at the door they have to enter."



Sinner and Alcaraz breeze through Shanghai Masters openers

AP ■ SHANGHAI

Carlos Alcaraz and top-ranked Jannik Sinner showed no signs of fatigue from their China Open final earlier this week to advance with comfortable straight-set victories in their opening matches of the Shanghai Masters on Saturday.

The second-ranked Alcaraz, who beat the Italian in Beijing on Wednesday for his fourth title of the year, recorded his 10th consecutive win with a 6-2, 6-2 result against 19-year-old Shang Juncheng of China. The 21-year-old Spaniard won the first nine points of the match and four of seven break points as he rushed into a third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing.

"I'm not used to playing against players younger than me," Alcaraz said.

"He has been playing good tennis lately, lifting his first ATP (title in Chengdu), so I'm pretty sure he's going to climb the rankings. I'm just happy to be able to win these kinds of matches."

Sinner, who is dealing with an ongoing doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for his 250th career win.

The Italian, who won the U.S. Open last month for his second major of the year, fired 12 aces and 38 winners. "I felt quite comfortable today," said the 23-year-old Sinner, who next plays Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina. "I feel in good shape also physically, which is very important for me. Of course I will try to improve for tomorrow's performance, but today I was serving really, really well, especially in important moments, and was moving well."

No. 65-ranked Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic broke sixth-ranked Andrey Rublev seven times on his way to an upset 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-3 victory. Yosuke Watanuki also had a surprise win, beating No. 35-ranked Brendan Nakashima 7-6 (4), 6-3. The Japanese qualifier plays either seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz of the U.S. Or French qualifier Terence Atmane next. Also, 24th-ranked Alexei Popyrin of Australia beat Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia 6-3, 6-2. Later Saturday, third-ranked Alexander Zverev began his campaign against Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci, while fourth-ranked Novak Djokovic faced Alex Michelsen of the United States.

Divanshi's second gold leads India's clean sweep at ISSF Junior Worlds

PTI ■ LIMA (PERU)

Indian pistol shooter Divanshi secured her second individual gold in the women's 25m standard pistol event, leading a remarkable clean sweep in the event at the ISSF Junior World Championship here.

India's young shooters added five more medals to their kitty, including two gold on Friday taking the tally to 21 medals to remain at the top of the standings — 13 gold, two silver and six bronze.

Norway remained a distant second with 10 medals — four gold, three silver and three bronze — while China occupied third place (3-1-0),



Divanshi dominated the event with a score of 564 out of 600,

finishing ahead of teammate Parisha Gupta, who shot 559 for silver. Manvi Jain completed the Indian sweep with a bronze-winning score of 557, marking India's first-ever clean sweep in this competition. Shikha Chaudhary narrowly missed a podium finish, placing fourth with a score of 554, just one point ahead of Estonia's Marja Kirss.

In the corresponding junior men's event, Suraj Sharma claimed gold with a score of 571, edging out Poland's Ivan Rakitski, who shot 568 for silver. Mukesh Nelavalli, who already has four gold medals

in the championship, shot 568 but settled for bronze after a comeback.

Sinner and Alcaraz breeze through Shanghai Masters openers

AP ■ SHANGHAI

Carlos Alcaraz and top-ranked Jannik Sinner showed no signs of fatigue from their China Open final earlier this week to advance with comfortable straight-set victories in their opening matches of the Shanghai Masters on Saturday.

The second-ranked Alcaraz, who beat the Italian in Beijing on Wednesday for his fourth title of the year, recorded his 10th consecutive win with a 6-2, 6-2 result against 19-year-old Shang Juncheng of China. The 21-year-old Spaniard won the first nine points of the match and four of seven break points as he rushed into a third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing.

"I'm not used to playing against players younger than me," Alcaraz said.

"He has been playing good tennis lately, lifting his first ATP (title in Chengdu), so I'm pretty sure he's going to climb the rankings. I'm just happy to be able to win these kinds of matches."

Sinner, who is dealing with an ongoing doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for his 250th career win.

The Italian, who won the U.S. Open last month for his second major of the year, fired 12 aces and 38 winners. "I felt quite comfortable today," said the 23-year-old Sinner, who next plays Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina. "I feel in good shape also physically, which is very important for me. Of course I will try to improve for tomorrow's performance, but today I was serving really, really well, especially in important moments, and was moving well."

No. 65-ranked Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic broke sixth-ranked Andrey Rublev seven times on his way to an upset 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-3 victory. Yosuke Watanuki also had a surprise win, beating No. 35-ranked Brendan Nakashima 7-6 (4), 6-3. The Japanese qualifier plays either seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz of the U.S. Or French qualifier Terence Atmane next. Also, 24th-ranked Alexei Popyrin of Australia beat Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia 6-3, 6-2. Later Saturday, third-ranked Alexander Zverev began his campaign against Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci, while fourth-ranked Novak Djokovic faced Alex Michelsen of the United States.

third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing. "I'm not used to playing against players younger than me," Alcaraz said. "He has been playing good tennis lately, lifting his first ATP (title in Chengdu), so I'm pretty sure he's going to climb the rankings. I'm just happy to be able to win these kinds of matches."

Sinner, who is dealing with an ongoing doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for his 250th career win. The Italian, who won the U.S. Open last month for his second major of the year, fired 12 aces and 38 winners.

third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing. "I'm not used to playing against players younger than me," Alcaraz said. "He has been playing good tennis lately, lifting his first ATP (title in Chengdu), so I'm pretty sure he's going to climb the rankings. I'm just happy to be able to win these kinds of matches."

Sinner, who is dealing with an ongoing doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for his 250th career win. The Italian, who won the U.S. Open last month for his second major of the year, fired 12 aces and 38 winners.



India bag U18 team silver in women's section at Asian Youth Archery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Promising archer Vaishnavi Pawar showed impressive presence of mind to help India clinch team silver in the recurve U-18 women's category at the 2024 Asian Youth Archery Championship in Chinese Taipei. Vaishnavi took the first shot for the three-member Indian team, also comprising Pranjal Tholiya and Jannat, in every round and handled the pressure well as they pipped fancied South Korea in the semifinal in a shoot-off. In the gold medal round, India found themselves in a similar situation, fighting back from a 2-4 deficit to force a shoot-off against Chinese Taipei, who ultimately prevailed. "I am incredibly proud to represent India alongside my teammates. Beating South Korea in the semifinals was a significant milestone for us," Vaishnavi said. "Winning silver at the Asian Youth Archery Championship is a testament to our hard work and dedication, and it inspires me to aim even higher in the future." The Maharashtra archer finished fourth in the trials to make it to the Asian Youth Archery Championships, also she had also reached the quarterfinals in the individual category.

Indian hockey captain Harmanpreet credits HIL for personal growth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National men's hockey team captain and ace drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh, who has scored 205 goals in 234 international appearances, on Saturday credited the Hockey India League (HIL) for playing a pivotal role in his career development.

From being named the Upcoming Player of the Tournament in the 2017 HIL to becoming one of the world's top drag-flickers, it has been a tremendous journey for Harmanpreet who highlighted how the league has helped him grow after rubbing shoulders with some of the best international players. "Hockey India League was a huge part of my development. The league provided me with a stage to enhance my skills by exposing me to different playing styles under different coaches," Harmanpreet said in a Hockey India (HI) release. "Playing in a League, sharing a dressing room with players



from various countries opens up your mind and provides you with multiple perspectives and ways of thinking. "All this was integral in the resurgence of Indian hockey and it certainly impacted our performance at the Tokyo Olympics where we won the bronze medal." Harmanpreet said there could be nothing better for Indian hockey than the HIL and all the country's players would be excited to take part in the League. "It will be a great opportunity for the youngsters as well to rub shoulders with the best players from across the globe,

observe the subtle differences in the way they think, the way they play and try to inculcate the good habits that they notice," he said. HIL is slated for a return after seven years in a new avatar that will see a women's tournament for the first time running concurrently with the men's event. The league will be played in two venues — Rourkela for men and Ranchi for women — from December 28 to February 1. The sport's world governing body, FIH has given sanction of 10 years for HIL. The tournament will feature eight men's and six women's

franchises. The player auction for the HIL 2024-25 will be held from October 13-15 in New Delhi. Each franchise will build a 24-player squad, consisting of at least 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight international stars. "The Hockey India League will be much bigger this time; there will also be a women's League that will run at the same time in both venues. "I am confident this experience will turn out to be invaluable for the Indian women's hockey team in their journey to be one of the best teams in the world," he said. Players will be auctioned in three categories with base prices of Rs 2 lakh, 5 lakh and 10 lakh each. "The auction is coming up soon and I would like to wish all the best to all the players taking part. As for myself, I cannot wait to see which team I will represent and begin the hockey revolution again," he signed off.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद मंडीदीप जिला-रायसेन
 दूरभाष एवं फैक्स नम्बर 07480-407022 Email - cmomandideep@mpurban.gov.in
 मंडीदीप, दिनांक 04.10.2024

// ई-निविदा सूचना //

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	निविदा की अंतिम तिथि
01	2024_UAD_339057_3	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD, RCC BOX CULVERT, DRAINS, GHAAT AND BOUNDARY WALL AT VARIOUS PLACES UNDER CM INFRA PHASE 4 AT NAGAR PALIKA MANDIDEEP.	4,22,67,000	2,11,400	15,000	22.10.2024

1. निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर ही किया जावेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्र में नहीं किया जावेगा।

प्रियंका राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल
अध्यक्ष
नगर पालिका परिषद मंडीदीप

पुष्या प्रेमशंकर साहू
उपाध्यक्ष
नगर पालिका परिषद मंडीदीप

सुधीर उपाध्याय
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगरपालिका परिषद मंडीदीप

// कार्यालय, पुलिस अधीक्षक, पुलिस प्रशिक्षण शाला (एमटी), भोपाल (म.प्र.) //

पुलिस विभाग के वाहनों के रख-रखाव हेतु टायर-ट्यूब क्रय करने हेतु 03 माह के लिए ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित

कार्यालय पुलिस अधीक्षक पुलिस प्रशिक्षण शाला (एमटी), भोपाल में पुलिस विभाग के वाहनों के रख-रखाव हेतु टायर-ट्यूब आवश्यकतानुसार क्रय करने हेतु 03 माह के लिए दर अनुबंध किये जाने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है। नियम एवं शर्तें तथा अनुबंध की विस्तृत जानकारी [mptenders.gov.in](https://www.mptenders.gov.in) तथा www.mppolice.gov.in की वेबसाइट पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

निविदा प्रकाशन की दिनांक	01.10.2024 के 17:00 बजे।
निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की प्रारंभ की दिनांक	01.10.2024 के 18:00 बजे।
प्री बिड मीटिंग दिनांक	07.10.2024 के 12:00 बजे।
निविदा जमा करने की प्रारंभ दिनांक	11.10.2024 के 11:00 बजे।
निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक	21.10.2024 के 14:00 बजे।
निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	22.10.2024 के 16:00 बजे।

पुलिस अधीक्षक
पी.टी.एस. (एमटी), भोपाल

G-17185/24

कार्यालय पुलिस दूरसंचार मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश,
 भद्रभद्रा रोड, भोपाल-462003
 Fax No. 0755-2443674, E-Mail: ssp_radio@mppolice.gov.in
 दिनांक 27.09.2024

क्रमांक-पु.दू.मु./क्रय-58/33-002/डी-13078/24

// ई-निविदा सूचना //

पुलिस महानिदेशक मध्यप्रदेश की ओर से वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेंडियो) मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल द्वारा नीचे दर्शित तालिका अनुसार कार्य हेतु ऑन लाईन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

सं.	सामग्री का नाम	मात्रा	आवश्यक सुरक्षा निधि रूपये	निविदा शुल्क रूपये
1	Shifting with Repairing, Maintenance and Painting Work of 21 Nos self support wireless Towers (सलंग एनेक्सर ए अनुसार)	21 नग	90,000/-	3,000/-

1. निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) किसी भी स्थिति में वापसी योग्य नहीं होगा और न ही इसमें किसी प्रकार की छूट दी जावेगी।

2. सुरक्षा निधि की राशि एवं निविदा शुल्क वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेंडियो) मध्य प्रदेश, भोपाल के नाम से ऑन लाईन वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर आवश्यक रूप से जमा करना होगा।

3. वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> एवं www.mppolice.gov.in से निविदा प्रपत्र एवं विस्तृत जानकारी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

4. ऑन लाईन निविदा वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर अपलोड करना होगा।

5. ई-निविदा शेड्यूल

(अ) निविदा प्रकाशन एवं डाउनलोड प्रारंभ तिथि	: 27.09.2024 के 1800 बजे से
(ब) प्री-बिड क्वेरी की प्रारंभ तिथि	: 28.09.2024 के 1800 बजे से
(स) प्री-बिड क्वेरी की अंतिम तिथि	: 30.09.2024 के 1800 बजे से
(द) प्री-बिड क्वेरी रिस्पॉन्स अपलोड की अंतिम तिथि	: 04.10.2024 के 1800 बजे से
(इ) ऑन लाईन निविदा जमा करने की प्रारंभ तिथि	: 07.10.2024 के 1800 बजे से
(फ) ऑन लाईन निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	: 21.10.2024 के 1700 बजे से
(ग) प्री/तकनीकी क्वालिफिकेशन निविदा खोलने की तिथि	: 22.10.2024 1710 बजे

वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेंडियो)
म.प्र. भोपाल

G-17193/24



GET READY TO SLAY

THE COLLECTION THAT REDEFINES STYLE!

The Orry x Flying Machine capsule collaboration offers a bold collection that celebrates youth, creativity and self-expression in every piece, says SAKSHI PRIYA

In an exciting development within the fashion industry, *Flying Machine* has teamed up with the sensational social media star *Orry* to launch a limited-edition capsule collection that promises to turn heads and make waves among the youth. *Orry*, a digital influencer renowned for his vibrant style and engaging content, has garnered a massive following on platforms like Instagram. His unique blend of charisma and fashion savvy resonates with Gen-Z consumers, making him an ideal partner for a brand like *Flying Machine*, which is celebrated for its edgy denim and youthful vibe.

Flying Machine, the pioneering homegrown denim brand in India, has evolved significantly since its inception in 1980. Known for its trendy and spontaneous designs, the brand has made a concerted effort to revamp its image and align itself with the tastes of the modern consumer. With a renewed focus on Gen-Z, this collaboration with *Orry* is a strategic move to tap into the vibrant energy of young fashion enthusiasts.

The *Orry x Flying Machine* collection embodies a perfect blend of funky colours and oversized silhouettes, catering to individuals who dare to stand out. Featuring a range of unisex items such as T-shirts, shirts, vests, caps, bucket hats, jorts, parachute pants and classic jeans, the collection captures the essence of contemporary street style. *Orry's* distinct aesthetic shines through each piece, encouraging wearers to express their individuality through bold fashion choices.

A standout feature of this collaboration is *Orry's* hands-on involvement in the design process. His creative input ensures that the collection reflects his signature style, with playful slogans like "L&R H&R" and "Can I live" adding a fun twist. This level of engagement not only enhances the authenticity of the collection but also resonates with consumers looking for genuine connections with brands. The vibrant designs and oversized fits are more than just fashion statements; they are an invitation for young people to embrace

their identities and showcase their unique personalities. *Shailesh Chaturvedi*, Managing Director and CEO of Arvind Fashions, expressed his excitement about the collaboration, highlighting the shared appreciation for Korean and Japanese fashion aesthetics. This partnership reflects a broader trend within the fashion industry, where global influences meet local sensibilities, creating a dynamic fusion that appeals to the youth. With oversized pieces and an androgynous flair, the collection exemplifies a modern approach to dressing that celebrates diversity and self-expression.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

The *Orry x Flying Machine* collection will be available at select *Flying Machine* stores throughout India, as well as on popular online platforms like *Myntra* and *NNNOW*. This accessibility ensures that young fashion lovers can easily engage with the collection and incorporate these statement pieces into their wardrobes.

The *Orry x Flying Machine* collaboration signifies a bold new direction in youth fashion. By merging *Orry's* vibrant style with *Flying Machine's* denim legacy, this collection captures the essence of modern youth culture, inviting individuals to express their identities through fashion. With its funky colours, oversized designs and engaging slogans, the collection is not just about clothing, it represents a movement towards embracing individuality and creativity in everyday style. As excitement builds around this launch, both *Orry* and *Flying Machine* are poised to make a significant impact on the fashion landscape, paving the way for a new era that celebrates the dynamic spirit of today's youth.

NEW OFFERINGS



CELEBRATE NAVRATRI WITH A SPECIAL THALI

This Navratri, elevates your festive dining experience at *Seasonal Tastes in The Westin Gurgaon*, with a specially curated Navratri Bhog Thali. Enjoy a harmonious blend of authentic flavours, including *Sabudana Vada*, *Khata Mitha Kaddu* and *Sabudana Kheer*. Perfect for both festival observers and food enthusiasts, this thali offers a delightful journey through the essence of Navratri. Experience a soul-satisfying meal that celebrates the spirit of the season.

DETAILS

Dates: October 3 - 12, 2024
Location: The Westin Gurgaon
Price: INR 1,499 plus taxes
Availability: A-la-carte menu for lunch and dinner

CELEBRATE SAKETOB

Join this October for a month-long sake celebration at *Guppy!* Indulge in specially curated sake cocktails, tasting flights and enjoy a Buy 1, Get 1 free offer on sake. Delight in options like the *Sake Highball* and *Sake Bombs* and join for *Sake Sing-along* karaoke nights and live music every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

DETAILS

Location: 28, Main Market, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi
Timings:
Lunch: 12 PM - 4 PM
Dinner: 6 PM - 12 AM
Price for Two: INR 3700 approx. (including cocktails)
Reservations: 011 24690005/6, +91 965018500



CULINARY FUSION EXPERIENCE

Indian Accent celebrates 15 years with an exclusive culinary collaboration with *Nadodi*. Chefs *Shantanu Mehrotra* and *Yashin Sirwardhana* will create a 9-course menu blending inventive Indian flavours with South Indian and Sri Lankan influences. Expect an unforgettable dining experience showcasing the best of both culinary worlds.

DETAILS

Date & Time: 9th October 2024, 7 pm onwards.
Location: Indian Accent, New Delhi.
Price: INR 7,900++ per person; Additional INR 5,500++ for wine pairing.
Reservations: +91 1166175151; 9871117968.



Disclaimer: The Pioneer does not endorse or promote the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

TAAZA KHABAR

A CONTINUED TALE OF GREED AND REDEMPTION

With a strong cast and engaging storyline, the new season of 'Taaza Khabar' is a must-watch, says ABHI SINGHAL

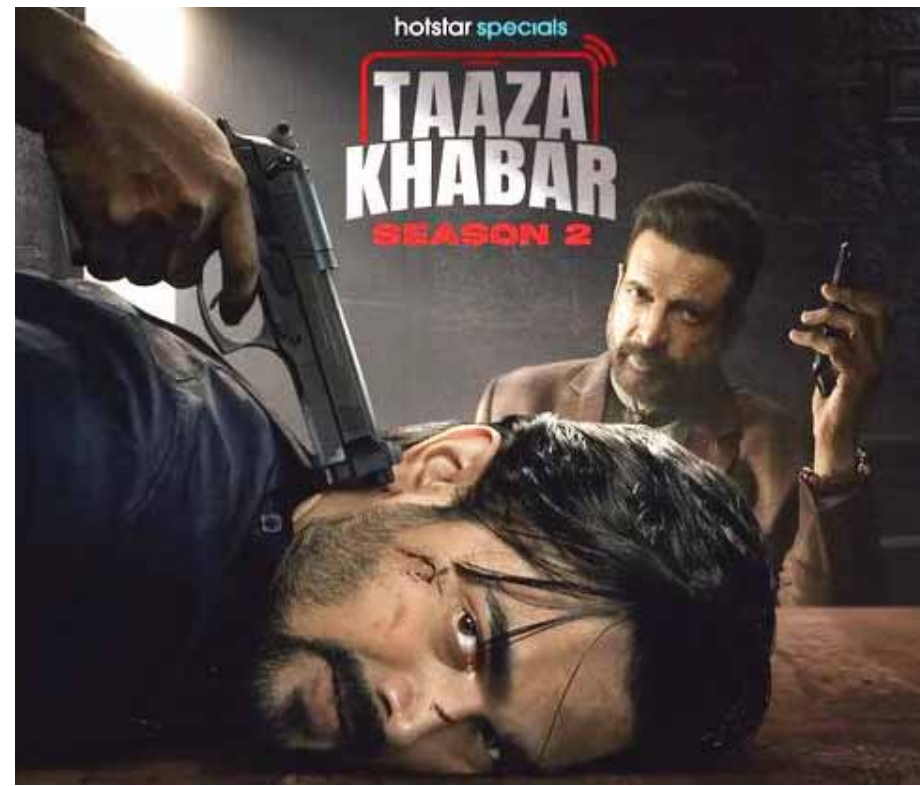
Maintaining high standards in the second season is a challenge but *'Taaza Khabar'* continues to shine with its new season. This web series emphasises how greed can destroy lives, especially in today's fast-paced world. Directed by *Himank Gaur*, the new season retains the stellar cast from Season 1, including *Bhuvan Bam* as *Vasant Gawde*, *Shriya Pilgaonkar* as *Madhu*, *Deven Bhojani* as *Mehboob*, and *Prathamesh Parab* as *Raja Chaturvedi*. A notable addition this season is *Javed Jaffrey*, who plays the character of *Yusuf Akhtar*.

Released on *Disney Plus Hotstar*, the series offers a beautifully crafted storyline, continuing to revolve around *Vasant Gawde (Bhuvan Bam)* and his boon, *'Taaza Khabar'*. The first three episodes are gripping, portraying *Vasant's* efforts to free himself from the crushing debt on his shoulders. Although the series is primarily a comedy and thriller, it connects on a deeper, emotional level by exploring themes of right and wrong. The mix of genres adds depth, keeping the audience invested throughout.

In the world of filmmaking, both a strong script and excellent acting can make or break a series, and *'Taaza Khabar'* excels in both the departments. The characters truly outdo themselves this season. *Bhuvan Bam* shines as *Vasant*, improving even further from the first season with his impeccable comedic timing and reactions.

Javed Jaffrey, known for his comedic roles, plays the antagonist this time. His portrayal of a villain driven by malevolence, political power, and money brings intensity to the show. *Shilpa Shukla's* character *Aapa* perfectly complements *Jaffrey's* dark, twisted role. The addition of *Jaffrey's* character brings much-needed energy to the new six-episode arc. *Shriya Pilgaonkar (Madhu)*, *Vasant's* love interest, has fewer scenes this season, but her presence is felt at key moments. *Prathamesh Parab's* portrayal of *Raja*, *Vasant's* loyal friend, is heartwarming and crucial to the emotional core of the show.

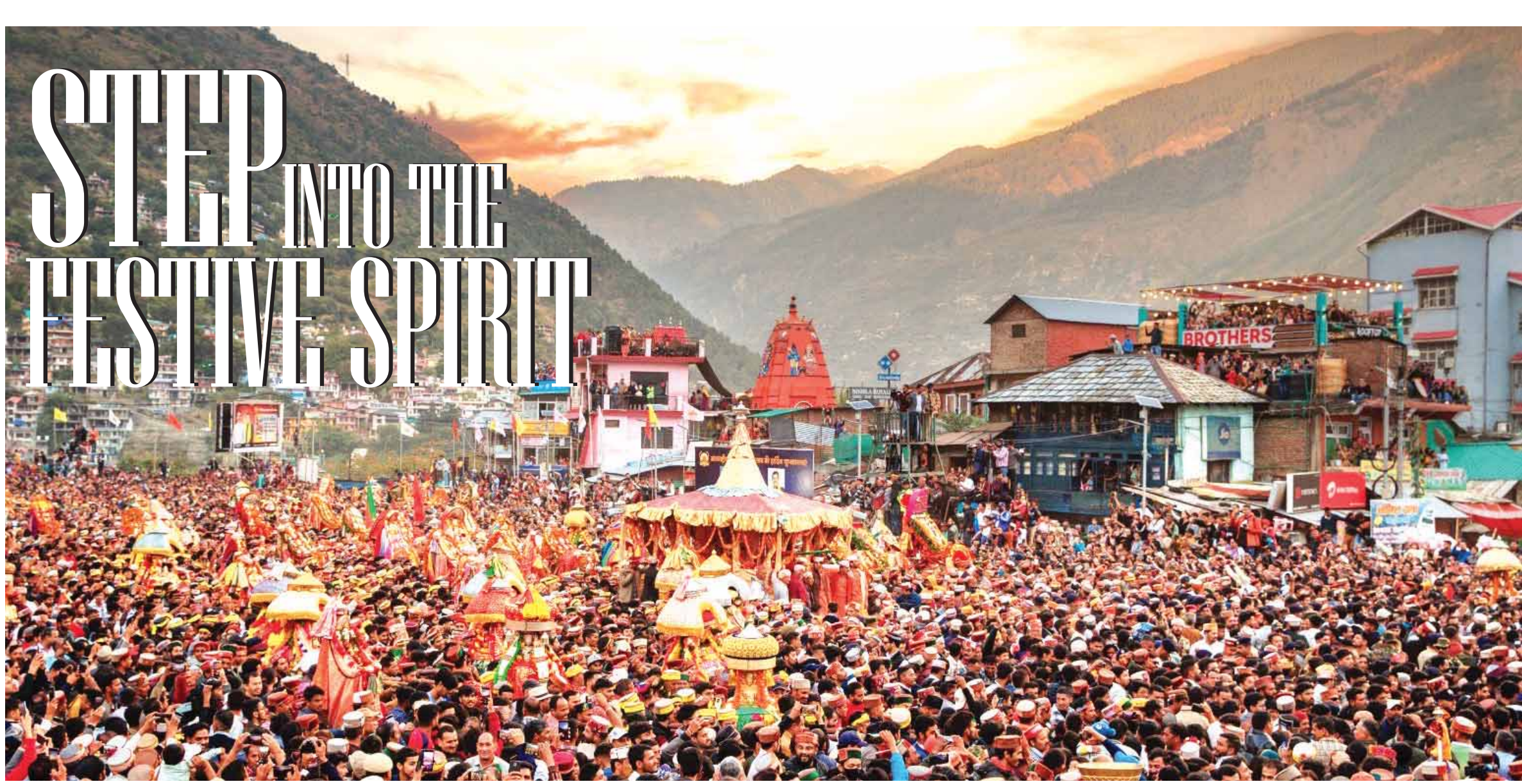
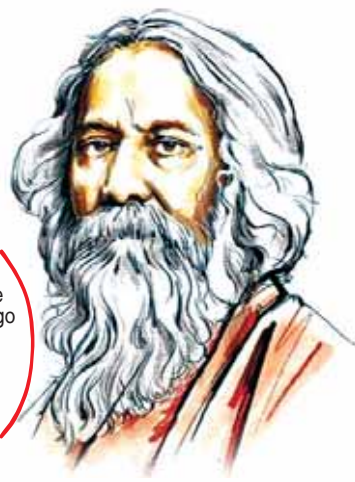
The witty dialogues, penned by *Abbas Dalal* and *Hussain Dalal*, add layers to the characters and elevate the humour in the series. The use of foul language, reflective of the protagonist's world,



adds authenticity to the setting. However, the flashbacks intended to give depth to the characters feel dull and add very little to the overall plot. These moments do not significantly enhance our understanding of *Vasant's* mental processes or the reasons behind his choices. Despite this, the overarching narrative is a reality check for the modern world, showing the rise and fall of *Vasant*, whose boon quickly turns into a curse, alienating him from his loved ones, including *Madhu* and his parents. The music in *'Taaza Khabar'* perfectly

complements the scenes, with songs like *'Kaan Hai'* by *Faridkot*, *'Rajarshi Sanyal'*, and *'IP Singh'*, and *'Hoke Majboor'* by *Mohan Kannan*, *Akshay*, and *IP Singh*, adding emotional depth. The *Baba* theme and *Kathak* theme further enhance the storytelling, giving the audience a rich auditory experience. Overall, *'Taaza Khabar'* is a must-watch. Its engaging scenes and witty dialogues keep viewers on the edge of their seats, eager to see what happens next. While the show hints at a potential third season, an official confirmation would only add to the growing excitement among its fanbase. **'Rating: 4/5'**

"Now, I ask, has the time
come at last when I may go
in and see thy face and
offer thee my silent
salutation?"
— Rabindranath Tagore



STEP INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

Kullu Dussehra is a vibrant festival in Himachal Pradesh that brings the Kullu valley to life with colourful processions, traditional music, and cultural performances. Celebrated in honour of Lord Raghunath Ji, this annual event attracts visitors from all over, creating a sense of community and joy, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Kullu Dussehra, celebrated in the picturesque valley of Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, is a vibrant week-long festival that goes beyond just religious observance. It brings together centuries-old traditions, the unity of hundreds of local deities and the incredible artistic expression of the region. *Kullu Dussehra* has a distinctive flavour, embracing the valley's culture, history and devotion. This year, the International *Kullu Dussehra* Festival is set to take place from 13th to 19th October 2024, offering visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the vibrant festivities while also appreciating the breathtaking scenic beauty and natural wonders of this enchanting region. The origins of *Kullu Dussehra* date back to the 17th century when *Raja Jagat Singh*, a ruler of Kullu, brought the idol of Lord Raghunath Ji to the valley. From then on, Lord Raghunath Ji became the central deity of the festival and *Kullu Dussehra* has been celebrated in His honour ever since. What sets this festival apart is its spirit of inclusion, with over 300 local deities from surrounding villages joining the celebrations. These deities, carried on beautifully decorated palanquins, are accompanied by their devotees, musicians and dancers, creating a lively and spiritual atmosphere as they converge at Dhalpur Maidan in Kullu. The festival begins on 13th October with the grand Rath Yatra, a procession where Lord Raghunath Ji is placed in a chariot and pulled through the streets by devotees. This procession marks the beginning of a week filled with devotion, music and dance. The streets come alive with the sounds of traditional instruments, the colourful sight of waving flags and the energy of people who have come from far and wide to participate in this sacred event. The Rath Yatra is not just a religious act; it's a celebration of the unity and shared faith that binds the people of Kullu together. *Kullu Dussehra* is not only a spiritual gathering but also a cultural festival that showcases the rich artistic heritage of the region. Every evening, the open-air auditorium at Lal Chand Prarthi Kalakendra becomes a stage for performances by local, national and international artists. From traditional Himachali folk dances like the Nati to contemporary performances, the festival offers a diverse range of cultural experiences. This year, approximately 15 international cultural troupes will participate, bringing their unique traditions and performances to Kullu. These performances reflect the universal language of art, reminding everyone of the shared human connection through culture. On 14th October, the Cultural Parade takes place, showcasing a vibrant display of traditional attire, music and dance from across India and the world. This parade highlights the rich diversity of cultures, where each troupe brings its own distinct flavour to the celebrations.

"Kullu Dussehra beautifully showcases our cultural richness and serves as a reminder of the bonds that unite us as a community." - Sushil Kumar Singla, Principal Resident Commissioner of Himachal Pradesh Sadan, New Delhi



Sunder Singh Thakur CPS and Sushil Kumar Singla, Principal Resident Commissioner Government of Himachal Pradesh, New Delhi

The sight of dancers in traditional costumes, performing to the rhythmic beats of their native instruments, creates a colourful experience that celebrates unity in diversity. The Cultural Parade embodies *Kullu Dussehra's* inclusive spirit, welcoming different cultures to come together in celebration. A highlight of *Kullu Dussehra* is the performance of Lalhri, a traditional dance native to the Kullu Valley. Passed down through generations, Lalhri is not just a dance but a form of storytelling, where each graceful movement and musical note carries the history of the region. Watching the dancers perform in their traditional attire is like stepping back in time, where the cultural legacy of Kullu comes alive through the art of movement and music. This performance encapsulates the very essence of the festival, where tradition and heritage are celebrated and preserved. The spiritual climax of *Kullu Dussehra* takes place on 19th October with the symbolic Lanka Dahan, marking the return of nearly 300 deities, or devidevatas, to their homes. This significant day begins as the Raja approaches Lord Raghunath Ji, causing all music and dance to pause. After the Raja circumambulates the chariot, the procession moves towards Lanka by the river Beas. Here, bushes and grass are set ablaze, symbolising the burning of Lanka. The flames create a captivating spectacle, while the Lanka Dahan ceremony reinforces values of justice, morality, and goodness, highlighting the festival's importance in uniting the community. The penultimate day features the

Muhalla ceremony, an event filled with joy, music and festivity. Villagers from across Kullu gather at Dhalpur Maidan, setting aside their daily lives to participate in this lively celebration. The deities, surrounded by flags and accompanied by traditional music, pay their respects to Lord Raghunath Ji. The Muhalla is a vibrant reflection of the community spirit that defines *Kullu Dussehra*, where unity and togetherness are celebrated in a colourful display of devotion. Historically, *Kullu Dussehra* has also been a major commercial event. It once served as a trading hub where villagers would sell their crops, handicrafts and other goods. Traders from regions like Lahaul and Ladakh would bring products such as pashmina shawls, carpets and local herbs, creating a bustling marketplace. Today, this tradition continues with the Artisan Showcase, where award-winning artisans display their crafts, from textiles to woodwork. Visitors can purchase these handmade items, taking home a piece of Kullu's rich artistic heritage and supporting the local economy. For those who enjoy food, *Kullu Dussehra* is a culinary journey that showcases the flavours of Himachal Pradesh. The food courts at the festival serve traditional dishes such as siddu (a type of steamed bread) and madra (a rich chickpea curry), offering a taste of the region's culinary traditions. Alongside these local delicacies,

international cuisine is also available, ensuring that visitors can enjoy a wide variety of food during the festival. The culinary experience is an integral part of *Kullu Dussehra*, reflecting the valley's agricultural richness and its connection to the land. This year's *Kullu Dussehra* will also feature the Ambassador's Meet on 18th October, presided over by *Shri Sukhvinder Singh*, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. The event will bring together resident ambassadors from various countries, promoting cultural exchange and enriching trade ties. The Ambassador's Meet reflects *Kullu Dussehra's* growing global recognition, where tradition meets modernity on an international stage. This blend of cultural celebration and diplomatic engagement adds a new dimension to the festival, highlighting its significance beyond the local community. Beyond its vibrant cultural performances and religious rituals, *Kullu Dussehra* offers a diverse range of entertainment options for visitors of all ages. Families can enjoy amusement rides like toy trains and swings, while sports enthusiasts can engage in competitions such as

volleyball, kabaddi and tug-of-war. The open-air performances continue late into the night, ensuring that the festivities are alive with music, dance and laughter. As the festival progresses, visitors will also have the opportunity to explore the natural beauty of the Kullu Valley, which offers breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks, lush green valleys, and flowing rivers. Many visitors choose to explore nearby attractions such as the Great Himalayan National Park, Bijli Mahadev Temple, and the historic Hadimba Devi Temple in Manali, combining the spiritual experience of *Kullu Dussehra* with the serene beauty of Himachal Pradesh's natural landscape. As *Kullu* prepares to host this grand celebration, it's essential to reflect on the significance of festivals like *Kullu Dussehra* in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. The festival not only showcases the artistic traditions of Himachal Pradesh but also serves as a reminder of the unity and community spirit that festivals inspire. It brings together people from different walks of life, whether they are locals, tourists or international dignitaries, all coming together to celebrate the rich cultural legacy of the region. *Kullu Dussehra* is a festival that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime. It's not just a celebration; it's a living tradition that continues to evolve while staying deeply rooted in the values of the community. The festival's grandeur, coupled with the warm hospitality of the people of Kullu, makes it a truly unique experience. As the date approaches, excitement is building, and the town of Kullu is gearing up to welcome visitors from all over the world. It's a time of joy, devotion and celebration, an event that leaves a lasting impression on all who attend. The International *Kullu Dussehra Festival 2024* is set to be a spectacular event that will showcase the best of Himachal's culture, art and traditions. *Kullu Dussehra 2024* promises to be a celebration unlike any other. From the grand Rath Yatra to the vibrant cultural performances, from the symbolic Lanka Dahan to the bustling artisan markets, the festival offers a diverse range of experiences for all who attend. Whether visitors are drawn by the spiritual devotion, the artistic performances or the natural beauty of the valley, *Kullu Dussehra* is a festival that speaks to the heart, offering a unique glimpse into the soul of Himachal Pradesh. As the festival approaches, everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars and experience this remarkable celebration from 13th to 19th October 2024. It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy the magic of Kullu Valley, where tradition, culture and community come together in a festival of life, love and joy!



THE ORIGINS OF KULLU DUSSEHRA DATE BACK TO THE 17TH CENTURY WHEN RAJA JAGAT SINGH, A RULER OF KULLU, BROUGHT THE IDOL OF LORD RAGHUNATH JI TO THE VALLEY. FROM THEN ON, LORD RAGHUNATH JI BECAME THE CENTRAL DEITY OF THE FESTIVAL AND KULLU DUSSEHRA HAS BEEN CELEBRATED IN HIS HONOUR EVER SINCE

A TASTE OF THE NEW

EXCITING RESTAURANTS SHAPING NCR'S FOOD SCENE

Explore NCR's newest hotspots, serving up bold flavours and vibrant atmospheres for those looking to experience the best in dining and nightlife



PAWAN SONI
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

The food scene in the NCR is heating up, with a host of new eateries making their mark, each worth a visit. This month, I sampled a few, and here are my impressions.

LITCHI BISTRO

Nestled in the culinary hub of Malviya Nagar, *Litchi Bistro* offers a creative world cuisine menu alongside freshly brewed coffee from their in-house roastery. The spacious open patio outshines the indoor seating, creating a vibrant atmosphere. Two dishes I highly recommend are the *Spicy Tuna Taco*, served on a crisp Nori sheet with a kick from sriracha mayo and *the Korean Bacon*, a miso-marinated pork belly. The latter is so exceptional that I would return just for this dish.

AVARTANA AT ITC MAURYA

This is easily the most intriguing restaurant I've explored this year. *Avartana* offers set-course menus ranging from 7 to 13 courses, priced from Rs. 2,950 upwards per person. The cuisine is a contemporary interpretation of South Indian ingredients, far from the traditional dishes we usually associate with the region. I'll be doing a detailed review soon, as it's hard to choose favourites when each dish is stellar. It's no surprise that *Avartana* ranks 44th among Asia's 50 best.

689, GURGAON

Six Eighty Nine at Two Horizon brings Quorum Club's finesse into the public domain. This Asian restaurant draws inspiration from Japanese cuisine, with a clever twist of Japanese ingredients across its offerings. A standout dish is the *Flame-Kissed Avocado* from the Robotayaki section. The buttery avocado, glazed with soy-mirin, perfectly balances saltiness and sharpness, with a



zing from shichimi lime. Ideal for those who enjoy Asian flavours and refined cocktails without the distraction of loud music.

TEPPANYAKI AT EEST, WESTIN GURGAON

Gurgaon finally has a live *Teppanyaki* counter. What was once

Eest's Omakase section has been revamped to accommodate a *Teppanyaki* grill. The sauces are fresh, the ingredients top-notch and Chef Jatin engages with diners to craft dishes tailored to their preferences. The food here is as delicious as it is healthy, ensuring my return visit soon.

ROOM XO, AIPL JOY CENTRAL, GURGAON

The new party hub, *Room XO*, features one of the largest bars in the city, offering high-energy music, creative cocktails, massive screens and a performance bar. The food, curated by celebrity chef *Sabyasachi Gorai*, complements the lively atmosphere. With the same founders as *Studio XO*, this spot is set to be the next big thing in Gurgaon's nightlife.

THANKS AND BEYOND, NEHRU PLACE, DELHI

Veteran nightlife impresario *Priyank Sukhija's* latest venture at *Epicuria Mall* offers three distinct zones. 'Thanks' is a casual dining space, 'And' is the outdoor area, and

'Beyond' is a high-energy bar. For a great time, I recommend the Tequila-based *Picante*, *the Sheesha*, and *the Tuna on Toast*.

PIRATES OF GRILL GRANDE, CYBERHUB, GURGAON

Buffets just went gourmet, thanks to the famous *Banga Brothers*, who have redefined the concept with their Grande edition of *Pirates of Grill*. The quality, variety, and pricing are a revelation - priced at around Rs. 1,000 per head; the spread rivals the best à la carte restaurants. Standout items include *the Benne Dosa* with *Podi Masala*, possibly the best in the NCR and *Dim Sum* that would hold its own in any reputable dim sum restaurant. Don't miss the *Grilled Pineapple*, an old favourite or *the Indianised Meatballs* with shredded egg, cauliflower and cheese, a delightful fusion.

Now that you're in the loop on the hottest dining and nightlife spots in the NCR, where are you heading tonight or later this week? Let me know at pawan.soni@indianfoodfreak.com.

FROM KOLKATA TO DELHI: THE TASTE OF TWO CITIES

While Durga Puja is celebrated across the country, it is at a different level in Kolkata. The rhythm of the dhak, the vibrant atmosphere and the exquisite food transport you to another world, writes DIVYA BHATIA



A visit to Kolkata revealed the grandeur of the festivities, showcasing stunning pandals and creating cherished moments. As a foodie, I was captivated by the culinary extravaganza, especially the traditional *Bhuribhoj* and *Bengali Thali*. The unforgettable flavours of *Basanti Polao*, *Aloo Bhaja*, *Begun Bhaja*, *Potol Bhaja*, *Luchi* and *Chholar Dal*, paired with *Mishtoi Doi* and *Rasgulla*, left a lasting impression. The magic of these dishes lies in the love behind their preparation. Bengalis savour their meals in small courses, enhancing the authentic flavours of their cuisine. While I've felt a festive spirit in Delhi, it cannot match Kolkata's enchanting transformation during Durga Puja. However, Delhi offers its own take on Bengali cuisine, and this year, I explored delightful recipes from young chefs, ensuring that whether you're in Kolkata or elsewhere, you can enjoy traditional Puja dishes.

CHEF GAUTAM KUMAR'S RECIPE FOR GOBINDOBHOG GURER PAYESH

Chef *Gautam Kumar*, Executive Chef at Foodlink F&B Holdings (India), brings over 20 years of experience in regional Indian cuisine. He emphasises fresh, locally sourced ingredients and has held prestigious positions at top hotels like *Shangri-La* and *Grand Hyatt Delhi*. His innovative approach has garnered numerous accolades, and one of his favourite dishes is *Gobindobhog Gurer Payesh*.

GOBINDOBHOG GURER PAYESH

Kheer, or 'payesh' in Bengali, is a sweet rice and milk dish beloved in Bengali culture. Offered to the goddess *Durga* as 'bhog,' it is shared among devotees after the puja. Made with date palm jaggery, 'nolen gud kheer' is a healthier alternative to sugar, especially popular during *Durga Puja*. *Sharing Payesh* symbolises unity and harmony among family members. *Durga Puja*. *Sharing Payesh* symbolises unity and fosters harmony among family members.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 litre full-fat milk
- 50 grams *Gobindo bhog rice*
- 150 grams *nolen gur* (date palm jaggery)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon green cardamom powder
- 20 grams cashew nuts
- 10 grams raisins (soaked and drained)
- 10 grams ghee

METHOD

- **Soak the Rice:** Soak the rice in water for 30 minutes, ensuring not to over-wash it to retain as much starch as possible. After soaking, drain the rice and spread it out to dry.
- **Coat the Rice:** Coat the soaked rice with ¼ teaspoon of ghee and set aside.
- **Prepare the Raisins:** Soak the raisins in water until swollen.
- **Fry Cashews:** Heat ghee in a pan and fry the cashews until golden. Set aside.
- **Boil the Milk:** Boil the milk in a heavy-bottomed pan, simmer for 15 minutes, and add cardamom powder.
- **Cook the Rice:** Add the ghee-coated rice to the milk and cook on low heat until fully cooked. The rice should be soft and mushy when mashed between your fingers, as it will firm up while cooling. Stir gently to prevent burning and release starch, which thickens the payesh.
- **Thicken the Payesh:** Ensure the rice is fully cooked; the payesh should be slightly thicker than desired, as the gur will thin it out.
- **Add Gur:** Turn off the heat and mix in the gur, salt, soaked raisins, and fried cashews, keeping the heat off to prevent curdling. Gently fold everything together, cover the pan, and let the residual heat melt the gur completely. Serve the payesh hot or cold in a bowl, garnished with fried cashews and soaked raisins.



RECIPE FOR NARKEL NI CHINGRI

Chef *Gagandeep Singh Bedi*, Director of Culinary at *Roseate Hotels & Resorts*, specialises in reviving regional Indian cuisines and creating signature dishes at *Kheer*. He focuses on organic produce and minimising food waste.

NARKEL NI CHINGRI RECIPE

One of his standout creations is *Narkel ni Chingri*, a delightful prawn dish cooked in coconut milk. This recipe exemplifies Chef *Gagandeep's* commitment to authentic flavours and sustainable practices. Here's how to make it:

INGREDIENTS

- 500g prawns, cleaned and deveined
- 200ml fresh coconut milk
- 75g fresh grated coconut
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 tsp ginger paste
- 1 tsp garlic paste
- 2-3 green chillies, slit
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- ½ tsp red chilli powder
- 40ml mustard oil
- Salt to taste
- Fresh coriander for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

- Marinate the prawns with turmeric and salt for 15 minutes.
- Roast the grated coconut on medium flame until golden brown.
- Heat mustard oil in a pan until smoking, then reduce heat.
- Sauté onions until golden brown, then add ginger and garlic paste.
- Add green chillies, turmeric and red chilli powder, stirring well.
- Add marinated prawns and cook until pink (5-7 minutes).
- Pour in coconut milk and simmer for 5-10 minutes.
- Add roasted grated coconut and cook for an additional 2-3 minutes.
- Adjust seasoning and garnish with fresh coriander and serve hot with steamed rice for a delicious meal!



Navratri: The essence of Satvik food

BY TEAM VIVA

The festival of Navratri is there and the air is filled with a spirit of devotion and celebration. During these nine auspicious days, millions across India follow a special dietary regimen, abstaining from regular food and opting for *Satvik* meals. While these dishes are rooted in tradition, chefs at hotels like *Le Meridien, New Delhi* have taken the opportunity to elevate this sacred cuisine with contemporary flavours, ensuring that even the most discerning food lovers can enjoy fasting meals with a gourmet touch. *Navratri* food is characterised by simplicity, with ingredients that align with spiritual purity. Common dishes consumed during this period have been improvised by Chef *Setuu Gupta*. Here are the dishes:

- **'Kuttu ki Puri' (Buckwheat Flour Puri)** - A deep-fried, gluten-free flatbread made from buckwheat flour, which is one of the staples during Navratri.
- **'Sabudana tikki'** - A light and flavorful dish made with soaked tapioca pearls, peanuts, and mild spices like cumin, offering a fulfilling yet easy-to-digest meal.
- **'Paneer Tikka'** - Cottage cheese cubes marinated in yoghurt and mild spices, then grilled to perfection. *Paneer* dishes are popular as they provide a protein-rich option for those fasting.
- **'Samak Rice Pulao'** - This is made from barnyard millet, often called "vrat rice," and is cooked with mild spices and



vegetables to offer a flavorful alternative to regular rice.

- **'Anjeer ka Halwa'** - A dessert made from figs, slow-cooked in milk and flavoured with cardamom, is a popular sweet indulgence for the fasting period.
- **'Makhana Curry'** - A creamy salty pudding made from foxnuts (*makhana*) and curd flavoured with spices and nuts for a rich taste.
- **'Kacche Kale Sabudana Tikki'** is a crispy snack made from raw banana, *sabudana* (tapioca pearls), green chillies, and spices. Shallow-fried and enjoyed during fasting periods like Navratri, it offers a flavourful and energising treat.
- **'Arbi Singara Kadhi'** - is a flavourful curry made with *colocasia* (*arbi*) and water chestnuts (*singhara*), simmered in a spiced yoghurt-based gravy. It's thickened with *singhara* flour and seasoned with mustard seeds, curry leaves and chillies for a tangy, savoury dish. *Navratri* food has always been about maintaining purity and simplicity, but at *Le Meridien, New Delhi*, Chef *Setuu Gupta* and his team have shown that fasting meals can be both humble and sophisticated. By elevating traditional dishes with innovative techniques, they ensure that guests not only honour their spiritual commitment but also indulge in a culinary journey that excites the senses. This fusion of faith and flavour is a testament to the evolving nature of India's food culture, where tradition and modernity walk hand in hand.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar



CELEBRATING NAVRATRI

A SPECTACULAR DANCE-DRAMA EXPERIENCE

With the festive spirit of Navratri, *Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra* presents a captivating dance-drama that brings the timeless tale of the Ramayana to life, highlighting the struggle between good and evil and the victory of righteousness, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

October marks the arrival of a magical time in India, where the festive spirit fills the air and people from all walks of life come together to celebrate the rich cultural heritage passed down for generations. Among the many stories and traditions that take centre stage during this season, none are as cherished or as timeless as the story of the Ramayana. Retold through art, music, dance and drama, the Ramayana during Navratri is more than just a mythological tale; it's a reminder of the eternal struggle between good and evil, love and loss, and the ultimate victory of righteousness. One of the most iconic ways to experience this story is through the grand production of "Shri Ram" by the *Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra*. For 68 years, this dance-drama has been a hallmark of Delhi's festive calendar, drawing audiences into the epic saga of the Ramayana. The production spans 24 days during the Navratri festival; it's not just a performance but an experience, a journey through time and a deep dive into India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

A GRAND STAGE AND CAPTIVATING ATMOSPHERE

From the moment visitors arrive at the venue, they are welcomed by an impressive stage representing ancient Ayodhya. The meticulous attention to detail in the stage design is evident, featuring intricate patterns and vibrant colours that transport the audience to the heart of the Ramayana. The lighting shifts throughout the performance, enhancing the emotional depth of each scene. As the performance commences, the atmosphere buzzes with excitement and anticipation. Artists in elaborate costumes fill the stage, celebrating the arrival of their lord Ram. The traditional music accompanying their movements resonates with the audience, enveloping everyone in the festive spirit. The dance-drama format allows for a seamless blend of storytelling and art; classical Indian dance forms like Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Odissi take centre stage, where each gesture and expression conveys deep emotion. The opening scene beautifully showcases themes of community, love, and unity, drawing everyone into the celebration.

A DIVINE BEGINNING

The story begins with the birth of Lord Ram and his brothers, as the people of Ayodhya rejoice in the arrival of their beloved prince. The joy on stage is visible, reflecting the warmth and happiness of the occasion. The scenes that follow take the audience on a journey through Ram's life, from his education in scriptures and warfare to his marriage with Sita, highlighting the trials he faces along the way.

What makes this story captivating is not just Ram's destiny as a divine figure but his humanity. From a young age, Ram exemplifies virtues of humility, patience and wisdom, shaping his actions throughout his life. This sense of divine purpose, combined with Ram's ability to empathise with ordinary people, makes his character relatable and inspiring to devotees during Navratri. As "Shri Ram" beautifully portrays, Ram's early years symbolise the joys of life and the weight of



"'SHRI RAM' IS MORE THAN JUST A RETELLING OF THE RAMAYANA; IT IS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL, A COMMON CONNECTION BETWEEN GENERATIONS, AND A TRIBUTE TO INDIAN TALENT IN DANCE, POETRY AND DESIGN"



Photo: Pankaj Kumar



responsibility he must bear as the future ruler. The early relationships that shape him, including his bond with his brothers Lakshman, Bharata and Shatrughna, each play an essential role in the unfolding drama.

THE JOURNEY OF LORD RAM AND HIS BROTHERS

As the story progresses, spectators witness the formative years of Ram alongside his brothers, training under Vishwamitra. This segment showcases the dedication and brotherly camaraderie that define their relationships, expressed through intricate choreography that highlights their commitment to duty. The physical movements and emotional expressions of the dancers capture the essence of loyalty, honour, and sacrifice, core values that resonate throughout the Ramayana. The portrayal of Ram's marriage to Sita is another highlight of the performance. The ceremony is beautifully staged and thoughtfully executed, illustrating the depth of love and devotion between the two characters. Sita is depicted with grace and strength, captivating the audience as she expresses her hopes and dreams. The artistry of this scene reflects the timeless nature of love, with each gesture drawing the audience deeper into their narrative. This portrayal captures the essence of their divine union while reminding the audience that true love involves enduring hardship and remaining steadfast in faith.

THE RISE OF CONFLICT

The story takes a dramatic turn with the introduction of Ravana. The portrayal of Ravana brings an air of tension and complexity, masterfully performed by a talented artist whose commanding presence leaves a lasting impression. The audience feels the weight of impending conflict as the stage transforms into a realm where good clashes with evil. One of the most gripping moments comes when Ravana sends a golden deer to tempt Sita, leading to the separation of Ram and Sita. The tension during this scene is visible, as Sita's innocence and longing are powerfully conveyed. This pivotal moment marks the beginning of trials that will test Ram's love and resolve.

The fierce confrontation between Lakshman and Surpanakha highlights themes of loyalty and honour. The

choreography in this segment is intense, illustrating the raw emotions involved in defending family honour. Lakshman's decisive action in cutting off Surpanakha's nose showcases the protective instincts that run deep within the characters of the Ramayana.

THE BATTLE OF GOOD AND EVIL

As the narrative escalates, the stage transforms into a dramatic battlefield. The choreography during these scenes is breathtaking, with performers moving in perfect synchrony to depict the chaos of war. Ram's battle against Ravana becomes the climactic moment of the performance, showcasing the bravery and determination of the forces of good. The audience is enthralled as Ram ultimately conquers Ravana, a victory resonating with the core message of the Ramayana: righteousness prevails in the face of evil. The final scenes, where Ram returns to Ayodhya to be crowned king, are a celebration of joy and mastery. The atmosphere fills with colour and light, reflecting the happiness of the citizens of Ayodhya as they welcome their lord home. This ending serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of justice, duty, and the values that bind communities together.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF "SHRI RAM"

Under the artistic direction of Padmashri *Shobha Deepak Singh*, the show has evolved over the years while retaining its essence. *Singh*, Chairperson of SBKK, beautifully articulated this sentiment when she stated, "Shri Ram" is more than just a retelling of the Ramayana; it is an educational tool, a common connection between generations, and a tribute to Indian talent in dance, poetry, and design." Her words resonate throughout the venue, emphasising the importance of preserving and celebrating Indian culture. The entire production is a tribute to the dedication of the artists and the meticulous planning that went into its execution. Every detail, from the stunning costumes to the intricate choreography, was carefully curated to create a seamless experience for the audience. This performance not only entertains but also educates, providing insights into the values



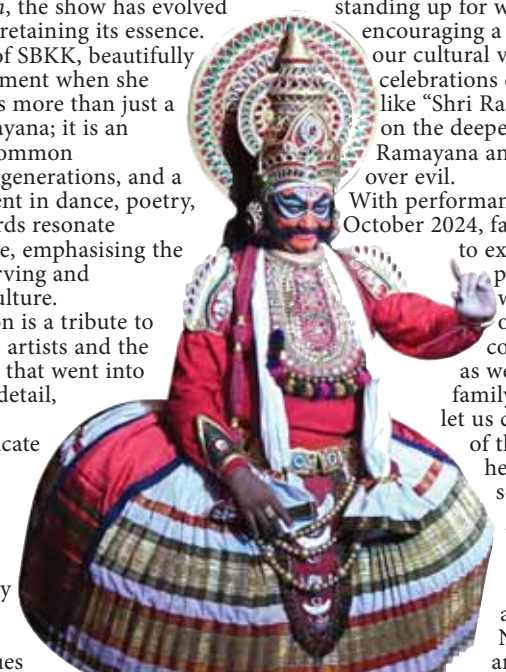
of loyalty, courage, and righteousness at the heart of the Ramayana.

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

The performance of "Shri Ram" is not just an artistic display; it is a celebration of culture and community. The universal messages of love, sacrifice, and the struggle against adversity resonate deeply, reminding everyone of the cherished values in our lives. The lighting is masterfully used to reflect shifts in tone, from the warmth and joy of Ram and Sita's union to the ominous darkness of Ravana's plans. As the scenes transition, the stage transforms fluidly, drawing the audience deeper into the narrative. The costumes are a visual feast - rich, vibrant and steeped in historical authenticity. Each character, from Ram and Sita in their royal attire to Hanuman and his monkey warriors, is dressed to reflect their roles and the cultural and mythological significance of their actions. The grandness of the set and costumes adds a layer of magic to the story, allowing the audience to fully immerse themselves in the spectacle.

Embracing the Spirit of Navratri The festival of Navratri is a time for reflection, devotion and celebration, beautifully captured in the performance of "Shri Ram." This production highlights the strength of unity and the importance of standing up for what is right while encouraging a shared understanding of our cultural values. As the Navratri celebrations continue, performances like "Shri Ram" inspire us to reflect on the deeper meanings of the Ramayana and the victory of good over evil.

With performances scheduled until 26 October 2024, families have the chance to experience this iconic production together, witnessing the brilliance of Indian art and culture come to life on stage. So, as we gather with friends and family to celebrate Navratri, let us carry forward the lessons of the Ramayana in our hearts. May this festive season fill our lives with joy, love, and an unwavering commitment to righteousness. Wishing all readers a blessed Navratri filled with love and light!





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week begins with an international touch, whether it's receiving uplifting news from afar or having a family member travel overseas. Expect a flurry of activity, suggesting potential overseas travel for work. Stay prepared for swift movements and transitions. In legal domains, anticipate favourable outcomes that might require decisive action on your part. Health-wise, if you've been under the weather, you'll find yourself mending and returning to your usual activities. As the week concludes, joy emerges from family matters, particularly involving your children who may excel academically or bring surprising news of a potential marriage, leading to joyful wedding preparations. For those already wed, expect deepening bonds and enhanced stability in your relationship.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

If you're feeling the need to escape the everyday turmoil and start anew, consider reflecting on your past experiences and future aspirations. Gaining mental clarity is essential for a smoother transition, helping you shift from chaos to calm and positivity. Making conscious decisions is crucial because once actions are taken, they can't be reversed. The principle of reaping what you sow always holds true, emphasizing the importance of your choices. This week, some may find themselves connecting deeply with a special someone, experiencing a profound synergy reminiscent of two luminaries that, although bright on their own, radiate even more brilliantly together. This connection can bring significant joy and fulfillment, enhancing the journey ahead.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week promises a series of significant shifts, especially in your professional life. You may find yourself navigating through a rapid succession of events that could reshape your career landscape favorably. However, if you've been riding a high wave recently, stay vigilant as challenges loom on the horizon. Be cautious of deceptive individuals who might be scheming behind your back, potentially leading to a loss of what you've diligently worked for, which could be quite distressing. As the week closes, your bold and dynamic nature will come to the forefront. You'll find yourself invigorated, and ready to tackle any challenge without hesitation. Your ability to make quick, effective decisions will enhance, driven by a proactive and energetic approach to life.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Fuchsia
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week calls for patience and minimal social interactions. Embracing practices like yoga and meditation could greatly enhance your sense of peace. Reflecting on the recent challenges in both your professional and personal life, it's crucial not to let these setbacks cloud the current period. An optimistic outlook reveals promising opportunities for financial growth. Engaging in new business ventures could prove lucrative. Your natural intuition might become a useful tool in navigating straightforward scenarios, leveraging your fair and analytical disposition to transition from negativity to positivity smoothly. This approach will not only clear your mind but also deepen your understanding of financial and emotional matters, guiding you towards a more enlightened state.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

The week begins with notable challenges. Recent endeavors have piled on numerous obligations, making you feel overwhelmed and stuck in your current circumstances. This sense of confinement may make you hesitant to make bold moves. Additionally, there may be individuals who seem opposed to your success, adding to the strain. However, amidst these trials, remember that you possess an inherent strength capable of overcoming these hurdles. Drawing on this positive energy will be crucial as you navigate through the week. By week's end, a calming presence will replace the earlier turmoil, allowing you to distance yourself from worldly concerns. Supported by your loved ones, you'll find yourself relaxing into a state of profound contentment and joy, reinvigorated by the peace that envelops you.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, you have every reason to celebrate your achievements. A stable financial foundation brings you both security and comfort. For many, these rewards stem from diligent effort and personal commitment. Your aspirations for prosperity are now coming to fruition. Take a moment to reflect on your riches, both tangible and spiritual. The recognition of your hard work may manifest as advancements or salary increases, boosting your self-assurance. You stand as a dependable beacon for those around you, drawing everyone's focus. Your balanced perspective allows you to view situations uniquely. As the week closes, you'll find yourself deeply engaged in reflective practices, seeking to understand the depth of your own insight.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, your innate kindness, generosity, honesty, and tranquility shine through. Some individuals may embark on a budding relationship brimming with promise that could blossom into profound joy and love. This period marks a significant phase where your deepest aspirations might begin to materialize, guided by a strong internal intuition. Professionally, your tenacity, swift responses, and unwavering commitment to your objectives help you navigate challenges effortlessly. Your hard work is likely to gain recognition and commendation from your peers, affirming your efforts. This is a time to relish the rewards of previous challenges that have now been surmounted. As the week wraps up, expect to find yourself in festive spirits, celebrating recent successes with a significant gathering or a festive event.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, be wary as envy surrounds your accomplishments, and others may attempt to tarnish your reputation. There's a possibility of encountering obstacles that could disrupt your plans dramatically. Additionally, there's a risk that your own talents could be misdirected to work against you. Remember, the primary challenge comes from within. You might face disputes and resistance at work, where your proposals could be rigorously questioned by doubters. It's crucial to maintain your composure and seek amicable resolutions when possible, while steadfastly pursuing your goals. As the week closes, you might find yourself drawn to familiar places. A trip back to places filled with memories and reuniting with loved ones could rejuvenate your spirits and restore a positive outlook.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, a significant emotional journey begins, characterized by an evolving intensity of feelings, culminating in a period of significant personal insight and potential fulfillment of deep-seated desires. As the days progress, you may find yourself grappling with a challenging home situation, feeling weighed down by nostalgia or a sense of loss. However, as the week draws to a close, there is a noticeable shift towards a more uplifting scenario where you may discover newfound peace and happiness. In resolving life's challenges, a change of scenery could be on the horizon, whether through a strategic move or a professional relocation. Significant figures in your professional life are likely to influence these transitions, marking a pivotal moment in your journey.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week marks a phase of deep satisfaction as a long-held dream comes to fruition. You find yourself in a joyful union or embarking on a career path that fills you with pride. Riding a wave of bliss, you feel the support of a higher power enriching your journey. Recognition for your perseverance and tenacity inspires others, while guidance from a mentor proves to be incredibly beneficial. Your commitment to a balanced and harmonious approach to life strengthens. As the week closes, your interactions are characterized by fairness and responsibility. You secure a role that promises emotional and financial rewards, brightening your prospects for the future. Your outlook is optimistic as you navigate forward, ready to embrace new opportunities with open arms.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

At the start of the week, some individuals might find themselves overwhelmed by their emotions. Minor issues, whether related to personal health or family matters, could cause tension. This period encourages introspection and expressing oneself through writing. As the week progresses, a shift occurs, bringing a surge of enthusiasm and energy. This phase is characterized by a strong sense of leadership and commitment to responsibilities, possibly coinciding with new responsibilities or projects. The latter part of the week signals a significant period of change, marking the arrival of new professional opportunities. These changes are poised to positively influence one's future, setting the stage for lasting improvements in personal and professional life.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Throughout this week, individuals prone to deep empathy are especially attuned to the needs of others. They naturally excel in nurturing roles, offering their support and guidance generously. Their compassion extends widely, ensuring that those who seek their help find solace and assistance. Known for their capability to address and manage the challenges faced by others, they blend resilience with a profound capacity to care. Not only are they mentally and physically robust, but they also possess an indomitable spirit characterized by bravery and endurance. Their unique approach to action is guided by a clear, unaffected rationale. This week, many will find themselves impressed by these intrinsic traits, strengthening bonds and forming meaningful connections with those dear to them.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Thursday

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

Is boredom a blessing or a curse?

There are 365 days in a year and there are so many years in your life. If for one or two days you feel you are wasted, life is a failure, it's okay, never mind!

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Spiritual Guru

Take a few moments to sit down, be open to boredom, and you'll effortlessly move into a deep meditative state

IN an ocean, the waves keep coming non-stop, it doesn't get boring! Birds sing the same song, every morning, all their life, they don't get bored! It is only human beings who get bored! 'Oh! Once again the same thing'. And why do you get bored? It is because of memory. You remember whatever you have done before, so you get bored. Memory is both a blessing and a curse. It is because you get bored that you feel the need to look for something different, something new, and that is how creativity comes up; you look for the ultimate. Otherwise, you could have remained like an animal doing the same thing every day. But, you can't do it because you get bored!

So, in that sense, boredom is a blessing. Because you get bored, you move on, you look forward, you become a seeker and you rise higher. At the same time, boredom is also a curse because it doesn't

allow you to be centred and steady in one place. So your mind aimlessly keeps jumping from one place to another. Because you get bored of everything, you can't enjoy anything. There are two different paths that boredom leads you to. Boredom is a blessing when it leads you to wisdom. Boredom is a curse when it leads you to frustration and depression. Because you are bored, you can't enjoy it, and when you can't enjoy it you get depressed and frustrated. Or, because you are bored you wake up and begin with a quest.

When life feels dull, there's this magical moment where everything becomes lively. You can repeat the same thing over and over, and it won't bother you. It's like finding a spring of life. Just let go of the past, be like a carefree child, and every moment becomes priceless.

You move ahead and you look into the Self which is fresh all the



time! The Self is ever new. Because you are bored with the ephemeral, the surface, you go deep into the Self. So boredom is both a blessing and a curse. A blessing because it takes you away from the routine monotonous life, makes you aware and brings life into you.

And it is a curse because it doesn't let you stabilise. People who are in love don't get bored. The heart knows no boredom. The head knows boredom.

In life both are essential, the heart and the head. If you are only

in the heart, it is no good. And if you are only stuck in the head, that is also no good. Balancing both is Yoga. Spirituality is balancing the heart and head together. Anyone who feels that they are a failure, just wake up! So what?! Life is eternal.

Meditation acts like a bridge connecting your head and heart. Take a few moments to sit down, be open to boredom, and you'll effortlessly move into a deep meditative state. Otherwise, that boredom might just lead you to sleep. It's a choice — either you sleep, become more sluggish, or you seize the opportunity of boredom to delve into a deep meditation.

There are 365 days in a year and there are so many years in your life. If for one or two days you feel you are wasted, life is a failure, it's okay, never mind!

On a full moon, if it is cloudy and the light cannot shine on the Earth, the moon does not get

upset. If on one full moon night, you cannot see the moon rising, so what? The moon is still there. Like that, inside you there is potential, there is divinity which is so complete. If it has not come to the surface in one day, never mind! You have all the great qualities. If some do not exhibit on a particular day, never mind.

Don't blame yourself, don't analyze yourself too much. We start analysing ourselves too much; to the extent that we feel upset and down. We are so hard on ourselves. I am saying this to those who feel bad about themselves. NEVER MIND, WAKE UP! Never mind if these many years are wasted. The future is bright and there is still so much for you to do. All regrets happen only when you are looking at the past. If you are walking and your head is turned backwards, then that is called regret. Turn your head and look forward, and you will see the future is always bright.