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# WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

## Nightmare in the skies

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Mid air scares targeting Indian airlines continued on Saturday, as at least 30 flights operated by Vistara, Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Star Air and Akasa Airlines were forced to make emergency landings after bomb threats, which later turned out to be hoaxes. So far this week, at least 70 flights of Indian carriers have received bomb threats, and all of them turned out to be hoaxes. The hoax threats comes right in the middle of festive season when a large number of Indians plan to fly. Worried over increasing trends of bomb threat messages, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has called the chief executive officers (CEOs) of the airlines for a meeting to discuss ways to tackle the issue, which is causing inconvenience to passengers and losses to carriers. According to officials, six flights against which bomb threats were made via social media made scheduled landings at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport. These threats came from a single X account and were categorised as "hoax" and "non specific" after thorough checks, the official added. The account, of a user named 'Adha', mentioned flights of several airlines, though only six were scheduled to land at Mumbai

international airport, the official said. These were from Delhi, Goa and Darbhanga. Hoax bomb threats can wreak havoc on the Indian aviation sector since they are not easy to trace. Given the Khalistani threats to airlines, the government or airlines can't take such calls lightly even if they think these to be hoax calls. Notably, the spate of hoax bomb threats against Indian airlines has led to major financial repercussions, with airline officials estimating losses running into crores of rupees. According to Aviation Industry sources, the overall financial damage of the hoax, including costs for unscheduled landing, passenger accommodations, aircraft grounding, and crew replacements, is projected to exceed Rs 3 crore. Top sources said more than 30 flights, including domestic and international ones, operated by domestic airlines have received bomb threats through social media since Saturday morning. In at least one of the flights, a note was found in the lavatory saying there was a bomb in the flight. On Saturday, Vistara said five of its flights on international routes received security threats through social media while IndiGo said at least four of its flights got security-related alerts. The five flights of Vistara are UK106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK027 (Mumbai



to Frankfurt), UK107 (Mumbai to Singapore), UK121 (Delhi to Bangkok) and UK131 (Mumbai to Colombo). "Following the protocol, all relevant authorities were promptly alerted and all security procedures are being adhered to, as per the guidance from the authorities and security agencies," an airline spokesperson said in a statement. Besides, there was a security concern regarding Vistara flight UK624 from Udaipur to Mumbai, and after landing, the aircraft was taken to an isolation bay for mandatory checks. A note was found in the lavatory of the aircraft saying there is a bomb in the flight, a source in the know said. IndiGo also issued statements for at least five international flights with respect to the threats - 6E 11, 6E 17, 6E 58, 6E 108, and 6E 184. They are

6E17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E11 (Delhi to Istanbul), 6E184 (Jodhpur to Delhi) and 6E108 (Hyderabad to Chandigarh). The airline said it is cognisant of a situation involving flights from Mumbai and Delhi to Istanbul. Regarding the Jodhpur to Delhi flight, the carrier said the plane landed in the national capital and customers have disembarked the aircraft. About the Hyderabad to Chandigarh flight, IndiGo said that upon landing, the aircraft was isolated and all passengers were safely disembarked. Sources said that the plane was being checked at Chandigarh airport thoroughly by the airport authorities at the isolation bay. The Air India flight numbers AI 101, AI 105, AI 126, 119, and AI 161 were disrupted following the bomb scare.

## Chaos on the roads

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The worsening traffic congestion across the city particularly at major junctions such as ITO, Moolchand, Chirag Delhi, Nehru Place, RTR has taken a toll on the city's road infrastructure which cater to both the Delhiites and floating population from the National Capital Region (NCR) regions like Noida, Gurgaon resulting in daily chaos. The Pioneer has already sustained a month long campaign on traffic congestion, management, solution and this time the Capital's new age destination across "Jamuna Paar" Anand Vihar has been carved out, to off load the in-traffic situation and has several commuters facilities like a Railway Station,

Interstate Bus Terminus (ISBT), Metro and Rapid Railway Transit System (RRTS) have come up. Due to heavy traffic congestion, it is now considered one of the busiest areas in Delhi since it lies on the border, close to the bustling metropolis of Ghaziabad and Noida and millions throng here each day. The Anand Vihar ISBT falls under the Madhu Vihar traffic circle. According to Delhi police, it has started a crackdown and issued 205 challans under different heads were also issued against the violators and encroachers. During a visit by senior police officers recently, it was observed that the road was

encroached by illegal vendors, and hawkers from both sides. They display articles on the pathways, clothes are hung on hangers and rings and illegally parked vehicles such as TSRs, Buses, Private Taxis add to the heavy traffic congestion, police said on Saturday. Due to this, the once wide road has been shortened from both the sides and pedestrians and commuters were not getting enough space to even walk on footpaths. Analysing the situation, the police evolved a strategy to clear IN/OUT congestion at the road of Anand Vihar ISBT and to make carriageway congestion free. A meeting was then arranged with the Deputy Commissioner, Municipal

Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Shahdara South Zone and local police and they were requested to arrange joint drives for removal of encroachment at Anand Vihar ISBT. A special drive was carried out along with MCD, to clear congestion and most of the encroachments were removed. Anand Vihar is a major transit hub connected with Railway, RRTS and Metro network and is always abuzz with lakhs of commuters using various modes of transport. It is surrounded by densely populated Indirapuram, Surajmal Vihar, Ramprastha in Ghaziabad, Noida, Dilshad Garden, Shahdara, Mayur Vihar, Patparganj. This leads to chaos and traffic congestion due to encroachers and heavy traffic volumes. It takes road commuters 15 to 20 minutes to cross the outside the ISBT on Chaudhary Charan Singh Marg. Buses, autorickshaws, e rickshaws and private vehicles are always stationed at wrong points leading to traffic jams. A large number of non destined vehicles entering Delhi from UP also added woes to the commuters. It is around 9 pm, when the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border at Anand Vihar becomes messy as the legal time to enter into the Capital for the commercial vehicles begins. Besides increasing parking fees, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena issued orders to regulate traffic / buses inside and outside the three ISBTs including Anand Vihar last month. Inside the ISBT, the situation has improved but outside, it remains the same.

## 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' name to be changed



Official guidelines soon: Minister

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP Odisha Government would change the name of 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme to 'Bikashita Gaan, Bikashita Odisha' soon, informed Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik on Saturday. Speaking to mediapersons here, Naik said, "The government will come up with the

guidelines within two days to change the name of 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme of the previous BJD government." "Under this initiative, 'Gram Sabha' will decide what can be developed in its panchayat and, accordingly, the department will take action. This will empower the panchayat members," Naik added. Notably, the Naveen Patnaik-led government had launched the scheme to boost rural infrastructure and pro-

mote Jagannath culture. Under the programme, a target was set to execute 90,723 projects in 6,794 panchayats with each getting an assistance of Rs 50 lakh. The scheme was in controversy as the suggestions of elected representatives were not considered for the projects in the panchayats, its funds allocation and its utilisation. The work orders were allegedly issued in the names of JEs and the list was being prepared by the BDOs and sent to district Collectors.

## S'pur man stages own murder, elopes with GF

Arrested from Deogarh NIMAI CHARAN SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR

The Sambalpur police with the help of their Deogarh counterparts arrested one Pandita Oram (37) from Jamadarpali for staging his own murder to elope with his girlfriend to the neighbouring Deogarh district. Oram, a gymnasium trainer and father of two, had been reported missing by his wife at the Hirakud police station on Friday. He damaged his scooter and used chicken blood stains to simulate a murder scene in the Athra Hazaar Cyphon area in the district. Oram was married to the wife of his brother after the brother's death. They were married for 11 years and had



two children. Oram confessed to the motive to escape his current marriage and marry his girlfriend as a second marriage would have been complicated due to his existing family obligations. Oram, in a video released by police said, "I was in love with my girlfriend for two years. We wanted to marry. Hence, we planned a suicide plot in Athara Hazaar. People were

having feasts as it's a picnic spot. Hence, we grabbed a chicken and stained my scooty with blood. Then we fled to Deogarh. Sambalpur Additional SP Haresh Pandey said, "He planned everything meticulously. The scene was staged to make it look like a murder, leading everyone to believe he had been killed and thrown in the power channel of Athra Hazaar."

## In Nuapada Man set on fire on witchcraft suspicion



PNS ■ NUAPADA

A 50-year-old man was left battling for his life after villagers set him on fire over suspected witchcraft practice at Portipada village under the Sinapali police station in Nuapada district. The villagers tied the man and set him on fire. He has sustained serious burn injuries on his face, limbs and other body parts. The victim was identified as Kham Singh Majhi. The villagers accused Majhi of practising witchcraft and called a meeting in the village where he was threatened with dire consequences. Despite his denial of any witchcraft practice, some villagers assaulted him and later set

him on fire. In a bid to save his life, Majhi ran around the village and finally jumped into a pond. The matter came to the fore after his family members rescued him and admitted to a hospital. Khariar SDPO Arup Behera said, "We have received information that an attempt was made to burn alive a person to death. The villagers set him on fire over suspected witchcraft at Portipada village. We have registered a case at the Sinapali police station. The injured is currently under treatment. An investigation is now in its preliminary stage. We will ascertain the reason for the attack only after a probe."

## Cyclone forecast only after low pressure formation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

No forecast about cyclone can be made at this stage and it could be predicted only after the formation of the low-pressure area, said India Meteorological Department (IMD) DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra on Saturday. Mohapatra said the system's movement and position would be clear to some extent after the cyclonic circulation turns into a low pressure. "A cyclonic circulation has been formed over central Andaman Sea today. Under the influence of the cyclonic circulation, a low-pressure

area may be formed over the Central Bay of Bengal around October 21. Subsequently, the low pressure will move in the northwest direction and may turn into a depression around October 23," said Mohapatra. "When the low-pressure area will be formed, the Bay of Bengal will be gradually turbulent as the speed of the wind may increase. Wind speed may reach up to 45-55 km per hour and 65 km per hour in coastal Odisha. Fishermen have been advised to return from sea to the coast by October 21 considering the turbulent condition of the Bay of Bengal from October 22," he further said.

# Odisha showcases industrial growth in Mumbai

Eyes Rs 5 lakh crore investment at 2025 Conclave NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's industrial growth vision was showcased at a high-profile road show in Mumbai on Saturday as the State prepares for the 'Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' slated for January 28-29 in Bhubaneswar. Led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the event marked the second stop of Odisha's global investment campaign following a programme in Delhi. The road show attracted leading industry figures with discussions on investment opportunities in sectors such as IT, textiles, renewable en-



ergy and chemicals and petrochemicals. CM Majhi highlighted the State's ongoing transformation into an industrial hub. "Odisha offers immense opportunities for industrial growth, demonstrated by our recognition in the BRAP 2022 rankings. Our strategic loca-

tion, robust infrastructure, skilled workforce and strong governance make us a prime destination for national and international investors," Majhi said in his keynote address. In one-on-one meetings with top industrialists, Majhi explored potential collabora-

tions. He announced that Odisha is set to secure over Rs 5 lakh crore in investment intents at the 'Make in Odisha Conclave 2025'. Key initiatives highlighted during the road show included food processing parks, garment manufacturing clusters and multimodal logistics hubs. Odisha's alignment with national growth schemes like the 'Purvodaya Yojana', which focuses on developing eastern India, was also emphasised. Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and Principal Secretary of Industries Hemant Sharma also made detailed presentations on the State's infrastructure and skilling ecosystem. The road show attracted over 500 business leaders.

with top industrialists, Majhi explored potential collabora-

# In city Sex racket operating from saloon busted

2 women rescued; an accused detained  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Saturday busted a sex racket operating in a saloon near Rabi Talkies Square in Bhubaneswar and rescued two women.

Acting on a tipoff, a team of the Badagada police raided the saloon named 'Diamond Salon & Spa' and detained a youth in connection with the case. Besides, the police also seized several objectionable materials during the raid.



The police sent the two rescued women for medical examination, sources said. The matter came to the fore after the local residents heard the scream of a woman, who was being subjected to physical torture and informed the same to the police. "We had no clue that a sex racket was operating under the guise of the spa. We suspect that the girl was held and forced into prostitution," a local said. "They had brought the woman promising her a job. But later, they forced her into prostitution. When the victim opposed, she was detained and subjected to physical torture. When the brother of the victim came to her rescue, he was attacked," another local said. Further investigation into the matter was underway.

# Sambalpur Varsity develops herbal teas

Herbs from Gandhamardan used  
NIMAIN CHARAN SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR

It is good news for diabetic, kidney, heart and arthritis patients that the Sambalpur University has developed a variety of herbal teas with herbs collected from the Gandhamardan Hills, a treasure trove of medicinal plants, that can help elevate the health condition of people suffering from lifestyle diseases.

The university's Department of Biotechnology and



Bioinformatics has developed 30 varieties of herbal teas packed with high medicinal value and is mulling to launch them in the local markets by joining hands with a startup soon.

After successful testing of the tea varieties on mice, the beverage has got FSSAI, GMO and ISO clearance and would soon be available in the markets, sources informed.

"We have developed 30 medicated tea varieties by blending green tea with herbs collected from Gandhamardan Hills. These tea varieties will help people suffering from lifestyle diseases like diabetic, rheumatoid arthritis, cardiac, cholesterol, liver and kidney detoxification," said Professor Pradip Kumar Nayak, Head of the Biotechnology and

Bioinformatics Department. While necessary equipments for processing and packaging of tea have been installed at the Food Science Department, at present 27 varieties of herbal tea can be produced at the varsity. After producing tea from Darjeeling and Assam, it is blended with the herbs collected from the Gandhamardan located at Paikamal in Bargarh district. "After collaborating with Sambalpur University, we have set up the production unit. An MoU has been signed in this regard," said Orchid Herbs Pvt Ltd Director Dibya Ranjan Sahoo.

# Ex-K'pada MLA Parida passes away

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Senior leader and former Kendrapada MLA Utkal Keshari Parida passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. He was 65. He wasn't keeping well for a long time.

Parida had forayed into politics as the President of Salipur College Students' Union in 1980-81. Later, he went on to become the Block Chairman of Derabish.

In the 2004 elections, he was elected as Kendrapada MLA as a candidate of the Odisha Gana Parishad (OGP). He was then appointed as district BJD president of Kendrapada



from 2019 to 2023. He was also unanimously elected as the vice-president of the Odisha Archery Association. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik and BJP national vice-president Bajjayant Panda, LoP expressed grief over Parida's demise.

# Arthroplasty Assn's 3-day annual conf in city

Demo of 9 high-end surgeries held  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 20th annual conference of the Indian Arthroplasty Association was inaugurated on October 18 which will continue till October 20 under the organising secretaryship of Dr Debabrata Padhy, Senior Consultant Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement Surgery, Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar.

This year's theme of the conference is "simplifying techniques and technologies". First time in the history of the association, a cadaveric preconference workshop on different techniques of joint replacement was conducted at KIMS, Bhubaneswar.

Demonstration of nine different high-end surgeries were made for training of surgeons who came from India and abroad. Out of over 600 doctors who participated, there



were almost more than 50 senior doctors who were giving the latest training.

On the occasion, president of IAA, Dr M Ajith Kumar from Mangalore emphasized the need of such academic programmes to enhance the quality of healthcare in the country especially in States like Odisha at an affordable price with development of indigenous implants and simple techniques. Incoming president, Dr Sanjeev Jain from Mumbai was also present.

Dr Tanmoy Mohanty, the organizing chairman of IAACON2024, spoke about

the importance of cadaveric workshop in training and sharpening the skills of the young surgeons. Dr Rakesh Rajput, vice president of IAA, Dr Biswajit Sahu and Dr Sunil Kumar Dash, organising co-chairmen, Dr Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra and Dr Sujit Tripathy, scientific chairmen, also put their opinions.

Padmashree Prof Dr KM Pathy, chief guest, highlighted the development in the field of joint replacement which has taken place in a big way in the last 5 decades. Next year's meeting will be at Lucknow.

# In Champua Tension after youth mowed down by trailer

PNS ■ CHAMPUPA

A person was killed after being hit by a trailer near the Basudevpur Health Centre on National Highway-520 under the Champua police station of Keonjhar district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Somanath Munda (22) of Belepadavillage. After the incident, tension gripped the area as locals blocked the NH demanding compensation for the family of the deceased. Vehicle movement was affected for some time on the busy

highway. Somanath Munda was going to the Basudevpur Health Centre when the speeding trailer hit him. He died on the spot. The driver of the trailer fled. Later, Champua PS IIC Abinash Parida and Barbil Tehsildar DS Joshi reached the spot and pacified the irate mob.

The road blockade was lifted after the family of the deceased received Rs 25,000 from the Red Cross Fund. Police arrested the driver of the trailer and sent the body for postmortem.

# Ex-SBI DM cracks NEET at 64, fulfils MBBS dream

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

All persons have a dream about their ideal career path. However, certain challenges in life and situations hinder them from pursuing their dream career path. There are a few individuals who fight back against all odds to attain their goals.

Here is the story of a man who has proved that it's never too late in life to pursue what you truly desire. Jay Kishore Pradhan, a retired employee of the State Bank of India (SBI), broke the stereotype and at the age of 64, he successfully cleared the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) in 2020. Pradhan had retired as a Deputy Manager from SBI. He embarked on a journey to achieve his dream of entering the medical field. He enrolled in an online coaching



programme for structured guidance through the complex curriculum.

Though Pradhan faced obstacles, including family life pressures and demands for studying for a highly competitive exam, he remained steadfast on his goals.

In 2020, Pradhan's hard work paid off and he cracked NEET. With this exemplary achievement, he earned a seat at the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR).

Pradhan proved that age is just a number; and with dedication one can chase his/her dream and flourish at any stage of life.

# Actor Buddhaditya lands in trouble

For remark 'Lawrence Bishnoi's next target should be Rahul Gandhi'  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

O llywood actor Buddhaditya Mohanty has landed in soup following his controversial social media post allegedly stating that Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should be the next target of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.



The State unit of the National Student Union of India (NSUI) has lodged a complaint against the 'Bye Bye Dubai' actor. The NSUI and the Congress accused Mohanty of inciting violence through his post and demanded strict action against

him. "An Odia actor Buddhaditya Mohanty through his Facebook post has said that Rahul Gandhi should be the next target of Lawrence Bishnoi. We condemn such thoughts against our leader. We will not allow him to walk on the road until and unless he apologises for his 'bizarre' remarks," said Chhatra Congress State president Udit Pradhan.

In a now-deleted Facebook post, Mohanty shared, "Germany had the Gestapo... Israel has the Mossad... USA has the CIA... now India has Lawrence Bishnoi... next in the list should be Owaisi and Rahul Gandhi." The actor immediately deleted the post and said he is ready to apologise. He stated that the Congressmen had misunderstood him and said, "I had only posted about the rumours doing the rounds on various social media platforms on Owaisi and Rahul Gandhi as his next possible targets. I only mentioned that Bishnoi is being compared to 'Gestapo', secret police in Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany and Mossad of Israel."

# Kalinga Lit Fest announces Odia Book Awards

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF), a platform for cultural and literary exchange, on Friday announced the introduction of the Odia Book Awards as part of its upcoming 11th edition.

As KLF prepares for its 2025 edition scheduled for March in Bhubaneswar, the festival takes a significant step toward celebrating the richness of regional literature by introducing the Odia Book Awards.

These awards aim to honour outstanding works in Odia across five categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, translation and children's literature. The awardees in each category would be given a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a citation and a shawl.

Founder and Director of Kalinga Literary Festival Rashmi Ranjan Parida said, "Odia literature holds a unique place in the cultural landscape of Odisha and these awards are a tribute to its richness." CEO and Patron of Kalinga Literary Festival Ashok Kumar Bal said, "The Odia Book Awards represent an important step towards our roots."

# OSSSC RI, Amin paper leak Aspirants seek intervention of Prez Murmu

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Aspirants of the OSSSC recruitment examination have protested over the alleged irregularities and paper leak, seeking President Droupadi Murmu's intervention. They accuse the Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC) of jeopardising their future due to mismanagement in the CRE-II and CRE-IV 2024 exams conducted by SIFY Technologies, previously black-listed for similar issues.

Resentment continued among OSSSC aspirants over the alleged paper leak and large-scale irregularities in the recently-concluded computer-based recruitment examination of RI/ARI/Amin/ICDS Supervisors/SFSs. Irate aspirants, after days of protest, sought the intervention of President Murmu on Saturday and demanded a



'foolproof recruitment examination system'. Aspirants flocked to a post office in Cuttack and wrote letters to the President. The aspirants accused the OSSSC of playing with the future of lakhs of youths.

As per the allegations, the exams were held at cyber cafes, mandaps and market complexes. Moreover, the exams were conducted by a

Tamil Nadu-based private company named SIFY Technologies which was blacklisted by the Central Government in 2022 in a paper leak case.

Meanwhile, the State Government through a press release assured that it would protect the students' rights in conducting a transparent examination. However, there have been no reports if there would be a re-examination.

# Progs in e-Drives, Battery Systems at IIT-BBS

As part of MoU between IIT-BBS REP, evACAD  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park, (IITBBS-REP) has signed a MoU with Nagpur based pManifold EV Academy Private Limited (evACAD) to collaborate in research, consulting and training in the New Energy areas of electric vehicles (EVs) and broader Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) and other related green technologies (like Hydrogen, CCUS) for multi-sectoral applications, leveraging both organisations' expertise.

As part of the MoU, both the organisations have agreed to pool their resources and initiate the partnership through



joint offerings of Advanced Certificate Programmes (postgraduate, diploma, short-term certificate) in e-Drives and Battery Systems, which is specifically designed to meet the needs of the modern automotive and e-mobility industry.

The MoU was signed between CEO, IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park Dr Soobhankar Pati and Chairman and MD,

pManifold EV Academy Private Limited Rahul Bagdia on October 16 in the presence of Director, IIT Bhubaneswar Prof Shreepad Karmalkar.

The Advanced Certificate Programme in e-Drives and Battery Systems, developed by IITBBS REP and evACAD, targets professionals and graduates seeking advanced expertise in electric vehicle design, focusing on motors, controllers, and battery engineering.

The curriculum covers EV design, energy storage, charging networks, supply chains, and sustainability. Delivered through a blend of live sessions, self-paced modules, hands-on labs, and industrial visits, it prepares learners for careers in e-mobility and energy storage.

A campus immersion at IIT Bhubaneswar offers practical learning, industry exposure, and networking. The

programme also features an optional end-of-course immersion for hands-on experience with startups like Archon Motors and Cellark Powertech, incubated at IIT Bhubaneswar REP. These and other IIT Bhubaneswar-based startups specializing in EV infrastructure and development will provide opportunities for live projects, ensuring students gain comprehensive, industry-ready experience.

# 6 bonded child labourers rescued in Jaipur

Were engaged to repay debts of parents

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The Jaipur district administration has rescued six children who were forced to work as bonded labourers to repay advances taken by their parents.

Acting on a tipoff, the authorities formed a special taskforce comprising the District Child Protection Officer

(DCPO), local police, revenue officials and members of the Vigilance Committee.

The taskforce conducted raids at multiple locations, including two car wash units, a grocery shop, a dhaba and a goat grazing site, where the children were found working in exploitative conditions.

These children, aged 11 to 14, had been forced into bonded labour to settle their families' debts, a practice that remains illegal but persists in many parts of the State.

The children used to work for over 14 hours a day with minimal pay and restricted movement to pay off the advance money received by their families. They were not allowed to work elsewhere until their outstanding debts were fully repaid.

Akash Purty, one of the rescued boys hailing from Jharkhand, narrated how the owner of the car washing facility had brought him to work after paying his father Rs 8,000.

"I was made to work from 7 am till 7 pm but not paid any salary. Weekly, the owner would pay me only Rs 50 which was nothing. I requested him several times to let me go to my home but he would verbally abuse me and ask me to return the advance if I wanted to go home," said Akash. The rescued children have been currently lodged in a shelter home and would undergo counselling and rehabilitation to facilitate their social mainstreaming, said the officials.

# Puri servitor axed for assaulting supervisor

PNS ■ PURI

Jagannath Temple Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee on Saturday suspended a servitor for allegedly attacking the temple supervisor following a dispute over sweets sale. The servitor along with his aide was detained by police.

The incident had occurred on Friday. The temple supervisor Baxi Ramachandra Pratihari recently ousted a number of non-servitors selling Rabi in the Ananda Ba-

zaar. Aggrieved by this, one of the servitors along with his aide attacked Pratihari, who sustained injuries and was admitted to the Puri District Headquarters Hospital. Puri Superintendent of Police Vineet Agrawal visited Pratihari at the hospital. "Such acts will not be tolerated in the temple premises. We have urged police to arrest the culprits," informed Chief Administrator Padhee. Notably, the Ananda Bazar is reserved exclusively for temple servitors to sell items.

# Musician Nayak gets Bhikari Bala Samman



At 39th Natraj Kumarotsav, Dhenkanal

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

Noted singer Sarat Nayak of Cuttack has received the prestigious Bhajan Samrat Bhikari Bala Samman in 39th Natraj Kumarotsav in Dhenkanal which was held in Dhenkanal on October 16 evening. Apart from Nayak, Sai Ansika Priyadarshini and Adishi Krishna Panda were awarded late mountaineer Kalpana Dash Sruti Samman and Guru Gangadhar Pradhan Smarak honour.

Senior scribes Manas Rath, Pradip Dash, Pradyumna Rath and Prasana Pattnaik were felicitated with Debashree Narada Samman during the occasion. The cultural festival Natraj Kumarotsav is ob-

served by Natraj Sangeet Mahavidyalaya on financial support of Union Ministry of Culture, Department of Odia Language and Culture, Sangeet Natak Akademy, New Delhi, Cultural Council, Dhenkanal and Dhenkanal Journalists Association.

District Collector Somesh Kumar Upadhyaya, SP Abhinav Sonkar, Municipality Chairperson Jayanti Patra, Executive Officer Sukanta Chandra Beura and former Minister Nabin Chandra Narayan Das graced the occasion as honourable guests. Natraj vice-president Pratima Sinha presided over the function. General Secretary Mahavir Prasad Tripathy read annual report. Nataraj Student and Guru Swapna Rani Sinha and her students from Angul performed a cultural programme.

# In Rourkela Railway JE tied, robbed of valuables



PNS ■ ROURKELA

Railway Junior Engineer (JE) was tied, gagged and held hostage by unidentified miscreants at Diesel Colony in Rourkela on Friday night.

As per a complaint, the masked miscreants threatened the Railway JE with murder and decamped with cash and valuables from his house.

According to sources, the victim Dilip Panda lives alone at his government quarters in Diesel Colony. As usual, he was asleep when the robbers barged into his house by breaking open his window grill.

Wearing masks and armed with sharp-edged weapons, the miscreants first tied up Panda using ropes and held him hostage in a room before looting all the cash, gold, silver and other valuables from the house.

They later fled leaving both his hands and legs tied. The matter came to the fore after a neighbour heard his scream for help and untied him. Being alerted, police rushed to the spot and launched a probe into the incident.

The recent surge in loot and robbery incidents has become a matter of serious concern in the Steel City.

# Talcher: 85 trucks fined for illegal parking



PNS ■ TALCHER

In a bid to streamline traffic and ease congestion, the Talcher police in a drive have fined nearly 85 trucks in a day for illegal truck parking.

Talcher Sub-Collector Sameer Ranjan Jena has emphasised strict enforcement of traffic rules to ensure safety. The area between Bankadhara Square and Chainpal has been declared a 'no parking' zone.

The action came in response to the growing concerns over traffic problems caused by trucks parked on the roads. The police have taken a firm stance by imposing hefty fines on trucks parked illegally on both sides of the road.

The authorities have announced that the drive would continue to maintain order on the roads.

The Sub-Collector said, "Traffic jam was a longstanding problem and the major reason behind taking this step. We will ensure that all traffic rules will be enforced strictly. The Collector had also ordered to solve the traffic problem since the main highway of Talcher passes through the municipality area."

"Truck drivers were parking their vehicles in the middle of the road. The Collector has declared the area as a 'no parking' zone," said Talcher SDPO Manas Ranjan Barik.

# Anaesthesiology has made lots of advancement over yrs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The evolution of anaesthesia over thousands of years has brought with it both advancements and myths that often cloud patients' understanding of the process.

As the world observed the Anaesthesia Day on October 16, Dr Amrita Panda, Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology at KIMS, emphasized the advancement in the field and modern safeguards to ensure patient safety and a swift recovery.

Dr Panda pointed out that while healthcare can be complex and susceptible to human error, today's anaesthesiologists are equipped with advanced technology to mitigate these risks.

"Modern monitoring equipment acts as 'unsleeping eyes,' allowing us to identify potential issues such as hypoxia early on," she explained. These sophisticated monitors track vital signs continuously, ensuring that any abnormalities are addressed promptly. The international standards for anaesthesia safety, developed by the International Task Force on Anaesthesia Safety,



guide practitioners in monitoring oxygenation, ventilation, circulation, and body temperature, she added.

With the advent of new anaesthesia machines and drugs, recovery times have significantly improved. "The introduction of short-acting opioids and advanced inhalation agents means patients experience less drowsiness and postoperative nausea," she added. Moreover, monitoring the depth of anaesthesia has become crucial in preventing intraoperative awareness.

Dr Panda also addressed

the common myths surrounding anaesthesia, such as the belief that it is universally dangerous or leads to long-term memory loss, loss of consciousness, lethal and that one can awake amid surgery. "These notions are outdated. Today, we utilize ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia, which has transformed the field and offers safe alternatives to general anaesthesia," she stated.

At KIMS, the Postgraduate Department of Anaesthesiology is well-equipped with the latest technology and protocols to en-

sure patient safety during surgery. "Drug doses are tailored to individual patients, and our Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) provides monitored care, allowing for safe and effective recovery," Dr Panda explained.

The team at KIMS, comprising doctors, nursing, and paramedical staff, is committed to delivering comprehensive, compassionate care. Dr Panda concludes, "We are dedicated to ensuring a safe and swift recovery for all our patients, dispelling myths and focusing on evidence-based practices."

# In Kendrapada Youth killed over past enmity; 4 detained

RAJESH BEHERA ■

Rajnar police on Saturday seized a mutilated body of a person from Kurunti-based cyclone shelter. The murder might be the fallout of past enmity and illicit liquor trade, suspect police sources.

The deceased person was identified as Rashmi Ranjan Parida (22) of Kurunti village under Rajnar police station. Around a dozen theft and miscellaneous cases are pending against the deceased person.

According to police sources, the deceased had an altercation with some tribal community persons of the lo-



cality. The father of the deceased on Friday night managed to settle the matter ami-

cably. Police also seized an axe and two kg of cannabis from the spot.

A sniffer dog squad and scientific team rushed to the spot to help the local police in the inquiry. Police registered a case based on the FIR of the deceased father.

Though the exact reason is yet to be ascertained, police suspect past enmity or illegal liquor and ganja trade might be the reason behind the murder of Parida. "We are conducting an inquiry by detaining four persons in the murder case. Though the exact reason is yet to be ascertained, police suspect past enmity or illegal liquor and ganja trade might be the reason behind the murder," stated SP Siddharth Kataria.

# Mancha candidate wins as Dhinkia Naib Sarpanch Again, BJD-backed candidates defeated

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The election for the Dhinkia Grama Panchayat Naib Sarpanch post was held on Thursday in which Dhinkia Swabhiman Mancha-supported candidate Pinki Das got elected as sarpanch on October 4 poll defeating her BJD-backed candidate Santilata Behera, and BJD-supported candidate Basanti Khatua. Santilata and Basanti remained in second and third positions respectively.

backing of 8.

Interestingly, BJD backed 6 ward members who got elected in the October 4 Panchayat election supported Mancha candidate Das, which led to his victory. The election for the Naib Sarpanch post was held in the presence of police and a Magistrate with heavy security arrangements.

Notably, Mancha-supported candidate Pinki Das got elected as sarpanch on October 4 poll defeating her BJD-backed candidate Santilata Behera, and BJD-supported candidate Basanti Khatua. Santilata and Basanti remained in second and third positions respectively.

In Ganjam

# 6 boys hurt in blast while making crackers

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

At least six minor boys sustained severe injuries in an explosion while making firecrackers in a house at Mankipur village under Khallikote block in Ganjam district on Saturday.

All the injured were rushed to the nearby hospital. Later, four of them were shifted to the MKCG Medical College Hospital in Brahmapur for advanced treatment as their conditions deteriorated.

As per reports, the boys were making firecrackers from gunpowder in an isolated house in the Nuasahi area of

the village at around 2.30 pm when a severe explosion occurred.

The explosion was so powerful that the asbestos roof and two walls of the house were blown up.

Getting information, police and a forensic team reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. A bomb squad was also roped in. As per sources, the minor boys were illegally manufacturing firecrackers at the house by collecting gunpowder for the upcoming Diwali festival. However, the cause of the explosion was yet to be ascertained.

# CRCIHSC at FM Univ Dedicated to conservation, research of horseshoe crabs

Horseshoe crabs are "living fossils" that have existed on earth for over 300 million years, much before even dinosaurs existed. With a dominant adaptation profile and a rich legacy of evolutionary success, horseshoe crabs remain an intriguing nature's spectacle in marine waters. With the existence of the species restricted to two distinct locations of the globe viz. in North America along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Maine to Mexico (Limulus polyphemus) to Southeast Asia (Tachyplesus tridentatus, Tachyplesus gigas and Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda), research for the conservation of the species has been given paramount importance. While L. polyphemus and T. tridentatus has been listed as vulnerable and endangered species, respectively, T. gigas and C. rotundicauda seen in the Indian coastal waters are listed



BHARAT BHUSAN PATNAIK

as 'data deficient' by International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Research focus has been directed on improving the scope of activities towards horseshoe crab conservation including cooperative efforts to protect their populations and habitats,

advocating public awareness of their importance in the study of evolution, marine coastal ecology, and biomedicine. T. gigas and C. rotundicauda have been found residing in the Eastern coasts of India particularly in the Sunderban estuary of West Bengal and all along the Baleswar and Bhadrak coastlines.

While fragmented efforts are available on Indian horseshoe crabs conservation by noted environmental agencies, trusts, and governmental scientific organizations, a comprehensive strategy to conservation and resource manipulation for biomedical uses need to be developed. Fakir Mohan University has setup the Center for Research and Conservation of Indian horseshoe crabs (CRCIHSC) envisioning the act of holistic approach on the species in the Baleswar and Bhadrak coasts. This stems from the earlier

scientific contributions and achievements including a DBT, Government of India project on the 'sea-ranching and stock enhancement of Indian horseshoe crabs and characterization of perivitelline fluid of its fertilized eggs for biomedical uses', few research papers in international scientific journals as an output from PhD and MPhil degrees. This is suggestive of the fact that Fakir Mohan University has sufficient exposure and expertise in the ex-situ conservation of Indian horseshoe crabs, wherein fertilised eggs collected from the wild were incubated under laboratory conditions and juveniles produced were released into the natural habitat. Further, the anti-bacterial activities of the peri-vitelline fluid against pathogenic bacterial strains were proved. With exposure on the research and extension activities on Indian horseshoe crabs, Fakir Mohan

University was able to create recognition within the horseshoe crab specialist groups both at the national and international level, rendering a consortium-level approach for its conservation and biomedical importance.

CRCIHSC @ Fakir Mohan University proclaims to work dedicatedly on the following objectives/goals towards sustainable conservation of Indian horseshoe crabs. This encompasses habitat mapping, population monitoring, breeding and nesting behavior, human impact assessment, associated epibiome and microfaunal diversity, predation analysis and climate change impacts.

To contribute for framing a molecular atlas for the species towards mining adaptation signatures significant in understanding evolutionary success of the species. This includes the availability of genetic markers

for studying polymorphism within species and closely related taxonomic groups.

To explore the resourceful properties of the blood and perivitelline fluid of eggs of the species for research, development and commercialization of biomedical-important materials. This could satisfy the BioE3-'Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment' policy of Government of India and give a boost to marine biotechnology initiatives of Science and Technology Department, Government of Odisha.

CRCIHSC @ Fakir Mohan University is central to understanding the responsible management of the keystone species. Already CRCIHSC @ Fakir Mohan University has supported the horseshoe crabs tagging project by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in collaboration with the Odisha

Forest Department in August this year to track their movements in coastal waters so as to be informed on their populations and make recommendations for restoring their populations through breeding approaches or by protecting the spawning grounds. Efforts are also ongoing to drive the biopharmaceutical/biomedical industry to become a driving force behind the conservation of the species and creating awareness within STEM students, local youths, and eco-tourism economies for setting environmental priorities for nature conservation and restoration.

(The author is Deputy Director, CRCIHSC & Head, Biosciences and Biotechnology,

Fakir Mohan University Nuapadhi, Baleswar- 756089) (With additional inputs from Prof Bisnu Prasad Dash Adjunct Professor Fakir Mohan University)

# PM Modi to inaugurate multiple projects in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay foundation stone of multiple airport projects worth over Rs 6,100 crore during his visit to Varanasi on Sunday. He will also inaugurate multiple development initiatives in Varanasi.

A statement by Prime Minister's Office (PMO) here on Saturday said he will visit Varanasi on Sunday. At around two PM he will inaugurate R J Sankara Eye Hospital. Thereafter, at around 4:15 PM, he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects in Varanasi.

The eye hospital will offer comprehensive consultations and treatments for various eye conditions. Prime Minister



will also address the gathering on the occasion. In line with his commitment to boost connectivity, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for expansion of airport runway and construction of a new terminal building and allied works of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi worth

around Rs 2,870 crore. He will also lay the foundation stone of New Civil Enclave at Agra airport worth more than Rs 570 crore, at Darbhanga airport worth around Rs 910 crore and at Bagdogra airport worth around Rs 1,550 crore. Prime Minister will inaugurate new terminal

buildings of Rewa Airport, Maa Mahamaya Airport, Ambikapur and Sarsawa Airport worth over Rs 220 crore. The combined passenger handling capacity of these airports will increase to more than 2.3 crore passengers annually. The designs of these airports are influenced and derived from the common elements of heritage structures of the region. In line with his vision to provide top-quality infrastructure for sports, Prime Minister will inaugurate Phases 2 and 3 of redevelopment of Varanasi Sports Complex worth over Rs 210 crore under Khelo India scheme and the Smart City Mission. The project aims to create a state-of-the-art sports complex featuring a National Centre of Excellence, players' hostels, sports science centre,

practice fields for various sports, indoor shooting ranges, combat sports arenas among others. He will also inaugurate 100-bed girls' and boys' hostels and a public pavilion at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Sports Stadium, Lalpur. Prime Minister will inaugurate tourism development works of Buddhism related areas in Sarnath. These enhancements include the construction of pedestrian-friendly streets, new sewer lines and upgraded drainage system, organised vending zone with modern designer vending carts to promote local handicraft vendors, among others. He will also inaugurate multiple other initiatives like tourism development works at Banasar Temple and Gurudham Temple, beautification and redevelopment of parks etc.

# Military leaders must embrace critical thinking and technological advancement: Rajnath Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday here called upon the military leaders to think critically, adapt to unforeseen circumstances and leverage latest technological advancements to gain a strategic advantage in today's ever-evolving geopolitical landscape. Addressing the MPhil Convocation ceremony of 62nd National Defence College (NDC) course (2022 batch), he urged the officers to become strategic thinkers who are capable of anticipating future conflicts, understanding global political dynamics and leading with both intelligence and empathy.

"Warfare, today, has surpassed the traditional battlefields and now operates in a multi-domain environment where cyber, space and information warfare are as critical as conventional operations. Cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns and economic warfare have become tools that can destabilise a whole nation without a single shot being fired. There is a need for military leaders to possess the ability to analyse complex problems and devise innovative solutions," Rajnath said.



He described the rapid technological advancements in today's times as the most crucial force which drives the evolution of a future-ready military. "From Drones and Autonomous Vehicles to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing, the technologies shaping modern warfare are evolving at a breath-taking pace. Our officers must understand these technologies and be able to harness them," he stated. The defence minister exhorted the defence officers

to carry-out in-depth analysis on how best to leverage niche technologies, such as AI, which has the potential to revolutionise military operations. He also stressed on the need to decide on the threshold level of the decisions AI is allowed to take, highlighting the importance of human intervention. Increasing reliance on AI in decision-making processes can raise concerns about accountability & the potential for unintended consequences, he said.

Rajnath underlined the need to stay prepared to tackle the possibility of adversaries weaponising the tools and technologies used by people on a daily basis. "The mere thought that our adversaries exploiting the tools serves as a reminder of the urgency with which we must prepare for these threats. Institutions like NDC must evolve their course curriculum to not only incorporate case studies on such unconventional warfare but also to drive strategic innovation. The ability to anticipate, adapt and respond will define our readiness in the face of ever-evolving challenges," he said.

On the aspect of ethical dilemma faced by military leaders about the extent to which machines should make life-and-death decisions, the defence minister said academic learning in ethics, philosophy and military history will provide officers with the tools to handle the sensitive subject and make sound decisions. He highlighted the critical role played by defence academic institutions, such as NDC, in instilling the moral framework in future leaders to deal with the challenges of present-day warfare. He urged the officers to have a firm grasp of geopolitics, international relations and the complexities of global security alliances, as the decisions made by them can have far-reaching consequences that extend beyond the battlefield and into the realm of diplomacy, economics and international law.

Rajnath added that the curriculum of academic institutions must remain dynamic and adaptable to ensure its relevance to practitioners in the field. He described the challenges of modern warfare, ethical dilemmas, and strategic leadership as not just topics for reflection, but the foundation upon which the future of India's national security will be built. Emphasising that learning must be a continuous process not confined to the duration of a course, he suggested the introduction of online, short-term modules on critical subjects to extend the reach and impact of NDC.

Defence Secretary-designate R K Singh, Commandant NDC Air Marshal Hardeep Bains, Registrar, University of Madras Professor S. Elumalai, senior officers of Ministry of Defence and faculty members of NDC were present on the occasion.

# AIIA protocols focusing on breast cancer



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Protocols focusing on integrative management strategies for breast cancer, comparative organoleptic profiling of herbs, and standard guidelines for labor and post-natal care through ayurveda were key highlights of discussion at the three-day global event by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) here that was concluded on Saturday.

The initiative seeks to validate and adapt ancient wisdom to address contemporary health challenges so as to explore and integrate these time-tested practices into modern healthcare solutions.

On the last day of the international conference, 'Advancements of Research & Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda - AROHA-2024', Prof. (Dr.) Tanuja Nesari, Director AIIA, said the event represents a milestone in the global recognition and integration of Ayurveda into modern healthcare systems.

"Our collaborations with esteemed institutions worldwide and the exchange of knowledge during this conference will undoubtedly drive new innovations and opportunities in Ayurvedic research and practice," she added.

The event successfully brought together some of the brightest minds from around the world to discuss and advance the role of Ayurveda in addressing global health challenges.

# Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar is NCW's ninth chairperson

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed the ninth chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) succeeding Rekha Sharma, according to an official order.

The appointment made under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, will be for a period of three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first, a government notification issued on Saturday said.

Rahatkar's tenure will begin with immediate effect. The announcement will also be published in the Gazette of India.

In addition to the appointment of Rahatkar,



Archana Majumdar has been officially named a member of the NCW for a tenure of three years, as per a notification issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The NCW, a statutory body, is empowered to work towards the advancement of women's

rights. Its mandate includes reviewing the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women. According to a statement issued by the Union Women and Child Development Ministry, Rahatkar has demonstrated leadership skills across various political

and social responsibilities. During her tenure as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (2016-2021), she spearheaded initiatives like "Sakshama" (support for acid attack survivors), "Prajwala" (linking self-help groups to Central government schemes), and "Suhita" (a 24x7 helpline service for women). She also worked on legal reforms focusing on issues like Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), anti-triple talaq cells, and anti-human trafficking units. Rahatkar also introduced digital literacy programmes and launched a publication named "Saad" dedicated to women's issues.

# ED raided YSRCP MP and others in money laundering probe

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday raided the premises of former YSRCP MP and Telugu film producer M V V Satyanarayana and some others in Andhra Pradesh as part of a money laundering probe linked to a land grab case, official sources said.

At least five locations in Visakhapatnam, including that of the former MP and an auditor, were being raided by the officials of the federal agency, they said.

The agency officials collected some documents during the raids, according to the sources.

Satyanarayana, a YSRCP MP from 2019 to 2024, unsuccessfully contested the Andhra Pradesh Assembly polls earlier this year from Visakhapatnam East seat. He has produced a number of Telugu films.

The money laundering case stems from a Visakhapatnam police FIR filed against Satyanarayana and others on June 22 for allegedly grabbing government land meant for building a residential facility for senior citizens and orphans.



The complainant in the police case is Ch Jagadeeswarudu who said he and his wife were promoters of Haigreeva Infratech Projects Ltd., a company which was registered in April 2006.

He said they were given 12.51 cents of land in Yendada village by the Andhra Pradesh government in 2008 to build homes for senior citizens and orphans.

Jagadeeswarudu told police that he engaged an auditor named G Venkateswara Rao, who in turn introduced him to Satyanarayana and a man named Gadde Brahmaji for developing the government-

mandated project on the said land. An MoU was signed between them in 2020 but Jagadeeswarudu alleged that his and his wife's signatures were "fabricated" by the accused and they had made them sign blank papers leading to "misappropriation" of the documents. He told police this was a "criminal conspiracy" to "grab" his land and the accused had "threatened" them with dire consequences. The ED is looking at these allegations and hence the searches are being conducted, the sources said.

# Enforcement Directorate issues new guidelines for summons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has issued a fresh circular directing its officials or Investigating Officers (IOs) to not question people called on summons at "unearthly" hours and not keep them waiting for hours at their office. The technical circular was issued on October 11 after the Bombay High Court directed ED to issue directives in this context as it took up the petition of a person who was summoned by the ED and "detained overnight and interrogated."

The HC found that the 64-year-old petitioner was summoned to the ED office for questioning and was kept waiting post mid-night. Recording of his statement, at unearthly hours, "definitely results in deprivation of a person's sleep, basic human right of an individual", it said. The court said it "disapproved" of such a practice by the agency and directed it to issue a circular or directive to its IOs regarding timing and



recording of statement of people following issuance of summons under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED subsequently informed the court that it has issued a fresh technical circular on October 11 in this context. The circular said that the authorised officer or IO of the ED "shall be well prepared with copies of documents to be confronted as well as questionnaire to examine the person summoned at appointed date and time". The IO, while fixing the date and time of the compliance of the summons, should ensure that the person so summoned is taken up for examination on appointed time and date without keeping him waiting for hours, said the circular.

The circular added that considering the nature of money laundering offence, where a person can transfer or conceal the proceeds of crime or destroy digital evidence in short time using online tools or by using mobile phone or other digital media, the IO "shall endeavour to conclude the examination of the person summoned expeditiously, ideally on the same day or the following day".

"This approach may minimize the opportunity to the person summoned either to transfer or conceal proceeds of crime or to fabricate make believe and concocted explanations," it said. The circular added that the IO should be made to record statement of person summoned during "earthly hours", which is during office hours rather than stretching it too late at night.

It added examination of senior citizens, persons with serious medical condition, sick or infirm (subject to verification of medical records or condition), should be "restricted" to earthly hours and that it would be "appropriate to adjourn the

examination to next date or any other mutually agreed date as a matter of practice". In exceptional circumstances, the circular said, where the IO has "credible" information or material that the person if allowed to leave without completion of examination will either alienate proceeds of crime or destroy evidence or past conduct of person summoned or abscond or may not join investigation, the IO may record the statement "beyond earthly hours" after recording such reason on case file and taking approval of a senior officer. The HC bench of Justice Prithviraj K Chavan and Justice Revati Mohite Dere asked the ED to put up this circular on its website and X handle in its final order issued while disposing off the petition on October 14. The ED has power to question people linked to a case investigation and accused under the PMLA, the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

# BJP government is 'anti farmer' : Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the Narendra Modi government of being "anti-farmer" and alleged that neither is adequate procurement being done nor are farmers getting fair price for their produce.

AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a post of X, alleged that the policies of the "non-biological prime minister" have been anti-farmer since he assumed power in 2014.

"Neither is adequate procurement taking place nor are farmers getting fair prices, nor is there any legal guarantee of MSP (minimum support price)," Ramesh said, alleging that the "deception, fraud and cheating" done by this government with the farmers stand exposed. Congress' media coordinator

Abhay Dubey alleged that the way the Modi government has "mistreated" farmers in the last 10 years, this has made it clear that "Narendra Modi is anti-farmer". "Our demand farmers should get legal guarantee of MSP. The support price for soybean crops of farmers of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh should be fixed at least at Rs 6,000. "If the support price for this crop is fixed at Rs 6,000, then the difference amount should also be deposited in the accounts of those farmers who have already sold their crop for less. PM Modi should consider the formality of declaring the support price," Dubey told reporters. He claimed that one of the first decisions taken by the Modi government after coming to power was that if the state government gives a bonus of Rs 150 to farmers



on MSP on paddy and wheat, they will stop buying grains on MSP. In the second decision, he said, the BJP government brought three ordinances to trample the law brought by the Congress government on fair compensation for farmers' land. In the third decision, the Modi

government gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying if farmers are given a support price of 50 per cent of the cost, the market would collapse, he said. Narendra Modi said in a rally that 'we are bringing the world's best crop insurance scheme', but the

result was that this scheme became a profit-making scheme for private companies," he alleged. Dubey claimed that a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee has made a shocking revelation that the then agriculture minister Narendra Tomar was writing letters to Narendra Modi since 2017 to remove GST on agricultural equipment but the Modi government never took cognisance of it. "Now the Modi government has announced the support price for the Rabi season but every time neither adequate procurement is done nor is there any legal guarantee of the support price. That means in the last 10 years, the Modi government has always beaten the farmers with sticks and hit them hard," he said.

# Nari shakti blessings inspire PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that blessings from women inspire him to keep working to build a developed India, after a BJP leader shared a story of a tribal woman who insisted on giving Rs 100 to convey her gratitude to Modi.

Sharing pictures, BJP vice president Baijayant Jay Panda said in a social media post that he met the tribal woman during the party's membership drive in Odisha's Sundargarh district.

"This Adivasi lady insisted on giving me Rs 100 to 'convey thanks' to PM Narendra Modi. She brushed aside my demurrals & explanations that it wasn't necessary, &



simply would not take no for an answer until I finally relented. "This is a reflection of the transformation that Odisha & Bharat is experiencing," he said in his post. Modi responded, "Very touched by this affection. I bow to our Nari Shakti for always blessing me. Their blessings inspire me to keep working to build a Viksit Bharat."

# Please give up hunger strike: Mamata appeals to junior doctors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday appealed to the junior doctors protesting the rape and murder of their colleague at R G Kar Hospital to end their fast-unto-death, stating that most of their demands have been addressed while rejecting their insistence on removing the state health secretary. Speaking to the doctors over the phone during a visit by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Home Secretary Nandini Chakraborty to the protest site in Esplanade, Banerjee said, "Everybody has the right to protest, but it shouldn't affect healthcare services. I would request you all to withdraw your fast."

The junior doctors have been demanding the removal of the state Health Secretary Narayan

Swaroop Nigam, besides addressing other issues. In response, Banerjee acknowledged their frustration but said, "You know why I did not remove the health secretary. It is not possible to remove everybody in a department in one go. We had earlier removed the DHS and DME. Please rise above politics and rejoin work." "How can you decide which officer will be removed or not? Is this logical?" she questioned. The junior doctors have been on a fast-unto-death for two weeks, demanding justice for their deceased colleague and calling for systemic changes in the state's healthcare infrastructure. So far, six doctors on hunger strike have been hospitalised due to deteriorating health, while eight others remain on an indefinite fast, demanding that the state government take constructive action by October 21

to resolve the deadlock. The Chief Minister stressed that the doctors should withdraw their strike and meet her at state secretariat Nabanna on Monday to further discuss their demands. "I have removed the Commissioner of Police (CP), the Director of Medical Education (DME), and the Director of Health Services (DHS), but I cannot remove everyone in the department," Banerjee explained. "Some of your demands need policy decisions. We will cooperate to the fullest extent possible, but it is not acceptable that you will dictate to the government what should be done," she asserted. She appealed to their sense of responsibility, emphasising the impact the strike was having on healthcare services in the state. "People are dependent on you for treatment. Where will the



poor people go? They are treated free in government hospitals. Please forget my position and treat me as your 'Didi'. These are your just demands, but you should serve the people," she urged. The agitating doctors, who have been joined by their colleagues across the state, have also threatened to escalate the protest by organising a strike of all medical professionals in West Bengal on October 22 if their demands were not met. Moreover, they are in discussions with their counterparts in other states about holding a countrywide strike on Tuesday, further intensifying the pressure on the West Bengal government. The demands of the junior doctors include justice for their deceased colleague, whom they believe was failed by the sys-

tem. They are seeking accountability and a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident. Banerjee reassured them that the case is being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), saying, "I hope that CBI will bring you justice." The doctors are also calling for systemic reforms to improve workplace safety in medical institutions. In addition to the removal of Health Secretary Nigam, which the chief minister has so far resisted, the junior doctors are also demanding the holding of elections in medical colleges. Banerjee acknowledged this demand but asked for more time, citing the upcoming Diwali celebrations and by-elections in the state. "Please give me three to four months, which are needed to hold the student elections," she said. While the chief minister has

promised to address most of their concerns within three to four months, the doctors remain firm in their demand for immediate action. A mega rally is planned for Sunday to further press their demands, and the threat of a statewide and potentially nationwide strike looms on October 22 if no resolution is reached. Banerjee said her government has taken some steps to address the doctors' grievances. She pointed out that Rs 113 crore had been allocated for the upgradation of health infrastructure in the state, including 43 multi-specialty hospitals, but more doctors are needed to staff these facilities. She also assured the doctors that steps have been taken to enhance security and protection for healthcare workers at their workplaces. "Please restore normalcy and

we will cooperate to the fullest extent possible. It is up to you whether you want to restore normalcy or not," she said, urging the doctors to return to work while their demands are being addressed. "Some of your demands require policy decisions, but they cannot be implemented overnight. Please rise above politics and think about the people who depend on you for their treatment," Banerjee said in her closing appeal to the doctors. The junior doctors went on a 'cease-work' following the alleged rape-murder of their fellow medic at R G Kar hospital on August nine. The hunger strike began on October five, following nearly 50 days of 'cease work' in two phases, after the tragic rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee inside state-run R G Kar Medical College on August nine.

## With focus on dalits, backwards, Yogi holds meeting to strategise for UP bypolls

BISWAJEER BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a crucial meeting at his residence to discuss the upcoming by-elections for nine assembly seats in the state. The meeting included ministers in charge of each of the ten constituencies and other cabinet ministers. It is anticipated that discussions during the meeting will focus on the party's candidates for these by-elections. Previously, CM Yogi Adityanath appointed three ministers in charge for each seat, making a total of thirty officials participating in this strategic meeting. The by-elections for the nine seats are scheduled for November 13. However, the election for the Milkipur seat in Ayodhya is pending due to an ongoing



petition. According to sources, a key agenda of the meeting is how to attract support from Dalits and other backward communities for the upcoming elections. There will also be an emphasis on effectively communicating the government's welfare schemes to these groups.

the Chief Minister, we will fight the elections with full force. The tenth seat will also be declared soon, and we are confident of winning all seats." Cabinet Minister Rakesh Sachan added, "The election dates have been announced, and we aim to secure victory in all nine constituencies. Our instructions are clear—convey the government's initiatives to the public with greater strength." State Minister KP Malik echoed similar sentiments, saying, "We discussed the by-elections, and directions have been issued to ensure victory on all nine seats." Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak highlighted the government's broader vision, stating, "The meeting was held for the comprehensive development of Uttar Pradesh, focusing on strengthening the state's law

and order as well as progress in various sectors." Minister Ashish Patel emphasized the importance of the meeting, saying, "Today's meeting centered on the by-elections, and we are determined to win all nine seats." In addition to the by-elections, the Uttar Pradesh government has initiated preparations for the state's 2025-26 budget. The Finance Department has issued directives to draft budget estimates, requesting a maximum of five key points from each department. These points should highlight the state government's policies, priorities, flagship schemes, notable achievements, and new initiatives. Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Deepak Kumar has issued these guidelines to ensure a comprehensive budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

## Sea phase of MALABAR 2024 concludes at Visakhapatnam: Navy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The sea phase of MALABAR 2024 concluded on Friday at Visakhapatnam, navy said here on Saturday. This edition of MALABAR, witnessed participation of warships with their integral helicopters, long range maritime patrol aircraft and submarine. Units participated in complex and advanced exercises in the domains of surface, sub-surface and air warfare. Major exercises included surface weapon firings, anti-air shoots, air defence exercises, anti-submarine warfare exercises, extensive operations of ship borne helicopters, seamanship evolutions including fueling from tankers and maritime inter-



operations. MALABAR 2024 Sea Phase serves as a testament to the commitment of participating nations towards enhancing understanding, collaboration and engagement in the maritime domain as the world grapples with increasingly complex maritime security challenges. The sea phase culminated with a closing ceremony that included a review of operational aspects of the sea phase and enabled all participating navies to interact and exchange views by sharing experiences and best practices.

## Don't give communalists room to create issue at Sabarimala temple: UDF

PTI ■ WAYANAD

The opposition UDF on Saturday urged the Left government in Kerala not to give any room for communalists to create an issue at the famous Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple during the upcoming pilgrimage season. While addressing reporters here, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheshan said the hill shrine has been witnessing heavy rush as it opened on the first day of Malayalam month of Thulam for monthly pujas and rituals. He said the pilgrims had to queue up for seven hours for darshan and the government didn't make any arrangements there, including providing drinking water or deploying adequate police personnel. The opposition had already issued a warning in the state Assembly in this regard recently, he said. Last year, the number of virtual queue booking was 90,000 per day and the spot booking was 15,000, the LoP pointed out. This year, a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan



had limited this to 80,000 only per day, he said. Urging the government not to create a situation in which devotees have to go back without having darshan at the Lord Ayyappa Temple due to restrictions, Satheshan asked the CM not to "mess up" the Sabarimala pilgrimage as had happened in Thrissur Pooram in April this year. The disruption of various rituals during the Pooram day had triggered a political row in the state recently. Noting that the UDF does not want Sabarimala to be a topic of controversy again, the LoP also urged the government not to

## Derogatory language against women has no place in courtrooms: CJI

PTI ■ PANAJI

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said all forms of derogatory language, particularly against women, have no place in courts, noting that insensitive words can perpetuate stereotypes and may disproportionately affect women and marginalised communities. The CJI referred to complaints from women judicial officers about the use of derogatory language by some members of the administrative establishment towards women. Addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the North Goa District Courts Complex near Panaji, the CJI said, "We must actively work to dismantle all barriers to have truly democratic access to justice." "As we strive for inclusivity within our courtrooms, the language which we use must reflect our ethos. We must be vigilant in our choice of words ensuring that our language is not only precise but also respectful and inclusive," the CJI said.



He said the insensitive or dismissive language can perpetuate stereotypes and may disproportionately affect women and marginalised communities. "Very often, I hear the complaint from women judicial officers that some members of the administrative establishment use derogatory language towards women," the CJI said, adding that all forms of derogatory language, particularly towards women, must have no place in our courts at all. The CJI said the language

used in courtrooms should reflect inclusivity, respect, and empowerment. "This involves re-examining our legal lexicon and ensuring that it does not reinforce stereotypes based on gender, caste or social economic status," the CJI said. CJI Chandrachud said the Supreme Court has prepared a handbook on gender to make people aware of gender stereotypes used in discourse in our courts. He further said that members of the bench, particularly judicial officers at the district

level, must remember the thumb rule of uplifting the legal discourse. "The litigants come before the court with a sense of trust and a sense of vulnerability; practices within the court should uplift legal discourse rather than undermining the dignity, often the faith.... Future of the individual is in your hands," the CJI noted. He said another crucial step to democratising legal access is ensuring that judgements and orders are available in all regional languages. "I am glad to inform you that the Supreme Court (orders) are also being translated into Konkani. That process has to be expedited. I am sure the chief justice of the Bombay High Court will ensure that the judgements of the Bombay HC are also translated into a language that the people of the state can understand," he added. The CJI observed that the idea of a "conscientious court" lies at the heart of the judicial system which is acutely aware of societal realities and multifaceted difficulties encountered by those

seeking justice, reflecting the idea of a conscious court. Mentioning the redesigning of the statue of the Lady of Justice, the CJI stressed the law is not blind and that it views everyone equally. "The Lady of Justice in the Supreme Court does not carry a sword but instead carries with her the Constitution of India, a document which has the transformative power to break the bonds of social hierarchies and inequalities," he said. The blindfold of the statue which meant impartiality has been removed, the CJI said. "After all, the law is not blind. It views everyone equally and is equally aware of social realities. The equality of the law is not a formal sense of equality but substantive recognising that offers security," he said. CJI Chandrachud further said that equality is rooted in an understanding of historical disadvantages, privileges, and certain communities. "Every individual who walks through the doors of our courts brings his own experiences, struggles, and hopes," the CJI added.

## Andhra CM restarts CRDA project works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday restarted the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) project works here. The works at Rayapudi village in the capital region were restarted after a hiatus of five years, following the erstwhile YSRCP government abandoning Naidu's 'dream project'. Later, addressing a press conference at the CRDA office at Rayapudi village, the chief minister said that the cost of Amaravati capital city project rose by Rs 7,000 crore in the past five years to reach Rs 52,000 crore now. The tenders for 55 capital city works, which were called at Rs 42,519 crore between 2014 and 2019 got inflated by Rs 7,000 crore due to the alleged interruption caused by the previous YS Jagan Mohan



Reddy-led government between 2019 and 2024, he said. "Because all those (capital) works got stalled, we are making new estimates. Because of their (YSRCP government's) deeds, the financial burden has increased by Rs 7,000 crore to Rs 52,000 crore. We will start the works with Rs 52,000 crore," the Chief Minister said. Naidu noted that the banks

CRDA office could start functioning in four months' time and all regions of the state would be developed along with Amaravati. Noting that Amaravati would be a 'self-financing' city, Naidu said some more land would be left in the 54,000 acre greenfield capital city after developing it. Calling Amaravati a 'capital of goddesses', the CM said the city will have wide roads, underground power lines and underground water pipelines through ducts. The TDP chief said the centrally located Amaravati will emerge as a green energy hub equipped with electric vehicle charging stations, and other environmental friendly features. Highlighting that work in the greenfield capital is going apace, Naidu reminded officials that they only have three years' time to bring out a proper tangible structure to Amaravati.

## Death toll in hooch tragedy rises to 37 in Bihar, two more succumb to spurious liquor

PTI ■ PATNA

Two more persons died after allegedly consuming spurious liquor, raising the toll in the hooch tragedy in the dry Bihar to 37, an official said on Saturday. The latest deaths were reported from Baikunthpur in the Gopalganj district which shares border with Siwan and Saran districts, he said. "As far as the death toll of Siwan and Saran is concerned, it's 35. It has not increased further. Now the total toll in all three districts under Saran range is 37," Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Nilesh Kumar told PTI. Twenty-eight people died in Maghar and Auriya panchayats in the Siwan district, while seven people died in Ibrahimpur in the Mashrakh police station area of Saran district after allegedly consuming spurious liquor.



Over 25 people from the two districts are still battling for their lives at different hospitals in Siwan, Saran and Patna districts, officials said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, and the exact cause for the deaths can only be known after receiving the reports, the DIG said. Following the incident, the opposition RJD questioned the efficacy of the ban on the sale and consumption of liquor,

imposed by the Nitish Kumar government in 2016. "Liquor ban is the biggest corruption of Nitish Kumar-led government in Bihar. In Bihar, a parallel economy of about Rs 30,000 crore is being run in the form of illegal business in the name of liquor (ban), the direct benefit of which is going to the JD(U) party and its leaders," leader of the opposition Tejashwi Yadav alleged. "The CM took every measure

to ensure that the consumption of liquor increases in dry Bihar. According to the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS), despite prohibition in Bihar, more people drink alcohol in Bihar than in Maharashtra. Currently, 15.5 percent people consume alcohol in Bihar. In comparison, in Maharashtra, where there is no prohibition, the percentage of people drinking alcohol is just 13.9 percent," he said in a post on X. Yadav said more than 400 people are arrested in alcohol-related cases every day in the state, and about 6,600 raids are conducted daily. "This means on average 275 raids are conducted every hour. This means that Bihar Police and the prohibition department conduct raids at about 2 lakh places every month and 24 lakh places every year, but even after this, the illegal liquor business continues unabated," he said.

# Drone targets Netanyahu's house as strikes in Gaza kill 50

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli government said a drone targeted the prime minister's house Saturday, though there were no casualties, as Iran's supreme leader vowed Hamas would continue its fight following the killing of the mastermind of last year's deadly October 7 attack. Sirens wailed in Israel warning of incoming fire from Lebanon. The military said dozens of projectiles were launched. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the drone targeted his house in the Mediterranean coastal town of Caesarea, though neither he nor his wife were home. The barrage comes as Israel considers its expected response to an Iranian attack earlier this month and presses its offensives against Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. In Gaza, Israeli forces fired at hospitals in the battered northern part of the Palestinian enclave, and strikes in the strip killed more than 50 people, including children, in less than 24 hours, according to hospital officials and an Associated Press reporter there. In September, Yemen's Houthi rebels launched a ballistic mis-

sile toward Ben Gurion Airport when Netanyahu's plane was landing. The missile was intercepted. **Barrages from Lebanon target northern Israel:** In addition to the drone launched at Netanyahu's private residence, Israel's military said some 55 projectiles were fired in two separate barrages at northern Israel from Lebanon on Saturday morning. A 50-year-old man was killed after being hit by shrapnel while sitting in his car in northern Israel, and four people were injured, Israel's medical services said. Israel's war with Lebanon's Hezbollah — a Hamas ally backed by Iran — has intensified in recent weeks. Hezbollah said Friday that it planned to launch a new phase of fighting by sending more guided missiles and exploding drones into Israel. The militant group's longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in late September, and Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon earlier in October. Israel also said Saturday it killed Hezbollah's deputy commander in the southern town of Bint Jbeil. The army said Nasser Rashid supervised attacks against Israel. In Lebanon, the health ministry



Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday. AP/PTI

said an Israeli airstrike Saturday hit a vehicle on a main highway north of Beirut, killing two people. It was unclear who was in the car when it was struck. **Israeli strikes pound Gaza as Hamas rejects hostage release:** A standoff is also ensuing between Israel and Hamas, which it's fighting in Gaza, with both signalling resistance to ending the war after the death of Hamas' leader Yahya Sinwar this week. On Friday, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Sinwar's death was a painful loss but noted that Hamas carried on despite the killings of other Palestinian militant leaders before him. "Hamas is alive and will stay alive," Khamenei said in his first comments on the killing. Since Israel claimed Sinwar's

death Thursday, confirmed by a top Hamas official Friday, Hamas has reiterated its stance that the hostages taken from Israel a year ago will not be released until there is a ceasefire in Gaza and a withdrawal of Israeli troops. The staunch position pushed back against a statement by Netanyahu that his country's military will keep fighting until the hostages are released, and will remain in Gaza to prevent a severely weakened Hamas from rearming. Sinwar was the chief architect of the 2023 Hamas raid on Israel that killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapped another 250. Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish combatants from civilians but say more than half the dead are women and children. More strikes pounded Gaza on Saturday. The Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement that Israeli strikes hit the upper floors of the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahiya, and that forces opened fire at the hospital's building and its courtyard, causing panic among patients and medical staff.

At Al-Awda hospital in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza, strikes hit the building's top floors, injuring several staff members, the hospital said in a statement. Three houses in Jabaliya were struck overnight Friday, killing at least 30 people, more than half of them women and children, said Fares Abu Hamza, head of the health ministry's ambulance and emergency service. At least 80 people were injured. In central Gaza, at least 10 people were killed, including two children, when a house was hit in the town of Zawayda, according to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, where the casualties were taken. Another strike killed 11 people, all from the same family, in the Maghazi refugee camp, the same hospital said. Associated Press journalists counted the bodies from both strikes at the hospital. The strikes knocked out internet networks in northern Gaza, said Paltel, the Palestinian communications company, on Facebook Saturday. The war has destroyed vast swaths of Gaza, displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people, and left them struggling to find food, water, medicine and fuel.

# Putin plans to end dominance of US dollar

PTI ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the multinational BRICS group should explore a SWIFT-like cross-border payments system immune to Western sanctions as well as use national digital currencies in financing investment projects to end US dollar dominance. Ahead of the 16th annual summit of leaders of BRICS to be hosted by Russia, Putin also said the time has not come yet for a common BRICS currency but added that the 10-nation bloc is exploring the use of digital currency for which his country is working with India and other nations. Russia, which was slapped with sweeping sanctions by the US and its allies in the aftermath of the conflict with Ukraine that erupted in February 2022, wants to circumvent the global financial system by creating a new payments system based on a network of commercial banks linked to each other through the BRICS central banks. Advocating a cautious approach in creating a new reserve currency due to differences in the structure and quality of the economies of the BRICS member states, Putin said these countries should focus on the use of the national currencies, new financial instruments and the creation of an analogue of SWIFT. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the summit in the Tatarstan city of Kazan on October 22 and 23. It will also be the first ever summit of the grouping after its expansion with the entry of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are the original members of the BRICS. "At this point of time it (a BRICS currency) is a long term prospect. It is not under consideration. BRICS will be cautious and act gradually, move slowly. The time has not come yet," Putin told a select group of senior editors from the BRICS member states at a media interaction on Friday at his official residence in Novo-Ogaryovo, about 50 km from Moscow. The Russian strongman's remarks came in reply to a question about plans by the BRICS — a grouping conceived as a geopolitical and geo-economic counterweight to the West — to create a reserve cur-

rency. Replying to a question, Putin said the BRICS was now studying the possibility of expanding the use of the national currencies and creation of instruments that would make such work safe. In particular, the BRICS states were considering the possibility of using electronic instruments, he added. "We are looking into the possibility of expanding the use of national currencies and settlements, and want to establish the tools that would make this safe and secure enough." Putin said the grouping will have to come up with a toolkit that will be under the supervision of the respective BRICS institutions. "It may be another very good step in the development of the Global South with our direct active engagement. We will be talking about that during the (Kazan) summit. We are already in consultations with the Chinese and the Indian friends with the Brazilians. Also, we have had a round of consultations with South Africa." On a potential BRICS reserve currency, Putin said the member states needed to work gradually without haste. "Considering their population the BRICS economies in terms of structure should be comparable and more or less equal. Otherwise, we will face even bigger issues than those that occurred in the European Union (EU) for one when a single currency was introduced to the countries whose economies were not comparable and not equal. So it is a long term prospect," he said. The Russian president also underlined the need for establishing relations between the central banks and to ensure reliable exchange of financial information that is independent of those international instruments of international information exchange that introduce "certain restrictions for political reasons and violate the principles of global economy." He said he was referring to the formation in BRICS of an analogue of SWIFT, something that "ensures international settlements." SWIFT provides the main messaging network through which international payments are initiated. Putin mentioned that Russia, along with other BRICS members, has already been working on a SWIFT-like financial messaging system and the use of national digital currencies in financing high-growth investment projects.

# UN expands arms embargo on Haiti to all types of arms

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council voted unanimously Friday to expand the arms embargo in Haiti to all types of weapons and ammunition, expressing grave concern at the extremely high levels of gang violence and criminal activities in the impoverished Caribbean nation. The resolution authorizes the 193 UN member nations to take "appropriate steps to prevent the illicit trafficking and diversion of arms and related materiel in Haiti." UN experts have said increasingly sophisticated weapons that end up in the hands of gang members and criminals are being trafficked from the US, especially from Florida. The resolution also extends a travel ban and asset freeze on individuals on the UN sanctions blacklist for a year. In late September, the council committee monitoring sanctions on Haiti added two people to the list, which included five gang leaders. One was Elan Luckson, leader of the Gran Grif gang, which killed at least 115 people in the town of Pont-Sondé in the Artibonite region next to the capital in early October in one of the biggest massacres in Haiti in recent history. The other was Victor Prophane, a former member of the Haitian parliament accused of being involved in arms trafficking. The power of gangs in Haiti has grown since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, and they are now estimated to control up to 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince. They also have moved into surrounding areas. The surge in killings, rapes and kidnappings has led to a violent uprising by civilian vigilante groups. The Security Council voted unanimously in early October to extend the mandate of the Kenya-led multinational force trying to help the Haitian

National Police quell the gangs. The leaders of Kenya and Haiti last week urged international partners to honor their commitment to the UN-backed force in Haiti, saying the mission needs more resources and that its budget will run out in March 2025. Kenyan President William Ruto, who met with Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille in Nairobi a week ago, said Kenya would deploy 600 additional officers next month to join the 400 officers already in the country. Nearly two dozen police officers and soldiers from Jamaica are also in Haiti, but the numbers fall significantly short of the 2,500 pledged by various countries, including Chad, Benin, Bangladesh and Barbados, for the mission. The council resolution adopted Friday, co-sponsored by Ecuador and the United States, also encourages the Haitian government to reinforce the management of police weapons, ammunition as well as seized arms and "to strengthen border and customs control to curb illicit trafficking and diversion." It extends the panel of experts monitoring the implementation of sanctions for 13 months. Ecuador's political coordinator, Irina Barba Bustos, told the council after the vote that sanctions are part of the comprehensive response that is essential to address the crisis in Haiti and promote a political solution and a peaceful and prosperous future for its people. The arms embargo previously applied to "small arms, light weapons, and ammunition." The resolution expands it to include "arms and related materiel of all types." Bustos said the expansion of the arms embargo "bolsters our efforts to combat transnational organized crime, which uses all forms of violence against the civilian population, particularly against women."

# UK's ex-minister claims blocking India FTA over visa demands: Reports

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's former business and trade secretary Kemi Badenoch, who is the frontrunner to succeed Rishi Sunak as Conservative Party chief and Opposition Leader, has claimed that she blocked the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) over demands for more visas, according to UK media reports. The Nigerian heritage shadow minister, who is going head-to-head in an ongoing Tory membership vote with former Cabinet colleague Robert Jenrick, has indicated that one of the reasons the FTA could not be signed off by the Sunak-led Tory government was due to the Indian side expecting more concessions over the issue of migration. "As business secretary, even as I was trying to do things to limit immigration, we had an India FTA where they kept trying to bring in migration and I said no. It's one of the reasons why we didn't sign it," Badenoch reportedly told "The Telegraph". But some of her former Tory ministerial colleagues countered in "The Times" that the claims are unlikely because Badenoch was pushing for a deal as she oversaw several rounds of negotiations towards an FTA expected to significantly enhance the GBP 38 billion a year bilateral trading partnership. "Kemi just wanted to get a deal at all costs and didn't really think that the objections that were being put forward were serious. She said they were ideologically driven, that they were impractical and weren't conducive to good relations with the Indians," a former Cabinet minister was quoted as saying. "Kemi wanted a trophy to show post-Brexit benefits and there was a zeal to achieve it," the former minister said. "The reality was, all the bargaining power was with the Indians and they had more leverage in negotiations than we did. There was a lot more

pressure on us to do all the running, and they were quite nonchalant about doing a deal. That was where the balance of power lay and we were always starting from a weaker position," the ex-minister said. A source close to Badenoch, however, denied claims that she was prepared to sign a deal at any cost and said that the Indian government had decided not to sign a deal with the Conservative government in the hope that it might be able to negotiate better terms under Labour. "Kemi didn't want to do a deal that would have changed any UK immigration rules. It's categorically untrue, she would have never done that. India held out because they knew that under a Labour government, they would get a better deal on students and social security," the source was quoted as saying by "The Times". "She did not put visas on the table, she did not sanction her officials to offer up access to the labour market at any point," the

source added. Meanwhile, while reports from India indicate the FTA negotiations under the Prime Minister Keir Starmer-led Labour Party government are set to commence next month, officials in the UK are not setting any timeline for picking up after 14 rounds of negotiations. "We remain committed to securing a trade deal with India and intend to resume talks as soon as possible," Starmer's foreign affairs spokesperson at 10 Downing Street told PTI this week. Badenoch and Jenrick are trading blows on various policy areas, with immigration emerging as a key focal point as they continue on the campaign trail to win votes from an estimated 140,000 Conservative members. Sunak's successor is scheduled to be declared on November 2, following the British Indian leader's resignation in the wake of the party's bruising general election defeat in July under his leadership.

# France vows support for Ukraine's plan to end Russian invasion

AP ■ KYIV

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot pledged his support for Ukraine's plan for ending the two and a half-year war with Russia, telling reporters in Kyiv on Saturday that he will work with Ukrainian officials to secure other nations' backing for the proposal. Unveiled by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier this week, Kyiv's so-called "victory plan" hopes to compel Russia to end its invasion of Ukraine through negotiations. The proposal is being considered by Ukraine's Western partners, whose help is vital for Kyiv to resist its bigger neighbour. A key element would be a formal invitation into NATO, which Western backers have been reluctant to consider until after the war ends. "A Russian victory would be a consecration for the law of the strongest and would push the international order toward chaos," Barrot said at a joint press conference with his Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiba. "That is why our exchanges should allow us to make progress on President Zelenskyy's victory plan and rally the greatest number possible of countries around it." Barrot also said that France would deliver the first batch of Mirage 2000 combat jets to Ukraine in the first three months of 2025, with Ukrainian pilots and mechanics also trained to fly and maintain them.

Since the 2022 invasion, France has been one of Ukraine's staunchest military, diplomatic and economic supporters in Europe. It is currently training and equipping what will become a full new brigade of Ukrainian soldiers for front-line deployment. "By resisting against the invader with exceptional courage, you are not only fighting for Ukraine's territorial integrity, but you are also holding a front line that separates Europe from Vladimir Putin's Russia, that separates freedom from oppression," the French minister said in Kyiv. **Russia and Ukraine exchange POWs:** Barrot's visit coincided with a prison-

er swap between Russia and Ukraine late Friday night that included 190 POWs traded by the two sides under a deal negotiated by the United Arab Emirates. Among the 95 Ukrainians were 34 Azov fighters who defended Mariupol and the Azovstal steelworks, the fortress-like plant in the now-occupied city of Mariupol where their last-ditch stand became a symbol of resistance against Moscow's invasion. "Ninety-five of our people are home again. These are the warriors who defended Mariupol and Azovstal, as well as the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Kherson regions," Zelenskyy wrote in a post on X. The head of the Azov regiment, Denys Prokopenko,

said on Facebook that 34 Azov fighters had been returned, but that another 900 remained in Russian captivity. A well-known Ukrainian human rights activist and service member, Maksym Butkevych, was also among the 95 exchanged. His release was announced by the ZMINA Human Rights Center, the organisation that he co-founded. The swap follows the repatriation of 501 dead soldiers to Ukraine Friday in what appeared to be the biggest repatriation of war dead since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Most of the soldiers were killed in action in the eastern Donetsk region of Ukraine, mostly around the city of

Avdiivka that Russian forces captured in February after a long and gruelling battle, Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said in a statement. Russia also received the bodies of 89 of its soldiers, Russian lawmaker Shamsyil Saraliyev told reporters. Elsewhere, the Russian Ministry of Defence said that it shot down 16 Ukrainian drones over Russia's Bryansk, Rostov, and Belgorod regions in the early hours of Saturday morning. Local social media channels shared images that appeared to show a blaze at a factory in the Bryansk region specialising in microelectronics. Russian authorities did not confirm the strike.

# Four new polio cases reported in Pakistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

Pakistan reported another four cases of poliovirus taking the national tally to 37 this year, a media report said on Saturday. The regional reference laboratory for polio eradication at the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, on Friday, confirmed the detection of wild poliovirus type-1 (WPV 1) in three children from Balochistan and one child from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The Dawn newspaper reported. The children affected by the wild poliovirus include a girl from Pishin, two boys from Chaman and Noshki in Balochistan, and a girl from Lakkhi Marwat district of KP, according to an official of the regional reference laboratory for

polio eradication. Of the 37 cases detected from across Pakistan so far this year, the official said, 20 have been reported from Balochistan, 10 from Sindh, five from KP, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad. "Genetic sequencing of the cases is underway," he disclosed. "These were the first polio cases from Noshki and Lakkhi Marwat this year," he said, adding that both Chaman and Pishin had reported one poliovirus case each earlier as well. Officials claimed that the fight against poliovirus in Balochistan and southern KP suffered in 2023 and early 2024, as immunisation campaigns were either staggered or postponed due to localised protests.



Pet owners walk with their dogs during a Halloween pet party at a mall in Valenzuela city, Philippines on Saturday. AP/PTI

# Xi Jinping calls for strengthening deterrence capabilities

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping has inspected a brigade of the military's strategic missile force that underwent a massive purge of officials for corruption in recent years, according to a media report on Saturday. Xi on Thursday visited at Hefei the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Rocket Force, a key arm of the military operating the missiles, including nuclear weapons, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. He urged the strategic missile troops to strengthen their deterrence and combat capabilities and resolutely fulfil the tasks entrusted by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the people, the

report said. The Rocket Force, established in 2015 as part of Xi's military overhaul, has been at the centre of the latest anti-corruption campaign targeting the military. Besides heading the ruling CPC and the Presidency, 71-year-old Xi also heads the Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high command of the Chinese military. He visited the training field of the brigade which boasts a history of over 50 years, and learned about the tactical and technical performance of the newly-introduced weaponry and equipment, and examined its training in operating the arms. In a bid to shore up the morale

of the officers and soldiers, he asked them to have good command and make the best use of the weapons in their hands while living up to the trust of the party and the people, the report said. Later, Xi was briefed on the brigade's work and made a speech stressing the importance of upholding the party's absolute leadership over the armed forces and strengthening party-building at the primary level. His visit to the Rocket Force, which operates the country's most powerful long and short-range missiles, was considered significant due to the massive purges seen at the key military arm driven by alleged graft at its top echelons in recent years.

# SET FOR FIRST TIME CHAMPION AS NEW ZEALAND-SOUTH AFRICA CLASH IN FINAL

PTI ■ DUBAI

New Zealand's golden generation, led by inspirational Sophie Devine, will have one last chance to lay hands on a global ICC trophy when it meets a gritty South Africa in the summit clash of the T20 World Cup which is set to throw a new champion, here Sunday. New Zealand's women's team had won the ODI World Cup back in 2000 but none of the current squad members were part of that historic title triumph. Before this event began, New Zealand were in the trenches having lost 10 matches on the trot in the format but under Devine this bunch, comprising of the venerable Suzie Bates and the assuring Amelia Kerr, has done wonders, bringing the side in contention for the ultimate prize. It is most probably the last time the Black Shirts will have Devine, Bates and Lea Tahuhu playing of the national side in a global tournament. Devine, 35, has more than 7000 runs under her belt in white-ball formats while the 37-year-old Bates has more than 10,000 runs to her name. Pacer Tahuhu, 34, has 112 wickets in ODIs and 93 in T20s.

They won't leave any stone unturned to ensure that they have a World Cup trophy in their cabinet. South Africa on the other side will be equally determined to complete the unfinished business as they had lost the 2023 World Cup final to Australia at home. They have an opportunity to erase painful memories as they had lost by a mere 19 runs in the close contest. New Zealand have one or other player to rise the occasion in the tournament and in the semifinal against the West Indies, if they failed to set a target big enough to daunt the free-flowing Caribbean batters, their bowlers responded with tidy spells throughout the game to eke out a memorable win. Kerr's wicket tally has swelled to 12 in the tournament as she found apt support from the other end in the likes of Eden Carson (8), Rosemary Mair (7) and the experienced Lea Tahuhu. New Zealand announced their intentions with a big win against India first up and followed that up with consistent performances across departments. A 60-run loss to Australia, arguably the strongest team in the competition,

## WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP FINAL



notwithstanding, the Kiwis weren't unnerved as they went on to pip the West Indies in the final over of their low-scoring semifinal to make their third final. When the tournament began towards the end of the first decade of this century, New Zealand appeared to be the team to beat as they made two consecutive finals but got pipped by England and Australia once each. Bates and Devine, the survivors from those campaigns, will thus get a third crack in winning the first ICC trophy for New Zealand in white-ball cricket since 2000 when the men's team won the Champions Trophy in Kenya. But against them will be the formidable South Africa who scripted history of sorts to have stopped the all-dominating Australian team from reaching their eighth consecutive final in the last 15 years and seven editions of the T20 World Cup. If New Zealand has Kerr topping the charts for most successful bowlers, South Africa have two of their top-order batters - Laura Wolvaardt (190 runs) and Tazmin Brits (170 runs) - lodged at the top of the batting charts in this tournament. South Africa's all-round might will pose the sternest challenge

as the Proteas side is coming off a comprehensive eight-wicket thrashing of Australia, having restricted them to a mere 135/5 and knocked off the target with more than two overs to spare. While a lot will depend on the pair of Wolvaardt and Brits at the top, SA will need the likes of Anneke Bosch and Marizanne Kapp to chip in with the bat too. Similarly, Nonkululeko Mlaba (10 wickets) would also need the rest of the bowlers to replicate their performance from the semifinal, in which they collectively kept it tight to not allow Australia to get away with the bat. **SQUADS:** **New Zealand:** Sophie Devine (captain), Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Isabella Gaze (wk), Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Fran Jonas, Leigh Kasperik, Amelia Kerr, Jess Kerr, Rosemary Mair, Molly Penfold, Georgia Plimmer, Hannah Rowe, Lea Tahuhu. **South Africa:** Laura Wolvaardt (c), Anneke Bosch, Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Mieke de Ridder (wk), Ayanda Hlubi, Sinalo Jaftha (wk), Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Sune Luus, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Seshnie Naidu, Tumi Sekhukhune, Chloe Tryon.

## Guirassy's late goal earns Dortmund a Bundesliga win

AP ■ DORTMUND (GERMANY)

Serhou Guirassy scored late as Borussia Dortmund beat promoted St. Pauli 2-1 in the Bundesliga on Friday, easing some pressure on the club before facing Real Madrid. Substitute Jamie Gittens invigorated Dortmund's attack, beating a defender and crossing for Guirassy to head the winner in the 83rd minute, just five minutes after Eric Smith had equalized with a thunderous strike for the visitors. Dortmund had dominated from the start but failed to turn possession into chances. St. Pauli goalkeeper Nikola Vasilj twice denied Guirassy when it seemed the Guinea star had to score. Ramy Bensebaini broke the deadlock in the 43rd with a header to Pascal Grof's cross. St. Pauli had a goal by Morgan Guilavogui ruled out through VAR for offside in the 30th. Dortmund next visits Madrid in the Champions League on Tuesday. The two teams met in last season's Champions League final, which Madrid won 2-0. Dortmund was under pressure after losing 2-1 to Union Berlin before the international break.

## NZ edges closer to victory after 36 years in spite of Sarfaraz, Pant fight

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

In a stunning display of fight two men stood at the crease, Sarfaraz Khan resumes the day four with a score of (70) along with left hand batsmen Rishabh Pant who started his innings from day 4 after Virat dismissal on last ball of day three. The Right-Left combination of batters piled up 113 runs on the morning session of day both Sarfaraz and Rishabh took India to strong position after first innings failure on day one. Rishabh who struck 53 unbeaten and Sarfaraz who score his maiden century at crucial stage of the match scoring 125 not out from 154 balls with 16 fours and three sixes before rain interrupted the play. Two batters gave India a strong hand to make a comeback in this match after 177 runs partnership between the duo got broke down with the wicket of Sarfaraz Khan on a mammoth score of 150 runs by Tim Southee and Rishabh Pant who misses out his 7th test century by one run (99). Their innings gave a hope before their dismissals, but their dismissals gave a significant decline for the hosts. Resuming the day's play at 438 for six after tea



India's last 4 wickets just contributed 29 runs, KL Rahul who's poor form continues in second innings, got cheaply knock down again by William O'Rourke with 12 runs on his bank. New Zealand bowlers shines again and India lost seven wickets for 54 runs with tall bowlers Matt Henry and William O'Rourke getting advantage of extra bounce and movement off the Chinnaswamy surface. New Zealand openers begin their chase with Tom Latham and Devon Conway yet to open their accounts, rain brought an early end to the day's play with the visitors playing just four balls in the second innings. After the disintegrated lower order performance India managed to give 107 runs to New

Zealand to win the bengaluru test match. Tom Latham's team is on the verge of creating history of winning the test match in India after 36 years. The last

time New Zealand won a Test match in India was way back in 1989 when Sir Richard Hadlee got 10 wickets at the Wankhede to ensure a huge 136-run win.

## Five Indian footballers selected to go through training session at Old Trafford in Manchester

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Five Indian footballers will go through training at Old Trafford in Manchester after emerging as winners in the fourth edition of United We Play, a grassroots football initiative. The event saw the participation of over 15,000 budding Indian footballers across 18 cities, culminating in a grand finale in the presence of Manchester United legend and all-time great Gary Neville in Chandigarh. In the finale, PC Lalchuanawma (Mizoram), Shreejal Kisku (Bhubaneswar), Mohd Ayan (Lucknow), Bhakta Bahadur Pariyar (Nepal) and Chanason Chaiyatham (Bangkok) were shortlisted.

These players will be given the opportunity to visit Old Trafford to participate in activities like a match-day experience, training session with Manchester United Soccer School coaches and legend interactions. "Delighted to see the dedication and passion for football among young children in India, Neville, whose illustrious career

includes eight English Premier League titles and two UEFA Champions League titles for Manchester United, said in a release. "Many congratulations to the young players whose hard work has paid off today. I am sure that the experience that they will have at the iconic Old Trafford, will be memories of a lifetime."

## Mohammedan Sporting look to exploit home conditions against visiting Kerala Blasters



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Debutants Mohammedan Sporting Club will seek their first home win in the Indian Super League (ISL) when they host Kerala Blasters FC in a tricky match here on Sunday. Both teams are hungry for victory, but for Mohammedan, this game is crucial, as they desperately need their first home win of the season, and the visiting Kerala Blasters aren't going to make it easy. Mohammedan enter this game after a 0-3 defeat to Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the Kolkata derby. Andrey Chernyshov's men have managed four points from their first four games, leaving them 10th on the points table. With two winless home results already, a victory against Kerala Blasters can prevent them from joining the likes of Jamshedpur FC, East Bengal, and Punjab FC as teams without a home

win in their first three games this season. For Kerala Blasters, an away fixture has thrown up defensive challenges. Their last nine trips on the road have seen them concede at least one goal in each game, managing just one win.

A victory on Sunday would not only break that trend but also mark a significant milestone, bringing them their third consecutive win in Kolkata, an unprecedented feat in their history. Their last two visits to Kolkata were fruitful, with a 1-0 victory over Mohun Bagan Super Giant and a 2-1 win against East Bengal FC. A victory on Sunday would strengthen their chances of getting into the top-six and signal their intent for the rest of the season. Sunday's match will be the first face-off between Mohammedan and Kerala Blasters in the ISL. Mohammedan head coach Andrey Chernyshov gave an in-depth analysis of the Kerala Blasters FC setup, but expressed confidence that his team is ready for the challenge. "After a break we started our work for the game. Kerala Blasters are a good and strong team. They have players who have played for a long time in the ISL. This season they are doing well now.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Army No. 14447494K Rank Hav(OPR) Name \*Tirupathi Naidu Bavireddi\* Unit 37 (Coorg) Fd Regt C/O 99 APO resident of Village Rompalli PO-Ramabhadrapuram Tehsil and Dist-Vizianagaram State Andhra Pradesh-535579 have changed my minor son's name from Bavi Reddy Kousik to Bavireddi Koushik Vide Affidavit Dated 15-10-2024 before at Notary Rayagada.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Ratna Kumari spouse of 14447494K Rank Hav (OPR) Name Tirupathi Naidu Bavireddi Unit 37 (Coorg) Fd Regt C/O 99 APO resident of Village Rompalli PO-Ramabhadrapuram Tehsil and Dist-Vizianagaram State Andhra Pradesh-535579 have changed my name from Ratna Kumari to Bavireddi Ratnakumari Vide Affidavit Dated 15-10-2024 before at Notary Rayagada.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Ratna Kumari spouse of 14447494K Rank Hav (OPR) Name Tirupathi Naidu Bavireddi Unit 37 (Coorg) Fd Regt C/O 99 APO resident of Village Rompalli PO-Ramabhadrapuram Tehsil and Dist-Vizianagaram State Andhra Pradesh-535579 declare that my date of birth 26/05/1989 wrongly written in my husband Army Service Records but my correct date of birth is 26/05/1991.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, MOHANA**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
 Identification No. Online Tender 06/MOHANA/2024-25

1. Name of the work	Building work 01
2. Total No. Work	(One) No
3. Estimated Cost	Rs.58.00 Lakhs As per annexure As per annexure
4. Class of Contractor	annexure As per annexure
5. Period of Completion	
6. Other Details:-	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
			From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Mohana	06/MOHANA/2024-25	01 (One) No. of Building work	23.10.2024 from 11.00 AM	07.11.2024 upto 5.00 PM	04.11.2024 upto 5.00 PM	08.11.2024 at 11.30 AM	Will be Intimated later

OIPR: 25148/11/0009/2425 Sd/- Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Mohana

**GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE HEALTH & F.W. DEPTT., V.S.S. INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH, BURLA (SAMBALPUR)**  
 No: 7370 No: ...../VIMSAR dt: 08.10.2024  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited by the undersigned from the Registered reputed manufacturers / authorized dealers, DGS & D rates contract holder/ EPM rate contract holders and registered firms under GST act for the supply of Glassware, Plastic Wares, Chemicals, Reagents, Kits for the Odisha Sickle Cell Project, Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Burla on or before dt: 30.11.2024 upto 11.00 A.M through Regd. Post/Speed Post only which will be opened on dt: 30.11.2024 at 12.00 Noon.

The detail terms and conditions of the tender call notice can be obtained personally or by their representative from the Sickle Cell Institute, VIMSAR, Burla on or before 30.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M and can be downloaded from the website <http://vimsar.ac.in> & <https://sambalpur.odisha.gov.in> from its date of publication.

OIPR-101871/11/0011/2425 Dean & Principal VSS Inst of Med Sc & Research, Burla

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), BALASORE DIVISION, BALASORE**  
 PHONE NO. 06782-295822, Email Id: [eeag.balasore@gmail.com](mailto:eeag.balasore@gmail.com)  
**Govt. of Odisha "e" procurement Notice**  
 Bid Identification No.: E.E. (A), Balasore Division-02/2024-25

The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agriculture Engineering Division, Balasore on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE, as detailed below.

(i) "Construction of approach road to the Farmers' Training & Skill Development Centre, Balia, Balasore"

1. Estimated Cost- Ranging from Rs. 1683027.00
2. Bid Cost: As Mentioned against each in Column - 04
3. Period of completion: Calendar Months Mentioned in Column - 07
4. No. of works (Tender): Ino.
5. EMD: As mentioned in Column-05
6. Class of Contractor: As Mentioned in Column - 06
7. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 24.10.2024 at 10.00 A.M. To 04.11.2024 up to 5.00 P.M
8. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 04.11.2024 upto 5.00 PM
9. Date of submission of documents: 25.10.2024 10.00 AM. to 05.11.2024 up to 5.00 P.M. (Except Holidays)
10. Date & time of opening of online bids: 06.11.2024 11.00 AM & onwards
11. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agriculture Engineering Division, Balasore

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

A. All the volumes / documents shall be uploaded in the portal by the Procurement Officer Administrator and published by Procurement Officer Publisher (Officer Inviting tender)

B. The Tender documents published by the Tender Inviting Officer (Procurement Officer Publisher) in the website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in> will appear in the Latest.

C. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR: 01491/11/0003/2425 Sd/- Executive Engineer (Agril.) Balasore Division, Balasore

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION: BALANGIR**  
 e-Procurement Notice  
 BID IDENTIFICATION No: BGR R&B/14/2024-25 No. 4079 // Dtd.09.10.24

1. The Superintending Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Division, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate Composite bid in Double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Road and Building /Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

2. Nature of Work	: Building work
3. No. of tender	: Building work: 07 Nos.
4. Tender Cost	: Rs.10, 000/-
5. Class of Contractor	: "B" Class (Registered with CDMS)
6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	: From Dt.24.10.24, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.07.11.24 up to 05.00 P.M.
7. Date of opening Bid	: Dt.08.11.24 at 11.00 A.M.

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. All future corrigendums will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

OIPR-34028/11/0012/2425 Superintending Engineer Balangir (R&B) Division

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KUCHINDA**  
 Identification No Online Tender / 02/RWD/KUCHINDA/2024-25

1. Name of the work	: Road Works (R/R)
2. Total Number of Works	: 18 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.32.93 Lakhs, Rs.13.45 Lakhs, Rs.19.33 Lakhs, Rs.15.13 Lakhs, Rs.5.04 Lakhs, Rs.19.48 Lakhs, Rs.8.40 Lakhs, Rs.5.46 Lakhs, Rs.5.46 Lakhs, Rs.22.22 Lakhs, Rs.32.08 Lakhs, Rs.26.89 Lakhs, Rs.12.61 Lakhs, Rs.38.08 Lakhs, Rs.16.81 Lakhs, Rs.7.04 Lakhs, Rs.6.68 Lakhs, Rs.6.83 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: Road Work (C & D Class of Contractor)
5. Period of Completion	: 01 - 08 calendar month
6. Availability of Tender online For bidding	: Dt.23.10.2024 to 06.11.2024
7. Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	: Dt.05.11.2024 at 5.00 A.M
8. Date & time of opening of tender	: Dt.07.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M

Further details can be seen from the website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

OIPR-2515/11/0005/2425 Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kuchinda

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
 Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B) - 05/2024-25 No. 3484 Date: 08.10.2024

1. Nature of the work:	ROAD & BRIDGE WORKS
2. Total No. of Works:	05 (Five) Nos.
3. Estimated cost:	Rs. 1.00 Crs. to 7.11 Crs.
4. Period of completion:	01 (One) to 24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months as per column no. 04 of IFB.
5. Cost of Bid Document:	Rs. 10,000/-
6. Bid Security (EMD):	Rs. 1.00 Lac to 7.11 Lac as per column no. 06 of IFB.
7. Class of Contractor:	"B", "A" & "Special" Class as per dt. no. 05 of TCM & according to Financial Eligibility.
8. Date & time of availability of bid Document in the portal:	From 11.00 hours of 05.11.2024 to 17.00 hours of 05.11.2024
9. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal:	17.00 hours of 05.11.2024
10. Opening date of Bid:	10.00 hours of 06.11.2024
11. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid:	Chief Construction Engineer, Jeyapore (R&B) Circle, Jeyapore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

OIPR-34108/11/0008/2425 Chief Construction Engineer Jeyapore (R&B) Circle, Jeyapore



# A BOLD CELEBRATION OF MODERN GROOMING

At 'BAARAAT by Tasva', Bollywood icon Ranbir Kapoor took the spotlight, redefining the modern groom with breathtaking designs by acclaimed designer Tarun Tahiliani. This fashion showcase brilliantly celebrated individuality, effortlessly merging traditional elegance with contemporary style, leaving the audience impressed, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

In a breathtaking display of fashion and culture, TASVA, the men's Indian wear brand by Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Ltd, partnered with the renowned designer Tarun Tahiliani to present 'BAARAAT by Tasva'. Set against the regal backdrop of Travancore Palace, this event was not just a fashion show; it was a vibrant celebration of what it means to be a modern groom in today's wedding landscape. The evening truly began with Ranbir Kapoor's grand entrance, and what an entrance it was! Arriving in a charming vintage wedding car, he set the tone for the night with an effortless charm that had everyone captivated. Clad in a stunning sherwani that exudes luxury, his outfit was a masterclass in combining tradition with modernity. Every intricate detail of his ensemble reflected the spirit of the Tasva man - confident,

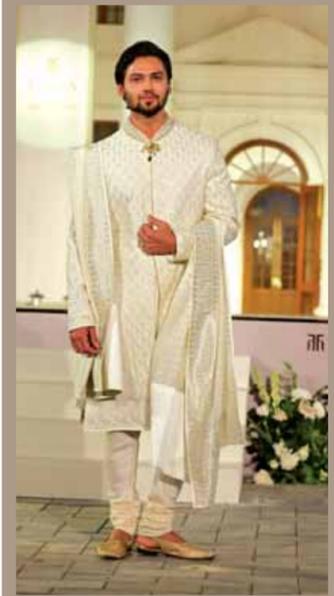


stylish and deeply connected to his roots. It was impossible not to feel the excitement in the air as he stepped onto the runway, a moment that resonated with everyone present. Social media erupted with praise, as fans shared videos of Ranbir's magnetic presence. One enthusiastic observer captured the sentiment perfectly: "It's like Ranbir is still in the Channa

Mereya era, dancing like that in the show!" The sheer joy he radiated reminded us why we adore him; he brought an infectious energy to the event, making it memorable for all. Ranbir's words about the collection struck a chord, "This collection gives grooms the chance to express their individuality while honouring their roots." This perspective is

a refreshing shift in wedding fashion, emphasising that grooms should no longer fade into the background but rather stand out and express their unique styles. The Tasva collection beautifully achieves this, showcasing an array of sherwanis and bandhgals that cater to diverse tastes, allowing each groom to shine in his own right. What makes 'BAARAAT by Tasva' truly remarkable is its focus on the groom as an integral part of the wedding narrative. In a world where bridal fashion often steals the show, this event boldly flipped the script. It's a powerful reminder that weddings are not just about the bride; they're about two individuals coming together, each with their own story to tell. With Ranbir Kapoor leading the charge, Tasva has crafted a message that resonates with modern grooms: it's time to embrace your identity, wear your heritage with pride, and make a statement on one of the most significant days of your life. As we witnessed this fabulous evening, it was clear that the modern groom is not just a participant but a true star of the show, ready to step into the spotlight and make his mark.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



## NEW OFFERINGS



### A MODERN TWIST ON ANCIENT STORIES

Meenakshi Jha Banerjee's solo exhibition, "Aadhura Kuch Bhi Nahin," offers a unique blend of contemporary artistry and Mithila folk traditions. With over two decades of experience, she reinterprets ancient motifs through a modern lens, showcasing her mastery in merging simplicity with intricate detailing. Her work reflects a dialogue between tradition and innovation, inviting viewers to explore the depth of her creative journey. Don't miss the chance to witness this unique exhibition, mark your presence!

#### EVENT DETAILS

Exhibition Dates: Till October 21, 2024

Timings: 11 AM - 8 PM

Venue: Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi

### EXPERIENCE THE PASSION

"IN SOFT STROKES" by Art Konsult Featuring the Art of Awani Kant delves into the themes of love, desire and passion through vibrant and expressive paintings. His distinctive style merges sensuality and symbolism, using everyday elements to highlight the beauty of the female form while grounding it in life's realities. This exhibition invites viewers to reconnect with deep, forgotten emotions through a captivating visual journey. Art enthusiasts and the curious are encouraged to immerse themselves in this evocative experience and discover how Awani Kant's works can inspire reflection and conversation about the beauty of human emotion.



#### EVENT DETAILS

Exhibition Dates: Till 30th October 2024

Venue: Art Konsult, 1, Basement, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi - 110016

Visiting Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

### AMERICAN PECAN FESTIVAL

Indulge in the rich and versatile taste of American pecans with "The Indulgent" American Pecan Festival menu at Andaz Delhi by Hyatt. This exclusive menu showcases savoury and sweet pecan-infused delights like Pecan Quiche, Pecan Stuffed Mushrooms, Miniature Monkey Bread, and a Pecan Infused Café Mocha. Don't miss this culinary experience that brings the health benefits and unique flavours of pecans to your plate.

#### EVENT DETAILS

Venue: Andaz Delhi by Hyatt, Asset No. 1, Aerocity, New Delhi

Dates: October 15 - November 15

Price for Two: Rs 1700



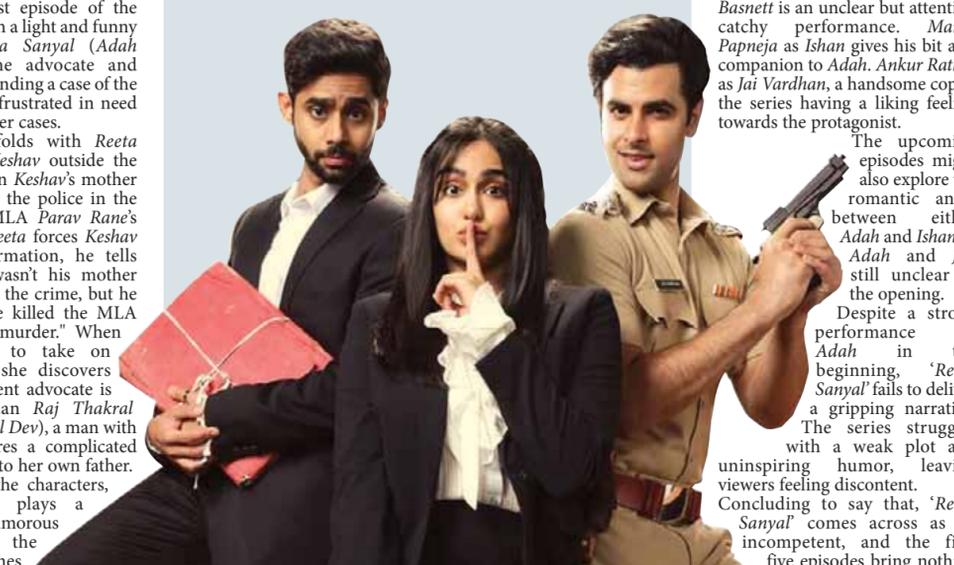
## REETA SANYAL

# THE ADVOCATE OF THE UNEXPECTED

Reeta Sanyal has a promising start, but with a loose plot and flat comedy, writes ABHI SINGHAL

Stepping into the world of comedy and crime, 'Reeta Sanyal' is a legal crime thriller TV series on Disney Plus Hotstar, starring Adah Sharma as Reeta Sanyal in the lead, Rahul Dev as M. Raj Thakral, Manik Papneja as Ishan Dwivedi, and Ankur Rathee as Jai Vardhan. The episodes for the ongoing series release every Monday to Friday. The first episode of the series opens with a light and funny scene of Reeta Sanyal (Adah Sharma) as the advocate and protagonist defending a case of the dog Rocky but frustrated in need of new and bigger cases. The story unfolds with Reeta encountering Keshav outside the courtroom when Keshav's mother was arrested by the police in the case of local MLA Parav Rane's death. When Reeta forces Keshav for more information, he tells Reeta that it wasn't his mother who committed the crime, but he claimed that he killed the MLA like a "perfect murder." When Reeta decides to take on Keshav's case, she discovers that her opponent advocate is none other than Raj Thakral (played by Rahul Dev), a man with whom she shares a complicated history relating to her own father. Talking about the characters, Adah Sharma plays a serious and humorous role within the series. She shines as usual being the

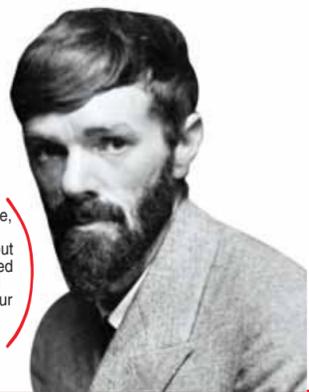
THE INTRODUCTION OF A FEMALE CHARACTER ZI PLAYED BY NIRISHA BASNETT IS AN UNCLEAR BUT ATTENTION CATCHY PERFORMANCE



only one in the web series, making it gripping and giving a reason to the audience to watch. A strong entry for Adah stayed missing from the series but was covered up by her acting skills. Rahul Dev has a short but strong opening presence as a bad guy opion in the story till the first four episodes. The introduction of a female character Zi played by Nirisha Basnett is an unclear but attention catchy performance. Manik Papneja as Ishan gives his bit as a companion to Adah. Ankur Rathee as Jai Vardhan, a handsome cop in the series having a liking feeling towards the protagonist.

The upcoming episodes might also explore the romantic angle between either Adah and Ishan or Adah and Jai, still unclear in the opening. Despite a strong performance by Adah in the beginning, 'Reeta Sanyal' fails to deliver a gripping narrative. The series struggles with a weak plot and uninspiring humor, leaving viewers feeling discontent. Concluding to say that, 'Reeta Sanyal' comes across as an incompetent, and the first five episodes bring nothing new.

“Love is the flower of life,  
and blossoms  
unexpectedly and without  
law, and must be plucked  
where it is found, and  
enjoyed for the brief hour  
of its duration”  
—DH Lawrence



## A SYMPHONY OF BLOSSOMS IN THE HIMALAYAS

PHOTO: SATISH JAKHMOLA

A journey to the Valley of Flowers is nothing short of a magical experience. It overwhelms and rejuvenates like no other place on the planet, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

During the last rainy season, I packed my bags to venture into a rather unexplored destination, a hidden gem – the *Valley of Flowers*. Nestled in the heart of the western Himalayas, it is a vibrant tapestry of natural beauty and a haven for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in Uttarakhand, India, is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, diverse flora, and serene ambience. My trip to this enchanting valley was nothing short of magical, filled with memorable anecdotes that made the journey truly unique. However, it is not for the faint-hearted or those accustomed to leisurely travel. From the very start, you must brace yourself for adventure at every turn. From the food to the transport to accommodation, everything has a distinct local flavour. You quickly get to know the place and its people as you go. If you are visiting during the rainy season, which is the best time, be prepared for landslides, traffic jams, packed hotels, and sudden downpours that begin and stop at will. A raincoat comes in handy; an umbrella, however, flies away. The journey to the *Valley of Flowers* began in Rishikesh, a bustling town known for its spiritual significance and adventure activities. After a night of rest, we set off early in the morning, winding our way through the scenic roads that led us to the small village of Govindghat. The drive itself was a prelude to the beauty that awaited us, with the Alaknanda River accompanying us on one side and towering mountains on the other. From Govindghat, we embarked on a 13-kilometre trek to Ghangaria, the base camp for the *Valley of Flowers*. The trail was a blend of steep ascents, gentle slopes, and narrow pathways, each offering a unique view of the surrounding landscapes. Along the way, we encountered cheerful pilgrims heading to Hemkund Sahib, a sacred Sikh shrine situated nearby. One particular moment that stood out during the trek was a sudden downpour. As we took shelter under a large rock, a local guide shared tales of how the valley transforms with each season, painting vivid pictures of snow-covered landscapes in winter and vibrant blossoms in summer. His stories, combined with the rhythmic sound of raindrops, added a mystical charm to our journey. Reaching Ghangaria, we spent the night at the Gurudwara, preparing ourselves for the main highlight of the trip. It is a

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NESTLED IN THE HEART OF THE WESTERN HIMALAYAS, IT IS A VIBRANT TAPESTRY OF NATURAL BEAUTY AND A HAVEN FOR NATURE ENTHUSIASTS AND ADVENTURE SEEKERS. THIS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, LOCATED IN UTTARAKHAND, INDIA, IS RENOWNED FOR ITS BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPES, DIVERSE FLORA, AND SERENE AMBIENCE  
”



beautiful and humbling place where most travellers to the *Valley of Flowers* or Hemkund Sahib take rest. The hotels in town are modest and almost fully booked during the season. The next morning, we began the 4-kilometre trek to the *Valley of Flowers*. Some paperwork needs to be completed, and certain precautions must be taken, as everyone is required to return on the same day. There are no resting places, not even a tea shack, in the valley. As we entered the valley, the sight that greeted us was nothing short of spectacular. A vast expanse of colourful flowers stretched out before us, with hues of red, blue, yellow, and pink creating a natural mosaic. Walking through the valley, we encountered a variety of flowers, each with its own unique charm. From the delicate Brahma Kamal to the vibrant Blue Poppy, the valley was a botanist's dream. One of the most memorable moments was when we stumbled upon a group of rare Himalayan Monal pheasants, their iridescent feathers glistening in the sunlight. While the flowers were undoubtedly the stars of the valley, the fauna added an element of surprise and delight. We spotted a herd of Bharal, or blue sheep, grazing on a distant slope. Their graceful movements, against the backdrop of snow-capped peaks, created a postcard-worthy scene. Taking a break by a bubbling brook, we enjoyed a simple picnic of sandwiches and fruit. The sheer tranquility of the place, with only the sound of the water and occasional bird calls, made it a perfect spot for reflection. In that moment of quietude, I truly appreciated the untouched beauty of the *Valley of Flowers*. As we made our way back to Ghangaria and eventually to Govindghat, I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude for the experience. The *Valley of Flowers* is not just a destination; it's a journey that immerses you in nature's splendour and leaves you with



memories that last a lifetime. The camaraderie with fellow trekkers, the tales of local guides, and the sheer beauty of the landscape all contribute to making it a one-of-a-kind adventure. The *Valley of Flowers* serves as a reminder of the incredible diversity and beauty that our planet holds. It calls us to explore, appreciate, and preserve these natural wonders for future

generations. If you ever find yourself yearning for an escape into nature's embrace, the *Valley of Flowers* awaits, ready to enchant and inspire. As I left from the *Valley of Flowers*, I realised it wasn't just the destination that left a lasting impression, but the journey itself, each step revealing nature's unspoiled beauty. It's a place that calls adventurers to return, with new tales waiting to be discovered on every visit.

DURING HOLI, MY MOM PREPARES LOVELY PURAN POLIS, AND EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY MAKES AN EXCEPTION IN THEIR DIET PLAN TO INCLUDE THIS DELICIOUS FOOD ITEM!  
— SONALI BENDRE

Rose Café

A BLEND OF NOSTALGIA AND NEW CULINARY DELIGHTS

For anyone seeking a haven of timeless elegance and warmth, the newly opened *Rose Café* at Malviya Nagar's Eldeco Centre is a must-visit, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**



Nestled within the vibrant neighbourhood of Malviya Nagar, *Rose Café* has opened its doors at the *Eldeco Centre*, offering a delightful retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city. With its charming vintage-inspired interiors, welcoming atmosphere, and a menu that celebrates home-style cooking with a Mediterranean twist, this beloved *New Delhi* eatery continues to create a space where time slows down, and cherished memories are made. Founded in 2012 by the mother-daughter duo *Sarita* and *Tarini Ahuja*, *Rose Café* first began its journey in the serene bylanes of *Saidulajab*. Now, with its new location in *Malviya Nagar*, the café retains its timeless charm while introducing a fresh and airy space where patrons can

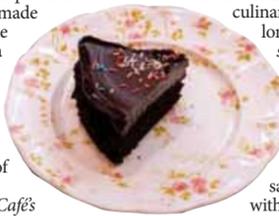
unwind. The high ceilings, chandeliers, floor-to-ceiling windows, and distressed furniture create an ambience that is both captivating and comforting. Hand-painted murals, petal-patterned floors, and custom-made furniture add unique touches that evoke a sense of nostalgia and renewal, making every visit feel like a step back in time, without losing the comfort of contemporary style. At the core of *Rose Café's* philosophy is *Sarita* and *Tarini's* passion for home-style cooking and crafting joyful dining experiences. Their aim is not just to offer meals, but to create moments where guests can relax, connect, and feel at ease. Whether it's a casual lunch, a romantic dinner, or an

all-day breakfast indulgence, the café's commitment to heartfelt hospitality ensures that every visit feels special. Even pets are welcomed with open arms, with the café's pet-friendly policy making it a perfect spot for furry companions to join in the fun. Owner *Sarita Ahuja* says, "Whether you're joining us for a quick bite, high tea, or a comforting dinner, we aim to make every visit special. We invite you to savour our home-style food, experience our hospitality, and become a part of our café's ongoing story." The café's décor also reflects the *Ahuja* family's personal history. Treasured knick-knacks passed down through generations are displayed thoughtfully throughout the space, blending seamlessly with more modern design elements to evoke the warmth of a familiar, lived-in home. This DIY ethos extends to the handcrafted details, from custom-designed chandeliers to hand-painted blackboards and rose accents, all contributing to the charm of the atmosphere.

*Rose Café's* menu is a delightful blend of classic comfort foods and new culinary offerings. Alongside long-loved dishes such as *spaghetti* and *meatballs*, *skinny pizzas*, and *bangers* and *mash*, the new location introduces exciting additions with a Mediterranean twist. Diners can indulge in savoury *churros*, made with parmesan and truffle for an irresistible blend of flavours, or savour the richness of *sun-dried tomato* and *pesto cream ravioli* served with burnt butter, adding a luxurious touch to an already beloved pasta dish. For those craving a taste of Lebanese cuisine, there are options like *hummus*

platters paired with warm *pita*, *falafel wraps* bursting with fresh vegetables, and roasted vegetable salads dressed in light, fragrant olive oil and herbs. These Mediterranean-inspired dishes complement the café's classic favourites, inviting diners to explore a range of flavours that are both comforting and adventurous. Mediterranean and Lebanese cuisines are known for their fresh, vibrant flavours and healthy ingredients. Rooted in the use of olive oil, fresh herbs, grains, and legumes, these cuisines emphasise simplicity and the natural taste of ingredients. Lebanese dishes often include staples like *hummus*, *falafel*, *tabbouleh*, and *baba ghanoush*, with generous use of garlic, lemon, and

aromatic spices. Mediterranean food, more broadly, features an array of *grilled vegetables*, *seafood*, *flatbreads*, and *flavourful dips*. Together, they offer a rich culinary tradition that balances light, wholesome fare with bold, satisfying tastes. *Rose Café* brings these to the heart of Delhi with its own improvisations. The food is, of course, served with a smile by warm staff, complementing the warmth of the place. Though new in *Malviya Nagar*, it is creating a lot of interest among people who relish exotic food. The café's all-day breakfast menu ensures that early risers and brunch enthusiasts can indulge in delights like berry compote-topped *French toast* or creamy *scrambled eggs* served with artisanal breads. Sweet treats like the signature *lemon cake*, *homemade gelatos*, and *chocolate chip cookies* remain menu staples, offering a familiar taste of comfort to loyal patrons. At *Rose Café*, the dining experience extends beyond just a meal—it's a chance to savour the beauty of the surroundings and lose track of time in a space that feels like an extension of one's own home. The café caters to every kind of visit, be it a relaxed high tea, a cosy lunch, or a romantic dinner date. The airy, light-filled environment invites guests to linger, enjoy the view through the floor-to-ceiling windows, and soak in the café's elegant yet homely ambience. The combination of vintage charm, Mediterranean flavours, and thoughtful hospitality sets it apart as a place where the simple joys of life are celebrated over delicious meals and comforting surroundings. Whether you're revisiting an old favourite or experiencing the café for the first time, *Rose Café* offers a dining experience that leaves you feeling refreshed, connected, and truly at home.



INDIA'S LARGEST FOOD FESTIVAL

The *Grub Fest*, India's largest food festival, made a grand return to Delhi at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. With an exciting blend of culinary delights and live entertainment, this year's event offered food enthusiasts a memorable experience, celebrating the vibrant food culture of India, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Delhi was alive with excitement as it welcomed *The Grub Fest*, India's largest food festival, back to the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. This year's festival promised a vibrant celebration of culinary diversity, live entertainment and community spirit, creating an unforgettable experience for food enthusiasts and families alike. Since its inception in 2015, *The Grub Fest* has evolved into a significant cultural phenomenon, expanding its reach across major cities, including Gurugram, Pune, Mumbai and Chandigarh. This year's edition proved to be the most ambitious yet, featuring over 100 stalls showcasing a diverse range of flavours from local street food to gourmet delights. Renowned restaurants such as *Indie QLA*, *Perilicious*, and *Leos Pizzeria* participated, presenting an array of dishes that delighted the taste buds of festival-goers. As attendees entered the festival grounds, they were



enveloped in a magical atmosphere enhanced by stunning decor, cascading flowers, twinkling fairy lights and art installations inviting exploration and engagement. The vibrant layout of the stalls was complemented by intoxicating aromas wafting through the air, promising culinary adventures at every turn. Music played a vital role in the festival, with an impressive lineup of live performances that entertained the crowd. The rhythmic beats and melodic tunes encouraged festival-goers to dance and sing along, fully immersing themselves in the experience. Families found ample opportunity to relax and bond



in the dedicated Picnic Park, a serene space equipped with cozy seating and interactive games for children. Meanwhile, the Beer Garden catered to adults, providing a charming setting where craft beer enthusiasts could sip refreshing brews while enjoying the lively entertainment. The festival

also featured themed booths and a Ferris wheel, ensuring there was no shortage of photo-worthy moments. Aman Kumar, the visionary behind *The Grub Fest*, expressed his passion for curating exceptional experiences that celebrate the rich culinary heritage of Delhi. His commitment to showcasing the city's diverse food culture was evident in the meticulous planning and execution of the event. The festival was not just a gathering; it was a celebration of the community, where people from all walks of life came together to savour, connect and enjoy. In a noteworthy parallel to *The Grub Fest*, *AVA Experience* had taken place earlier at The Khyber Himalayan Resort & Spa in Gulmarg, Kashmir. Speaking about the vision for the event, Samir Sehgal, Co-Founder of *AVA Experience*, shared, "Our vision for *AVA Experience* is to redefine India's music festival landscape with house music in Kashmir, creating community-

led experiences." The event aimed to offer a unique fusion of music and scenic beauty, setting a new benchmark for music festivals in India. Both *The Grub Fest* and *AVA Experience* demonstrated a shift towards innovative and engaging events that went beyond traditional formats. They reflected a desire for meaningful experiences that resonated deeply with audiences, highlighting the power of food, music and community to create lasting memories. As *The Grub Fest* unfolded in Delhi, attendees were treated to a weekend filled with an extraordinary array of flavours, live performances and vibrant interactions. This celebration showcased the best of India's culinary scene and created a sense of unity and joy, reminding everyone of the simple pleasures of good food and shared moments. The event solidified its place as a hallmark of the city's cultural calendar, setting the stage for future festivities that promise to delight and inspire.

CHEERS TO CULINARY CHAMPS!



BY TEAM AGENDA

The Indian Culinary Forum (ICF) held its 21st Annual Chef Awards at Hotel Ashok, coinciding with International Chefs Day. This prestigious event gathered esteemed chefs and industry leaders to recognise the exceptional contributions of culinary artists who have significantly impacted Indian cuisine on a global scale. Among the distinguished guests was *Nakul Anand*, former Executive Director of ITC Hotels, who presented awards to the night's winners. The presence of influential figures like *Chef Davinder Kumar*, President of the ICF and *Chef Vivek Saggur*, General Secretary, underscored the importance of the event in nurturing culinary talent. *Chef Kumar* expressed pride in showcasing the creativity and dedication of chefs, highlighting the event's role in inspiring future culinary professionals. This year's awards honoured 17 talented chefs across various categories, including the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, which went to *Chef Sanjiv Mediratta*. Other winners included *Chef (Dr.) Gautam Chaudhry*, who received the Golden Hat Chef Award and *Chef Divyas Wadhwa*, who was awarded the Silver Hat Chef title. Such recognition



The event was marked by a spirit of camaraderie and competition, with 150 chefs participating in rigorous culinary challenges leading up to the awards. The ICF continues to play a vital role in promoting the culinary arts in India, offering a platform for chefs to connect, learn and innovate. As the evening concluded, it was clear that the 21st Annual Chef Awards not only celebrated culinary excellence but also reinforced the community's commitment to elevating Indian cuisine on the world stage.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



# SAFEGUARDING 'UNPROTECTED' CULTURAL HERITAGE AND INTACH

India's unprotected cultural heritage is vast and diverse, requiring active public participation for its preservation. Community engagement ensures the relevance and sustainability of these cultural assets

BY SUKHDEV SINGH

India, being a vast country with diverse populations, topography, and climate, and consequently, a rich cultural heritage, requires the active participation of its people to safeguard this heritage in various ways. Firstly, as genuine stakeholders, people should take ownership of it. Secondly, with public involvement, cultural heritage gains relevance in people's lives and becomes integrated into their everyday use and socio-economic activities. Thirdly, community participation ensures cost-effective and sustainable conservation. Lastly, it encourages local and authentic craftsmanship in its preservation, enriching the process with diverse knowledge resources based on geographical, cultural, linguistic, and religious variations.



Considering the immense diversity and long, disparate historical timeline that has shaped India's cultural imprints, its natural and human heritage cannot be confined to what is protected by the Central and State governments under the AMASR Act of 1958 (amended in 2010). The act provides for the protection and preservation of structures and sites of monumental value that are over 100 years old. These structures are primarily owned by the government and are preserved as abandoned monuments. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) oversees the care and conservation of monuments, sites, and remains of national importance, while State Departments of Archaeology and Museums manage monuments of state (regional) significance. Other structures are regulated under the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972 (Rules 1973).

However, the scope of these acts is limited and costly. As a result, much of India's vast cultural heritage, which is under threat from pressures other than natural decay, remains unprotected. Since the UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention, the understanding of cultural heritage has evolved significantly. It now includes a broader, people-centred approach, recognising that cultural heritage is not only about grand monuments but also encompasses everyday structures, such as common houses, shops, and other ordinary buildings, as well as the living traditions and environments that shape communities.

These cultural legacies, which form 'cultural landscapes' in the streets, markets, and avenues of old townships, are as valuable as monumental heritage but remain unprotected by any legal provisions and are under constant threat from insensitive urbanisation, modernisation, and development policies. Several initiatives have been introduced to safeguard this unprotected cultural heritage. These include the listing of sites, buildings, objects, and intangible systems for record, research, and conservation purposes; heritage walks to raise awareness and connect people to their own and others' cultural heritage; and heritage regulations by state governments and local bodies to create some legal provisions for safeguarding unprotected heritage. Listings serve as inventories for the identification, advocacy, and preservation of unprotected cultural heritage. These inventories



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can together form a National Register of Historic Properties for research and conservation action. Listed buildings may be graded and classified as Grade A, B, or C in descending order of importance, guiding decisions about conservation. Additionally, in modern cities, old townships displaying their existing architecture can be designated as 'Cultural Landscapes' or 'Heritage Zones', requiring sensitive planning within routine or comprehensive development initiatives. These landscapes can also be listed in the Master Plans of cities. To regulate development in such zones, state and local governments can pass heritage regulations that control interventions involving the modification of unprotected historical or old buildings and sites. To engage people with their cultural heritage,

heritage walks can offer a meaningful path forward. These walks could be made more popular by improving civic amenities and enhancing the visual appeal of heritage areas by reducing the clutter of advertising boards, electric and internet cables, and satellite dish wiring. Heritage walks and conservation projects would also boost the local economy by generating employment in crafts, local shops, and the service sector. This concept of 'living heritage' holds a symbiotic relationship with its architectural and natural surroundings. While protected monuments and archaeological sites must be conserved with minimal intervention as pure and true testaments to the past, other significant architectural structures and sites can be preserved with more flexible interventions, reclaiming

their meaning, relevance, and role as markers of the past within the present. In this way, the 'past' and 'present' are not seen as separate entities but as part of a continuous, evolving timeline. This approach supports 'living heritage' models in the form of heritage lanes, heritage trails, or zones of individual heritage structures. Separating cultural heritage from nature is impractical and artificial, as human culture depends on nature—not only using its elements, such as sand, soil, metals, and plants, but also incorporating natural systems, designs, and processes, like altering materials, colouring them, and varying patterns. This understanding of cultural heritage recognises its continuity and relevance through systemic arrangements. Established in 1984, the Indian

National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has developed into a think tank and practical resource for the protection of unprotected cultural heritage. INTACH is tasked with engaging the people of India in this effort by enrolling citizens as members while also engaging skilled human resources. INTACH has been cataloguing buildings over 50 years old that have architectural, historical, archaeological, or aesthetic value, organising heritage walks, and advocating for heritage regulations. It works in partnership with other organisations and individuals, complementing rather than competing with them.

Professor (Retd) SUKHDEV SINGH  
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar  
Vice-Chairman, Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage, New Delhi

THE RELATION BETWEEN PRACTICAL AND SPIRITUAL SPHERES IN MUSIC IS OBVIOUS, IF ONLY BECAUSE IT DEMANDS EARS, FINGER, CONSCIOUSNESS AND INTELLECT  
— LUCIANO BERIO



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

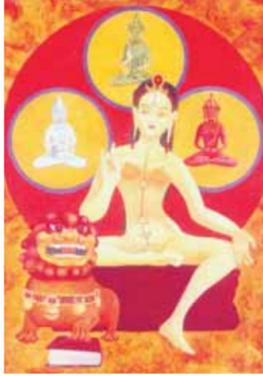
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week presents an excellent opportunity to channel your focus into your professional endeavors and see substantial results. You are currently harmonized in your physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions, radiating an aura of positivity. However, enhancing your communication skills could prove beneficial. Aim to be precise and persuasive in your interactions, as your ability to inspire others through your actions and words will be particularly impactful. Exercise caution, as not everyone may appreciate your successes; some might even attempt to undermine your efforts. Despite the competitive environment, your dynamic energy and resilience will help you overcome any negativity. Success hinges on your dedication—avoid overconfidence and hasty decisions. Health should not be overlooked; maintaining a well-regulated lifestyle with proper nutrition and exercise is crucial.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Aquamarine  
Lucky day Saturday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, your natural leadership shines as you focus on humanitarian efforts, setting personal ambitions aside. A significant opportunity may arise, possibly involving a pivotal job role or an invitation for a high-responsibility position. Maintain your core principles and unique perspective throughout. Embrace a proactive and supportive approach to foster better relationships both professionally and personally. Recognize the counterproductive nature of anger; mastering your responses can enhance communication and prevent conflicts. Rest assured, any challenges are only temporary, and you will soon regain control. Towards the week's end, you might encounter some disruptive influences prompting an emotional response. Remember, this is not the time for dejection or prolonged disappointment. Persistence and faith are your allies in navigating through this period.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Mustard  
Lucky day Friday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week brings a wave of prosperity, enhancing your financial well-being. Expect an uptick in your financial reserves, signaling a phase of economic growth and stability. Your interactions with family and friends will be harmonious, enhancing your personal connections. The focus on financial matters might surprise you at times, but it will also bring opportunities for enjoyment and leisure. You'll find yourself adept at juggling your responsibilities with personal pleasures, maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Engage with peers globally through digital platforms, embracing an openness about your life choices, uninhibited by familial expectations. Travel may be on the agenda to fulfill professional obligations. However, as the week progresses, you might find yourself grappling with a newfound discipline that feels restrictive, challenging your ability to balance work with fun.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Tangerine  
Lucky day Monday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week, it's crucial to steer clear of pessimistic thinking as feelings of sadness or overwhelm might make it difficult to feel revitalized. Numerous concerns, particularly about your professional life, may be weighing on your mind. Now is a good moment to reflect on whether you have been fair and diligent in your efforts. If the answer is affirmative, expect to see positive outcomes soon. You'll find that your business gains a solid foundation, and collaborations flourish due to shared goals and effective teamwork. Engaging in both imaginative and logical tasks will prove to be fruitful. As the week closes, a work-related trip appears likely. This journey will not only be enjoyable but also inspire you to set and pursue a new, fruitful objective.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Magenta  
Lucky day Wednesday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week promises significant advancements in your life, including potential travel or important communications that could lead to exciting contracts or connections. Expect unexpected opportunities that could bring substantial benefits. Those who are meticulous and methodical will find themselves particularly well-positioned to capitalize on these prospects. Your quick wit and creative spirit are your greatest assets, driving you to pursue innovative endeavors that could surprise and impress those around you. Nothing seems to stand in your way as you move towards your well-deserved rewards. Additionally, you might find joy in personal celebrations, possibly welcoming a new addition to the family. Embrace this period of plentiful blessings with open arms, and be ready to embrace each moment as a step towards even greater successes.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Peach  
Lucky day Tuesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

Embracing change and letting go of old beliefs will benefit you greatly. It's a time for healing, where forgiveness plays a crucial role in moving forward. Reflecting on life with kindness and understanding will guide you through the week. Challenges in relationships and a sense of discontent may arise, signaling a significant transformation ahead. Embrace this shift, leaving outdated traditions behind and welcoming new possibilities. This week is filled with dynamic energies that might unsettle you. To find balance, engage in activities that nourish your soul like gardening, painting, or playing music. If you find yourself at a standstill, immerse yourself in creative endeavors and trust in the divine timing. Tensions might be apparent in your actions and interactions, but seeking solace in spiritual practices can provide comfort and peace.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Emerald  
Lucky day Friday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Self-reflection is a powerful method for gaining deeper insights. Although you might feel that a long-cherished goal has eluded you, it's important to recognize that sometimes external circumstances may not align favorably. Persistence is crucial, but so is tuning into your inner guidance and fostering positive interactions. This week, you may find that despite your efforts, the outcomes you're hoping for remain elusive. You might entertain the thought of launching a new venture, yet uncertainty about this path could leave you hesitant. However, clarity will emerge, helping you feel more settled as the week progresses. You're mastering the art of maintaining equilibrium in both professional and personal spheres, and managing your finances wisely.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Slate Gray  
Lucky day Thursday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week is set to bring significant financial gains, potentially through unexpected sources. It's crucial to engage in thoughtful discussions with elder family members to maintain harmony. Focusing on proactive measures rather than reactive responses will guide you well during this time. Midweek, it's important to address specific concerns with your business or life partner, fostering a shared commitment to common goals. Decisions made now are likely to yield positive outcomes in the future. Expect a fresh burst of inspiration that could influence your thinking. Trusting your instincts will prove essential in reaching sound conclusions. Some may embark on new enterprises or take on roles that come with substantial responsibilities, marking a period of growth and initiative.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Lilac  
Lucky day Saturday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week begins on an upbeat note, filled with the promise of travels, special gatherings, and festive moments. You might find yourself participating in sacred ceremonies or reconnecting with family members from your past. Expect opportunities to journey by air, signaling a period of active engagement and heartfelt pursuits. You may feel an urge to enhance your appearance, making it a good time to indulge in self-care such as spa treatments or wellness sessions. A leisurely stroll outdoors, embracing the natural world, will offer a refreshing boost to your spirits. Health-wise, longstanding ailments may show signs of improvement, bringing a sense of relief and renewal. Legal matters that have been a persistent concern are poised to resolve favorably. Savor these positive developments, though remain prepared for minor challenges—life's way of maintaining balance.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Charcoal  
Lucky day Tuesday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

You find yourself deeply entangled in your thoughts, facing restlessness and a sense of being stuck. Recent events might have unfolded rapidly and unexpectedly, leading to a dip in self-assurance and a strain in your spiritual beliefs. At home, minor disagreements, differing viewpoints, or feelings of betrayal in relationships may arise, contributing to emotional unrest. However, it's essential to realize that this period of discomfort is only temporary. Instead of spending nights awake, remember that you still hold the potential to steer through these challenges effectively. Your emotional response may cloud your recognition of the remaining possibilities and opportunities. Soon, positive developments from afar will bring joy and reassurance. As the week concludes, you'll find clarity and direction, either spiritually or materially. Keep faith and let go of the past.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Plum  
Lucky day Monday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

Those with a giving nature are in a period where their generosity shines, especially when it comes to taking on various responsibilities with ease. You might find yourself supporting a friend or relative financially, and it seems to bring you joy. Now is an opportune time for making wise investments and engaging in monetary exchanges. Acts of kindness towards those in need will enrich your spirit, guiding you along a path filled with deeper spiritual connections. Midweek could bring romantic opportunities, especially for those who are currently single, enhancing chances to connect deeply with someone special. Established relationships are likely to experience strengthened bonds. Emotional satisfaction will be a highlight of your week. However, towards the weekend, seeking balance in your tasks and overall approach will be crucial.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Ivory  
Lucky day Sunday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Guidance from mentors will stabilize your emotional fluctuations this week. Initially, you might find yourself feeling disheartened, as your efforts seem to yield no results. Challenges in your projects, well-being, and unforeseen setbacks may cause concern. However, by midweek, you will discover signs of encouragement and moments that uplift your spirits. You'll harness your ideas into creative pursuits successfully. Joy also comes through interactions with young ones. You might contemplate initiating a new venture, though financial constraints could pose a dilemma. Consider partnerships or financial assistance, which could come from friends or family, to bridge these gaps. Feeling inspired, you'll aim higher in your aspirations. Engaging with spiritual practices will bring clarity and emotional satisfaction, enhancing your innate compassion and creativity, leading to rewarding outcomes.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour White  
Lucky day Friday

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

*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*

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 stabilize. 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

unset. 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 analyzing 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.

Now you can write to us at [agendapioneer@gmail.com](mailto:agendapioneer@gmail.com)