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Israel, Iran in mortal combat



PTI/AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel delivered its long-expected response to Iranian missile attacks early Saturday by carrying out a series of airstrikes against the Islamic Republic. Under the cover of darkness early Saturday, Israel struck multiple sites in different parts of Iran. Explosions were heard in the capital, Tehran.

The Israeli military said its "precise and targeted strikes" hit missile air defence systems and "aerial capabilities" as well as missile manufacturing facilities used to produce weapons that have been used against Israel. Iran insisted the strikes caused only "limited damage."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said Iran would respond to the airstrikes, calling them a clear violation of international law as it asserted Tehran's right to self-defence. Israel characterised Saturday's attack as a response to previous aerial assaults by Iran using missiles and exploding drones in April and another missile attack this month.

Many of those projectiles were shot down before reaching their targets. It was not immediately clear how hard of a blow Israel dealt, with neither country providing detailed assessments of the destruction. Iran said the strikes targeted military bases in the provinces of Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran.

Israel appeared confident in its battering of Iran's air defences, with military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari saying that "Israel now has broader aerial freedom of operation in Iran."

The strikes did not appear to target facilities that would all but ensure a harsh Iranian response. Those most notably include Iran's oil infrastructure, the backbone of the OPEC member's economy, and its nuclear facilities.

President Biden earlier this month said he would not support an Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear sites. US officials felt they had secured agreement from Israel not to hit nuclear or oil sites after dispatching another air-defence missile battery and associated

troops, though those assurances were not set in stone.

Israel signalled that the pre-dawn bombardment was the end of this attack. "The retaliatory strike has been completed, and its objectives have been achieved," Hagari said early Saturday, still the Sabbath in Israel.

Not long after, Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation said commercial flights would resume after being halted because of the airstrikes.

The Israeli attacks aimed to deter future aggression and "show we won't be silent," but to do so in a way that would minimise the embarrassment for Iran, said Yoel Guzansky, a researcher at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies.

The White House indicated that it wants the strikes to end the direct exchanges of fire between Israel and Iran, and warned Iran against responding.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said there was a "need to avoid further regional escalation" and called on all sides to show restraint.

Take down threat posts: MeitY

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of hoax calls to airlines in the last few days, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an advisory to all social media platforms to make "reasonable efforts" to "promptly" take down bomb threat posts or else "be held liable." Issuing this advisory, the ministry also asked all social media platforms to adhere to provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Rules and Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).

The ministry has cautioned online platforms that failure to comply with the IT Rules could result in the loss of their safe harbour protection under the IT Act. The provision currently shields platforms from legal liability for third-party content posted on their social media platforms.

"Airline travellers and security agencies are being affected due to such hoax bomb threats that disrupt the normal course of operations of the Airlines. The instances of malicious acts in the form of hoax bomb threats to such airlines lead to potential threat to the public order & security of the state [sic]," the IT Ministry said in an official statement.



"Such hoax bomb threats while affecting a large number of citizens also destabilises the economic security of the country. Further, the scale of spread of such hoax bomb threats has been observed to be dangerously unrestrained due to the availability of the option of 'forwarding/re-sharing/ re-posting/ re-tweeting' on the social media platforms," it added.

Over 250 flights were affected by over 250 hoax bomb threats, mostly through social media, in the last 10 days, bringing turbulence to India's domestic aviation industry. Even hotels, schools, hotels and other establishments have also received similar warnings.

In its advisory, the IT Ministry also stated that all social media platforms will have to provide information on the matter to law enforcement agencies within 72 hours.

West Delhi man arrested for hoax bomb call

STAFF REPORTER: A 25-year-old West Delhi resident was arrested for issuing a hoax bomb threat to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport via a social media account, in an attempt to draw attention to himself. According to police, they received two bomb threat

messages from a social media account. Following standard security protocols, an investigation was launched, which ultimately revealed the threat to be a hoax. A case was registered at the IGI police station, and authorities traced the suspect through his account.

US sends illegal visitors back home

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States hired a chartered flight to deport Indian nationals who were staying in the country illegally, the Department of Homeland Security has said, noting that this has been done in cooperation with the Indian government. The charter flight was sent to India on October 22, the department said on Friday.

"Indian nationals without a legal basis to remain in the United States are subject to swift removal, and intending migrants should not fall for the lies of smugglers who proclaim otherwise," said Kristie A. Canegallo, a senior official performing the duties of Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

The statement said the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continues to enforce US immigration laws and deliver tough consequences for those who enter unlawfully and encourages the use of lawful pathways.

'Big danger averted due to Lord's grace'

Says Chief Minister
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

There was no loss of lives due to Cyclone Dana. Due to the grace of Lord Jagannath, a big danger over the State was averted, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday.

"The State Government's 'zero casualty' policy was successfully implemented by the ministers, MPs, MLAs, administrative officials and social organisations. For this, I sincerely congratulate all of them. All of them worked 24 hours to keep people safe and provide services to them," said Majhi.



action. This government is of the people and it would stand with people at all times, the Chief Minister said.

"I congratulate the people of the State for abiding by the government's guidelines and combating the cyclone successfully," said Majhi.



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Indian Actor & Film Director



Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, IFS
Additional Secretary, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) Ministry of External Affairs, Gol.



Mr. Akshay Mathur
Senior Director of Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi

27th October 2024 5.00 p.m. KIIT Convention Centre, Campus-6

Cyclone Dana 5 officers suspended for dereliction of duty

Central team to visit soon for damage assessment: Pujari
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR / KENDRAPADA
Five government officers, a Revenue Inspector (RI) and four Panchayat Executive Officers (PEOs), in Kendrapada district have been suspended for dereliction of duty and misbehaving with people by using harsh words during Cyclone Dana.



ter Management Department Minister Suresh Pujari on Saturday. On the other hand, he said, "The government officers, who have served people during the emergency situation, will be praised."

and the process would start after conducting a survey on Saturday. Officers have been clearly instructed to ensure that the assessment is error-free.

damaged and agricultural lands affected in 13 districts. The government machinery carried out evacuation of the highest number of affected people in the history, he said. Pujari also informed, "A Central team is also likely to visit for damage assessment soon. Before the release of funds from the Centre, the State Government will start disbursing it on its own." Electricity has been restored to 22 lakh households and pending restoration work would be completed by Saturday evening, he said.

In city 'Spotting' of leopard near airport triggers panic

Forest officials launch search operation
NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR
Panic prevailed on Saturday following claims of spotting of a leopard near the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in the capital city. Sources said some employees spotted the leopard near the dumping yard in the Pokharipur area and raised an alarm. A team of the Forest Department rushed to the spot and launched a search operation to verify the authenticity of the sighting of the big cat near the airport. Later, armed with nets and



other equipments, teams of police and Forest Department started conducting examination of the spot to collect first-hand information about the incident. A forest official said, "We

are examining the spot; and so far, we have not detected anything. But pugmarks found near the spot appear to be that of a jackal. However, due to rain the pugmarks are not clear."

The official further said that if any leopard pugmark is found, they would inform the higher authorities for necessary measures. Three teams were engaged in search operation at the dumping yard close to the airport. The teams were pressed into operation after getting information from officials of the Bhubaneswar airport. Sources said efforts were on to capture the animal using nets and traps as well. Notably, around five years back, a leopard had been captured near the airport. After a long operation, the animal was captured after a visual of it scaling a boundary wall in the Pallaspalli area was caught on CCTV.

Courageous Sibani gets PMAY house



Sibani Mandal, an ASHA Worker from Khasmunda village of Rajnagar block in Kendrapada district, who has earned praises from all quarters for her courageous service during Cyclone Dana, has been awarded with a Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) house.

her shoulder to a cyclone shelter went viral. Significantly, Sibani carried a total of nine people, seven elders and two pregnant women, piggyback to cyclone shelters. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, Deputy CM Pravati Parida, among others, praised Sibani for her dedication. Majhi also had a telephonic conversation with her. "I am happy that my work has been praised by all. I have always tried to help people in need. I try to ensure that I take patients to hospitals," said Sibani.

Huge quantity of gold seized from van in Baripada

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In a major crackdown on alleged gold smuggling, a CT-Commercial Tax and Goods and Services Tax C-GST squad on Friday seized at least 15-20 kg of gold from a logistics van at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district. The CT-GST team intercepted the vehicle while delivering gold ornaments to a jeweller in Baripada. As the custodian of the van failed to give a satisfactory answer, the vehicle was seized while a verification process was launched to find any discrepancy in the gold delivery. Reports said the gold orna-

ments had reached Odisha via West Bengal from Mumbai. The vehicle was allegedly delivering the gold to jewellers in Mayurbhanj and Baleswar but failed to show supporting documents. The expected market value of the seized gold is assumed to be in crores. However, the officials were yet to reveal more details as the verification process was on. "As usual, we were doing our mobile activity yesterday when we spotted a custodian of 'Sequel Logistics' delivering jewellery ornaments at a local jewellery store. Under suspect, we checked the vehicle and found bills that raised our

suspicion. We intercepted the vehicle and seized around 15-20 kg gold ornaments," said CT-GST Deputy Commissioner Kulamani Mallik. "The custodian failed to give any satisfactory answer. We suspect the involvement of four-five jewellers from Mayurbhanj and Baleswar in this connection. The verification process is on and we will impose penalty as per GST Act if any discrepancy is found. The vehicle has come from Mumbai to Kolkata and was supposedly on its way to Baripada, Udala, Mayurbhanj and Baleswar. More details can be ascertained after verification," he added.

Ambulance worker braves Dana, saves patient

Manas Mallick's act earns praise by all
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Several individuals turned saviours for scores of people who needed help during Cyclone Dana in the State. One of such heroes is Manas Kumar Mallick. Mallick works as a 108 Ambulance worker in Rajnagar block of Kendrapada district. He saved the life of a woman patient during the cyclone. A video of Mallick running by carrying the patient for quite a distance to his ambulance has been shared by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida. In her official X handle, Parida wrote, "A patient's life was saved due to the bravery



of Manas Kumar Mallick, the 108 Ambulance worker of Rajnagar block of Kendrapada district during the storm. Kudos to him for his bravery and humanity! Wishing him a bright future!" Not only Mallick, people across Odisha had on Friday also witnessed the dedication

of ASHA Worker Sibani Mandal shifting several elderly people in Kendrapada district to the shelter by carrying her on her shoulder. The video of Mandal went viral on social media and she received praises from different quarters, including Chief Minister Mohan Majhi.

'Instal IP-enabled cameras in apartments'

Commissionerate police asks residents' assns to curb thefts
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In a bid to check rising theft cases in the apartments of Twin City of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, the Commissionerate police has issued an advisory, directing to the installation of IP-enabled cameras at the entrance and exit points, informed Twin City Police Commissioner S Devadutta Singh on Saturday. According to the Police Commissioner, Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) have been advised to instal IP-enabled cameras and share the data with the control room of the Commissionerate police. "We have issued an advisory for the people residing in the apartments. The Resi-

dents' Welfare Associations will instal IP-enabled cameras at the entry and exit points of all the apartments in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar and give their feedback to our control room. It will provide two-way communication and as a result, we will be able to provide better security," said the Police Commissioner. "Cooperate with all our police stations and we are with you. We will take the help of your feedback and guards in case of detection. If you have any information or suggestions, please share with us through WhatsApp number 7077798111," he added. As per sources, a total of 65 loot cases have so far been registered in the Twin City in 2024. Commissionerate Police has so far arrested as many as 29 people in connection with loot cases at the apartment buildings in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

ILS holds curtain raiser for India Int'l Science Fest

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar organised an Open Day on October 22 to mark the curtain raiser event for the upcoming India International Science Festival (IISF) at the IIT Guwahati from November 30 to December 3. The IISF, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati, celebrates the spirit of science and innovation with a Swadeshi ethos. Its primary goal is to foster a deep engagement between the general public and science in a fun and educational way, thus promoting a healthier, more pro-



perous and meaningful life. IISF provides a unique platform where scientists, innovators and the broader public can come together to experience the joy of science and collaborate for the betterment of India and the world.

At the ILS curtain raiser, approximately 450 students from leading schools and colleges across Odisha participated. The event's highlights included a quiz competition, a Meet the Scientists session, which provided guidance on

higher education and entrepreneurship opportunities. The participants also got a firsthand look at live scientific experiments and a guided tour of the ILS's state-of-the-art laboratories and research infrastructure.

In Baleswar Man gets 20-yr RI for raping minor

PNS ■ BALESWAR
Special Judge POCSO Ranjan Kumar Sutar here on Saturday convicted an accused involved in kidnap and rape of a 12-year-old girl and awarded him 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) along with a fine of Rs 5,000. The court further ordered two years' more jail term in case the convict fails to pay the penalty sum. The convict, identified as Rajendra Jena (24) of village Gopalgaon under the Town police station, had sexually assaulted the victim of his area after kidnapping her when she went to the local

market. The minor girl's mother lodged an FIR with police on April 7, 2024. Police, following an investigation, arrested the accused. The accused was tried under various sections of IPC and 6 of POCSO Act. The court, after examining 15 witnesses and 26 exhibits, pronounced the verdict. The convict would undergo 20 years' RI besides coughing up the penalty. The court further ordered a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the victim to be paid through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), said Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda.

ISKCON's move for untimely Rath Yatra in US decried

Don't tarnish Jagannath culture, demand devotees
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness' (ISKCON) Houston unit has been accused of tarnishing the Jagannath culture by organising untimely Snan Yatra and Rath Yatra of the Holy Trinity in the USA. Such a move of the ISKCON has irked Jagannath devotees across the globe. According to a release published on the website of the Houston unit of ISKCON, it is planning to organise Snan Yatra on November 3 and Rath Yatra on November 9. This is not the first time that the ISKCON has hurt the sentiments of crores of Jagannath



culture followers. Expressing displeasure over the ISKCON's repeated insensitive actions, Puri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, in September 2019, had sent a clear message asking the society not to organise Rath Yatra on any random date other

than the Sanatan culture-specified day. As per the Sanatan culture, the Rath Yatra is organised on the Dwitiya of Sukla Paksha in Asadha month in Odia calendar. Responding to the Puri King's message, the ISKCON

India adopted a resolution to observe Rath Yatra on the specific date. The ISKCON also confirmed the resolution through a letter to the Puri King in August 2021. But now, the Houston unit of the society has planned to organise Rath Yatra on No-

vember 6, sparking a fresh controversy and raising questions about their intention. "The move by ISKCON is an insult to Jagannath culture. This should be immediately opposed by the Odisha Government and the Puri and the Srimandir administrations. Snan Yatra is held on Jyestha Purnima. Organising untimely Rath Yatra is completely against Jagannath Culture," alleged Binayak Das Mohapatra, a senior servant of the Srimandir. Rabi Narayan Samantaray, a Puri resident said, "Though ISKCON has played a crucial role in promoting Sanatan Culture globally, this move has hurt the sentiments of the Jagannath culture believers." Eminent sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik said, "I am surprised by ISKCON Houston unit's plan to organise

Snan Yatra and Rath Yatra in November. Puri Rath Yatra is considered as the world's largest annual event. This is really heartbreaking the way they are planning an untimely divine ritual of the Holy Trinity. Though we appreciate their efforts in promoting Jagannath culture, such action is objectionable." Jagannath culture expert Suryanarayan Rathsharma said, "This is not the first time ISKCON is performing an untimely Rath Yatra. The Three Jagannath Temple Administration should write to them to refrain from such activities." "What ISKCON is doing is not right. I urge Odisha Government to act on it so that it does not happen in the future," a devotee visiting the Srimandir demanded. No comments from the ISKCON could be obtained on the matter.

Mangrove forests reduced storm Dana's fury

However, coastal forests are on the wane

RAJESH BEHERA
KENDRAPADA

The devastation caused by cyclone Dana might have been larger, if its landfall had not taken place at the mangrove forest of Bhitarkanika, said Rajnagar Mangrove Forest and Wildlife Division DFO Sudarshan Gopinath Jadav.

The cyclonic storm Dana made its landfall at Habalikhathi island, located within the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary of Bhitarkanika National Park. During its landfall, several forest cottages and their doors and windows were damaged whereas several casuarina trees got uprooted along the sea coast. However,



damages were not extensive as before, said DFO Jadav.

Even some portion the Nasi-2 beach, a favourite nesting place for the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles, also eroded due to heavy wind and the tidal water of the turbulent sea. But as the sea was

rough, the forest personnel skipped going to Nasi 2 beach to inspect the condition of the beach, added Jadav.

But one thing is sure that the mangrove cover managed to save the life and property from the cyclonic storm Dana. It has once again proved

that the mangrove forest plays an important role in protecting the areas from catastrophe like cyclone and tsunami. They stand as a natural barrier against the gale by reducing its wind velocity and tidal surges to the nearby coastal villages. Mangrove forests prevent

soil erosion and protect watershed in the river mouth and sea-shores. They check erosion as its deep - root system acts as a barrier against the tidal wave and sea-current.

Mangrove forests with its intricate root system stabilise the coastline, reducing ero-

sion from storm surges, currents, waves and tides. Mangroves are swamp forests. They provide many ecosystem services to coastal communities. The density of their trees, together with the variety of tree species, attenuate the inflow of water and create a sort of buffer zone against floods and storm surges. Mangroves are also more effective when the storm is violent.

However, though mangroves act as a saviour against such natural disasters, their area is shrinking fast in the Odisha coast. According to forest official sources, more than 213 km stretch mangrove forest of Bhitarkanika, the second largest of this type of species in India, next only to Sundarban in West Bengal, containing 55 types out of 58 true mangroves variety, is vanishing fast.

During cyclone in K'pada 3 including woman die in separate incidents

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

Three persons died while the cyclonic storm Dana wreaked havoc in Kendrapada district on Thursday. The district administration has confirmed the deaths.

A widow, Hemalata Behera of Bankuala village under Dangamal gram panchayat, who was evacuated with her family members to a cyclone shelter, died of cardiac arrest there.

In another incident, Harekrushna Rout of Madhupur village under Balisahi GP and Balaram Swain of Kiajodi under Sanabada Gopalpur GP of Rajnagar died due to cold ex-

posure in their thatched houses. Kendrapada Collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan confirmed the deaths of the three persons but said they did not die directly due to the cyclone. While the widow died due to cardiac arrest, the other two lost their lives due to cold exposure.

The administration has given Rs 20,000 from the District Red Cross fund to the widow's family. However, no financial assistance has been provided to the other two deceased's families.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo met the family members of the deceased Hemalata on Friday during his tour to the Rajnagar area.

Honour killing in Balangir Young man, girl found dead with throat slit



PNS ■ BALANGIR

A young man and a girl were found dead with their throat slit in the Tandamunda forest under the Puntala police station in Balangir district on Thursday.

While carrying out the investigation, police recovered the car, suspected to be used in the murder, from the Burla hospital campus.

Police suspect it to be a case of 'honour killing' and intensified their investigation into the shocking incident.

Sources said that five to six persons are suspected to be involved in the killing of the young man and the girl. It is suspected that the deceased were in some relationship.

It was revealed that both were from outside Odisha and had been staying at a rented location in Balangir for the past couple of months.

Police got information about the involvement of some persons and subsequently recovered the car used in the crime from the parking of Burla hospital.

In Nuapada Villagers lock school, demand more teachers



Teaching disrupted; midday meal stopped

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Villagers of Mandosil Basti in the Khariar block locked the main gate of Project Upper Primary School on Tuesday demanding appointment of additional teachers.

With only three teachers for 111 students across eight classes, community members, including former Sarpanch Radheshyam Rana, expressed anger over inadequate staffing. The school has a sanctioned strength of five teachers but it has been operating

under capacity since the death of one teacher two years ago and the recent reassignment of another. Villagers previously appealed to the Collector for help, but no teachers were appointed despite assurances. Radheshyam mentioned that their meeting with the Block Education Officer was unproductive, and tensions have risen.

The school remains closed, disrupting the midday meal programme as well. The villagers are determined to keep the gate locked until their demands are met.

The BEO, Khariar, however, assured that teachers would be posted in the school soon.

In Brahmapur Weekly newspaper, web channel launched



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The inaugural ceremony of weekly newspaper Dakshinanchala Express and its web channel launched by Editor Manoj Kumar Sahu and Assistant Editor Rina Rani Sahu on Wednesday here.

On the occasion, senior BJD leader Subash Charana Moharana, senior BJP leader Kanhu Charan Pati, senior journalists Chandradhwaja Sahu, Shaktidhara Rajguru,

Brahmapur Press Club president Ashok Brahma, vice-president Abhaya Pady and others attended as guests. President of Ganjam District Journalists Association Sudeep Sahu presided over the function.

Cultural programmes were conducted and artists were rewarded by Rashmita Dalai. Dr Manoj Kumar Patra, Amar Kumar Das, Banamali Sahu, Pintu Behera, Madhumita Dash, Itee Shree Patra, Subhadra Shukla and Sibani Sahu participated.

In Balangir Live pangolin rescued; 4 held

PNS ■ BALANGIR

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime branch with the help of forest officials on Friday conducted a raid near Topavan Ashram Chhak under the Puntala police station in Balangir district and rescued a live pangolin.

The STF arrested four persons in this connection. The arrested were identified as Dhableswar Bag (23), Pratap Deep (30), Brindaban Danta (38) and Surendra Kumar Bag (32).



The accused persons could not produce any authority in support of possession of the pangolin, for which they were arrested.

The pangolin has already been handed over to forest officials for safe custody, the STF said.

The Indian pangolin is a Schedule-I protected animal under the Wild- Life Protection Act, 1972.

J'suguda dist loses 1,542 ha forestland in 10 yrs

Due to mining, different projects

RAJKUMAR SHARMA
JHARSUGUDA

Over the past decade, Jharsuguda district has lost 1,541 hectares of forestland, significantly impacting the district's environment.

According to data from the Jharsuguda Forest Division, much of the loss is attributed to expanding mining operations and industrial projects. The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited alone accounted for 1,365 hectares of this lost forest, primarily due to mining activities and their ongoing expansion.

The destruction of forest land in the district has led to a range of environmental issues, including declining groundwater levels, increased soil erosion, and rising daytime temperatures.

Despite this, development activities are set to continue, with various mining and industrial projects applying for an additional 220 hectares of forest land for use.

Between 1989 and 2023, a total of 2,833 hectares of forest land in Jharsuguda district has been cleared for mining, industrialisation, construction of railways, power lines, and other infrastructure. Out of this, 1,503 hectares received final clearance for such projects over

the last decade alone.

Environmentalists are concerned about the serious imbalance this has caused, particularly since afforestation efforts have not kept pace with the loss of natural forests.

While 1,977 hectares of land have been earmarked for afforestation, the progress has been slow. Steps are being taken to reforest 3,231 hectares of damaged forest land, but concerns remain over whether these efforts will be sufficient to offset the extensive forest losses.

The district's forest cover has gradually increased over time, with covered forest land growing from 289

square kilometers (13.88% of total area) in 2003 to 335 square kilometers (15.86%) in 2021. However, this remains well below the 33% forest cover required for environmental balance, with current forest cover limited to just 15% of the total land area.

The Jharsuguda Forest Division, originally part of the Sambalpur North Forest Division, has jurisdiction over 2,081 square kilometers of land, with forest cover fluctuating due to industrial pressures. Environmentalists are urging for more sustainable development practices and greater efforts in afforestation to restore ecological balance in the district.

Prof Mishra wins IPSA lifetime award



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Professor Dr Jugal Kishore Mishra, Director of Internal Quality Assurance Cell and Professor of Madhusudan Das and Biju Patnaik Chair of the KISS University here received the prestigious Indian Political Science Association

(IPSA)'s National Lifetime Achievement Award 2024.

Mishra was conferred with award in the 61st IPSA conference held at the Maharaja Ganga Singh University at Bikaner in Rajasthan) recently. Mishra was also the former Professor of Political Science of Berhampur

University and visiting Professor in Ravenshaw University.

He was also Higher Education Consultant of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He served as the president of IPSA for several terms and successfully worked as

the secretary of Indian Institute of Public Administration, Odisha Branch and the editor of its journal.

On his achievement, KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta, members of the All Odisha Political Science Association and well-wishers have congratulated Mishra.

3-day Guru Debaprasad Award Fest begins

Odishi, Bharatanatyam, Kathak dances mesmerise audiences

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The three-day 18th Guru Debaprasad Award Festival 2024 began on October 25 at the Rabindra Mandap here.

The inaugural function commenced with the presentation of the Guru Debaprasad Prativa Award. The awardees are Dr Ajith Bhaskar (Bharatanatyam Dance), Rupa Rani Das Borah (Kathak), Tejas Upadhye (Violin) and Vickneshwaram Gonaserger (Odishi dance).

This was followed by a group Odishi dance by Sutra



Dance Theatre, Malaysia, led by Padma Shri Datuk Ramli Ibrahim, a solo Bharatanatyam performance by Dr Ajith Bhaskar, a solo Kathak performance by Rupa Rani Das, and a solo violin recital by eminent violinist Tejas

Upadhye.

On October 26, the evening will begin with the presentation of the Guru Debaprasad Lifetime Achievement Award to legendary gurus, followed by a solo Odishi dance by Padma Shri Guru Madhavi

Mudgal, a solo Bharatanatyam performance by Padma Shri Chitra Visweswaran, a group Kathak performance by Padma Shri Ramlal Bareth and Bhupendra Bareth & Group, and Sabda Nrutya by Padma Shri Guru

Bhagabata Pradhan and Group.

This year the Guru Debaprasad Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 will be conferred to Padma Shri Guru Mayadhar Rout for his lifetime contribution in the field of Odishi dance; Guru Gopal Chandra Panda in Odishi music; Guru Harmohan Khuntia in Odishi Mardala and Dr Ramesh Prasad Panigrahi for lifetime contribution in Natya Sahitya. Similarly, Guru Debaprasad Award 2024 will be conferred to Padma Shri Madhavi Mudgal (Odishi Dance), Padma Shri Chitra Visweswaran (Bharatanatyam); Padma Shri Ramlal Bareth (Kathak) and Padma Shri Guru Bhagabata Pradhan (Sabda Nrutya).

The Valedictory Ceremony on October 27 will open with the Odishi dance production "Sabda Swara Patta," followed by the Guru Debaprasad Award presentation to world-renowned gurus and artists. The evening will conclude with Odishi dance production "Sita Ram Bakyalapam," composed by Guru Dr Gajendra Kumar Panda, which will be presented by the principal dancers of Tridhara, which is organising the festival.

The sponsors of the event are Union Ministry of Culture, Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Government of Odisha, MGM Minerals, Nalco, PPL, The New Maroon and Royal Midtown Hotel (RMH). It will be conducted by Tridhara director Guru Gajendra Panda.

Amit Shah to inaugurate passenger terminal at Petrapole

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the newly-constructed passenger terminal and a cargo gate named as 'Maitri Dwar' at the India-Bangladesh land border crossing in West Bengal on Sunday. The crossing at Petrapole is the largest land port in South Asia and is a vital gateway for trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh. The union home minister will inaugurate the passenger terminal building and 'Maitri Dwar' at land port Petrapole in West Bengal on Sunday, an official statement said. Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh) is one of the most important land border crossings for India-Bangladesh both in terms of trade and passengers movement. Nearly 70 per cent of land-based trade (by value) between India and Bangladesh takes place through this land port



which is under the administrative control of the Land Ports Authority of India, a wing of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is also the eighth largest international immigration port of India and facilitates movement of over 23.5 lakh passengers annually between India and Bangladesh.

The new passenger terminal at Petrapole is a significant addition to the region's infrastructure and it set to enhance the travel experience between India and Bangladesh, the statement said. With its robust construction and advanced technological systems, the terminal promises safety, efficiency, and comfort for all users.

Designed to reflect the grandeur of international transport hubs, the terminal at Petrapole is equipped with all modern facilities such as VIP lounges, duty free shop, basic medical facility, Infant/baby feeding room, food and beverages outlets etc. The terminal has a passenger handling capacity of 20,000 per day, and will house immigration, customs, and security services under one roof. Its built-up area is of 59,800 sq m. The government has also implemented an automated entry and exit systems through flap barrier integration. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided the Land Ports Authority of India a new momentum, direction and dimension to take forward our cultural and trade relations with all South Asian countries," the statement said. This ambitious project is set to redefine infrastructure and service standards, enhancing the travel experience between India and Bangladesh and position-

ing itself as a pivotal hub in Asia. Maitri Dwar is a joint cargo gate at zero line agreed by both the countries. Shah had laid its foundation stone on May 9, 2023. In response to the daily cross-border traffic movement at Petrapole, which sees approximately 600-700 trucks per day, the Land Ports Authority of India established the new common second cargo gate and named it as Maitri Dwar. This dedicated gate for cargo movement is aimed at easing and streamlining the flow of goods between the two nations. The introduction of Maitri Dwar is anticipated to significantly accelerate the release and clearance of goods at the border, thereby enhancing trade efficiency, the statement said. The gate is equipped with modern day facilities such as automatic number plate recognition, boom barriers, facial recognition cameras and access-controlled entry and exit points for trucks from India and Bangladesh.

PM Modi, Spain PM to inaugurate C-295 aircraft facility in Gujarat



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart, Pedro Sanchez, will inaugurate the Tata aircraft complex in Gujarat's Vadodara on Monday for manufacturing C-295 aircraft by Tata Advanced Systems. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in a statement on Saturday, said this will be the first private sector final assembly line for military aircraft in India. During the visit to his home state, Modi will also launch

development projects worth more than Rs 4,900 crore in Amreli. The PMO said 40 aircraft will be built in the Vadodara facility as part of the agreement, while aviation behemoth Airbus will deliver 16 aircraft directly. Tata Advanced Systems is responsible for making these 40 aircraft in India and this facility will be the first private sector final assembly line (FAL) for military planes in India. It will involve the full development of a complete ecosystem, from manufacture to assembly, test and qualification, to deliv-

ery and maintenance of the complete life cycle of the aircraft, the statement said. Apart from the Tatas, leading defence public sector units, such as Bharat Electronics and Bharat Dynamics, as well as private micro, small and medium enterprises will contribute to this programme. Modi had laid the foundation stone for the Vadodara final assembly line in October 2022. In Amreli, the prime minister will inaugurate the "Bharat Mata" Sarovar in Dudhala. This project was developed through a collaboration between the state government and the Dholakia Foundation under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. Various rail, road, water and tourism projects, among others, to be inaugurated by Modi will benefit the citizens of Amreli, Jamnagar, Morbi, Devbhoomi Dwarka, Junagadh, Porbandar, Kachchh and Botad districts of the state, the statement said.

Priyanka Gandhi promises to fight for Wayanad's interests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said her first journey as a public representative of Wayanad is not her first as a "public fighter" as she asserted that fighting for democracy, justice and values enshrined in the Constitution is central to her life. In an open letter to the people of Wayanad, after she filed her nomination papers from the constituency, she told them that she would work with them closely and help address their challenges. Urging people to elect her as an MP in the November 13 bypoll, she promised that her work would serve to deepen



the bond with them and that she would do all she could to fight for them and represent them in the way that they wish to be represented in Parliament. She said the people of Wayanad will be "my guides and teachers" in this journey, which is her first as a public

representative. "Fighting for democracy, for justice and for the values enshrined in our constitution is central to my life. I look forward to carrying this battle for all our futures forward with your support and will be deeply grateful to you if you choose to make me your MP," she said in her letter. "My Dear Sisters and Brothers of Wayanad, A few months back, I travelled to Chooramala and Mundakkai with my brother. I saw the devastation brought by the landslide and the depth of the loss you suffered. I met children who had lost everyone they loved, mothers who were grieving for their children and families whose entire lives had been washed

away by the rage of nature. "Yet, through the darkness of the tragedy that befell you, what shone through to me was your immense courage and fortitude as a community. You rallied together with a strength I have not seen before. Doctors, public representatives, volunteers, social workers, teachers, nurses, housewives, everyone was doing whatever they possibly could to help one another," she said. She said as she was returning home, she felt that it would be an honour to represent the people of Wayanad in parliament. She said Rahul Gandhi explained to her the struggles of the people of Wayanad and briefed her about the issues that need attention and resolution.

Gandhi family is not above law: BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of "non-disclosure of essential information" regarding her and her husband Robert Vadra's assets in her affidavit to contest the Lok Sabha bypoll from Kerala's Wayanad. BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed that Priyanka Gandhi is in violation of the Supreme Court's directive to poll candidates to make a full disclosure of their, their spouse's and dependents' assets. "The Supreme Court order is binding on all citizens. The Gandhi family is not above law. There can be only one out-



come. If somebody furnishes wrong information in the affidavit, they have no right to contest elections," Bhatia told reporters here. The date for a scrutiny of the nominations by poll officials is October 28 and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been targeting the Congress general secretary over her affidavit in the run-up.

Referring to the alleged grab of National Herald assets by the Gandhi family, Bhatia said Priyanka Gandhi's affidavit made no mention of her ownership of shares in Associated Journals through a couple of trusts. This amounts to non-disclosure of essential information, he said. The affidavit, he added, mentioned Vadra's three firms

while omitting his stakes in two other companies. The BJP leader said his charge is based on "irrefutable" documents. He asked Priyanka Gandhi to respond to the allegations to inform the public about her stand on the issue. The Congress will have to comply with the law or there will be serious consequences, Bhatia said, adding that the BJP will take all necessary and effective steps as it follows the Constitution. The Gandhi family, he alleged, thinks that it can ignore the law and befool people. No one should harbour such an illusion, he added. The bypoll to the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency is scheduled to be held on November 13.



Panchayati Raj ministry approves new infrastructure projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Seeking to address infrastructure gaps, the Panchayati Raj Ministry has approved a series of proposals for building new panchayat buildings and resource centres and upgrading existing ones across the country. These include a proposal for building around 400 Gram Panchayat buildings in border areas of Arunachal Pradesh, ministry sources said. According to a source, a number of proposals were put forth in the meeting of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on the revamped Gram Swaraj Abhiyan earlier this month and were recently approved by the ministry. In the CEC meeting chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Vivek Bharadwaj, issues of infrastructure and training for panchayats were in focus. "In a bid to boost Panchayat Infrastructure in the 'Vibrant Villages' in the border areas, the construction of 400 Panchayat Bhawans - c - u - m - C - o - m - m - o - n Service Centres in Arunachal Pradesh has been approved by the Ministry," the source said. Under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, the Ministry has supported the construction of Panchayat Bhawans as well as the setting up of Common Service Centres, especially in border states. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry has supported the construction of 970 Gram Panchayat Bhawan and the co-location of 1,606 Common Service Centres during 2024-25, according to information provided by the Panchayati Raj Ministry. Similarly, panchayat infra-

structure has been supported for the other states of the Northeast including Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Assam and Manipur. Overall 1,633 Gram Panchayat Bhawans and 514 CSCs have been approved for the States of North East. The source said that the establishment of these facilities will empower local governance, enabling better access to public services and fostering community participation in decision-making processes. The Ministry has also approved the construction of 3,301 Gram Panchayat Bhawans with Common Service Centre (CSC) co-locations and sanctioned 22,164 computers for Gram Panchayats across various States, including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, and Telangana. A decision has also been taken to modernise the Panchayat Resource Centres at state and district levels across the country. Computer labs in State Panchayat Resource Centres (SPRC) in 25 States as well as in District Panchayat Resource Centres in 395 Districts will be upgraded with more computers of the latest specification. Apart from this, the Central Empowered Committee also approved the standardisation of honorarium rates for Master Trainers, Guest Faculties, and Eminent Resource Persons across states/UTs. The source said it will bring uniformity and quality in training delivery across the country from larger states like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra to smaller ones like Sikkim and Goa, and will be particularly important for states like Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab and West Bengal, which are scaling up their training initiatives.

Centre appoints 29 new joint secretaries across departments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre, 29 joint secretaries have been appointed in different government departments. Officers from various central services, including the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE), Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) and Indian Revenue Service (IRS) among others have been appointed to these key joint secretary (JS)-level posts, as per an order issued by the Personnel

Ministry. IDAS officers Praveen Kumar Rai and Rakesh Kumar Pandey, and IRSEE officer Rajesh Gupta have been appointed as joint secretaries in the Home Ministry, said the order dated October 25. Raj Kumar, a 1999-batch IA&AS officer, has been named as Director (Finance) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs for a tenure of five years, it said. Deepak Agarwal, a 2000-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Managing Director (JS level),



National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), the order said. IAS officers Chauhan Sarita Chand and P Bala Kiran have been appointed as Joint

Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances and Department of Personnel & Training, respectively. Bhavna Saxena, a 1996-batch Indian Police Service (IPS)

officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as CEO, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under the Ministry of Women & Child Development, the order said. Anjan Kumar Mishra, a 1998-batch Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS) officer, has been named as Secretary, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Niraj Kumar, a Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer, has been appointed as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, the order said. Kesang

Yangzom Sherpa, a 1995-batch IRS (Income Tax cadre) officer, will be Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce. Premjit Lal has been appointed as Executive Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Balamurugan D will be Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Rama Shankar Sinha has been named as Joint Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Senior bureaucrats Rajat Agarwal and Ved Prakash Mishra have been appointed as joint secretaries in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

AI curriculum launched for ITI students nationwide



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As the nature of jobs has been evolving, students at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will now have the opportunity to explore careers using Artificial Intelligence (AI). In addition to this students will also understand how AI is impacting jobs and industries and examine the advantages and disadvantages of AI at work. This is part of the new 7.5-hour foundational module on Artificial Intelligence (AI), titled 'Introduction to Artificial Intelligence', has been added to the existing 120-hour Employability Skills curriculum. One of the chapters titled "Exploring careers with AI", helps learners find career options that match their interests and qualifications using AI. The AI tools can suggest careers that match people's interests and qualifications and can also help find new career options one might not have thought about. These tools save time by showing careers that fit one's interests. The module was launched on Saturday by Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and

Entrepreneurship and will be implemented in 14,681 ITIs across India starting this November. According to Chaudhary, the new 'Introduction to AI' module opens up the fundamentals of artificial intelligence, sparking curiosity and creating awareness among ITI students about AI's real-world possibilities. "This program is designed to show how AI can enhance everyday tasks and inspire students to explore AI technologies in greater depth," the Minister added. Elaborating further, Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, "It is fundamental for everyone to understand the real-world applications of AI since it is the future. This curriculum will lay a strong foundation in AI for a smooth school-to-work transition and help them understand the power and responsibility that comes while using it." Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, NSDC, Dr. Vinita Aggarwal, Executive member, NCVET, Preethi Pal, Paralympics champion, Trishaljit Sethi, Director General of Training, Dr. Neena Pahuja, Executive member, NCVET amongst others is were present on the occasion.

Former NIOS chairperson repatriated amid controversy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) chairperson Saroj Sharma has not been removed from the post but repatriated to her parent cadre in accordance with her request, the institute said on Saturday. "Prof. Sharma has not been removed by Centre. She had requested for premature repatriation from her role to join IITE, Gandhinagar and it was according to the set procedure of repatriation to the parent organisation from central government," the NIOS said in a statement. Sharma was at the centre of a controversy after she was booked by the Delhi Police in connection with the suicide of her driver, who had written to the education ministry accusing her of harassment and



caste discrimination. Earlier this month, the Gujarat government cancelled Sharma's appointment as the vice-chancellor of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE). She was appointed to the post on September 5 but was yet to take charge. "I had requested for premature repatriation from my role a month ago to join the IITE-Gandhinagar as the vice-chancellor and it was according to the set procedure of repatriation to the parent organisation from the central government. In such cases, an approval from the DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) as well as the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) is needed," Sharma said. "I had requested the Gujarat government to give some more time to me to join but due to a procedural delay in my premature repatriation, it appointed some other person as the vice-chancellor there," she added. Sharma has been repatriated to her parent department in the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. She refused to comment on the suicide controversy, saying "a probe is underway".

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ED attaches assets worth ₹163 crore in West Bengal recruitment scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has attached assets worth more than Rs 163 crore of the alleged "main middleman" and his linked entities in fresh action in a "scam" in the recruitment of group C and D category staff by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC). The anti-money laundering earlier attached properties worth Rs 230.6 crore in connection with the alleged irregularities in the hiring of assistant teachers and Rs 151 crore worth of assets in the primary teachers recruitment "scam" in West Bengal. Both recruitments were done by the WBSSC. The ED said in a statement that five hotels and resorts, 230 land parcels and 17 flats and shops

of Prasanna Kumar Roy, the "main middleman" in these cases, his wife Kajal Soni Roy and a company, controlled and operated by Roy, named Shree Durga Dealcom Pvt. Ltd. Have been provisionally attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The value of the attached properties is Rs 163.20 crore, it said.

The attached assets include Chalankita Resort situated at Shyampur in Howrah, Royal Bengal Resort at Sunderbans, Hotel Mili (Rubina) in Digha, Hotel Murti at Jalpaiguri and Bamboo Village Resort in Alipurduar. The money laundering probe stems from a CBI FIR and charge sheets registered for the alleged "illegal appointment of Group 'C' and



'D' employees by offering appointment to the undeserving, non-listed and below-ranked candidates and consequently depriving the deserving and genuine candidates." It is alleged that the appointments were made without maintaining fairness, in a criminal conspiracy with various persons and by flouting the relevant rules, according to the ED. The CBI charge sheets stated that a total of 3,432 (1,125 for group 'C' and 2,307 for group 'D') employees were appointed or recommended "illegally" by the officials of WBSSC in criminal conspiracy with others, it said. Roy and former WBSSC advisor Santi Prasad Sinha were arrested by the ED in the assistant teachers recruitment "scam" linked money laundering case and they are in judicial custody at present.

India-China LAC breakthrough: Jaishankar credits military, diplomacy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PUNE
 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday credited the breakthrough agreement with China on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to the military which worked in "very very unimaginable" conditions and deft diplomacy. Responding to a question during an interaction with students in Pune, Jaishankar said it is still a bit early for normalisation of relations which will naturally take time to rebuild a degree of

trust and willingness to work together. He said that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Xi Jinping at Kazan in Russia for the BRICS summit, it was decided that the foreign ministers and National Security Advisors of the two countries would meet and see how to move forward. "If today we have reached where we have... One is because of the very determined effort on our part to stand our ground and make our point. The military was there (at LAC) in very very unimaginable conditions to defend the country, and the military did its part, and diplomacy did its part," Jaishankar said. Over the decade, India improved its infrastructure. Part of the problem is that in the earlier years, the border infrastructure was really neglected, he added. "Today we have put in five times more resources annually than there used to be a decade ago which is showing results and enabling the military to actually be effectively deployed. The combination of these (factors) has led to



where it is," he said. Earlier this week, India announced it had reached an agreement with China on patrolling along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year-long military standoff. Since 2020, the situation on the border has been very disturbed which understandably negatively impacted the overall relationship. Since September 2020, India had been negotiating with the Chinese on how to find a solution, he said. The minister said there were

different aspects of this solution. The pressing one is disengagement because troops are very very close to each other and the possibility of something happening existed. Then there is de-escalation because of troop buildup on both sides, he added. "Then there is a larger issue of how you manage the border and negotiate the boundary settlement. Right now everything that's going is concerning the first part which is disengagement," he said. He said India and China

came to an understanding at some places after 2020 on how troops return to their bases but a significant segment was related to patrolling, the external affairs minister pointed out. "There was blocking of patrolling and that is what we had been trying to negotiate for the last two years. So what happened on October 21 was that in those particular areas Depsang and Demchok we reached an understanding that patrolling would resume how it used to be before," Jaishankar added.

It's our duty to pass baton to successors: CM Naidu tells TDP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AMARAVATI
 Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said party leaders, including him, should take the responsibility of passing the baton of leadership to successors in the future. Addressing the party leaders and cadres after formally launching the party's membership drive, Naidu said the Telugu Desam Party witnessed several challenges and had a crisis. Nevertheless, it successfully withstood all of them and would remain powerful in future also. This is the first time that Naidu has been publicly speaking about future leadership of the party. "Several people earlier thought that Telugu Desam was finished. But the TDP remained forever and will remain forever. We all should take the responsibility of handing over the party to future generations. We are all just trustees (of the party)



only. We are only successors (of the party)... And have the responsibility to pass on what we inherited to our successors in the future," he said. The TDP began its membership drive here with Naidu becoming a member by paying Rs 100. The Chief Minister claimed that the TDP was the first political party in the country which started giving insurance cover to its workers. According to him, every member is entitled to a health insurance cover of Rs

Kuki bodies oppose fencing of India-Myanmar border, FMR scrapping

PTI ■ IMPHAL
 Kuki Inpi and Kuki Chiefs Association opposed the proposed fencing of the India-Myanmar border and scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR), claiming these "threaten to infringe upon the cultural, traditional and historical rights of indigenous communities". The central government earlier this year decided to cancel the FMR, which allows people residing close to the India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without a visa. It also decided to erect a fence along the 1,643-km-long India-Myanmar border, which passes through Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. The two apex bodies of the Kuki-Zo community, in a joint statement issued on Saturday, claimed that the movement of people across the India-Myanmar border is a vital lifeline for maintaining social, cultural and family ties across the border. "The proposed fencing disregards the unique



geographical and social conditions of this region, where borders cut across traditional lands and family networks. The imposition of artificial barriers risks fracturing our communities, isolating families, and erasing the continuity of cultural practices vital to our identity," the statement said. The two bodies called upon the government to recognise the historical significance of the Free Movement Regime and its integral role in upholding the rights and cultural heritage of tribal communities. "We urge the authorities to reconsider this fencing project and to ensure that any border-related measures are implemented with full consultation and respect for the rights and aspirations of indigenous people," it said.

"Any development proposed or executed against the will and sentiments of the Kuki people will be considered a threat to our culture and identity and will be befittingly responded by Kuki people," it said. Manipur shares a 398-km-long border with Myanmar, of which only 10 km has been fenced and work on another 20 km was underway. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has long claimed that the porous border has led to massive influx of illegal immigrants from Myanmar into the state, leading to demographic changes and flourishing of illegal poppy plantations in the hills. Singh had also claimed that the porous border has led to a rise in smuggling of drugs. The Centre had earlier said that the idea behind the fencing is to not only stop the misuse of FMR, which is used by insurgent groups to carry out attacks on the Indian side and flee towards Myanmar, but also to put a halt to the influx of illegal immigrants, and paralyse drugs and gold smuggling networks.

India and Germany both regionally rooted but globally committed: Risch

PTI ■ PANAJI
 India and Germany are both democratic countries, good partners and are regionally rooted but globally committed, Rear Admiral Helge Risch of the key European nation's Navy said on Saturday. Risch, the commander of the Task Force Group, was talking to reporters on board frigate FGS Baden-Wurttemberg in Vasco in Goa. The German frigate is currently at Mormugao Port in south Goa as a part of its Indo-Pacific deployment which began on May 7. "We are both democratic countries. We share a lot of values, we share a lot of interests. Both countries are regionally rooted but globally committed. This is the trigger for closer cooperation between India and Germany," the rear admiral said. Speaking about the joint naval exercise, he said the aim was to establish friendship and partnership between the two nations and its navies. "We



will see future exercises but I cannot speak about any concrete plans at the moment. Maybe this was something our governments discussed (in New Delhi)," he said in a reference to the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the national capital. Modi met Scholz on Friday and discussed a wide range of issues focused on bolstering bilateral strategic ties. The German chancellor arrived in India on Thursday on a three-day visit. Rear Admiral Risch said as part of the Indo-Pacific deployment, the German Navy had partnering exercises with several countries in the Americas and Asia.

RSS calls for Hindu unity, endorses the spirit of 'batengey toh katengey'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MATHURA (UP)
 Hindu unity is crucial for everyone's good and "we should be cautious" against forces that seek to divide in the name of religion, caste and ideology, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said on Saturday virtually endorsing the "batengey toh katengey (divided we fall)" remark by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "If we discriminate/divide on the basis of language, state, upper and backward castes, then we will be decimated (Hum jaati, bhasha, prant agla-pitchda bhed se hum karengy toh hum katengey)," the leader of the BJP's ideological fountainhead told reporters on the second and concluding day of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's national meet here. He was asked about the 'batengey toh katengey' slogan first made by Adityanath and subsequently flagged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his rally in Thane, Maharashtra on October 5. Hosabale stressed that while the statement itself is not the focus, the spirit behind it is significant. "The issue is of Hindu unity. In fact, we often say that those



who forget the Hindu thought invite disaster, lose their family, land and places of worship. The spirit is the same. The issue is of unity in society. (Samaj ekatmata se nahi rahenga toh... Itihaas kehta hai... Hum to kehte hain jab jab Hindu bhaav ko bhoole aayi vipada mahaan bhai tootey dharti khoi mitey dharma sansthan... Yeh hamara geet hai... Toh usko aajkal ki bhasha main aisa apne jo kaha ho sakta hai. Mudda kya hain. Samaj ki ekta," the RSS leader said. Asserting that unity is essential for any nation, he said mere speeches are insufficient and real efforts are required to foster it. "We have to inculcate it in our behaviour. The good thing is that many religious and other organisations are now understanding this and

"Agar hum batenge, toh bantey waley mehfil sajaayenge (if we are divided, then those who seek to do so would celebrate)." Asked about the meeting between Adityanath and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, he said that the chief minister had mainly come to discuss about the upcoming Kumbh in Prayagraj. "He (Adityanath) said that efforts will be made to make this year's Kumbh more 'saarthak' (meaningful) and 'yashasvi' (successful) than the last time. He also presented the plans prepared for this to the Sangh officials," the RSS general secretary said. Hosabale said that the main request of the chief minister was to encourage people from tribal society and their religious leadership to attend Kumbh as due to some reasons they are not able to reach in the numbers in which they should be represented. He requested that the RSS also extend invitation to them so that all sections of society can participate in this sacred work, Hosabale added. "He remarked that the Kumbh is not only a religious event but a national celebration that showcases the country's cultural unity," Hosabale said.

TN CM, Urban Affairs Minister review progress of Chennai Metro rail phase 2 project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI
 Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Union Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal on Saturday reviewed the progress of Rs 63,246 crore Chennai Metro rail phase 2 project, recently approved by the central government. CM Stalin, speaking to reporters after the meeting said that the state government has urged Manohar Lal to release Centre's funds for the phase 2 project. In the review meeting, Stalin said that work is progressing quickly for the phase 2 (118.9 km, 3 corridors) project and so far Rs 19,229 crore has been spent. He thanked PM Modi and the Centre for accepting his request and approving phase 2 as central sector project. The CM said all efforts are being made by his government to complete work as per the deadline. According to Chennai Metro Rail, phase 2 project is proposed to be completed by the end of 2026. An official release here said the union minister was urged to give priority to proposals related to Chennai airport-Kilambakkam line and implementing Metro rail projects in Coimbatore and Madurai. Kilambakkam is on



the city outskirts and a bus terminus, with a capacity to operate over 2,000 buses, was inaugurated there last year by CM Stalin. On October 3, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2 project as the 'Central sector' project. With the approval, the central government will be financing almost 65 per cent of the estimated cost of Chennai Metro Phase 2. The central government had said that financing will include the entire required loan of Rs 33,593 crore besides the equity and subordinate debt of Rs. 7,425 crore. The balance 35 per cent of the estimated cost will be financed by the state government. CM Stalin, in a post on 'x' said: "Had the pleasure of meeting Hon'ble @mlkhattar to discuss the progress of

Lawyers must learn to pay proper salaries to youngsters: CJI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
 Lawyers must learn to pay proper salaries and emoluments to the youngsters who enter their chambers to learn, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has said. In an interview with the All India Radio, Chandrachud said the legal profession is a difficult one where the foundation laid in the initial years keeps the young lawyers in good stead throughout their careers. "There are always ups and downs in a profession. Initially, the amount you make at the end of your first month in the legal profession may not be very high," the CJI said. So it is important to encourage the first timers to hang in, put in the hard work, and be sincere in what they do, Chandrachud said. "Equally, our structures must change as well. For instance, lawyers must learn how to pay proper wages, salaries and emoluments to the young lawyers who enter their chambers," he said. "Youngsters come to their chambers to learn. They also have a great deal to share, so it is a two-way process of absorption and sharing and mentorship which we have to provide to the younger lawyers," the CJI added.

'Tardy' paddy lifting in State ineffective, immature: Minister Bittu lashes out at Punjab Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH
 Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu lashed out at the AAP government in Punjab on Saturday over the "tardy" paddy lifting in the state, calling it "ineffective" and "immature". Rejecting the accusation of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has blamed the BJP-led Centre for not evacuating the foodgrain stock from Punjab, Bittu claimed that at a meeting with the Union food minister, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had said the state had double the space required for storing fresh crop. The Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) leader said they will meet the Punjab governor for his intervention in the matter. Addressing the media here over the issue of slow procurement and lifting of the paddy crop, Bittu said because of the "inefficient and immature" Mann government, farmers in Punjab are facing hardships at the grain markets. He said unlike in Punjab, paddy procurement is going on smoothly in neighbouring Haryana. Bittu said irrespective of which political party ruled Punjab, foodgrain procurement has always been smooth in the state and blamed the AAP regime for its "complete failure" in



"Why did he not go to any mandi? Entire Punjab is on the roads but where is the chief minister? This is my first question to the AAP government," he said. Referring to the sowing of hybrid varieties of paddy,

Bittu said such varieties were sold at an exorbitant rate of Rs 3,500 per kg and were affected by diseases, forcing farmers to spend money on pesticides. No agriculture university in Punjab gave any recognition to such varieties, he claimed. Targeting Mann, Bittu asked who will compensate for the less post-milling yield of the hybrid varieties of paddy sown in the state. Rice shellers are saying these varieties give a yield of only 62 kg per quintal as against the norm of 67 kg per quintal. "Who will compensate, the CM saab?" he asked. Slamming the AAP government for making false accusations against the

Centre, Bittu said Mann told the Union food minister that the state had double the space required to store fresh crop. On the evacuation of the foodgrain stock, Bittu claimed that 187 rakes of wheat and 87 rakes of rice were moved out of Punjab in one month alone. He said 7.94 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrain have been moved out of the state. Paddy lifting from mandis (wholesale markets) in Punjab has been hit after the state rice millers refused to mill the paddy till their demands were met. While the ruling AAP has blamed the Centre for not evacuating the foodgrain stock in the state to create

sufficient space for storing fresh crop, opposition Congress and Akali Dal have slammed the Mann government for the slow paddy procurement. The rice millers have expressed concern over the out-turn ratio (post-milling yield) of the PR-126 variety and other hybrid varieties, claiming that it will cause them huge losses. They have said the out-turn ratio of these varieties is less than 67 per cent, which has been fixed by the Centre. They have also complained of a space crunch for storing fresh paddy and demanded that the Centre liquidate the existing wheat and paddy stock to create sufficient space.

Commonwealth nations adopt 1st ocean declaration

Former British colonies seek reparatory justice

Commonwealth countries adopted Saturday their first ocean declaration during their summit held for the first time in the Pacific island nation of Samoa as calls from some of Britain's former colonies for reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade grew louder.

sea-level rise, protecting 30 per cent of oceans and restoring degraded marine ecosystems by 2030, and urgently finalising the Global Plastics Treaty. It also calls for ratifying the high-seas biodiversity treaty, developing coastal climate adaptation plans, and strengthening support for sustainable blue economies.



Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla attend the bestowing and farewell ceremony on the final day of the royal visit to Samoa at the Siumu Village in Apia, Samoa, on Saturday.

they were "immensely proud of this achievement" which "sets the standard for forthcoming international meetings, generating momentum for ocean protection as we head towards COP29 in Azerbaijan in November, and next year's UN Ocean Conference."

trans-Atlantic slave trade was the thorniest issue at the summit and specifically reparatory justice. King Charles III, who attended his first Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting as sovereign, said in his address on Friday history couldn't be changed but that he understood "the most painful aspects of our past continue to resonate."

Although he stopped short of mentioning financial reparations, which some leaders at the event urged, his remarks were seen as an acknowledgment of how strongly many felt about the issue in countries that Britain once colonised.

build a fair future. The communique also directed the Commonwealth secretary-general to engage governments and stakeholders in reparatory justice consultations, with a special focus on the impact on women and girls.

"(The communique) agrees that this is the time for conversation," said Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer at a press conference in Apia on Saturday. "But I should be really clear here. In the two days we've been here, none of the discussions have been about money. Our position is very, very clear in relation to that."

10 officers dead in police convoy in Iran

AP ■ DUBAI

An attack on an Iranian police convoy Saturday in the country's restive southern province of Sistan and Baluchistan killed at least 10 officers, authorities said. Details remain scarce over the attack in Gohar Kuh, some 1,200 kilometres southeast of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

agency said that Eskandar Momeni, the country's interior minister, ordered an investigation into the incident that it described as causing the "martyrdom of a number of police." Authorities identified no immediate suspects for the attack, nor did any group claim responsibility. The assault came after Israel launched a major attack across Iran early Saturday morning.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/24/2024-25; Dated: 24-10-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1: Tender No. 30/24/1093/OT/197/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 04-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: PAD FOR SECONDARY SUSPENSION FOR LHB AS PER DRG. NO. RCF DRG. NO. 1903149 VER. a MAT SPECIFICATION NO. 17.477.10002 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

SN. 2: Tender No. 30/24/5040B/OT/198/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 05-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Nickel-Cadmium Batteries Set for WDP4 HHP Locomotives to DLW Pt. No. 17051472 & DRG. NO. 10609375 and conforming to RDSO Specn No. MP0.51.01.02 (Rev-2) June 2009 (Each set consist 10 Nos = 50 Nos).

SN. 3: Tender No. 70/24/0002A/OT/199/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 06-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Vinyl coated upholstery fabric (Artificial leather) for AC Coaches Size: 127 CM X 30 Mtrs. Spec: Specification: RDSO/2008/CG-07/Aug.08, Amendment no. 5 of August 2016 RDSO's Sample code No. ALAC-01.

SN. 4: Tender No. 50/24/5162A/OT/200/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 07-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (i) Schedule item No 1. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange 24 SLS Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

SN. 5: Tender No. 30/24/1159/OT/201/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 11-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Speed Sensor for LHB Coaches to KB Part no. 1135435/10012 or 1135456/20013 or STN 31450/205A18U RDSO Spec. No.: RDSO/2011/CG-04 (Rev.02).

SN. 6: Tender No. 40/24/0543C/OT/202/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 08-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 500 Amp, 750V, Inter Vehicular (IV) Coupler unit for EOG type AC Coaches / Power car conforming to RDSO's Specn. No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0177 (Rev. 1) -2013.

SN. 7: Tender No. 61/24/5271A/OT/203/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 18-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: BG PSCT/O/SLEEPER 1 in 8.5 Drg No. (T-4865). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

SN. 8: Tender No. 61/24/5202A/OT/204/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 18-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 1-in-12 BG 60 KG Weldable CMS Crossing (WCMSC) on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSO's with RDSO standard drawing No. T-6412 including supply of 6mm thick grooved rubber side plates (drawing no. RDSO/T-6204 to RDSO/T-6211, RDSO/T-6843 to RDS/T-6846).

SN. 9: Tender No. 61/24/5449/OT/205/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 27-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: TURN OUT (1 IN 12) sleeper Dual Gauge. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

SN. 10: Tender No. 61/24/5479/OT/206/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 20-11-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: DS SLEEPERS TO DRG No-T-6068 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY logo and text: "Serving Customers with a smile"

Russian strikes in Ukraine kill 2 teenagers

AP ■ KYIV

A Russian drone strike killed a teenager in Kyiv during a nighttime barrage on the Ukrainian capital that lasted for hours, officials said, while four people were reportedly killed in a missile attack on central Ukraine that also left at least 20 injured.

According to Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko, the drone slammed into a 25-store apartment block Friday night in the city's west, killing a 15-year-old girl and injuring five others.

PUBLIC NOTICE: To be known to all that SH. RAJENDER SINGH SHAIHI/S/O. SH. MOHAN SINGH R/O HOUSE NO. 224, FIRST FLOOR, POKHET-Q, TYPE-IV, DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095. Vide File No. 0113/3491/DG/NF.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mrs. Samita Gautam is the owner of ENTIRE BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 251-B, LAND AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 681, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE: NAWADA AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR, PHASE-1A, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mrs. Jyoti Januja is the owner of RESIDENTIAL UPPER GROUND FLOOR LEFT SIDE PORTION WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, AREA MEASURING 83.30 YDS. SAID FLOOR, BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. 35, 'SAID MEASURING 83.30 YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 79, SITUATED IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR PHASE-1A, UTTAM NAGAR, IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE NAWADA, DELHI.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका निगम, भोपाल. केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके.शाखा) निविदा सूचना. क्र. 185 के.कर्म/2024. नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा 05 नग नवीन मिनी एक्सवेटर क्रय करने हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून. सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना। नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत 100 वार्डों में स्थित विद्युत पोल जो जैसे है जहां है उसी स्थिति में पोल व्योस्क के माध्यम से विज्ञान प्रदर्शित करने हेतु अनुबन्ध की तिथि से कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 09.11.2024 की अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे तक पोल व्योस्क विज्ञान की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

Table with 4 columns: पोल व्योस्क स्थल का विवरण, कुल पोल, निगम द्वारा आरक्षित धनराशि. निविदा प्रपत्र के अनुसार 35000, 26120500/-

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED. REGISTERED OFFICE:- Farm No. 10, Tropical Drive, Ghitorni, M.G Road, New Delhi -110030. Mob-9310100001. Email: customercare@manibhavnam.com

PUBLIC NOTICE: This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch: Name: Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited. Current Address: Rajasthan-326001.

It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Company to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Company's customers during the process of closing. The loan accounts of all the valued customers shall continue with another branch from new address (i.e., Office No-28,29,30, Opposite Krishna Rotary Blood Bank, Near HDFC bank, S.E.S, Talwandi, Kota, Rajasthan) Customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid change, which will be effective tentatively from 01st February 2025.

Russian strikes in Ukraine kill 2 teenagers

waited throughout the night, and Popko said that Ukrainian air defence shot down up to a dozen Russian drones. Also late Friday, a Russian missile hit a residential area in the central city of Dnipro, killing a 14-year-old and three others, said regional Gov. Serhii Lysak, adding that at least 20 others were injured including an 8-year-old and teenagers.

houses and a medical facility. A man and woman died after a Russian drone dropped explosives on a village in the southern Kherson region, local prosecutors said, while a 61-year-old woman was killed by shelling in the northeast.

Public Notice: This is to inform the general public that Smt. Madhu Surana and Sh. Bharat Surana are the owners of Built-up Property bearing No. 9/11 and 9/12, but in Plot of land area measuring 400 Sq. Yds., part of KhASRA No. 2369/68/3 situated in the area of Village Karkarduma in the abadi of Subaharj Ghat, Ghaziabad, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. (U.P. No. 1102 through Sale Deed dated 10/02/2011 regd. as doc. No. 2159 executed by Sh. Bharat Surana in favour of Smt. Madhu Surana and Sh. Bharat Surana in favour of Smt. Prem Vats Jain in favour of Sh. Bharat Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/112 measuring 200 Sq. Yds. and Sale Deed dated 31.12.1997 regd. as doc. No. 3560 executed by Smt. Prem Vats Jain in favour of Sh. Bharat Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/112 measuring 200 Sq. Yds.

AD LEGAL SOLUTION. Ch. No. 769 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75. Mobile - 9999013918. PUBLIC NOTICE: It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Hitesh Gupta had acquired Right Side Portion of Second Floor with roof rights of Built up Property bearing No. A-55, Area measuring 145 Sq. Yds., part of KhASRA No. 224, situated at Village Bindapur, Colony known as Anup Nagar, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi vide G.P.A. Dt. 19/01/2023 along with AT&S & Will executed by Mr. Rajat Pandey and Mrs. Shipra. Now Mr. Hitesh Gupta is the undisputed owner of the said property.

United Textiles Limited. Regd. Office 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana). CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092. Notice: Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 13th November, 2024 at 4.00 PM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the Period Ended 30th September, 2024. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 30/09/2024 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on the Company's website www.unitedtextileslimited.com and also on the website of stock exchanges www.bseindia.com

Public Notice: This is to inform the general public that Mr. Ashok Jain & Ms. Anita Jain are the owners of Ground Floor & First floor with Roof rights of property bearing No. 309/1, area measuring 145 sq. yds. Part of KhASRA No. 224, situated at Village Bindapur, Colony known as Anup Nagar, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi vide G.P.A. Dt. 19/01/2023 along with AT&S & Will executed by Mr. Rajat Pandey and Mrs. Shipra. Now Mr. Ashok Jain & Ms. Anita Jain are the undisputed owners of the said property.

NORTHERN RAILWAY. E-TENDER NOTICE. Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on website www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

Table with 2 columns: Name of work, Date of Closing/Opening. Name of work: Miscellaneous maintenance & cleaning work at Electric loco shed saharanpur for 02 years. Date of Closing/Opening: 20.11.2024.

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. No. ELS-SRE-T-51 dtd. 25.10.2024. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3330/24

INDIA LOOK FOR CONSISTENCY FROM BATTERS TO SEAL SERIES

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD
India will seek a better performance from batters in their quest to seal the series when they face New Zealand in the second women's ODI here on Sunday.
Even though India won the first match comfortably by 59 runs, batters squandered starts as their innings were littered with multiple 30s and 40s.
The hosts would want a change of script in this match, and skipper Smriti Mandhana will have to lead the charge, which in the last match was done by debutant Tejal Hasabnis.
The elegant left-hander got out for eight in the opening match, continuing her lean run over the last month or so. She can fall back upon the memories of a fine run against South Africa earlier this July when she cracked runs for fun, including two big hundreds.
Along with Mandhana's form, the Indian camp will also keep an eye on the fitness of regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who missed the previous match with an unspecified niggle.
On the bowling front, India will be delighted with debutant pacer Saima Thakor's impressive performance the other night, along with left-arm spinner Radha Yadav's return to wicket-taking



form in this format. On the other hand, New Zealand's ambition to square the series received a severe blow as talismanic all-rounder Amelia Kerr was ruled out of the series with a left quadriceps muscle tear that

she sustained in the first match. Kerr, who will return home on Sunday, will require approximately three weeks to recover from her Grade One injury. "We're really gutted for Melie," said White Ferns head coach Ben Sawyer. "We know how disappointed she is to not be able to play these games. Everyone knows how much of an integral part of this team Melie is so we'll certainly miss her but we're wishing her a speedy recovery," said Sawyer. Kerr was the standout performer for New Zealand in the first ODI with a four-wicket haul. She will not be replaced in the squad with the final game of the series to be played in three days' time.
TEAMS (FROM):
INDIA: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, D. Hemalatha, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Yastika Bhatia, Uma Chetry, Sayali Satgare, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Tejal Hasabnis, Saima Thakor, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil.
NEW ZEALAND: Sophie Devine (c), Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Lauren Down, Lizzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Polly Inglis, Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Amelia Kerr, Molly Penfold, Georgia Plimmer, Hannah Rowe, Lea Tahuu.



Ali and Khan lead Pakistan to Nine wicket win, clinching series against England

AP ■ RAWALPINDI
Spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan suppressed England's batting attack inside three days and earned Pakistan a long-awaited and series-clinching nine-wicket win in the third and final Test on Saturday.
The 38-year-old left-arm spinner Ali and off-spinner Khan, 31, had grabbed all 20 wickets on a recycled second Test pitch to level the series last week and yet again clipped the batters on an engineered dry surface by sharing 19 wickets as England was dismissed for 112 on Day 3.
It was England's lowest innings total in Pakistan, eclipsing its previous score of 130 all out in Lahore in 1987.
Pakistan, which got a meaningful 77-run first innings lead, reached 37-1 at the stroke of lunch to notch its first home series win since 2021 when it beat South Africa 2-0.
Skipper Shan Masood (23 not out), who lost six successive test matches as captain before England got beaten in the second test, sealed the win with a six over long-off against Shoaib Bashir after smashing four successive boundaries to Jack Leach.
"It's special," Masood said. "The first win came after a long time and it was backed up by a series win ... it's about character. To be here and standing as the winning team, it's the most special thing for us." Leach grabbed the only wicket to fall when he successfully went for an lbw television referral against Saim Ayub, who made eight.
The win was a sweet revenge for the home team, which was knocked over by England 3-0 when it last toured Pakistan two years ago under the captaincy of Ben Stokes.
England's batting folded meekly against the spin duo for the second time around as Ali followed his three wickets in the first innings with 6-42 on a wicket which was dried out by industrial-sized giant fans and outdoor heaters.
Khan grabbed 4-69 to add to his first innings six-wicket haul as England batters couldn't negotiate the variable bounce and the turn Khan and Ali extracted of the pitch.
England won the first test by an innings and 47 runs before Pakistan succeeded in its ploy to reuse the same surface in Multan to counter England's aggressive batting and recalled both Ali and Khan for the remaining two test matches.
"Disappointing," said Stokes, who missed out on England's memorable win in the first test recovering from torn hamstring, but returned to lead the side in younger conditions for his batters. "We got thrown some challenges over these last two games and weren't able to stand up to them, credit to Pakistan."
Resuming on a precarious 24-3, Joe Root (33) and Harry Brook (26) cut down the deficit to 11 runs before England lost wickets in cluster.
Brook got a thick edge when he tried to cut Ali and the left-arm spinner had Stokes lbw off an armed ball which the England captain awfully tried to leave. England was still trailing by two runs when Jamie Smith (3) charged down the wicket to Khan and had his off stump knocked over and England slipped to 6-75.
Khan then ended Root's grim resistance by finding the outside edge before England's tail folded quickly against the spin duo.
"The lads trained hard but when you get out in the middle it can be completely different," Stokes conceded.
The 2-1 series win was Masood's first series win since he was appointed test captain last year, but lost six test matches in a row. Australia routed Pakistan 3-0 under Masood's leadership and Bangladesh recorded a stunning 2-0 win in Pakistan before England racked up record-breaking 823-7 decl. To hand Masood another defeat.
"We'd like to dedicate this (series win) to the people of Pakistan, who've been through a lot," Masood said. "Hopefully this will put a smile on people's face, and hopefully we can have full houses."



India one win away from U17 Asian Cup qualification

PTI ■ CHONBURI (THAILAND)
India are one step away from qualifying for the AFC U17 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia, needing a crucial victory over hosts Thailand in their final Group D match here on Sunday.
With two wins from two games, the Ishaq Ahmed-coached India Colts sit level on points with Thailand but trail on goal difference, making this clash a must-win to secure the top spot and an automatic berth in the tournament.
Friday's hard-fought 1-0 victory over Turkmenistan kept India's hopes alive and showcased their resilience, with a well-timed strike from Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh clinching the game.
However, Thailand's massive 19-0 rout of Brunei Darussalam later that day sent a clear signal, pushing them to the top of the group with an astounding goal difference.
India had earlier defeated Brunei 13-0, while Thailand opened their campaign with a solid 2-0 win over Turkmenistan.
The group stakes are high: a draw will see Thailand qualify as group leaders, while only a win will guarantee India's direct entry to the final tournament.
However, there is a rider. India could still make it through as one of the five best second-placed teams, depending on results from other groups.
Head coach Ishaq Ahmed, however, is keeping the team focused on a single goal -- victory.
"For us, that's the way. We just

Manika Batra upsets Szocs to enter quarterfinals of WTT Champions



World No. 21 Qian stunned top seed and compatriot Wang Yidi 3-0 (11-7 11-9 13-11) in another round of 16 match. Batra had defeated USA's Lily Zhang 3-0 (11-4 11-8 12-10) in the first round. The other Indian in fray in women's singles, Sreeja Akula had lost 2-3 (11-6, 7-11, 1-11, 11-8, 8-11) against world No. 13 Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico in the first round.

Batra, a multiple Commonwealth Games medallist, saved two game points in the third game to keep her nose ahead and then sealed the tie in the next game, converting her second match point.
Batra now enjoys a 6-5 lead in the head-to-head record against Szocs.
She had also defeated Szocs in India's 3-2 win over Romania in the pre-quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics.
Batra will next face China's Qian Tianyi on Saturday.
World No. 21 Qian stunned top seed and compatriot Wang Yidi 3-0 (11-7 11-9 13-11) in another round of 16 match.
Batra had defeated USA's Lily Zhang 3-0 (11-4 11-8 12-10) in the first round.
The other Indian in fray in women's singles, Sreeja Akula had lost 2-3 (11-6, 7-11, 1-11, 11-8, 8-11) against world No. 13 Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico in the first round.

McLaren loses appeal over Norris penalty as F1 title fight with Verstappen moves to Mexico City



that Verstappen should have been penalized for his defensive driving. "He did what he thought was right, and I did what I thought was right. I still disagree, and as a team, we disagree," Norris said. "It is something I am sure we will discuss as it has been a big talking point since last weekend. A lot of other drivers didn't agree with it, teams didn't agree with it." The same stewards who levied the penalty at the USGP heard the appeal via video conference late Friday afternoon. Verstappen argued in Mexico that F1 has become over-

policed - he was ordered to serve community service for swearing in a news conference in Singapore last month - and joked he needs to keep a copy of the rulebook inside his car to keep up with all the regulations. "I think we are getting to a stage where I always need the book in the car. If you look of course over the years, the book has grown quite a lot," Verstappen said. "It is definitely over-regulated." But seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton seemed to side with Norris, claiming Verstappen has routinely received favorable treatment from the stewards. "I mean, it's always been a gray area. That's why he's got away with it for so long," Hamilton said. "They probably need to make some adjustments for sure. We do have inconsistencies weekend in, weekend out, obviously, depending on which stewards are there. "And as a sport, we do need to level up on all areas," he continued. "We look at, like, other global sports, they have full-time refs for example, and I'm sure that wouldn't be a bad thing for our sport."

Inter Miami beats Atlanta United 2-1 in Messi's MLS playoff debut

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)
Lionel Messi had chances at goals late and time again, only to keep being denied. Turns out, all he needed to do was deliver the right pass at the right time.
Jordi Alba turned a pass from Messi into the go-ahead goal in the 60th minute, Luis Suarez also scored and Inter Miami beat Atlanta United 2-1 on Friday night in the opening game of a best-of-three first round Major League Soccer playoff series.
It was not the easiest of openers for the Supporters Shield winners, the No. 1 overall seed in the MLS Cup playoffs - a team that set a league record with 74 points in the regular season, 34 points ahead of wild-card Atlanta in the standings.
Saba Lobjanidze scored for Atlanta, which got eight saves from goalkeeper Brad Guzan. Game 2 will be November



2 at Atlanta - the last road game of the season, no matter what, for Inter Miami. Game 3, if necessary, will be November 9 in Fort Lauderdale. "It's going to be difficult for us," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said. "It's going to be difficult as this rival has been throughout the season." Inter Miami's first-ever home playoff

game and Messi's MLS playoff debut was sold out - Messi games almost always are, everywhere in the world - and MLS even had a camera isolated on him throughout the match, streaming that view on TikTok. There were plans to also show the match live on a massive screen in New York's Times Square; that ended up getting called off Apple will schedule a viewing of another match there.
Atlanta was the only team that beat Inter Miami when Messi was in the lineup this season, and it was almost like the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and finalist for MLS MVP honours - knew it wouldn't be easy. "It gets settled on the field," Messi said in an interview taped before the playoffs, one that MLS teased on social media and said will be distributed on its Season Pass platform. "Anything can happen in a match." And for 60 minutes, the scoreboard

said these teams were even. Suarez scored with the match barely a minute old, and Messi had three high-quality chances later in the half. Messi's left foot nearly made it 2-0 after six minutes; Guzan had to sprawl to his right to barely deflect the shot away. Messi found a bit of space and fired again in the 26th minute; this time, Guzan punched it over the crossbar. And in the 29th minute, it wasn't Guzan that denied Messi - it was the post. The rebound came to Inter Miami's Marcelo Weigandt and his shot got punched away by Guzan.
If not for Guzan, it could have been 2-0, 3-0, maybe even 4-0 at that point. Instead, it was 1-1 at intermission. Lobjanidze got behind the defense and beat Drake Callender from close range in the 39th minute, and Atlanta - which won at Chase Stadium in May - was all square going into the second half. "We were frustrated," Martino said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION KARANJIA (MAYURBHANJ)
E-mail ID :- serwkaranjia@yahoo.com
Letter No. 4591 // Date:- 14.10.2024

"e" Procurement Notice for Special Repair to Roads & Bridges and approach road works for year 2024-25.
Bid Identification No. - RWDKNJ-02 / 2024-25

- Name of the work : Road Works (As per Annexure)
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 25.21 to Rs.5.08 Lakhs Approximately (As per Annexure).
- Class of Contractor : 'D', 'C', 'B' Class, (As per Annexure)
- Period of Completion : As per Annexure
- Tender Paper Cost : Paper cost of bid as mentioned in Annexure of Road Works.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for Bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O.O. SE R.W. Division Karanjia Technical & Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Karanjia	Road Online RWDKNJ-02/24-25	From 11.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	To 12.11.2024 at 5.00 P.M.	At 11.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

OIPR-25086/11/003/2425
Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Karanjia

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
ATHGARH FOREST DIVISION
Email :- dfo.athgarh@odisha.gov.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the work : Construction of Forest Guard and Forester Quarter and Barrack in different location of Athgarh Forest Division
- Total no of Works : For Forest Guard Quarter - 02 Nos
For Forester Quarter - 01 No.
For Barrack - 01 No.
- Estimated cost per Quarter : For Forest Guard Quarter Rs. 12,30,508/-
For Forester Quarter Rs. 16,35,593/-
For Barrack Rs. 25,42,373/-
- Class of Contractor : "D" & "C"
- Period of Completion : 03 (Three Calendar Months)
- Type of tender : Single Cover Tender
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal : From 11.00 A.M. of Dt. 25.10.2023 to 5.00 PM of dt. 09.11.2024.
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt.09.11.2024 up to 17.00 hrs
- Submission of Original documents (TP cost, EMD, Affidavit etc as per DTCN) : During office hours from 10.30 A.M. to 5.00 PM on dt. 11.11.2024 in the office of the undersigned.
- Date of opening of Bid through online : Dt. 12.11.2024 at 11.30 AM in the office of the undersigned.
- Name & address of the O.I.T (Officer Inviting tender) : Divisional Forest Officer, Athgarh Forest Division,

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
N.B. Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer, Athgarh Forest Division.

OIPR-0806/11/003/2425

GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
MAHANADI NORTH DIVISION-4, JAGATPUR, CUTTACK
E-mail ID :- exengr.mnd@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No- MND-10/2024-25

The bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The tender submission process will be completely online. BIDDERS REGISTERED THEMSELVES UNDER COMS PORTAL ONLY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING PROCESS AFTER 31.12.2020 AS PER WORKS DEPT. LETTER NO-9100 DATED 17.07.2020

- Nature of Work : Work In Canal & River Embankment
- Total No. of Works : 63 (Sixty Three) works
- Bid Identification No : MND-10/2024-25
- Tender Cost : Rs. 8.00 Lakhs to Rs. 49.5 Lakhs (Approx.)
- Class of Contractor : "D", "C" & "B" Class
- Period of completion : 6 (Six) months
- Other Details : As noted below

a) Procurement Officer : Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur email: exengr.mnd@gmail.com Ph:- 0671-2491546

b) Availability of Tender On-line for bidding : 10.00 Hours of 01.11.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 11.11.2024

c) Last date & time of Submission of bid document : 17.30 Hours of 11.11.2024

d) Last date & time of seeking Clarification : 17.30 Hours of 07.11.2024

e) Date, time & place of Opening of Bid : 12.11.2024 at 11.30 Hours in the O/O of the Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur

f) Date of Lottery (if required) : Will be Intimated Later on.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>"

Superintending Engineer Mahanadi North Division-I Jagatpur

OIPR-32003/11/0010/2425



THE RUNWAY OF CREATIVITY

As the curtains closed on Lakme Fashion Week, the event celebrated innovation and artistry. With breathtaking collections from designers like Rohit Bal, Payal Singhal and KALKI, it showcased the essence of craftsmanship and sustainability. The grand finale, featuring Bal's Kaaynaat: A Bloom in the Universe, elegantly captured the spirit of nature, marking a spectacular conclusion to the season

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

Lakme Fashion Week, presented by the Fashion Design Council of India, celebrated the artistry and innovation of over 20 acclaimed designers this season. With collections that ranged from the whimsical to the sustainable, the event showcased the dynamic evolution of Indian fashion. Esteemed designers such as Rohit Bal, Monisha Jaising and Tarun Tahiliani took centre stage, each unveiling their unique visions. This year's week-long event not only highlighted the richness of contemporary Indian aesthetics but also served as a platform for emerging talent, making it a vibrant tapestry of creativity and elegance. The festivities kicked off with péro's enchanting collection, "HELLO péro," which marked its 15th anniversary in collaboration with Hello Kitty. This joyful presentation blended playful nostalgia with modern design, featuring vibrant textiles inspired by everyday delights like cherries and cupcakes, infused with the spirited essence of Japanese Harajuku street style. The show radiated with richly embroidered garments and a cheerful palette of pinks, reds, and yellows, exemplifying the artistry behind handcrafted textiles and the spirit of modern Indian fashion. Day 2 showcased the R|E|lan Circular Design Challenge during Sustainable Fashion Day, where seven visionary finalists presented their imaginative collections. The air buzzed with excitement as Ritwik Khanna's Rkive City captured the coveted title, embodying innovation and eco-consciousness. This initiative, in collaboration with the UN in India, underscored the fashion industry's commitment to sustainability while nurturing emerging talent, setting the stage for a greener, more creative future. On Day 3, Payal Singhal celebrated 25



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



years of her illustrious label with the stunning "Tazhib" collection. The show, which opened with the enchanting Shriya Saran, featured a delightful mix of deconstructed Anarkalis, chic corset cholis, and ruffled lehengas crafted from luxurious fabrics like organza and velvet. Drawing inspiration from Mughal artistry, the collection sparkled with intricate embroidery and iridescent embellishments, perfectly marrying traditional craftsmanship with modern aesthetics, making it ideal for the upcoming festive season. On Day 4, Monisha Jaising

unveiled "The Sailing Bride 2.0," a breathtaking collection for the modern holiday bride. Shalini Passi opened the show in a stunning metallic kaftan that beautifully blended contemporary glamour with heritage detailing. Monisha's designs featured fluid drapes and playful cord sets in serene ocean hues, culminating in a show-stopping moment when Riddhima Kapoor dazzled in a Banarasi-inspired gown. This day also highlighted Lakme Salon and designer Samant Chauhan's



"Ethereal Bloom Collection," featuring Bollywood star Dia Mirza as the showstopper. This collection celebrated the modern Indian bride with its vibrant colours and elegant styles, setting new standards for bridal elegance. Day 4 of Lakme Fashion Week marked a grand closing with the highly anticipated launch of Tarun Tahiliani's luxury prêt line, OTT. This collection seamlessly fused traditional Indian aesthetics with contemporary design, showcasing a stunning array of reimagined classic garments, from saris to trench coats. Aditi Rao Hydari captured the audience's

attention in a corset-style bodysuit paired with a flowing wrap-around skirt, epitomising the essence of India Modern. This collaboration not only set a new standard for luxury but also redefined innovation in the fashion landscape. On the final day, Shradha Kapoor took to the runway as the showstopper for KALKI, unveiling their exquisite new collection, Mushk. Rooted in rich heritage, this couture line showcased intricate hand-woven embroidery in soft hues like antique gold and dusky pink. With elegant silhouettes that included

embroidered jackets and modern lehengas, the collection beautifully merged tradition with contemporary style. Dazzling in a baby pink lehenga made from luxurious brocade velvet, adorned with intricate embellishments, Shradha expressed her connection to the collection, stating, "Walking for KALKI was amazing! The Mushk collection felt personal and connected me to my roots." This stunning line not only emphasised sustainable practices but also celebrated the artistry of skilled artisans, serving as a homage to timeless tradition.

The House of Lakme Grand Finale brought the week to a breathtaking close with a spectacular showcase by the illustrious designer Rohit Bal, unveiling his collection Kaaynaat: A Bloom in the Universe. This captivating collection celebrated nature's beauty through flowing fabrics, intricate embroidery, and vibrant hues that mirrored the essence of blooming flowers. Lakme muse Ananya Panday graced the runway as the showstopper, embodying timeless elegance and ethereal grace. Rohit Bal described Kaaynaat as a journey through the wonders of nature, showcasing his artistry and vision.

The grand finale marked a fitting conclusion to an unforgettable season, leaving an indelible impression of creativity, tradition, and elegance in the ever-evolving world of fashion. With its enchanting showcases and pioneering spirit, Lakme Fashion Week reaffirmed its position as a beacon of innovation and artistry in the Indian fashion landscape, inspiring the next generation of designers and fashion enthusiasts alike.



REDEFINING LUXURY INDIAN WEDDINGS

Bandhan at Shangri-la is a personalised wedding experience that blends tradition with modern elegance, says ABHI SINGHAL

A wedding is a momentous occasion that signifies the beginning of a lifelong journey together, and couples cherish this day as a beautiful memory forever. It is a celebration of love, joy and togetherness, not only for the couple but also for their families and loved ones. The choice of venue plays a crucial role in setting the tone for this special event, and Shangri-La Group has elevated luxury Indian weddings with the grand unveiling of "Bandhan by Shangri-La." This exclusive wedding service is designed to create breathtaking, culturally rich celebrations across the globe. The newly launched ballroom at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi adds a touch of grandeur to luxury weddings in India. This service seamlessly blends timeless traditions, stunning settings, and Shangri-La's renowned hospitality, promising couples an unforgettable journey of love and celebration.



Bandhan by Shangri-La elevates the art of weddings by offering meticulously curated experiences that combine elegance with cultural authenticity. Whether it's a vibrant Mehndi ceremony surrounded by hues of yellow, a meaningful Haldi with touches of green, or a Sangeet illuminated by dazzling disco lights, the service ensures every moment reflects the couple's unique love story. Each celebration impeccably integrates age-old rituals with modern sophistication. To make the wedding day truly memorable, Bandhan provides

personalised services, including a dedicated wedding specialist at each participating property to cater to every need, a celebratory gift from the hotel, and attractive room and suite rates for the wedding couple and their guests. Shangri-La also offers couples the opportunity to create lasting memories with luxury experiences at stunning destinations such as the vibrant allure of Istanbul, the coastal charm of Sri Lanka, and the majestic landscapes of Muscat. Bandhan's bespoke approach ensures that every celebration, whether a private beachside vow exchange or a grand ballroom extravaganza, is crafted to perfection. In addition to luxurious settings, Bandhan offers an exceptional culinary experience for guests, featuring gourmet cuisine that delights the senses. The service also provides opulent accommodation, ensuring a comfortable and lavish stay for all attendees.

DO PATTI THE HARSH TRUTH OF LIVES

Kriti Sanon's Do Patti voices the social issue of domestic violence as a romantic thriller, says ABHI SINGHAL

Kriti Sanon shines in her dual role debut in the captivating romantic thriller, Do Patti. Released on Netflix, this film marks several firsts: Sanon's inaugural double role and her venture into production under her banner, Shaheer Sheikh's cinematic debut, and Kajol's maiden appearance as a police officer. The film is directed by Shashanka Chaturvedi and stars Sanon as the twin sisters Saumya and Shailee, Sheikh as Dhruv Sood, Kajol as the enigmatic police officer Vidya "VJ" Jyothi and Shah Paandya as Shobhana Pundir, Saumya and Shailee's mother. The movie commences with the past, a troubled childhood life of two twin sisters, Saumya and Shailee (both played by Kriti Sanon). Both the twins have a lack of love for each other, converting it into hate. Saumya, the first twin falls in love with Dhruv but Shailee the other twin comes in as the antagonist in the film snatching away Saumya's love. The characters have aced their roles in acting and that adds life to the 127 minutes thriller. Kriti Sanon is a give star at both the double roles she has played beautifully with complete expressions which are horizons different. The flip between the two characters is smooth like slime and is Sanon's best performance by far. Shaheer playing Dhruv goes



THE MAJOR PLOT UNVEILS ITSELF IN THE END OF THE FILM WITH A MESSAGE WHICH IS A VOICE FOR MANY WOMEN IN A COUNTRY LIKE INDIA.

completely in the element and doesn't make it look like his debut. His role as the aggressive husband to Saumya defines his acting skills. Kajol as the cop

could have done better to overcome the flat performance. The film skillfully weaves a gripping social message of domestic violence, raised in the

movie and Shashanka Chaturvedi blends it perfectly with the film till the end. The major plot unveils itself in the end of the film with a message which is a voice for many women in a country like India. Visually, Do Patti is a treat, with picturesque locations like Mussoorie, Nainital, and Manali providing a stunning backdrop to the story. The film's skillful direction and captivating cinematography enhance the overall viewing experience. The film starts to build the plot from the very beginning, engulfing the minds of the viewers. At some point with its emotional songs the movie will also be successful in touching the emotional corner of your heart. The songs like Raanjhan by Parampara Tandon had already won hearts before the release and describes the emotion beautifully. Other songs like Akhiyaan De Kol by Shilpa Rao, Maiyya by Sachet Tandon and Parampara Tandon are a treat to the ears. The climax of the movie is the hotspot scene with the restored love between the twin sisters. It is the climax you might have imagined but unfolds in a different way. Do Patti is a compelling film that offers a unique blend of romance, suspense, and social commentary with exceptional performances, coupled with a gripping storyline.



As we illuminate our homes with lights and laughter, let us also extend our warmth to those who may feel isolated. This Diwali, let us celebrate not only the joy of togetherness but also the resilience of the human spirit, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

DIWALI

FESTIVAL THAT UNITES HEARTS AND HOMES

Where there is light, there is life." This sentiment resonates deeply during Diwali, a festival that holds unparalleled significance in the hearts of millions, especially in India. As homes begin to sparkle with twinkling lights and the scent of sweets fills the air, Diwali transforms into so much more than just a holiday. It becomes a celebration of life, love and togetherness, reuniting families eagerly awaiting the return of their loved ones. The festivities start with Dhanteras, the day dedicated to wealth and prosperity, when people purchase new items, often precious metals, to bring good fortune. This year, after much speculation and confusion about the dates, Diwali will be celebrated on the 31st of October. The thrill of homecoming resonates throughout the country, as people prepare to light up their homes and hearts. Each diya lit represents a moment of togetherness, a shared memory and the promise of brighter days ahead. Amidst the hustle and bustle, Diwali serves as a powerful reminder that the connections we cherish with family and friends illuminate our lives like nothing else. For many, Diwali is the one time in the year where homecoming is guaranteed. Students travel back from distant universities, workers journey long hours to be with their families and travel tickets are secured well in advance. In hostels, laughter and conversation fade as students depart, while homes come alive with the buzz of preparations, cleaning and decorating. The excitement of being together during this time makes the festival unforgettable.

DIWALI'S SPIRITUAL ESSENCE
Diwali, rooted in deep spiritual and religious traditions, marks Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana, symbolising the triumph of light over darkness. The festival also honours Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. Devotees seek their blessings for prosperity and joy. A key Diwali ritual is Lakshmi Puja, held on Amavasya, the new moon night. Families clean their homes, light diyas and offer prayers to welcome the Goddess. A clean, well-lit home is believed to attract her blessings for a prosperous year ahead.

A MONTH OF CLEANING AND SHOPPING
The excitement for Diwali builds up weeks, even months, in advance. The first step towards celebrating the festival is the traditional cleaning, known as Diwali safai. Families deep-clean their homes, shops, and offices, as it is believed that cleanliness is essential for welcoming Goddess Lakshmi. This act of cleaning is not just about tidying up; it symbolises getting rid of negativity and making space for positivity, peace and prosperity. From dusting the furniture to repainting the walls, no task is left undone. Many also take the time to paint their houses, creating a fresh and inviting environment.

Once the cleaning is complete, the shopping begins. Markets and shopping centres come alive with eager customers, browsing through colourful clothes, decorations, gifts, and sweets. The atmosphere is vibrant, filled with laughter and chatter, as families prepare to celebrate this joyous occasion together, ensuring that their homes are not just clean but also adorned with love and warmth. The spirit of Diwali resonates through the bustling crowds, as everyone eagerly gathers items to make their homes shine bright during this special festival.

CHANDNI CHOWK: THE HEART OF DIWALI CELEBRATIONS
As Diwali approaches, Delhi's famous Chandni Chowk becomes a lively and colourful marketplace filled with excitement. The narrow streets are bustling with people looking for lights and



decorations to brighten their homes for the festival of lights. The energy is visible, with every corner filled with the sounds of bargaining, laughter and excitement. Upon entering Chandni Chowk, visitors are greeted by rows of vendors showcasing beautifully painted diyas. Classic red diyas are available in sets of six for just ₹60, while glittery designs in sets of twelve cost ₹120. These diyas are essential for every home during Diwali, accompanied by colourful candles and rangoli stickers featuring auspicious symbols like "Shubh Laabh." In Chandni Chowk, the lighting options are endless. You can find warm yellow lights that create a cosy atmosphere or bright, multi-colored LED strings. Prices start as low as ₹80 for simple string lights and can go up to ₹300 or more for elaborate pieces. Many shoppers enjoy video calling family members to show them different lighting options, making sure everyone is involved in the preparations, even if they're far away. This year, a unique find in Chandni Chowk is the water diya, which lights up when you pour water into it. These creative diyas are

not only beautiful but also practical, adding a modern touch to traditional Diwali decorations. Vendors promote these eco-friendly options, encouraging customers to use them year after year. Chandni Chowk is always busy, but during Diwali, it truly comes alive. Shops and corners burst with colours and lights. Vendors and shoppers alike share in the excitement. The crowded streets, lively sounds and delicious smells make it a unique, festive experience. This is what makes Diwali in Chandni Chowk so special - it's a time of togetherness and joy as families, friends and even strangers come together to celebrate the festival of lights. Each diya tells a story of hope and every smile shared adds to the festive spirit of Diwali.

THE ARTISTRY OF DIWALI
The streets of Chandni Chowk shimmer with vibrant lights and colours, but it was in Uttar Pradesh that I discovered the heart and soul behind Diwali, the artisans whose hands craft the beloved diyas that illuminate homes each year. Among them

was Suresh, a warm-hearted artist who welcomed me into his place, where the air was rich with the earthy scent of clay, a scent that spoke of history and tradition. "My grandparents started making diyas from scratch," he shared, his eyes sparkling with pride and a hint of nostalgia. "We've kept this tradition alive and it feels like a true blessing that the diyas we create will light up homes. Each diya carries a piece of our heart and our family's legacy." His words resonated deeply, reminding me that these diyas are more than just decorations, they are symbols of love, hope and the warmth of family gatherings. As I watched Suresh skillfully shape each diya, I felt the passion and devotion radiating from his every move. He and his family create thousands of these beautiful diyas daily, pouring their hearts into each piece. For them, Diwali is not just about making money; it's about spreading joy and contributing to the happiness of families celebrating together. Witnessing their craftsmanship was a humbling experience. The red diyas, adorned with intricate designs, symbolise the very essence of Diwali. The warmth of their hospitality and the richness of their tradition illuminated my understanding of Diwali. This festival is not just about the lights; it's about the hearts and souls that create them, the love they pour into each diya and the joy they bring to countless homes filled with laughter and celebration. As Diwali approaches, let us honour artists like Suresh, whose selfless dedication ensures that the spirit of the festival shines brightly, lighting up not just their own homes but thousands of others, filling them with hope, love, and the promise of togetherness.

SPREADING LIGHT AND KINDNESS
With Diwali just around the corner, the vibrant festivities stir a mix of emotions. For many, it's a time of joy, family reunions and shared traditions. Yet, there are those among us who find themselves away from home, whether due to work commitments, distance or other circumstances. To those individuals, remember: it's okay to feel a sense of longing during this time. Your feelings are valid and you are not alone. While the lights may not shine in the familiar corners of your childhood home, the spirit of Diwali can still flicker brightly within your heart. This festival is about more than just being physically present; it's a celebration of love, hope and the connections we share, no matter the distance. You can still find joy in the little things, perhaps by lighting a diya in your own space, reaching out to loved ones through video calls or even creating new traditions with friends and colleagues who are nearby.

As we prepare for the celebrations, it's essential to remember the well-being of our furry companions, both at home and on the streets. The loud noises of fireworks can be distressing for pets and street animals alike. Let us ensure a safe Diwali for them by creating quiet spaces away from the sounds of firecrackers. A comforting environment can help ease their anxiety and allow them to feel secure during the festivities. For those who are able to gather with family and friends, let us not forget those who are unable to join in the celebrations. A simple gesture, a call, a message or even a small gift - can make a world of difference to someone feeling isolated this Diwali. As we light up our homes with lights and laughter, let's also shine on the hearts of those who may feel left out. This Diwali, let us embrace the spirit of kindness and generosity, extending our hearts to those in need, whether human or animal. It's a time to celebrate not just the joy of togetherness but also the resilience of the human spirit. Wishing you all a safe, joyful and love-filled Diwali!

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATIONS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER THE WELL-BEING OF OUR FURRY COMPANIONS, BOTH AT HOME AND ON THE STREETS. THE LOUD NOISES OF FIREWORKS CAN BE DISTRESSING FOR PETS AND STREET ANIMALS ALIKE. LET US ENSURE A SAFE DIWALI FOR THEM BY CREATING QUIET SPACES AWAY FROM THE SOUNDS OF FIRECRACKERS

THE FESTIVITIES START WITH DHANTERAS, THE DAY DEDICATED TO WEALTH AND PROSPERITY, WHEN PEOPLE PURCHASE NEW ITEMS, OFTEN PRECIOUS METALS, TO BRING GOOD FORTUNE. THIS YEAR, AFTER MUCH SPECULATION AND CONFUSION ABOUT THE DATES, DIWALI WILL BE CELEBRATED ON THE 31ST OF OCTOBER



CELEBRATE INDIA'S DIVERSE CULINARY LANDSCAPE

A culinary destination for a fusion of traditional Indian flavours and modern innovation, is perfect for festive dining, says **SHARMILA CHAND**

IDYLL known for serving Regional Indian plates & craft cocktails in its most rustic, nostalgic & idyllic state, presents a unique dining concept that celebrates the essence of India's rich culinary heritage. The restaurant's menu, inspired by the diverse flavours of Rajasthan, Kashmir, Lucknow, Orissa, and Maharashtra, perfectly complements the festive spirit of Diwali. Each dish is a testament to the restaurant's commitment to honouring traditional recipes while infusing them with contemporary flair. The IDYLL experience goes beyond mere sustenance, offering a holistic sensory journey that resonates with the joyous atmosphere of Diwali. From the moment guests step in, they are enveloped in an intimate setting ideal for festive gatherings.

Talking to *Namokar Jain*, the co-owner of IDYLL, I got to understand the philosophy that drives their innovative approach to Indian cuisine, as he explains their logo and what it stands for. "The five circles in the logo are reminiscent of the rings of a tree trunk. They symbolise the depth and richness of our commitment to reconnecting with tradition through food and beverages. Just as the ageing process of a tree trunk is slow and steady, so is our approach to crafting the perfect dining experience." He continues to explain, "At the heart of IDYLL's appeal is a reflective insight into the depth of Indian cuisine. Drawing inspiration from the age-old technique of fermentation, the menu offers a range of gut-friendly delights that are perfect for the

THE IDYLL EXPERIENCE GOES BEYOND MERE SUSTENANCE, OFFERING A HOLISTIC SENSORY JOURNEY THAT RESONATES WITH THE JOYOUS ATMOSPHERE OF DIWALI. FROM THE MOMENT GUESTS STEP IN, THEY ARE ENVELOPED IN AN AMBIANCE THAT PAYS HOMAGE TO JAIPUR'S CELEBRATORY STRUCTURES

indulgent Diwali season. From tangy handcrafted pickles to complex kombuchas, every dish and drink is designed to please both the palate and the gut."

FESTIVE AMBIENCE

The restaurant's two-level layout provides versatile spaces for different types of Diwali celebrations. The lower level offers an intimate fine dining experience, while the upper floor houses a vibrant cocktail room. Here, an open circular island bar becomes the epicentre of festivity, serving meticulously crafted cocktails that incorporate regional Indian ingredients, perfectly complementing the celebratory mood of Diwali.

IDYLL's commitment to nostalgia and tradition makes it an excellent choice for multi-generational Diwali gatherings. The culinary team, led by expert chefs, has infused the menu with their childhood favourites, creating dishes that evoke fond memories while offering a fresh, modern twist. This blend of the familiar and the innovative ensures that there's something for every family member to enjoy during the Diwali feast.

TO CONCLUDE

IDYLL offers a dining experience that honours tradition while embracing the new. With its thoughtfully crafted menu, ambient setting, and commitment to creating memorable experiences, IDYLL stands ready to make your Diwali celebration in Bangalore truly extraordinary.

"It was our endeavour to create a space that would offer a sense of calm to our diners. We hope our IDYLL is that space - rustic and nostalgic, offering a holistic sensory experience! Echoing a story of tradition, innovation, and passion," quip *Namokar Jain* and *Jai Sharma*, the co-founders of the restaurant. (*Sharmila Chand is an Author, Columnist and independent Journalist, who writes on Food, Travel and Lifestyle*)

A HEALTHY DIWALI WHOLESOME RECIPES FOR FESTIVE INDULGENCE

TEAM AGENDA

With Diwali approaching, it's the perfect time to enjoy homemade treats that are both delicious and healthier. This festive season, why not try recipes that bring a balance of taste and wellness to your table? Here are four simple and flavourful dishes that will brighten your celebrations and keep the indulgence guilt-free.

ALMOND DATE CHOCOLATE BALLS

(by Australian Almonds)

These Almond, Date and Cranberry Balls are a perfect energy-boosting snack. Easy to prepare, they're rich in nutrients, with a festive touch of dark chocolate and edible gold dust.

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup whole blanched almonds
- 1 cup Medjool dates (seeds removed)
- 1/3 cup cranberries
- 3 tsp cacao or Dutch cocoa powder
- ¼ cup desiccated coconut
- 3 tsp almond butter

Method

- Blend almonds, dates, cranberries, cacao, coconut and almond butter in a food processor.
- Roll small portions into balls and coat with chopped or flaked almonds.
- Refrigerate before serving. For a special touch, drizzle melted dark chocolate and sprinkle it with gold dust.

SPECIAL COCONUT LADDOO

(by Bristhi Kumari, on behalf of Chilean Prunes)

A Diwali classic, these laddoos get a unique twist with prunes, adding a rich flavour to the traditional coconut and condensed milk combo.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp ghee
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- ½ cup condensed milk
- 2 tsp milk
- ¼ tsp cardamom powder
- Prunes and chopped pistachios for garnish

Method

- Heat ghee in a pan, fry the coconut on low heat until lightly coloured.
- Add condensed milk, 2 tsp milk and cardamom powder, and mix well.
- Shape the mixture into small balls, placing a prune in the centre.
- Refrigerate for 30 minutes before serving.

PISTACHIO BAKLAVA CAKE

(by Chef Najmieh Batmanglij, on behalf of American Pistachio Growers)

This cake is a delightful fusion of Baklava and cake, combining the flavours of pistachio, cardamom, and rose water for a unique Diwali dessert.

Ingredients: Glaze

- 1 cup honey
- ¼ cup rose water
- Zest of 1 orange
- 2 tsp fresh lime juice

Cake

- 3 eggs, separated
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 tsp cardamom powder
- 2 tsp rose water
- ½ cup milk (or almond milk) and ½ cup oil
- 1 cup flour (with 1½ tsp baking powder)
- 1½ cups ground pistachios
- 1 apple, peeled, cored and chopped (optional)

Garnish

- Pistachios, almonds and dried rose petals

Method

- Mix all glaze ingredients and set aside. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Whisk egg yolks and sugar until creamy, add cardamom, rose water, milk, and oil. Fold in flour, pistachios, and apple.
- Whip egg whites to soft peaks and fold into the batter.
- Bake for 40-45 minutes, then pour half the glaze over the cake. Garnish with pistachios, almonds, and rose petals.

CARAMEL WALNUT KHEER (by Chile Walnuts)

A rich and creamy kheer with a caramel twist, this dish is the perfect blend of traditional and modern flavours, enhanced with crunchy Chilean walnuts.

Ingredients

- 7-8 Chilean walnuts (roughly broken) + 3-4 for garnish
- 3 tsp rice (soaked for 2 hours)
- 1 litre milk (divided)
- 1/3 cup sugar and 1 tsp butter (optional)
- Water

Method

- Cook soaked rice with ½ cup milk in a pressure cooker for 2 whistles.
- For caramel, heat sugar with water until golden brown, then stir in butter (optional) and 2 tsp warm milk.
- Boil the remaining milk, add the cooked rice, and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in walnuts and caramel.
- Garnish with more walnuts and serve.

These festive recipes not only bring vibrant flavours to your Diwali celebrations but also add a healthy twist to traditional treats. By incorporating wholesome ingredients like almonds, prunes and walnuts, you can enjoy the best of both worlds - delicious sweets and mindful indulgence. So, light up your home with joy and fill your table with these delightful dishes that everyone will love, guilt-free. Wishing you a bright, flavourful and health-conscious Diwali!

A Taste of Italy at Farmer's Basket

Chef Francesco Calvani showcased his finest creations at Farmer's Basket in Pullman. **GYANESHWAR DAYAL** describes the authentic Italian dishes as simply irresistible



Pullman New Delhi Aerocity is a culinary gem that recently unveiled an exclusive Italian pop-up that promises to whisk guests away to Italy through the exquisite flavours of its cuisine. The hotel's all-day dining restaurant, *Farmer's Basket at Pluck*, welcomes the esteemed *Chef Francesco Calvani*, renowned for his artistic flair in Italian cooking. As I stepped into *Farmer's Basket*, the ambiance was inviting, infused with a warmth that hinted at the culinary delights to come. The collaboration with *Chef Calvani* is a testament to *Pullman's* commitment to offering memorable dining experiences, and I was eager to see how his mastery would shine through in the menu. *Chef Francesco Calvani*, a distinguished graduate of *Le Cordon Bleu*, possesses an impressive background in both Italian and French cuisines. His culinary journey began at the renowned *Gordon Ramsay's Bread Street Kitchen* in London, where he honed his skills and developed a passion for creating unforgettable dishes. Known for his dedication to quality ingredients and an elegant culinary style, *Chef Calvani's* approach is rooted in the belief that great ingredients can transform any dish into a masterpiece.

During my visit, I had the pleasure of sampling a signature menu which was specially curated for the dinner buffet and the exclusive Sunday Brunch, both showcasing *Chef Calvani's* culinary expertise. The dinner buffet was a lavish spread, featuring highlights such as *Corn Fed Chicken with Mixed Bell Peppers*,



Porcini Mushrooms Risotto, and the classic *Spaghetti Alla Carbonara*. Each dish was a celebration of authentic Italian flavours, infused with *Chef Calvani's* unique twists that elevated the dining experience to new heights. One standout was the *Pistachio Crusted Tuna Fillet*, perfectly seared and complemented by a delicate sauce that highlighted the fish's natural flavours. The *Walnut and Gorgonzola Gnocchi* was another revelation, with its rich, creamy texture enveloping the soft pillows of pasta - truly a dish that lingered in my memory long after the meal. As I savoured each bite, it became evident that *Chef Calvani's* philosophy of using the finest ingredients

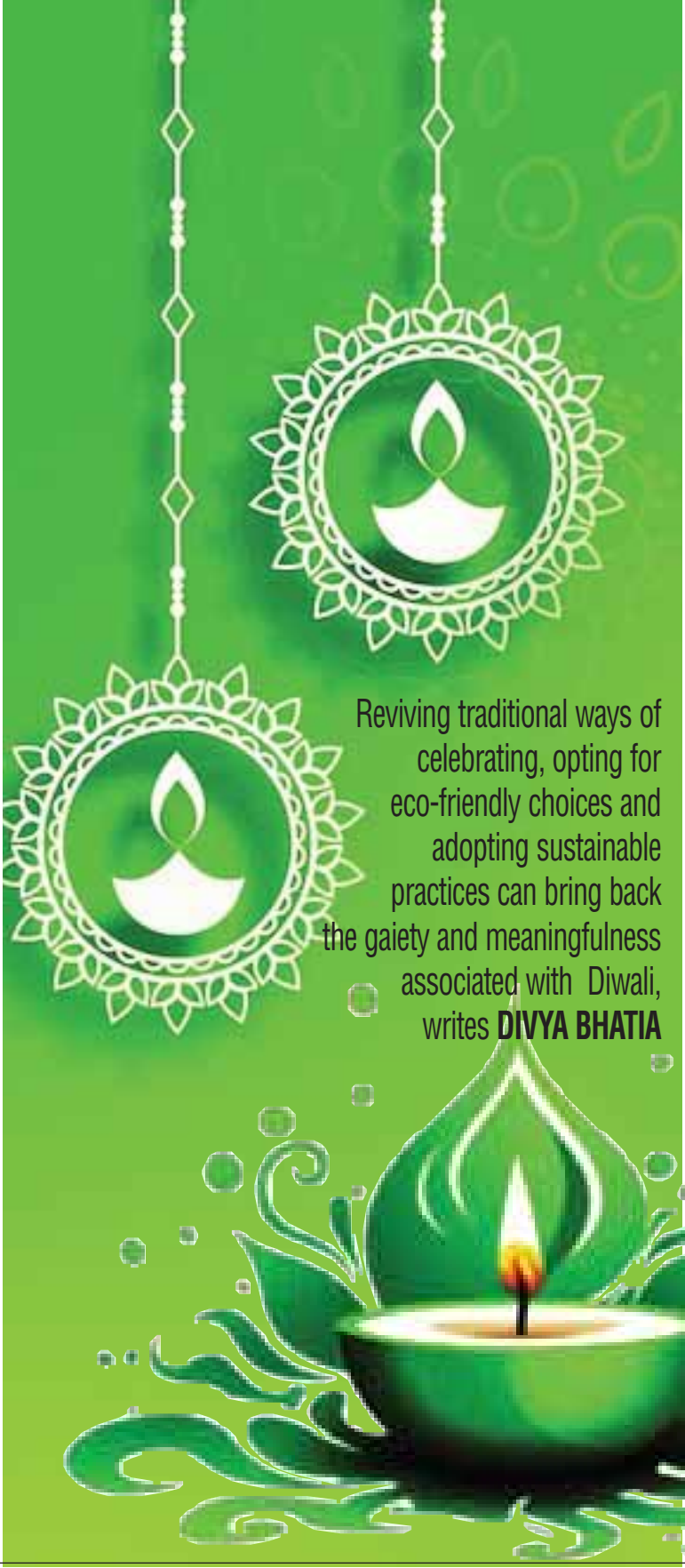
was at the heart of this dining experience. The attention to detail and the passion infused into every dish were palpable, making this not just a meal but a journey through the diverse landscapes of Italy. The exclusive pop-up at *Farmer's Basket* is not merely about dining; it is a celebration of Italian culture and culinary tradition. Reservations are highly recommended for those wishing to indulge in this exquisite gastronomic experience.

For an unforgettable evening that transports you to the heart of Italy, visit *Farmer's Basket at Pluck, Pullman New Delhi Aerocity*. Reserve your and prepare to embark on a

culinary adventure that showcases the very best of Italian cuisine. Strategically located near IGI Airport and the bustling business hubs of Gurgaon and New Delhi, *Pullman New Delhi Aerocity* stands as a stylish and modern destination. Combined together with *Novotel Aerocity* as a part of the same complex, the hotel boasts of 670 elegantly appointed rooms and suites, along with a state-of-the-art convention space featuring 13 meeting rooms and one of the largest ballrooms in the Delhi NCR region. With six innovative dining outlets, the hotel draws on international and local culinary specialties, ensuring that every meal is a celebration. Leisure facilities, including a spa, a fully-equipped health club, and an outdoor swimming pool, complete the experience, making it a true sanctuary for both business and leisure travellers.



GO GREEN THIS DIWALI



Reviving traditional ways of celebrating, opting for eco-friendly choices and adopting sustainable practices can bring back the gaiety and meaningfulness associated with Diwali, writes **DIVYA BHATIA**

Diwali, the festival of lights, is one of the most anticipated and cherished celebrations in India. Traditionally, Diwali has been a time for family gatherings, sharing sweets, lighting oil lamps (diyas) and engaging in heartfelt festivities. However, in recent years, the essence of Diwali has been overshadowed by excessive noise, air pollution and a culture of pomp and show. Remember the days when Diwali was celebrated with genuine joy - families dressed in new clothes, shared homemade sweets, and children delighted in simple fireworks like chakris and phuljharis? But today, Diwali has become a commercial spectacle, where promotions overshadow tradition.

THE NEED FOR HEALTHIER CELEBRATION

During Diwali, health concerns often spike due to increased air pollution, skin allergies and burn injuries, largely from firecrackers and chemical-based rangoli colours. *Dr Vaibhav Kubal*, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine at Holy Family Hospital, notes, "Every year, we see a noticeable increase in hospital admissions, especially due to respiratory issues and firecracker-related injuries." Likewise, *Dr P Venkata Krishnan* from Artemis Hospitals advises that those with respiratory conditions stay indoors during peak pollution hours and use air purifiers. Advocating for animal safety, *Tarunjeet Rattan*, an animal welfare advocate, passionately encourages a cracker-free Diwali. "Firecrackers were never part of our tradition and are harmful to both animals and humans," she shares, urging people to "comfort pets and welcome stray animals seeking shelter."

THE DIFFERENCE GREEN CRACKERS CAN MAKE

Green crackers offer a viable alternative to conventional firecrackers. Developed with a reduced chemical composition, these eco-friendly options are designed to produce less smoke, lower noise levels, and minimise harmful emissions. Unlike traditional crackers, which release high levels of pollutants such as carbon dioxide, sulphur oxides, and nitrogen oxides, green crackers contain non-toxic materials that



THE JOY CAME FROM TOGETHERNESS, NOT FIRECRACKERS OR EXTRAVAGANT DISPLAYS. TODAY, MANY SEND WHATSAPP MESSAGES INSTEAD OF VISITING LOVED ONES, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES HAVE REPLACED PERSONAL CONNECTION. REVIVING OLD CUSTOMS LIKE LIGHTING DIYAS TOGETHER AND SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY CAN RESTORE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF DIWALI

produce a significantly smaller amount of air pollutants.

EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE GIFT-GIVING

Diwali is traditionally marked by gift exchanges as a gesture of goodwill. To help conserve the environment, opting for sustainable, eco-friendly gifts can make a big difference. Instead of plastic-wrapped sweets or mass-produced decorations, choose alternatives like reusable jute bags, handmade products, plantable stationery, bamboo decor, artisanal candles, or potted plants. *Pranay Pasricha*, Brand Head of Pakka Limited suggests opting for gifts that offer genuine value and support the environment, such as reusable cloth bags, stainless steel bottles, or items made from agri-residue. "Choosing sustainable gifts not only reduces waste but also reflects a deeper commitment to the planet," says Pasricha.

EAT HEALTHY THIS DIWALI

Diwali sweets once captured the festive spirit with a blend of wholesome, homemade ingredients and traditional flavours. Today, however, mass-produced treats often come laden with sugars and unhealthy additives, which can lead to

increased health risks. *Chef Arokiya Doss*, Head Chef at The Malabar Coast, highlights the importance of mindful ingredient choices, saying, "Festive food tempts us with indulgent flavours, but balancing these with wholesome options is entirely possible. Opting for whole grains, legumes, and fresh vegetables adds fibre and reduces calorie density." *Chef Aditi Dixit* from CYK Hospitalities recommends "sweets that bring both indulgence and nutrition, like ladoos or halwas made with jaggery or dates instead of refined sugar. Baked gujiyas filled with coconut and dry fruits keep the festive spirit alive with less oil, and ragi or millet-based barfis offer fibre and wholesome ingredients."

TAKE CARE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Diwali offers the comforting sense that some things remain unchanged. Talking about handling this mental burden, *Jasneet Kaur*, Co-Founder & CEO of Unfazed Therapy Solutions, shared, "While it's natural to miss loved ones, taking time to appreciate what we have can uplift our mood. Finding ways to celebrate meaningfully, even through community activities or volunteering, can restore a sense of purpose."



A Night of Dandiya and Festive Cheer

This Diwali, Rajasthan Club brought the festive spirit to life with Dandiya Raas: Rhymes of Diwali at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, featuring music, dance and vibrant celebrations.

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

Diwali - the festival that brings people together in joy, light and celebration - came alive in the heart of Delhi this year in a spectacular way. A grand cultural program, *Dandiya Raas* (Rhymes of Diwali), was organised by the Rajasthan Club, one of the city's leading social and cultural organisations, at the *Major Dhyan Chand Stadium*, also known as the National Stadium at India Gate. This vibrant event attracted thousands of people, turning the stadium into a lively hub of music, dance and festive cheer. From the moment you entered the stadium, the festive spirit enveloped you. Strings of lights decorated every corner, casting a warm glow that seemed to reflect the happiness in everyone's faces. Families, friends and even complete strangers came together to celebrate the essence of Diwali. The sounds of laughter and conversation filled the air, but it was the music that truly set the mood. As captivating tunes played, with singer and artist *Rahul Vaidya* setting the stage ablaze, people couldn't help but move to the rhythm. The beauty of this event lay in its ability to bring everyone together - no matter where you were from or who you were with, you were part of the same celebration. *Dandiya Raas* is more than just a dance;



it's a cherished tradition. Dressed in colourful ethnic wear, people of all ages twirled and clashed their Dandiya sticks in perfect harmony. There was a certain joy in the simplicity of it all. The bright colours of lehengas and kurtas, the clatter of sticks, and the smiles on people's faces created an atmosphere that was truly unforgettable. It didn't matter if you were an expert or a first-timer; the excitement was infectious, and everyone found themselves joining in the fun. Beyond the dancing, the stadium was filled with the sights and smells of Diwali. Food stalls, with their tempting aromas of traditional sweets and savoury treats, were a popular spot throughout the night. Whether you were grabbing a plate of *hot jalebis* or a *bowl of spicy chaat*, the food was as much a part of the experience as the dancing. It added to the warmth of the evening, as people shared meals and stories, deepening the sense of community that Diwali always brings. What made this night truly magical was the feeling of unity. Diwali is a festival that symbolises the victory of light over darkness, and this event was a shining example of that. The energy of the crowd, the shared joy of dancing together, and the simple pleasure of being part of something bigger than yourself all came together to create an unforgettable Diwali experience. *Anurag*



Garg, the head of the Rajasthan Club, along with General Secretary *Sunil Prakash*, highlighted how the organisation, founded 56 years ago in 1968, has always aimed to carry forward cultural traditions while providing healthy entertainment to the community. As the night went on, the dancing only seemed to grow more lively. With every beat and every twirl, the crowd became more in sync, moving as one in celebration. It was a reminder of the beauty of togetherness and how, in moments like these, the true essence of Diwali shines through. Everyone left the event with full hearts, knowing that this night had captured the true spirit of the festival. This Diwali, Delhi didn't just light up with lamps and fireworks - it lit up with the smiles, laughter and joy of people coming together for a night of unforgettable celebration.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



Dubai's Real Estate Boosting India's Tourism Industry This Diwali

BY TEAM AGENDA

As Dubai's real estate market reaches new heights, the benefits are spilling over to India's tourism sector. Real estate companies from Dubai are organising major events across various regions in India, leading to significant growth in both the hotel and tourism industries. A notable real estate event was hosted by Tesla Properties, a renowned Dubai-based company, at the *Royal Plaza Hotel* in *Connaught Place, Delhi*. Esteemed developers from Dubai showcased their projects and provided comprehensive information on the advantages of investing in Dubai's real estate, which offers freehold ownership, excellent profitability, and attractive rental returns. Additionally, those residing in Dubai can obtain golden visas for their entire families. *Satish Balyan*, CEO of Tesla Properties, emphasised the company's commitment to contributing to India's development while residing in Dubai. "Delhi holds a special place in our hearts, which is why we choose it for our Dubai property events," he stated. He further explained that their team comprises citizens from various countries, whom they bring

to India to promote tourism and familiarise them with the local cuisine and culture. Interactions with Indian attendees help enhance the country's positive image globally. During the event, Tesla Properties experts highlighted how Indian investors can secure substantial returns by investing in Dubai. They addressed all real estate needs for individuals looking to start businesses, both residential and commercial. Moreover, the property management services offered ensure excellent appreciation in value. Investors benefit from a tax-free, crime-free, and pollution-free environment, coupled with a stable currency in Dubai. Various other developers, including the well-known Dubai-based firm *Binghatti*, also showcased their projects. Tesla properties team members *Pershan* from Iran savored the rich flavours of Indian cuisine, while *Marta* from Poland was left craving more after trying the local dish "soya chaap" in Connaught Place. The events in Dubai's real estate sector are consistently providing profits to India's aviation, food, hotel, and tourism industries, contributing to the nation's goal of achieving a five trillion-dollar economy

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
This week, your emotions and romantic feelings will be particularly intense, drawing you towards serene natural settings or engaging deeply in artistic pursuits with a loved one. Expect interests like movies, drama, or poetry to be especially appealing, and you might even receive a significant romantic proposal. Midweek calls for letting go of a harmful habit to maintain harmony in your relationships. By the end of the week, you'll notice a transformative shift in your mindset and energy, prioritizing your professional aspirations. You may receive recognition and support from a mentor at work. This is an excellent time for teamwork and showing generosity, setting the stage for effective collaboration. Your creativity will soar, and you'll find yourself ready to tackle new challenges with a refreshed spirit.
Lucky number 12 | **Lucky colour** Coral
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
This week, your heart takes precedence over your mind, immersing you in feelings of love and romance. You'll find new opportunities emerging that boost your optimism. While you may feel unusually whimsical and deeply connected to your emotional and spiritual sides, your readiness to help others shines through. You possess a blend of gentleness and compassion, coupled with a rich imagination and artistic flair. You seek peace and harmony, avoiding conflicts and disturbances. Midweek, you may be unsettled by the unexpected dishonesty of someone close, which could leave you feeling betrayed. However, as the week progresses, you'll gain a strong command over both your theoretical knowledge and practical applications, balancing logic with emotion effectively. Your confidence in your abilities will grow, enhancing both your professional interactions and potential for advancement.
Lucky number 20 | **Lucky colour** Mint
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
You possess a genuine and sincere heart, especially when it comes to matters of love. Your ability to tolerate and find balance is remarkable, allowing you to understand and integrate contrasting aspects of life. By facing and understanding the challenges before you, you often discover solutions during your learning journey. This week may bring travel opportunities or significant movements. Be prepared for potential conflicts in your professional environment, where patience will be your greatest asset, allowing you to navigate through disputes gracefully. You are fortunate to experience a deep and meaningful connection with someone who resonates deeply with you, offering unconditional love. This period highlights the joy of a harmonious relationship, inviting you to savor the beauty of a loving and committed partnership.
Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Mustard
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
This week, your desires, especially in relationships, will be intense, with your outward calm belying a passionate inner nature. This duality might lead to an internal struggle, tugging you between fervent impulses and deeper emotions. Navigating these conflicting feelings might leave you feeling torn. Embracing diplomacy and tolerance will help you manage potential conflicts more effectively than resorting to confrontations. Beware of becoming too engulfed by your emotions, as it could leave you feeling overwhelmed. Striving for balance will keep you grounded. Midweek brings a surprising twist in your career or business prospects. Take these developments seriously and consider them carefully. Financially, the period looks promising, with potential unexpected gains through gifts or bonuses, and possibly a boost in earnings.
Lucky number 18 | **Lucky colour** Fuchsia
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
This week calls for patience as you await outcomes from recent endeavors. You may feel a spiritual inclination to organize a serene gathering at home, reflecting and discovering your inner strengths. This introspection could lead to more creative and constructive activities. By midweek, a new project will emerge that requires your swift action and courage, energizing you with renewed initiative and vigor. Health-wise, you'll find yourself in a robust state, ready to tackle challenges that previously intimidated you. Now is the time to embrace these opportunities for maximum benefit. Professionally, the week looks promising, although romantic relationships might need more attention. Some might experience a sense of disappointment in love, but clear communication can prove beneficial. For those dealing with complexities in personal connections, thoughtful gestures like giving a thoughtful gift could help smooth things over.
Lucky number 3 | **Lucky colour** Saffron
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week, your primary focus should be on your health as seasonal conditions could pose a challenge. Financially, it's a tricky period with disruptions in income and an increase in expenses, potentially leading to stress. Additionally, the declining health of an elder might add to your concerns. Relief comes midweek when you discover rejuvenating practices like meditation and yoga, alongside spiritual pursuits that offer solace. Support and encouragement from maternal figures will bolster your confidence significantly. Your relationships may feel a bit stagnant, prompting a need to reevaluate and refresh emotional connections to prevent one-sided dynamics that lead only to discomfort. It's a period for introspection and adjustment, encouraging you to explore new paths and more fulfilling directions in life.
Lucky number 23 | **Lucky colour** Peach
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
This week heralds a time of significant abundance, touching both material and spiritual aspects of your life. You'll find yourself well-equipped with the necessary resources and deep contentment. It's an opportune moment to leave a meaningful legacy, perhaps passing on wisdom or assets that will leave a lasting impression beyond mere financial value. Family discussions may revolve around financial inheritances or property matters. Midweek could bring sudden changes, requiring swift adaptation. Navigate these with careful thought and fairness to maintain harmony and ensure productive outcomes. Be cautious in your decision-making, avoiding rash actions that could undermine your efforts. You may also find yourself amidst conflicts or facing opposition, necessitating a balanced approach to debates or discussions to preserve your interests and relationships.
Lucky number 6 | **Lucky colour** Indigo
Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week, you will find yourself brimming with energy and creativity, ready to embrace positive developments and joyous celebrations. A significant personal milestone, such as welcoming a new family member, might occur, adding to your excitement. Your imaginative powers will serve well in creative ventures, and you'll feel driven to achieve ambitious goals while upholding strong ethical standards. Life will seem to flow smoothly, inspiring you to create and maintain a balanced lifestyle. This period also hints at significant relational developments, whether through engagements or deepening friendships. You may find opportunities to make long-term investments, like acquiring or upgrading a home, come to fruition. Support and blessings from elders will uplift you, enhancing a sense of familial joy. Social events will fill your schedule, though caution is advised in financial dealings, particularly with acquaintances at work.
Lucky number 2 | **Lucky colour** Teal
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
This week, your decisive actions are set to yield significant long-term benefits. With clarity and a strong focus, you're poised to initiate successful new relationships or ventures. Your life's different aspects will align, offering you a comprehensive view of your path forward. Travel by air may feature prominently, marking a period of celebration. You'll find yourself feeling complete, bolstered by enhanced wisdom, strength, and courage. Relationships, both romantic and platonic, will take center stage, reinforcing the importance of teamwork and mutual support. Your self-confidence and personal virtues will provide the strength needed to lead and inspire others. As you guide those around you, they will become reliable pillars in your own times of need. This period is ripe for launching actions that will not only succeed but also spark further creative endeavors.
Lucky number 8 | **Lucky colour** Turquoise
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22
This week, you'll find yourself brimming with creativity, which will align your spirit, mind, and body, leading to successful outcomes. Your energy levels will be high, and you may experience significant personal milestones such as the announcement of a pregnancy or a new addition to your family. You'll enjoy an increase in both material and spiritual prosperity. However, mid-week, you might notice an uptick in your expenses. Your desires and needs are expanding, requiring careful management of your finances and relationships. Embracing love, compassion, and humility will strengthen your connections with those close to you. By the week's end, travel is on the horizon. Be mindful of your possessions during your journey. This trip is poised to be enriching, offering positive long-term benefits. Embrace this wave of inspiration and positivity.
Lucky number 10 | **Lucky colour** Lavender
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
You are currently experiencing a burst of positivity and brightness, eager to celebrate recent achievements with those close to you. Drawing inspiration from the past, you find yourself wrapped in nostalgia, radiating joy that enhances your everyday experiences. As the week progresses, your professional life will demand more of your attention through additional responsibilities. Expect an increase in assignments, projects, and meetings. Your work will be recognized for its potential, inspiring you to devote your energy passionately, spotting opportunities others might miss. However, it's crucial to maintain a balance between your professional duties and personal joys. Focusing on a balanced approach will be key to managing both aspects effectively without sacrificing the seriousness your career requires.
Lucky number 14 | **Lucky colour** Burgundy
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
This week, embrace the theme of transformation. You may find yourself relocating or redecorating your living or workspace. A significant shift in lifestyle or personal environment is likely. Prepare for a deep spiritual awakening that may lead you to discard outdated beliefs. This period serves as a wake-up call to explore new directions and better paths, especially if current situations, including painful relationships, are holding you back. At times, the best course of action is to let go and trust in a higher power, understanding that not all battles are meant to be fought actively. Sometimes, patience is necessary to resolve challenges. By the week's end, a sense of stability will return. You'll find strength in teamwork, possibly leading to recognition or advancement in your professional endeavors.
Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Mauve
Lucky day Thursday

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THE TUNING FORK



C V Srikanth

The state of mind and emotional balance is significant. It can be paradoxical. While emotional turmoil and stress calls for calming, reflective practices, it can obliterate the ability to converge thoughts and reach quietness.

Meditation as a therapy is an advice freely distributed as the antidote for all issues - particularly for mental and psychological wellness. The origin is Latin 'Meditatum' meaning 'to ponder'. Of course, doing 'Dhyana' regularly - correctly and appropriately - improves awareness of how our minds work and how thoughts are processed. There is but a serious catch - 'one size does Not fit all.' The effect of various techniques varies and often, can be counter-productive. Personally, I have seen this occur during my sessions. Whether to and how to meditate is individualistic. The preparation is often given a go-by, a primary reason why we are unable to get the purchase of this exalted practise. The Shrutis themselves emerged and manifested through deep contemplation and reflection. Meditation is seen as a path to uncover the true nature of the self, described in the Upanishads as immortal and beyond limitations. In the Vedic tradition, dhyana is considered an imperative tool for spiritual growth, self-discovery, and achieving inner balance and peace. It is acknowledged that meditation may not suit everyone due to various factors deeply rooted in the individual's disposition, mindset, and importantly - Emotional and Spiritual Readiness. Each individual has a unique disposition,

mindset, constitutional fabric (Prakrit) comprising genetic, physical, mental, and spiritual attributes - influencing a person's response system and agreeability to different practices, including meditation. Generically, while a calm and introspective nature, makes meditation more welcoming and beneficial, a restless or extroverted disposition, can find it challenging to quieten the mind and experience the deeper states. The key here is a deep desire and intent to be learned and absorbed, making it a nature. The state of mind and emotional balance are significant. It can be paradoxical. While emotional turmoil and stress calls for calming, reflective practices, it can obliterate the ability to converge thoughts and reach quietness. The preparation - preparing the soil for planting is crucial. Pranayama (breath regulating) or relevant mantra chanting assists bring stability. Getting into meditation is preparing to start a long Spiritual journey. A Spiritual readiness and background greatly help. Dhyana in the Vedic tradition is an important part of evolving to next levels of learning and growth - which involves contemplation on spiritual principles, self-inquiry, and connecting with higher states of consciousness. For individuals who are not spiritually inclined, meditation practices may seem abstract or lack context.



Krishna teaches in the Bhagavat Gita ... योगयुक्तो विशुद्धात्मा विजितात्मा जितेन्द्रियश्च सर्वभूतात्मभूतात्मा कुर्वन्पि न लियते दृष्टं योग-युक्तो विशुद्धात्मा विजितात्मा जितेन्द्रियश्च सर्वभूतात्मभूतात्मा कुर्वन्पि न लियते दृष्टं yoga-yukto visuddhatma vijitātma jiten-driya? sarva-bhūtātma-bhūtātma kurvanmap-inalipyate Bh Gita 5.7

The Karma yogis, of purified intellect, who control the mind and senses, see the Soul

of all souls in every living being, the self who acts but is not attached. Though performing all kinds of actions, they are never entangled. This verse highlights the qualities cultivated through Dhyana Sadhana - purification of the vishuddha-atma purified (intellect & mind) jitendriya (conquering the senses), leading to self-realization and non-attachment. The body and mind are interwoven as one. One disturbs the other. Imbalances in nadis subtle energy channels or chakra energy centres affect the flow of Prana vital energy - essential for a comfortable and real experience. The Vedas elaborate on how our current life is totally influenced by karmas past actions and samskaras impressions stored in the mind that travel with us from birth to birth. These play a central role in spiritual growth like meditative practices. They can be highly supportive. However negative impressions and carry-overs like unresolved conflicts or deep-seated fears may surface causing inner discomfort or resistance. A commitment and resolve is essential - to cultivate and nurture into a habit. A responsibility to the self and an experience that cannot be described. Erraticism or a mundane effort is a waste of time. Practices like dhyana are deeply entwined with spiritual beliefs and ritual-

with specific purposes. Proper guidance from experienced Gurus or mentors are imperative - customized to one's nature and purpose to navigate correctly. The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali outlined dhyana as a critical practice for achieving mental and emotional stability. तदा द्रष्टुःस्वरूपेऽवस्थानम् Then the seer abides in its own nature. Through meditation, the practitioner transcends the fluctuations of the mind and attains a state of pure awareness. In the Vedic tradition meditation is a transformative practice for spiritual evolution and self-fulfilment. It offers profound benefits. Its suitability varies among individuals due to diverse factors. Recognizing these factors allows individuals to approach meditation with greater awareness, to resonate with their unique needs for positive results. Ultimately, it is a journey within into our self. — The writer is a versatile professional with 3 decades in corporate experience & leadership roles, excelling in several areas as a ICF Certified Mentor Life Coach, Corporate Coach, Spiritual Intelligence Coach & CXO Coach, Spiritual counselor, Astro & Vastu consultant (25+ years of grounding in Vedanta philosophy) and a Motivational speaker. He is a Dale Carnegie's T3 graduate