



# Established 1865 sunday pioneer



magazine



CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY OCTOBER 27, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

## 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.

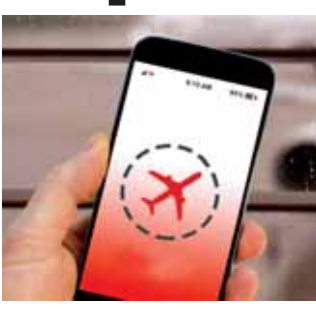
## Take down threat posts: MeitY

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.

## Indian cricketers break a record... of the worst kind



RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

In a disappointing turn for Indian Cricket, Team India's record 12-year long test streak of winning the test series ended by New Zealand. New Zealand emerged victorious by

winning the second test in Pune by 113 runs, taking 2-0 lead in the three-match Test series and claiming the first test series win in India and away series in World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

Indian Captain Rohit Sharma's side became the first in 12 years to lose the test series after MS Dhoni's unit back in 2012-2013 suffered the heavy defeat from England. From 2013, India won all 18 series at home, and recorded an unbeaten streak in the history of Test cricket. New Zealand had ended a 26-year-old drought of winning a test series in India. New Zealand has now become the third team to beat India in their own backyard after Australia and England.

This was not the first time India failed a spin test, in Pune last time Australia's Steve O'Keefe left arm orthodox spinner claimed six wickets in both the innings and helped Australia to win the test match.

## Substandard helmets must be trashed



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to enhance road safety and protect consumers from substandard helmets, the Department of Consumer Affairs has directed District Collectors (DCs) and District Magistrates (DMs) to launch a nationwide campaign targeting manufacturers and retailers who sell non-compliant helmets for two-wheeler riders. This comes as a response to the growing concerns over the quality of helmets available in the market and their critical role in safeguarding lives on the road. The Department has written to DCs and DMs in this regard. It is said that more than 85% of helmets used

by two-wheeler riders in India do not meet ISI standards. The ministry's data shows there are 162 licences of manufacturers of helmets that have been cancelled/expired. Besides, till date total 27 search and seizure have been conducted on misuse of BIS Standard Mark/Violation of QCOs in regards to 4151:2015 and cases are filed in various courts. In 2023, road crashes in India claimed nearly 1.73 lakh lives and left 4.63 lakh injured, marking a record high. Two-wheeler riders, particularly those without helmets, accounted for 44 per cent of the fatalities.

According to the department, it has come to light that substandard helmets, which lack the requisite BIS certification, are being sold on the roadside. This poses a severe risk to public safety and has been linked to numerous fatalities in road accidents. Therefore, there is an urgent need to tackle this issue head-on. The Government has called for strict enforcement against manufacturers operating without BIS licences or using counterfeit ISI Mark, as well as retailers peddling these non-compliant products to unsuspecting consumers. Consumers can verify whether a helmet manufacturer is licensed by BIS through the BIS Care App or by visiting the BIS website.



## NC feeling the heat of 'dual control'

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The top brass of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has started feeling the heat of 'dual control' in the corridors of power. After Omar Abdullah's swearing-in ceremony, the party leaders gave measured reactions to the Chief Minister's role in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the helm of affairs.

However, the recent incidents of terrorist violence in which 12 innocent lives were lost in three separate incidents last week have once again provoked the leaders of the ruling party to flex their muscles in support of their demand for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

On Saturday, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, who is also the Provincial President of the party (Kashmir division) told reporters on the sidelines of a function that Jammu & Kashmir cannot function effectively under its current 'dual control' structure, where security remains under the Lieutenant Governor (LG) while other administrative functions are managed by the Chief Minister.

## ED detects irregularities in concert ticket sales

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has detected irregularities after it conducted raids in a money laundering case to probe "black marketing" of tickets of popular music concerts by British rock band Coldplay and actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh. The agency filed case for money laundering after conducting searches on Friday at 13 locations in five states -- Delhi, Maharashtra (Mumbai), Rajasthan (Jaipur), Karnataka (Bengaluru) and Punjab (Chandigarh) - after the federal investigation agency filed a criminal case under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). While the 'Dil-Luminati' concert by Dosanjh is scheduled to be held over the weekend on October 26-27 at the Jawaharal Nehru (JLN) stadium in the national capital, the Coldplay event 'Music of the Spheres World Tour' is slated for January 2025 at Navi Mumbai. The ED said in a statement that it initiated an investigation after numerous reports emerged that



FILE PHOTO

individuals and fans were being "deceived/cheated" through "fraudulent" ticket sales after the rapid sellout of entry passes. The agency took cognisance of multiple police FIRs filed in the case across the country, including one filed by online ticket booking portal BookMyShow, against several suspects "believed to be exploiting concert-goers." The FIR alleges that these individuals engaged in selling counterfeit tickets and drastically inflated prices, taking advantage of the high demand for these coveted concerts, the ED said. It said these concerts were "electrifying" and "highly

anticipated" announcement for music enthusiasts across India. Both events, it said, generated immense excitement and official ticketing partners like BookMyShow and Zomato Live reported that tickets were sold out in just minutes on their platforms, which "ultimately led to black-marketing of tickets at exorbitant prices." Many fans have discovered that they were sold fake tickets or charged exorbitant prices for legitimate ones, the agency said. According to reports, the tickets were sold for Rs.32,000 to Rs.60,000. "Searches and investigation conducted by ED

has revealed information regarding multiple individuals known for providing such tickets, including fake tickets through social media using Instagram, WhatsApp and Telegram," the agency said. The ED said several "incriminating" materials in the form of mobile phones, laptops, SIM cards, etc. Used in the ticket sales "scam" were seized during the raids. The searches were aimed at investigating the illegal sales of tickets, financial networks supporting these scams, and tracing the proceeds of crime generated from such illegal activities, it said.

In a related development, the Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the response of the Centre on a plea seeking a regulatory framework to regulate the resale of these concert tickets through authorised platforms. A bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued notice to Union Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Electronics, and Information Technology, private entities Stubhub Inc, Viago Entertainment Inc and Bigtree Entertainment Pvt Ltd.



## To market... to market... bumper-to-bumper

### Hyper local markets are bursting at the seams as Diwali shopping peaks

BY ABHI SINGHAL

Ahead of the last Diwali weekend, the hyper local colony markets are bursting at the seams adding to the congestion in major areas connecting to such markets. This affects both pedestrian traffic as well motorists. All the major markets in the city like the Sadar Bazaar, Kamla Nagar Market, Lajpat Nagar market, Chandni Chowk market are the most congested areas.

The metro station Lal Quila which is the nearest to the Chandni Chowk market has lines of people waiting to exit the metro gates due to the rush. The Kamla Nagar market in North Delhi has been facing the same situation all along. But the hyper local markets have worse conditions on such days.

For instance, the influx of vendors selling Diwali items in the Rani Bagh market has led to severe congestion, making it difficult for pedestrians to navigate the market giving them a tough time.

The Rani Bagh market in the North West Delhi has become a difficult place to pass by with such heaps of people across the market which connects both Mahindra Park and Shakurpur Basti Railway Station. The season of lights is here, however, the headlights at the traffic jams are blinding and congestion fumes choke the lungs.

The problem is exacerbated by the lack of proper traffic management. Also, the vendors taking over the roadside selling either clothes or Diwali decoration items like the diyas, Lakshmi and Ganesh idols, Saraswati Charan Padukas, Rangoli colours, stencils, flower garlands, candles, clay lamps are majorly responsible for the over rush even at early hours of the day like 11 am, when the markets just starts to open.

To get a control over the situation the Delhi Police has barricaded at the entry side of the market to restrict vehicle entry but the situation remains chaotic at the other end. The absence of barricades at the exit point near the Shakurpur Basti



Photo: Abhi Singhal

Railway Station has resulted in a surge of vehicles on the connecting main road, contributing to the congestion from the morning 11 am.

The situation gets worse when the end of Rani Bagh market, which opens in front of the Shakurpur Basti Railway Station does not have the barricading, leading to excessive rush on the connecting main road. The e-rickshaws entering the market from the exit side make it even more difficult crowding the market by hindering the pedestrians' way. The absence of monitoring on entry and exits of the market are being advantaged by the e-rickshaws and the people locally living there. The grabbing of parking space of the two wheelers in front of the shops, on entry and exit sides, inside the market roads blocks the market from all sides.

Moreover, continuous in and out of 'Chota Hathi's' (a small tempo-like vehicle) carrying stocks for the shops makes the condition worse. Talking to a person shopping in the market on the

rush said, "does it feel like 12.00pm in the afternoon".

A shopkeeper said, "diwali tak esa hi rahega haal. Ye to kuch nahi hai aap shaam ko aaiye" (The condition of the market will remain the same till Diwali and at the evening time the condition is worse)". The other shopkeepers also emphasised the difficulty of movement in the market but said that it had been the same all these years due to Diwali.

Shockingly a roadside vendor revealed that they pay the big showrooms a generous rent for allowing them to sit outside the shops. A vendor named Sitaram and his wife, selling diyas on the Rani Bagh market road said, "hum kiraya dete hain shop ke malik ko aage saman bechne ka, to koi bhi kaha hum yahan se nahi hilenge" (I pay rent to the shop, so I will not move on anybody's saying)".

The situation in the market gets worsened in the evening hours when the traffic of pedestrians inside the market and vehicles on the connecting road goes out of hand.

# Classifieds

## USP

### BEDKHALI NOTICE

**I, Krishan Gopal Segan** S/o late Shri Jagdish Saran Segan R/o #195, Amravati Enclave, Tehsil Kalka, District Panchkula, my son Gaurav Segan and his wife Bhumiya Verma are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable /immovable property. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

**I, Satpal Singh,** S/o Lakhji Ram, R/o H.No. 1450/20, Salarpur Road, Near Balaji Mandir, Hargovind Nagar, Thanesar, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra declare that my son Amit Singh and his wife Sapna Devi are beyond the reach of me and my family. Therefore, I disown them from all my movable and immovable properties. After today, anyone who deals with them will be responsible. Note all concerns.

**I, Surinder Pal** son of Shankar Das resident of Village Tureti Post Office Shahpur Kandhi Township Tehsil and District Pathankot, Punjab and inform that my son Ravi Kumar who is beyond our say. I evict my son Ravi Kumar from my movable and immovable property and whoever allows any dealing with it will be responsible himself.

**We, Meva Ram,** S/o Gyana Ram and Tejo Devi W/o Meva Ram Vill. Lotni Tehsil Pehowa Distt. Kurukshetra Our Son Ravi Kumar are Out of Our Control. We, Disown Them From All Our Moveable And Immovable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Him At Their Own Risk.

**I, Kamla Devi** W/o Late Sh. Mahbir Singh R/O House No. 1197, Rajeev Colony, Sector 17, Panchkula Declare that my Son Ashok and his wife Smt. Urmila are out of my control. I disown my Son and my Daughter in law from my movable and immovable property. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk and will be responsible. I and my Family shall not be responsible for the same.

**मैं, विमला पत्नी:** स्व. समे राम निवासी 95ए/14, वर्तमान पता (332/8) कृपाल नगर, तहसील व जिला रोहतक बयान करता हूँ कि मैं अपने पुत्र नवीन, पुत्रवधु अनिता (नीता) को मैंने कहने-सुनने से बाहर होने पर अपनी चल-अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करती हूँ। भविष्य में इनसे लेन- देन करने वाला व्यक्ति स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा, मेरी व मेरे परिवार को कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

**मैं, आजाद सिंह** पुत्र श्री मोहर सिंह निवासी गांव धोकताना, तहसील व जिला हिसार बयान करता हूँ कि मेरा पुत्र अजय मेरे व मेरे परिवार के कहने सुनने से बाहर हूँ। अतः मैं मेरे पुत्र अजय को अपनी चल अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ। भविष्य में इससे किसी भी प्रकार का लेन देन करने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा, मेरी व मेरे परिवार को कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Sukhdeep Singh** S/o Surat Singh R/O 470/13 Ajit Nagar Samana (Patiala) declare that in my Passport No. S-3001539 my DOB wrongly entered 05-08-1983. But my correct DOB is 05-08-1984. So amended my DOB from 05-08-1983 to 05-08-1984 in my Passport.

It is for general information that I, Ilangovan V S/o Vijayarum Resident of house No-3257, FAFA Army Qtrs, Sector-29D, Chandigarh-160030, declare that name of my minor daughter have been wrongly written as Sharvika I in my minor Daughter Sharvika (aged 12 years) her School educational documents. The actual name of my daughter is Sharvika respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Naresh Kumar** Chauhan S/o Sh. Rup Chand Chauhan R/o #1379-B, Sector 31-B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Naresh Kumar Chauhan to Naresh Kumar vide Affidavit No - IN-CH52805191754573W Dated 23-10-2024 before Notary, Distt. Court at Chandigarh.

**I, Rajesh Kukreja** S/o Sh. Arjun Dev R/o H.No. 1637, Sec-14, Housing Board Colony, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my minor daughter's name from Sahiba to Sahiba Kukreja for all future purposes.

**I, Viky Antil** S/o Sh. Randhir R/o V.P.O Deepalpur, Sonipat have changed my name from Viky Antil to Vicky Antil for all future purposes.

**I, Ashwani Julka** S/o Chaman Lal R/o Ward No 6, Dera Baba Nanak, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Ashwani Kumar to Ashwani Julka.

**I, Suman Lata** W/o Ashwani Julka R/o Ward No 6, Dera Baba Nanak, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak Distt. Gurdaspur declare in my passport my husband name wrongly recorded as Ashwani Kumar whereas his correct name is Ashwani Julka.

**I, Bhupinder Kumar** Kochhar S/o Ajudhya Dass Kochhar R/o Flat No.102, Tower No.8B, Suncity Parikrama, Sector-20, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Bhupinder Kumar Kochhar to Bhupinder Kochhar.

**I, Surender Tiwari** S/o Bunal Madar, R/o 452, Shiv Nagar, Camp, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar - 135001, Haryana, INDIA have changed my name from Surender Tiwari to Arjun Chaurasiya.

**I, Dipti W/o** Narendar Choudhary R/o House No. E-73, Ward No 10, Subhash Gate Karnal Haryana have changed my Name from Dipti to Deepti.

**I, Drishti D/o** Neeraj Harjai R/O H.No- 7235/4 Nadi Mohalla Ambala City have changed my name from Drishti Harjai to Drishti

**I Rohit Kumar** Sharma S/o Jai Dev Sharma R/O H.No 591, Sonia Colony Ambala City, Haryana 134003 have changed my name from Rohit Kumar Sharma to Rohit Kumar.

**I Sudesh Kumar** S/o Rishi Pal R/O H.No- 6 Near Mahira Greens, Dairy Complex Kauli Ambala City have changed my minor Son Name from Raghav Bhoriya to Raghav Bhoria.

**I, Laxmi Devi** W/o Babu Ram, R/O Village Pandon (151), Post Office Sarawan, Tehsil Bilaspur, District Yamuna Nagar - 133206, Haryana, INDIA have changed my name from Laxmi Devi to Lakshami Devi.

**I, Shashi Bhushan** S/o Sh. Manohar Lal R/O H.No. 2721 Block-F, Ansai Sushant City Panipat declare that I have change my name from Shashi Bhushan dada to Shashi Bhushan, In future I should be known by the name of Shashi Bhushan.

**I, Dalbir Kaur** W/o Sukhdev Singh, R/o Vill Dharmrai, tehsil Dinanagar, distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Dalbir Kuar to Dalbir Kaur. All concerned note.

**I, Inder Pal Singh** Bains S/o Surinder Singh Bains # 3503, Sector 38 D, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor daughter from Harnoor to Harnoor Bains.

**I, Inder Pal Singh** Bains S/o Surinder Singh Bains # 3503, Sector 38 D, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor daughter from Jazlyn to Jazlyn Bains.

**I, Sonika Ahlawat** w/o sh. Rajeev Kumar R/O Flat no. G-702 Sushma Chandigarh Grande, Zirakpur have changed my name from Sonika Ahlawat to Sonika.

**I, Saswati Mandal** wife of No.14437821W Rank BHM (OPR) Baktin Mandal of unit 212 RKT Regt C/o 56 APO .That I have change my date of birth from 21-05-1985 to 05-09-1987 vide affidavit dated 26-10-2024 before hon'ble court Ambala.

**I, Sandeep Kaur** wife of Jatinder Pal resident of Village Barchuhi, PO. Rajpur, District Jalandhar, Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter Tamanna to Tamanna Kaur. All Concerned Note.

**I, Sukhchain Singh** Shergill S/o Surinder Pal Singh R/o E/107 Power house road near Machhi chowk Kacha Dhoiana Basti, Bathinda, have changed my name from Sukhchain Singh Shergill to Sukhchain Singh for all purposes. For all future Purposes

**I, Manpreet Kaur** W/o Jagdeep Singh, R/o Biggarwal Road, Sunam, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab, presently R/o House no. 39, B-Town, adjoining Shivalik city, Sector 127, Kharar, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name from Manpreet Kaur to Manpreet Kaur Khosa

**I, Asha Paul** W/o Sh. Shyam Lal Paul R/o House no.439 sector-21 Panchkula have changed my name from Asha Paul to Asha Rani.

**I, Gourav Sharma** S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O 2318/10, Vishal Nagar, Ward No. 4, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar do hereby solemnly affirm & declare that in my academic Certificates my mother's name is wrongly entered as Bimla instead of Bimla Devi. My mother's correct name is Bimla Devi. All concerned note.

**I, Manish Kumar** s/o Sish Ram r/o village Mangoli Jatan, Sub Tehsil Babain state that Munish Kumar & Manish Kumar are two names of the same person myself. I am known by both these names.

**I, Saroj Wadhwa** W/o Sh. Gulshan Kumar Wadhwa R/o H. No 32-B, Sukhdev Nagar, Panipat, I have changed my name from Saroj Wadhwa to Saroj Kumari Wadhwa for all future purposes.

**I, Tek Chand,** father of Gaje Singh, Resident of House No. 1457, Sector-21, HSVP Kaithal have changed my name from Tek Chand to Tek Ram Vide affidavit dated 26.10.2024 at Kaithal (Haryana).

**I, Rohit Dahiya** S/O Y.P.S. Dahiya R/O 103, Sector-D Defence Colony, O, Kalerheri Road, Ambala Cantt., Ambala, Haryana-133001 have changed name of my minor son Nishanth Dahiya aged 07 years to Nishant Dahiya.

**I, Minakshi Rani** W/o Ashok Kumar R/O H.No. 73 Dhand Road, Vivekanand Colony, Thanesar District Kurukshetra, inform that I have changed my name from Minakshi Rohilla to Minakshi Rani. In future I should be known as Minakshi Rani.

**I, Sunita W/o** Anil Kumar R/O Main Road, Opp. Vriddh Ashram, Barot, District Kaithal, have changed my name from Sunita Rani.

**I, Dharmveer Singh** S/o Jaipal R/O Village Beholi (Baholi), Kurukshetra, Haryana- 136131 have changed my name from Dharmveer Singh to Dharamveer Singh.

**I, Darshana Devi** W/O Krishan Kumar R/o village Peedal tehsil Guhla Distt. Kaithal Haryana inform that I have changed my name from Dharson Devi to Darshana Devi

**I, Krishan Kumar** s/o Jagan Nath r/o village Peedal tehsil Guhla Distt. Kaithal Haryana inform that I have changed my name from Krishan Sharma to Krishan Kumar.

**I, Parmod** S/o Shyam Sunder R/o H. No. 1245-A, Housing Board, Sector-15, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Parmod to Parmod for all future purpose.

**I, Renu Lata** W/o Sh. Shyam Lal Sonika R/O House No. 262, Sector 13, Hisar, Haryana hereby declare that I have changed my name from Renu Lata to Renu Sonika for all future purposes.

I, hitherto Known as Charanjit Singh Son of Amarjit Singh residing at VPO Panjwar Kalan Tehsil and District Tam Taran-143301 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Shamjeet Singh.

**I, Sonule Govinda** is father of No. 14945775K NK Sonule Sudhakar Govinda resident of Village Ganeshpur, PO Bhankheda, District Hangoli, Maharashtra-431542 now at 15 Mech Inf C/o 56 Apo, have changed my name from Sonule Govinda to Govinda Naagoji Sonule and date of birth 20 Jan 1962 to 01 Jan 1949 vide affidavit no. IN-PB74462613497596W dated 26-10-2024, before Notary Public, Amritsar

**I, Mainabai** is mother of No. 14945775K NK Sonule Sudhakar Govinda resident of Village Ganeshpur, PO Bhankheda, District Hangoli, Maharashtra-431542 now at 15 Mech Inf C/o 56 Apo, have changed my name from Mainabai to Mainabai Govinda Sonule and date of birth 07 Oct 1962 to 01 Jan 1964 vide affidavit no. IN-PB74462249928293W dated 26-10-2024, before Notary Public, Amritsar

**I, Amandeep Singh** Mahal S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Village Kallomahal, PO Gaggomahal Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Punjab now at presently residing at 8, Fallingworth Bay, North East, Calgary, Canada, T3J 1G3 have changed my Daughter's name from Asees Kaur to Asees Kaur Mahal.

**I, Sanjay** S/o Sh. Sohan Lal R/O 636/16 Quilla Mohalla, Rohtak-124001, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Sanjay to Sanjay Gugnani In future I will be called by the name Sanjay Gugnani for all purposes.

**I, Kashish Dua** W/o Rahul Behl R/O. Hno.4, Madan Malviya Road, Near Art Gallery, Amritsar, Punjab 143001 I Have Changed My Name Kashish Behl

**I, Nandini Chawla** W/o Bhavya Aggarwal, R/O H.No. 13-A, Radha Swami Road, Near Adarsh Cinema, Lawrence Road, Amritsar Punjab I Have Changed My Name Nandini Aggarwal.

**I, Siya** D/o Naveen Saboo R/O 288-A Basant Avenue Amritsar have changed my name to Siya Saboo.

**I, Harpreet Kaur** W/o Mohinderpal Singh R/O 104/B, Gali No. 2, Jawahar Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Amritsar, have changed my name from Harpreet Kaur alias Gurjeet Kaur to Harpreet Kaur. All concerned please note.

**I, Arwinder Kaur** W/o Ranjit Singh R/o VPO. Basarke Gillan District Amritsar have Changed my name from Arwinder Kaur to Arwinder Kaur

**I, Satinder Pal Singh** S/o Lakhwinder Singh Address. Patti Mansoor Di, Vpo Sultanwind, Amritsar. Have Change My Name From Satinder Pal Singh To Satinder Pal Singh Mahal

**I, Amandeep Kaur** W/o Satinder Pal Singh Mahal Address Patti Mansoor Di, Vpo Sultanwind, Amritsar Have Change My Name From Amandeep Kaur To Amandeep Kaur Mahal.

**I, Chintala Kondaiah** is legally Father of Service No. 16119501M Rank: SPR Name: Chintala Satyanarayana residing at Village Donakonda Post Donakonda, Taluk Darsi, Distt. Prakasham (State) Andhra Pradesh Pin-523305, have changed my name from Chintala Kondaiah to Chintala Kondaiah.

**I, Yegamma** is legally Mother of Service No. 16119501M Rank: SPR Name: Chintala Satyanarayana residing at Village Donakonda Post Donakonda, Taluk Darsi, Distt. Prakasham (State) Andhra Pradesh Pin-523305, have changed my name from C Pedda Yogamma to Yegamma.

**I, Santhalakshmi V** is legally Mother of Service No. 16131444H Rank: SPR Name: R Harish residing at Village Kattavarapalli Post Oomerabad, Taluk Ambur, Distt. Tirupattur (State) Tamil Nadu, Pin-635808, have changed my name from R Santha Laxmi to Santhalakshmi V.

**I, Gulab Singh** S/o Satpal Singh R/O H.No.165, General Harbaksh Enclave. Opp. Punjabi University, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Gulab Singh Nandha to Gulab Singh.

**I Bindu Singla** W/o Rajesh Kumar R/O House No.756, Anand Nagar-A Extention, Near Spring Dale School, Patiala, Punjab-147001 have changed my name to Bindu.

**I, No. 15177025N** NK Ram Sajjan Mishra Unit of 197 Field Regiment Residing at Village & Post Awar District Madhubani State Bihar Pin 847308 Declare That my Army Service Records my minor Son Shantanu Kumar Mishra Date of birth is wrongly mentioned as 10/10/2006 But Actual & Correct Date of birth is 10/08/2006.

**I, Chandro** W/o Late Sh. Ram Bhaj and mother of No. 13762486L, Ex Hav (Late) Satish Kumar R/O VPO - Lath, Teh. - Gohana, District - Sonipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Chander Pati to Chandro vide affidavit dated 26 Oct 2024 before Sonipat (Haryana) Court. In future I should be known as only Chandro.

**I, Randhir Malik** S/o Shamsher Singh Vill.Sarsa, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my name Randhir Singh

**I, Amandeep Kaur** W/o Mastan Singh Vill.Siana Khurd, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my given Name Amandeep Surname Kaur

**I, Mastan Singh** S/o Gurmeet Singh Vill.Siana Khurd, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my minor Son Name Lovepreet Singh to given name Lovepreet Surname Kaur

**I, Radheshyam** S/o Mahinder Singh Vill.Gulaba Patti, Keorak, Kaithal have Changed my name Radhey Shyam

**I, Mahender Singh** S/o Dariya Vill.Gulaba Patti, Keorak, Kaithal have Changed my name Mahinder Singh

**I, Meenakshi Singh** W/o Sh. Balraj Singh, H.No. 10, Vishwakarma Colony, Baltana, Zirakpur, Tehsil Derabassi District SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Meenakshi Singh to Meenakshi Devi.

**I, Smt Darshana Devi** Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No.Jc-197439p Ex Sub Hony Sub Maj, Tarsem Lal R/O Village- Udipur Po Dodwan, Tehsil-Dinanagar, Distt- Gurdaspur, State-Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Darshana Kumari To Darshana Devi.

**I, Arminder Singh** S/O Harbans Singh R/O H.No.B3/206 Gali Dultan Wali Guru Nanak Nagar Batala, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab. Declare That My Given Name As Arminder And My Surname As Singh.

**I, Rajesh** S/o Sh. Satish Sharma R/O H.No. 1655/1, Neharu Colony Rohtak Haryana 124001 declare that previously I was known as Rajesh and now I have changed my name from Rajesh to Rajesh Sharma. In future I may be known as Rajesh Sharma for all purposes. Rajesh and Rajesh Sharma both name are one and same person.

**I Rajveer Kaur** W/O Lakhwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Lopon, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name From Rajveer Kaur To Rajvir Kaur.

**I, Saroj Devi** M/o Army No. 16032730F Rank RFN Rohit R/o #3146/24, Street No 10, Bhatnagar Colony Rohtak Road Jind-126102 (Haryana) I have declared that my son Rohit Army service record wrongly mentioned my name Saroj Devi But my actual and correct name Saroj all documents Vide affidavit dated 25.10.2024 attested by Notary Public Jind.

**I Karamjit Kaur** W/O Amrik Singh R/O Vpo. Ramuwala Kalan (Moga) Have Changed My Name From Karamjit Kaur To Karamjeet Kaur.

**I Manjeet Singh** S/O Kulwant Singh R/O H.No.- 720, Nanak Nagri, Moga Have Changed My Name To Manjit Singh.

**I, Pawandeep Kaur** W/O Kamaljit Singh R/O Gali No.-3, Sham Nagar, Phagwara, District Kapurthala, Have Changed My Name Pawandeep As Given Name & Kaur As Surname.

**I Sandeep Kaur** Malhi W/O Apjinder Singh Brar R/O Malke (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Sandeep Kaur Brar.

**I Sweety** D/O Kewal Krishan R/O H.No.-53 Old Jawahar Nagar Jalandhar City Have Changed My Name To Sweety Arora.

**I Kamlesh** W/O Deepak Yadav R/O House No.-548, Street No.-4, Near Railway Line, New Deep Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Kamlesh And Pooja Yadav Is One And Same Lady.

**I Surinder Singh** s/o Ram Singh Saini R/O Village Patyala District Rupnagar (PB) have declare my wife name Charnjit Kaur alias charnjit Kaur Saini known by both names.

**I Jyoti Bala** W/o Rakesh Kumar R/O VPO Mehmoodpur Distt. Ambala Haryana declare that Jyoti Bala and Jyoti Dutta are the names of one and the same person and in future I will be called as Jyoti Dutta . Concerned note

**I Deepika** W/o Ashu Verma R/O 1779 Sector 9 Housing Board Colony Ambala City that I have changed my name from Deepika to Deepika Ahuja. Concerned note

**I, Shakuntla Devi** Mother of Pawan Singh resident of Village- Banethi, Post- Banethi, Tehsil-Banethi, District- Jaipur, State- Rajasthan, Pin-303105, have changed my name from Shakuntla Devi to Sakuntla Devi vide affidavit No.IN-PB7445026036062W dated 26 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Lad Kanwar** Mother of Durg Singh Chauhan resident of Village-Gaderi, Post- Ostran, Tehsil-Bhopalgarh, District-Jodhpur, State- Rajasthan, Pin-342603, have changed my name from Lad Kanwar to Ladu Kanwar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB74449820350649W dated 26 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Kalyan Singh** Chauhan Father of Durg Singh Chauhan resident of Village- Gaderi, Post- Ostran, Tehsil- Bhopalgarh, District- Jodhpur, State- Rajasthan, Pin-342603, have changed my name from Kalyan Singh Chauhan to Kalyan Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB74450128704459W dated 26 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Army No: 14848075M** Rank: HAV/CLK (SD) Name: Parejija Vasudev Bhai Jagdish Bhai R/O Vill-Rajcharadi, PO- Rajcharadi, Teh- Dhrangadhra, Distt- Surendranagar, State- Gujarat, PIN Code- 363320 declare that I have changed my Son's name from Dharam to Parejija Dharam. Vide Affidavit No: 3158, Dated: 03 Oct 2024 before Notary At Ahmedabad, Gujarat.



**Fit India Freedom Run and Swearing -in ceremony organized in Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station**  
**Jhakri:** Fit India Freedom Run is a part of the Fit India Movement launched by the Government of India. Its purpose is to motivate people to include fitness activities such as running, walking or walking in their routine. Fit India Freedom Run 5.0 and the swearing -in ceremony was held today at Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station and on 26 October 2024 Jhakri. First Executive Director/Project Head Mr. Manoj Kumar administered the Fit India oath and motivated them to be aware of health and make fitness an integral part of life. Subsequently, Fit India Cleanliness Freedom Run Walk 5.0 was organized from the main administrative building, Jhakri to Satadari Auditorium. Executive Director/Project Head Mr. Manoj Kumar flagged off Freedom Run Walk. The theme of Fit India Cleanliness Freedom Run 5.0 of the year 2024 is "Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat". Everyone collected garbage during the walk. During the event, all officers/employees enthusiastically participated in the race, through which the importance of physical activity was highlighted.

**Khalsa Sr. Sec.School, Rupnagar for Khelo India Centre (Handball, girls)** required Mentor for Handball on full time basis. Post is purely temporary basis and consolidated pay for 25000/- per month. Minimum age limit for applicants will be 40 years, relaxation may be in deservng cases. Eligibility criteria of mentor for individual sports/Team Sports :  
• Represented India at recognised international competition under recognised NSF  
• Medal winner at Khelo India Game-  
• Medal winner at National AIU Past Championship:  
• Participation in Khelo India Game:  
• Preference given to female Mentor.  
• Apply within one week and interview will be conducted on Dated: -08-11-2024.

**Disclaimer**  
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display / Classified) carried in this newspaper. The Paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the content on their own.

**ARYA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, BAILYALI (BHIWANI)**  
Tosham-Bawani Khera Main Road  
Recognized by NCTE & Affiliated to CBLU, Bhiwani  
Application are invited for the Teaching and non-Teaching Staff on the regular basis.  
B.Ed Course: Academic Faculty - Principal-1 Assistant Professor/ Specialist in Education - 4, Assistant Professor (Pedagogy subjects): Economics -1, Physical Science-1, Computer Sci-1, Commerce-1, Mathematics -1, Physical Sci.-1, Biological Sci.-1, Hindi-1, English-1, Sanskrit-1, Fine Art-1, Health & Physical Education-1, Music-1  
Non-Teaching Staff  
Last Admission Chance B.Ed 2024-26 (10 Seat)

**Public Notice**  
**Project Name: Indravati Enclave HRERA-PKL-HSR-514-2023** Our previous account numbers were 50200081469658 MCA Ac & 50200081636126 Rera Ac & 9996300000999 Current A/c in Name of Indravati Enclave in HDFC BANK HANSI Which are now closed and new account numbers are as follows 50200098731489 MCA A/c & 50200098912698 RERA A/c & 50200098400445 Current A/c in Name of **Rajesh Lamba Promoter Indravati Enclave** in HDFC BANK HANSIIFSC : HDFC00017318 MICR Code : 125240802 As per Hrera guidelines vide letter no.8335 Date 25.09.2024, in case of any objection contact office at Indravati Enclave, Sector -4 Hansi.

**SHIRAM Finance** SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED  
CIN No. L65191TN1979PLC007874  
Reg. Off. Shri Tower, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Gundy, Chennai - 600032.  
Adm. Off: 8th Floor (Level 2), Building No. 02, Aurum Park, Geeta I, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai - 400710.  
**GOLD LOAN AUCTION NOTICE**  
The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the Loan against Gold Ornaments ("Facility") availed by them from Shiram Finance Ltd (SFL). Since the borrowers have failed to repay their dues under the facility, we will be conducting an auction of the Pledged Gold Ornaments on **08.11.2024 (Date of auction)** In the event any surplus amount is realised from this auction, the same will be refunded to the concerned borrower and if there is a deficit post the auction, the balance amount shall be recovered from the borrower through appropriate Legal Proceedings. SFL has the authority to remove any of the following accounts from the auction without prior intimation. Further SFL reserves the right to change the Auction Date without any prior notice, in the event of force majeure.

LOAN NUMBER	PARTY NAME	LOAN NUMBER	PARTY NAME	LOAN NUMBER	PARTY NAME
CDMNPZ2311300008	GAGAN SHARMA	CDMNPZ2303160002	RAHUL	CDMNPZ2304080003	RAHUL
CDMNPZ2210300003	THAKUR DASS	CDMNPZ2102030001	THAKUR DASS	CDMNPZ2102030002	THAKUR DASS
CDMNPZ2312220004	SURESH KUMAR	CDMNPZ401120003	ADITYA THAKUR		

Auction will be held at the following address: Shiram Finance Ltd, # 93/5, 1st Floor, Palace Colony Hospital Road, Near Neelkanth Hospital Mandi-175001 - Auction Time: 11.00 AM.  
Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to time limit or any other reason, then the auction would continue on the subsequent working day on the same Terms and Conditions. If the Customer is deceased, all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to his / her legal heir(s).  
For Further information, Terms and Conditions and for getting registered to participate in the auction, interested buyers may contact Mr. Nitish Kumar (9817504900)/Mr. Ajay Kumar (9872424755).  
sd/-  
**Shriram Automall India Limited**  
Board Approved Auctioneer  
For Shiram Finance Ltd  
Date: 08.11.2024 Place : Mandi

# Union minister Bittu lashes out at Punjab govt over 'tardy' paddy purchase

PNS ■ 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 ensuring such smooth crop purchase. He accused the Mann government of taking revenge on the people of Punjab for the AAP losing 10 of the 13 seats in the Lok Sabha polls held in April-May and said the Centre has already given more than Rs 44,000 crore to the Punjab government for crop purchase and added that it is ready to give more funds if the state government so requires.

The minister alleged that the state government is "completely paralysed" as it is unable to procure the crop. Training his guns on Mann, Bittu asked why is he not visiting any grain market. "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.

# Ravneet Bittu is lying says Punjab AAP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab attacked BJP leader and MoS Ravneet Bittu for what it called "lying outrightly".

AAP MP Malvinder Singh Kang said that there is no issue with the seeds. If there were a problem with the seeds, how could the central government have issued a CCL for purchasing paddy? If there were a seed issue, the central government wouldn't release funds. He is just saying so to spread confusion and misleading the people.

Kang stated that the PR-126 seed was developed by Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) with consensus from all relevant institutions, including rice millers, and it was approved by the central government. Whenever PAU prepares a new seed, it does so with collective agreement. This seed has been sown in Punjab for seven years without any issues. Now, when the central government has failed to lift the crops, they talk about having the seeds tested by IIT Kanpur.

Kang also refuted Bittu's claims about fake and expensive

seeds, stating that no expensive seeds have been sold. The approved seed stores have been selling seeds at the fixed price of ₹56 per kilo. If Bittu heard of seeds being sold for ₹3500, why didn't he raise this issue in June or July? Now that the central government is exposed and in trouble, suddenly they are spreading misinformation about fake and expensive seeds. Kang said that BJP leaders want to divert people's attention from real issues with such statements.

This is all an excuse by the central government and BJP to trouble the farmers, traders, and shellers owners in Punjab. The BJP aims to ruin Punjab's farmers and is seeking revenge for the farmers' movement. The BJP harbors hatred towards Punjab's farmers.

Regarding the single custody issue, Kang said that the real owner of the grain is the central government. The responsibility for purchasing and maintaining the grain lies entirely with the central government. The state government only acts as a caretaker. Until all the crops are lifted from the mandis, the responsibility for their care falls on the state. By

raising the single custody issue, the center is shirking its responsibilities and deliberately dragging the Punjab government and rice millers into it.

On the slow lifting of grain, Kang pointed out that if the central government claims to have lifted 15 lac metric tons of grain in October, why didn't it do so from January? If 15 lac metric tons had been lifted each month since January, by September there would have been enough space cleared for over 120 lac metric tons of grain. Then this issue wouldn't exist. This clearly

shows that the BJP government is deliberately causing slow lifting to ruin Punjab.

Kang stated that the central government also held meetings with shellers owners but offered no solutions, sending everyone back disappointed. Meanwhile, the AAP government stands with the farmers, traders, and shellers owners of the state. The government is continuously trying to solve farmers' issues. We also appeal to the central government to focus on solving problems instead of engaging in blame games.

## BRIEFS

### HIMACHAL SEEKS LIBERAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVASTATING MONSOON DAMAGES

Shimla: Additional Chief Secretary Onkar Chand Sharma on Saturday chaired a debriefing meeting with the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), which was on a three-day visit to the state to assess damages caused by severe cloud bursts and flash floods during this monsoon season. The IMCT's visit was part of a coordinated effort to evaluate the extensive impact on infrastructure, human lives and agricultural assets across the state. Sharma said that the state government presented a comprehensive memorandum of damages and losses resulting from natural calamities, with the cumulative loss estimated at approximately Rs. 1,613.50 crore to the central government. He detailed the challenges faced by the state and said that monsoon-induced landslides, cloud bursts and flash floods severely impacted roads, irrigation schemes and residential areas. He said that the state endured 46 landslides, 12 cloud-bursts and 39 flash floods across various regions, resulting in devastating losses. These incidents led to loss of 174 lives with an additional 144 fatalities indirectly linked to rainfall-related hazards. Approximately 206 individuals sustained injuries, 31 remain missing and livestock casualties reached 222. Furthermore, 1405 houses and animal shelters suffered partial or complete damage. An estimated Rs. 621.77 crore has been allocated by the state for immediate restoration efforts, primarily for damaged roads and bridges. The IMCT assured the state of its support and said that it would give full consideration to request of State for liberal financial assistance.

### SAINI MEETS DEFENCE MINISTER



Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday paid a courtesy call to Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, in New Delhi.

### STRESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ORGANISED FOR PB ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPT'S OFFICIALS

Chandigarh: To enhance the efficiency of its officials, Punjab Animal Husbandry Department organised a one-day stress management training program at MGSIPA. Presiding over the training program, Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian emphasised that maintaining a healthy balance between work and personal life is essential for leading a successful and happy life. He encouraged participants to dedicate time to hobbies, family and relaxation to recharge their mental batteries, highlighting that stress management is crucial for living a healthy and fulfilling life. He stated that effective time management can significantly reduce stress, so tasks should be prioritised by setting realistic deadlines. He urged them to adopt healthy lifestyles by maintaining a balanced diet, exercising regularly and ensuring that they get enough sleep. "Whenever anyone faces work-related problems, I am always available and happy to help and support," Khudian stated. He also urged them to create awareness among the people of Punjab about the department's schemes regarding livestock so that their economic condition can be strengthened. Principal Secretary of Animal Husbandry Rahul Bhandari, highlighted the importance of family time, work, simple living and a positive attitude in stress management.

### APPROVAL OF RS. 92.37 LAKHS GRANTED FOR REPAIR OF AMBALA CANTT BUS STAND: VIJ

Chandigarh: Haryana Transport, Energy and Labour Minister, Anil Vij on Saturday said the government has granted administrative approval of Rs. 92.37 lakhs for the special repair of Ambala Cantt. Bus Stand. The repair work on Ambala Cantt. Bus Stand will commence soon. He said that the structure of the bus stand will be further improved to offer better facilities for passengers and emphasised Ambala Cantt. Bus Stand, situated on the GT Road, is one of the most important bus stands, with thousands of passengers boarding and alighting buses daily to travel between various states. He said that the administrative approval of Rs. 92.37 lakhs has been accorded and special repairs will be undertaken shortly. Hours after assuming responsibility for the Transport Ministry, Vij conducted a surprise inspection at Ambala Cantt. Bus Stand to review its facilities. During the inspection, he identified several issues and immediately directed the suspension of the Bus Stand Incharge (SS) on the spot. Within 24 hours of the inspection, the Transport Department had already addressed several highlighted issues to ensure that passengers would not face inconveniences.

### HARYANA GOVT FIXES CERTIFIED WHEAT SEED PRICES FOR RABI 2024-25

Chandigarh: The Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department has announced the general sale rate of certified wheat seeds for the upcoming Rabi season 2024-25. The department, through a directive issued by the Director of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has introduced a subsidy scheme to make quality seeds affordable for farmers across the state. Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Shyam Singh Rana said that the state government is committed to support the farmers by offering financial assistance and ensuring availability of high-quality seeds, contributing to higher crop yields and improved agricultural outcomes in the upcoming season. As per the directions of the department, the general sale rate for all wheat varieties—except for variety C-306 and those older than 10 years since notification—has been set at Rs. 3875 per quintal. However, to provide relief to farmers, the state government will offer a subsidy of Rs. 1000 per quintal, reducing the effective subsidised sale rate to Rs. 2875 per quintal.

# Haryana Police Issues Guidelines for Sale and Storage of Firecrackers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Police has issued detailed guidelines to prevent any untoward incidents related to the sale and storage of firecrackers in the state. The police have directed strict legal action against individuals involved in unauthorized sales or storage of firecrackers without licenses. As per regulations, no one is permitted to store firecrackers without formal approval.

A statement said that the Police Headquarters has instructed all Police Commissioners, Inspectors General, and Superintendents across the state to carry out thorough inspections. They are required to identify and list firecracker warehouses, sales points, and transport vehicles in their respective areas. Authorized officers, including SHO and gazetted officials, will inspect these sites to verify licenses and ensure compliance with all necessary safety measures. Firecracker storage and sales points should be situated in open areas away from densely populated regions to allow for safe evacuation in case of emergencies. The statement said vendors are permitted to sell firecrackers only at designated locations with adequate fire safety measures. District authorities have been advised to coordinate with shop inspectors and other team members to monitor compliance. Deputy Commissioners have been directed to form teams that will enforce government safety guidelines and maintain law and order in their jurisdictions. Police patrols and checkpoints will be set up at sensitive and commercial areas across the state to prevent any

potential criminal activities during the festive season.

"Departments have been instructed to stay on alert to handle incidents related to fire hazards, particularly on Diwali. Hospitals are also advised to be on standby to provide immediate treatment in case of fire-related injuries. The issued guidelines also urge officials to ensure strict adherence to the Supreme Court's directives on the sale and use of firecrackers," the statement added.

# Himachal govt to request Centre for OBC status for residents of Dodra-Kwar: CM Sukhu

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh government will take up the matter on providing OBC (other backward classes) status to the inhabitants of remote Dodra-Kwar area with the Centre, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Saturday.

His assurance came during an event in Shimla's remote Dodra-Kwar subdivision where he released Rs 91.62 lakh to 509 women beneficiaries of the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi scheme.



The scheme provides monthly assistance of Rs 1,500 to women aged between 18 and 59 years. He also laid foundation stones and inaugurated projects worth about Rs 12 crore for the region.

Sukhu announced Rs 1 crore each for development of five villages of Dodra-Kwar and Rs 4.5 crore for a Bailey bridge to connect the region with Uttarakhand. He said, "The state government will take up the matter with the Central government on providing OBC status to residents of Dodra-Kwar area."

There are five panchayats in Dodra-Kwar subdivision namely Dodra, Kwar, Jhaka, Jiskun and Dhanderwadi with a population of about 8,000 people. As Dodra-Kwar remains cut off from mid-November to mid-March following snowfall at Chansal, residents here face huge inconvenience during emergencies as patients have to be airlifted or forced to trek several kilometres to reach Uttarakhand and return.

### Incidents of stubble burning in Haryana down by almost 60% compared to last year: Agriculture Minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A meeting, chaired by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, was held via videoconferencing with the Agriculture Ministers of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi on Saturday to address issues related to crop residue burning and its management. Haryana Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Fisheries Minister Shyam Singh Rana joined the meeting from Rohtak. The participants discussed the incidents of crop residue burning in these four states, comparing previous year's data with the current

year. Rana stated that incidents of crop residue burning in Haryana have reduced by approximately 60 percent this Kharif season compared to the previous year, and the reason for this reduction is due to the proactive measures implemented by the Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department. The state government has raised awareness among farmers at village, block and district levels through school programmes, print and social media campaigns, encouraging them not to burn stubble. Similarly, incentives and agricultural machinery at subsidised rates have been provided to aid them in crop residue manage-

ment. The Minister assured that the Haryana Government remains vigilant about crop residue burning incidents and maintains full monitoring at village, block and district levels. Farmers are regularly educated on the issue through awareness camps in villages.

He assured the Commission for Air Quality Management that efforts will be intensified by the Agriculture Department and district administrations to control crop burning in the future. If any farmer, knowingly or unknowingly, sets crop residue on fire, penalties, FIRs, and a "red entry" in the "Meri Fasal-Mera Byora" portal will be enforced as per the Commission's directives.

# Hry CM Saini meets PM; Discussions held on various developmental projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI / CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and discussed various developmental projects and initiatives aimed at the growth of the state.

The Chief Minister expressed his vision that, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the "double-engine" government (Haryana and central government) will accelerate the pace of development in Haryana.

Addressing media persons after his meeting with the Prime Minister, Saini said that the Prime Minister emphasised the need to speed up development initiatives to make life easier and more facile for the citizens. In line with this goal, the Chief Minister had previously met with the Union Minister, Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, and the Union Minister, Road, Transport, and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, where several projects received approval.

Saini affirmed his commitment to advancing Haryana's development, promising efforts to elevate the state to new heights in growth and progress. Under these projects, plans for expanding the metro rail and the



Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in Gurugram, along with extending the RRTS project from Sarai Kale Khan to Panipat, further upto Karnal. Similarly, to reduce traffic jams and make commuting easy for people, a network of roads is being constructed across Haryana.

Responding to a question about the representation of women in the Haryana Assembly, the Chief Minister said that over the past decade, the Central Government has focused on empowering women. Recently, the Union Government passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam' to strengthen women's role in gov-

ernance. He said that this bill will certainly enable more women to serve in Legislative Assemblies. He also highlighted initiatives like 'Drone Didi' and the empowerment of women's self-help groups, part of the double-engine government's commitment to skill and support women across India.

In response to a question about paddy procurement, Saini stated that he has directed the officers to ensure the procurement of every grain of paddy with moisture content up to 17 percent and if any complaint is received in this regard, strict action will be taken against them.

# Punjab Farmers hold protest at several places against 'slow' paddy purchase

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers under the banner of Kisan Mazdoor Morcha on Saturday blocked roads at a few places in Punjab for an indefinite period to protest against 'tardy' paddy procurement and lifting and other issues.

The protests were held at Badarukhan on Sangrur-Bathinda highway in Sangrur, Dagra on Moga-Ferozpur highway in Moga, Satiali Phul on Gurdaspur-Tanda highway in Gurdaspur and Batala railway station, farmer leaders said.

In Phagwara, farmers have already been holding a protest on the Amritsar-Delhi national highway for the past many days. Saturday's protest came a day after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha held statewide road blockades against the slow paddy purchase. KMM leader Sarwan Singh Pandher requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to solve

farmers' issues. Talking to reporters, he made an appeal to Modi, "Listen to our 'fariyad' (passionate plea) for solving farmers issues." Pandher said their protests in Phagwara, Batala, Sangrur and Moga districts will be indefinite. He said the Centre does not reach any agreement with rice millers who allege that they get only 67 kg rice per quintal of hybrid paddy varieties and the Punjab government does not put any pressure on the Centre. He claimed that cuts of 10 kg per quintal are also being imposed on farmers.

"Paddy is not being lifted or properly procured. The season for sowing new crops like wheat, potato and peas is already on," Pandher said. "Punjab's economy is based on agriculture and if agriculture gets ruined then the economy will also be ruined," he said. "Shortage of DAP fertilizer and stubble burning penalties were other burning issues of the

protest," he added.

Pandher urged traders and other sections of society to cooperate with farmers and also regretted the inconvenience to people due to blockades. Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba) president Manjit Singh Rai and general secretary Satnam Singh Sahni also addressed the protesters.

Police diverted traffic through alternative routes but commuters faced inconvenience due to the blockade. Paddy lifting from mandis in Punjab has been hit after the state rice millers refused to mill the paddy till their demands are met. While the ruling AAP blamed the BJP-led Centre for not evacuating foodgrain stock in the state to create sufficient space for storing fresh crop, the opposition parties "Congress and Akali Dal have lashed out at the Bhagwant Mann government for the slow paddy procurement and lifting.

# 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 Vadodra 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 Vadodra 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 Vadodra 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 defraud 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".

# 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.



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.



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.

10 officers dead in police convoy in Iran

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

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.

Public Notice To be known to all that SH. RAJENDER SINGH SHAIHS/OH.MOHAN SINGH R/O HOUSE NO 224, FIRST FLOOR, POKET-Q, TYPE-IV, DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095. Vide File No 011334391/DG/NF: The original document i.e. POSSESSION LETTER, DEMAND LETTER, NOC, ELECTRICITY AND WATER of the above said flat has been lost.

Public Notice Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Lav Kumar & Mr. Pankaj Sharma are claiming to be owner of Built-up Property bearing Plot No. 41, land area measuring 50 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 157/1, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Hattisa, Delhi State, Delhi, area abadi known as Nyder Endow, Vikas Nagar, Utam Nagar, New Delhi vide GPA, ATIS & Will dated 26.04.2024, executed by Mrs. Sonia Sharma.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका निगम, भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके.शाखा) निविदा सूचना क्र. 185 के.कर्म/2024

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 Kharsa No. 2368/68/2 situated in the area of Village Karkardoma in the abadi of Subaharj Ghat, Bharat Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/11 and 9/12 measuring 200 Sq. Yds and Sale Deed dated 31.12.1997 reg. as doc. No. 3560

Public Notice Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Samita Gautam is the owner of ENTIRE BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 251-B, LAND AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS. OUT OF KHARSA NO. 681, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE NAWADA AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR, PHASE-IA, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI, by virtue of Certificate of Sale dated 18.08.2023, reg. as Doc. No. 21282, executed by IFL Home Finance Ltd. and same property to be sold to intending Borrower, same to be financed by SMEFI India Credit Company Limited.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून पत्रांक-157/मुपि-2024-25 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 विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु अनुबंध की तिथि से कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 09.11.2024 को अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे तक पोल व्योस्क विज्ञापन की ईऑनिविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

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. Ward No. XII, 1st Floor, Building No. A-4/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Landline: +91120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@vnorth.in

Public Notice Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Jyoti Janjua is the owner of RESIDENTIAL UPPER GROUND FLOOR LEFT SIDE PORTION WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, AREA MEASURING 83.3 SQ. YDS. SAID FLOOR, BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. 35, AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YDS. OUT OF KHARSA NO. 79, SITUATED IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR PHASE-IA, UTTAM NAGAR, IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE NAWADA, DELHI, by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 01.04.2024, reg. as Doc. No. 2024/25/187/1, executed by Mrs. Pooja Pathwa and Mrs. Geeta Shantamma and same property to be sold to intending Borrower i.e. Mr. Manoj Kohli, same to be financed by SMEFI India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any change/interest/in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

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

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:-

# 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, Izzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Polly Inglis, Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Amelia Kerr, Molly Penfold, Georgia Plimmer, Hannah Rowe, Lea Tahuhu.



## 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 tougher 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

play for three points. We will give our best as we do in every match. Whatever we have left in us, we will put that on the line," said the Indian coach.

Rishi, who scored his second goal for India, adding to his header against Nepal in the SAFF U17 Championship semi-final, said, "I am very happy to score the winning goal and help the team. I'd like to thank my teammates and coaches. We are ready for the last game against Thailand."

Backed by an ardent home crowd, Thailand pose a considerable challenge.

The hosts boast an unbeaten 2024 record, scoring 21 goals in the qualifiers and reaching the ASEAN Championship final, where they narrowly lost to Australia on penalties.

They also defeated the UAE 4-2 in a pre-qualifier friendly, making them a formidable team to face.

"We are both very good sides. And when you beat these are the kind of teams playing a good brand of football, only then you deserve to qualify for the final tournament," Ahmed said.

"Our biggest challenge is to recover since there's just a day's gap between matches and we've played twice in the heat and humidity of 4 pm here.

"But yeah, we even saw Thailand, who have only played at 8 pm, had a couple of players getting cramps in the first game.

"So, I'm extremely proud of my boys with the strength they've shown and I have no complaints. Hopefully, we get three points and qualify tomorrow," concluded Ahmed.

## Manika Batra upsets Szocs to enter quarterfinals of WTT Champions



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian paddler Manika Batra shocked World No.14 Bernadette Szocs of Romania to enter the women singles quarterfinals of the WTT Champions event in Montpellier, France.

The world No. 30 Indian won 3-1 (11-9 6-11 13-11 11-9) in 29 minutes against the eighth-seeded Szocs in a round of 16 match on Friday night.

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, 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

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Amid an unexpectedly tight championship battle between Max Verstappen and Lando Norris, their teams brought the fight to the Mexico City Grand Prix over an officiating dispute in last week's race.

McLaren lodged a complaint into the penalty Norris received last week at the United States Grand Prix - a step in trying to get it overturned and put three-time reigning world champion Verstappen back within his reach.

The appeal was denied late Friday night.

Norris received a five-second penalty for passing Verstappen off the track late in the race in Austin, Texas. The two were racing for third at the time, and the penalty gave the final podium finish to Verstappen.

The change in position widened Verstappen's lead to 57 points headed into Sunday's race at Mexico City, and there are only five races remaining to decide the title.

Norris has maintained he did nothing wrong and, along with



many other drivers, argued 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."

F1, that George Russell said a driver-only meeting was planned for Friday evening.

Among the topics is the idea of hiring permanent stewards who regulate every grand prix on the F1 schedule, the new crackdown on cursing, and transparency over where monetary fines go when collected by the FIA.

Russell also received a five-second penalty in Texas for forcing Valtteri Bottas wide, which he isn't fighting.

"I thought my penalty was harsh, but probably correct," Russell said. "Looking at Lando's, I think that was probably correct as well, but Max should probably have got a penalty for running off the track."

Russell is a director of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association and said the drivers had agreed to meet privately following their regularly scheduled briefing.

"Between us, we'll talk with the FIA and understand their viewpoint first," Russell said.

"And then we can judge. At the end of the day, the stewards are doing the best job they can. They're trying their hardest, and they do have a set of guidelines which they follow. We've spoken about consistency in the past, the only way you can have consistency is if you have the same stewards at every single race weekend.

"And at the moment, they are very experienced, but they are here as almost volunteers," he continued.

"It is not a professionally paid job, and if you look at football as an example, even though there is still controversy, a referee, they are professionals and that is their full-time job."

He said financial fines levied against drivers and teams should go to fund permanent stewards. "Collectively, from the drivers and the GPDA, we have asked about the financial fines and where they are going. We have been asking for a bit of transparency on this front," Russell said.

"It does seem a little bit ridiculous that if a driver gets a 50 grand fine for walking over a race track, but if that 50 grand fine is going towards financing the best stewards in the world, maybe we won't be so upset about it."

## 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. In the 52nd minute, Messi's direct kick from 25 yards nearly gave Inter Miami the lead again but curled just wide of the post to Guzan's left. The breakthrough came about eight minutes later, with Messi getting

lifted into the air by Alba in celebration after the goal.

"We've got to keep our heads up and we've got to go again," Guzan said.

"We've had our backs against the wall for quite some time now. And when our backs have been against the wall, we've found a way. Our backs are against the wall now. We've got to go into Game 2 and we've got to win."

The night took a bad turn for Inter Miami late. Ian Fray, a South Florida native who has already dealt with three ACL tears, left in the 90th minute after a non-contact injury left him unable to put any weight on his right leg. There was no immediate word on the severity of Fray's injury.

"It was a very good game ... But we're not feeling as satisfied as we could because of Ian," Martino said.



# 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.



# 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*)



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.

# 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

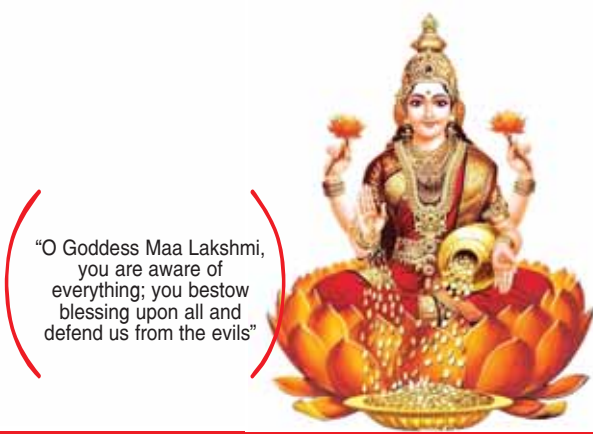
- 7-8 Chilean walnuts (roughly broken) + 3-4 for garnish
- 3 tsp rice (soaked for 2 hours)
- 1 litre milk (divided)
- 1/3 cup sugar and 1 tsp butter (optional)
- Water

### 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!



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



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

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 Uttam Nagar 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.

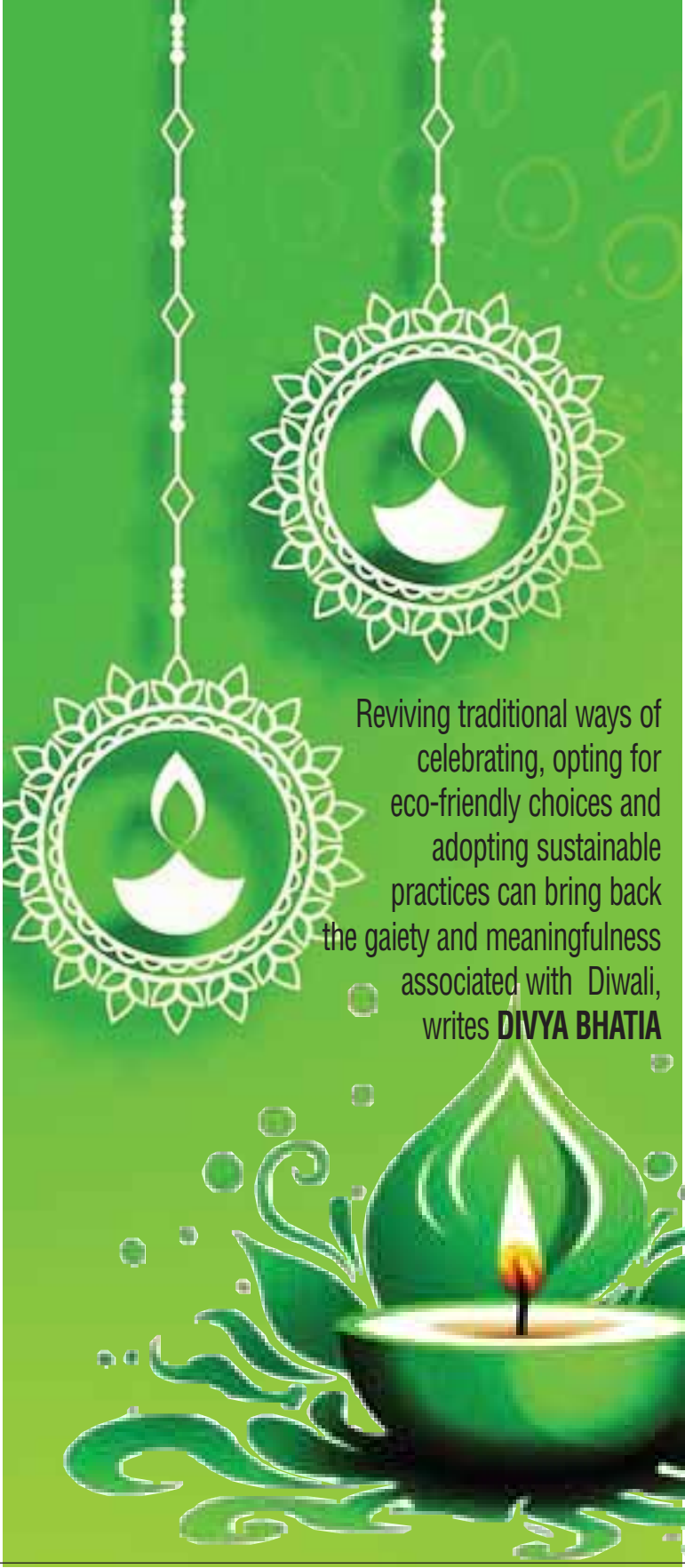
As we prepare for the celebrations, it's essential to remember the well-being of our furry companions, both at home and on the streets. The loud noises of fireworks can be distressing for pets and street animals alike. Let us ensure a safe Diwali for them by creating quiet spaces away from the sounds 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!

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

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



# 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

