



NATION 5

SPORT 7

UK EVACUATES BRITISH NATIONALS FROM LEBANON AS CONFLICT ESCALATES

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

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Exit Polls indicate upsets

Congress to sweep Haryana

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/ HARYANA

The exit polls have predicted a thumping majority for Congress in Haryana, after a decade. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is projected to trail significantly. According to the exit polls the regional parties will have considerable losses. With this, the political landscape of Haryana is set for a dramatic shift. The voter turnout was 61.19 percent till 8 pm on Saturday. The results will be declared on October 8.

The Dainik Bhaskar poll predicted the Congress getting 44-54 seats and the BJP 15-29 seats in the 90-member Haryana Assembly. The Republic-Matrizze poll put the Congress tally even higher at 55-62 seats as against the BJP's 18-24. According to NDTV's Poll of Polls, 55-62 seats are predicted for the Congress while the ruling BJP may win 20-32 seats. The Red Mike-Datansh exit poll gave the Congress 50-55 seats in Haryana and the BJP at 20-25, while the Dhruv Research poll pegged the Congress at 50-64 seats, BJP 22-32 seats, and others 3-8 seats. Peoples' Pulse exit poll



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

gave the Congress 49-60 seats and the BJP 20-32 seats in Haryana.

Most exit polls pegged the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) tally higher than that of the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), while others were seen getting up to 10 seats. The ruling BJP is eyeing a

hat-trick while the Congress is hoping to make a comeback in the state after a decade.

The other key contestants are Congress, JJP, INLD, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), INLD, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and Azad Samaj Party (ASP). Key candidates include Chief

Minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP leaders Anil Vij and OP Dhankar, Congress leaders Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Vinesh Phogat, INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala, and JJP's Dushyant Chautala.

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

Cliffhanger in Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

If exit polls are to be believed, a hung verdict is likely in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls. An overall voter turnout of 63.88 percent was reported in the polls, the first after post Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. The results will be declared on October 8.

The pre-poll alliance partners, the National Conference, and the Congress Party enjoy an edge over the rival Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). However, the exit polls differed



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

The opposition's INDIA Bloc

(including the National Conference, Congress, and others) may bag around 11 to 15 seats in the region and Mehbooba Mufti's People's Democratic Party (PDP) is likely to get between 0-2 seats.

In contrast, the Bhaskar Reporters poll predicted 20-25 seats for the BJP and predicted NC-Cong may get the lion's share of 35-40 seats while giving PDP 4-7 seats. According to their exit poll, 12-18 seats are likely to be bagged by the Independent candidates.



INDIA Bloc hits a rough patch in UP

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The recent camaraderie between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress, fostered through the INDIA bloc, is now under strain as the two parties wrestle over seat-sharing arrangements for the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Despite their shared success in the Lok Sabha elections—where the SP-Congress coalition secured 43 out of 80 seats in the state—the upcoming contest for 10 Assembly seats has exposed tensions within the alliance over the Muslim vote bank.

The 10 seats up for by-elections—Meerapur, Ghaziabad, Khair, Kundarki, Karhal, Phulpur, Sisamau, Milkipur, Katheri, and Majhwan—were previously held by the SP (five seats), BJP (three), RLD (one), and the NISHAD Party (one) in the 2022 state elections. While the common goal of

defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remains a binding factor for both SP and Congress, a growing struggle for dominance over the Muslim vote bank has created significant friction.

Muslim voters, who form a critical part of the electorate in several of these constituencies, have become the focal point of the dispute, particularly in constituencies like Meerapur in Bijnor district, Phulpur in Allahabad, and Majhwan in eastern Uttar Pradesh. "This is an interesting turn of events, as both so-called allies are now competing for Muslim votes and eyeing constituencies where Muslims are in the majority," said Manoj Bhadra, a political analyst familiar with the region.

According to Bhadra, the tussle over these key seats is threatening the fragile alliance, with each party vying for control over territories seen as potential game-changers in future elections.

Two terrorists killed in Kupwara



Representational image

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A day after India decided to send External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on October 15-16, alert troops of the Indian army Saturday foiled an infiltration bid along the line of control in which two Pakistani terrorists were killed in the North Kashmir district of Kupwara.

A joint operation was launched by the Indian army along with the special operations group of the Jammu and Kashmir police in the forward areas of Gugaldhar, Kupwara based on intelligence inputs about a possible infiltration bid late Friday evening. The troops, after noticing the suspicious movement, challenged the heavily armed group of infiltrators which resulted in a heavy exchange of firing. Two terrorists were neutralised in the ongoing operations. Confirming the same, Srinagar-based China Corps posted on X, "The security forces have eliminated two terrorists in the ongoing Operation Gugaldhar. War-like stores have been recovered. The search of the area is underway and the operation is in progress". So far 16 terrorists have been eliminated in various anti-terrorist/anti-infiltration operations in Kashmir valley this year. The number of active terrorists has also come down to 80 in the region.

At the same time, troops continue to remain in a state of high alert to foil infiltration bids from across the line of control as several launch pads remain active in the area.

Teen raped, while out celebrating Navratri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VADODARA

A teenage girl was allegedly raped by two unidentified persons, while another accomplice restrained her male friend, on a deserted stretch on the outskirts of Gujarat's Vadodara city, police said on Saturday.

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

Another woman raped in Pune



FIR registered 2 years after woman alleges rape

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered in Southwest Delhi's RK Puram area, two years after a 42-year-old woman was allegedly raped in a five star Hyatt Regency hotel. The woman has claimed that the accused threatened her of dire consequences with her nude pictures.

A case under section 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at RK Puram police station on October 3. The accused has been

identified as Amit Malik who is also in his 40s. According to the FIR, the victim met the accused, identified as Amit Malik, through Instagram and used to message her frequently on Facebook messenger and met him for the first time on April 21, 2022.

"We started talking frequently after the first meeting. We planned for dinner at Hyatt Regency hotel on April 23, 2022 but upon reaching the hotel he insisted that we check-in in room to know each other more personally," the victim claimed.

police. Cops reached the spot, cordoned off the area and collected evidence. Teams have been formed to identify the culprits using technical surveillance and other means," Anand said. The Gujarat government has lifted restrictions on garba celebration timings for this year's Navratri festival.

A lot of evidence has been recovered from the site. "It was very dark in this place at night. The victim and her friend could not recognise the faces of the accused, but they have described their style of speech and body build. This incident has nothing to do with Garba," a senior police officer said. An investigation has been initiated based on the complaint of the victim's father. The victim's friend is studying in class 11. Five teams of district police (LCB, SOG, and city police) have been deployed to apprehend the accused.

In a similar crime, a 21-year-old woman was allegedly raped by three unidentified persons, who also tied her male friend using his clothes and belt and assaulted him, at an isolated place on the outskirts of Pune in Maharashtra on Thursday night, police had said.

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Another horrific case of rape and murder was reported from the Mahishmari village in South 24 Parganas district. An 11-year-old school girl was abducted, raped and murdered late on Friday night, sources said. Following this, police and villagers fought pitched battles on Saturday, leaving several people injured.

The girl was allegedly picked up from around the house of the local village Pradhan, brutalised and killed. The body of the victim was found at the banks of the Hooghly River on Saturday morning leading to mass outrage. The accused was arrested early on Saturday, police said. The villagers reacted after the village Pradhan refused to share the CCTV footage from



outside his house, locals said, adding the "angry villagers then got suspicious and hundreds of them attacked and set the Kripakhali police outpost afire. They alleged that the minor, who was missing since October 4 and that police did not act on their complaint immediately.

Following this the police resorted to heavy lathi-charge and bursting tear gas shells to disperse the crowd, sources said adding several men were injured during the clash. The

Friday incident takes place amid an ongoing protests in the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case that took place on August 9.

"The police are taking sides of the miscreants," locals said, alleging that "a cousin of the victim had in fact been raped a few years ago and the police did nothing in that case leading to the girl to commit suicide then." District SP PC Dhali said, "we have arrested the culprit within six hours of the victim being abducted," adding that the villagers' allegations of lax handling of the case were unfounded.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Left leaders who reached Mahishmari on Saturday blocked the van carrying the body of the victim for postmortem. According to

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



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Fruits costlier by 10 per cent during Navratri

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The significant rise in prices of fruits by 10 to 12 per cent in the city have affected the spirits of the people observing fasts during the Navratri festival. Many fruit vendors operating in and around Dehradun have also voiced their apprehensions regarding the escalating fruit prices. Additionally, the soaring cost of fruits have impacted the budgets of the locals. The secretary of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), Ajay Dabral attributed the rise of fruit prices, especially bananas and apples, to the disparity between supply and demand triggered by the commencement of Navratri and the wedding season.

Regarding this, fruit seller Ramesh Kunwar pointed out that fruit prices have surged with the advent of Navratri. The higher prices not only af-



fect the local community but also lead to reduced sales. Kunwar added that earlier, he used to buy a dozen bananas for Rs 20 from the wholesale market. The rate has now risen to Rs 40 to 45 for a dozen. He said that the prices of fruits and vegetables tend to increase during the wed-

ding season and Navratri. mately impacts the retail prices," stated another fruit vendor, Asif Ali.

Dabral told this correspondent that the prices of fruits, particularly bananas and apples, have risen. This is due to the increased demand for fruits during Navratri, while the supply remains constant. The imbalance between supply and demand has led to a surge in fruit prices. He said that bananas are now selling for Rs 80 per dozen, up from Rs 50 per dozen and apples are priced at Rs 100 per kilogramme, among others. Overall, the prices of all fruits have risen by 10 to 15 per cent. Additionally, apart from Navratri, fruit prices are expected to be five per cent higher during the wedding season. He emphasised that a decrease in fruit prices is anticipated after Navratri concludes.

14 women trained and certified as white-water river rafting guides this year

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The women of Uttarakhand will soon be seen taking tourists for rafting on the Ganga river in Rishikesh. So far, 14 women have been trained as white water river rafting guides by the Tourism department. After the completion of the registration process, they are ready to start their career as professional rafting guides, officials claimed.



Rishikesh has emerged as a major centre for rafting in recent years with more than five lakh tourists coming here for rafting every year. So far, only men were guiding and conducting rafting in the region. For the first time, on the instructions of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, the Tourism department has given free training to women as river rafting guides. The Tourism department gave free training to 14 selected women for three months from April to June. The department also paid for the accommodation and meals of the trainees.

Kayaking enthusiast Priyanka Rana, a resident of Siransu village in Pauri

district, is currently doing BBA. She said that rafting is a major activity near her village. "I got registered when I came to know about the training. I am looking forward to building my career as a rafting guide," she said.

Ramnagar resident Kamakshi Goyal said that she was already working in the whitewater field, so she took rafting training to enhance her skills. For this, she got free food and accommodation facilities along with three months of training from the Uttarakhand government.

Rishikesh resident Muskan said that she was trained by experts for three

months and that she went on a raft on the Ganga from Devprayag to Rishikesh for a week during the training.

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said, "There are considerable employment opportunities in the field of adventure tourism in Uttarakhand. A large number of women tourists are also coming for rafting. In such a situation, efforts are being made to train women as raft guides. It is good that women have shown interest in this, this will prove to be an important step towards empowering the females of Uttarakhand."

IN BRIEF

7 ITBP jawans injured in bus accident

NEW TEHRI: At least seven jawans of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were injured when the bus they were travelling in overturned near Tachila in Tehri Garhwal on the Rishikesh-Gangotri National Highway at around 4 pm on Saturday. ITBP sources said that 39 jawans were in the bus. The injured were rushed to a public health centre at Fakot. The district disaster management officer Brijesh Bhatt said that the injured had sustained minor injuries and the traffic movement on the highway was normal.



2nd Nakshatra Sabha commences at Jageshwar

ALMORA: Uttarakhand's second astro-tourism event Nakshatra Sabha commenced at Jageshwar in Almora. Being organised by the State tourism department, it is meant to boost astro-tourism prospects in Uttarakhand. As per the tourism officials, such events are being organised across the State. The present event being organised at Jageshwar involves three days and three nights. The first edition of the event was held at George Everest in Mussoorie in June this year.

Farmers in large numbers throng Kisan Mela on 2nd day

PANTNAGAR: On the second day of the All India Farmers Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition being organised by the GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology on Saturday, farmers from far and near thronged the fair venue to buy high-yielding variety of seeds, particularly of Rabi



crops, being sold from the stalls put up, said the organisers. They further informed that by Saturday noon, over 5,000 farmers had registered themselves for visiting the fair. This aside, over 2,000 unregistered farmers visited the fair on the day. The vice-chancellor of the host university Manmohan Singh Chauhan expressed happiness over the huge footfalls in the fair.

CM takes part in Global Summit in Mount Abu

DEHRADUN: The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama participated in the 'Global Summit 2024' hosted by Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya in Rajasthan. Speaking on the occasion, he said that spirituality plays a piv-



otal role in building a transparent and healthy society, adding that the Brahma Kumaris as an institution embodies the soul of India and empowers life with the spiritual truth. He said he was proud of being a part of the enlightened congregation. He also spoke of Uttarakhand as a revered land of gods.

SCPCR tells Education department to ensure schools honour child rights

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) has directed the Education department to ensure that all schools comply with guidelines regarding child rights. These guidelines include the formation of a POCSO committee, providing information related to child rights protection, and displaying the commission's telephone number. The

mission addressed an incident of a fight between students at Convent of Jesus and Mary School, summoning the school's principal, who did not appear before the commission purportedly due to unavoidable reasons. Khanna expressed displeasure at the principal's absence, considering it an attempt to mislead the commission. She further emphasised the need



chairwoman of the SCPCR, Geeta Khanna, stated that the commission summoned the officials of Welhams Boys' school in response to a recent ragging incident and after presenting documents, the school officials have been summoned again on October 8. Additionally, the com-

mission's contact information on their gates, which many schools have failed to do. Considering this, she added that the commission has written to the Education department and issued orders for appropriate action on this matter.

ers, nor the parents took appropriate steps in response to the rise of incidents against students. Khanna also highlighted the commission's earlier directive for schools to display the

Labour department trying to clamp down on child labour ahead of Deepawali

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following the directions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the Labour department started a special campaign from October 1 to 31 to eradicate child labour especially in hazardous tasks ahead of Deepawali. Informing about this, assistant labour commissioner Deepak Kumar said that a virtual meeting was recently held with NCPCR officials, who instructed Labour departments nationwide to conduct a child labour-free campaign from October 1 to 31 in anticipation of Deepawali. Following these directives, the labour department in Dehradun district is ready to eliminate child labour.



works factories as per the directive of NCPCR. In light of this, they have initiated the process of identifying such factories in the Dehradun district. Upon identifying any child engaged in hazardous labour, including at the fireworks factories, the factory's license will be revoked. Additionally, during the campaigns, any unregistered factory will face strict consequences from the department. He added that the child labour operation will target construction sites and other locations, with the operation report to be submitted to NCPCR regarding child

labour. He further stated that in addition to following the recent orders of the district magistrate Savin Bansal, they are continuously carrying out an operation in Dehradun to find and rescue children who are engaged in child labour, with a specific focus on Fridays and Saturdays. The initiative is divided into three phases: increasing awareness, enforcing laws and providing support for rehabilitation. It was noted that many children, employers, and parents are unaware of the issue of child labour. As a result, a three-stage awareness campaign has been implemented to educate them about the causes and consequences of child labour, he added.

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता, द्वितीय विभाग, जाला, कोटवाल (पीसी जलघर)
E-mail: ee2ndcdkot@gmail.com

पत्रांक: 2220 / निविदा / 135 दिनांक: 05 / 10 / 2024

एतद्वारा अख्य, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम की ओर से जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रमान्तर्गत निम्न कार्य हेतु पाईप लेईंग, "डी" अथवा उच्चतर श्रेणी के उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम अथवा उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान में सम्बंधित कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से मोहब्ताब निविदाएं दि 21.10.2024 (किरी कारगवश अवकाश घोषित होने पर अगले कार्यदिन) की अपरान्त 3:00 बजे तक इस कार्यालय में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जो उसी दिन दि 21.10.2024 को उपस्थित ठेकेदारों के समक्ष अपरान्त 3:30 बजे अखोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा अखोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा मनोनित अधिकारी द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 19.10.2024 की अपरान्त 5:00 बजे तक इस कार्यालय से क्रय किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	कार्यक्रम	घरोरि धनराशि	निविदा प्रपत्रों का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
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- योजना में निर्णय यथास्थिति वर्तमान गतिमान अनुबंधों पर सक्षम प्राधिकारी के निर्णय के अधीन रहेगा।
- यथास्थिति उक्त योजना में निर्णय वर्क स्टाइसिंग पर सक्षम प्राधिकारी की स्वीकृति के अधीन रहेगा।
- योजना में कार्य की मात्रा में स्थलीय परिस्थिति / स्वीकृत प्राधिकार के सापेक्ष कमी अथवा वृद्धि हो सकती है। अतः निविदा से पूर्व कार्यस्थल का अवलोकन कर मली-माति संज्ञान लेना निविदादाता का उत्तरदायित्व रहेगा।
- शेष नियम एवं शर्तें कार्यालय में किरी की कार्यदिवस एवं कार्यालय समय (सुबह 10 बजे से सायं 5 बजे तक) में देखी जा सकती हैं।

अधिसारी अभियंता
"जल संयंत्र-जीवन संयंत्र" "कृपया जल स्रोतों को प्रदूषित न करना वृक्षों को अक्षत रखें।"

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून
पत्रांक:-69 / मुमि-2024-25 दिनांक:- 05.10.2024

नगर निगम, देहरादून द्वारा दिनांक 05.10.2024 को प्रकाशित 176 यूनिपोल/होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन सम्बन्धी निविदा शुद्धि पत्र हेतु सार्वजनिक सूचना।

नगर निगम, देहरादून में यूनिपोल/होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन कार्य में सम्मिलित होने वाले समस्त विज्ञापन निविदादाताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम देहरादून के कार्यालय पत्र सं-61 / मुमि-2024-25 दिनांक 04.10.2024 के द्वारा दैनिक समाचार पत्र अमर उजाला के अंक दिनांक 05.10.2024 एवं अंग्रेजी दैनिक समाचार पत्र द पाईनियर के अंक दिनांक 05.10.2024 में प्रकाशित सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना में किन्ही कारणों वश यूनिपोल/होर्डिंग हेतु कुल साईट-176 तथा नगर निगम द्वारा विज्ञापन हेतु आरक्षित निविदा घनराशि रु-6,84,09,264/- तथा कार्य प्रतिभूति रु-68,40,927/- अंकित हो गयी है।

उक्त के क्रम में समस्त विज्ञापन निविदादाताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम देहरादून के कार्यालय पत्र सं-61 / मुमि-2024-25 दिनांक 04.10.2024 के द्वारा दैनिक समाचार पत्र अमर उजाला के अंक दिनांक 05.10.2024 एवं अंग्रेजी दैनिक समाचार पत्र द पाईनियर के अंक दिनांक 05.10.2024 में प्रकाशित सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना में यूनिपोल/होर्डिंग हेतु कुल साईट-176 के स्थान पर 184 यूनिपोल/होर्डिंग साईट, नगर निगम द्वारा विज्ञापन हेतु आरक्षित निविदा घनराशि रु-6,84,09,264/- के स्थान पर रु-7,15,18,700/- तथा कार्य प्रतिभूति रु-68,40,927 के स्थान पर रु-71,51,870/- समझा व पढा जायेगा। निविदा की बाकी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

पी एम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय क्रमांक-१
B.E.G. & C. ROORKEE DISTRICT, HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND - 247667

PM'SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA NO.1

ताकालिक साक्षात्कार / Walk In Interview

पीएम श्री के वि क्र-1, रुड़की में सत्र 2024-25 हेतु निम्नलिखित पदों का पैल बनाने के लिए 18.10.2024 को साक्षात्कार आयोजित कर रहा है।

- पीजीटी (राजनीति विज्ञान) @ 27500.00 प्रति माह
- विशेष शिक्षक @ 21250.00 प्रति माह

आवेदन पत्र, शैक्षिक योग्यता एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए विद्यालय की वेबसाइट (www.no1roorkee.kvs.ac.in) देखें। शैक्षिक योग्यता में किसी भी प्रकार का संदेह होने पर केबीएस की वेबसाइट www.kvsangathan.nic.in पर उपलब्ध मानदंड ही स्वीकार किए जाएंगे। साक्षात्कार में उपस्थित होने के समय सभी प्रमाण पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां तथा एक सेट सत्यापित करा कर अवश्य लाएं। चयनित अभ्यर्थियों को कार्यभार ग्रहण करते समय विद्यालय में पैन कार्ड एवं बैंक खाता संख्या जमा करानी होगी। न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष तथा अधिकतम आयु 65 वर्ष।

प्राचार्य

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from PRAMOD KUMAR to PRAMOD KOTHARI and in future I should be known as Pramod Kothari s/o Mahendra Prasad address: H No.-11, VPO-Kothera, Pithoragarh, UK

I, Smt. Shakuntala Devi W/o No. 4087432F Rank Hav, Name-Kunj Vihari Permanent Address- R/o H.No. 05, Nag, Raund Ramoli, Tehri Garhwal, Paniyala Lwarka, P.O. Rounad, Dist. Tehri Garhwal, Present Address : Lane No. 4, Phase-2, Sai Vihar, Shyampur, Premnagar, Dehradun. My name as SHAKUNTALA DEVI is wrongly recorded in my husband's service records, whereas my correct name is SHAKUNTALA DEVI.

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम सरोज देवी दर्ज है, सही नाम सरोज आधर नं. 847781892514 M/o आर्मी नं. JC-344244M नायब सूबेदार अमरजीत पुरी, गांव-दौलतपुर, पोस्ट- दौलतपुर, तह-रुड़की, जिला- हरिद्वार-249402 है।

मेरे पिता के सैन्य अभिलेखोनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम भार्गवी दर्ज है, सही नाम कुमारी भार्गवी आधर नं. 441484593325 D/o आर्मी नं. JC-331565L सूबेदार मेजर निर्मल कुमार मिश्रा, गांव आसनसोल, पोस्ट आसनसोल कोर्ट, तह- आसनसोल जिला पश्चिम बर्धमान, पश्चिम बंगाल-713304 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम सुरजित कौर दर्ज है, सही नाम सुरजीत कौर है, आधर नं. 897084943443 M/o आर्मी नं. JC-344281A नायब सूबेदार जर्नेल सिंह, गांव- नीला नलोया, पोस्ट- हरियाना, तहसील- होशियारपुर, जिला-होशियारपुर, पंजाब-144208 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम कबीरुन नेसा दर्ज है, सही नाम कबीरुनिसा आधर नं. 278153416719 M/o आर्मी नं. 18012666A नायक मोतीचुर रहमान, बरुइपारा, पोस्ट-दो, तह. तेहता, जिला नादिया, पश्चिम बंगाल - 741156

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम रहमथुल्लाह शेख दर्ज है, सही नाम रहमतुल्लाह शेख आधर नं.874269556097 F/o आर्मी नं. 18012666A नायक मोतीचुर रहमान, बरुइपारा, पोस्ट-दो, तह. तेहता, जिला नादिया, पश्चिम बंगाल - 741156

I had purchased property in Mauza Dehrakhas on 18.11.2021, a sale deed related to which was purchased by the seller Smt. Jagdamba Devi, W/o Shri Mahadev Prasad, resident of Shop No. 2, Bazaar Line, Narendra Nagar, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, from Shri Ramesh Chand, S/o Shri Baru Singh, resident of Deoband Road, Chaudhedi, Deoband, Saharanpur, U.P., through a sale deed, which is duly recorded and registered in Book No. 1, Volume 5171, page No. 207 to 230, serial No. 2379, dated 17.07.2020, has actually been lost somewhere. Its use by anyone else would be illegal. Smt. Guddi Devi, W/o Shri Madanlal, resident of Indra P.O. Tiptri, Chinyalasaar, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given by 1. Smt. Preeti Nivedita Bhandari W/o Sh. Abhishek Kumar Singh to state that Original sale deed dated 03.05.2019, document no. 6779, executed by 1. Marks Infra Homes Pvt Ltd. for sale of Flat no. B-303, having super area of 213.67 Sq. mtrs. situated at Mauza Kishanpur, "WHISPERING WILLOW'S" in favour of 1. Rohit Kumar Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 2. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 3. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 4. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 5. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 6. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 7. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 8. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 9. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 10. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 11. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 12. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 13. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 14. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 15. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 16. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 17. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 18. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 19. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 20. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 21. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 22. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 23. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 24. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 25. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 26. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 27. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 28. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 29. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 30. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 31. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 32. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 33. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 34. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 35. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 36. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 37. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 38. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 39. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 40. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 41. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 42. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 43. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 44. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 45. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 46. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 47. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 48. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 49. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 50. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 51. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 52. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 53. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 54. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 55. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 56. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 57. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 58. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 59. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 60. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 61. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 62. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 63. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 64. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 65. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 66. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 67. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 68. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 69. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 70. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 71. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 72. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 73. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 74. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 75. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 76. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 77. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 78. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 79. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 80. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 81. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 82. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 83. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 84. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 85. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 86. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 87. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 88. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 89. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 90. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 91. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 92. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 93. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 94. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 95. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 96. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 97. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 98. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 99. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 100. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 101. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 102. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 103. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 104. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 105. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 106. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 107. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 108. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 109. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 110. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 111. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 112. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 113. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 114. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 115. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 116. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 117. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 118. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 119. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 120. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 121. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 122. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 123. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 124. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 125. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 126. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 127. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 128. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 129. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 130. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 131. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 132. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 133. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 134. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 135. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 136. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 137. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 138. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 139. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 140. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 141. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 142. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 143. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 144. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 145. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 146. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 147. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 148. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 149. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 150. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 151. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 152. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 153. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 154. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 155. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 156. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 157. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 158. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 159. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 160. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 161. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 162. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 163. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 164. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 165. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 166. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 167. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 168. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 169. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 170. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 171. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 172. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 173. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 174. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 175. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 176. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 177. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 178. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 179. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 180. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 181. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 182. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 183. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 184. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 185. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 186. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 187. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 188. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 189. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 190. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 191. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 192. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 193. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 194. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 195. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 196. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 197. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 198. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 199. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 200. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 201. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 202. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 203. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 204. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 205. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 206. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 207. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 208. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 209. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 210. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 211. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 212. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 213. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 214. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 215. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 216. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 217. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 218. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 219. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 220. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 221. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 222. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 223. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 224. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 225. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 226. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 227. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 228. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 229. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 230. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 231. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 232. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 233. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 234. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 235. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 236. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 237. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 238. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 239. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 240. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 241. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 242. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 243. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 244. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 245. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 246. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 247. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 248. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 249. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 250. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 251. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 252. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 253. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 254. Pooja Sangwan S/o Rajbir Singh Sangwan, 25



Foreigner duo stranded in Himalaya, rescue teams activated for rescue

PNS ■ JYOTIRMATH

Two trekkers from abroad on the trek to Chaukhamba-III have not been traced yet on Saturday, a day after they were reported missing. The authorities conducted an aerial survey

Mount Chaukhamba is situated at 7,974 metres altitude. Two women- Michelle Therasa from the USA and Favagne Manners from the UK were reportedly stranded at 6,015 metres altitude

The Chamoli district administration informed the SDRF about the situation. The SDRF inspector general directed the SDRF commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi to act immediately. Acting on the directions, Yaduvanshi got the high altitude rescue team transported by helicopter from Dehradun to the site of the incident on Saturday. SDRF IG Riddhim Agrawal said that the high altitude team of the SDRF departed for the site to rescue the two persons reportedly stranded.

The team conducted two aerial rescues. She said that communication has been established via satellite phone and a four-member team of the SDRF has reached the advanced base camp. This team will start the rescue operation soon. An additional backup team has also reached Jyotirmath. The teams have been directed to ensure safe and swift rescue operation. She further informed that the team has established communication via satellite phone.



by helicopter on Friday to trace them without success. On Saturday, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team reached the advanced base camp to conduct the search operation.

due to rough weather. The authorities tried to rescue them using an army helicopter on October 4 but the operation could not succeed due to the rough weather.

Home Guards deployed at major crossings to curb begging in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Home Guards were deployed on 17 key locations across the city on Saturday as part of efforts to curb begging in Dehradun. The personnel were deployed at major intersections including Dilaram Chowk, Ballapur Chowk, Saharanpur Chowk, ISBT, Railway Station and other locations after the recent orders of the Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal. The Home Guards have been stationed at these crossings on a rotational basis to keep a sharp watch on any begging activities, as per DM. He has also directed the district probation officer to expedite action by collaborating with all departments concerned to curb child begging.

He also informed that dedicated patrolling vehicles will soon be introduced to effectively tackle the issue. The



regular patrolling will ensure 24-hour surveillance to break the cycle of begging. Besides this, children found engaged

in begging will also be enrolled in intensive care centres, where they will receive proper education in a conducive learning environment. Bansal has also instructed a joint operation involving the Labour department, the Women Empowerment and Child Development department, Police, Child Welfare Committee and registered self-help groups to combat begging. This initiative is set to provide a long-term solution, offering education and support to the children involved, ultimately aiming for a complete rehabilitation of those caught in the cycle of begging, as per the DM.

Man shot dead on national highway in Udham Singh Nagar

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A man was shot dead in broad daylight on the national highway in the Jaspur block of Udham Singh Nagar district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Manjeet Singh, who is reportedly a farmer of Kaliyawala village in Jaspur. The police detained a suspect within two hours of the shooting.

The suspect was being interrogated till late on Saturday, as per the officials. They informed that the incident occurred in the afternoon and the police reached the scene after getting the informed about the shooting. They found a bloody body near the road in Kaliyanwala village.

The officials stated that the police took Singh to the hos-

pital but doctors declared him dead on arrival. The police then took possession of the body after completing formalities and sent it for a post-mortem. A forensic team also arrived to collect evidence from the crime scene, they added.

The officials said that the initial investigations suggest that the murder occurred in an isolated area. While one suspect was taken into custody, the police will continue their inquiry and are expecting to get more concrete evidence in the case.

The incident has raised concerns about security in the area but the police have assured swift action in bringing the culprits to justice. The investigation is ongoing, they added.

Revenue inspector arrested in Pauri for accepting bribe

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A team of the Vigilance Establishment arrested the revenue inspector of Agroda in Pauri district on charges of accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000. The team apprehended the accused red-handed and started investigating his movable and immovable properties through searches at various locations, including his residence. The officials said that a complaint was filed against the revenue inspector, Kailash Ravi, by a person at the Vigilance. The complainant reported that the inspector was reportedly demanding a bribe of Rs 15,000 in exchange for demarcating ancestral land listed under Khata number 20 and for preparing a report in favour of the complainant's father's land in the Nagaon area in Pauri. The officials said that after receiving the complaint, the Vigilance team initiated a preliminary investigation, which confirmed the authenticity of the allegations. Following this, the team set up

a trap and arrested Ravi while he was accepting the bribe at a designated spot in the Pendul area in Pauri. After the arrest,

ciated the trap team and announced a cash reward for their successful operation. Murugesan also urged the pub-



a team of Vigilance from Dehradun searched the residence of the accused and questioned him regarding his assets to gather necessary proofs regarding the corruption charges against him. The team will take further action accordingly in the case, as per the officials. The director of the Vigilance, V Murugesan appre-

lic to report any government officials or public servants demanding bribes through the toll-free helpline number 1064 or via WhatsApp at 9456592300. He assured that the identity of the complainants will be kept hidden while ensuring strict action against culprits.

CM tells officials to form cyber security task force in State

Establish disaster recovery centre for securing data, says Dhami

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami held a meeting with the officials concerned regarding the malware which has affected the State data centre. Dhami said that the scanning in the State data centre should be

down of most State governmental networks as the authorities conducted checks, Dhami said that such an incident should not be repeated. A cyber security task force should be formed at the earliest for ensuring

the security of online services and government websites, he said. The cooperation of the top agencies of the Central Government working in the IT sector should be sought to further improve the security of the State's data centre. A safety audit of the State data cen-

tre and online sites of the State government should be undertaken soon, the CM said. Dhami said that a disaster recovery centre should be established for recovery of online data in various departments and for the security of online platforms. The best practices of States, ministries and agencies performing well in cyber security should be studied and implemented in Uttarakhand, the CM said.

It is pertinent to mention here that after a suspected intrusion of a virus in the State government's cyber network, the Information Technology Development Agency, downed the system and conducted safety checks. The officials claim that all the data is secure and that the system will resume normal operations by Sunday.



completed at the earliest and the websites of departments related to public welfare should be restored as early as possible.

A couple of days after a virus was identified in the governmental cyber network, leading to the closing

Police chop down on meat shops in Doon, 119 notices issued for illegal operation

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The police inspected 442 meat shops on Saturday in Dehradun and issued notices to 119 shops for operating without valid licenses. The action was part of a broader crackdown on unauthorised animal slaughter after complaints regarding illegal practices in the area, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said. He informed that during the inspections, 442 shops were checked across various police station areas. Out of these, 119 were found to be operating without the required licenses and were given notices to obtain valid licenses within a stipulated time. Besides this, 88 shops were found to be closed at the time of the inspection. The SSP said that the police also imposed a penalty on 27 shops for poor sanitation conditions under Section 81 of the Police Act. A total fine of Rs 6,750 was collected. Moreover, 17 shop owners faced penalties of Rs 10,000 each under Section 83 of the Police Act for failing to verify the identities of their workers. Singh said that the police teams

are also in touch with the various departments concerned to take further action against such shops operating illegally. He said that all police station in-



charges were instructed to carry out surprise inspections of meat shops in their respective areas. The aim was to identify and address any illegal operations, ensuring that shops were adhering to proper licensing regulations. This initiative marks a significant step towards maintaining lawful business practices and ensuring public health standards in Dehradun, he added.

District hospital steps up focus on sanitation

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In order to maintain cleanliness and provide suitable amenities for patients, the administration of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay District Hospital has stepped up efforts to ensure sanitation on the hospital premises. Recent reports have highlighted substandard hygiene

in the postnatal care ward at the district hospital. Apart from this, concerns have been raised about the presence of rats and cockroaches, inadequate fan regulation and other deficiencies posing a worrisome situation for patients, particularly women post-delivery.

In response to these findings, the Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal has issued directives for the hospital to maintain hygiene standards in all wards. It will be recalled that the DM recently conducted a surprise inspection at the district hospital and instructed

them to improve facilities for patient care. In light of recent media reports highlighting concerns regarding the hospital's cleanliness, the district hospital's medical superintendent, Dr VS Chauhan stated that the hospital administration has consistently prioritised

maintaining cleanliness on the premises, particularly in the PNC ward. He added that despite previous issues with cockroaches and rats, the hospital has been proactively scheduling pest control services three to four times a week in regular mode. However, in response to the recent reports and directives from the DM, the hospital administration has ramped up efforts to enhance sanitation, safety and security measures within the hospital. He informed that the regulator in the PNC ward has been repaired and new ones have been installed on the hospital premises. Further, the hospital administration is planning to issue a tender to a company for carrying out white wash at the hospital. In addition, the concerned company has been instructed to regularly provide pest control services, he said. He also added that the concern company has been directed to proper sanitation within the ward and hospital premises. The hospital administration has additionally cautioned the sanitation company that if they do not maintain proper sanitation, the hospital administration will levy a 10 per cent penalty on their service fees at the time of payment, he added.

Narendranagar sub district hospital gets LaQshya national certification award

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the expertise in maternal and newborn care, the sub-district hospital in Narendranagar received the Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya) National Certification award from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Congratulating the entire

to providing exceptional maternal and child healthcare. Narendranagar's sub-district hospital now stands as a role model for other healthcare facilities in the region. Bhadauria pointed out that the central government bestowed this award based on the hospital's service standards, patient rights

Further, assistant director Archana Ojha said that such awards are presented to hospitals that excel in the quality and services provided in the delivery room, with the goal of reducing maternal and infant mortality rates and enhancing healthcare services for women during childbirth. This recognition has not only elevated the hospital's reputation but also signified a significant accomplishment in Uttarakhand's healthcare sector, She said.



team of the sub-district hospital, the State's mission director of the National Health Mission (NHM) Swati S Bhadauria expressed pride in the hospital's achievement. She emphasised that receiving the LaQshya Award underscores their dedication

and responsibilities, supportive services, clinical care, infection prevention and quality assurance. So far, 11 NQAS National Certification and 20 (LaQshya) National Certification have been received in the state of Uttarakhand, she added.

promoting similar initiatives aimed at enhancing quality in all healthcare facilities across the state, with the goal of continuously enhancing the health standards and ensuring that every resident receives top-notch healthcare services.



Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami addresses the global summit held at Prajapati Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyala at Mount Abu in Rajasthan on Saturday

Pioneer photo

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

heads of state, but "it changes" sometimes.

"So your question, I think, is, what am I planning for it? Of course, I'm planning to do. In my business, you plan for everything which you're going to do, and for a lot of things which you're not going to do and which could also happen. I mean, you plan for that as well," he said.

Jaishankar made these observations during an interaction with media while attending the Sardar Patel lecture on governance organised by the IC Centre for Governance.

The SCO was founded as a political union of Central Asian nations Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan -- to discuss security and economic matters. India and Pakistan became permanent members in 2017.

Jaishankar said the situation in

the Middle East is a "great cause of concern," as Israel intensifies its attacks in Lebanon.

"The Middle East is not an opportunity. The Middle East is a cause of great concern and deep worry. The conflict is widening what we saw as a terrorist attack, then the response, then we saw what happened in Gaza. Now you are seeing it in exchange in Lebanon, between Israel and Iran. The Houthis are firing on the Red Sea. This is actually costing us. It's not that somebody is neutral and you benefit," he said.

The External Affairs Minister added, "I would say honestly today, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the conflict in the Middle East West Asia, these are big factors of instability, big factors of concern. I think the entire world, including us, is worried about it." He also took a veiled dig at Pakistan, holding it responsible



for the derailment of the SAARC initiative. "At the moment SAARC is not moving

forward, we haven't had a meeting of SAARC for a very simple reason -- there is one

member of SAARC who is practicing cross-border terrorism at least against one more member of SAARC, maybe more...

Terrorism is something which is unacceptable and despite a global view of it if one of our neighbours continues to do it there cannot be business as usual in SAARC.

That's the reason why the SAARC meeting has not happened in recent years -- but it doesn't mean that the regional activities have stopped. In fact, in the last 5-6 years, we have seen far more regional integration in the Indian subcontinent," he added.

India has all along maintained that it will not hold bilateral dialogues with Pakistan until the latter stops breeding and fostering cross-border terrorism.

India on Friday announced that the minister will travel to

Pakistan to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in mid-October.

It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's External Affairs Minister will travel to Pakistan even as the ties between the two neighbours remain frosty over cross-border terrorism. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16. The last Indian External Affairs Minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan.

The announcement on Jaishankar's visit was made by external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. "The External Affairs Minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit which will be

held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," he said at his weekly media briefing.

Meanwhile, speaking at the event, Jaishankar highlighted Sardar Patel's historical stance against involving the United Nations in disputes, particularly concerning Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that such actions could allow external powers to manipulate the situation.

He noted that Patel believed it was more effective to address issues directly with Pakistan rather than through international frameworks.

He highlighted that, like any other neighbour, India would like to have good relations with Pakistan but not by overlooking cross-border terrorism. Reflecting on Patel's pragmatic approach, he underscored the importance of realism as the foundation of India's foreign policy.

India to host four-nation Malabar naval exercise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India will host the four-nation Malabar naval exercise beginning Tuesday. The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan will carry out a series of complex naval drills during the 'sea phase' of the mega war game.

"Exercise Malabar 2024 is scheduled to take place from October 8 to 18, beginning with the Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase," the Indian Navy announced on Saturday.

The Malabar exercise, which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between the US and the Indian Navy, has evolved into a key multilateral event aimed at enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region.

The exercise will feature the



participation of various Indian naval platforms, including guided missile destroyers, multi-purpose frigates, submarines, fighter aircraft and helicopters.

"The exercise will focus on a broad range of activities designed to enhance cooperation and operational capabilities, including discussions on special operations, surface, air,

and anti-submarine warfare through a Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE)," the Navy said.

"Complex maritime operations such as anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, and air defence exercises will be conducted at sea, with an emphasis on improving situational awareness in the maritime domain," it said in a statement.

DRDO conducts successful VSHORADS flight tests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Defence Research and Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three flight-tests of the fourth generation, technically-advanced miniaturised Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on October three and four, defence ministry said here on Saturday.

Giving details, officials said the tests were carried out against high speed target, demonstrating very critical parameters of maximum range and maximum altitude interception. These development trials showed repeatability of hit-to-kill capability of the weapon system in various target engagement scenarios covering approaching, receding and crossing modes. The development of VSHORADS missiles has been



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

(RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and DcPPs. The three Services have been associated with the project right from the beginning and participated during the developmental trials. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, Armed Forces and the Industry involved in the successful development trials. This new missile equipped with modern technologies will give further technological boost to the Armed Forces against aerial threats, he said.

ICMR to study PCOS drugs' impact on fertility



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is mulling to conduct a study to evaluate the efficacy of two Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) drugs in improving fertility and birth outcomes among women suffering from the ovarian condition.

The drugs that have been recommended by experts for this purpose are Metformin and Inositol which are used in the treatment of PCOS, a hormonal condition that affects women of reproductive age. It's the most common endocrine disorder in women in this age group.

A senior official from the apex health research body of the Union Health Ministry said that expression of interest (EOI) have been invited to undertake a multi-centric randomised controlled trial for evaluating the efficacy of Metformin vs Inositol to improve fertility and birth outcomes among PCOS women. PCOS is a complex disorder ranging from mild to severe disruptions in reproductive, endocrine and metabolic functions, with key features including irregular menstrual periods (anovulation), hyperandrogenism, insulin resistance and abnormal gonadotropin secretion.

The prevalence of infertility in women with PCOS is high, varying between 70 and 80 per cent, the ICMR said in the EOI document.

Moreover, PCOS women have been found to have increased prevalence of pregnancy complications and less favourable pregnancy outcomes (live births, miscarriage, pregnancy rate) compared with women without PCOS, it stated.

In contemporary practice, the use of Metformin and Inositol for the treatment of PCOS is widespread. "However, present evidence on the efficacy of these two drugs in terms of improvement in fertility and other related outcomes is insufficient," the ICMR said in a document. A Finnish study suggested that, as compared to placebo, metformin improved the pregnancy rate, live birth rate and ovulation rate in the studied population, the document said.

However, a Cochrane review with meta-analysis including three other smaller studies reported that as compared with placebo, metformin may have only marginal benefit for live birth rate outcome. Additionally, there is very limited data available globally on the effectiveness of Inositol for PCOS women, especially for birth outcome and cycle regulation. "Evidence on the efficacy of both metformin and inositol in the Indian context is almost non-existent. To address the knowledge gap and to generate evidence on the management of PCOS for improving birth outcomes in the Indian context, the current ICMR call is being proposed," the document said.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey accuses Congress of defaming Government

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



October 24. His strongly worded communication is a clear indication that the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, who are in a majority in the committee, are likely to resist any further move by

Venugopal to put the regulator in a spot, signalling that its meetings over the issue will be stormy. Dubey claimed that political motivations were guiding the committee's chairperson after the Congress was "compelled" by voters to sit in

the opposition benches following the Lok Sabha polls. There was no immediate reaction from the senior Congress leader. Dubey said various countries which cannot digest the growth of India, which is on the trajectory of becoming

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

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

Antarctica's greening signals alarming climate change effects

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The coldest, windiest and most inhospitable ice-clad Antarctica Peninsula, a vast territory belonging to no one nation is witnessing a dramatic greening! Viewing this trend as a stark warning rather than a hopeful sign, climate change experts have raised alarms. Not without reasons. Vegetation, particularly moss and algae, have surged by more than tenfold over the last four decades from less than one square kilometer in 1986 to nearly 12 square kilometers by 2021.

The rapid expansion of plant life highlights the profound impacts of global warming and the potential for cascading effects on the region's ecosystems, said researchers from the universities of Exeter and Hertfordshire, along with the British Antarctic Survey after analysing satellite data to document this phenomenon.

Published in the journal Nature Geoscience, the findings revealed that vegetation cover trend accelerated by over 30 per cent in recent years (2016-2021), adding more than 400,000 square meters annually, as per the study.

In a previous study that examined core samples from moss-dominated ecosystems on the Antarctic Peninsula, researchers had found compelling evidence of dramatically increased plant growth rates in recent decades. Building on this base, the new study uses satellite imagery to confirm that a widespread greening trend is not only occurring but also accelerating across the Antarctic Peninsula. "The plants we find on the Antarctic Peninsula mostly mosses grow in perhaps the harshest conditions on Earth," said Dr Thomas Roland, from the University of Exeter. "The landscape is still almost entirely dominated by snow, ice and rock, with only a tiny frac-

tion colonised by plant life. "But that tiny fraction has grown dramatically showing that even this vast and isolated 'wilderness' is being affected by anthropogenic climate change."

"As these ecosystems become more established and the climate continues to warm it's likely that the extent of greening will increase.

"Soil in Antarctica is mostly poor or non-existent, but this increase in plant life will add organic matter, and facilitate soil formation potentially paving the way for other plants to grow." This raises the risk of non-native and invasive species arriving, possibly carried by eco-tourists, scientists or other visitors to the continent," said Dr Olly Bartlett, from the University of Hertfordshire. The researchers emphasised the urgent need for further research to establish the specific climate and environmental mechanisms that are driving the "greening" trend.

Supreme Court dismisses electoral bonds review pleas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas seeking review of its February 15 verdict, which had scrapped the Modi government's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said there is no error apparent on the face of the record.

The top court also rejected the prayer for listing the review petitions in an open court. "Having perused the review petitions, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013. The review petitions are, therefore, dismissed," the bench said in its order dated September 25 that was uploaded today. The review pleas filed by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara and others contended that the matter related to the scheme falls in the



exclusive domain of legislative and executive policy. "The court failed to notice that even assuming the issue is justiciable, the petitioners there-in having not claimed any specific legal injury exclusive to them, their petition could not have been decided as if a private litigation for the enforcement of rights which are specific and exclusive to them," Nedumpara had submitted in his plea.

He had said the court failed to notice that the public opinion could be sharply divided and the majority of the people of this country could probably be in support of the scheme, brought into existence by their elected representatives, and that they too have a right to be heard as much as the petitioners. "The court failed to notice that, if at all it is venturing into the forbidden domain of adju-

dicating upon a matter of legislative policy, they have a duty to hear the public at large and that the proceedings ought to be converted into representative proceedings," the plea had said.

Holding that the 2018 electoral bond scheme was "violative" of the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Chandrachud had scrapped the scheme.

The top court had also directed the State Bank of India (SBI), the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to submit the details of electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019, to the Election Commission, which was asked to publish the information on its official website. Under the electoral bonds scheme, ruling parties can coerce people and entities to contribute, the apex court had said and rejected as "erroneous" the Centre's argument that it protects the confidentiality of the contributor which is akin to the system of

secret ballot. The electoral bonds scheme, which was notified by the government on January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ WASHIM (MAHARASHTRA)

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

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

The Indian Youth Congress had said on October 3 that Tushar Goel, the suspected



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

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

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

When the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was in power, it put a speed breaker in the work of the Poharadevi pilgrimage centre upgradation, which was started during the chief ministership of Devendra Fadnavis. But it has now been completed at a cost of Rs 700 crore, he said.

As long as MVA was in power in Maharashtra, it worked with only two agendas - to stop the projects related to farmers and to commit corruption in the money of these projects. The funds sent by the Centre were being diverted away from the beneficiaries by that government, he claimed.

The prime minister, who launched various initiatives of Rs 23,300 crore related to agriculture and animal husbandry sectors, expressed happiness over the completion of the Banjara Virasat Museum in Poharadevi.

This museum would introduce future generations to the ancient culture and vast heritage of the Banjara community, he said.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said removing the existing 50 per cent cap on reservation is necessary to protect the Constitution, and asserted that the INDIA bloc will ensure the passage of laws to this effect in Parliament.

The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha also attacked the BJP-led government, saying there was no use of bowing before Shivaji Maharaj after "scaring people, destroying the Constitution and institutions in the country". Holding a copy of the Constitution during an address in Kolhapur, Gandhi called it a symbol of Shivaji's ideas.

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

Speaking at the 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' here,



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

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

The history of Dalits or OBCs was not being taught in schools, he said, alleging that efforts are now being made to erase that history.

The Congress leader said the public sector is being privatised, and stressed that it should be termed de-reservation. He accused the RSS and BJP of doing this for years. He called the Agniveer scheme - for short-term induction of personnel in the Army, Navy and Air Force - a ploy to snatch pension from 90 per cent of people.

Earlier, speaking at an event, where Rahul unveiled a statue of Shivaji, Gandhi alleged that the warrior king's statue collapsed in the state's Sindhudurg district as the intentions and ideology of those in power were wrong. He said the intentions are visible and cannot be hidden.

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

Setting up Justice K Hema Committee unconstitutional: Kerala HC Lawyer

KUMAR CHELAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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



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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

This plan aims to reduce the burden of disease, suffering, and deaths associated with these viruses, including Zika and chikungunya, by fostering a coordinated global response. Currently, an estimated four billion people are at risk of arbovirus infections, a figure projected to rise to five billion by 2050. Dengue cases have surged across all six WHO regions, with the number of reported cases nearly doubling each year since 2021. As of the end of August this year, there have been over 12.3 million dengue cases—almost double the 6.5 million cases recorded for all of 2023, as per the WHO statement.

The plan outlines priority actions to control transmission and offers recommendations to affected countries across various sectors, including disease surveillance, laboratory activities, vector control, community engagement, clinical management, and research and development, through a whole-of-society and



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

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

Lt General Srivastava assumes charge of Srinagar based Chinar Corps



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

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

the Counter Insurgency Force (Victor) in South Kashmir.

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

Verbal spat intensifies before UP by-elections

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

As the by-elections for 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh approach, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav have intensified their verbal attacks, signaling an escalating political showdown. Phrases like "kutte ki puchh (dog's tail)," "mafia," and "naak ragadna (rubbing nose)" have surfaced in this exchange, marking a sharp rise in political rhetoric between the two leaders.



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

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

determination to build on this momentum. Analysts predict that the verbal sparring between Yogi and Akhilesh will intensify as the 2027 assembly elections approach. Akhilesh has been rallying support through his PDA formula, aiming to consolidate Backward Classes, Dalits, and minorities into a solid voter base. Meanwhile, the BJP continues to rely on its core issues of Hindutva and nationalism, positioning Yogi as the state's face of this narrative.

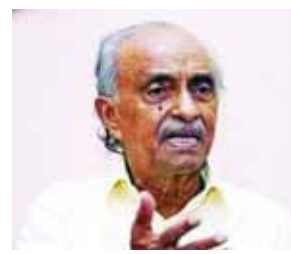
This is not the first time the two leaders have clashed. During the 2022 UP assembly elections, their exchanges were rife with one-liners. Yogi had labelled SP's ideology as a combination of "Chola Samajwadi" and "Tamanchowadi" (gun-culture politics), while Akhilesh responded with his trademark

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

Ramachandran, Malayalam radio's icon breathes his last

KEMAR CHELAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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



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

mind," reminisces Dr Rajeev Kumar.

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

UK evacuates British nationals from Lebanon as conflict escalates

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government on Saturday confirmed its final charter plane to fly British nationals out of Lebanon as the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel intensifies and tensions in the region escalate. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer once again urged British nationals still in the country to come forward to be evacuated.

"To everybody listening who may be in that position: now is the time to leave, we have got the plans in place. So please come forward and we can make sure that they are evacuated," Starmer told reporters during a visit to Cheshire on Friday.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said after a chartered flight leaves Beirut on Sunday, there are no more scheduled flights due to a decrease in demand. However, the situation will be kept under constant review as the UK urged all remaining British nationals who want to leave Lebanon to register with the government immediately.

"The situation in Lebanon remains volatile, so I am glad that we have helped the many people who have heeded our advice to leave the country immediately," said UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy. "With demand falling and the



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

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

The UK has been advising its nationals to leave Lebanon amid a deteriorating security situation: three chartered flights have left Beirut and more than 250 additional people have been able to leave the country in the last week.

British nationals and their spouse or partner, and chil-

dren under the age of 18 are eligible for Sunday's flight, with dependents who are not British nationals requiring a valid visa. Sunday's flight will depart from Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport, and British nationals who have registered their presence with the government will be sent details on how to request a seat.

The FCDO said government officials have been working round the clock in London, Beirut and the wider region to

provide support to British nationals. An FCDO Rapid Deployment Team has also arrived in Lebanon to bolster the support offered by British Embassy officials.

The UK reiterated its call for a ceasefire between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel to provide the space necessary to find a political solution that enables civilians on both sides to return to their homes in safety amid air strikes and ground incursions as the conflict escalates.

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

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden had terse words for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, and said he did not know whether the Israeli leader was holding up a Mideast peace deal in order to influence the outcome of the 2024 US presidential election.

"No administration has helped Israel more than I have, none. None, none. And I think Bibi should remember that," he said, referring to the Israeli leader by his nickname. "And whether he is trying to influence the election, I do not know but I am not counting on that."

Biden, in a rare appearance in the White House press briefing room, was responding to comments made by one of his allies, Senator Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who told CNN this week that he was concerned Netanyahu had little interest in a peace deal in part because of US politics.

"I do not think you have to be a hopeless cynic to read some of Israel's actions, some of Prime Minister Netanyahu's actions, as connected to the American election," Murphy said.

As their views on the Gaza war diverge and their political futures hang in the balance. For Biden, a diplomatic deal would help resolve a deep divide among Democrats over the war and shore up support for Vice President Kamala Harris, making one fewer global conflict for her to manage should she win next month.

Netanyahu has his own political concerns closer to home: His far-right coalition would abandon him if he stopped the war, and he could lose power and have to face his own legal problems. And Israel has been decimating Hezbollah's leadership, so there is little incentive to stop now.

Biden has long pushed for a diplomatic deal, and he and his aides have indicated several times over the past few months that such an agreement was close. But it never seems to materialise, and in some cases, Netanyahu has publicly resisted the prospect while US and Israeli officials continue to talk in private about eking out a deal.

Just last week, the US, France and other allies jointly called for an immediate 21-day Israel-Hezbollah cease-fire, and expected Israel to welcome it not fully endorse the plan. Instead, Netanyahu publicly rejected it, telling leaders gathered for the UN General



Assembly that Israel would "continue degrading Hezbollah until all our objectives are met".

Israel has pressed forward on two fronts, killing top Hezbollah leaders and pursuing a ground incursion into Lebanon and conducting strikes in Gaza that killed dozens, including children. And the nation has vowed to retaliate for Iran's ballistic missile attack this week.

Oil prices rose 5 per cent on Thursday as concerns mounted that Israel would hit Iranian oil facilities as payback; a surge in gas prices so close to the election would be a blow to Harris, particularly after strong economic news on Friday. Biden said there had been no

decision yet on what type of response there would be toward Iran, though "I think if I were in their shoes, I would be thinking about other alternatives than striking oil fields." He pushed back against the idea that he was seeking a meeting with Netanyahu to discuss the response to Iran. He is not, he said.

"I am assuming when they make a decision on how they are going to respond, we will then have a discussion," he said. But Netanyahu has grown increasingly resistant to Biden's public charm offensives and private pleading, prompting the president's more assertive pushback. And Biden has in turn publicly held up delivery of heavy bombs to Israel and increasingly voiced concerns over an all-out war in the Middle East.

Despite their long acquaintanceship, the two are not close or particularly friendly. When Biden was visiting Israel as vice president under Barack Obama, he and other US officials were taken aback by an Israeli government announcement of new Jewish settlements in the West Bank, something the administration strongly opposed.

Nevertheless, Biden has remained consistent in his support for Israel's defence and security.

European cities brace for pro-Palestinian rallies

AP ■ ROME

Hundreds of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators were expected to take to the streets across Europe on Saturday calling for a cease-fire as the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel approached. Security forces in several countries warned of heightened levels of alert in major cities, amid concerns that the escalating conflict in the Middle East could inspire new terror attacks in Europe or that some of the protests could turn violent. Massive rallies are planned in several European cities, including London, Berlin, Paris and Rome through next week, with the largest gatherings expected from Saturday to Monday.

Events will peak on Monday, the date of the anniversary.

By midday Saturday, thousands had gathered in central London's Russell Square amid a significant police presence. Some of the march's organizers had said they planned to target companies and institutions they claimed were "complicit in Israel's crimes," including Barclays Bank and the British Museum.

Protests are also taking place in other parts of the world. In the Philippines on Saturday, dozens of left-wing activists protested near the US Embassy in Manila, where police prevented them from getting closer to the seaside compound.

On October 7 last year, Hamas launched a surprise attack into Israel, killing 1,200 Israelis,

taking 250 people hostage and setting off a war with Israel that has shattered much of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. More than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since then in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between fighters and civilians. It says more than half were women and children.

Nearly 100 Israeli hostages remain in Gaza, with fewer than 70 believed to be alive. Israelis have experienced attacks — missiles from Iran and Hezbollah, explosive drones from Yemen, fatal shootings and stabbings — as the region braces for further escalation.

In late September, Israel shifted some of its focus to

Hezbollah, which holds much of the power in parts of southern Lebanon and some other areas of the country, attacking the militants with exploding pagers, airstrikes and, eventually, incursions into Lebanon. Pro-Palestinian protests calling for an immediate cease-fire have repeatedly taken place across Europe and around the globe in the past year and have often turned violent, with confrontations between demonstrators and law enforcement officers.

In Rome, a rally was planned for Saturday afternoon — with about 30,000 demonstrators expected — in spite of a ban by local police chiefs who refused to authorize protests in the Italian capital, citing public security con-

cerns. Italian authorities believed that the timing of the planned rally risked the October 7 attack being "glorified," local media reported.

Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi also stressed that, ahead of the key anniversary, Europe is on high alert for potential terror attacks. "This is not a normal situation ... We are already in a condition of maximum prevention," he said.

A large crowd was also expected to gather in central London on Saturday afternoon. Ben Jamal, director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign in Britain, said he and others will keep organizing marches until action against Israel is taken. "We need to be out on the

streets in even bigger numbers to stop this carnage and stop Britain being drawn into it," Jamal said.

In Berlin, a march is scheduled under the Brandenburg Gate to Bebelplatz on Sunday. Local media reported that security forces have warned of potential overload due to the scale of protests.

German authorities pointed to increasing antisemitic and violent incidents in recent days.

France was also on alert for new protests on Saturday. Earlier this week, Interior minister Bruno Retailleau warned the country's regional prefects, expressing concern about possible tensions and saying that the terrorist threat was high.

Army deployed in Islamabad, Lahore amid PTI protests

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Pakistan authorities on Saturday called in the Army in Islamabad and Lahore to prevent rallies by supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, amid rising tensions.

The call for protest was given by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party founder who has been incarcerated at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than a year.

The PTI is protesting for the release of Khan, to express solidarity with the judiciary, and against inflation.

Pakistan Army troops were deployed in Islamabad to ensure security as PTI supporters moved forward with plans for a protest. The army would remain in the city from October 5-17 to maintain law and order for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. Pakistan is hosting the SCO summit on October 15-16.

The deployment came as PTI supporters led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Alami Gandapur were moving ahead to reach the D-Chowk in the national capital to hold the protest. However, the convoy led by Gandapur faced intense police action as it approached Rawalpindi.

The police resorted to heavy tear gas shelling to disperse the protesters.

The 72-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician Khan refused to postpone the protest despite calls by the government. According to the Dawn newspaper, Gandapur reached Islamabad on Saturday afternoon and was staying at the KP House. Heavy contingent of police and Rangers have entered the KP House to arrest Gandapur, it said.

The authorities are taking strict measures to stop PTI supporters from entering Islamabad or making it to the D-Chowk. All highways leading to the city have been blocked and pillion riding has been banned, while mobile phone services remained suspended for the second consecutive day.

The authorities also imposed Section 144, banning public gatherings, political assemblies, and demonstrations in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to outlaw any political assembly or protest. The Metro bus services linking the twin cities were also suspended.

Police and paramilitary Rangers were also deployed to stop the protestors. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday warned, "Nobody will be allowed to disrupt law and order [in Islamabad]," directing the authorities to deal with the "miscreants" with iron hands.

Meanwhile, the authorities on Saturday cut off Lahore from the rest of the country to stop PTI supporters from holding a rally at the historic Minar-i-Pakistan.

The PML-N government called in the Pakistan Army to maintain the law and order situation in Punjab province, especially in its capital Lahore. All roads leading to the ruling Sharif family's Jati Umra Raiwind Lahore residence were also blocked. Hundreds of containers have been placed in different parts of the city and also at all entry and exit points.

A curfew-like situation is created around Minar-e-Pakistan, which is also closed for any general public entry for an indefinite period. A heavy contingent of police has also been deployed there. The government has also suspended cell phone and internet services in different parts of Lahore.

The PTI has called Saturday's protest a "do or die" situation. PTI Punjab acting president Hammad Azhar said people of Lahore will come out in droves and reject the government's "fascism".

He said the party also plans to celebrate Khan's birthday on Saturday and pass a resolution for "Haqqeeqi Azadi" (real freedom) at the Minar-i-Pakistan ground.

Mr. Manohar Singh Gusain, S/o Bhopal Singh, R/O H. No. 100-D, Pocket-A, Mayur Vihar Ph-2, Delhi, has been missing since 29.05.2015. A civil suit for his death declaration has been filed by his sons, Ravindra Singh, Sushil Gusain, and Sunil Gusain.

The NDOH is on 28.10.2024 in the court of Sh. Fahad Uddin, Ld. Sr. Civil Judge, Karkardooma Court, Delhi.

Avanish Mishra (Advocate)
Ch. no. 79, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

Ukraine downs Russian warplane

AP ■ KYIV

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

while Russia claimed it made gains in Ukraine's east.

The Russian bomber was shot down near the city of Kostiantynivka in the

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

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

Also in the partially occupied Donetsk province, Russia's Defence Ministry claimed on Saturday that it had taken control of the village of Zhelanne Druhe.

If confirmed, the capture would come three days after Ukrainian forces said they were withdrawing from the front-line town of Vuhledar, some 33 kilometers (21 miles) from Zhelanne Druhe, following a hard-fought two-year defense.

Although unlikely to change the course of the war, the loss of Vuhledar is indicative of Kyiv's worsening position, in part the result of Washington's refusal to grant Ukraine permission to strike targets deep inside Russian territory and preventing Kyiv from degrading Moscow's capabilities.

6 Pak soldiers, ultras killed in gunfight

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Six soldiers, including an off-duty Sacer, and as many terrorists were killed in a gunfight in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said on Saturday.

In a statement, the military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the exchange of fire took place on the night between October 4-5 at Spinwam area in North Waziristan district, bordering Afghanistan, during which six soldiers, including a Lieutenant Colonel, and "six Khwarij" were killed. During the "intense fire exchange", 43-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ali Shoukat, who was leading the operation against the terrorists, was killed along with five other soldiers, the statement said. Meanwhile, the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

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

DISMANTLING AND OTHERS UTILITY SHIFTING

E-Tender Notice No.: APEL/19/24-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Sl. No.1: Tender No.: APEL/19/24-25: Name of work:** At Allipurud Division: Dismantling and others utility shifting at 15 nos. station under "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme". **Advised Tender Value:** ₹1,55,03,454.45. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,27,500.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 25-10-2024 and will be opened on 25-10-2024 at 15:30 hrs. at DRM/Elect. (G)/Allipurud Jn.'s office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in. **DRM (S&T), Katihar** **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** "Serving Customers with a smile"

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Shakil Ahmad Tamanna is the C/P holder of Flat no. 302, Front to Back Side, second floor without Roof (Right), Property Bearing no. R2-901B, area measuring 125 Sq. Yds, out of Kharsa no. 450, situated at Gulshan Apartments, Gali no. 24, Tughlakabad Extn., Delhi 110019. He is in possession through Notarized CPA, ATS & Will dated 23.01.2007 executed by Mrs. Katarina Bulchek Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Mr. Shakil Ahmad Tamanna in respect of said flat.

Mr. Shakil Ahmad Tamanna intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of above mentioned flat to Mrs. Heena. Subsequently, Mrs. Heena is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.). Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting New Veritas - North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Landline(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@nvrn.in

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN KATHIAR DIVISION

Tender Notice No.: N-2024-K-19, Date: 04-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No.: N-2024-K-19; Name of Work:** Signal and Telecom work for yard remodelling of Forbesganj station in connection with bridge connectivity towards Narpatganj end. **Tender Value:** ₹1,21,48,153.89/- **Earnest Money:** ₹2,10,800/- **Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 28-10-2024.** For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 15:00 hrs. on 28-10-2024 in the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> **DRM (S&T), Katihar** **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** "Serving Customers With A Smile"

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
[Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Jubar (Borrower), Anisa (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00005769003.	Apartment No. 12, 3rd Floor (Apartment No. 312, Block-FII) Block F-II Sohad Road, Charwood Village Surajkund Road, Village Lakarpur Faridabad-121001. Admeasuring Area:827 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 47,29,154/- as on September 30, 2024	Rs. 40,00,000/- Rs. 4,00,000/-	October 16, 2024 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	October 29, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s Nexen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagees/Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/are unable to submit his/ her offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employees Phone No. 8657476294/8584874809. Please note that the Marketing agencies 1. M/s Nexen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augco Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta PropTech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: October 05, 2024
Place: Delhi, Faridabad

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Home Loan Centre, 59 Community Centre, Naraina Industrial Area Phase - 1, Near Payal PVR, New Delhi-110028

POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable Property under Rule 8(1)]

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Bank issued demand notices on the date mentioned against account and amount stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within sixty days from the date of receipt of said notices. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against account and amount below. The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon. Details of Property where Possession has been taken is as follow:-

The borrower/ Guarantor attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Mortgaged Property	Am. O/s (as per Notice U/s.13(2))	Date of [12] Notice	Date of Possession
BORROWERS: MR. PRADEEP KUMAR JINDAL AND MRS. MAMTA JINDAL	Equitable Mortgage of Built up Property Bearing No.1-A Land area measuring 500 Sq.Yds. with Roof Rights Upto Sky in Block H1 Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Malikpur Chhaoni Known as Model Town Near Kingsway Camp at Mall Road Delhi with the Free Hold Rights of the Land Underneath in the name of Sh. Pradeep Kumar Jindal S/o Sh. Dinesh Chand Jindal. Boundry: North: Plot No.H-3/1 South: Plot No.H-1/1-B East: Plot No. H-1/2 West: Service Lane	Rs.48,94,615/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen Only) as on 02.07.2024 plus future interest and other incidental charges incurred thereafter, less recovery (if any).	10.07.2024	01.10.2024

DATE: 01.10.2024
PLACE: NEW DELHI

Sd/- Authorized Officer, (State Bank of India)
Home Loan Centre, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi

OFC AND PIJF CABLING ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED WORK

E-Tender Notice No. 06 of 2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **E-Tender No. N-2024-25-06-Dy, CSTE-NW. Name of work:** OFC and PIJF cabling along with associated work at Maligaon Head Quarter area in connection with provision of Server Based IP EPABX system. **Tender Value:** ₹30,90,292.48/- **Earnest Money:** ₹61,800/- **Date & time of closing of tender:** 15:00 hrs. of 25-10-2024 **and opening at 15:30 hrs. of 25-10-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Signal & Telecom Engineer/
Network, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers With A Smile"

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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



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

It forced the promotion of Harmanpreet to No. 3,

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

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

Pooja Vastrakar, the third-best bowler in T20s this year with 20 wickets from 16 matches. Also, the decision to go with the pace trio cost India the presence of left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, their second most successful T20I bowler with 22 wickets from 13 matches.

So, head coach Amol Muzumdar will need to take a long look at the combination as another defeat will seriously hamper India's chances of progressing to the last-four stage from Group A. But stats apart, India, particularly batters, looked mentally frozen against the Kiwis, evidenced by the highest individual score in their innings — a 15 by Harmanpreet. In that context, India might just think of adding Dayalan Hemalatha to bolster the batting.

Though India have a head-to-head edge over Pakistan in T20Is, winning 12 out of 15 matches so far, they have the ammunition to stun any opposition. Their bowling is especially formidable with the likes of experienced Nida Dhar,

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

TEAMS (FROM):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Yastika Bhatia (subject to fitness), Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil (subject to fitness), Sajana Sajeevan

Travelling reserves: Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwer, Saima Thakor.

Pakistan: Fatima Sana (c), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Gull Feroza, Iram Javed, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal (subject to fitness), Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan

Travelling reserve: Najiha Alvi (wk).



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

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

Just-retired striker Luis Suárez has criticized Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa for the way he treated players during the Copa America, saying the "friction" hurts. Uruguay finished third at the Copa in July in the United States but Suárez said all was not well behind the scenes.

"There were situations at the Copa America that hurt me, but I didn't say them for the sake of coexistence," Suárez told the DSports TV channel. "Many players held a meeting to ask the coach to at least say good morning to us, but he didn't even say hello."

The relationship between Bielsa and the players was so bad that some are considering leaving the national squad, Suárez said. He retired his 17-year international career a month ago as Uruguay's all-time leading scorer.

"You can see that players go with the team and are not enjoying themselves," he said. "In their (club) teams they are having fun and smiling, but

not with the national team. It hurts to see what is going on." Bielsa, who has coached Argentina and Chile, was hired by Uruguay in May 2023 to the end of the 2026 World Cup. He has Uruguay third in South American qualifying for the World Cup, and is preparing for qualifiers against Peru next Friday and Ecuador four days later.

Suárez asked Uruguay supporters "not to take it out on the players if something goes wrong." "We are arriving to a tough situation and very painful situations. The friction is going to keep happening and the players are going to reach their limit before exploding." Despite the team's success, Suárez said the atmosphere cultivated by Bielsa was not good, even at their training facility.

"At the Celeste Complex, employees are not allowed to come in and greet us and eat with us," he said. "They have to be careful even at the door they have to enter."



Sinner and Alcaraz breeze through Shanghai Masters openers

AP ■ SHANGHAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ LIMA (PERU)

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

India's young shooters added five more medals to their kitty, including two gold on Friday taking the tally to 21 medals to remain at the top of the standings — 13 gold, two silver and six bronze. Norway remained a distant second with 10 medals — four gold, three silver and three bronze — while China occupied third place (3-1-0). Divanshi dominated the event with a score of 564 out of 600, finishing ahead of teammate Parisha Gupta, who shot 559 for silver. Manvi Jain completed the Indian sweep with a bronze-winning score of 557,



marking India's first-ever clean sweep in this competition. Shikha Chaudhary narrowly missed a podium finish, placing fourth with a score of 554, just one point ahead of Estonia's Marja Kirss. In the corresponding junior men's event,

Suraj Sharma claimed gold with a score of 571, edging out Poland's Ivan Rakitski, who shot 568 for silver. Mukesh Nelavalli, who already has four gold medals in the championship, shot 568 but settled for bronze after a countback. Other notable performances included Harsimar Singh Rattha (565), Raajvardan Singh Patil (562), and Pradyumn Singh (562), who finished seventh, eighth, and ninth respectively in the junior men's event. In the junior women's 50m rifle prone event, Melvina Joel Gladson was the best Indian finisher, placing 14th with a score of 617.5. Prachi Gaikwad (616.7), Khushi (615.1), Aadhya Agrawal (614.2), and Anoushka Thokur (611.9) finished 19th, 26th, 27th, and 35th, respectively. In the team competition, Melvina, Prachi, and Anoushka's combined score of 1846.1 secured a sixth-place finish for India in the prone event.

Bangladesh cricket team doesn't visit Gwalior mosque, holds Friday prayer at hotel

PTI ■ GWALIOR (MP)

Ahead of its T20 clash with India in Gwalior, the Bangladesh cricket squad did not visit the city's Moti Masjid on Friday and instead, offered prayers at their hotel, a police official said on Saturday.

"We had made elaborate security arrangements around Moti Masjid but the Bangladesh team did not turn up. No organisation had given any call to disrupt their visit," Gwalior Zone Inspector General Arvind Saxena told PTI over the phone.

The mosque in the city's Phoolbagh area is about 3 km from the hotel where the



visitors have been put up. Security has been stepped up in the city amid a call for a 'Gwalior bandh' on match day by right-wing outfits in protest against alleged atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government there in August.

"The decision to skip the mosque visit might have been taken at the team's management level," he said. The official confirmed that the 'Shahar Qazi' (city's top Muslim cleric) reached the hotel and led the Bangladeshi cricketers in offering 'Namaz-e-Juma' (Friday prayer) between 1 pm and 2.30 pm. The official said they had made



elaborate security arrangements outside the mosque where several mediapersons were also waiting.

The distance between the hotel and the Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium, where the Bangladesh team has been practising since October 3, is

about 23 km and the players are moving freely as per their schedule amid security cover. "Providing security to the visiting team over just 3 km was never an issue from our side," the official said. Already, over 2,500 police personnel have been deployed for Sunday's India-Bangladesh T20I in Gwalior, he said. On Sunday, cops will be on the streets from 2 pm. They will be on duty till spectators reach home after the game is over, police said.

After prohibitory orders were invoked two days ago, police are also keeping an eye on social media for inflammatory material, officials said.



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Promising archer Vaishnavi Pawar showed impressive presence of mind to help India clinch team silver in the recurve U-18 women's category at the 2024 Asian Youth Archery Championship in Chinese Taipei.

Vaishnavi took the first shot for the three-member Indian team, also comprising Pranjal Tholiya and Jannat, in every round and handled the pressure well as they piped fancied South Korea in the semifinal in a shoot-off. In the gold medal round, India found themselves in a similar situation, fighting back from a 2-4 deficit to force a shoot-off against Chinese Taipei, who ultimately prevailed.

"I am incredibly proud to represent India alongside my teammates. Beating South Korea in the semifinals was a significant milestone for us," Vaishnavi said.

"Winning silver at the Asian Youth Archery Championship is a testament to our hard work and dedication, and it inspires me to aim even higher in the future."

The Maharashtra archer finished fourth in the trials to make it to the Asian Youth Archery Championships, also she had also reached the quarterfinals in the individual category.

Indian hockey captain Harmanpreet credits HIL for personal growth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

From being named the Upcoming Player of the Tournament in the 2017 HIL to becoming one of the world's top drag-flickers, it has been a tremendous journey for Harmanpreet who highlighted how the league has helped him grow after rubbing shoulders with some of the best international players.

"Hockey India League was a huge part of my development. The league provided me with a stage to enhance my skills by exposing me to different playing styles under different coaches," Harmanpreet said in a Hockey India (HI) release. "Playing in a League, sharing a dressing room with players



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

"It will be a great opportunity for the youngsters as well to rub shoulders with the best players from across the globe,

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

franchises. The player auction for the HIL 2024-25 will be held from October 13-15 in New Delhi. Each franchise will build a 24-player squad, consisting of at least 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight international stars.

"The Hockey India League will be much bigger this time; there will also be a women's League that will run at the same time in both venues. "I am confident this experience will turn out to be invaluable for the Indian women's hockey team in their journey to be one of the best teams in the world," he said. Players will be auctioned in three categories with base prices of Rs 2 lakh, 5 lakh and 10 lakh each. "The auction is coming up soon and I would like to wish all the best to all the players taking part. As for myself, I cannot wait to see which team I will represent and begin the hockey revolution again," he signed off.

Shubhankar, Om Prakash falter at Alfred Dunhill

PTI ■ ST. ANDREWS (SCOTLAND)

The first two rounds offered a big disappointment for the Indians, as Shubhankar Sharma and Om Prakash Chouhan were placed tied 139 and 154 respectively in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship. Sharma shot even par rounds at Carnoustie and Kingsbarns but that saw him way down in tied 139th, while Chouhan was even further down with 71-75 and was at tied 154th.

Sharma still has his round to go, while Chouhan will play his third round at Carnoustie. Meanwhile, Nicolas Colsaerts relied on local knowledge as he shot a stunning 65 to share the lead with Cameron John after the second round. The Belgian kicked off his campaign with a 65 at the Old Course at St Andrews and recorded the same score at the notoriously tricky Carnoustie to reach 14 under par and put himself in position to seal a fourth DP World Tour title and his first since 2019.



Scottish pair Grant Forrest and Martin Gilbert lead the team event on 24 under par after two rounds. Colsaerts, the 2012 Ryder Cup star, who has mixed golf and commentary work this season, has been coming to this event for 20 years, and felt his experience of Carnoustie paid dividends as he shot eight birdies and a single bogey, including gains at the difficult ninth and 17th. Australia's John followed up his opening 62 at Kingsbarns with a 68 on the Old Course, grabbing a share of the lead with his brilliant birdie at the 17th.

John, who sits 1007th on the Official World Golf Ranking, sandwiched a disappointing double bogey at the fifth between birdies on the fourth and sixth before closing the front nine with a 25-foot birdie from off the ninth green. A ten-foot birdie at the tenth took him to within a shot of the lead before a close-range gain on the 12th saw him join overnight leader Darren Fichardt at the top. A series of pars followed before he holed from 22 feet at the 17th to get to 14 under and share the lead with Colsaerts. Home favourite David Law and first-round leader Fichardt were in a tie for third a shot further back, one ahead of the four-strong group on 12 under. England's Tommy Fleetwood and Tyrrell Hatton emerged as the leading pair from Kingsbarns, getting to 11 under par after rounds of 65 and 68 respectively, to sit alongside Tom Vaillant of France and Welshman James Ashfield, who is making his professional debut this week.



GET READY TO SLAY

THE COLLECTION THAT REDEFINES STYLE!

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

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

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

NEW OFFERINGS



CELEBRATE NAVRATRI WITH A SPECIAL THALI

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

DETAILS

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

CELEBRATE SAKETOWER

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

DETAILS

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



CULINARY FUSION EXPERIENCE

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

DETAILS

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



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

TAAZA KHABAR

A CONTINUED TALE OF GREED AND REDEMPTION

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

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

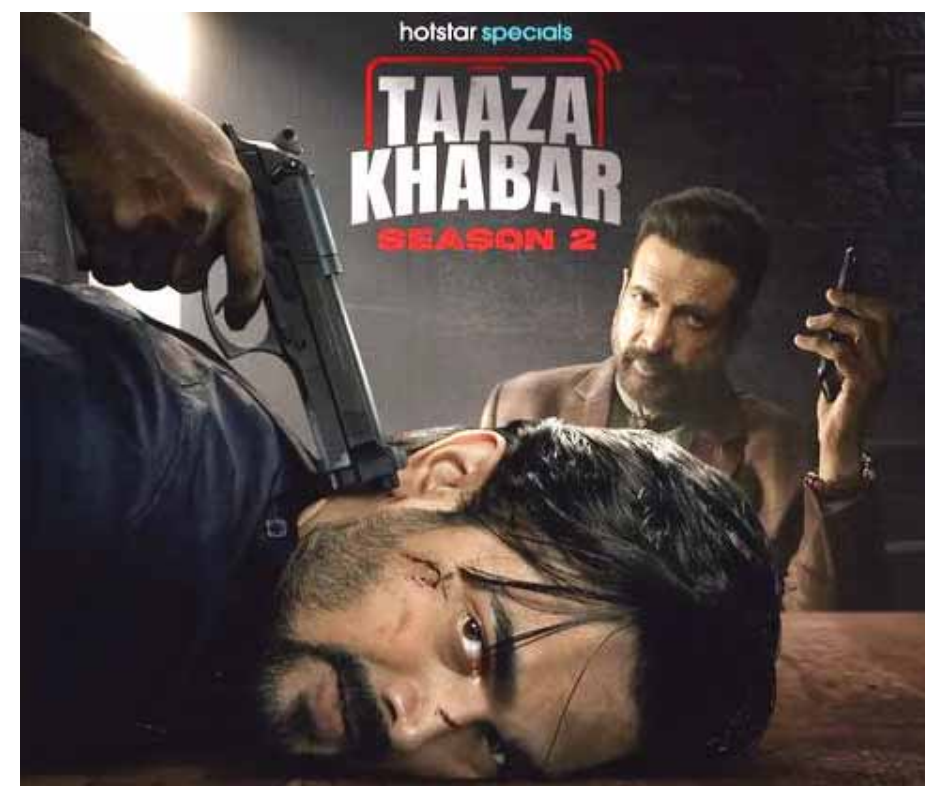
Released on *Disney Plus Hotstar*, the series offers a beautifully crafted storyline, continuing to revolve around *Vasant Gawde (Bhuvan Bam)* and his boon, *'Taaza Khabar'*. The first three episodes are gripping, portraying *Vasant's* efforts to free himself from the crushing debt on his shoulders.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

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

Javed Jaffrey, known for his comedic roles, plays the antagonist this time. His portrayal of a villain driven by malevolence, political power, and money brings intensity to the show. *Shilpa Shukla's* character *Aapa* perfectly complements *Jaffrey's* dark, twisted role. The addition of *Jaffrey's* character brings much-needed energy to the new six-episode arc.

Shriya Pilgaonkar (Madhu), *Vasant's* love interest, has fewer scenes this season, but her presence is felt at key moments. *Prathamesh Parab's* portrayal of *Raja*, *Vasant's* loyal friend, is heartwarming and crucial to the emotional core of the show.

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



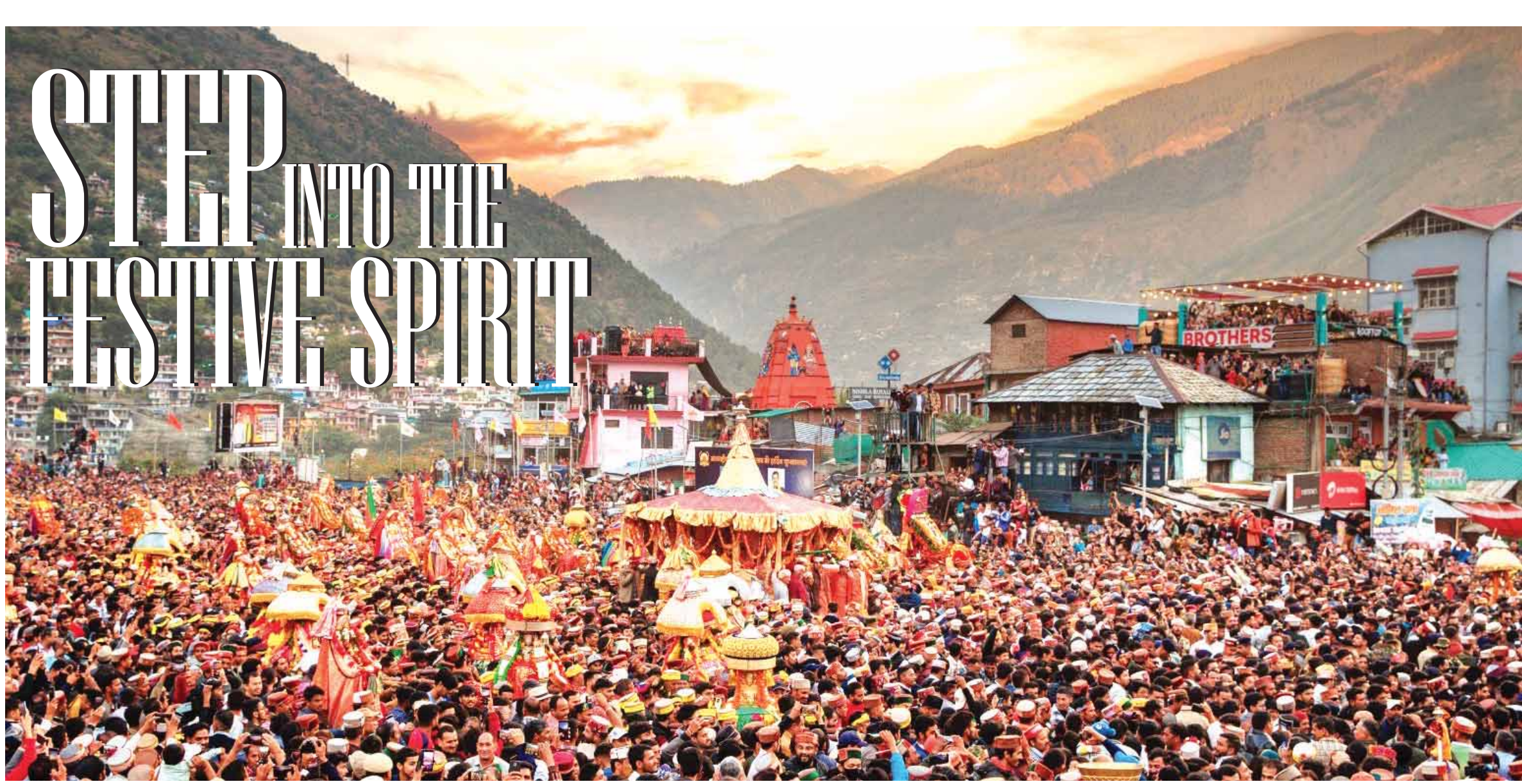
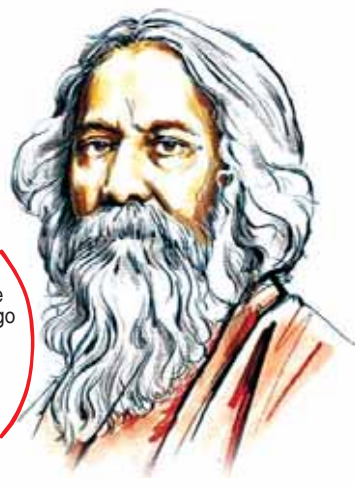
adds authenticity to the setting. However, the flashbacks intended to give depth to the characters feel dull and add very little to the overall plot. These moments do not significantly enhance our understanding of *Vasant's* mental processes or the reasons behind his choices. Despite this, the overarching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

complements the scenes, with songs like *'Kaan Hai'* by *Faridkot*, *'Rajarshi Sanyal'*, and *'IP Singh'*, and *'Hoke Majboor'* by *Mohan Kannan*, *Akshay*, and *IP Singh*, adding emotional depth. The *Baba* theme and *Kathak* theme further enhance the storytelling, giving the audience a rich auditory experience.

Overall, *'Taaza Khabar'* is a must-watch. Its engaging scenes and witty dialogues keep viewers on the edge of their seats, eager to see what happens next. While the show hints at a potential third season, an official confirmation would only add to the growing excitement among its fanbase.

'Rating: 4/5'

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



STEP INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

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



Kullu Dussehra, celebrated in the picturesque valley of Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, is a vibrant week-long festival that goes beyond just religious observance. It brings together centuries-old traditions, the unity of hundreds of local deities and the incredible artistic expression of the region. *Kullu Dussehra* has a distinctive flavour, embracing the valley's culture, history and devotion. This year, the International *Kullu Dussehra* Festival is set to take place from 13th to 19th October 2024, offering visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the vibrant festivities while also appreciating the breathtaking scenic beauty and natural wonders of this enchanting region.

The origins of *Kullu Dussehra* date back to the 17th century when *Raja Jagat Singh*, a ruler of Kullu, brought the idol of Lord Raghunath Ji to the valley. From then on, Lord Raghunath Ji became the central deity of the festival and *Kullu Dussehra* has been celebrated in His honour ever since. What sets this festival apart is its spirit of inclusion, with over 300 local deities from surrounding villages joining the celebrations. These deities, carried on beautifully decorated palanquins, are accompanied by their devotees, musicians and dancers, creating a lively and spiritual atmosphere as they converge at Dhalpur Maidan in Kullu. The festival begins on 13th October with the grand Rath Yatra, a procession where Lord Raghunath Ji is placed in a chariot and pulled through the streets by devotees. This procession marks the beginning of a week filled with devotion, music and dance. The streets come alive with the sounds of traditional instruments, the colourful sight of waving flags and the energy of people who have come from far and wide to participate in this sacred event. The Rath Yatra is not just a religious act; it's a celebration of the unity and shared faith that binds the people of Kullu together.

Kullu Dussehra is not only a spiritual gathering but also a cultural festival that showcases the rich artistic heritage of the region. Every evening, the open-air auditorium at Lal Chand Prarthi Kalakendra becomes a stage for performances by local, national and international artists. From traditional Himachali folk dances like the Nati to contemporary performances, the festival offers a diverse range of cultural experiences. This year, approximately 15 international cultural troupes will participate, bringing their unique traditions and performances to Kullu. These performances reflect the universal language of art, reminding everyone of the shared human connection through culture.

On 14th October, the Cultural Parade takes place, showcasing a vibrant display of traditional attire, music and dance from across India and the world. This parade highlights the rich diversity of cultures, where each troupe brings its own distinct flavour to the celebrations.

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



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

The sight of dancers in traditional costumes, performing to the rhythmic beats of their native instruments, creates a colourful experience that celebrates unity in diversity. The Cultural Parade embodies *Kullu Dussehra's* inclusive spirit, welcoming different cultures to come together in celebration. A highlight of *Kullu Dussehra* is the performance of Lalhri, a traditional dance native to the Kullu Valley. Passed down through generations, Lalhri is not just a dance but a form of storytelling, where each graceful movement and musical note carries the history of the region. Watching the dancers perform in their traditional attire is like stepping back in time, where the cultural legacy of Kullu comes alive through the art of movement and music. This performance encapsulates the very essence of the festival, where tradition and heritage are celebrated and preserved.

The spiritual climax of *Kullu Dussehra* takes place on 19th October with the symbolic Lanka Dahan, marking the return of nearly 300 deities, or devidevatas, to their homes. This significant day begins as the Raja approaches Lord Raghunath Ji, causing all music and dance to pause. After the Raja circumambulates the chariot, the procession moves towards Lanka by the river Beas. Here, bushes and grass are set ablaze, symbolising the burning of Lanka. The flames create a captivating spectacle, while the Lanka Dahan ceremony reinforces values of justice, morality, and goodness, highlighting the festival's importance in uniting the community.

The penultimate day features the

Muhalla ceremony, an event filled with joy, music and festivity. Villagers from across Kullu gather at Dhalpur Maidan, setting aside their daily lives to participate in this lively celebration. The deities, surrounded by flags and accompanied by traditional music, pay their respects to Lord Raghunath Ji. The Muhalla is a vibrant reflection of the community spirit that defines *Kullu Dussehra*, where unity and togetherness are celebrated in a colourful display of devotion.

Historically, *Kullu Dussehra* has also been a major commercial event. It once served as a trading hub where villagers would sell their crops, handicrafts and other goods. Traders from regions like Lahaul and Ladakh would bring products such as pashmina shawls, carpets and local herbs, creating a bustling marketplace. Today, this tradition continues with the Artisan Showcase, where award-winning artisans display their crafts, from textiles to woodwork. Visitors can purchase these handmade items, taking home a piece of Kullu's rich artistic heritage and supporting the local economy.

For those who enjoy food, *Kullu Dussehra* is a culinary journey that showcases the flavours of Himachal Pradesh. The food courts at the festival serve traditional dishes such as siddu (a type of steamed bread) and madra (a rich chickpea curry), offering a taste of the region's culinary traditions. Alongside these local delicacies,

international cuisine is also available, ensuring that visitors can enjoy a wide variety of food during the festival. The culinary experience is an integral part of *Kullu Dussehra*, reflecting the valley's agricultural richness and its connection to the land.

This year's *Kullu Dussehra* will also feature the Ambassador's Meet on 18th October, presided over by *Shri Sukhvinder Singh*, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. The event will bring together resident ambassadors from various countries, promoting cultural exchange and enriching trade ties. The Ambassador's Meet reflects *Kullu Dussehra's* growing global recognition, where tradition meets modernity on an international stage. This blend of cultural celebration and diplomatic engagement adds a new dimension to the festival, highlighting its significance beyond the local community.

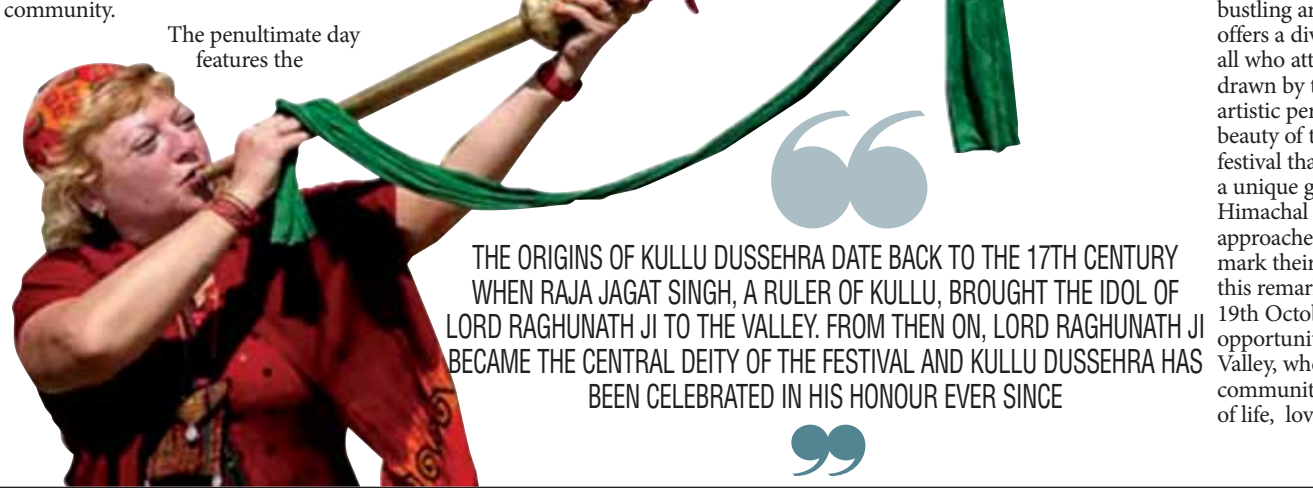
Beyond its vibrant cultural performances and religious rituals, *Kullu Dussehra* offers a diverse range of entertainment options for visitors of all ages. Families can enjoy amusement rides like toy trains and swings, while sports enthusiasts can engage in competitions such as

volleyball, kabaddi and tug-of-war. The open-air performances continue late into the night, ensuring that the festivities are alive with music, dance and laughter. As the festival progresses, visitors will also have the opportunity to explore the natural beauty of the Kullu Valley, which offers breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks, lush green valleys, and flowing rivers. Many visitors choose to explore nearby attractions such as the Great Himalayan National Park, Bijli Mahadev Temple, and the historic Hadimba Devi Temple in Manali, combining the spiritual experience of *Kullu Dussehra* with the serene beauty of Himachal Pradesh's natural landscape.

As Kullu prepares to host this grand celebration, it's essential to reflect on the significance of festivals like *Kullu Dussehra* in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. The festival not only showcases the artistic traditions of Himachal Pradesh but also serves as a reminder of the unity and community spirit that festivals inspire. It brings together people from different walks of life, whether they are locals, tourists or international dignitaries, all coming together to celebrate the rich cultural legacy of the region.

Kullu Dussehra is a festival that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime. It's not just a celebration; it's a living tradition that continues to evolve while staying deeply rooted in the values of the community. The festival's grandeur, coupled with the warm hospitality of the people of Kullu, makes it a truly unique experience. As the date approaches, excitement is building, and the town of Kullu is gearing up to welcome visitors from all over the world. It's a time of joy, devotion and celebration, an event that leaves a lasting impression on all who attend.

The International *Kullu Dussehra Festival 2024* is set to be a spectacular event that will showcase the best of Himachal's culture, art and traditions. *Kullu Dussehra 2024* promises to be a celebration unlike any other. From the grand Rath Yatra to the vibrant cultural performances, from the symbolic Lanka Dahan to the bustling artisan markets, the festival offers a diverse range of experiences for all who attend. Whether visitors are drawn by the spiritual devotion, the artistic performances or the natural beauty of the valley, *Kullu Dussehra* is a festival that speaks to the heart, offering a unique glimpse into the soul of Himachal Pradesh. As the festival approaches, everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars and experience this remarkable celebration from 13th to 19th October 2024. It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy the magic of Kullu Valley, where tradition, culture and community come together in a festival of life, love and joy!



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

A TASTE OF THE NEW

EXCITING RESTAURANTS SHAPING NCR'S FOOD SCENE

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



PAWAN SONI
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

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

LITCHI BISTRO

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

AVARTANA AT ITC MAURYA

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

689, GURGAON

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



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

TEPPANYAKI AT EEST, WESTIN GURGAON

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

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

ROOM XO, AIPL JOY CENTRAL, GURGAON

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

THANKS AND BEYOND, NEHRU PLACE, DELHI

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

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

PIRATES OF GRILL GRANDE, CYBERHUB, GURGAON

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

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

FROM KOLKATA TO DELHI: THE TASTE OF TWO CITIES

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



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

CHEF GAUTAM KUMAR'S RECIPE FOR GOBINDOBHOG GURER PAYESH

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

GOBINDOBHOG GURER PAYESH

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

INGREDIENTS

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

METHOD

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



RECIPE FOR NARKEL NI CHINGRI

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

NARKEL NI CHINGRI RECIPE

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

INGREDIENTS

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

INSTRUCTIONS

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



Navratri: The essence of Satvik food

BY TEAM VIVA

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

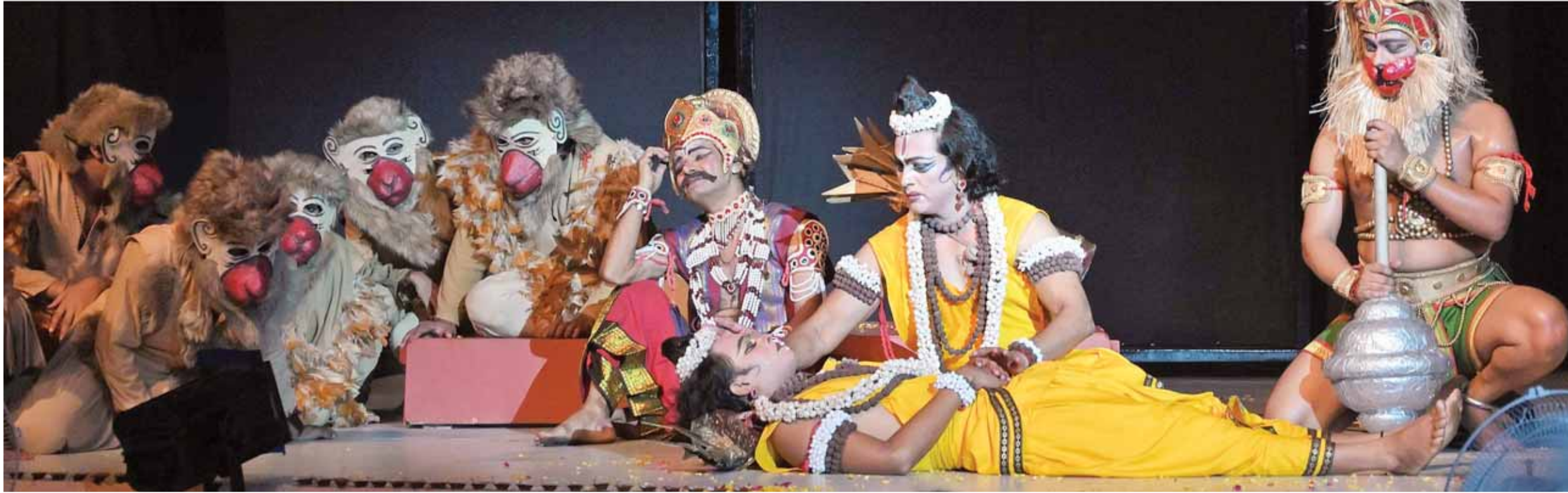
- **'Kuttu ki Puri' (Buckwheat Flour Puri)** - A deep-fried, gluten-free flatbread made from buckwheat flour, which is one of the staples during Navratri.
- **'Sabudana tikki'** - A light and flavorful dish made with soaked tapioca pearls, peanuts, and mild spices like cumin, offering a fulfilling yet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



vegetables to offer a flavorful alternative to regular rice.

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

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



CELEBRATING NAVRATRI

A SPECTACULAR DANCE-DRAMA EXPERIENCE

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

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

A GRAND STAGE AND CAPTIVATING ATMOSPHERE

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

A DIVINE BEGINNING

The story begins with the birth of Lord Ram and his brothers, as the people of Ayodhya rejoice in the arrival of their beloved prince. The joy on stage is visible, reflecting the warmth and happiness of the occasion. The scenes that follow take the audience on a journey through Ram's life, from his education in scriptures and warfare to his marriage with Sita, highlighting the trials he faces along the way. What makes this story captivating is not just Ram's destiny as a divine figure but his humanity. From a young age, Ram exemplifies virtues of humility, patience and wisdom, shaping his actions throughout his life. This sense of divine purpose, combined with Ram's ability to empathise with ordinary people, makes his character relatable and inspiring to devotees during Navratri. As "Shri Ram" beautifully portrays, Ram's early years symbolise the joys of life and the weight of



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



Photo: Pankaj Kumar



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

THE JOURNEY OF LORD RAM AND HIS BROTHERS

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

THE RISE OF CONFLICT

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

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

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

THE BATTLE OF GOOD AND EVIL

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

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF "SHRI RAM"

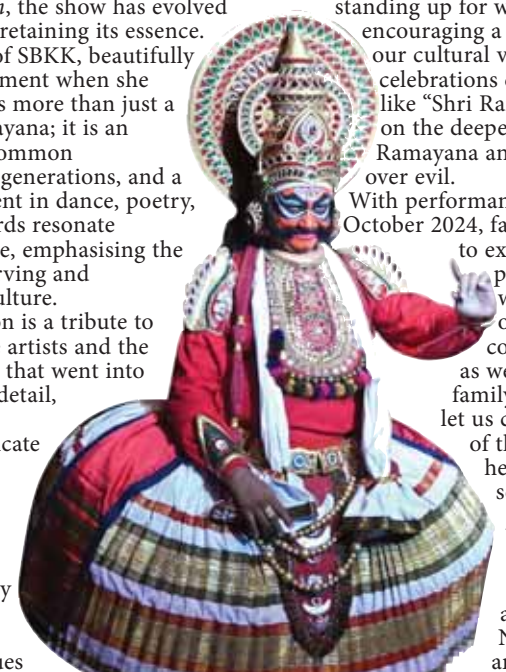
Under the artistic direction of Padmashri *Shobha Deepak Singh*, the show has evolved over the years while retaining its essence. *Singh*, Chairperson of SBKK, beautifully articulated this sentiment when she stated, "Shri Ram" is more than just a retelling of the Ramayana; it is an educational tool,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



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

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

The performance of "Shri Ram" is not just an artistic display; it is a celebration of culture and community. The universal messages of love, sacrifice, and the struggle against adversity resonate deeply, reminding everyone of the cherished values in our lives. The lighting is masterfully used to reflect shifts in tone, from the warmth and joy of Ram and Sita's union to the ominous darkness of Ravana's plans. As the scenes transition, the stage transforms fluidly, drawing the audience deeper into the narrative. The costumes are a visual feast - rich, vibrant and steeped in historical authenticity. Each character, from Ram and Sita in their royal attire to Hanuman and his monkey warriors, is dressed to reflect their roles and the cultural and mythological significance of their actions. The grandness of the set and costumes adds a layer of magic to the story, allowing the audience to fully immerse themselves in the spectacle. Embracing the Spirit of Navratri The festival of Navratri is a time for reflection, devotion and celebration, beautifully captured in the performance of "Shri Ram." This production highlights the strength of unity and the importance of standing up for what is right while encouraging a shared understanding of our cultural values. As the Navratri celebrations continue, performances like "Shri Ram" inspire us to reflect on the deeper meanings of the Ramayana and the victory of good over evil. With performances scheduled until 26 October 2024, families have the chance to experience this iconic production together, witnessing the brilliance of Indian art and culture come to life on stage. So, as we gather with friends and family to celebrate Navratri, let us carry forward the lessons of the Ramayana in our hearts. May this festive season fill our lives with joy, love, and an unwavering commitment to righteousness. Wishing all readers a blessed Navratri filled with love and light!





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
This week begins with an international touch, whether it's receiving uplifting news from afar or having a family member travel overseas. Expect a flurry of activity, suggesting potential overseas travel for work. Stay prepared for swift movements and transitions. In legal domains, anticipate favourable outcomes that might require decisive action on your part. Health-wise, if you've been under the weather, you'll find yourself mending and returning to your usual activities. As the week concludes, joy emerges from family matters, particularly involving your children who may excel academically or bring surprising news of a potential marriage, leading to joyful wedding preparations. For those already wed, expect deepening bonds and enhanced stability in your relationship.
Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
If you're feeling the need to escape the everyday turmoil and start anew, consider reflecting on your past experiences and future aspirations. Gaining mental clarity is essential for a smoother transition, helping you shift from chaos to calm and positivity. Making conscious decisions is crucial because once actions are taken, they can't be reversed. The principle of reaping what you sow always holds true, emphasizing the importance of your choices. This week, some may find themselves connecting deeply with a special someone, experiencing a profound synergy reminiscent of two luminaries that, although bright on their own, radiate even more brilliantly together. This connection can bring significant joy and fulfillment, enhancing the journey ahead.
Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday



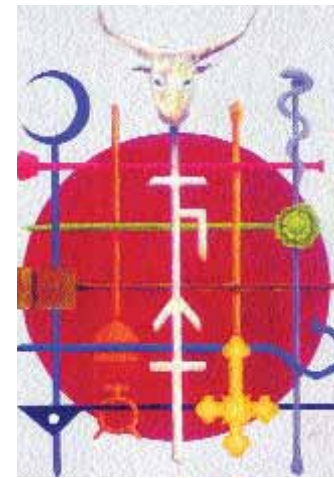
SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
This week promises a series of significant shifts, especially in your professional life. You may find yourself navigating through a rapid succession of events that could reshape your career landscape favorably. However, if you've been riding a high wave recently, stay vigilant as challenges loom on the horizon. Be cautious of deceptive individuals who might be scheming behind your back, potentially leading to a loss of what you've diligently worked for, which could be quite distressing. As the week closes, your bold and dynamic nature will come to the forefront. You'll find yourself invigorated, and ready to tackle any challenge without hesitation. Your ability to make quick, effective decisions will enhance, driven by a proactive and energetic approach to life.
Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Fuchsia
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
This week calls for patience and minimal social interactions. Embracing practices like yoga and meditation could greatly enhance your sense of peace. Reflecting on the recent challenges in both your professional and personal life, it's crucial not to let these setbacks cloud the current period. An optimistic outlook reveals promising opportunities for financial growth. Engaging in new business ventures could prove lucrative. Your natural intuition might become a useful tool in navigating straightforward scenarios, leveraging your fair and analytical disposition to transition from negativity to positivity smoothly. This approach will not only clear your mind but also deepen your understanding of financial and emotional matters, guiding you towards a more enlightened state.
Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
The week begins with notable challenges. Recent endeavors have piled on numerous obligations, making you feel overwhelmed and stuck in your current circumstances. This sense of confinement may make you hesitant to make bold moves. Additionally, there may be individuals who seem opposed to your success, adding to the strain. However, amidst these trials, remember that you possess an inherent strength capable of overcoming these hurdles. Drawing on this positive energy will be crucial as you navigate through the week. By week's end, a calming presence will replace the earlier turmoil, allowing you to distance yourself from worldly concerns. Supported by your loved ones, you'll find yourself relaxing into a state of profound contentment and joy, reinvigorated by the peace that envelops you.
Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week, you have every reason to celebrate your achievements. A stable financial foundation brings you both security and comfort. For many, these rewards stem from diligent effort and personal commitment. Your aspirations for prosperity are now coming to fruition. Take a moment to reflect on your riches, both tangible and spiritual. The recognition of your hard work may manifest as advancements or salary increases, boosting your self-assurance. You stand as a dependable beacon for those around you, drawing everyone's focus. Your balanced perspective allows you to view situations uniquely. As the week closes, you'll find yourself deeply engaged in reflective practices, seeking to understand the depth of your own insight.
Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
This week, your innate kindness, generosity, honesty, and tranquility shine through. Some individuals may embark on a budding relationship brimming with promise that could blossom into profound joy and love. This period marks a significant phase where your deepest aspirations might begin to materialize, guided by a strong internal intuition. Professionally, your tenacity, swift responses, and unwavering commitment to your objectives help you navigate challenges effortlessly. Your hard work is likely to gain recognition and commendation from your peers, affirming your efforts. This is a time to relish the rewards of previous challenges that have now been surmounted. As the week wraps up, expect to find yourself in festive spirits, celebrating recent successes with a significant gathering or a festive event.
Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week, be wary as envy surrounds your accomplishments, and others may attempt to tarnish your reputation. There's a possibility of encountering obstacles that could disrupt your plans dramatically. Additionally, there's a risk that your own talents could be misdirected to work against you. Remember, the primary challenge comes from within. You might face disputes and resistance at work, where your proposals could be rigorously questioned by doubters. It's crucial to maintain your composure and seek amicable resolutions when possible, while steadfastly pursuing your goals. As the week closes, you might find yourself drawn to familiar places. A trip back to places filled with memories and reuniting with loved ones could rejuvenate your spirits and restore a positive outlook.
Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
This week, a significant emotional journey begins, characterized by an evolving intensity of feelings, culminating in a period of significant personal insight and potential fulfillment of deep-seated desires. As the days progress, you may find yourself grappling with a challenging home situation, feeling weighed down by nostalgia or a sense of loss. However, as the week draws to a close, there is a noticeable shift towards a more uplifting scenario where you may discover newfound peace and happiness. In resolving life's challenges, a change of scenery could be on the horizon, whether through a strategic move or a professional relocation. Significant figures in your professional life are likely to influence these transitions, marking a pivotal moment in your journey.
Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22
This week marks a phase of deep satisfaction as a long-held dream comes to fruition. You find yourself in a joyful union or embarking on a career path that fills you with pride. Riding a wave of bliss, you feel the support of a higher power enriching your journey. Recognition for your perseverance and tenacity inspires others, while guidance from a mentor proves to be incredibly beneficial. Your commitment to a balanced and harmonious approach to life strengthens. As the week closes, your interactions are characterized by fairness and responsibility. You secure a role that promises emotional and financial rewards, brightening your prospects for the future. Your outlook is optimistic as you navigate forward, ready to embrace new opportunities with open arms.
Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
At the start of the week, some individuals might find themselves overwhelmed by their emotions. Minor issues, whether related to personal health or family matters, could cause tension. This period encourages introspection and expressing oneself through writing. As the week progresses, a shift occurs, bringing a surge of enthusiasm and energy. This phase is characterized by a strong sense of leadership and commitment to responsibilities, possibly coinciding with new responsibilities or projects. The latter part of the week signals a significant period of change, marking the arrival of new professional opportunities. These changes are poised to positively influence one's future, setting the stage for lasting improvements in personal and professional life.
Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
Throughout this week, individuals prone to deep empathy are especially attuned to the needs of others. They naturally excel in nurturing roles, offering their support and guidance generously. Their compassion extends widely, ensuring that those who seek their help find solace and assistance. Known for their capability to address and manage the challenges faced by others, they blend resilience with a profound capacity to care. Not only are they mentally and physically robust, but they also possess an indomitable spirit characterized by bravery and endurance. Their unique approach to action is guided by a clear, unaffected rationale. This week, many will find themselves impressed by these intrinsic traits, strengthening bonds and forming meaningful connections with those dear to them.
Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Thursday

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Is boredom a blessing or a curse?

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

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Spiritual Guru

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

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

allow you to be centred and steady in one place. So your mind aimlessly keeps jumping from one place to another. Because you get bored of everything, you can't enjoy anything. There are two different paths that boredom leads you to. Boredom is a blessing when it leads you to wisdom. Boredom is a curse when it leads you to frustration and depression. Because you are bored, you can't enjoy it, and when you can't enjoy it you get depressed and frustrated. Or, because you are bored you wake up and begin with a quest.
When life feels dull, there's this magical moment where everything becomes lively. You can repeat the same thing over and over, and it won't bother you. It's like finding a spring of life. Just let go of the past, be like a carefree child, and every moment becomes priceless.
You move ahead and you look into the Self which is fresh all the



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

And it is a curse because it doesn't let you stabilise. People who are in love don't get bored. The heart knows no boredom. The head knows boredom.
In life both are essential, the heart and the head. If you are only

in the heart, it is no good. And if you are only stuck in the head, that is also no good. Balancing both is Yoga. Spirituality is balancing the heart and head together. Anyone who feels that they are a failure, just wake up! So what?! Life is eternal.
Meditation acts like a bridge connecting your head and heart. Take a few moments to sit down, be open to boredom, and you'll effortlessly move into a deep meditative state. Otherwise, that boredom might just lead you to sleep. It's a choice — either you sleep, become more sluggish, or you seize the opportunity of boredom to delve into a deep meditation.
There are 365 days in a year and there are so many years in your life. If for one or two days you feel you are wasted, life is a failure, it's okay, never mind!
On a full moon, if it is cloudy and the light cannot shine on the Earth, the moon does not get

upset. If on one full moon night, you cannot see the moon rising, so what? The moon is still there. Like that, inside you there is potential, there is divinity which is so complete. If it has not come to the surface in one day, never mind! You have all the great qualities. If some do not exhibit on a particular day, never mind.
Don't blame yourself, don't analyze yourself too much. We start analysing ourselves too much; to the extent that we feel upset and down. We are so hard on ourselves. I am saying this to those who feel bad about themselves. NEVER MIND, WAKE UP! Never mind if these many years are wasted. The future is bright and there is still so much for you to do. All regrets happen only when you are looking at the past. If you are walking and your head is turned backwards, then that is called regret. Turn your head and look forward, and you will see the future is always bright.