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Israel, Iran in mortal combat



PTI/AP ■ JERUSALEM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

assurances were not set in stone. Israel signalled that the pre-dawn bombardment was the end of this attack. "The retaliatory strike has been completed, and its objectives have been achieved," Hagari said early Saturday, still the Sabbath in Israel.

Not long after, Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation said commercial flights would resume after being halted because of the airstrikes. The Israeli attacks aimed to deter future aggression and "show we won't be silent," but to do so in a way that would minimise the embarrassment for Iran, said Yoel Guzansky, a researcher at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies.

The White House indicated that it wants the strikes to end the direct exchanges of fire between Israel and Iran, and warned Iran against responding. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said there was a "need to avoid further regional escalation" and called on all sides to show restraint.

Take down threat posts: MeitY

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

Over 250 flights were affected by over 250 hoax bomb threats, mostly through social media, in the last 10 days, bringing turbulence to India's domestic aviation industry. Even hotels, schools, hotels and other establishments have also received similar warnings. In its advisory, the IT Ministry also stated that all social media platforms will have to provide information on the matter to law enforcement agencies within 72 hours.

West Delhi man arrested for hoax bomb call

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

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

US sends illegal visitors back home

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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



RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Substandard helmets must be trashed



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



NC feeling the heat of 'dual control'

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

ED detects irregularities in concert ticket sales

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has detected irregularities after it conducted raids in a money laundering case to probe "black marketing" of tickets of popular music concerts by British rock band Coldplay and actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh. The agency filed case for money laundering after conducting searches on Friday at 13 locations in five states -- Delhi, Maharashtra (Mumbai), Rajasthan (Jaipur), Karnataka (Bengaluru) and Punjab (Chandigarh) - after the federal investigation agency filed a criminal case under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

While the 'Dil-Luminati' concert by Dosanjh is scheduled to be held over the weekend on October 26-27 at the Jawaharal Nehru (JLN) stadium in the national capital, the Coldplay event 'Music of the Spheres World Tour' is slated for January 2025 at Navi Mumbai. The ED said in a statement that it initiated an investigation after numerous reports emerged that



FILE PHOTO

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

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

has revealed information regarding multiple individuals known for providing such tickets, including fake tickets through social media using Instagram, WhatsApp and Telegram," the agency said.

The ED said several "incriminating" materials in the form of mobile phones, laptops, SIM cards, etc. Used in the ticket sales "scam" were seized during the raids. The searches were aimed at investigating the illegal sales of tickets, financial networks supporting these scams, and tracing the proceeds of crime generated from such illegal activities, it said.

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



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

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

BY ABHI SINGHAL

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo: Abhi Singhal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



State aiming to provide better health facilities at Char Dham: Rawat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State government is aiming to provide better health facilities to the local residents and pilgrims at the Char Dham. A day after checking health facilities in Yamunotri Dham, Health and Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat said this while visiting Gangotri Dham and Harshil where he checked the medical health facilities on Saturday. The minister also checked the medical health unit and government schools in Harshil. Rawat also sought the feedback of local residents, pilgrims and hoteliers on the health facilities in the area.

The minister made surprise visits to the primary health centre at Harshil and the government allopathic hospital in Gangotri where he sought information from the medical staff about the health services available. He directed the departmental officials to ensure medical equipment and adequate quantity of life saving drugs at the health centres.



During his visit, he also interacted with patients, their attendants and pilgrims at Harshil to ask about their condition and the state of the health facilities. Stating that the government is aiming to provide better medical health facilities for pilgrims and local residents at the Char Dham, he directed that there should not be any negligence by the officials. Visiting the government primary school and government inter college at Harshil, the minister interacted with the students while

also directing the teachers to ensure a positive academic atmosphere to facilitate quality education to the students. Rawat also visited Barsu village in the Bhatwadi block where he sought the feedback of the villagers on the education and health facilities in the area. He issued instructions on the spot to the officials to take measures for resolving the issues being faced by the locals. He also agreed to the demand of the locals for opening a wellness centre in the area.

Health Dept holds awareness rally on breast cancer

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Health department organised an awareness rally on Saturday as part of the breast cancer awareness campaign under the National Health Mission. The rally began at Gandhi Park and concluded at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC). ASHA workers from the urban area participated in the event.

Participants raised awareness on the symptoms and prevention of breast cancer in women. Experts highlighted several key symptoms, including the formation of a lump in or around the breast, changes in size and shape, severe pain and infection. Additionally, a painless lump present for an extended period, as well as unusual discharge or bleeding from the breast, were also identified as



signs of breast cancer.

The ASHA workers also informed the public about preventive measures like exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy weight, practicing Yoga and per-

forming self-exams for lumps or unusual discharge. It was further stressed that medical examination at Ayushman Arogya Mandir or any hospital should be sought if symptoms arise.

Students protest, burn minister's effigy seeking student union polls

PNS ■ DEHRADUN



College students in Dehradun rallied in protest towards the Clock Tower and burnt the Higher Education minister in effigy to protest against the failure of the authorities to hold student union elections in the government universities and colleges this year. The former president of the student union at DAV PG College, Siddharth Aggarwal, alleged that the State government is reluctant to hold the student union polls. Venting the frustration, the protesting students also burnt an effigy of the minister. Aggarwal warned that the students will intensify their protest if the government does not take action on this issue. The former general secretary of DAV College Sumit Kumar pointed out that the Ministry of Higher Education had earlier released the academic calendar for the session but failed to implement it effectively. He opined that the democratic rights of students have been suppressed through conspiracy. The student leaders have issued a warning to the government that if the student union elections are not conducted soon, they will be compelled to launch a vigorous protest, for which the government administration will bear full responsibility. Meanwhile,

considerable traffic congestion was caused on the busy roads merging at the Clock Tower due to the protest rally of the students.

IN BRIEF

Longview Public School celebrates Annual Day

NAINITAL: The 22nd Annual Day was celebrated at Longview Public School during which social messages were given by the students of the school through various colourful programmes which included recitation of English poetry, dance, school band performance and presentation of



Yoga. The deputy CEO BrahMos Aerospace, Sanjeev Kumar Joshi was the chief guest. At the end of the programme, meritorious students were felicitated. On this occasion, All Rounder Award, Most Popular Award and Most Regular Award along with various trophies were given to different houses. Wishing the students a bright future, Kumar explained to them the importance of student life and urged them to respect the unity in diversity of Indian culture. The school's principal Bhuvan Chandra Tripathi also spoke on the occasion. The school patron Sunita Tripathi was among the dignitaries present.

All Saints Day observed at All Saints' College

NAINITAL: Like every year, All Saints' College organised All Saints Day-a prayer meeting in the memory of those saints who were martyred in the past for eradicating evil from the world.



During the event, the principal of the institute Kiran Jeremiah read the Gospel of Matthew and the words of Lord Jesus from the Bible and the pastor John George spoke about learning from the lives of saints. All Saints Day is celebrated on November 1 at the school, but this day being a holiday on account of Deepawali, the commemorative day was celebrated a week earlier. Several dignitaries aside from the teachers and students were present during the prayer meeting.

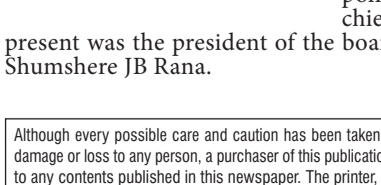
Carman School hosts junior & middle school sports day

DEHRADUN: Carman Residential and Day School celebrated its junior and middle school sports day here on Saturday with the theme of the event being different tribes of India. Each house of the institute performed drills according to the tribe chosen by them. Emmanuel House won the drill competition. Mediaperson Indrani Pandhi felicitated the winners of various races. The function was attended among others by the director of Carman School, GIG Mann and the principal S Mann.



Cambrian Hall celebrates Annual Day

DEHRADUN: The 58th Annual Speech & Prize Day was organised at Cambrian Hall here on Saturday with participation of students and faculty. A variety of entertainment programmes was held on the occasion, including play, Western dance, classical dance and Sufi songs. The former director general of police Alok B Lal was the chief guest. Among those present was the president of the board of trustees Krishna Shumshere JB Rana.



2-day Cochrane India Conclave begins at AIIMS Rishikesh

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The third Cochrane India Conclave began at AIIMS Rishikesh on Saturday with learning of protocols from evidence synthesis to evidence creation, dissemination and extension. Organised to promote value-based healthcare services, medical experts and researchers from national and international level are participating in various workshops

In her address, Singh dwelt on topics such as developing protocols for meta-analysis, assessing the quality and risk of bias of studies, interpreting meta-analytic models and critically evaluating the accuracy of diagnostic tests. The AIIMS Rishikesh dean of academics Dr Jaya Chaturvedi described the workshop as helpful in better understanding the



and brainstorming on strengthening the medical system in the conclave.

Taking forward the agenda of evidence-based healthcare in India, the first day of the conclave saw medical experts deliberate on the need to scale up public health initiatives and improve healthcare outcomes across the country. The event was jointly inaugurated by the co-chair of the Cochrane India conclave and executive director of AIIMS Rishikesh Dr Meenu Singh and the co-chair of the Cochrane India Network Dr Anju Sinha.

healthcare scenario. The participants would also be provided with tools to evaluate information and evidence, making it easier for them to take decisions in health and treatment. The organising secretary of the programme and senior librarian of the institute Sandeep Kumar Singh said that with new experts working in the field of research facing various challenges, this workshop would give the researchers the opportunity to prepare research questions, do an in-depth search of literature and assess the quality of data.

Female tenant and landlord arrested for dealing in smack

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Special Task Force's (STF) Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) arrested two women Preeti Suri (45) and Anita (52) from Nehru Colony area in Dehradun with 158 grammes of smack worth about Rs 50 lakh. During its operation, the STF also conducted a joint search of Anita's home along with the team of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and recovered Rs 4.57 lakh in cash, believed to be profits from local drug sales.



The senior superintendent of police of STF Navneet Singh said that Suri was arrested in front of Prasar Bharati Doordarshan Bhawan late on Thursday with 158 grammes of smack. She told the STF that she lives in the Deepnagar area and had bought the contraband from Bilaspur and Rampur in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. She claimed that her landlady Anita in Deepnagar works as a local smack seller and she sends her to various places like in UP to get smack, in return for which she does not have to pay house rent. The SSP said that NCB team was called to question Suri after which, the team also conducted a joint search of her landlady's house where they recovered Rs 5.57 lakh cash. When she was

questioned about the recovered money, she said that she supplies the smack by packing it in small packets locally and the amount recovered from her was earned by selling smack. Singh said that the investigation is ongoing and further action will be taken in the matter accordingly. He also appealed to the public to contact STF at 0135-2656202 or 9412029536 if they find anybody involved in drug smuggling across the State.

Pre-Deepawali traffic snarls worry commuters in Doon, proper implementation of traffic plan sought

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With the start of the festive season resulting in increased traffic, there has been an increase in traffic congestion in Dehradun city, particularly in prominent markets like Paltan Bazaar, Hanuman Chowk, Raja Road and other connected areas. Traffic congestion was also witnessed on various roads and at major markets in Dehradun on Saturday. Many commuters have expressed their concerns regarding the inadequate traffic management in and near the markets. Officials should develop a comprehensive traffic plan before the festival season and ensure its proper implementation, the commuters stated.

cles, posing a challenge for shoppers, commuters and local residents in navigating the traffic and conducting their business.

A commuter, Virat Narang said that he owns a small shop in the IT Park area, where he always sets up lights, gifts and other items for sale during the Deepawali period. Narang noted that navigating the market to make his purchases while driving has become challenging, as he recently found himself stuck in traffic on Raja Road for half an hour just to reach Hanuman Chowk, a journey that typically takes only a few minutes on normal days. He further emphasised that each year, officials prepare a traffic plan for Deepawali days, yet there has been no effective implementation of the plan during the period. He expressed disappointment in the authorities' approach to traffic management during festive season, stressing the need for a timely and effective action plan to alleviate congestion

this year. Speaking about the traffic situation, owner of a shop selling dry fruits at Hanuman Chowk, Ajay Uniyal said that during festive periods, the market sees a significant increase in vehicular congestion during the mornings. He observed that traffic outside his shop remains heavy throughout the day, which not only hinders business operations but also makes it challenging for pedestrians to shop comfortably. Rather than simply addressing traffic management as a formality, he suggested that officials should effectively implement regulations, including restricting the movement of four-wheelers in key areas like the market and its surroundings during festivals. Many local residents shared similar concerns regarding traffic congestion and urged authorities to take effective actions to address the issue rather than treating it as a routine task.

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल) NIT (Notice Inviting Tender) Electrical work Category-III (upto 2 Cr) for the following work-

कार्यालय नगरपालिका परिषद विकासनगर देहरादून

पत्रांक 668/निविदा/2024-25 निविदा सूचना दिनांक 26 अक्टूबर, 2024

नगर पालिका परिषद विकासनगर (देहरादून) द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 हेतु पंचम राज्य वित्त आयोग के अन्तर्गत प्राप्त होने वाली धनराशि के सापेक्ष उत्तराखण्ड अधिप्राप्ति नियमावली-2017 में दिये गये प्राविधानों के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य के सम्पादन हेतु पालिका के पंजीकृत/नवीनीकृत ठेकेदार/फर्म से दिनांक 13.11.2024 को समय 01:00 बजे दोपहर तक सीलबन्द निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन सांय 03 बजे निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्रों की बिक्री दिनांक 11.11.2024 की सांय 05:00 बजे तक पालिका कार्यालय से क्रय किये जा सकते हैं, निविदा के साथ धरोहर धनराशि की एक-डॉ-आर०/सी-डॉ-आर०/एन-एस-सी० या अन्य साक्षी जमा संबन्धी दस्तावेज अधिशासी अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद विकासनगर के पदनाम से बंधक कर प्रस्तुत करेंगे। किसी एक या समस्त निविदाओं को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को होगा। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें/नियम एवं जानकारी किसी भी कार्यालय दिवस में प्राप्त अथवा तथा निविदा की शर्तें नगर पालिका परिषद विकासनगर की वेबसाइट https://nagarपालिकाविकासनगर.in से पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

Table with columns: क्र० सं०, कार्य का नाम, धनराशि (लाख में), धरोहर राशि, निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत, निविदा की वैधता, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि, ठेकेदार की श्रेणी



Markets reopen in Uttarkashi, Hindu body officials arrested for violating prohibitory orders

PNS ■ UTTARKASHI

The markets reopened in Uttarkashi with the situation returning closer to normalcy on Saturday. The police also arrested three members of a Hindu organisation for violating prohibitory orders put in place after the protest against a controversial religious structure in the city on Thursday turned violent. The district administration had imposed section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) after the protest on Thursday resulted in injuries to dozens of persons including some police personnel following a lathi charge and stone pelting.



The markets reopened on Saturday with police presence on various intersections in the city. The reopening of the markets brought relief to the locals and businessmen alike considering the rise in shopping ahead of Deepawali. Meanwhile, three office bearers of the Sanyukt Sanatan Dharm Rakshak Sangathan were arrested by the police for trying to hold a meeting

and a Press conference at the Kali Kamali Dharmshala in violation of the prohibitory orders. Those arrested include Jitendra Singh, Sonu Negi and Suraj Dabral. They were arrested for violation of section 163 and in the case lodged earlier following the protest rally. Members of the organisation have alleged that while their office bearers were arrested, the authorities have not acted against many of those involved in the

stone pelting during the protest rally. The district administration has stressed that action is being taken without any bias and that all necessary steps are being taken to maintain the law and order. The police have stated that those who had indulged in stone pelting are being identified and that they will be arrested soon. The authorities have appealed to the public to maintain peace and not to

believe in rumours. The administration has made necessary security arrangements to maintain law and order. With section 163 in place, an effort is being made to maintain control over the situation with the cooperation of the public. The local residents and members of the business fraternity are hopeful that complete normalcy will soon return to Uttarkashi.

Strong advocacy of cases related to State needed in SC and HC: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has said that the department of Legal Affairs should ensure that all the cases related to various subjects of the State are strongly taken up in the Supreme Court and High Court. The CM held a review meeting of the department at the secretariat on Saturday. He said that Uttarakhand is a young State and for its overall development, all must move forward with a new work culture.

The CM said that digital mediums should be used to the maximum to expedite proceedings in court cases. He said that it should be ensured that advocacy is done strongly on various issues related to the State in the courts. The CM said that for better advocacy on various issues related to the public interest of the State, there is a need for regular coordination between the government and government advocates. He also stressed on performance based approach for successful implementation of the works



The CM's advice to the department is being viewed as his displeasure on its functioning. Recently the Special Leave Petition (SLP) of the State government on the Uttarakhand High Court order on the contractual workers of UPNL was rejected by the Supreme Court. The government is now planning to file a review petition in the SC on the issue.

In the meeting with the officers of the department of Legal Affairs, the CM said that everyone has to work and contribute as a co-traveler in the development journey of the State. It is important for everyone to discharge their duties and responsibilities with full dedication. Dhama said that innovation is necessary in work culture, moving away from tradition and emphasised that more attention should

be paid on innovative experiments. Deputy chairperson of the State Infrastructure Monitoring Council, Vishwas Dawar, advocate general SN Babulkar, principal secretary (Legal Affairs) Pradeep Pant, principal secretary RK Sudhanshu, State counsels Amit Bhatt, GS Rawat, secretaries Shailesh Bagauli, SN Pandey and others also attended the meeting.

Cong coordination committee prepares strategy for Kedarnath bypoll

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A meeting of the coordination committee of the Uttarakhand Congress was organised at the Rajiv Bhawan on Saturday. Discussion on the party's strategy for the upcoming Kedarnath Assembly bypoll and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) elections was held in the meeting.

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara said that the party will contest the Kedarnath Assembly by-

poll in a united manner. He said that the duties to the senior leaders will be assigned in Kedarnath and the party will raise both local and basic issues of the people of the State in the by-election. Mahara said that the Congress party is fully prepared for the Kedarnath bypoll and it has appointed Mandal, Block and Nagar-in-charges in the constituency.

The co-in-charge of State Congress, Surendra Sharma said that the Congress party

will give a fitting reply to the propaganda of the BJP in the bypoll. He said that the Congress will restore the tradition and honour of Kedarnath temple.

The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in State Assembly Yashpal Arya said the BJP works only to fulfill its vested interests and is not concerned about the public issues.

Former PCC president Ganesh Godiyal said that like it did in Champawat, Manglaur and Badrinath by-elections, BJP wants to create an atmosphere of anarchy in Kedarnath constituency as well. The deputy leader of Congress legislature party (CLP) Bhuvan Kapdi, former cabinet ministers Harak Singh Rawat, Navprabhat, MLAs Mamta Rakesh and Vikram Singh Negi, Hira Singh Bisht and others attended the meeting of the coordination committee.

BJP to hold State-level workshop on organisational polls today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party will hold a State-level workshop on Sunday in view of its organisational election. Information will be shared regarding the future outline related to the party's election programme in the workshop. The party has appointed district election officers and co-officers to lend pace to the campaign.



The party's State media in-charge Manveer Singh Chauhan informed that with the agreement of the party's State president Mahendra Bhatt, the BJP State election officer Khajan Das has appointed district election officers and co-officers in all the organisational districts. Deepti Rawat has been

appointed the district election officer in Uttarkashi, Sampawat Rawat in Chamoli, Mukesh Koli in Rudrapur, Aditya Chauhan in Tehri, Sushil Chauhan in Dehradun Rural, Neeru Devi in Dehradun Mahanagar, Jaipal Chauhan in Rishikesh, Dr Kalpana Saini in Haridwar, Shaileendra Bisht in Roorkee, Vinod Raturi in Pauri, Anil Goel in Kotdwara, Govind Palkhal in Pithoragarh, Meena Gangola in Bageshwar, Vikash Sharma in

Singh Nagar. Chauhan further informed that the State-level workshop on organisational election will be held at a hotel on Subhash Road on Sunday. MPs, national office bearers of party cells, working committee members, State office bearers, members of the State organisation election committee, State heads and general secretaries of various cells, district heads and co-heads and other office bearers will participate in the workshop.

Temperatures remain above normal coupled with considerable diurnal variation

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Even as the maximum and minimum temperatures continued to remain a few notches above normal in various parts of the State, the diurnal temperature variation has remained considerable. The difference between the maximum and minimum temperatures was about 14 degrees Celsius in Dehradun on Saturday. As a result, the provisional State capital has continued to witness comparatively warm days and cooler nights.

The State meteorological centre forecast on Saturday that dry weather is likely to prevail in all districts of the State today. Dehradun is likely to witness a mainly clear sky. Mist/haze is likely to occur during the morning hours while the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 31 degrees Celsius and 18 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun on Sunday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in various places on Saturday were 31.4 degrees Celsius and 17.6 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 31 degrees Celsius and 22.5 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 22.4 degrees Celsius and 11.1 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 24.3 degrees Celsius and 12.2 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. The maximum and minimum temperatures were four and three degrees Celsius respectively above normal in Dehradun. The maximum was a degree while the minimum was nine degrees above normal in Pantnagar. Similarly, the maximum and minimum temperatures were four and degrees respectively above normal in Mukteshwar. The maximum was two degrees and minimum was three degrees above normal in New Tehri.

Cong appoints MLAs Negi & Tiwari as in-charges in Kedarnath

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The PCC president Karan Mahara has appointed Pratapnagar MLA Vikram Singh Negi and Almora MLA Manoj Tiwari as the in-charges of the party for Kedarnath

bypoll. Former MLA Lalit Pharswan and Jayendra Ramola have been appointed as the co-in-charges for the crucial bypoll.

Policy changes allowed outsiders to purchase huge tracts of land in U'khand: Congress

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Congress has claimed that outsiders have purchased huge tracts of land in many parts of Uttarakhand by taking advantage of various amendments incorporated by the State's BJP government in the Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act- 1950). In a Press conference attended by the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara, leader of opposition (LoP) in the Assembly Yashpal Arya, former PCC president

Ganesh Godiyal and former cabinet minister Harak Singh Rawat at Rajiv Bhawan here on Saturday, the former MLA from Kedarnath Manoj Rawat said that on December 6, 2018 the BJP government headed by Trivendra Singh Rawat made changes in the sections 143 and 154 of the Uttarakhand -UP, ZA and Land Reforms Act which allowed outsiders to purchase as much land as they wish by converting the land use from agriculture to non-agricultural purposes. This amendment also removed the upper limit of

12.5 acre of land for outsiders to purchase the land for industrial purposes. Rawat said that the Trivendra Singh Rawat government had added '143 A' in the Act which had a provision according to which the State government had the power to take over the land if an industrial unit is not set up in the land within a stipulated period of time. He said that the section 143 A of the Act was removed by an amendment in the year 2022 by the Pushkar Singh Dhama government which has paved the way for outsiders

to purchase large tracts of land in the State in the name of setting up industry and then using it for other purpose including plotting.

Rawat further alleged that prime lands in many areas of the State are being handed over to the selected companies. In one such case, he said that 142 acres of land (762 Bighas) of Park Estate in Hathipaan Mussoorie in Dehradun was given on an annual rent of Rs one crore to Rajas Aerosports and Adventure Private Limited for a period of 15 years. He said that the circle rate of this land is about Rs 2,757 crore. Rawat said that interestingly the Tourism department has taken a loan of Rs 23 crore from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for development of the Park Estate. "This means that the government has taken a loan of Rs 23 crore to develop a land from which it will earn a rent of Rs 15 crore in 15 years," he said.

Former PCC president Ganesh Godiyal demanded that the State government should order a judicial probe on the sale and purchase of land in the State. He also demanded resignation of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on the issue.

Dhama has fulfilled every promise, BJP Govt to bring strong land law: Bhatt

Congress' sudden interest in land law due to its unease & for political gains, says BJP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has so far fulfilled every promise he had made and the Bharatiya Janata Party government will also provide a solution to the demand for a strict land law in the State. Speaking in response to allegations levelled by the Congress, the BJP State president and Rajya Sabha member Mahendra Bhatt said that the Congress is feeling uneasy, due to which it has suddenly become active on the subject of land law motivated by political gains.

Bhatt said that in accordance with the expectations of the public, the BJP government had earlier made an amendment in the land law made during the term of the Congress government during 2007. "Once again, major changes are being made in the land law which is being strengthened to maintain the authentic form of the State and in accordance with public sentiments for cultural preservation. CM Dhama has already announced that the law will be brought during the budget session of the

Vidhan Sabha. It is important to probe illegal land deals and irregularities before the new law is introduced and the district magistrates have been directed to do the needful," he said.

The BJP State president further said that at present any person can buy upto 250 square metre land without permission in areas outside the purview of urban local bodies. However, deals are being probed wherein it has come to light that deals were carried out in the names of various members of the same family. In the case of land bought after securing permission for tourism, industry and other commercial activities, those cases are being investigated wherein the land has not been used for the stated purpose. The property of those who have violated the provisions will be vested in the government. Further, if the amendments made in

the past are proved to not be in public interest, such provisions will not find a place in the new land law, Bhatt said.

"In the case of the George Everest (Park) estate, the Congress is intentionally pretending to ignore the facts. In 2015, the Congress government headed by Harish Rawat had first handed over this estate for two years and later issued another order, handing it to Rajas aviation for 25 years. Our government is bringing in better investment for facilitating and encouraging tourism activities but the Congress has a problem with this while objecting to the very actions it had taken during its term in office.

The State has attracted investments amounting to Rs 48,000 crore since the Everest estate was given on lease in 2022-23. Further, a considerable amount of investment is expected to be made in the State. Rajas aviation is Uttarakhand's startup but the Congress government used it mainly for publicity while the BJP government helped the State's startup to move forward in the tourism sector. Uttarakhand and Uttarakhandis are the priorities of our government," the BJP State president said.

He further opined that the unease being experienced by the Congress is not in public interest but a result of political opportunism. Earlier too, the Congress appeared neither active nor against, on the subject of land laws. Now with the Kedarnath Assembly bypolls in mind and after the BJP talked of bringing a strict land law, the Congress has suddenly become concerned for the public, Bhatt added.



Amit Shah to inaugurate passenger terminal at Petrapole

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the newly-constructed passenger terminal and a cargo gate named as 'Maitri Dwar' at the India-Bangladesh land border crossing in West Bengal on Sunday.



which is under the administrative control of the Land Ports Authority of India, a wing of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The new passenger terminal at Petrapole is a significant addition to the region's infrastructure and it set to enhance the travel experience between India and Bangladesh, the statement said.

Designed to reflect the grandeur of international transport hubs, the terminal at Petrapole is equipped with all modern facilities such as VIP lounges, duty free shop, basic medical facility, Infant/baby feeding room, food and beverages outlets etc.

ing itself as a pivotal hub in Asia. Maitri Dwar is a joint cargo gate at zero line agreed by both the countries. Shah had laid its foundation stone on May 9, 2023.

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart, Pedro Sanchez, will inaugurate the Tata aircraft complex in Gujarat's Vadodara on Monday for manufacturing C-295 aircraft by Tata Advanced Systems.

development projects worth more than Rs 4,900 crore in Amreli. The PMO said 40 aircraft will be built in the Vadodara facility as part of the agreement, while aviation behemoth Airbus will deliver 16 aircraft directly.

ery and maintenance of the complete life cycle of the aircraft, the statement said. Apart from the Tatas, leading defence public sector units, such as Bharat Electronics and Bharat Dynamics, as well as private micro, small and medium enterprises will contribute to this programme.

Priyanka Gandhi promises to fight for Wayanad's interests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said her first journey as a public representative of Wayanad is not her first as a "public fighter" as she asserted that fighting for democracy, justice and values enshrined in the Constitution is central to her life.



the bond with them and that she would do all she could to fight for them and represent them in the way that they wish to be represented in Parliament.

representative. "Fighting for democracy, for justice and for the values enshrined in our constitution is central to my life. I look forward to carrying this battle for all our futures forward with your support and will be deeply grateful to you if you choose to make me your MP," she said in her letter.

away by the rage of nature. "Yet, through the darkness of the tragedy that befell you, what shone through to me was your immense courage and fortitude as a community. You rallied together with a strength I have not seen before.

Gandhi family is not above law: BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of "non-disclosure of essential information" regarding her and her husband Robert Vadra's assets in her affidavit to contest the Lok Sabha bypoll from Kerala's Wayanad.



Referring to the alleged grab of National Herald assets by the Gandhi family, Bhatia said Priyanka Gandhi's affidavit made no mention of her ownership of shares in Associated Journals through a couple of trusts.

while omitting his stakes in two other companies. The BJP leader said his charge is based on "irrefutable" documents. He asked Priyanka Gandhi to respond to the allegations to inform the public about her stand on the issue.

The Congress will have to comply with the law or there will be serious consequences, Bhatia said, adding that the BJP will take all necessary and effective steps as it follows the Constitution.



Panchayati Raj ministry approves new infrastructure projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Seeking to address infrastructure gaps, the Panchayati Raj Ministry has approved a series of proposals for building new panchayat buildings and resource centres and upgrading existing ones across the country.

structure has been supported for the other states of the Northeast including Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Assam and Manipur. Overall 1,633 Gram Panchayat Bhawans and 514 CSCs have been approved for the States of North East.

Centre appoints 29 new joint secretaries across departments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre, 29 joint secretaries have been appointed in different government departments.

Ministry. IDAS officers Praveen Kumar Rai and Rakesh Kumar Pandey, and IRSEE officer Rajesh Gupta have been appointed as joint secretaries in the Home Ministry, said the order dated October 25.



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

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

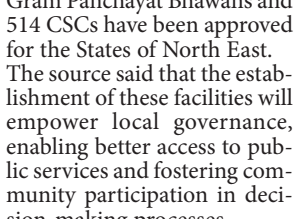
officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as CEO, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under the Ministry of Women & Child Development, the order said.

Yangzom Sherpa, a 1995-batch IRS (Income Tax cadre) officer, will be Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce. Premjit Lal has been appointed as Executive Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO).

AI curriculum launched for ITI students nationwide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

As the nature of jobs has been evolving, students at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will now have the opportunity to explore careers using Artificial Intelligence (AI). In addition to this students will also understand how AI is impacting jobs and industries and examine the advantages and disadvantages of AI at work.



This is part of the new 7.5-hour foundational module on Artificial Intelligence (AI), titled 'Introduction to Artificial Intelligence', has been added to the existing 120-hour Employability Skills curriculum. One of the chapters titled 'Exploring careers with AI', helps learners find career options that match their interests and qualifications using AI.

Entrepreneurship and will be implemented in 14,681 ITIs across India starting this November. According to Chaudhary, the new 'Introduction to AI' module opens up the fundamentals of artificial intelligence, sparking curiosity and creating awareness among ITI students about AI's real-world possibilities.

"This program is designed to show how AI can enhance everyday tasks and inspire students to explore AI technologies in greater depth," the Minister added. Elaborating further, Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, "It is fundamental for everyone to understand the real-world applications of AI since it is the future. This curriculum will lay a strong foundation in AI for a smooth school-to-work transition and help them understand the power and responsibility that comes while using it."

Former NIOS chairperson repatriated amid controversy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Former National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) chairperson Saroj Sharma has not been removed from the post but repatriated to her parent cadre in accordance with her request, the institute said on Saturday.



caste discrimination. Earlier this month, the Gujarat government cancelled Sharma's appointment as the vice-chancellor of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE). She was appointed to the post on September 5 but was yet to take charge.

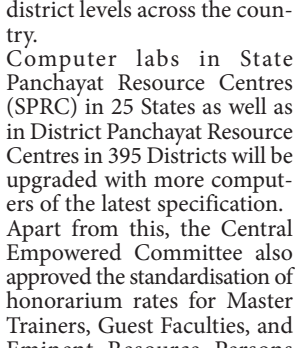
tion from my role a month ago to join the IITE-Gandhinagar as the vice-chancellor and it was according to the set procedure of repatriation to the parent organisation from the central government," the NIOS said in a statement.

"I had requested the Gujarat government to give some more time to me to join but due to a procedural delay in my premature repatriation, it appointed some other person as the vice-chancellor there," she added. Sharma has been repatriated to her parent department in the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. She refused to comment on the suicide controversy, saying "a probe is underway".

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has attached assets worth more than Rs 163 crore of the alleged "main middleman" and his linked entities in fresh action in a "scam" in the recruitment of group C and D category staff by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC).



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

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

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

India-China LAC breakthrough: Jaishankar credits military, diplomacy

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

India and Germany both regionally rooted but globally committed: Risch

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Lawyers must learn to pay proper salaries to youngsters: CJI

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

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

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

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



ensuring such smooth crop purchase. He accused the Mann government of taking revenge on the people of Punjab for the AAP losing 10 of the 13 seats in the Lok Sabha polls held in April-May. Bittu said the Centre has already given more than Rs 44,000 crore to the Punjab government for crop purchase and added that it is ready to give more funds if the state government so requires. He alleged that the state government is "completely paralysed" as it is unable to procure the crop. Training his guns on Mann, Bittu asked why is he not visiting any grain market.

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

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

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

Commonwealth nations adopt 1st ocean declaration

Former British colonies seek reparatory justice

Commonwealth countries adopted Saturday their first ocean declaration during their summit held for the first time in the Pacific island nation of Samoa as calls from some of Britain's former colonies for reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade grew louder. The Apia Ocean Declaration was announced during the closing session of the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, or CHOGM, and calls on all 56 Commonwealth nations to protect the ocean in the face of severe climate, pollution and over-exploitation. More than half the Commonwealth members are small countries like Samoa, many face significant, some even existential, threats from rising seas. While the environmental threat was foreshadowed as a predominant theme going into the summit, the transatlantic slave trade from Britain's colonial history dominated the discourse through the opening days. **'A line in the sand' declaration:** The Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration for One Resilient Common focuses on recognising maritime boundaries amid sea-level rise, protecting 30 per cent of oceans and restoring degraded marine ecosystems by 2030, and urgently finalising the Global Plastics Treaty. It also calls for ratifying the high-seas biodiversity treaty, developing coastal climate adaptation plans, and strengthening support for sustainable blue economies. Samoa Prime Minister Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa said in a statement released by her office that it was fitting for "our first ocean declaration" to be adopted "in the Blue Pacific continent given climate change has been recognised as the single greatest threat to the security and well-being of our people." The Commonwealth represents a third of the world's population, and 49 of its 56 countries have a coastline. The organisation says 25 of its members are increasingly impacted by climate change, rising sea levels, growing temperatures and increasing ocean acidity - impacting sea life, ecosystems and the communities that depend upon them. Mata'afa said the declaration must become "a line in the sand" for the world to collectively transform "ocean exploitation into protection and sustainable stewardship." Outgoing Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland said in a statement

they were "immensely proud of this achievement" which "sets the standard for forthcoming international meetings, generating momentum for ocean protection as we head towards COP29 in Azerbaijan in November, and next year's UN Ocean Conference." **Slavery justice conversation to continue:** Calls from some of Britain's former colonies for a reckoning over its role in the



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

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

Although he stopped short of mentioning financial reparations, which some leaders at the event urged, his remarks were seen as an acknowledgment of how strongly many felt about the issue in countries that Britain once colonised. Included in the 52-point official Leaders Statement on Saturday was a paragraph that urged a "meaningful, truthful, respectful conversation" to

build a fair future. The communique also directed the Commonwealth secretary-general to engage governments and stakeholders in reparatory justice consultations, with a special focus on the impact on women and girls. "The communique" agrees that this is the time for conversation," said Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer at a press conference in Apia on Saturday. "But I should be really clear here. In the two days we've been here, none of the discussions have been about money. Our position is very, very clear in relation to that." "Let me first be clear that the slave trade, slave practice, was abhorrent, and it's very important we start from there. Abhorrent is the right word." Earlier Saturday, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in Ghana, was announced as the incoming Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. Botchwey, who has urged financial reparations for the past enslavement of colonised people, replaces Patricia Scotland of the United Kingdom who had been in the post since 2016. Antigua and Barbuda was also announced as the host for the next CHOGM in 2026.

10 officers dead in police convoy in Iran

An attack on an Iranian police convoy Saturday in the country's restive southern province of Sistan and Baluchistan killed at least 10 officers, authorities said. Details remain scarce over the attack in Gohar Kuh, some 1,200 kilometres southeast of the Iranian capital, Tehran. Initially, reports simply described an attack by "miscreants" without more information. But shortly after, Iranian state media said 10 officers had been killed. HalVash, an advocacy group for the Baluch people of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, posted photos and video of what appeared to be a disabled truck painted with the green stripe used by Iranian police vehicles. One graphic photo shared by the group showed what appeared to be the corpses of two police officers in the front seat of the truck. HalVash said the attack appeared to target two security force vehicles and all those riding in them were killed. The truck appeared to have only damage from bullets, rather than any explosive being used. The state-run IRNA news

agency said that Eskandar Momeni, the country's interior minister, ordered an investigation into the incident that it described as causing the "martyrdom of a number of police." Authorities identified no immediate suspects for the attack, nor did any group claim responsibility. The assault came after Israel launched a major attack across Iran early Saturday morning. The Baluch regions across the three nations have faced a low-level insurgency by Baluch nationalists for more than two decades. Verifying information remains difficult in Iran's Sistan and Baluchistan, which for decades has been home to violence involving heroin traffickers. The province is one of the least developed parts of Iran. Relations between the predominantly Sunni Muslim residents of the region and Iran's Shiite theocracy have long been strained. Typical attacks involve hit-and-run assaults by militants in the region, like the Sunni militant group Jaish al-Adl, that kill a few security officials at a time. However, there have been mass casualty attacks by militants in the past.

Russian strikes in Ukraine kill 2 teenagers

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

around a 25-store apartment block Friday night in the city's west, killing a 15-year-old girl and injuring five others. Ukraine's Emergency Service said 100 people were evacuated following the strike, which damaged several apartments on the building's upper floors. Serhii Popko, who heads Kyiv's local military administration, said that Russian forces overnight pummeled the city for 7 1/2 hours. Air raid sirens

wailed throughout the night, and Popko said that Ukrainian air defence shot down up to a dozen Russian drones. Also late Friday, a Russian missile hit a residential area in the central city of Dnipro, killing a 14-year-old and three others, said regional Gov. Serhii Lysak, adding that at least 20 others were injured including an 8-year-old and teenagers. The wife and teenage daughter of a local policeman were pulled dead from the rubble, police reported. The attack damaged over a dozen apartment buildings, private

houses and a medical facility. A man and woman died after a Russian drone dropped explosives on a village in the southern Kherson region, local prosecutors said, while a 61-year-old woman was killed by shelling in the northeast. In the Kyiv province, which surrounds but does not include the capital, flying debris from a drone attack killed a woman, Ukraine's Emergency Service reported. A 13-year-old boy was wounded elsewhere in the region, it said.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: 5/24/2024-25; Dated: 24-10-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1: Tender No. 30/24/1093/OT/197/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 04-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: PAD FOR SECONDARY SUSPENSION FOR LHB AS PER DRG. NO. RCF DRG. NO. 1903149 VER. a MAT SPECIFICATION NO. 17.477.10002 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. i) Qty- 1313 Nos for Dibruugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 66 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 2736 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), iv) Qty- 04 Nos Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 33503023.

SN. 2: Tender No. 30/24/5040B/OT/198/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 05-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Nickel-Cadmium Batteries Set for WDP4 HHP Locomotives to DLW Pt. No. 17051472 & DRG. No.10609375 and conforming to RDSO Speen No. MP0.51.01.02 (Rev-2) June 2009 (Each set consist 10 Nos = 50 Nos). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 50 Nos for SSE/D/New Guwahati Goods Shed, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 33680100010.

SN. 3: Tender No. 70/24/0002A/OT/199/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 06-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Vinyl coated upholstery fabric (Artificial leather) for AC Coaches Size: 127 CM X 30 Mtrs. Spec: Specification: RDSO/2008/CG- 07/Aug.08, Amendment no. 5 of August 2016 RDSO's Sample code No. ALAC-01. [Warranty Period: 48 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 5000 MTR for Dibruugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), (2) Qty- 8000 MTR for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 75402178.

SN. 4: Tender No. 50/24/5162A/OT/200/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 07-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (i) Schedule item No 1. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange 24 SLS Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 20 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 539836680130. (ii) Schedule item No 2. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange 24 SFT Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 4 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 501027190060. (iii) Schedule item No 3. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange PPS Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 5 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 539836680141. (iv) Schedule item No 4. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange RPS Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 4 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 501024960097. (v) Schedule item No 5. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange PBATS Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 6 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 560608650050. (vi) Schedule item No 6. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange IDSP Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 2 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 501026280144.

SN. 5: Tender No. 30/24/1159/OT/201/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 11-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Speed Sensor for LHB Coaches to KB Part no. 1135435/10012 or 1135456/ 20013 or STN 31450/205A18U RDSO Spec. No.- RDSO/2011/CG-04 (Rev.02). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. i) Qty- 141 Nos for Dibruugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 200 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 173 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), iv) Qty- 20 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), v) Qty: 36 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 33503230.

SN. 6: Tender No. 40/24/0543C/OT/202/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 08-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 500 Amp, 750V, Inter Vehicular (IV) Coupler unit for EOG type AC Coaches / Power car conforming to RDSO's Specn. No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0177 (Rev.1) -2013. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 120 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty: 120 Nos for Dibruugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty: 2 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), iv) Qty: 2 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), v) Qty: 40 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 45218948.

SN. 7: Tender No. 61/24/5271A/OT/203/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 18-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: BG PSCT/O/SLEEPER 1 in 8.5 Drg No. (T-4865). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. Qty- 32 Set for SSE/P.Way/Barsoi, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 600400041127.

SN. 8: Tender No. 61/24/5202A/OT/204/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 18-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 1-in-12 BG 60 KG Weldable CMS Crossing (WCMS) on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSO's with RDSO standard drawing No. T-6412 including supply of 6mm thick grooved rubber side plates (drawing no. RDSO/T-6204 to RDSO/T-6211, RDSO/T-6843 to RDS/T-6846), excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, E/R Clips, insulating liner etc, (latest alternation if any, up to the date of opening of tender). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: Yes, Stages: 1]. Qty- 201 Set for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 600602070.

SN. 9: Tender No. 61/24/5449/OT/205/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 27-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: TURN OUT (1 IN 12) sleeper Dual Gauge. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: Yes, Stages: 1]. Qty- 15 Set for Sr. DEN/C/Lumding, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 600301340050.

SN. 10: Tender No. 61/24/5479/OT/206/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 20-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: DS SLEEPERS TO DRG No-T-6068. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. Qty- 37 Set for SR. DEN/C/Katihar, NFR (Bihar), Qty: 26 Set for Sr. DEN/C/Lumding, NFR (Assam), Qty- 1 Set for DRM/W/Tinsukia, NFR (Assam), Qty: 8 Set for CH.OS/G/ENGG/Rangiya, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 600400420072.

NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM/ Maligaon

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that SH. RAJENDER SINGH SHAHI/S/O.SH.MOHA SINGH R/O HOUSE NO 224, FIRST FLOOR, POKHET-Q, TYPE-IV, DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095, vide file No. 0113/3491/DG/NF, the original document i.e. POSSESSION LETTER, DEMAND LETTER, NOC, ELECTRICITY AND WATER of the above said flat has been lost. An NCR/IR No. 215537/H/2024 dated 26.09.2024 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9953450347 with in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director Housing (Resold) Vikas Sadan, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mrs. Samita Gautam is the owner of ENTIRE BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 251-B, LAND AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 681, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE: NAWADA AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR, PHASE-IA, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI, by virtue of Certificate of Sale dated 18.08.2023, reg. as Doc. No. 21282, executed by IIFL Home Finance Ltd. and same property to be sold to Intending Borrower, same to be financed by SMCFI India Credit Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any change/interest/in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate SC Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Food Plaza, Vastha Khand, Indraprastha, Ghazipur II, New Delhi-110028, Ph: 011-41132522-28, legal@scall.net**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mrs. Jyoti Janja is the owner of RESIDENTIAL UPPER GROUND FLOOR LEFT SIDE PORTION WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, AREA MEASURING 83.3 SQ. YDS. "SAID FLOOR" BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. 35, "SAID FLOOR" BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. 35, AREA MEASURING 83.3 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 79, SITUATED IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR PHASE-IA, UTTAM NAGAR, IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE: NAWADA, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI, by virtue of Certificate of Sale dated 01.04.2024, reg. as Doc. No. 2024/25/8771, executed by Mrs. Pooja Pathwa and Mrs. Geeta Shantamma and same property to be sold to Intending Borrower i.e. Mr. Manoj Kohli, same to be financed by SMCFI India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any change/interest/in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate SC Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Food Plaza, Vastha Khand, Indraprastha, Ghazipur II, New Delhi-110028, Ph: 011-41132522-28, legal@scall.net**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Smt. Madhu Surana and Sh. Bharat Surana are the owners of Built-up Property bearing No. 9/11 and 9/12, but not Plot of land area measuring 400 Sq. Yds., part of Kh. No. 2369/66/3 situated in the area of Village Karkardoma in the abadi of Subaharj Ghat, Bharat Surana in favour of Sh. Bharat Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/11 and 9/12, dated 10.02.2011 reg. as doc. No. 2159 executed by Sh. Bharat Surana in favour of Smt. Madhu Surana and Sh. Bharat Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/11 and 9/12, dated 10.02.2011 reg. as doc. No. 3560 executed by Smt. Prem Vast Jain in favour of Sh. Bharat Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/11 and 9/12, dated 10.02.2011 reg. as doc. No. 3552 executed by Smt. Pran Nand Surana in favour of Smt. Khushi Devi and 2. Sh. Prakash Singh, all in respect of Plot No. 111 and 112 total area measuring 400 Sq. Yds. (2) Original Notarized Partition Deed dated 05/04/1977 executed between 1. Smt. Khushi Devi and 2. Sh. Prakash Singh and Smt. Khushi Devi became owner of Plot No. 111 measuring 200 Sq. Yds. (3) Original Mutation Letter issued by Authority in favour of Smt. Madhu Surana & Bharat Surana in respect of plot no. 111 & 112 & Vasthas Nagar, Delhi. IR No. 2244205/2024, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 25.10.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents and/or handover the same to the Manager of HDFC Bank Ltd., Plot No. 31, Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar, Delhi. Smt. Madhu Surana and Sh. Bharat Surana are in the process of mortgaging the said property with HDFC Bank Ltd. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of the current or future owners. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Landline: 91120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके.शाखा) निविदा सूचना

क्र. 185 के.कर्म/2024

भोपाल, दिनांक 25.10.2024

नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा 05 नग नवीन मिनी एक्स्पेडर क्रय करने हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोहर गारंटी	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1.	2024_UAD Purchase of Chain Mounted Mini Excavator	13975000/-	68775/-	125000/-	30 दिवस

PRE BID MEETING DATE- 07.11.2024 TIME- 02:00 PM
 BID SUBMISSION END DATE- 21.11.2024 TIME- 05:30 PM
 BID OPENING DATE- 22.11.2024 TIME- 05:30 PM

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट mptenders.gov.in पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

फि.क्र. 679/024/025

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

पत्रांक-157/मृपि-2024-25 दिनांक- 26.10.2024

सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना।

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत 100 वार्डों में स्थित विद्युत पोल जो जैसे हैं जहाँ है उसी स्थिति में पोल व्योस्क के माध्यम से विज्ञान प्रदर्शित करने हेतु अनुबंध की तिथि से कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 09.11.2024 को अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे तक पोल व्योस्क विज्ञान की ईऑनिविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

पोल व्योस्क स्थल का विवरण	कुल पोल	निगम द्वारा आरक्षित धनराशि
निविदा प्रपत्र के अनुसार	35000	26120500/-

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में अंकित निविदा धनराशि की 10 प्रतिशत धनराशि -26,12,050/- को सीओडी/ऑर/एफओडी/ऑर (ईओएमडी) के रूप में एवं निर्धारित निविदा फार्म का शुल्क रु०-11800/- का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो नगर निगम देहरादून के नाम प्लेज होगा तथा निविदा फार्म में अंकित अन्य तकनीकी दस्तावेजों को दिनांक 08.11.2024 को साय 4:00 बजे तक मूल में निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। दिनांक 08.11.2024 तक दस्तावेज मूल में निगम कार्यालय में जमा न किये जाने पर निविदादाता को असफल माना जायेगा। निविदादाता दिनांक 09.11.2024 को अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे तक ईऑनिविदा हेतु उत्तराखण्ड शासन की ईऑन्टैर वेबसाइट www.uktender.gov.in पर अपलोड करना सुनिश्चित करें। निविदा दिनांक 09.11.2024 साय: 4:00 बजे गठित निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें नगर निगम देहरादून की वेबसाइट www.nagarnigamdehradun.com पर भी उपलब्ध हैं।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch :

Name	Current Address
Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited	Rajasthan-326001
	+91991705878
Contact Details of Closing Branch	vipin.gupta@manibhavnam.com
Tentative Date of Closing	01st February, 2025

It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Company to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Company's customers during the process of closing. The loan accounts of all the valued customers shall continue with another branch from new address (i.e., Office no-28,29,30, Opposite Krishna Rotary Blood Bank, Near HDFC bank, S.E.S, Talwandi, Kota, Rajasthan) Customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid change, which will be effective tentatively from 01st February 2025. In case any further clarification is required and/or in case of any difficulty, the customer may contact the officials of Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited (+91 9910705878, Mr. Vipin Gupta).

Date : 27.10.2024 Place : Jhalawar

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Open Tender No.	ELS-SRE-T51
Name of work	Miscellaneous maintenance & cleaning work at Electric loco shed saharanpur for 02 years.
Date of Closing/Opening	20.11.2024
Approx. Cost	Rs. 57,99,393/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,16,000/-
Completion period	02 years
Validity period	60 days
Cost of tender form	Free of cost for downloading from IREPS & ₹ 5000/- for obtaining from Sr.DEE/TRS/SRE office.

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in No. ELS-SRE-T51 dtd. 25.10.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3330/24

AD LEGAL SOLUTION

Ch. No. 769 - Dwarika Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
 Mobile : 9999013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

"It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Hitesh Gupta has acquired Right Side Portion of Second Floor with roof rights of Built-up Property bearing No. A-55, Area 75 sq. Yds., Kh. No. 224, situated at Village Bindapur, Colony known as Anup Nagar, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi vide GPA. Dt. 19/01/2023 along with AT&S & Will executed by Mr. Rajat Pandey and Mrs. Shriya. Now Mr. Hitesh Gupta is the undisputed owner of the said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance however or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of highest priority. If any such claim or right is being held by anyone, please submit all the relevant documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claim, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. **Ajay Kumar Jai (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024**

United Textiles Limited

Regd. Office 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana)
 CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Notice

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 13th November, 2024 at 4:00 PM** at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the period ended 30th September, 2024. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 30/09/2024 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's website www.unitedtextileslimited.com and also on the website of stock exchanges www.bseindia.com

For United Textiles Limited (Vivek Aggarwal) Whole Time Director Dated: 22.10.2024 (DIN 0709208)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3330/24

INDIA LOOK FOR CONSISTENCY FROM BATTERS TO SEAL SERIES

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



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

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



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

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



India one win away from U17 Asian Cup qualification

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

Manika Batra upsets Szocs to enter quarterfinals of WTT Champions



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian paddler Manika Batra shocked World No.14 Bernadette Szocs of Romania to enter the women singles quarterfinals of the WTT Champions event in Montpellier, France.
The world No. 30 Indian won 3-1 (11-9 6-11 13-11 11-9) in 29 minutes against the eighth-seeded Szocs in a round of 16 match on Friday night.
Batra, a multiple Commonwealth Games

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

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

AP ■ MEXICO CITY
Amid an unexpectedly tight championship battle between Max Verstappen and Lando Norris, their teams brought the fight to the Mexico City Grand Prix over an officiating dispute in last week's race.
McLaren lodged a complaint into the penalty Norris received last week at the United States Grand Prix - a step in trying to get it overturned and put three-time reigning world champion Verstappen back within his reach.
The appeal was denied late Friday night.
Norris received a five-second penalty for passing Verstappen off the track late in the race in Austin, Texas. The two were racing for third at the time, and the penalty gave the final podium finish to Verstappen.
The change in position widened Verstappen's lead to 57 points headed into Sunday's race at Mexico City, and there are only five races remaining to decide the title.
Norris has maintained he did nothing wrong and, along with



many other drivers, argued that Verstappen should have been penalized for his defensive driving.
"He did what he thought was right, and I did what I thought was right. I still disagree, and as a team, we disagree," Norris said.
"It is something I am sure we will discuss as it has been a big talking point since last weekend. A lot of other drivers didn't agree with it, teams didn't agree with it."
The same stewards who levied the penalty at the USGP heard the appeal via video conference late Friday afternoon.
Verstappen argued in Mexico that F1 has become over-policed - he was ordered to serve community service for swearing in a news conference in Singapore last month - and joked he needs to keep a copy of the rulebook inside his car to keep up with all the regulations.
"I think we are getting to a stage where I always need the book in the car. If you look of course over the years, the book has grown quite a lot," Verstappen said.
"It is definitely over-regulated."

F1, that George Russell said a driver-only meeting was planned for Friday evening.
Among the topics is the idea of hiring permanent stewards who regulate every grand prix on the F1 schedule, the new crackdown on cursing, and transparency over where monetary fines go when collected by the FIA.
Russell also received a five-second penalty in Texas for forcing Valtteri Bottas wide, which he isn't fighting.
"I thought my penalty was harsh, but probably correct," Russell said. "Looking at Lando's, I think that was probably correct as well, but Max should probably have got a penalty for running off the track."
Russell is a director of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association and said the drivers had agreed to meet privately following their regularly scheduled briefing.
"Between us, we'll talk with the FIA and understand their viewpoint first," Russell said.
"And then we can judge. At the end of the day, the stewards are doing the best job they can. They're trying their hardest, and they do have a set of guidelines which they follow. We've spoken about consistency in the past, the only way you can have consistency is if you have the same stewards at every single race weekend."
"And at the moment, they are very experienced, but they are here as almost volunteers," he continued.
"It is not a professionally paid job, and if you look at football as an example, even though there is still controversy, a referee, they are professionals and that is their full-time job." He said financial fines levied against drivers and teams should go to fund permanent stewards. "Collectively, from the drivers and the GPDA, we have asked about the financial fines and where they are going. We have been asking for a bit of transparency on this front," Russell said.
"It does seem a little bit ridiculous that if a driver gets a 50 grand fine for walking over a race track, but if that 50 grand fine is going towards financing the best stewards in the world, maybe we won't be so upset about it."

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

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)
Lionel Messi had chances at goals late and time again, only to keep being denied. Turns out, all he needed to do was deliver the right pass at the right time.
Jordi Alba turned a pass from Messi into the go-ahead goal in the 60th minute, Luis Suarez also scored and Inter Miami beat Atlanta United 2-1 on Friday night in the opening game of a best-of-three first round Major League Soccer playoff series. It was not the easiest of openers for the Supporters Shield winners, the No. 1 overall seed in the MLS Cup playoffs - a team that set a league record with 74 points in the regular season, 34 points ahead of wild-card Atlanta in the standings.
Saba Lobjanidze scored for Atlanta, which got eight saves from goalkeeper Brad Guzan. Game 2 will be November 2 at Atlanta - the last road game of the season, no matter what, for Inter Miami. Game 3, if necessary, will be November 9 in Fort Lauderdale.
"It's going to be difficult for us," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said.
"It's going to be difficult as this rival has been throughout the season." Inter Miami's first-ever home playoff game and Messi's MLS playoff debut was sold out - Messi games almost always are, everywhere in the world - and MLS even had a camera isolated on him throughout the match, streaming that view on TikTok. There were plans to also show the match live on a massive screen in New York's Times Square; that ended up getting called off Apple will schedule a viewing of another match there. Atlanta was the only team that beat



Inter Miami when Messi was in the lineup this season, and it was almost like the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner - and finalist for MLS MVP honours - knew it wouldn't be easy.
"It gets settled on the field," Messi said in an interview taped before the playoffs, one that MLS teased on social media and said will be distributed on its Season Pass platform. "Anything can happen in a match."
And for 60 minutes, the scoreboard said these teams were even. Suarez scored with the match barely a minute old, and Messi had three high-quality chances later in the half.
Messi's left foot nearly made it 2-0 after six minutes; Guzan had to sprawl to his right to barely deflect the shot away. Messi found a bit of space and fired again in the 26th

minute; this time, Guzan punched it over the crossbar. And in the 29th minute, it wasn't Guzan that denied Messi - it was the post. The rebound came to Inter Miami's Marcelo Weigandt and his shot got punched away by Guzan.
If not for Guzan, it could have been 2-0, 3-0, maybe even 4-0 at that point.
Instead, it was 1-1 at intermission. Lobjanidze got behind the defense and beat Drake Callender from close range in the 39th minute, and Atlanta - which won at Chase Stadium in May - was all square going into the second half.
"We were frustrated," Martino said. In the 52nd minute, Messi's direct kick from 25 yards nearly gave Inter Miami the lead again but curled just wide of the post to Guzan's left. The breakthrough came about eight minutes later, with Messi getting



THE RUNWAY OF CREATIVITY

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

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

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



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



REDEFINING LUXURY INDIAN WEDDINGS

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

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



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

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

DO PATTI THE HARSH TRUTH OF LIVES

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

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



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

completely in the element and doesn't make it look like his debut. His role as the aggressive husband to Saumya defines his acting skills. Kajol as the cop could have done better to overcome the flat performance. The film skillfully weaves a gripping social message of domestic violence, raised in the

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



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

DIWALI

FESTIVAL THAT UNITES HEARTS AND HOMES

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

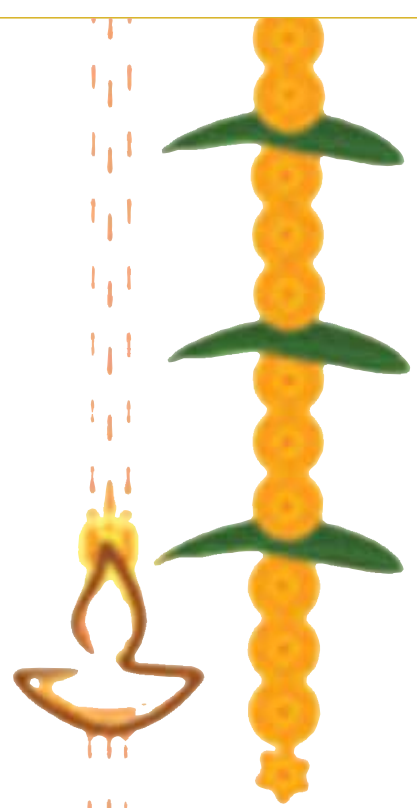
THE ARTISTRY OF DIWALI
The streets of Chandni Chowk shimmer with vibrant lights and colours, but it was in Uttam Nagar that I discovered the heart and soul behind Diwali, the artisans whose hands craft the beloved diyas that illuminate homes each year. Among them

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

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

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

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



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



CELEBRATE INDIA'S DIVERSE CULINARY LANDSCAPE

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

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

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

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

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

FESTIVE AMBIENCE

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

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

TO CONCLUDE

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

A HEALTHY DIWALI WHOLESOME RECIPES FOR FESTIVE INDULGENCE

TEAM AGENDA

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

ALMOND DATE CHOCOLATE BALLS

(by Australian Almonds)

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

INGREDIENTS

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

Method

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

SPECIAL COCONUT LADDOO

(by Bristhi Kumari, on behalf of Chilean Prunes)

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

Ingredients

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

Method

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

PISTACHIO BAKLAVA CAKE

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

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

Ingredients: Glaze

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

Cake

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

Garnish

- Pistachios, almonds and dried rose petals

Method

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

CARAMEL WALNUT KHEER (by Chile Walnuts)

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

Ingredients

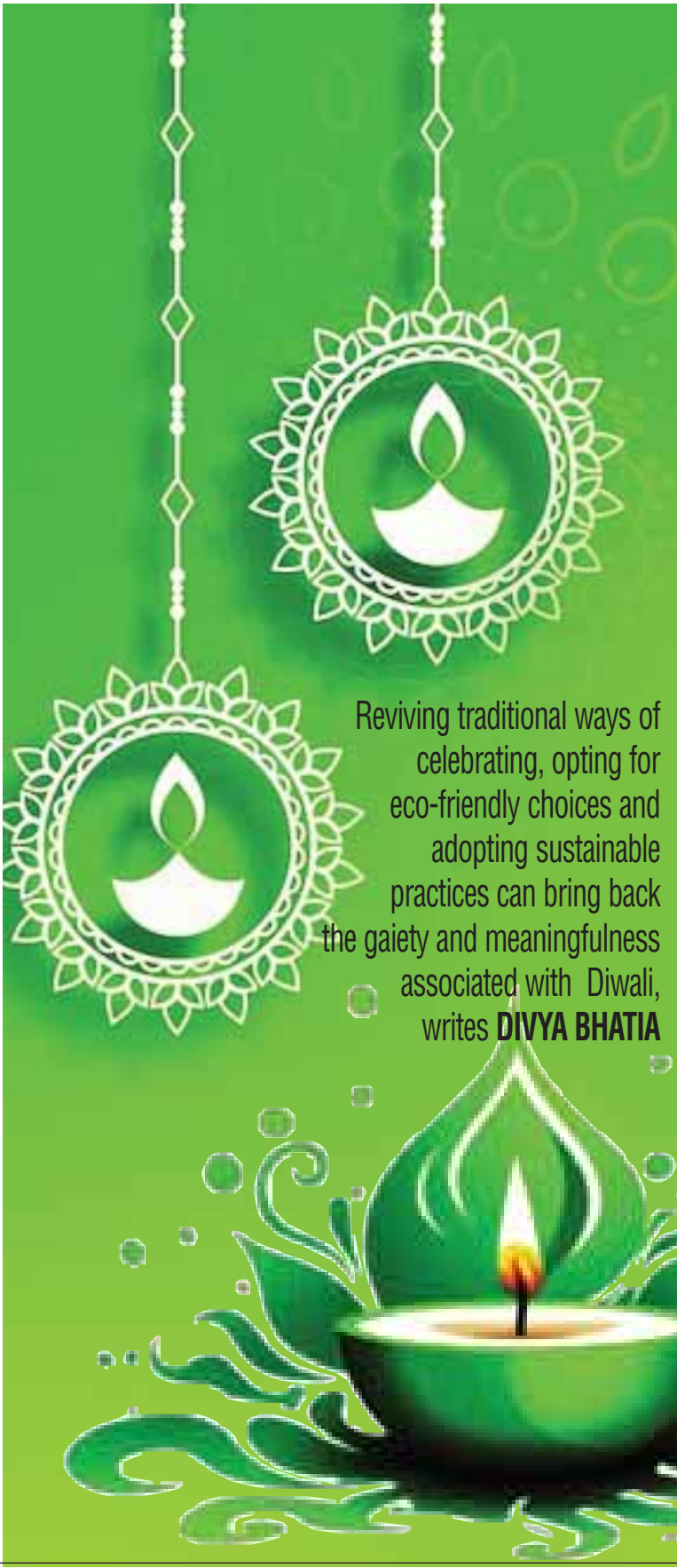
- 7-8 Chilean walnuts (roughly broken) + 3-4 for garnish
- 3 tsp rice (soaked for 2 hours)
- 1 litre milk (divided)
- 1/3 cup sugar and 1 tsp butter (optional)
- Water

Method

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

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

GO GREEN THIS DIWALI



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

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

THE NEED FOR HEALTHIER CELEBRATION

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

THE DIFFERENCE GREEN CRACKERS CAN MAKE

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



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

produce a significantly smaller amount of air pollutants.

EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE GIFT-GIVING

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

EAT HEALTHY THIS DIWALI

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

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

TAKE CARE OF MENTAL HEALTH

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



A Night of Dandiya and Festive Cheer

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

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

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



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



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

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



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

BY TEAM AGENDA

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

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

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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Meditation - The essence

THE TUNING FORK

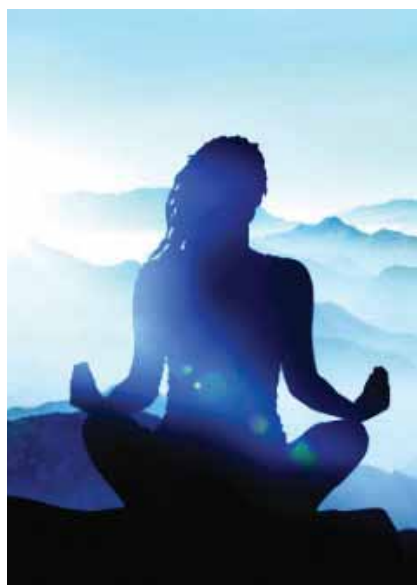


C V Srikanth

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

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

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



Krishna teaches in the Bhagavat Gita ... योगयुक्तो विशुद्धात्मा विजितात्मा जितेन्द्रियश्च सर्वभूतात्मभूतात्मा कुर्वन्निप न लियते यद्य yoga-yukto visuddhatma vijitātma jiteन्द्रियश्च sarva-bhūtātma-bhūtātma kurvan nappīyate Bh Gita 5.7

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

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

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